HIKE AND CAMP TOUR

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to Riscova where you will have dinner at a local villa and will have the possibility to check in at the villa or set up the tents.

DAY 2

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

The day will begin with a hike from Riscova to Trebujeni (~14 km) following the itinerary: Riscova – Butuceni – Trebujeni.

During the hike from Trebujeni to Butuceni you will discover 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 Trebujeni village you will have a Moldovan traditional lunch at a local guesthouse.

After lunch, you will hike from Trebujeni to Furceni (~8 km) and later transferred to Lalova. In Lalova, you will have dinner at a local guesthouse and will have the possibility to check in at the guesthouse or set up the tents.

HIGHLIGHTS: Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, Hanul lui Hanganu guesthouse,

DAY 3

Day 3: Discovery of Tipova and Saharna Monasteries – an unusual landscape with many waterfalls

In the morning, you will hike from Lalova to Tipova (~10 km) where you will visit 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 afternoon, you will have lunch at Tipova Monastery.

After lunch, you will hike from Tipova to Saharna (~12 km) where you will discover Saharna Monastery - one of the oldest monasteries in the country. The monastic complex is composed of a cave monastery (the Annunciation) and a stone monastery (the St. Trinity). The complex is located in a picturesque valley on the right bank of the Dniester River, near Saharna village. It is surrounded by rocks covered by forest. The legend says that the Virgin Mary left her footprint on the highest rock, named Grimidon. The history of the monastery is little known. The first prior of the holy place is considered the monk Bartholomew (1776-1790) who settled in a deep gorge, built a church, a few cells and enclosed the monastery with a stone wall. In Saharna you will enjoy the beautiful landscape created by the waterfalls. The Saharna River has 22 waterfalls on its way. The biggest waterfall is 4.5 m high.

Then, you will be transferred from Saharna to Socola where you will have dinner at a local guesthouse and will check in at the guesthouse or set up tents.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tipova Cave Monastery, Saharna Monastery,

DAY 4

Day 4: Discovery of Japca Monastery

The day will begin with a hike from Socola to Climautii de Jos (~12 km) following the itinerary: Socola – Vadul lui Rascov – Climautii de Jos.

Along the Dniester River, you will start your journey from one of the few remained cave monasteries in Moldova. Next to the interesting sightseeing of this place there is the Geo-paleonthological monument “Japca Rock”, a mineral water spring, landscape reservoir Rascov and paleolitical stations at Socola and Rascov. Vadul- Rascov is one of the most impressive Jewish cemeteries from Eastern Europe. There are a few hundred gravestones located on a hill sloping to the banks of the Dniester River.

In the afternoon, you will have a lunch break and enjoy the meal from your lunch boxes.

Your journey will continue with a hike from Climautii de Jos to Japca (~8 km) where you will discover Japca Monastery. The monastery has an exceptionally beautiful location. The rocks above the monastery, the meandering Dniester River, which can be seen in the distance, and the gardens that surround it, create a special beauty.

After visiting Japca Monastery, you will be transferred from Japca to Chisinau where you will check in at the hotel and have some free time.

HIGHLIGHTS: Japca Monastery,

DAY 5

Day 5: Departure day

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to Chisinau International Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you will have the option to explore Chisinau for a while on your own in the morning and buy some souvenirs.