

Tastes and Flavors of Moldova

6 days – 5 nights

**Chisinau, Curchi, Trebujeni, Orheiul Vechi, Cricova, Bender, Tiraspol, Vulcanesti, Besalma, Puhoi
Wines, Gastronomy, Discovery, Culture, History**

**This program may be operated for individuals or for groups
This is a suggested itinerary**

Collect the most important memories during this stay in Moldova, including Gagauzia and Transnistria, discovering its rich history, from the Roman Empire to the Tartar, Ottoman and Russian empires still visible in unique rock monasteries and churches Byzantine, medieval fortresses and ancient fortifications.

Day 1: Chisinau

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day fee. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [D]

Day 2: Chisinau (Curchi, Trebujeni, Orheiul Vechi, Cricova)

The first stop of this day will be at Curchi Monastery. The monastery, built in 1775, is surrounded by a high stone wall, with towers at each corner and is an example of neo-Byzantine style contrasting with the Church of St. Nicholas built in a classical style with Baroque elements. Then, during your master class in Trebujeni, learn how to prepare local croissants in a local guest house and taste them at lunch with other traditional specialties. After lunch, you will travel back in time to Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) to see a natural amphitheater revealing a territory that was first inhabited 40,000 years ago. The Reserve includes ancient fortifications, rock monasteries, monks and hermits. Continue your journey exploring the Cricova wine cellar considered a national cultural heritage. During the excursion to the tourist train, at a depth of 265 feet, you will discover the wonders of Cricova's underground galleries formed by more than seventy streets covering an area of almost 75 miles, each of them bearing a vine name: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahors, etc. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, comprising more than 600 types of wine totaling around 1 million bottles. Here you can admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Hebrew Wine of Easter", dating from 1902 and discover the flavors of Cricova wines. Return to Chisinau for dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Chisinau (Bender, Tiraspol)

In the morning, you will discover the Bender Fortress located in the town of Bender and built in the 15th century by the Prince of Moldova, Stephen the Great. The Fortress of Bender is an architectural ensemble of irregular quadrilateral plan, surrounded by wide walls, 6.5 to 10 feet thick, in limestone and brick. During the city tour of Tiraspol, you will discover the monument to Vladimir Lenin and a WWII tank. The city seems to be a vestige of the Soviet past. Nevertheless, you will be surprised by contrasts like the "Sheriff" football complex - a pearl of contemporary architecture. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, you'll discover a real treasure: The Aquatir Sturgeon Complex, one of the largest fish hatcheries in Europe. The complex is equipped with the latest technology and the fish can reach the size of a man. You will have the opportunity to taste caviar, one of the most expensive culinary delights. Return to Chisinau for dinner and overnight. [B/L/T/D]

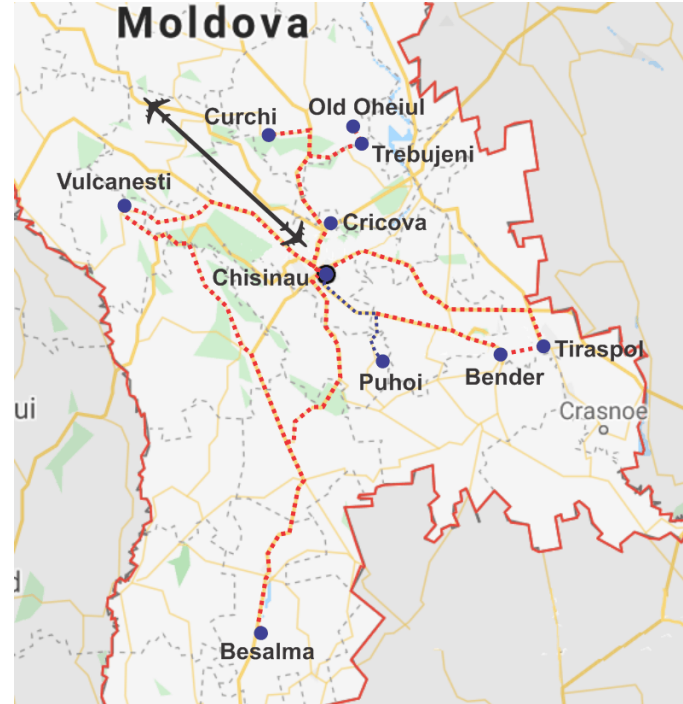
Day 4: Chisinau (Vulcanesti, Besalma)

We start the day with a 1-hour drive to the Kara Gani wine cellar - a family cellar with a special focus on the Gagauz origins (Turkish) of the Cerven family, owner of the company. Located in Vulcanesti, in the south of Moldova, this small family business is engaged in the cultivation of grapes and the production of using original technology from selected European and national varieties grown on its own vineyards. At the winery discover the taste of Kara Gani wines and of Gagauz gastronomy. After lunch, visit the Gagauz National Museum of History and Ethnography in the village of Besalma. The museum presents the history, culture and daily life of Gagauz from ancient times to the present day. One of the museum's most precious objects is the collection of original films produced during the

Gagauz colonization of the Bugeac steppe. After a 2-hour drive we reach Chisinau in time for some rest before dinner. [B/L/T/D]

Day 5: Chisinau (Puhoi)

This morning we take a tour of Chisinau to discover the main monuments such as the Cathedral of the Nativity of Christ, the Bell Tower, the Triumph Arch, the Monument of Stephen the Great, etc. Then, visit the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History built in 1905 in the oriental style, thus constituting a unique building in Moldova. Here you will discover famous archaeological treasures, carpets, national costumes and other precious pieces and you will see the "millennial smile" of the most beautiful Dinotherium of Moldova. The next stop is at the Medieval Wooden Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the oldest wooden church in the country built in 1642 in the courtyard of the Hirjauca Monastery. Continue to visit the Asconi wine cellar founded in 1994 and located in the village of Puhoi. The winery uses modern winemaking technologies and focus on indigenous varieties such as Rara Neagra, Feteasca, etc. One of the characteristics of the Asconi wine cellar is to mechanically harvest the grapes overnight, when the grapes are still cold. During the wine tasting and lunch in the cellar, you'll discover the wonders of the local cuisine. A short ride back to Chisinau with the rest of the afternoon at your leisure. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at La Taifas Restaurant to taste local specialties and enjoy regional music. Overnight in Chisinau. [B/L/T/D]



Day 6: Chisinau, USA

After breakfast you may have some time to relax. At the appointed time you'll be met and transferred to Chisinau airport to board your connecting flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner | [B/L/T/D] = Breakfast, Lunch, Tasting and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare USA-Chisinau
- Arrival and departure transfers
- 5 nights' accommodation in Chisinau
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 4 lunches
 - 4 dinners
 - 1 farewell dinner
- Tastings
 - Caviar – 2 types at Aquatir Sturgeon Complex
 - 4 wines at Cricova wine cellar
 - 5 wines at Karagani wine cellar
 - 3 types of wine at Asconi wine cellar
- Curchi Monastery
- Orheiul Vechi

- Bender Fortress
- Aquatir Sturgeon Complex
- Gagauz National Museum
- Chisinau monuments
- Culinary master classes
- English-speaking driver/guide
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- Entrance fees according to the itinerary

Tour does not include:

- Any taxes related to airfares or airports
- Meals not mentioned under inclusions
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Chisinau	Jumbo Hotel	4
	Bristol Central Park Hotel	4.5
	Zentrum ApartHotel	5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$1,229 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- **Airfare**

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

- **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

- **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

- **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: MD01KIV21VT

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.