



Catholic Church "St. Anton"- interior



Girl dressed in Lipoven Traditional Costume



Carol I Mosque from Constanța



Armenian Traditional costume



Girls dressed in Turkish Traditional Costume

# “UNIQUE ITINERARIES AND EVENTS IN DOBROGEA”

Ethnic diversity specific in Constanța County,  
customs and traditions - Cultural Tourism

# ETHNIC DIVERSITY SPECIFIC IN CONSTANTA COUNTY, CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS - CULTURAL TOURISM-



## INTRODUCTION

Constanta County, the blessed land between Danube and Black Sea, with high potential economics that places it as one of the first counties in the country, one can enjoy also a great variety and diversity of historical and cultural traditions offered by the important number of ethnicities or national minorities which enrich the Romanian civilization as a whole. These ethnicities are the result of a history over 2000 years old and of the complexity of cultural and civilisation phenomena which brought them together.

Ethnicities minorities enjoy in today's Romania the rights and liberties that allowed them to preserve and motivate their ethnic-cultural specific, and Romanian Constitution offers to minorities a legal status to the standards provided by international conventions, being simultaneously respected the religious beliefs of all citizens and the freedom of religious expression.

In Constanta County, according to preliminary data of 2011 census population (published by National Institute of Statistic) there are 19.499 Turks, 17.620 Tatars, 2.897 Russian-lipovens, 110 Germans, 3.448 Roma, next to other nationalities (Greek, Aromanians, Bulgarians, Italians, Armenian). Each of these ethnicities kept their cultural identity, traditions and customs while bringing in the same time to Rumanian people their own contribution to the development of economical-social.

This brochure presents aspects related to the history, traditions, religion, and ethnicities culture from Constanta County, mostly on: Turks, Tatar, Greek, Russian-Lipovens, Aromanians, Bulgarians, Germans, Italians, Armenians and Roma. There are shortly presented elements of history, traditional port, religion, places of worship, representative personalities, artistic activities, assemblies, custom's calendar and specific popular traditions and specific gastronomy.



Constanta County- view from the sky

## TURKISH COMMUNITY

### Short history

Turkish community from Romania, especially from Dobrogea has existed over more than seven centuries, the first recorded document of Turkish pre-ottomans presence is from 1264 B.C. In that year, following some Mongols attacks over the Seljuk Empire, the sultan Izzeddin Keykavuz the Second withdrew his troops from Anatolia to the Danube. After they crossed the Bosfor and passed into Balkans, they sat on a territory they called Babadag (the father's mountains), after their Muslim leader Sari Saltuk Baba who played an important role in Turkish people's Islamisation from the Black Sea to Caucasus. The Muslim leader died in that city in 1304, and in his memory a mausoleum was build. The intensive colonisation of the region takes place after the Varna battle (1444), after which the Dobrogea stays Ottoman until Berlin peace (1878). In 17<sup>th</sup> century almost all villages, fairs and cities from Dobrogea had Turkish names, and there were many Turkish people. The education and instruction was mostly with religious character, the schools were founded on worship places (mosques). In 1900 year, in Dobrogea there were 195 mosques, 166 in Constanta County and 29 in Tulcea County from which there are now only 72.

In the interwar period there was an intellectualisation of Turkish people. During that time there were magazines and newspapers in Turkish language and then bilinguals. A significant contribution in developing Turkish cultural and spiritual identity was the so-called *wakîfuri*, nongovernmental foundations, Islamic-confessionals, non-profit. The most popular were founded the wakiful of Mangalia by Esmahan Princess (1590) and the one from Babadag by Gazi Ali Pasha (1610). The period of 1945-1990 was one in which the Turkish intellectuals migrated in Turkey, and school of Turkish language functioned until 1954 when it was suspended. After 1990, Turkish people organised themselves in Turkish Democratic Union from Romania (UTDR), with its first priority to revitalise and pass on cultural and traditional values of Turkish ethnicities.



Minaret- Mosque Carol I, Constanta

The 2002 census data show that the majority of Turkish ethnicities lives in Constanta County (Medgidia, Mangalia, Eforie Nord, Techirghiol, Adamclisi, Agigea, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Nicolae Bălcescu, Ostrov, Poarta Albă, Ion Corvin, Topraisar localities), the rest living in Tulcea (Babadag, Isaccea, Măcin, Ciucurova, Casimcea), Bucharest, Călărași and Brăila.

***Traditional costumes:***

The main parts of a women's traditional costume are:

1. fistan
2. Kaftan
3. işlenmiş gömlek( dressed, embroidered shirts for holidays)
4. Hat, veil, Cember
5. Salvari (large pants)
6. Embroidered Vest.



Girls dressed in traditional Turkish costume.

The male costume is sober, dark blue, with black embroidery. A more cheerful note in this port is brought by the red belt and hat of the same colour.



Traditional male costume

## Religion

Islamism is an Abraham and monotheistic religion. The meaning of the work Islam is peace and faith in Allah. The faith in the Unicity of Allah is a sign of intelligence and fulfilment to Muslims. The practice of Islamism is related to the establishment of the Turkish-Tatar people in Dobrogea and some localities across the Danube. Until 1877, the mosques and tekkes (a kind of monasteries) were to Dobrogea Muslim the centre of their activity, not only religiously, but also spiritually. In mosques one can learn the writing and counting, the knowledge and interpretation of Coran, getting familiar to other knowledges necessary for daily routine (hygiene, plant growing, animal farming etc.), so the mosques were somehow supplementing the lack of schools in some localities from Dobrogea.

The mosques represent the place of prayer, the silence and the hope, the place of meeting with Allah, the one and the almighty, the Lord of the Worlds, the place of consolidation of the relation of the Muslim and the centre of life. In Constanta County the mosques are from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These are in Constanta (seven mosques), Medgidia, Mangalia, Techirghiol, Agigea, Amzacea, Cernavoda, Harsova, Valu lui Traian, Eforie Nord, Navodari.

### *Turks and Tatar Festival in Romania.*

Some of the most important holidays over the year of Turks and Tatar from Constanta, and implicitly of Romania, are:

1. **The Kurban Bayram Holiday** (Festival of Sacrifice) - annual religious feast expressing the obedience and worship to Allah Almighty and Merciful. After the Bayram prayer which is done in mosques and after the men pass by the homes of deceased people over the year and where they read the Holly Coran, it follows four days of happiness and relaxation. Tables with traditional food, visiting the relatives and friend, all spiritually strengthens the family and the community.

2. **Ramazam Bayram Festival** (the feast and sweets celebrations) - the second most important religious festival of the Muslim worship. It is an opportunity to strengthen the Turkish community, a celebration of joy and reconciliation, of spiritual cleanliness, of faith and worship of Allah.

Mosque Carol I, Constanta.



**3. Hâdârlez Festival** - cultural festival, country way, ethno-cultural and religious which take place always on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. It is like “Memorial Easter” in Christian religion. On this day the graves of the loved ones or saints are visited. Alms are made, the orphans, the widows, the needy are helped. Also, all the Muslims meet on the river side, in clearings, where they party, sing and dance.

**4. Nevruz Festival**- a celebration of spring, rebirth of nature that are celebrated starting the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. With this occasion, the religious ritual is followed by games, songs, popular dances, there are swordsmanship, free fighting, wrestling, and hippy races. Traditional food is consumed.

**5. Independence Day and Child’s Holliday** (23<sup>rd</sup> of April) - it is a celebration of Republic of Turkey that penetrated also the Turks from Dobrogea and Romania. This day is marked by cultural-artistic, instructional, educational and recreational manifestations, poetry competitions, folk and modern dances, parade of costumes, Turkish tasting dishes etc.

**6. Turkey Republic Day** (October 29) - celebrated by conferences, exhibitions, folk performances, sport competitions.

**7. Teacher’s Day** (November 24) - it represents the solidarity and respect to educators, teachers, professors, to all those who played an important role in the education and training of young generation.

### *Personalities of Turkish Community*

- ▶ Prof. Univ. Dr. Ibram Nuredin, philosopher, sociologist, scholar, academic, author of numerous specialized books and university courses, important member of Tatara and Turkish community.
- ▶ Mustafa Ali Mehmet - scientific researcher, author of “Turkish History” volume.
- ▶ Agiemin Baubec - university teacher at Bucharest University and author of “Turkish-Rumanian, Rumanian-Turkish” dictionary, and “Turkish Grammar”.
- ▶ Mehmet Ali Ekrem, historical, among others, author of paper with the title “From the History of Turks from Dobrogea”, published in 1994 by Krieterion.
- ▶ Mictat Ahmed Garlan, doctor in psychology, scientific researcher, author of “Chronology to Turkish Minority” (1989-2009)
- ▶ Osman Negeat, mufti of Muslims from Romanian;
- ▶ Ing. Agronomist Mujdaba Fikret, world- renowned personality in wine technology who published 11 scientific studies, 120 communications, 2 oenology books, and also being the co-author of several treaties;
- ▶ Mehmet Naci Önal, author of the title “From Turkish Folklore Dobrogea” published by Krieterion, Bucharest, year 1997.
- ▶ Hamdi cerchez, actor;
- ▶ Emin Emel, author of several volumes of poetry in Turkish (including children poems)

**Artistic activities**

One of the annual events of Turkish community in Constanta County is the Festival of Culture, Sport and Youth, where, besides football races, table tennis, bowling, billiards, there is a handicraft fair and Turkish and Tatar dishes, a folkloric spectacle, Tatar wrestling, exhibition of ceramic works and paintings belonging to Turkish and Romanian artists. The festival is in May every year.

