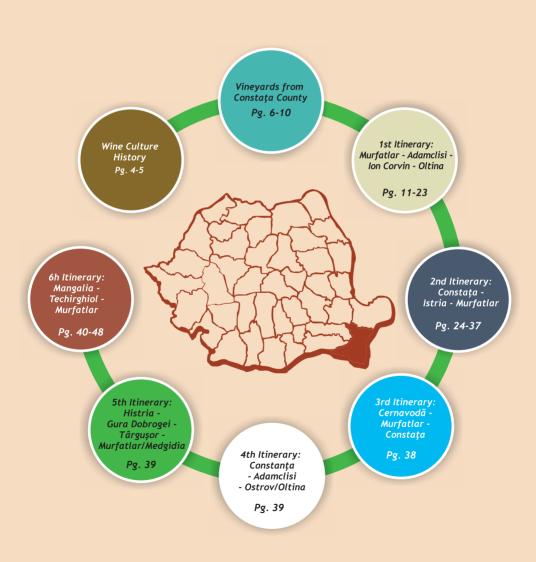


"UNIQUE ITINERARIES AND EVENTS IN DOBROGEA"

Enogastronomy - Enogastronomic Itineraries in Constanța County

ENOGASTRONOMY - ENOGASTRONOMIC ITINERARIES IN CONSTANȚA COUNTY







2nd Itinerary : Constanţa - Istria - Murfatlar ▶ 121 km



3rd Itinerary: Cernavodă - Murfatlar - Constanța ▶ 63 km



4th Itinerary: Constanta - Adamclisi - Ostrov / Oltina ▶ 167 km



- 5th Itinerary : Istria - Gura Dobrogei - Târguşor - Murfatlar / Medgidia ➤ 103 km



6th Itinerary: Mangalia - Techirghiol - Murfatlar ▶ 60 km



Constanța: Museum of National History and Archeology, Folk Art Museum, The Art Museum, Sculpture Museum, Romanian Navy Museum, The Natural Sciences Museum Complex The Roman Edifice with Mosaic

Murfatlar: Vineyard, Winery \$\square\$ Vine and Wine Museum A Cave Ensemble

Cernavodă: Axiopolis Museum A Ruins

Techirghiol: "St. Maria" Monastery

Mangalia: Callatis Museum A Ruins of Callatis Citadel Hagieni Forest Natural Reserve #

Techirghiol: "St. Maria" Monastery

Adamclisi: Triumphal Monument, Ruins of Adamclisi Citadel Museum

Ion Corvin: St. Andrew Monastery and Cave Oltina: Vineyard Vicina Citadel Istria: Museum A Citadel Ornithological Reserve Histria - Sinoe Gura Dobrogei: Dobrogea Gorges Natural

Reserve **K**

Târgușor: "St. Ioan Cassian" Monastery and

Ostrov: Dervent Monastery 🌳 Vineyard 🦠

Medgidia: Vineyard 🦠

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Short History of Wine Culture

Motto: "A bottle of wine contains more philosophy than all the books in the world" (Louis Pasteur)



In Romania, vine growing is 4000 years old, and in Dobrogea is over 2500 years old, being the basic occupation of Dacians and Romans, existing many archeological, epigraphic and linguistic testimonials in this regard. The oldest inscriptions on the vine and wine belong to Ovid, the Roman poet exiled in Tomis (today, Constanța), an usual participant in the celebrations dedicated to Bacchus God. The land of Dobrogea contains a large number of ancient vestiges proving the interest of the local population in cultivating and growing vine and producing wine. This fact is attested by the archeological discoveries that revealed amphorae, vessels, bas-reliefs and coins characteristic to the cult of Dionysus, displayed today at the Museum of National History and Archeology of Constanța, as well as within one of the most important viticultural and winemaking centers in the County - Murfatlar. Also, the legend says that Dionysus, the God of wines, was born in Thrace. The abundance and quality of the wines produced by the Thracians was so well-known, that the great Dacian King Burebista, counseled by the Great Priest Deceneus and by his desire to end the migratory people raids, ordered the destruction of all vineyards. Even with all the measures taken by Burebista and Deceneus, we know for sure that when the Roman came to Dacia, vine growing was still practiced on vast land surfaces. The Romans brought to Dacia new vine assortments, introduced new cutting procedures and wine preparation procedures. Subsequently, over the centuries, vine was still a great interest and a basic occupation of native people. Its growing didn't stop for a minute even in the migration period closer to our days.

On the contrary, the vine growers and vineyards owners dealt even more with this occupation and become famous beyond the borders of the country. After Dacia was conquered by the Roman in 106, on the coins minted in the new province was represented a woman who received grapes from two children, as a symbol of the country's main richness.

Along time, famous varieties were developed in Romania, like: Zghihara de Husi, Cramposia de Dragasani, Galbena de Odobesti, Feteasca Alba, Feteasca Neagra, Babeasca, Tamaioasa Romaneasca, to which varieties imported from France, Germany and Italy were added, like: Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Italian Riesling, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Muscat Ottonel etc.

Between 1950 and 1989, Romanian viticulture was characterized by the appearance of the great modern winery complexes, determining a significant increase in the wine export and, taking into account the wines presented at international competitions, Romania became an important quality wine producer.

Currently, Romania, as wine producing country, holds 5th place as wine-growing surface and 6th place as grape and wine production in the European Union. The vine cultivated surface holds about 1.4% of the entire agricultural surface of the country.

Viticulture Patrimony of Dobrogea

Depending on certain particularities pertaining to ecological conditions, varieties grown, technologies applied, level of production obtained and qualities of the resulting wines, Romania is divided on eight large viticulture regions, and the vineyards from Constanta County are contained in 6th Region: Dobrogea Hills Viticulture Region and 7th Region: Danube Terraces Viticulture Region.

Dobrogea is considered a true vine kingdom. Here are produced wines with distinct quality attributes, bearing blazons of great nobility. They are called: Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Muscat Ottonel, Sauvignon, Merlot, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Feteasca Alba and Neagra etc., the elite white and red wines, bearing within the flavor of Dobrogea flora and restlessness of the sea waves.



VINEYARDS OF CONSTANTA COUNTY

Murfatlar Vineyard

- is part of 6th Region: Dobrogea Hills (according to the Order no. 397/2003 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with all the subsequent modifications)

- has viticulture centers at: Murfatlar, Medgidia, Cernavodă, Adamclisi, Chirnogeni, Mangalia.



A vineyard dating from the beginning of the 20th century (1907), when the first varieties of grapes from Western Europe were acclimatized and planted, this being the only solution for recovery from the Phylloxera disaster in 1884. The specialists of that time, trying to restore the vines destroyed by the Phylloxera in the last decades of the 19th century, planted in Murfatlar 10 ha with the French varieties of Chardonnay, Clairette, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Foile Blanche and Malvoisie.

