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Project “CULTOUR-BSB - Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin”, BSB-117



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**DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC ROUTES IN THE
Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the
Black Sea Basin - CULTOUR-BSB”, eMS code BSB -117**



UNIQUE DIVERSITY
OF THE NATURE IN
ROMANIA AND
UKRAINE

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Unique places for pacification and of course photos in Romania and Ukraine

In recent decades, an original and fascinating direction of tourism, photo tourism, has gained wide popularity. This type of recreation was invented by those who practically never part with their camera, constantly preserving unforgettable moments of their lives, unusual and unique corners of nature, historical and architectural monuments. A tourist, traveling around the world, has the opportunity to shoot the most interesting views in various places on the planet. The atmosphere at photo tours inspires creativity, and pictures can become masterpieces and a visiting card of a photographer.

While traveling along our route along the photo-paths of Ukraine and Romania, you will see the most beautiful and unusual places of the Black Sea coast of these two countries.

TECHNICAL FEATURES:

Administrative geography/counties included:

the south-east region of Romania and central and south regions of Ukraine.

Duration of the tourist route: 16 days +

Season: all year long (preferable spring –summer-autumn)

Transport accessibility: car, bike, boat

MAIN GOALS:

- raising awareness of natural resources and natural diversity
- increase the attractiveness of green tourism, as well as a tolerant and responsible attitude to natural resources
- creation of a base for the further development of integrated tourism in the context of promoting
- eco and green tourism with a cultural component at the national and international levels

Sub-Sectors:

Sector 1. Romania

Constanta – Buzai – Focsani – Tulcea

Time 8 days with overnights.

Sector 2. Ukraine

Izmail – Odesa – Mykolaiv – Kherson – Zaporizhzhia

Time 8 days with overnights.

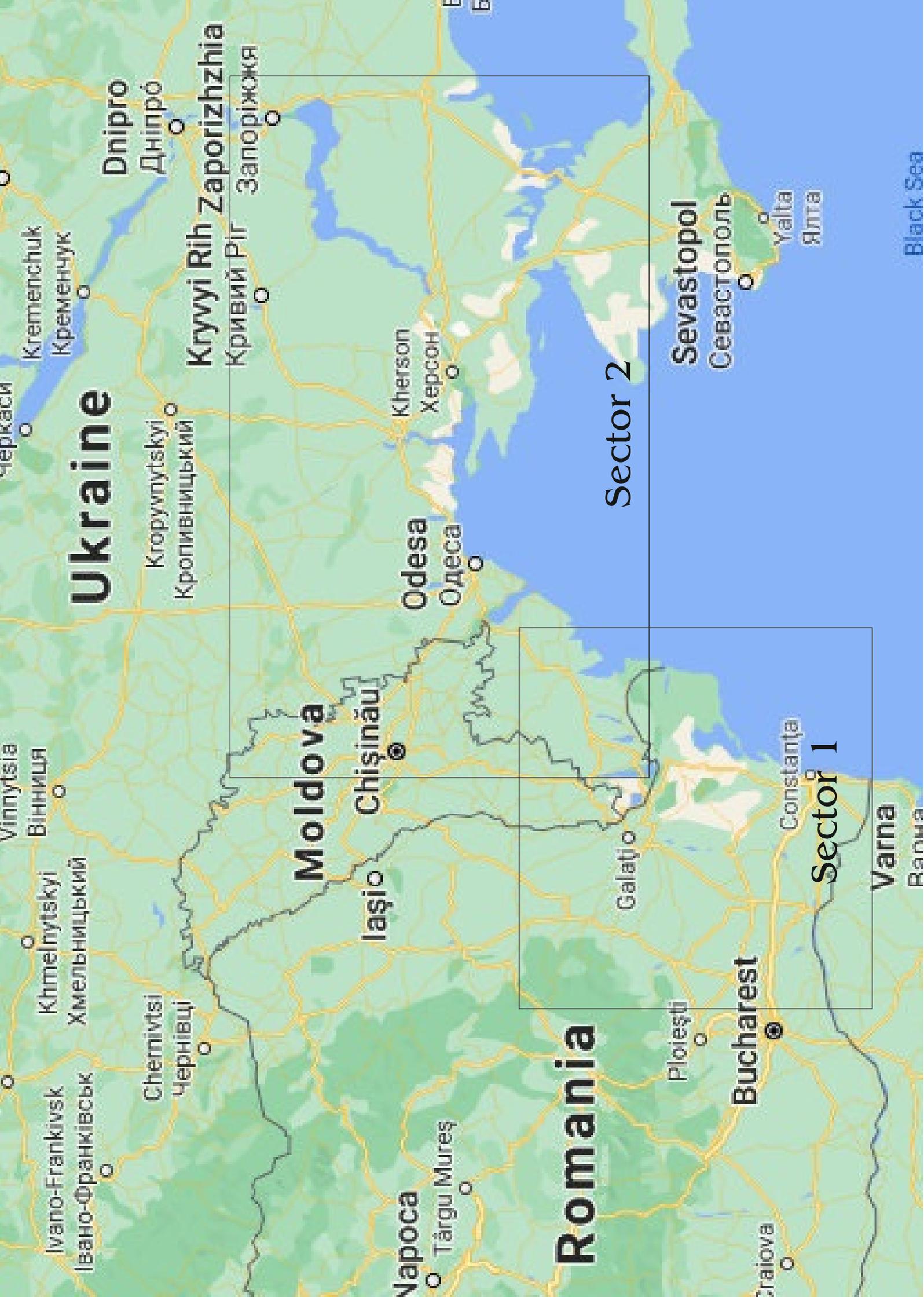


Keywords:

- Nature tourism
- Nature exploration
- Traditional crafts
- Ethnography
- Eco tourism
- Adventure tourism
- Panoramic views
- Water activities

Types of sites:

- Hot and mineral springs
- Canyons
- Deserts
- Lakes
- Meadows, valleys
- Sea sides
- Traditional villages
- Attractions



Ukraine

Moldova

Romania

Sector 2

Sector 1

Dnipro
Дніпро

Kryvyi Rih
Кривий Ріг

Zaporizhzhia
Запоріжжя

Sevastopol
Севастополь

Yalta
Ялта

Odesa
Одеса

Kherson
Херсон

Chișinău
Chişinău

Iași
Iași

Galati
Galati

Constanța
Constanța

Varna
Varna

Cluj-Napoca
Cluj-Napoca

Târgu Mureș
Târgu Mureș

Ploiești
Ploiești

Bucharest
Bucharest

Craiova
Craiova

Chernivtsi
Чернівці

Ivano-Frankivsk
Івано-Франківськ

Khmelnytskyi
Хмельницький

Vinnitsia
Вінниця

Kremenchuk
Кременчук

Cherkasy
Черкаси

Black Sea
Black Sea

Sector 1. Romania

START POINT: Constanța

END-POINT: Tulcea

Route:

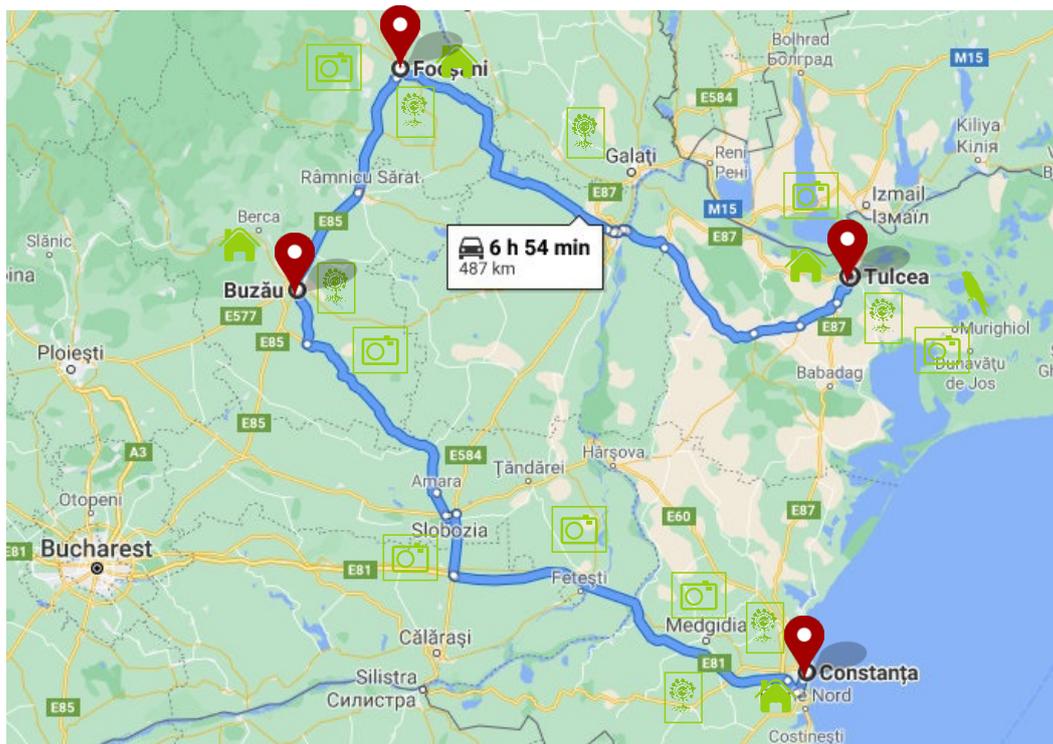
Constanta – Buzai – Focsani – Tulcea

Time 8 days with overnights.

Targeted types of tourists: millenials, adventure tourists, affluent singles

Targeted country market: Germany, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Israel

Discover the scenic beauty of the South-East Region through the camera lens. From the typical lowland areas in the Danube Meadow, to the breathtaking mountain zones in Buzău and Vrancea counties and ending in the coastal regions of Dobrudja, the South-East Region offers the possibility to witness and to catch on camera unique natural phenomenons (such as Mud Volcanoes), while also experiencing the cultural and culinary delights the region has to offer. The guided tours in the region offer travelers the possibility to challenge both their adventurous and creative side, with short nature photography trips or rafting, canoe, hiking or other outdoor activities.



Activities and designated places:



spectacular scenery



cultural and heritage sites (local culture and history museums, ethnic villages)



birdwatching



photography (picturesque landscape and fascinating views)

Sector 2. Ukraine

START POINT: Izmail

END-POINT: Zaporizhzhia

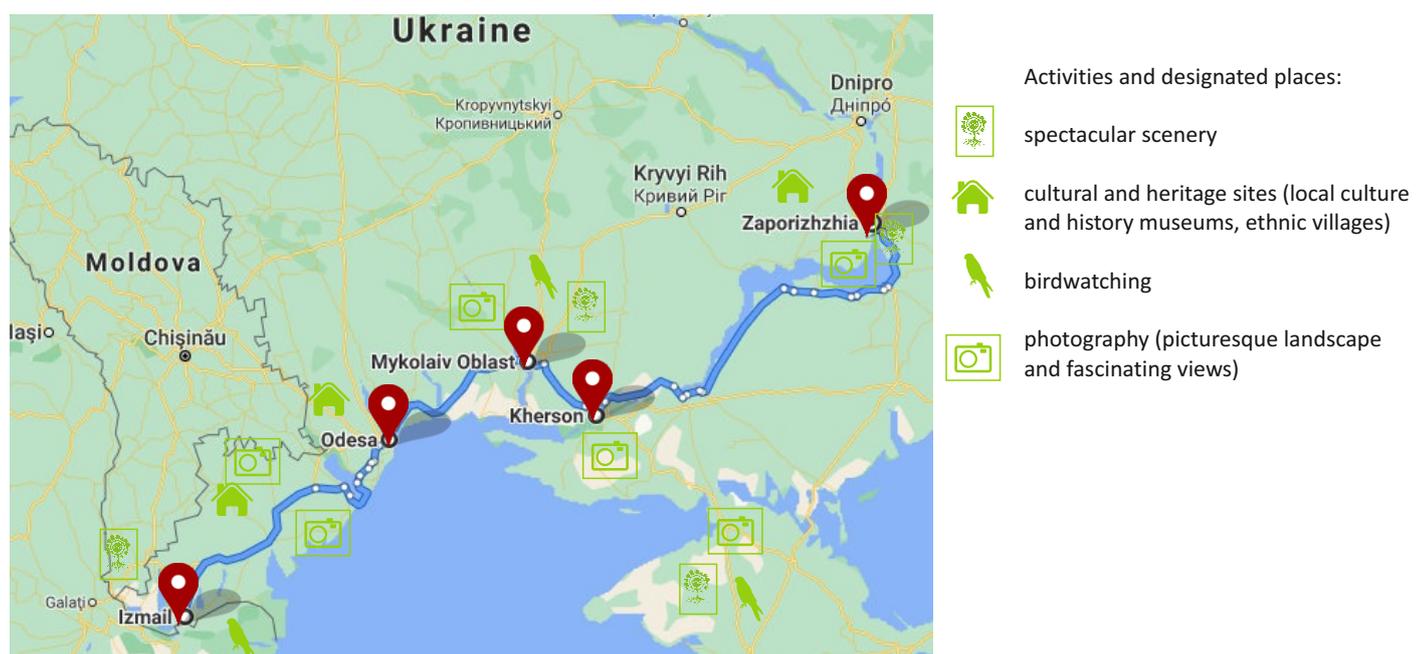
Route:

Izmail – Odesa – Mykolaiv – Kherson – Zaporizhzhia

Targeted types of tourists: adventure tourists, eco-tourists, special interest tourists (SIT), sport and recreation tourists

