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ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT

NATBIOT PROJECT - “NATURAL HERITAGE - NATURAL/ BIO RESOURCES’ SERVICES”

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NATBIOT 3 - MO - PL - O TRAVEL PACKAGE
Montana - Plevn - Olt (7 days)



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NATBIOT

We invite you on a 7-day cross-border vacation, exploring some of the sights of the Montana and Pleven districts in Bulgaria and Olt County Romania. Starting points are the cities of Slatina or Montana, "node" cities from which interesting routes can depart.

The main objective of this travel package is to delight your body, soul and mind with: spectacular natural beauty, new, interesting cultural objectives, but especially to give you a pleasant, picturesque atmosphere, quality services, enjoying the traditional, natural and organic culinary delights, thus getting to know the hospitality of two neighbouring, befriended peoples.

WHO IS THIS TRAVEL PACKAGE MEANT FOR?

NATBIOT 3 - MO - PL - O is meant for:

- ✓ tourists who want to experience new, less known destinations;
- ✓ "healthy" tourism enthusiasts - who love exploring nature, who love "movement", who want to discover new cultural goals and traditions and who want to stay in a friendly environment, benefiting from quality services, understanding by quality also healthy, traditional, natural and / or organic food, both for those who have already approached this lifestyle in their daily life and for those who want to approach a healthy lifestyle at least while on vacation.
- ✓ individual tourists or in tourist groups - families with and without children, seniors or young people, formally or informally organized, companies or other organizations for group activities.



WHAT BENEFITS YOU HAVE IF YOU CHOOSE THE NATBIOT 3 - MO-PL-O?

- Changing the traditional destinations with some new ones, which will open you new horizons and will get you out of the routine, while maintaining the “comfort”;
- You can have a stay away from the pollution and crowding of the usual destinations, exploring parts of the territory of two neighbouring countries, some less known to the general public;
- Invigorate your body and soul by moving in the appealing nature and by visiting the cultural places that bear the spirituality of two peoples;
- You get to rest in hospitable conditions, benefiting from quality services, being able to choose from a wide variety of accommodation units, hotels, modern and/or rustic guesthouses, rooms for rent in local people's houses, chalets; you are provided with an updated database of these accommodation units, the number of rooms available and their quality level;
- Easy accessibility at the starting points: the cities of Slatina and Montana considering as entry gates the international airports of Sofia and Craiova, for both local and foreign tourists (Sofia-Montana distance - 109 km; Craiova - Slatina 54 km - Craiova has an airport where they operate low cost flights.) The travel package also includes the airport transfer;
- Delight your senses with delicious but healthy dishes, benefitting from the local advantage: the use of natural / organic/ traditional agricultural products;
- You will have the opportunity to benefit from as many organic products taking into account the fact that both Bulgaria and Romania have registered a spectacular growth in organic agriculture (between 2010 and 2016 Bulgaria recorded the highest growth of organic cultivated areas in the EU, 35%, and

Romania is the ninth largest producer of organic products and ranks among the top ten producers with organic production increases, according to the latest FIBL report in 2019. Thus, the latest FIBL report indicates a 14.2% increase in the ecological surface, the 6th place in Europe in terms of growth dynamics and in terms of the collection of ecological honey from the wild areas, Romania occupies the 4th place in the world in terms of collection areas (1.8 mil. hectares in 2014). Tour operators are taking advantage of the opportunity to capitalize on organic production.

From the tourist's point of view, here are some of the advantages conferred by the consumption of organic products:

- > no herbicides, pesticides, hormones were used in their production;
- > they do not contain any additives or other chemicals;
- > they are not genetically modified;
- > animal products do not contain traces of antibiotics;
- > they are healthy products, free of toxic residues;
- > they have a balanced content of bioactive substances and minerals;
- > the taste of organic foods is superior to the conventional ones.