Another event of Turkish communities from Constanta is the International Festival Interethnic for preschool “Harmonies of Dobrogea” which enjoyed the participation of Bursa (Turkey), Karjali (Bulgaria), Braila (Romania) and Ghindaresti locality, from kindergartens to schools from Mangalia, Cobadin, Medgidia, and Independenta, but also from the school units from Constanta County.

Other actions undertaken by Turkish democratic union (established on December 21st 1993), by its cultural commission:

- ▶ Diversity Week - January 2007
- ▶ International Festival “Community Spring” - March 2007, 2009=8, 2009, 2010-which is based on the Nevruz Festival, spring festival with correspondences in other communities also.
- ▶ Harsova - old ottoman fortress- May 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- ▶ Cumpenei Days - June 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- ▶ Yenifoca International Festival - August 2007
- ▶ Simpozion Internațional „Mărturii ale culturii turce pe pământul României” - septembrie 2007, 2008
- ▶ Sari Saltuk Dede Days: on this occasion, to a number of 800 Muslims believers are offered the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Sari Saltuk Dedesi mausoleum, Koyon Baba’s grave, and two important personalities in Turkish civilisation from Dobrogea.
- ▶ Victory day in Republic of Turkey - August 30
- ▶ The Day of National Minorities from Romania - 18th December 1992
- ▶ Mother’s Day- celebrated on the second Sunday of May
- ▶ Culinary Art Festival- reached the sixth edition; currently implemented in cities like: Tulcea, Fantana Mare, Techirghiol, Cobadin, Constanta, Macin.
- ▶ The Symposium: Turkish Woman from Balkans organised each two years by the women Commission of U.D.T.R. where delegation from Turkey, Bulgaria, Northern Cyprus, Macedonia.

Although founded in 2011, a presence with constant involvement in the life of the Turkish community is the Turkish Cultural Centre “Yunus Emre” from Constanta, which carries out activities like the promotion of Turkish language, history, arts and Turkish culture, with many activities in this regard, as well as: Turkish cultural days, writers’ reunions, different symposiums, books launching, classes in Turkish language, Turkish dances etc.



## *Folk Ensembles*

There are many folk groups that carry out their activity in the Cultural committee of Turkish Democratic Union from Romania, such as: Delikanlılar (folk dance), Fidanlar (rotlets), Mehtap (choral group), Tuna (traditional folk group from Tulcea), Kaynanalar (vocal group from Tulcea), Sureya (Techirghiol), Kardelen (Traditional folk group from Cumpana), Gen Umutlar (children traditional folk dance group from Cobadin), Gökkuşāği (vocal group from Cobadin), Filisler (traditional folk dance group from Medgidia). All these dance and vocal ensemble groups were distinguished at national and international festivals, like Proethnic, and interethnic festival held in Sighisoara and many others.



## **TATAR COMMUNITY**

### *Short History*

Tatars - they are a community of Romanian citizens who live in Romania for over eight centuries, they have their own ethno- linguistic, religious and cultural identity which they preserved, expressed and developed.

One of the first mentions of Tatar presence in Dobrogea is in a document dating from the time of Sultan Mohamed the Second and it refers to Ginghiz Han (1229) era when a field in the area was offered to the Tatar military chief Ebruz-ata.

Tatars- the Nogai group and Crimean Group settled on Black Sea seaside and in the heart of Dobrogea, across the Danube. They occupied the river Casimcea basin up to cape Midia, all the Karasu valley up to Cara-Harman (today's Vadu) and they were dealing with farming, horses, carting and trade.

In Constanta County they compactly settled in villages like Caramurat (M.Kogalniceanu), Siriu, Calfa (Viroada), Nazarcea, Murfatlar, Palazu Mare, Ghelingic (Mireasa), Techirghiol, Lazu, Bulbul (Ciocârlia), Endek Karakoy (Dacilor Valey), Korçeşme (Ţepeş Vodă), Azaplar (Tătaru), Enghez (Scărişoreanu), Aliman, Bairamdede (Independenţa) and of course in Constanta, Medgidia, Mangalia.

Since 1990, Tatar ethnicity from Constanta is organised in Tatar Turkish- Muslims Democratic Union from Romania, Constanta subsidiary, whose main objective to revive and pass on the cultural and traditional values of Tatar ethnicities.

### ***Traditional Costumes***

Girls' costume is made of six pieces as follows:

White or red silk dress with collar tunic ended in 3 small buttons, with long sleeve ended in lace;

Over the dress they put a blue velvet caftan with Tatar authentic folk motifs, split at sleeves, the caftan is over the dress;

The belt is red or yellow velvet is handmade with traditional motifs and it catches over the caftan;

Cuffs are handmade with sequins, specific beads and embroidery attached over the sleeve of the dress.

The hat is made of red or blue velvet, adorned with yellow pennies, a white silk veil is caught over the cap;

The dancers are shod with black leather shoes with flexible soles because Tatar dances are executed on tiptoes, and in front are caught with a barrette;



Traditional girl costume

Male costume is also made of six pieces, as follows:

White silk shirt with tunic collar and long sleeve, embodied at neck and wristbands with multicolour sparkles.

Blue fabric vest with traditional motifs of geometric forms;

Red velvet belt;

Black Astrakhan hat specific to Turkish people;

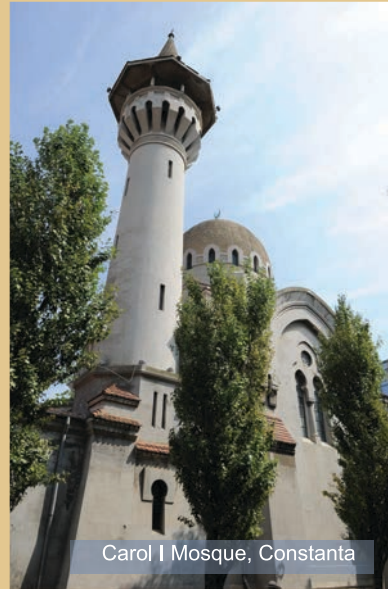
Long black leather boots, with flexible soles.

## ***Religion***

Tatar community religion is monotheistic, Islamic, and the most important places of worship from Constanta are:

### **CAROL I MOSQUE**

-The most important edifice of Muslim cult from Constanta, build in 1910 on the place of an ancient mosque dated since 1822, build in the honour of Sultan Mohamed the Second. High minaret of 47 m, wearing the crescent peak, symbol of Islam, build in Moorish style, while the rest of the building and its dome presents a blend between Egyptian -byzantine style and Romanian architectural elements. Among its valuable objects is a big Persian carpet (490kg), Tukey's donation, one of the largest carpets in Europe. Carol I Mosque is included in "Historical Monuments List 2004" in A group of national value.



Carol I Mosque, Constanta



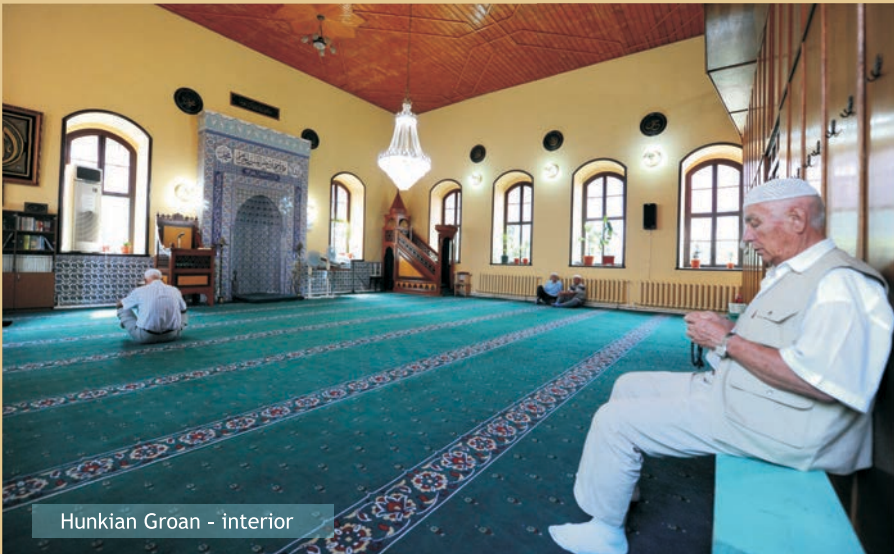
Carol I Mosque – interior, Constanta



Hunkiar Groan

## HUNKIAR GROAN

Built by Sultan Abdulaziz and opened in 1869, it is positioned in the central area of old town Constanta. The construction is made with carved stones crafter by Turkish masons. It is included in “Historical Monuments List 2004” in A group of national value.



Hunkian Groan - interior

## Sultan Esmahan Mosque, Mangalia

Built in 1575 by the daughter of Sultan Selim the Second (1566-1574), who was the wife of Solollu Mehmed Pasha, his father's vizier. The mosque is surrounded by a Muslim cemetery, with the same value by its antiquity, from the cultural point of view and also spiritual, it contains graves over 300 years old. The mosque was built with stones taken from the walls of Callatis fortress. The ritual fountain, placed in the mosque's yard, was built with stones from an ancient Romanian grave. It is included in "Historical Monuments List 2004" in A group of national value.



