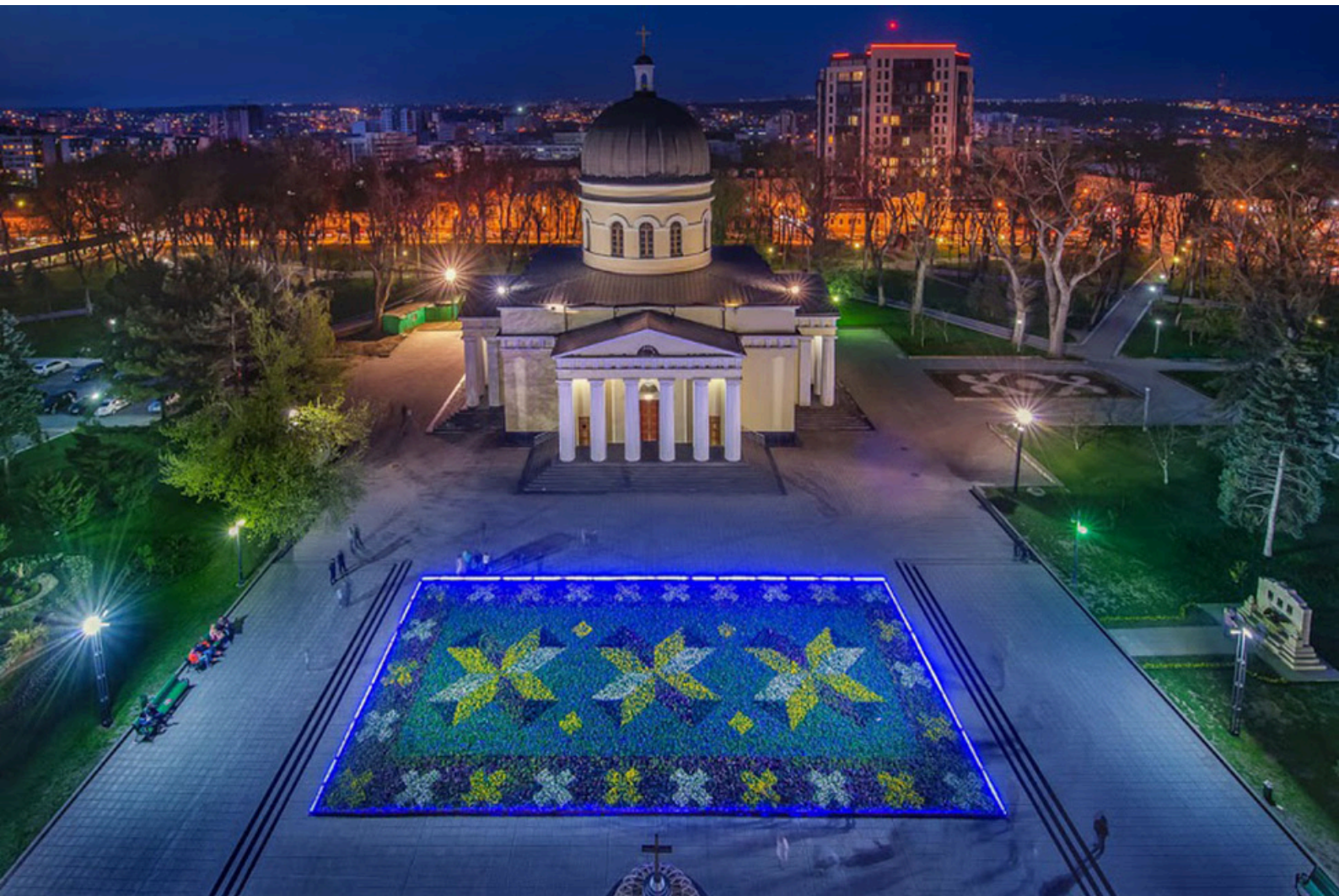


M O L D O V A

NATACHA 30



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NATACHA
MOLDOVA

You, cyclists who like to climb, discover in these few pages what makes the list of the national challenge in Moldova so rich.

GEOGRAPHY

MEDIA

TOURISM

SPORT

Moldova

Moldova is an Eastern European country, surrounded by Romania in the west and Ukraine in the north, east and south. Within a few kilometers in the south-east, it's an inner country without any contact with the Black Sea.