Natural products have almost the same advantages as organic ones, with the mention that they do not present quality assurance, and their certification is not regulated, relying in most cases on "trust". In smaller communities, however, trust is based on mutual acquaintance between community members, reducing the risk of consumer deception.

In order to access the travel package NATBIOT 3 - MO-PL-O, resort to a tour operator because:

- it organizes the entire stay according to your preferences for the accommodation, meals, program, without you looking for the optimal options by yourselves, making sure that the established program is complied with;
- it ensures full-time transportation, including pick up and return from your locality;

- it ensures reservations and negotiates the best price for you

We invite you to follow the route offered by the **NATBIOT 3 - MO-PL-O Travel Package** starting from the city of Montana.

For the tourist's convenience, security and to ensure the observance of the vacation schedule and any adjustments, consider the purchase of the package from a tour operator, road transport insurance (car, minibus, coach), providing assistance, guide (on request), for groups of tourists, differentiated, according to their number.

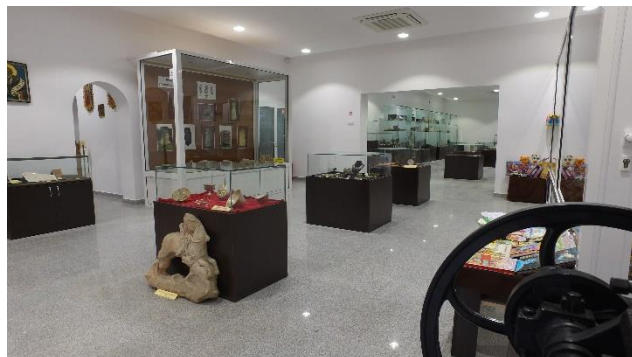
We now take you on the route of this travel package leaving from the city of **Montana** then **Chiprovtsi**, **Berkovitsa**, **Varshets**, **Pleven** - crossing **Oreahovo-Bechet** by ferry, **Corabia**, **Drăgănești Olt**, **Caracal**, **Slatina**.



The city of Montana is located between the foothills of the Balkan Mountains and the Danube Plain. The city has 5 hotels and a guesthouse where you can stay and benefit from quality

services. Here are some of the **tourist spots** we propose you to visit in this city: **The History Museum, Kiril Petrov Art Gallery, Ogosta Dam.**

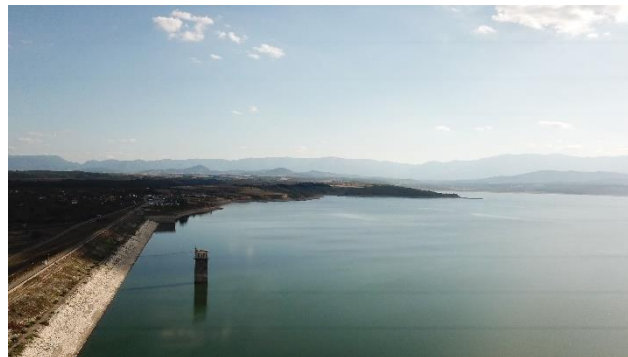
The Montana History Museum is located in the centre of the city and contains over 50,000 exhibits related to the history of the region: a collection of epigraphic monuments - the "stone book" of ancient Montana history, a copy of Yakimovo medieval treasure, silver treasure, gold ornaments, collections of icons, books, Kilim rugs, historical weapons and more.



Kiril Petrov Art Gallery began its activity with a small exhibition in 1971. The collection has been gathered for decades to preserve and promote the works of the generation of artists from the mid-19th century to the present. Works include paintings by Nikolai Pavlovici, Ivan Markvichka, George Danchoy, Jaroslav Veshin Vladimir Dimitrov, Dimitar Boyadzhiev, Petrov Kiril, Dechko Uzunov, Georgi Pavlov and many other Bulgarian art classics. There are also Bulgarian contemporary artists who worked at the end of the 20th century. According to experts, the

collection of paintings from the "Kiril Petrov" Art Gallery is one of the richest in the country, containing about 2,500 works in the permanent exhibition. The collection of icons are added thereto.