Sultan Esmahan Mosque, Mangalia

## Representative personalities of Tatar community

### Mehmet Niyazi (1878-1931)

✓ national poet of Tatars, publicist, pedagogue, prominent exponent of spirituality and nationality of Tatars from Dobrogea;

### Negip Hagi Fazâl (1906 - 1948)

✓ poet, dramatist, folk collector, journalist, translator, poet, a fighter for cause of the Crimean Tatars;

### Ziyaeddin Hagi Ahmet Ismail (1912 - 1996)

✓ construction engineer (since 1950), dramatist, graduated Muslim seminar from Medgidia, passionate about Tatars' literary and musical folk

### Selim Abdulachim (1886 - 1943)

✓ first deputy of Constanta, Tatar nationality and also the first Romanian lawyer with Tatar origins, licensed in Law Faculty from Bucharest, the one who established the Muslim Cultural Fond "Selim Abdulachim" with Association status, founded to help the poor Muslim students from Romanian secondary and superior school  
✓ president of Muslim community from Constanta and founding member of Graduated Muslim Seminar Association from Dobrogea, established in 1911;

### Aii Osman Bekmambet (1912 - )

✓ teacher, moolah, Tatar anti-Communist hero, social activist, promoter of the Crimean Tatars refugee in Romania cause, arrested in 1953, politically convicted to hard work for life and released in 1964; honorary citizen of Mulfatlar town where he was imam.

Among yesterday's and today's personalities of Tatar ethnicity we mention the philologists Nedret and Mamut Enver, Nevzat Yusuf Sarigol, Agiemin Baubec, Ibraim Neriman, Acmola Giiner, Necibe Sucuri, hystorians Kemal Karpat, Mehmet Ablay (1923 - 1999), Mehmet Aii Ekrem, Tahsin Gemil, Sali Negeat, ex-president of UDTTMR and he was UDTTMR deputy in Romanian Parliament, Ibram Nuredin, cultural historian and philosopher, deputy Amet Aledin, musicologist Kiyemet Memet, physicist Musa Geavit(1937 - 2008), poets Agi Amet Gemal (1943 - 2005), *Cidem Narcis Brâslaşu and other intellectuals in educational, industrial, finance and medicine area.*

### ***Artistic activities supported by Tatar community ensembles.***

**Tatar community ensembles from Constanta County had participated in different events in Romania and also internationally;**

- ▶ “Great Anatolian Meeting of the World Cultures and Youth” May 2010, Ankara, Turkey (the participation of folk dances ensembles Yildizlar (The Stars) from Mihail Kogalniceanu);
- ▶ “music and traditions in Cismigiu” Festival- fourth edition, June 2010, Bucharest;
- ▶ “Interethnic movie week” Festival” fifth edition, July 2010, Tulcea
- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port” fifteenth edition, September 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, Constanta;

**Below are the names of the Tatar community ensembles from Constanta County, as well as the events they took part in:**

#### **Castle (Castelu)**

- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port
- ▶ The Festival from Gokceada, Turkey
- ▶ Days of Castle town
- ▶ Tatar ethnicity day from Castelu, Constanta county , Romania
- ▶ Tatar ethnicity day from Tulcea, Tulcea county, Romania
- ▶ Charity spectacle, Valu lui Traian, Constanta county
- ▶ Village’s sons, Grandmother’s coffer, interethnic traditions and customs

#### **Kanara Ovidiu**

- ▶ Anadolu Genclik Bayram Ankara Turkey “Tepreş” Festival
- ▶ Vetovo Bulgaria
- ▶ Vetovo Bulgaria

#### **Ucansu Valu lui Traian**

- ▶ Nawrez Bayram Constanța
- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port
- ▶ Work and art traditions at Tatars, Valu Traian
- ▶ Tatars’ day, Valu Traian
- ▶ Youth and Sport Celebration Constanta-Mamaia

#### **Karasu Medgidia**

- ▶ Folk festival from Balkans Kirjali
- ▶ Folk dance competition Inegiol- Turkey
- ▶ Village’s Museum- Bucharest
- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port
- ▶ “Young Tatar searching for identity” Seminar
- ▶ International Tatar wrestling, participants from: Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Bulgaria

#### **Koz Moşaklar Cobadin**

- ▶ Suberek Festival: Cobadin, Constanta County
- ▶ Interethnic camp Baile Herculane, Caras-Severin County
- ▶ Turkish-Tatar Folk Port, Dance, Song Festival
- ▶ Balkan Weddings Festival - Podari, Dolj County

### Canlar Cobadin

- ▶ Şuberekului Festival - Cobadin, Constanța County
- ▶ Folk dances festival- Yalova, Turjeş
- ▶ Interethnic Camp Baile Herculane, Caras-Severin County, presentation of Tatar dances
  - ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port
  - ▶ Balkan weddings Festival - Podari, Dolj County
  - ▶ Childred's Spectacle with the occasion of Saint Nicholas celebration - cobadin, constanta county
  - ▶ “Hitit Festivali” Festival Corum, Turkey

### Cansu Techirghiol

- ▶ Spring festival Valandovo, Macedonia
- ▶ Multi-ethnic festival Bran-Romania
- ▶ Folk Festival- Baia mare, Romania
- ▶ Internation Folk Danced Festival Akciakocea(Akcakoca), Tuckey

### Mini Karadeniz Constanța

- ▶ The days of town Castle
- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port
- ▶ “Kobete” Festival
- ▶ Tatar wresting with the participation of Karadeniz bands

### Karadeniz Constanța

- ▶ Youth Festival from Costinesti
- ▶ Community Spring March 31st
- ▶ Minorities week December 18<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Nawrez Ovidiu March 24<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Iasi Festival May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

### Kaitarma Valu Traian

- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port
- ▶ Kures the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, Valu Traian
- ▶ Nawrez dance festival, Ovidiu

### Women chores

- ▶ Boztorgay- National Minorities festival “ Danube Celebrations”
- ▶ Days of the town Cumpana
- ▶ Interethnic Festival Odorheiu Secuiesc
- ▶ Spring festival ((Kâdârlez) Valandova - Macedonia
- ▶ National Minorities Day from Romania- Bucharest
- ▶ The international Festival of Turkish-Tatar Folk Singing, Dancing and Port

### Kubadin Kizlar

- ▶ Youth Cultural-Sport Turkish-Tatar festival , Constanta, Mamaia
- ▶ Folk dance festival Yalova- Turkey
- ▶ Interethnic camp- Baile Herculane, Caras -Severin County
- ▶ Balkan Weddings festival- Podari, Dolj County
- ▶ Suberek festival- Cobadin, Constanta County



### *Annual calendar of traditions and customs*

Day	Month	Name
03/04	February	Mevlid Kandilî
21 <sup>st</sup>	of March	Nawrez
5 <sup>th</sup>	of May	Tătar Tîlîn Kunî- Tatar Language Day
6 <sup>th</sup>	of May	Kidirlez
18 <sup>th</sup>	of May	Kirim Tatarların Matem Kunî-Genocide Commemoration
22 <sup>nd</sup>	of May	Uş Aylar Başlay
24/25 <sup>th</sup>	of May	Regaib Kandilî
16/17 <sup>th</sup>	of June	Mirac Kandilî
04/05 <sup>th</sup>	of Julie	Berat Kandilî
20 <sup>th</sup>	of Julie	Ramazan Başlay
14/15 <sup>th</sup>	of August	Kadir Gecesî
18 <sup>th</sup>	of August	Arefe Kunî
19 <sup>th</sup>	of August	Ramazan Bayrami (1.Kun)
20 <sup>th</sup>	of August	Ramazan Bayrami (2.Kun)
21 <sup>st</sup>	of August	Ramazan Bayrami (3.Kun)
24 <sup>th</sup>	of October	Arefe Kunî
25 <sup>th</sup>	of October	Kurban Bayrami (1.Kun)
26 <sup>th</sup>	of October	Kurban Bayrami (2.Kun)
27 <sup>th</sup>	of October	Kurban Bayrami (3.Kiin)
28 <sup>th</sup>	of October	Kurban Bayrami (4.Kun)
15 <sup>th</sup>	of November	Hicri Senenîn Başı - The beginning of the New Islamic year
24 <sup>th</sup>	of November	Aşure Kunî
13 <sup>th</sup>	of December	Romanya Tatarların Kunî- Tatar Ethnicity day from Romania

## Gastronomy

Gastronomy has an important place in Crimean Tatar culture, being strongly related to the way of life and environment. Without entering into the history of Tatar gastronomy, we can say that it was very much influenced by the Ottoman gastronomy, following as natural of Ottoman Empire suzerainty over the Crimean Khanate until 1774.

Just by looking over the Tatar dishes one can make the following classification of foods:

1. Soups
2. Low dishes
3. Pastries
4. Sweets

The most consisting part of the dishes is the pastry preparations: ulkum (donuts) scovergi, şilter, katlama, kobete, geantîk, sarbirma, şiberek (cheesecake, pumpkin pie, and meat pie), kawirma.

In recent years there were organised festivals dedicated to some specific Tatar dishes. So, in Cobadin, there is the Suberek Festival, at the fourth edition, in Castle Kobete Festival, and in Ciocalia, the Baklava Festival.

The members from Women Organisations subsidiaries from the community have participated at numerous gastronomical events, among which we note the action from each year's December initiated by the Turkey General Consulate in Constanta, the Minorities day that is also celebrated in December, the Dobrogea integration day to Romania, kermeza organised with the occasion of Turkish-Tatar Youth Cultural-Sport festival from May, the day of Tatar Language from May 5th, as well as the participation in some shows at local TV stations.



Baclavale

## AROMANIAN COMMUNITY

### History

“Aromanians (Macedon- Vlachos) and their native language exists today for over two thousand years”. Thus Macedo-Romanian dodecalog starts, it was written by Matilda Caragiu-Marioteanu, a Macedon-Romanian linguistic of Macedo-Romanian origin, specialist in dialectology, university professor and member of Romanian Academy who lived 1927-2009. In the following some information about the origins of the Macedo-Romanian (Aromanian) will be presented, main source being the book of Neagu Djuvara: “Aromanians, History, Language and Destiny”. In her pages, Cicerone Poghiric says there are two positions regarding the Aromanian origin. One admits they are local, continuing the old Antiquity Romanized population (this opinion is shared by most of Romanian historians and some Greeks). The second position says that the Aromanians came from North, from a region neighbouring the Dacianromanians, a thesis supported by all Romanian linguistics except Th. Capidan and Tache Papahagi from Matilda Caragiu-Marioteanu, N. Saramandu and C. Poghiric generation.