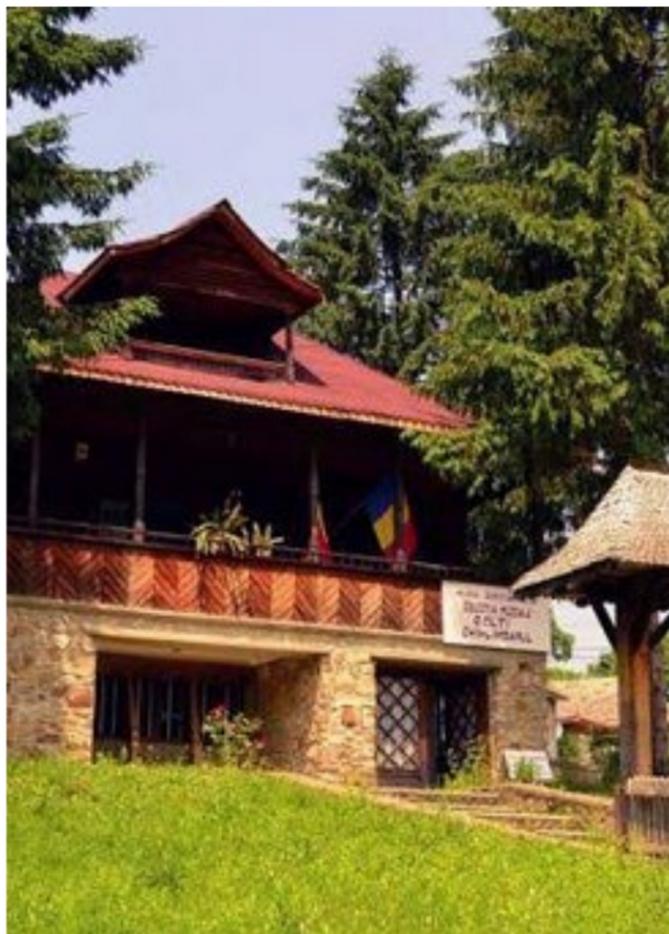
Targeted country market: Ukraine, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova

Discover the unique diversity of the nature in the South region of Ukraine that brings the inimitable feeling of solitude, unforgettable emotions from sense of inner peace and freedom, great variety of scenes and biodiversity. Along the way it could be found the wide plains with fascinating landscapes of the Black sea Lowland, the marshiest reserve in Europe that is the ecological heart of Eastern Europe, as well as one of the largest wetlands with water channels, reeds, numerous lakes, meadows, swamps, flooded forests, sands and the remains of the steppes. The route includes the breath-taking canyon systems, hot and mineral springs, caves, the second largest desert in Europe, pink lakes and other unique natural phenomenon. While traveling it is the possibility to gain the experience of cultural and gastronomic pleasure the region could offer. The tour also offers tourists different extreme and adventurous activities like photography trips, rafting, hiking, cycling, horse riding and auto-moto hiking, as well as trophy raids on the sand.





Colți Amber Museum



COLȚI AMBER MUSEUM - COLȚI COMMUNE

The interest sparked by the existence of amber deposits in the area and the concerns of the inhabitants for the exploitation and processing of this mineral determined the organization of the Colți Museum Collection, inaugurated on June 14, 1980. The initiative dates from 1973, when the construction of a building in the specific architectural style of the region begins, a study is being prepared on the operation and processing of amber and the action of collecting some nuggets, tools used by the locals and also documents regarding the history of the area and the village of Colți. Known as the Amber Museum, unique in the country due to the variety and size of the amber exhibits, the collection, inaugurated with the resumption of the folk festival Flower of Colți and reorganized in the years 1983, 1990 and 2000, valorizes and archaeological exhibits and documents that reveal moments from the history of this ancient settlement. Documents, photos, tools (wooden lathes, hammers, lamps, pickpockets), amber nuggets of different sizes, jewelry (rings, earrings, medallions, brooches, bead rounds, cigarettes) that illustrate the activity of prospecting, exploiting and processing of amber are the main attraction of this museum.

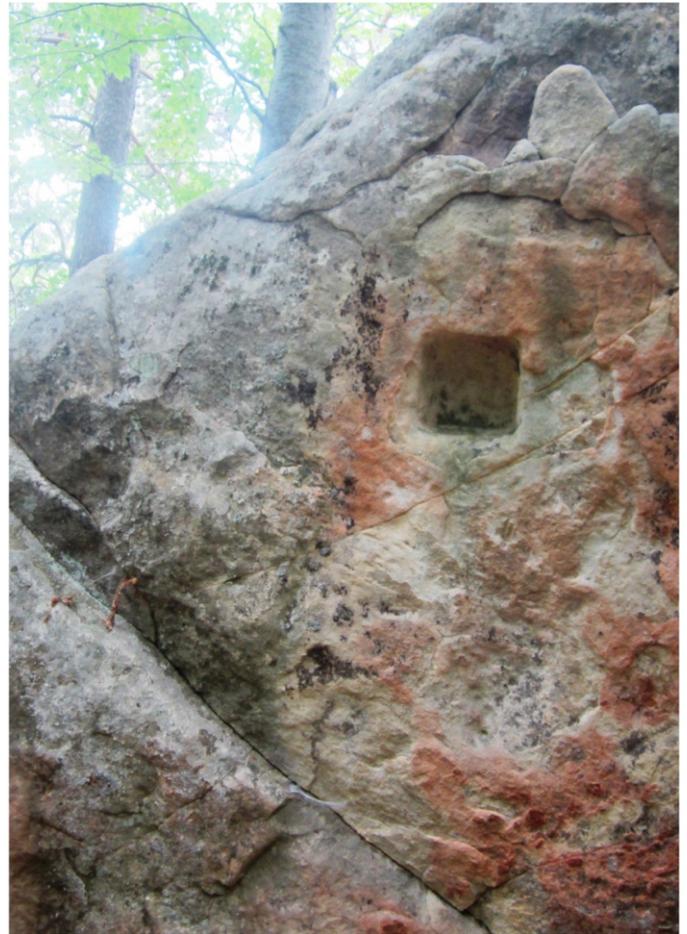
useful information adress: Colți commune, Buzău County

contact: +4 0238 522 501

website: <http://www.turismcolti.ro>



Buzău Mountains Rock Churches



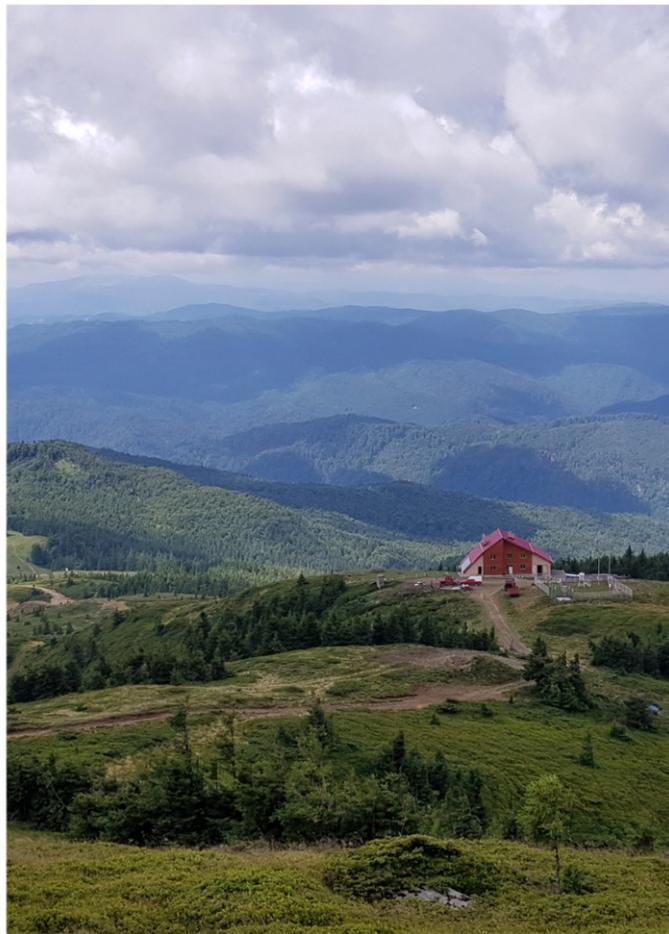
BUZĂU MOUNTAINS ROCK CHURCHES

The rock churches in Buzău Mountains represent a complex of rocky remains with dominant religious and refuge functions, whose origin sometimes descends to prehistory, located in the area of the South-Eastern arch of the Carpathians, mainly in the Ivănețu Peak area, but also in Siriu Massif. The rock settlements in Buzău Mountains (5th millennium BC - 18th century) include the largest concentration of monuments and monastic houses in the Romanian space. In the area of Aluniș - Nucu - Fișici - Ruginoasa, located on the communes of Colți, Bozioru, Brăești, as well as in the localities of Cozieni, Cătina and Pietroasele, numerous rock settlements have been discovered, inhabited from prehistory, others used as dungeons or arranged as shelters of Christian worship. Tourists can opt for different routes, accessible from Nucu, Bozioru, Fișici and so on. Of these, the most famous is the Luana Country Road, and among the objectives met by tourists along its route are: Chilia di Dionisie, Joseph's Church, Agatonul Nou, Cross of the Back, etc.

useful information access: Nucu, Bozioru, Fișici communes



Penteleu Montains Nature Reserve

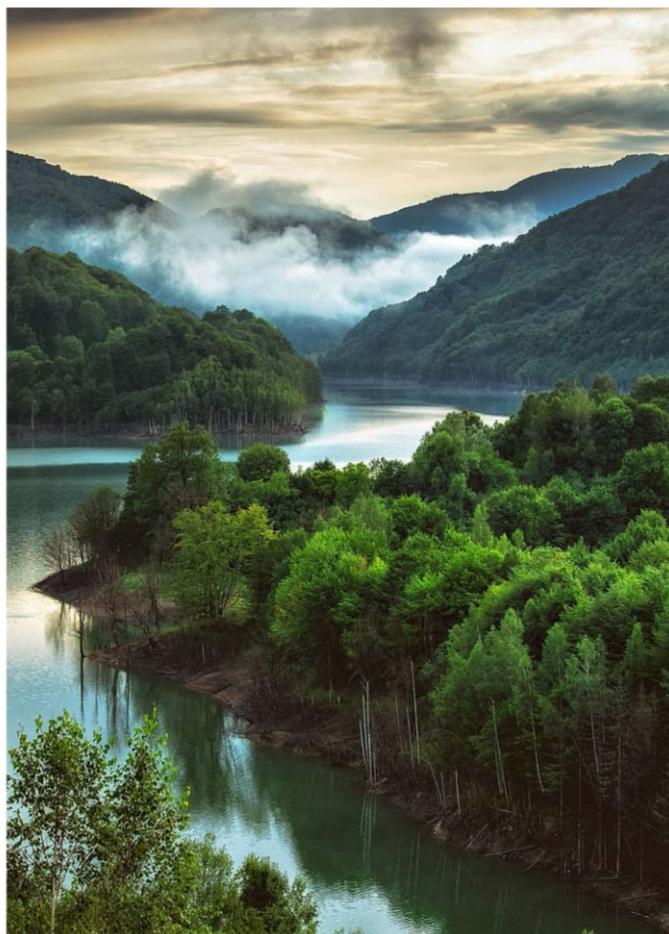


PENTELEU MOUNTAINS NATURE RESERVE

Tourists can reach Penteleu Montains Nature Reserve by car, from the county road in Gura Teghii commune, Buzău County. The Nature Reserve has 2 touristic trails, one starting from Varlaam commune (1) and the other from Gura Cernatului (2). Trail no. 1 is the longest route in Penteleu Mountains - it crosses the ridge of the massif, but it is relatively easy - the only difficulty being the actual ascent to Penteleu Peak (4 hours), after which the ridge is made by skipping the higher peaks. The trail goes along forest roads, pastures, along small clusters of spruces. Tourists can continue the ascent on the last sector until the top of Penteleu (1,772 m) for about 10 minutes, from where a wide panorama unfolds: Cernatu Peak and the Tisei Valley and the Eastern slope of Husăuș (on the Western side), Podu Calului Massif (on the Southern side), Vrancea Mountains (on the North-Eastern side) and so on. The second trail almost continuously follows Milea Valley road. On this trail, travelers can observe the Southern end of the Viforâta Reservation with colossal trees. Passing from Caprei Peaks, tourists follow the narrow path along the secondary ridge among spruce and fir trees and exit on the main peak in the Căprioara Ridge, located North of the Piciorul Caprei Peak. The road continues to the Miclăuș Ridge. Once tourists have reached the peak, the horizon is wide open, and the Southern and Eastern parts of Penteleu Mountains unfold.



Siriu Mountains



SIRIU MOUNTAINS

Adventure tourist can start the hiking/ cycling trails in Siriu Mountains via Siriu, Bâsca Chiojdului or Crasna communes. There are 4 hiking trails, going along the main peaks (Siriu and Mălâia), going through forests roads and pastures. For travelers opting for the southern trails, they can venture by car along the forest road surrounding the Siriu Lake, admiring the scenic vistas of the lake and the Siriu commune. Later on, the journey continues on foot, passing different villages and valleys and ending at the Vulture Lake (one of the main attractions of the region). The tourists who wish to start their journey from Crasna commune (Covasna County), will encounter along their journey amazing waterfalls (Urlătoarea) and marvelous ridges, finishing with the Vulture or Bottomless Lake.