The Ogosta dam collects water from the August, Barzia and Zlatisa rivers, and it is located 600 m southwest of the suburbs of Montana, 60 m above the city. The lake covers an area of 23.6 square kilometres. The construction of the dam lasted 20 years and ended in 1986. Two villages remained under its waters, whose inhabitants were relocated to Montana and Berkovitsa - the village of Jivovtsi, the birthplace of the writer and artist Ivan Davidkov, Atanas Stoyanov - poet, writer and journalist and Kalimanitsa, the birthplace of the writer Radichkov. Here you can relax for a few hours trying your luck at fishing for carp, redfish, bream, snapper, common nase, barbel, wels catfish, zander.



From Montana, then you start at Chiprovtsi, 28 km away. On the way we recommend a stop at **St. Ivan Rilski Monastery (Rila)** located on the Chiprovka Augusta valley, as the largest and

best-known Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. The monastic complex, considered to be one of the most important masterpieces of the architecture of the Bulgarian national revival, was declared a historical monument in 1976 and since 1983 it is in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, being visited by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

Its name is given by its founder, the hermit Ivan of Rila (876 - 946 A.D.). Its history begins, according to the documents of the time, as of the First Bulgarian Empire. After the Turks conquered the country, it was repeatedly destroyed and then rebuilt, elsewhere. In the years of Ottoman rule, the **Chiprovski Monastery** was an important spiritual, religious and educational centre in the region. Currently the **Chiprovski** monastery is a church complex, two chapels, three-storey bell tower, residential rooms and agricultural buildings. The Church of the "Sf. Ivan Rilski" was built in 1829. In its architectural form, the construction plan distinguishes it from most other churches, mainly by two small lateral apses, which have a triangular shape inside. The four-storey residential complex consists of 300 sanctums, four paraclises, the abbot's room, the kitchen, a library with 250 manuscripts and 9,000 old printed volumes.

The Rila Monastery Museum is known especially for Rafail's (a monk) Cross, a wooden cross carved from a single piece of wood (81 × 43 cm) with 104 religious scenes and 650 miniatures. Arriving in the city of **Chiprovski** you can visit the **History Museum** founded in 1988. Here you can admire: archaeological discoveries from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages, ores, works of the Aurora School in Chiprovtsi (XVI - XVII), evidence of religious and educational activity, specific carpets in Chiprovtsi, church paintings.



Then go on to **Kopilovtsi** village, about 38 km, where you can take a short stop for a walk in nature and have lunch at one of the guesthouses in the area, with traditional, tasty and healthy food, not certified but organic.

Then continue on to **Berkovitsa**, where you can stay in one of the 6 hotels or 8 guesthouses, villas or houses to rent. The city is known as a developing ski resort, located in the Stara Planina mountains, the Berkovitsa river valley.



Among the attractions waiting for you here we recommend: a) sightseeing: Clock Tower, Ethnography Museum, Ivan Vazov Museum House, City Art Gallery, St. Nikolay Chudotvorets Church; b) relaxation and fun at the Berlgad racecourse / horse arena; c) nature walks in the forest park, visiting the Kaleto fortress and the Haidushki waterfall.



The clock tower is the symbol of the city and cultural monument, functional and present, although it dates from 1764. The tower has 21.24m, it has straight architectural lines, it is covered with straw and sheet metal and the top has a metal emblem and the crescent-shaped flag and a bronze cross attached in 1877 by a Russian soldier, an expression of victory over the Turks.

Visiting the **Ethnographic Museum in Berkovitsa**, housed in the Sarbinska house, opened in 1971, it is a good opportunity to learn about the lifestyle and customs of people in north-western Bulgaria. The museum has over 15,000 exhibits: ceramics, copper tools, sails, ornaments, costumes, handmade carpets, Karakachanski costumes, urban dresses from the 20s of the last century and others. The museum also hosts various cultural events: concerts, trade shows, etc. **Ivan Vazov Museum House** is the house in which Ivan Vazov lived while he was President of the District Court 1 in Berkovitsa - March 7, 1879 - September 18, 1880. Since 2012, the Ivan Vazov house-museum has been part of the museum complex - Berkovitsa.