The great precursors of the Romanian viticulture, George Nicoleanu and Vasile Brezeanu, found in Murfatlar climate and soil conditions similar to those from Champagne - France. Therefore, they formed here a sparkling wine production center, the product bearing suggestively the name of "Lacrima lui Ovidiu" (Ovid's Tears), a center that operated between 1913 and 1916.

However, the experience and practice showed that this variety cultivated in the climate of central Dobrogea is not favorable for obtaining sparkling wines. The large sugar concentrations in the stum, a consequence of the dry climate and calcareous soil, created the possibility to obtain some original, natural semi-sweet and sweet wines, that were easily affirmed in time in national and international competitions.



A picturesque moment was the celebration of "Navy day" in August 1939, on which occasion, at a wine tasting organized by the Prefect of Constanţa - Petru Guşti, in the presence of King Carol the second, the latter, being marked by the wine quality, orders the passing of the farm within the suppliers of the royal domain, Murfatlar obtaining the name of "Royal Vineyard". In August 1942, by an Ordinance of the Ministry

of Agriculture and Domains, the vineyard becomes subordinated to the Institute of Agronomic Research under the name of Experimental Vineyard Resort Murfatlar. In the following period, the viticulture in Dobrogea suffered important structural transformations, old plantations being modernized and new ones being established, characteristic to a intensive and high output viticulture.

Murfatlar Vineyard contains the following viticultural centers: Cernavodă, Medgidia, Murfatlar and the segment Valu lui Traian, Poarta Albă, Siminoc, Valea Dacilor.

The soil mainly arid and calcareous, very hot summers and long and sunny autumns, scarce rainfall (under 400 l/ sqm per year) - the rain mainly comes in spring (May - June) and Autumn (November- December)-ensure an uniform ripening of grapes and, during the last years, an overripe due to a fungus (Botrys cinerea varietatea nobilis) leading to an additional sugar concentration in the grapes, an essential factor for producing naturally liquorish wines.

The beneficial effect of the generous micro-climate of the region is found in the high quality grapes, the raw material offering the wine remarkable organoleptic qualities and a rich color spectrum, from green to golden, to golden amber, for white wines, and garnet red with ruby red reflexes for red wines.

The soil mainly arid and calcareous, the climate excessively dry continental with



The structure of wine varieties from Murfatlar Vineyard contains about 70% white wines of the following assortments: Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Italian Riesling, Traminer, Muscat Ottonel and the sweet special wine "Lacrima lui Ovidiu". The red assortments are represented by Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir and Fetească Neagră.

The technologies specific to each wine assortment and variety, starting with wine preparation from grapes, supervision and control of wine fermentation, clarification, stabilization and maturation, their ageing in barrels and glass, is the preparation process leading to the final result: obtaining an authentic product, "Murfatlar Wine", with unquestionable qualities and special properties.

The fact that Murfatlar wines are famous in the entire world is proved by the over 200 awards obtained in the international specialty competitions (Ljubljana, Montpellier, Barcelona, Budapest, Brussels, Montreal, Sofia, Tbilisi, Bucharest etc) and their exports in almost 20 countries from USA, Canada, Western Europe, Scandinavian Countries and Japan.



Ostrov Vineyard

- is part of the "Viticultural Region of Danube Teraces"
- has viticultural centers in: Ostrov, Oltina, Aliman, Băneasa



Ostrov with the localities Ostrov, Almalău, Gârlița, Lipnița, Coslugea and Canlia

Ostrov Vineyard is situated in the south-west of Dobrogea, on the right Danube bank. It is a traditional Vineyard, famous for the culture of table grapes. Its vine plantations stretch on 1600 ha and is specialized in both high quality red wines like: Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Fetească Neagră, Pinot Noir, Syzrach and Rebo, as well as white wines like Muscat Ottonel, Riesling italian, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Fetească Albă, Fetească Regală and Crâmpoșie. One of the main concerns of the specialists from Ostrov Vineyard is to create a wine museum to increase tourists' interest in this area.

Oltina

with the localities Oltina, Satu Nou, Răzoarele, Strunga Situated near the Danube, the Vineyard has a surface of 1400 ha. Here you can find the greatest accumulation of solar light in the country. The grapes belong to white varieties: Fetească Albă, Fetească regală, Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Pinot gris, Columna, Riesling italian, as well as red varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot noir.

Aliman

with the localities Aliman, Dunăreni, Vlahi, Floriile

Situated near the Danube as well, Aliman Vineyard has a surface of 700 ha cultivated with varieties like: Merlot, Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris.

Băneasa

with the localities Băneasa, Negureni, Făurei, Ion Corvin, Crângu, Brebeni, Rariștea, Viile



The tourists who wish to discover the life in a village from Dobrogea can enjoy a traditional meal with specific dishes mostly from the villages and communes of Constanta, although the agricultural tourism is not very well developed in Constanța County.

Furthermore, the ethnical diversity of the county enriches the gastronomy of Dobrogea and offers the tourists the possibility to taste products specific to different ethnicities;

fish brine and borsch, moussaka, tochitura, sashlac, baklava and cheese or leek Dobrogea pie are only a few of them, and the wines of Dobrogea perfectly complete the pleasure of the taste these wonderful dishes offer.

The locals know well the secrets of how to combine Dobrogea's food and wine, and the experts from the viticultural centers show them to the tourists who go to wine tastings.

Thus, a **Cabernet Sauvignon**, a red wine variety with a distinguished reputation, heavy, full, sometimes astringent, rustic, is consumed with game, beef or lamb, as well as cheese and chocolate. The **Merlot**, a softer, more delicate wine, but with a good reputation worldwide, is a perfect match for semi-heavy meat dishes or with cheese at the end of the meal. The **Feteasca neagră**, one of the most prized wines of Murfatlar is consumed preferably dry, with stuffed cabbage rolls, meat or beef dishes or at the end or the meal next to smoked semi-hard yellow cheese or special cheese. White semi-sweet wines like **Muscat Ottonel** complement perfectly poultry dishes garnished with flavored white sauces, and the semi-dry wines accompany the fish dishes in a festival of taste. The **Pinot Gris**, a full, round, unctuous and vigorous wine goes well with poultry and pork dishes, with rice, vegetables or fruit garnishes, while **Pinot Noir** is an elegant, delicate, less rustic wine with great nobility blazon is served next to red sauce pasta or light beef dishes.

In the first half of October, the people who wish to know the rich products of Dobrogea land can visit the agricultural products fairs transformed in real events attended by folk music bands and dancers from Constanţa County. Among these, "Harvest and Dobrogea Wine Cellebration", an event organized by Constanţa County Council; the International Festival"Fruit of the Land - Harvest Days" - organized both in cities (Constanţa, Mangalia, Năvodari) as well as the communes of Constanţa (Cumpăna, Nicolae Balcescu etc.).