On a politic level, Moldova is divided in three regions:

-Moldova itself, capital Chişinău, is the major part.

-Transnistria, as the name suggests, is located 'beyond the Nistru' (The Dniester in English) in the east. Like Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia or Donetsk and Lougansk in Ukraine, the region was self-proclaimed independent, recognized by Russia, but not by the vast majority of the international community.

-In the south, four enclaves form Gagauzia (capital: Comrat), that is an autonomous region recognized by Moldova, unlike Transnistria. Gagauz people are a Turkic ethnic group, Orthodox Christians and, like the Transnistrians, politically pro-Russia.



Gagauzia



Moldova



Transnistria

Topography

Moldova looks like ... Belgium in many ways. The area is rather similar (+/- 30,000 km²) and the topography as well: a low highest point, two major valleys, a forested area with 200m elevation gain and plateaus.

The physical map below shows plains ('cîmpia') alternating with plateaus ('podişul'): three plains (Cîmpia Moldovei de Nord, Cîmpia Moldovei de Sud and Cîmpia Nistrului Inferior) and five plateaus (Platoul Moldovei in the north, Podişul Nistrului, Podişul Ciuluc, Podişul Moldovei Centrale and Podişul Tigheci = Colinele Tigheci on the map).



Platoul Moldovei (Feteşti, #004)



Podişul Moldovei Centrale



Podişul Nistrului (Dobruşa, #011)



Colinele Tigheci

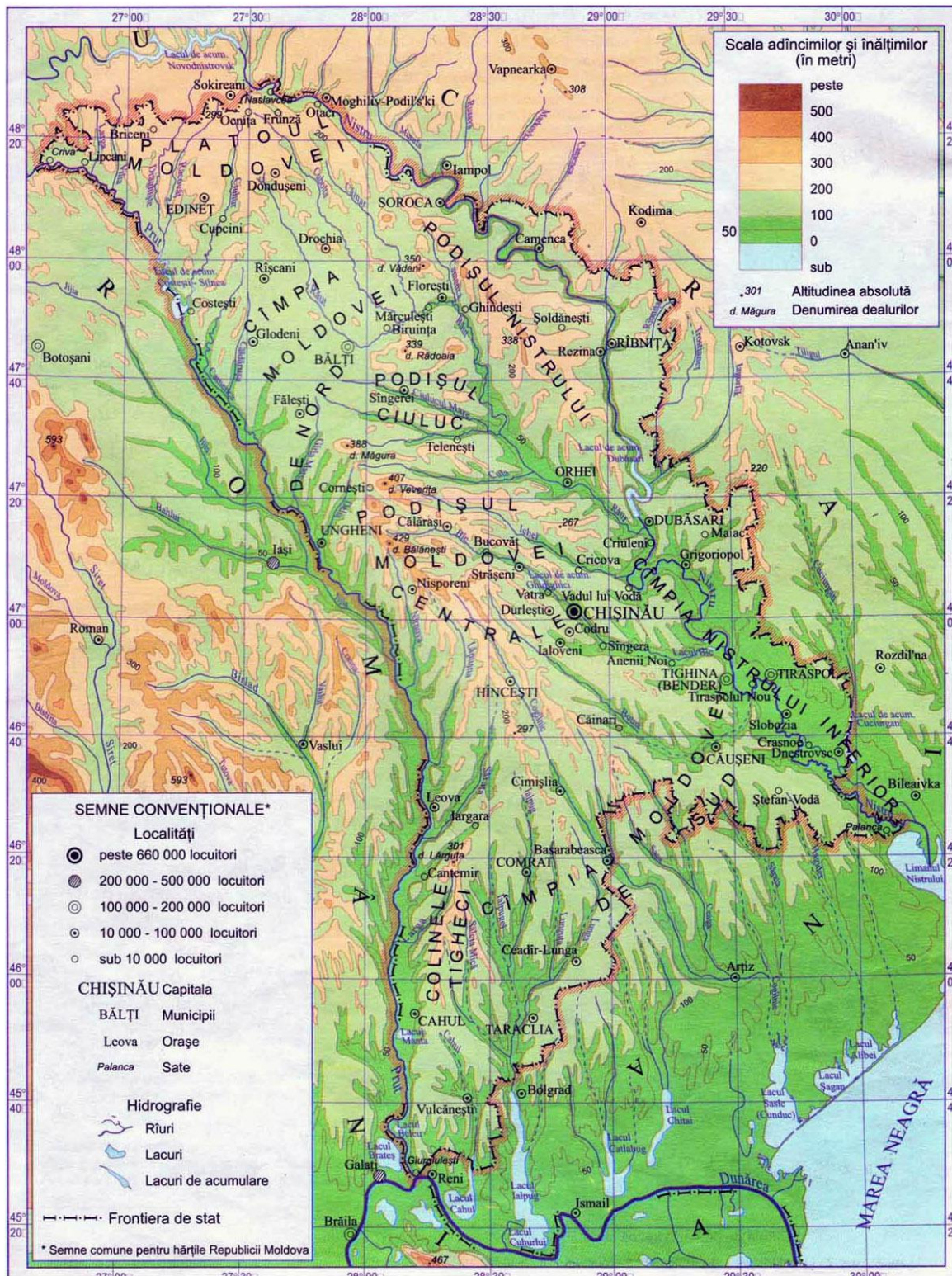
For us the most productive region is the Central Moldavian Plateau, the 'Moldavian Ardennes'. Its highest point is low (430m, 024-Dealul Bălăneşti), but the valleys are low as well, so that the elevation gains exceed very often 150-200m, even 335m at Bălăneşti. In the Zone 2 (Centre, 35 summits), 17 have an e.g. greater than 200m and 5 other greater than 150m.



