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PUBLIC INSTITUTION "CHISINAU ECOLOGY COLLEGE"

Chair: Tourism and Socio-Humanistic Sciences



DIDACTIC SUPPORT ***National tourist heritage***

Specialty: "Tourism guide"/"Tourism"

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Disclaimer

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ARGUMENT

The teaching support “National Tourism Heritage” brings to the attention of the students from the specialty “Tourism” and “Tourism Guide”, but also to the attention of the interested teachers, the problems related to the formation of an integrated vision on the natural, cultural and socio-economic values of the country, considered as fundamental resources for the development of tourism and the consolidation of national identity.

Tourist heritage is the totality of the attractive elements of a territory, regardless of their origin and the relations between them. It is one of the important categories of tourism, underlying the emergence and development of the tourism phenomenon, whose "raw material" is constituted. The tourism potential is an essential component of the tourist offer and an indispensable condition for the development of tourism, and by its size and diversity of elements, by their value and originality, it is the main motivation of the tourist circulation.

Studying this discipline is necessary because:

- allows to **understand the diversity of natural and cultural resources** of the Republic of Moldova and how they can be capitalized on tourism;
- contribute to the **formation of identity and patriotic consciousness** by promoting knowledge of one's own heritage;
- develop **practical skills to analyse and assess** tourism potential using geographical, historical and economic methods;
- provides **modern interpretation tools** (GIS, tourist maps, comparative analysis) useful for tourism, geography and economics professionals;
- supports **education for sustainable development** by highlighting the need to protect and preserve natural and cultural heritage;
- prepare future specialists for **integration into the tourism industry**, both nationally and internationally, by capitalising on heritage as a strategic resource.

The study of the national tourist heritage is necessary for the tourist guide:

The study of the national tourist heritage is a fundamental condition for the formation and activity of a professional tourist guide. This is explained by several reasons:

1. Knowledge of tourism resources

- The guide must be a good connoisseur of heritage objectives (cultural, natural, intangible), in order to present them correctly and attractively.
- Heritage is the "raw material" of tourism and the guide is its main interpreter.

2. Interpretation and transmission of cultural values

- The guide not only provides information, but also stories, explanations and interpretations that make sense of the objectives visited.

- Without thorough training on heritage, the guidance risks being superficial or purely descriptive.

3. **Strengthening national identity and promoting the image of the country**

- The tourist guide is a ‘cultural ambassador’ of his country.
- By studying the national heritage, he becomes able to convey to visitors an authentic and attractive image of cultural and historical identity.

4. **Education and cultural responsibility**

- The guide also has an educational role, guiding tourists towards respecting and protecting the heritage.
- In-depth knowledge of heritage helps it to promote sustainable and responsible tourism.

5. **Professional value and competitiveness**

- A well-prepared guide in the field of tourist heritage is more appreciated in the labor market.
- The skills acquired give him flexibility and the opportunity to lead thematic tours, cultural circuits and tourist interpretation activities.

The deepening of theoretical and practical knowledge will focus on the knowledge of:

- **natural values** – landforms, landscapes, hydrographic resources, nature reserves, protected areas, elements of biodiversity;
- **material cultural heritage** – historical monuments, traditional and religious architecture, museums, fortresses, villages with ethnographic value;
- **intangible cultural heritage** – traditions, customs, folk crafts, gastronomy, festivals and artistic events;
- **modern anthropogenic tourism resources** – spa resorts, leisure complexes, tourism and hospitality infrastructure;
- **the principles of heritage protection and conservation**, in line with national and international standards;
- **methods for assessing and promoting** tourism heritage through marketing strategies, digitalisation and sustainable tourism;
- **the role of tourism heritage** in the economic and social development of the country and in strengthening national identity;
- **regional specificities** of the heritage, through the analysis of representative tourist areas of the Republic of Moldova.

In studying the discipline, there is a close correlation with the disciplines:

1. General and regional geography

provides the basis for knowledge of the natural environment (relief, climate, hydrography, natural resources), essential for identifying the natural tourist heritage.

2. History and Archaeology

contribute to an understanding of the evolution of cultural heritage, historical monuments, archaeological sites and national traditions.

3. Ethnography and folklore

ensures knowledge of intangible heritage: customs, crafts, music, dances, traditional gastronomy, which constitute identity tourist resources.

4. Tourism Management and Marketing

offers methods of valorization, promotion and integration of tourist heritage in national and international circuits.

5. Economy and regional development

highlights the impact of tourism heritage on sustainable development, investment, jobs and economic competitiveness.

6. Environmental protection and ecotourism

correlates with aspects of conservation and sustainable valorisation of natural and cultural heritage.

7. Law and Legislation in Tourism

bring knowledge of national and international legal regulations in the field of heritage and tourism.

8. Mapping, GIS and digital technologies

supports the identification, inventory and spatial representation of heritage objectives through tourist maps and interactive platforms.

9. Communication and public relations

contribute to the promotion of national tourist heritage through cultural interpretation, guidance and media promotion

The analysis of these proposals was based on extensive literature from the country and abroad, rich and varied graphic material, which would allow students to gain the best possible understanding of the subject.

Motivation, usefulness of the course for training and professional development.

The **National Tourism Heritage course provides** a fundamental framework for understanding processes, developing the capacity to analyse tourism phenomena and forming a scientific vision of national, natural values, cultural heritage, anthropogenic and natural tourism resources.

For vocational training, this course contributes to:

1. Building a strong professional identity

- Knowledge of the national tourist heritage develops the sense of belonging and responsibility towards the cultural and natural values of the country, essential for any specialist in tourism and tourist guide.

2. Development of assessment and interpretation skills

- Students learn to identify, classify and capitalize on heritage sights, forming applicable skills in tourist guidance, planning and management.

3. Practical utility in the field of tourism and economy

- The course provides the basis for developing tourism projects, circuits and cultural products, contributing to the development of the local and national economy through sustainable tourism.

4. Integration into the labour market

- Graduates acquire knowledge useful for working in travel agencies, museums, heritage institutions, cultural organizations or public administrations.

5. Interdisciplinary valorisation

- The course links geography, history, economics, management, legislation and culture, forming specialists able to approach tourism in a complex and integrated manner.

6. Developing communication and promotion skills

- Students acquire skills for the presentation and promotion of tourist heritage in the national and international environment, using modern techniques of cultural interpretation and digitization.

7. Promoting national values and image

- Knowledge and promotion of tourist heritage contributes to strengthening the image of the country internationally and attracting foreign tourists.

The role of the tourist heritage in the tourist guide:

- Cultural and natural heritage are **the main resource** in guiding work.
- The tour guide's mission is to **interpret, explain and valorise** the heritage for visitors.
- The link between the tourist objective and the visitor's experience depends on **how the guide conveys the information**.

Types of heritage in guidance

- **Material cultural heritage:** monuments, archaeological sites, castles, monasteries, museums.
- **Intangible cultural heritage:** traditions, folklore, gastronomy, crafts.
- **Natural heritage:** national parks, reserves, landscapes, ecosystems.
- **Mixed heritage:** areas where natural and cultural values combine (e.g. Danube Delta, Old Orhei).

Heritage-related skills of the tourist guide

- Ability to **document and select essential information** about objectives.
- Ability to **tell stories attractively** and adapt the speech to the level of the group (students, foreign tourists, specialists).
- Knowledge of **the historical, cultural and geographical context** of heritage.
- Integration of **tourist interpretation elements (legends, local stories, interactive experiences)**.
- Promoting **identity values and responsible tourism**.

Use of heritage in routes and circuits

- The guide selects the objectives according to **their attractiveness and cultural relevance**.
- The heritage becomes **the central point** of the domestic and international tourist circuits.
- Examples:
 - Circuit of monasteries in Moldova;
 - UNESCO Cultural Routes;
 - Thematic tours (gastronomic, folkloric, historical).

Educational and cultural value

- The tourist guide not only informs, **but also educates the public** about the importance of preserving the heritage.
- It contributes to **strengthening cultural identity** and **raising awareness of heritage protection among tourists**.

The integration of the national tourist heritage into the tourist guide makes a simple visit an **authentic cultural and emotional experience**. The tourist guide becomes a **mediator between the heritage and the visitor**, contributing to the promotion of the national image and the development of sustainable tourism.

Studying the national tourist heritage is not only an academic requirement, but a **practical necessity** for any tourist guide. It ensures **the quality of the guide**, increases the satisfaction of tourists and contributes to the **preservation and promotion of the cultural and natural values of the country**.

Administration of Discipline

Semester	Number of hours				Form of assessment	Number of credits
	Total hours	Direct contact		Individual study		
		Theory	Practice/ laboratory			
2	60	15	15	30	Exam	2

Course content

No. crt.	Learning units	Number of hours			
		Total hours	Direct contact		Individual study
			Theory	Practice/ laboratory	
1.	Tourist heritage-concept and classification	8	2	2	4
2.	Natural tourism potential	12	3	3	6
3.	Anthropic tourism potential	18	5	5	8
4.	Ethnographic tourism potential	14	3	3	8
5.	Conservation of the tourist fund of the Republic of Moldova	8	2	2	4
Total		60	15	15	30

Learning outcomes specific to the 'National Tourism Heritage' discipline

Upon completion of the discipline, students will be able to:

- HR 1. Classifies the structural elements of tourism potential according to the classification criteria;
- HR 2. Explains the main characteristics of tourist resources, depending on the type of resource;
- QR 3. Identify the role of tourism potential in shaping the touristic attractiveness of a region;
- QR 4. Determines the way of valorization of different tourist resources according to the valorization criteria;
- HR 5. Assess the conservation status of tourist attractions by applying specific criteria, identifying measures to protect and sustainably valorize them.

I. STRUCTURE OF DIDACTIC SUPPORT

1. 24 theoretical/thematic contents
2. 10 Practical Works
3. Methodological and evaluation suggestions

Contents:

Thematic content	Form of activity
The concept of resources, potential and tourist heritage.	Theory
Classification of tourism resources.	Theory
Natural and anthropogenic tourism potential - the main components	Theory
Natural tourism resources general characterization.	Theory
Geological tourism resources.	Theory
Tourist resources of the relief.	Theory
Climate tourism resources.	Theory
Hydrographic tourist resources.	Theory
Floristic and faunistic tourist resources.	Theory
Anthropogenic tourist resources general characterization.	Theory
Historical and Archaeological Tourist Resources.	Theory
Religious tourist resources.	Theory
Cultural tourism resources.	Theory
Sports tourism resources.	Theory
Technical-economic tourism resources.	Theory
Resources and activities with a tourist function.	Theory
Ethnographic resources general characterization.	Theory
The distinct ethnographic elements - the village, the household and the peasant's house. Traditional occupations and occupations of peasants.	Theory
The Moldavian folk costume.	Theory
Calendar and religious holidays and customs in the Republic of Moldova.	Theory
Specifics of traditional gastronomy.	Theory
Degree of conservation of the tourist fund in the Republic of Moldova.	Theory
Measures for the preservation, renovation and reconstruction of monuments.	Theory
The impact of tourism on the environment, actions to protect and preserve the geographical environment and tourism potential	Theory
Elaboration of the classification scheme of tourism potential.	Practice
Description of the main characteristics of the components of the natural tourism potential. Identify the most important elements of the components of natural potential.	Practice
Representation on the contour map of the Republic of Moldova the most representative elements of natural potential.	Practice
Identify the main elements of each component of anthropogenic potential.	Practice
Schematic representation of anthropogenic tourist resources - buildings and institutions with tourist attraction and activities and events with tourist attraction.	Practice

Establishing a table with the main activities and events with tourist attraction in the Republic of Moldova.	Practice
Representation on the contour map of the Republic of Moldova the most representative elements of the anthropogenic potential.	Practice
Elaboration of the scheme of classification of traditional occupations of peasants. Identifying the specificity of the popular port in the northern, central and southern areas of the Republic of Moldova.	Practice
Establishing a table with the main calendar and religious holidays in the Republic of Moldova.	Practice
Studying the state of the tourist fund of the Republic of Moldova. Identify the most effective ways to improve the condition of the existing monuments fund.	Practice

II. CONTENT OF DIDACTIC SUPPORT

2.1. Theoretical content

Subject 1: The concept of resources, potential and tourist heritage.

Tourist **resources**: represents **the totality of natural, cultural, historical and socio-economic elements that** can be valued in tourism activities.

The concept of tourism resources: are not tourism resources per se, but only resources that are exploitable and usable under given technological and economic conditions.

Resources shall be classified into:

- a) *Natural resources*: climate favourable to a certain type of tourism, topography that creates the mountain landscape, hills, lakes or beaches, flora, fauna.
- b) *Socio-cultural resources*: artistic events, music festivals, international concerts, exhibitions, international literary and cultural meetings, sports, technical and scientific events, modern cities, archaeological and historical sites.
- c) *Economic resources*: plants, technical centres, but also favourable economic conditions for the purchase of goods and services at low prices, either because the price of life is low or because of favourable exchange conditions. The use of these resources implies highlighting their characteristics. A resource only has an interest depending on the attraction it can perform on the tourist. The attraction is first of all social with the case of big cities, and it may stem from the scarcity and originality of the resource or from the permanence of the resource.

The tourist heritage (tourist offer) of a geographical territory (county, resort) consists of:

- Tourism potential (natural and anthropogenic);
- Infrastructure (general and tourism);
- Tourist structures (technical-material basis of tourism).

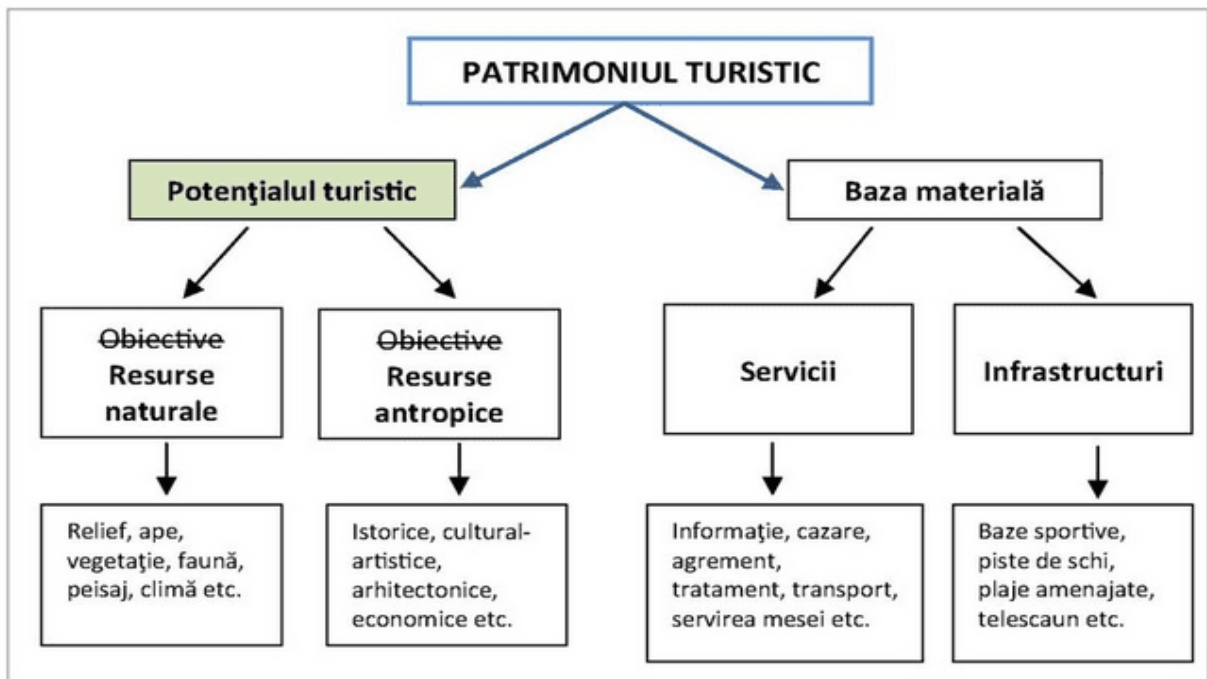


Fig.1.Source: Components of tourist heritage (after Ielenicz, M., Comănescu, L. 2006)

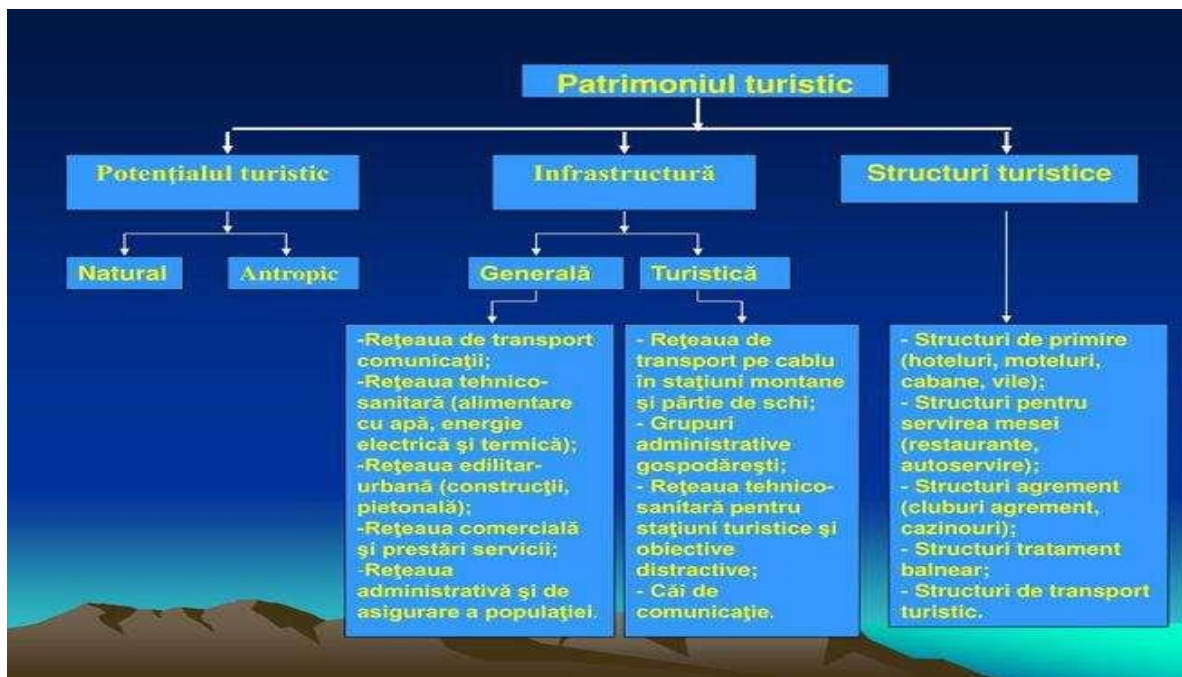


Fig.2.Source: Wikipedia. Tourist heritage.

Natural or anthropogenic elements -resources or tourist attractions - are the raw material for tourist activities.

Natural tourism potential- represents the totality of the touristic resources offered by the natural environment through its physico-geographical components (relief, climate, hydrography, fauna, flora) including modified features or their arrangement. (Fig. 3).



Fig.3.Source: Wikipedia. The natural tourism potential.

Anthropic potential- is the totality of tourist resources resulting from human creation from a cultural, historical and technical, economic point of view within a territory or a human settlement considered to have tourist value or to constitute the basis of existence for tourism. (Fig.4).

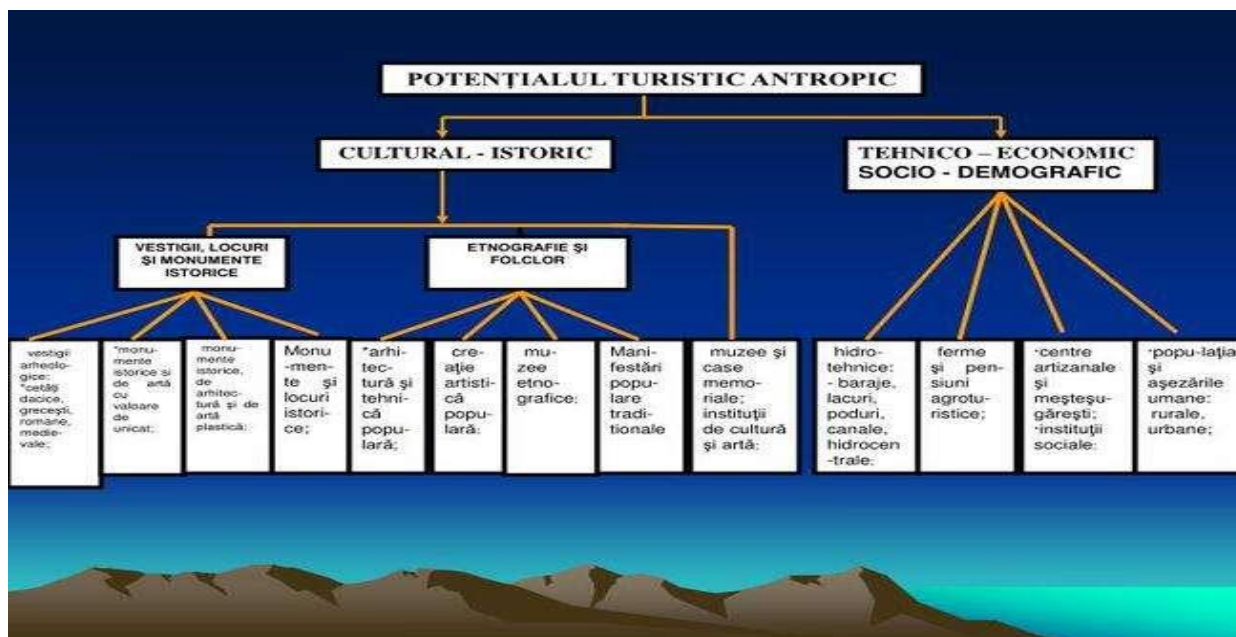


Fig.4.Source: Wikipedia. Anthropic tourist potential.

1. "Potențialul turistic al Republicii Moldova"			
1. Potențialul turistic natural		2. Potențialul turistic antropice	
1.A. Natura ocrotită. *Parcuri naționale, *Monumente, *Rezervații naturale.  Parcul Teiș, r. Danduzeni	1.D. Hidrografia. *Ape freatice și minerale, *Delta Dunării, *Râuri, lacuri naturale și antropice  Râul Nistru, estul R.M.	2.A. Edificii și activități cu funcție turistică. *ISTORICE *Așezăminte, cetăți, castele, valuri.  Cetatea Tighina (Bender), r. Tighina	2.B. Activități și evenimente cu atribute atractive. *ACTIVITĂȚILE UMANE cu f. turistică *Târguri, expoziții, hramuri etc.  Zona vinului, or. Chișinău
1.B. Fauna. *Fond cinegetic, *Fond piscicol, *Specii faunistice ocrotite, *Rezervații științifice.  "Plaiul Fagului", r. Ungheni	1.E. Clima. *Temperatura apei și a aerului, *Precipitații lichide, *Stratul de zăpadă, *Durata de strălucire a Soarelui. 	*RELIGIOASE *Cimitire (Cimitirul evreiesc or. Chișinău), *Catedrale (Nașterea Domnului or. Chișinău), *Mănăstiri (M. saharna r. Bezina), *Biserici (B. Sfântul Dumitru r. Orhei)  Mănăstirea Hîncea, r. Nisporeni	*Resurse turist. ETNOGRAFICE. *Obiceiuri, *Ocupații și meșteșuguri, *Portul etc.  Jocul și portul național
1.C. Vegetația. *Tipuri de păduri, floră specifică, plante ierboase etc.  R. " data-bbox="175 355 315 355"/>	1.F. Relief și geologie. *Trepte și forme de relief, monumente naturale, structuri geologice.  Peștera Emil Racoviță, r. Briceni	*CULTURALE *Teatre, muzee, cănăci, case memoriale, biblioteci, clădirile operelor.  Conacul Mănuș Bog, r. Hîncești	*ECONOMICE CU F. TURISTICĂ. *Barajele, *MONUMENTE, STATUI, PLĂCI etc.  Mon. lui Ștefan cel Mare or. Chișinău

Fig.5.Source: Wikipedia. Components of the tourism potential of the Republic of Moldova

Infrastructure

It characterises the degree of development and is intended to ensure the normal functioning of important sectors of modern society and is indispensable for the hotel and tourism industry. It is of two kinds:

1. general infrastructure;
2. tourism infrastructure.

1. General infrastructure:

- Communication transport network;
- Sanitary and technical network (water, electricity and heat supply);
- City-urban network (construction, pedestrian);
- Commercial network and provision of services;
- Household administrative and insurance network.

2. Tourism infrastructure:

- Cableway network in mountain resorts and ski slopes;
- Household administrative groups;
- Technical-sanitary network for tourist resorts and entertainment sites;
- Routes of communication.

Tourist structures

They are all the material means used by tourism to achieve its economic and social functions and objectives. Includes:

- 1.Reception structures (hotels, motels, cottages, villas);
- 2.Structures for serving meals (restaurants, self-service);
- 3.Recreational structures (recreational clubs, casinos);
- 4.Structures of spa treatment;
- 5.Tourist transport structures

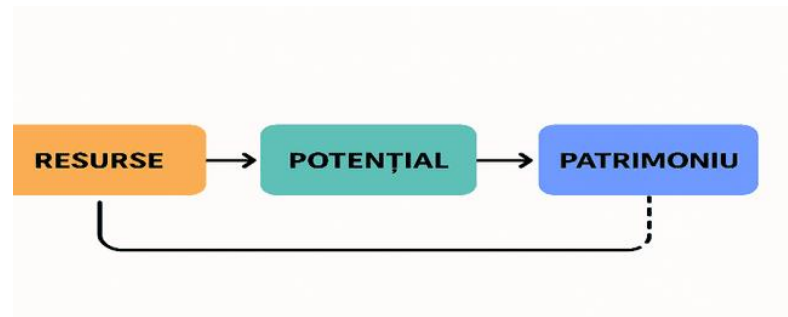
Essential differentiation:

- **Tourist resources** → objective existence of natural and cultural elements.
- **Tourism potential** → resources with real chances of capitalization in tourism.
- **Tourism heritage** → part of the tourism potential, recognized, protected and exploited sustainably.

Resources are the ‘raw material’.

The potential is ‘chance of recovery’.

Heritage is the ‘confirmed and protected value’.



Comparative table: Resources – Potential – Tourism heritage.(Tab.1)

Table 1.

Appearance	Tourist resources	Tourist potential	Tourist heritage
Definition	Natural, cultural, historical or socio-economic elements existing in the territory.	The set of identified and evaluated tourism resources that can be harnessed for tourism.	The totality of natural and cultural values protected and integrated in the touristic circuit.
Existence	They exist objectively, regardless of whether they are valued or not.	It becomes relevant only through accessibility, infrastructure and tourist demand.	It has official status, being recognized and protected by national or international legislation.
Examples	Mountains, mineral waters, caves, traditions, historical monuments.	Mountain resorts, spa areas, ecotourism trails.	Danube Delta, Bucovina Monasteries (UNESCO), Sarmizegetusa Regia.
Level of recovery	It is not necessarily touristy.	They are in the process of being capitalized or have conditions for tourist development.	They are already valued and protected, being of major importance for the tourist image.
Role in tourism	The initial basis for tourism development.	The foundation of tourism projects and investments.	Central to national tourism identity and attractiveness.
Relationship	Starting point.	Turn resources into opportunities.	They represent resources and potential that are valued and protected sustainably.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

1. Multi-choice items (grid)

1.1. Which of the following is a natural tourist resource in Moldova?

- a) Old Orhei
- b) Dniester and Lake Beleu
- c) "Codrii Moldovei" Festival
- d) National Museum of Ethnography and History

(Right answer: b)

1.2. Tourist heritage includes:

- a) only natural resources
- b) tourism infrastructure only
- c) the totality of natural and anthropogenic resources valued by tourism only UNESCO-protected resources

(Right answer: c)

1.3. Which of the following objectives in Moldova is part of the material cultural heritage?

- a) Capriana Monastery
- b) Cricova wines
- c) The 'Holiday of Wine'
- d) 'Plaiul Begului' Nature Reserve

(Right answer: a)

2. Add-ons

2.1. Tourist resource is any natural or man-made element in Moldova that can be

(answer: valued)

2.2. The tourism potential of a region depends on both resource wealth and

(answer: accessibility/recovery)

3. Short response items

3.1. Explain the difference between tourist resource and tourist potential, giving an example from Moldova.

3.2. Give an example of a natural resource and an anthropogenic resource in the area where you live or have visited.

4. Items of association

Associate each category of tourist heritage in Moldova with the corresponding example:

- a) Natural heritage – 1. Codrii Reservation
- b) Material cultural heritage – 2. Monastery of Hîncu
- c) Intangible cultural heritage – 3. Festival "People's Song" in Orhei

(Right answer: a-1, b-2, c-3)

5. Short essay items

5.1. You argue on 8-10 occasions the importance of preserving the tourist heritage of Moldova for the sustainable development of the region.

Subject 2: Classification of tourism resources.

Tourist resources are generally classified as *natural resources* and *anthropogenic (cultural) resources*. Natural resources include elements such as relief (mountains, caves), waters (rivers, lakes), vegetation and climate, while anthropogenic resources are created or influenced by man, such as historical monuments, urban settlements, cultural centres or festive events.

Tourist resources are natural and anthropogenic elements that can be used for tourism purposes. They can be classified in a number of ways, depending on **origin, nature, valorisation and attractiveness**.

1. By origin

- **Natural resources** – elements created by nature that attract tourists.
Examples: Codrii Post, Nistru, Belev Lake, Codrii and Orheiul Vechi reservations.
- **Anthropic (cultural) resources** – human-made elements with historical, artistic or cultural value.
Examples: Capriana Monastery, Old Orhei, Cricova (wines), Soroca Fortress.



the Codri Plateau the Dniester Plateau



Belev Lake 'Orheiul Vechi' Reservation

Fig.6. Source: Wikipedia. Natural resources



Căpriana Monastery Soroca Fortress



Cricova Winery Milestii Mici Winery

Fig. 7. Source: Google.com. Anthropropic resources

By nature

- **Material resources** – visible and tangible objectives that can be seen and achieved.
Examples: historic buildings, monasteries, museums, natural parks.
- **Intangible resources** – intangible elements such as traditions, customs, events.
Examples: Cricova Wine Festival, Easter or Christmas holidays, folk music.

By recovery mode

- **Directly exploitable resources** – can be visited and used immediately.
Examples: nature reserves, museums, vineyards.
- **Potential resources** – require investment to capitalise on tourism.
Examples: Undeveloped mineral springs, archaeological sites unknown to the public.

By tourist attractiveness

- **Resources of major interest (national or international)** – attract tourists from across the country or abroad.
Examples: Old Orhei, Cricova, Soroca Fortress.
- **Resources of local interest** – mostly visited by local tourists or the region.
Examples: small ethnographic museums, thematic routes in Codrii.

After durability

- **Renewable resources** – living nature or elements that recover over time (forests, fauna).
- **Non-renewable resources** – historical heritage, archaeological sites, monumental sites.

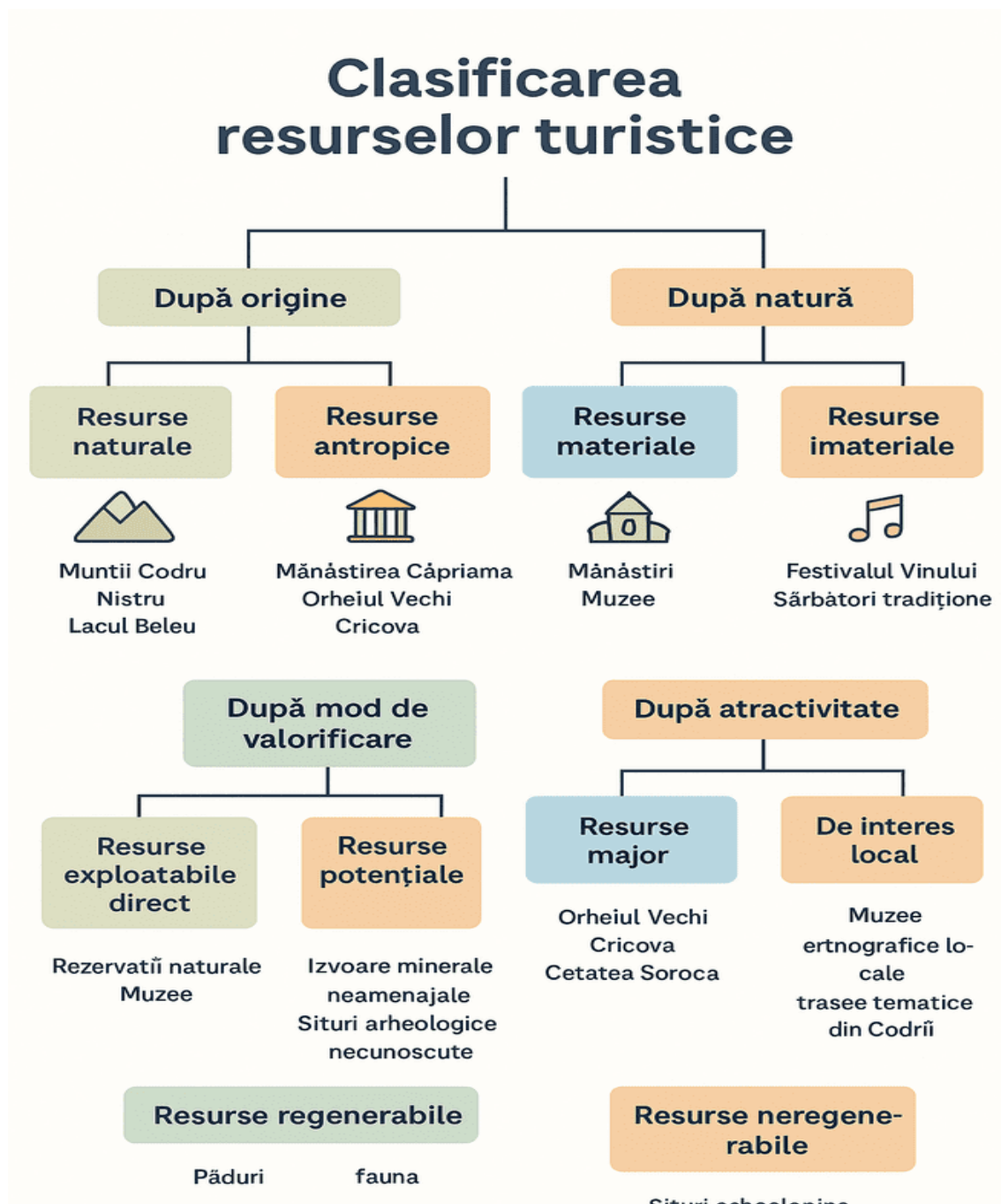


Fig. 8. Source: Google.com. Classification of tourism resources



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

I. Multiple choice

1. Which of the following are **tourism natural resources**?
 - a) Historical monuments
 - b) Lakes and rivers
 - c) Museums
 - d) Traditional festivals
2. Anthropogenic tourist resources include:
 - a) Caves and waterfalls
 - b) Old towns and cathedrals
 - c) Grasslands and forests
 - d) Beach-friendly climate
3. The tourist potential of a region is determined by:
 - a) Number of inhabitants
 - b) Quality and diversity of tourism resources
 - c) Agricultural areas
 - d) Number of schools

II. True/False

1. Tourist resources can be natural, anthropogenic and mixed.
2. All tourism resources have the same economic and social value.
- Anthropogenic tourist resources are man-made, but can be influenced by the natural environment.
4. Ouristic 18 heritage includes only historical monuments.

III. Completion

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

IV. Association

Link column A to column B:

Column A - Resource type Column B -Category

1. Lakes and rivers a) anthropogenic resources
2. Medieval fortresses b) natural resources
3. National parks with tourist routes c) mixed resources
4. Traditional festivals d) cultural resources

V. Open questions

1. Explain what a **tourist heritage** is and give two examples from the Republic of Moldova.
2. Why is the classification of tourism resources important for the tourism planning of a region?
3. List three criteria by which tourist resources can be classified.

Subject 3: Natural and anthropogenic tourism potential - the main components

Natural tourism potential

It is based on the elements provided by nature and includes the following main components:

Table 2

Components	Examples
Relief	Hills, plateaus, valleys.
Climate	Temperature, precipitation, sunshine favorable to summer or winter tourism.
Hydrography	Rivers, lakes, waterfalls, wetlands.
Vegetation and fauna	Forests, flowers, nature reserves, wild animals.
Landscapes and ecosystems	Picturesque landscapes, nature reserves, national parks, biodiversity

Examples of landforms:



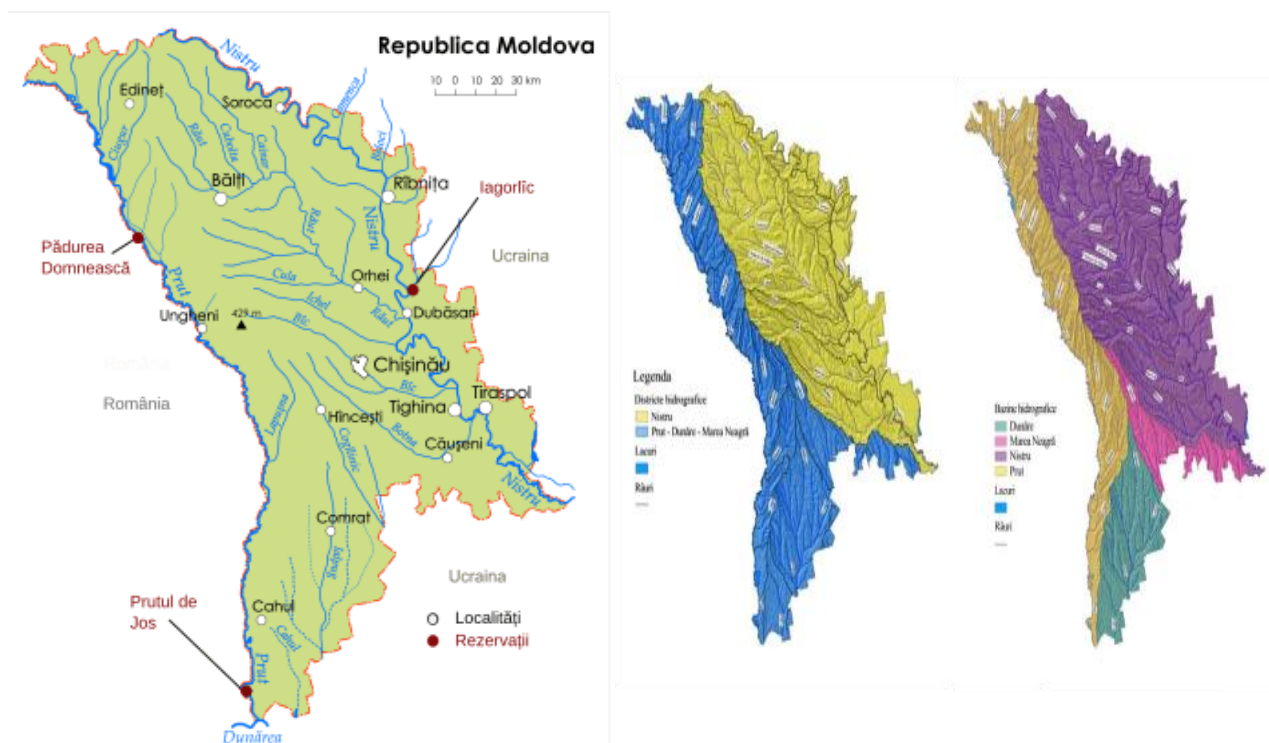
D.Bălănești din Pod.Codrilor D. Măgura.Satul Tâghira/Ungheni D.Veverița.Comuna Hîrcești/Ungheni



Valea r. Răut.Orheiul Vechi Valea r. Ciorna.Parcani/Șoldănești Valea r.Nistru.Vadul lui Vodă

Fig. 9. Source: Wikipedia. Forms of relief.

Hydrography: Rivers.



Main watercourses in Moldova Districts and river basins of the Republic of Moldova

Fig. 10 Source: Wikipedia. Hydrography/Rivers.

Hydrography: The lakes.

In the Republic of Moldova there are 57 natural lakes with a total area of 62.2 km², besides these there are about 1.6 thousand ponds and reservoirs, which have a total volume of about 1.8 km³ and an area of about 160 km².

The largest lakes in Moldova stretch along the Prut, at its bottom – Belevu – 6.26, Dracele – 2.65, Rotunda – 2.08, Manta – 2.1, Fontan – 1.16 km². Lakes Bic – 3.72, Crasnoe – 1.6 km² and so on were preserved in the Nistru River valley.



L.Belevu.Cahul L.Congaz.Comrat L.Rotunda.Cahul

Fig. 11 Source: Wikipedia. Hydrography/Lakes.

Hydrography: Waterfalls.



Țipova Falls Saharna Falls. Rezina

Fig.12. Source: Wikipedia. Hydrography/Waterfalls.

Nature reserves:



the Lower Prut Iagorlâc the Princely Forest



the Turkish Garden Plaiul Begului Codrii

Fig.12. Source: Wikipedia. Nature reserves.

Picturesque landscapes:



Vadul Rascov. R. Soldanesti Saharna Landscape Reserve Trebujeni.R.Orhei

Fig. 13. Source: Wikipedia. Picturesque landscapes.

National parks:



Orhei Park Lower Nistru

Fig. 14. Source: Wikipedia. National parks.

Anthropic tourism potential

It is based on man's achievements and creations, and includes:

Table 3

Components	Examples
Cultural heritage	Historical monuments, fortresses, churches, monasteries
Urban and architectural	Old Towns, Flagship Buildings, Central Markets
Tourism infrastructure	Hotels, pensions, leisure centers, tourist routes
Cultural events and activities	Festivals, fairs, traditional events, artistic events
Technical and industrial heritage	Mills, old bridges, mines, industrial museums

Cultural heritage:



Prince Stephen the Great Monument Vasile Alecsandri Monument



Monument Liberation Monument of Ion and Doina Aldea-Teodorovici



The Statue of Mihai Eminescu The She-wolf Breastfeeding Romulus and Remus

Fig. 15. Source: Wikipedia. Historical monuments.

Cities:



Tighina Fortress Soroca Fortress

Fig. 16. Source: Wikipedia. Fortresses.

Monasteries:



Capriana Curchi Hâncu



Rudi Saharna Hagimus

Fig. 17. Source: Wikipedia. Monasteries.

Tourism infrastructure.

Hotels:



Hotel Chisinau Hotel Ambassador Hotel Turist

Fig. 18. Source: Wikipedia. Hotels.

Pensions:



Fig. 19. Source: Wikipedia. Pension "La Iepurași" s.Lunga.r-l.Florești



Villa Dorului. Molovata Nine Barrel. Glodeni Popas Regal. S.Cobani

Fig. 20. Source: Wikipedia. Pensions

Recreational centres:



Hangan's inn. Lalova Basil's Inn. Tohatin

Fig. 21. Source: Wikipedia. Pensions. Recreational centres

Cultural events and activities.

Festivals:

Wine day. Annually, in the first weekend of October. The place of organization - throughout Moldova, the main events take place in the center of Chisinau. The festival presents an excellent opportunity to taste the best Moldovan wines and national cuisine, to see local and foreign artists, to get acquainted with handicrafts or to go on a trip to wineries.

Martisor. 'Mărțișor' is the traditional festival held throughout Moldova, which starts on 1 March and continues for 10 days (launched in 1967). The Martisor (Rom. Mărțișor, from Roma. March, month of the year) is a traditional celebration of welcoming spring in Moldova and Romania. It is marked on March 1. On this day, people give themselves small buttonholes in the form of flowers made of white and red threads.

Invite Maria Bieșu. The International Festival of Opera and Ballet Stars has been held every year in September at the National Palace, the Opera and Ballet Theatre and other concert halls in Chisinau since 1990. This festival was instituted by the famous opera singer Maria Bieșu.

Ethno-jazz. This festival takes place annually, in the second half of September, at the "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre and brings together jazz stars from all over the world.

Snack. The ethno music festival takes place annually, at the end of August, in a historical and cultural fantastic complex «Old Orhei» (between the villages of Trebujeni and Butuceni, Orhei district).

Must Fest. The festival celebrates the season of glory of the vine. Visitors to the event have excursions through the famous underground wine cellars, the paradise of red, white, dry or sparkling wines, where almost every variety has its own street. Walks on the underground pedestrian street – Legend of Plaiului, are accompanied by turmoil, live music, artistic representations, and film screenings. The Wine School is another attraction of the event, welcoming guests with selected wines and lessons on the art of serving from the most prominent specialists.

Beleu Bio Fest. The festival is organised on the shores of Lake Beleu, which is part of the Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve, included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and focuses on promoting the natural, cultural and gastronomic heritage of the Slobozia Mare and Lower Prut Meadow regions, with a focus on Lake Beleu. Visitors will enjoy Bird Watching activities, boat rides and ATV, nature hikes, as well as popular music and dances.

Fairs:



Fig. 22. Source: Google.com. Fairs with domestic products.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

I. Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Which of the following is part of the natural tourism potential?**
 - a) Mountains and varied terrain
 - b) Medieval fortresses
 - c) Traditional festivals
 - d) Favourable climate for summer tourism
2. **Anthropic tourism potential includes:**
 - a) Rivers and lakes
 - b) Monasteries and historical monuments
 - c) Forests and nature reserves
 - d) Cultural and artistic events

II. True / False

1. The natural tourist potential is represented by man-made elements. (___)
2. Climate and terrain are part of the natural tourist potential. (___)
3. Tourism infrastructure is a component of the anthropic tourism potential. (___)
4. Festivals and folk traditions are elements of natural potential. (___)

III. Completion

1. _____
2. _____ includes historical monuments, cultural heritage and tourism infrastructure.
3. Examples of natural tourism potential: _____, _____, _____.
4. Examples of anthropic tourism potential: _____, _____, _____.

IV. Association

Link the items in column A to the correct category in column B:

Column A Column B

1. Codrii reserve a) Natural potential
2. Fortress Soroca b) Anthropic potential – cultural
3. Martisor Festival c) Anthropic potential – events
4. Dniester River d) Natural potential – hydrographic

V. Open questions

1. **What are the main components of the natural tourism potential in the Republic of Moldova?**
2. **Why is the anthropogenic tourism potential important in the development of rural and urban tourism?**
3. **It offers examples of mixed tourism resources combining natural and anthropogenic elements.**

Subject 4: Natural tourism resources general characterization.

Natural tourism resources are **all the elements provided by nature** that can be used and harnessed for tourism purposes, without requiring major human intervention. They constitute the fundamental basis for the development of tourism, in particular forms of tourism linked to recreation, leisure and knowledge.

General characterisation

1. Origin

- They are **natural** elements created by geographical, climatic and biological processes.
- They do not depend directly on man's action, but they can be valued and protected by it.

2. Typology

The main categories of natural tourist resources are:

- **Relief:** hills, plains, caves.
- **Climate:** climatic factors favourable to summer tourism (sun, temperatures) or winter sports (snow, cold).
- **Hydrography:** rivers, lakes, waterfalls, mineral springs.
- **Vegetation and fauna:** forests, rare plants, wildlife, biosphere reserves.
- **Landscape:** visual beauty and natural harmony (picturesque areas, panoramas).

3. Tourist value

- They have **aesthetic attractiveness (beauty, spectacularness)**.
- They can have **therapeutic value** (mineral springs, fresh air, resort climate).
- I support **leisure and sports activities** (walking, climbing, skiing, water sports).
- Provides the framework for modern forms of tourism: **ecotourism, adventure tourism, mountain tourism, spa tourism**.

4. Durability and protection

- As **non-renewable or hard-to-renew** resources, they require protection through reserves, nature parks and conservation policies.
- Environmental degradation (pollution, deforestation, over-urbanisation) can reduce their attractiveness and value.

Natural tourist resources are of geological, geomorphological, climatic, hydrological, floristic and faunal origin. The Lower Dniester region has valuable geological and paleontological monuments. From Causeni district are part of: Sălcuța ravine (south-east of the village with the same name), Fârlădeni outcropping (near the village with the same name), quarry near Zaim village. In Stefan Voda district there are: Stone ravine (north of Tudora village), Albu ravine (above Cioburciu village), Purcari ravine (north of the village with the same name). Near the capital you can visit the Goian outcropping (near the intersection of the Leuseni and Chișinău-Criuleni highways, Criuleni district), the fossil soils on the Transnistrian terraces northwest of the village of Mălăiești, the Vadul lui Vodă forest detour, and near the municipality of Bender - the fossil fauna sites near the village of Calfa (Anenii Noi). We also mention morphosites, very useful for tourism: in Păulești, Vălcineț, Sipoteni (Călărași); Criuleni; Vasieni, Costești, Ialoveni (Ialoveni); Poșești (Orhei); Vorniceni (Strășeni). On the left side of the Dniester, one of the monuments of global significance remains the geological-paleontological complex 'Vâlcea Colcot' (unique concentration of Pleistocene fossils) near Blijinii Hutor, the northern part of Tiraspol.

In the north-western part of the study region, the terrain is predominantly hilly, strongly fragmented by the hydrographic network, with deep valleys and harrows, gorges and gorges. Here are located the highest hills in the country, including Bălănești in Nisporeni district (429 m), Veverița in Ungheni district (407 m), Căușenilor (210 m), Movila lui Suvorov, located at the entrance to Bender town from Causeni town, Movila cel Mare (197 m) in Popeasca Ștefan Vodă district and so on. A major balneary and recreational significance has the Nistru River Valley, especially in the perimeter and near the municipalities of Chisinau (Vadul lui Vodă resort), Bender and Tiraspol.

Touristic interest is also shown by the meadow landscapes, where there have been preserved sectors of barges – willow meadow forests, white poplar, oak and other species of meadow. The attractiveness of this type of landscape is given by the combination of the forest areas of the meadows with the spectacular meanders of the rivers, the meadow lakes. The large number of sunny days, the mild climate, the ozonated air are favorable to human health and have led to the construction of spa resorts, including Hârjauca (Călărași), Vadul lui Vodă and Cocieri (Dubăsari). The presence of the largest water artery of the Republic of Moldova, the favorable microclimate, the valuable mineral waters and the authentic riparian landscapes provide the natural framework for the manifestation of various resting and spa activities, highly appreciated not only by locals and visitors from various corners of the Republic of Moldova, but also by foreign tourists.

A valuable component of hydrological tourist resources and with major tourist significance These are mineral waters. Most of the valuable mineral water springs have been discovered in the valley

the Dniester River, including Varnița, Cocieri and Purcari, as well as Cornești (Ungheni), Onițcani (Călărași), Micăuți (Strășeni) and in the city of Chisinau. Mineral springs are also noted. from Hârjauca (Călărași), ‘Izvorul lui Ștefan cel Mare’ from Vălcineț (Călărași), ‘Izvorul lui Suvorov’ from Hagimus (Căușeni).

A large part of the lakes in good condition are assigned for recreational purposes. Most of them are in Calarasi district, and 13 lakes are directly in Calarasi city. Of Also, in Criuleni district there are many lakes designed exclusively for recreation. The largest lakes used for recreation in the urban area are located in the municipalities and in the city of Anenii Noi (12 ha). The other lakes are smaller in size.

For recreational purposes, usually unorganized, most of the lakes of mayoralities assigned for general use are used, especially in the interior or proximity of localities, and the access of the local population and outside visitors is much easier compared to the ponds leased and used for fishing purposes. Recreational functions also provide other pools for mixed use, as well as some of the lakes for fish use.

Forest ecosystems are particularly important for recreational-tourist activities. They are represented by deciduous forests of the Central European type. In addition to the functions of protecting soils and water resources, the forest has sanitary, aesthetic and recreational functions. The most numerous, extensive and valuable protected natural areas are in the state forest fund. Among the fauna resources in the basin are important, especially those suitable for hunting tourism. Around 28 species of aquatic birds and 13 species of mammals can be hunted on the territory of the region. The main hunting mammals are wild boar, rabbit, deer, spotted deer, badger, fox. The living areas of these species are predominantly forested massifs and, above all, natural areas protected by the State (the scientific reserves ‘Codrii’, ‘Plaiul Fagului’, the nature reserves, etc.). Among the mammals with precious fur there are the otter, the mink, the forest marten, the wild cat, the hermine, the steppe ferret.

Almost half (47%) of the natural areas protected by the State are part of the forest fund and are managed by the ‘Moldosilva’ Agency through its subordinated forestry and forestry-cinegetic enterprises. Under state protection are 18.8% of the total area of forest ecosystems, 0.4% of steppe

and meadow ecosystems and 2.1% of aquatic and palustre ecosystems. Lower Nistru National Park, 1/3 of Orhei National Park; the 'Codru' and 'Plaiul Begului' scientific reserves; 31 natural monuments, including 20 geological-paleontological, 7 hydrological, 4 botanicals with forest vegetation, on the total area of 26.3 ha and 291 secular trees; 17 nature reserves, including 16 forestry and one mixed reserve; 11 landscape reserves with an area of 8227 ha; 2 reserves of land resources, with an area of 202 ha, 3 areas with multifunctional management, including a representative sector with steppe vegetation, 2 representative sectors with meadow vegetation, 7 landscape architectural monuments, on 146.6 ha, Zoo and two dendrological gardens (Chisinau and Tiraspol) in the country, wetland of international importance with an area of 600 km².

The 'Lower Nistru' National Park has a total area of 62 thousand ha and was recently created (in 2022) on the territory of 24 localities bordering the Dniester river, which are part of 3 rayons, Causeni and Stefan Voda – on the right and Slobozia rayon – on the left of the Dniester. Located in the immediate vicinity of Tiraspol and Bender, 70 km from Chisinau and only 50 km from Odessa, the Lower Nistru National Park comprises an extensive area of anthropogenic and native habitats allied through the river and the protection strip along the anti-village dam. The agricultural sectors, for the most part, are surrounded by forest curtains. In the Park there are 4 core areas of national importance. One of the most important sectors is 'Lunca Talmaza', a core area where there are forests and meadows, lakes, irrigation water channels, meadows and puddles. The 'Orhei' National Park (Annex 21) was established in 2013 in 18 municipalities in the districts of Orhei, Straseneni, Calarasi and Criuleni. The total area is 33.8 thousand ha, of which 10.9 thousand ha (32%) of 5 localities are located on the territory of BCIFN. It is located just 40 km from Chisinau, being easily accessible from several motorways. Recently, thanks to the support of Sweden, on the territory of the two national parks in the region, the activity of marking the integral protection zones A (or group T0 in forest language) was carried out. These A-zones, which have integral protection status, are spread over several portions in different places. Such an area is also in the Tiganesti Landscape Reserve. This practice is necessary to mark the areas, representing the argument of the existence of the National Park as a protected natural area. Scientific reserves hold not only a significant biological variety, but also qualified specialists, who can be actively involved in the provision of various tourist services. They have not only in-depth studies of floristic and faunal components, but also communication skills in international languages. Good accessibility to most sectors of scientific reserves can also be mentioned here. At the same time, national environmental legislation is restrictive both in terms of visitor access and the construction of transport and accommodation infrastructure, which significantly limits tourist flows and receipts. The 'Codru' scientific reserve is located in the central part of the Codrii Plateau and has an area of 5177 ha, most of which is located in the municipality of Lozova in Straseneni district. In the reserve predominates the stands of oak, ash and there are about 1000 species of plants, many of which are rare species. The animal world is also diverse and rich. Representative species are noble deer, stained deer, deer, wild boar, badger, forest marten, wild cat, various species of amphibians, snakes and birds. The insect class is also widely represented. A large part of the representative species are exhibited in the museum of the reserve, which is one of the richest natural museums in the Republic of Moldova.

Among the natural monuments are: mineral springs from Hârjauca (Călărași), Onițcani (Criuleni), 'Izvorul lui Stefan cel Mare' from Vălcineț (Călărași), 'Izvorul lui Suvorov' from Hagimus (Căușeni); Secular trees, especially the Oak of Stephen the Great in Capriana (Strășeni). Legends say that about 700 years ago, Stephen the Great fought a hard battle with the Tatars in those places. According to custom, after each battle won, the Grand Ruler erected a church or monastery. So, Stephen built a wooden church on the outskirts of the village, next to a young oak tree, under which he would have rested after taking down his enemies. There are also beautiful secular oak trees from Cojusna and Scoreni (it has dried up, but remains for visitors one of the oldest in South-Eastern Europe). Secular trees are solitary specimens or small isolated groups of trees, impressive

by age, size, beauty, rarity, or by witnessing historical events. By origin in the region we meet 2 categories of centuries-old trees: 1) native trees: beech, ash, oak, maple, hornbeam, white poplar, grey poplar, cinnamon, pedunculate oak, lime, elm; 2) Allochthonous trees: Turkish hazelnut, pagoda tree, Caucasian fir, pig chestnut, California cedar, mulberry, green Douglas, glaze, pomegranate maclura, spruce, Canada spruce, soft pine, black pine, western plantain, sophora, chestnut oak.

According to the ecological and touristic (heritage) value are distinguished:

- 1) *Long-lived trees*, including the oak tree from Schinoasa, the municipality of Chisinau and the oak tree from the outskirts of Pîrîta village, Dubăsari district, both of which are about 350 years old. Of other species, the 3 white mulberries from the ‘Stefan cel Mare’ Public Garden in Chisinau stand out.
- 2) *Trees of impressive size*, with a circumference arc length of over 5 m, including oak trees in the village of Pîrîta, Dubasari rayon (675 cm and 600 cm), oak near the village of Gura Bacului, Anenii Noi rayon (633 cm), plantain near the village of Păulești, Călărași rayon (580 cm), oak tree in the Galoci Forest, Criuleni rayon (557 cm), oak tree in the landscape reserve ‘Turkish Garden’ (Annex 19), Ștefan Vodă rayon (553 cm), oak tree near the village of Micăuți, Strășeni rayon (510 cm).
- 4) *Rare trees* are those that grow in few places, and in some cases are included in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova. In the Republic of Moldova there are 2 specimens of pomegranate maclura in Chisinau municipality, 4 cedars of California in Chisinau, a chestnut oak in Crocmaz Forest.



