HIKE AND RELAX TOUR

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation in Chisinau. After settling in, you will explore Chisinau during a city tour. Chisinau 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.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city,

DAY 2

Day 2: Wine experience at Cricova winery

The day will begin with a hike from Chisinau to Cricova (~25 km) following the itinerary: Chisinau – Bunet – Fauresti – Cricova.

In Cricova town you will visit the 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 totaling about 1 million bottles. Here you will admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Jewish Easter Wine", dating from 1902 and discover the tastes of Cricova wines.

After the excursion and wine tasting at Cricova winery you will return to Chisinau, where you will have some free and spa time at the hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 3

Day 3: Discovery of Orheiul Vechi – a 40 thousand year-old natural amphitheater

In the morning, you will be transferred from Chisinau to Piatra. The day will continue with a hike from Piatra to Trebujeni (~18 km) following the itinerary: Piatra – Furceni – Trebujeni.

In Trebujeni village you will have a Moldovan traditional lunch at a local guesthouse.

After lunch, you will hike from Trebujeni to Butuceni and 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.

You will be transferred from Butuceni to Chisinau where you will have some free and spa time at the hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater,

DAY 4

Day 4: Hike experience at Balanesti Hill – the highest point in Moldova

In the morning you will be transferred from Chisinau to Bahmut. You will hike from Bahmut to Balanesti (~30 km) following the itinerary: Bahmut – Radenii Vechi – Alexeevca – Milesti - Balanesti.

You will start the trip at Plaiul Fagului Scientific Reserve that is located on an area of 5642 hectares in the northwestern part of Moldova. The vegetation of the reserve is represented by forests with trees such as beech, oak, ash, maple. A special place has the beech trees that reach a height of 30-40 m, an average diameter of 80-100 cm and an age of 80-150 years. The flora of the reserve includes more than 680 plant species, of which 77 species are rare and endangered plant species.

You will get to the highest point in Moldova - the Balanesti Hill that reaches up to 428 m.

After the hike to Balanesti Hill, you will be transferred from Balanesti to Chisinau, where you will have the opportunity to enjoy a spa time at the hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Plaiul Fagului Scientific Reserve ,

DAY 5

Day 5: Traditional peasant dishes at Casa Parinteasca Craft Centre

In the morning you will be transferred from Chisinau to Palanca. In Palanca village you will visit Casa Parinteasca (Parents' House) craft centre where you will discover the museum, including the peasant house from the 19th century and enjoy traditional peasant dishes, typical for Palanca village served with homemade wine. The lunch will be served along with remarkable jam and tea made from herbs collected from the garden.

Next, you will hike from Palanca to Oniscani following the itinerary: Palanca – Oniscani – Hoginesti (~18 km).

In Hoginesti village, 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 visiting “Casa Olarului”, you will be transferred from Hoginesti to Chisinau, where you will have the opportunity to enjoy a spa time at the hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Casa Parinteasca craft centre,

DAY 6

Day 6: Castel Mimi winery – architectural masterpiece in the world of wine

In the morning you will be transferred from Chisinau to Varnita. In Varnita, you will see the Monument of the King Charles the XII of Sweden and the ruins of the Majesty’s home, who took refuge in these lands together with the remains of his army in the autumn of 1709, after the defeat in the Battle of Poltava against the Russian army led by Peter I. In a first phase (1709-1711), the king's camp was near Tighina Fortress. In the summer of 1711, due to the overflow of the Dniester, the Swedish king transferred to Varnita, the place of the Camp, which is nicknamed the "New Stockholm". Thus, for almost four years, Sweden was governed by King Charles the XII from Moldova.

Next, you will hike from Varnita to Bulboaca following the itinerary: Varnita – Hirbovat – Bulboaca (~19 km).

In Bulboaca village you will visit 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.

After visiting Castel Mimi winery, you will return to Chisinau, where you will have some free time to rest or enjoy a spa time at the hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Castel Mimi winery,

DAY 7

Day 7: 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.