Dealul Bălăneşti (024)



View from Schinoasa (017)



Two rivers structure the topography of the country:

-The Prut is 900km long. It rises at the foot of the Mount Hoverla (2061m, highest point of Ukraine, located in the Carpathian Mts.), it flows through the south-west of Ukraine (Tchernivtsi for instance), then it forms a natural border between Ukraine and Romania and the whole border between Romania and Moldova before flowing into the Danube. In several places the river flows through lakes and nature reserves: Lacul Stânca-Costești and Suta de Movile Reserve (006-Petrușeni), Lacul Beleu and Prutul de Jos Reserve ('Lower Prut', 070).



Stânca-Costești



Lacul Beleu

-The Dniester (Nistru) meets a similar fate: it rises in the Ukrainian Carpathian Mts., flows through the south-west and then into Moldova, where it becomes the limit between Moldova itself and Transnistria. It flows into the Black Sea after more than 1300km. Its 100-150m elevation gains suggest the Meuse / Maas. On the Moldavian bank, the greatest e.g. exceeds 200m (007-Vanțina, 245m from Soroca, but in 10km). In Transnistria, 048-Caterinovca has 170m e.g. in 5km.



The Dniester



Rîbnița, in the Dniester Valley

Tourism

The list is based on 4 tourist themes: UNESCO sites, protected areas, monasteries and wine.

'The Struve Arc is a chain of survey triangulations stretching from Hammerfest in Norway to the Black Sea, through 10 countries and over 2,820 km. These are points of a survey, carried out between 1816 and 1855 by the astronomer Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, which represented the first accurate measuring of a long segment of a meridian. This helped to establish the exact size and shape of the planet and marked an important step in the development of earth sciences and topographic mapping. It is an extraordinary example of scientific collaboration among scientists from different countries, and of collaboration between monarchs for a scientific cause. The original arc consisted of 258 main triangles with 265 main station points. The listed site includes 34 of the original station points, with different markings, i.e. a drilled hole in rock, iron cross, cairns, or built obelisks.' (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1187/>)

The Moldovan station point is located next to Rudi (summit #003).

The Orheiul Vechi Archaeological Landscape (021) belongs to the Tentative List. The complex is located in a meander of the Răut River and consists of remains that go through time and indicate the presence of several civilizations. The most visible part is the monastery and the hermitage (12 and 17 on the map below) that overlook the valley on the cliff.