AUTO-EVALUATE QUESTIONS

I. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following are part of natural tourism resources?
 - a) Mountains and hills
 - b) Museums and fortresses
 - c) Rivers and lakes
 - d) Traditional festivals
2. Which category of natural resources is capitalized through spa tourism?
 - a) Mountainous terrain
 - b) Mineral and thermal springs
 - c) Historical monuments
 - d) Popular festivals

II. True / False

1. Relief, climate and hydrography are part of the natural tourist resources. (___)
 2. Vegetation and fauna have no tourist value. (___)
- Picturesque landscapes are an element of natural attractiveness. (___)
- Mineral and thermal springs are examples of anthropic tourist resources. (___)

III. Completion

1. Mountain relief is valued by tourism activities such as _____ and _____.
2. Climate factors such as sun and snow favour tourism _____ and _____.
_____ and _____ are two examples of natural tourism resources in the Republic of Moldova.

IV. Association

Link the items in column A to the corresponding category in column B:

Column A Column B

1. Orheiul Vechi a) Relief – karst landscape
2. Nistru River b) Hydrography
3. Codrii Moldovei c) Vegetation
4. Mineral springs d) Spa resources

V. Open questions

1. What relief elements in the Republic of Moldova can be considered natural tourist resources and why?
2. How does climate influence the development of some forms of tourism?
3. Why is it necessary to protect natural tourism resources?

Topic 5. Geological tourism resources.

Geological tourist resources belong to the category of natural tourist resources and include **geological formations, rocks, caves and karst structures of** landscape, scientific or recreational interest. They attract tourists through their **unique shapes, spectacularness and associated cultural-historical value.**

History:

The first surveys of Bessarabia's <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basarabia> geological background were carried out in the 19th century. Scholars such as Pavel Svin'in⁽¹⁸¹⁷⁾, Dering (1853), Alexander von Nordmann⁽¹⁸⁵⁸⁾, Ivan Sintsov^(1858, 1883), Yevgeny Barbot de Marni (1869), Maria Pavlova⁽¹⁸⁹⁴⁾ discovered several geological formations and skeletal reminiscences of prehistoric animals, and by the first half of the 20th century various science centers and museums in Chisinau, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Kiev, Odessa and Bucharest had thoroughly researched the territory of the present Republic of Moldova, classifying the geological-paleontological sites after the formation period. By the 1960s, 260 geological and paleontological objects had been recorded. In order to combat the deterioration of sites, but also of other natural objectives of particular importance, in 1956 the Commission for Nature Protection was created at the Presidium of the Moldavian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. As a result of the work of this council, in 1962 was approved the Decision of the Soviet of Ministers of the Moldavian SSR of 13 March 1962 No. 111, which established a regime of protection over 18 geological and paleontological objects. In 1975, by the Decision of the Soviet of Ministers of the MSSR of 8 January 1975 No. 5, the list was extended to 86 objects. In 1998, after the proclamation of independence, the list was revised by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova through the Law no. 1538-XIII of February 25, 1998 on the fund of natural areas protected by the state.

Classification:

After the formation period, the geological-paleontological sites of the Republic of Moldova are classified into:

- **Sarmatiansites:** Calfa, Bursuc, Naslavcea, reefs and toltters in the basin of the left tributaries of the middle Prut etc.
- **Myocenesites:** Răspopeni, Taraclia, Fîrlădeni, Cimișlia, Gura Galbenei, Cioburciu
- **Pliocene sites :** the valleys of the Prut, Cahul and Salcia Mare rivers (Valeni, https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aflorimentul_de_l%C3%A2ng%C4%83_satul_V%C4%83leni Pelina, Moscow, Musaitu sites, etc.)
- **Pleistocenesites:** Cișmichioi, Vâlcea Colcot, etc.

The following areas are distinguished by **geomorphological region:**

- Hotin Plateau, located in the northern part of the country. Most of this territory is covered by Badenian and Volhinian sediments, and in the Nistru and Prut valleys, Cretaceous and Precambrian sediments are uncovered. The reef strips in this area are known as ‘toltre’ — Toltrele Prutului and Toltrele Nistruului.

- The Dniester Plateau, located on the eastern edge of the Northern Moldavian Plateau. It consists mostly of Volhinian and Bessarabian sediments, and in the Nistru Valley there are exposed outcrops of the Cretaceous, Vendian and Upper Proterozoic.
- The Middle Prut Plain, located along the Prut. It is composed of Badenian, Volhinian and Bessarabian sediments. Here is the southern part of the Toltres of the Prut.
- Podolic Plateau on the left bank of the Dniester in Ukraine. The territory of the Republic of Moldova (northern Transnistria) is made up of Volhinian and Basarabian sediments, and in the Nistru Valley and its tributaries are exposed levels of the Cretaceous and upper proterozoic.
- The Central Moldavian Plateau, located in the central part of the country. The protected areas here are associated with the Camenca-Chisinau reef strip of Basarabian age.
- geomorphological regions in the south of the country: Botna Hilly Plain, Tigheci Hills, Bugeac Plain, Lower Dniester Plain. They are made up of the terrigenous formations of Bessarabia, Chersonian, Meotian, Pontian, Kymerian and Pliocene-Pleistocene. The protected areas are represented here (with some exceptions) by ravines, which form outcrops of flora and fauna.

Main geological resources of the Republic of Moldova:

?? Karst and gorge formations

- **Old Orhei** - ensemble of limestone cliffs, gorges and caves, with important historical and cultural vestiges.
- **Țipova Gorge** – spectacular canyon on the banks of the Dniester River, with a cave monastery.
- **Saharna Gorge** – karst relief, waterfalls and the monastery in the area.
- **Raut and Dniester gorges** – steep cliffs, meanders, picturesque landscapes.

?? Caves and grottoes

- **Emil Racoviță Cave (Cricova, Criuleni)** – one of the longest gypsum caves in the world (over 90 km).
- **‘Surprizelor’ Cave and ‘Woman Balcano’ Cave (Raionul Riscani and Criuleni)** – attractive for speo-tourism.
- **Butești Cave (Glodeni)** – with interesting karst formations.

?? Rocky cliffs and steep

- The limestone abruptions from the **Nistru valley** (Rezina, Țipova, Saharna).
- Picturesque rock formations in the **valleys of Răutului and Cogâlnicului**.

?? Canyons and rare geological formations

- **‘Stânca Mare’ Canyon** in Duruitoarea Veche (Rîșcani) – archaeological site and spectacular landscape.
- **Butești Gorge (Glodeni)** – landscape reserve with limestone formations.
- **Gypsum rocks** in northern Moldova – attractive for geological studies and speo-tourism.

The main paleontological tourist resources:

Duruitoarea Veche (Raionul Riscani)

- Archaeological and paleontological site of great value.
- Remains of mammoth, steppe bison, woolly rhinoceros, deer and prehistoric bears have been discovered.
- Importance: provides information about the fauna of the Ice Age.

?? Butești (Gloseni district)

- Paleontological reservation in Sarmatian limestone.
- It contains fossils of molluscs, shells and marine corals from the Miocene period.
- It is a 'natural laboratory' for the study of the geological history of the region.

?? Cobani (Glodeni district)

- It is famous for its marine fossils (shells, corals, calcareous algae).
- It attests to the existence of the Sarmatic Sea millions of years ago.

?? Middle Prut (Lower Prut Reservation, Cahul)

- Fossil debris deposits of fish and molluscs.
- Scientific and educational interest.

?? Nistru Valley (Rezina – Țipova – Saharna)

- The limestone rocks and gorges preserve fossils of molluscs and algae from the Sarmatic Sea.
- Associated with landscapes
- and tourist attractions.

List of natural monuments of geological or paleontological type in the Republic of Moldova

The list contains the 86 **geological or paleontological nature monuments** Table 4

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Fauna location near the village of Calfa</u>	AN	to the north-west of <u>the village of Calfa</u> , to the east of the railway bridge, on the right bank of the <u>Bic river</u>	Agricultural Cooperative of Production "Wine"	
<u>The Meandru of Pererîta</u>	BR	south of the village of <u>Pererîta</u> on the left bank of the <u>river Prut</u>	City Hall of Pererîta village	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>‘Emil Racoviță’ karst cave and adjacent karst area</u>	BR	north-west of <u>Criva, Briceni</u> district, on the right-hand side of the <u>Chisinau–Chernivtsi</u> route	Gypsum career in Criva village	
<u>Fossil-bearing location near the village of Pelinei</u>	CH	in the ravines in the western part of <u>Pelina</u> village, on the right slope of the <u>Cahul river</u> (Vulcanesti forest district)	Forestry Enterprise "Silva-Sud" Cahul	
<u>Fossil-bearing location near the village of Moscow</u>	CH	between the villages of <u>Moscow</u> (Cahul rayon) and <u>Dermengi</u> (Taracliarayon), on the right slope of the <u>Salcia Mare river</u> valley (Moscow forest district)	Forestry Enterprise "Silva-Sud" Cahul	
<u>the Tartaul River</u>	CH	0.5 km north of the village of <u>Tartaul de Salcie</u> on the left side of the <u>Salcia Mică river</u>	Town hall of Tartaul de Salcie village	
<u>the Japca Rock</u>	FR	near the <u>homonymous monastery</u> , near the road connecting the villages of <u>Sănătăuca, Bursuc</u> and <u>Japca</u>	Municipality of <u>Japca</u>	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Karst funnels</u>	CC	North of <u>Hrușca</u> village	Hrușca Village Council	
<u>Rapa Namălvii</u>	FR	on the southeastern edge of <u>Bursuc</u> village	Municipality of <u>Japca</u>	
<u>Aflorimentul proterozoicului superior (vendian) near Cerlina village</u>	SR	southwest of <u>Cerlina</u> village on the steep coast of the <u>Dniester</u>	Municipality of <u>Nimereuca</u>	
<u>Career Cociulia</u>	CT	1 km north of Cociulia https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cociulia,_Cantemir village in the sand and gravel quarry	Cociulia Village Hall	
<u>Rapa Taraclia</u>	CS	the south-eastern part of the village of <u>Taraclia</u> on the left bank of the <u>river Ceaga</u>	Taraclia Village Hall	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Career of the Horse Cemetery</u>	CL	north of <u>Păulești</u> village	Joint Stock Company "Păulești"	
<u>Tofan's ravine</u>	CL	on the western edge of <u>Vălcineț</u> village	'Vălcineț' Agricultural Enterprise	
<u>In the Dos ravine</u>	CL	1 km south of Sipoteni https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sipoteni,_C%C4%83%C4%83ra%C8%99i village	Agricultural enterprise "Sipoteni"	
<u>Aflorimentul Fîrlădeni</u>	CS	near the village of <u>Fîrlădeni</u> , in the ravine on the right side of the Fîrlădeni river valley, near the road to <u>Căușeni</u>	City Hall of <u>Fîrlădeni</u> commune	
<u>Rapa from Sălcuța</u>	CS	south-east of <u>Sălcuța</u> village, Căușeni forest detour, Sălcuța	Bender State Forestry Household	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>the Baurci Afloriment</u>	GE	on the <u>Congaz-Baurci</u> road, 2 km from the bridge over <u>the Ialpug river</u> , the Congaz forest detour	the Yargara State Forestry Household	
<u>Ceadir-Lunga ravines</u>	GE	east of <u>Ceadir-Lunga</u> municipality (<u>Cadir-Lunga</u> forest district, parcel 86)	Forestry Enterprise "Silva-Sud" Cahul	
<u>‘Coțofana’ ravine</u>	CM	to the east of <u>the village of Gura Galbenei</u> ; ISS Iargara, Maximeni Forest District	Cimișlia State Forestry Enterprise	
<u>Geological section of the Ialpug valley</u>	GE	in the town of <u>Comrat</u> , the left slope of <u>the valley of the river Ialpug</u> , the forest detour of Comrat	the Yargara State Forestry Household	
<u>Fossil soils on the Transnistrian terraces</u>	CR	southeast of Mălăiești https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%83l%C4%83ie%C8%99ti , Criuleni village	State Enterprise for Forestry Chisinau	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>the Goian Afloriment</u>	CR	near <u>the village of Goian</u> , 0.5 km from the crossing of <u>M21 Chişinău-Dubăsari</u> over <u>R4 Chişinău-Criuleni</u> (<u>Vadul lui Vodă forest district</u>),	State Enterprise for Forestry Chisinau	
<u>Cave of Surprises</u>	CR	on the right bank of <u>the Nistru River</u> in a strip of forest, 2 km northeast of the city of <u>Criuleni</u> (forest body <u>Zolonceni</u>)	State Enterprise for Forestry Chisinau	
<u>Reef mounds near Visoca village</u>	DN	south of Visoca https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visoca , <u>Soroca village</u>	Municipality of Visoca	
<u>Slag ravine</u>	DR	north of Zguriţa https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zguri%C8%9Ba,_Drochia village	Municipality of Zguriţa village	
<u>the Chetrosu Afloriment</u>	DR	west of Chetrosu https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chetrosu,_Drochia village, near <u>the Drochia–Soroca motorway</u>	Chetrosu Village Hall	
<u>Valcea "La Humriei"</u>	DB	west of the village of <u>Ustia</u> on the left slope of <u>the river Răut</u> ; <u>Criuleni</u> , <u>Răculeşti</u> , parcel 10, sub-parcels 8-18	the Chisinau State Forestry Household	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>the Brînzei Caves</u>	ED	in the <u>Brînzei reefs</u> , 13 km south-east of the village of <u>Brînzei</u> , at the edge of the plateau on the left side of the <u>Racovăț river</u> ; the Edinet Forest District	Brînzei Village Hall and State Enterprise for Forestry Edinet	
<u>Brînzei Reefs</u>	ED	around <u>Brînzei</u> village	City Hall of Brînzei village	
<u>the Buzdugeni Gorge</u>	ED	near <u>Buzdugeni</u> village, at the confluence of Bogda https://ro.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=R%C3%A2ul_Bogda&action=edit&redlink=1 and <u>Racovăț</u> rivers	Municipality of <u>Burlanesti</u>	
<u>Burlanesti Gorge</u>	ED	north-west of Burlanesti https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burl%C4%83ne%C8%99ti,_Edine%C8%9B village, on a segment of Draghiște <u>River</u>	Municipality of <u>Burlanesti</u>	
<u>Volodeni ravine</u>	ED	between <u>Volodeni</u> and <u>Bleşteni</u> villages	Municipality of <u>Bleşteni</u>	

Name	Distri ct	Location	Owner	Image
<u>the Trinca Gorge</u>	ED	south-west of the village of <u>Trinca</u> , in the valley of the <u>Draghiște River</u>	Municipality of <u>Trinca</u>	
<u>the Fetești Gorge</u>	ED	south-west of Fetești https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fete%C8%99ti,_E_dine%C8%9B village, near the G15 <u>Lopatnic–Edineț</u> road route	City Hall of Fetești village	
<u>Butești Keys</u>	WG	southeast of <u>Butești</u> village	Municipality of <u>Camenca</u> (24.15 ha) and Municipality of <u>Butești</u> village (32.27 ha)	
<u>the Great Rock</u>	WG	2 km east of Cobani https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cobani,_Glodeni village	Cobani Village Hall	
<u>Vasieni ravines</u>	IL	on the right coast of the <u>Botna river</u> valley, west of the <u>Vasieni</u> hospital	Vasieni Village Hall	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Aflorimentul Costești</u>	IL	north of Costești https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coste%C8%99ti,_Ialoveni village, on the left coast of the <u>Botna river</u> valley, near the road to <u>Mileștii Mici</u>	Costești Village Hall and Ialoveni Joint Stock Company	
<u>Ialoveni Reef</u>	IL	on the south-western edge of the town of <u>Ialoveni</u> , on the way to the village of <u>Costești</u> , on the left bank of the <u>river Ișnovăț</u>	Ialoveni City Hall	
<u>Hârtopul near the town of Nisporeni</u>	NS	6 km south of the town of <u>Nisporeni</u> on the left bank of the <u>river Nîrnova</u>	Agricultural firm "Nisporeni"	
<u>Seliste tectonic fracture</u>	NS	1 km south of Seliste <u>village</u>	Agricultural Enterprise "Moldova"	
<u>Rîpa Adști</u>	CB	the northern edge of <u>Verejeni</u> village	"Nistru" Agricultural Enterprise	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Flowering of compact flint</u>	CB	west of the village of <u>Naslavcea</u> in the valley of the Chisărau stream (forest district of Ocnita, Naslavcea)	State Enterprise for Forestry Edinet	
<u>Tortonian sands near Naslavcea railway station</u>	CB	1.5-2.2 km south of the <u>Naslavcea</u> railway station, in the area of the Naslavcea-Bîrnova https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/B%C3%AEnova,_Ocn%C8%9Ba railway line	SE “Moldovan <u>Railway</u> ”	
<u>Carpov Iar ravine</u>	CB	to the west of <u>the village of Naslavcea</u> , on the left side of the Chisărau riverbed, approx. 2 km from its mouth (Ocnita forest district, Naslavcea)	State Enterprise for Forestry Edinet	
<u>‘Rudii Iar’ ravine</u>	CB	in the village of <u>Naslavcea</u> , not far from ‘ <u>Carpov Iar</u> ’ (forest district of Ocnita, Naslavcea,)	State Enterprise for Forestry Edinet	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>A part of the steep bank of the Dniester</u>	CB	between <u>the villages of Naslavcea</u> and <u>Lencăuți</u> (forest district of Otaci, Lencăuți)	Municipality of <u>Lencăuți</u> (150 ha) and Soroca Forestry Enterprise (158 ha)	
<u>The tectonic fault near the village of Naslavcea</u>	CB	north of the village of <u>Naslavcea</u> (forest district of Ocnita, Stâncă,)	State Enterprise for Forestry Edinet	
<u>Valcea "The Prince's Side"</u>	CB	south of the village of <u>Mereșeuca</u> (forest district of Ocnita, Naslavcea,)	City Hall of Mereșeuca village	
<u>La Izvoare ravine</u>	CB	southwest of the city of <u>Otaci</u>	Otaci City Hall	
<u>Fossil vertebrate site</u>	OR	on the western edge of <u>Pocșești</u> village	Municipality of <u>Donnici</u>	
<u>the Orhei Gorge</u>	OR	at the south-western extremity of <u>Orhei</u> , in the <u>valley of the River Raut</u>	Orhei City Hall	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Reef on the banks of the River Raut</u>	OR	on the right bank of the <u>river Răut</u> , 1 km from the village <u>Pohorniceni</u> , across the river from the village <u>Piatra</u>	Town hall of Pohorniceni village	
<u>the Mîgla Rock</u>	OR	0.5 km north-west of the village of <u>Piatra</u> , on the left bank of the <u>river Răut</u>	Town hall of <u>Pohorniceni</u> village	
<u>Fossil flora site near the village of Ignăței</u>	RZ	south of the village of <u>Ignăței</u> near the trigonometric point 225.5 m	Ignăței Village Hall	
<u>Dinoterium fossil site</u>	RZ	south of Pripiceni-Răzeși https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pripiceni-R%C4%83ze%C8%99i , <u>Rezina</u> village, the right coast of the <u>Cogîlnic river</u> valley, a tributary of <u>Raut</u> (<u>Cinișeuți</u> forest district)	Pripiceni-Răzeși Village Hall and Soldanesti Forestry Enterprise	
<u>Career in Boshernitsa (forsaken)</u>	RZ	west of the village of <u>Boșernița</u> on the left side of the river Ciorna	<u>Rezina</u> City Hall	

Name	Distri ct	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Ethulian clays on the banks of the Dniester</u>	RZ	west of the village of <u>Ciorna</u> in the upper part of the right side of the Ciorna river valley	<u>Rezina</u> City Hall	
<u>the Duruitoarea Gorge</u>	RS	in the eastern part of the village of <u>Duruitoarea</u> , on the left bank of the river <u>Ciuhur</u> , a tributary of the <u>Prut</u>	Costesti https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coste%C8%99ti , <u>Moldova</u> City Hall	
<u>the Varatic Gorge</u>	RS	to the east of <u>Văratice</u> village, near the mouth of <u>Stăncăuți</u> river	Varatic Village Hall	
<u>the Proscureni Reef</u>	RS	500 m north of <u>the town of Costești</u> , at the base of the Costești schibe, to the east of the village of <u>Duruitoarea</u> , not far from <u>the Duruitoarea gorge</u>	Costesti City Hall	
<u>Afloriment in the Solonet block</u>	SG	near the village of <u>Gura-Oituz</u> , near the trigonometric point 297 m	Municipality of <u>Bălăsești</u>	
<u>Bechirov Iar ravine</u>	SR	south of <u>Soroca</u> town, Soroca forest detour, Zastînca-II, plot 24, in close proximity to the <u>Chisinau-</u>	Soroca Forestry Enterprise	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
		<u>Soroca</u> national road (Independence Street)		
<u>Flowering sands and sandstones</u>	SR	in the village of <u>Redi-Cereșnovăț</u> , on the eastern slope of the quarry	Redi Agricultural Enterprise	
<u>Thresholds of the Dniester</u>	SR	near the village of <u>Cosăuți</u> , the riverbed of the <u>Dniester</u> , near the <u>granite</u> quarry	SA Granite and gravel quarry in Soroca	
<u>Flowering of sandstone and granite from Cosăuți</u>	SR	on the western slope of the abandoned quarry in <u>Cosăuți</u> village, along the road linking the granite quarry with the sandstone quarry	SA Granite and gravel quarry in Soroca	
<u>Helmet Hill</u>	SR	on the south-western edge of the village Cremenciung, https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cremenciug , <u>Soroca</u> in the <u>valley of the Dniester</u> River	Soroca Forestry Enterprise	
<u>‘Cazacu’ career</u>	ST	North of <u>Vatra</u> railway station	<u>Chisinau City Hall</u>	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>La Chetrarie ravine</u>	ST	East of <u>Vorniceni</u> village	Vorniceni Village Hall	
<u>Geological profile near Socola village</u>	SD	west of Socola https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socola,_%C8%98old%C4%83ne%C8%99ti village, near the village church	Vadul-Rashcov https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadul-Ra%C8%99cov,_%C8%98old%C4%83ne%C8%99ti Village Hall	
<u>Aflorimentul Răspopeni</u>	SD	1 km south of <u>Răspopeni</u> village, on the road to <u>Ignăței</u> village (Oliscani forest district)	City Hall of Răspopeni village	
<u>Abandoned career near Soldanesti railway station</u>	SD	on the right side of the Ciorna river valley, to the west of <u>Soldanesti</u> railway station and to the north of the village of <u>Olișcani</u>	Town hall of Olișcani village	
<u>The Stone Ravine</u>	SV	in the north-western part of Tudora https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tudora,_%C8%98tefan_Vod%C4%83 village, on the right bank of the <u>Dniester</u> River 190 m from it	Tudora Village Hall	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Albu's ravine</u>	SV	on the southern outskirts of Cioburciu https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cioburciu,_%C8%98tefan_Vod%C4%83 village, in the ravine along the road leading to the village (Olănești forest district)	State Enterprise for Forestry "Tighina" (Bender)	
<u>The Ravine of Purcari</u>	SV	on the right side of the <u>Nistru River</u> 1.9 km from it, 1 km west of the village of <u>Purcari</u> (Olănești forest district)	Purcari Village Hall and Forestry Enterprise "Tighina"	
<u>Râpa Budăi</u>	TR	on the western edge of Budăi https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bud%C4%83i,_Taracia village, on the right coast of Salcia <u>river</u>	Cahul State Forestry Enterprise	
<u>Rapa Musaitu</u>	TR	in the village of <u>Musaitu</u> , on the right side of the <u>valley of the Salcia Mare river</u> , in the ravine in the cemetery area, above the middle part of the village (the Taraclia forest district)	Municipality of Musaitu village	
<u>Afloriment near the town of Taraclia</u>	TR	south of the town of <u>Taraclia</u> along the left slope of the valley, the forest detour Taraclia, Taraclia-II	Cahul State Forestry Household	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>Levantine terrace in the forest area</u>	UN	1.5 km south-east of Buciumeni https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buciumeni, Ungheeni village, on the left slope of the valley of the Gîrla-Mare river, at the watershed	"Buciumeni" Agricultural Enterprise	
<u>The steep slope near the village of Sinesti</u>	UN	2 km south-west of the village of <u>Sinesti</u> , on the left slope of the Pojarna river valley, Tincău	"Sinesti" Agricultural Enterprise	
<u>Ethulian clay flowering</u>	GE	on the left slope of the valley of the <u>Cahul</u> river, above the village of <u>Etulia</u> , but also between the localities of Etulia and <u>Etulia Nouă</u>	Municipality of <u>Etulia</u>	
<u>Afloriment near Văleni village</u>	CH	0.5 km south of Văleni https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/V%C4%83leni, Cahul village, the eastern slope of the <u>Prut</u> river valley (Slobozia Mare forest district)	Forestry Enterprise "Silva-Sud" Cahul	
<u>Cîșmichioi ravine</u>	GE	in the eastern part of Cîșmichioi https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ci%C8%99michioi, G%C4%83g%C4%83uzia village	City Hall of Cîșmichioi village	

Name	District	Location	Owner	Image
<u>the Colcot Valve</u>	TS	on the northern edge of <u>Tiraspol municipality</u> , in the vicinity of <u>Blijnii Hutor</u> village	Tiraspol City Hall	



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

I. Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following geological sites are located on the territory of the Republic of Moldova?
 - Old Orhei
 - The Old Sorrow
 - Muierilor Cave
 - Tipova
- 'Emil Racoviță' cave is located:
 - in Soroca rayon
 - in Criuleni district
 - in Radauti district
 - in Rezina district
- The canyons of Țipova and Saharna were formed by:
 - River erosion on limestone
 - recent tectonic movements
 - accumulations of alluviums
 - Erosion of the wind

II. True / False

- Old Orhei is a unique geological formation, resulting from the erosion of the river Raut. (___)
- 'Emil Racoviță' cave is one of the longest caves in Europe. (___)
- The Duruitoarea Veche gorge was formed exclusively by volcanic processes. (___)
- Sarmatian limestone is the basis of many geological tourist formations in the Republic of Moldova. (___)

III. Completion

- The _____ keys are known for the spectacular landscapes and the cave monastery.

2. Near the village of _____ is the 'Emil Racoviță' Cave.
3. At _____ there are steep limestone cliffs with caves and natural caves.

IV. Association

Matches the geological objective with its specificity:

Column A Column B

1. Old Orhei a) Canyon in limestone, with cave monastery
2. Tipova b) Gorge in limestone rocks
3. Saharna c) Rustrum complex on Răutului Valley
4. Duruitoarea Veche d) Large karst cave
5. Emil Racoviță Cave e) Spectacular keys with waterfalls

V. Open questions

1. What is the touristic and scientific importance of geological formations in the Republic of Moldova?
2. How do karst landscapes contribute to tourism development?
3. Give examples of tourist routes that include geological sites.

Subject 6. Tourist resources of the relief.

The Republic of Moldova has a predominantly hilly and plateau relief, without mountains or seaside, but with **various relief forms** (bridges, hills, deep valleys, gorges, ravines, karst canyons) that offer numerous tourist resources.

The landscape supports *all components of the geographical environment*, including society and the most diverse human activities. This is why the relief is also the support for tourism activities, both by the value of its potential attractiveness and by the possibility of equipping it with a superstructure that allows it to capitalise on tourism.

The relief influences directly, but also indirectly (by flooring, exposure and orientation of major forms, by geodeclivity or fragmentation) the distribution of all the other components of the geographical envelope (climate, water, vegetation, fauna, soils), in this way we do not exaggerate if we admit that the relief is the foundation of any landscape, because on the relief are built the complementary factors of attractiveness of a landscape. Thus, the relief becomes the main component of the tourist potential in a territory.

The tourism potential of the relief in the Republic of Moldova

The values of the features of the relief, from the tourist point of view, on the territory of the Republic of Moldova are quite erased and do not have, in most cases, main tourist attractions. However, together with vegetation (forests) and surface waters, it can contribute to the formation of important tourist attractions. Applying this concept, V. Efros highlighted three types of landscapes within the republic: toltres, wooded heights and plains. Within the territory of the Republic of Moldova toltres (fossil coral reefs) are spread in the basins of the left tributaries of the Prut (Larga, Vilia, Lopatnic, Draghiște, Racovăț, Ciuhur, Camenca). Other reef formations flourish in the middle course of the Dniester (up to Dubasari) and in the valleys of the rivers Raut, Cubolta, Călnări. Toltres are unique reef formations in Europe. The landscape including the toltres is an alternation of rocky reef formations with flowing water and vegetation of hay or even forests (North-West Moldova). Another type of landscape is that of forested heights, which includes Podișul Codrilor - one of the most attractive regions of the Republic of Moldova. The current terrain of the plateau is predominantly hilly, strongly fragmented by the hydrographic network and the maps. This type of landscape involves the joining of forest massifs within the boundaries of the heavily fragmented acreage. The specificity of the landscape is due to the narrow interfluvies alternating with the afforested slopes. The type of lowland landscapes with recreational importance is characteristic of the meadows of the lower Prut and Dniester rivers. Only parts of the land covered with poplar, willow and oak forests (bark) have been preserved here in places. The attractiveness of this type of landscape is due to the combination of the wooded complexes of the meadows, arable land and orchards with the mirror of the aquatic surfaces. Combined with the potential of the landscape as a whole, it can be quite attractive even at regional level. Locally, landscape features allow their potential to be used for recreation. A particular use is made of the relief related to the reef formations, presenting in some places (Butuceni-Trebujeni, the banks of the Dniester River in its middle course) rather high steep slopes, allowing the practice of climbing (sports tourism).

1. Polishes and hills

- **The Central Moldavian Plateau (Codrii)** – with heights of 300–400 m, picturesque landscapes, deep valleys and hills with vineyards and orchards.

Attractions: Orheiul Vechi, Codrii Moldovei, Căpriana Monastery.

Types of tourism: ecotourism, hiking, cultural tourism, wine tourism.

- **Plateau of Balts and Plateau of Nistru** – areas with lower hills, fragmented plains.

Attractions: landscape reservations, traditional villages.

2. Gorges, canyons and karst relief

- **Defileul Răutului (Orheiul Vechi)** – a natural and cultural complex with spectacular gorges and cave monasteries.
- **Dniester Gorge** – limestone cliffs, picturesque landscapes, steep cliffs.
- **Tipova Canyon** – with the cave monastery dug in the rock.
- **Trebujeni Gorge, Butuceni, Saharna** – areas with great tourist potential.
- **Karst caves** – ‘Emil Racoviță’ Cave in Criva (the largest in Moldova, among the longest in Europe), ‘Brânzeni’ Cave, ‘Tipova’ Cave.

3. Woe and meadows

- **Nistru Valley** – with high terraces, steep cliffs, beaches and recreational sites.
- **Prut Valley** – with wide meadows, marshes and reserves (e.g. Lower Prut).
- **Valea Răutului** – with its fragmented relief and scenic landscapes.

4. Anthropized landforms with tourist value

- **Stone caries** – sometimes turned into tourist attractions or cultural spaces (e.g. Cricova, Mileștii Mici – underground wine galleries).
- **Vineyard terraces** – on the slopes of the plateaus, which contribute to the attraction of the landscape.

Description of the importance of the main landforms for tourism

Central Moldavian Plateau (Codrii):

Codrii Plateau is located in the central part of the Republic of Moldova, being the highest relief unit of the country. It is the ‘core’ of the Central Moldavian Plateau.

Physico-geographical characteristics

- **Altitude:** most of it rises between **350 and 400 m**, reaching its peak in Dealul Balanesti (430m – the highest point in the Republic of Moldova).
- **Relief:** fragmented by deep valleys, narrow interfluves, steep hills and slopes. Appearance of hilly relief and heavily wooded.
- **Climate:** temperate continental, with higher rainfall than the rest of the territory (550–650 mm/year).
- **Hydrography:** numerous springs, small streams, tributaries of Bâcului, Răutului, Cogâlnicului and Prut.



Fig. 23. Source: Google.com. Category: Codrii of Moldova

1.Natural Importance

- **Picturesque landscapes:** The fragmented relief with hills, valleys and forest-covered slopes provides an attractive setting for recreational and hiking tourism.
- **Secular coders:** It is the largest forested area of the Republic of Moldova, with a special role in maintaining biodiversity.
- **Nature reserves:**
 - ‘Codrii’ scientific reserve – protected area with rare plant and animal species.
 - ‘Plaiul Fagului’ Nature Reserve – unique beech forests in Moldova.
 - ‘Căpriana-Scoreni’ landscape reserve – with outstanding landscapes and potential for ecotourism.



Codrîi Scientific Reservation Plaiul Begului Natural Reservation Căpriană-Scoreni Landscape Reservation

Fig.24. Source: Google.com. Reservations in Codrîi Moldovei

2.Cultural-historical importance

- **Famous monasteries:**
 - Capriana Monastery – one of the oldest and most valuable monasteries in the country, with rich spiritual traditions.
 - Hâncu Monastery – an important centre of spirituality and pilgrimage.
- **Historical and cultural monuments:** Archaeological vestiges, old churches, folk traditions specific to the area.



Căpriană Monastery Hâncu Monastery

Fig. 25. Source: Google.com. Famous monasteries



Mazărache Church Chisinau Dormition of the Mother of God.Căușeni

Fig. 26. Source: Google.com. The old churches.

3. The Recreational Importance

- **Weekend and leisure tourism:** forested areas and attractive landscapes make Codrîi a destination for hiking, picnics, cycling and rural tourism.
- **Agro-tourism and rural tourism:** picturesque villages (e.g. Lozova, Vorniceni, Capriana) where local traditions, gastronomy and hospitality can be capitalized.
- **Leisure camps and centres:** spaces for children and young people, favored by the clean natural environment.

4.Scientific and educational importance

- **Study and research:** Coders are a natural laboratory for biologists, geographers and ecologists.
- **Environmental education:** guided tours of reservations, eco-tourism routes and educational programmes for pupils and students.

5. Strategic importance for national tourism

- *It is the "green heart"* of the Republic of Moldova, playing a major role in the development of sustainable tourism.
- *It can become a central area* for ecotourism and cultural tourism integrated into national and international circuits.

Nistru Plateau:

Location and general appearance

- The Dniester Plateau is located in the eastern part of the Republic of Moldova, along the Dniester River, between the valleys of its tributaries and up to the border with Ukraine.
- The relief is hilly, fragmented by valleys and ravines, with average altitudes of 200–250 m. The steep slopes of the Dniester create spectacular landscapes.

Natural tourist resources

- **Picturesque landscapes:** Nistru gorges and terraces offer attractive panoramas for tourists.
- **Natural rocks and canyons:** such as the ones from Țîpova, Saharna, Butuceni or Trebujeni.

Nature reserves:

- 'Țîpova-Țaul' – famous for its rocky landscapes and biodiversity.
- 'Saharna' – protected areas with waterfalls and diverse vegetation.
- 'Rudi-Arionești' – valuable natural landscape on the banks of the Dniester.

Springs and waterfalls: Saharna and Țîpova waterfalls are top tourist attractions.

Cultural and historical resources

- **Cave monasteries:** Țîpova and Saharna are unique objectives, dug in the rock, with an old monastic tradition.
- **Medieval fortresses:** Soroca Fortress (15th century), symbol of medieval Moldavian resistance, very visited by tourists.
- **Archaeological sites:** vestiges of Geto-Dacian culture and medieval populations.
- **Popular traditions:** traditional customs and crafts are preserved in the villages on the banks of the Nistru River (Rudi, Arionești, Vărăncău).

The karst terrain has a particular tourist, scientific and ecological value. The most attractive forms of karst relief are the fishes, which impress by their originality, size and charm, by the ensemble of karst compositions on the ceiling and floor of the fishes, the lakes and labyrinths of the underground galleries, the underground living environment, the diversity of species and biotopes. Moreover, it is a perfect environment for asserting personality, developing physical and moral resilience, verifying friendship and collective responsibility, etc.

One of *the* most unique places in Moldova is the Surpize Cave. Surpizes Cave is the second largest cave after "Emil Racovita" and the third longest in Europe. In the world ranking, she is in sixth place, which already makes us proud of such a miracle. Surpizelor Cave is located near Zoloceni village, on the right bank of the Dniester. The length of the Surpize Cave exceeds 1700 m. The Surpize Cave was discovered by chance, by amateur cavers at the end of the 20th century. The cave appeared as a result of exogenous processes, due to strong earthquakes and tectonic faults. The age of these limestone stones is 130,000,000 years old. The largest Surpizelor Cave hall in length is 25 meters, width - 6, and height - 7 meters!



Fig. 27. Source: Google.com. Cave of Surprises. Zoloceni village

At the northern end of the Republic of Moldova, near the village of Criva, Briceni district, about 150 m from the border with Ukraine, there is the entrance to the famous karst gypsum cave 'Cinderella', which in 1991, according to the decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, was renamed to the cave 'Emil Racovita' (1868-1947) in honor of the famous Romanian biospeleologist.



Fig. 28. Source: Google.com. Emil Racovita Cave. S. Criva

Cinderella cave or 'Zolushka' (Russian: 'Cinderella') by the length of its labyrinth ranks 26th and honorable among the world's largest fish – 3rd among gypsum caves. Approximately 92 km of the fish labyrinth are already being investigated. The total volume of fisheries is approximately 700 thousand cubic metres. The maximum depth in the pestera – 52 m, the maximum height of its rooms (rooms and passages) sometimes reaches up to 11 m, and the average height is 3.24 m. The maximum depth of the canvases (wells) – 18 m.

The Cave of the Dead North of the Republic houses a natural cavern in Sarmatian limestone rock. As a surface, the cave reaches the waters of the Dniester. Discovered 20 years ago by the locals of the village, it is considered that - compared to the other 2 caves - the internal crossing is easier for tourists. Distance from the city. Chisinau: Approximately 220 km Location: Rudi village, Donduseni district In 1996, to the north-west of Rudi village - on the right bank of a dry gorge - was discovered the "Cave of the Dead". Cracks have a less common architecture: from the floor they have a semicircle shape, which along the way widens, becoming more spacious. With a length of over 70 meters, it is considered a horizontal cave. The argument is that it narrows after a few tens of meters – at least so far, none of the crew who ventured to roam it have managed to see it deeper.



Fig. 29. Source: Google.com. The Cave of the Dead. S. Rudi

The Brînzei Caves are a geological or paleontological monument of nature in Edineț district, Republic of Moldova. They are located in the Brînzei reefs, 13 km south-east of the Brînzei https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Br%C3%AEnzeni,_Edine%C8%9B village, at the edge of the plateau on the left side of the Racovăț river; the Edinet forest detour. They cover an area of 14 ha according to the Law on Protected Areas or 13.23 ha according to more recent measurements.

In the village of Brînzei there are several caves of different sizes located on the slopes of reefs of the same name. They were formed as a result of karst, erosion and other processes. Some caves housed prehistoric humans during the Ice Ages of the Upper Pleistocene, predominantly in the Paleolithic era. The objective was taken under the protection of the state by the Decision of the Soviet of Ministers of the MSSR of 13 March 1962 no. 111, and the protection status was reconfirmed by the Law no. 1538 of 25 February 1998 on the fund of natural areas protected by the state. The landowner of the natural monument at the time of the publication of the 1998 Law was the City Hall of Brînzei village, and in the meantime as owner was listed the State Enterprise for Forestry Edineț. Brînzei caves and reefs have scientific, cognitive, landscape, cultural-instructive and ecotouristic value.



Fig.

30. Source: Google.com. Grotto Brînzei Fig.31. Source: Google.com. Brînzei Reefs

The river landscape is of particular tourist importance and impresses with its variety and spectacular landscapes, favourable microclimate, specific flora and fauna. The most attractive river geomorphological objectives are keys, gorges and canyons, thresholds and waterfalls, meanders.

Defiles/Canyons. The gorge is a deep mountain valley with steep inaccessible slopes. It is formed where the river crosses a peak or a high plateau region, made up of harder rocks. Unlike the canyon, the gorge is not completely occupied by the river (the other side of the bottom is often wooded), so the gorge often constitutes a natural way between the mountains. Among the most representative we mention:

- **Trinca** village is an old Moldavian village, located 10 km from the city of Edinet and known for the fact that close to it, just beyond the Trinca gorge, there is a quarry from which the best lime in Moldova is extracted. Right on the outskirts of the village, along the riverbed of Draghiște lies the largest gorge in Moldova, between two toltre reefs. Its width at its widest point is 250 m. The length of the gorge is about 1 km, the height of the steep slopes - about 120-140 meters. From the slopes of the gorge a beautiful view of the village opens, and from the opposite side you can see the limestone quarry and the area with numerous lime kilns. Draghiște River, although it has a width not exceeding 10 m, flowing through the gorge, creates a pretty noticeable roar, being heard even in the upper part of the gorge.
- **The Brînzei** Gorge, near the homonymous village, runs along the course of another river – Racovăț. It is located at a certain distance from the village, it is longer than the Trinca gorge, but its depth is smaller, of maximum 100 m, the width being about 150 m. It is more sinuous, which gives it a certain picturesque character. Racovat river is also small and narrow, its width is less than 10 m, but it is much more sinuous. The Brînzei gorge differs from the Trinca

gorge by a less rich vegetation on peaks and slopes. But this does not make it any less beautiful, it remains for a long time in the memory of those who visited it.

- **Buzdugeni gorge.** At a distance of 22 km from the Edinet district center is the village of Buzdugeni. Just below the village, towards the Racovăț river, there is another monument of Moldova's nature – the Buzdugeni gorge, on whose bottom flows the Racovăț river, which has been digging the gorge in the toltre massif for millions of years. This is the deepest gorge in the Republic of Moldova, its depth exceeding 200 m. It has a length of about 1 km. Particularly picturesque is its right side, on which shrubs, herbs and flowers grow. All this, together with the protrusions of the multicoloured rocks covered with flies and lichens, creates a particularly picturesque picture. Inside the right slope, about 10 m from its top, is the famous Neolithic pestera of round shape, with a slight depth on its right side.
- **The 'Wind Harp' gorge.** Three deep ravines near the villages of Arionești, Rudi and Tătărauca Nouă, as well as the steep slopes of the Dniester River, create the 'Rudi-Arionești' Landscape Reserve. The length of the ravines is from 2 to 5 km, the depth – 140-250 m, the maximum width – 700 m. The diversity of the ravines and slopes of the right bank makes visible the entire geological stratification. Particularly spectacular are the limestone sarmatic protrusions, which frame the upper third of the slopes with bizarre forms of wind erosion. On days when the wind blows in a certain way to the airy walls in the gorges, they emit melodic sounds. This is why they have been called the "Wind Harp" since ancient times. Legends link the existence of this harp to the name of the mythological singer Orpheus.



Trinca Buzdugeni Wind Harp

Fig. 32. Source: Google.com. Gorge

- **The Duruitoarea Gorge.** Near the town of Costesti, to the east of the village with the same name, flows the Duruitoarea River, a tributary of the Ciugur River, which dug a deep gorge in the toltres. Its steep limestone slopes are marked by caves embellished with rocks, of the most unusual shapes. The Old Duruitoarea Grotto is known as an ancient settlement from the Stone Age. As a result of archaeological excavations, petrifications from the ice age and remnants of an ancient civilization have been discovered here, which have made it known all over the world. It is worth mentioning that the nature, the relief of these places and the richness of historical and architectural monuments deserve special attention.
- **Defile of the Saharna River.** Two not too large rivers – Saharna and Stohnaia – cross the slope of the plateau, forming a rocky amphitheatre around the village. The rivers and their ravines, respectively, form dens, the depth of which reaches 160 m, and in some places 175 m. From the high peaks, beautiful landscapes are opened to the traveller – the rocky and wooded gorge of the 16 km-long Saharna River, in which there are over 30 thresholds and waterfalls. Near the monastery and on the Saharna River there are 22 not very large waterfalls. The path near the monastery leads to the top of the mountain, where there is a panoramic platform. From there you can clearly see all the gorge and monastery, as well as the stretches of the Dniester:

from the Moldovan to the Transnistrian banks. Also here is an important archaeological park, with remains from the Iron Age (d. X-VIII BC).

- **The Țipova Gorge.** The Gorge of Țipova is one of the natural monuments of Moldova and is protected by the State. This place is very well known by those who visited the monastery in the rock of Țipova, Rezina district on the Dniester. Another name of the gorge – the Valley of the Seven Waterfalls – is also scattered among the tourists. Tourists usually start their route from the Dniester to the foot of the top of the rock, passing through the numerous waterfalls and thresholds. We must tell you that the amount of waterfalls is much higher, but until some of them is very difficult to reach.



The enduring Gorge of Saharna Țipova River

Fig. 33. Source: Google.com. Gorge

- **The Defile of Evil. Orhei** is dug by the river Răut in the strip of organogenic barrier reefs, consisting of calcareous algae, colonies of briosoare, shells of foraminifera and molluscs. In the geological section of the gorge, three clusters of rocks, formed under different sedimentological conditions, stand out. Fossils characteristic of Volhinian deposits have been identified: one species of bivalve molluscs (*Ervilia dissita*), several species of gastropod molluscs (*Melanopsis impressa* etc.) and some species of foraminifera of the Peneroplidae <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peneroplidae> family (*Spirolina litoralis* etc.). The middle package, about 20 m thick, consists of layered, relatively hard limestone made up of fragments of foraminifera shells, especially *Vobicularia novorosica*, and molluscs such as *Paphia vitalina*, but also skeletons of briosoare.^[1]

The upper package is up to 30 m thick and consists of predominantly oolitic limestone, with Peneroplidae foraminifera, gastropod molluscs, etc. The species *Telebralia menestrieri* has also been discovered here. The objective was taken under the protection of the state by the Decision of the Soviet of Ministers of the MSSR of 8 January 1975 no. 5, and the protection status was reconfirmed by the Law no. 1538 of 25 February 1998 on the fund of natural areas protected by the state. The landowner of the natural monument is the City Hall of Orhei.

Being a rare Sarmatian formation in the central area of Moldova, the gorge was the object of study of the 4th Paleontological-Lithological Session dedicated to the fossil riphogenic formations in Crimea and Moldova (1966) and of the 12th European Colloquium of Micropaleontology (1971). The protected area has instructive, landscape and tourist value.



Fig. 34. Source: Google.com. The Defile of Evil. Orhei



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

I. Short-answered questions

What is meant by 'tourist resources of the relief'?

What are the most important landforms with touristic potential in the Republic of Moldova?

Mention two examples of gorges in the Republic of Moldova and their tourist importance.

Why is mountainous terrain attractive to international tourism?

What is the link between landscape and tourism development?

II. Multiple choice (tick the correct answer)

The highest point of the Republic of Moldova is:

- a) The River Hill
- b) Bălănești Hill
- c) Trinca Hill
- d) The Hills of Orhei

Defileul Răutului is known for:

- a) High waterfalls
- b) Cave monasteries and archaeological sites
- glacial lakes
- Volcanic Plateaus

Codrii Moldovei is important from a tourist point of view because:

- a) They shelter spa resorts
- b) It is a highly industrialized area
- c) They are the largest forested area of the country
- d) Contain sand dunes and oases

III. Paired items

It associates the relief form with the main tourist resource/attraction:

Saharna Gorge – a) Highest point of the country

Bălănești Hill – b) Cave monasteries and karst landscapes

Old Orhei – c) Scenic area with waterfalls

Dniester – d) River of tourist importance and water sports

Codrii Moldovei – e) Secular forests and nature reserves

IV. Open-ended/argumentation questions

Explains why the fragmented relief (column, hilly, with gorges) of the Republic of Moldova has a special tourist value.

It argues the importance of the Raut Gorge for the development of cultural and ecological tourism.

In what way can the tourist resources of the relief be economically exploited without affecting the natural environment?

Compare the tourist potential of Codrii with that of the Dniester Plateau.

Subject 7: Climate tourism resources.

In choosing the place where recreational activities take place, favourable climatic conditions, expressed primarily by the frequency of good weather, play a key role. They are conditioned by weather-climatic elements, such as the cloudiness and duration of sunlight, the frequency of precipitation, air temperature, the frequency of fog, snow or wind. Climate is the decisive factor in the imposition of tourism activities.

Due to the seasonality of tourism, climate matters only to the extent that peak periods can ensure a minimum of climate comfort for each type of tourism. The short-term visitor is not interested in multi-annual or seasonal variations. Climate comfort in tourism differs from that in other activities

and is closely interdependent with climate weather events, which can have both beneficial and negative influences. For example, heavy snow can block traffic and require costly efforts to restore traffic, while at the same time guaranteeing the quality of the tourist product in winter sports. The desire to control the climate leads to the artificialisation of tourism infrastructure – air-conditioning, snow-making, planting various exotic plants to create a more attractive image.

The climate requires the "state" of all recreational activities. It generates the 'atmosphere' favourable or unfavourable to the recreational act, catalysing or, on the contrary, inhibiting its unfolding. The absolute majority of tourists, but also many researchers, reduce the importance of the climate to the "beautiful time" whose frequency and duration is defining for recreation in a given region. A number of climatic elements are involved in the definition of "beautiful time": nebulosity, the frequency of precipitation and its state of aggregation, air temperature, winds, etc. Nebulosity is the factor that directly influences the duration of sunshine, a vital parameter for the heliomarine cure in the coastal region, but also for mountain excursions. Nebulosity, when it does not manifest itself excessively, i.e. when it is made up of thin clouds (Cyrus group), plays a positive role, reducing the intensity of heat radiation in the afternoon hours. Clouds in isolated formations in high areas also enhance the aesthetic value of the landscape. The frequency and intensity of precipitation is also an immediate consequence of nebulosity. Rainy weather adds psychological stress, causing temporary sedentary tourist in the place of stay. If liquid precipitation is an unfavourable factor, preventing tourist activities in various forms, snow activities have the opposite effect. They generate not only a state beneficial to tourism, but also a special substrate, used with intensity for various types of leisure (skiing, sledding, skating, etc.). The air temperature counts only in the situation of its excessive manifestation. Hot summer periods (above +30°C) with strong solar radiation are as unfavourable to leisure activities as cold winter periods with temperatures below – 15°C. Beyond these values, the air temperature has negative effects on tourism. Winds, depending on their duration and intensity, have a different influence.

Among other climatic events, partly related to the presence of the above mentioned, we mention the negative effects of the ice, which prevent visitors from moving safely. The meteorological parameters analysed usually operate in close interrelationship, determining certain types of climate and a hierarchy of their importance for tourism. The assessment of favourable climate conditions for recreational purposes involves determining the time and duration of the comfortable period. For many types of tourist activities, the best weather is sunny, moderately warm, semi-wet. The period with favourable conditions for recreation is divided into several recreational types of weather: comfortable, warm sub-comfortable, cool sub-comfortable, warm uncomfortable and cold uncomfortable. As a result, for temperate regions, the two types of climate specific to extreme seasons are detached: summer climate (summer) and hivernal climate (winter).

The summer climate is characterised by lower cloudiness, high sunshine, optimum temperatures, low and frequent winds. The type of tourism practiced is recreational and mixed (curative-recreative-cultural). During this period, short-term tourism in the Pre-Orthodox area takes place in all its fullness. The maximum duration of the beautiful time in this season also explains the absolute peak of tourist demand. Most tourists devote their time and resources to recreation in the summer, i.e. the most optimal time for travel. Depending on the latitude and altitude of the surfaces, as well as the influence of local factors, the summer climate will present a wide range of particularities, to which tourism adapts by increasing or decreasing.

The summer climate is defined by low temperatures, precipitation in the form of snow, sharp nebulosity. In this case, in altitude, the gait of climatic elements has different meanings: while temperature values decrease, the duration of sunshine increases. From a thermal point of view, two alternative steps unfavorable to tourism are recommended: the one located at over 1200 m, with a harsh climate and the one at the base of the depressions, with low temperatures due to thermal

inversions. Tea phenomena, frequent this season, lead to increased nebulosity at low altitudes (below 400 m).

The main resource of **the hivernal climate** in terms of tourism is snow. It is primarily concerned with the length of time it lasts and the thickness of its coating. The thickness of the snow cover is a major factor in winter sports. However, an excessive thickness (above 80-100cm) prevents other forms of tourism (mainly hiking) and the smooth running of this activity in the territory. The duration of snow cover maintenance varies depending on the latitude, altitude and exposure of the slopes. It is minimal in the south of the temperate zone and maximum at polar latitudes; on the southern vs. the northern slopes, etc. It is considered that in order to practice winter tourism more efficiently, the duration of the snow cover must be longer than 90 days.

The hill (floor) climate is characterised by the increase in the summer season to less than 240 days (III-15.XI), the winter tourist season being 60-80 days (the most favourable months are January and February). The lowland climate has a summer season duration of over 240 days. The winter season is limited and the importance of snow (in the absence of morphological unevenness) decreases.

Climate as an attractive resource. The role of climate is not limited to describing the atmosphere in which tourist activities take place, but is, by certain features, an objective in its own right. Such features are those of the shelter climate, the underground climate and the seaside climate. The shelter climate is specific to areas whose morphological configuration has led to the manifestation, without special rigours, of meteorological elements. Consideration is given to dark depressions, certain valley lanes or sectors of floors or plateaus in the "shadow" of the dominant circulation of air masses. The low magnitude of climate oscillations gives these areas a higher attractiveness coefficient, especially for curative tourism flows.

The underground climate is found in fish or artificial cavities and is defined by a remarkable constant of temperature, humidity or air circulation. Not all fish have such a topoclimate, but only those with a single entry, without large bumps, etc. Long-term topoclimatic measurements in some fish show that average temperature values in an annual cycle have a maximum amplitude of 0.8°C and relative humidity values of only 3%. In addition to its high constancy, the underground climate is imposed as a primary therapeutic factor by the strong ionisation of the air (aerosols). The amount of aerosols in the underground cavities of the old salt mines explains the occurrence of underground sanatoriums for the treatment of respiratory diseases.

Climate tourism potential in the Republic of Moldova

Unlike other elements of the natural environment, in terms of tourism (recreative), the climate has been better studied. First, attention was drawn to the influence of climatic conditions on the human body. V. Efros, in his work "*Recreational Resources in the Republic of Moldova*", highlights several more important factors in this regard. First of all, it is necessary to know the duration of sun exposure in the summer season. This duration is expressed in the time it takes to obtain a biological dose from the action of solar radiation. A biological dose is equal to 24-28 calories of heat per 1 cm² of the body surface. The amount of solar radiation received should not exceed 2-3 biological doses per day. However, this must be achieved gradually: from 1/4 of the dose on the first day, the dose is reached only on the 7th day. Then, adding 1/4 of the dose per day, the maximum allowable amount is reached. H.E. Feldman calculated the time needed to obtain a biological dose on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Duration of solar irradiation to obtain a biological dose in the Republic of Moldova

Table 6

Time of day	Time needed to obtain a biological dose, min					
	April	May	June	July	August	September
9-10	50	36	28	34	34	50
10-11	42	28	13	22	24	35
11-12	30	24	19	18	20	27

12-13	29	24	19	18	20	27
13-14	37	28	23	22	24	35
14-15	50	36	29	28	31	50
15-16	52	42	36	36	41	55
16-17	80	58	52	48	62	-

Secondly, it should be noted that climatic factors, within certain limits, do not influence the state of the body, or create a state of comfort, relaxation. By exceeding tolerance limits, these factors influence the overall condition of the body and become stressful. In this case, a disorder of the biological systems of the body occurs, causing illness in people with poorer health. Hence the need to know the periods of weather favourable to tourism activities. As a result of the analysis of the succession of weather conditions favourable to the development of the spa and tourism activities carried out by V. Efros, the following conclusions were reached:

- the peculiarities of the climatic conditions of the Republic of Moldova allow the wide application of helio- and erotherapy in local rest and treatment units;
- The country has favourable climate conditions for recreational activities during the summer.

The hivernal period (November – March) is not favourable in this respect;

- the number of favourable days ranging from 168 in the north to 183 in the south;
- the maximum frequency of days with favourable conditions for recreational activities is recorded in August and September (14-20 days per month);
- A comparison of the relatively high potential of the country's weather conditions and the level of development of its tourism network highlight the incomplete use of recreational resources. Indeed, the climate of Moldova is quite favourable to balneo-touristic and recreational activities, especially in combination with other resources (mineral, biological, etc.). However, the current state of tourism, as well as of the economy in general, does not allow them to be fully exploited.

Climate elements

Visual observations and instrument measurements made in the meteorological network make it possible to outline the climate parameters that define the properties of the atmosphere at the level at which tourism, among many other activities, also takes place.

By duration of manifestation and size of climatic elements, two categories of elements are distinguished:

permanent *elements* that are continuously manifested in time and space (air temperature, atmospheric pressure, evaporation, radiation, sunshine, wind);

- *intermittent or accidental elements* (atmospheric predictions, weather, orajous phenomena, dew, frost, frost, blizzards).

1. Air temperature

Temperature is the climate element with the greatest influence on tourism activities, the type of tourism and, last but not least, the kind of clothing that must be worn to ensure the thermal comfort of the person. The evolution of *air temperature* values in a year is an important indicator of local natural conditions. The favourable temperatures for leisure in nature are those in the temperate zone, especially in the spring, summer and winter months.

Autumn. Extreme temperatures, positive or negative, are unfavourable to tourist activities.

They can occur in summer (July and August) when they exceed 30°C (sometimes approaching 38-40°C) or in winter when persistent frosts appear (below -20°C). Repeating them for several consecutive days (which has been observed with a higher frequency over the last decade) creates feelings of discomfort and a lack of appetite for work or travel. Also, sudden changes in temperature do not favor tourist activity.

The climate of the Republic of Moldova is temperate continental. Summers are long and warm with average temperatures above 20 °C, winters are low in rainfall and in January the average temperature is around -4 °C.

Winter begins with the entry of cold air masses into the country: in the north of the Republic the average temperature in January is -5°C and in the south -3°C.

Summers are hot and dry. In July the average temperature in the north is 20 °C and in the south 22 °C. Tropical air masses often bring temperatures of 30 to 38 °C.

The Republic of Moldova has **a temperate continental climate**, which causes significant temperature variations between seasons.

Temperatures are influenced by **the terrain, altitude, the presence of the Dniester and the Prut**, but also by air masses from the west (Atlantic) east (Siberia) north (Arctic Ocean) south (Africa and Arabian Pen).

Average temperatures: **Table 7**

Season	Average temperature (°C)	Comments
Winter (dec-feb)	-3...0	Cold winters, frequent snowfall, periods of frost; Smoother in the south.
Spring (March-May)	7...17	Gradual increase in temperature; periods of rapid warming.
Summer (Jun-Aug)	20...22	Hot weather, hot days in the south (above 30 °C); favorable to summer tourism.
Autumn (sept-nov)	10...16	Progressive cooling; moderate precipitation; color richness of vegetation.
Annually	9...10	The average across the territory, with higher values in the south and lower values in the north.