Matilda Caragiu-Marioteanu says in the same book of Neagu Djuvara that “Macedo-Romanians are the followers of Southeast European Romanised populations (Macedon, Greeks, Thracians, Illyarns) or colonized by Romanians. This process was carried out on a very large and compact territory from the Northern Carpathians to Southern Balkans territory. She considers that there are two Aromanian categories: the autochthonous (from Balkans countries like Greece, Albania, Ex-Yugoslav, Bulgaria) who stayed there where their ancestors were born, and the ones from Diaspora, meaning those who left those places and are all over the world, in European countries (including Romania), in the two Americas etc.

In Romania most of them live in Dobrogea, in Tulcea county (Tulcea County, Babadag City, Ceamurila de Sus) and Constanta county (Constanta County and Mangalia, in localities like: Mihail Kogălniceanu, Techirghiol, Cogealac, Tariverde, Cobadin, Ovidiu, Agigea, Mihai Viteazu etc.)



A group of girls in traditional costume

***Aromanian organisations:***

- ▶ "Muşata Armână" Foundation
- ▶ "Veria" Association Techirghiol
- ▶ "Aromanian community from Romania" Association- Constanta subsidiary.

***Traditional costumes***

The Aromanian costume consists of many and different pieces (chiptan, skirts, canduse, poi, giumdane, sarica, cioriti, pardodzi etc.) made of thick polychrome fabrics, from wool or goat hair. The fabrics decorations are distinguished by the garnet and black combinations, and also red, yellow, violet and green.

The male's costume is made of: over the white shirt with large split sleeves, a kilt is put on, both knee-length. Men's hats are blacks and not very large, made of lamb leather. The wool socks are dressed up to the knee, the ones for day are simples or less decorated, but the festivity ones are decorated with great mastery, a perfect combination of colours and fabrics; besides the wool yarn they also used "hârsafi". Men's always present accessories are the penknife (custura) and white handkerchief, belt and cârlibana.



To women's costume, the white cotton shirt is visible only on the lower part, through trim ornaments. Over this the plisirna or cumaslu is put on, a sarafan with many curls at the back or gussets, closed with buttons and put over the laps over which the sort is put. Mintanul is put over the plisirna. A hat is on the head. This was made of wool fabric and on the top there was a metal circle, usually ancient silver, from which silver coins are caught. On the forehead the cap is very richly garnished. The women's accessories are a garnished white handkerchief, a penknife, silver or beadworks belts, bracelets and beadworks.



Aromanian traditional costume

## Religion

Aromanian's religion is mostly Christian-Orthodox, but there are regions from Transylvania where there are Catholics and Protestants.

## Personalities

▶ Petru Vulcan, clerk, poet, novelist, playwright, author of numerous books among them: “National album of Dobrogea: 1866-1877-1906” and different collaborations with magazine as: “Balkan Peninsula”, “The Romanian from Pind”, “Dobrogea Tribune”, “Oltenia's Courier”, “The People”, “The Light”, initiator of the “Romania from sea” magazine.

▶ Toma Caragiu. Romanian actor of Aromanian origin, with a very rich activity in theatre, TV, film. He played mostly comedies, but also drama, one of his reference movie being “The actor and the savages” (1975). He was an employee at the State Theatre from Constanta between 1951 and 1953.

▶ Papacioc Father, confessor at saint Mary Monastery from Techirghiol and considered one of the most important confessors of orthodoxy; author of books: “Spiritual Talks” -2 vol. (1984-1986), “The Father Arsenie Speaks”(2004), “The Eternity Hidden in a Moment” (2004);

▶ Titi Ceara- sculptor, author of many sculpture books presented in personal exhibitions: 1992- “Deleste” Gallery, Valencia-Spain; 1993- “Horizon” Gallery, Bucharest; 1994- Romania academy, Roma; 1996-:Simeza” Gallery, Bucharest; 1997- “Targoviste” Gallery, Targoviste, and group exhibitions: 1990- “Catacomb” Gallery, Bucharest; “Simeza” Gallery, Bucharest; 1997-“ Parliament” Gallery, Bucharest; 1998-“Muscabnoc”Gallery, Budapest, Ukraine; 1998-“Underground”gallery-Leipzig, Germany; 1998-“Cobra”Gallery-Amsterdam, Holland.

▶ Stere Gulea- director and screen writer; he put his signature as a director on well-known movies as: “Water as a black buffalo” (1970), “Green Grass from home” (1977), “The Castle from Carpathians” (1981), “Bear Eyes” (1982), “Morometii” (1987), “University Plaza ” (1991), “Fox-Hunter” (1993), “State of Things” (1995), “Hacker” (serial TV) (2003) - serial TV “Weekend with My Mother” (2009);

▶ Ion Caramitru- theatre and movie actor, but also a Romanian director with Aromanian origin. He is the president of UNITER since 1990, and now, since 2005 he is the manager of National theatre from Bucharest. He was an actor and director at Bulandra Theatre, whose management held during 1990-1993. He was the Cultural Minister between 1996-2000;

▶ Gheorghe Hagi, a footballer also called the King of Romanian football and Carpathians Maradona; top scorer in Romania's national history, some of his goals entering the football history;

▶ Marius Batu, Romanian folk music singer who is known in the music world in 1977, the year when he and Eugen Baboi started the group “Poesies”;

▶ Ecaterina Vrana, plastic artist, present with personal exhibitions at Freiburg University (Germany, 1993), Art Academy Gallery (Bucharest, 1994), French Institute (Bucharest, 1995 and 1997), “Close People” (Mogosoia Palace, Bucharest, 2007). Group exhibitions abroad: Art Academy Budapest (1994), Art Museum Durango (Spain, 2004), Bologna (Italy, 2006), Stedelijk

Museum (Lier, Belgium, 2007), Druot Montaigne (Paris, 2009), Performance Art Institute (San-Francisco, USA, 2010-2011). She realised monumental art works in Timisoara Park and she has pieces in public collections (Ludwig Museum Budapest and National Contemporary Art Bucharest) and private one (Romania, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, USA).

▶ Marica Pitu, Sirma Granzulea, Cristian Ionescu, Aromanian traditional singers.

### ***Artistic Ensembles***

▶ “Mușata armână” ensemble

(Mihail Kogalniceanu, Constanta County): dancing and singing ensemble, crafts, group singers of polyphonic archaic music;

▶ Polyphonic archaic singers group from Cogealac;

▶ “Avdhela Aromanian Cultural Library”: itinerant collection of patrimonial objects and archive magazines, craft and language workshops, online library;

▶ “Veria” Dance ensemble from Techirghiol;

▶ “IHOLU” dance ensembles of “Aromanian community from Romania, Constanta subsidiary” Association.



### ***Festivities/ artistic activities/events***

▶ National Aromanian Day, celebrated each year on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and distinguished by may cultural manifestations, such as traditional object and photography exhibitions, demonstrative cooking of aromanian traditional dishes, outdoor artistic spectacles;

▶ Aromanian Cultural Days where different symposiums and Aromanian folk international festivals take place;

▶ Culinary Art Festival with Foods and Aromanian Sweets- “Buneți aromânești”, organised in February 2012 (first edition) by Radio Constanta, “The art of Services in Tourism prof. Stere Stavroșitu”, Folk Art Museum Constanta, Aromanian Cultural Foundation “Mușeata Armână” from Mihail Kogalniceanu, “Veria” Association from Techirghiol, Interaxe European Association, Project “Avdhela, Aromanian Cultural Library”.



In the period 26-29 April 2012 in Constanta a series of events occurred under the motto “Living Pages of Aromanian Culture/ Frândzâ yii di cultură armânească”. The event proposed to bring together the Aromanian community from Dobrogea, as well as all the ones interested in the values of this culture. These events reunited people of Aromenian culture, projections with documentary movies were organised, an Aromanian music concert, Aromanian painting exhibitions as well as book launches. Also there were artistic programs of folk ensembles and Aromanian well-known singers, songs and dances, collections and old Aromanian costumes exhibitions, and also a big Aromanian culinary art fair.

### *Gastronomy*

Dishes always present on the Aromanians' tables are, according to tradition, cheeses and Aromanian famous pita (with cheese, spinach, leeks, pumpkin, apples etc.) and also roasted papers (piperchi tsargasiti), croissants etc.

“Shrove Traditions to Aromanian” (February 24<sup>th</sup> 2012)





## GREEK COMMUNITY

### *History*

The Greeks (Hellenic) were present on Danube Land and sea since the seventh century B.C. The first Greek colonies from Millet were settled on the lake side of Sinoe. It is about the Greek fortress Istros, named by romans Histria which remains are present today, near it being the Histria Museum that houses objects discovered in the area.

Also, in the second half of the VI century B.C. Greek colonists from millet are the ones who founded Tomis, today's Constanta, and in the southern Dobrogea the Greeks from Heraclea Pontic settler and founded the town Callatis, today's Mangalia. Another Greek fortress was discovered near Jurilovca, on the shore of ex golf Razelm, being attested since VII century B.C. in the writings of Hecataios from Millet.

Greeks next to Getea were the most numerous ethnicities who populated the Pontic fortresses, as active and prosperous sea ports. There are numerous proves of the rich spiritual life and true Hellenism from these colonies, these being the basilicas from Tomis and Callatis, reliefs and statues made of stone, marble and bronze, Histria Theatre, public events etc.

Today the organisation that defends and promotes the interests of Greek nationality from Constanta is "Elpis Greek Community from Constanta" founded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1990 and has a legal status on 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1990 and is the factual and legal successor of Greek Community from Constanta, abolished by the communist regime in 1948.