The Struve Geodesic Arc



Orheiul Vechi



- 1, 2 – The Walls of medieval Fortress, second half of the 14th – mid 16th centuries
- 3 – The medieval Citadel, second half of the 14th – mid 16th centuries
- 4 – The Palace of Pircalab, second half of 14th-mid of 16th centuries
- 5 – The Medieval Dwelling, 15th century
- 6 – The Mosque, 14th century
- 7 – The Caravanserai, 14th century
- 8 – The Medieval Church, second half of the 14th-16th centuries
- 9a, b, c – The Tatar Bath, 14th century
- 10 – The Orheiul Vechi Visitors Center

- 11a, b, c, d – The Thraco-Geto-Dacian Fortifications Walls, 10th-2nd centuries E
- 12 – The PESTERA Monastery, 15th-19th centuries
- 13 – The Geto-Dacian Citadel, 4th-3rd century BC
- 14 – The Geto-Dacian Sanctuary, 4th-3rd centuries BC
- 15 – The Traditional Peasant House, 19th-20th centuries
- 16 – The Traditional Gates, 19th-20th centuries
- 17 – The Hermitages of PESTERA Monastery, 15th-18th centuries
- 18 – The Monastery of Bosie, 15th-18th centuries
- 19 – The Hermitage of Rafail, 15th-19th centuries

The protected natural sites are numerous. They are divided into twelve categories (one national park, natural monuments, scientific reserves, natural reserves, landscape reserves, ...).

Orhei is the only Moldovan national park. It covers 1% of the whole territory and includes the Orheiul Vechi Archaeological Landscape. We can visit it climbing Morozeni (019) ; we ride along it in Donici (020).

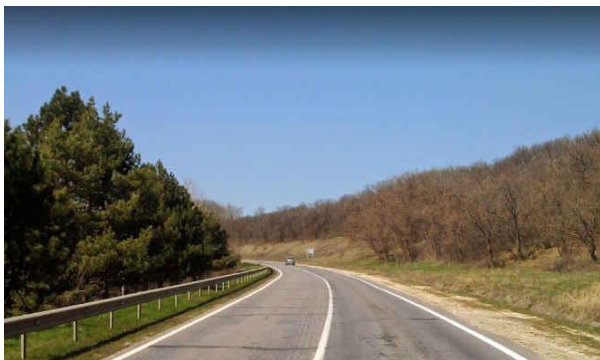
20 other green areas are visited:

-in the north: Fetești (004) and Suta de Movile (006) ;

-in the centre: Dobrușa (011), Seliște-Leu (019), Codru (032), Vila Nisporeni (033 and 034), Hîncești (039 and 040) and Molești-Răzeni (045) ;

-in the south: Codrii Tigheci (064) and Prutul de Jos (070) ;

-in Transnistria: Bugornea (046, 047 and 048) and Iagorlîc (052).



Through Vila Nisporeni



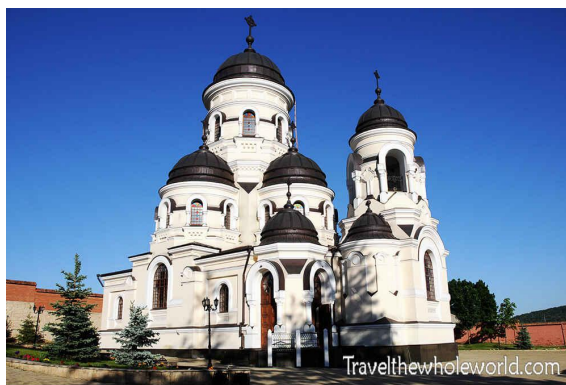
Iagorlîc (Goian in the centre)

9 monasteries are involved in the Challenge:

In the Zone 1: Rudi (003), Zăbriceni (005) and Izvoare (010) ;

In the Zone 2: Curchi (019), Vărzărești (030), Hâncu (031), Căpriană and Condrîța (035) and Suruceni (038),

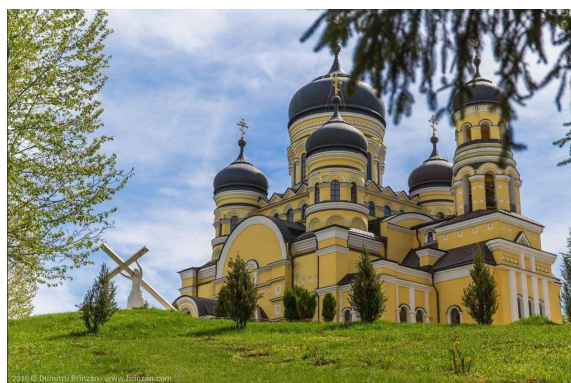
Several are described on <https://trip101.com/article/monasteries-in-moldova>