Particularities:

- **High annual change:** *the difference between the warmest and coldest months may exceed 30 °C.*
- **Absolute maximum temperatures :** *can reach 38–40 °C in summer (south).*
- **Absolute minimum temperatures:** *can fall below -20 °C in winter (north and hilly centres).*
- **Factors influencing temperature:** *altitude, vegetation density, proximity of rivers and forests.*

The air temperature influences **the comfort of visitors**, determining whether they can perform outdoor activities and how pleasant it is to stay in a particular area.

Determine the type of tourism

- Summer and recreational tourism – high temperatures favour beach, swimming, water sports and agro-tourism.
- Spring and autumn tourism – moderate temperatures allow for excursions, hiking, cycling and cultural visits.
- Winter tourism – low temperatures allow some winter recreation, even if there are no high mountains for major winter sports in Moldova.

Influence on the duration of the tourist season

- Favourable temperatures allow the extension of the tourist season, especially in spring, summer and autumn.
- They help to plan activities and develop tourism infrastructure.

Connection with other tourist resources

- Temperature influences **the state of rivers, lakes and vegetation**, which affects spa and recreational tourism.
- It creates local microclimates that can be harnessed for **health and leisure tourism**.

The impact of air temperature on tourism, after the seasons:

Table 8

Season	Average temperature	Influence on tourism
Winter	-3...0 °C	Allows easy hiking and recreational activities; limits mass tourism, but favours forest excursions or cultural visits.
Spring	7...17 °C	Pleasant thermal comfort; ideal for excursions, hiking, cycling and cultural tourism .
Summer	20...30 °C	Favorable for beaches, swimming pools, water sports, agrotourism ; Thermal discomfort can occur on hot days.
Autumn	10...16 °C	Moderate temperatures allow for hiking, wine tourism, cultural visits , avoiding the heat of summer and the cold of winter.

2. Atmospheric pressure

Atmospheric pressure affects **weather conditions**, which influences the comfort of tourists and the type of tourist activities possible.

Effects of atmospheric pressure on tourism activities:

Table 9

Pressure Type	Weather effects	Influence on tourism
High pressure (anticyclone)	Clear skies, stable weather, light breeze	Favors hiking, cultural excursions, outdoor sports and recreation on rivers and lakes
Low pressure (cyclone)	Rain, storms, strong wind	Reduces the comfort of tourists, limits outdoor activities, can cause cancellation of excursions and water sports
Rapid pressure changes	Possible physical discomforts (headaches, dizziness)	May affect sensitive tourists and leisure planning

Link with other tourism resources

- It influences **temperature and wind** , determining the general climatic conditions for tourism.
- It is important for **mountain tourism, hiking and water sports**, where the weather is changing rapidly.
- Stable pressure makes it possible to harness **climate resources for leisure and health**.

3. Nebulosity

Nebulosity is the **percentage of cloud cover in the sky and influences light, temperature and visual perception of the landscape**. This affects the comfort of tourists and the type of outdoor activities possible.

Effects on tourism activities:

Table 10

Degree of nebulosity	Weather effects	Influence on tourism
Clear or slightly cloudy skies	Sunny weather, high solar radiation	Favors hiking, excursions, outdoor sports, cultural visits and agrotourism
Partly cloudy skies	Moderate temperature, diffuse light	Allows most recreational activities, but can reduce the intensity of the beach or tourist photos
Fully Covered Sky	Low brightness, lower temperatures, possibility of precipitation	Limits visibility on trails, reduces the comfort and attractiveness of the landscape; May affect water sports and hiking

Degree of nebulosity	Weather effects	Influence on tourism
Dense clouds with rain	Rain and wind	Outdoor tourism becomes difficult or impossible; requires planning indoor activities (museums, cultural visits)

Link with other tourism resources

- Nebulosity influences **air temperature and solar radiation**, affecting the local microclimate.
- It can reduce the tourist attractiveness of **natural landscapes and monuments**.
- Determines the choice **of tourist season and leisure activities** .

4.Solar radiation

Solar radiation is **the energy emitted by the Sun that reaches the Earth**, influencing temperature, light and climate comfort. It is a **key climatic factor for tourism** as it affects the weather and visitor experience.

Effects on tourism Table 11

Type of tourist activity	Influence of solar radiation
Summer and Recreational Tourism	High solar radiation favors beach, swimming, water sports, agrotourism and outdoor camps
Cultural tourism and hiking	The sun provides natural light for visiting monuments, photos and tourist routes
Health tourism	Solar radiation contributes to the synthesis of vitamin D and to the stimulation of physical tone, being important for spa and wellness tourism
Winter or mountain tourism	Solar radiation helps with visibility and thermal comfort, even if temperatures are low

Link with other tourism resources

- It influences **air temperature**, atmospheric conditions and the sunshine of tourist areas.
- It favours **attractive landscapes**, increasing the attractiveness of natural and urban destinations.
- Combined with humidity and wind, it determines **the local microclimate**, valuable for health and recreation.

Solar radiation is **essential for tourism** as it determines:

- **Comfort for visitors;**
- **Type and duration of tourism activities;**
- **Attractiveness of the landscape and destinations** .

In the Republic of Moldova, the southern and central areas benefit from a high level of solar radiation, which favors summer and recreational tourism.

5.Air humidity

Air humidity is **the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere**. It influences **thermal comfort, the health of tourists and the conditions for recreational activities** .

Effects on tourism Table 12

Humidity level	Weather effects	Influence on tourism
Low (dry air)	Clear weather, perceived higher temperatures	It favors mountain tourism and hiking, but can cause respiratory discomfort and dehydration
Moderate	Optimal thermal comfort, pleasant conditions	Ideal for most tourist activities: hiking, cultural visits, outdoor sports
High (wet air)	Feeling hot, sweating, fog	Reduces the comfort of tourists, can limit hiking and outdoor sports, favors the appearance of insects
Very high with precipitation	Frequently floating, dense fog	Recreational and outdoor tourism becomes difficult; indoor activities are recommended (museums, spa, wellness)

Link with other tourism resources

- Humidity influences **the perceived temperature** and **microclimate of tourist resorts**.
- It is important for **health and balneoclimateric tourism**.
- Determines **the optimal season for summer and mountain tourism**.

Air humidity is a **key climatic factor for tourism** as it affects:

- **Comfort for visitors;**
- **Safety and feasibility of outdoor activities;**
- **Aesthetic and recreational experience** by season and location.

In the Republic of Moldova, humidity is higher in spring and autumn, which may limit some outdoor activities, but favors cultural and spa tourism.

6 the wind. Wind is the **movement of air** from high-pressure areas to low-pressure areas. It influences **thermal comfort, the safety of tourist activities and environmental perception**.

Effects on tourism activities Table 13

Type of wind	Features	Influence on tourism
Low wind (0–10 km/h)	Easy air movement	Promotes walks, hiking, mountain and cultural tourism
Moderate breeze (10-30 km/h)	Feeling clear, but not bothering	Allows most outdoor activities; light sports, boating, cycling
Windy (>30 km/h)	Leaves and objects move, difficulty walking	Reduces the comfort of tourists; can interrupt excursions, water sports and mountain activities
Very strong wind / storms	Dangerous, risk of accidents	Outdoor activities are dangerous. Refuge inside and cancellation of adventure tourism is recommended

Link with other climate elements

Wind intensity influences the perceived temperature ('cold wind' effect).

Constant winds can favor water and air sports (e.g. kitesurf, paragliding).

Strong winds can cause fog, sand or dust, affecting the visibility and comfort of visitors.

Wind is an **important climatic factor for tourism** as it affects:

- **Safety of outdoor activities;**
- **Thermal comfort and environmental perception;**
- **Possible types of tourism (montaneous, nautical, cultural or adventure).**

7.Precipitation

Precipitation (rain, snow, hail) is a **decisive climatic element** for tourist activities. They influence **the accessibility, attractiveness and safety** of various forms of tourism.

Effects on tourism Table 14

Precipitation type	Features	Influence on tourism
Light and short rain	Temporary cooling, low moisture	It can be bearable; sometimes even appreciated in summer in urban or spa tourism
Heavy and prolonged rain	Discomfort, slippery roads, flooding	It discourages cultural and mountain tourism; affect transport and visibility
Moderate snowfall	Snow cover	Favours winter tourism (skiing, snowboarding, ice sports)
Heavy snow / blizzard	Heavy snow, strong wind, cold	Blocks access to resorts, causes discomfort and risks of accidents
Hail	Dangerous solid rainfall	May affect the safety of tourists and the integrity of tourism infrastructure
Mixed precipitation (cold rain, sleet)	Moisture, thermal discomfort	Reduce the attractiveness of tourist areas, especially in the low season

Positive aspects

- Precipitation provides spectacular green landscapes, rivers and waterfalls, which increases tourist attractiveness (e.g. nature walks).
- Snow creates optimal conditions for winter sports and mountain tourism.
- Summer rains can cool the atmosphere and improve thermal comfort.

Negative aspects

- Heavy rainfall reduces accessibility (closed roads, delayed transport).
- Affects outdoor activities (walking, camping, sightseeing).
- They can cause natural hazards (floods, landslides) that limit tourism.
- Rainfall has a double influence on tourism:
 - Positive, when it creates conditions for winter tourism or enhances the beauty of the landscape;
 - Negative, when it generates discomfort, risks, or affects infrastructure.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

1. Multi-choice items

Which climate element influences the duration of the summer tourist season the most?

- The wind
- Air temperature
- Nebulosity
- Atmospheric pressure

In which region of the Republic of Moldova is the summer season the longest due to higher temperatures?

- a) North
- b) Centre
- c) South
- d) East

Solar radiation is of particular tourist importance for:

- a) Winter sports
- b) spa and leisure tourism in summer
- c) urban tourism
- Cultural tourism

2. Short answer items

- Mention two ways in which precipitation can influence tourist activity.
- Explains why high air humidity can reduce the attractiveness of a tourist area.
- Give an example of the positive impact of the wind on tourism.

3. Add-ons

1. The average annual temperature in the Republic of Moldova is approximately _____ °C.
2. The summer tourist season in the Republic of Moldova lasts from _____ to _____.
3. The low nebulosity favors the development of _____ type tourism.

4. Essay/analysis items

- Analyzes the importance of air temperature for recreational tourism on the coast of rivers and lakes in the Republic of Moldova.
- Argues the role of solar radiation in the development of balneoclimateric tourism.
- Explains how climatic variations (heavy rains, droughts, heat waves) can negatively influence tourism activities.

Subject 8: Hydrographic tourist resources.

Along with the relief, hydrography is established in the main source of attraction tourist apartment natural setting. The elements of hydrography possess attributes stored in their system of organization, physico-chemical peculiarities or the size of aquatic accumulations. The main form of presence of hydrography in tourism are:

- river networks (surface and underground);**
- lakes;**
- waterfall;**
- mineral waters.**

Waterfalls are morpho-hydrographic elements representing large waterfalls over the topsoil. Their attractiveness is due to the falling height of the water, which creates acoustic and optical sensations. They are often found in regions (where rivers do not carry coarse alluvium), in high relief units with

shoals of hard rocks, alternating with others more than me. The size, materialised in the vertical unfolding of the waterfall, is the defining factor of their attractive value.

In the Republic of Moldova, although the relief is milder and does not have high altitudes, there are some natural and artificial waterfalls that can be considered interesting tourist attractions. They are smaller in flow and height than those in mountain areas, but have landscape and recreational value.

General

- Waterfalls in the Republic of Moldova are generally **small** (2–16 m).
- They occur frequently in limestone areas, where rivers and streams have dug ravines and gorges.
- They have **tourist and spiritual value** and are often located near cave monasteries or in nature reserves.

?? Natural waterfalls

1. Țîpova Waterfall (Rezina rayon)

- It is located near the cave monastery Țîpova.
- It is one of the most famous and spectacular waterfalls in the country.
- It has several steps, some of which reach 10–16 m high.

2. Saharna Waterfall (Rezina rayon)

- Located near the Saharna Monastery.
- Formed on the Saharna stream, it has a waterfall of approximately 4–6 m.
- It is a place of pilgrimage and religious tourism.

3. Jeleşnic Waterfall (Criuleni district)

- A picturesque waterfall on the Jeleşnic stream.
- The height of the waterfall is about 10 m.

4. Duruitoarea Veche Waterfalls (Rîșcani rayon)

- Located near the village of Duruitoarea Veche, where there are also caves with prehistoric traces.
- Not very tall, but spectacular through the rocky context.

?? Anthropogenic waterfalls (formed on dams or arranged springs)

1. **The waterfall in Țaul Park (Donduseni rayon)** – small but integrated into a landscape created by landscaper I. Vladislavski-Podalko.
2. **Chișinău's artificial waterfalls** – set up in Valea Morilor and Dendrariu Park.

the Saharna Falls

?? □ Location

- **Rezina district**, in the village of Saharna, on the Saharna river valley (affluent of the Dniester).
- It is part of **the 'Saharna' nature reserve**, which also includes the Holy Trinity Monastery – an important religious and tourist centre.

?? Physico-geographical characteristics

- The waterfall formed on the course of the Saharna stream, which flows through limestone rocks.
- **Height: cca. 4 to 6 metres.**
- It is a **single-stage** waterfall, forming at the base a small natural basin ('pit' or 'water mirror').
- Variable flow rate: higher in spring and after rains, reduced in dry summer.

- The clear waters and the spectacular fall gave it the popular name ‘Groapa **Tiganului**’.

?? Natural frame

- The waterfall is located in a picturesque gorge, surrounded by limestone cliffs and forest vegetation (oak, ash, hornbeam).
- Around there are tourist routes leading to other small waterfalls and to the cave monastery of Saharna.

Tourist value

- It is one of **the most visited waterfalls in Moldova**, being integrated into a tourist and religious complex.
- It attracts tourists through its natural beauty, but also through the local legends and the spiritual importance of the monastery.
- Often used as a place of rest, hiking and pilgrimage.

The Saharna Waterfall is **a symbol of the natural and spiritual landscape of the Middle Dniester**, representing a combination of **natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural-religious heritage**.



Fig. 35. Source: Google.com. Saharna Waterfall.Rezina.

Tîpova Waterfall

??□ Location

- Located on the right bank of the **Dniester** River, near the village of **Tîpova**, Rezina district.
- It is located in the vicinity **of the Tîpova cave monastery**, in an impressive natural setting, part of **the Tîpova Landscape Reserve**.

?? Physico-geographical characteristics

- The waterfall is formed on the stream that crosses the rocky gorge and flows into the Dniester.
- **Height:** The largest waterfall is approx. **14–16 metres**, considered **the highest natural waterfall in the Republic of Moldova**.
- Structure: the waterfall is not unique, but consists of several successive steps on friable limestone.
- Flow: variable, abundant in spring and after rains, reduced in dry summer.

?? Natural frame

- Located in a deep gorge with limestone walls and rich vegetation (deciduous forests, scrub).
- It creates a picturesque landscape, combining spectacular relief elements with vegetation and proximity to the Dniester.

?? Tourist and cultural value

- Țîpova Waterfall is a **first-rate tourist attraction** in the Republic of Moldova.
- Together with the cave monastery (considered one of the largest in Eastern Europe), it forms a unique natural-spiritual complex.
- It attracts tourists through natural beauty, hiking, picturesque landscapes and historical value.
- The area is associated with legends and folk traditions (it is said that Stephen the Great married Maria Voichita here).

The Țîpova Waterfall is **the highest and most spectacular waterfall in the Republic of Moldova**, a symbol of the beauty of the Transnistrian landscape, where **nature, history and spirituality** are harmoniously intertwined.



Fig. 36. Source: Google.com. Waterfall Țîpova.Rezina.

the Jeleshnic Waterfall

1. Geographical location

- It is located in the northern part of the Republic of Moldova, Donduseni district, near Jelesnic village.
- It is located on the valley of the Jelesnic stream, a small tributary of the Dniester.
- The area is part of the hilly region of the Dniester Plateau, characterized by fragmented relief, limestone cliffs and gorges.

2. Natural characteristics

- **Height:** approx. **10–12 metres**, making it one of the highest and most imposing natural waterfalls in the Republic of Moldova.
- **Width:** a few meters, variable depending on the flow.
- **Geological structure:** formed on limestone, with vertical and rocky walls.
- **Water flow:** seasonally variable:
 - spring (April-May) and after torrential rains – spectacular appearance with large volume of water;
 - dry summer – low flow, but the waterfall remains visually attractive.
- **Surrounding landscape:** limestone steeps, narrow gorge, forest steppe vegetation and grassland areas.

3. Natural and landscape values

- It is a **rare natural monument**, as waterfalls of this size are few in the Republic of Moldova.
- It creates a **local microclimate** with cool, humid air where diverse vegetation develops.

- It is a place appreciated for its natural beauty, often compared to the Saharna and Tipova waterfalls, but less known and more ‘wild’.

4. Cultural and touristic values

- The Jeleşnic Waterfall is not only a natural phenomenon, but also an **emerging tourist attraction** of the Donduseni region.
- It can be included in thematic routes such as **the ‘Waterfall Road’** or ecotourism circuits in northern Moldova.
- Potential for:
 - **Ecotourism and hiking:** exploration of the gorge and the karst area.
 - **Rural tourism:** nearby villages (Jeleşnic, Climăuți, Donduseni) can offer authentic, gastronomic and traditional experiences.
 - **Educational tourism:** studying karst terrain, erosion processes and local biodiversity.
 - **Photography and leisure:** Picturesque place for photographers and weekend trips.

5. Regional importance

- It contributes to the diversification of the tourism potential of **northern Moldova**, an area less valued as a tourist compared to the centre and the south.
- It plays an important role in promoting **sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism**.
- It can become a **local brand** if it is included in nationally promoted tourist circuits.

the Old Duruitoarea Waterfall

1. Geographical location

- It is located in the north-west of the Republic of Moldova, Riscani district, near Duruitoarea Veche village.
- It is located on the Duruitoarea stream, a tributary of the Ciuhur river, which subsequently flows into the Prut.
- The area is part of the Northern Moldavian Plateau, characterized by hilly relief and karst formations.

2. Natural characteristics

- Height: approx. 5–7 metres, thus smaller than Jeleşnic, but spectacular in its shape.
- Geological structure: The waterfall was formed on reef limestones and sandstones, which give rise to steep cliffs and caves.

Water flow:

- in spring and after heavy rainfall – rich, it creates a spectacular curtain of water;
- dry summer – low flow, sometimes just a trickle of water, but remains attractive due to the rocky frame.

Environment:

- is in a picturesque gorge;
- nearby there are caves and natural caves (used since prehistoric times), which enhances the tourist value.

3. Natural and landscape values

- The waterfall creates a **picturesque picture**, especially in spring, when the flow is high.

- It is integrated into a **karst complex with** caves, limestone walls and spectacular rock formations.
- It is a favorite place for photographers and tourists looking for authentic natural landscapes.

4. Cultural and historical values

- The area of Duruitoarea Veche is famous for **its prehistoric archaeological sites**. The nearby caves have been inhabited since the Paleolithic, with tools and traces of human settlements dating back tens of thousands of years.
- The waterfall and the cliffs are therefore not only of natural value, but also **of special historical and cultural value**.

5. Importance of tourism

- **Ecotourism:** hiking, exploring the waterfall and gorge.
- **Speotourism:** Visit the karst caves.
- **Cultural and educational tourism:** Study of Archaeological Remains.
- **Agro-tourism:** closeness to picturesque villages in Riscani rayon.
- **Photography and relaxation:** The scenery is ideal for weekend trips.

Comparative observations of the Main Waterfalls of the Republic of Moldova Table 15

Waterfalls	Location	Height	Geological structure	Landscape and vegetation	Tourist value	Cultural/historical value
Saharna	Rezina district, Saharna river valley	7–9 m (22 small waterfalls in total)	Limestone	Limestone cliffs, forest steppe vegetation, waterfalls in steps	Ecotourism, hiking, pilgrimage, photography	Saharna Monastery, place of pilgrimage
Tipova	Rezina district, Dniester river	8–10 m	Limestone	Steep rock walls, forest steppe vegetation and forests	Ecotourism, hiking, religious tourism	Țipova cave monastery, monastic traditions
Jealousy	Donduseni district, Jeleşnic brook	10–12 m	Limestone	Rocky gorge, forest steppe vegetation	Ecotourism, hiking, photography, agrotourism	Potential for rural tourism; Less Promoted
the Old Sufferer	Riscani district, Duruitoarea stream	5–7 m	Limestone and sandstone	Gorge with rocks, grottoes, mixed vegetation	Ecotourism, speotourism, hiking, photography	Prehistoric archaeological sites, caves inhabited in the Paleolithic

Comparative observations:

- **Height:** Jeleshnic has the highest natural height, followed by Tipova and Saharna.
- **Geological structure:** They are all located in limestone areas, which creates unique gorges and caves.
- **Landscape:** Duruitoarea Veche is distinguished by its integration with archaeological caves; Saharna through multiple waterfalls; Tipova through the cave monastery; Jealous through the wild gorge.
- **Tourist value:** Saharna and Țipova are better known; Jealousy and Duruitoarea Veche have great potential, but are less visited.
- **Cultural value:** Tipova and Saharna have monasteries; The Old Sufferer has prehistoric vestiges; Jeleşnic has cultural potential for rural tourism.

In the Republic of Moldova, in terms of importance for tourism and recreation, there are two forms in which waters appear: ground mineral waters and reservoirs; rivers, in large part, being small, are used in a very small proportion for tourism (only the Dniester River).

Several types of *recreational activities are linked to the reservoirs*, with direct use (bathing, boating, fishing, water sports, etc.) or indirect use as an element of the landscape (lakeside picnic, sunbathing). Their practice depends on the length of the favorable period. For direct use, the period covers May to September and for indirect activities April to October. Artificial basins are unevenly distributed on the territory of the Republic, in the northern districts they are more than in the southern and southeastern ones. In the Republic of Moldova there are over 2000 drinking water springs, of which about 75% are in the northern and central districts and only 25% - in the southern ones. A volume of over 1 million m³ has 24 artificial pools. The total surface area of the mirror of their waters is 27.3 thousand ha. The banks of these basins became the most visited (after the Dniester River) for short-term rest. Lakes Ghidighici, Dubasari and Cuciurgan became increasingly important, attracting the most tourists in the late 1980s. Accommodation units were built on their shores to increase their attractiveness. In fact, only these lakes were partially arranged for tourism. The natural lakes are few in number (Manta, Beleu, Fontan, Dracele), the largest being linked to the floodplain of the Prut. They are primarily used to preserve the environment. Among the ways in which they are used by tourists are fishing and hunting waterfowl, other activities being less recommended. As rivers are small and unhealthy (polluted), they can only be used to a very limited extent, with reservoirs covering virtually all possibilities for their exploitation. From this point of view, only the Dniester River stands out, on which water tourism can be practiced. The Republic of Moldova currently has significant surface aquatic resources that can be used for recreation and tourism. However, their exploitation requires the sanitation of waters and the planning of riparian territories. Another component of aquatic tourist resources is mineral waters. In terms of mineralisation and chemical composition, two ways of using mineral waters are distinguished: therapeutic and potable. The therapeutic mineral waters have a very high degree of mineralisation (up to 250g/l), containing also some specific elements (bromine, iodine, fluorine, radon, etc.) and can be used in food only after partial demineralisation. They are very important for curative tourism. The most important (in terms of importance and volume) are sulphur waters. The richest reserves of these waters are held by the Ungheni district, where a treatment unit with sulphurous waters extracted from the drilling well also operated. Large reserves of highly mineralised sulphurous waters were found in the south of the country, close to the capital. Cahul. In this area there are also iodinated waters (54 mg/l) and brominated waters (300 mg/l).

Mineral and thermal waters constitute a special category of resources, both genetically and, above all, from a touristic point of view. Their attractive importance lies in the mineral content, which has a positive impact in the context of their use in the (most common) internal or external treatment. The range of conditions treated is extremely wide, starting from those of the locomotor system (degenerative or inflammatory rheumatism), cardiovascular, digestive, neurological, respiratory,

metabolic diseases, etc. The distribution of mineral waters reveals concentration of resources in certain countries and their lack on vast areas. According to their therapeutic principle, mineral waters are classified as follows: oligomineral waters; carbonated waters; alkaline and alkaline-ferrous waters; ferruginous waters; iodinated waters; sulphurous waters; sulphated waters; radioactive water; Chlorurato-sodium waters. Unlike surface waters (rivers, lakes, seas, oceans) whose exploitation can be intensified due to their continuous and practically inexhaustible presence, the exploitation of mineral waters has a critical limit, exceeding which can lead to the depletion of the deposit or its qualitative depreciation.

Drinking mineral waters have a low degree of mineralisation (2-10 mg/l). They can be used for therapeutic and food purposes, depending on the chemical composition, 7 types of mineral waters have been identified on the territory of the Republic of Moldova:

- *Sodium hydrocarbon waters* are widespread in the central-western and north-western parts of the country. Their degree of mineralization varies between 2.1-3.8 g/l and their flow rate is up to 11.9 l/sec. According to their chemical composition, the waters identified in Hîncești and Or. Cornești resembles the waters of the spa resort of Borjomi.
- *Chlorosodium hydrocarbonate waters and sodium chloro-hydrocarbonate waters* have been identified in Șamalia village (com. Vișniovca, Cantemir district), Camenca (sanatorium 'Dnestr'), s.Copanca, Căușeni district), etc. Mineralisation varies between 1.2 and 5.0 g/l.
- *Chlorosodic waters* have been discovered in the drilling well in Moscow s. (Cahul rayon), with mineralisation of 11.8 g/l, in the villages of Cureșnița and Golosnița (Cahul rayon).
- *The hydrocarbon sulphate-sodium and sulphate-hydrocarbonate-sodium waters* are largely spread along the Prut valley. The composition resembles that of Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic).
- *Sulphate-hydrocarbonate-sodium-potassium-magnesian waters* have been identified in several boreholes, with a flow rate of up to 280 l/sec and varying mineralisation. With a maximum flow rate, the source from Criva village (Briceni district) is characterized, the water coming from karst deposits.
- *Sulphated sodium-magnesian waters with little mineralisation* have been found in boreholes near the villages of Prodănești (Floresti rayon) and Brătușeni (Edineț rayon).
- *Chlorosodium sulphated waters* have been identified in Căușeni district (s. Varnița, s. Chișcăești, mun. Many of these waters, by resembling the chemical composition with the waters of some famous resorts can be used for balneo-therapeutic purposes and in food. At present, unfortunately, only a small number of these waters are used for food – 'Varnița', 'Dnestreanca', etc. In groundwater research and oil and gas drilling, thermal waters have been identified, with temperatures reaching in some cases up to +46°C. These waters can be successfully used for spa purposes. The highest concentration of thermal groundwater is reported along the Baimaclia fault in the south of the country. It follows from all the above that no systematic research has been carried out in the Republic to highlight mineral waters used for spa purposes. These sources, in order to be used and to be profitable to exploit, require, on the one hand, long-term investment facilities and, on the other hand, a rather rich clientele, which is very complicated for our country.

Rivers of the Republic of Moldova

The main rivers of the Republic of Moldova are the Dniester (with a length of 657 km on the territory of the country) and the Prut (695 km on the territory of the country), which forms the western border, and to the south the country is crossed by the Danube River for a distance of 0.6 km.

Other important rivers include Răut, Cogîlnic, Bîc, Botna, Ialpug, Căinar, Ichel and Cubolta.

Main rivers

- Dniester: The longest river in Moldova, with 657 km on the territory of the country.
- Prut: The second most important river, which forms the border with Romania.

- Danube: The small sector to the south of the country is bordered by the Danube River, according to Wikipedia.

Other major rivers

- Raut: Another important river with a length of 286 km.
- Cogîlnic: It has a length of 243 km on the territory of the country.
- Bic : The river is 155 km long.
- Botna: The river is 152 km long.

Ialpug, Cainar, Ichel, Cubolta: They are also among the 10 watercourses with a length of over 100 km

River networks, regardless of their size and importance, become a spring tourist source by: the genesis of the edge effect, the possibilities offered to leisure by swimming or fishing, the diversification of landscape values, etc. The shores of the waters, through the microclimate and landscape specific to the weekend tourism visit area. The layout and morphology of the banks' detail play a major role in guiding their preferences for one or the other. For example, the meandering section of some rivers is imposed by its spectacularity, and the low banks by the high coefficient of accessibility. Another criterion that influences demand options is the depth and speed of the water. As a result, sectors with a soft course and depths of up to 2 m will be preferred, increasing the depth of water being a restrictive factor in swimming practice. For sports tourism focused on fish or rowing are considered rivers or rivers rich in fish or which provide optimal conditions for the development of nautical kingdoms. A special place belongs to the hydrographic networks that cross the country's territory like the Dniester, Raut and Prut, intensely arranged both for navigation and agreement, as well as for the transport of tourists from one part to another of the urban agglomerations. Moreover, the tourism role of hydrography is not limited to the attraction itself, but also to its contribution as an indispensable element for the functioning of infrastructure, including transport. Unlike flowing waters, lake accumulations are better individualized. As a result, their tourist heritage is richer and consists of a number of attributes related to fish, rowing, swimming or landscape. The tourist value of most lakes is closely dependent on their genesis. The karst lakes through the unique hydrological supply;

The touristic importance of rivers

1. Landscape and aesthetic value

- Rivers create attractive landscapes: valleys, gorges, canyons, waterfalls, meadows.
- It offers spectacular views that attract tourists for sightseeing, photography and relaxation.
- Examples: Rautului gorge at Old Orhei, picturesque banks of the Dniester.

2. Recreational and sporting activities

- On the banks of rivers it is practiced: **camping, picnic, sport fishing, swimming**.
- Larger rivers allow boat rides, kayaking, boat tours.
- It offers opportunities for active tourism and adventure.

3. Cultural and historical tourism

- Along the rivers, settlements, fortresses, monasteries and historical monuments have developed.
- These are tourist attractions of great value.
- Examples: Țîpova Monastery and Orheiul Vechi (Răut) cave complex.

4. Spa and wellness tourism

- Rivers feed reservoirs and mineral springs used in spa treatments.
- The meadows are suitable areas for the arrangement of rest and recreation resorts.

5. Ecotourism and biodiversity

- Riparian areas are rich in plant and animal species, attracting nature lovers.

- The Dniester and Prut meadows can be exploited through ecotourism trails and ornithological observations.

6. Traditions and cultural identity

- Rivers play a role in local folklore and traditions (holidays, songs, legends).
- They become identity symbols and attractions for tourists.

Lakes of the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova has a diverse network of lakes, formed both naturally and artificially, which are important **tourist and recreational resources**. They are distinguished by the beauty of the landscape, the ecological value and the leisure possibilities they offer.

1. Natural lakes

The most representative are the meadow lakes and those formed in the old riverbeds.

- *Beleu Lake* – located in the ‘Lower Prut’ Reservation – is the largest natural lake in the country and has a particular ecological value. It is a resting place for hundreds of migratory bird species, which makes it an attraction for nature and ecotourism lovers.
- *Lakes of Manta (Cahul)* and other puddles of the Prut and Dniester meadow are appreciated for fishing and wildlife observation.

2. Reservoirs

Most of Moldova's lakes are reservoirs, arranged along rivers for water supply, irrigation or energy production. They have become, over time, frequented places for rest and tourism.

- *The Dubasari reservoir on the Dniester* is one of the largest and most spectacular. Water sports, boating and fishing are practiced here. Its picturesque shores are suitable for weekend tourism.
- *Costesti Lake – Rock on the Prut*, set up together with Romania, has a special landscape and potential for cross-border tourism.

3. Recreational lakes and resorts

Numerous lakes have been set up for recreation, becoming real centers of attraction in the summer season.

- *Lake Ghidighici (also known as the "Sea of Moldova")*, located near Chisinau, is the most visited recreational lake. There are activities such as bathing, beaches, fishing, boating and water sports.
- *Valea Morilor Lake in Chisinau* is an urban recreation area, very popular among residents and tourists.

Other recreational lakes are located in rural areas (Comrat, Ivancea, Dănceni, Bardar), being valued for local tourism and festivities.

4. Ecological and cultural value

Moldova's lakes have an important role in maintaining the natural balance and provide opportunities for ecotourism and educational tourism. At the same time, they are associated with local traditions, fishing habits and specific, fish-based gastronomy.

The lakes of the Republic of Moldova are a valuable touristic potential, due to their diversity – from natural lakes with wild landscapes, to reservoirs and recreation lakes, arranged for rest and water sports. They attract tourists through the beauty of the landscape, recreational opportunities and natural wealth, becoming important points on the map of national tourism.



L.Bealeu L.Manta

Fig.37.Source:Wikipedia. Natural lakes.



L.Dubăsari L.Costești-Stânca

Fig.38.Source:Wikipedia. Reservoir lakes.



L.Ggidighici L.Valea Morilor

Fig.39.Source:Wikipedia. Recreational lakes.

The importance of lakes for tourism:

Lakes are **particularly valuable tourist and recreational resources**, providing opportunities for leisure, relaxation, sport and ecotourism. They combine the beauty of the landscape with the possibilities for economic and cultural valorisation.

1. Recreational and recreational value

- The lakes are ideal spaces for **bathing, sunbathing and active rest**.
- Provides conditions for **water sports (swimming, kayaking, rowing boats, water bikes, windsurfing)**.
- They are the favorite places for **sports fishing** and recreational competitions.

2. Landscape and aesthetic value

- The lakes give a **special charm to the landscape**, attracting tourists through tranquility, water and vegetation.
- They are commonly associated with **tourist photography and** relaxation activities in nature.

3. Ecological and educational value

- Many lakes are **habitats for birds and fish** and are important points for **ecotourism and scientific tourism**.
- Examples: Lake Beleu in the Lower Prut Reservation, a stopping place for migratory birds.
- Can be used for **environmental education** and thematic excursions.

4. Cultural and social value

- Lakes are venues for **festivals, picnics and popular holidays**.
- They are part of **local traditions** (fishing, fish-based gastronomy).
- Urban lakes (e.g.: Ghidighici, Valea Morilor) are true social and cultural centers.

5. Economic and tourist value

- It contributes to the development of **rural and weekend tourism**, being points of attraction for locals and visitors.
- Stimulates **tourism services**: guesthouses, restaurants, leisure facilities.
- They can become components of **domestic and international tourist circuits** (e.g. Costesti-Stânca, Dubăsari).

Lakes are essential for tourism development as they combine **active and passive rest, landscape beauty and ecological and cultural value**. In the Republic of Moldova, lakes such as **Beleu, Ghidighici, Dubasari or Costesti-Stânca** are true tourist centres, with a special role in promoting leisure tourism, ecotourism and rural tourism.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

I. Multiple-choice items

1. What is the longest river that crosses the Republic of Moldova?
 - a) Raut
 - b) Prut
 - c) Dniester
 - d) Ichel
2. Lake Beleu is located in:
 - a) Codrii Reservation
 - b) "Lower Prut" Reservation
 - c) Orhei National Park
 - d) the Saharna Complex
3. Which of the reservoirs has a tourist and energy role?
 - a) Ghidighici
 - b) Valley of the Mills
 - c) Dubasari
 - d) Beleu

II. Short answer items

4. It specifies two tourist activities that can be practiced on the rivers of the Republic of Moldova.
5. Name two lakes of recreational importance for Chisinau municipality.
6. It mentions a difference between a river and a lake in terms of tourist resources.

III. Add-ons

7. The largest natural lake in the Republic of Moldova is _____.
8. The river that forms the western border of the Republic of Moldova is _____.
9. The spa resort located on the banks of the Nistru River is _____.

IV. Items of association

Correctly associates the river/lake with its touristic use:

1. Dniester – a) Sport fishing

2. Prut – b) eco-tourism (Lake Beleu)
3. Ghidighici – c) Water recreation and recreation
4. Beleu – d) cruise circuits, tourist landscape

V. Development items

10. It explains on 6-8 occasions the **importance of rivers for the development of tourism in the Republic of Moldova**.
11. He argues by two examples the role of reservoirs in recreational tourism.
12. Write a short text on the link between hydrographic resources and ecotourism.

Topic 9: Floristic (vegetable) and fauna (animal) tourist resources

Vegetation, together with terrain and climate, plays one of the main roles in tourist attraction. The tourism role of vegetation is contained in the following elements: composition of plant associations; presence of endemic plants and relics; presence of plants with teratological changes; the size and age of certain plants; edge effect and island effect; vegetation as an ecotope; spiritual elements related to the existence of vegetation. a) The composition of plant associations manifests itself differently in the composition of the tourist dowry.

b) Vegetation becomes a prime tourist attraction through **the endemic and relic plants** it preserves. Endemic plants are specific only to a certain territory, usually restricted. (examples: Moldova (Red Book: keleria, peony (Romanian), Angelescu blue; ș.a.) The relics are characteristic of a past geological period and have survived to the present. (examples: Moldova (Red Book: dwarf sole, puffiness, and adornment, Odessa gymnosperm); and so on.)

c) *Teratological phenomena* (from Greek. ‘terras’ – monster; teratism – malformation, monstrosity, defects and structural anomalies of living organisms (the science that studies them is called teratology) in the plant world can lead to changes in the physiognomy or unfolding of their vegetable cycles (e.g. beech with non-falling leaves, excessive spruce branching, etc.).

d) Another category of forest vegetation elements is imposed by the age and size of some individuals. Some species and specimens attract by the unprecedented thickness of the atrunchi (they are also up to 6000 years old). The flowering period of the various species of grasses turns the meadows of the hills into splendid landscapes.

As a landscape element, the forest attracts visitors through the feeling of returning to nature, of total release from everyday stress, through the possibilities offered by long walks, the atmosphere of intimacy of the recreational act, through the cure of ozonized air. The forest must be associated, including from a tourist point of view, with a highly complex biocenosis, composed, in addition to woody and other plant species, in which many other animal species find their optimal living conditions. Each, to a greater or lesser extent, will contribute to the diversification of overall attractiveness.

g) Spiritual elements related to the existence of vegetation. The perpetual connection between man and vegetation is also reflected spiritually. As a consequence of this reflection, certain elements receive a special emotional charge, becoming a source of certain attractions. *Ștefan's oak*, *Eminescu's lime* are living landmarks on any tourist guide.

Sacred plants for certain religions: examples – ‘Ficus religiosa’ Buddhism (Rom. Ficus; the Bodhi tree; ficus sacru) (рус. смоковница) (The Bodhi Tree, also known as Bo (from the Sinhalese Bo), was a large and very old Sacred Fig tree located in Bodh Gaya). Lotus or water lily – for Yoga, Buddhism ...; Cedar of Lebanon (in the ancient Near East)

If the forest manages to impose itself directly as an important tourist area, it also indirectly increases its attractiveness by:

- Influencing the topoclimate by increasing humidity, lowering excessive temperatures, wind speed or solar radiation flow;
- air purification due to photosynthesis processes and the development of oxygen and aerosols;
- reduction of noise pollution (by about 20%);
- harmonising landscape lines by masking fragmentation of relief detail, etc.

The relationship between the forest and tourist demand is closely dependent on the spatial relationship between the forest and the infrastructure elements. Thus, the forest associations located less than 50 km away from the big cities are part of a preferred recreation area through the edge effects and the island. At larger distances, the number of participants decreases and other attractions are sought. In connection with the presence of vegetation, it is necessary to mention two ways of diversifying the recreational offer in major metropolitan areas, namely parks and botanical gardens. The area of green spaces in cities tends to increase, with specialists' estimates of 40 km² of green space per inhabitant. At the same time, botanical gardens concentrate, in a limited space, the vegetation and flora of vast territories, and by specific means (greenhouses) show visitors species belonging to other biogeographical regions. The forest, as a symbol of man's return to the original landscape free from the traumas of the modern world, performs in tourism a multifaceted function, as a proper objective and as an environment conducive to fruitful recreation. **Touristic potential of vegetation in the Republic of Moldova**

Moldova's geographical position within the European continent has allowed interference in three biogeographical areas – Central European, in particular in Podișul Codrilor (54% of the country's territory), Euro-Asian in the forest-steppe and steppe regions (30%) and Mediterranean – xerophyte forest-steppe fragments in the south of the republic (16%). These areas, together with other natural factors and human intervention, gave birth to several types of ecosystems that were grouped into three large groups according to the degree of anthropogenic change: *natural* (forestry, steppe, meadow, petrophyte, aquatic), *semi-anthropised* (botanical and zoological gardens) and *anthropised* (agrarian and urban). All ecosystem groups are important not only for biodiversity conservation, but also from a tourist point of view.

Natural ecosystems are characterised by limited human intervention, particularly in the area of specific composition (introducing species uncharacteristic of local climatic conditions) or range (replacing them with semi-anthropised or anthropised species). Forest ecosystems are the most important for recreational-tourist activities. They are represented in the Republic of Moldova by deciduous forests of the Central European type, besides the functions of protection of soils and aquatic resources, the forest has hygienic, aesthetic and recreational functions.

The total area of the National Forest Fund occupies 451.0 thousand ha (1.01.2022). It comprises about 800 forest bodies with an area of 5 to 1500 ha, unevenly distributed across the country. The average degree of afforestation of the territory is **13.1%**.

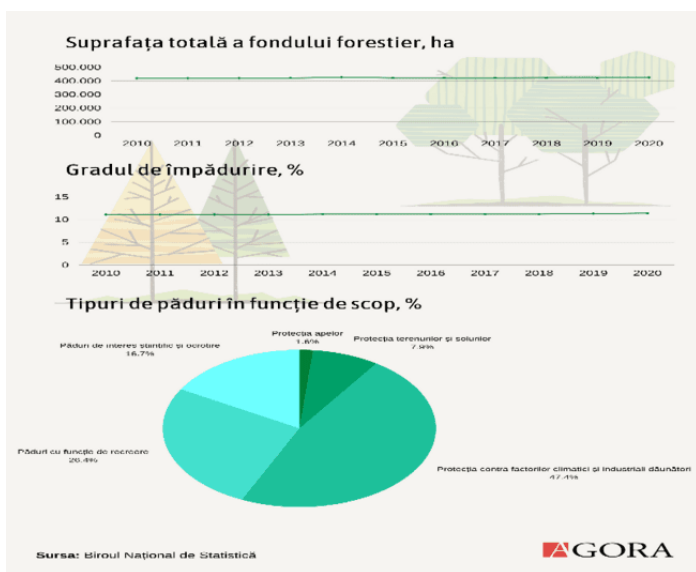


Fig.40.Source:National Bureau of Statistics. The National Forestry Fund.

If to the south and north the forest area is about 10%, then in the center of the country it is close to 15%, and in Strasen district, for example, forests occupy about 30% of the area. Currently, most of the forests are under the management of Moldsilva Agency, 86.7%. Local public administrations hold 12.8%, while Railways, JSC Drumuri, Water Agency of Moldova and others hold 0.5%. At the same time, there are five natural reserves in the country. Among the largest is the Princely Forest Reserve, which occupies over 6 thousand hectares, and the Codrii Natural Reserve, which has an area of over 5 thousand hectares.

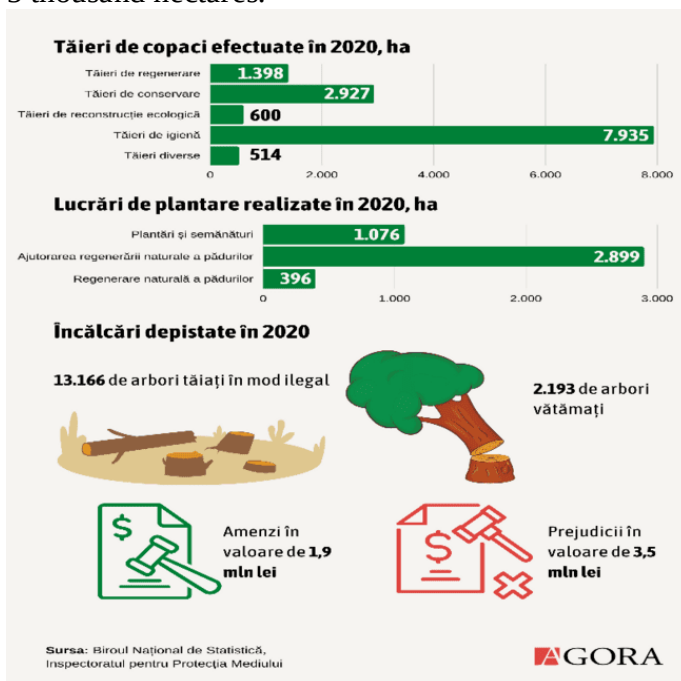
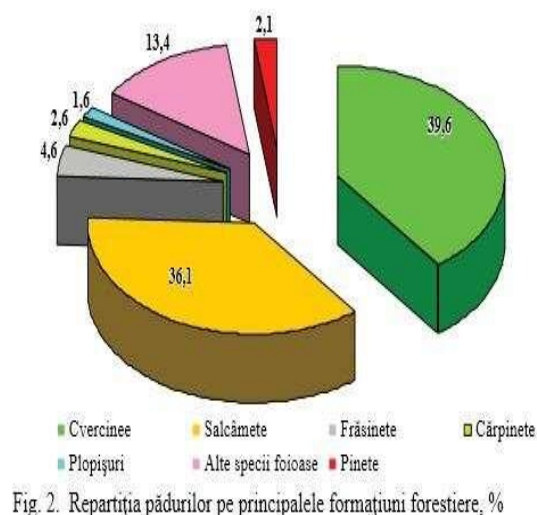


Fig.41.Source: National Bureau of Statistics. Degree of deforestation and afforestation.

The average age of the stand is 40 years. Most of the old-growth forests, which constitute approx. 3% of the total forest fund is included in the reservations. The edifying species of forests are oak (36.4% of the total forest fund), beech, hornbeam, lime, ash, in the meadows of the Prut and Dniester rivers there are sectors with barges (plop, willow, oak, elm). The functional structure of the forest fund

highlights the category of recreational forests 94.5 thousand ha (31% of the total forests), which are important resources given that the other categories can be used for tourism purposes. Forests and other forested land covered only 451.7 thousand ha in 2022, or just over 13% of the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Of these, the forests accounted for 370

thousands of hectares (National Statistical Office 2024). These ecosystems play an extremely important role in the protection of river basins, bringing a number of direct and indirect economic and environmental benefits to rural communities: firewood, non-wood products, stabilization of ravines, etc. The forests of the Republic of Moldova are located mainly in the central area (60%), with less coverage in the northern (26%) and southern areas of the country (14%).

Forest ecosystems play an important role in tourism and recreation activities, helping to improve overall health, aesthetic satisfaction and relaxation. For the most part, hunting grounds are also located in forests. Steppe ecosystems once dominated the south-eastern, east-south-eastern and central-northern parts of the republic, but over the past 40 years they have reduced their area by 70%. Currently, the grassy steppe formations occupy 65 thousand ha and have been preserved in the form of clusters in the northern (Bălți's steppe) and southern (Bălți's steppe) areas. Meadow ecosystems occupy around 3% of the country's territory, presenting a visual - aesthetic and harbouring some bird hunting species. Petrophic ecosystems occupy insignificant areas (0.7%) in the river valleys of the deafloration zone of the limestone formations, giving a vivid tinge to the dead rocks. Aquatic and palustral ecosystems, although they have been declining lately, are home to important fish stocks. Semi-anthropized agricultural ecosystems occupy clear spaces within the republic (75.6%) and allow their use for recreational - touristic purposes, in particular, the hunting of some animal species (pheasant, rabbit, etc.), as well as their use in the practice of some forms of tourism (pomiculture, livestock). Urban ecosystems are particularly important from a tourist point of view, primarily influencing the quality of the environment in large cities. The analysis of the distribution of green spaces in urban areas in the Republic of Moldova (13.4%) shows a high level of coverage of the urban area with green spaces, which reduces the proportion of those who left the city on weekends. In the mun. Chişinău is home to large areas of genuine forests. They can be used for weekend recreation intensively, but some require partial planning.

To remember!

The most favorable area for the extension of the forested area of the Republic of Moldova is the Central Plateau of the Codrii next to the Dniester Plateau and the Northern Moldavian Plateau. In these areas the ecological stability coefficient of the land is above the national average and has values higher than 0.5. Over

these grassland-friendly territories currently overlap with territories with a higher percentage of forestation (over 25-30%). Forest species to be promoted in the composition of stands (hill and plain plains) are of the category of natural fundamental species of forests Republic of Moldova:

- the oak
- oak
- Brumal and fluffy oak, next to pedunculate oak.

Let us not forget that certain Alohtone species can be useful in afforesting forest resorts of lower productivity, such as species of the genus Pinus, black pine and sylvestris, which are better adapted to a drier climate and short soils with low trophicity.

Socio-economic impact of climate change on the forestry sector

Table 16

Impact category	Impact on the forestry sector	Socio-economic impact
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High temperatures, heat waves	Extension of growing season Negative consequences for species sensitive to changes in temperature. Increased vulnerability to forest fires.	Reducing the volume of wood Switching to other sources of energy Additional costs for population
Change in rainfall regime	Change in phytosanitary status. Changes in species composition. Changing the types of pests. Increasing their number and increasing the incidence of diseases.	Change in capacity the Forest Habitat maintaining diversity biological (genetic), of environmental protection, and Assurance of functions specific socio-economic
Extreme phenomena: droughts, fires, strong winds and floods	Low growth and productivity Increase in the number of fires forestry Increase in the mortality rate of seeds	Economic losses in the sector forestry. Danger of fires.

Between 2010 and 2039, the phytosanitary status of forests is expected to change significantly. In the northern part of the country, where the area of drying stands will expand by about 15-25%. In 2040-2069, the change in phytosanitary status will also cause the stands to dry out to the south and southeast. Significant changes will take place in the north between 2070 and 2099. existing forests will dry out on a large scale (Donica and Jechiu 2019). One of the most vulnerable areas of the Republic of Moldova is the south of the country, which has a high low in forestation (7.7%) and, in part, the centre where the largest area covered is located of forests (209,4 thousand ha). For the forestry sector of the Republic of Moldova, have been identified the following risks:

- change in regeneration rate;
- changing species sensitivity to water scarcity;
- changing the density of stands;
- change in phytosanitary conditions;
- change in species composition;
- increased tree mortality and stands drying.

Faunistic tourist resources

Of all the components of the natural environment, fauna is the most mobile element, which affects its way of integration into the group of tourist attractions and its own exploitation. The forms by which fauna attracts visitors are different. Thus, as an integral part of terrestrial biota, which in turn varies greatly from one type of terrain to another, from one climatic region to another, it is highlighted by its structural diversity. Knowledge tourism, information tourism, will seek to capitalize on this attribute for itself. Zoos and aquariums have been set up to make it easier to learn about the animal world in remote areas, which are inaccessible to most ordinary people. If the fauna, in its entirety and in its own living environment, cannot become a tourist attraction (also due to its mobility) through the organization of zoos and aquariums, respectively through the spatial concentration of various species and their location in a well-defined area, this becomes possible. The involvement of fauna in tourism is much more obvious and direct in the case of certain forms of its practice. Hunting (gear tourism)

and fishing (sports) are considered. **Hunting tourism** is practised by a relatively small number of participants, but this does not affect its efficiency, on the contrary. To facilitate hunting recreation, by breeding and locating the animals sought, but also to keep hunting under control, hunting grounds and natural parks have been established, where the risk of decimating fauna and the disappearance of valuable species is eliminated.

Moldova is relatively poor in animal species, especially in large mammal species. 14,800 animal species, including 461 vertebrate species. The living areas of the common species are linked to forest massifs, whether or not protected by the state. This is where the wild boar, the spotted deer, the fox, the rabbit, the badger – the main renegetic mothers of the republic – meet. They are mostly found in natural reserves – ‘Codrii’, ‘Padurea Domnească’, ‘Plaiul Begului’. Among the mammals with precious fur in our country there are the otter, the mink, the forest marten, the hermine, the steppe ferret, the wild cat. They are spread, in addition to the mentioned areas, in the reservations "Lower Prut", "Princely Forest" and in the lower Dniester River. The lower sectors of the Nistru and Prut valleys also have the most varied poultry fauna (birds): The big egret, the summer swan, the black stork, the shovel, the dropia, the fisherman eagle. For mass tourism, zoo fauna (in Chişinău, for example) is of particular importance. Compared to mass tourism, almost indifferent to wildlife, elite tourism (including ecotourism and hunting tourism) is its first beneficiary. On the territory of the Republic of Moldova, there is intense hunting approx. 15 species of terrestrial animals and 30 species of aquatic birds. The area devoted to hunting activities in the Republic is 2800 thousand ha. Looking at the dynamics and structure of the mammalian hunting ground, the decline (until 1996) in the herds of these animals (in particular, deer, wild boar and deer) is highlighted, the cause being poaching, the fragmentation of their natural habitats and others. In order to prevent the degradation of the hunting grounds of the Republic in 1996, hunting of more valuable species (deer, deer and wild boar) was prohibited.

The hunting group of birds is the goose (3.1%), the duck (20.3%), the lychee (17.8%), the turtle, the partridge, etc. The fishery resources of the Republic of Moldova, due to the general economic crisis, recorded significant decreases. Currently, the republic has water basins (which can be used for sports, industrial and recreational fishing) occupying approx. 2.8% of the territory. The main fishing areas are the reservoirs or the larger natural lakes (Dubăsari, Costeşti - Stâncă, Cuciurgan, Manta) and the Dniester River. In the structure of the main species fished in the lower part of the Dniester River, the plaice (73%), the babușca (12%) and the caraway (11%) are highlighted, with other species participating only by 4%. As a whole, fauna resources are not an attraction for mass tourism, the only objective with potential attraction (Chisinau Zoo) being in poor condition. Only the hunting ground begins to shape its clientele within the local elite. On the other hand, fishing has lately been motivated by something other than tourism (which is an additional source of existence). For this reason, it cannot be fully included in tourism-recreational activities.

Climate conditions play a decisive role in the composition, structure and functioning of natural systems. Borderline ecosystems, those that have a high wealth of endemic species with narrow distribution areas, those that contain small populations, with specific habitat species requirements and limited spreading capacities are particularly vulnerable to variations in climatic conditions. Climate is one of the main regulators of ecosystem functioning, as even small temperature variations can have an impact on the distribution and abundance of many species.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that 35% of birds, 52% of amphibians and 71% of coral reefs will be particularly affected by climate change. If plant species are found exclusively on the list (species that may become threatened with extinction), as far as animals are concerned, six species from the fauna of Moldova are indicated as endangered species, requiring special attention from the national authorities. Thus, the most vulnerable species of fauna (endangered species) on the territory of the Republic of Moldova are:

Lutra lutra, Pelecanus crispus, Haliaeetus albicilla, Aquila heliaca, Falco peregrinus, Vipera ursine and the others

species belong to the category of vulnerable species.

Forest habitats (temperate deciduous forests) are home to numerous species of animals that are rare and threatened with extinction on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Among the endangered mammal species, for example, small horseshoe bats (Rhinolophus hipposideros Bech.), wild cats (Felis silvestris Schr.) and forest martens (Martes martes L.) have been identified.

The main impacts of climate change on wildlife are:

1. Changes in species productivity and abundance, as animal communities and Plants are in a delicate state of equilibrium with climatic variables.
2. Life cycle changes (phenological alterations) and interspecies interactions: Events important aspects of animal life, such as reproduction, laying of eggs, migration and hibernation, are shifted over time due to rising temperatures and desynchronisations occur.
3. Changes in geographical distribution, e.g. their shift to latitudes and/or higher altitudes in search of areas with adequate climatic conditions, thereby altering their original geographical distribution.
4. Changes in ecological interactions and ecosystem functioning, for example, result in the desynchronisation of life cycles of ecologically interconnected populations, such as species with predator-predator relationships or host parasites. If these species respond differently to variations in climatic conditions (different phenological changes), interactions between them could desynchronize, altering the functioning of the entire ecosystem.
5. Higher risk of invasion and/or expansion of alien or invasive species.
6. Impact on interconnection between networks of protected areas. Movement of animals and plants to areas within the territory where conditions are still appropriate could change the distribution areas outside the areas currently designated as protected, thus increasing their vulnerability to different hazards and stressors.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

I. Short-answered questions

1. What do you mean by floristic tourist resources?
2. Mention three examples of floristic species with tourist value in the Republic of Moldova.
3. What are Faunistic Tourist Resources?
4. It specifies two protected areas in the Republic of Moldova renowned for their faunal diversity.
5. How can the presence of rare or endemic species be exploited?

II. Multiple choice items

1. **Which of the following are floristic tourist resources?**
 - a) Moldavian Codries
 - b) Lower Prut scientific reserve
 - c) Capriana Monastery
 - d) The Defile of Evil
2. **Select examples of faunistic tourist resources:**
 - a) The Royal Forest – the woodwork
 - b) "Plaiul Fagului" Nature Reserve
 - c) Lake Beleu – aquatic bird colonies
 - d) Orheiul Vechi Complex

III. Associative items

She associates the tourist resource with her type:

1. Codrii Moldovei a) **faunal resource**

2. Zimbrăria de la Pădurea Domnească **b) floristic resource**
3. Beleu pelican colony **c) mixed resource (floristic-faunistic)**
4. The Botanical Garden of Chisinau

IV. Short essay questions

1. Analyzes the tourist importance of deciduous forests for recreation and ecotourism activities.
2. It argues why the aquatic fauna in the Prut and Dniester meadows has tourist value.
3. Explains how flora and fauna resources contribute to the development of eco-tourism.

V. Practical tasks

1. Make a list of at least 5 floristic species and 5 fauna species representative for tourism in the Republic of Moldova.
2. Marks on a map of the Republic of Moldova the main areas with floristic and faunistic tourism potential.
3. Develop a mini-tourist guide (1 page) for visiting a protected natural area with floristic and fauna resources.

Topic 10. Anthropogenic tourist resources general characterization.

Anthropic tourist resources represent the totality of the objects of human civilization, reflecting a historical, cultural, historical, social, ethno-folkloric, economic, technical and other value, which are of interest for cognitive, touristic and recreational activities

The Republic of Moldova has a valuable anthropic tourism potential, a result of its history, culture and traditions. These resources complement the natural tourism offer and constitute the main poles of attraction for visitors, both nationally and internationally. Anthropic tourist resources in the Republic of Moldova are the set of historical, cultural, religious, ethnographic and economic objectives created by human communities over time, which can be integrated into the tourist circuit. They reflect the historical diversity of the Moldovan space, the influences of neighboring civilizations and their own cultural identity.