ENOGASTRONOMIC ITINERARIES IN CONSTANȚA COUNTY

The tourists coming to this part of Dobrogea who wish to explore this cultural and enotouristic offer of Constanța County, beside resting and relaxing on the Black Sea shore, can satisfy this pleasure by taking several itineraries from the ones we propose next.

1st Itinerary - Murfatlar - Adamclisi -Ion Corvin - Oltina

Murfatlar

Situated in the immediate vicinity of Municipality Constanţa, namely at a distance of 20 km, Murfatlar is the fruitful land of vine covering its sunny hills, a sort of "star of the vineyards of Dobrogea". The traveler enjoys here the beauty of the place while he discovers it first visually, then tasting from the liqueur so beloved by Bacchus God. The wine tasting that can be held here are accompanied by the presentations of the oenologists, producers, and researchers who know and respect the wine. The wine Cellar hosts 40 years of tradition. The dusty bottles sit nicely stacked on shelves.



One can taste up to 9 wine assortments, and the traditional dishes necessarily and happily complete this tasting ceremony.

The people interested in knowing better Murfatlar wine history can visit the Vine and Wine Museum founded in 1970.



The exhibits with remarkable value certify the practice of viticulture in Dobrogea for over two millenniums and a half. Hellenistic amphora and wine vessels, Dacian and Roman grape press, altars and funeral stars with inscriptions, figures, grapes and vine leafs. In all these, the cult of Dionysus transpires: on a small amphora, near a bacchante, on sculptural monuments, on a clay flask, in mythical processions made of maenads, nymphs, satyrs.



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Vine and Wine Museum - Clay vessels used to store the wine, discovered in Tomis Citadel



Wood press -Vine and Wine Museum



Vine and Wine Museum - wine vessels discovered in the area

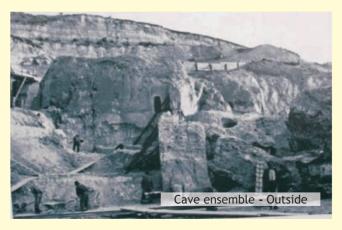


At the foot of the weatherworn hills, many little churches and graves dug in the chalk quarry from Murfatlar were discovered in 1957. Dating from the 9th-11th century B.C., this archeological monument is considered to be invaluable thanks to the Gothic, German, Greek and Slavonic inscriptions inside, certifying the presence of Christianity in Dobrogea from the earliest times. The monument is made of rooms and galleries, being dug in a chalk hill near the chalk extraction quarry from Murfatlar. According to the researchers, this complex sheltered the first church and the first cells of a monastery in Romania.

The spaces of worship are arranged on three levels, being connected vertically by communicating holes and a curved tunnel. Inside the cavities as well as on a part of the hills external wall, inscriptions and decorative elements were discovered showing people and animals.

The cave ensemble is a unique monument in Romania and an exceptional example of Christian cave architecture in Europe.





Adamclisi

One of the major importance attractions certifying the beginning of the Romanian people in the Istro-Pontic space is the archeological complex from Adamclisi (monument, museum and citadel).

The triumphal monument, dedicated to Mars the Avenger God (Mars Ultor), was built between 106 and 109 A.D., at the end of the Dacian Wars. The research is connected to the name of Grigore Tocilescu, seconded by the Austrian architects G. Niemann and Otto Bendorf.

Near the triumphal monument is the mausoleum of a high Roman officer killed in battle and a shrine - cenotaph whose walls bear the names of over 3800 Roman soldiers "who died fighting for their country".

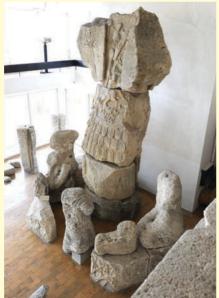


Triumphal Monument TROPAEUM



The museum from Adamclisi displays and protects the original pieces of the triumphal monument: metopa, strips, columns, battlements, arranged on two levels. On the ground floor is the colossal statue of the triumph with the statuary group at its base, the inscriptions fragments from the monument and shrine and the small trophy discovered at the eastern gate of the Citadel. The museum also presents other archeological vestiges discovered in Tropaeum Traiani Citadel and around it.







Ruins of Adamclisi Citadel

The Citadel is situated in the S-E part of Adamclisi commune and at about 1500 m from the monument, occupying an area over 10 ha.

The archeological complex from Adamclisi - the restored monument, the fortified citadel with its edifices and the modern museum make an important tourist attraction, offering an unique page of history.



Ruins of Adamclisi Citadel





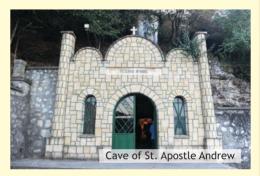
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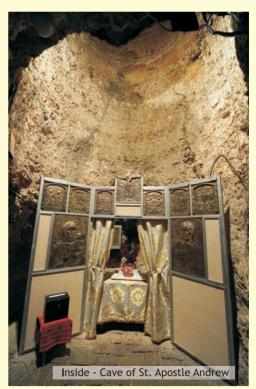
St. Andrew Cave

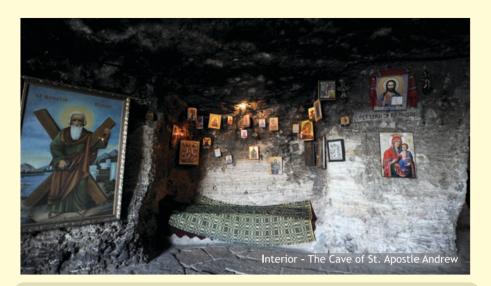
In the forest near **Ion Corvin** commune, in the hearth of a hill, Saint Andrew stood in solitude, the only Apostle of Jesus Christ who preached the Geto-Dacian-Roman Gospel and christened our ancestors, starting here the Christianization of Romania. Here is the Monastery named "The Cave of Saint Apostle Andrew" made of three churches and a body of cells, all in a beautiful natural landscape.

The church in the cave and the large church are dedicated to Saint Apostle Andrew, and the small church to the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God. The tradition says that when Saint Apostle Andrew arrived here, there was no water in this area. He struck the rock with his cane and water sprang, and the Spring of Saint Apostle Andrew is still kept as a testimony, never drying out. In this place considered "the Mecca of Romanian Orthodoxism", year after year, on St. Andrew, tens of thousand believers come in pilgrimage from all the country to honor the memory of the one who opened the gate of Christianity in Romania. The believers bring here, in the gaps of the caves walls, akathists, little icons, little crosses and other religious objects, as a sign of their belief in God.









Dug in rock, the church in the cave is the place where Apostle Andrew seems to have lived. As you can see in the picture, there is a sort of bed in a niche of the pronaos where Apostle Andrew rested.

