



Humor Monastery

MOLDAVIA

Moldavia should not be confused with the neighbouring Republic of Moldova to the east. Parts of northern Bucovina were annexed to Russia and now belong to the Ukraine. Basarabia – or today’s Republic of Moldova – was annexed to Russia and is now an independent republic.

The most interesting part of Moldavia is mountainous Bucovina to the north of Moldavia. It is characterised by high alpine pastures and even higher, pine covered, ridges. The south is flatter and relatively uninteresting – the Moldovians have a reputation for being a very generous and hospitable people.

The Painted Churches of southern Bucovina, which makes up the north of Moldavia – northern Bucovina is now part of the Ukraine – are among the greatest artistic treasures of Europe and are all designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites. To say they are stunning is an understatement.



The fortified, orthodox monasteries, which house the churches, were generally built in the latter half of the 16th century as defences from Turkish attacks. The armies would gather inside the defensive walls and, in order to educate them – they could not all enter the churches to see the interior frescoes or understand the liturgy – the outside of the churches, which were located within the fortifications, were painted with immense frescoes – one could almost call them cartoons – in the most vivid colours. These vivid colours are still well preserved

in several of the churches, notably in the monasteries of Voronet, Moldovita, Sucevita and Humor. The monasteries now house vibrant

religious communities and there has been a notable religious revival in the last 20 years.



Voronet Monastery – Exterior wall paintings

POPAS TOURISTIC BUCOVINA SUCEVITA

Airports: 550km Bucharest / 330km Cluj Napoca

■ 3-star guesthouse ■ Bed & Breakfast



Popas Touristic Bucovina is made up of seven properties, of which three are 3-star and four are 4-star, plus a central restaurant which is one of the best in the region.

One Type 'A' Villa (3-star): Built in 1994, 'A' Villa has 13 twin/double rooms, on three floors, all with bathroom (shower) and minibar. Some rooms have a balcony. The villa offers very good accommodation furnished in a modern alpine style. On the ground floor there is a lounge/dining room with TV and fridge.

Five Type 'B' Villas (3-star): The original villa was built in 1996 in Swiss chalet style and has 7 rooms including 6 doubles and one triple, all with bathroom (shower) and minibar. This charming building is made completely of wood and all the rooms have central heating, satellite TV and bathroom with shower. Five rooms have access to a common balcony with trellis separations to give limited privacy to each room. The rooms are twin or double bedded and the first floor rooms are with shared balcony. Two rooms can be blocked off to be sold as one unit for families.

On the ground floor there is a large communal area with TV and fridge. This area is heavily beamed with animal trophies adorning the walls. This is accommodation of a very good standard and with a lot of character. This is also where Prince Charles stayed during his visit to the area. A further four villas, each with seven rooms, have recently been added.



One Type 'C' Villa (3-star): This is the original chalet bungalow which has been renovated to create one large suite and two double rooms with bathroom (shower) and minibar.

Villa Mirabela (4-star): 2 double rooms, 6 twin rooms and 1 suite. The twin rooms and the suite have a bath and the double rooms have a shower. All the rooms have a minibar and telephone. There is a large living room on the ground floor.

Villa Maria & Villa Elvira (4-star): 2 double rooms, 8 twin rooms and 1 suite. The twin rooms and the suite have a bath and the double rooms have a shower. All the rooms have a minibar and telephone. There is a large living room on the ground floor.

Villa Vianora (4-star): 6 twin rooms and 4 suites. All the rooms have a bath, minibar and telephone. There is a large living room on the ground floor.

Amenities/Leisure:

63 rooms located within eleven separate buildings ■ The restaurant has an a la carte menu with both local and international dishes. The average price for a three course meal is c.10 Euros per person. The wine cellar 'Crama' is stocked with a wide selection of Romanian wines including Cotnari (Moldavia), Murfatlar (Dobrogea) and Jidvei (Transylvania). The local blueberry brandy is also excellent ■ Tennis court (payable locally) ■ Outdoor picnic area with table and chairs ■ Free parking.



Sucevita Monastery

CASA CU CERBI SUCEVITA

Airports: 550km Bucharest / 330km Cluj Napoca

■ 3-star guesthouse ■ Bed & Breakfast



The owners of this traditional Bucovina house are also the local guides (the wife) and, the husband is an authority on the lives and history of the gypsies – he has also written a book on the subject. There is a small historical library which clients can browse on request. To the rear of the building is agricultural land and forest (beech, spruce and fir trees) – an ideal location for walkers.

The building is made entirely of wood, has great character and is painted in various shades of green – a colour scheme very typical of the area. There is a garden terrace for outside eating. Two more traditional buildings are located in the grounds which are soon to be renovated.

Ground floor: Three bedrooms with private bathroom (bath or shower – one suitable for handicapped guests), one junior suite with a large bathroom (separate shower and bath) and traditional wood burning stove (soba). There is also a breakfast room, kitchen, shared terrace and living areas. One room has direct access to



the breakfast room. All rooms are traditionally furnished with an eye for detail.

First floor: One large family duplex with one double room with en suite bathroom (shower) and one single room with en suite bathroom (shower) and covered balcony. There is also one large 2-bedroom unit with two bathrooms (shower). Access to the second room is through the first bedroom – only suitable for a family or close friends.

Amenities/Leisure:

6 rooms including 1 junior suite, 1 family duplex room and 1 two-bedroom unit ■ Small historical library – access on request ■ Covered garden terrace ■ Iron and ironing board on request ■ Laundry facilities ■ Free parking.