CYCLING EXPERIENCE IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival day

Chisinau – Corjeuti

On arrival at Chisinau International Airport, you will be transferred to Corjeuti village where you will check in at “La Paris” hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: Corjeuti village,

DAY 2

Day 2: Discovery of Fetesti Nature Reserve often named the “Little Switzerland of Moldova”

Corjeuti – Caracusenii Vechi – Trinca – Fetesti – Corjeuti

After breakfast at the hotel, you will enjoy a bike ride from Corjeuti to Caracusenii Vechi (~13 km), during which you will be amazed by the natural beauty of the region. In order to get to Corjeuti you will have to pass through “Tirla Builor”, the “Tatar Rock” and “Huci”, three massive rocks, the guardians of these places since the beginning of times. You will also cross the waters of Lopatnic, that sculpted the surroundings. You will go through a forest and finally reach **Borta Ciuntului gorge**, a nature monument with massive limestone blocks reaching the height of 100 meters.

Later on, you will discover the village that bears the story-like nickname of “Country of brooms”. Caracusenii Vechi is known for its broom producers and the fact that there is almost no single household that doesn’t own a broom shop.

After a little walk around the village (~3 km), you will visit a broom master’s house.

The day will continue with a bike ride from Caracusenii Vechi to Trinca (~10 km), where you will meet the locals and have a lunch break.

After lunch, you will cycle from Trinca to Fetesti (~ 6 km). You will discover **Fetesti Nature Reserve**, often named the “Little Switzerland of Moldova” because the surroundings that give the illusion of being in a mountainous region, when in fact, there are no actual mountains. You will be amazed by the uniqueness of Northern Moldova’s nature characterized by steep cliffs and imposing rock formations around the Prut River. You can be assured that while climbing your way up some of those cliffs and taking a look at the impressive views, your adrenaline levels will skyrocket!

You will explore Fetesti village for a while, after which you will cycle from Fetesti to Corjeuti (~14 km) along the Lopatnic River.

While at the hotel, you will enjoy some free time and a tasty dinner.

HIGHLIGHTS: Borta Ciuntului gorge,

DAY 3

Day 3: Visit of La Castel Landscape Reserve including the Cretaceous rock named the “Dragon’s tooth”

Corjeuti – Tirnova – Brinzeni – Zabriceni – Edinet

In the morning, you will be transferred to Tirnova village from where you will cycle to Brinzeni village. Not too far from the village, you will discover Brinzeni gorge that is 100 meters deep and 150 meters wide. It’s a very picturesque site. From there, you will continue your route to **La Castel Landscape Reserve** that will offer you a breath-taking view of the Racovat river, Gordinesti village and the solitary Cretaceous rock named the “Dragon’s tooth” by the locals.

Next, you will enjoy a bike ride from Brinzeni to Zabriceni, where you will have lunch at **Zabriceni Monastery** and enjoy an excursion at its eco-farm. It appeared in 2012 and is aimed to promote the consumption of organic products that the company produces and sells on the domestic market. Today the monastery owns 30 ha of land, which is processed without the use of chemicals, considering the benefits for health and the environment.

After the excursion, you will be transferred to Edinet where you will check in at the hotel and enjoy the dinner at the restaurant of the hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS: La Castel Landscape Reserve , Zabriceni Monastery,

DAY 4

Day 4: Impressive landscape of Moldova’s Fjords

Edinet – Stolniceni – Pociumbeni – Horodiste – Varatic – Duruitoarea

Your fifth day will start as usually, with a breakfast, after which you will be transferred to Stolniceni. From here you will cycle to Pociumbeni, a small yet charming village documentary attested in 1672. Here, you will have a short tour of the village, during which you will see the monument “The Cross of the Witnesses of Hunger 1946-1947”, as well as the cemetery of boyar and poet Teodor Varnav.

Next, you will have a pleasant cycling of about 5 km, from Pociubeni to Horodiste, at the end of which you will visit a very nice church.

Later on, another little bike ride awaits you. From Horodiste, you’ll cycle to Varatic (~4 km) where you will have lunch. Then you will cycle to a beautiful waterfall and to **Moldova’s Fjords**. This later attraction, the Moldovan “mountains”, are not made of stone, as you’d think, but of remains of living creatures from the

prehistoric era, when the Tortonian and Sarmatian Seas used to cover these lands.

The day will continue with a bike ride to Duruitoarea, where you will have dinner at a local guesthouse and spend the night.

HIGHLIGHTS: Pociumbeni - Horodiste - Varatic landscapes,

DAY 5

Day 5: Cycling from Cobani to Camenca Lake and Suta de Movile (A Hundred Mounds) Landscape Reserve

Duruitoarea – Butesti – Cobani – Camenca – Braniste – Chisinau

The day will begin with a bike ride from Duruitoarea to Cheile Butesti and Cobani (~25 km). **Cheile Butesti gorge** is dug by the Camenca River in a reef with a length of over 2 km and a width of 125 m, located in the south of Butesti village, Glodeni district. The coral limestone reef was formed 15-20 million years ago from corals, mollusks, clams, algae, cattle and marine organisms that populated the warm waters of the Sarmatian and Tortonian seas covering northern Moldova at that time.

After having witnessed the remains of the coral reef, you will be able to connect with the locals in the Cobani village while having a lunch break.

Next, you will enjoy cycling from Cobani to Camenca Lake and **Suta de Movile (A Hundred Mounds) Landscape Reserve** (~ 18km) that is a unique geological phenomenon in the space between Prut and Dniester rivers. The mounds are much more than 100, as there are over 3500. Their heights range between 1.5 m and 30.5 m. Dimitrie Cantemir, who named in his book “Descriptio Moldoviae” this geological phenomenon as “Centum Monticulli”, completed its first documentary attestation in 1716.

After visiting the reserve, you will be transferred to Chisinau where you will check in at the hotel. In the evening, you will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS: Duruitoarea gorge, Cheile Butesti gorge, A Hundred Mounds Landscape Reserve,

DAY 6

Day 6: Bike ride and wine tasting in the underground cellars of Cricova winery

Chisinau – Cricova – Chisinau

In the morning, you will enjoy a **cycling tour in Chisinau city** which is the main administrative, scientific and cultural centre of Moldova. During the tour, you will see pieces of history and culture of the city such as the Nativity of Christ Cathedral, the Bell Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Monument of Stephen the Great, the City Hall, etc.

In the afternoon, you will have lunch at a local restaurant in Chisinau.

After lunch, you will cycle from Chisinau to Cricova (~18 km). In Cricova town, you will enjoy a bike ride and wine tasting in the underground cellars of **Cricova winery** - the only wine enterprise that was awarded the highest state prize “The Order of the Republic” and has been declared by law a national cultural heritage. During the excursion at Cricova winery, at a depth of 80 m, you will discover the wonders of this place. Cricova underground galleries are formed by over seventy streets covering an area of nearly 120 km, each bearing Bacchic names: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahors, etc. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, including over 600 types of wine totalling about 1 million bottles. Here you will admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Jewish Easter Wine", dating from 1902. In the evening, you will have a delicious dinner at “Regatul Vinului” restaurant of Cricova winery.

After dinner, you will be transferred to your hotel in Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 7

Day 7: Departure day

Chisinau

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to Chisinau International Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you will have the option to explore Chisinau for a while on your own in the morning and buy some souvenirs.