The architecture of the house is in the style of the Bulgarian Renaissance. The exhibition in the museum presents chronologically the creation of Ivan Vazov, the greatest attention being paid to his period in Berkovitsa, in which the surrounding nature was a source of inspiration and retreat.

The city's art gallery, one of the oldest in north-western Bulgaria, is located in the old Vasil Levski school building. The first exhibition was opened in 1969. The gallery's background is over 1500 works, exhibited in areas: icons, painting, sculpture, graphics, cartoons, art and applied Renaissance art. Berkovska artists also have a special place.

St. Nikolay (Nicholas) Chudotvorets Church is one of the most outstanding architectural monuments in the city. A church with three naves, built in 1871. Later, the church was enlarged, renovated and the bell tower was built. The facade of the church has changed its appearance several times over the years. Today "Saint Nicholas" impresses with the rich interior and exterior decoration, with its picturesque decorations and ancient

frescoes.

For horse lovers, action, movement and fun, we recommend the **Bergland racecourse / horse arena**- at the entrance to Berkovitsa in Stara Planina. It is an Olympic arena, but also for children. Beginners or advanced, you can choose to ride one of the 17 horses. Access is free.

Kaleto is a forest hill located in the NW part of the city. It is a **natural forest park** and protects Berkovitsa from the winds. The Ashkilar site is a romantic place south of the city, in the chestnut forests, a wonderful place to relax in nature.



Kaleto (Fortress) in Berkovitsa is a cultural monument of historical importance. Archaeologists in Bulgaria began excavation at this site in 1961. Due to their work, the exterior and interior walls of the late antiquity were revealed, with separate spaces between them. Outside there are two basilicas. In the SE part of Kaleto, in Berkovitsa, traces of the Thracian settlement are discovered. After this, in the Roman period, there is evidence regarding the mining and processing of gold. The

activities for the fortification of Kaleto (the fortress) and its reconstruction took place in the 4th century. Archaeologists have also found here columns, capitels, ceramics, bricks, tools, weapons, coins. All of these, of course, are arranged in the museum exhibit.

After enjoying the attractions of Berkovitsa, only 17 km away, **Varshets** awaits you. Here you will find numerous accommodation places, from 5-star to 2-star hotels, many guesthouses, guest rooms, over 56 in total.

Varshets is one of the oldest (1850) and most popular resorts in Northern Bulgaria, being renowned for its healing mineral springs, gentle mountain climate, beautiful scenery and well-maintained large park. The resort is at an altitude of 304 m with a mild climate, due to the vicinity of the mountain. The mineral water from Varshez contains a lot of trace elements such as iron, lithium, barium, aluminium, strontium, phosphates, manganese, arsenic etc. It is suitable for external use as well as for inhalation, irrigation and drinking.



“St. George the Victorious” Church is located on the main street, in the center of the city. Its iconostasis is the work of a local master, and some of the icons inside it date from the 17th-18th centuries. The four chandeliers built in Jerusalem and Constantinople are also interesting. In 2018 it was completely renovated. **The Holy Ascension Church** of Zanozhene was built in 1872 and was painted in 1873. It was initially called “St. Nicholas” but in 1927 it was renamed the Holy Ascension, a name it bears today. From Varschets start towards **Pleven**, 110.5 km.



Pleven, the residence of the district of the same name offers you the possibility of staying in one of the 10 hotels, 1 motel and in the guesthouses around the city. Here, we propose you start a foray into the Chernelka karst canyon.

Chernelka Karst Canyon. It was included in the list of protected areas in 1969 and it is the starting point for the Gortalovo tourist cross-route, which is 16 kilometres south of the town of Pleven with its final point Kartozhabene, 10 km southwest of the city.