General characteristics:

- High historical and cultural value – many sites date back to the medieval or even earlier period (cities, monasteries, archaeological sites).
- Typological diversity – includes architectural monuments, places of worship, museums, festivals, traditions and cultural events.
- Integration with the natural landscape – many monuments and monasteries are located in picturesque areas (gorges, river banks).
- Identity and educational function – contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage and the transmission of traditions.
- Ability to develop tourism – by restoring monuments, capitalising on festivals and upgrading infrastructure.

Types of anthropogenic resources in the Republic of Moldova:

1. **Historical and architectural heritage**
 - **Medieval fortresses:** Soroca Fortress, Tighina Fortress (Bender), Tighina Fortress.
 - **Urban architectural monuments:** historical buildings in Chisinau, Orhei, Balti.
2. **Religious heritage**
 - **Monasteries and churches:** Căprian Monastery, Hâncu Monastery, Nou Neamț Monastery, Saharna, Țipova.

- **Pilgrimage** routes and religious tourism.
- 3. **Cultural heritage and museum**
 - National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History (Chisinau).
 - Museum complex Orheiul Vechi.
 - Museum of Moldovan Village, memorial collections (A. Pushkin, A. Donnici, C. Stamati).
- 4. **Archaeological heritage**
 - **Orheiul Vechi** cultural site (included in UNESCO heritage).
 - The ruins of the Geto-Dacian and medieval fortresses.
- 5. **Ethnographic and folk heritage**
 - Traditional crafts (potting, weaving, wood carving).
 - Popular festivals (Wine Festival, 'Mărțișor', 'Gustar').
 - Traditional villages with specific architecture.
- 6. **Economic and technical objectives**
 - Tourist cellars: Milestii Mici (the largest wine collection in the world), Cricova, Purcari, Chateau Vartely.
 - Recreational complexes and wine tourism.

Anthropic tourist resources in the Republic of Moldova include monasteries (Căpriană, Orheiul Vechi), fortresses (Soroca, Tighina), museums (National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, National Museum of Archaeology and History), traditional wineries (Mileștii Mici, Cricova), and local cultural centers. These attractions provide an insight into Moldovan history, culture and traditions, offering visitors authentic experiences and insight into the country's spiritual and architectural heritage.

Monasteries and Churches:

The Republic of Moldova is rich in ancient monasteries, which are monuments of spirituality and architecture. Among the most famous are the monasteries of Old Orhei, Capriana Monastery and Hâncu Monastery.

Fortresses and Fortifications:

- **The Soroca Fortress:** A famous medieval fortress, which played an important strategic role in the history of the country.
- **Fortress of Tighina (Bender):** A historical fortress with impressive architecture, located on the banks of the Dniester.

Museums:

- **National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History:** It hosts collections illustrating local history, culture and customs.
- **National Museum of Archaeology and History:** It presents historical artifacts from different periods of Moldavian history.

Touristic wine cellar:

Moldova is famous for its wines, and traditional wineries such as Milestii Mici and Cricova offer tours and wine tastings, allowing visitors to discover the production process and taste local wines.

Orheiul Vechi Complex:

A spectacular archaeological and ethnographic complex, which includes vestiges of various civilizations and cave churches. It is an important cultural site that provides a glimpse of life in the region over the centuries.

Cultural Centers and Traditional Villages:

Many villages in Moldova preserve their local traditions, offering visitors authentic experiences such as participation in local festivals, craft workshops and traditional food tastings.

Tourist attractions located in localities (monasteries, churches, museum complexes, parks) benefit from local access roads, relatively maintained throughout the year.

About **30 professional tour guides are active in** Moldova, who know the routes to national attractions and are employed by around **85 tourist agencies** in Chisinau and educational institutions. There are about **350 local guides** who, as a rule, are employees of local museums and practice extra-museum excursions to some local attractions upon request. A local guide can be hired within 30 km of any touristic object in Moldova. Activities and programmes are promoted to preserve and restore the material heritage, especially the built and spiritual heritage (traditions, customs, folk crafts, folk art and theatre, traditional costumes, legends of the place, etc.). This leads to a significant increase in the interest of Moldovan citizens in their own historical heritage, the increasingly active practice of tourism at national level.

Approximately 12% of domestic travellers use an agency to organise their rest on national territory. 3/4 of the accommodation fund in Moldova specialises in the rest of the country's citizens and guests. Approximately 60% of the accommodation places are concentrated in summer camps for children and about 20% - in rest facilities. The increasing number of consumers in the camps, the introduction of new capacities into the tourist circuit create opportunities for the relaunch of more tourist destinations.

Chişinău is rich in anthropic heritage objects, located both in the city of Chişinău (old city hearth, historical area, isolated objects) and in the suburbs (archaeological sites, medieval hearths, underground complexes, monasteries, etc.). Thus, with around a thousand protected cultural and civilisation objects, the municipality represents *the largest concentration of architectural objects* in the country. A large part of the objects of historical and cultural potential are preserved and promoted through the 14 museums, with the 11 branches, which are located not only in Mun. Chisinau, but also in some localities in the center and north of the country. In mun. Chişinău, in accordance with City Hall Decision No 104/6366 of 18 August 1994, Annex 4 contains 977 monuments located in the urban area. Of these, 236 objects and complexes are protected as national monuments and 741 local heritage objects. The absolute majority of heritage objects (857 edifices) are located in the old town and the historical area and constitute 89.8% of residential houses and urban villas. In the perimeter of 65 streets with about 4,000 houses built in different periods, 23.85% are protected heritage objects of national or local importance. However, only 5.8% of all buildings are state-protected national heritage objects, and every tenth building on the list of national and local heritage objects in Chişinău has been destroyed. Outside the historical area of the capital there are 23 architectural monuments.

The diversity of tourist attractions determines the polyfunctionality of the destination in the tourist market:

1. or. Chişinău (1436): 18 old churches – ‘The Nativity of the Mother of God’ (Măzărache, 1752, old Moldavian style), ‘St. Emperors Constantine and Helena’ (1777, old Moldavian style), ‘Buna Vestire’ (d. XVIII–XIX, old Moldavian style), Nativity of the Mother of God Cathedral (1830–1836, arch. A. Melnicov, neoclassical style), ‘St. Panteleimon’ (1891, arch. A. Bernardazzi, Neo-Byzantine style), ‘St. Teodor Tiron’ (Ciuflea, end of the 19th century XIX), “St. Gheorghe” (1819), ‘The Ascension of the Lord’ (1830), ‘St. "Third" (mid sec. XIX), “St. Teodora de la Sihla” (end of the 19th century) XIX, arch. A. Bernardazzi, Neo-Byzantine style), Bulgarian Volunteer Chapel (1882), Armenian Church (c. XIX), the Catholic Church ‘St. Providence’ (1830–1841) and so on; the historical center with about 700 old edifices, arranged according to the principle of closed neighborhoods, including the City Hall (former City Duma, 1901, project by M. Elladi, the then architect of the city. He was assisted by Alexandru Bernardazzi, an eclectic style with Gothic and Renaissance elements), the former ‘Princess Dadiani’ Girls’ Gymnasium (1900, arch. A. Bernardazzi), the former Girls’ Gymnasium on Str. Bucureşti (corner with str. Pushkin), the former Gymnasium of Real Boys’ Sciences on Str. M. Kogălniceanu, the former Private Girls’ Gymnasium of the baroness von Geiking, the former Classical Gymnasium no. 3 (then the building of the first Parliament of Moldova “Country Council”, today the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts), the former Orăşănească Bank (the end of the 19th century) XIX, project M. Cekeruli-Kus, today Organ Hall), former House of Nobility (today “Gastronomy Theatre”), former hotel “Suisse” (today “Bogdan P. Hasdeu” Municipal Library), former Zoological Gubernial Museum (1906, arch. N. Țiganko, today the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History), V. Herța House (1903, Viennese Baroque style, today the National Museum of Arts of Moldova), the former Boys’ Gymnasium (d. XIX, today National Museum of History of Moldova), Infectious Diseases Hospital “Toma Ciorbă” (author of the project architect V. N. Țiganko, consulted by doctor T. Ciorbă), Train Station (arch. A. Şciusev), Water Castle (end of the 19th century) XIX, arch. A. Bernardazzi, today the Museum of History of the city. Chişinău) etc.; Architectural monuments: Arch of Triumph (1840–1841, designed by the architect of Odessa Luka Zauşkevici, who took as a prototype the homonymous construction in Rome), the monument of Ştefan cel Mare (made between 1925–1928 by sculptor Alexandru Plămădeală), the Alley of Classics, the Memorial Complex (1975), S. Lazo, G. Cotovschi, A.S. Puşkin, ‘Latin Lupoica’, etc.; Culture edifices: theatres – ‘Mihai Eminescu’ National Theatre, ‘Luceafărul’ Theatre, ‘Maria Bieşu’ Opera and Ballet Theatre, ‘A.P. Chekhov’ Russian Drama Theatre, ‘Satiricus’ Municipal Theatre, ‘E. Ionesco’ Theatre, Geneza Art Theatre, etc., museums; Administrative buildings: Parliament, Presidency and Government of the Republic of Moldova. Rest and recreation areas with parks, squares, forests, lakes, Botanical Garden (105 ha), Dendrological Garden (83 ha), National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History Garden, Zoo (20 ha) ş.a;
2. or. The hearth: Ghidighici Lake (known as the Chişinău Sea), 3 sectors of villas;
3. s. Condition (1657): forest natural reserve (61 ha), recreation and recreation area, monastery “St. Nicolae” (d. XIX);
4. or. Cricova (31.07.1431, Vadul Pietrei): famous for its underground town and winery ($\approx$ 100 km underground);
5. s. Mileştii Mici, s. Cojuşna: wineries with large underground galleries.

The Chişinău tourist area is equipped at a higher level than the rest of the country with tourist service infrastructure, as follows: (i) accommodation – dozens of hotels, pensions, villas, resting places (Condrița, Vatra, Mileştii Mici); (ii) restaurants, leisure facilities; (iii) 225 travel agencies; (iv) about 86 local and national routes.

C.2 Vadul lui Voda tourist area is the largest resting area in Moldova and is found in a picturesque forest on the banks of the Dniester.

Large tourist attractions:

1. or. Vadul-lui-Vodă (01.09.1466, Mihuceni): forest in the Nistru floodplain, beach, natural monument 'Fossil soils on the Transnistrian terraces' (44 ha), spring with thermal water, park in Bălăbănești (5 ha), rest and recreation area of the municipality;
2. s. Corjova (the first documented settlement in Moldova – 1362): meadow forest;
3. s. Old Dubasarii (1.10.1704): natural botanical monument 'Pop forest' (0.3 ha), site of the research laboratory of astronomer N. Donnici-Dobronravov in the early 20th century. XX.
4. s. Delacău (2.07.1455, Bilacău): picturesque landscaping on the banks of the Dniester – the 'Tamașlâc Dry Valley' landscape reserve (41 ha).

The attractiveness of anthropogenic tourist attractions results from certain elements such as: uniqueness, size, age, shape, function, meaning, etc. These attributes create a large diversity of anthropogenic tourist attractions, which are grouped into the following categories:

-Prehistoric material objects with tourist function, buildings and places of historical importance, buildings and places of worship, cultural buildings, buildings and facilities for sports, technical buildings with tourist function, buildings intended for entertainment.

The touristic potential of the Republic of Moldova includes numerous anthropogenic objectives in all areas of the country. Anthropogenic tourist attractions on the territory of the country are characterized by the fact that they reflect certain peculiarities of architecture, culture and history of the periods in which they appeared.

After the investigations of the researchers, it was established that the most representative anthropogenic objectives evaluated today as valuable cultural-historical monuments were built during the Middle Ages, the XVI-XVIII century and during the capitalism period, the XIX-early XX century. Many architectural monuments appeared in the 50-80s of the 20th century. In the years of state independence, after 1991, new anthropogenic monuments were erected, rebuilt and renovated several old sites. These include: The Monastic Complex from Capriana (r-l. Straseni); Curchi Monastic Complex (r-l Orhei); 'Eternitate' Memorial Complex (Chisinau); Memorial Complex 'Capul Pod Șerpeni' (r-l Anenii Noi); The Arc de Triomphe and the Miliotar-History Complex in Bender; The Candle of Gratitude from Soroca; The Gypsy Cemetery of Honour (r-l.Cantemir); The bell tower of the "Birth of the Lord" Cathedral in Chisinau; Touristic Center of Purcari (r-l Ștefan Vodă); Tourist Complex "Moldovenesc Village" in Hîrtopul Mare (r-l Criuleni) etc.

On the territory of the country, many anthropogenic monuments were ruined and destroyed during social cataclysms such as wars, rebellions, dictatorships, which manifested themselves in all historical periods.

From the category of anthropogenic tourist attractions in the Republic of Moldova are distinguished:

- Prehistoric material objectives with tourist function;
- buildings and places of historical importance;
- constructions and places of worship;
- cultural edifices;
- social activities with tourist function.

1. Prehistoric material sights with tourist function -includes ancient prehistoric settlements in the form of horodists, fortresses, human resorts, as well as gorgans, prehistoric necropolises, known as **archaeological monuments**.

Archaeological monuments are collections of vestiges and buildings preserved partially or entirely from historical and prehistoric eras, which provide information about the way of life, economic, social and cultural activities of human communities of the past. They constitute a category of **anthropogenic tourist resources with** a scientific, cultural and educational function.

1. General Characteristics of Archaeological Monuments

- They are vestiges of great historical and patrimonial value.
- It represents material evidence of the stages of civilization development.
- There can be **settlements** (dwellings, fortifications), **necropolises (tombs, tumuli)**, **economic and artisanal objectives (workshops, warehouses)**.
- They are kept either **in situ** (on site) or are valued through **museums and exhibitions**.
- They have a **double value**: scientific (for researchers) and tourist (for visitors).

2. Examples of Archaeological Monuments in the Republic of Moldova

1. **The cultural-historical complex Orheiul Vechi** – the most representative archaeological site, with vestiges from the Paleolithic, the Bronze Age, the Geto-Dacian and medieval culture.
2. **The Geto-Dacian fortresses of Saharna and Butuceni** – fortifications with waves of land and ruins of dwellings.
3. **Trinca settlement (Edinet)** – Paleolithic and Neolithic remains.
4. **Funeral mounds (tumuli)** – numerous in the territory of the republic (especially in the south and north), attributed to the Scythians and Sarmatians.
5. **Archaeological site of Hansca (Ialoveni)** – traces of Bronze Age cultures.
6. **The medieval fortress of Soroca** – built on a place with previous vestiges, with historical and tourist value.
7. **Tighina Fortress (Bender)** – medieval monument with older archaeological layers.

3. The Touristic Importance of Archaeological Monuments

- **Cultural heritage** – reflects the historical past of the population.
- **Tourist attractions** – integrated into cultural, historical and educational tourism circuits.
- **Educational role** – helps to understand the origins and development of human communities.
- **International value** – some sites are proposed for inclusion in UNESCO heritage.

Grota Mersîna – Brînzani, Edineț district

The Mersina Grotto is one of the most important **prehistoric archaeological monuments** in the Republic of Moldova, having a special scientific and touristic value.

Location

- Located near Brînzani village, **Edineț** district, in the north of the Republic of Moldova.
- Part of a karst ensemble made of limestone, with caves and caves.

Archaeological discoveries

- The grotto has been researched by archaeologists and traces of **human habitation have been identified from the Upper Paleolithic**.
- Discoveries: tools made of hewn stone, faunal debris (large mammal bones – bison, reindeer, wild horses), traces of fireplaces.
- The site provides evidence of **the life of prehistoric hunters** who used the cave as a shelter.

Scientific and cultural value

- It is a testimony of the oldest human communities that inhabited the present territory of the Republic of Moldova.
- Enables the reconstitution of the natural environment and human occupations of the Paleolithic.
- It is considered one of the most valuable Paleolithic archaeological sites in the Carpathian-Dniester area.

Tourist function

- Potential target for **archaeological, cultural and educational tourism**.
- It can be included in thematic circuits (archaeological, eco-tourism and speleo-tourism routes).
- It attracts the interest of researchers, students and tourists passionate about history and speleology.

Importance in the national context

- The Mersina Grotto, together with the sites of **Trinca, Duruitoarea Veche, Brînzei I and II**, form a nucleus of great importance for the research of the prehistory of Moldova.
- It is a **state-protected archaeological monument**.

Grotto near Trinca – Edinet district

The Grotto near **the village of Trinca** is a natural and archaeological monument of great importance in the north of the Republic of Moldova, located in a picturesque area with steep slopes and spectacular karst formations.

Location

- It is located near the village of **Trinca, Edinet** district, in the northern part of the Republic of Moldova.
- Situated on the valley of Draghiște brook, in a karst relief of limestone, with rocky steep slopes.

Natural description

- The cave is part of a **karst ensemble developed** in limestone, where there are caves, caves and rocky walls.
- It has a spectacular opening in the rock and dimensions that allow sheltering people.
- The area is framed in a picturesque landscape, attractive to tourists and photographers.

Archaeological discoveries

- Research has identified traces of **habitation from the Upper Paleolithic and Bronze Age**.
- Inside and near the cave were found:
 - tools of hewn stone,
 - ceramic fragments,
 - Bone debris of hunted animals.
- They show that the cave was used by prehistoric human communities as a **temporary shelter** and hunting point.

Scientific and cultural value

- It is an important archaeological site for studying the life of prehistoric people in the Carpathian-Dniester area.
- It is part of the group of archaeological and natural monuments **in northern Moldova (alongside Mersina Grotto, Duruitoarea Veche, Brînzei)**.
- It is a cultural heritage protected by the state.

Tourist function

- **Archaeological and cultural tourism** – attracts visitors interested in prehistoric history.
- **Speleological and adventure tourism** – thanks to karst formations and rocky landscape.
- **Eco-tourism** – the area is an attractive place for hiking, excursions and educational activities.

Importance in the national context

- The Grotto near Trinca is one of the most valuable Paleolithic archaeological monuments in the Republic of Moldova.
- It is considered a **landmark for cultural-historical tourism and ecotourism** in Edinet district.

Edifices and places of historical importance include anthropogenic objectives and events related to the historical periods of development of human civilization. In our country it stands out: Geto-Dacian fortresses, Trajan's waves, medieval Moldavian fortresses, palaces and edifices with political, administrative or residential functions, historical places related to the struggle of our ancestors for independence and freedom. Buildings and places of historical importance are monuments, constructions and spaces where important events have taken place for the history of a community or a state. These are **fundamental anthropogenic tourist resources** with cultural, educational and identity value.

Historical edifices:

1. Category: Medieval fortresses

- **Soroca Fortress** – a fortress built by Stephen the Great, rebuilt in the 19th century. XVI, symbol of medieval resistance.
- **Tighina Fortress (Bender)** - an important strategic point on the Dniester, rebuilt by the Ottomans in the 19th century. XVI.
- **Fortress of Hotin** (today in Ukraine, but related to the history of Moldova).

2. Monasteries and churches

- **Căpriana Monastery** – voivodal foundation (d. XV), one of the oldest in Moldova.
- **New Neamt Monastery (Chitcani)** – important Orthodox centre.
- **Saharna and Tipova monasteries** – cave complexes of religious and historical importance.

3. Buildings of historic value

- **Arch of Triumph in Chisinau** (1841).
- **The building of the Balti Regional High School** (today 'Alecu Russo' University).
- **Boyar mansions** – Manuc Bei (Hâncești), Pommer (Țaul).

Places of historical importance:

1. **Old Orhei** - unique cultural-historical complex, with vestiges from the Dacian, medieval and Tatar eras; It is on the UNESCO tentative list.
2. **Răzeni Camp (Ialoveni)** – a place linked to the struggles for independence and national unity.
3. **Prut and Dniester Valley** – historical border areas, loaded with military and cultural events.
4. **War memorials** – commemorative complexes in Chisinau, Serpeni, Cahul, Balti.
5. **Memorial Houses** – A. Pushkin (Chisinau), A. Donnici (Donnici), C. Stamati (Ocnita), M. Eminescu (Ipotesti, over the Prut, but related to Moldavian culture).

Geto-Dacian fortresses – are **fortifications built by Dacian communities** in the Iron Age (d. IV B.C. – AD I), intended to defend settlements and serve as politico-military, economic and religious centres. In the area between the Prut and the Dniester (now Republic of Moldova), they constitute **archaeological monuments of great value** and represent testimonies of the age of inhabitation of this territory.

Examples of Geto-Dacian fortresses in the Republic of Moldova

- 1. Geto-Dacian fortress of Saharna (r. Rezina)**
 - Located on the right bank of the Nistru River, on a high cliff.
 - Traces of fortifications with earth waves and defensive ditches.
 - Nearby: Geto-Dacic settlements and sanctuaries.
- 2. The Geto-Dacian fortress from Butuceni (r. Orhei)**
 - Located on the rocky plateau in the Old Orhei area.
 - Natural fortifications complemented with ditches and waves.
 - Archaeological discoveries: ceramics, tools, traces of housing.
- 3. The Geto-Dacian fortress from Horodiște (r. Rezina)**
 - Located on a rocky promontory.
 - Natural fortifications reinforced with anthropogenic structures.
 - Discoveries: vestiges of Dacian habitation and ceramics.
- 4. The Citadel of Trebujeni (r. Orhei)**
 - Associated with the fortification system of Old Orhei.
 - Defensive constructions and traces of Dacian dwellings.

Their importance:

- Scientific – provides information on the life of Dacians in the Carpathian-Dniester area.
- Cultural and identity – are part of the common historical heritage of the Romanian people.
- Touristic – integrated in archaeological and cultural circuits (Orheiul Vechi, Saharna, Țipova).
- Educational – serve as places of study for archaeologists, pupils and students.

The Waves of Trajan

There are large archaeological monuments, representing **systems of linear fortifications from the ground** (waves and ditches), built in antiquity on the territory of the present Republic of Moldova, but also in southern Ukraine and eastern Romania. Today two waves are known on the territory of the country – the Lower Trajan's Wave and the Upper Trajan's Wave.

Trajan's Waves:

- Consists of **earth waves several metres high**, accompanied by **defensive ditches**.
- They were erected for **military-defensive** purposes, delimiting and protecting inhabited territories.
- The traditional name 'Waves of Trajan' is linked to the Roman Emperor Trajan (c. II AD), but archaeological research suggests that they could be built by other populations (Goths, Byzantines, locals).

- ***The Wave of Trajan***

- Located in the central and northern part of the Republic of Moldova.
- It stretches from the Prut to the Dniester, serving as a defense against invasions from the east.

It stretches for a distance of about 120 km, near the city of Leova, on the banks of the Prut River to the neighboring village Copanca located on the banks of the Dniester River and which is located in Causeni district. It has a width between 10 and 15 m and a height of 3 and 4 meters.

- ***The Wave of Trajan de Jos***

It is 126 km long and stretches from the shore of the Prut near the village of Vadul lui Isac in Cahul district, to the shore of Lake Sasîc near the locality of Eschipolos in Tatarbunar district, Odessa region, Ukraine.

Function and purpose

- Military defence – protection against invasions from the east (migratory tribes, Goths, Sarmatians).
- Territorial control – delimitation of inhabited space and monitoring the movement of populations.
- Communication and observation strategy – the high position of the wave allowed for the surveillance of the ground and the rapid organisation of the defence.

Archaeological and cultural importance

- It is a testimony of late antiquity and the post-Roman period in the space between the Prut and the Dniester.
- It provides information about the construction technique and the organization of space in historical epochs.
- It is part of the cultural heritage protected by the state.

Importance of tourism

- Archaeological monument integrated in historical and educational tourist routes.
- It attracts tourists passionate about history and archaeology.
- It can be included in thematic itineraries along with Geto-Dacian fortresses and prehistoric sites in southern Moldova.

3. Medieval Moldavian Fortresses

Medieval Moldavian fortresses are **fortifications built between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries** on the present territory of the Republic of Moldova, for the defense of settlements, the control of commercial roads and the protection of the population against external invasions. These fortifications are important **historical and tourist monuments**, symbolizing the voivodal power and military strategy of medieval Moldavia.

- **General characteristics**

- **Defensive constructions** located on hills, river banks or other strategic positions.
- Characteristics: **towers, stone or brick walls, ditches, fortified gates.**
- Multiple functions: **military (defence), administrative, economic (customs control).**
- Many fortresses are associated with **urban settlements or medieval fairs.**
- Some were rebuilt or expanded during the **reigns of Stephen the Great and his followers .**
- **Examples of medieval fortresses in the Republic of Moldova**

1. the Soroca Fortress

- Located on the banks of the Nistru River, Soroca city.
- Originally built by Stephen the Great, rebuilt in the 19th century. XVI.
- Circular towers and well-preserved defensive walls.
- Function: military defense, strategic checkpoint.

2. Fortress of Tighina (Bender)

- Located on the right bank of the Dniester.
- Rebuilt by the Ottomans in the 19th century. XVI, with massive fortifications.
- It served as a strategic outpost and military-administrative center.

3. Old Tighina Fortress (sec. XIV–XVI)

- Medieval fortification with defensive role.

4. Orhei Fortress (Old Orhei)

- Ruins of medieval fortifications built on a rocky promontory.
- Associated with dwellings and churches of the Middle Ages.

5. Old Soroca Fortress and other ruins of local fortifications

- Located on major rivers and commercial roads, with a local defensive role.

3. The importance of tourism

- **Cultural and historical** – reflects the architecture and military strategy of medieval Moldova.
- **Educational tourism** – visitors can get to know the history of the voivodeship, military and urban life.
- **Attraction for local and foreign tourists** – the fortresses are included in cultural routes and the regional tourist circuit.
- **Integration with the natural landscape** – many fortresses are located in picturesque areas, on banks of rivers or hills.

4. Palaces and buildings with political, administrative or residential functions

On the territory of the Republic of Moldova there are numerous historical and modern buildings that have served or serve as **political, administrative or residential centers**. They represent anthropic touristic resources, having a special cultural, architectural and historical value.

1. Palaces and residences of aristocracy / nobility

- **Mimi Castle (Bulboaca, Anenii Noi)** – built at the end of the 19th century XIX by Constantin Mimi, one of the great winemakers of Bessarabia. French architecture, today restored and used as a tourist and wine complex.
- **Mansion Manuc Bei (Hîncești)** - built in the 19th century XIX by the Armenian diplomat Manuc Bei; boyar complex with palace, church, hunting tower and administrative buildings.
- **Pommer Mansion (Taul, Donduseni)** – part of a vast dendrological park, a residential complex of landscape and architectural importance.
- **Balioz Mansion (Comrat)** – antique building, residence of the Balioz family.
- **Riscanu-Derojinschi Mansion (Dolna, Straseni)** – boyar residence associated with the visits of A.S. Pushkin.

2. Buildings with political and administrative functions (modern and historical)

- **Parliament building of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – contemporary building, centre of legislative power.
- **Presidency of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – building with supreme political function, representative of modernist architecture.
- **Government of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – seat of executive power, symbol of the administrative centre of the capital.

- **Chisinau City Hall** - historical edifice (in eclectic style), built at the beginning of the 19th century. XX, with administrative function and architectural value.
- **‘Nicolae Sulac’ National Palace (Chisinau)** – built during the Soviet period, used for political, cultural and social events.

3. Other buildings with residential and representative functions

- **Palace of Culture in Cahul** – administrative-cultural building, today with touristic and social functions.
- **Călărășeuca Palace (Ocnița)** – a former noble residence with a valuable residential and architectural role.
- **Metropolitan and episcopal residences** – buildings with both religious and political-administrative role in history.

4. The importance of tourism

- **Cultural and architectural heritage** – reflects different eras and styles: medieval, boyar, Soviet and contemporary.
- **Attractions for cultural and historical tourism** – visitors discover the political history and life of the nobility.
- **Educational and identity functions** – many buildings symbolise the struggle for national affirmation and modernisation of Bessarabia.
- **Events and festivals** – some palaces (Mimi, Manuc Bei) are integrated into tourist circuits, tastings, conferences.

Buildings with touristic value in the Republic of Moldova:

By edifices we mean constructions with public, administrative, cultural or social functions, which have become tourist landmarks due to their historical, architectural and symbolic value.

Political and administrative edifices

- **Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – modern building, legislative centre of the state.
- **Government of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – massive edifice with symbolic and political value.
- **The Presidency of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – important for modernist architecture and its political role.
- **Chisinau City Hall** - historic building (eclectic style, beginning of the 19th century) XX), landmark of the center of the capital.

Cultural and social edifices

- **‘Nicolae Sulac’ National Palace (Chisinau)** – space for congresses, shows, events.
- **‘Serghei Lunchevici’ National Philharmonic (Chisinau)** – symbol of cultural life (in reconstruction).
- **‘Mihai Eminescu’ National Theatre (Chisinau)** – one of the most important theatrical buildings.
- **‘Maria Biesu’ National Opera and Ballet (Chisinau)** – prestigious cultural edifice.
- **The National Library of the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau)** – important for its book heritage and classical architecture.

Religious edifices of historical value

- **The Nativity of the Lord Cathedral (Chisinau)** – built in the 18th century XIX, the spiritual and architectural center of the capital.
- **‘Assumption of the Mother of God’ Church in Causeni** – uniquely valuable murals, sec. XVII–XVIII.
- **Capriana Monastery** – a medieval edifice, one of the oldest monasteries in Moldova.

- **Monastery of Hâncu, Curchi, Țipova, Saharna** – monastic complexes of tourist and spiritual value.

Historical and residential buildings

- **Mimi Castle (Bulboaca, Anenii Noi)** – boyar mansion transformed into a tourist complex.
- **Mansion Manuc Bei (Hîncești)** – antique building with residential and administrative functions.
- **Riscanu-Derojinski Mansion (Dolna, Straseni)** – place associated with A. Pushkin.
- **Pommer Mansion (Taul, Donduseni)** – in the centre of the largest dendrological park in Moldova.

Category: Memorial buildings

- **‘Eternity’ Memorial (Chisinau)** – a monument dedicated to the heroes of World War II.
- **Memorial complex ‘Capul de Pod Serpeni’** – place to commemorate heroes.
- **Monument of Stephen the Great and Saint (Chisinau)** – national symbol and tourist landmark.

The edifices of the Republic of Moldova are extremely varied – from boyar palaces and modern administrative buildings to medieval churches and memorials. They represent **anthropic tourist resources with** great historical, cultural and identity value.

Grand National Assembly Square (PMAN) – Chisinau

Location : in the centre of Chisinau, between Stefan cel Mare and Sfânt Boulevard and Stefan cel Mare Public Garden.

General description

- It is **the main public market of the Republic of Moldova**, considered the ‘heart of the capital’ and the venue for major political, cultural and social events.
- The square is delimited by representative buildings: **The Government of the Republic of Moldova** (on the southern side), **the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Arch of Triumph** (nearby), the National Library and other edifices.
- Its generous surface allows the gathering of tens of thousands of people.

Historical and political value

- The **most important manifestations of the National Liberation Movement** in 1988-1991 took place here, culminating in the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Moldova (27 August 1991).
- The square is the traditional place where **Independence Day (August 27)** and **Romanian Language Day (August 31)** take place.
- It hosts rallies, civic demonstrations and large-scale national events.

Tourist and cultural value

- It is an **urban tourist attraction** visited by tourists for its national symbolism.
- In the square and in the immediate vicinity are **the Arc de Triomphe, the Metropolitan Cathedral , the Public Garden Ștefan cel Mare** , as well as important monuments.
- The square also serves as a venue for **concerts, parades, exhibitions and cultural events**.

Current functions

- **Politics and civics** – venue for demonstrations and protests.
- **Cultural** – concerts, festivals, parades.
- **Touristic** - a sight to visit for historical and architectural symbolism.

5.Buildings and places of worship.

Places of worship are an important component of **anthropogenic tourist resources**, as they have a **double value**: religious and cultural tourism. They are appreciated by both believers and tourists interested in history, architecture and traditions.

Most places of worship in the Republic of Moldova are **Orthodox** (monasteries, churches), given the religious tradition of the population. **Roman Catholic, Protestant, synagogue and mosque buildings are also found**, reflecting cultural and confessional diversity.

From a tourist point of view, they are attractive by:

- **architectural value (medieval, baroque, Byzantine, modern styles),**
- **historical value** (many edifices are erected on old monastic hearths),
- **spiritual value** (places of pilgrimage).

Representative examples:

?? Monasteries

- **Capriana Monastery** – one of the oldest, attested in the 19th century. XV, related to Stephen the Great.
- **Hâncu Monastery** – founded in 1678 in Codrii Lăpuşnei.
- **Saharna Monastery** – famous for its landscape and wonder-working spring.
- **Țipova Monastery** – cave complex on the banks of the Dniester.
- **Curchi Monastery** – an important spiritual and architectural centre.
- **Hîrjauca Monastery** – founded in 1740, on the banks of the Hîrjauca River.
- **Japca Monastery** – an objective of worship of national, historical, architectural and artistic value.

?? Orthodox Churches

- **The Nativity of the Lord Metropolitan Cathedral (Chisinau)** – the main abode of the Metropolitanate of Chisinau and All Moldova.
- **The Church of the Assumption of the Mother of God in Causeni** – a medieval art monument with unique interior frescoes.
- **The Church of St. Nicolae' from Orhei** – an example of traditional architecture.
- **The Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God in Causeni** is a place of worship that is registered in the UNESCO list of universal monuments.

?? Other confessions

- **Roman Catholic Cathedral "Divine Providence" (Chisinau).**
- **Glatt Synagogue in Chisinau** – one of the few functional synagogues.
- **Mosque of the Muslim Community (Chisinau)** – religious centre for the local Muslim community.

Tourist value

- **Spiritual and religious** – places of pilgrimage and silence.
- **Cultural and educational** – convey the traditions and history of Moldovan spirituality.

- **Architectural and artistic** – frescoes, icons, sculptures, special architecture.
- **Landscape** - many monasteries are located in picturesque areas (Codrii, banks of the Dniester, cliffs).

6.Cultural buildings.

Cultural edifices are constructions designed to preserve, promote and valorize the cultural, artistic and educational heritage of a community. They are spaces where cultural activities, performances, exhibitions, artistic or educational events take place. From this category it is highlighted:

- **Theatres** (Mihai Eminescu National Theatre – Chisinau)
- **Philharmonics and concert halls** (Serghei Lunchevici National Philharmonic)
- **Houses of culture and cultural homes** (very widespread in rural areas)
- **Museums** (National Museum of History of Moldova, Peasant Museum)
- **Libraries** (**National** Library of the Republic of Moldova)
- **Art galleries** (Constantin Brâncuși Exhibition Centre)
- **Cultural palaces** (Nicolae Sulac National Palace)

These buildings:

- have **an educational and formative** role, contributing to the intellectual and artistic development of the public;
- are **social and communication centres**;
- preserve and transmit **cultural traditions and values**;
- stimulates **cultural tourism** and the prestige of localities.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions

1. It defines the notion of **anthropic tourist resources and** explains how they differ from natural resources.
2. Specifies the main **categories of anthropogenic tourist resources (cultural, historical, religious, socio-economic, technical-industrial, etc.)**.
3. Explains the role of cultural heritage (museums, theatres, monuments) in tourism development.
4. What is the importance of **cultural and artistic events** (festivals, fairs, traditional holidays) in attracting tourists?
5. It offers examples of religious buildings that represent important tourist resources in the Republic of Moldova.

Grid questions (choose the correct option)

1. Which of the following is NOT an anthropogenic tourist resource?
 - a) Medieval fortresses
 - b) Museums

- c) Natural waterfalls
- d) Monasteries
- 2. What type of tourist resource is the "**Nicolae Sulac**" **National Palace** in Chisinau?
 - a) Natural resource
 - b) Cultural-artistic resource
 - c) Climate resource
 - d) Sports resource
- 3. Which of the following examples are **technical-industrial tourism resources**?
 - a) Hydropower stations and bridges
 - b) Theatres and Philharmonics
 - c) Gorges and keys
 - d) Folklore Festivals

Applicative tasks

1. It compiles a **comparative table** between natural and anthropogenic tourist resources, indicating similarities and differences.
2. It locates on the map of the Republic of Moldova **three anthropogenic tourist attractions of national importance**.
3. Elaborate a **tourist description** of an anthropogenic object in your locality (monument, church, museum, etc.).
4. It proposes a **cultural tourist route** for a group of foreign tourists visiting the Republic of Moldova for the first time.
5. It argues why **the preservation and valorisation of historical and cultural heritage** is essential for the development of sustainable tourism.

Topic 11. Historical and Archaeological Tourist Resources.

Historical-archaeological tourist resources represent the ensemble of vestiges, monuments, sites and constructions of the past that reflect the existence, culture and way of life of human communities from different historical eras. They have a special patrimonial and touristic value, being attractive for visitors interested in history, ancient civilizations and cultural identity.

Categories of historical-archaeological resources:

1. **Archaeological sites** – ruins, settlements, necropolises, funerary mounds, old dwellings discovered by excavations (e.g.: settlements of Old Orhei).
2. **Fortifications and fortresses** – defence constructions from different historical periods (Soroca Fortress, Tighina Fortress, Hotin Fortress – Ukraine, nearby).
3. **Historical monuments and vestiges** – church ruins, old monasteries, defence towers, medieval bridges.
4. **Mounds and earth waves** – The Waves of Trajan (defensive structures of antiquity).
5. **Archaeological objects and artefacts** – pieces exhibited in museums, discovered in sites (ceramics, tools, weapons, ornaments).

Examples:

- **Old Orhei** – unique natural-cultural complex with medieval ruins and Geto-Dacian and Tatar archaeological remains.
- **Trajan's Waves** – lines of defence from the ancient period, located in the south and centre of the Republic of Moldova.
- **Soroca Fortress** – a medieval monument of major tourist importance.
- **Archaeological sites at Trinca (Edinet)** – caves and prehistoric settlements.
- **Geto-Dacian settlements in the north and centre of the republic** – points of interest for cultural-scientific tourism.

The importance of tourism

- **Cultural and educational attractiveness** – provides direct knowledge of ancient history and civilizations.
- **Identity value** – reinforces the sense of belonging to a community and historical tradition.
- **Economic development** – attracting domestic and international tourists through cultural and historical circuits.
- **Conservation and protection** – the need for inclusion in UNESCO or national heritage for protection.

Archaeological sites

Archaeological sites are geographical areas where, through research and excavations, material remains of human life and activity from different historical eras have been discovered. They constitute an essential part of **the historical-archaeological tourism resources**, having both scientific and touristic value.

Types of Archaeological Sites

1. **Prehistoric settlements – dwellings**, tools, ceramics (e.g.: Trinca site, Edinet).
2. **Funeral necropolises and mounds** – collective tombs, burial rituals (funeral mounds in southern Moldova).
3. **Ancient fortifications** – earth waves, defensive walls (Waves of Trajan).
4. **Old urban centres** – ruins of cities, fortresses, medieval structures (Old Orhei).

Examples from the Republic of Moldova

- **Old Orhei** - archaeological complex with Geto-Dacian vestiges, medieval and cave churches.
- **Trinca (Edinet)** – archaeological site with caves and traces of prehistoric habitation.
- **Trajan's Waves** – defensive earthworks dating back to antiquity.
- **The sites of Saharna and Duruitoarea Veche** – important historical-archaeological remains.

Importance of tourism

- **Educational** – visitors directly discover humanity's past.
- **Scientific** – sources for archaeologists and historians.
- **Cultural** – promotes national identity and historical heritage.
- **Economic** – attracting domestic and foreign tourists, developing cultural-historical tourism.



Fig.42.Source: Google.com. Trinca.Edineț site



Fig.43.Source: Google.com. Old ruins. the Old Orhei

Funeral mounds

The latest funerary mounds on the territory of the Republic of Moldova date from the 19th century. XIV. So far, as far as we know, only one tumulus was investigated in the Prut-Dniester area dating from this period, namely at Balabanu, on the Ialpug Valley. This mound (marked with no. 22) was investigated by archaeological excavations in 1984 by dr. hab. Eugen Sava. At the time of the research, the tumula was 0.85 m high and about 40 m in diameter, containing two anciently destroyed burial tombs of the late Turanics. The main burial had an inventory of about 100 different objects, being assigned to a military chief. From this rich inventory are distinguished several pieces of armor and, especially, a head of gilded iron mace-scepter, with Arabic inscription and a Mamluk heraldic medallion, on the basis of which the medieval tumular complex from Balabanu was dated in the Golden Horde era (d. XIV).

More information about this unique funerary complex can be found in the study Gheorghe Postică, Eugen Sava, Funeral complexes of medieval nomads near Balabani village, Taraclia district, Republic of Moldova.



Fig.44.Source: National Archive Agency. Funeral mounds in southern Moldova.

The Waves of Trajan

On the territory of the Republic of Moldova are kept two important fragments: *The Lower Wall* and *the Upper Wall*. The first (the lower wall) is dated to the 3rd century, its construction being sometimes attributed to the Gothic king Athanaric. However, recent research has shown that the wave was built by the Romans during the time of Constantine the Great. The wave was a continuation of the wave around Galati today, stretching for 126 km from Vadul lui Isac locality on the Prut, in Cahul district, to the east in Buceag, stopping at Sassyc lake (liman) 50 km west of the Dniester. The coat of arms of Cahul, in Tsarist Bessarabia, featured the Wall of Trajan.

The Upper Wall (or Greuthungi Wall) is attributed to the Goths of Greuthungi (4th century) and was built to defend the border against Huns attacks. It stretches for 120 km from the Dniester River, in Chitcani, near Thighina, to the Prut, the city of Leova, crossing the current districts of Causeni, Cimislia and Leova.

There is another wave of land on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It is called *the Transnistrian Trojan* or "Valul Zmăului", and it extends along the right bank of the Dniester River, from Gura Bâcului to Sergeyevca.

The waves of Trajan (or "Waves of Trajan") were also identified in Cimislia district, near the villages of Pervomaisc, Gradiste, Costangalia and New Village. This area is part of the complex of vallum fortifications that spans the territories of Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, being an archaeological monument of international importance.

The historical monument "Valul lui Traian" is a fortification from the late ancient period, first documented on March 13, 1489.



Fig.45.Source: National Archive Agency. Trajan's wave.

2.Fortifications and fortresses

Fortifications and fortresses are historical defensive buildings built in various eras for the protection of communities, commercial roads and administrative centers. They constitute historical-archaeological tourist resources of great importance, having both patrimonial and architectural value, as well as an essential role in the development of cultural tourism.

Main Features

- Built of **stone, brick or earth** (depending on local resources and historical period).
- Usually located on **ridgetops, riverbanks or in strategic areas** for defense.
- They have a **military** function (defence, strategic control) and sometimes **an administrative or commercial** one .
- They represent **historical and identity symbols of** peoples.
- Today, there are **major tourist attractions** and heritage sites.

Types of fortifications

1. **Medieval stone fortresses** – built to defend borders and fairs.
2. **Earth fortifications** – waves, ditches, bastions.
3. **Defence towers and bastions** – component parts of fortresses.
4. **Castries or forts** – Roman or later military constructions.

Examples from the Republic of Moldova

- **Soroca Fortress** – built by Ștefan cel Mare (c. XV), renovated by Petru Rares, one of the best preserved medieval fortifications.
- **Tighina Fortress (Bender)** - a fortification of medieval origin, consolidated by the Turks in the 19th century. XVI.
- **Trajan's Waves** – a system of earth fortifications dating back to antiquity.
- **Old Orhei Fortress** – part of the archaeological complex, with medieval ruins and fortifications.



C.Soroca C.Orheiul Vechi C.Tighina

Fig.46.Source: Google.com. Medieval fortresses.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions

1. Defines the notion of historical-archaeological tourist resources and explains what differentiates them from other tourist resources.
2. What are the main categories of historical-archaeological resources? Give concrete examples from the Republic of Moldova.
- Explains the role of fortresses and fortifications in cultural tourism.
4. How do archaeological sites contribute to the development of educational and scientific tourism?
5. Why is it important to preserve the archaeological and historical heritage for tourism?

Grid questions

1. **Which of the following is a historical-archaeological tourist resource?**
 - a) Duruitoarea Falls
 - b) Old Orhei
 - c) Codrii Reservation
 - d) Chisinau Meteorological Station
2. Trajan's **waves** are an example of:
 - a) Natural resource
 - b) Historical and archaeological resource
 - c) Climate tourism resource
 - d) Recreational resource
3. **The Soroca Fortress is:**
 - a) A prehistoric archaeological site
 - A medieval fortification
 - c) A cave church
 - A Museum of Contemporary Art

Applicative tasks

1. Draws up a **comparative table** between archaeological sites and medieval fortresses, indicating the characteristics and examples of each category.
2. It locates on the map of the Republic of Moldova **three historical-archaeological objectives of national importance** and notes their historical period.
3. Choose an archaeological or historical site in the Republic of Moldova and make a **short tourist description (historical, structure, tourist attractiveness)**.
4. Propose a **cultural tourist route** that includes at least two historical-archaeological resources and explain why they are attractive to tourists.
5. It argues how **sustainable tourism can be developed** around archaeological sites without damaging them.

Subject 12: Religious tourist resources.

Religious tourist resources are objectives, edifices or spaces associated with religious practices and traditions that attract tourists for their spiritual, cultural and historical value. They are part of the **anthropic tourist resources** and are of particular importance in cultural and spiritual tourism.

Main Features

- They are linked to **religious beliefs, rituals and traditions**.
- They can be **sacred buildings (churches, monasteries, mosques, synagogues)**, pilgrimage sites or sacred sites.
- They have **cultural and historical value** as they reflect the art, architecture and traditions of a community.
- It creates **tourist attraction for local and international visitors** interested in spirituality and heritage.
- It requires **conservation and maintenance**, both architecturally and spiritually.

On the territory of the Republic of Moldova, constructions and places of worship are in a large number, being represented by hermitages, churches, cathedrals and monastic complexes.

Holy places, as an important part of the cultural heritage, are of particular interest to visitors and are included in various tourist offers. More than **1200 churches** currently operate in Moldova, **81** of which are included in the list of state-protected monuments and **56 monasteries**, which are also part of the country's cultural heritage. Moldova is a country with a deep religious tradition, and its monasteries are important places of worship that reflect the spiritual history and culture of the region. The monasteries of the Republic of Moldova are spread throughout the country and represent not only centers of worship, but also important tourist attractions, having a special historical and cultural significance.

The development of religious tourism has grown in recent decades, when people began to capitalize on the importance of religious edifices both nationally and internationally, most often opt for the latter, because in addition to the religious visit itself you can make other visits to the region where they travel, discovering other territories and other customs than those of the country from which they come. An important aspect of religious tourism is that it involves a certain level of training and culture on the part of tourists in order to be able to appreciate the objectives in terms of architecture, value and spiritual significance. For those who do not have a minimum knowledge base, it is very difficult to understand, but this is no longer a priority, because agencies always have guides ready to explain the meanings of buildings.

Religious tourism is a type of tourism that aims to visit religious buildings with spiritual implications. The notion of religion has developed from an understanding of the motivations of tourists. The difference between this form of tourism and others is the religious motivation of tourists, so the manifestations of religious tourism are diverse:

a. Visits to the holy places

These visits are the usual ones, in which the man goes to visit and get in touch with the religious world, they take place over a few hours or even a day, then he goes in search of other places to visit.

b. Religious pilgrimages

Pilgrimage is a constant of humanity, with multiple motivations and profound spiritual meanings, when lived intensely and correctly, because pilgrims are people who want not only to visit, but also to venerate the biblical holy places, the tombs of martyrs, the relics of saints, wonderworking icons or places where great renowned confessors live, being the moment when they find themselves. It is a religious act, par excellence, similar to any other way of expressing religious sentiment. We would even say that it is the oldest religious act in the history of mankind. Yet pilgrimage is not simply an expression of faith, but a meaningful search for God who is the full source of faith.

c. Religious camps for youth

Religious youth camps are held all over the world during the summer. It is a very good opportunity for young people to learn religious meanings, to enrich themselves spiritually and why not to have a pleasant experience.

There are two main travel trends:

?? - **One-off journey**, which has a single purpose of a religious nature. A very good example are the religious trips made to the churches with wonderworking icons: Hâncu Monastery, Zloti Monastery. The participant in this kind of journey is strictly the pilgrim.

?? - **Multifunctional travel**, which combines **religious and strictly cultural aspects of travel, and allows for more sightseeing. The participant in this journey can be any man.**

The map of monasteries in the Republic of Moldova will be accessed on the site: <http://www.logos.md/map/map.html>.

Types of Religious Resources

1. **Monasteries and abbeys** – monastic centres, places of pilgrimage and spiritual reflection (e.g.: Monastery of Capriana).
2. **Churches and cathedrals** – historical buildings of architectural and artistic value (e.g.: Cathedral of the Nativity of the Lord in Chisinau).
3. **Monuments and religious objects** – icons, frescoes, crosses, shrines.
4. **Places of pilgrimage** – places of important religious significance, attract tourists for spiritual experiences (e.g.: Putna, Saharna).

Examples:

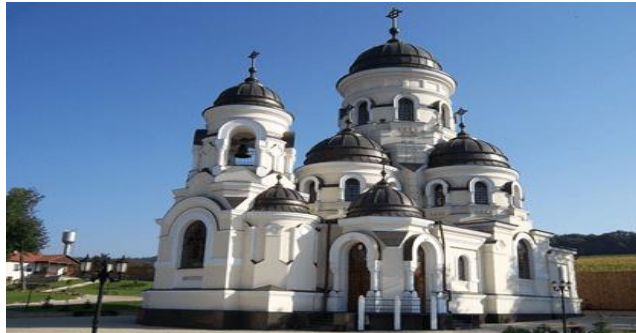
- **Capriana Monastery** – one of the oldest monasteries in Moldova.
- **Saharna Monastery** – a place of pilgrimage with waterfalls and picturesque landscapes.
- **Nativity Cathedral, Chisinau** – urban religious and tourist centre.
- **Hâncu Monastery** – an example of monastic and architectural heritage.
- **The cave churches of Old Orhei** – combine historical and religious values.

Among the monuments of religious architecture should be mentioned the bell towers that are also a tourist attraction: **the bell tower of the church of St. Trinity in Cuhureştii de Sus** (Floresti district),

built after the project of Alexei Șciusev in 1914, as well as *the bell tower of the New Neamț Monastery in Chițcani* village (Căușeni district), which is the tallest and slenderest construction of its kind in the country. Among the temples of other religious denominations, the Polish Roman Catholic **Church of St. Peter and St. Peter is worth mentioning. Caetan from Rașcov village** (south of Rașcov village) Camenca), built in the 17th century, as well as the synagogue (which is in a deplorable state) in the same village.

The monuments of defensive architecture are scarcely present on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. These include, first of all, the **fortress of Soroca** (the only one valued from a tourist point of view). It is a small fortress, its uniqueness is rendered by the original structure, representing an enclosure with walls disposed in a circular plane, having five towers placed at equal intervals. By contrast, **the fortress of Bender** is impressive, with the strongest external defence system in the country. The architecture of this fortress is less well known because it is currently occupied by the military. For the same reasons, it cannot be used for excursions. A third monument of fortified architecture is the remnants **of the Tiraspol fortress**, built by order of Field Marshal Alexandru Suvorov near the Moldavian village of Sucleia in 1792. Among other monuments of particular architectural value, the Doric column, erected in 1849 in the vicinity of the city, is highlighted. Vulcănești on the battlefield of the army led by Field Marshal P.A. Rumianțev-Zadunaiskii with the Turkish army in 1770. The gates, fences and fountains made after the architects' sketches can also be mentioned. An example of such objects can be the cast-iron fence in Ștefan cel Mare Park, rebuilt after the drawing of Alexandru Bernardazzi, or a fountain that enters the ensemble of the church in Cuhureștii de Sus village, designed by Alexei Șciusev. It follows that the architectural tourism potential, although not very diverse, nevertheless remains quite important and of interest that can be capitalised on, in particular monuments of religious architecture and fortifications. They can be points of international value. Unfortunately, the possibilities of valorization of such objects are reduced on the one hand, and on the other hand, the level of architectural value of the Bukovinian monasteries, those in the north of Moldova (jud. German, Romanian) or Ukrainian is no lower, which constitutes international competition for our country's monasteries.

Capriana Monastery – dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God – is located in the village of Capriana, 36 km north-west of the city of Chisinau and 16 km from the city of Straseni, being one of the oldest monastic settlements in Bessarabia. The first documentary mention of the monastery is dated to 1420. Having the status of a royal monastery, the monastic settlement enjoyed the care of several rulers of Moldavia. The monastery, which was originally built of wood, suffered from the repeated invasion of the Tatars or Turks. Stephen the Great is the founder of the stone church dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God (1491-1496). In the Soviet period, the Capriana Monastery, like all places of worship in the Moldavian SSR, suffered greatly, its fortunes being transferred to the state property, so that in 1962 it would be closed and devastated. In 1989, with the start of national liberation actions in Moldova, the monastery reopened its doors.

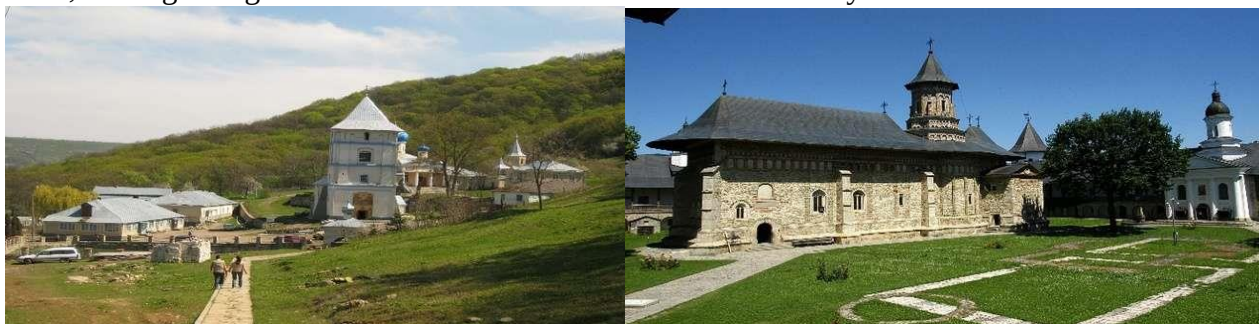


Curchi Capriana

Fig.47.Source: <https://moldovainprogres> Monasteries: Curchi and Capriana

Curchi Monastery – dedicated to the Nativity of the Mother of God – is located in Codrii Orheiului, Curchi village, 12 km from Orhei town and 55 km from Chişinău town. It is a monastery of monks, one of the most important monuments of Bessarabian architecture. The monastery has a cultural and religious past of two and a half centuries. This monastery used to be considered to be ‘the most beautiful and famous monastery in Bessarabia’, both in the past and in the present. It consists of five churches, two buildings with cells, stand, several auxiliary rooms, an orchard, an archondaric hermitage located 500 m from the Monastery and a stone basin. The ‘Birth of the Mother of God’ church, built in 1775 by Iordache Curchi, is an example of a Neo-Byzantine style, and the ‘Saint Nicholas’ church (1808 – 1810) is built in the style of classicism with Baroque elements. The whole ensemble is surrounded by a high stone wall. During the Soviet period, the monastery was transformed into a psychiatric hospital. According to some legends, the Curchi Monastery was founded by Ştefan cel Mare, and as an architectural ensemble it was formed later, in the XVIII-XIX centuries.

The New Neamt Monastery (Chitcani) – dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord – is an Orthodox monastery of monks, located on the banks of the Dniester River, about 105 km east of Chişinău, 30 km from Causeni and 20 km from Tiraspol. It is located on the outskirts of Chitcani village, only 10 kilometers south of Tighina, also called Bender. On January 13, 1864, Emperor Alexandru Nicolaevici approved the project for the establishment of the monastery of the Holy Ascension, the New People's Nation, for men, in the village of Chiţcani. On 17 February 1864, under case no. 306, he was informed of the establishment of the New German monastery, the Archbishop of Chişinău and Hotin, Antony. Thus, the beginning and foundation of the New German monastery was established.



The New Neamt Călărăşeuca

Fig.48.Source: <https://moldovainprogres> Monasteries: New Neamt and Călărăşeuca

Călărăşeuca Monastery – dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God – is located on the right bank of the Dniester River in the village of Călărăşeuca, r. Ocniţa, in the north of the Republic of Moldova, at a distance of about 210 km from the city of Chisinau and 4 km from the city of Otaci. Guarded by rocks and the old Dniester, it begins its history in 1648. A wooden church dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God was also built at that time. Those arriving at the monastery can admire the views of the ‘Călărăşeuca’ landscape reserve, located near the holy place of worship, quench their thirst with the healing water from the monastery’s springs, and worship wonderworking icons. Around the monastery there are a lot of caves and caves where bats and eagles live. At the same time, several rare plant species grow here.

Dobruşa Monastery – dedicated to ‘Saint Great Hierarch Nicolae’ is located 127 km north of Chişinău and 17 km from Şoldăneşti. It is situated between hills covered by forests and surrounded by orchards. According to some sources, the monastery was founded in 1772 by a monk Ioasaf from Probota Monastery, Suceava. He built here a wooden church, together with another monk, Euphemia from Curchi Monastery. But, being recalled to Suceava, the church was not finished until 1785 by Euphemia, together with other monks from Curchi. In 1847 the winter church “Change to the Face” was built.



The beautiful Dobruša
Fig.49.Source: <https://moldovainprogres> Monasteries: Beauty and Dobrusha

Frumoasa Monastery – dedicated to the Holy Trinity – is located 65 km north-west of Chișinău and 15 km from Călărași. It sits on an inclined hillside, surrounded from all sides by wooded hills and overlooking the south, from where you can see the beautiful hillsides with groves and rich gardens of the Ichel Valley. In the autumn of 1804, three hieromonks, coming from the Neamțu Monastery to the Hermitage of Răciula, agreed to establish a monastery in Frumușica clearing.

Hâncu Monastery – dedicated to ‘Saint Pious Parascheva’ – is located about 70 km west of Chișinău and 32 km from Straseneni. In 1678 a new holy place of worship began its activity, named after the protector of Moldova – Most Pious Parascheva. The founder of the monastery is considered to be the Moldavian boyar, the serdar Mihalcea Hâncu. Mihalcea Hâncu's personality opens a new tab in the history of our nation's Christianity, being later recognized as one of the remarkable personalities of medieval Moldavia.



