
GEEO ITINERARY

Moldova 7/17/2027

Day 1: Chişinău Arrive in Chişinău at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting in the evening.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The nearest airport is Chişinău's **Chişinău Eugen Doga International Airport (RMO)**.

Consider arriving a day early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 5–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to have dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to get to know one another further.

Joining Instructions

Taxi: (115–150 MDL (~\$6–\$9) | ~20–30 min) Available at the airport. If you prefer to use an app like Uber, download Yandex Go ahead of time, which is the preferred app in Moldova for rideshares.

**Surcharges may apply on weekends, bank holidays, and per piece of luggage.*

**Make sure the meter is reset before departure.*

Bus: (6 MDL | ~45–55 min) Bus 30 runs into the city frequently. Use Google Maps to determine your stop based on your hotel location.

Day 2: Chişinău Walking tour of Chisinau's landmarks (Parliament, City Hall, St. Pantelimon Church), then Cricova Winery's underground cellars and tasting, followed by a free evening.

Set out this morning with a local guide on a walking tour of Chisinau. Pass by some of the city's main sights and historical landmarks like the Parliament building and gaze at the beautiful architecture of the City Hall and St. Pantelimon Church.

In the afternoon, drive 30 minutes outside of Chisinau to explore one of the most popular underground wineries in Moldova, which contains the largest collection of exclusive wines in the country. Moldova is home to three cellars in limestone caves, and the Cricova Winery is located 262 feet underground and spans 75 miles in length. Witness more than 70 streets covering an area of 130 acres, each bearing Bacchic names – Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahor, as well as the oldest bottle in Moldova, dated from 1902. Enjoy a wine tasting in the cellars and learn about the process that makes these wines so special.

Return to Chisinau for a free evening and optional dinner out with the group.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Chişinău / Butuceni Drive north from Chisinau to the Saharna Monastery, sample cheese and wine at a local community-supporting factory, then continue to Butuceni Village.

This morning, depart Chisinau for the North of Moldova.

Our first stop is the Saharna Monastery, situated on the bank of the Nistru River. The picturesque Saharna offers views of sparkling waterfalls and lies in the shadow of rolling hills and lush forests. The relics of Saint Suvios Macarie are found in the complex, and views of the chapel can be seen from the top of Grimidon hill.

Next, settle in for a light lunch and learn about Thierry Ernst, a Frenchman who came to Moldova to offer humanitarian aid. He and his wife transformed an old school into an eco-friendly cheese factory using locally sourced milk and blending French and Moldovan traditions, creating employment, and directly helping local families. Learn about Thierry's program development beyond the cheese factory, and finish the experience by sampling locally produced cheeses, jams, and wine.

Continue to Butuceni Village for the evening.

Approximate travel time: 2.5 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 4: Butuceni Hike through Orheiul Vechi's river-carved landscape, take a cooking class in Trebujeni, then return to Butuceni for a free afternoon.

After free time in the village, join a cooking class at an agro-pension in Trebujeni, then stroll back to the eco resort in Butuceni.

This morning enjoy some light hiking to Orheiul Vechi, an area of natural beauty shaped by the river Raut as it cuts into the rocky hills of central Moldova. In medieval times, the river Raut served as a travel route for merchants from as far away as Greece. Your hike will begin at your Butuceni homestead. Explore the landscape around the Raut riverbed and the Cave Monastery, where you'll be rewarded with beautiful vistas and ample birdwatching.

After free time in the village, take part in a cooking class and lunch at an agro pension in the village of Trebujeni. Learn to prepare local specialties like placinte, traditional pies with cheese, potatoes, cabbage and other seasonal ingredients. Savor the delicious flavors from fresh ingredients before strolling back to Butuceni.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon free to explore or relax.

Meals included: Breakfast| Lunch

Day 5: Butuceni / Congaz Explore Gagauzia's culture at the History and Ethnographic Museum, tour a Comrat winery, then enjoy a traditional Gagauz feast at Gagauz Sofrasi.

Embark on a day of cultural immersion into the Gaugazia region of Moldova. Start your day by joining a mock traditional Gagauzian wedding ceremony located in the museum hall. Listen to local wedding songs and witness the gift giving traditions, one where women from both families unite and the mother-in-law provides an offering to her new daughter-in-law. Opt to participate in an artistic performance within the museum right in the hall where wedding dresses and the bride's dowry are exhibited.

Afterward, we will tour the facility and sample the local flavors of the Vinuri de Comrat winery, in operation for 120 years. Learn about the traditions passed from generation to generation that lead to the unique Moldovan flavors.

Then, enjoy Gagauz Sofrasi, a cultural and culinary experience where you'll indulge in a traditional

Gagauz feast, featuring locally sourced ingredients and expertly crafted wines. Enjoy a bread and salt greeting before your meal, alongside a short introduction to Gagauzian hospitality. Visit a traditional guesthouse, the ethnographic museum, the wine cellar, and the terrace. In the museum, you have the unique opportunity to try on Gagauz attire to immerse yourself deeper in the local culture.

Approximate travel time: 4.5 hrs by private vehicle with stops along the way

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 6: Congaz / Chişinău Drive back to Chisinau, with a free day to explore before an optional group farewell dinner.

Wave goodbye to Congaz this morning and depart for the drive back to Chisinau. The remainder of the day is free to explore Moldova's capital city before regrouping in the evening for an optional final dinner out with the group.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Chişinău Depart Chişinău at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Chisinau at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Chisinau, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.

Interested in extending your time abroad? Beyond our educator programs, we can also help you book from G Adventures' extensive catalog of tours. These tours aren't tailored to educators the way our programs are, but booking through GEE0 means you'll receive a discounted educator rate while supporting our nonprofit work.

Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Chişinău (Jul 17): Bernardazzi Grand Hotel

Day 2 Chişinău (Jul 18): Bernardazzi Grand Hotel

Day 3 Butuceni (Jul 19): Eco-Resort Butuceni

Day 4 Butuceni (Jul 20): Eco-Resort Butuceni

Day 5 Congaz (Jul 21): Gagauz Sofrasi

Day 6 Chişinău (Jul 22): Bernardazzi Grand Hotel

***Itinerary Disclaimer:** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there

is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.