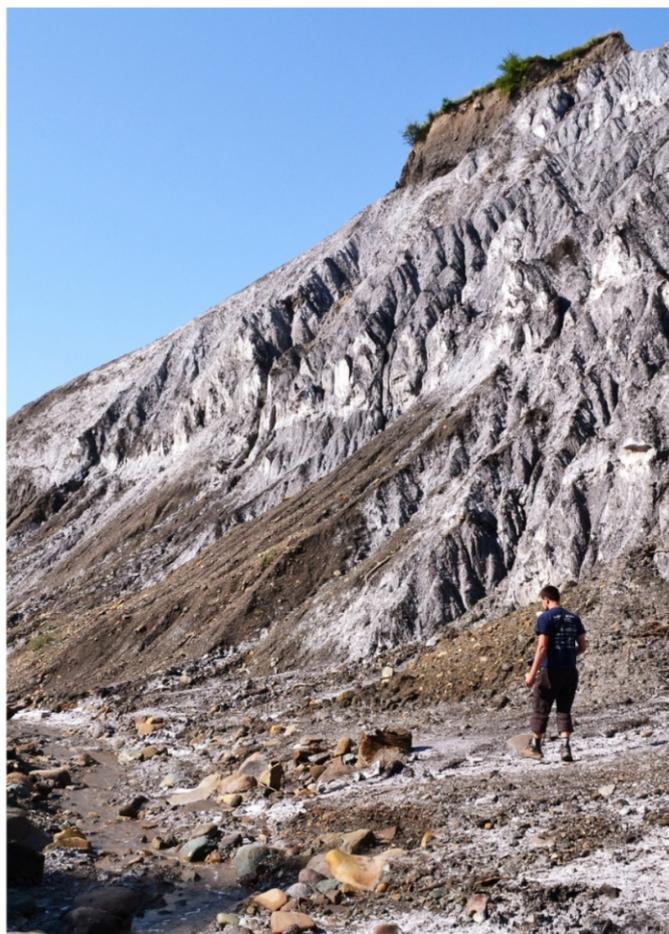
useful information

access: Siriu, Crasna, Bâsca Chiojdului commune

note: for more details, tourists should visit the Information centres in Siriu, Crasna and Bâsca Chiojdului communes



Meledic Salt Plateau



MELEDIC SALT PLATEAU - MÂNZĂLEȘTI COMMUNE

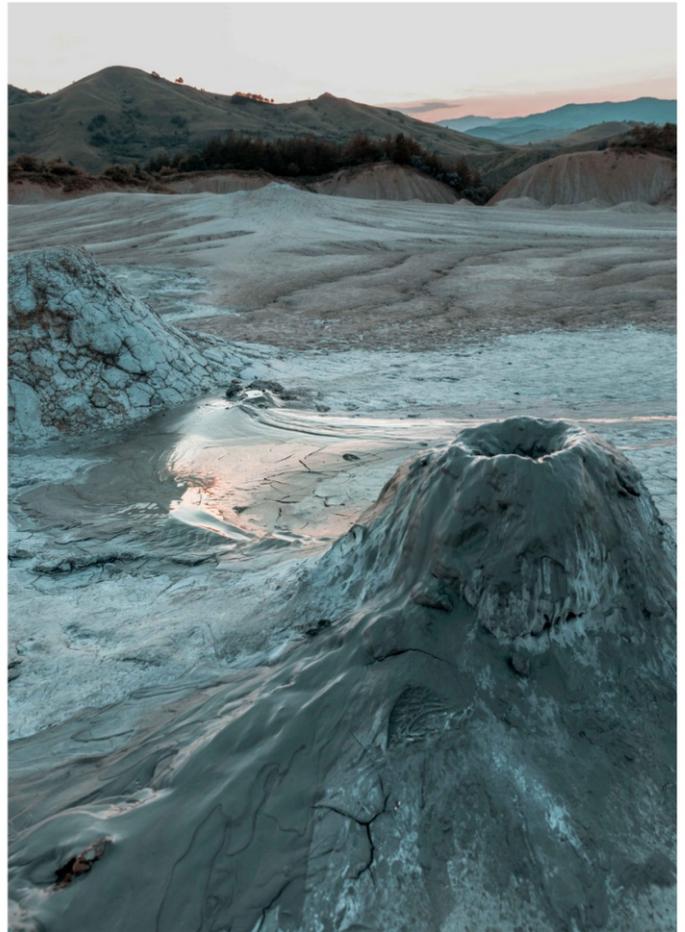
Meledic Plateau is a geological, speleological, botanical and zoological reserve that covers an area of about 70 hectares, at an altitude of 600 m, to the right of the Jghiabului Valley, within the radius of Mânzălești commune. Dozens of salt caves were discovered near the Meledic plateau, including the famous 6S, the world record holder for the longest salt formed cavity. 6S has 3,234 m development and 42 m level difference. The main entrance is mostly blocked, due to the slip caused by rain, but the steep salt walls can be admired from the outside. Those wishing to explore salt cavities need specialized equipment and guidance. Lake Meledic is the only fresh water lake in the world located on a salt masif. Its maximum depth is 6 meters and its surface does not exceed 1 hectare. During the summer, tourists can enjoy sports fishing in its waters. Other attractions in the area include the Sculpture Camp and the Sphinx in Buștea.

useful information

adress: Trestioara village, Mânzălești commune



Mud Volcanoes



MUD VOLCANOES - BERCA

The Berca Mud Volcanoes (Vulcanii Noroioși de la Pâclele Mici) is a geological and botanical reservation located in Scorțoasa commune close to Berca in Buzău County in Romania. Its most spectacular feature is the mud volcanoes, small volcano-shaped structures typically a few metres high caused by the eruption of mud and natural gases. The phenomenon can be observed on 2 separate locations near the Berca commune, dubbed Little Mud Volcanoes and Big Mud Volcanoes. The volcanoes themselves are surrounded by 'badlands' of water-cut ravines.

useful information

address:

Pâclele, Berca commune, Buzău County

contact: +4 0722 623 021

visiting hours:

Monday - Sunday - 08:00 - 20:00

admission fee:

adults: 4 lei (in 2017)

note: access is only permitted on dry days



Putna Natural Park



PUTNA NATURAL PARK

Putna Natural Park lies in the central North-Western part of Vrancea Mountains, in Curvature Carpathians. The biodiversity of this park, which stretches on 38,000 hectares, is impressive. Large carnivores, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates and 12 species of protected birds can be found here. The forests, extremely compact and inaccessible, are the ideal habitat for large carnivores. Several types of habitat can be found here, ranging from beech forests, to alpine and boreal shrubs and also meadows. Tourists can opt for 14 hiking and trekking routes, starting from Lepșa, Păulești, Tulnici, Vetrești- Herăstrău communes. Among the most important objectives in the region are Goru Peak, Horn Waterfall, Black Lake (Lacul Negru), Lăcăuți Peak, Pietrosu Peak and so on.

useful information

contact: Ion Militaru, park director +4 0729 040 870

office@putnavrancea.ro

public relations:

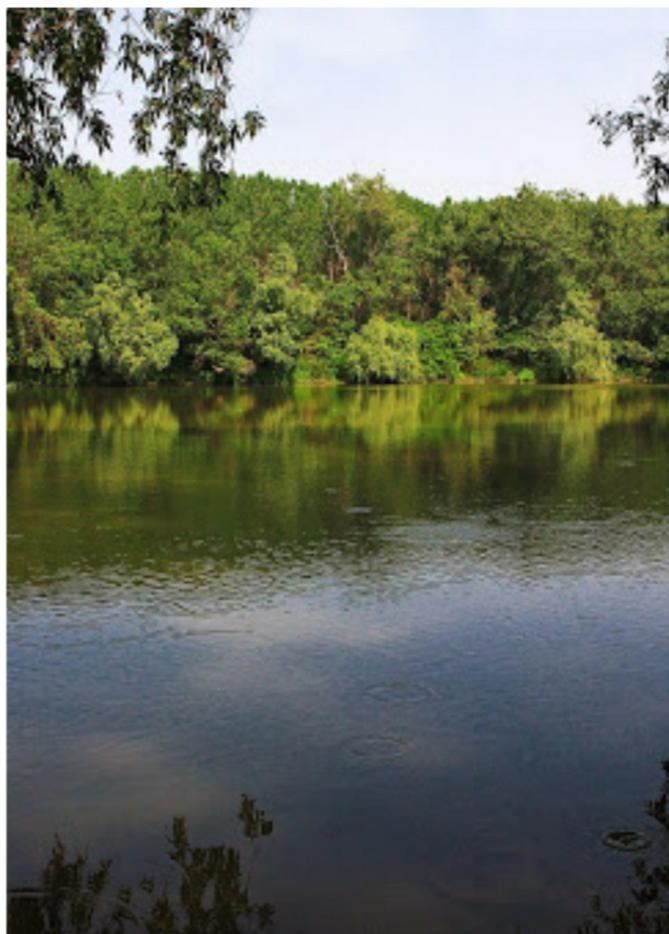
contact@putna-vrancea.ro

+4 0237 265 361

website: <https://www.putna-vrancea.ro>



Lake Brateş



LAKE BRATEȘ - GALAȚI

Lake Brateș, located at the confluence of the Prut River and the Danube, is one of the largest lakes in Romania, it is an important fishing base and one of the tourist attractions from Galați County. Also dubbed “The Balaton of Romania”, Lake Brateș was part of the small delta made by the Prut River inflow, which lined the lake and ponds on both sides of the river. In 2011, Lake Brateș was declared a Special Protection Area for birds. The site consists of 3 natural habitats: fresh continental waters (stagnant and running waters), extensive cereal-growing crops (including rotational crops with stubble ploughing) and caducefoliated forests (mixture of indigenous white willow with white poplar and black poplar). Among the avifaunistic species encountered here, we mention: the great white pelican, the whiskered tern, the black tern, red footed falcon, the red-breasted goose, the greater white-fronted goose, the Eurasian wigeon, the mallard, the common teal, the Eurasian coot, the little egret and the lesser spotted woodpecker.

useful information access: from Galați, via Macului Street



Gorgonel - Rotundu - Telincea Lake Complex



GORGONEL - ROTUNDU - TELINCEA LAKE COMPLEX AND SOMOVA POND

The lake complex is composed of the lakes Gorgonel, Rotundu, Somova stream, Parcheș, Morun Gorge, Ciorciovata, Babele, Petică, Somova, Câșla and Gâsca, being a protected area for various species of freshwater living. The mini-delta, with its beautiful scenery, is the ideal place for tourists dreaming of a quiet holiday, a place where tourists can enjoy fishing parties, light boat trips on the canals and of course, fishing-specific dishes.

useful information

note: boats can be rented from Tulcea, or from the villages nearby



Măcin Mountains National Park



MĂCIN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Măcin Mountains are of remarkable importance in the country's mountains, being the oldest mountains in Romania. Due to the numerous historical vestiges, the researchers' interest is focused on the archaeological excavations and equally on the research of existing vast natural treasure here – geological, botanical and zoological. Măcin Mountains National Park's available natural potential is making it accessible to a wide range of tourists, interested in hiking, landscapes, flora, local fauna, studies and documentaries (documentations). On different levels of vegetation, between 7 and 467 m - Țuțuiatu Peak, we meet the unique steppe landscapes on the slopes, followed by forests with oak, flowering ash, hornbeam and downy oak, leading to bushes on the peaks and cliffs, and steppe-looking alpine meadows. Tourists can enter the park through Luncașița, Nifon or Niculișel communes, in the Northern and Eastern part of the park.

useful information

address (Northern and Eastern part): Luncașița, Nifon, Niculișel communes

contact: Măcin Mountains National Park Administration

tel/fax :+4 0240 517718

e-mail: parcmacin@gmail.com

website: <http://www.parcmacin.ro/en>



Mila 23



MILA 23

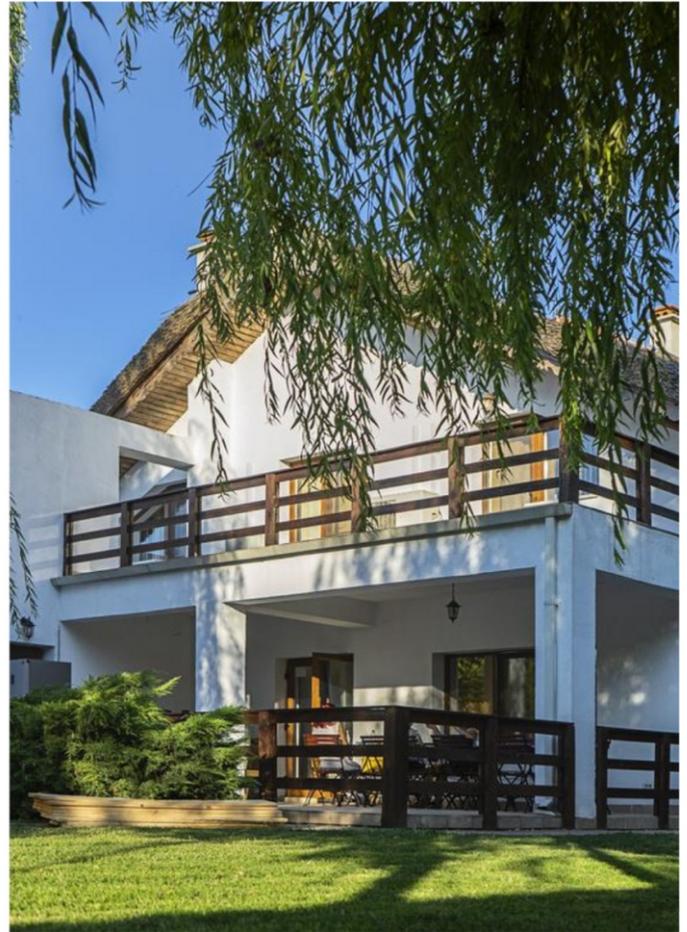
Among the most sought-out destinations in the Danube Delta, the Mila 23 village is located at approximately 40 km from Tulcea Municipality, accessible only by waterways. Having a unique and picturesque appearance, Mila 23 was founded by the Lipovans, on the old course of the Danube, more than 200 years ago. Nowadays, the traditions and customs of the Lipovans, but also the gastronomy and traditional architecture make the village stand out among tourist destinations. The reed roof houses, with windows painted in shades of blue, known as *sinilie*, are specific to this village. The fishing enthusiasts can test their skills on the Old Danube, Eracle Canal, Şontea, Obertin Lake, Trei Iezere Lake and so on. The village has its own unconventional museum, known as the Floating Museum, built around the traditional Danubian *lotca* - a boat used by fishermen to travel between different villages. The museum exhibitions are formed around the traditions and stories from fishing communities such as Mila 23, Crişan and Caraorman.