Hârjauca Hâncu Hârbovăț
Fig.50.Source: <https://moldovainprogres> Monasteries: Hârjauca, Hâncu, Hârbovăț

The Hârjauca Monastery – dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord – is located on the banks of the Hârjauca stream and is located about 75 km west of Chișinău and 24 km from Călărași, at the foot of a hill covered with centuries-old oaks. Monastic life began to take shape in Hârjauca around 1740. It is said that the hermitage of monks chooses as a settlement the surroundings of a spring, with suspected healing properties, in the heart of the woods. The first church was made of wood. There were five beautiful spires in Chezășia, and the chosen patronage – ‘The Dormition of the Mother of God’.

The Hârbovăț Monastery – dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God – is located on the valley of the Ichel River, about 70 km north-west of Chișinău and 18 km from Straseneni, founded in 1730 by boyar Constantin Carpuz. According to some historians, the monastery was founded in the 17th century by a few fugitive monks from the monastery of Bersan – Poland, and its name comes from one of the first monks – Ioanichie. The Holy Monastery of Hârbovăț is best known for its famous icon – The Mother of God with the Child in ‘Hârbovăț’, dating back to the end of the 18th century.

Japca Monastery – dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord – is located about 160 km north of Chişinău, 50 km from Soldanesti and 45 km south of Soroca. It is the only monastic settlement in the Prut-Dniester area that has been operating uninterruptedly since its establishment. This monastery has a rare location due to the beauty of the horizon that opens to the eyes of tourists. The rocks above the monastery and especially from the old hermitage, the serpents of the Dniester that can be traced far away, the oaks and the gardens that surround it, constitute the special beauty of the monastery. The year of foundation is considered the year 1770.



Japca Răciula Rudi

Fig.51.Source: <https://moldovainprogres> Monasteries: Japca, Răciula, Rudi

Răciula Monastery – dedicated to the Nativity of the Mother of God – is located about 70 km west of Chişinău and 18 km from Călăraşi. The monastery is located in the picturesque area of the Orhei Forests, in a valley between two rows of wooded hills, called the Ichel Valley. The archives tell us that the first church dedicated to the Nativity of the Mother of God together with the bell tower was built by monks around 1798 from clay-bonded and straw-covered rods, the bell tower having four bells. Răciula Monastery is a source of spirituality, art and culture, whose existence is linked to the past of the country and its people.

Rudi Monastery – dedicated to the ‘Holy Trinity’ – is in the middle of the picturesque Rudi-Arionesti landscaping, not far from the Dniester. It is located about 230 km north of Chişinău, 50 km from Donduseni and 17 km from the town of Otaci. The church dedicated to the Holy Trinity of Rudi Monastery is a special one, due to its architecture of a well-pronounced Moldavian character, reminiscent of the medieval Moldavian churches of the 19th century. XVI-XVII.

The Saharna monastic complex – dedicated to the Holy Trinity – is located about 110 km north of Chişinău, 8 km from Rezina and 60 km from Orhei. It is located in one of the pitoreşti gorges near the village of Saharna, on the right bank of the Dniester. Saharna Monastery, as a whole, is one of the oldest monastic settlements in the Orthodox Church of the Republic of Moldova. The monastic ensemble consists of two monasteries: one cave dedicated to the "Bunavestire" and another terrestrial dedicated to the "Holy Trinity".

Țîpova Monastery – dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God – is located about 100 km north of Chişinău, 40 km from Rezina and 45 km from Orhei, being one of the most beautiful monasteries in Moldova. It is located above the Dniester River and comprises three monastery complexes carved into the rock. The first ensemble consists of several cells and a church dedicated to the ‘Ascension of the Holy Cross’ and dates from the 11th to 12th centuries. The church dedicated to Saint Nicholas was the centre of the second monastery complex, founded in the 14th century. The largest agglomeration of cells is around the church dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God, dating from the 16th and 18th centuries. Here, a few kilometers along the bank of the Dniester, hundreds of monuments of our ancient history and culture are discovered. Braniştea is unique in its diversity of archaeological richness: ancient villages and towns, fortresses, churches, hermitages and cemeteries are dug in the pristine bank. The monastery, protected by this millenary rock, has served Moldovans for centuries as a defense shield in their fierce struggle for freedom and independence.

The bastion monastery, which saved so many generations of natives from Tatar-Turkish slavery, is a living expression of the memory of the people.



Saharna Țipova

Fig.51.Source: <https://moldovainprogres>. Monasteries: Saharna, Țipova



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

1. Multiple Choice Questions

1. ***Which of the following monasteries is included in the list of national cultural heritage of Moldova?***
 - a) Capriana Monastery
 - b) Curtea de Arges Monastery
 - c) the Putna Monastery
 - d) Hâncu Monastery
2. ***In what century was Capriana Monastery founded?***
 - a) Sec. XV
 - b) Sec. XVI
 - c) Sec. XVII
 - d) Sec. XVIII
3. ***What is the specificity of the architecture of most Moldovan monasteries?***
 - a) Gothic style
 - b) Byzantine style
 - c) Baroque style
 - d) Romanesque style

2. Open questions

4. Explains the role of religious resources in attracting domestic and international tourists.

5. What are the main religious events (pilgrimage, feasts) with touristic potential in the Republic of Moldova?
6. Describes the link between local traditions and religious tourist resources.

3. Practical applications

7. Makes a **simplified tourist map with** the most important monasteries in the Republic of Moldova (Căpriană, Hâncu, Nou Neamț, Saharna, Tipova).
8. Develop a 3-day **tourist mini-itinerary**, including visits to at least 4 monasteries and religious sites.
9. Compare **the touristic potential of Capriana Monastery and Saharna Monastery**, taking into account: accessibility, religious events, landscape and tourist services.

4. Reflection and argumentation

10. It argues whether religious tourism can be a factor of sustainable development for the Republic of Moldova.
11. What are the risks of excessive development of religious tourism on local communities and spiritual heritage?

Topic 13: Cultural tourism resources.

Most often tourists who want to get to know a country start from the culture of the visited state. In this case, the tourist broadens the horizon of knowledge, perfectly combining it with rest and recreation. It is the cultural difference between different regions that motivates people to travel even more. Interest

tourism is much more intense when the tourist visits an area with new peculiarities and customs. Here the tourist gets acquainted with the lifestyle, culture, history and the peculiarities of nature.

Many regions of the Republic of Moldova are rich in unique historical and cultural territories, such as mansions, architectural and religious complexes, historical buildings and cultural monuments. Namely they require heritage conservation with innovative elements to become tourist developed areas. Many of the local tourist destinations do not have the necessary infrastructure, which must not detract from the cultural-historical aspect and originality. In general, culture and heritage make people want to visit, spend a lot of money, tell stories

others about their experiences and to come back, being a vital economic engine. In general, cultural tourism has a positive economic and social impact, it is important for job creation. Visitors know the aspects of culture and traditions, have certain expectations from their stay. Tourists whose expectations are met will spend more on local businesses because they want to take advantage of the local experience and create memories.

Cultural tourism not only generates income, but also gives locals a reason to be proud of the area's unique heritage and gives them opportunities to share their emotions with tourists. If society takes this into account, it can create a system of sustainable use of tourism resources. Cultural tourism can take on several dimensions, depending on the motivation, which challenges tourists to a trip to a particular destination. Cultural heritage and historical sites, dance, music and theatre performances, art galleries,

museums and exhibitions, religious and ethnic traditions are the main attractions for tourists motivated by the search for new things, self-development and cultural heritage.

The desire to experience different cultures.

We note that cultural motivations play an important role in generating tourist flows to cultural destinations. A tourist experience is rarely generated as a result of a single motivation. The act of choosing a specific destination or tourist product is influenced by multiple motivations, no It's all about culture, but also about relaxation and family. However, tourist products are rarely homogeneous. For example, a single holiday may include experiences with cultural content, as well as leisure, sport, adventure or entertainment experiences. Thus, culture is not always the main motivation behind cultural tourism and may in fact be less central to the decision to travel than other factors. This is particularly true for destinations that have diverse cultural assets but whose natural tourist resources - such as landscape, climate, mountain or sea access - also make them attractive to other types of tourism. The successful development of cultural tourism at regional level requires a set of marketing studies on the needs and preferences of tourists.

The development of cultural tourism is not only of economic importance, but also makes it possible to develop a comprehensive approach to preserving the historical and cultural potential of the region and to create a favourable social climate for the community. The integrated approach, chosen for the purpose of analysis and systemic study of cultural tourism, allowed the determination of the constituent elements of the tourism potential of the region from the position of the study of their properties, the systematization of the factors influencing the development of cultural tourism.

The Republic of Moldova has a variety of cultural tourist destinations that attract international tourists like a magnet. Some of them have the necessary infrastructure and rich cultural heritage. At the moment one of the most popular and widespread types of tourism, which interconnects most other forms of tourism, is cultural tourism, which due to its specificity has a unique perspective and an original cognitive-educational character: dialogue of cultures, interaction and mutual enrichment of national, regional or territorial cultures, which present themselves to the tourist. Therefore, the level and quality of development of the cultural and tourism industry determines the formation of the image, credibility and attractiveness of the country, the proper perception of its people and its historical perspectives.

The register of national and local state-protected objects in the Republic of Moldova currently contains about 15,000 objects, including 5698 state-protected monuments. The cultural-mobile heritage, including an important part of the historical and archaeological heritage, is preserved in museums, which include in their collections 673141 pieces of heritage and have a large exhibition space.

The variety of historical monuments, national style or historical personalities also gives the international tourist the opportunity to know the history, tradition and culture of the countryside.

Rich is the Republic of Moldova also through churches and monasteries of various architecture and from different historical periods. We note the fact that Chisinau municipality is rich in culture and tradition, namely here most foreign tourists get acquainted with the local culture, because here they prefer to stay. Namely from Chisinau they start to various areas of the Republic of Moldova depending on the established rejuvenation and interest.

Recently, the appearance of various festivals preferred by foreign tourists has grown, mostly in the summer-autumn period. It is during these events that tourists get acquainted with the traditions and customs, but also with the traditional Moldovan cuisine. In turn, gastronomy is one of the key elements, through which tourists try to get to know the country, they usually prefer dishes of national and local cuisine, but also local wines. In some special cases, they can participate in master-classes of cooking to find out what the technology is, but also in picking and crushing grapes to prepare wine. Among the most well-known festivals, which have become the 'visit card' of the Republic of Moldova, we note: 'Gustar', 'Take Anger', 'Wine Festival'. Recently, there has been an increasing

trend in the number of festivals in various regions of the country, with the aim of attracting local visitors and international tourists. Rural guesthouses are important by promoting culture and tradition among foreign tourists. Here, besides traditional dishes, tourists can get acquainted with the creation of ethnofolkloric ensembles in the locality. If they decide to stay, they will find out more original things specific to the region where they are.

According to specialists in the field, the Republic of Moldova has an original potential of cultural tourism, but management and approach need improvement. It is imperative to effectively use the resources of cultural heritage without causing damage, as authenticity is a reason for both tourists and the nation to preserve it. We should also pay attention to the quality of services - this must be in line with European standards. This requires a high qualification and training, qualified and well-trained professionals. It is recommended that cultural and tourism products be promoted jointly not only at national level, but also at international level. As cultural tourism is characterized by high consumption, high quality services, we must be aware that the possibilities for development are less only in this concrete tourism area and we should merge with other attractions, for example natural attractions. We should not divide natural and cultural tourism, but connect the two to make a single tourist product. We must realize that the most important reason for the tourist trip is for information, knowledge and to experience the essence of the country. When we accept this, we will have cultural tourism and satisfaction from potential visitors. In order to attract more international tourists, cultural heritage objects must be presented intelligently and creatively. Scientific and technological progress has done its job: the products of one country are practically indistinguishable from those of another. Situated at the border with Romania, with which we have identical traditions, we must put the original in the foreground. In culture, uniformity is unacceptable. A region that wants to become a popular tourist destination must possess unique cultural complexes to offer to the tourist market. For cultural tourism to be an effective resource for the economic and socio-cultural development of the country, its potential must be properly assessed and used primarily at a specific territorial - regional level. It is the regional-territorial level of management of the tourism industry that allows to "shape" the corresponding tourism cluster, to "highlight" its unique cultural, natural and historical characteristics, to provide creativity, creative, timely and effective solutions to certain relevant problems. Particular attention must be paid to promoting cultural tourism potential in tourist "supplier" countries. The authorities of the Republic of Moldova actively participate in international tourist exhibitions where culture, traditions, gastronomy and wines are strongly promoted in addition to tourist destinations. This leads many tourist agencies to consider the Republic of Moldova as a successful tourist destination. Cultural tourism is also on the agenda of national agencies that organize trips through the country with the cultural component strongly highlighted.

Examples:

1. Historical and architectural monuments

- Soroca Fortress – medieval fortress built by Stephen the Great.
- Tighina Fortress (Bender) - historical monument on the banks of the Dniester.
- Fortress of Old Orhei – vestiges of medieval and Dacian civilizations.
- Manuc Bei Palace (Hancesti) – boyar residence with architectural value.
- Mimi Castle (Anenii Noi) – wine palace in neoclassical style.

2. Places of worship and religious ensembles

- Capriana Monastery – one of the oldest monasteries in Moldova (d. (Sept. 15).
- Hâncu Monastery – spiritual centre and place of pilgrimage.
- Saharna Monastery – known for its spectacular landscape and curative water springs.
- Țâpova Monastery – unique cave complex on the banks of the Dniester.
- Nativity Cathedral (Chisinau) – representative building of the capital.

3. Museums and cultural institutions

- National Museum of History of Moldova (Chisinau).

- National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History (Chisinau) – the oldest museum in the republic.
- Village Museum (Chisinau) – capitalises on traditional architecture.
- Museum of History and Ethnography of Orhei.
- The Gratitude Candle Museum (Soroca).

4. Ethnographic heritage and traditions

- Folklore Festivals: ‘Martisor’, ‘Gustar’, ‘Wine Festival’.
- Traditional customs: carols, ‘Hora de la Prut’, the feast of ‘Sânzienelor’.
- Moldovan folk costume – specific with embroidery and vivid colours.
- Traditional crafts: pottery (Hancesti), woven carpets (south and north rayons).

5. Wineries as cultural and tourist attractions

- Cricova – famous for its underground galleries of over 120 km.
- Mileștii Mici – the largest wine collection in the world (over 1.5 million bottles).
- Purcari – historical winery with traditions since 1827.
- Château Vartely (Orhei) – modern winery with tourist centre.

6. Cultural events and events

- Wine Day (October, Chisinau).
- Martisor International Music Festival.
- European Heritage Days.
- Medieval Festival (Văleni, Soroca, Orheiul Vechi).

The Republic of Moldova has a rich cultural heritage that can be successfully capitalized in tourism. In total, *140 cultural heritage monuments* have been identified, which can be included in the tourist circuit. The earliest monuments are the Geto-Dacian settlements and the Roman fortifications. A variety of attractions for tourists offer the vestiges of medieval fortifications, various archaeological complexes, first of all, *Old Orhei*, *cave monasteries*, *boyar mansions and peasant houses*. In the country's capital there are an impressive number of monuments, representative examples of the local architecture of the 19th and 20th centuries, capable of arousing the interest of tourists. There are *87 museums in the Republic of Moldova*, with rich collections of exhibits. In addition, most of them are located in buildings of particular architectural importance. Under the theme, museums are intended for a special contingent of visitors, but at least 20 of them deserve the attention of the general public. An attractive feature of the national tourist product is the variety of crops in different parts of the country. The Republic of Moldova presents an amalgamation of nationalities and cultures, i.e. traditions, spoken languages, folklore, cuisine, etc. There are around *880 folk groups in the country*, much of them reflecting the traditions specific to the region and their origin. National crafts are also worth mentioning – both in terms of cultural value and as a craft product for sale.

Museums:

“Alexei Mateevici”, “Aleksandr Pușkin”, “Constantin Stamati”, “Igor Vieru”, “Old Orhei” Museum Complex, National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, National Museum of Archaeology and History of Moldova, Museum of Popular Meșteșuglor, Gagauz National Museum “Dumitru Cara-Ciobanu”.

House-Museum "Alexandr Pushkin" – an important museum and monument of architecture and national history, the place where for three years, located in Bessarabia, the famous Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin wrote and created a large number of poems. Located right in Chisinau, this house-museum tells about the period of the late poet's stay in our country, after he was expelled from Russia. Also here visitors can see paintings, sculptures, engravings and including several publications of works written by Alexandr Sergeyevich Pushkin, in Chisinau.

The National Museum of History of Moldova – one of the most important museum institutions in the Republic of Moldova, located right in the centre of the capital. In front of the museum is installed a copy of the statue of the She-wolf, given by the municipality of Rome, in the first years after the

union of Bessarabia and Bukovina with Romania. The museum impresses with its exhibition halls, with over 260,000 exhibits related to the history and culture of Moldova, from antiquity to the present day.

National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History – the first museum of the Republic of Moldova, founded in 1889 following the initiative of Baron Alexandru Stuart. Here visitors can discover the study of nature and culture of the Republic of Moldova, as the museum has various ethnographic, geological, paleontological, archaeological, zoological, entomological and numismatic collections.



National Museum of History of Moldova National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History

Fig.52.Source: Google.com. Category: National museums



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

1. Short-answered questions

1. Defines the notion of **cultural tourist resource**.
2. Give two examples of **cultural tourist resources in the Republic of Moldova**.
3. What is the difference between **tangible** and **intangible cultural heritage**?
4. It mentions two types of **cultural-artistic events with** a tourist role.
5. What are the main urban cultural centers in the Republic of Moldova?

2. Grid questions (choose the correct option)

1. Cultural tourism **resources include**:
 - a) monasteries and churches
 - b) festivals and folk traditions
 - c) museums and historical monuments
 - d) all of the above
2. **Which of the following is part of the UNESCO heritage of the Republic of Moldova?**
 - a) Soroca Fortress
 - b) Moldavian Codries
 - c) The caroling of the male fog
 - d) Orheiul Vechi Complex

3. **Which European capital is recognized for its majority cultural tourism?**

- a) Chisinau
- b) Rome
- c) Warsaw
- d) Vienna

3. Association questions

Associate the cultural objective with the locality:

Fortress of Soroca – ...

Old Orhei – ...

National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History – ...

Chişinău's feast day – ...

4. Development questions

1. It argues why **festivals and folk traditions** can be considered tourist resources.
2. It presents the importance of **medieval monasteries** in cultural tourism in the Republic of Moldova.
3. Explains the role of **museums and cultural institutions** in promoting national identity.

5. Practical tasks

- Makes a **mental map with** the main cultural tourist resources of the Republic of Moldova.
- Choose a **locality** (e.g. Chisinau, Soroca, Orhei, Causeni) and describe three cultural tourist resources specific to it.

Subject 14: Sports tourism resources

Sports tourism has become increasingly popular lately. Events combining sport and tourism are also organized in the Republic of Moldova. The sports tourism resources of the Republic of Moldova combine the natural environment (various relief, rivers and lakes) with the built sports infrastructure (stadia, halls, marked trails). They offer a wide range of sports – from hiking, cycling and climbing to water sports and international competitions.

1. Natural resources for sports tourism

Elements of the natural environment that allow the practice of sports and tourist activities:

- **Relief**
 - Plateaus and hills (Codrii, Central Moldavian Plateau) → hiking, mountain biking, sports orientation.
 - Gorges and canyons (Orheiul Vechi, Defileul Răutului, Defileul Buteşti) → climb, hike.
- **Inland waters**
 - Rivers Nistru, Prut, Răut → kayaking, rowing, sport fishing.
 - The lakes (Ghidighici, Costeşti-Stânca, Belev, Sălaş, Congaz) → swimming, windsurfing, water sports.
- **Protected areas**
 - Nature reserves and forests (Plaiul Fagului, Codrii, Pădurea Domnească) → sports ecotourism routes.

2. Anthropic resources for sports tourism

Built infrastructure supporting the practice of sports:

- **Stadiums and multipurpose halls**
 - Chisinau Arena, 'Zimbru' Stadium, Balti Stadium.
- **Sports facilities and tourist complexes**
 - The 'Dinamo' sports complex (Chisinau).
 - Vadul lui Voda tourist complex (water sports and beach).
- **Marked tourist routes**
 - Hiking and cycling trails in Codrii, Orheiul Vechi, Nistru.
- **Recreational and amusement centres**
 - 'La Izvor' complex (Chisinau) – sports grounds.
 - Camping areas with sports facilities (Vadul lui Vodă, Saharna, Țâpova).

3. Forms of sports tourism practiced:

- **Hiking and mountain excursions** – Codrii, Orheiul Vechi.
- **Touring and mountain biking** – routes in the central and northern areas.
- **Climbing and climbing** – calcareous gorges (Trebujeni, Butești, Duruitoarea Veche).
- **Water sports** – kayaking, rowing, windsurfing on the Dniester, Prut, Ghidighici and Belev lakes.
- **Winter sports** – Slope skiing and tobogganing on soft slopes (Chisinau – Valea Morilor, Soroca).
- **Sports agri-tourism** – ATV racing, horse riding.
- **Hunting tourism and sport fishing** – Domnească Forest, Prut and Dniester lakes.

4. Sports events with tourism potential

- **Chisinau Marathon** – attracts international participants.
- **Moldova Cycling Tour**.
- **Nautical competitions on the Dniester and Prut.**
- **Football and futsal championships** (Zimbru Stadium, Chisinau Arena).

Arena Chișinău

Location: Chisinau municipality, Riscani sector, road. Orhei (approx. 6 km from the center of the capital).

Inauguration: October 2019.

Capacity: approx. **5000 seats** (for sports competitions and concerts).

Total area: more than 10 hectares (including adjacent land).

Arena Chișinău is a multipurpose complex, designed for:

- Sports competitions: basketball, volleyball, handball, futsal, tennis, martial arts.
- Concerts and performances – multifunctional hall for cultural events.
- International events – conferences, exhibitions, fairs.
- Sport and cultural tourism – attracts visitors to championships and festivals.

Facilities and infrastructure

- Multifunctional main hall with mobile stands and modern acoustics.
- Outdoor sports grounds for basketball, tennis, volleyball.
- Swimming pool and training areas.
- Recreational areas and parking for over 1000 cars.
- Spaces for restaurants, cafés and related services.

Tourism and social importance

- It is **the most modern sports complex in the Republic of Moldova**.
- Allows the organization of international sports events → increases the visibility of the country.
- It contributes to the **development of sport and cultural tourism**.
- Provides a framework for physical education, school and university competitions.
- It becomes a **pole of attraction** for the inhabitants of the capital and tourists.



Fig.53.Source: Google.com. Chisinau Arena and Zimbru Stadium

the Zimbru Stadium

- **Inauguration:** 20 May 2006.
- **Capacity:** approx. **10,400 seats**.
- **Owner:** ‘Zimbru’ Football Club Chisinau.

The stadium is intended in particular for:

- **Football matches** – national championship, international matches and matches of the **National Republic of Moldova**.
- **International competitions** under the aegis of UEFA and FIFA (meets European standards).
- **Social and cultural events** – concerts and public events.
- Central football field with natural turf (105 m x 68 m).
- Modern night and night lighting system.
- VIP tribune and official lodges.
- Modern dressing rooms for athletes and referees.
- Adjacent sports complex: training grounds with natural and artificial turf.
- Parking and administrative areas.

Importance of tourism and sports

- It is **the most modern football stadium in the Republic of Moldova**.
- Hosts international matches → attracts sports tourists and foreign supporters.
- It is the **‘house of Moldovan football’** and the main stadium for the national team.
- It contributes to the **development of sports tourism** and to promoting the image of the Republic of Moldova internationally.

Zimbru Stadium in Chisinau is a sports landmark of prime importance of the Republic of Moldova, intended for both domestic and international competitions. With its modern facilities and the role of host of the national team, the stadium has a special significance for **sports tourism and the cultural-sports identity** of the country.

Relevant information:

Table 17

Indicator	Value/Remark	Link with sports tourism / what can be inferred
Number of tourists and hikers (2024)	~ 555.9 thousand people (organized tourism) (Moldova Tourism)	Some of these tourists come for sports recreation, especially in areas such as Vadul lui Vodă, sports complexes, etc. So market potential.
Number of persons accommodated in tourist facilities (2024)	474.2 thousand persons accommodated; 1,557,1 thousand overnight stays	Some of those accommodated participated in sports tourism activities, if the infrastructure and offers allow (marathons, competitions, active tourism).
Organisation of amateur sports events	The NGO <i>Sporter</i> has organized over 112 sports events (running, cycling, triathlon, etc.), with participants ranging from ~400 to ~20,000	This shows interest and existing

Indicator	Value/Remark	Link with sports tourism / what can be inferred
	(sporter.md https://sporter.md/en/info/about?utm_source=chatgpt.com)	infrastructure for amateur sports, so the base is created for the greater development of sports tourism. This shows that the state puts emphasis on improving sports infrastructure, which can attract more sports activities and tourists. It's a relatively small figure, but it reflects the current state of play; there is potential for growth, especially if investing in larger events, promotion, etc.
Investing in sport	From 2021 to 2024, government investments in sport increased by ~80%, from MDL 381 million to MDL 686 million	
Market revenues “Sport Events”	Estimated income ~ US\$ 1.34 million for 2024 (Statista)	

Chisinau Marathon (Chisinau International Marathon)

- Since 2015, organized annually by Sporter.md.
- The 2024 edition celebrated 10 years. More than 10,000 participants in one edition.
- Participants from ~52 countries came to the anniversary edition. [marathon.md](#)
- Distances offered: 42 km (marathon), 21,0975 km (half-marathon), 10 km, 5 km, plus children’s races and 1.5 km ‘Fun Run’.
- The 2023 edition had ~10,000 participants.

Vadul lui Voda Sports Complex

The Center for the Preparation of Selections of Moldova (CPSM), located in Vadul lui Vodă, is an important sports center in the Republic of Moldova. Inaugurated in 2002, CPSM includes a 1,220-seat stadium, training grounds, hotel, fitness rooms and a medical rehabilitation centre. Recently, the Moldovan Football Federation acquired an adjacent land to build seven more natural grass training grounds and a modernized medical center, which will make CPSM one of the most modern centers in Europe. Vadul lui Vodă is one of the largest resting areas in Moldova, located in a picturesque forest on the banks of the Dniester. The area offers beaches, a natural park and various accommodation and leisure facilities, being a popular destination for tourists from the country and abroad.

Relevant Sports Events:

- **Republican Olympiad in Physical Education (2023):** It took place at a sports complex in Vadul lui Vodă and brought together 174 students from all over the republic mec.gov.md.
- **‘Solidarity Cup’ (2023):** A mini-football tournament organized at CPSM, dedicated to the employees of the force structures of the Republic of Moldova, with the participation of 20 teams from different structures.

Competitions and nautical events on the Dniester

In the Republic of Moldova, the Dniester River is a popular destination for water sports, hosting events and competitions that attract both amateurs and professionals. Here are some of the most significant nautical competitions and activities carried out on the Dniester:

- **Sea-Doo FEST** – A unique festival dedicated to personal boats, held annually on the banks of the Dniester River, in the village of Holercani, at the ‘Blue River’ Restaurant. The event brings together water sports enthusiasts for a day full of energy and fun. [website](#)
- **Nistru Rafting** – Rafting is a popular activity on the Nistru, with tours and competitions organised for different levels of difficulty. The areas most commonly used for rafting include the villages Dubasari and Molovata Noua. aboutmoldova.md
- **Wakeboarding and wakeskating** - In the Dniester area, near Chisinau, there are leisure centres offering facilities for wakeboarding and wakeskating. These water sports are popular among young women and are supported by active amateur communities.



Fig.54.Source: Google.com. Nautical events on the r.Nistru

- **Catamaran rides** – Operators such as River Travel offer Catamaran rides on the Dniester, departing from Vadul lui Vodă resort. The routes include destinations such as Corjova, Dubasarii Vechi and Onițcani, being ideal for a relaxing day in nature.
- **Catamaran rafting tours** – For those looking for a more adventurous experience, there are Catamaran rafting options, which include tent camps and water picnic facilities.

Essential statistics that help you get a clear idea of Moldova's rafting locations and their impact

- ?? 83% of **Moldova's rafting events take** place on the Nistru and Raut rivers, considered the best for adults.
- ?? 60% of **rafting enthusiasts** in Moldova prefer locations with natural landscape, unmodified;
- 45% of tourists who choose **rafting tours for adults choose** routes that offer the possibility of relaxation after effort;
- 72% of **participants in** adult rafting competitions mention that safety and equipment are the first criteria in choosing locations;
- The annual growth of interest in **rafting in the Republic of Moldova** is 15%, which confirms an upward trend in sports tourism.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

1. Short-answered questions

1. What does the notion of **a sports tourism resource mean?**
2. Mention two examples of sports resources in the Republic of Moldova.
3. What is the difference between **active** and **passive sport tourism?**
4. Give an example of an international sports competition that attracts tourists.
5. Name two sports that can be practiced as tourist activities in Moldova.

2. Grid questions (choose the correct option)

1. Sports tourism resources include:
 - a) stadiums and arenas
 - b) Museums and historical monuments
 - c) folk festivals
 - d) Lakes and rivers
2. Which of the following is a modern sporting objective in the Republic of Moldova?
 - a) Chisinau Arena
 - b) Moldavian Codries
 - c) National Museum of Art
 - d) Soroca Fortress
3. An example of **active sports tourism** is:
 - a) Participating in a match as a spectator
 - b) practicing water skiing

Visiting an art gallery
Attendance at a concert

3. Association questions

Association of the sports complex with the locality:

Zimbru Stadium – ...

Arena Chişinău – ...

‘Dinamo’ complex – ...

Vadul lui Vodă tourist complex – ...

4. Development questions

1. It argues the role of sports resources in the development of tourism in the Republic of Moldova.
2. It explains the difference between natural and man-made sports tourism resources.
3. Analyze the importance of organizing international sports events for the image of a country.

5. Practical tasks

- Makes a **table** with the main sports tourism resources in the Republic of Moldova (sports complexes, stadiums, pools, water sports areas).
- Describe a **sport tourism experience** (active or passive) that you have participated in or would like to participate in.

Topic 15: Technical-economic tourism resources.

Technical-economic tourism resources represent all the elements created by man or economically managed, which facilitates the carrying out of tourist activities. They include tourist infrastructure, transport services, accommodation facilities and other complementary services necessary for the deployment of tourism.

Main components Table 18

Component	Features	Examples in Moldova
Accommodation infrastructure	Hotels, hostels, motels, hostels, camping	Hotels in Chisinau, hostels in Orheiul Vechi, children's camps in Vadul lui Vodă
Tourist transport	Road, rail, air and river networks facilitating access for tourists	Chisinau Airport, national roads, river transport on the Dniester
Tourist centers and agencies	Travel agencies, authorised guides, online platforms	Chisinau agencies, local tourism applications
Sports and leisure facilities	Sports complexes, golf courses, water sports centers, swimming pools	Arena Chisinau, Vadul lui Voda complex, Zimbru and Dinamo stadiums
Complementary services	Restaurants, cafés, tourist information centres, souvenir shops	Thematic restaurants in Chisinau and Orhei, shops with local products

The role of technical and economic resources in tourism

- It facilitates the access and circulation of tourists in space.
- Ensures the comfort and safety of tourists (accommodation, transport, food).
- It support local economic development by creating jobs and income.
- They allow the organization of cultural, sporting and recreational events, attracting tourists from other regions and countries.

Specific examples for the Republic of Moldova

1. **Accommodation infrastructure:** Hotel Radisson Blu Leograd, Chisinau; Rural pensions in Orheiului Vechi area.
2. **Transport:** Chisinau International Airport, national roads connecting Chisinau to the main tourist attractions, navigation on the Dniester.
3. **Sports and leisure facilities:** Arena Chisinau, Dinamo Sports Complex, Vadul lui Vodă Tourist Complex.
4. **Tourist centres and agencies:** Travel agencies that organize trips to Orheiul Vechi, Cricova, Tipova and other sights.
5. **Complementary services:** Thematic restaurants and cafes, souvenir shops in tourist areas, tourist information centres.

Technical and economic resources are indispensable for **the efficient functioning of tourism**, as without adequate infrastructure, tourism services and facilities, natural or cultural resources cannot be exploited to their full potential. In Moldova, the development of these resources is essential for increasing tourist attractiveness and integration into the international tourist circuit.

Accommodation infrastructure:

1. Hotels and hostels in Moldova

Hotels and guesthouses are organized accommodation structures that provide tourists with rest, meal and comfort services. They are part of the touristic technical-economic resources, as they allow tourists to stay close to the touristic objectives and to carry out their activities in safety and comfort.

Tourist role:

- It facilitates the accommodation of tourists near natural, cultural and sports attractions.
- It contributes to local economic development through jobs and income from tourism.
- It allows the organization of tourist and cultural events (conferences, weddings, team-buildings).

Table 19

Type of accommodation	Features	Examples in the Republic of Moldova
Luxury hotels	Comfortable rooms, high-quality service, restaurants, conference rooms, swimming pools	Radisson Blu Leograd, Nobil Hotel, City Park Hotel

Type of accommodation	Features	Examples in the Republic of Moldova
Average hotels	Comfort and good services, more affordable	Bristol Central Hotel, Kosmos Hotel, Jolly Alon
Rural pensions agri-tourism	/ Set in villages or rural areas, it offers traditional accommodation and dining	Pensions in Orheiul Vechi, Butuceni Eco Resort, Pension "La Izvor"
Hostels and mini-hotels	Simple spaces, affordable, ideal for young people or groups	Hostel 24, Hostel City Center Chisinau
Holiday homes campsites	/ Minimal comfort, closeness to nature, ideal for active tourism	Campings on the Dniester, Vadul lui Vodă, Beleu Lake

Examples of strategic location

- **Chisinau:** Hotels and hostels close to city centre and airport.
- **Old Orhei:** Rural guesthouses near archaeological sites and scenic landscapes.
- **Vadul lui Voda:** tourist complex with pensions and camps for sports and leisure.
- **Nistru and natural lakes:** holiday homes and campsites for water sports and relaxation.

Hotels and guesthouses are **essential technical and economic resources** without which tourism could not function effectively. They **provide comfort, safety and tourism services**, helping to increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of Moldova as a tourist destination.

Transport:

Tourist transport is the set of means and infrastructure that allow the movement of tourists between departure points, tourist destinations and attractions in the area. It is an essential component of the technical-economic resources, as it ensures the accessibility and mobility of tourists.

Tourist role:

- Facilitates quick and safe access to tourist attractions.
- Allows the organization of thematic tours, excursions and tourist circuits.
- It contributes to economic development through taxes, tariffs and related services.

Table 20

Type of transport	Features	Examples in Moldova
Air transport	Domestic and international flights, fast and comfortable	Chisinau International Airport (links with Europe, CIS and Middle East)
Road transport	Buses, minibuses, coaches for domestic and tourist transport	Buses to Orhei, Soroca, Vadul lui Vodă; excursion services through tourist agencies

Type of transport	Features	Examples in Moldova
Rail transport	Long- and medium-distance trains; access to towns and villages	Trains Chisinau – Balti, Chisinau – Ungheni, Chisinau – Soroca
River transport	Navigation on rivers and lakes; nautical and leisure tourism	Ships and catamarans on the Dniester, walks and nautical competitions at Vadul lui Vodă
Alternative Recreational Transportation	/ Bicycles, kayaks, electric scooters	Bicycle paths in Chisinau and rural tourist areas; rental of kayaks on the Dniester

Specific examples of use

- **Cultural tourism:** buses and minibuses that transport tourists to Orheiul Vechi, Soroca Fortress or Căpriană Monastery.
- **Sport tourism:** transport of participants in competitions on the Dniester or at sports complexes in Vadul lui Voda, Chisinau Arena and Dinamo.
- **Rural and agro-tourism:** road access to rural pensions in northern and central Moldova.
- **International tourism:** regular and charter flights to Chisinau, the country's main airport.

Tourism transport is the **key infrastructure** linking natural, cultural and sporting resources with tourists. Without efficient, accessible and varied transport, other tourist resources cannot be exploited to their full potential.

Sports and leisure facilities in the Republic of Moldova:

Sports and leisure facilities are the infrastructure and equipment created for the pursuit of sports, leisure and leisure activities. They are part of the technical and economic resources and allow the development of active and sports tourism, offering tourists opportunities for leisure and participation in competitions.

Tourist role:

- It supports active and sports tourism (football, water sports, tennis, fitness, cycling).
- It offers spaces for relaxation and recreation.
- It contributes to local economic development by attracting tourists and organizing events.

Table 21

Type of facilities	Features	Examples in Moldova
Stadiums and sports arenas	Places for sports competitions, trainings and events	Chisinau Arena, Zimbru Stadium, Dinamo Complex
Multifunctional sports complexes	Includes sports grounds, fitness rooms, swimming pools and medical facilities	Vadul lui Vodă Tourist Complex, Dinamo Sports Complex
Water Sports Centres	Water activities: kаяk, canoe, rafting, wakeboarding	Resorts on the Dniester, Vadul lui Voda, Holercani

Type of facilities	Features	Examples in Moldova
Parks and recreation areas	Recreation areas in nature, picnic sites, hiking trails	Codrii, Răutului Canyon, the forests near Vadul lui Vodă
Sports centers for children and youth	Camps, playgrounds, educational and sports activities	Camps in Vadul lui Voda, junior centers in Chisinau and Balti

Specific examples of use

- Sport tourism: participation in competitions or trainings at Chisinau Arena, Zimbru Stadium or Dinamo Complex.
- Water tourism: rafting, kayaking or catamaran rides on the Dniester, in Vadul lui Vodă or Holercani.
- Recreational tourism: hiking, cycling or picnics in the Codrii or on the banks of the Dniester.
- Youth tourism: sports camps and educational activities for children and adolescents.

Sports and leisure facilities are essential for **the development of active and sports tourism** in Moldova. They allow tourists to combine **recreation with physical activity**, attract sporting events and create business opportunities and tourist services in urban and rural areas.

Tourist centres and agencies:

Tourist centres and agencies are specialised structures that organise, promote and manage tourism services. They are part of the technical and economic resources because they facilitate the planning, information and carrying out of tourist activities, providing tourists with access to transport, accommodation, guidance and leisure services.

Tourist role:

- Provides tourist planning and guidance to tourists.
- Offers integrated tourist packages (transport, accommodation, excursions, activities).
- Contribute to the promotion of local and international tourist destinations.
- I support organized tourism and special events, such as festivals, theme tours or sports competitions.

Table 22

Type of agency/centre	Features	Examples in Moldova
General travel agencies	Offers domestic and international travel packages, accommodation and transport reservations	Perfect Tour, Deltour, Nautilus Travel
Tourist Information Centres	Provides maps, information about local objectives and events	Tourist Information Centre Chisinau, Orheiul Vechi – information points
Agencies specialized in active/sports tourism	Organization of excursions, hiking, rafting, water sports	Sporter.md, River Travel, EcoTour Moldova

Type of agency/centre	Features	Examples in Moldova
Rural and agro-tourism tourism agencies	Packages of accommodation and traditional experiences in rural areas	Pensions in Orheiul Vechi, Butuceni Eco Resort, Pension "La Izvor"
Agencies for cultural and educational tourism	Organizing tours of historical, religious sites, festivals and events	Local Agencies in Chisinau, Authorized Guides to Old Orhei, Soroca and Capriana

Specific examples of activity

- Organizing thematic tours at Orheiul Vechi, Cricova or Tipova.
- Organizing sports and recreational events, such as Chisinau Marathon or nautical competitions on the Dniester.
- Guide and interpreting services at museums, historical monuments and nature.
- Agri-tourism and rural tourism packages, with accommodation, traditional meals and recreational activities.

Tourist centers and agencies are essential technical and economic resources, as they facilitate the organization and promotion of tourism. They ensure tourists' access to integrated services, support local and international tourism and increase Moldova's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

Complementary services in tourism in the Republic of Moldova:

Complementary services are the set of facilities and activities that support the tourist experience, providing additional comfort, information and accessibility to tourists. They are part of the technical and economic resources and complement the basic infrastructure (accommodation, transport, sports facilities).

Tourist role:

- It ensures the comfort and satisfaction of tourists (food, souvenirs, information).
- I support organized and recreational tourism through additional facilities and services.
- It contributes to increasing the economic value of tourism through additional consumption and paid services.

Table 23

Type of service	Features	Examples in Moldova
Restaurants and cafes	Offers meals and drinks to tourists, often with local or international cuisine	Restaurants in Chisinau, Cricova Wine Restaurant, Café Central Orhei
Souvenir and handicraft shops	Marketing of local products and traditional objects	Souvenir shops at Orheiul Vechi, Butuceni, cultural festivals
Tourist Information Centres	Provides maps, brochures, recommendations and guidance	Tourist Information Center Chisinau, information points Orheiul Vechi
Guided tours and organized tours	Authorised guide services for sightseeing	Guides to monasteries, fortresses and museums in Moldova

Type of service	Features	Examples in Moldova
Medical and emergency services	Ensures the safety of tourists in case of accidents or diseases	Medical points at sports complexes, rescue services on the Dniester
Leisure and rental services	Rental of sports equipment, bicycles, kayaks, horses, boats	Rentals at Vadul lui Voda, Nistru, Orheiul Vechi

Specific examples of use

- Cultural tourism: restaurants and souvenirs in Orheiul Vechi or Cricova complete the visit of the objectives.
- Sport tourism: equipment rentals at Vadul lui Vodă or sports camps.
- Recreational tourism: information centres, guided tours and medical facilities in tourist complexes and on tourist routes.

Complementary services are essential elements of the technical and economic resources, as they increase the quality of the tourist experience, ensure comfort and safety and stimulate the local economy. Without these services, the basic infrastructure (accommodation, transport, sports facilities) would not be sufficient to attract and maintain tourists.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

1. Definitions and concepts

1. What are the technical and economic resources of tourism?
2. What is the role of technical and economic infrastructure in the development of tourism?
3. Explains the difference between natural, cultural and technical-economic resources in tourism.

2. Hotels and pensions

4. What are the main types of accommodation in Moldova?
5. It offers examples of hotels and hostels in Chisinau and rural areas.
6. How do hotels and hostels contribute to the development of local tourism?

3. Tourist transport

7. What are the main types of transport used for tourism in Moldova?
8. What role does road, rail, air and river transport play in Moldovan tourism?
9. Why is transport an essential technical and economic resource?

4. Sports and leisure facilities

10. What types of sports and leisure facilities exist in Moldova?
11. Give examples of sports centers and tourist complexes for sports in Moldova.
12. How do these facilities contribute to the development of active and sports tourism?

5. Tourist centers and agencies

13. What is the role of tourism centres and agencies in organised tourism?
14. Give examples of agencies specializing in cultural, rural or sports tourism.

15. How do travel agencies help promote tourist destinations?

6. Complementary services

16. What types of complementary services can be found in Moldovan tourism?

17. How do restaurants, souvenir shops and information centres contribute to the tourist experience?

18. Why are complementary services important for tourism development?

7. General analysis

19. How do technical and economic resources relate to natural, cultural and sporting resources?

20. Explains how investments in technical-economic infrastructure can increase the tourist attractiveness of a region.

Topic 16: Resources and activities with a tourist function.

Natural resources

These are elements of the natural environment that attract tourists through their beauty and diversity.

Table 24

Type of natural resource	Examples in Moldova	Tourism activities
Relief	Codrii, Rautului Canyon, Orhei Gorge	Hiking, excursions, mountain biking
Water	Nistru River, Beleu Lake, thermal springs	Water sports (rafting, kayaking), fishing, boating
Flora and fauna	Nature reserves: Princely Forest, Prut Reservation	Ecotourism, bird and animal observation

Cultural resources

They are man-made or historically inherited elements of cultural and historical value.

Table 25

Type of cultural resource	Examples in Moldova	Tourism activities
Historical monuments	Soroca Fortress, Old Orhei, Capriana Monastery	Visiting, guided tours, photography
Events and festivals	Martisor Festival, Wine Day	Participation in events, tastings, cultural performance
Architectural heritage	Boyar houses, palaces, old churches	Cultural tourism, guided tours

Sports resources

They allow active sports and physical recreation.

Table 26

Type of sport resource	Examples in Moldova	Tourism activities
Stadiums and sports arenas	Chisinau Arena, Zimbru Stadium, Dinamo Complex	Sports competitions, training, sports tourism
Water Sports Centres	Vadul lui Vodă, Holercani, Dniester	Rafting, kayaking, wakeboarding, boating
Recreational parks and trails	Codrii, the Canyon of Evil	Hiking, cycling, picnics

Technical and economic resources

It is the infrastructure and services that facilitate tourism.

Table 27

Type of technical-economic resource	Examples in Moldova	Tourism activities
Accommodation	Hotels, rural hostels, camps	Accommodation for tourists, rural tourism and agro-tourism
Transport	Chisinau Airport, national roads, trains	Excursions, cultural tours, travel between attractions
Tourist centers and agencies	Perfect Tour, River Travel, Chisinau Information Center	Arranging excursions, guided tours, thematic tours
Complementary services	Restaurants, cafes, souvenir shops	Food, purchases, recreation

Joint tourism activities in Moldova

- **Cultural tourism:** visits to fortresses, monasteries, festivals and museums.
- **Natural/ecological tourism:** hiking, wildlife observation, camping.
- **Sports and recreational tourism:** football, athletics, water sports, cycling.
- **Rural and agro-tourism:** accommodation in hostels, traditional activities, tasting of local products.
- **Event tourism:** participation in festivals, fairs, concerts and sports competitions.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

General questions

1. What does 'tourist resources with a tourist function' mean?
2. What are the main categories of tourist resources in the Republic of Moldova?
3. It explains the difference between natural resources and cultural resources with a tourist function.
4. Why are technical and economic resources important for tourism development?

II. Applicative questions

5. Give two examples of natural resources in Moldova that are used for tourism purposes.
6. It mentions three cultural or historical monuments that attract tourists to the Republic of Moldova.
7. Name two areas where sports tourism is practiced in Moldova.
8. It specifies a cultural event and a sporting one with a major tourist impact in the country.
9. What types of tourism can be practiced in rural areas of Moldova?

10. How does the Dniester contribute to the diversification of tourism activities?

III. Grid questions (multiple choice)

11. Which of the following are **natural tourist resources**?

- a) Soroca Fortress
- b) Codrii
- c) Beleu Lake
- d) Capriana Monastery

12. Which of the following activities belong to sports tourism?

- a) Hiking in Codrii
- b) Participation in the Wine Festival
- c) Rafting on the Dniester
- d) Visiting the History Museum

13. Check the technical and economic resources:

- a) Chisinau Airport
- b) Vadul lui Voda Tourist Complex
- c) Rural hotels and pensions
- d) The Royal Forest

IV. Analysis and synthesis questions

- 14. Creates a short comparative table between natural and cultural resources in Moldova, with concrete examples.
- 15. It argues why sports and cultural tourism can be combined to attract more visitors.
- 16. Explains how technical and economic resources can be harnessed for the development of rural tourism.
- 17. Proposes three measures through which the Republic of Moldova could more effectively promote resources and activities with a tourist function.

Topic 17-18: Ethnographic resources general characterization. The distinct ethnographic elements - the village, the household and the peasant's house. Traditional occupations and occupations of peasants.

Ethnographic tourist resources represent the totality of material and spiritual elements that reflect the traditions, customs and popular culture of a people. In the Republic of Moldova, they are an essential part of the cultural heritage, offering tourists the opportunity to know the national identity and specificity. The ethnographic resources of the Republic of Moldova represent a cultural wealth of great value, which reflects the national identity and constitutes a major factor of tourist attractiveness. Their valorization through museums, festivals and tourist villages contributes to promoting the image of the country internationally.

The ethnographic tourism potential occupies an important place within the anthropic touristic objectives. Because each locality has its traditions, customs, holidays, costume, game and folk song,

but also architectural monuments characteristic of its nation. Every tourist, whether native or abroad, will want to remember the traditions of his people, or even to know something new for himself.

Occupations and crafts:

Occupations and crafts have a touristic attractiveness in that it is related to the way of working, the tools used, the processing methods and the basic secret of making an object, simple, but very precious from an esthetic and practical point of view. Residents of the Republic of Moldova practice livestock breeding and plant cultivation, fishing, pottery, beekeeping and many other economically important occupations and crafts.

The potter:

Pottery is one of the oldest traditional crafts in Moldova, practiced since the Neolithic era (Cucuteni-Tripolie culture), when the first pots of burnt clay appeared. It has played an essential role in the daily life of rural communities, being linked to household needs and popular artistic expression.

Traditional pottery centers

Over time, several pottery centers have been formed in the Republic of Moldova, renowned by their own styles:

- **Horești (Ialoveni district)** – one of the oldest and best known centres, where potters produced pots, pots for cooking, pots for water and wine.
- **Iurcenii (Nisporeni rayon)** – famous for its large supply vessels (clay pots, buns).
- **Valeni (Cahul district)** – famous for its red ceramics, with simple decorations.
- **Ungheni** – an area where potters produced ceramics for everyday use, but also decorative ones.
- **Ciorești (Nisporeni district)** – where the tradition of pottery has been preserved to this day.

Types of objects produced

- **Cooking and storage vessels:** pots, pots, pots, pots.
- **Serving dishes :** dishes, plates, mugs, bowls.
- **Decorative items:** clay whistles, candlesticks, ornamental mugs.
- **Ritual objects:** Vessels used for holidays or religious customs.

Techniques and decors

- Modeling at the potter's wheel and natural drying.
- Burning in a clay oven.
- Decoration by **incisions, painting with geometric and floral motifs**, glazing or leaving in natural form.
- Predominant colours: red, black, brown, white.

Cultural and touristic value

- Pottery is included in the **intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova**.

- Some pottery centers have been transformed into **museums and craft workshops that** attract tourists (e.g.: Horesti, Iurceni, Văleni).
 - Festivals and exhibitions of folk pottery promote this craft.
 - Craftsmen are supported by rural tourism and handicraft projects.
- The tradition of pottery has been considerably reduced in recent decades due to industrialisation and modern materials.
 - However, some craftsmen keep the art of pottery by organising demonstration workshops for visitors.
 - Tourism promotion of folk crafts (including pottery) is becoming a way to revitalise traditions.
- Pottery in the Republic of Moldova is an ancient craft with artistic and ethnographic value, which reflects the creativity of the people. Although practiced by fewer craftsmen today, it remains an identity element and an important tourist resource.

Beekeeping:

Beekeeping in the Republic of Moldova is an agricultural and craft activity with tradition, having major economic and ecological importance. At the same time, it is valued as a tourist and identity resource, with development potential in the context of rural tourism and the export of organic products.

History of beekeeping on the territory of the Republic of Moldova

1. The Old and Medieval Period

- Since ancient times, the inhabitants of Moldova have practiced **prisacuite** – raising bees in natural hollows or hollowed stumps.
- Medieval documents (c. XIV–XV) mentions **tithes in honey and wax** paid to rulers and monasteries.
- Honey was the main source of sweetening, and wax – highly prized, used for church candles and trade.
- There are sources attesting the export of **Moldovan wax** to Poland and the Ottoman Empire.

2. 18th to 19th centuries

- Beekeeping was a widespread occupation in the villages of the **Moldavian Codri** and along the Prut and Dniester rivers.
- Peasants were still using **primitive beehives from tree trunks**, but **more practical horizontal wooden beehives** are also beginning to appear.
- Honey and wax remain export products, and beekeeping becomes an integral part of the peasant economy.

3. 20th century – period of modernisation

- In the interwar period, in Bessarabia, **multi-storey hives and** modern beekeeping techniques are introduced.
- In Soviet times, beekeeping was practised both in individual households and in **kolkhozes and sovkhoses**.
- In the 1960s and 1980s, the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic produced large quantities of honey and wax for domestic consumption and export.
- The first **beekeepers' associations and** professional beekeeping schools are organised.

4. Beekeeping in the Republic of Moldova

- After 1991, beekeeping remains a basic occupation in rural areas, especially in regions with rich melliferous vegetation (Codrii, Nistru Valley, Prut Valley).
- The Republic of Moldova currently has **over 250,000 bee families** raised in modern apiaries.

- The main apiculture products are: **honey (polyflower, linden, acacia, sunflower)**, wax, propolis, royal jelly, paste.
- Moldovan honey is exported to the markets **of the European Union, the Middle East and Asia**.
- Honey **festivals and** beekeeping fairs are organized, promoting tradition and rural tourism.

Beekeeping (beekeeping) is a traditional branch of agriculture in the Republic of Moldova, practiced since ancient times. It has a dual role:

- **economic** – through the production of honey and other apiculture products;
- **ecological** – by contributing to the pollination of agricultural crops and maintaining the natural balance.

Moldova is recognized as a country with beekeeping traditions due to favorable natural conditions and rich melliferous flora.

The tradition of beekeeping

- In the past, bees were raised in **hives from hollows or logs**.
- Subsequently, the vertical and horizontal, modernized hives were spread.
- Beekeeping has been linked to the peasant household and folk traditions (honey used for holidays, weddings, religious customs).

Main apiculture products

- **Honey** – linden, acacia, sunflower, polyfloral (most common).
- **Beeswax** – used for candles, industry, cosmetics.
- **Propolis** – with antimicrobial properties.
- **Royal jelly and belly** – products with nutritional and medicinal value.
- **Bee venom** – used in apitherapy.

Favorable areas and conditions

- **Lime and acacia forests** in central and northern Moldova (e.g. Codrii Moldovei) – rich sources of nectar.
- **Sunflower and rapeseed chains** – favour the production of monofloral honey.
- **Prut and Dniester Valley** – areas of melliferous pastures and meadows.

State of play

- Moldova has **over 250,000 bee families** (in private households and beekeepers' associations).
- The country produces several thousand tonnes of honey annually, a significant part of which is **exported (to the EU, Middle East, Asia)**.
- There are **beekeeping associations and cooperatives** that support beekeepers.
- In recent years, beekeeping has faced problems such as: climate change, use of pesticides in agriculture, depopulation of villages.

Tourist and cultural value

- Beekeeping is promoted in **rural and ecological tourism**: visits to apiaries, honey tastings, workshops presenting the life of bees.
- There are honey **festivals held** annually in various localities.
- Moldovan honey and bee products are appreciated as **a national brand** and traditional gifts.

Port, game and folk song in the Republic of Moldova

1. The popular port

- **Definition:** Traditional clothing, worn at holidays, weddings, feasts or community events.
- **Structure:**
 - **Shirt (ia)** – embroidered with geometric and floral motifs, usually on the sleeves and collar.
 - **Catranta / Fota / Opregul** - striped fabric worn by women over their shirt.
 - **Belt** – coloured, used in both women and men.
 - **Ice cream** – white trousers made of cloth or wool, worn by men.
 - **Opposites** – traditional footwear.
- **Meaning:** The folk costume reflects the belonging to a region, the social status and the artistic creativity of the communities.

The period of formation of the specific features of the traditional Moldavian costume coincides with the 13th and 14th centuries, making it special from the costumes of the neighbouring ethnic groups. Every period in the history of the Moldavian costume, its structure and evolution has preserved its essential characteristics.

The main specificity of the folk costume in Moldova is given by the preservation of a large number of ancient elements, the archaic forms of port have been preserved here to a large extent. The geographical isolation of the area, the few means of communication, but also the existence of a developed local patriotism manifested by the people of these places contributed to this.

The primary element of the popular costume is the shirt, worn by both men and women. It is made of white cotton cloth, linen or borangic. The lengths of the shirt vary, sometimes down to slightly below the waist, sometimes down to the ankles. The top of the shirts is richly decorated.

The traditional women's suit is the most decorative. In the old days, in the execution of the costume, each girl prepared her own coat, striving to give it originality, respecting an old tradition, which said: the drawing shall not be copied, but shall be 'eyed stolen'.

The folk costume presented a system developed by different craftsmen in making it – weavers, sailors, summariers, postmen, blacksmiths, embroiders, crochets, hat-makers, hat-makers, furriers, furriers, cobblers, shoemakers, tailors, seamstresses, etc.

From the second half of the 19th century there followed a period of decline of the particular traditional Moldavian costume by reducing the fabric for the pieces of clothing and replacing them with fabrics of industrial and foreign production, the influence of urban fashion, which brought in the middle of the 20th century to the almost total disappearance of the traditional costume, remaining to be used in principle on national and calendar holidays in ethno-folkloric ensembles at cultural houses, schools, kindergartens. The traditional Moldovan costume is a certificate of high skill and skill, it is a standard of beauty, which possesses a language of communication of ancient traditions, a living testimony of a mass creation process.



Fig.54.Source: Google.com. Moldovan folk costumes

The popular game

- **Definition:** Traditional dance practiced at holidays, feasts, weddings, as a form of communion and expression of collective joy.
- **Characteristics:**
 - The most famous is **Hora**, danced in a circle, symbol of unity.
 - Other games: **Serba, Brâul, Bătuta, Shepherd.**
 - It is danced in a group, accompanied by folk music played on flute, violin, cobza, accordion.
- **Social role:** The popular game strengthens the spirit of community and transmits traditions from generation to generation.

Moldovan folk dance is characterised by a variety of interpretations from one area of the country to another.

We meet a great wealth of rhythms and tempos, of different positions of arms with elegant and smooth movements in women's dances and virtuosity in men's dances. The series of well-defined technical elements determine a well-defined national specificity of Moldovan folk dances. The Gagauzian and Bulgarian dances, which influence each other, retain an expressive and characteristic language of Moldovan dances, are also interpreted with such temperament.

After the metro-rhythmic structure and after the movement, the dance can be systematized as follows:

- of "seed" (measure 2/4, are executed in a rapid movement by men and women in a circle, holding their hands by their shoulders),
- "horse-beaten" (measure 2/4, are executed in a rapid movement, beaten are usually executed by men and include virtuous movements),
- hores – (of men and women, in both cases participants form a circle or semicircle and hold hands),
- an "ostrope" (holding ritual dances, measuring 7/16 or 3/8, is performed in a rapid movement, usually individually, with a dowry object held in the hands),
- 'hora-sea' (measure 6/8 or 3/8, runs in a moderate and slow movement, the participants form a circle, holding hands, which are bent in the elbows and raised to the level of the shoulders).