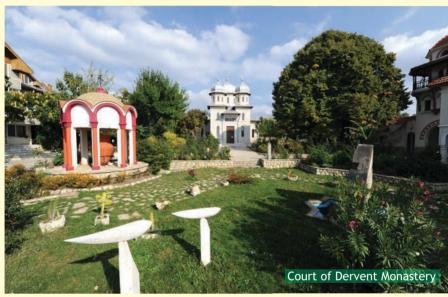
The second church of the complex is situated near the cave and hosts the reliquary of Saint Andrew. This is a cross holding in the center a part of the finger of Saint Apostle Andrew brought from Greece, and in the four sides of the cross there are parts of the sacred relics of the Saints of Dobrogea - Zoticos, Attalos, Filippos and Kamasis -, of the Martyr Saints from Niculitel, of the priest Epictet and monk Astion.

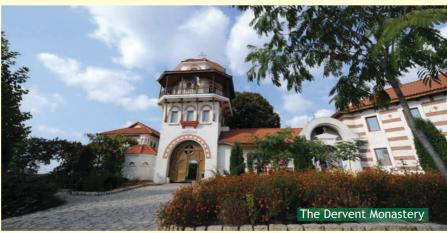
The third church is also the newest one, the construction being completed in 2002.



Dervent Monastery

At about 20 km, on the road to Ostrov, around a rock with healing powers that grow every year, Dervent Monastery was founded, the name meaning "over the valley". It is the foundation of monk Elefterie Mihai (1929-1936) and was built on a Christian cemetery. The church is dedicated to Pious Saint Parascheva, celebrated on 14 October. On the celebration of the Healing Spring, thousand believers come here to sink in oneself, to be charged with beneficial energy for the entire year and to take water from the spring running only on that day. The traveler who wishes to rest and to sink in oneself in this place charged with belief can ask to be accommodated in the monastery complex near the church.



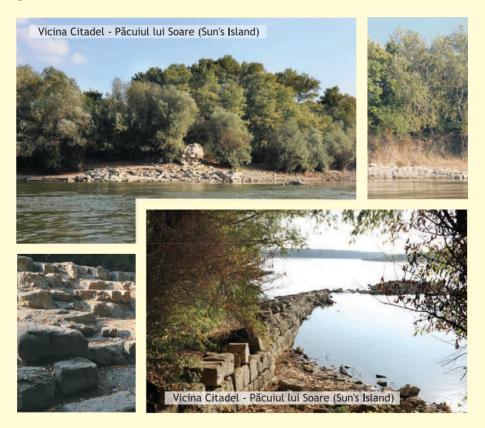


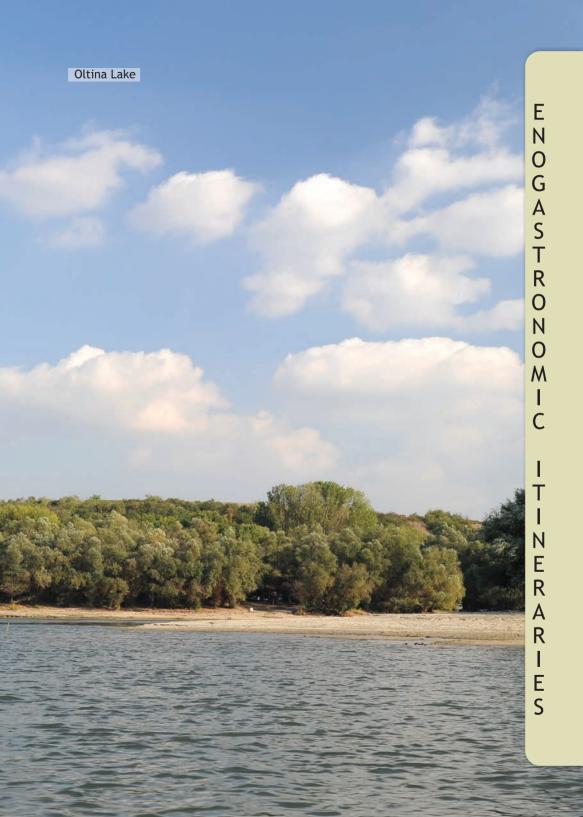
Oltina

The first itinerary is completed with Oltina village, situated in the south-western part of Constanța County, river estuary, important fish center on the right side of Danube, on the eastern bank of Oltina lake. The tourism offer of this place is made of the vineyard we mentioned in the previous pages, and the vestiges of the ancient settlement Altinum, discovered in the locality.

Păcuiul lui Soare (Sun's Island)

At the foot of Oltina plateau, in the middle of an arm of the Danube, there is an island called Păcuiul lui Soare. On this island, Vicina Citadel was built between 971 and 972 by the Emperors of Byzantium, in order to reinstitute their power in the territory of the Lower Danube. A part of the ruins from the former citadel can be seen even today, but the larger part is under the waters of the old river and are revealed only in the dry summers when the water level decreases and show traces of the fortifications and even the skeleton of an ancient ship. The legend says that a mythological being, "Samca Samodiva", a mixture of fairy and underwater dragon guards the citadel under the Danube waters.







2nd itinerary : Constanța - Istria - Murfatlar

The tourist attractions that can be visited within this itinerary are:

Constanța

The Museum of National History and Archeology (address: Ovidiu Square No.12), founded in 1930 and hosted in an imposing building in the square bearing the name of the Roman poet Publius Ovidius Naso, exiled by the Emperor Augustus in the old Tomis (today, Constanta).



The museum has 24 rooms, being organized as follows:

Ground floor: two rooms assigned to the Museum's Treasury, with pieces of an exceptional value

- In the first room we can admire a collection of glass vessels from the Roman period, with fabulous shapes and decorum. We mention here the "Glass of the God", a vessel representing the divinities Hermes, Iarna, Hiems Herakles and Hymen; the bowl with the Greek inscription "Be glad you exist" or a vessel from the 6th century A.D. discovered in the tomb of one of the seven Christian basilica of Tomis.
- The second Treasury room shows the most important discovery, consisting in a storage of ancient sculptures made of 24 pieces representing the divinities in the citadel's pantheon: Isis Goddess, triple Hecate, Fortuna with Pontos, Thracian Knight, Cybela, Dioscuri, Nemesis etc. Among the 24 statues, the one remarkable as value and artistic achievement is the snake Glykon, a marble monolith, masterpiece of the 2nd century A.D. The uniqueness of the piece is in the way the anonymous artist succeeded in reuniting different representations with individual symbolism: a snake with antelope mouth, human eyes, ears and hair, snake body and lion tail.



1st floor- is dedicated entirely to archeology.

The six centuries of Roman life in the region between the Danube and the sea are represented by maps, ceramic, glass or bronze materials, rushlights or statues, military inscriptions or columns, bricks with Roman legions stamps, capitals, column bases, aqueduct elements.

The Christianity in Dobrogea in 3rd-7th century A.D. is an extremely important period for the spiritual life of the people. This phenomenon has an entire room with images of the tomb - hypogeum with paintings from Tomis, with inscriptions, capitals, frontons, plans of Paleo-Christian basilicas etc.