"Elpis" Ensemble- Constanta

## Traditional costumes

The Greek costumes present a great variety and reflect an especially rich culture. These are different depending on the area of origin having particularities concerning the fabric, the number of pieces, and also the jewellery that enrich women's neck or waist. There are also differences between continental and island costumes and also particularities depending on their social position. However, there are day, holiday, wedding costumes which are adjusted to the dedicated event.

Most important costume is the wedding one which is the richest in elements and decorations.



Attica costume-males

In Romania, the most popular Greek costume is the continental one, Attica. This costume is dated in nineteenth century when the King Bavarian Otho, the first king of the new independent Greek nation choose it as court costume. It is a city costume that has as base element the fustanella or skirt embroidered with golden thread jacket. The fustanella had 375 triangular folds caught at waist under vest. The colour, fabric and dimensions of the vest vary depending on the area. It has golden ornaments and golden buttons.

The costume that royal Athena Guard wears, kept in the memory of the imposed outfit by King Otho, known as the name of Evzoni or Tsoliades, it is compose of a short skirt- fustanella, embroidered vest with cut sleeves and clamped behind it, to ease movements, large sleeve shirt and the famous boots with big black tassel-tsarouhia.

The component costume elements and their Greek name is presented below:



1. poukamiso - shirt
2. foustanella - skirt or kilt
3. segouni - embroidered vest
4. kaltses - white socks
5. gonatares - leg garters
6. zonari - girdle
7. tsarouhia - shoes with tassel
8. fesi or koukos - hat, cap
9. Decorative items-jewellery

The Attica female costume has as remarkable element the coloured silk thread that embroiders the cotton white shirt. The silk is usually red-purple or golden, and the embroidery has geometrical shapes.

A vest is put over the shirt, most often made of wool (black or white), short or long, most of the times the wool from vest was homemade.

Attica costume - women

In some areas instead of wool vest we'll find velvet ones. On the head, the women from this region wear a white headscarf with white handmade tassels.

1. poukamiso - long shirt
2. segouni - wool vest
3. fosta - long white skirt
4. bodia - embroidered wool apron
5. mandili - headscarf ( gaza me tis foundes - white headscarf with white tassels.)
6. papoutsia or tsarouhia - shoes
7. decorative items for neck

## *Religion*

Greek community, as the vast majority of Greek people is Christian -orthodox religion, with many traditions they conscientiously kept. Some of these are:

- ▶ Vasilopita- the cutting pita festivity on Saint Vasile the Greatest day- where the name vasilopita- celebrated on the first year of the year by every family.
- ▶ The great orthodox celebration from the middle of August: Virgin Mary Sleeping
- ▶ Customs and traditions on Easter: the echo of old Greek traditions that the Christian religion accepted and along the time mastered them. On the Greek islands a doll Kira-Saracosti is made, with seven feet just as many until the Easter, without mouth so it cannot eat (because of the fasting) and not to speak with others, without nose not to smell the foods, with ears to hear and hands together to pray. Each Friday when they go to church, they break a leg of the doll and the last one in the Big Friday.
- ▶ The year-end celebrations from Greece start in Christmas Eve and last until Epiphany.
- ▶ Spring Greek traditions that start with the “Shrove Tuesday” or Carnival. The fasting period start with the “cleaning Monday” and ends with Big Saturday. It lasts 7 weeks, including the Wholly Week for Greco-orthodox Church different from Roman-Catholic church, where the fasting lasts 6 weeks.



Greek Church “Metamorphosis”

### ***Representative personalities***

For many generations the Greek community gave to the Romanian society a series of valuable personalities in different domains. It is about actors, athletes, academics, chemists, biologists, engineers, doctors, essayists, literary reviewers and folklorists, historians, linguistics, publicist, sculptors, artists, directors, screenwriters etc. We mention some names:

- ▶ **Eftimie Antoniadis**, athlete, first Greek community president after 1989 revolution;
- ▶ **Anton Beziris**, academician with a very rich scientific activity, author of 52 studies sustained during scientific communication sessions;
- ▶ **Jean Constantin and Nicu Constantin**- well-known successful actors on stage comedy theatre;
- ▶ **Petre Frangopol**, scientist, professor and organiser, author of over 200 scientific works, the coordinator of a research programme that he started and coordinated, author of scientific books;
- ▶ **Ovidiu Papadima**, essayist, literary historian. Literary columnist and folklorist, author of studies and collaborator at many important magazines of that time, such as: “Branches”, “Literary Gazette”, “Royal Foundation Magazine”.
- ▶ **Cornel Stavru**, one of the most famous Romanian tenors with an amazing carrier for almost 26 years, being present on the national stage and also international.
- ▶ **Gheoghe Vitaniadis**, known director and screenwriter, he directed movies like: “Barragan Thistles”, “Ciprian Porumbescu”, “Independence war”, “Burebista”, “Turquoise Necklace” etc. and as writer “Our Boys”, “Ciprian Porumbescu”.

### ***Artistic activities, own ensembles, events***

The Greek community is actively involved in the cultural life of the city Constanta, having also an ensemble that has the name of “Elpis” association, founded in year 1890. The initiators of the ensemble are: Opait Angelica, Cavache Alina, Cetali Roxana, Hagi Mihnea, Anastase Simina, Anastase Daniel, Chirea Nicolae, Chirea Dumitru is involved in events and artistic yearly activities, such as: “ Hellenic National Days” March 25<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>, “ Days of the minorities that live in Dobrogea”, ‘Menelaus” festival from Karditsa, Greece, Christmas spectacles, and other occasional spectacles organized by Dobrogea localities where they have Greeks ethnic, and also in other places from Romania and Greece, dedicated programs to minorities on local televisions, cultural theme seminars related to minorities lives, traditional culinary art etc.

Elpis” Ensemble of Youth Organizations of Hellenic Community from Constanta





"Elpis" Theatre



### ***Specific gastronomy***

Greek culinary style is distinguished by the spices used in a larger manner than other Mediterranean cuisines: Oregano, Mint, basil, thyme, fennel, caraway, dill, bay leaf, onion, and garlic. Many Greek recipes use “sweet” spices alongside the meat: cinnamon, cloves give taste to the Greek stews marking the Persian and Arabic influence. Greek cuisine uses especially lamb and veal meat, and less pork and chicken. Olives are used, feta cheese, vine leaves, zucchini and yoghurt. Sweets are generally made with walnuts and honey.

### ***Greek Deli***

*Mezze* is a general term used for snacks, served with wine, ouzo or tsipouro. Among these the most known are: boureki (vegetables and meat pies), snapakopita (spinach pie, feta cheese, onion, eggs and spices), melitzanosalata (eggplant salad), saganaki (roasted cheese), taramosalata (caviar mixt with boiled potatoes or bread olive oil and lemon juice), dolmades (sarmale with vine leaves with rice, vegetables or meat), skordalia and tzatziki, dolmade, - a kind of sarmale, with rice mixt with lamb meat, rolled in vine leaves, avgolemono- a soup that has eggs and lemon juice in it, Greek salad- green salad, feta cheese, tomatoes, olives, red onion, sweet pepper and a sauce made of olive oil and lemons.

Sarmale in vine leaves



Tzatziki Salad

## RUSSIAN-LIPOVENS COMMUNITY

### *History*

Russian-Lipoven from Romania are orthodox believers on old rite known across the world as 'staroveri' (old belief) or starobreadti (old rite). Religious schism that took place in Russia in XVII century and the persecution unleashed over those who opposed the reform, determined hundreds of Russians starovers to abandon their homeland and migrate in different places of the world. Many starovers settled starting with the XVIII century also on Romanian lands, here being known as lipovens. It is hard to say from what region the Romanian starovers came. These are known as transit regions the Don and Kuban areas, where starovers from all over Russia took refuge, and where a part of them headed to Romanian lands. Nowadays, most of the Russian lipovens are concentrated in Dobrogea (over 2/3 from total number) in Tulcea, Sarichioi, Carcaliu, Jurilovca, Slava Cercheza, Slava Rusa from Tulcea County and Ghindaresti, Constanta, Navodari from Constanta County, the second most important region in geographical repartition of Russian-lipovens is Moldova ( 18% from Russia-Lipovens total). In Delta Danube the Russian-Lipovens have the absolute majority as number in rural localities: Sfistovca, Periprava and Mile 23, and in smaller percentage the Russian-Lipovens are in Sulina, Chilie Veche and Mahmudia. Russian-Lipovens Community from Romania had legal status on January 14<sup>th</sup> 1990, its purpose being the preservation of ethnic identity.



### *Traditional costumes*

Male Lipoven traditional costume is made of boots or shoes under which they wore simple socks (iericiki), made of wool, large with cut-right pants and “rubaska” - collarless shirt over the pants (stani) and bound at waist with a coloured wool girdle ended in tassels named “pois”. Older men are still wearing at church a dark colour long coat named “padiovca” in Dobrogea or “bichesca”/ “cufaica” in Moldova and Bucovina. Formerly this clothing object was mandatory to all men when they went to church. Also the elders wear beards and both women and men wear at neck a groundsel received at baptise from which they never separate, as a sign of Christianisation.



Russian-Lipoven

Female's main piece from her costume is the skirt (“iubca”) or Sarafan, wide and long to ankles. As men the waist has a girdle “pois”. The head is obligatively covered with headscarf. Unmarried girls wear their hair in tress with a ribbon. At wedding ceremony the hair is split in two tresses simbolising the couple, which are caught up in a bun crown. The bun crown is covered with a cap (“chicika”) over which the “kaseac” is put on, after that the headscarf.