Depending on their social role Moldovan folk dances are classified: in ritual dances, linked to calendar customs ('Capra', 'Călușarii') and family dances ('Dansul bridei', 'Zestrea', 'Jocul mare'), in non-ritual dances, which in turn can be divided into dances with the object 'Coasa', 'Poama', 'Itelor', 'Sfredelușul', 'Sîsîeacul', 'Tăbăcă', 'Zdroboleană', 'Coșerul', 'Jocul blackseri' – they bring back the work process. 'Haiduceasca', 'Voiniceasca', 'Arnăutul' – mirror the heroic struggle of the people. 'Ilenuța', 'Catincuța', 'Parascița', 'Mititica' – they give back the face of the woman. 'Rose', 'Busuiocul', 'Oleandra', 'Race', 'Ghiocelul', 'Lilac', 'Hulubul', 'The Horse' – are dedicated to flora and fauna. 'Lightning', 'Wind' – restores the phenomena of nature. Satirice – Solitary jockey.



Fig.55.Source: Google.com. The popular Moldovan game.

The popular song

- **Definition:** A form of oral and musical expression that reflects people's lives, joys and longings.
- **Main types:**
 - **Doina** – a lyrical song of longing and mourning, specific to the Romanian space, included in the UNESCO heritage.
 - **Playing songs** – accompanies traditional dances.
 - **Wedding songs** – related to customs and rituals.
 - **Outlaw and historical songs** – evokes heroic figures and events.
- **Value:** The folk song preserves the collective memory, expresses the identity and sensitivity of the people.



Fig.56.Source: Google.com. Moldovan folk song.

Cultural and touristic value

- Port, game and folk song are defining elements of **national identity**.
- They are promoted by:
 - **folk festivals** (‘Hora de la Prut’, ‘Mărțișor’, ‘Festivalul Carvorului’, etc.);
 - **museums and ethno-folkloric ensembles**;
 - **cultural and rural tourism**, where visitors can discover living traditions.

Port, game and folk song are not only aesthetic manifestations, but also vivid expressions of the history, spirituality and unity of communities in the Republic of Moldova. They remain cultural and touristic resources of great value, handed down from generation to generation.

Popular architecture and installations in the Republic of Moldova

1. Category: Popular architecture

- **Definition:** The ensemble of traditional rural constructions, made with local materials (wood, stone, clay, reeds), which meet the housing needs and household activities.
- **Main elements:**
 - **Peasant house** – built of wooden beams, stone or adobe; shingle, straw or reed roof.
 - **The porch and the porch** – defining elements of Moldovan houses.
 - **Sheds and stables** – household annexes for the keeping of fodder and the housing of animals.
 - **The water fountain** – an essential element for the water supply.
- **Characteristics:** simplicity, functionality, harmony with nature, geometric or floral decorations at gates and windows.

2. Popular installations

- **Definition:** Traditional constructions and mechanisms used for various household, agricultural or craft activities.
- **Main types:**

- **Water mill and windmill** – for grinding cereals.
- **Teascul (cellars and wine presses)** – used to crush grapes.
- **Pives and vents** – hydraulic installations for washing and stuffing wool fabrics.
- **Cows and lime kilns** – for processing milk and building materials.
- **The hearth oven** – used for baking bread and cooking traditional dishes.

3. Role and significance

- Popular architecture and installations reflect:
 - **adaptation of man to natural conditions** (climate, relief, resources);
 - **the technical level and creativity of rural communities;**
 - **cultural identity** passed down from generation to generation.
- They are today resources for:
 - **rural and ethnographic tourism** (open-air museums, traditional guesthouses);
 - **craft festivals and workshops;**
 - **preservation of intangible cultural heritage .**

4. Examples from the Republic of Moldova

- **Village Museum (Chisinau)** – presents traditional houses, fountains and popular installations brought from various regions.
- **The windmill in the village of Gaidar (UTA Gagauzia)** – a monument of traditional technical architecture.
- **Balcony fountains and porches** in lowland and hill villages – symbols of rural life.

Popular architecture and installations in the Republic of Moldova are the expression of the harmonious relationship between man and nature, preserving centuries-old traditions. They represent today not only relics of the past, but also tourist and cultural resources of great value.

The Popular Houses

Moldovan folk house is the traditional construction in the countryside, made with local materials (wood, stone, clay, reed) and adapted to the natural and social conditions of the communities. It reflects the lifestyle, beliefs and aesthetic taste of the peasant.

The traditional residence (vernacular) is the dwelling house characteristic of the inhabitants of a country. The architecture of the traditional dwelling – plan, size and appearance – was influenced by the physical and geographical conditions of the natural environment, the particularities and specificities of the household system, historically and socially conditioned. The Moldavian House obtained a unitary shape in terms of planimetry and volume, with constructive area differences, presenting common affinities with the dwelling formed among the peoples of Eastern Europe – Romanians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and Russians.

The perishable material from which they were built, as well as social and technical progress, did not allow houses more than two hundred years old to be preserved. The oldest houses with traditional architecture in Moldova date from the end of the 18th century, and this is due to the fact that they feature historical monuments, such as the memorial house in Chisinau where the Russian poet Pushkin lived.

The traditional house is built to serve 1-2-3 generations, after which the heirs replace it with a better one, corresponding to the new times. In the previous centuries, when time was running slowly, changes occurred indiscriminately, and houses followed the model that preceded it, forming an architecture that was respected as an unwritten law. Traditional housing architecture combines regulatory thinking, common to the country's technical level, with adjustment to individual requirements.

Researched on historical periods, the house is attested from the Neolithic. The dwellings were large, collective for a nation, they closed a habitable area that varied between 15-100 square meters. The

Cucuteni-Tripolie culture houses, studied near the village of Vărvăreuca, Florești district, were erected on platforms of burnt clay, with walls of braided rods, glued with clay and whitewashed. Some houses had two levels, the rooms with housing and storage, among the household objects being shown cult figures. The skeleton of the roof was made of rafters and wooden rafters, over which the covering material was fixed: straw and reed.



Fig.57.Source: Google.com. Popular Moldovan houses.

Building materials

- **Wood** – used mainly in wooded areas (Codrii Moldovei).
- **Chirpice and clay** – spread in lowland regions.
- **Stone** – used in the south and in areas with natural quarries.
- **Straw and reed** – for roofing.

Structure and elements of the house

- **The basis:** of raw stone or wood, to protect from moisture.
- **The walls:** of wood, adobe or stone beams.
- **The roof:** in four waters, covered with reeds, straw, shingle, and later with tile.
- **Prispa:** wooden or clay platform, covered, located on one or more sides, used as a social space.
- **The porch:** architectural element with carved pillars and arcades, present especially in the wealthier houses.
- **Windows and doors:** small, framed with carved or painted ornaments.

Interior of the traditional house

- **Tint** – the entrance room, from where one enters the living rooms.
- **The big house** – the most important room, designed for guests and holidays; decorated with fabrics, carpets and icons.
- **Living room/room** – for the everyday life of the family.
- **The hearth oven** – the centre of the household, used for cooking, heating and sleeping in winter.

Aesthetic features

- Simplicity and functionality.
- Discrete but significant ornamentation: geometric and floral motifs at the porch pillars, at the gates and at the windows.
- Predominant colours: white (walls), blue or green (windows, doors, ornaments).

Cultural and touristic value

- The Moldovan folk house reflects **the national identity** and creativity of rural communities.
- Today, many of them are valued by:
 - **ethnographic museums** (e.g. the Village Museum in Chisinau);
 - **rustic guesthouses** that preserve traditional architecture;
 - **festivals and folk events** that promote village life.

The Moldovan People's House is more than just a dwelling – it is a symbol of the connection between man and nature, the traditions and aesthetic values of the village. Today, it remains a resource of cultural identity and a valuable objective for ethnographic tourism.

An important area of domestic concern was also ***the processing of animal skins*** resulting from animal husbandry. Leather was made of coats, hats, combs, trousers, shoes, boots, etc.

The review of the names of traditional crafts aims to demonstrate the large number of craftsmen in rural areas, with a focus on those, which were fixed and described in field research., Each field was endowed with certain machinery and tools, production techniques, with a great diversity of forms and cultural expressions of the made-up objects.

All these technological values, the diversity of cultural objects and expressions are a huge and sustainable potential that can be revived and harnessed to open up new jobs, stop migration, reduce poverty and improve quality of life. They are an inexhaustible source of experience and models for the training and education of the growing generation.

Of all the traditional crafts, ***woodworking*** requires the most diversified specialization. Carpenters, carpenters, carpenters, carvers, carpenters, carpenters, carpenters, carvers, sculptors, musical instrument builders, weavers, etc. The great spread and diversity of subcategories is explained by the existence of the material resource – the large forests – from which the necessary raw material, wood, is obtained. The range of techniques used is also wide, adapted to the intended purpose: carving and carving for the construction of houses, churches, acres; notching or excision and incision for decorating furniture and minor objects; bending for making baskets and spoons; punching and punching to remove part of the wood; pyrograving for decorating pots.

Following the analysis of the statistical information collected, the following things have been established:

-They are craftsmen aged 30 to 70 years, mostly over the age of 55–60, 19 of whom are men, the other side of the craftsmen are women

Distribution of crafts on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, by types:

- Embroidery, crochet -20%
- Woodworking -17 %
- Traditional costumes - 13%
- Plaited in lozenge, other vegetable fibres-12 %
- Tissue of inks, carpets, mattresses -12 %
- Painting -10%
- Pottery -3 %
- Making traditional dolls -3 %
- Braided in needles -3 %
- 2% - horn processing, blacksmith.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Short-answered questions

1. What is meant by the notion of **ethnographic resources**?
2. What are the main ethnographic areas of the Republic of Moldova?
3. Mention three examples of **traditional folk crafts** in Moldova.
4. What role do **folk costumes** and **traditional dance** play in preserving cultural identity?
5. What are the main materials used in **traditional Moldovan architecture**?

Fill-in questions

6. Moldovan folk costume is characterized by ...

7. Popular games and songs are passed down from generation to generation through...
8. An example of a popular installation used in the past in the household is ...

Multiple Choice Questions

9. Which of the following are ethnographic resources?
 - a) Medieval fortresses
 - b) Cucuteni pottery
 - c) Moldovan folk costume
 - d) Wedding customs and traditions
 - e) Nature reserves
10. What elements are part of the intangible ethnographic heritage?
 - a) Folk songs
 - b) Ethnographic museums
 - c) Carols and winter customs
 - d) Traditional clay houses

Questions for analysis and reflection

11. Explains how **ethnographic resources** contribute to the development of cultural tourism in the Republic of Moldova.
12. What are the dangers that threaten the preservation of ethnographic traditions?
13. It argues the importance **of folk festivals in** promoting ethnographic resources.
14. Give examples of localities in the Republic of Moldova known for **craft centres** .
15. How can ethnographic resources be harnessed in educational and rural tourism programmes?

Topic 19: The Moldavian folk costume.

The Moldavian folk costume reflects the cultural identity and traditions of the inhabitants of different regions of Moldova. It is characterised by **simplicity, functionality and ornamental richness** adapted to rural living conditions.

- **Women** wear white shirts, embroidered with geometric or floral motifs, long skirts and colorful aprons, braided girdles, and scarves or headbands.
- **Men wear** simple or embroidered shirts, wide trousers, belt and traditional hat.
- The materials used are generally **cotton, linen, wool and** embroidery reflects local symbols and popular beliefs.
- The predominant colours are **white, red and black** with regional variations.
- The folk costume is worn especially at **holidays, weddings, folk festivals and** within religious or community traditions.

Breakdown by ethnographic region:

Table 28

Ethnographic region	Women – main elements	Men – main elements	Comments / Specific reasons
Codrii (Centre of Moldova)	White shirt embroidered with red and black, long skirt, embroidered apron, belt, scarf on the head	White embroidered shirt, wide pants, belt, traditional hat	Embroidery with geometric and floral motifs, symbols of nature
Northern Moldavia	Shirt with complex embroidery sleeves and chest, striped skirt, colorful apron, maram	Embroidered shirt, wide pants, vest, hat	Vegetable and zoomorphic motifs, more intense colors

Ethnographic region	Women – main elements	Men – main elements	Comments / Specific reasons
Southern Moldavia	Simple white shirt with discreet embroidery, skirt or trim, waistband, scarf	White shirt, trousers, belt, hat	More sober style, lighter colors, Balkan influences
the Dniester area	Shirt with fine embroidery, long skirt, apron and scarf, beads	White shirt, wide pants, embroidered vest, hat	Emphasis on small ornaments, vivid colors, beads and ribbons

The Moldovan folk costume is a vital component of Moldova's cultural heritage, reflecting the history, traditions and identity of this people. Traditional Moldovan costumes are not just clothes; they are a symbol of cultural heritage, being proudly worn at various events, celebrations and festivals. Every element of the popular costume, from ie and fota to accessories and jewelry, tells a story about the values and beliefs of the community.

Understanding the distinctive elements of Moldovan folk costume is essential for preserving and promoting cultural traditions. These costumes not only represent a form of textile art, but they preserve and transmit values, symbols and craft techniques over generations. Each embroidered motif, each color and each piece of clothing have profound meanings and are witnesses of the cultural and historical evolution of Moldova.

Preserving and promoting these traditions helps to strengthen cultural identity and create a sense of belonging. In an ever-changing world, where globalization can lead to the loss of local particularities, the Moldovan folk costume provides an anchor in the past, keeping the collective memory alive and contributing to global cultural diversity.

Basic elements of the Moldovan folk costume

Ie

Ia is one of the most representative pieces of Moldovan folk costume. Made of cotton cloth, flax or hemp, it is often decorated with complex embroidery. These embroidery are handmade using traditional techniques handed down from one generation to the next. Embroidered motifs range from flowers and leaves to geometric symbols and are usually red, black or blue.

Cotton cloth is the most commonly used, due to its durability and comfort. Sometimes linen or hemp cloth is also used for a more rustic texture.

Embroidery on ie is carried out by traditional techniques such as the cross point, the Romanian point and the chain point. Each technique contributes to the complexity and beauty of the final design.



Fig.58.Source: Google.com. Oh, it's me.

The embroidered motifs on the ie are often inspired by nature and rural life, including stylized flowers, leaves, wheat ears and geometric symbols. Each motif has a cultural and spiritual significance, contributing to the story of the bearer.

The girdle and girdle

The fringe is a traditional skirt worn by women, while the waistband is a wide belt used to fasten the fringe around the waist. These pieces are essential in the Moldovan folk costume and are made of durable materials, often decorated with embroidery.

The girdle is made of wool, cotton or silk, and the girdle of the same material or leather. Embroidery on catriments and girdles is made by traditional techniques, similar to those used for ie, thus adding an additional level of detail and complexity.

The motifs embroidered on the catriments and girdles often have symbolic meanings, representing fertility, prosperity and protection. Their functionality is to provide comfort and mobility, allowing the wearer to move freely during daily activities or traditional dances.

These basic elements of Moldovan folk costume not only reflect the craftsmanship and creativity of local artisans, but also keep alive a rich and diverse cultural tradition.

Symbolism and folk motifs

Geometric motifs

Geometric motifs are ubiquitous in Moldovan embroidery, having a deep and varied meaning. These motifs include shapes such as rhombuses, crosses, zigzag lines and spirals, each with its own symbolism. Rombs, for example, are often associated with fertility and prosperity, representing cultivated fields or grain. Crosses can symbolize protection and religious faith, being integrated into drawings to bring blessing and defense against evil.

Geometry in embroidery is not only a form of decorative art, but also a method of conveying messages and traditions from one generation to the next. Geometric patterns are often arranged in symmetrical ways, symbolizing balance and harmony in life.

Floral motifs

Flowers are common motifs in Moldovan embroidery, each flower having its own symbolism. Roses, for example, are often associated with love and beauty, while tulips symbolize elegance and nobility. Other common flowers include daisies, symbolizing purity and innocence, and poppies, which can represent both eternal sleep and sacrifice.



Fig.59.Source: Google.com. The Moldavian embroidery.

Zoomorphic symbols

Zoomorphic symbols are present in many Moldavian embroidery, each animal having its own cultural significance. For example, birds are often seen as messengers between heaven and earth, symbolizing freedom and hope. Horses, on the other hand, are associated with strength and speed, and snakes are seen as symbols of renewal and healing due to their ability to change their skin.

Animals embroidered on clothes and other textiles are not only decorative, but also bring good luck and protection. Each zoomorphic symbol has a story and a meaning that is related to the traditions and beliefs of the Moldovan people.

Colors used

Color palette

The Moldavian folk costume is distinguished by a rich and vibrant palette of colors, each of which has a special meaning. The predominant colors are red, black, white and blue. Red symbolizes vitality, energy and protection against evil spirits. Black is often associated with earth, stability and seriousness. White, on the other hand, represents purity, innocence, and spirituality. Blue is related to calm, peace and connection to the sky.

In addition to these main colors, shades of green, yellow and gold can also be found. Green symbolizes nature and renewal, yellow is associated with wealth and prosperity, and gold denotes royalty and splendor.

Regional influences

The use of colors in Moldovan folk costumes varies significantly by region, reflecting local traditions and historical influences. For example, in the north of Moldova, a preference is observed for combinations of red and black, accentuated by geometric and floral motifs. In southern areas, blue and green are more common, along with motifs inspired by nature and pastoral life.

In the center of Moldova, the folk costume tends to combine all these colors, reflecting the diversity and cultural richness of the region. Each geographical area brings a specific shade, contributing to a color mosaic that tells about the identity and traditions of the place.

Traditional accessories

Maramas and handkerchiefs

Maramas and handkerchiefs are essential accessories in the Moldovan folk costume, bringing more elegance and authenticity to traditional outfits. Marama is often made of fine materials such as borangic or silk, and can be embroidered with floral or geometric motifs. Marama is worn especially at festive occasions and religious ceremonies, having a decorative but also symbolic role, being associated with purity and respect.

Batics are simpler in design compared to maramas and are worn daily by women, especially in rural areas. They can be made of cotton or wool and are usually colored with floral or geometric prints. The stick protects the hair from dust and sun, but it is also a symbol of femininity and modesty.

Jewelry and ornaments

Traditional Moldavian jewellery and ornaments add extra refinement and shine to the folk costume. Among the most common jewellery are bead or pearl necklaces, precious metal earrings and richly decorated bracelets. These accessories are often handmade, with great attention to detail, and can be ornamented with traditional motifs.



Fig. 60.Photo source: Facebook Sofia Vicoveanca, Laura Lavric

Necklaces made of colored beads are very popular and are worn both on the neck and as bracelets wrapped on the hands. They can be simple or have complex motifs, with each model having a cultural and symbolic significance.

Traditional earrings, usually silver or gold, can be small and delicate or large and imposing, depending on the occasion. They add an element of brilliance and perfectly complement the traditional outfit.

Bracelets are often worn in sets and can be of precious metal or leather, decorated with folk motifs or precious stones. They symbolize power and protection and are often given as gifts in important ceremonies.

<https://youtu.be/Q0QIIZH1DFM> The video on the Moldovan folk costume is shown on this link.

<https://youtu.be/7Ekzb77IEEo> link about National Port Day, celebrated on the last Sunday of June.

Women's basic costume consists of: the traditional shirt, (ie) the lap, the scarf, the fota and the girdle, the breastplate or the bunny, the opinci, the bag, the blooming scarf and the adornments, each representing a class of objects. Each area has something specific, which is reflected in the clothing. The most commonly used colors are: white – the colour of cleanliness and innocence, red – the colour of life and joy, green – the colour of nature, black – the colour of darkness

The men's suit consists of basic and additional pieces: shirt, trousers, girdle. This suit is for warm time, the color is white. The head is covered with straw hat or felt hat. In the cold period the suit had darker shades, because it consisted of pieces woven from wool or sewn from animal skins. Men from richer families wore chemaries with three or four buckles. The kimir was attached to the knife, the money bag, the tobacco bag, the flint and the helmet. Above the shirt and trousers, the bunny was dressed – a piece of sheepskin fur, and in winter, if necessary, they also wore a large coat or coat. On working days, they wore boots, on holidays they wore slippers, boots, shards or boots.

https://youtu.be/FyT3xNEqMSA?and=NeaThkh8d_7rFYx9 popular port day link (2016)

Costumes at traditional events:



Traditional wedding costumes Ethno-folkloric costumes



Welcoming guests on national holidays



At family holidays Handing the coil to guests



Men's and Women's Costume Traditional Bride and Groom's Costume

Fig.61.Source: <https://moldovenii.md/> Traditional costumes at events



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Short-answered questions

1. What is Moldovan folk costume and what role does it play in cultural identity?
2. What are the traditional materials from which the Moldavian folk costume is made?
3. Mention two predominant colors in the embroidery of the folk costume.
4. What part of women's clothing was there? What about men?
5. In what social and cultural contexts is the popular costume worn today?

Fill-in questions

6. The shirt was decorated with...
7. The belt worn by men had the role of...
8. The straw or wool hat symbolized...
9. The Moldavian folk costume was transmitted ...

Multiple Choice Questions

10. Which of the following are part of the Moldovan women's folk costume?
 - a) Embroidered apron
 - b) Marama or batic
 - c) Military vest
 - d) Long skirt
11. What elements characterize the male folk costume?
 - a) White embroidered shirt
 - b) Wide girdle
 - c) Wide trousers
 - d) Tie

Questions for analysis and reflection

12. Explains why folk costumes are considered a valuable ethnographic resource.
13. Argues the connection between symbols on embroidery and popular beliefs.

14. How does wearing folk costumes contribute to holidays and festivals to the preservation of traditions?
15. Give examples of regional differences in the Moldovan folk costume.

Topic 20: Calendar and religious holidays and customs in the Republic of Moldova.

Moldovan holidays and customs bear the value marks inherited from the ancestors through which they strengthen the nation and contribute to our identification. Marked a single day or a few, with a fixed or mobile date, dedicated to calendar deities, but also to people, animals, birds, plants, terrestrial and cosmic phenomena, holidays and customs are known and respected until today. In this context we can mention that Moldovans have managed throughout history to ennoble their lives with beautiful holidays and significant customs.

Therefore, the system of holidays and customs is a rather complex one, within which traditions and rituals, beliefs and superstitions have interwoven. For this reason, in specialized research, an explicit classification is not yet completed.

Analyzing, the entire spectrum of Moldovan holidays and customs we will make a review of the most representative categories of holidays, starting with those celebrated at national level and last but not least with the holidays marked in the family.

By **holidays** are designated the days on which important events are commemorated, these being marked by various celebrations, solemnities, which are usually officially established as days of rest. The holidays of the year are also called calendar holidays. Here we would like to mention the holidays recognised as national – those celebrating an important event in the country's history such as - 9 May – Victory Day over Fascism, 27 August – Independence Day of the Republic of Moldova, 31 August – Our language.

To our joy in Moldova we have many official holidays. This category also includes some religious holidays **recognized** by the Orthodox Christian Church. To begin with, we will mention them in the sequence of deployment throughout the year.

The first holiday is New Year's Day - 1 January. Traditionally, New Year's Eve celebrations take place within the family or with close friends. Once started, the festivities continue with the Christmas holidays, celebrated by Orthodox Moldova on 7-8 January. From the spring holidays a remarkable day is 1 March, when people give to their relatives and friends – a symbol of new life and the beginning of spring. International Women's Day is also celebrated this month on 8 March. Spring also celebrates great religious holidays, the dates of which are variable, that is, they change from one year to the next. Therefore, Orthodox Easter is celebrated after the first full moon following the spring equinox. One week after the beginning of Easter, the Orthodox celebrate the Blajin Passover. On this day, the deceased are commemorated, relatives meet and go together to the graves of their loved ones. A holiday is also 1 May – International Working People's Day.

An important category of the cycle of the calendar holidays are those of a religious character. First of all, here are included those dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ: Birth of the Lord (Christmas) Baptism of the Lord (Baptism), Resurrection of the Lord (Easter), Ascension of the Lord (Ispasul), etc. Religious are also the feasts that celebrate the days of the Holy Fathers: St. Patrick's Day Basil, St. Gheorghe, Saints Constantine and Helen, etc. Here it is also important to mention the locality's patron's feast day – the celebration of the spirit of the church. In our country is known the tradition of several types of patron: of the family, the church, the monastery, the locality.

The closest to the spirit of Moldovans are family holidays: Marriage, the Feast of the Newborn, etc. It is in this category of holidays that the most spectacular traditional customs and rituals have been preserved.

By customs we mean various manifestations of folkloric and picturesque character that include profound meanings on man regarding his relations with nature and the surrounding world. We know ancient customs, new customs, wedding customs, etc., these can be regarded as unwritten rules of human activity transmitted orally, as is tradition.

The unique customs respected and practiced by Moldovans are those of mutual help: for the construction of the house, for the help in digging or cleaning the well, for the preparation of the dowry, which in our tradition is called sitting.

Extensive forms of unfolding have been preserved so far in Moldovan customs, where the old rites are combined with ceremonial acts and spectacular manifestations. In this respect, it is important to realize that we need to keep in touch with the past, with secular traditions, to protect and promote the spiritual-intangible heritage.

Winter holidays

- **Carols:**

Religious and popular songs sung around Christmas to announce the Nativity and bring good wishes.

- **The ploughdriver:**

A traditionally ugly New Year's Eve, which brings wishes for rich harvests and a fruitful year.

- **Sorcova:**

A New Year's custom, in which children carol with a decorated branch (sorcova) to convey wishes of health, abundance and happiness.

- **The game of the goat and the game of the bear:**

Traditional folk performances, part of the New Year's festivities, involving costumes and symbolic representations.

- **New Year's Eve:**

The celebration of the end of the year, marked by parties and family gatherings.

- **Epiphany:**

An important religious holiday, marking the consecration of water on January 6, a central event in the Orthodox religious calendar.

Winter holidays occupy a special place in the hearts of Moldovans, being an occasion of joy, reunion with the family and observance of ancient traditions.

From caroling children to preparing the festive meal, every moment is filled with meanings and emotions.

In the Republic of Moldova, this cycle of holidays begins on **13 December, by Saint Andrew**, and ends on **20 January, by Saint John** the Baptist.

Carols: the joy of proclaiming the Nativity of the Lord

Christmas is celebrated both in the new style, **25 December**, and in the old style, **7 January**. One of the most beloved traditions of Christmas is caroling.

Christmas is celebrated with plentiful meals, where housewives prepare traditional dishes such as sarmale, cold, parsley, drum and cake.

These delights mark the end of fasting and are enjoyed with family and friends.

Children, young people and even adults form groups that go from house to house, singing carols that proclaim the Nativity of the Lord.

The hosts reward them with nuts, apples, cakes or money. Carols such as 'Oh, what wonderful news' or 'The Star Up Rises' are the most popular, resounding in all corners of the country.

The ploughdriver: Wishes for a fruitful year

On the night between the years, Moldovans keep with holiness the custom of the Plugusor, a tradition full of symbolism and good cheer.

Groups of haters, made up of young people or even adults, start with the Ploughman from house to house, wishing the hosts a prosperous new year, full of plenty and health.

Goat and Bear game: the New Year's Show

On the night between the years, young people play the roles of the Goat or the Bear, dancing and singing to bring luck and abundance.

The alleys are accompanied by drums, whistles and other instruments, turning each household into a stage show.

Sorcova: Wishes for health and abundance

On the first day of the year, children go with Sorcova, a branch decorated with colorful ribbons, and say wishes for health and prosperity.

Lyrics such as ‘Sorcova, crockery’ bring a smile to the hosts’ lips and spread good cheer.

New Year's Eve: End of year party

The night between years is marked by parties and rich meals. Traditional dishes and festive desserts are always present, and family and friends spend together in anticipation of the new year.

Religious Traditions: Epiphany

Epiphany, January 19, marks the Baptism of the Lord. On this day, priests sanctify water, and people bring it home to sprinkle on households, objects and animals.

St. John: the end of the winter holidays

The cycle of winter holidays ends on **January 20**, by St. John. Tradition says that this day brings the ‘baptism of frost’, a sign that temperatures will start to rise.

People sprinkle themselves with water to protect them from disease and trouble.

Martisor

March 1st, the first day of spring, is a real day of celebration. The streets are flooded with roses and flowers. Mărțișor is the traditional Romanian holiday celebrating the arrival of spring. The Martisor's history dates back to the time of the Getae, and legend has it that women wore coins or pebbles to which it was customary to add red and white wool strands.

The color red, given by fire, blood and sun, was attributed to life, so to woman. By contrast, the white colour, given by the clearness of the waters and the whiteness of the clouds, was specific to the wisdom of men. Moreover, the string of the Martisor expresses the inseparable interweaving of the two principles as a permanent movement of matter. It signifies the exchange of vital forces that give birth to the living, the continuous cycle of nature. White and red colors remain to this day as a symbol of the sexes, and they are also found at the wedding and funeral tree.

Steps

Easter, the Christian feast of the ResurrectionThe last week of fasting preceding the feast is Great Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday. The celebration actually begins with Palm Sunday, when Christ's entry into Jerusalem is celebrated. Holy Week is meant to share the torments of Jesus.This week ends the 40-day fast and nature is reborn.The Feast of the Passover begins in the afternoon of Saturday. The most important time of the day is the consecration of the baptismal water at the church. It was said that the first person to be baptized with this ‘new’ water would be lucky all his life.Water also plays an important role on Sunday. Christians went to church carrying food and wine prepared to be sanctified.

The fast officially ends with the consumption of these dishes. In some regions this tradition is still alive today. It was said that if the chickens get to eat the remains of these dishes they will lay a lot of eggs. It was customary for the sanctified egg to be eaten in the middle of the family, so that if someone got lost, they would remember who they ate with and find their way home. Traditional food is lamb prepared according to a number of specific recipes. The Lamb is the symbol of Christ.

Saint George the Great

Every year, on 6 May, Saint George the Great Martyr, the bearer of victory, is celebrated. The Great Martyr George was born in Cappadocia to Christian parents. He followed his military career, becoming commander in the army of Emperor Diocletian. In 303, the emperor issued a decree requiring all Christians to deny their faith in Christ and worship the gods. Saint George, because he did not want to sacrifice to the gods, was sentenced to death by beheading in 303, on May

6. According to the popular belief of St. Peter, George is often associated with the death of the dragon.

Cultural significance

Calendar and religious customs combine pre-Christian and Christian elements.

They preserve traditions of music, dance, folk costumes, gastronomy.

It is an important ethnographic and tourist resource, promoted through folk festivals and cultural events.



Fig.62.Source: Google.com. Specific national holidays

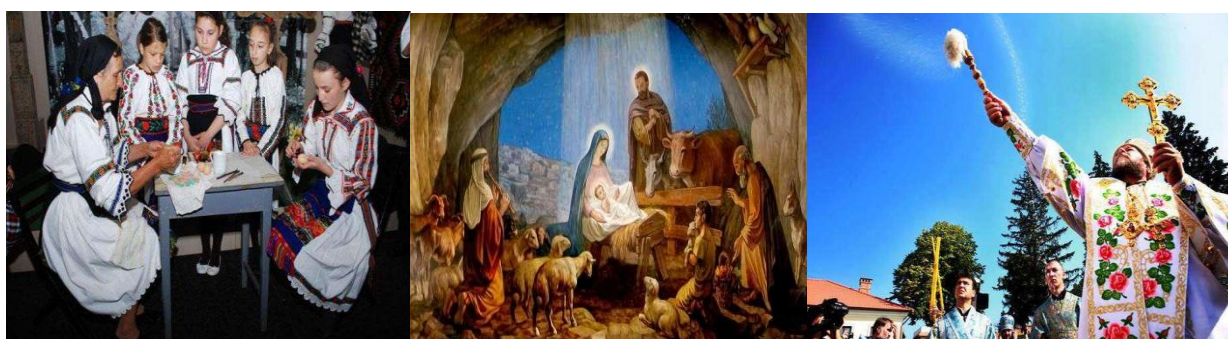


Fig.63.Source: Google.com. Easter holidays



Fig.64.Source: Google.com. Winter holidays.New Year and Christmas

Other significant calendar/national holidays:

- Day of commemoration of Mihai Eminescu (January 15);
2. Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27);
3. Day of Remembrance for the Fallen in Afghanistan (15 February);
4. Remembrance Day (2 March) (the day of commemoration of those who fell in the armed conflict of 1992 in order to defend the integrity and independence of the Republic of Moldova and the victims of this conflict);
5. Freedom Day (7 April) (day commemorating young people who have manifested peacefully in the name of freedom and democracy);
6. Day of commemoration of the victims of the Chernobyl disaster and other nuclear damage (26

April);

7. State Flag Day (April 27);

8. Occupational Safety and Health Day (28 April);

9. Family Day (15 May);

10. Dniester Day (last Sunday of May);

11. Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Fascism (22 June);

12. Sovereignty Day (23 June);

13. Popular Port Day (last Sunday of June);

14. Day of commemoration of Ștefan the Great (2 July);

15. Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Stalinism (6 July);

16. Constitution Day (29 July);

17. August 1 - Day of the Farovier of the Republic of Moldova (celebrated on the first Sunday of August).

18. August 5 - Funder's Day in Moldova.

19. August 8 - Builder's Day in Moldova (celebrated on the second Sunday of August).

20. Independence Day (27 August);

21. The celebration of "Our Language" (31 August);

22. National Apple Festival (last Saturday and Sunday of September);

23. National Wine Day (first Saturday and Sunday of October);



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Short-answered questions

1. What is meant by the notion of **calendar habits**?
2. What is the significance of the Martisor **holiday**?
3. What Habits Are Linked **to New Year's Eve**?
4. What is the **tradition of the Ploughman**?
5. What does **Sorcova** symbolize?

Fill-in questions

6. Christmas carols are passed down from generation to generation through...
7. The 'Capra' custom is practised between ...
8. In Epiphany, believers take home...
9. The Easter of the Blajin is dedicated to...

Multiple Choice Questions

10. Which of the following habits is practiced on New Year's Eve?
 - a) Sowing
 - b) Sprinkling girls with water
 - c) Sorcova
 - d) Decoration of the Christmas tree
11. What celebration marks the beginning of spring?
 - a) Epiphany
 - b) The Martisor
 - c) Easter
 - d) The cute

Questions for analysis and reflection

12. Explains the role of calendar customs in preserving folk traditions.

13. Why are carols and dances considered items of intangible heritage?
14. How is the link between agricultural work and calendar habits reflected?
15. It argues the importance of capitalizing on traditional holidays in cultural tourism in the Republic of Moldova.

Subject 21: Specifics of traditional gastronomy.

Starting on a culinary journey through Moldova is like stepping into a hidden treasure of flavors and traditions. Moldova's gastronomy has undergone many changes over time, and the history and way of life of local residents have made a significant contribution to the formation of recipes and culinary specialties of the region.

Moldovans were educated to work hard. In the past, the country had an intense agricultural activity, with land worked by the villagers. For this reason, people most often prepared what they themselves cultivated (wheat and corn), along with vegetables from their own gardens. The food had to be nutritious, filling and high in calories to keep them energized on the hills during the working day.

Moldovan cuisine is based on natural, locally grown products, prepared in simple but tasty ways. It has elements taken from Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, Turkish and Balkan cuisine. **Basic products** – Maize, wheat, potatoes, garden vegetables, dairy, pork, poultry and fish.

Traditional preparations

- **polenta** – a staple food, served with cheese, cream, stews or fish.
- **Salads** – in vine leaves or cabbage, stuffed with meat, rice and spices.
- **Zeama** – traditional chicken soup with homemade noodles and sour borsch.
- **Pies** – baked or fried, with various fillings (cheese, potatoes, cabbage, pumpkin, sour cherries).
- **Roasted or grilled** - pork, lamb, poultry.
- **Cozonac and colaci** – present at religious holidays and traditional customs.

Specific products and culinary habits

- **Pickles and cans** – not absent from the traditional household.
- **Moldovan wine** – an integral part of the festive meals, thanks to the wine-growing tradition.

- **Culinary habits** – **festive** meals (Christmas, Easter, the patron saint of the village) are rich, with ritual dishes (cozonac, pasta, lamb).
- **Hospitality generosity** – meals are loaded, reflecting respect for guests.

Cultural and touristic significance

- Traditional Moldovan gastronomy is a **symbol of national identity**.
- It is promoted through **gastronomic festivals, rural pensions and enogastronomic tourism**.
- Traditional food is associated with **Moldovan hospitality** and the transmission of family habits.

Traditional Moldavian cuisine is distinguished by polenta (a porridge of cornmeal) served with cheese and sour cream, borsch (soup), various meat dishes, dumplings (stuffed pasta) and sweets such as cake and Guguta's Cusma. The cuisine is influenced by local and minority traditions, including sarmale, pilaf, and specific dishes from regions such as Ukrainian borsch or Gagauz sharpa.

Moldovan cuisine is mainly composed of traditional European foods such as beef, pork, potatoes, cabbage and various cereals.

The most well-known dish in Moldovan cuisine, as well as the Romanian one as a whole, is polenta. This is a stew of corn flour, often served as an accompaniment to stews and meat dishes or with cottage cheese, cream and pork rind. Local wines are not missing from most meals.

Traditional for Bessarabian cuisine are dishes combining various vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cabbage, beans, onions, garlic, leeks and others. Vegetables are used in salads and sauces, they are baked, steamed, pickled, salted or marinated.

Meat products hold a special place, especially as the first course and appetizer. Chicken soup, known as borscht (soup) <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciorb%C4%83> is very popular. Grilled pork steak and beef and lamb meatballs are common. Fish meat is often marinated and then grilled.

Traditional holiday dishes include sarmale stuffed with minced meat, pilaf (a rice dish), jelly, noodles, chicken, others. The holiday meal is usually decorated with pastry items, such as pastry cakes, rolls, buns and a variety of fillings (cheese, fruit, vegetables, nuts, etc.).

In some regions, the cuisine of different minorities is predominant. In the eastern areas, Ukrainians eat borscht; in the south, Bulgarians serve *the traditional mange* (chicken sauce), while Gagauzians prepare *sharpa*, a highly seasoned sheep meat soup; Pelmeni <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelmeni> are cooked in Russian communities. Also popular are dumplings filled with fresh cheese, meat, or potatoes.

Snacks and cold dishes

A rich selection of vegetables, meat, fish and dairy products leads to a wide range of snacks in Moldovan cuisine. The most popular are:

- beans with crushed garlic (made beans),
- Moldovan donuts,

- roasted peppers,
- stuffed eggplant,
- salads from raw and canned vegetables.

Snacks are filled with vegetable oil, vinegar, sour cream, mayonnaise, moss sauces, skardol, marinade. The spicy plants - lovage, tarragon, parsley, dill, celery, mint, as well as garlic - are used to give the snack a savory aroma.

Among cold appetizers, eggs filled with mushrooms and chicken liver, piftie, meat and fish are also common.

Pies

The culinary adventure in Moldova often begins with Pies, dough cakes filled with various ingredients: cheese, potatoes, cabbage, meat, cherries, sour cherries or pumpkin. This is the dish that symbolizes the Moldovan people and traditions. The pies are served with sour cream and fit perfectly with red or white wine.

Polenta and Cheese

polenta, a corn-based polenta, is also a popular dish. Corn flour was easy to produce in households using handmade grain mills, so polenta was the favorite garnish for various dishes, sometimes even coming instead of bread! The polenta is served with fresh or salted cow's or sheep's cheese, sour cream, pork steak (meat stuffed with sunflower oil) and sometimes a portion of vegetable stew is added to it.

Zeame

Zeama (traditional homemade chicken soup) is also a true culinary masterpiece unique in the Romanian region. The soup is based on a chicken broth, to which vegetables and noodles are added, being served with sour cream and chili peppers for contrast. Homemade chicken juice is not only a culinary joy appreciated by Moldovans, but also a natural remedy for colds, being very nutritious and healthy.

Sarmale

Salads are cabbage rolls (fresh or pickled) filled with a mixture of rice, vegetables and minced pork or beef. Moldovan sarmals often differ from those of neighboring countries in that they are smaller and have more delicate flavors. This culinary preparation is known by the same name in several countries in the Eastern Mediterranean basin area, such as Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and Macedonia. Tomatoes from Moldova are served with a portion of sour cream, which improves their taste and aroma.

Grilled meats

Meat delights in Moldova are known by pot roasts, skewers and grilled meat. Apart from the tradition of preparing Easter lamb and Christmas pig, Moldovan dishes that include meat are numerous for the same reason – Moldovans raised pigs, cattle, chickens, goats and sheep at home, and meat consumption was common in all households. Small (meat minced with spices) and sausages (meat minced in a casing) are the most common dishes eaten by locals, served with polenta, forming a classic combination. Another favorite type is needle skewer meat marinated in wine (for which each householder has his own recipe) and this meat dish is often prepared and enjoyed outdoors with friends and family.

Desserts

No culinary experience is complete without tasting the traditional Moldovan dessert called 'Cusma lui Guguță' – a dessert made from pancakes filled with sour cherries and layered with sour cream. In certain regions of Moldova, 'papanasi' or 'brânzoaice' (roasted cheese doughnuts) are also frequently prepared, served with jam and cream. 'Cozonac' (sweet bread with nuts and raisins) is another highly appreciated dessert, being like a sweet and aromatic bread, often baked during the Christmas and Easter holidays.

A few historical details... In our culture, especially among adults and the elderly, there is also a joke about ‘sugar bread’, which was the only dessert that could be made at home. Moldova went through difficult times, and its inhabitants had to cope with limited resources and ingredients, and bread with a drop of water and covered with sugar was the main dessert of the children of the past! In addition, in families with many children, they were educated to strictly divide their food between siblings and family members, to ensure that it was enough for everyone, and they were all quite food-saving.

Wines

The history of wine production in Moldova dates back to ancient times. Domestication and cultivation of wild vines took place, possibly, during the Cucuteni-Tripolye culture, one of the oldest civilizations in Europe (6th century BC to the 4th century BC), which included the present territory of the Republic of Moldova and which has been maintained to this day. The favourable terrain has enabled the cultivation and production of the vines.

The great hills of Moldova and the fertile soil (chernozem) have created ideal conditions for the cultivation of vines, but also for the development of wine production skills over time. Moldovan wines, especially indigenous varieties such as Fetească Neagră, Rară Neagră, Feteasca Albă and Feteasca Regală, have achieved international recognition and countless awards for their distinctive aromas and exceptional quality. These wines are sought after and appreciated by every tourist who visits Moldova, explores the wineries and enjoys a unique wine experience.

As of February 2020, Moldova is part of the [Iter Vitiscultural route](#) and ranks as a wine tourism destination alongside France, Italy, Greece, Spain and other titans of the world wine production industry.

Exploring Moldova’s gastronomic delights is not just a pleasure – it is a journey into the historical past. Each dish represents a chapter in the culinary story of an entire nation and the housewives who have cherished traditions, cooking with great care and devotion for their families. Moldovan cuisine abounds with natural and healthy ingredients, and we, as a people, strive to maintain and transmit specialties to future generations, ensuring that culinary art will live for many future generations!



polenta with stew polenta with meat Pies



Zeame Barbecues Desserts



Sarmale Wines Red wine

Fig.65.Source: Google.com. The traditional gastronomy.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Short-answered questions

1. What are the main basic products in traditional Moldovan gastronomy?
2. What role does polenta play in traditional food?
3. What types of fillings are used in traditional pies?
4. On what occasions is the graze prepared?
5. Why is wine considered part of Moldovan gastronomy?

Fill-in questions

6. The traditional preparation 'zeama' is prepared from ...
7. At Christmas holidays, on the table is not missing ...
8. Preserves and pickles are...
9. Traditional cuisine reflects ...

Multiple Choice Questions

10. Which of the following dishes is part of the traditional Moldovan cuisine?
 - a) Sarmale
 - b) Sushi
 - c) Pies
 - d) Zeame
11. Which elements define the specificity of Moldovan gastronomy?
 - a) Simplicity and naturalness of preparations
 - b) Foreign influences (Romanian, Ukrainian, Balkan)
 - c) Use of exotic imported products
 - d) Connection with religious traditions and holidays

Questions for analysis and reflection

12. It explains how traditional gastronomy reflects rural life and the basic occupations of the population.
13. Why can we say that Moldovan gastronomy has a character of hospitality?
14. How do gastronomic festivals contribute to the promotion of cultural identity?

15. Explain why traditional gastronomy can be considered a tourist resource

Topic 22: Degree of conservation of the tourist fund in the Republic of Moldova.

Tourist Fund of the Republic of Moldova-Includes all natural and anthropogenic tourist resources:

- **Natural resources** – landscapes, nature reserves, lakes, rivers, forests, protected areas.
- **Anthropic resources** – historical and architectural monuments, monasteries, medieval fortresses, museums, traditional villages, ethnographic resources (port, traditions, gastronomy).

Degree of conservation – general aspects

1. **Natural resources**

- Protected areas (e.g.: Codrii, ‘Plaiul Fagului’ Reservation, ‘Pădurea Domnească’ Reservation) benefit from a legal protection regime, but suffer from illegal logging and anthropogenic pressure.
- Lakes and rivers are affected by pollution, diminishing tourist attractiveness.

2. **Historical and cultural resources**

- Some monuments (e.g. Soroca Fortress, Old Orhei, cave monasteries) have been restored and valued touristically.
- Others (medieval towns, boyar houses, mansions) are in an **advanced stage of degradation** due to lack of financing and maintenance.

3. **Ethnographic resources**

- Traditions, folk costumes and customs are mostly preserved through festivals and folk ensembles.
- However, there is a risk of **loss of authenticity** through over-marketing or forced modernisation.

The degree of preservation is **uneven**: some objectives are well protected and promoted (e.g. Old Orhei) and others are **at risk** due to natural degradation and lack of funds.

• **Major issues:** insufficient investment, poor promotion, lack of unitary restoration programmes.

• **Possibilities for improvement:** public-private partnerships, attracting European funds, involving local communities, education for sustainable tourism.

Current state of conservation

1. Natural heritage

- The Republic of **Moldova has more than 60 protected natural areas (Reservation "Pădurea Domnească", "Plaiul Fagului", Codrii).**
- Problems: illegal deforestation, water pollution, insufficient protection measures.

2. Cultural and historical heritage

- Restored and valued monuments: **Orheiul Vechi (UNESCO tentative list), Soroca Fortress, Capriana Monastery.**
- Monuments degraded or in danger: numerous boyar houses, urban heritage buildings (especially in Chisinau).
- In the last two decades, **about 77 historical buildings (official data) have been demolished** in Chisinau.

3. Ethnographic and intangible heritage

- Preserved by festivals (e.g. Martisor, Ia Anger, folklore festivals).
- Religious and calendar customs are still practiced, but some are at risk of being lost through modernization or migration.

Relevant statistical data

- Approx. **5,700 historical monuments** protected by the state, but more than half require repairs or restorations.
- In Chisinau, there are **over 400 public forum monuments**, many of which are in poor condition.
- Tourism is growing: in 2024, **474,200 tourists** were accommodated in tourist structures (+14% compared to the previous year). Increased tourist pressure can accelerate the degradation of unpreserved heritage.

Directions for improvement

- Creation of **national restoration programmes** with public and private funding.
- Attracting **European and UNESCO funds** for heritage protection.
- Promoting **sustainable and rural tourism** as a way of preserving traditions.
- Education of the population on **the value of cultural and natural heritage**.
- Strengthen the legal framework and controls against illegal demolitions.

In the last 30 years, national tourism has been reborn from an underappreciated area of the national economy to an effective tool for promoting national culture and heritage. The disappearance from the political map of the world of the USSR gave the opportunity to newly formed states, including the Republic of Moldova, to become known to foreign visitors. To offer the guests of the country, but first of all, their own citizens, the opportunity to visit the most interesting and beautiful places, to know the history of famous locations and people, who have contributed to the development of their own country.

The topic of the need for tourism development in our country is based on several arguments, including:

1. Objects of tourist interest of natural or cultural-historical origin attractive for visits, which stimulate the arrival of persons from other regions of the Republic of Moldova or from abroad, are identified and taken under the protection of the state. These objects are a 'visit card' of the country's localities and constitute an important heritage of the community. By caring for him,

the locals earn the respect of the tourists. In the same way, tourism capitalises on the traditional cultural treasure: folklore, local customs, significant events in community life.

2. Over the last 10-15 years, conservation projects, restaurants, restoration of monuments and certain local spaces are being implemented by fitting them out with specific tourist facilities for recreation, recreation, sports, therapeutic cures, etc.
3. Some beautiful human qualities are valued: hospitality, benevolence, friendship, esteem for the person, respect for values, etc., which creates a beneficial psychological climate in the community and determines a correct attitude between people.
4. New jobs are created through the marketing of living spaces in addition to valuable heritage objects, products prepared from local natural raw materials, the provision of transport and accompanying services, the production of traditional handicrafts and other specific goods needed by travellers.
5. With the capitalization of the tourist heritage, there were created in many destinations routes for local or national excursions, temporary accommodation structures and visitors' leisure organization.
6. The promotion of the national tourist heritage, good practices for its rehabilitation and adaptation to tourist visits offer citizens of the low-income country the opportunity to organise their rest and travel to a satisfactory standard.

Preservation of cultural heritage:



Fig.66.Source: Project.UNDP. Preservation and restoration of cultural objectives .

The value of the European Union's investment for the two flagship projects, namely the Tighina Fortress (Bender) and the Circus building in Chisinau, amounted to over 3.6 million euros. Following the restoration of Tighina Fortress (Bender), which dates back to the 15th century, the tourist potential of this historical objective has increased even more, which obviously contributes to the development of the local economy. After the first stage of restoration and conservation, the expansion of the tourist

offer has contributed to almost doubling the total number of tourists visiting the left bank, from about 26,000 in 2022 to over 42,000 in 2024, while foreign visitors have increased fivefold, from 1002 to 5,532.

Restoration alone is not enough to attract tourists - that's why we supported the organization of events in the Tighina Fortress (Bender), which have become emblematic in the meantime, have further increased the tourist potential of the Fortress. Thus, it has become for the 7th year already, the meeting place where over 2000 spectators from both banks enjoy together the Moldovan National Youth Orchestra cultural program.

Wishing to integrate cultural heritage objectives into a tourist circuit or route and to encourage cooperation between the two banks of the Dniester, the Tourism Platform was created in 2022. The platform brings together over 40 specialists and tourism organizations from both banks of the Dniester River. Since people are the ones who inspire tourists, the development of human resources is a basic area for tourist activity, 20 guides have been trained and certified on both banks of the Dniester River. It improves the quality of tourism services as well as strengthens trans-River collaboration and mutual understanding . The Tourism Platform has contributed to the development of new tourism products, such as the tourist train from Chisinau - Tighina (Bender) - Tiraspol . This brings double benefits: visiting the cultural-historical objectives and the direct contribution to the economic development of the businesses involved on the route. Between 2023 and 2024, 6 in-country information tours took place for around 150 national guides. It helps to inform and attract local tourists, who are an untapped resource. Similarly, the activities of mapping and marking 2 tourist routes, cycling, hiking, etc., contribute to the development of domestic tourism, where tourists can discover rural areas and their authenticity individually and safely.

Official launch of the European RESPECTS project

On June 27, 2025, in Chisinau, took place the official launch of the European project RESPECTS (Religious, Spiritual and Pilgrimage European Cultural Tourism with Sustainability), which promotes religious tourism as a form of sustainable cultural tourism in less developed regions.

The Republic of Moldova participates in the project through the Agency for Inspection of Monuments of the Republic of Moldova, as a partner, proposing a 4-5-day national religious route that includes 10 Orthodox monasteries from Calarasi, Strasenii and Orhei districts. The route can be travelled on foot, by bicycle or by local transport and is designed to highlight the spiritual, natural and rural heritage of the region.

Representatives of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova and the National Tourism Office of the Republic of Moldova stressed that religious tourism is a strategic direction for the diversification of the Moldovan tourist product. The integration of the route in the NeamPorit national campaign, as well as in digital platforms such as Village Travel Bot, will allow the intelligent and accessible promotion of these destinations to the general public and to international tourists.

The project aims to preserve the sacred heritage, digitize the tourist offer, promote local products and actively involve rural communities. Through RESPECTS, the Republic of Moldova takes an important step towards the sustainable valorization of religious heritage and its connection to European spiritual tourism networks.

The Republic of Moldova and the tourist offer in our country will be promoted internationally along with the established tourist destinations of the Black Sea basin states.

It is possible under the international project ‘HERIPRENEURSHIP– *Establishing long-standing partnerships to modernise heritage-based offerings and creating new investment opportunities in tourism and cultural and creative industries in UNESCO-designated areas in the Black Sea Basin*’.

Our country is represented by the National Association for Reception and Internal Tourism of Moldova (ANTRIM), which manages and supervises the activity of the National Tourist Information Center of Moldova and which carries out its activity with the support of the Chisinau City Hall, in collaboration with the Competitiveness Project funded by USAID.

The initiative will have a considerable impact on the national culture and heritage and will raise awareness among locals regarding the preservation of elements of local and international importance of the Republic of Moldova.

HERIPRENEURSHIP (a combination of legacy and entrepreneurship) already connects tourism companies and stakeholders around UNESCO sites in the Black Sea Basin area - Moldova, Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece - to create and manage an attractive and innovative tourism product based on experience and creativity.

The 10 touristic and cultural objectives on the territory of Moldova that will be integrated into the cross-border business project in the tourism sector are:

1. ‘Arta Rustica’ from the village of Clisova Nouă;
2. National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History of Chisinau;
3. National Museum of History of Moldova in Chisinau;
4. the City Hall of the Capital;
5. Eugen Doga pedestrian street in Chisinau,;
6. Chateau Vartely Winery, Orhei city;
7. Cultural-Natural Reserve "Orheiul Vechi";
8. Cave cave monastery;
9. Peasant House from the Ethnographic Museum in Chisinau;
10. dried fruits and plants.

The European Union invests in the protection and valorization of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova, financing restoration works at several historical monuments of national importance. These include the **Țipova cave monastery**, one of the oldest and most impressive monastic settlements in the Prut-Dniester area.

The projects are carried out in partnership with local authorities and organizations specialized in heritage conservation, having as objective not only the preservation of architectural and artistic values, but also the revitalization of cultural tourism. Restoration involves construction consolidation works, rehabilitation of frescoes, improvement of access infrastructure and creation of visiting spaces adapted to international standards.

Țipova Monastery, located on the rocky bank of the Nistru River, annually attracts thousands of visitors through the beauty of the landscape and the uniqueness of the cave complex, consisting of churches and cells dug directly into the rock. EU-funded interventions aim both to protect this place of particular historical and spiritual value and to increase its tourist attractiveness.

The initiative is part of a wider European Union programme aimed at preserving cultural heritage across the country. Thus, besides Țipova Monastery, there are also other monuments of historical importance, churches, mansions and heritage buildings, each with its own story and role in the cultural identity of the Republic of Moldova.

According to the authorities, investments in the cultural field are not only a gesture of respect for the past, but also a strategic resource for the development of localities, by attracting tourists and creating

new economic opportunities. The restoration of historical monuments thus contributes to the transmission of values and traditions to future generations, strengthening at the same time the image of the Republic of Moldova as a tourist and cultural destination in the region.

The complex of historical monuments in Old Orhei:

Table 29

Indicator	Value
Annual tourist growth	+35%
Number of restored monuments	47
Total investment (EUR)	420,000
Restoration period (months)	24
Volunteers involved	120
Annual cultural events	12
Positive feedback from tourists (%)	92%
Number of specialised guides	15
Revenue from tourism (EUR)	850,000
Newly developed tourist attractions	7

How does the restoration of cultural heritage affect tourism in Moldova?

Table 30

Advantages	Disadvantages
Increases the attractiveness of the place for tourists	Requires significant financial resources
Provides an authentic and vivid picture of history	Non-professional execution may affect authenticity
Boost the local economy through tourism	It can lead to over-reliance on tourism.
Promotes education and awareness of heritage	The process can take years
Contribute to the revitalization of local communities	It requires the constant involvement of experts.

In Moldova there are over 15 thousand cultural-historical tourist attractions and over 300 important natural areas, and these attractions are the main motivations for travel on the territory of Moldova. The development of the objectives of the tourist heritage is ensured through the territorial tourism planning in accordance with the urban planning and spatial planning documentation (PATN, 2008 with subsequent adjustments).

Forested areas represent for Moldova an important potential of attraction of tourists

(approximately 11.2% of the country's territory). About 45% of the total are recreational and nature conservation forests, which must serve for hiking activities, organized recreation and spa treatment as alternatives to various types of unorganized tourism. Tourist facilities for national recreational areas related to water basins are clearly regulated in Moldova. In the country there is a complex system of natural areas under state protection: 12 categories of natural protected areas (over 195 thousand ha), which include a national park, 3 Ramsar areas, 178 different types of reserves, 130 nature monuments and 446 secular trees.

In Moldova were attested several thousand prehistoric resorts, about 400 tripolitan settlements (approx. 5-6 thousand years ago), about 50 ancient fortified gardens, about 500 early medieval settlements, numerous medieval fortresses in the ground, 6 medieval stone fortresses (in different conservation stages), over 1,000 protected architectural monuments, about 50 Orthodox monasteries.

In Moldova are active about 30 professional tour guides, who know the routes to the attractions national, employed by over 85 travel agencies in Chisinau and educational institutions. There are about 340 local guides who, as a rule, are employees of local museums and practice on request

Extra-museum excursions to some local attractions. Within 30 km of any target
A local guide can be hired.

The evaluation and monitoring of tourist resources involves a complex of measures designed to carry out a periodic control in space and time of a well-defined group of touristic interest objectives. Broadly speaking, this complex of measures involves:

- spatial delimitation of touristic interest objectives for monitoring;
- grouping these objectives by geographical principle or by common features in certain tourist areas clearly delimited by other areas;
- the application of a conservation regime (established by law or LPA decisions) with protective measures specific to each type of tourism resources;
- enhancing the value of the objectives included in tourist areas through scientific programmes and studies (historical, artistic, aesthetic, ecological, biological, etc.) and active promotion measures;
- Increase functionality for tourism activities by:
 - demarcation in each tourist area of areas prohibited for visits, recreational areas, places for light construction and capitals, local routes, including facilities for unorganised tourism, etc.;
 - certification of tourist heritage objectives and their promotion in the area and abroad;
 - inclusion of tourist areas in international circuits;
- creation of a database of the existing tourist heritage in the Republic of Moldova, which must be characterized by efficiency and accessibility;
- creation of tourist information centers in tourist areas, through which to carry out the programs of selection, primary analysis and transmission for storage of information necessary for efficient monitoring of tourist resources.