The last part of the visitation circuit on the 1st floor is dedicated to the integration of Dobrogea in the Byzantine Empire - 10th century A.D. The representative pieces

come from Capidava, Dinogeția, Murfatlar. The presentation is completed by maps and an navigation maps, coins issued by the Romanian rulers, weapons from the 17th century, ceramic vessels from the feudal period etc.

2nd floor - contains images and objects starting from the 18th century until the modern period of Dobrogea.

This floor also shows two exceptional collections: one with coins and bills from the rich inventory of the museum's numismatic collection, and the second one with 620 pipes and cigarettes from European workshops, valuable pieces, very interesting as aspect and fully original in such display.

The Roman Edifice with Mosaic is situated immediately next to the Museum of National History and Archeology, currently having a surface of 700 sqm of mosaic dating from the 4th century.

The pavement with mosaic had a surface of over 2000 m - being one of the larges from the entire old Empire. The composing elements are pebbles (tesserae) in seven colors: white, red, black, green-blue, yellow-ochre.

The mosaic combines in an unique and refined manner the geometric ornamental motifs with the vegetal ornamental motifs: ivy vine, intersected circles, braids and twists and turns, and in the center, plaids divided in different geometrical shapes, with images of with Greek vessels with leaves inside





The Folk Art Museum of Constanta (address: Bd. Tomis no. 32) situated in the central area of the city, near Ovidiu Square and Constanţa City Hall, contains exhibits with folk art pieces representative for all the ethnographic areas of the country (icons on wood and glass, ceramic, wood and metal objects, decorative cloths and folk costumes).





The Art Museum

Constanta (address: Bd. Tomis no. 82-84) was founded in 1961, based on the collection of paintings and sculptures of Constanta City Hall, that got larger over the years with works transferred from the National Art Museum and by purchases and donations made by Marius Bunescu, Ion Jalea, Boris Caragea. The works of art displayed (about 1500) belong to the modern and contemporary period, offering the visitors over a century from the evolution of Romanian painting. sculpture and graphic, at the same time trying to show and set by reference works the place and role of Dobrogea and the maritime landscape in the national creation context.

The total patrimony of the Art Museum contains over 7800 works, a part of them being exhibited at the Sculpture Museum "Ion Jalea" and the Art Museum "Dinu and Sevasta Vintilă" from Topalu locality, Constanța County. The Art Museum of Constanța offers the visitor the pleasure



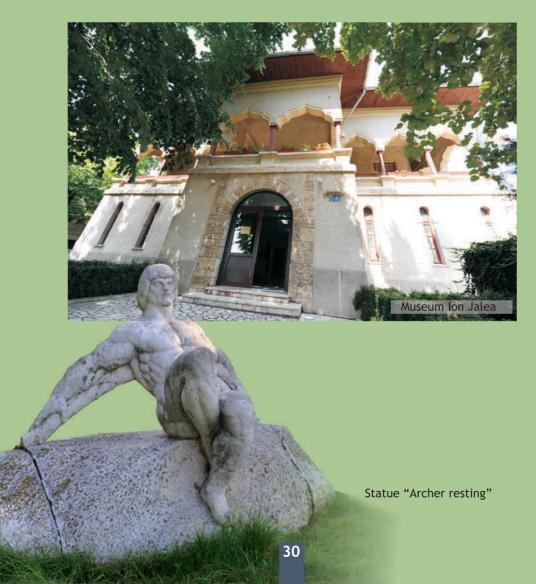
Sculpture "Titus Alexandrescu", Sculptor Dimitrie Paciurea

to discover works belonging to Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Ioan Andreescu, Ştefan Luchian, Iosif Iser, Nicolae Dărăscu, Gheorghe Petrașcu, Theodor Pallady, Ştefan Dimitrescu, Francisc Şirato, Nicolae Tonitza, Camil Ressu, Vasile Popescu, Jean Al. Steriadi, Lucian Grigorescu, Ion Ţuculescu, Alexandru Ciucurencu, Marcel Iancu, M. W. Arnold, Corneliu Michăilescu, Max Hermann Maxy, Margareta Sterian, Micaela Eleutheriade, Magdalena Rădulescu, Lucia Dem. Bălăcescu (painting), Dimitrie Paciurea, Gheorghe Anghel, Ion Jalea, Corneliu Medrea, Alexandru Călinescu, Oscar Han, Miliţa Petrașcu, Hans Mattis-Teutsch (sculpture) and many others.





The Sculpture Museum "Ion Jalea" (address: Str. Arhiepiscopiei no. 26, near St. Peter and Pavel Cathedral, in the area of the sea front of Constanţa), subordinated to the Art Museum, was founded in 1968, with the works donated by the artist Ion Jalea, native from Dobrogea: sculpture (108 works), drawings and sketches, reliefs, statues, busts. Ion Jalea left to the posterity an impressive work, a large part of it being exhibited here, at the sea side. It is about bi- and tridimensional works, made in stone, marble, bronze and gypsum, covering the thematic area of a creation marking the modern and contemporary art of the past century. The religious, mythological and symbolic theme, the investigation of rural life, and the composition with figures are his favorite domains; he prefers the expressive and representative portrait, the nude - generally female, the historical and allegorical figure. In front of the museum, on the sea front, is the defining masterpiece of Ion Jalea, called "Archer resting".



The Romanian Navy Museum (address: Str. Traian no.53, near Constanţa Port) displays chronologically the Romanian navy and merchant marine history, tridimensional objects, bas-reliefs, moulds of epigraphic documents, coins, graphic works, original objects with considerable historic value: anchors, Roman amphora, models reproducing all types of ships existent in the Romanian navy and merchant marine, from its beginning until today, navigation instruments, documents and photos, white and fire weapons, anchors, propellers, headlight lens, flags, paintings, exhibits with a special scientific and documentary value.





The Natural Science Museum Complex of Constanţa is an important landmark in the cultural and scientific landscape of the Municipality, with symbolic value for the summer offer of the Romanian seaside.

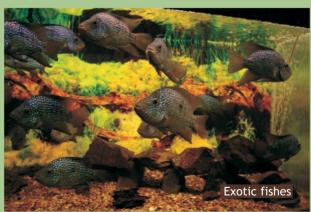
The institution's evolution in time, the need of constant diversity of the public offer, the alert growing pace of the great city, determined the appearance and functional development of two locations, each with different domains of the educational act: the Aquarium, opened to the public in 1958, situated on the sea front of Constanţa, near Ovidiu Square, and the second location containing the Dolphinarium, the Micro-reserve, the permanent exhibition of exotic birds and the Planetarium on Bd. Mamaia no. 255, near Mamaia resort.



Aquarium Section:

The Aquarium of Constanţa, the first section of the Natural Science Museum Complex, situated on the sea front of the Casino, in its immediate vicinity, is the first public aquarium of Romania and was inaugurated on 1 May 1958.