Lipoven folk group

### ***Religion and religious customs specific to Russian-Lipovens***

Russian-Lipovens are old rite orthodox, and the church had an important role in keeping their identity. The writing is made in Slavonic characters, the ceremonies are in Slavonic language and they use the Julian calendar (13 days after the Gregorian calendar). Only Easter, god's ascension and Holy Trinity are after Gregorian calendar, and the religious holidays are kept scrupulously.

A specific of these Slavic population are the preservation of Old Russian language, where some Ukrainian and Romanian words entered, and the customs and old traditions.

Beside the language, writing and calendar, there are some elements that differentiate Russian-Lipovens belief from the orthodox from Romania- related to religious rite and not the dogma: the cross sign with two fingers representing the double role of Jesus Christ the saviour, the divine and humane (the 3 fingers together representing the Holy Trinity), Starover cross is with 8 corners, surrounding the church during ceremonies is clockwise (as the apparent move of the sun), the liturgy formalization is made with 7 wafers, not 5 etc. also, until nowadays, the Russian-lipovens kept the custom in making a cross in every action they take. Russian-Lipovens' important events have some specific particularities. Thus, the baptism of the new-born is made by totally sinking the baby in the font, 3 times; the godfathers of the baby (one male and female) does not have to be a couple-most of the have younger ages. The baby's name (generally just one) was suggested by the priest taking into consideration the calendar saints celebrated near baby's birth period.

The marriage was preceded by the youth's engagements, an occasion to party at each other's home ("acolisnaia" to the future groom and "devisnic" to the future bride); before the religious wedding ceremony, which is immediately after the liturgy, "buying-selling" customs is practiced at bride's home, occasion to sing different songs.

## WORSHIP PLACES

In Ghindaresti from Constanta County there are two old rite orthodox churches. The oldest one has God's Arising and it was built in 1906-1938, and the new one was finished in 1997, build on the place of an old church burned in 1944.



## Customs

In general, the Russian-lipovens' customs are related to religious aspects. The best kept customs are related to Maslenitsa (Cheese week and Shrove) - the week before entering the Easter fasting. It is a week of joy, celebrated with happy songs on the streets and with specific dairy dishes: vareniki, blini, piroghi etc.

During the Flower ceremony, the floors of the churches are covered with a grass carpet, while the believers held candles and willow twigs sanctified with this occasion.

Easter, a very important holiday to Russian-lipovens, is celebrated in the family, with coloured eggs and cozonac (cake), sanctified in the Resurrection morning, after liturgy. The lamb is not part of Russian-lipoven tradition. During easter period, there is Russian-Lipoven customs to kiss each other when they meet, saying "Christ has risen" (Hristos voskrese!) and "truly he has risen" ("Voistinu voskrese!").



Group of women dressed in traditional costumes



Little girl in traditional costume

On Christmas, they also have the carol custom, announcing Jesus Birth, not before the holiday, but after liturgy and one carol, taking from church songs ("Christ is born"- "hristos rajdaersja")

### *Artistic activities, ensembles*

The first folk group of traditional songs made of women and entitled "Novoseolki" (translation: women from the new village), it was born in Constanta County, Ghidaresti town in 1996. The group is made of 11 older women that know old and traditional songs. The artistic activity of the group has a series of folk festivals, especially organised by the Russian-Lipoven Community from Romania in different localities across the country where Russian-lipovens live (Iasi, Botosani, Sulina, Ghindaresti, Constanta, Tulcea, and Braila).

Also, the “Novoseolki” group had participations to international folk festivals organised in Hungary, Bulgaria, Moscow, their presence and artistic value being appreciated with different awards. In Ghindaresti town there are other folk groups such as: “Maliutka” of I-IV grades, “Matreoska” of V-VIII grades-, “Veseolaie Novoseolaciki” of Youth Association- “Dunaiskie Tantor”, groups that are appreciated for all their appearances in children and youth folk festivals.

### ***Specific Gastronomy***

Local gastronomy has Dobrogea specific, best known dishes being fish brine, Dobrogea fish borsch and Dobrogea pie. The tradition says that at fish soup table, first is served the fish on a plate, than the soup. Both served with garlic sauce made especially for the fish. It is said that one should never drink water after the fish because it will drown the fish. But the alcohol is allowed. And also the villagers say that the soup as they call it, is the best remedy after a night of excessive drinking. The most appropriate way to Lipoven tradition to eat and prepare the soup is at open fire, somewhere far from the village, in the fishing hovel. Any delta man will answer that the best soup is the one from the pond. And also the villagers say that is the easiest food to prepare and anyone can make it. There is no secret ingredient. It is its simplicity that makes it so tasteful.



Dobrogea fish borsch



Garlic sauce

## ARMENIAN COMMUNITY

Armenians settled in Dobrogea in XIV century, and their presence was a significant one both on their number as well as economic, being mainly traders, bankers, crafts. Their contribution to the economical and spiritual life to the sea city was an important one.

### *Personalities*

Armenian community from Constanta had many personalities that enriched the cultural and scientific life of Romania in general and also of Constanta, in particular. We remember here:

- Univ. Prof. Dr. Mihai Chircor
- Cik Damadian, illustrator
- Writers and publicist, Vartan Arachelian, Bogdan Caus (Arsag Bogosian), Sergiu Selian, Aram Frenkian
- Univ. Prof. Dr. Grigore Pambuccian
- Varujan Kozaghian, violinist
- Harrz Tavitian, jazz-man
- Anca Ovanez Doroşenko, theatre director
- Hurmuz Arnavorian, lawyer, member of Romanian Legation at Peace Conference in Paris
- Onik Toklatian -long haul captain, distinguished in 1942 with special awards for the country with the Romanian Royal Crown Order with rapier and Ribbons of military virtue as cavalier
- Manuc Ananian, poet
- Garabet Pilosian, novelist and poet, gatherer of Armenian popular lyrics

### *Organisations*

Armenian Union from Romania, first organised in 1919 and refounded in 1990, with a subsidiary in Constanta. The subsidiary from Constanta has now 133 members.



Armenian church- Constanta

## GERMAN COMMUNITY

### *History*

The Germans from contemporary Romania have a history of centuries which is intertwined with this land's history and with Romanian history also. Since they came to these lands in three migration waves starting 1840, the Germans marked and influenced in good for the local communities where they lived. The ones that arrived here came from different social categories, there were agricultures or craftsmen, but also intellectuals.

The organisation of german ethnicity in Constanta, as well as cultural community activities started by foundin in 1883 an association of "German Evangelic Community" from Constanta- Anadalchioii. This association, with an important presence in everyday life of the town, had as its sole purpose the ensurance of some good conditions to integrate german local comunity in the time's social life by bulidng a german school and a church. With the help of the "Erhrdt Luther" Foundation, in 1984 the construction of the Lutheran Church from Constanta started building, across the actual Sports Sale from Constanta. The church building was demolished in 1963 by communist regime.

In 1901 the German School from Constanta was founded. This school with a special importance in young generation formation from all Dobrogea, it had good teachers from Transylvania and even from Germany. The school prepared for 39 generations of children from different nationalities and religious beliefs such as German, Romanian, Greeks, turkeys, Tatar, Jews, Armenian, Bulgarians. The school functioned since 1901 to 1940. The participation of Germans to social life of Dobrogea in general, but especially in Constanta city, ended with the fall of 1940 when over 300 families from Dobrogea, around 16.000 persons, were displaced in Germany.

In year 1990 was founded the German Democratic Forum Constanta subsidiary from Romania. In 1992 the Evangelic Community Association of Dobrogea Germans Constanta restarted its activity as the rightful continuer of German traditions on these lands.

The German customs and cultural traditions are celebrated by periodic meetings, especially with the occasion of great Christian holidays from German community. There are organised graphic expositions and paintings, piano and canto musical auditions sustained by children of the German Community members, of Art College "Queen Mary" Constanta and "Ovidius" University Constanta.

In the German Community there is a House of Christian-Evangelic Confessional Prayers- that offers to German's Community members from Constanta the logistic support to have religious ceremonies.

## **“EDINSTVO” COMMUNITY OF BULGARIANS FROM CONSTANTA**

### ***History***

“Edinstvo” Community from Constanta is the representative community for the citizens of Constanta of Bulgarian origin. Its mission is to promote Bulgarian traditions and way of life, knowing the language, cultural values, national folk, knowing the beautiful lands of Bulgaria.

“Edinstvo” Community attestation as legal person was in year 1995, this being the successor of the Bulgarian community that existed until 1940, when according to Craiova Treaty, the Bulgarian population had to leave the Dobrogea and move in southern Dobrogea. Based on the Treaty's provisions, Romania gave the southern Dobrogea part (Quadrilateral) and agreed to realise some population exchanges.

This territory was ceded by Bulgaria to Romania, following the Peace from Bucharest in year 1913 where over 80 000 Romanians were obliged to abandon their homes from southern Dobrogea and settle in North, and 66 00 Bulgarians from the northern region had to settle in the Quadrilater. Most of the Bulgarian ethnicities from Romania are the descendants of Bulgarian diaspora which was formed by the emigration from Bulgarian territories at norther Danube, during ottoman rule. The Bulgarians from Dobrogea joined them that did not emigrate according to the Craiova Agreement provisions, in 1940, which has regulated the status of Quadrilater, as well as Bulgarian citizens who were naturalised.



Bulgarians in traditional costumes

### ***Traditional Costumes***

The Bulgarian community from Romania who was documentary attested since XVII century in Banat, Muntenia, Moldavia, Transylvania and Dobrogea kept their traditions, customs and old folk costumes. For example, one of the tradition is that on the first day of shrove, young people wearing masks of different characters, to carol the village to symbolically mark the end of winter and the arriving of spring.