The canyon, formed millions of years ago, when at the bottom it crossed the river has a width of 60 to 200 meters and an area of 300 ha. Today the karst rocks from 10 m to 40 m look like a wreath.

The route has a length of about 7 km and can be travelled on foot, being an easy route, without differences of level, crossing 17 bridges over the river. The duration is about 1h 30 min, if you do not stop for longer in order to admire the scenery or for a picnic. The best periods for hiking are in spring or autumn, when the it is not so hot.

The route can be travelled in both directions, but the most frequent starting point is the village of Gortalovo. On the way you can meet some of the rare species of plants, birds and animals that are acclimatized here: the European belly frog, the Crimean lizard, the snakes, over 200 species of birds, including the long-legged hawk, small and big rapids, the Alpine hawk, rock swallows. You will find lots of snowdrops in spring here. The road is not only spectacular but also interesting because you

have the opportunity to see some natural phenomena: the karst spring Baba Raditsa, the Gaura Tcareva cave which was used as an observation tower by Tsar Ivan Shishman, the Gaura Lily and the Ivan Provartenik - rock formations in the shape of a ring with a depth of almost 15 meters. Petroglyphs, ruins of Roman roads, etc. can be seen. At the beginning, on the eco-trail, there is the split or "truncated" rock, called the stone lying on the ground, as if had been cut with a huge knife. You can get there very quickly by car- from Plevna starting from the road to Loveci, far in the village of Brestovetc a few kilometres to the right. It passes through Todorovo and the next village is Gortalovo.



The park "Kailaka" is located south of the centre of Pleven and has been declared a protected area with a large variety of protected plant and animal species included in the Red Book of Bulgaria. Located in the karst valley, the park has 10 thousand ha. The remains of fossils can still be seen in the rocks. The park offers a unique combination of opportunities for walking, recreation and entertainment. Steep cliffs, over 40-50 meters

are perfect for mountaineering. There are ponds and dams, boats and pedal boats, swimming pools, hotels, bars, cafes, restaurants, discos, playgrounds, tennis courts, a zoo and a unique restaurant, built entirely in a cave. The park is also the host of the summer theatre of Pleven and the Wine Museum of Bulgaria. At the entrance to the park you are greeted by the ruins of the **ancient fortress Storgozia**.

Storgozia is a Byzantine fortress and village of late antiquity and early middle ages. The fortress was built in Roman times, probably on the foundations of another fortress dating from the Thracian time. At the beginning of the fourth century, a wall was built around a fortress 2 meters wide. According to some archaeological excavations, the site had two gates and three towers. Inside the fortress there used to be a church, 45 meters long and 22 meters wide, and two in size after the Tsars Basilica in Pliska. The fortress is believed to have been destroyed by the invasion of the Slavs from the Balkans. In the park there are three small dams and artificial ponds where you can try your luck at fishing.



Located 9 km east of Plevna at 208 m altitude, in the hilly basin of the Vit river, in the NW corner of the village Grivitsa we find **the Grivitsa Park** and the Mausoleum built by the Romanian people, to perpetuate the memory of its brave sons who died in the bloodiest battles during the Liberation War of 1877-1878. Nearby, we find the historical ruins of Grivishko, where most of the Romanian soldiers who fought alongside the Russian army fell in the fight for the liberation of Plevna in 1877.

The mausoleum was built from 1892 to 1897, and its inauguration was made in 1902 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Grivitsa - Plevna battles. It is built of white stone in a typical Renaissance style, mixed with Roman-Byzantine elements. The shape is symmetrical cruciform. The high dome ends with a metallic cross.

Small metal crosses were placed on the main ledge above the entrance and on the other opposite sides. Above the entrance there is a decorated and open stone arch. The mausoleum consists of the temple and the basement chamber. Grivitsa Park is known as the "friendship park".