useful information

note: tourists can access the Mila 23 fishing village from Tulcea, Murighiol and Crişan, only by boat



Chilia Veche



CHILIA VECHÉ

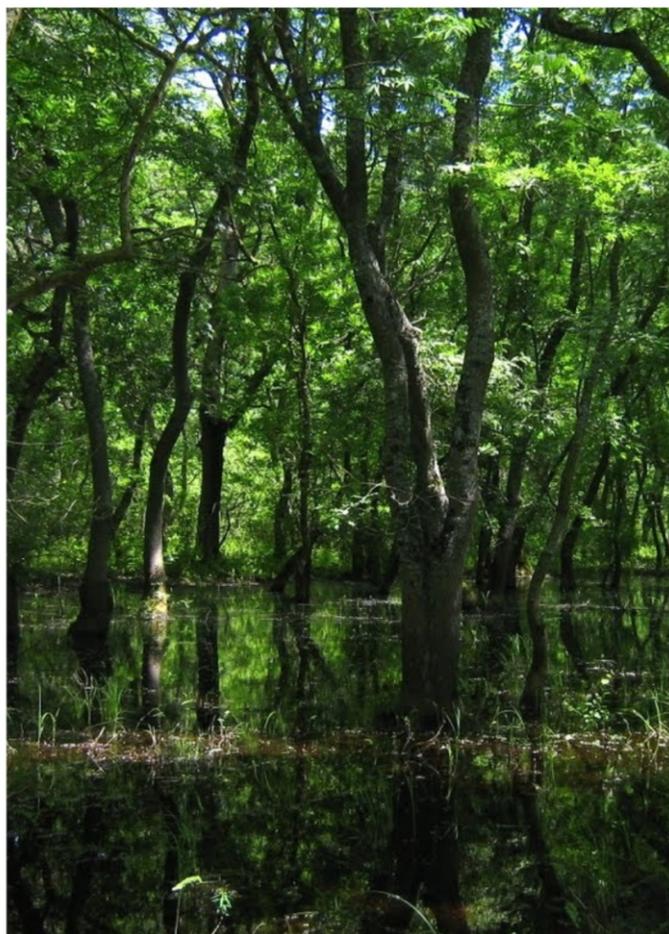
Founded by the Greek Byzantines, it was given its name after the word for “granaries” recorded earliest in 1241 in the works of Persian chronicler Rashid al-Din. The small lake town is isolated between the waters, so that the tourist looking for accommodation in Chilia Veche discovers that he can reach this ancient place only by 2 means; and both involve crossing large areas of water. This is also the reason why many accommodation units in Chilia Veche offer guests the option of a boat transfer from Tulcea to the destination. The road is about 60 km long and the pensions often provide an experienced navigator with a guiding role. Tourists can embark in different sub-trips from Chilia Veche to see the largest colony of white pelicans in Europe in the Roşca Lake or the wild horses from Letea.

useful information

note: tourists can access Chilia Veche fishing village from Tulcea, by boat, or by road (includes passing the Danube by ferry)



Letea Forest

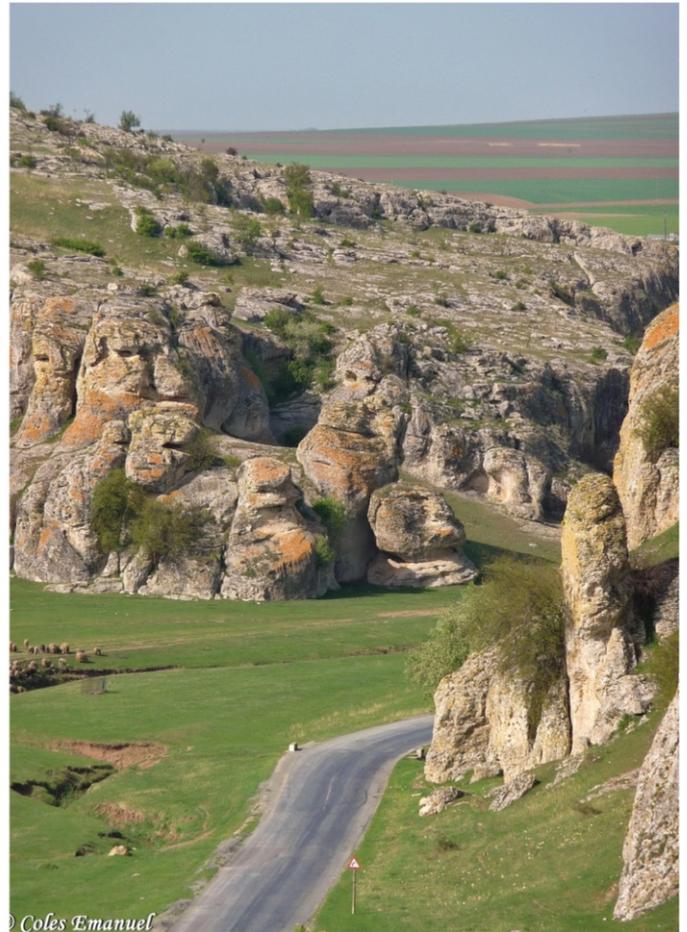


LETEA FOREST - C.A. ROSETTI COMMUNE

Letea Forest is the oldest natural reservation in Romania, located North of the C.A. Rosetti commune. Starting from the village of Letea, tourists can also experience part of the journey on horseback. The Letea Forest has developed in the form of broad strips developed in the spaces between the sand dunes, the so called strips being made of oak, moss oak, white poplar, white ash, white lime ash. A characteristic of the forest is the abundance of climbing plants such as hops, woodpeckers and not least Greek liana (*Periploca graeca*), which gives the forest a Mediterranean appearance. At the same time, over 2,000 species of insects have been identified, the sand viper (*Vipera ursinii*), the codalb eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) - which nest here, 3 species of hawthorn, the raven, etc. Many tourists who come to Letea Forest want to see, besides dunes and secular trees, the famous wild horses, approximately 2,000 at number. They were abandoned by the locals during the communist period, either because they had nothing to feed them, or after the “infectious anemia” was declared, a condition that caused many horse owners to abandon their animals. They have multiplied over the years, and now it is estimated that there are between 3,000 and 5,000 horses throughout the reserve and almost 2,000 in the Letea area.



Dobrudja Gorges



DOBRUDJA GORGES

Dobrudja Gorges are located in the central area of the Dobrudja region, in a hilly landscape with limestone cliffs covered with steppe vegetation, shrubs and forest patches that characterize the Casimcei Plateau. Dobrudja Gorges are an area with extraordinary natural values, represented by the geological, paleontological, speleological, botanical, zoological and landscape aspects. The valley is wide and bordered by limestone walls located far away from the main water line. The breathtaking scenery is completed by a variety of species of flora and fauna, specific for the sub-Mediterranean climate. The region is accessible by car, on the DJ222 Road, from Cheia commune.



Taşaul Lake

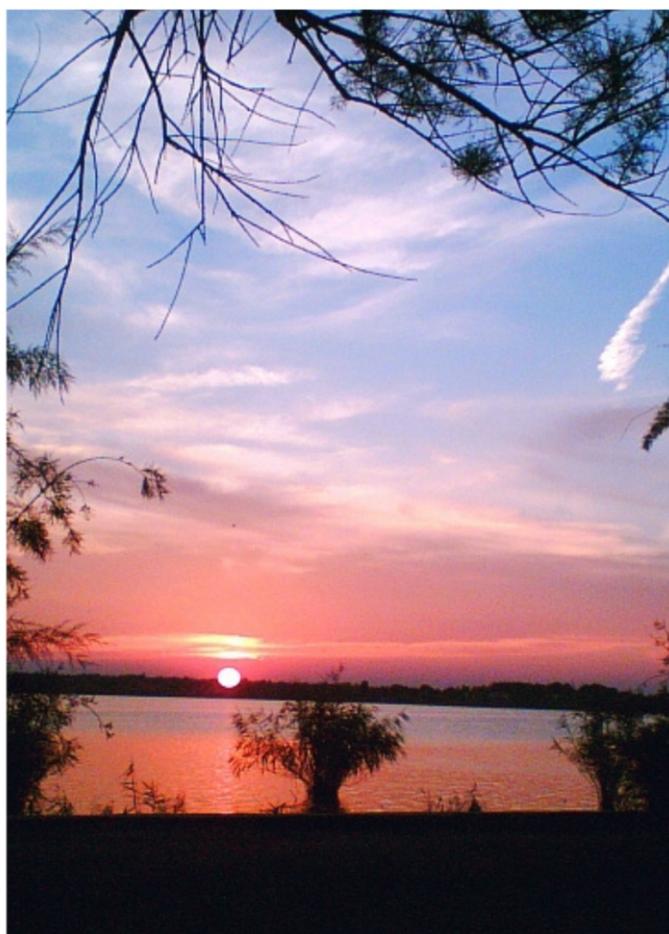


TAŞAUL LAKE - NĂVODARI

Taşaul Lake is a lake in Northern Dobrudja, Romania. Formerly an open salt water coastal lagoon, connected with the Black Sea, it was transformed into a freshwater accessible by car, via DC86 Road lake in the 1920s. Taşaul Lake has been used mainly for aquaculture and fish production. The crucian is among the most common species of fish found in its waters. The lake is also a stopping point and refuge for the migratory birds. The birds that nest in the Danube Delta, spend the spring and autumn over this lake or hide in its reefs.



Siutghiol Lake



SIUTGHIOL LAKE - CONSTANȚA

Siutghiol Lake is located in the Northern part of the city of Constanța, limited by the Mamaia resort on its right bank. On its 1,900 hectares, tourists can practice sports fishing or water sports such as water skiing or yachting. The lake has a limestone island, Ovidiu, with an area of 2 ha. Crucian carp, bream, perch etc. are among the main species of fish found in its waters .

useful information
accessible by car, via Mamaia Boulevard or
E87 Road



Lake Techirghiol



TECHIRGHIOL LAKE

Techirghiol Lake is the largest salt lake in Romania, located in the immediate vicinity of the coastline, at approximately 15 km South of Constanța. The lake is an important nesting, wintering ground (salt and brackish water prevents the freezing of the lake during the cold season) and passage point for migratory birds. The town of Techirghiol has earned its reputation as a spa resort due to the curative properties of its lake. The sapropelic sludge extracted from the depths of the lake is successfully used in the two treatment bases existing in the resort. Techirghiol Spa and Recovery Sanatorium has one of the largest treatment bases on the Romanian coast. Based on the capacity of the sanatorium, up to 800 patients can be treated and over 2,500 procedures can be performed daily. A modern treatment base also exists within the SocialPastoral Center of the Saint Mary Monastery. In both treatment bases, tourists can benefit from mud baths, salt water baths from Techirghiol Lake, galvanic baths, herbal baths, massage, kinesiotherapy, electrotherapy, magnetotherapy.

useful information

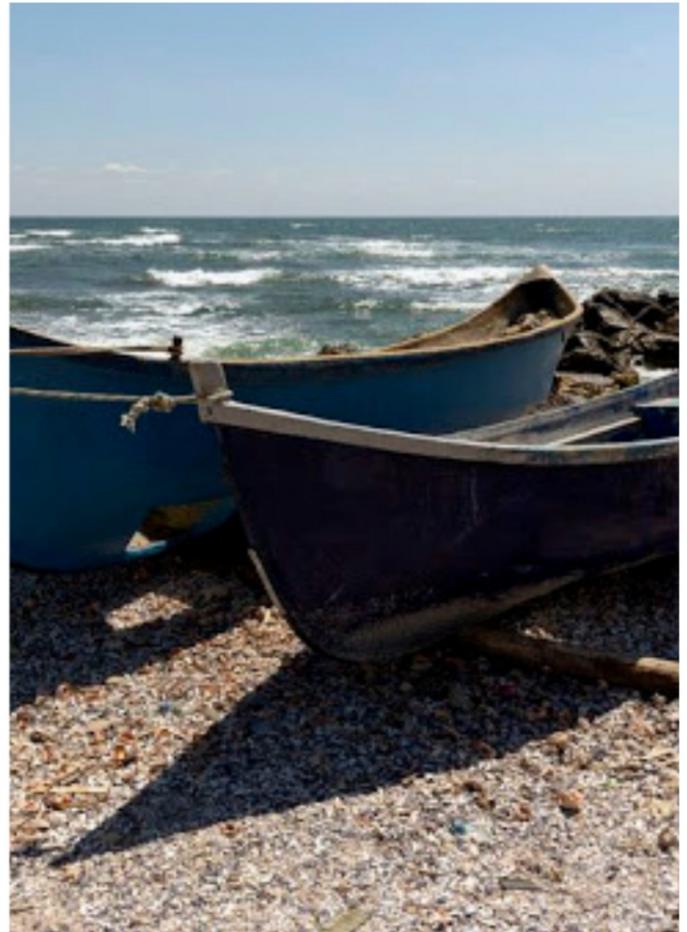
address:

Techirghiol commune, Constanța County

access: via DE 87 (DN 39) Constanța - Mangalia



The maritime zone Cape Tuzla



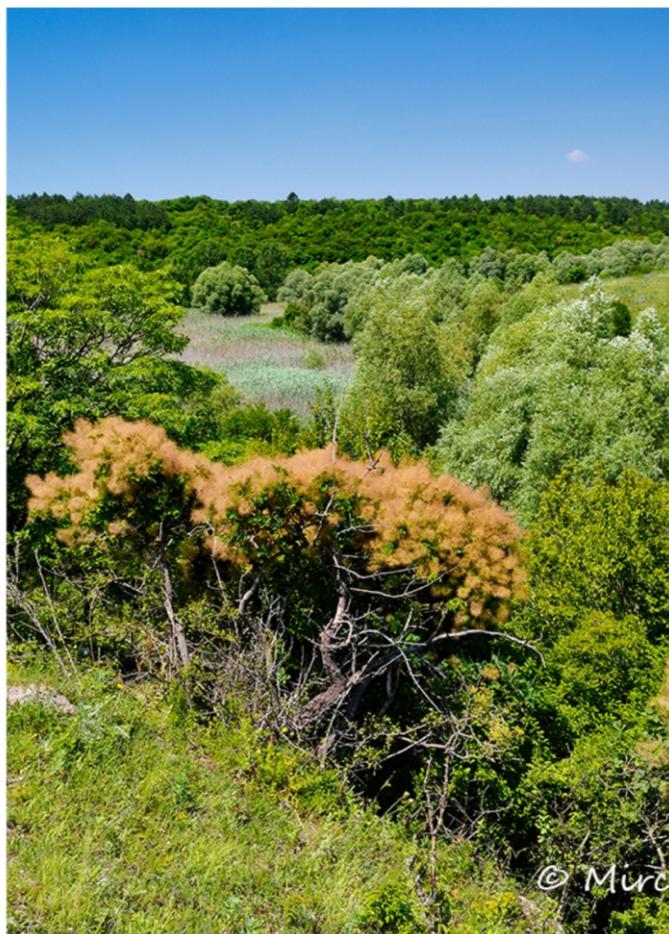
THE MARITIME ZONE CAPE TUZLA

The protected area is located in the Eastern part of Constanța County, in the territorial waters of the NorthWestern Black Sea. The site represents an area located in the depths of the Black Sea in the Cape Tuzla area, a rugged rocky reef relief, that houses various marine microhabitats. The protected area framed in the Pontic bioregion of the territorial waters of the Black Sea, preserves 3 types of habitats: sand banks permanently covered by a small layer of seawater, sands and marshy areas not covered by seawater at reflux and reefs. It protects important species of flora, fauna and marine fauna. Among other activities, tourists can engage in sunbathing, water sports, diving, kayak - canoe, horseback riding, sport fishing.

useful information address: Tuzla commune, Constanța County



Hagieni Forest - Cotu Văii



HAGIENI FOREST - COTU VĂII

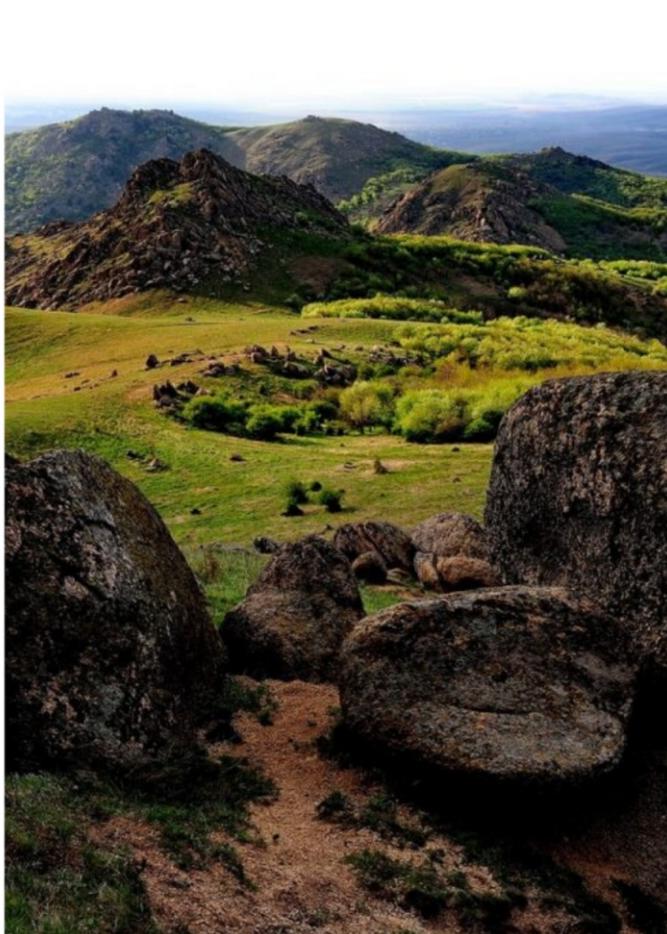
Hagieni Forest is a nature reserve located in Southern Dobrudja, respectively in the Negru Vodă Plateau. The forest appears as an island of thermophilic trees in the Dobrudjan steppe. The forest is of great scientific importance at national and international level, due to its geographical position at the intersection of Pontic, Balkan, Mediterranean, Central-European, Aralo-Caspian and Illyo-Moesian floristic elements. Among the rare species that can be found in the area are *Centaurea jankae*, *Himantoglossum caprinum* and *Potentilla emilii-popii*.

useful information

address: Limanu commune, Constanța County



Canaraua Fetii Nature Reserve



CANARAUA FETII - BĂNEASA COMMUNE

Although not included in the well-known tourist sites, the Canaraua Fetii Nature Reserve, is a canyon with limestone walls, which spread over 20 km. It starts near Băneasa commune, near the Iortmac basin, and passes into Bulgaria, where it bears the name of Suha Reka. The rock formations hide different niches, furnaces and caves, ideal for nature explorers. The area includes a large forest of ash, hornbeam, flowering ash, locust and all kinds of oaks give way, southward, a “canyon” more wide than deep and whose walls are mostly hidden under lush vegetation.

useful information

address:

Băneasa commune, Constanța County

note: tourists can access the nature reserve following the DN3 Road, passing through Băneasa commune, and then



Fântânița - Murfatlar Nature Reserve



THE FÂNTÂNIȚA - MURFATLAR NATURE RESERVE

The Fântânița - Murfatlar Reserve is located in the Southern part of Dobrudja, in the Plateau of Medgidia, on the Eastern territory of the village of Siminoc. The natural reserve represents an area with an inclined relief, crossed by several streams, with fauna characteristic to arid areas (Dobrudjan steppe) and floristic elements specific to the Pontic, Balkan, Continental, SubMediterranean or Eurasian habitats. The nature reserve is the ideal location for nature enthusiasts, being easy to discover on foot and encompassing a wide variety of rare botanical and zoological species.

useful information

note: for additional information, contact the Murfatlar Touristic Center (Centrul Național de Informare și Promovare Turistică Murfatlar)

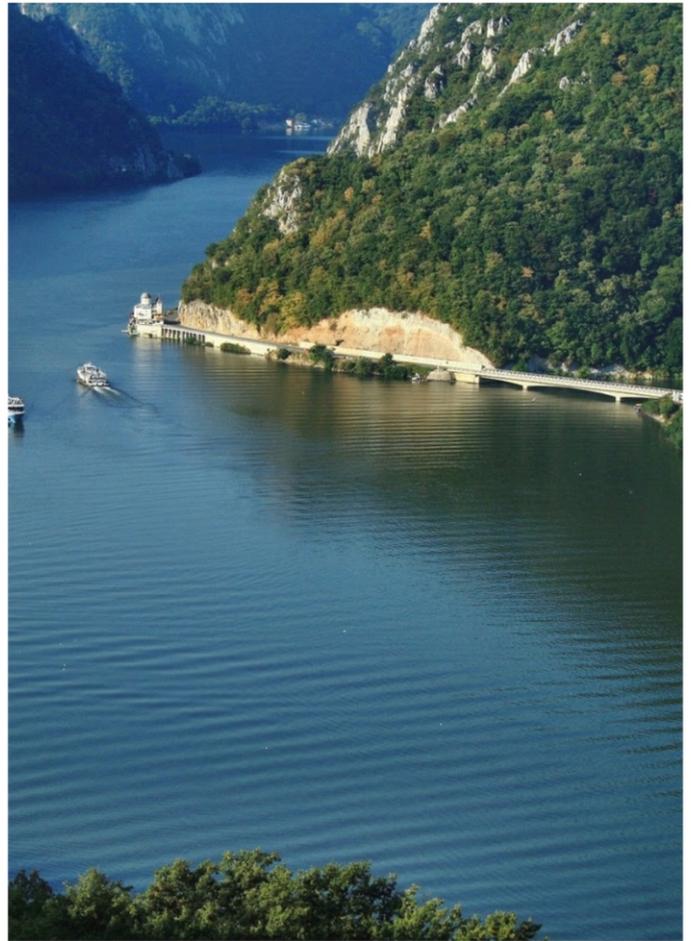
contact: +4 0341 451 855

email: contact@cniptmurfatlar.ro

website: <http://cniptmurfatlar.ro>



Danube Gorges



DANUBE GORGES

The protected area known as Danube Gorges (Canaralele Dunării) expands from the RomanianBulgarian border (near the town of Silistra, Bulgaria), to Hârșova, Constanța County, following the course of the Danube River. The site covers over 260 sqkm, and includes different protected habitats. Well represented are the limestone habitats. The waters of the Danube River are a determining factor in the presence of a rich and diverse avifauna associated with these habitat types. On the territory of the site, tourists can visit the archeological reservation of Carsium Fortress, the geological reserves of Cernavodă Fossiliferous Site, the Movila Banului Fossiliferous Point and the geological and paleontological reserve of the Neo-Jurassic Reef in Topalu.



Kahul lake



Kahul lake

It is one of the biggest lakes in Ukraine and is located near the Nahorne village of Reni district. This lake attracts visitors due to the natural landscapes and unforgettable emotions. The area near the lake is “two-story”: at the top there is a wonderful parking lot with a magnificent view of the lake shores and the canyon, of a meadow from forbs. There is also a shepherd's reed hut, picturesquely located on one of the hills. Below are green meadows and reeds. There are places for swimming, but you need to know them or ask the locals in advance. The water in the lake is typical lake, the bottom is silty, except the shallow water - there is sand.

Useful info

Location: near the Nahorne village in Reni district.

Infrastructure: there is no developed infrastructure*

*note: despite the fact of the infrastructure absence this is a good choice for camping or one-day trip. It is necessary to take along food and drinks, but the emotions from such extraordinary holiday will be great.

Activities: fishing, swimming, camping



Yalpuh lake



Yalpuh lake

Yalpuh, the largest natural lake in Ukraine, is located in the steppes of Odesa region. The climate here is more like a marine one, but the nature is such that selfies' and photography lovers simply will be delighted. The infrastructure in these parts is quite developed - there are recreation centers and shops. And Lake Yalpuh is an ideal place to meet sunsets and sunrises, fish and spend active holidays with friends and family. In the local lands not only breathtaking fishing is possible, but also fantastic hunting. Here, on the expanses of the coastal zone, roe deer, hare and even wild boar are grazed. Hunting is permitted only with a license, the processing of which should be taken care of in advance.

Useful info

Location: along the way to Bolhrad and Izmail.

Infrastructure: there is rather developed infrastructure*

*note: there are shops and recreation camps, but the roads are in the bad conditions.



Izmail islands



Izmail islands

Izmail islands are a unique place in Bessarabia's wildlife. Dive into the world of wildlife in the Danube region. See rare wild animals and birds, rest from the noise of the city, boating or fishing. The Landscape Park "Izmail Islands" is the three amazing islands where the unique island ecosystem in the Danube Delta has been preserved with a peculiar landscape, flora and fauna. Here you can see various animals, such as wild boar, fox, otter, raccoon dog, badger; rare birds and enjoy unity with nature.

Useful info

Location: near the Stara Nekrasivka village, Izmail district.

*note: this is a preserved area, so you would be better to use tourist guide services. Also, there is a recreation camp "Danube", where there is all accommodation for rest, cooking on the fire and other services.

Contacts: Kyslytsi village, Izmail district mob.: +38 (067) 558 29 55

Activities: fishing, swimming, camping



Vilkovo



Vilkovo

Vilkovo is a small but very picturesque town located in the Danube Delta, at the confluence of the river into the Black Sea. The peculiarity of the city is that its old part is located on the water. Therefore, the streets in the old part of the city are along the canals through which citizens travel mainly on hand-made and motor boats, which are the most popular vehicles. The uniqueness of Vilkovo also lies in the fact that the majority of the population of the city are Old Believers - Lipovans. The settlement here was founded in the middle of the 17th century by the Don and Zaporizhzhia Cossacks, persecuted by the tsarist authorities for religious and political reasons and forced to flee to the Danube.

Vilkovo is also famous for its unique wine from grapes growing only here and the Danube herring, and the preserved traditions that are carefully passed down from generation to generation. Here, there is an opportunity to taste local Lipovan cuisine full of delicious fish dishes with unique drinks.

