SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURE IN MOLDOVA

DAY 1

You will be picked up from the Airport and transferred to **Lalova village**, from where you will start your adventure. You will check-in at a local guesthouse. If your flight will be early in the morning you can explore by yourself Chisinau city before departing to Lalova village.

DAY 2

After breakfast at the guesthouse, you will enjoy your day by hiking around this region **(Lalova village – Tipova Cave Monastery)**. The finishing point of the trip is Tipova monastery. Situated near Tipova village, the monastery with the same name is considered to be one of the oldest monastic establishments on the territory of our country. The heritage, which consists of 18 rooms, dug into the rock at an astounding altitude, represents an impressive museum in the open air. Tipova River, on its flow to the Dniester, creates many waterfalls with the heights above 10-16 meters, which a long time ago used to move the millstones of the numerous watermills.

You can have a traditional lunch when you get back to the guesthouse and enjoy the rest of day in this picturesque place near the **Dniester River**.

Optional activities that you can enjoy (for additional payment):
• Fishing in the Dniester River
• Boat trip on the Dniester River
• Culinary masterclass – learn how to prepare the traditional “Sarmale”
• Visit the Cheese Factory in Horodiste

HIGHLIGHTS: Tipova Cave Monastery,

DAY 3

In the morning you will be transferred to **Furceni village**, that is the starting point for your hiking adventure of this day.

You will explore the nature and history of one of the oldest canyons in Moldova by visiting beautiful places from Furceni village to **Butuceni village**, where **Orheiul Vechi Cultural, Natural and Landscape Reserve** is situated along the Raut River. The remnants of the first human settlements, which are some tens of thousands of years old, were found in the stone caverns from here. On the rocky hill, you will find the ruins of a strong Geto-Dacian (Moldovan ancestors) fortification and the calendar, which acted as a sanctuary for celebrating religious holidays and rituals in this prehistoric community. The originality of Orheiul Vechi's landscape is due to the defile of the Raut river, dug under the form of a canyon in the limestone layers of the former Sarmatian sea, about 14 million years ago.

Here you can visit a **traditional guesthouse**, where you will have the chance to attend a masterclass of

baking bread in an old oven or making a traditional pie “placinta”. Also, here you can enjoy a traditional Moldovan lunch.

There are several activities to enjoy in this region (additional):
• Visit the Cave Monastery
• Visit the local History Museum
• Visit Branesti cellars
• Off road
• Rock climbing

Just let us know what is more attractive for you and we will make a reservation.

HIGHLIGHTS: Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, "Placinte" or bisquits with rose petal jam masterclass at Butuceni guesthouse ,

DAY 4

This day is dedicated to the discovery of **underground wine cellars** and a small family winery. Moldova is famous for its wines so we recommend to visit some of the wineries.

First, we suggest to visit **Cricova winery** by cycling over the seventy streets covering an area of nearly 120 km, and it is a must, when you come to Moldova. During the excursion at Cricova winery by bike, at a depth of 80 m, you will discover the wonders of this place.

After that you can make a difference by visiting another famous underground winery – **Milestii Mici.** You will take a ride to Milestii Mici winery located at a depth of 40-85 m in Milestii Mici village. Measuring about 200 km, all underground streets make up the largest network of caves ever dug by a human being, which appeared after the extraction of limestone deposits. The winery holds an impressive collection of more than 2 million bottles. The "Golden Collection" of Milestii Mici winery, which has over 1,5 million bottles, is the pride of the whole country, as in August, 2005, it was registered in the Guinness World Records as the biggest wine collection in the world.

At the end of the day, you will be transferred to a **family winery – Asconi** located in Puhoi village. Asconi is a family-owned winery founded in 1994 and located in Puhoi village, the foundation of which is a long-standing tradition and experience in the production of Moldovan wine. It is also the place of Moldovan traditions, culture and gastronomy. Enjoy your time here by tasting wines, enjoying a tasty dinner and relaxing in one of bungalows of Asconi Touristic Complex.

HIGHLIGHTS: Cricova Underground Wine Galleries, Milestii Mici winery, Asconi winery,

DAY 5

After breakfast, a transfer will be arranged from Puhoi village to the Airport or to Chisinau, in case your flight is later.