Its construction began in 1958 with the efforts of the Bulgarian and Romanian masters. In recent years, the park is constantly expanding and landscaping, ornamental shrubs, roses and greenery, giving a pleasant and soothing appearance. Going on one of the two main alleys, towards the centre of the park, you will find a monument of the warriors of Romanian origin, the common grave with that of the Russian heroes and to the north, the common monument of the Russian dead soldiers from the 19th Kostroma Regiment.

West of the main alley of the park on the lawn, there are three Russian cannons. The Romanian mausoleum, Grivitsa Park,

Friendship Park and numerous white stone monuments will always remind of the great liberation fight.



Then you leave Plevna and go to Romania crossing the border with the ferry Oreahovo - Bechet (77km, about 1 h) with the first stop at Corabia, after 47 km.

You can also spend the night here with 1 hotel, 1 hostel and 3 guesthouses. Arriving in **Corabia**, a city located at the Danube, with a tourist port and a commercial port, we recommend you to visit at least two interesting cultural sights: **Corabia Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography** and the Roman fortress **Sucidava**.

The Corabia Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, founded in 1951, has a mixed profile: history, ethnography and the natural sciences. The museum's exhibition is divided into two categories: folk art and old history. The collections contain archaeological pieces, weapons, tools, household utensils, ceramics, ornaments, numismatics, bronze and marble statues, funerary monuments, architectural pieces, epigraphic pieces of outstanding quality,

Byzantine treasures. Pieces of natural sciences, palaeontology, flora and fauna in the area are added to this. Also, a beautiful collection of ethnography and folk art, comprising tools and utensils related to agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, traditions, folk wear.

From the centre of the city you can easily reach the only Roman fortress in the Oltenia area, **Sucidava Fortress**, restored with European funds. The signs posted through the city lead the tourist to a place full of history. Initially, Sucidava (Fortress of "Suci") was a Geto-Dacian settlement. During the reign of Roman Emperor Aurelian (270-275) Sucidava Fortress was built, the first defence fortress.

The fortress was inhabited by the emperor Constantine the Great who also built a stone bridge over the Danube (today the foot of the bridge has remained). Between 442 and 447, the fortress was attacked by the Huns and destroyed; eight decades later, it was restored by the order of Emperor Justinian (527-533), but around 600, the fortress was permanently destroyed during the Slavic and Avar invasions.

At the end of the 6th century it began to be inhabited by a Romanian population; Between the 14th and 16th centuries, a medieval fortification was erected on one side of the Sucidava fortress. Today, only the walls and the entrance towers (8 in number) are preserved, which were discovered after the archaeological excavations, the hypocaust building, the Roman-Byzantine basilica dating from the sixth century, the foot of the bridge over the Danube built by Constantine the Great in 328, the Constantinian gate that connects the bridge with the fortress, the Roman baths, some paved streets and a Roman fountain dug in the second century.

The attraction of the fortress is the secret fountain, from where

the Romans took their drinking water for the entire fortress. The access path to the well is through the galleries dug 26 meters deep. Legend has it that the water of the dried spring has the power to sense the love of couples and to reunite the separated ones. Visitors can see in Sucidava Fortress the first system in the world of underfloor heating, invented by the Romans. Access to the fortress is free.

You can have an excursion in nature, about 27 km from Corabia, in the southern part of Potelu village, near the national road DN54A that connects the city of Dăbuleni to Corabia in the forest-type natural reserve, protected area of national interest, **Casa Pădurii in Potelu Forest** - forested area of Potelu Meadow (Danube Meadow) with the purpose of protection for some secular oak (*Quercus robur*) specimens (over 400 years old) that vegetate in association with arboreal species of acacia and poplar.



Continuing your pathway, you will reach the city of Caracal, where as the main attractions selected in this stay are **Iancu**

Jianu Memorial House and the Romanăți Museum, the National Theatre, Constantin Poroineanu Park.