The elements of the folk costumes that Bulgarian women wear are: riza (old shirt with hems), valnenic (valnic), zuvelka (apron), zabratka (large embroidered scarf) or sukman (the dress without sleeves worn in winter). The jewellery that complete the holiday Bulgarian costume are the ogarlitii (silver coins) or jaltiti (golden coins).

In male costume the oriental influence is kept as one can notice in the bernevisci (pants with wide tour).



Bulgarian traditional costumes

The Bulgarian specific Folk Art is cached in interior rugs and fabrics, as well in peşchirele, with pragovete and nail towels, ceramic or metal pieces and also in icons





Bulgarian old interior

### *Religion and worship places*

The first evidence of Bulgarian Community is in year 1863 when Bulgarian church splits from the Greek Church. Church rituals and everything related to religious life was done in an old wooden house until 1907 when the first church was built named “Saint Nicholas the Old” on Major Sontu Street, in the peninsular part of the Constanta town.



St. Nicholas Church



St. Nicholas Church- interiors

### ***Bulgarian representative personalities from Constanta County***

Before 1877, in Cerna was noticed the teacher Panait Stanciof, original from Sumula, the father of the Dobrogea Poet Panait Cerna. In 1866, Vasil Levski opened the school from Enichioi. A personality of the Bulgarian revolution movements, having connections in Romanian authorities, V. Levski was executed by Turks in 1872. Among other well-known Bulgarian intellectuals from Dobrogea, we mention: the poet from Tulcea Ștefan N. Izvorski, Sava I. Dobropoldni from Constanta, Teodor Panaitov from Silistra. We also remind of the Bulgarian Christian religious life affirmation where churches were built such as Inanceșme (Fântânele), Duingi (Nuntași), Nalbant, Bașchioi (Nicolae Bălcescu),

Eschibaba (Stejaru), Cerna, Frecăței, Câșla, Sarinasuf etc. the spiritual life was maintained in Tulcea, Macin, Constanta and Babadag and there were some cultural houses of Bulgarian Community, their activity being guided by teachers, writers and Bulgarian publicists.

### ***Holidays***

One of the most popular one from Bulgarian communities is the Martisor, resembling the Romanian tradition. Bicolored or multicolour martisor, charged with magical meanings, represent an important talisman for the archaic civilisations. The white cord represents the woman, symbolising long life, and the red symbolises the man, physical strength. Between them a coin is clinging, a horse hair tail, beads, garlic, snails and other, realising a protective amulet (“Marten”) against evil spirits. As in Moldavia and Bucovina, in some Bulgarian communities there is the custom that girls offer their lovers a simple cord, in the two colours. The Bulgarians wear their martisor all the month March, either on the lapel, either on the wrist, having also a social meaning: unmarried girls on the left part of the dress, older girls at the left hand little finger, and married men at the right sock. Taking off the martisor was related to prevision practices of the time, being hung from the trees that will blossom.



Bulgarian old Interiors



The most important holiday from the folk Bulgarian calendar is Marta Hag, who just like Dochia Hag, symbolise the spring. At the end of February, the Bulgarians clean all the house, because Marta Hag only visits the clean ones! The old man should not go out too early, because Marta Hag wants to see only young girls and women. In the last day of February, the children from villages light a big fire. They scream: „Marta Hag, I warm you today and you warm me tomorrow?! And gather around the fire, with different yelling, and when the fire is put down, they jump on it. The fire must burn a lot and high to warm Marta Hag, which signifies the sun that could burn people's faces.

Bulgarian Dochia is an old powerless woman with an iron stick to lean on. Bulgarians think that old lady's temper is unstable: when Marta smile, the sun smiles, when she is upset with someone, bad weather is present. It is believed that you will be healthy the whole year if you wear “martenita” with the saying that if you do not wear your martisor, Marta Hag will bring bad spirits in your house.

Also, Bulgarians have a real cult for the roses, and older generations probably remember the Bulgarian rose perfume with its sweet flavour.

Other significant holidays: St. Todor Day, Drăgaica, Trifon Zarezan, Lăžrița, Sf. Ivan Day, Cross Day, Sf. Iordan day, Babiden (midwife's day), Flowers, Easter, Christmas, Sf. Dumitru Day, Sorcova.

### ***Gastronomy***

Bulgarian gastronomy mixes similar recipes to Romanians, Turkish and Greek. In the Bulgarian specific dishes the base is vegetables and fruits. Dairy are of very good quality. It is said that the Bulgarians longevity is due to the daily consume of milk and dairy. From the under-mountain regions where the yogurt is prepared for its nutritive qualities, “bacillus bulgaricus” is extracted and exported abroad and it is included in the yogurt production in some European countries.



Old Bulgarian interior


## ITALIAN COMMUNITY

### *History*

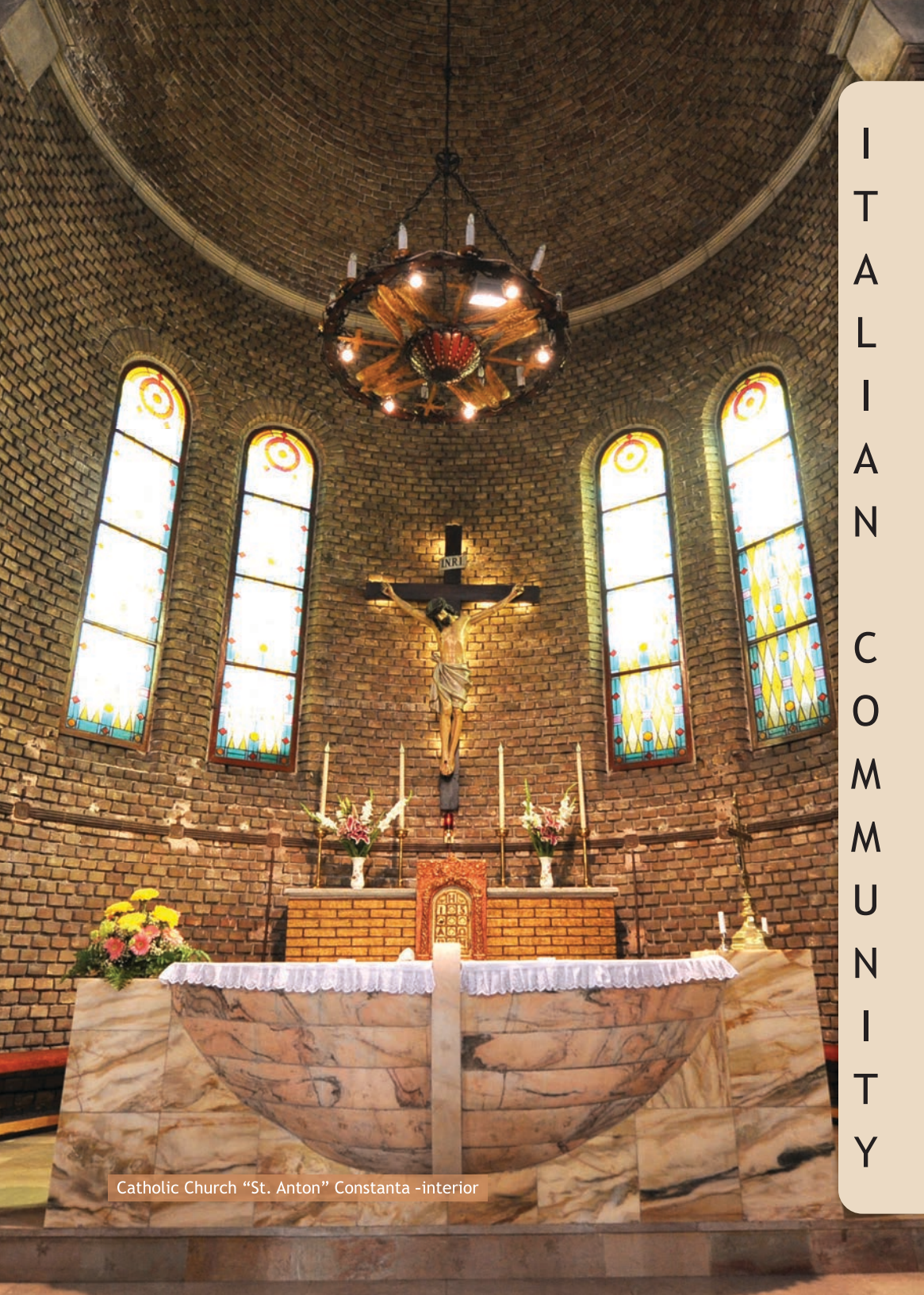
Historic documents show the Italians' presence on Romanian actual territory since XII century. Among first colonist signalled in Transylvania during Hungarian King Geza II (1142-1162) there were, besides Wallons, the Italians who settled in Varadino (nowadays Oradea), where they built neighbourhoods since 1241, the year of Tatar - Mongol invasion. In XIII-XIV century ancient Greek fortress from Black Sea were colonised by maritime cities like Genova and Venice, first with the approval of the Byzantines and then the Ottoman's. It is about Lycostomo, Maurocastro or Moncastro and Danube Vicina fortresses.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries documents mention a series of Italians from Wallachian and Moldovan courts: doctors, counsellors, translators, personal assistants, fencing masters, publicans and wig stylist etc.

The Italian community from Constanta offered many exceptional personalities and we remember here with profound respect the doctor **Alexandru Pesamosca** (born in Constanta), "children's angel", a remarkable surgeon who dedicated his whole life by saving hundreds of children. Nowadays the Italian number from Constanta diminished a lot.