The exhibition space is designed for the presentation of the permanent aquatic fauna and flora exhibition in 57 tanks, as well as for temporary exhibitions with aquatic biology and ecology themes. Also, the Aquarium of Constanţa holds naturalized collections of fish and marine and freshwater invertebrates belonging to the fauna from different geographical areas of the world.



Exotic Birds Section:

Within the Natural Science Museum Complex of Constanța, starting with 1982, the Exotic and Decorative Birds Exhibit entered the tourism circuit, being located immediately near the Microreserve.

On a covered surface of 100 sgm, in large bird houses, with adequate compartments for food, nesting, flying and rest, different bird species from Asia, Africa, Australia and New Guinea can be admired. The collection reunites 19 species of exotic birds, corresponding to a number of 150 specimens.



The Great Alexander

Dolphinarium Section:

The Dolphinarium of Constanta started its activity on 1 June 1972, being the first museum of this type in our country and the first in the South-Eastern part of Europe at that time. In the amphitheatre with pool, demonstrations are organized with the 3 dolphins: Pei Pei, Chen Chen and Nini, to the delight of the public of all ages.



Micro-reserve Section:

Within the Natural Science Museum Complex of Constanța, starting with 1985, the Micro-reserved entered the public circuit with a surface of about 6 ha, 3 of which being covered by water with palustre vegetation. This attraction was created to offer the visitors a complex image of the nature in Dobrogea.

The patrimony of this attraction holds aquatic avifauna (pelicans, swans, wild ducks and geese), terrestrial avifauna (peacocks, pheasants) and mammals (mouflons, fallow deer, deer), from the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and Negureni Reserve. Most of these specimens are natural monuments and rare species with an increasingly reduced representation in the natural biotopes. During the summer, on the natural lake inside the Micro-reserve we can admire colonies of pelicans and swans flowing majestically. During the cold season, all the species benefit from heated shelters.







Planetarium Section:

The Planetarium of Constanţa was the first attraction of the Natural Science Museum Complex from the current location near Mamaia resort. It has a cupola with the diameter of 8m and 80 seats capacity. In the Planetarium lobby, an astronomy exhibition can be visited. In the Planetarium cupola take place demonstrations with the ZKP -2 projector, and we can see: stars (approximately 5000); the planets; the moon; constellations (zodiacal constellations); comets; meteorites; Jupiter's Galatians satellites; artificial satellites; Solar System - the rotation movement of the planets from the Solar System; we can determine horizontal, equatorial and elliptic coordinates; demonstrations with Trippensse Planetarium: seasons formation, equinoxes and solstices, sun and moon eclipses.





Istria

Histria Citadel and Museum

Histria City - Citadel is the first Greek colony on the western bank of the Black Sea and the oldest city in Romania, founded at the middle of the 7th century B.C. (year 657 B.C., according to the historian Eusebius) by the colonists from Miletus. The city had a constant development starting with the Greek period and until the Roman-Byzantine age. During the 7th century A.D., the citadel was destroyed by the Avar-Slavic attacks and gradually abandoned by its inhabitants.







The citadel's Museum exhibits a rich documentary material resulted from the archeological research performed here for almost one century. They consist of inscriptions, architectonic elements, sculptural fragments, ceramic, glass vessels, coins, etc.

Ornithological Reserve of Histria - Sinoe, Dobrogea Gorges Natural Reserve

The Razelm - Sinoe Lake Complex is represented by the Sinoe subcomplex, made of the lakes Sinoe, Istria, Nuntaşi, Taşaul, with a surface of 16500 ha. The very picturesque lake landscape, unique in our country, as well as the "Dobrogea Gorges" Natural Reserve situated on the lower course of Casimcea stream (285 ha), make this region a priceless geological, historical and botanical (572 species identified) treasure.



Dobrogea Gorges Natural Reserve





3rd Itinerary: Cernavodă - Murfatlar - Constața

The addition this itinerary brings to those presented above is Cernavodă locality, next to the ancient city Axiopolis. In Cernavodă there is the Axiopolis Museum that presents in about 6 rooms a beautiful collection of prehistoric and Roman archeology, as well as decorative art from the 19th century: table and office services, buckles and adornments. Some ceramic discoveries offer priceless data on the settlement from Axiopolis in the Hellenistic, Roman-Byzantine (4th-6th century) and early feudal (10th-12th century) ages.

The Neolithic findings from Cernavodă place this locality among the oldest in the country. It is about the age of Hamangia culture, whose beginnings were set by the archeologists 7500 years ago. On Sofia hill, north of the city, the remains of a Hamangia settlement and cemetery were discovered. From one of the graves come the famous clay figures "the Thinker" and "Woman sitting" displayed at the Museum of





4th Itinerary - Constanța - Adamclisi - Ostrov/Oltina

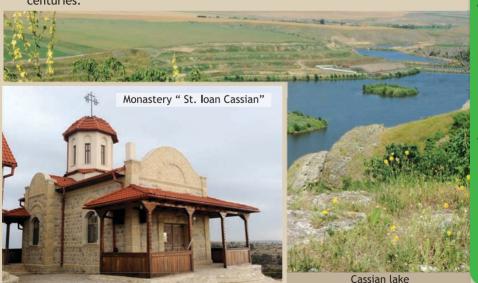
This itinerary contains:

- a tourist attraction from Constanta
- Adamclisi monument and citadel
- wine tasting in Ostrov/*Oltina

The people choosing Oltina have the opportunity to taste good wines and to see other traces of history, the vestiges of the Roman citadel of Altinum and Gaetic Citadel of "Dacians' Valley".

5th Itinerary - Histria - Gura Dobrogei - Târgușor - Murfatlar/Medgidia

For all the people attracted by the ecologic, historic and eno-tourism, this itinerary containing the localities Istria, Gura Dobrogei, Casian and concluded with Murfatlar or Medgidia, is one to be marked in capital letters. This is due to the fact that this itinerary offers the possibility to visit the Histria Museum and Citadel, and gives the tourist the opportunity to know the secrets and ecologic specificity of Razelm - Sinoe Lake Complex and Histria - Sinoe Ornithological Reserve, included in the great Ecological Reserve of the Danube Delta. Also, between Cheia village and Târguşor commune, the cave of "St. Ioan Cassian" is located. Here was born and lived one of the Saint Parents of the Church, Ioan Cassian, who founded the monachism in France, and was buried in Marseille. The historian established that the cave was a place of prayer from the Christian communities in the 4th-10th centuries.