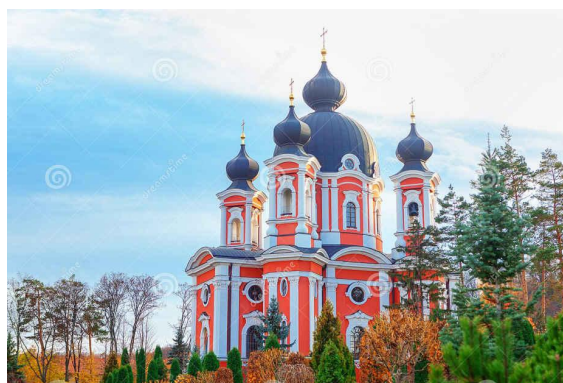
Căpriană



Zăbriceni



Hâncu



Curchi

Fourth theme: wine
Map of the Moldovan wines



WINE OF MOLDOVA
A LEGEND ALIVE

HARTA DRUMUL VINULUI

1. BARZA ALBA
137 km
CONTACTS
str. Victoriei, 49, mun. Balti, Moldova
(+373) 6781181; (+373) 6722533
zam.ba@iyandex.ru
www.barzaalba.md

2. VARTELY
44.5 km
CONTACTS
170b, Eliberari St., Orhei, MD-3501, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 68300555
turism@vartely.md
www.vartely.md

3. VITIANA BRANILETI
44.3 km
CONTACTS
s. Brănești, Orhei, MD-3515, Moldova
(+373) 69964445
(0233) 99999
alexco79@mail.ru; pivbran@mail.ru

4. CRICOVA
17.7 km
CONTACTS
Crivova, MD 2084, 1 Petru Ungureanu street
turism@crivova.md, crivovawin@gmail.com
(+373) 72 43 36 99; (+373) 75020299
www.crivova.md

5. MİGDAL-P
15.5 km
CONTACTS
1, Meceniilor Str., Cojușna, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 68969981
turism@migdal.md
www.migdal.md

6. POLANA
36.1 km
CONTACTS
Ulmii village, Chisinau-Leuseni Road, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 79749725
vinata.polana@gmail.com
www.mariapolana.md

7. atú WINERY
0 km
CONTACTS
bd. Dacia 58, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 6922237
atuviney@gmail.com
www.atu.wine

8. MILESTI MICI
20.8 km
CONTACTS
Milestii Mici village, Ialoveni district, MD-6819, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 62 382 777; (+373) 22 382 333
marketing@mim.md
www.milestii-mici.md

9. CASTEL MIMI
39.3 km
CONTACTS
1, Dacia St., Bulboacă village, Anenii Noi district, MD-6512, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 62001893
reeveari@castelmimi.md
www.castelmimi.md

10. TRONCIU
98.4 km
CONTACTS
Pereni, Hincesti, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 68056213
www.vinewebshop.brand@tronciu.wine/

11. Mihai Sava
24.2 km
CONTACTS
Cătești, Ialoveni district, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 69399134; (+373) 69096930
sasmihai.wine@gmail.com
facebook.com/MihaiSavaGT

12. ASCONI
33.5 km
CONTACTS
Puhoi, Ialoveni, MD-6824, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 79950290; (+373) 79988642
asconi@asconi.md
www.asconi.md

13. KVINT
71.3 km
CONTACTS
38, Lenin St., Tiraspol, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 63392025
info@kvint.md
www.kvint.md

14. PURCARI
116 km
CONTACTS
Purcari, Stefan-Vodii, 4229 Republic of Moldova
(+373) 6012221; (+373) 60909005
turism@purcari.md
www.purcari.md

15. et cetera
134 km
CONTACTS
Crocmaș, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 79050587; (+373) 79445010
www.ecetera.md

16. VINUL DE COMRAT
101 km
CONTACTS
1, Vinzandicaia St., Comrat, Republic of Moldova
(+373) 69112230
hmelievchi@gmail.ru
www.facebook.com/vinuldecomrat
www.vinuldecomrat.md

17. VINIA TRAIAN
190 km
CONTACTS
Găneasa village, Cahul district, MD-5317 Republic of Moldova
(+373) 299 57428; (+373) 022 240 480
vintraian-v@trm.md; office@vintraian.md
www.vintraian.md

