SLOVAKS IN MOLDOVA: FOOTBALL MATCH & WINE FESTIVAL IN MOLDOVA (782 €)

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, step out and enjoy your first taste of Moldova with a leisurely stroll through the city centre. Take in the relaxed local atmosphere, admire the city's architecture, and discover Chisinau at your own pace.

DAY 2

Day 2: Attend the Wine Festival - the most important event dedicated to wine in Moldova

In the morning, you will set out to discover **Chisinau -** the vibrant heart and cultural capital of Moldova. During a guided walking tour, you will immerse yourself in the city's history, architecture and everyday atmosphere as you explore its most iconic landmarks, including the Nativity of Christ Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Triumphal Arch, the Monument to Stephen the Great and Chisinau City Hall. Along the way, uncover stories and local insights that bring the city's past and present to life.

Next, you will attend the **National Wine Festival (first day of the festival) -** Moldova's signature celebration of wine, tradition and hospitality. On the festival's opening day, you will experience the colourful Winemakers' Parade and Wine Fair, where local wineries showcase their finest wines, from fresh and elegant whites and reds to rare collection wines aged in Moldova's famous underground cellars. You will receive a **wine tasting ticket** granting you access to **12 wine tastings** from local producers participating in the festival. You will savour traditional Moldovan flavours, enjoy live folk music and dances, admire colourful national costumes, and browse authentic local handicrafts. To complete the experience, witness the "Best National Cuisine Presentation" competition and discover the rich culinary traditions that make Moldova so unique.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Wine Festival,

DAY 3

Day 3: Experience Gagauzia & Celebrate the Second Day of the Wine Festival

You will start the day by travelling to **Comrat -** the cultural heart and the capital of the autonomous region of Gagauzia, located in southwest Moldova. Here, you will immerse yourself in the unique heritage of the

Gagauz people, a Turkic-speaking community with deep roots in Moldova and a distinctive Orthodox Christian tradition. During a guided city tour, discover the stories, traditions and identity of this fascinating region. Along the way, gain a deeper insight into the culture and traditions that make Gagauzia one of Moldova's most distinctive regions.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a fabulous wine tasting and lunch at **Vinuri de Comrat Winery** - the oldest winery in southern Moldova. Here you will discover the tastes of Vinuri de Comrat wines and the specifity of Gagauz cuisine, while tasting Gagauz dishes.
A special highlight for Slovak visitors is the winery's Cuve Plai, which received a Gold Medal at the international wine exhibition MUN-DUS in Slovakia in 2015, making it a particularly interesting wine to discover during the tasting.
Wine of Comrat combines traditional winemaking heritage with modern production methods, offering visitors an authentic introduction to the wines of southern Moldova and Gagauzia.

After your visit to Vinuri de Comrat, you will relax during the transfer back to Chisinau and continue the celebration at the **second day of Moldova's National Wine Festival**. Immerse yourself once again in the festive atmosphere, where wine, local traditions, music and Moldovan hospitality come together for another memorable experience.

HIGHLIGHTS: Comrat city , Vinuri de Comrat winery,

DAY 4

Day 4: A Journey Through Moldova's Sacred Heritage & Underground Wine Cellars

The day will begin with a visit to **Curchi Monastery,** one of Moldova's most remarkable monastic complexes. Surrounded by imposing stone walls and fortified with towers at each corner, the monastery resembles a peaceful fortress hidden among the greenery. Its magnificent main church, built in 1810, combines the grandeur of Baroque elements with the elegance of traditional Moldovan architecture, creating a truly atmospheric and memorable place to explore.

You will continue the journey at **Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei)** - a natural amphitheater revealing a territory which was first inhabited 40 000 years ago. You will set within a dramatic limestone canyon carved by the R ?ut River, this open-air historical landscape brings together ancient fortifications, cave monasteries, archaeological remains and centuries-old spiritual traditions. You will walk through a place shaped by both nature and history, where traces of human habitation date back thousands of years and the cliffs reveal the legacy of the ancient Sarmatian Sea.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a **traditional Moldovan lunch** at a charming guesthouse in Butuceni, surrounded by the authentic atmosphere of the Orheiul Vechi countryside. Savour local specialties such as zeam?, m?m?lig? and scrob, accompanied by homemade pastries and a glass of Moldovan wine — a delicious taste of Moldova's rural traditions and hospitality.

After lunch, you will discover **the world's most impressive underground wine cities** - **Cricova Cellars**. You will take part into an exclusive journey, where over 120 km of galleries unfold across nearly 53 hectares, each street bearing the name of a noble grape variety. During this private tour, you will discover the legendary wine collection, including one of Moldova's oldest bottles, dating back to 1902, while gaining privileged access to areas usually reserved for specialists. A highlight of the experience is a behind-the-scenes encounter with the production of sparkling wines, crafted according to the authentic French Méthode Champenoise. You will observe the meticulous remuage processes — the traditional manual rotation of

bottles to concentrate the sediments — and will even have the rare opportunity to try this delicate technique themselves, guided by experts.

HIGHLIGHTS: Curchi Monastery, Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, Butuceni guesthouse, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 5

Day 5: Step Back in Time in Tiraspol & Watch the Slovakia vs Moldova Football Match Live

In the morning, you will discover the oldest medieval fort of **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.

In the afternoon, you will have a **soviet-style lunch** at Back to USSR Restaurant.

After lunch, you will have a **panoramic tour in Tiraspol**, you will set off on a time travel. During the city tour, you will discover the monument of Vladimir Lenin and tanks left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a ghost 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 be transferred to Chisinau to watch the **Slovakia vs Moldova football match live**, soaking up the excitement and atmosphere of this special sporting event.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tighina Fortress, Tiraspol city,

DAY 6

Day 6: Departure day

In the morning, you will step into the lively atmosphere of **Chi?in?u Central Market**, where locals and farmers come together to share the authentic flavours of Moldova. You will wander through colourful stalls, meet local producers and taste fresh, organic products straight from the countryside — from fragrant herbs, seasonal fruits and vegetables to walnuts, almonds and naturally produced honey. A lively and authentic experience will bring you closer to Moldova's everyday life and local traditions.

After visiting Central Market, you will have free time for lunch.

The day will continue with a visit to the **Petru Costin Collection Gallery Museum**, a fascinating journey through Moldova's history and the Soviet era. You will explore more than 25 thematic collections, featuring everything from model aircraft and military artefacts to aviation equipment and historical memorabilia. Step

into the “USSR: History of One Era” hall, where busts, newspapers, photographs, books and original documents offer a glimpse into everyday life, events and decisions that shaped an entire generation.

In the evening, you will be transferred to **Chisinau International Airport**.

HIGHLIGHTS: Central Market in Chisinau , Petru Costin Collection Gallery Museum,