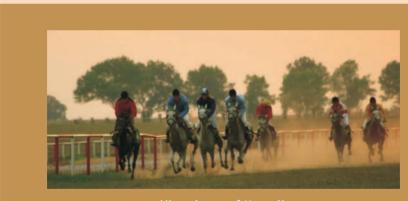
6th Itinerary: Mangalia - Techirghiol - Murfatlar

Mangalia

Mangalia city and its surroundings also constitute a significant tourist attraction containing:

Mangalia Stud Farm - leisure center founded in 1926, 3 km away from Mangalia and 500 m away from the Black Sea. Its location is not arbitrary, taking into account the weather conditions for the formation of the Arabic breed. These allowed the formation of the Mangalia Arabic breed with special qualities. With a surface of over 580 ha including fodder plantations (400 ha) for the 350 horses, Mangalia Stud Farm is the largest in the Southeastern

Europe and is inhabited only by pure-blooded horses: Arabian pure-blooded, light heavyweight and a few ponies. There is here a well arranged trotting and galloping hippodrome with a surface of 19 ha, and inside the unit one can practice equitation and leisure walks along the Black Sea. The hippodrome organizes horse races during the summer attended by private stud farms in the entire country.



Hippodrome of Mangalia

Byzantine Edifice

In Mangalia, the former colony of the Greek citadel Heraclea Pontica, named in the 6th century B.C. the name of Callatis, a great Roman-Byzantine edifice dating from the 5th-6th A.D. was discovered. The building of a rectangular shape was built of large limestone blocks, bound by lime mortar. Only the base of the construction is maintained.

The edifice has many composing parts. On the western side we notice a large room, initially provided with columns, today remaining only traces indicated by the presence of the column bases. The room was paved with stone slabs, only a part of them being kept.



"Callatis" Archeology Museum of Mangalia.

The great Romanian historian and "the father of Romanian archeology", Vasile Pârvan, started the first archeological research in Dobrogea (Histria, Ulmetum, Tomis and Callatis) between 1915 and 1920 and applied the first practical museology measures in Mangalia. This is the birth of the nucleus of the first history museum of the city.

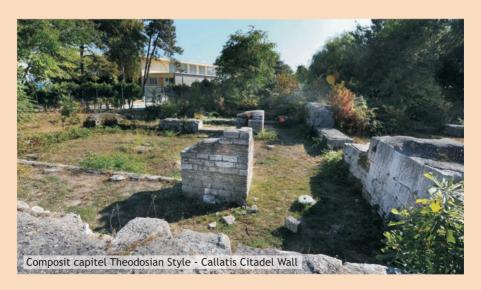
In its current form, the museum was inaugurated in 1994. The entry of the museum is made in ancient Greek building style, imitating the buildings specific to Hellenistic civilization. The permanent exhibit consists of objects from the Greek, Roman and Roman-Byzantine age, as well as products of the Geto-Dacians civilization from the locality near Mangalia, Albesti.



"Callatis" Archeology Museum periodically displays temporary exhibitions showing the work results of the researchers and museographs from Mangalia.

Also, during various important events from the local, national and European history, the main room of the museum hosts some cultural-scientific manifestations attended by pupils and teachers, scientists and cultural people from Mangalia, Constanta and other localities, local officials and the general public.





The tomb with papyrus - During the leveling of two tumulus for the construction of the stadium of Mangalia, a squared stone ring was discovered with the diameter of 13 m, and in the middle, a sarcophagus dating from the 4th-3rd centuries B.C. On one of the sarcophagus lids, two golden bronze laurel leaves crowns were found, proving that the person in the sarcophagus was an upstanding citizen of Callatis. Among the remains of the hands skeletons, a papyrus appeared, appreciated as a very rare piece, unique in the South-Eastern part of Europe at that time.



The papyrus was written in epigraphic characters with brown ink and could have been a talisman for the afterlife or an artistic work belonging to the deceased. The papyrus was taken by the researchers of the former U.S.S.R. and sent to Moscow to be deciphered, but was never returned to Romania, on the grounds of its deterioration. The tomb can be visited within "Callatis" Archeology Museum of Mangalia, under its tumulary form. The stone rink was also kept to render as faithfully as possible its construction.

The tumulus room became a room full of treasures, the most valuable exhibits of the museum being displayed here and valorized in special showcases.

Mangalia Lake

Between Mangalia Marsh and Saturn there is a wide and welcoming beach. On the western side, in its immediate vicinity lies a great lake, with many cordons and reed islands. This is Mangalia Marsh that, after its arrangement and dredging, became Mangalia Lake. The lake is very accessible, being flanked to the west by Mangalia-Constanţa road, and to the east by the asphalted road connecting Mangalia and Saturn, and its 99 ha surfaces makes it an important attraction and visible from any direction.

You can see here terns, egrets, swans and other species of birds, water turtles (Emys orbicularis), as well as the common frogs and water snakes.

During the cold season, the marsh is a shelter for many bird species preferring the delta environment: coots, pelicans, wild geese, cormorants, swans.

On the bottom of the marsh there are many deep wells (the deepest one is of 18 m, while the water beside it measures only 1-2 m in depth) of the thermal and sulphureous water of the springs. Approximately 25 such wells were signaled, with an estimated flow of 250 liters/second, containing methane and hydrogen sulfide bubbles and have a temperature of about 25°C.





Comorova Forest

At the end of the 19^{th} century, in the area of Comorova Forest there was a village with the same name. Its population was made of 4 families, a total of 14 souls, Turkish and Bulgarian fishermen. Comorova lake had a surface of 60 ha and was covered in reed.

Between 1903 and 1906, over 5 ha of land were seeded at Comorova with more than one million saplings of acacia, honey locust, ash, mulberry, apricot, chestnut, plum tree, sumac and oak. In 100 years, a clump from the grey oaks planted at the beginning of the 20th century - about 60 specimens on a surface of 1,2 ha, of different ages and sizes - was declared natural reserve and protected by the law. This specie of Balkan-Caucasian-Pontic oaks belongs to the old arborescent flora, from the tertiary-Pliocene period. It came from the east of the Mediterranean Sea along the external Carpathian area, next to the downy oak, today forming the forest steppe.

The forest was spontaneously populated by red goats and deer, grey hen and capercaillie, foxes, rabbits, hawks and other animals.

Currently, Comorova Forest hides a fauna to envy and is the favorite camping spot for locals and tourists.

Hagieni Forest Natural Reserve

Located on the left side of Mangalia-Albeşti road, Hagieni Forest is one of the most valuable pieces of the natural patrimony of Dobrogea.

The reserve amazes by the landscape diversity, so different from the seaside only a few kilometers away, and by the fauna rarities that found their refugee in this vegetation island, now surrounded by agricultural cultures. Here you can find ponds with aquatic and paludous vegetation, rocky steppes found in direct sunlight, coasts and limestone cliffs, clumps of capers, glades with steppe vegetation and shady forests of different essences, prevailing a natural sub-Mediterranean forest.



Mangalia Tourist Port is a modern marina, arranged according to a concept combining the area's particularities with all the specific advantages. The direct access from the quay, the direct connection to the city, the position in a space protected from strong winds and storms, the stretch area fit for nautical sports, all these features transform Mangalia in the second Monte Carlo and one of the largest tourist ports in the Black Sea area.