18. KARAGANI
198 km
CONTACTS
31, Kupașkăia St., Vulcănești Republic of Moldova
(+373) 691 24 996
facebook.com/karagani.md

5 of these sites are in the list:

#004 Cricova (036): <https://moldova.md/en/content/cricova-winery>

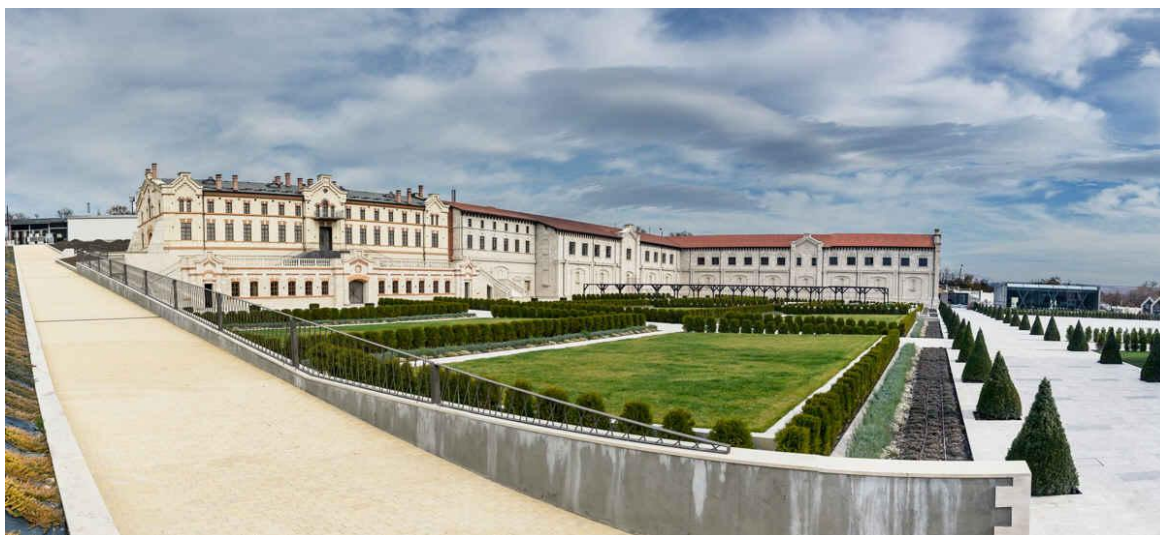
#006 Vinăria Poiana (top of 035): <https://winetours.md/eng/winery-tours/poiana-winery>

#008 Mileștii Mici (041): <https://www.milestii-mici.md/en/>

#009 Castel Mimi (foot of 043): <https://www.castelmimi.md/en/>

#014 Purcari (foot of 059): <https://purcari.wine/en/>

Not on the map above but in the list: Leuntea (058): <http://www.leuntea-vin.md/> and Ciumai (069): <https://en.winedexer.com/wine/ciumai>



Castel Mimi



Purcari



Vinăria Poiana

To close the chapter, a few places of interest in bulk:

-The viewpoint in Maria Drăgan Street (Moldovan singer) in the capital, Chișinău (037).



Chișinău from Drăgan Viewpoint



Soroca Fort

- The Soroca medieval fort (15th century) along the Dniester, at the foot of Vanțina (007).
- The museum house of Alexandru Donici, Moldovan writer of the 19th century (020).

-The monumental sculpture 'Hora haiducilor' is the reproduction of a Moldovan folk dance (hora) and it symbolized the unity of the Moldovan people (018).

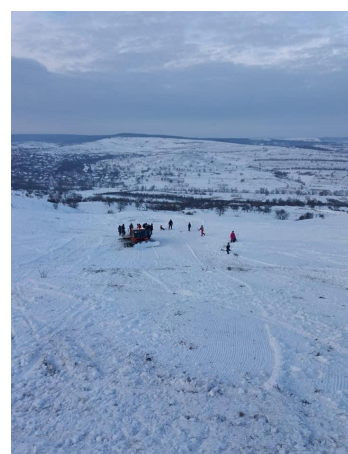


-An obelisk was erected in honour of Grigori Potemkine, Russian prince of the 18th century, known for 'his' battleship and his fake villages (022).