The Iancu Jianu Memorial House - Iancu Jianu Haiducul, originally from Caracal city, is the only noble outlaw in Romania, which, with around 3,000 outlaws in his subordination, has fought against boyars, fanarians, Ottomans and Habsburgs. In 1809, the villager led an action against the Turks who had attacked Craiova and several villages in Oltenia. In this revolt, the villagers killed the Vidin pasha, but also destroyed the Turkish colony of Turnu Măgurele. It can be said that Iancu Jianu was a kind of native Robin Hood - he took money from the rich and donated them in particular for building churches.

Built in 1790 by the outlaw's father, the memorial house was built in the style of the boyar "culas" and was inhabited by Iancu and his direct followers until 1945. The building, a true emblem of the Oltenian architecture, has three rooms upstairs, three on the basement, an interior staircase, a porch and a cellar.

But if you go into the house and listen to the stories about Iancu Jianu and the family, you will feel the scent of that time and you will be part of their story.



Romanăți Museum with archaeology profile, it houses collections of ceramics, lamps, gems, fibulae, inscriptions, statuettes and coins from the Roman era, from the sites of Dobrosloveni (Romula) and Hotărani. At the entrance to the museum the Lapidarium is located, a valuable sector, consisting of more than 20 pieces: sarcophagi, gate thresholds, funeral stones, supply

vessels. The piece of resistance is the sarcophagus of Aelius Iulius Iulianus (3rd century AD), with dimensions of 2.30 x 1.08 x 1.54 m, made of Vratsa limestone, with beautiful sculptural ornaments; according to the inscription, the sarcophagus was erected by the deceased's wife, Valeria Gaemellina, along with the children. The sarcophagus was discovered near Romula, in the necropolis of Hotărani in 1952.

The National Theatre in Caracal - represents the main architectural element representative of Olt County in the field of culture, a true architectural jewel. Built between 1896-1901 in an eclectic style with neo-baroque and neo-Renaissance accents, it impresses with its massive and decorative richness. At the National Theatre, on an annual basis are held: "Ștefan Iordache" Festival, the Festival of Comedy of non-professional theatres, the Festival of Theatre and Short Film for Youth "fesTin", on a permanent basis the Municipal Theatre season, theatre shows, music, entertainment, symposiums, conferences, exhibitions, etc.

The Constantin Poroineanu Park, named after the one who donated the land in 1893 and then its entire fortune to the city, was created following the project of the French landscape architects, Edgar Redont and Ernest Pinard, who also designed Cișmigi Park. Amazing through an extremely picturesque. At the foot of a large ledge lies a lake supplied by natural springs. The Alley of Poplars, 1200 meters long, made in 1913 is also spectacular. The four parallel rows of poplars have dizzying heights. In the park, besides many species of plants and trees, native, exotic species acclimatized to our country can be seen.

The park is one of the main leisure points of the city, with terrace-restaurant on the lake, small islands, a football stadium and handball fields, zoo, swimming pool and playground for children. Near Caracal, in the village of Dobrosloveni, you can

visit the **archaeological site Romula**. The site presents the remains of a Roman fortification (Romula) built in the 2nd-3rd centuries A.D. on the site of a Dacian fortress (Malva), around which an urban settlement was subsequently developed. During the reign of Emperor Hadrian, Romula was declared a municipality.

Today, the archaeological site comprises buildings in different stages of conservation: stone and brick walls, canal with Roman bridge, gates of the city, Roman baths, curia. In the village of Hotărani, in the village of Fărcașele, a short distance from the town of Dobrosloveni, you can find **Hotărani Monastery** one of the old Orthodox monasteries of Oltenia, built in late 16th century, by a great ruler of Wallachia at that time, Mitrea Vornic. Going further to Slatina take a short stop for about 1 h 30 min and at **Drăgănești Olt** you will see **Muzeul Câmpiei Boianului Traian Zorzolui**, named after the founder of the museum, a plastic artist, a publicist and founder of several ethnographic museums in Olt County. This museum is one with over 15,000 exhibits and several annexes built.