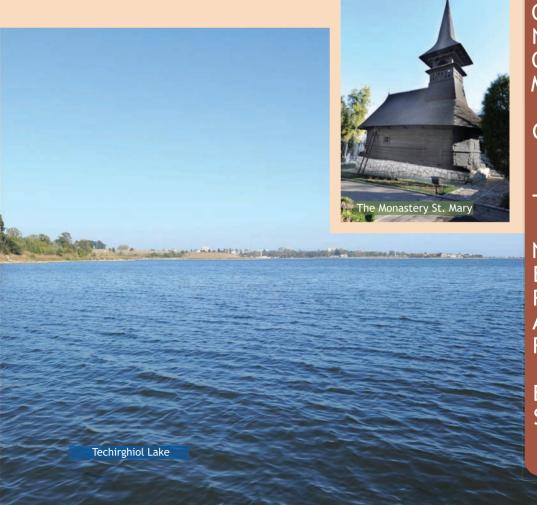
Panoramic view of Mangalia city



Techirghiol

Saint Mary Monastery - spiritual oasis of piece and relaxation. The small wooden church originates from the hearth of Maramures, being subsequently moved to the royal sheepfold from Sinaia and then brought to Techirghiol in 1951. Inside the monastery, the tourists can visit a small museum of the Christianity in Dobrogea.

Starting with the year 2000, within Saint Mary Monastery there is a modern treatment base where, depending on the doctor's recommendation, the following procedures can be applied: galvanization, ionogalvanization, diodynamic currents, interferential currents, ultrasounds, electrical functional stimulation, galvanic baths, mud baths, mineral baths with water from Techirghiol lake, plant baths, kinotherapy massage, ergonomic bicycle, laser-therapy, sauna.



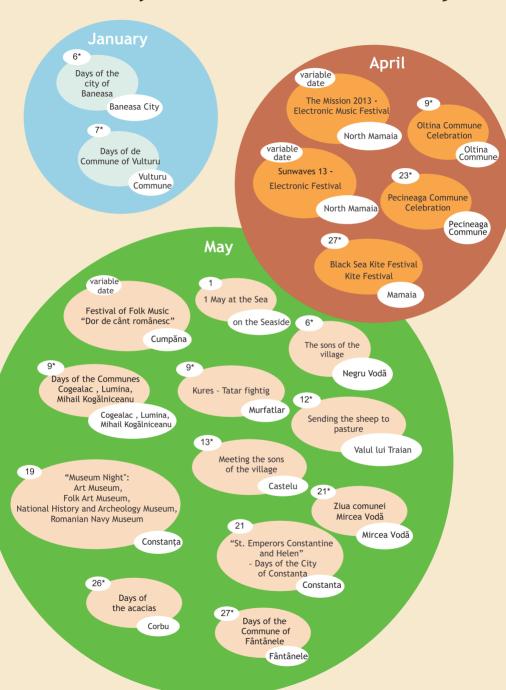
The fame of Techirghiol city-resort comes from Techirghiol lake, a true treasure for the health.

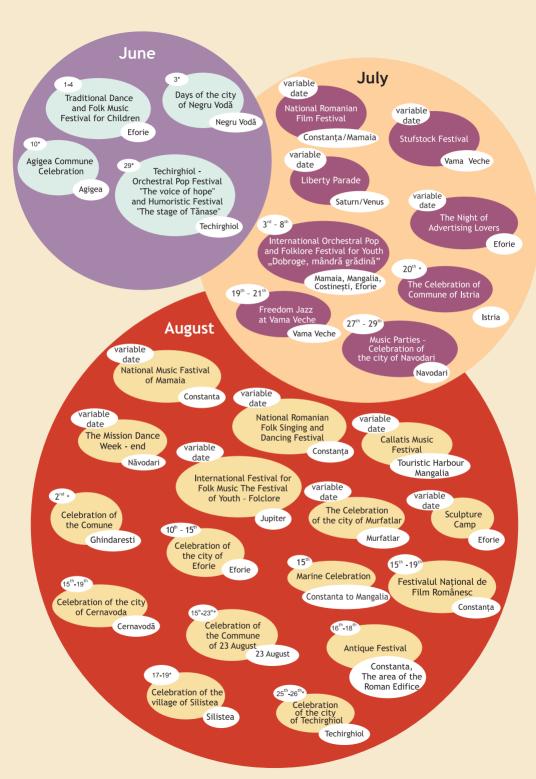
Techirghiol Lake, situated on the Black Sea bank between the localities Techirghiol,

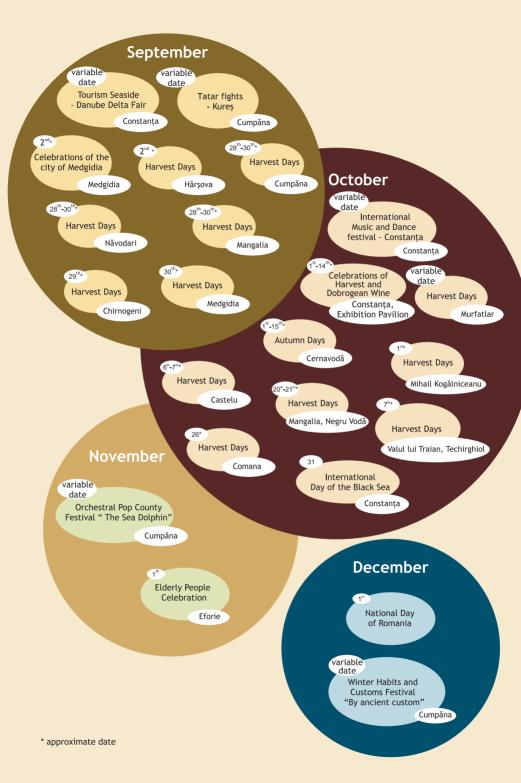
Eforie Nord and Eforie Sud, is the largest salt lake of Romania, 7.500 m long, maximum 9 m deep and its salinity is over 90 g/l. The invertebrates fauna populating Techirghiol lake is dominated by the crustacean Artemia salina that, together with Cladophora crystal algae, supply the raw material for the production of the sapropelic mud with active mineral components giving it a special therapeutic value and representing a richness of the resort. Techirghiol Lake is a very important avifaunistic area, declared Ramsar site in 2006 (with the surface of 1462 ha). Among the bird species seen here and protected are the red-breasted goose (Branta ruficollis) and the white-headed duck (Oxyura leucocephala).



Calendar of events in Constanta County







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

51 Tomis Blvd., Constanța Telephone: : 0241 488 404 E-mail: consjud@cjc.ro www.cjc.ro

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"UNIQUE ITINERARIES AND EVENTS IN DOBROGEA"
Constanta County Administrative Unit
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