Our country has a picturesque landscape representative of different regions, a system of natural rivers of various types, a specific flora and fauna, which serve to motivate visitors on ecotourism routes in Moldova. Some of the protected areas set aside are highlighted, where non-polluting practices and tourism are encouraged. And this benefits the local communities where these natural resources are found. Thus, a sustainable use of the natural touristic potential is achieved, capable of attracting new tourists. The forested areas, steppe sectors and natural areas protected by the state cover in the Republic of Moldova about 13% of the country's territory, an index lower than the European average. There are several categories of lands that have priority tourist functionality in Moldova, including:

- forest fund (451 thousand ha);
- Fund of natural areas protected by the state (about 195.15 thousand ha);
- water background (4 712 basins, area 85.1 thousand ha);

- green areas within urban and rural municipalities;
- hunting ground(234.2 thousand ha).

The vast majority of protected areas are located within the perimeter of village settlements, which creates premises for the development of tourism in rural areas.

National natural potential is one of the main elements that attracts and directs the flow of natural resources.

tourists and other visitors to destinations in the Republic of Moldova. In the commercial offers of agencies

of national and local tourism, ecological tourism in the Republic of Moldova is reduced to two forms of

travel: excursions in natural areas (not necessarily in protected natural areas) and short-stay recreation in nature reserves, but at the same time these hiking activities, excursions in natural areas, have a negative impact on natural ecosystems. It is necessary that as many spaces as possible, areas are preserved, taken under the protection of the state.

Qualitative structure of visits in natural areas included in the offer of national travel agencies

Table 31

Route	Municipalities included	Areas natural	Monasteries, churches	Museums	Other objectives	Total
the Chisinau Botanical Garden	1	1				1
the Cultural - Natural Complex 'Orheiul Vechi'	6	2	2	2	10	16
Codrii Reservation	5	2		1		2
'Țaul' Park	19	2	3	1		6
'The Princely Forest' Reservation, Hundred mounds	18	4	4	1	1	10
Total	27	9	6	5	11	31

A feature of these tourist offers is the local character and motivation of active leisure, sometimes with elements of sporting activities. Most often, they are purchased by tourists directly from to suppliers (transport units, rental agents of tourist equipment, etc.) or are on own account, without the intermediation of travel agencies. In the Republic of Moldova, the arranged places

for such leisure are:

- green spaces in cities and tourist areas (Chisinau, Balti, Vadul lui Voda, Vatra, district centres);
- stretches of water in cities and resting areas (Chisinau, Soroca, Dubasari, Holercani, Vadul lui Voda, Vatra, Bender, Tiraspol), equipped with equipment for boat rides-lightweight units, lifeguard service, tourist service program.

Recreational areas are traditionally created in green spaces, in places with stretches of water. Slow down-

Until the 1960s, such recreational areas were established in most localities on the banks of the Dniester and its tributaries, as well as in addition to artificial lakes. According to national legislation, a system

of recreation areas related to water basins of national importance is currently established on the territory of the Republic of Moldova:

1. Vadul lui Vodă rest area, mun. Chisinau.
2. The resting area Costești, Or. You're costing.
3. Holercani rest area, Criuleni district.
4. Vatra rest area, mun. Chisinau.
5. Soroca rest area.
6. Dubasari rest area.
7. Tiraspol rest area.
8. Bender rest area.

Thus, the recreation areas related to the water basins are lands used for the rest of the population. Ției, located near the water areas with the most advantageous natural elements – forests, favorable terrain, lack of possibility of landslides and large water torrents, maximum speed of water course of 0.5 m/sec., innocuous relief on the shore and bottom of the basin, presence of access routes.

Beaches are the most commonly used form of water-basin recreation areas.

The Regulation requires beaches to comply with the following requirements:

■ Clearly demarcated in 5 zones:

- a) rest area (40-60% of the surface);
- b) the service area (clothes, location buildings, buffet, kiosks - about 5-8% of the area);
- c) sports area (tennis, volleyball, boat station, etc. - about 10% of the surface);
- green area (20-40% of the area);
- e) children's sector (5-7% of the area).

■ Comply with existing national standards:

- 4 m² of beach per person;
- the bathing area must be marked accordingly;
- around the beach there must be at least 50 m of protection zone in all directions;
- the depth of children's bathing pools up to 0,5-0,7 m;
- at least twice a year sanitary-epidemiological samples are collected and analysed.

■ The following facilities should be present:

- 1 drinking water supply for 100 resting places;
- 1 shower installation for 50 resting places;
- 1 replacement cab (minimum area of 1.5 m²) for 50 places of rest;
- 1 public toilet for 75 places of rest;
- 1 bin for 250 m² of beach;
- medical practice space;
- life-saving station;
- non-stop police station (for areas of national importance);
- car parks (25 m²/car) located at least 25 m from the border of the recreation area.

The main attractive element of a country is, unequivocally, the national cultural-historical heritage and

natural. Thus, the landscape, the protected natural areas, the unusual forms of relief are among the most

Look for attractions during tourist visits, especially those for ecotourism purposes. These, through their representativeness and attractiveness, focus the tourist circulation to certain destinations, which by combining with anthropogenic attractions develops a specific tourist product for each of Moldovan localities, especially rural localities, where the vast majority of the natu-

rivers of tourist value. At 1,679 localities in the country there are 1,217 protected areas and natural objectives.

The Law on the Fund of Natural Areas Protected by the State establishes a complex system of natural areas.

Thus, in the Republic of Moldova are taken under state protection 12 categories of protected natural areas

(Total area: 195 154.1 ha), which includes 1 national park, 3 wetlands of international importance, 178 different types of reserves, 130 nature monuments and 446 secular trees.

Eight types of protected areas correspond to the International Union for Conservation of Nature classification, and four categories are of national interest (botanical garden, dendrological garden, landscape architectural monument, zoo). The vast majority of protected areas are located within the perimeter of village settlements, which creates premises for the development of tourism in rural areas. A considerable part of the attractions included in the background of protected natural areas are covered by the routes

ecotourism. Among the most representative are: ‘Codrii’ scientific reserve (5 172 ha), scientific reserve ‘Plaiul Fagului’ (5 642 ha), scientific reserve ‘Pădurea Domnească’ (6 032 ha), scientific reserve ‘Prutul de Jos’ (1 609 ha), landscape reserve ‘Trebujeni’ (500 ha), landscape reserve ‘Suta de movile’ (1 072 ha), landscape reserve ‘Codrii Tigheci’ (2 519 ha), landscape reserve ‘Pădurea Hârbovăț’ (2218 ha), forest nature reserve ‘Misilindra’ (1.7 ha), landscape reserve ‘Grădina Turcească’ (224 ha), landscape reserve ‘Căpriana-Scoreni’ (1 762 ha), etc.

All natural areas must, according to their own regulations, be valued for organized tourism according to certain clearly defined sub-areas: ecotourism trails, places arranged for observing nature, equipping the territory for recreation, lightweight constructions/capitals for accommodating visitors. However, we must note that visitor flows are sporadic, route-oriented unmarked properly, and spaces for leisure and food are summarily furnished.

Distribution of the Fund for Natural Areas Protected by the State by Category

Table 32

Classification of State Protected Areas		Category IUCN	Number	Area (ha)	Share, %
Scientific reserves		I	5	19 378,0	9,93%
National parks		II	1	33 792,1	17,32%
Monuments the Natures	Geological and paleontological	III	86	2 862,2	1,47%
	Hydrological	III	31	99,8	0,05%
	Botanical	III	446	125,2	0,06%
	Rare flora and fauna species	III	472	-	-
Nature reserves	Forestry	IV	51	5 001,0	2,56%
	Of medicinal plants	IV	9	2 796,0	1,43%
	Mixed	IV	3	212,0	0,11%
Landscape reservations		V	41	34 200,0	17,52%
Resource reserves		VI	13	523,0	0,27%
Areas with manage-ment multifu-ncional	Representative sectors with steppe vegetation	VII	5	148,0	0,08%
	Representative sectors with meadow vegetation	VII	25	674,7	0,35%
	Protective forest curtains	VII	2	207,7	0,11%
Dendrological gardens			2	104,0	0,05%
Landscape architectural monuments			21	304,9	0,16%
Zoos			1	20,0	0,01%
Wetlands of national importance			3	94 705,5	48,53%

Total		1 217	195 154,1	100,00%
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Source: Report of the Ministry of Environment, 2016.

At the moment, a single national park, 'Orhei', was established in the Republic of Moldova on an area of about 1% of the national territory within 4 districts, 18 communes with 36 localities. The originality of the area consists in the diversity of the relief in the center of Moldova, starting from the rocks of the

around the river to the secular forests, where there are several important medieval monasteries, as well as, last but not least, the traditional local architecture.

Here are located several protected natural areas of different types, but also places for rest and tourist recreation. The forest fund in *the 'Orhei' National Park* accounts for about 50% of the total area. This gives the tourist destination of Orhei an image of a 'forest area'. The basic species in forests are: oak, oak, ash, hornbeam, lime, acacia. The altitude of the territory varies between 50 and 350 meters. The vast majority of this territory is managed by 'Moldsilva', the other areas are located on the territory of the municipalities and are managed by them.

At the same time, natural treatment factors have been used for spa treatment since the 1970s in the Ivancea forest.

Structure of the Fund of State Protected Natural Areas in the 'Orhei' National Park

Table 33

Location	State-protected natural areas	Area, ha
Pohorniceni, Piatra, Orhei district	Geological Natural Monument: Reef on the banks of the River Raut	3
Piatra, Orhei district	Geological Natural Monument: the Mâgla rock	3
Piatra, Jeloboc, Orhei district	Hydrological natural monument: the Jeloboc Village	10
Between villages Săseni, Camp, Tiganesti, Bravicea, forest detour Bravicea, district Calarasi	Landscape reserve	680
Trebujeni, Orhei district	Landscape reserve	64
Ivancea, Orhei district	Resource reserve (large leachate chernozem soil of the central forest area of Moldova)	4
Isacova, Orhei district	Lunca cu dumbravnic (Raut river floodplain)	10
Ivancea, Orhei district	Old park, landscape architectural monument	3
Pocșești Donnici, Orhei district	Geological Natural Monument	2
Vatici forest district, Orhei district	Secular Oaks (4 trees)	
Forest district Bravicea, Calarasi district	Secular Gorun and Beech (3 trees)	
Curchi village, on the territory of the former monastery estate, Orhei district	Secular Oaks (3 trees)	
Total		779

Source: Report of the Ministry of Environment, 2016.

There are **currently 5 scientific reserves** in Moldova, comprising large areas (between 1 000 and 6 000 ha) of the country's representative landscapes. The scientific reserves represent territories (the area of about 19.4 thousand ha, or 9.93% of the total protected areas) where priority is given to

environmental protection, scientific research, ecological education and training of the population, at the same time they are motivating attractions for short-term tourist visits.

The first state-protected reserve appeared in 1971 near Lozova (Strășeni district), called ‘Codrii’ and known today for its achievements in reclinatising various species (noble deer; spotted deer, etc.), nature museum and phenological research. ‘The Princely Forest’ Reservation (Cobani,

Glodeni district) is the largest in Moldova and is located near the famous ‘Hundred of Mo-villas’ and ‘Land of the Batlans’. The ‘beech plateau’ is a specific beech forest with a particular microclimate and the other two are riparian reserves: ‘Lower Prut’ (Văleni, Cahul district) in the south and

‘Iagorlâc’ (Goian, Dubasari district) in the middle Dniester. All scientific reserves have their own administration, which reports directly to the national environmental authority.

Features of scientific reserves

Table 34

Name of the reserve	District	Area (ha)	Year of establishment
Codrii	Straseni	5 177	1971
Iagorlâc	Dubasari	836	1988
the Royal Forest	Glodeni	6 032	1993
Beech Plain	Ungheni	5 642	1992
the Lower Prut	Cahul	1 691	1991

The scientific reserve has the status of a legal entity, is a scientific institution and has the highest degree

high protection, operates on the basis of a special regulation. Thus, its territory is divided into three sub-areas, where household activities are totally or partially prohibited. The legislation in force encourages, with the approval of the reservation administration, the creation of local hiking routes, and under certain conditions, the camping of tourists in special structures. All forms of unorganized tourism are prohibited.

Practicing ecotourism in scientific reserves

Table 35

Type of protected natural areas	Tourism, leisure and recreation activities	Regulations in Areas protection
Reservations scientific	* Access for persons is subject to a permit. ■ Admitted: activities that do not contravene the tasks of the reserve, approved by its scientific council. ■ Prohibited: any form of rest of the population, moving through undeveloped places, ignition of fires.	Mandatory protection zone 1 000-1 500 m around the ridge. ■ It is allowed to organize some regulated recreation areas.

63 **nature reserves** (8 009 ha or 4.10% of the total protected areas) are dispersed on the territory of Moldova. They represent areas occupied by certain species of flora and fauna, which by their scientific and aesthetic value require protection. Natural reserves in Moldova are classified into three categories:

- 51 forestry (5 001 ha), e.g. in Rosoșeni, Molești-Rezeni, Sadova, Sărata Galbenă etc.;
- 9 medicinal plants (2 796 ha), e.g. in Logănești, Sărata Galbenă, Cahul, Cernoleuca, Bugeac, etc.;
- 3 mixed (212 ha), e.g. in Cantemir, Crocmaz etc.

Nature reserves are highly valued natural spaces in international tourism. They contain scientifically valuable natural resources and are intended to preserve and restore the pound of one or more components of nature in order to maintain ecological balance. It is accepted for the purpose of conserving biodiversity by improving habitat conditions and ensuring the integrity and continuity of flora and fauna species.

Landscape Reserves - Represents natural territories delimited with the purpose of harmonizing the relations between man and nature, preserving the geographical landscapes for the current generation and future generations. In the Republic of Moldova there are 41 landscape reserves (34 200 ha or 17.52% of all protected areas), the largest being the ‘Hancesti Forest’, with an area comparable to the ‘Codrii’ reserve.

Representative landscapes in Moldova are in the ‘Hârbovăț Forest’, the geopaleontological complex in the Lopatnic river basin, Valea Adâncă, Codrii Tigheci, Rudi-Arionești, Valea dry ‘Tamașlâc’, ‘La castel’, Fetești, ‘Călărășăuca’, ‘La 33 vaduri’, Trebujeni, Saharna, Țâpova, ‘Grădina Turcească’, Cosăuți, Căpriana etc.

Practicing Ecotourism in Landscape Reserves

Table 36

Type of protected natural areas	Tourism, leisure and recreation activities	Regulations in Areas protection
Reservations landscape	Ensuring Sustainable Development for Purposes Recreational, aesthetic and cultural. ■ Obligation for employees and visitors to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the environment. ■ Installation of warning panels at borders-Ment, the signs. ■ Preventing the negative effects of the activity economic. ■ Prohibition of unauthorised activities: entry of persons, tourism, leisure, construction, arranging, camping, shooting, filming.	Mandatory protection zone of 700-1 000 m around the target. ■ Land in the protection zone remain available to holders for traditional economic activities-non-polluting policies. ■ Prohibited: parking of motor vehicles-in areas that are not allowed.

Resource reserves- Represent specific objectives for ecotourism, as the natural potential deposited in certain territories is exploited, for example, in the case of documentation on soil collections. On the territory of the Republic of Moldova is attested a very diverse range of soils. Thus, here are about 745 different types of soils, the main wealth for agriculture representing chernozem (about 80% of the country's surface).

In the Republic of Moldova are protected by the state 13 reserves with representative soils (523 ha or 0.27% of all protected areas), for example, in Talmază, in the Lower Dniester.

Multifunctional management areas are land and/or aquatic areas where, at the same time with the conservation of water resources and pastures, regulated tourism is practised. Under this name are understood representative sectors with diverse vegetation typical of certain geographical areas of Moldova. 32 such areas are reserved for us (1 030.4 ha):

a) 5 representative sectors with steppe vegetation (148 ha). There are two areas in the Republic of Moldova

steppe seas: Balti Steppe (reserved at Vranesti) and Bugeac Steppe (reserved at Dezghingea, Vinogradovca, etc.), both stretching practically from the Prut to the Dniester;

- b) 25 representative sectors with meadow vegetation (674.7 ha) – near rivers and streams in Moldova (example: within the ‘Codrii’ reserve);
- c) 2 systems of forest curtains (207,7 ha), which are under protection, especially in the areas of southern Moldova.

Monuments of Nature. In terms of tourism, it is interested in monuments that by their value can attract tourists as representative for certain localities or tourist areas.

a) 86 natural geological and paleontological monuments (2 862,2 ha), usually occupy large areas with well-defined boundaries, e.g. the ‘Emil Racoviță’ gypsum cave (about 89 km), the Japca Rock, the Brânzeni Grottoes and Reefs, the Trinca Gorge, Râpa lui Vișan, Rașcov, the Fetești Gorge, the Butești Gorge, Naslavcea, the Duruitoarei and Varatic Gorges with their prehistoric caves, the Dniester Thres and the waterfalls on the rivers, the Argilele de la Etulia, etc.

b) 31 natural hydrological monuments (99.8 ha), which include the vast majority of mineral water springs ("Youth Spring" in Hârjauca, "Putna Spring" in Onițcani, etc.) or high flow (Cotova, Jeloboc, Bursuc, etc.).

c) 446 botanical natural monuments of representative sectors with forest vegetation (125.2 ha), e.g. Poplar Forest from Dubasarii Vechi, secular trees protected by law, such as Stephen the Great's Oak of about six centuries from Cobâlnea.

Landscape architectural monuments have historical, cultural, scientific, aesthetic, economic and recreational value, are testimonies of landscape evolution and spiritual and social development, are part of the cultural and natural heritage and are entered in the Register of State Protected Monuments of the Republic of Moldova. Landscape architectural monuments are terrestrial and/or aquatic areas within which collections of trees and shrubs, native and exotic plant species have been artificially created; is of applicative scientific interest, significant from a national point of view by their value, combined in various stage models, which gives the territory a particularly attractive appearance. The category of landscape architectural monuments includes the following objectives and sets of objectives:

- old parks;
- forest parks;
- alleys;
- gardens.

From the over 50 parks and old alleys, under protection are taken 21 in the composition of landscape architectural monuments (304.9 ha or 0.16% of the total protected areas). As a rule, parks were arranged on the domains of local nobles near boyar mansions or summer residences.

Botanical, dendrological and zoological gardens

These attractions are specific objectives of special tourist interest, concentrating representative collections of local flora and fauna, but also exotic ones, mostly for educational, scientific and recreational purposes. They are the most preferred attractions during ecotourism visits, as they present in a concise and well-structured manner several ecosystems. The guides or the informational dashboard system communicate details about the value of these representative collections. At the level of 2024, such living collections (of plants or animals) are open to the general public only in the perimeter of Chisinau and Tiraspol. They are managed by local authorities.

Report of botanical, dendrological, zoological gardens compared to the total protected natural areas in the Republic of Moldova

Table 37

Category	Number	Area, ha
<u>Protected gardens:</u>		
■ botanicals	1	105

■ Dendrological	2	104
■ zoological	1	20

Distribution of state protected areas by development regions of the Republic of Moldova

Table 37

Development region	State Protected Areas , number	Area, ha	Other tourist attractions of national importance
Northern Region	102	16.6 thousand ha	20-museums, 178-ecclesiastical edifices
the Centre Region	114 (60% of protected nature)	38.5 thousand ha	20-museums, 256 –cult buildings
Mun.Chisinau	4	208,0 ha	9-national museums, 19-representative churches, 2-rest areas, 236-monuments of national importance, 23-architectural monuments,
the South Region	43	5874 ha	10 –museums, 63- ecclesiastical buildings of national and local importance,
ATU Gagauzia	9	108.6 ha	4 –museums, 3 – ecclesiastical buildings of national importance,



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions

1. What do you mean by "tourist fund" of the Republic of Moldova?
2. What are the main components of the tourist heritage: Natural, cultural and ethnographic? Give an example for each.
3. In what state of conservation are the historical and architectural monuments in the Republic of Moldova?
4. What role do protected natural areas play in preserving the natural tourist heritage?
5. How does urbanization and economic development influence the degree of conservation of the tourist fund?
6. Which monuments or sights do you think are best preserved? But the least preserved?
7. How can folk traditions and customs be harnessed without losing their authenticity?
8. What is the role of state institutions and international organisations (UNESCO, ICOMOS) in protecting heritage?

Multiple Choice Questions

9. Which of the following are major problems in the conservation of the tourist heritage of the Republic of Moldova?
 - a) Lack of funds for restoration
 - b) Pollution and overexploitation of natural resources
 - c) Population migration and loss of traditions
 - d) Excessive overprotection of monuments
10. What measures are effective for the preservation of the tourist heritage?
 - a) Promoting sustainable tourism
 - b) Restoration and maintenance of historical monuments
 - c) Demolition of old buildings for modern construction
 - d) Organization of festivals of traditions and folk culture

Questions for analysis and reflection

11. Analyzes the impact of the demolition of historical buildings in Chisinau on the tourist heritage.
12. What effects does the lack of maintenance have on the touristic attractiveness of the Republic of Moldova?
13. Proposes three solutions to improve the degree of conservation of the tourist heritage.

Topic 23: Measures for the preservation, renovation and reconstruction of monuments.

The urban cultural heritage of Chisinau is a legacy of all the inhabitants of the city. Ensuring its protection and sound management will make it possible to pass it on to generations future. This publication, which is addressed especially to owners of historical buildings, specialists and decision makers, is a primary information tool, which aims to guide decisions and ways of correct conservation, by preserving the cultural significance of historical buildings.

International conservation practice operates within the so-called ‘values-based context’ – a system for identifying and managing historical buildings and sites based on their values, such as aesthetic, historical, scientific, cultural, social and spiritual value. A historic building can hold one of these values or, at the same time, some of them. In the Republic of Moldova, only buildings and sites with monument status are subject to regulations and restrictions. Not all buildings and historic sites have the status of monuments.

The attestation of the toponym Chişinău in the valley of the Bâc River dates from 1436. The first attestation in connection with this toponym of a rural locality dates back to 1466. The attestation of the rural locality with the name Chisinau dates back to 1576. The city of Chişinău was built in the mid-century. XVII. On the ground, two polygonal markets – commercial and administrative – were delineated, with parallel streets, lots for houses, where traders and craftsmen were established, who were granted specific urban rights. In the sec. XVIII, with the expansion and incorporation of adjacent

villages, the city develops an irregular urban structure. It becomes the largest urban locality of the Moldavian Country to the east of the Prut River, the administrative center of the Lăpușna-Orhei county.

Historical monuments are defined as immovable property, historical and cultural testimonies of past ages, expressing the identity of the place and communities, registered in specialized protection registers. Historical monuments are divided into three categories:

monument - singular construction, together with the related historical land, auxiliary structures, carpentry, hardware and decorative elements, which are an integral part of it, including monuments of public forum and funeral;

ensemble - group of constructions, together with the related historical land, characterized by morphological and functional unity, including, works of landscape architecture, garden art, necropolises;

site - territory comprising human creations or common creations of man and nature, including historical centers of localities, fragments of historical urban structure, places of memory: cultural and natural landscapes linked to significant historical or cultural events, to the life of outstanding personalities.

The general term used to protect historic buildings is **conservation**, which means all activities and processes designed to safeguard the elements that determine character, maintain cultural significance and prolong the physical existence of the building.

The conservation process consists of several specific steps and actions:

1. Thorough documentation and assessment of the condition of the historic building. The documentation shall include graphical and textual information relating to the history of the building, including layout,

construction, materials, use, previous interventions. This information is essential for assessing the cultural significance of the building.

The assessment of the condition (technical expertise) refers to the current technical condition of the building and determines possible technical measures for consolidation, if any.

2. Planning is carried out on the basis of the conclusions of the previous stage and usually consists of a restoration or rehabilitation project, aimed at ensuring the functionality of the building by preserving its cultural significance. For historical buildings of particular cultural significance, conservation plans are drawn up – comprehensive regulatory documents determining the policies for the operation, intervention and management of these buildings.

3. Intervention is an action or process by which modifications are made to the historic building or elements thereof and which consists, in the case of conservation, of maintenance, rehabilitation or restoration, or combinations thereof.

Maintenance involves the protection, maintenance and stabilization of the existing structure, the integrity of the materials from which the building or its elements are made, while preserving its cultural significance. It may consist of short-term actions aimed at stabilising the structure; and in long-term actions that prevent damage. This type of intervention is indicated when the original materials and elements of the building are in very good physical condition and the new functions, if any, do not require modifications and additions.

Rehabilitation involves the subtle adaptation of a historical building to a modern compatible use.

At the same time, it retains its cultural significance. It may include the replacement of historical elements

destroyed with faithful replicas or others of modern design, compatible with the original historical style. Rehabilitation is indicated when repairs or replacements of damaged elements are required and/or modifications of the building are necessary for proper functioning or functional adaptations.

Restoration involves the discovery or recovery of the state of a historical building or its elements as they existed at a certain time in history, with the protection of cultural significance. She

may include removal of items added in other periods that are inconsistent with the nature of the original of the building and is based on detailed studies of the elements and materials to be restored. Restoration is indicated when the historical value of a building exceeds the possible losses of foreign elements from other periods, affecting its character and authenticity.
the building.

Reconstruction involves the re-creation of a destroyed building in order to replicate its appearance to a

certain period of time. This applies to both historic and modern buildings. The reconstruction provides for the preservation of any historical remains and is based on careful duplication of historical elements, based on existing samples or documentary evidence of the original appearance of the building. Reconstruction involves affecting the authenticity of the building and is recommended only in cases where it is totally or partially destroyed.

Parliament adopted Law No LP1530/1993 of 22 June 1993 on the protection of monuments, amended on 21 January 2022, Order No 53-59/25 February 2022, which entered into force on 25 February 2022. That law shall lay down:

- Monuments that are part of cultural heritage;
- Sites;
- Singular monuments;
- Architectural assemblies;
- Components of monuments, status;
- Register of monuments;
- Protection, rehabilitation, regeneration, restoration.
- Competences of the Parliament, Government, District, Municipal, City, Communal Councils.
- Delimitation of areas and boundaries for the protection of monuments.
- Protection and intervention measures;
- Recording and valorization of monuments;
- Preservation and restoration of monuments;
- Financing the protection of monuments;
- Compensation for damage to monuments;
- Activity of public associations;

16 April 2025, Chisinau – The restoration of monuments in the Republic of Moldova can be carried out with financial support from the National Culture Fund.

From the National Fund of Culture can be financed: elaboration of feasibility studies and design of interventions on monuments; direct intervention works - restoration, conservation or consolidation; activities such as the identification, research, inventory, digitisation and promotion of monuments, but also the establishment of protection areas and the prevention of their degradation.

For the first time, individuals or entities from the private sector will also have access to funds to initiate projects for the valorisation of monuments. The state contribution will be determined by decision of the Government, depending on the importance of the works and the value of the projects.

Thus, the new provisions will allow more effective support for interventions on monuments and will encourage the involvement of the community and the private sector.

In the Republic of Moldova there are about **1800 historical monuments** (architectural type), **112 monuments of public forum** and over **11 thousand archaeological monuments of** national importance. There are also local monuments.

The crises of recent decades of a political, economic and, as a consequence, demographic nature do not make it possible to solve the problem of the preservation of historical heritage. Despite the social significance and importance of the preservation of cultural heritage, reality demonstrates disappointing facts. For 17 years, until 2010, the State Register of Monuments, approved by

Parliament in 1993, was not officially published. The register contains 300 churches, including 77 of wood, under the protection of the state since 1993, but during the same period many were demolished in a barbaric manner, others are on the brink of complete degradation, and the concrete walls with double glazed windows grow in place of the few restored monuments, having an appearance far from the original one. In 1812, the vast majority of the 775 churches located on the territory of the Republic of Moldova were made of wood, 40 of stone and one of brick. Many of the wooden churches were in bad shape. The basic material of the roofs was the reed, sometimes shingle roofs could be found. The walls, as a rule, were made of hard wood beams, large branches of peeled trees, reeds beaten with clay and upholstered with plank. The foundations were made of adobe or stone filled with clay. This fact determined the mass construction of small wooden churches and a high degree of wear and tear of these constructions. Virtually every Moldavian settlement had its own church.

One of the ways of preserving the wooden architectural heritage in the Republic of Moldova became the Village Museum, which was established in 1991. The museum is located at one of the entrances of the capital ('the City Gates'), in the perimeter formed by the intersection of the Valea Crucii and the Airport streets. The first monument placed at the museum in 1995 was the windmill in Opaci village, Căușeni district (destroyed in a fire in 2001). Currently, the museum complex includes the wooden churches from Hirișeni and Gârbova villages, the replica of the Vorniceni bell tower, a wooden crucifixion, a few old crosses (stone and metal), a fountain with a balance, a few troughs for watering cattle. On the territory of the museum is located the oldest wooden church in the Republic of Moldova - the "Assumption" church. The holy place was built in 1642 from the oaks of the Calarasi forests, by the monks of the Hârjauca monastery, where it was also built. Until 1821, the Christians prayed in that church, after which the monks asked for the blessing of Metropolitan Gavriil Bănulescu-Bodoni to dismantle this church and on its place to build a stone church, which happened. Legend has it that the church was bought (disassembled and moved) by the Christians from Hirișeni. Thus, the church served the locals from 1821 to 1928, until a new church was built in the village, and because there were several landslides in the locality, the wooden church was abandoned and forgotten. After being forgotten, the shingle roof and the old bell tower collapsed. In 2010, the wooden church "Assumption of the Mother of God" was brought beam by beam to Chisinau. The restoration of the church took place in a year and a half.

The church was built and restored for the third time. Restorers tended to keep as many original elements as possible, so they used original wooden elements and treated them with materials special to increase their lifespan. The roof has been completely rebuilt. 400 old beams were used which were numbered and arranged each in its place, exactly as it used to be. The heads of the beams are made using the 'Dovetail' method, a very old technique that protects the church during earthquakes. It is the oldest religious monument in the Republic of Moldova, as well as the largest wooden church in the country - 27 meters high. The northern Moldavian 'style' of this church makes it similar to the churches in Bucovina. Currently, we have no other church of this type that has this height and proportions as good.

The study allows to point out the necessary elements for safeguarding the architectural heritage in the Republic of Moldova, identifying priority areas for ensuring the protection of cultural heritage, such as:

- Develop a national strategy in the field of protection, restoration and preservation of cultural heritage.
- Ensure professional management of cultural heritage monuments.
- Develop an effective policy in the field of preservation of cultural and historical heritage on the basis of a scientific platform.
- Creating a system of scientific, practical and educational institutions specialized in training specialists for the restoration and preservation of cultural/architectural heritage, which would

include both architects, masters in art, as well as representatives of the clergy, students from institutions on the profile.

- Ensure coherence and coordination of actions between central, municipal and local authorities in the field of cultural heritage conservation.
- Providing funding sources for the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage.

Systematizing the above, we can conclude that safeguarding cultural heritage requires a policy that will not hesitate to go against political or financial-commercial interests and, at the same time, will contribute to ensuring citizens' rights to the national cultural heritage.

1. Preservation of monuments

Purpose: maintaining the existing heritage in good condition.

Measures:

Inventory and classification of historical and architectural monuments.

- Registration of valuable monuments in national and international registers (UNESCO, ICOMOS).
- Ensure security and protection against vandalism, fires and natural factors.
- Strict urban control to prevent demolitions or chaotic constructions in protected areas.
- Promoting responsible tourism that does not degrade heritage.

2. Renovation of monuments

Purpose: restoring buildings and objectives to a better functional and aesthetic state while preserving authenticity.

Measures:

- Restoration of damaged elements (facades, roofs, murals, sculptures).
- Structural reinforcement to prevent collapse.
- Using traditional materials and original techniques (stone, wood, local ceramics).
- Adaptation of monuments for cultural or touristic functions (museums, cultural centers).
- Providing financing through public funds, sponsorships and international projects.

3. Reconstruction of monuments

Purpose: Reconstruction of all or part of the missing or seriously damaged monuments.

Measures:

- Reconstruction based on historical documents, original plans and vintage photographs.
- Using modern technologies (3D scanning, virtual reality, digital modeling) for faithful reproduction.
- Lifting replicas for educational and tourist purposes (e.g. fortresses, traditional houses).
- Integration of reconstituted monuments in cultural and touristic circuits.

Organizing exhibitions and educational activities to convey the history of the monument.

Examples:

Soroca Fortress – restored and valued by tourism.

Capriana Monastery – renovated as an important religious and cultural centre.

Old Orhei – preserved and protected as an archaeological and cultural site.

Historical buildings in Chisinau – some renovated (Mihai Eminescu National Theatre), others in danger of demolition.



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions

1. What is the difference between the preservation, renovation and reconstruction of monuments?

2. Why is it important to use traditional materials and techniques when renovating monuments?
3. How does digital reconstruction (3D scanning, virtual reality) help protect cultural heritage?
4. Give examples of monuments in the Republic of Moldova that have been renovated or reconstructed.
5. What are the risks when a monument is left without conservation work?

Multiple Choice Questions

6. Which of the following are **measures to preserve monuments**?
 - a) Inventory and classification of monuments
 - b) Restoration of murals
 - c) Preventing illegal demolitions
 - d) Reconstruction of a destroyed fortress
7. Which of the following measures are specific **to the renovation of monuments**?
 - a) Structural consolidation
 - b) Inclusion on the UNESCO list
 - c) Restoration of facades and roofs
 - d) Adaptation of buildings for touristic and cultural functions

Questions for analysis and reflection

8. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of reconstructing a destroyed monument.
9. Why is it necessary to have a balance between modernization and preservation of architectural heritage?
10. Propose three concrete measures that could be applied in the Republic of Moldova to protect urban historical monuments (e.g. Chisinau).

Topic 24: The impact of tourism on the environment, actions to protect and preserve the geographical environment and tourism potential.

Tourism has a double impact on the environment: on the one hand, it causes degradation through pollution, overconsumption of resources and habitat destruction, and on the other hand, it can contribute to the preservation of landscape, biodiversity and culture through ecotourism and sustainable tourism. Protective actions include ecotourism, responsible waste and water management, biodiversity conservation through the creation of protected areas, community tourism and the involvement of local communities, as well as educating tourists to promote environmentally friendly practices.

Types of environmental impact of tourism

The different types of environmental impact of tourism activities include:

- Changes in the composition of fauna and flora. Basically, the habitat of the animals is destroyed or the animals are killed for hunting, for gastronomic curiosity or for making

souvenirs for tourists and the natural vegetation is cleared to create the space for tourist activities;

- Nature (water, air) is polluted by the spread of toxic substances or by tourist activities and transports;
- Soil erosion is triggered, landslides occur, damage to natural landforms;
- The visual impact can be transformed in a negative way, due to the garbage and waste resulting from the realization of the various constructions necessary for the tourist activity;
- Decrease water resources through repeated requests for exploitation;
- Fire risks in nature are increasing;
- Nature is overloaded with infrastructure elements such as roads, railways, car parks, electrical grids, water supply, etc.);
- Possibility of disappearing tourist attractions in the area due to the appearance of new ones, etc.

Sports and health tourism is the one with a massive impact on the environment. Tourist activities related to this type are: bathing, use of vessels with floating engines, sailing and rowing, recreational fishing, hunting of waterfowl, windsurfing. Each of them has a negative impact on the environment. For example, hunting favors the leakage of lead into nature. Another popular tourist activity is mountaineering, which involves destroying the surface of the cliffs, contamination with various objects and materials used in this sport, abandoning some of them at the site of climbing, etc.

Tourist resources cannot be exploited without some degradation of the area, sometimes even its destruction. They are part of a country's heritage and its inhabitants must always be vigilant to protect them.

Negative impacts of tourism on the environment

Unfortunately, tourism also has some negative effects on the environment.

- To move from home, in the tourist area, many people use different means of transport (car, train, plane), and they pollute the air and soil due to emissions of carbon or other toxic substances;
- Some species of local flora and fauna may not survive due to tourism, water quality may deteriorate irretrievably, its quantity may be the same because it would be intensively used for the needs of tourism activities, etc.;
- There is a huge increase in the amount of waste in the areas where tourists spend their free time. It turns out that a tourist generates twice as much waste as a local;
- Water can be contaminated and spill into the seas and oceans, leading to problems with marine and terrestrial ecosystems. As a result of environmental changes, animals and vegetation are in extreme danger;
- The quality of the soil also suffers. Tourists leave various wastes on the spot: Cigarette butts, packaging, toxic liquids and many other items they consider useless. Land degradation is also a negative effect of the impact of tourism on the environment, noting how, in order to make room for various paths on water or land, vegetation is cut off, which contributes to soil erosion.
- Environmental noise pollution increases as tourists become louder, using loud speakers or cars with powerful engines. This effectively disrupts animal life.
- Climate change is also taking place due to the greenhouse gases generated by tourism activities, with people moving from their homes to new locations. If the number of visitors increases, emissions also increase.

- Many tourist attractions are located near certain fragile ecosystems, as visitors want to enjoy the beauties of nature.
- **Pollution:**

Waste generation (plastic, organic), water and air pollution due to transport and tourism activities.

- **Excessive resource consumption:**

Intense use of water and energy, especially in areas with limited resources, such as islands.

- **Landscape and ecosystem degradation:**

The construction of tourist infrastructures (hotels, roads) can destroy natural habitats, and tourists' access to natural areas can cause erosion and soil degradation.

- **Biodiversity loss:**

Uncontrolled tourism can disrupt wildlife habitats, potentially reducing animal populations.

- **Pressure on natural resources** – excessive water consumption, deforestation for infrastructure, destruction of natural habitats.
- **Loss of cultural authenticity** – excessive commercialisation of traditions and customs.
- **Soil erosion and destruction of fragile ecosystems** – overused mountain trails, coastal areas.

Positive effects

- Raise awareness of the value of natural and cultural heritage.
- Financing for conservation through taxes and revenues generated by tourism.
- Development of local communities through rural tourism and ecotourism.

Positive effects of tourism on the environment

Tourism activities have many positive effects on the state economy. Among these effects can be listed:

- One of the gains from tourism activity is the financial one. Sometimes it can happen that, in addition to these profits that go into the pockets of entrepreneurs or the state, other types of earnings occur, many tourists offering money to preserve the flora and fauna of a certain area. Some tourist regions have different conservation fees, which are paid when tourists make reservations or leave, either imposed by the state or by guides or those who take care of the space in question;
- Interestingly, ecotourism also generates employment prospects, creating jobs in the area for residents or those who want to work in nature. Also, the money obtained can be used to train those who deal with environmental protection, provide a beautiful life to the inhabitants or excellently support the local economy;
- Another positive effect is that tourism companies become more environmentally responsible by adopting various necessary ecological methods, such as the use of renewable energy sources, automatic baths, support for organic farming, etc.;
- It raises awareness of the need to preserve, protect, maintain wildlife. Numerous organizations have emerged and are constantly fighting to attract attention and to get people to change their behavior into a positive one, when they spend time in nature or when they work or participate in

various actions involving the environment. Governments of the world's states have taken important steps in this direction, introducing various useful regulations, such as, for example, carbon offsetting schemes;

- The policy of conservation of species in case of extinction successfully manages to give the offspring the opportunity to see with their own eyes different animals, to enjoy their presence.

Actions to protect and preserve the geographical environment and tourism potential:

- **Promoting ecotourism:**

Develop forms of tourism that focus on preserving natural landscapes, biodiversity and local cultures.

- **Resource management:**

Implement policies to reduce water and energy consumption, as well as recycling and responsible waste management.

- **Conservation of biodiversity:**

Creation and expansion of protected natural areas (national parks, reserves) and monitoring of fragile ecosystems.

- **Development of Community Tourism:**

Involve local communities in tourism activities, providing them with economic benefits and an active role in preserving their heritage.

- **Education of tourists:**

Tourist information and awareness campaigns on the importance of protecting the environment, respecting local customs and sustainable tourism practices.

- **Planning and regulation:**

Develop tourism development plans that take into account the environmental impact and implement strict regulations to limit negative effects.

Actions to protect and preserve the geographical environment

- Creation and expansion **of nature reserves and national parks.**
- Enforcement of environmental legislation and building control in protected areas.
- Limiting the number of tourists in fragile areas through **controlled tourism.**
- Development of green infrastructure (bicycle lanes, marked trails, visiting centres).
- Setting up special spaces for waste collection and recycling.
- Promoting environmentally friendly transport (electric buses, pedestrian routes).

Actions to preserve tourism potential

- Restoration and maintenance of historical and cultural sights.
- Development of sustainable tourism and ecotourism.
- Promoting local traditions, gastronomy and crafts without altering their authenticity.
- Educate tourists and local communities on responsible behaviour in nature.
- Creating educational programs and information campaigns on environmental protection.

- Involvement of local communities in the management of tourism resources.

Examples:

Old Orhei – protected area where controlled tourist routes have been introduced.

‘Pădurea Domnească’ and Codrîi Reservation – biodiversity areas with limited tourist access for protection.

Ecotourism and rural festivals – encourage nature-friendly tourism and traditions

Preventing environmental degradation has become a priority for our country and regions where excessive tourism is practiced. Thus, more and more regulations and measures have started to emerge to prevent or mitigate the negative effects. Sustainable tourism is one of the solutions found and put into practice. Among its forms can be remembered:

- ecotourism;
- rural tourism and agro-tourism;
- cultural tourism;
- tourism in protected areas;
- geotourism;
- trekking;
- hiking;
- biking;
- rafting;
- hunting and fishing;

The development of ecotourism must be logical, homogeneous, without oscillations. Its spread has been gradual, from the academic level to business, from NGOs to tourism developers. In order to reduce the negative effects of tourism on nature, an in-depth analysis of the environmental components is needed, and this needs to be done at national as well as international level. Preserving the quality of the environment is the duty of all, especially government bodies, and it is imperative to consider the following priorities: tourism potential, depending on existing resources, establishing the type of tourist image, market analysis of the demand for a particular tourist product, assessment of the existing material background for an adequate reception, volume of investments, social, cultural, economic, environmental impact. Environmental protection is much easier to achieve than the removal of negative effects. Unfortunately, our developing country prefers immediate commercial and financial benefits and does not take into account the environmental impact of tourism. In some touristic places regulatory acts on this impact are very weak, with almost no environmental services. The World Tourism Organization offers numerous environmental protection programs, as the protection of the tourist area must be started earlier than the start of the leisure activity (as early as the design phase).



AUTO-EVALUE QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions

1. What are the main negative effects of tourism on the environment?
2. Give two examples of the positive effects of tourism on environmental conservation.
3. Explains why fragile areas (mountains, coastline, protected areas) are more vulnerable to tourist pressure.
4. What role do local communities play in conserving tourism resources?
5. How can sustainable tourism be promoted in the Republic of Moldova?

Multiple Choice Questions

6. Which of the following are **actions to protect the geographical environment**?
 - a) Chaotic construction in tourist areas
 - b) Creation of natural parks and reserves
 - c) Limiting the number of tourists in sensitive areas
 - d) Deforestation for infrastructure
7. Which of the following contributes to **the preservation of tourism potential**?
 - a) Restoration of historical monuments
 - b) Promoting authentic traditions
 - c) Pollution of water and soil
 - d) Ecotourism and rural tourism

Questions for analysis and reflection

8. Analyze the impact of mass tourism on a mountainous area. What are the consequences for soil, water and biodiversity?
9. Compare mass tourism with ecotourism in terms of environmental impacts.
10. It proposes three concrete measures that the Republic of Moldova could implement to protect natural and cultural resources from tourist pressure.

2.2. Practical content

Practical Work No. 1

Theme: Elaboration of the classification scheme of tourism potential.

Objectives of the work:

1. understanding the notion of tourism potential;
2. identification and classification of tourism resources;
3. developing a logical (hierarchical) scheme of tourism potential;
4. development of analytical and synthesis capacities in the field of tourism.

Graphic materials proposed for the realization of the work:

Tree Diagram (Three Diagram)

- Visually represents the hierarchy: Touristic potential → Natural / Anthropic / Technico-material → Subcategories → Examples.
- You can use: **PowerPoint, Canva, Lucidchart, SmartArt in Word/Excel.**

Work plan:

1. Theoretical material on **tourism potential** is re-read.
2. Identify the main **categories** and **subcategories of** tourism potential.

3. A **graphic scheme (tree/hierarchical scheme)** reflecting the classification shall be developed.
4. The choice of classification criteria is argued.

Work schedule:

Scheme for classification of tourism potential (indicative example):

Tourist potential

1. Natural potential

- Relief (mountains, plateaus, plains, gorges, canyons)
- Climate (favorable climate, heliothermal resources, aerothermal)
- Hydrographic (rivers, lakes, waterfalls, mineral springs)
- Biogeographical (coders, reserves, fauna, flora)
- Landscape (the natural beauty of the places)

2. Anthropic potential

- Historic-archaeological (cities, ruins, archaeological sites)
- Cultural-artistic (museums, theaters, art galleries)
- Religious (monasteries, churches, places of worship)
- Ethnographic and folkloric (popular port, traditions, holidays)
- Events and events (festivals, fairs, shows)
- Technical and economic (wines, wineries, vineyards, urban architecture)

3. Technical and material tourism potential

- Transport infrastructure (roads, railways, airports)
- Accommodation and food infrastructure
- Recreational and sports facilities (ski slopes, water bases, hiking trails)
- Tourist information centres and visitor facilities

Tasks:

- Develop your own graphic scheme of tourist potential classification (using PowerPoint, Canva, Word or drawing on paper).
- Highlight, by colours or symbols, the difference between **natural** resources and **anthropogenic resources**.
- Choose a region/area in the Republic of Moldova and complete the scheme with concrete examples from the field.
- Present the scheme and explain the chosen classification.

Conclusion.

Practical Work No. 2

Theme: Description of the main characteristics of the components of the natural tourism potential. Identify the most important elements of the components of natural potential.

Objectives of the work:

- Understand the notion of natural tourism potential.

- Description of the main characteristics of the natural components (relief, climate, water, vegetation, fauna, landscapes).
- Identifying the most representative elements in the Republic of Moldova.
- Training skills of analysis and classification of natural resources.

Graphical, informative materials, proposed for the realization of the work:

Comparative table, thematic maps: Map of the Republic of Moldova with symbols for the main natural components:

- forests (green),
- rivers and lakes (blue),
- scenic relief areas (brown/grey),
- protected fauna sites (special symbols).

The natural component	Features	Examples	Tourist value
Relief	Hills, plateaus, gorges	Old Orhei, Defileul Răutului	Hiking, trekking
Climate	Temperate continental	Vadul lui Voda resort	Summer amusement
Waters	Rivers, lakes, springs	Nistru, Prut, Beleu Lake	Recreation, fishing
Vegetation	Hardwood forests	Category: Codrii of Moldova	Ecotourism
Fauna	Bison, wild boar, rare birds	the Royal Forest	Observation, ecotourism
Landscapes	Combination relief + water + vegetation	Old Orhei, Saharna	Photography, recreation

Work plan:

1. Review the theoretical material about natural tourist resources.
2. Fill in tables and worksheets for each component.
3. Exemplify with concrete elements from the Republic of Moldova.
4. Draw up a short summary text and a graphic scheme.

The course and structure of the work:

Relief

- General characteristics: hills, hills, plateaus and valleys predominate; lack of high mountains; large fragmentation of the terrain.
- Touristic importance: favours hiking, trekking, scenic scenery, visits to gorges and canyons.
- Representative examples: Defileul Răutului (Orheiul Vechi), Codrii Moldovei, Saharna Canyon, Rock of the Donkey (Soroca).

2. Climate

- General characteristics: temperate continental, with warm summers and relatively mild winters; large number of sunny days.
- Touristic importance: favours summer tourism (roads, leisure), wine tourism, but also winter activities in snowy areas.
- Examples: Vadul lui Voda resort (on the banks of the Nistru River), leisure activities on lakes in summer.

3. Waters (hydrography)

- General characteristics: the hydrographic network is dominated by the Dniester and Prut rivers; numerous small rivers, lakes and ponds.
- Touristic importance: potential for water recreation, fishing, water sports, spa tourism (mineral springs).
- Examples: Nistru River (Vadul lui Vodă, Soroca), Beleu Lake (Prutul de Jos Reservation), the mineral springs of Hancesti.

4. Vegetation

- General characteristics: dominates deciduous forests (beech, oak, hornbeam), steppe and meadows.
- Touristic importance: eco-tourism, hiking, biodiversity observation.
- Examples: Codrii Moldovei (Codrii Natural Reserve), Pădurea Domnească, Stepa Bălțului.

5. Fauna

- General characteristics: mammals (deer, wild boar, deer), birds (lizards, pelicans, cormorants), rare protected species.
- Touristic importance: ecotourism, birdwatching, observational tourism.
- Examples: 'Lower Prut' Reservation, 'Princely Forest' Reservation (birds, heron colonies), Saharna (diverse fauna).

6. Landscapes

- General characteristics: harmonious combination of relief, water and vegetation.
- Touristic importance: aesthetic and recreational attractiveness.
- Examples: Old Orhei, river gorges, canyons, lakes and forests.

Tasks:

- Fill in a table with the main components and examples from the Republic of Moldova.
- Make a graphical diagram (tree-like diagram) with the components of natural potential.
- Select at least 3 representative photos or maps and comment on their tourist importance.

Table for completion:

Natural potential component	Features	Examples from Moldova	Tourist value
Relief			
Climate			

Natural potential component Features Examples from Moldova Tourist value

Waters

Vegetation

Fauna

Landscapes

Conclusion.

Practical Work No. 3

Theme: Representation on the contour map of the Republic of Moldova the most representative elements of natural potential.

Objectives of the work:

- Identifying the main components of the natural tourism potential in the Republic of Moldova.
- Their location on the contour map of the country.
- Developing geographic and cartographic analysis skills.
- Forming the ability to visually present geographical information

Graphical, informative **materials, proposed for the realization of the work:** Contour map of the Republic of Moldova (type A4 or A3). Colored pencils or markers. Ring, pen, eraser. Information sources: geographical atlas, specialty materials, internet.

Work plan/Working instructions:

1. Identification of components of natural potential

Based on the theoretical study, identify the following components:

1. **Relief** – hills, plateaus, canyons, gorges.
2. **Waters** – rivers, lakes, mineral springs, waterfalls.
3. **Climate** – areas favourable to summer or winter tourism.
4. **Vegetation** – forests, woodland, steppe.
5. **Fauna** – reserves, protected species.
6. **Landscapes** – picturesque areas combined (relief + water + vegetation).

Choice of representative elements

For each component of natural potential choose at least **one emblematic example:**

Component	Examples
Relief	Defileul Răutului, Old Orhei, Saharna Canyon
Waters	Nistru River, Prut River, Beleu Lake, Hancesti mineral springs
Vegetation	Codrii Moldovei, The Princely Forest
Fauna	‘Lower Prut’ Reservation, ‘Princely Forest’ Reservation

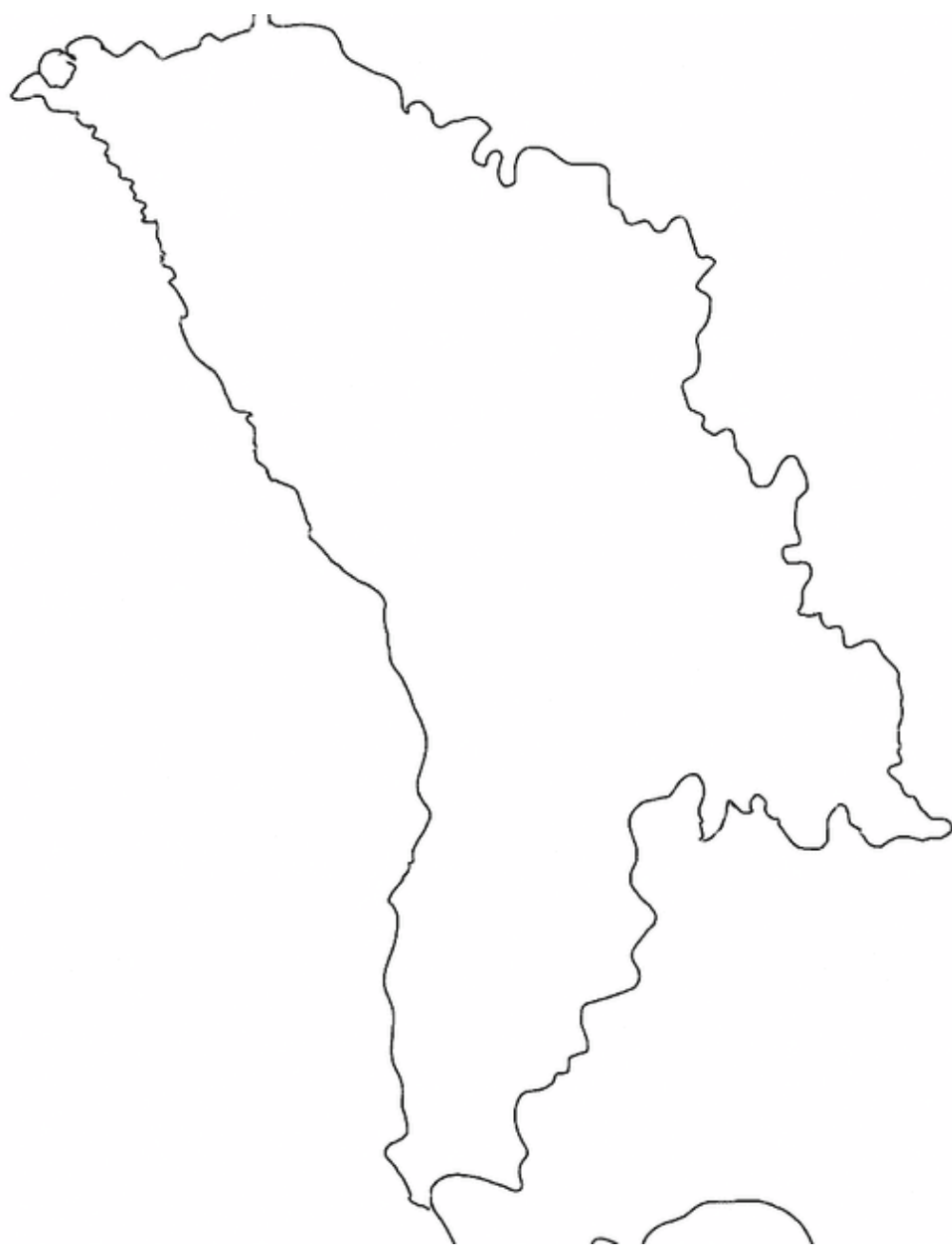
Component	Examples
Landscapes	Old Orhei, Saharna, Dniester Hills

Tasks:

1. Mark each element with **distinct symbols**:
 - Hills/floors – brown,
 - Lakes/rivers – blue,
 - Forests – green,
 - Reserves/protected fauna – tree or animal symbol,
 - Picturesque landscapes – star or tourist symbol.
2. Write the names of the objectives on the map.
3. You can use **the legend** on the side to explain the symbols.
4. Indicate which areas have the greatest natural tourism potential and why.
5. Underline the importance of protecting these resources for sustainable tourism.

Conclusion

Contour map of the Republic of Moldova



Practical Work No. 4

Theme: Identify the main elements of each component of anthropogenic potential.

Purpose of the work: Identification and description of the main elements of the anthropogenic potential in the Republic of Moldova.

Objectives of the work:

1. Identification and classification of anthropogenic resources

Recognition of the main components of anthropogenic potential: cultural, historical-archaeological, socio-economic and technological.

- Listing the elements specific to each component in the context of the Republic of Moldova.

2. Analysis of the touristic importance of anthropogenic resources

- Assessing the tourist value of each element identified.

Determining how man-made resources contribute to attracting tourists.

3. Achieving a schematic or tabular representation

- Create a table with components, elements and their location.

- Highlighting the link between anthropogenic resources and the tourism potential of the region.

4. Developing observation and documentation skills

- Practice identifying anthropogenic objectives on the field or on tourist maps.

Understanding how to present tourist information in a structured and logical way.

5. Drawing conclusions on the sustainable use of anthropogenic resources

- Propose recommendations for the protection and promotion of man-made tourism resources.

- Emphasizing the role of these resources in the development of regional and national tourism.

Work plan and tasks:

- Definition of notions: human potential, man-made objectives, recreation, infrastructure, services,
- Description of the main components: Cultural and religious resources, Historical and archaeological resources, Socio-economic and recreational resources, Technological resources and tourist infrastructure, fill in the table. (two examples for each component).
- Develop suggestions for sustainable exploitation of anthropogenic resources.
- Proposes measures to protect and promote anthropogenic resources at national and local level.
- Depose on the contour map 2 tourist attractions for each component, using conventional signs and map legend.

Graphical, informative materials, proposed for the realization of the work:

Components and main elements:

Cultural and religious resources

- **Definition:** human-created goods, reflecting the traditions, beliefs and cultural expressions of communities.
- **Examples of elements:**
 - Historical monasteries and churches: *Căpriana Monastery, Hâncu Monastery*
 - Monuments of folk art: *traditional motifs on costumes, ceramics, wood carvings*
 - Festivals and cultural events: *Wine festival, local holidays*

Historical and archaeological resources

- **Definition:** objectives or sites related to the history and archaeological heritage of the region.
- **Examples of elements:**
 - Fortresses and fortifications: *Soroca Fortress, Tighina Fortress*
 - Archaeological sites: *Old Orhei, Valea Morilor*
 - Monuments and buildings of historical value: *Palace of Culture in Chisinau, boyar mansions*

Socio-economic and recreational resources

- **Definition:** elements created for leisure activities, tourism and services.
- **Examples of elements:**
 - Tourist resorts and resting places: *Dniester, Saharna*
 - Wineries and enogastronomic tourism: *Cricova, Milestii Mici*
 - Urban and rural parks and recreation areas: *'Valea Morilor' Park, Dendrariu Park*

Technological resources and tourism infrastructure

- **Definition:** Man-made infrastructure that facilitates access and the tourist experience.
- **Examples of elements:**
 - Transport and access: tourist roads, bridges, tourist trains
 - Tourist Information Centres and Agencies
 - Hotels, guesthouses, board and lodging facilities

Table for completion:

Component	Element	Location	Importance of tourism
Cultural			
Historical			
Socio-economic			
Technological			

Use **different symbols on the contour map for** each component:

- ?? Historic fortresses and monuments
- ?? Monasteries and churches
- ?? Wineries and tourist bases
- ?? Hotels and pensions

You can use **different colors** to highlight each category:

- Cultural-religious – blue
- Archaeological history – brown
- Socio-economic – green
- Technological – orange

Examples of anthropogenic objectives:

Component	Example	Location
Cultural-religious	Capriana Monastery	Capriana
Cultural-religious	the Hâncu Monastery	Hâncu
Archaeological history	the Soroca Fortress	Soroca
Archaeological history	the Old Orhei	Orhei
Socio-economic	Cricova Winery	Cricova
Socio-economic	‘Valea Morilor’ Park	Chisinau
Technology / infrastructure	Rural pension "La Nistru"	Soroca
Technology / infrastructure	Tourist Information Centre	Chisinau

Conclusion.