The main objective of the museum is an open air archeopark, unique in Romania, which reconstructs a village according to the type of Neolithic settlements specific to the Gumelnița culture, based on the archaeological evidence discovered in this area. In fact it is much more, and the exhibition ensemble here includes: the history sections, Christian-Orthodox religion, ethnography, pinacoteca, the exhibition Prof. T. Zorzolui, that we encounter in: the main pavilion, the wine cellar, the peasant house, the church, the firemen's museum, the hut and the Neolithic village. It is a spectacular museum and the explanations of the museum guides are as well documented as beautifully rendered that they seem to transpose you into the world presented. It will really delight you!



Once in **Slatina**, you can enjoy accommodation in the 7 hotels, 3 city guesthouses or rooms for rent. The services offered here largely satisfy the requirements of a "healthy" stay. From here we propose some forays into the surroundings and start with a visit to the **Clocociov Monastery**, which can be likened to the Voronețu in Bucovina and Neamț Agapia.

The resemblance is not due to the architecture of the three holy places, or to paintings, but to the general impression that the whole monastery can leave you with. Located on the outskirts of Slatina, the Clocociov Monastery has a special history because the name of the founder is not known, but the documentary attestation has existed since the time of Neagoe Basarab. An important role in the monastery's past is played by Mihai Viteazul, who rebuilt the church and assigned it other properties. But the most important contribution is that of Matei Basarab, when all the material achievements are attributed to Diicu Buicescu, a relative of the ruler. The holy monastery has the dedication of the church of Saints Archangels Michael and Gabriel, it is declared a historical monument, and the community

consists of 40 nuns.



About 40 km from Slatina you can make a foray into the nature at the **Hungarian oak Natural Reserve**, in the NE part of the village Cornățelu.

The reserve is a protected area of national interest, a nature reserve of forest type. The flora consists of trees and shrubs with species of Hungarian oak, sessile oak, common oak, maple, hornbeam, smooth-leaved elm, common hawthorn, European wild pear, European crab apple, common dogwood or Cornus mas.



At 27 km from Slatina you reach the city of Scornicești, where the main attraction is the **Memorial House of Communist President Nicolae Ceausescu**.

Nicolae Ceausescu is the "dictator-president", who ruled Romania for 22 years (1967-1989). He was born on January 26, 1918 in the village (now town) Scornicești, in a peasant family with ten children. Since entering the three-room house, look at the picture that depicts the former dictator, hanging on the wall on the right side of the stove.

At a brief glance in the rooms, in addition to the furniture that belonged to Ceaușescu, in the house there are also objects specific to that period, cookware, boxes of dowry.

Depending on the period chosen for your stay, you can enjoy the **cultural-artistic events** organized, which are plenty and interesting, of which we recall: National Pop Music Festival - Radu Șerban - September, Caracal; The National Humor Festival

"Oltenii & restul lumii - September Slatina; National Photographic Art Competition Eva - March, Slatina etc.

Traditional, natural, unique and especially tasty culinary preparations specific to the Oltenia area, it will complement the beauty of your stay in Olt County. We mention that many of them are vegetarians, using natural / organic vegetables from nature or their own crops such as: cabbage rolls, mushroom "ciulama", "raci" (dried red peppers) soup, wild garlic and sorrel dish, nettles, sorrel broth. Emblematic for Olt County is leeks, so you can taste leek food or broth. Meat or fish are not missing from the traditional menus either, such as chicken brine, fish soup, Oltenian chicken soup (the chicken is cleaned and it is split on the breast. Put a pinch of salt, a little pepper, crushed thyme, spread the chicken on the bread (or on the unleavened bread) and bake in the "țest", so that the chicken juice enters the dough.

You end your cross-border stay in **Slatina**, returning home (the package may also include transportation to your locality), probably recalling the unique moments of your vacation and why not, dreaming of your next **NATBIOT** cross-border vacation.

**Enjoy the travel package
NATBIOT 3 - MO-PL-O!**







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