CHRISTMAS TOUR IN MOLDOVA (11 - 14 DECEMBER 2026)

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation in the heart of Chisinau. After settling in, you will visit the Christmas Town / Fair. You will step into the festive atmosphere of a local Christmas fair, where you can taste delicious winter pastries, warm up with a cup of hot tea, or try izvar, a traditional Moldovan hot winter drink. You will enjoy some time on the outdoor skating rink and browse the colourful stalls filled with Christmas and New Year decorations, handmade gifts, local crafts, clothes, and other unique creations by Moldovan artisans. The fair also offers plenty of entertainment and festive surprises to make your winter experience in Moldova even more special.
After visiting the Christmas Town / Fair, you will enjoy a traditional Moldovan dinner in a rustic style restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS: Christmas Market in Chisinau,

DAY 2

Day 2: Orheiul Vechi and Cricova Underground Wine Galleries in Winter

The day will begin with excursion at **Orheiul Vechi** - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater. It is the most beautiful and most visited natural attraction in Moldova. About 14 million years ago, the receding Sarmatian Sea created an S-shaped canyon in this area. At its bottom, the Raut River flows, on the bank of which a steep limestone cliff with many caves rises on one side. In one of them, the monks carved a rock monastery in which they hid and lived. It is currently inhabited by a monk who keeps it in operation. From the rock terrace of the monastery, there is a
beautiful view of the canyon valley.
After visiting Orheiul Vechi, you will travel to Butuceni village where you will experience the **Moldovan winter during the sledge ride through the village.**
Next, you will have a **cooking masterclass of making Christmas cookies "cornulete" stuffed with rose jam** and enjoy the **lunch** at Butuceni Guest House. You will experience local specialties, as "zeama", "mamaliga", and "scrob", along with traditional pastry and a glass of wine.

The journey will continue at **Cricova Underground Wine Galleries** - the pearl of winemaking in the Republic of Moldova and a "must" for guests visiting our country. Cricova Cellars is an underground city on an area of 53 ha at a depth of approx. 80 m, whose streets are 120 km long. It was created after the quarrying of stone from which blocks were cut for the construction of houses destroyed after the Second World War. Visitors can view the old wine collection, the oldest from 1902, the guild for the production of sparkling wines using the classic French Champenoise method, followed by a tasting of 4 types of wine under the guidance of a professional sommelier.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and have free time at **Christmas Fair.**

HIGHLIGHTS: Orheiul Vechi in winter, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries, Cooking masterclass of making Christmas cookies ”Cornulete”,

DAY 3

Day 3: Winter Time Travel in Tiraspol

The first stop of this day is the old medieval fort of **Tighina Fortress**, which was first built in the 15 16'th Centuries by the princes of Moldavia. Occupied by the Ottomans in 1538 (in a campaign lead by the Sultan Soliman the Magnificent), the fort was strengthened in 1541 and became the center of an Ottoman "raya" (in which were included the surrounding Moldavian villages). Its walls and rounded towers still stand today.

Next, you will enjoy a **Soviet-style winter festive lunch** featuring traditional dishes at a local restaurant.

After lunch, you will discover **Tiraspol city** - the capital of Transnistria. You will have the opportunity to travel in time back to USSR. You will start by visiting the monument of Vladimir Lenin, the Saint George`s Chapel and tanks left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a ghost of the Soviet past.
In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau and have free time at Christmas Fair.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tighina Fortress, Tiraspol city,

DAY 4

Day 4: Departure day

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to Chisinau International Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can do some shopping. In Chisinau you’ll find a lot of places where you can purchase some memories about Moldova. Good places for shopping are “Sun City”, “Grand Hall” and “Jumbo” commercial centers and “Malldova” or “Zity Mall”.