Practical Work No. 5

Theme: Schematic representation of anthropogenic tourist resources - buildings and institutions with tourist attraction and activities and events with tourist attraction.

Objectives of the work:

1. Collection of data on anthropogenic resources (tourist guides, official websites, maps).
2. Classification of objectives into buildings/institutions and activities/events.
3. Schematic representation in the form of a table or schematic map.
4. Analysis of the touristic importance of each element.

Main components analysed:

1. Buildings and institutions with tourist attraction
2. Activities and events with tourist attraction

Work plan and tasks:

1. Select 8–10 tourist attractions in the Republic of Moldova and characterise them.
2. Classify each objective in the **edifice/institution** or **activity/event**.
3. Note the type of attraction: cultural, religious, historical, recreational, enogastronomic, etc.
4. Make a schematic map of Moldova, marking:

Buildings and institutions with symbols: ?? (monasteries), ?? (citizens), ?? (museums, palaces), ?? (vineyards), ?? (accommodation). **Activities and events** with symbols: ?? (festivals), ?? (wine cellars tours), ?? (fairs).

Each symbol can be colored differently for clarity.

5. Identify the tourist importance of the selected sights.

6. Conclusion.

Graphical, informative materials, proposed for the realization of the work:

1. *Edifices and institutions with tourist attraction:*

Objective / Institution	Location	Attraction type
Capriana Monastery	Capriana	Religious, cultural
the Hâncu Monastery	Hâncu	Religious, cultural
the Soroca Fortress	Soroca	Historical, Archaeological
the Old Orhei	Orhei	Historical, Archaeological
Palace of Culture	Chisinau	Cultural, museum
Cricova Winery	Cricova	Enogastronomic, recreational
Pension "La Nistru"	Soroca	Accommodation and recreation
Tourist Information Centre	Chisinau	Information, tourist services

2. Activities and events with tourist attraction

Activity / Event	Location	Attraction type
<i>the Wine Festival</i>	<i>Chisinau</i>	<i>Cultural, enogastronomic</i>
<i>Local religious holidays</i>	<i>Capriana, Hâncu</i>	<i>Religious, cultural</i>
<i>Traditional fairs</i>	<i>Orhei, Soroca</i>	<i>Cultural, artisanal</i>
<i>Guided tours of wine cellars</i>	<i>Cricova, Milestii Mici</i>	<i>Enogastronomic, educational</i>
<i>Parks and recreation areas</i>	<i>Chisinau, Soroca</i>	<i>Recreative, educational</i>

Practical Work No. 6

Theme: Establishing a table with the main activities and events with tourist attraction in the Republic of Moldova.

Purpose of the work

- Identify and organize the main tourist activities and events in the Republic of Moldova.
- Developing skills for collecting, classifying and presenting tourist data in a structured table

Objectives of the work:

1. Identification of the main tourist activities and events
 - Recognition of various events and activities with touristic value in the Republic of Moldova.
 - Select the most representative events and activities for different regions.
2. Classification and organisation of data
 - Classification of activities and events by type of attraction: cultural, religious, recreational, enogastronomic, etc.
 - Create a clear and structured table including name, location, attraction type and duration.
3. Development of research and documentation skills
 - Gathering information from tourist guides, online sources and local recommendations.
 - Practice presenting tourist data in an organized and easy-to-understand way.
4. Analysis of the touristic value of activities and events
 - Evaluate their importance for attracting tourists and promoting local tourism.
 - Observing the cultural, economic and social impact of tourism activities and events.

5. Recommendation for the sustainable use of tourism resources
 - To make suggestions for the promotion and protection of events and activities with tourist attraction.

Necessary materials

- Map of Moldova (optional)
- Tourist guides, official websites or online resources
- Notebook, worksheet or Word/Excel document, thematic themes.

Tasks and Instructions for carrying out the work

1. Identify **at least 10 tourist activities and events** in different regions of Moldova.
2. Fill in the table with the following information:
 - Name of activity or event
 - Location (town, village, region)
 - Type of attraction (cultural, religious, recreational, enogastronomic, etc.)
 - Period of deployment or availability (e.g.: annual, seasonal, permanent)
3. Fill in the table with **other 3–5 activities or events** in your region.
4. Mention the impact of these activities on the **development of tourism and the valorisation of local culture**.
5. Conclusion.

Template Table for completion:

Activity / Event	Location	Attraction type	Period / Availability
the Wine Festival	Chisinau	Cultural, enogastronomic	September, yearly

Practical work no.7

Theme: Representation on the contour map of the Republic of Moldova the most representative elements of the anthropogenic potential.

Purpose of the work

- Identification and location on the map of the main elements of the anthropogenic potential in the Republic of Moldova.
- Developing the skills of graphic representation and schematization of man-made tourist resources

Objectives of the work:

1. Identification of elements of anthropogenic potential

- Recognition of the main man-made tourist resources: buildings, institutions, activities and tourist events.
- Selecting the most representative objectives from different regions of the Republic of Moldova.

Classification of anthropogenic resources

- Organisation of objectives by components: cultural-religious, historical-archaeological, socio-economic and technological/tourist infrastructure.

3. Graphic representation on the map

- Marking the objectives on the contour map of the Republic of Moldova with symbols and colors specific to each component.
- Create a legend that clarifies the symbols and categories of resources.

4. Analysis of the geographical distribution of anthropogenic resources

- Observation of regions with the greatest diversity of anthropogenic resources.
- Assessing the impact of these resources on local and national tourism.

5. Developing practical skills and schematic representation

- Practicing the visual presentation of tourist information.
- Understanding the link between man-made resources and their tourism valorisation.

Necessary materials

- Outline map of the Republic of Moldova (A4 or A3 format)
- Colors and pencils for encoding different types of resources
- List of anthropogenic objectives (edifices, institutions, activities, events)

Tasks:

1. Select the main elements of anthropogenic potential in different regions of Moldova.
2. Classify them by components:
 - **Cultural-religious:** monasteries, churches, museums
 - **Archaeological history:** fortresses, fortifications, archaeological sites
 - **Socio-economic and recreational :** wineries, pensions, parks
 - **Technology/tourist infrastructure :** information centres, tourist roads
3. Mark each lens on the contour map using **different symbols and colors** for each category.
4. Add **legend and** title to the map.
5. Conclusion.

Instructions for students

1. Color or mark **on the map each resource type with a distinct color .**
2. Use symbols:
 - ?? Monasteries and churches
 - ?? Fortresses and fortifications
 - ?? Wineries and wineries
 - ?? Pensions and hotels

- ?? Festivals and events
- 3. Complete the **map legend** to explain the symbols and colors.
- 4. Write the title of the map: *Main elements of the anthropogenic potential in the Republic of Moldova.*

Examples of anthropogenic objectives for representation

Component	Objective / Institution / Activity	Location
Cultural-religious	Capriana Monastery	Capriana
Cultural-religious	the Hâncu Monastery	Hâncu
Archaeological history	the Soroca Fortress	Soroca
Archaeological history	the Old Orhei	Orhei
Socio-economic	Cricova Winery	Cricova
Socio-economic	‘Valea Morilor’ Park	Chisinau
Technology / infrastructure	Pension "La Nistru"	Soroca
Technology / infrastructure	Tourist Information Centre	Chisinau
Activity / Event	the Wine Festival	Chisinau
Activity / Event	Traditional fairs	Orhei, Soroca

Practical Work No. 8

Theme: Elaboration of the scheme of classification of traditional occupations of peasants. Identifying the specificity of the popular port in the northern, central and southern areas of the Republic of Moldova.

Purpose of the work:

- Identification and classification of traditional occupations of peasants in the Republic of Moldova.
- Comparing and highlighting the specificity of the popular port in the northern, central and southern regions of the country.

Objectives of the work:

1. **Identification of traditional occupations of peasants**
 - Recognition of the main economic and traditional craft activities in the Republic of Moldova.
 - Collecting information about the way of life of peasants and the main occupations in different regions.
2. **Classification of Traditional Occupations**
 - Organisation of occupations by category: agriculture, animal husbandry, crafts, auxiliary activities.
 - Develop a visual scheme that reflects the relationships between the different occupations.
3. **Analysis of the specificity of the popular port by geographical area**
 - Identify the distinctive features of the popular port in the north, center and south.

- Comparison of colors, motifs and clothing elements characteristic of each region.
- 4. **Developing graphical and schematic representation skills**
 - Establish schematics and tables for organizing information.
 - Practice visual presentation of cultural and traditional data.
- 5. **Correlation of traditional occupations with folk costumes**
 - Observation of the link between craft occupations and decorative elements of folk costume.
 - Understanding the role of cultural heritage in the life of rural communities.

Materials required:

- Geographical Atlas or Map of Moldova
- Bibliographic sources about traditional occupations and folk costumes
- Notebook, worksheets, colored pencils.

Work plan and methodology:

1. **Identification of traditional occupations** of peasants: agriculture, livestock, pottery, weaving, carpentry, woodworking, beekeeping, etc.
2. **Classification of occupations** by category:
 - Agriculture and livestock farming
 - Crafts (potting, weaving, woodworking)
 - Auxiliary activities (apiculture, fishing, hunting)
3. **Achieving a scheme** of the classification of traditional occupations, in the form of a diagram or table.
4. **Analysis of folk costumes** in the regions of Moldova:
 - **North:** darker colors, geometric embroidery, aprons and catriments with traditional motifs.
 - **Centre:** intermediate colors, combinations of geometric and floral motifs, shirts with elaborate embroidery.
 - **South:** more vivid colors, richer floral motifs, skirts and catriments with pronounced decorative details.
5. **Comparison of the specifics** of the popular port by areas and highlighting the distinctive features.

Table: The specifics of the popular port by area

Area	Predominant colors	Reasons	Characteristics
North	Dark (brown, dark blue)	Geometric	Aprons, single catriments
Centre	Intermediate (blue, red)	Geometric and floral	Shirts with elaborate embroidery
South	Live (red, yellow)	Rich flora	Skirts and skirts with decorative details

Tasks:

1. Complete **the traditional occupation classification scheme with** additional examples from your region.
2. Make **a table with the popular port** specific to your area, adding characteristic colors and motifs.

3. Mark the north, center and south regions on the map and note the main features of the popular port.
4. Identify the link between traditional occupations and folk costumes (e.g.: craftsmen and embroidery techniques).
5. Conclusions.

Practical Work No. 9

Theme: Establishing a table with the main calendar and religious holidays in the Republic of Moldova.

Purpose of the work

- Identifying and organizing the main calendar and religious holidays in the Republic of Moldova.
- Developing the skills to collect, classify and present information in a structured table.

Objectives of the work:

1. **Identification of the main calendar and religious holidays**
 - Recognition of important holidays for the culture and traditions of the Republic of Moldova.
 - Collecting information about the date and significance of each holiday.
2. **Classification of holidays**
 - The organization of holidays in two main categories: calendar and religious.
 - Notice the differences and similarities between national and religious holidays.
3. **Representation of information in a table**
 - Create a structured, clear and easy-to-read table containing the name of the holiday, its type, date and meaning.
 - Developing data organization and presentation skills.
4. **Analysis of the meaning of the holidays**
 - Observing the role of holidays in the social, cultural and touristic life of communities.
 - Understand the importance of traditions and cultural heritage in preserving national identity.

Materials required:

- Word/Excel notebook or document
- Bibliographic sources, tourist guides or online resources about traditional and religious holidays
- Map of Moldova (optional, for highlighting areas with local holidays).

Instructions for carrying out the work:

1. Identify **at least 10 important calendar and religious holidays** in the Republic of Moldova.
2. Classify each holiday by type:
 - Calendar (e.g.: 1 January – New Year, 1 May – Labour Day)
 - Religious (e.g.: Easter, Christmas, St. Peter's. Andrei)

3. Fill in the table with the following information:
 - Name of the holiday
 - Type of holiday (calendaristic/religious)
 - Date/period of deployment
 - The Purpose or Significance of the Holiday

Tasks:

1. Fill in the table with **other 3–5 holidays specific to your region**.
2. State the **date and significance** of each local holiday.
3. Optional: highlight the holidays that are **most visited by tourists** or those that have **specific events**.
4. Conclusion.

Model table:

Celebration	Type	Date / Period	Significance
New Year's Eve	Calendarist	1 January	Start of calendar year
Christmas	Religious	December 25 (Catholic) / January 7 (Orthodox)	Birth of Jesus Christ
Easter	Religious	Date varies (March-April)	The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Labor Day			
St. Patrick's Day			
Andrei			
Martisor			
Independence Day			
St. Patrick's Day			
Nicolae			
Easter of the Blajin			
the Wine Festival			

Practical Work No. 10

Theme: Studying the state of the tourist fund of the Republic of Moldova. Identify the most effective ways to improve the condition of the existing monuments fund.

Purpose of the work:

- Analysis of the tourist fund of the Republic of Moldova, focusing on historical, cultural and architectural monuments.

- Identifying the most efficient ways of conservation, restoration and tourism valorization.

Objectives of the work:

- 1. Identification of the tourist fund of the Republic of Moldova**
 - o Recognition of the main historical, cultural and architectural monuments.
 - o Gathering information on their status and location.
- 2. Classification of tourist monuments**
 - o Organisation of objectives by category: cultural-religious, historical-archaeological, socio-economic and recreational.
 - o Observation of the diversity and geographical distribution of the tourist fund.
- 3. Analysis of the conservation status of monuments**
 - o Assessment of current status (good, average, deteriorated) and accessibility for tourists.
 - o Identification of monuments with high tourist potential, but with maintenance problems.
- 4. Propose ways to improve the tourism fund**
 - o Developing recommendations for restoration, conservation and tourism promotion.
 - o Identify measures to increase tourism attractiveness and protect cultural heritage.

Materials required:

- Map of Moldova and list of important tourist monuments
- Bibliographic sources, tourist guides, official websites
- Word/Excel notebook or document for data organization.

Methodology of the work:

- 1. Collection of information about monuments:**
 - o Identification of historical, cultural and architectural monuments in different regions.
 - o Scoring the current status of each objective (good, medium, deteriorated).
- 2. Classification of monuments:**
 - o Cultural-religious (monasteries, churches)
 - o Historic-archaeological (cities, fortifications, archaeological sites)
 - o Socio-economic and recreational (historical buildings adapted to tourism)
- 3. Analysis of the state of the tourist fund:**
 - o Assessment of conservation status and accessibility for tourists.
 - o Identification of monuments with **high tourist potential**, but with **urgent restoration needs**.
- 4. Identification of improvement pathways:**
 - o Restoration and conservation of damaged monuments.
 - o Tourist promotion through guides, flyers, themed tours.
 - o Creation of access infrastructure and facilities for visitors.
 - o Collaboration with local authorities, cultural organisations and NGOs for funding and maintenance.

Practical tasks for students:

1. Fill in the table with **other 3–5 important monuments** in your region.

2. Evaluate their current state and identify the main problems.
3. Propose **concrete ways to improve and enhance tourism**.
4. Make a **schematic map** with the location of the analyzed monuments.
5. Write conclusions on the **impact of tourism restoration and promotion on the local economy and culture**.
6. Conclusion.

Examples of table for analysis:

Monument	Type	Location	State of play	Recommendations for improvement
the Soroca Fortress	Archaeological history	Soroca	Medium	Restoration of walls, arrangement of tourist routes
Capriana Monastery	Cultural-religious	Capriana	Hi	Tourist promotion, guides
the Old Orhei	Archaeological history	Orhei	Medium	Arranging access, facilities for visitors
Palace of Culture Chişinău	Socio-economic / cultural	Chisinau	Hi	Organizing exhibitions and tourist events
Cricova Winery	Socio-economic / recreational	Cricova	Hi	Guided tours and international promotion

Examples of a table to fill in:

N o.	Monument / Tourist attraction	Type (cultural-religious/historical-archaeological/socio-economic/recreational)	Location	Current status (good/medium/damaged)	Problems identified	Recommendations for improvement
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

III. METHODOLOGICAL AND EVALUATION SUGGESTS

In order to carry out tourism activity in modern conditions, tourism companies must ensure a high degree of competitiveness, which requires not only valuable tourist resources but also qualified staff

in accordance with the current requirements regarding the organization of customer service in an operative and qualitative manner.

The modular character of the course unit *National tourist heritage ensures* responsiveness to changes in the labor market and flexibility in structuring training offers for various categories of beneficiaries. When selecting teaching-learning-evaluation methods and techniques, a specific approach based on the student's motivation and the development of self-confidence will be promoted.

When choosing educational strategies, the following will be taken into account: the aims and objectives proposed, the content set, the teaching resources, the level of initial training and the capacities of the pupils, the competences to be developed. The teacher will use the following teaching-learning methods, processes and techniques: Lecture, explanation, heuristic conversation, dialogue, and forms of work: front, individual and team.

The teacher will establish coherence between the competences specific to the course unit, contents, learning activities, resources, means and assessment techniques. Also, during the lessons, the teacher will use instructional means such as: Evocation, Realization of Meaning, Reflection and Enlargement. The teaching of content elements will be focused on solving concrete tasks related to the following activities such as:

- Studying the main categories of tourist resources;
- identification of the main characteristics specific to tourism resources;
- appreciation of the importance of tourism potential for tourism development;
- assessment of the state of the tourist fund of the Republic of Moldova;
- Determining the impact of tourism on the environment;

The student will acquire knowledge, starting from the need to accomplish a concrete task and will harmoniously combine theoretical knowledge with practical knowledge.

The teacher-guided individual study will be conducted for each unit of content, proposing individualized tasks to students. It is recommended to apply interactive methods of working with students such as discussion, mutual communication, presentation.

The assessment is made during the teaching/learning activities in order to know what is the stage of the vocational training and at what level it is, in relation to the competences specific to the course unit.

Recommended products for assessing the level of development of cognitive skills

No. Products ctr. Tasks	/ Product evaluation criteria/descriptors/tasks
1. Argumentation oral	Correspondence of the formulations of the theme Logical selection and structuring of arguments in accordance with the hypotheses under discussion Use of case studies / own experience in arguing the hypotheses under discussion Use of appropriate and rich language, compliance with literary norms Correct and appropriate use of oral means of expression (intonation, gestures, vocabulary, etc.)
2. Project	Validity of the project - the degree to which it covers the proposed theme unitarily and coherently, logically and substantiated The elaboration and structure of the project - the accuracy, rigor and coherence of the scientific approach, the logic and argumentation of the ideas, the correctness of the conclusions. Creativity – the degree of novelty that the project brings to addressing the topic or solving the problem
3. Case study	Correctness of interpretation of the proposed case study Quality of solutions, proposed hypotheses, their argumentation

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| | Highlighting the subject, the issues and the wording |
| | Originality of the study, formulation and realization |
| | Quality of solutions, proposed hypotheses, their argumentation |
| | Correct problem solving associated with the case study |
| 4. Activity practice | Set of practical and applicative actions, consciously and systematically executed by students in order to deepen the understanding and consolidate the acquired knowledge, verify and correct them, as well as to acquire practical, applicative skills and abilities, to cultivate the love for work |

Suggestions for assessing professional skills

The assessment highlights the extent to which the competences specific to the course unit are formed. The formative assessment will be applied, which will be carried out throughout the study of the discipline. For the purpose of an effective assessment, traditional and alternative methods will be used, through oral and written tests, depending on the requirements of the competent unit. The following methods shall be used: systematic observation of student behaviour, tracking personal progress; self-assessment; the student's portfolio; implementation of group projects. The methods used will be oriented towards capitalizing on students' acquisitions and stimulating teamwork. For each method, the teacher will develop the assessment tools. Practical work that develops analytical and evidence capacities and skills will also serve as a way of ongoing evaluation. The summative assessment will be designed in such a way as to provide evidence for pupils, teachers and employers, relevant information about acquisitions in terms of knowledge and skills based on explicitly defined criteria. When developing formative and summative assessment tasks/items, the teacher will take into account the competences specific to the discipline. Products developed as part of the individual study will be evaluated on the basis of evaluation criteria and descriptors. Assessment tools must be fit for purpose and enable students to demonstrate possession/mastery of subject-specific skills.

IV. CONCLUSION

Teaching support is an interpretation of the discipline 'National tourist heritage'. The national tourist heritage is a fundamental element of the cultural and historical identity of the Republic of Moldova. It includes both natural and anthropogenic resources, such as historical monuments, monasteries, archaeological sites, traditional houses, festivals and folk traditions. Studying and valuing this heritage contributes to promoting the country's image, developing sustainable tourism and preserving the collective memory of communities. The analysis of the tourist fund highlights the diversity and richness of the heritage, but also the challenges related to conservation and maintenance. The restoration of monuments, the modernization of tourism infrastructure and the effective promotion of objectives are essential steps for increasing tourist attractiveness and for the active involvement of local communities. In conclusion, the national tourist heritage not only reflects the past and traditions of the people, but is also an active factor in the economic, cultural and social development of the country. Its protection and sustainable use ensures the transmission of cultural values to future generations and the consolidation of the Republic of Moldova's position on the international tourist map.

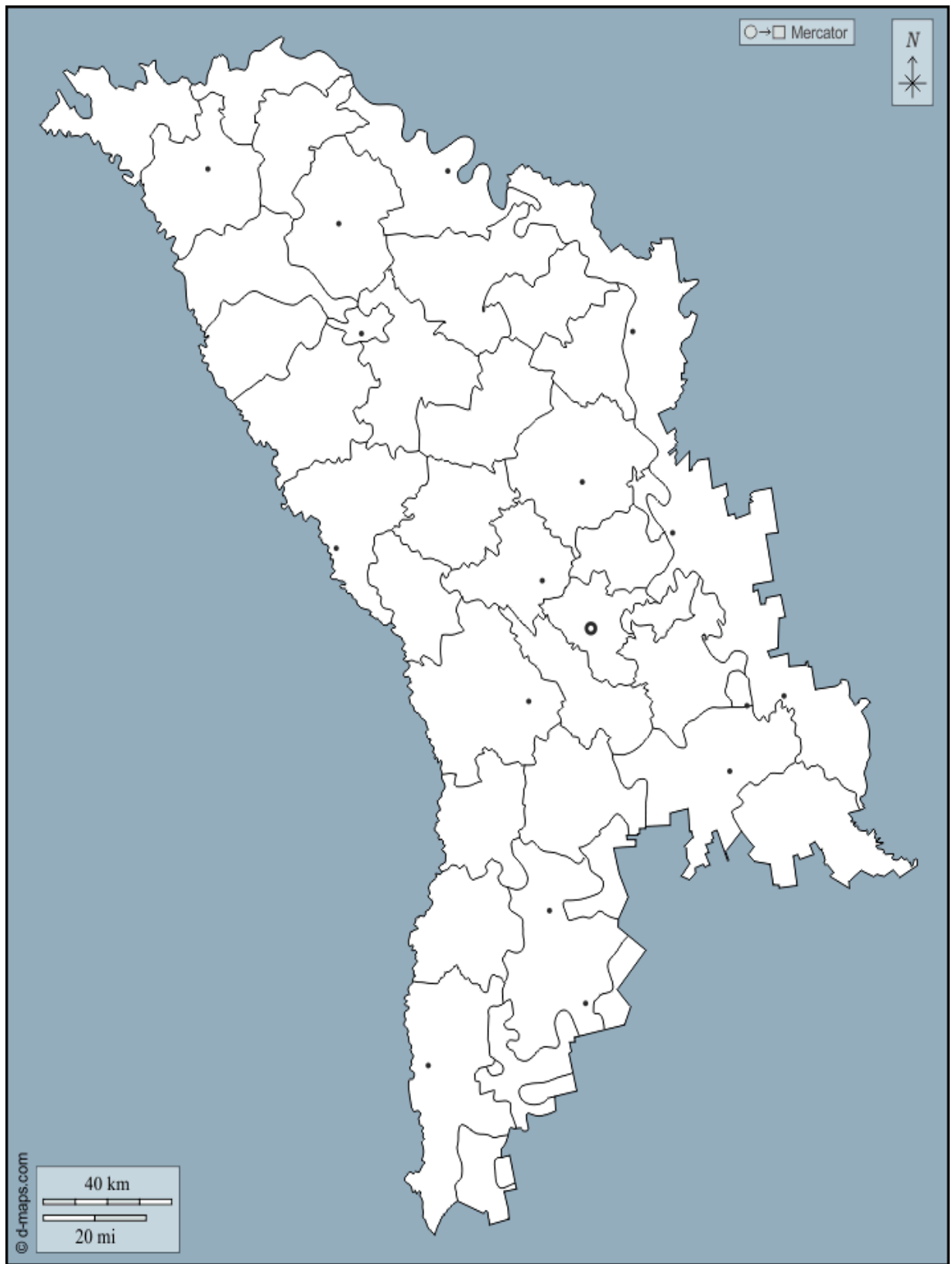
Annexes
Annex 1

Tourist Map of the Republic of Moldova



Annex 2

Contour map of the Republic of Moldova.



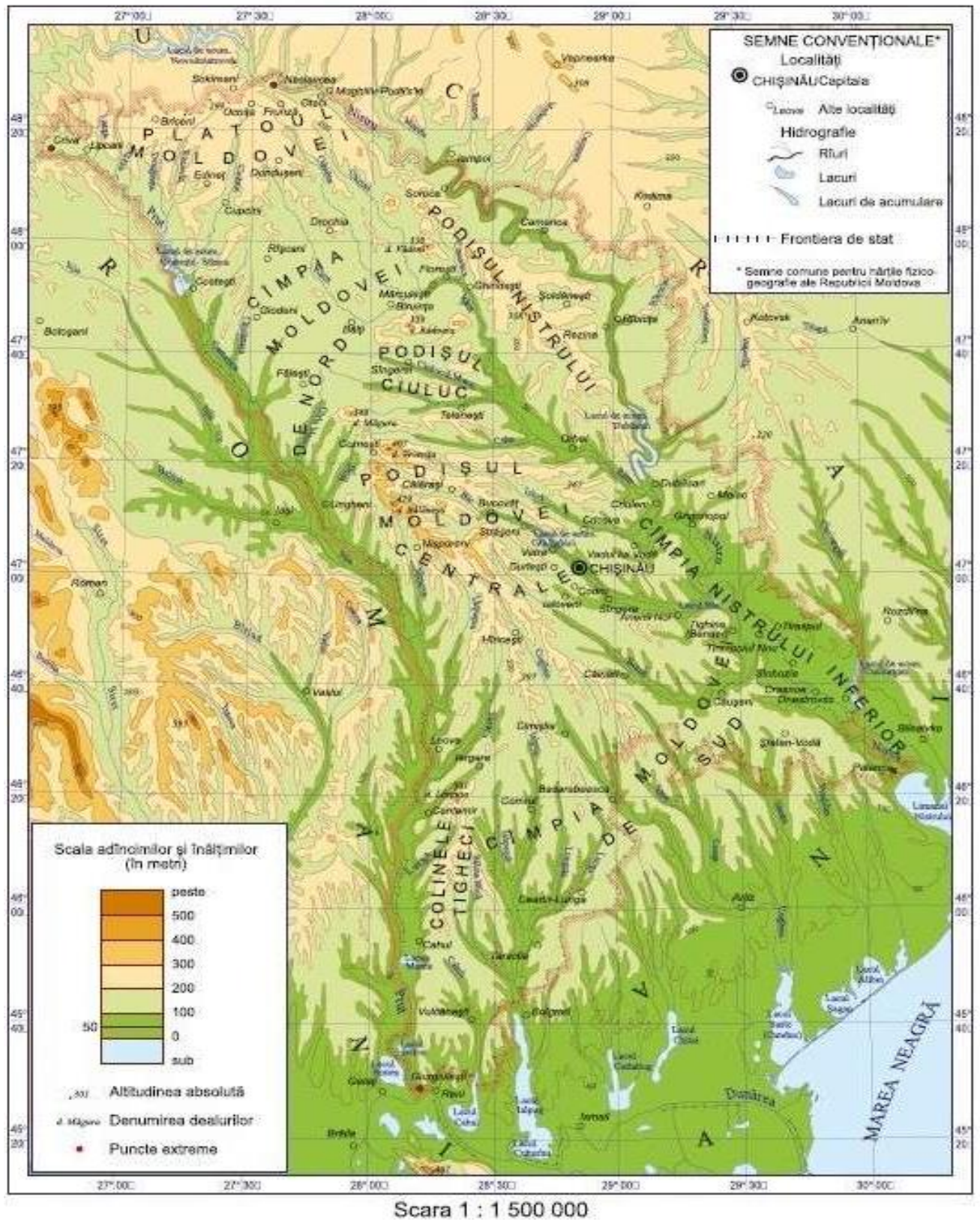
Map of cities of the Republic of Moldova

Annex 3



Annex 4

HARTA FIZICĂ A REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



Map of flora and fauna of the Republic of Moldova



Map of the districts of the Republic of Moldova



Administrative-territorial map and development regions of the Republic of Moldova



Annex 8

Characteristics of the proposed tourist areas for development in the Republic of Moldova

A. North Development Region

A.1. *The tourist area of Balti* includes the largest city in the north of the country, unofficially called the northern capital of the Republic of Moldova. Potential tourist offer: (i) intra-zonal (“Bălți – city tour”, “Historical personalities”, “Bălți – university city”) and inter-zonal routes (the full range of excursion routes to Cobani, Criva, Țaul, Rudi, Soroca, Japca); (iii) restaurants, bars, leisure, theatre, travel agency.

Table 1. Structure of the Bălți tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
or.Bălți	1421	City Park	the Church of St. Constantine and Helena (1924-1934), St. Paraschiva Church (1924), St. Nicholas Church (in the 20th century), Armenian Church (XIXth century), Museum of History and Ethnography, V. Alecsandri Theatre, Pedagogical University ‘Al. Russo’	rest area, three city hotels
s.Sofia	1831, Anfisovca		Hăsnaș family house-museum	
s.Corlăteni			"L.Damian" house-museum	

A.2. *The tourist area of Cobani – Costești* comprises a picturesque landscape around the Middle Prut and the largest lake in the country with ancient prehistoric remains in the rock fishes. Potential tourism offer: (i) trails – ecological route for children “Cobani-Costești” developed by the administration of the scientific reserve, intra-zonal trails – “Middle Prut Valley” (Braniște, Cobani, Balatina, Cuhnești), “Paleolithic resorts in toltre fishes” (Butești, Duruitoarea, Horodiște, Văratice, with the possibility of extending northwards in the tourist area Edineț), “Sea of Costești” (including a recreation area), inter-zonal trails – “Prut toltre” (northwards in the tourist area Edineț), “Bălți-Sea of Costești” Șa.; (ii) recreation area – Costești beach; (iii) border crossing point at Costești (towards Romania).

Table 2. Structure of the Cobani – Costești Tourist Area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Cobani	3.06.1374, Zubreuți, Vasileuții-Mari	the scientific reserve ‘The Princely Forest’, the landscape reserve ‘The Hundred Mounds’, the protected area ‘The Land of the Batlans’, the toltres with pests ‘The Great Rock’	wooden church (1838)	
s.Butești	12.12.1646	geopaleontological natural monument “Cheile Butești”	pestera with remnants of mustard culture (≈70-40 thousand years)	
or.Costești	15.08.1499	the largest reservoir in Moldova (92 km ²), geopaleontological monument (toltră)		National beach, undeveloped, children's camp in

				the forest of Șaptebani
s.The Drain	1755	a suite of geopaleontological monuments with toltres, gorges and pesters (≈ 50ha.)	remnants in pesteri (500-70 thousand years)	
s.Varatic	27.04.1664	natural geopaleontological monument, two fish	wooden church (1825)	
s.Horodiște		Pestera with prehistoric vestiges	wooden church (1797)	

A.3. *The Criva tourist area* is characterised by karst relief in the north of Moldova and the presence of one of the largest pestrities on the planet. Potential tourism offer: (i) speleological route in the ‘E. Racoviță’ cave (for amateur speleologists), intra-zonal routes: “Travel to the big undergrounds of the planet”, “Two unusual forests in Moldova: alder and birch trees’, ‘The masterpiece of local craftsmen – the wooden church in Larga’, cross-zonal routes: “Northern Moldavian Fishes - Criva, Brânzeni, Gordinești, Rudi)”, “Northern Moldavian Wooden Churches: Larga, Rotunda, Văratice, Horodiște, Cobani’, ‘The forests of the Prut meadow: Lipcani-Cobani’; (ii) border crossing point with Ukraine (s.Criva).

Table 3. Structure of Criva tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Criva	24.04.1520	natural monument “Peștera “Emil Racoviță” (80 ha., total length ≈ 89 km. in gypsums), karst relief on gypsums		
Or.Lipcani	17.06.1429, Medvedca on the Prut	meadow forest with alder		hotel
s.Larga	19.06.1429	birch forest, green park, alley	wooden church ‘St. Trinity’ (1897) richly decorated	

A.4. *The tourist area of Edinet*, the Prut toltis – also known as the ‘islands of the ancient seas’ – are presented in the most diverse forms: Guts, gorges, ancient coral atolls, rocks with once-populated pestilences, etc. Tourist offer: intra-zonal routes: “Toltrele de la Prut”, “Stations in prehistoric fisheries”, “Vasile Stroiescu – man of culture and great patronage”, cross-zonal routes: “Pesters from the North of Moldova”, “Wood churches from the North of Moldova”.

Table 4. Structure of the Edineț tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
or.Edineț	15.06.1431		Museum of the Natal Land (1982), Museum of Folk Art (1993), archaeological	2 hotels

			site with remnants of 'Edineț culture' (XIX-VIII BC)	
s.Rotunda	09.1774	forest	wooden church (sf. XVIII, type peasant house)	
s.Caracușenii Vechi	2.05.1585	Landscape reserve "Geological and paleontological complex of the Lopatnic basin", "Peștera Ciuntului", botanical natural monument	(Neolithic resort ≈2900 BC)	
s.Corjeuți	26.03.1624	toltre 'Țiglăul Mare', alpine range		
s.Trinca	09.1771	natural geopaleontological monument "Toltrele r.Draghiște"	resorts in caves and caves of the Iron Age (≈ VIII century BC), the birthplace of Vasile Stroiescu – a man of high culture and great patronage	
s.Girls	3.07.1575, Hrițeni	landscape reserve, geopaleontological natural monument, toltre coral atoll		
s.Gordinești	27.05.1429, Negative	landscape reserve "La Castel", "Peștera Dediului"		
s.Brânzeni	1606	coral atoll in the toltres, a natural geopaleontological monument – the fisheries of Brânzeni (with remnants of approx. 40-10 thousand years)	V. Stroiescu Park and Residence	
s.Tețcani	6.02.1577	toltre in the keys of r.Vilia		
s.Zăbriceni		forest		children's camp "Albinuța"

A.5. *The Japca-Camenca tourist area* is known for its ancient settlements, hidden in the deep gorges of the Dniester and its tributaries. Tourist offer: routes — 'Japca-Camenca Monastery', intra-zonal routes: 'Exceptional landscapes in the Nistru Valley', 'Monastic life in the rocks', 'Fortifications of the old guards'; cross-zonal routes: "Bălți-Camenca. In the spa resort", 'Pipes in cave hermitages', etc.

Table 5. Structure of the Japca-Camenca tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Japca	26.02.1491	'Rock Japca' – geopaleontological monument, spring	cave complex, women's monastery "In. dlui" (XVII century), the only one that	Rooms for accommodation in the monastery

		with water rich in uranium salts in Bursuc	functioned during the Soviet period	
Camenca	1608	geological and paleontological monument, balneoclimatic area		hotel, 'Nistru' sanatorium, children's sanatorium
the Deep Valley	1738	'Deep Valley' landscape reserve	cave house of the outlaw Ustim Karmaliuc (XIX century), old Moldavian style church (1831)	
s.Raşcov	1402, Calavur	landscape reserve, geo-paleontological monument "Raşcov complex", spring "Panska krinița"	Paleolithic resort (40-10 thousand years), rectangular fortification from the ground (sec. IV-III BC), medieval city (XIV-XVI century), Roman Catholic church "St. Caetan" (XVI century) XVII),	
s.Temeleuți	3.06.1651	dendrological park	horodiște on the promoter	
s.Socola	11.03.1586	geo-paleontological monument	peștera (with vestiges from the Xth century)	
s.Cuhurești	20.12.1437	dendrological park, botanical natural monument	religious complex with stylized church (1914, arch. A.V. Șciusev)	
s.Cobâlea	18.02.1456	natural monument – Ștefan cel Mare's oak ($\approx$ 6 centuries)		
s.Cunicea	20.12.1437		ruins of two ancient fortresses (IV-III BC) and early medieval fortresses (IV-III BC) IX-XII)	

A.6. The Rudi-Naslavcea tourist area is individualized by a belt of ancient and early medieval fortifications in the ground, the most inaccessible hills on the rocky banks of the Dniester, old Moldavian churches made of wood and stone. The offer includes tourist attractions that are genuine objects of national and universal heritage: thematic intra-zonal routes – 'fortified cities on the cliffs of Tirasului', '2 old Moldavian monasteries on the Dniester: Rudi and Călărășeuca', 'Wooden churches in the Transnistrian villages', 'Battle of Lipnic in 1469'; cross-zonal routes: 'Wooden churches in northern Moldova', 'Citizens of land and stone on the Dniester', 'Various people in Moldova'.

Table 6. Structure of the Rudi-Naslavcea Tourist Area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
S. Rudi	1463	Landscape reserve "Rudi - Arionești", natural pestera	promoter's horodiște (IV-III BC, hypothetically - the city of Metoniu, mentioned by	

			Ptolemy), 2 ring fortresses from the ground (sec. IX-XII) "Turkish plate" and "Germanarium", the monastery of men with the church "St. Trinity" (1777) in the old Moldavian style. In the vicinity wooden church (1737 at Sudarca, 1829 at Braicau, Tătarăuca)	
s.Călărășeuca		landscape reserve	"Ad.Maicii Domnului" women's monastery (1782), wooden church (1801)	
Or.Otaci	30.03.1585, Mohileni	nature monument 'La izvoare'	Old Moldavian Church (1793), Free Economic Zone "Otaci"	customs
s.Mereșeuca	20.12.1437	nature monument "The Prince's Side"	earth fortifications on the promoter "La Cetate" (XIX-XII century), old Moldavian style church (1819)	
s.Lencăuți	20.07.1628		the oldest village school in Moldova (sec. XIX)	
s.Lipnic	20.12.1437	monument of nature, forest	Ring horodiște (IV-III BC), historical site (during the Battle of Lipnic in 1469, Ștefan the Great crushes Tatar hordes)	
or.Ocnița	15.06.1431, "the village of Durnea Ceatariu"	Forest Nature Reserve	wooden church (XIX century), house-museum "Constantin Stamati" (1786-1869)	hotel
s.Naslavcea	20.12.1437	landscape reserve "At 33 waves" with a suite of 6 geo-paleontological monuments in the Chisărau gorge	Geto-Dacian fortress (IV-III BC)	

A.7. *The tourist area of Soroca* is marked by the presence of a medieval fortress harmoniously placed in a picturesque Nistru landscape with forests, cliffs and beaches, around an old stonemason village. Potential Touristic Offer: (i) rest area – Trifăuți; (ii) trails – 'Soroca - city tour', thematic hiking trails: 'Soroca in the 19th century', 'Dealul țiganilor sedentari', 'In the world of medieval hermitage', 'La Nistru la marginea...'; intra-zonal routes: "In the guesthouse of the stone masters of Cosăuți", "The stone is also a tab of history", "Reservations on the banks of the Dniester: Cosăuți, "Bechir", "Cobzanca", "Weekend at rest in Trifăuți"; cross-zonal routes: 'The belt of medieval fortresses made of earth and stone', 'Monasteries in the rocks of the Dniester: Călărășeuca, Rudi, Cosăuți, Japca, Saharna, Țâpova', 'From Bălți to the Dniester'.

Table 7. Structure of Soroca Tourist Area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
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Soroca		Bechir gorge with hermitage from the 9th century, Cobzanca gorge	medieval fortress (1499), "Dealul țiganilor", county hospital (XIX century), girls' gymnasium (XIX century), Soroca county museum, "T.Stratulat" church (XIX century, eclectic arch), "Ad.Maicii Domnului" church (1842, arch. A.Waisman)	"Victoria" hotel, restaurants, bars, leisure, city beach
s.Cosăuți	known as 'the stonemasons' village', 3.01.1509	landscape reserve (585 ha), nature monuments "Paurile Nistru" (8 ha) and "Deposit of sandstone and granite" (2 ha), Paleolithic resort (≈ 22 thousand years), mineral water spring "Prestol"	Monastery of the "Coverage of the Mother of God", House of the Credit Society (from the interwar period)	
s.Trifați	04.1620	forest, beach, 'resting area' of the city. Soroca		light construction in the rest area

A.8. *The tourist area of Țaul* is known for the largest parks arranged around the residences of local aristocrats (XIX century) in Moldova. Local tourist offer: intra-zonal routes – 'Bălți-Sofia-Țaul', 'Soroca-Țaul'; cross-zonal routes: "Parks of 19th century aristocratic residences".

Table 8. Structure of the Țaul Tourist Area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Țaul	5.06.1570, Alboteni	Park (arch. Vladislavski-Padalco)	Pommer family mansion (1901), Museum of History and Ethnography	
the Great Residue		Park (arch. I.Vladislavski-Padalco), the source of the river Raut		
s.Cernoleuca	14.04.1546	Natural reserve of medicinal plants	Casimir family mansion, wooden church (1801)	
or. Dondușeni				hotel

B. Centre region

B.1 *Codrii tourist area* represents areas covered by old-growth forests where some of the oldest monasteries in Moldova are located. Potential tourism offer: routes – 'Chișinău - Hâncu Monastery', 'Chișinău - Codri Reserve', 'Chișinău - Dolna: Following in Pushkin's footsteps in Moldova'; intra-zonal routes: "The oldest monasteries in the forests of Moldova: Varzaresti and Capriana", 'Forests reserved in the centre of Moldova'; cross-zonal routes: "Two large reservations in central Moldova: Lăpușna - Lozova', 'Monasteries of Codrene'.

B.2 *The Criuleni-Holercani tourist area* includes picturesque landscapes near the largest lake on the Dniester, where an important resting place is located. Potential tourism offer: trails – 'Chișinău-

Holercani’, ‘Dubăsari - Vadul-lui-Vodă, on the Dniester by boat’; intra-zonal routes: ‘Dubăsari – Holercani – Goian’; ‘On the great hill from Holercani to Molovata’; cross-zonal routes: ‘Dubăsari - Orheiul Vechi’; ‘On the Dniester: Molovata - Țipova and Saharna, through the Transnistrian cave monasteries’.

Table 9. Structure of the Criuleni-Holercani tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
Or.Criuleni	23.09.1607	natural forest reserve “Zolonceni”, “Peștera Surprizelor”, island on the Dniester		hotel
s.Onițcani	20.05.1604	natural hydrological monument ‘Putna and Rădi springs’ (mineral water springs)		
s.Holercani	26.01.1446	forest, picturesque landscape, archaeological resort (vestiges from the 8th century BC), resting area	Church (XIX century)	rest bases
s.Malovata	10.09.1574	rocky gorge	cave monastery, floating bridge	
or.Dubăsari	1523	natural forest reserve, reservoir and hydropower plant on the Dniester, natural hydrological monument ‘Large Havuz’; the adjacent area - the Gulf of Goian with the Scientific Reserve "Iagorlâc"		hotel

B.3 The tourist area of Hârjauca is known through the four monasteries in the forests of Moldova and the development of a balneolithic resort. Potential tourism offer: trails – ‘Chișinău-Călărași-Hârjauca’; intra-zonal routes “Four monasteries from Călărașilor forests”; ‘In the village of the Ukrainians in the forest - Palanca’; cross-zonal routes: ‘Monasteries of Codrene’, ‘Codrii Moldovei Lozova - Hârjauca’.

Table 10. Hârjauca tourist area structure

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Hârjauca	28.06.1644	botanical natural monument ‘Hârjauca-Sipoteni Forest’, hydrological natural monument ‘The Fountain of Youth’	the monastery “Ascension of the Lord” (1740), the church “St. Spiridon” (1836), ‘Ascension of the Lord’ church (1848, neoclassical style)	sanatorium "Codru"
s.Palanca	1817		locality of Ukrainians, wooden church (XIX century), Museum of the "Parents House" (2000)	

s.Răciula	25.07.1599, known as the 'village of the myrrh nuns'		the 'Birth of the Virgin' monastery (1794), the ruins of the medieval earth fortress (VIII-XII century), the 'House of Honey' museum	
s.Beautiful	10.05.1807		the monastery of 'St. Trinity' (1805)	
s.Harbove	1730		"Assumption of the Mother of God" monastery (1730, known as the "Wonderworking Icon of the Mother of God")	

B.4 The Hâncești-Lăpușna-Lăpușeni tourist area is located on the site of a stopover at the Codri customs on the Tatar Great Road, near two large reservations of the Republic of Moldova and at the home of Prince Alexandru Lăpușneanu. Potential tourism offer: trails – 'Chișinău-Lăpușna-Leușeni', 'Lăpușna-Monastery Hâncu – Codrii Reserve'; intra-zonal routes: 'Hâncești - Lăpușna', 'La baștina lui Alexandru Lăpușneanu', 'Reservation of medicinal plants Lăpușna - Sărata Galbenă'; cross-zonal routes: "On the estates of Hâncești and Hâncu", "Two large reserves of Lăpușna-Lozova".

Table 11. Structure Tourist area Hâncești-Lăpușna-Leușeni

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
or.Hâncești	22.03.1500, Dobreni	park, landscape reserve "Hâncești Forest"	Hunting Castle and Manuc Bei's Palace (sf.XIX, arch. A. Bernardazzi, Museum of History (1979)	House of Hunters
s.Lăpușna	1430-1431	landscape reserve "Hâncești Forest", natural reserve of medicinal plants (Logănești),	ruins of the medieval city (XV century)	the Summer Camp s. Rusca
s.The Yellow Salt	16.09.1609, Răurești	forest natural reserve, natural reserve of medicinal plants		
Leușeni			Place of the battle "Iași Chișinău"	Customs
Border towns		Wetland of the Prut		

B.5 The Orhei tourist area is one of the most publicised destinations offering opportunities for various forms of tourism. The tourist offer is presented by: routes – 'Chișinău – Orhei Vechi', 'Chișinău – Orhei – Curchi', 'Chișinău – Orhei – Piatra'; intra-zonal routes: 'Chișinău – Orhei Vechi – Ustia', 'The mansions of the historical personalities of Orhei'.

Table 12. Structure of the Orhei tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
Orhei	20.12.1437	r.Răut keys, forest sector	the Church of St. Dumitru' (1636), monument to V. Lupu, (1938, arch. Oscar Han and Robert Curt), Museum of History and Ethnography	hotel

s.Curchi	1770	forest, lake	the Monastery of the Nativity of the Mother of God (1765)	
s.Stone	20.12.1437	natural monument 'Mâglă Rock'	'Lazo family mansion' museum (XIX century)	
s.Donnici	4.05.1436, Bezinu		"A. Donnici" house-museum (XIX century)	
s.Ivancea	28.06.1576	forest, park of Karp Balioz (mijl.sec.XIX)	Karp Balioz's mansion (mijl.sec.XIX)	rest bases
s.Brănești	10.02.1429		houses decorated with traditional stone flowers	
s.Trebujeni		'Trebujeni' landscape reserve	Complex "Orheiul Vechi": caves with vestiges (V-III BC), ancient sanctuary and calendar of the Geto-Dacians (V-III BC), cave monastic complex (up to the 18th century) XII), the ruins of the 'New City' of the Șeih al Gedid Golden Horde (XIII-XIV century), the ruins of the medieval fortress of the Pârcălabului de Orhei, the 'Assumption' monastery, the 'Old Orhei' Museum Complex (1968), the 'Peasant Court Museum' (XIX century)	Hotel, farm stays
Mașcăuți - Ustia segment		the Raut gorge until it reaches the Dniester River, a picturesque landscape with cliffs and forests, a natural geo-paleontological monument 'La Humriei'	elements of decoration of houses with stone flowers	

B.6 The tourist area Plaiul Begului is located in the Prut Valley where there are the largest areas in Moldova wooded with beech. Potential tourism offer: routes: 'Chișinău – Ungheni', 'Chișinău – Rădeni'; intra-zonal routes: "The highest peaks in Moldova", "Rădeni – Bălănești – Milești: three different reservations"; cross-zonal routes: 'Rădeni – Lozova', 'Rădeni – Hârjeuca', 'Lozova – Hârjeuca – Rădeni'.

Table 13. Structure of the tourist area Plaiul Begului

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Rădeni	20.12.1437	reservation refers to the "Beech Plateau"		Villa
s.Milești	1442	Landscape reserve "Cazimir – Milești",		

		park with trees "Adam and Eva"		
s.Bălănești	22.11.1610, Popițeni	maximum peak of Moldova (429m)	The Birth of the Poet Grigore Adam	
Or.Ungheni	7.07.1430, Deleni	Landscape reservation "Valea Mare"	the Church of St. Al.Nevschi' (1905, arch. A. Bernardazzi, eclectic style), Museum of History and Ethnography (1967)	hotel

B.7 The Saharna-Țipova tourist area is located around medieval cave monastic towns in the impenetrable rocks of the Dniester. The tourist attractions here are known far from the country's borders and the potential offer is: routes – 'Chișinău - Saharna', 'Chișinău - Țipova'; intra-zonal routes: 'Țipova - Saharna' (through Echimăuți, horodiște ringă); cross-zonal routes: 'Saharna – Râbnița – Ofatinți', 'Țipova – Orhei Vechi, early medieval monastic cities'.

Table 14. Structure of the Saharna-Țipova tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
Saharna	25.12.1495	Landscape reserve "Saharan Gorge"	Archaeological site (Iron Age, 19th century) X-VIII BC), Geto-Dacian fortress (IV-III BC), cave monastery (XVI-XVII century), monastery (1777), "St. Trinity" church (1821, Moldavian style)	
s.Țipova	1746	landscape reserve	Geto-Dacian fortress of promotorium (IV-III BC), cave monastery "Assumption of the Mother of God" (according to some data from the 4th century BC) X-XII, the old part functioned in the XVI-XVII century, with 19 caverns and the new part from 1756)	
or.Rezina				hotel
s.Lalova				agri-board

C. Chișinău Municipality

C.1 The Vadul lui Vodă tourist area, the largest resting area in Moldova, is located in a picturesque forest on the banks of the Dniester River. Significant tourist facilities, including at national level, are: (i) accommodation facilities (Voda); (ii) routes: Chișinău – V.Vodă; *local routes*: by ship on the Dniester (with hiking programs); cross-zonal routes: 'V. Vodă – Orheiul Vechi', 'V. Vodă – Tighina', 'V. Vodă – Codrii'.

Table 15. Structure of Vadul lui Vodă tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
or. Vadul-lui-Vodă	1.09.1466, Mihuceni	forest in the Nistru floodplain, beach, natural monument 'Fossil soils on the Nistru terraces', spring		recreation and recreation area of the municipality, 2 sanatoriums,

		with thermal water, park in Bălăbănești		approx. 90 rest bases, recreation
Corjova	I locality documentary attested from Moldova - 1362	meadow forest		
the Old Dubăsarii	1.10.1704	natural botanical monument 'Pop Forest'	the research laboratory of the astronomer N. Donnici-Dobronravov from the beginning of the 19th century XX	
s. Delacau	2.07.1455, Bilacău	picturesque landscaping on the banks of the Nistru River – the landscape reserve 'Tamașlăc Dry Valley'		

D. South Development Region

D.1 The Cahul tourist area is part of the Lower Danube Euroregion and is located close to historical sites, natural reserves and recognised spa resources. The tourist offer is determined by: trails – 'Chișinău-Cantemir-Cahul-Giurgiulești', 'Green corridor in the Prut pond', 'Battle of Cahul', 'Confluence of cultures of different peoples in the south of Moldova'.

Table 16. Structure of the Cahul tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
Or.Cahul	10.09.1452	natural reserve of medicinal plants (343ha), mineral (thermal) water in the 'White Lily' spa area	Museum of Cahul	Hotel, sanatorium "White Lily"
Stoianovca	1902	mixed natural reserve	'The Piquette of the Three Heroes', a locality of former Bulgarian settlers, the cemetery of Romanian soldiers	
the Vad of Isaac		Forest Nature Reserve	from the Lower Trajan's Wave (c. III-IV, erected by the Romans, had 4 fortification elements)	
s. Văleni	13.06.1436, Balintești	scientific reserve "Lower Prut", a natural geo-paleontological monument		
s.Giurgiulești	1527, Bullets	geopaleontological natural monument	Early medieval vestiges, port terminal on the Danube	

D.2 The Tighina – Căușeni – Talmaz tourist area is located in the old Turkish Raia (Bender), where the ancient fortifications of the Trajan's Wave, a Turkish garden - one of the first protected natural areas in Europe, the medieval Moldavian fortress and the semi-buried church of Căușeni - have been preserved to this day. Tourist offer: routes - Chișinău - "New Neamț" Monastery, "Chișinău - Căușeni - Zaim"; cross-zonal routes: "Old Transnistrian villages", "The oldest protected areas in Moldova: the 'Turkish Garden' and the 'Vișan's Ravine'; cross-zonal routes: 'By the way of the Tatars: Tighina-Comrat', 'Lower Nistru').

Table 17. Structure of the Tighina – Căușeni – Talmaz tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
or.Tighina	6.10.1408	mineral water springs in Varnița and Proteagailovca,	medieval Moldavian fortress (1408), 'Change to the Face' church (1815), 'Assumption' church (1819), Museum of Land History and Study (1914), 'Carol XII' Memorial Museum – Varnița	2 hotels
s.Hîrbovăț	1764	landscape reserve "Hîrbovăț Forest", dendrological park		
s.Chițcani, s.Copanca	31.09.1429, Zaharovca, 18.02.1456, Corabca	forest natural reserves (197ha), mineral water spring	'Valul lui Traian de Sus' (4th century), 'New Neamț' monastery (1859)	
s.Talmaz	1595	landscape reserve "Turkish Garden", resource reserve, old bed "Blind Nistru"	Ștefan Ciobanu's birthplace (24.XI.1883)	rest base
Ciobrucii, Răscăieți, Purcari, Olănești, Crocmaz, Tudora, Palanca Popeasca		5 nature monuments of different categories, "Lomakin Height", "Gardens" (Popeasca, XIXth century), etc.	the ruins of the Turkish fortress (sec. 17-18, Palanca)	Hotel (Palanca)
or.Căușeni	6.06.1455, Chișinău Roșu		the center of the Tartar pottery from Bugeac (sec. XVI-XVII), semi-buried "Assumption" church with frescoes inside	hotel
Zaim	22.03.1535, Pots	geopaleontological monument "La Career", forest	"Alexei Mateevici" house-museum	
s.Salcuța	22.03.1706	geopaleontological monument	"The White Church" from I.Druță's novel	

s.Cârnațeni				rest base
s.Taraclia	1773	“Vișan’s River” geo-paleontological reservation (sec. XIX)		

D.3 The Taraclia tourist area is determined by the specificity of the Bulgarian settlers' localities, where traditional Balkan vegetables and viticulture are practiced. Tourist offers are represented by: trails – ‘Taraclia – Corten – Chadâr-Lunga – Tvardița’; intra-zonal routes: “Bulgarian village. The tradition of living together”, ‘Stepa Bugeacului – the new homeland of the Bulgarian settlers’, ‘Bulgaria – the occupation of the peasants of southern Bessarabia’; cross-zonal routes: “People’s influence in the south of Moldova”, “Colonies of the Steppe of Bugeac”.

Table 18. Structure of the Taraclia tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
Taraclia	1811	geopaleontological natural monument	Museum of History and Ethnography	hotel
Corten	1830, Chiriutnea		Museum of History and Ethnography	Rural hotel
s.Tvardița	1829		The Museum of the Natal Land, the church of ‘St. Paraschiva’ (secXIX)	Rural hotel
s.Vinogradovca	11.06.1964	representative sector of Stepa Bugeacului (1962)		

E. ATU Gagauzia

E.1 The tourist area of Gagauzia is determined by the compact colonies of the only Orthodox people from the large Turkic family. The tourist offer is determined by the routes – ‘Comrat-Beșalma’, ‘Comrat-Cazaclia’; intra-zonal routes: “The Gagauz village. The tradition of living together”, ‘The Star of the Bugeac - the new homeland of the Gagauz’, ‘Eastern culture in the hourglass of time’, ‘The Gagauz Hunts’; cross-zonal routes: “People’s influence in the south of Moldova”, “Bugeac steppe colonies”.

Table 19. Structure of the UTAG tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
s.Bugeac	31.05.1978	natural reserve of medicinal plants, representative sector of the Bugeac steppe		
s.Desghingea	1811	representative sector of the northern steppe of Bugeac		
Or.Comrat	27.05.1443, Cergâșă, Cercoza	geopaleontological monument ‘Valea r.Ialpug’, mineral water spring	Museum of History and Land Studies (1969)	3 hotels
s.Beșalma	1811		Museum of History and Ethnography “D.Cara-Ciobanu” (1969)	

s.Cazaclia	1807		‘Cazaiac-Vin’ winery	
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F. Transnistrian region

F.1 The Tiraspol-Dnestrovsc tourist area comprises an industrial center on the site of the fortress in the Dniester Valley and the largest natural lake in the Republic of Moldova - Cuciurgan. The potential tourist offer consists of routes – ‘Tiraspol-Dnestrovsc’, ‘Bender-Tiraspol’, ‘Tiraspol-Odessa’, ‘Tiraspol-Chișinău’, ‘Tiraspol – city tour’, ‘Two rival cities’; (ii) travel agencies – Tiraspol.

Table 20. Structure of the Tiraspol-Dnestrovsc tourist area

Locality	Age	Natural attractions	Anthropic attractions	Tourist facilities
Tiraspol	21.11.1792	dendrological garden, palaeontological monument ‘Vâlceua Colcot’	industrial centre, ruins of the destroyed fortress (1793), Museum of History and Land Studies (1958), theatre	hotel
Or.Dnestrovsc	4.01.1963	landşaft “Cremenciug”, Cuciurgan Harbour		rest bases

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