Catholic Church " St. Anton " Constanta



Catholic Church "St. Anton" Constanta -interior

## ROMA COMMUNITY

### *History*

Roma community is one of the minority ethnic groups that has the largest number of members from Romania. Linguistic and cultural evidences prove that Roma are from Indian origin, probably from the northern Punjab region. It is estimated that their leaving from India happened at least a 1000 years ago. Some researchers consider that there were many waves of migration from India. There are today nomads or semi-nomads tribes in India that sustain the theory that Roma were nomads at first, they left India during an invasion and then they were pushed to Europe by wars and subsequent invasions.

In eleventh century Roma were in Byzantine Empire, from where they entered in south-east and centre of Europe (fourteenth-sixteenth centuries), as well in Northern Africa. Roma massive migration in Europe started in fourteenth century once Turkey conquest on the Greek port Gallipoli. Moreover, the rising of Indian nomad tribes was strictly linked to Turkish victories and the creation of the powerful Ottoman Empire, where Roma thriving inside it.



Roma

In fifteenth century they entered West Europe (especially in the Iberian Peninsula and in nineteenth century in the 2 America). In Romanian countries, Roma, are mentioned in fourteenth century as slaves. In Middle Ages most of Roma from Romanian countries were Boyar, princely or monastery slaves, their main occupations were coppersmiths, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, tinsmiths, singers etc. in nineteenth century under the liberal idea influence of the 1848 revolution, all men were declared free and equal, Roma slavery being completely abolished in 1855.

In Constanta County Roma live in: Constanța, Mangalia, Hârșova, Băneasa, Năvodari, Medgidia, Ovidiu, Cernavodă, Murfatlar, Valu lui Traian, Negru Vodă, Galița, Cobadin, Mircea Vodă, Dobromir, Cuza Vodă. Because of Cuza Voda geographical position (2km from Medgidia, 42 km from Constanta and 37 km from Cernavoda) starting 1960 in the village rudar Roma families came from Ciucurova, Tulcea County.

Also in 1960 in Cuza Voda village there were brought and settled down nomad Roma (shaggy). In 1961 the schooling of these families' children (shaggy) is tried but without success because after 3 years they massive abandoned it and also their families reinitiated their custom to leave around the country from spring to autumn in satra.

Due to Romanian population decreasing, because of the migration to towns, the rudar population arisen up to 60% of Cuza-Voda population (rudar and shaggy).



Traditional skirt



### ***Traditional costumes***

Men do not have a traditional costume. Some men wear hats or long moustaches. To special occasion, Roma men wear costume, often brightly coloured.

Typical Roma woman wears multiple layers long skirt and brightly coloured, long earrings, long hair, braided and sometimes a flower in the hair.



Roma tradition is that a woman's legs must never be seen, thus the whole inferior part of a woman's body is considered impure. Violating this principle is very serious so long skirt must always be worn. Also tradition says that a married woman must wear a headscarf to show it. Roma usually wear red because this colour is considered lucky (probably due to ancient beliefs that the blood is the source of life and vitality).

### ***Religion***

The Roma adopted the religion of majority population. Thus, most of them are Christian-Orthodox, without their own church, they go to orthodox churches from the cities where they live, mostly for funerals and baptisms. The funeral has no specific ritual. They do not dig a hole for the deceased, they built a grave on the masonry surface with access door, in village's cemetery. There is also in Constanta County and Dobrogea (a large community in Babadag) a large number of Muslims Roma.

### ***Events***

- Roma International Day- 8<sup>th</sup> of April, celebrated by River Ceremony, where burning candles and flowers are thrown into the water.

### ***Organisations***

- Roma ACCESS Tomis Constanța Association
- Pro-Europe Roma Party Association, Centre of Constanta subsidiary

# Calendar of events in Constanta County

## January

6\*

Days of the city of Baneasa

Baneasa City

7\*

Days of de Commune of Vultur

Vultur  
Commune

## April

variable date

The Mission 2013 -  
Electronic Music Festival

North Mamaia

9\*

Oltina Commune  
Celebration

Oltina  
Commune

variable date

Sunwaves 13 -  
Electronic Festival

North Mamaia

23\*

Pecineaga Commune  
Celebration

Pecineaga  
Commune

27\*

Black Sea Kite Festival  
Kite Festival

Mamaia

## May

variable date

Festival of Folk Music  
"Dor de cânt românesc"

Cumpăna

1

1 May at the Sea

on the Seaside

6\*

The sons of the  
village

Negru Vodă

9\*

Days of the Communes  
Cogealac , Lumina,  
Mihail Kogălniceanu

Cogealac , Lumina,  
Mihail Kogălniceanu

9\*

Kures - Tatar fightig

Murfatlar

12\*

Sending the sheep to  
pasture

Valul lui Traian

19

"Museum Night":  
Art Museum,  
Folk Art Museum,  
National History and Archeology Museum,  
Romanian Navy Museum

Constanța

13\*

Meeting the sons  
of the village

Castelu

21\*

Ziua comunei  
Mircea Vodă

Mircea Vodă

21

"St. Emperors Constantine  
and Helen"  
- Days of the City  
of Constanta

Constanta

26\*

Days of  
the acacias

Corbu

27\*

Days of the  
Commune of  
Fântânele

Fântânele

## June

1-4

Traditional Dance and Folk Music Festival for Children

Eforie

3\*

Days of the city of Negru Vodă

Negru Vodă

10\*

Agigea Commune Celebration

Agigea

29\*

Techirghiol - Orchestral Pop Festival "The voice of hope" and Humorous Festival "The stage of Tănase"

Techirghiol

## July

variable date

National Romanian Film Festival

Constanța/Mamaia

variable date

Stufstock Festival

Vama Veche

variable date

Liberty Parade

Saturn/Venus

variable date

The Night of Advertising Lovers

Eforie

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

International Orchestral Pop and Folklore Festival for Youth „Dobroge, mândră grădină”

Mamaia, Mangalia, Costinești, Eforie

20<sup>th</sup> \*

The Celebration of Commune of Istria

Istria

19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>th</sup>

Freedom Jazz at Vama Veche

Vama Veche

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>

Music Parties - Celebration of the city of Navodari

Navodari

## August

variable date

National Music Festival of Mamaia

Constanța

variable date

National Romanian Folk Singing and Dancing Festival

Constanța

variable date

Callatis Music Festival

Touristic Harbour Mangalia

variable date

The Mission Dance Week - end

Năvodari

variable date

International Festival for Folk Music The Festival of Youth - Folclore

Jupiter

variable date

The Celebration of the city of Murfatlar

Murfatlar

variable date

Sculpture Camp

Eforie

2<sup>nd</sup> \*

Celebration of the Comune

Ghindaresti

10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

Celebration of the city of Eforie

Eforie

15<sup>th</sup>

Marine Celebration

Constanța to Mangalia

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

Romanian National Film Festival

Constanța

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

Celebration of the city of Cernavodă

Cernavodă

15<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> \*\*

Celebration of the Comune of 23 August

23 August

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

Antique Festival

Constanța, The area of the Roman Edifice

17-19\*

Celebration of the village of Silistea

Silistea

25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> \*

Celebration of the city of Techirghiol

Techirghiol

## September

variable date  
Tourism Seaside  
- Danube Delta Fair

Constanța

variable date  
Tatar fights  
- Kureș

Cumpăna

2<sup>nd</sup>\*  
Celebrations of the  
city of Medgidia

Medgidia

2<sup>nd</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Hârșova

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Cumpăna

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Năvodari

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Mangalia

29<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Chirnogeni

30<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Medgidia

## November

variable date  
Orchestral Pop County  
Festival "The Sea Dolphin"

Cumpăna

1<sup>st</sup>\*  
Elderly People  
Celebration

Eforie

## October

variable date  
International  
Music and Dance  
festival - Constanța

Constanța

1<sup>st</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>\*  
Celebrations of  
Harvest and  
Dobrogean Wine  
Constanța,  
Exhibition Pavilion

variable date  
Harvest Days

Murfatlar

1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>\*  
Autumn Days

Cernavodă

1<sup>st</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Mihail Kogălniceanu

6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Castelu

20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Mangalia, Negru Vodă

7<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Valul lui Traian, Techirghiol

26<sup>th</sup>\*  
Harvest Days

Comana

31  
International  
Day of the Black Sea

Constanța

## December

1<sup>st</sup>\*  
National Day  
of Romania

variable date  
Winter Habits and  
Customs Festival  
"By ancient custom"

Cumpăna

\* approximate date

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The tourism, more than any other domain of activity, is dependant on the environment, representing "its raw material", its performance object and domain, being a constant support and carrier of its resources.

Tourism is performed in the environment and through the environment, its quality favoring or denying the tourist activities.

No type of tourism activity can be approached in a development process unless it is in direct relation with the environment.

The relief, forests, rivers, lakes, sea, natural or art and architectural monuments, air or mineral waters, components of the environment, are also constituted as tourist resources favoring the performance of the rest and recreation tourism, balneary treatment, seaside or cultural, hiking. The more varied and complex these resources are, and especially unaltered,

with properties closest to the primary ones, the higher is their tourist interest, and the activity they generate more valuable and attractive, answering to very varied tourist motivations. The greater the degradations produced on the environment, the more affected the tourist services are. From an economic point of view, the shortcomings reported as a consequence of the existence of degraded tourist resources are firstly reflected in the impossibility to capitalize them as income sources, thus constituting a final loss for the economy. The tourist products including degraded resources reduce their values, the consequences being direct, materialized in the reduction of tourist demands and implicitly, the more reduced use of the tourist material base and of the collections from their trading.

*As a factor of a vital importance for our society, it is necessary that every human being becomes an aware, practical and energetic participant in the prevention work of environmental degradation, of improving the quality of his life.*

## Constanta County Administrative Unit

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**“UNIQUE ITINERARIES AND EVENTS IN DOBROGEA”**

Constanta County Administrative Unit

July 2020

Free material

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Translated by Intelligent Learning S.R.L.