CHRISTMAS TOUR IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to the city center where you will visit the Christmas Town / Fair and taste winter pastries and hot tea. Also, New Year souvenirs and other entertainment and surprises will be prepared for guests. At the fair, you can find anything: from traditional Christmas toys to clothes, all done by local craftsmen.

After visiting the Christmas Town / Fair you will be transferred to your accommodation in Chisinau.

DAY 2

Day 2: Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand year-old natural amphitheater

The day will begin with the visit of “Arta Rustica” handicraft complex in Clisova Noua village. The handmade carpets in Clisova Noua are of amazing interest and beauty. Wowen wool Moldovan carpets have been included in UNESCO’s intangible cultural heritage. The creation of only one canvas takes several months. Every carpet is a work of art. The craftsmen of Clisova Noua village put their whole soul and free time into their craft. They restore unique carpets according to old photographs. They uses only natural materials and authentic technique during the weaving process.

Next, you will set off on a time travel to Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) to see a natural amphitheater revealing a territory which was first inhabited 40 000 years ago. The Cultural, Natural and Landscape Reserve Orheiul Vechi includes a series of historical and cultural monuments as well as natural landscapes in the gorge of the Raut River. Ancient fortifications, cave monasteries, monks and hermits – here you can follow the history of this region. The originality of Orheiul Vechi landscape is due to the gorge of the Raut River, dug under the form of a canyon in the limestone layers of the former Sarmatian Sea, about 14 million years ago.

After visiting Orheiul Vechi, you will travel to Butuceni village where at a local guesthouse you will have a Moldovan traditional lunch accompanied by folk music played live by a local ensemble.

After lunch, you will experience the Moldovan winter during the sledge ride through Butuceni village.

During dinner, you will be enveloped in the traditional atmosphere, created by the traditional dishes and the traditional live music show provided by the folk ensemble.

HIGHLIGHTS: "Rustic Art" Crafts Complex, Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater,

DAY 3

Day 3: Time travel in Tiraspol – Back in the USSR

In the morning, you will set off on a time travel in Transnistria. While in Tiraspol, you will discover a real treasure – Aquatir Sturgeon Complex, one of the largest hatcheries in Europe. The complex is equipped with the latest technologies and the fish can reach the size of a man. You will get the chance to taste one of the most expensive culinary delights – caviar.

During the city tour in Tiraspol, you will discover Vladimir Lenin's monument and the tank left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a vestige of the Soviet past. Nevertheless, you will be amazed by the contrasts, one of which is the football complex „Sheriff" - a pearl of contemporary architecture.

In the afternoon, you will have lunch at a restaurant in Tiraspol.

After lunch, you will visit Kvint wine and brandy factory where harmony, refinement and tradition underlie the oldest and most genuine spirits. Here you will be acquainted with the taste of Kvint, Doina, Tiras, Nistru and Surprise spirits.

HIGHLIGHTS: Aquatir Sturgeon Farm, Tiraspol city, Kvint wine and brandy Factory,

DAY 4

Day 4: Discovery of Noul Neamt Monastery

You will start the day by visiting Noul Neamt Monastery, which is perfect for retreat and meditation. The monastery was founded in 1861. The tour will take you to the outstanding picturesque landscape to be admired from the upper level of the highest bell tower in Moldova (64 m). The monastery museum will be highly appreciated by those who are fond of history of religion. The museum houses icons dating from the 18th-20th centuries, as well as crosses, books, priest gowns and old pictures.

After visiting the monastery, you will travel to Tirnauca village at a local guesthouse where you will have Christmas dishes for lunch and enjoy the Christmas program including carols, songs, customs, entertaining master classes, games for children and adults and izvar tasting (mulled wine).

HIGHLIGHTS: Noul Neamt Monastery,

DAY 5

Day 5: Castel Mimi winery – architectural masterpiece in the world of wine

In the morning you will have some free time to explore Chisinau for a while on your own and buy some souvenirs.

After having lunch at a traditional restaurant in Chisinau you will be transferred to Bulboaca village where you will discover Castel Mimi winery - a destination of interest unique in Moldova. Castel Mimi is currently

listed among the most beautiful architectural masterpieces in the world of wine. The story of the castle begins at the end of 1893, when Constantin Mimi, the last governor of Bessarabia, plants the first grape vines on the place that would become legend over the years. Here, you will taste Castel Mimi wines, including Rosu de Bulboaca wine, an incomparable wine with outstanding features and elegant flavor.

After visiting Castel Mimi winery, you will return to Chisinau, where you will have some free time to rest or explore the city at your own pace.

HIGHLIGHTS: Castel Mimi winery,

DAY 6

Day 6: Departure day

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to Chisinau International Airport.