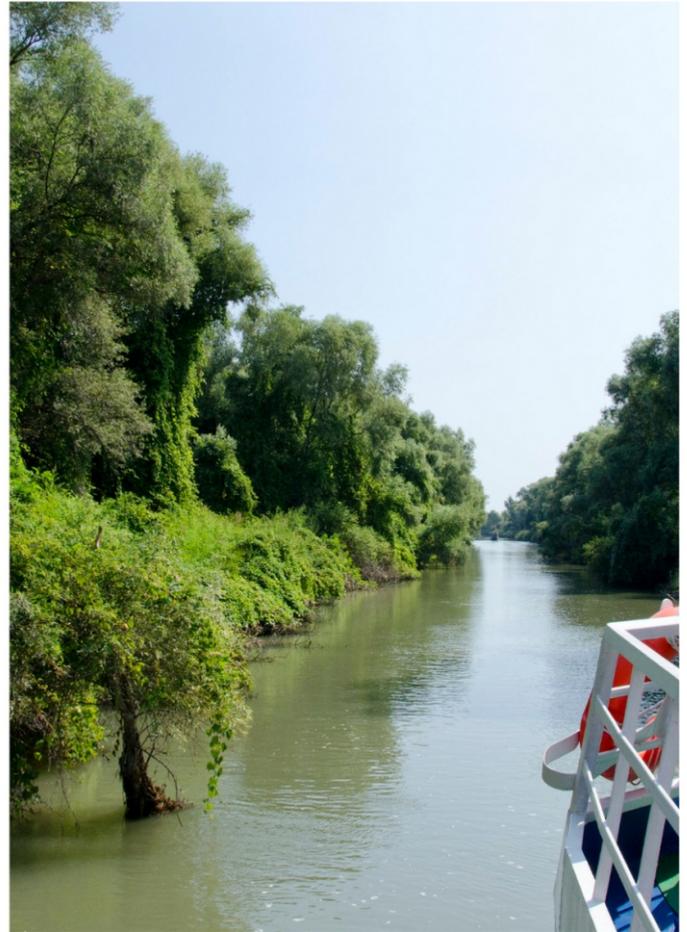
Useful info

Location: Odesa region, Kiliia district

Activities: fishing, eno-gastronomic and cultural tours



Danube Biosphere Reserve



Danube Biosphere Reserve

Danube Biosphere Reserve occupies almost 50,000 hectares. It is considered to be the biggest swampland reserve in Europe! The richness of the flora and fauna of the Danube delta makes it a unique place in Europe.

The Danube delta is the ecological heart of Eastern Europe and one of the largest wetlands with water channels, reedbeds, numerous lakes, meadows, marshes, flooded forests, sands, and remnants of the steppes. There are gorgeous flora and fauna, and the 0km from which the Danube river begins its reading. It also full of legends and beliefs making this location the centre of tangible and intangible tourism.

Useful info

Location: near Vilково

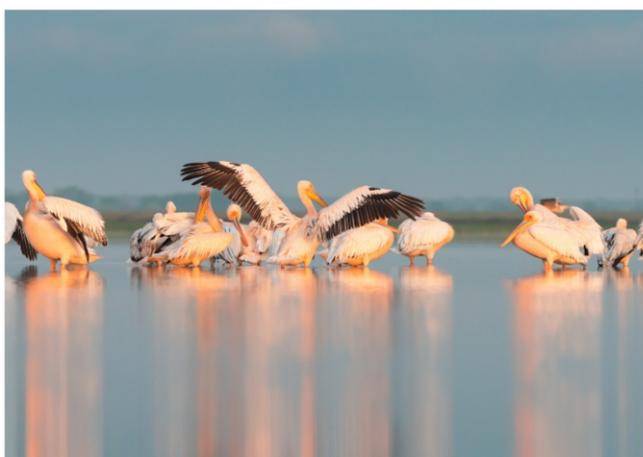
Contacts: Vilково-tour (tourism operator) +38 (067) 981 65 69; +38 (093) 502 03 47

Vilково Pelikan tour (tourism operator) +38 (067) 483 52 07 (Odesa office);

+38 (067) 489 01 69 (Vilково office)



Tuzly Lagoons National Nature Park



Tuzly Lagoons National Nature Park

This park is considered a national treasure of Ukraine and is one of the parts of the global system of natural territories that are under special protection. This natural complex is of great importance for the optimal support of the biological diversity of the region. It serves as a place for nesting and wintering during the migration of many wetland birds, some of which are listed in the Red Book of Ukraine and the Red List of Europe.

The territory of Tuzly Lagoons National Nature Park is 13 sea estuaries, 200 meters of the sea area along the unique sand barrier with the length within the park — 36 km, and untypical for the steppe zone forest line. An amazing combination of the sea, estuary, steppe and forest, by the end of the XIX century, made this corner of southern Bessarabia a very popular place to relax.

Useful info

Location: Tatarbunary district

Contacts: +38 (068) 881 61 94



Lower Dniester National Natural Park



Lower Dniester National Natural Park

National Nature Park was founded in 2008 in the Bilhorod-Dnistrovski. It also takes part in the Biliaievskiyi and Ovidiopolskiy districts. There are four tourist destinations: “The kingdom of birds”, “Dnistrovsky Amazon”, “Old Turunchchuk”, “Brilliant ibis” that no through this park.

The park occupies more than 21 000 hectares of land, among which there are also areas, transferred for industrial purposes, meeting all the commitment for environmental protection. The park is a home for about 28 species of rare representatives of the flora that listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, as well as more than 100 species of fauna, grow on the territory of the reserve. Many of them are part of the European Red List. That is why the Nizhnednistrovsky park has the status of reserve with a global significance.

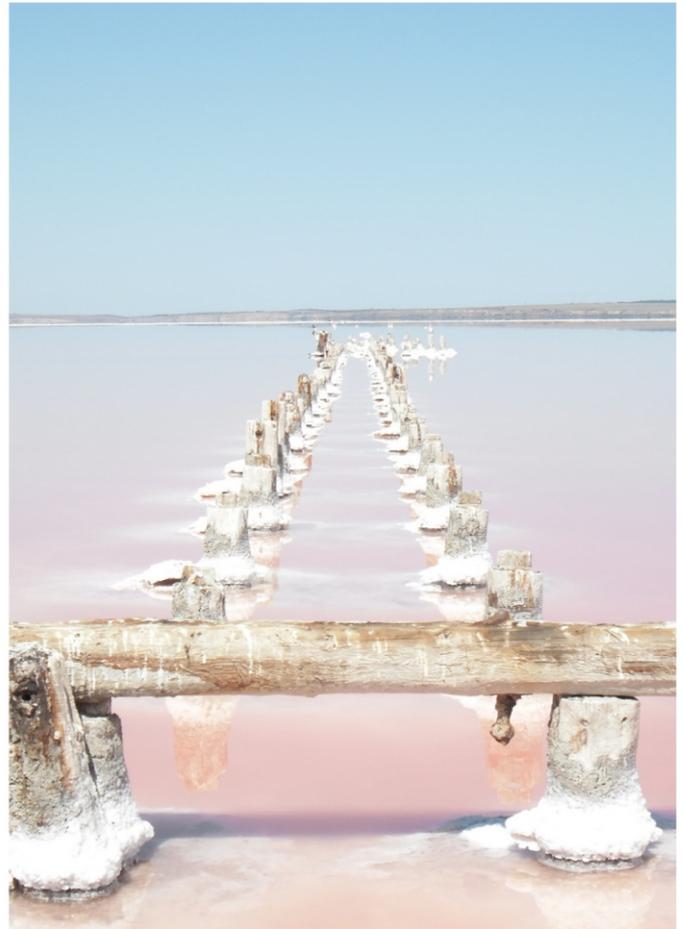
Useful info

Location: Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiyi district, Maiaky village

Contacts: +38 048 523 31 23



Kuialnyk Coastal Salt Lake



Kuialnyk Coastal Salt Lake

The Kuyalnyk Estuary is a unique natural formation that has been considered «the pearl of Europe” for a long time. This is an estuary located in 3 km north-west on the coast of the Gulf of Odesa, Black Sea, and 5 km from Odesa. The area is 56-60 sq. km, length is 28 km, the largest width is 3 km. An average depth is about 1 m. The Kuyalnyk Health Resort was created here. It’s one of the most famous, unique mud bath known by its healing properties which has long been helping people strengthen their health. The Kuyalnyk Health Resort treats a wide range of diseases using such mineral resources as sulfido muds, brine and mineral water. The main specializations are the musculoskeletal system diseases, the nervous system diseases, the female infertility treatment, the treatment of psoriasis, the blood vessel diseases and many other diseases.

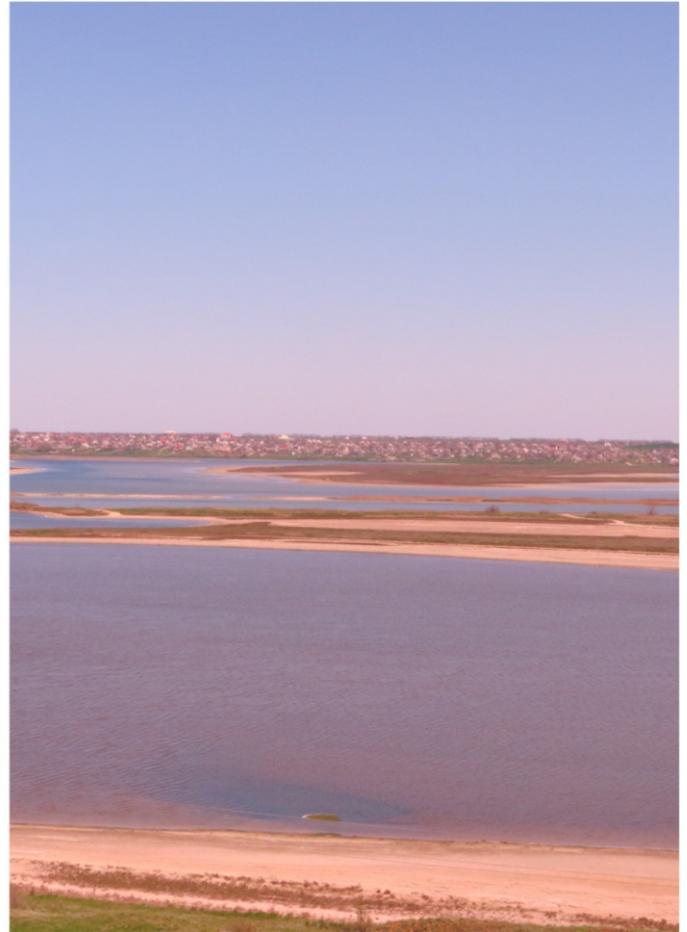
Useful info

Location: Odesa, st. Lyman 170

Contacts: +38 0 800 50 50 82



Tylihul Landscape Park



Tylihul Landscape Park

The Tylihul Regional Landscape Park includes the coastline and surrounding waters of the Tylihul Coastal Salt Lake, which is in Berezan district in Mykolayiv region. The Tylihul estuary is on the border between Mykolayiv and Odesa regions and is considered the one of the cleanest coastal salt lakes in the north-western Black Sea. It is 60 km long and 4.5 km wide, with a maximum depth of 21 meters. Its waters are up to 7 meters, making it the clearest and deepest coastal salt lake in the region, separated from the Black Sea by a wide sandy bar and connected only through an artificial channel.

At the mouth of the Tylihul, the Kobleve health resort is located along the Black Sea shore. The therapeutic mud of the Tylihul have been a major factor allowing such a resort to be developed here and visitors come from wide and far to be treated problems and diseases related to the musculoskeletal system, the nervous system, and the skin.

Useful info

Location: Mykolaiv region, Berezan village

Contacts: +38 (05153) 21570, <http://tiligul.org/>



Granite-steppe lands of Buh river



Granite-steppe lands of Buh river

Granite-steppe lands of Buh is the remnant of a spur of once powerful mountains (like the modern Himalayas) that crossed the territory of present-day Ukraine more than 1000 km from the north-west to the southeast.

For many years, the Buh rapids have been the mecca of water tourists. One of the best in Europe natural routes for rowing slalom is located in the Protich lands. The cliffs of the canyon are the favorite place for competitions of climbers. The park of Granite-steppe lands of Buh has one of the best water slalom tracks in Europe, where all-Ukrainian canoeing and kayaking competitions take place.

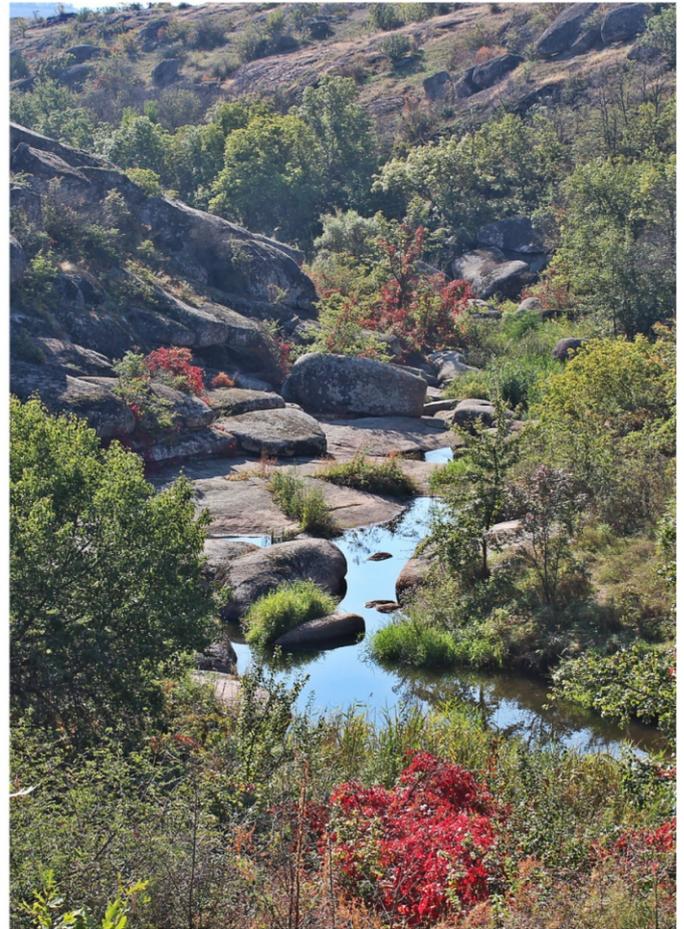
Useful info

Location: Mykolaiv region, Pervomaisk city

Contacts: +38 (05161) 613-70



Aktove Canyon



Aktove Canyon

Aktovsky Canyon on the Mertvovod River (from the Ukrainian it means “dead water”) near the village of Aktove in Voznesensk district is a unique natural complex, which combines the grandeur of granite rocks and the picturesque beauty of the water element. For to its almost unearthly landscape and the eerie name of the river, in which there is a high concentration of hydrogen sulfide, Aktovsky Canyon was named "Devil's Valley". Here the most of the Scythian kings were buried, and during their reign, magic rituals were held.