-Let's stay in Russia: an abandoned Soviet weather station lies at the top of #014.



- Movila Măgura is a burial mound. MTB is required, the cross is an option (013).
- Ciorești is one of the very few Moldovan ski areas (028).



Difficulty

-Altitude

The top10 in altitude is higher than 300m:

024-Dealul Bălănești 430m

028-Vulcănești 396

026-Horodiște 380

032-Codru 375, 031-Mănăstirea Hâncu 372, 013-Movila Măgura 365, 014-Abandoned Soviet Meteo Station 359, 035-Vinăria Poiana 352, 025-Nișcani 345 and 017-Schinoasa 329.



Vulcănești (southern side)

-Elevation gains

9 summits have an e.g. greater than 250m:

024-Dealul Bălănești 335m

028-Vulcănești 326

026-Horodiște 284

017-Schinoasa 263, 013-Movila Măgura 259, 014-Abandoned Soviet Meteo Station 256, 018-Hora Haiducilor and 025-Nișcani 252 and 034-Strășeni 251.



Horodiște

-Europoints

11 climbs have more than 200 points:

024-Dealul Bălănești 424

013-Movila Măgura 316

035-Vinăria Poiana 277

026-Horodiște 264, 007-Vanțina 244, 025-Nișcani 234, 029-Seliște-Leu 215, 028-Vulcănești 209, 014-Abandoned Soviet Meteo Station 208, 017-Schinoasa 204 and 016-Chiperceni 203.



Nișcani

-Bombs

9 summits have a bomb equal or greater than 22:

049-Zelyonaya ulitsa 29,2

013-Movila Măgura 27,2

042-Costești 25,7

058-Grădinița 25,6, 024-Dealul Bălănești 23,6, 025-Nișcani 23, 021-Orheiul Vechi 22,9, 026-Horodiște 22,7 and 032-Codru 22.



Towards Movila Măgura



Costești: church on the hill

-Length

11 climbs exceed 7km:

028-Vulcănești 11,5, 024-Dealul Bălănești 11,2, 007-Vanțina 10,4, 067-Cotihana 10,4, 026-Horodiște 9,4, 023-Florițoaia Veche 8,5, 025-Nișcani 8,1, 008-Rădulenii Vechi 7,9, 017-Schinoasa 7,8, 014-Abandoned Soviet Meteo Station 7,6, 006-Petrușeni 7,4.

Quality of the road surface

A lot of efforts are made to improve the quality of the roads in Moldova. On Internet many sites describe, pictures in support, repairs of road in poor condition, and asphalt becomes systematic in a growing number of villages. Besides we selected asphalted climbs, except Movila Măgura (for the burial mound) and Dealul Bălănești (the highest point). However, unpaved secondary roads still exist. Take this into consideration choosing your material. A positive example:



Costești, before and after

The road in Rădulenii Vechi (008) has also undergone a serious lift:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.327577323984197.74214.125953117479953&type=1>

The situation is the same in Transnistria. The related article (in Russian) described works in Gogol Street (049). Translation of the title: 'Asphalt for Pushkin and Gogol: repair in the most literary streets'.

<http://rnovosti.info/novosti/2022/12/betonka-dlya-pushkina-i-gogolya-remont-samyh-literaturnyh-ulits/>

Cyclism in Moldova

One name: Andreï Tchmil, of course! The man with five nationalities (Sovietic, because he was born in Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East, Russian after 1991, then Ukrainian, Moldovan and ... Belgian) and three monuments (Paris-Roubaix in 1994, Milan-San Remo in 1999 and the Tour of Flanders in 2000).



Tchmil, the Moldovan, in Roubaix



Tchmil, the Belgian, in San Remo

The national calendar is poor. A national championship exists. It took place in Orhei in 2020 and 2021 and in Chişinău in 2022.



The Moldova President's Cup existed from 2004 to 2010, with 3 local winners, 3 Belarussians and one Russian. It took place in the capital.

At the moment the most publicized race concerns the MTB. It is held in and around the most important place of interest in Moldova, Orhei Vechi. The route of the 2019 edition was 68km long and 870m elevation gain, with our summit 021. Full route on Openrunner 16354339.

For people interested: <http://mtb.md/orheiul-vechi-xcm-2022/>



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