FAMILY TOUR IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

Chisinau – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will enjoy a **walking tour of Chisinau city**, which is the main administrative, scientific and cultural centre of Moldova. During the tour, you will discover pieces of history and culture of the city such as the Nativity of Christ Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Monument of Stephen the Great, etc.

After the tour, you will check in at the resort and enjoy the rest of the day on your own.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city,

DAY 2

Day 2: Visit of Orheiul Vechi - a 40-thousand-year-old natural amphitheater and culinary masterclass at Butuceni guesthouse

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Butuceni – Orheiul Vechi – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

The day will begin with a **culinary masterclass** at Butuceni guesthouse, during which you will learn how to cook traditional “placinte” (pies) with sour cherries.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy lunch at Butuceni guesthouse.

The day will continue with the visit of visit Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) - 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 remnants of the first human settlements were found in the stone caverns from here. On the rocky hill, you will find the ruins of a strong Geto-Dacian fortification, which acted as a sanctuary for celebrating religious holidays and rituals in this prehistoric community. 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.

In the evening, you will have free time at the resort.

HIGHLIGHTS: "Placinte" or bisquits with rose petal jam masterclass at Butuceni guesthouse , Traditional dishes at Butuceni guesthouse , Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater,

DAY 3

Day 3: Cricova winery – the pearl of Moldovan wine-making

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Cricova – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

On this day you will discover **Cricova winery** – the only wine enterprise that was awarded the highest state prize “The Order of the Republic” and has been declared by law a national cultural heritage. During the excursion at Cricova winery in the tourist train, at a depth of 80 m, you will discover the wonders of this place. Cricova underground galleries are formed by over seventy streets covering an area of nearly 120 km, each bearing Bacchic names: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahors, etc. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, including over 600 types of wine totalling about 1 million bottles. Here you will admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Jewish Easter Wine", dating from 1902. You will also visit the unique production of sparkling wine, where a professional guide will tell you about all the process of producing sparkling wines using the famous French-style Méthode Champenoise. In one of the tasting rooms, the sommelier will explain the rules of wine tasting and help you better reveal the taste and bouquet of each type of wine. In the afternoon, you will also have lunch at the restaurant of Cricova winery.

HIGHLIGHTS: Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 4

Day 4: Discovery of Tighina fortress and Tiraspol city

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Tighina – Tiraspol – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

In the afternoon, you will depart to Tighina town where you will have lunch at a Soviet Café.

Next, you will discover **Tighina fortress** located in Tighina town and built in the 15th century by the prince of Moldova, Stephen the Great. Originally built as a small wooden fort, it was later fortified in stone by the prince of Moldova, Petru Rares. Occupied by the Ottomans in 1538 (in a campaign lead by the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent), the fort was strengthened in 1541 and became the center of an Ottoman "raya" (in which were included the surrounding Moldavian villages). In the 18th century, the fort was strengthened by Moldovan craftsmen under the direct supervision of Dimitrie Cantemir. Tighina Fortress is an architectural ensemble of irregular quadrilateral plan, surrounded by wide walls, 2-3 meters thick, made of limestone and brick.

The day will continue in **Tiraspol city**, where you will enjoy a city tour. 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 evening, you will have dinner at a local restaurant in Tiraspol.

After dinner, you will be transferred to the resort.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tighina Fortress, Tiraspol city,

DAY 5

Day 5: Visit to the Candle of Gratitude, Soroca Fortress and the Gypsy Hill

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Soroca – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

In the afternoon, you will visit the **Candle of Gratitude** monument, erected on a steep cliff on the bank of the Dniester river. The visitors who get here will be rewarded with picturesque and unforgettable views after climbing 600 steps that start at the Dniester River. Inscription before the way up as follows: “Traveler, stop! There is a Candle of Gratitude on top. And if you consider thankful to someone in this life – get up, pray and continue your way!”

Next, you will have lunch at a restaurant in Soroca town.

After lunch, you will visit **Soroca fortress**, the “pearl of fortification art” built by the Moldovan Prince Stephen the Great in 1499. It was a unique historical monument of defensive constructions architecture of medieval Moldova composed of a huge tower holding five smaller towers surrounding it. Currently, it is an important attraction in Soroca, having preserved cultures and kept the old Soroca in the present day.

Soroca is also famous for the most numerous Gypsy community in Moldova. It influenced the architecture of the city. After the excursion at Soroca Fortress, you will visit the **Gypsy Hill** (gypsy style chateaux being an imitation of famous buildings, such as Capitol building in Washington and Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow). The Gypsy houses impress by their variety, diversity of colors, contrasts and luxury. About 20 hundred Gypsies live in Soroca.

After the excursions, you will be transferred to the resort.

HIGHLIGHTS: Candle of Gratitude, Soroca Fortress, Gypsy Hill,

DAY 6

Day 6: Discovery of Tipova Monastery – an unusual landscape with many waterfalls

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Lalova – Tipova – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

The first stop of this day will be in Lalova village at **Hanul lui Hanganu guesthouse**, where you will have lunch. Hanul lui Hanganu guesthouse is the perfect choice for a quiet and full of emotions stay. There is an impressive view over the Dnister from Hanul lui Hanganu and you will certainly enjoy your stay here.

After lunch, you will discover **Tipova Cave Monastery**. Located near Tipova village, the monastery with the same name is considered one of the oldest monastic establishments on the territory of Moldova. The heritage, which consists of 18 rooms, dug into the rock at an astounding altitude, represents an impressive museum in the open air. The Tipova River, on its flow to the Dniester, creates many waterfalls with the height above 10-16 meters, which a long time ago used to move the millstones of the numerous watermills.

In the evening, you will be transferred to the resort.

HIGHLIGHTS: Hanul lui Hanganu guesthouse, Tipova Cave Monastery,

DAY 7

Day 7: Honey tasting in Raciula village

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Raciula – Hoginesti – Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin

The day will begin with a visit in Raciula village where you will discover the "sweet" **Casa Mierii (Honey House) guesthouse**, where actually, in a small bees kingdom, with a bunch of beehives in the garden, and the house being transformed in a honey museum, the householder will disclose with patience all the secrets of a bee's family. Here, you will see a small family of bees through the glass wall of a hive. At Casa Mierii, you will enjoy a delicious lunch and taste the natural sweet honey produced in this place.

Next, you will travel to Hoginesti village, where you will enjoy an excursion and pottery masterclass at **"Casa Olarului"** - the oldest pottery house that is famous for creating high quality ceramics. A major tourist attraction, the pottery offers visitors a unique combination of great shopping, hands on clay experiences and the opportunity to step back in time by visiting the pottery museum with the biggest amphora in Moldova.

After the excursions, you will be transferred to the resort.

HIGHLIGHTS: Casa Mierii guesthouse,

DAY 8

Day 8: Departure day

Vadul lui Voda / Tohatin – Chisinau

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