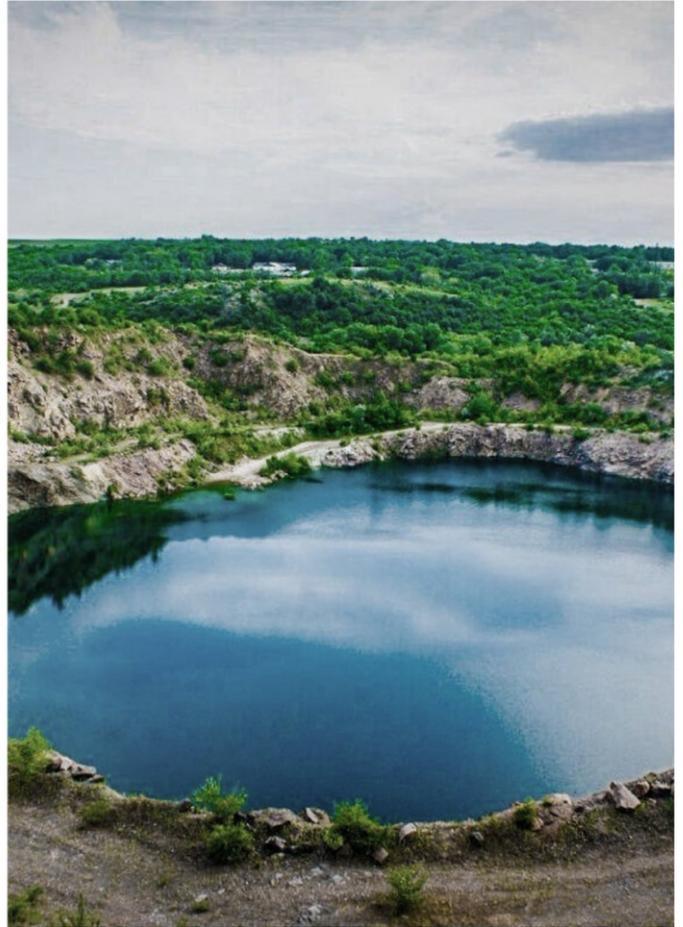
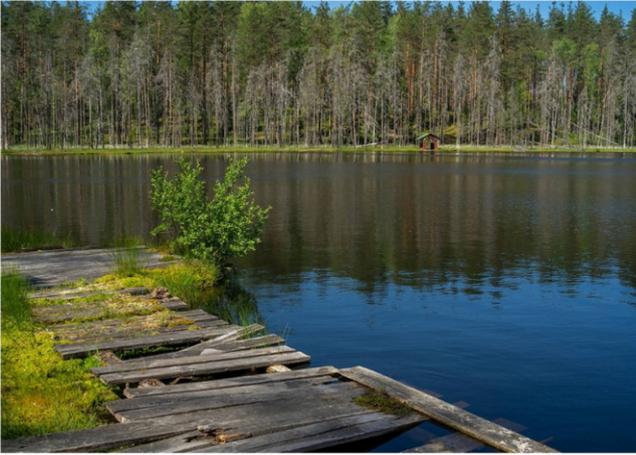
The canyon system consists of old weathered granite cut by the Mertvovod and Arbuzyinka Rivers to a depth of 40-50 meters. The canyon area is over 250 hectares of unique granite cliffs, boulders, steppe and aquatic ecosystems, on one of the oldest bits of the Eurasia landmass. Geologists note that the local mountains are very similar in structure and age to the US canyon system. Right next to the Aktovsky canyon is another amazing place - the man-made Trikratsky forest, which is called the "Labyrinth" because of the large number of trails and bridges. Despite the complex landscape and remoteness from large settlements, the Aktovsky Canyon attracts many tourists every year.

Useful info

Location: Mykolaiv region, Voznesensk district



Radon Lake



Radon Lake

The village of Mygiiia will surprise tourists with an unusual radon lake with turquoise water, which was formed on the place of a mine.

It is also called the Black Sea. Radon is an inert gas with many useful properties for the human body, which is successfully used to treat various injuries, diseases of the nervous system, heart, musculoskeletal system, skin, respiratory system etc. In addition, it is comfortable to swim in the lake in the summer heat, because the water temperature is a bit cool, tourists can jump off rocks, and its depth reaches 42 m.

Useful info

Location: Mykolaiv region, Mygiiia village



Kinburn Spit



Kinburn Spit

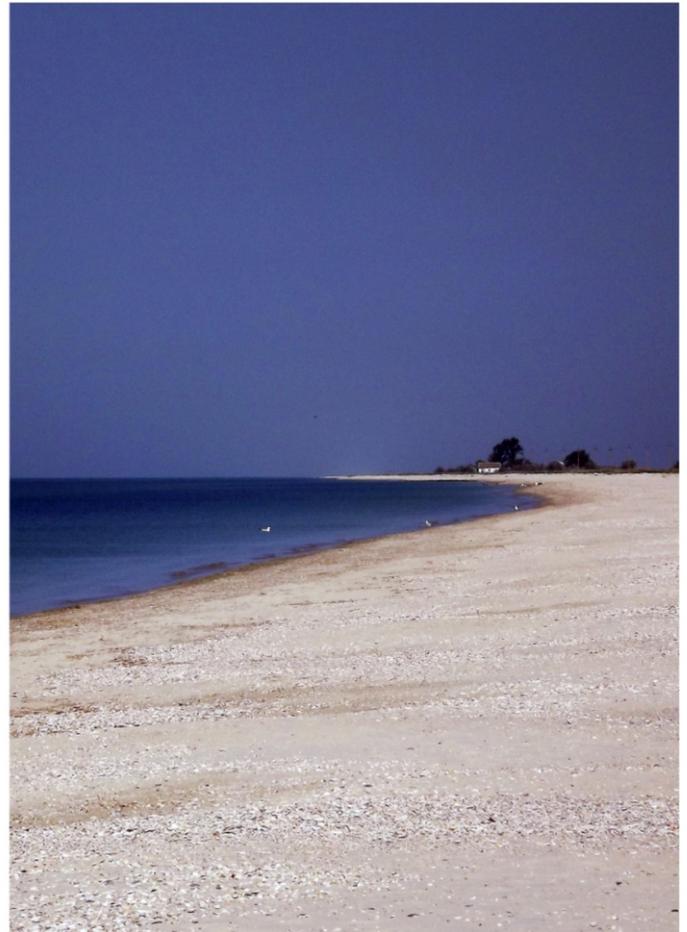
The Kinburn Spit is a protected peninsula located in Ochakiv and Berezan districts in Mykolayiv region between the Dnipro-Buh estuary and the Black Sea. On the one side it is washed by salt waters of Yavorlyk Bay, and on the other - by the fresh waters of the Dnieper.

The unique feature of the area is caused by a significant number of endemic species of flora and fauna. The Kinburn peninsula alone has a unique field of wild orchids that is one of the largest habitats of wild orchids in Ukraine and, indeed, in Europe. The Kinburn Spit includes over 300 ponds with fresh and salt water. Several lakes also have therapeutic mud and the area has sites with blue clay soil. Most of the littoral ponds and ponds near Yavorlyk Bay have access to the sea, which regulates their water exchange.

One of the main tourist attractions of the Kinburn Spit is forest named Volyzhyn Lis. There is a 500 years old oak there. The famous Russian poet Aleksander Pushkin once traveled along Volyzhyn Lis and this old oak inspired him for writing the well-known poem "Ruslan and Liudmila". The most intriguing belief: the Scythians considered this area sacred and hid gold treasures here.



Black Sea Biosphere Reserve



Black Sea Biosphere Reserve

Black Sea Biosphere Reserve is the largest nature reserve in Ukraine, whose territory consists of several parts, representing different landscapes of the seaside in south Ukraine: forest-steppe, sand-steppe, desert-steppe and sea solonchak. It is located in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions of Ukraine. The main purpose of its creation was the preservation and protection of unique natural complexes located on its territory, and scientific activity. There is a large variety of insects, birds, fish, mammals among which there are three species of dolphins.

Most of the territory is closed for tourists. However, the northern part of the spit can be reached by boat from the Iron Port. One of the attractions available to tourists on the Tendrivska Spit is a lighthouse from which you can make a unique photo. There is also a legend that during the time of the ancient Greeks, a temple to Achilles was built on this spit. This place is for those who are fond of calm, secluded tourism.

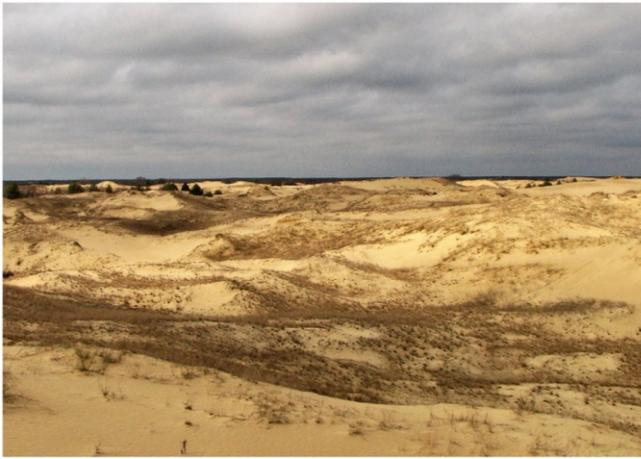
Useful info

Location: Odesa region, Kiliia district

Contacts: +38 (05539) 26 471



Oleshkivski Sands



Oleshkivski Sands

Oleshkivski Sands - is the second largest desert in Europe, which covers an area of about 1,600 square kilometers. Despite the fact that there has always been sand in the valleys of Dnipro, the human activity strongly contributed to the spread of sands. Especially the active sheep farming conducted here in 18-19 centuries. Cattle began to destroy the vegetation, thus increasing the size of sand dunes. In the second half of the 19th century, the number of sand dunes has been increased. To stop this process, active planting of pine forests, orchards and vineyards has begun. Therefore, it is correct to define Oleshkivski sands as a semi-desert. In the desert at a depth of 300 -400 m there is a fresh underground lake with very tasty water, but its use is strongly limited, as it is necessary for the desert growth containment.

Like all deserts, it consists of numerous bahrans, about 5 meters high (separate up to 20 meters high), which move due to the wind. In summer the temperature of the sand reaches 75 ° C, the rains are rare, and sandstorms occur from time to time.



Biosphere Reserve Askania-Nova



Biosphere Reserve Askania-Nova

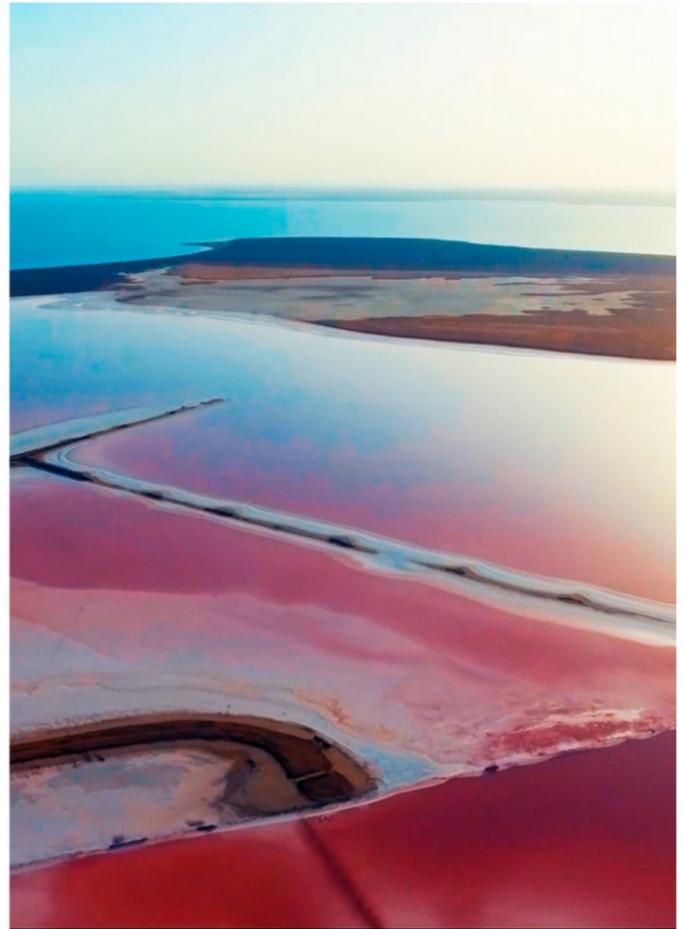
Biosphere Reserve "Askania Nova" named after Friedrich Eduardovich Faltz-Fein is the oldest steppe reserve in the world, one of the 7 Natural Wonders of Ukraine, part of the hundred most famous protected areas of the planet, already celebrated its centenary.

It is located in Chaplinka district in Kherson region and covers an area of 33.3 thousand hectares, including reserve steppe (core) zone and a buffer zone of a typical land use. The main heritage of Askania-Nova Reserve is Great Chapli Depression that is registered on the International list of Ramsar Convention and has an area of 4x6 km.

It is considered one of the old steppe Biosphere Reserve on the planet and the largest among European steppe reserves. The biological diversity of steppe ecosystems has more than 500 species of plants and over 3,000 animal species. Over 1,000 animals, such as zebra and antelope, bison and buffalo, deer and wild horses live in semi-free conditions in Askania Nova.



Sivash lake and Arabat Spit



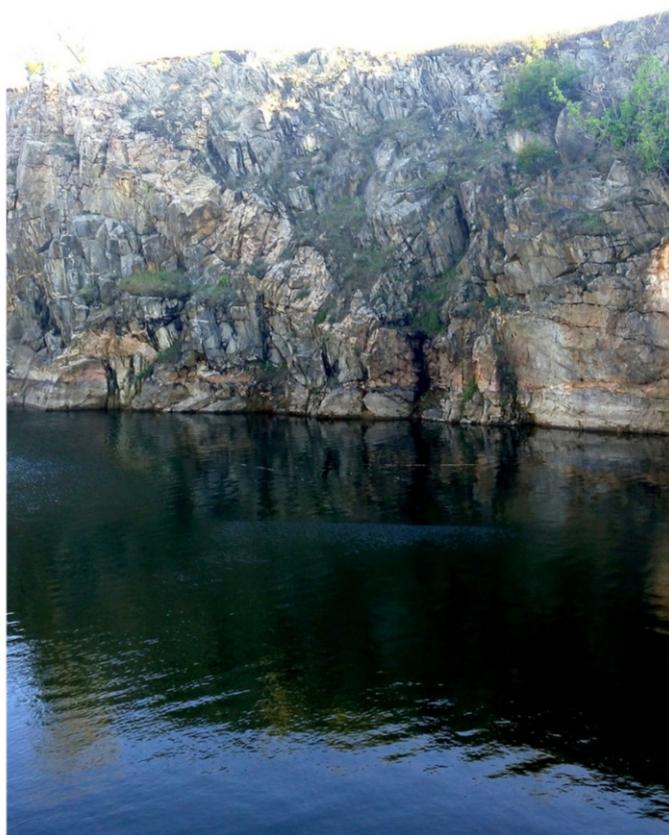
Sivash lake and Arabat Spit

Sivash is separated from the Azov Sea by Arabat Spit. Due to the extremely high salinity, water is not suitable for living organisms. Here tourists can find only some types of bacteria, algae and invertebrates. Only in some eastern parts of the lake, some fish live. But there is a wide variety of birds many of which are listed in the Red Book of Ukraine. The water contains useful minerals and acid salts, sodium chloride, magnesium and potassium, etc. Also, Sivash mud is of great value. Studies have shown that its use is highly beneficial for the skin, joints and is an effective way to relieve stress. The total reserves of salt in the lake is about 200 million tons. In 1912 at the industrial exhibition in Paris the golden medal was given to 11 types of salts including the "Pink salt".

Since ancient times, the region is engaged in the extraction of salt, and today there is a salt plant. Every year tourists come to experience the healing qualities of Sivash water and mud.



Yelyseivka Pegmatite Quarry



Yelyseivka Pegmatite Quarry

This is one of the most picturesque part of the south of Ukraine, the geological pearl of the Azov region. According to legend, this is a unique former pegmatite deposit, which has been mined since the time of German colonization. The quarry consists of several pits, two of which are filled with water and separated by a rocky bridge, and several dry and marshy basins of different depths and lengths. In one of them, the farthest, there is a small grotto. The cliffs of the quarry are hidden from prying eyes by the amazing color of the lake, the depth of which reaches more than 20 meters, as well as the beauty of its rocky cliffs. There is an abundance of fish, crayfish, excellent fishing. On small bogs there are many game, waders, herons. Plants and animals of this unique place are listed in the Red Book of Nature Protection.



Hortytsia National Reserve



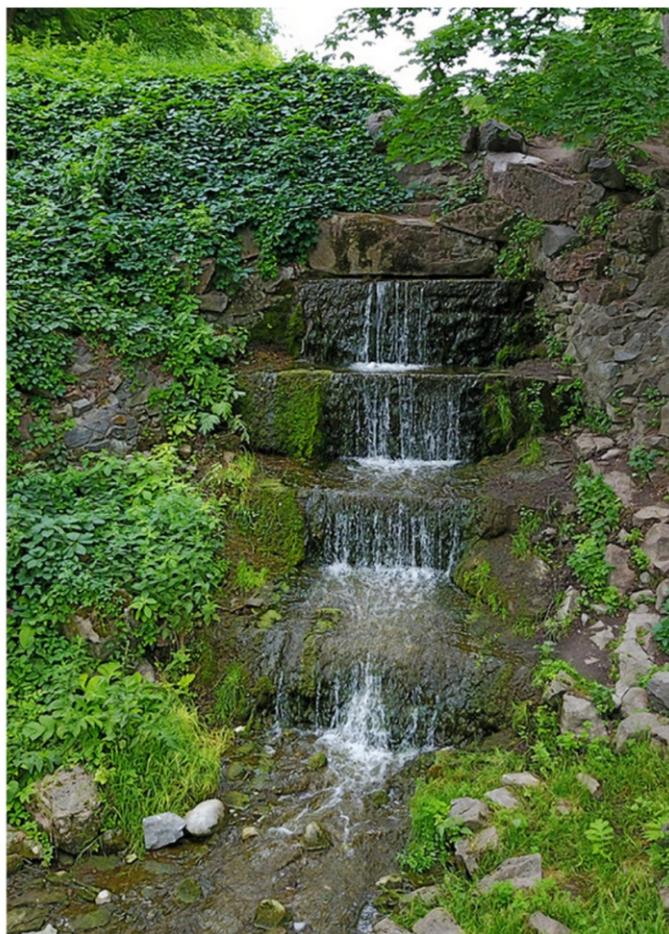
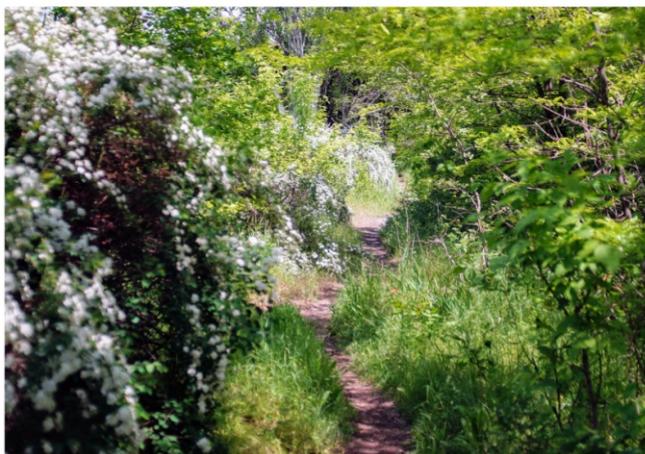
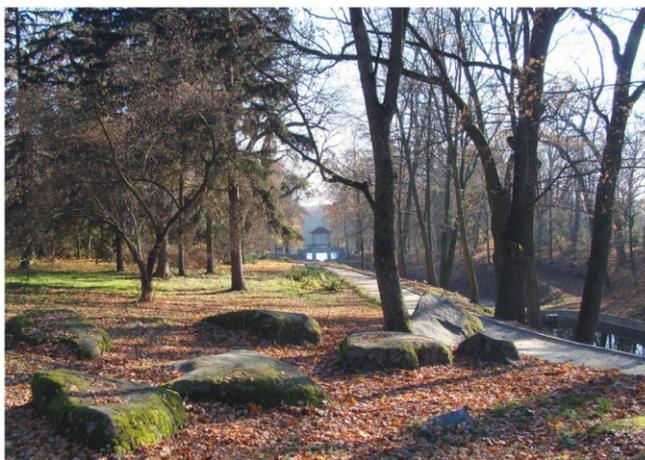
Hortytsia National Reserve

The National Reserve «Khortytsia» is a unique memorial of nature, culture and history of Zaporizhzhia Cossacks.

Khortytsia is the largest island not only on the Dnieper, but on all the rivers of Europe, 12 km long, 2.5 km wide. Its area is approximately 2,5 thousand hectares. According to scientists, it was created more than 2 million years ago as a result of a geological fault that split a piece of the Ukrainian crystal shield. Starting from XV century Khortytsia island became the center of formation of the Zaporizhzhia Cossacks. There is a large amount of species of plants, insects, birds, and mammals. Today, the National Reserve «Khortytsia» is a powerful tourist center of the Zaporizhzhia region. Tourists can travel all over Khortytsia on foot, by bike or on horseback. There is a tourist beach in the northern part of the island. Its length is a little less than a kilometre. The sandy beach is limited on all sides by granite rocks, so it is allowed not only to make a fire, but also to put up tents, which are used by lovers of active rest.



Dendropark



Dendropark

Dendrological Park is an unusually colorful corner of nature on the island of Khortytsia, which very well fits into the natural landscape and is a bright decoration of the island.

Being an interesting attraction of Khortytsia, the park contains separate elements, each of which in itself became a landmark of the park. Among them there is a juniper grove with unusually clean air, a sunny meadow in the most open place of the park (here it is planned to install a sundial), an oak alley, and a alley of lovers from the beautiful thickets of spirea. Dendrological Park on Khortytsia can be visited at any time of year, in any weather – there is always something to admire. Employees of the reserve also have an interesting excursion to the park, after which tourists will learn many interesting facts about the history of this park, its interesting features, and the species diversity of trees, bushes and grasses growing there.

Useful info

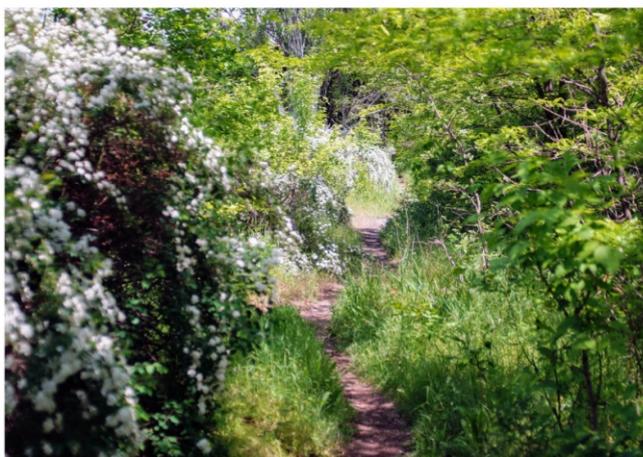
Location: Zaporizhzhia city.

Activities: hiking, photography.

Website: <http://hortica.zp.ua/>
24/7 and all the year



Frumushyka-Nova



Frumushyka-Nova

Frumushyka-Nova is a center of ethnographic and rural green tourism. In general — here is a tourist complex that consists of an ethno village, a local museum, a zoo, a tavern, a mini-hotel, an opportunity to get involved in the agricultural work, and even to hunt. It is located in Tarutino district between the Vesela Dolyna and Starosillya villages. The building of the Frumushyka-Nova farm began in the summer of 2006 on the site of the Moldovan villages: Frumushyka-Nova and Roshia, evicted in the spring of 1946 as a result of the military training ground creation. The Frumushyka-Nova farm is the largest shepherd breeding complex in Europe for breeding sheep of the Karakul breed. Here you have the opportunity to see the largest granite monument in Ukraine — a shepherd monument. The monument officially became the largest in the country and was entered into the National Register of Records of Ukraine. The height of the monument was 16 meters 43 centimeters, and the weight — 1080 tons. There is an open-air ethnographic museum on the farm territory, a mini-zoo, a pony farm, lakes and many other interesting things. This is a popular tourist destination: go out to see the open-air museum village, eat sheep cheese, brynza, and taste wine from basements according to ancient folk recipes. This is exactly the reason when you can try a very good home-made wine!



Tatarbunary homestead of green tourism “At Melania”



Tatarbunary homestead of green tourism “At Melania”

The manor “U Malanky” is located in the center of Tatarbunary. The house, where the estate “U Malanky” is based, has its own history and is special for the city. In 1807 there was the residence of the Kozak Ataman of the Zadunaysky Sich during the staying the Kozak army. Later, in the years of Soviet rule, after the closure of the Transfiguration Monastery in the Borisovka village, the nuns have moved here. The author of the project and the artist — Vremia Melania Petrovna is a woman with a huge energy and eternal search. The main thing for Melanie is to see happy faces and hear enthusiastic reviews — this is her biggest stimulus. The manor-museum collects unique things and documents, antique pieces of needlework, various household items that characterize the past and used by the inhabitants of Bessarabia. Here you we’ll be met by hosts in national costumes, with a towel and home-made bread with salt, sincere and kind words. They will conduct a sightseeing tour, tell you the history of our region and some interesting facts about the history of Ukraine. The feeling of the largest merger of different national cultures is manifested in the dishes that the hostess offers: kurban and gorilka, brynza and mamalyha, cakes and donuts. And all this is with a glass of delicious Bessarabian wine.

TYPES OF TARGET CLIENTS

Origin

local
national
international

Age

20-50 years old

Budget

medium budget
high budget

TRAVELER PROFILE

Adventurer / eco enthusiast / SIT
higher education background
medium to high income
considerable interest in nature
considerable interest in environmental issues
people with active lifestyle habits
travel in groups (family, friends, colleagues)

Incidental eco-tourist

This group likes to add green and active components to their holiday trip. However, they have another primary reason for their journey. They may choose wellness locations and recreational that fit their plans

MARKETING STRATEGY

ONLINE

1. Promotion on the website and in social networks, thematic forums.
2. Social media influencer integration and support local population and local tourism participants
3. Promotion and partnership with digital tourism newspapers and travel blogs
4. PDF guide and mobile app.

OFFLINE

1. Promotion via visibility materials at HoReCa places, partnership with tourism offices
2. Establishing partnerships with tour operators and local tourism service providers, etc.

NEW PRODUCTS / SERVICES RECOMMENDED

The tour offers opportunities for two main groups of tourists, namely: active/ extreme enthusiasts and who seek wellness/ recreation locations. Many destinations combine all these elements, however this route has to be presented in different formats (online and offline) as well as promoted by tourism experts and guides.

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