

WELCOME TO SOVIET
MOLDAVIA!



Intourist



Have you ever heard the words “Casa Mare”? In Soviet Moldavia they mean “guest room”, the room that has the best of everything that is in the house—furniture, carpets, crockery, etc.

And hospitable Soviet Moldavia has become such a big “Casa Mare” today. The beauty of its landscapes, its famed orchards and vineyards, the goodwill and hospitality of the Moldavian people have long acquired a powerful attractive force that draws a multitude of guests from all over the world to the republic. Nature has endowed it with long sunny summers and short mild winters. Low hills and ravines with the saucers of blue lakes, rivers weaving their way among the hills, villages set in the lush greenery of orchards—a scenery that exudes tranquillity and joy, and has been sung by poets.



The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic is situated in the south-west of the Soviet Union, taking up the territory between the rivers Prut and Dniester, and a part of the Dniester's left bank. In the west, along the river Prut, the Moldavian SSR borders on the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

Moldavia is not a large country, stretching for 350 kilometres from north to south, and for 150 kilometres from west to east. Its population of 3.7 million consists of representatives of more than 60 nationalities, 64.6 per cent of them being Moldavians.

In the distant past the territory of what is now Soviet Moldavia was the fringeland of a vast region populated by Thracian tribes. The population became Romanized in the 1st and early 2nd centuries A. D. in the period of Roman conquests. The Slavs settled in this territory late in the 5th and early in the 6th centuries, a time of the great migration of peoples. The mutual assimilation of the Romanized population and the Slavs formed the East Romanian people – the Wallachians – the immediate ancestors of the Moldavians.

Moldavia was first mentioned as an independent principedom in 1359. Being situated between the Carpathians and the Black Sea, Moldavia lay not only at the crossroads of international trade routes but also, as an ancient chronicle says, “at the crossroads of all calamities”. For more than three centuries the population of this area suffered from the barbarian feudal oppression of Turkish sultans and waged a stubborn national liberation struggle against them. This struggle always had Russia’s aid and support.

The joining to Russia of lands situated between the Dniester and Prut, known as Bessarabia, in 1812, did much to accelerate the area’s economic and cultural development and the process of the formation of the Moldavian nation. Most important for the destinies of the Moldavian people was its drawing into the all-Russia revolutionary movement.

As a result of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917, Moldavia’s working people, guided by the Marxist-Leninist Party, liquidated social and national

oppression and established Soviet power late in 1917 – early in 1918.

But in January–February, 1918, monarchic Rumania made use of the temporary weakness of the young Soviet State and with the assistance of Western imperialists and the leaders of the counter-revolutionary “Sfatul țării” (Council of the Country) seized a considerable part of Moldavia, liquidated the Soviets and established a regime of sanguinary terror and arbitrariness that lasted for 22 years.

Throughout the years of occupation the popular masses of Bessarabia, headed by underground communist organizations, conducted a heroic struggle for reunification with the USSR. The Khotin, Bendery and Tatarbunary uprisings hold a special place in this struggle. The liberation movement in Bessarabia had the full support of the progressive forces of the whole world.

The Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was formed in the left-bank part of Moldavia on October 12, 1924. The Moldavian people thus acquired its national socialist statehood.

The dream for which the best sons and daughters of Bessarabia had struggled and given their lives came true on June 28, 1940. On that day Soviet power was restored in Bessarabia and the Moldavian people was reunited, and the road to socialism and national revival was opened for it.

In accordance with the will of Moldavia’s working people a session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR decreed on August 2, 1940 to form the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic as a constituent republic of the USSR.

But the Moldavian people, like all Soviet people, had to pass through yet another grim trial – the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union (1941–1945). The nazi butchers shot, hanged, burned to death or buried alive about 64,000



people and herded more than 47,000 people into slavery. More than 207,000 peaceful civilians were put to torture. The damage inflicted by the fascists to Soviet Moldavia was estimated at more than 11,000 million roubles.

The rehabilitation of the republic's economy began with the onset of peace. The fraternal Soviet peoples helped Moldavia to quickly heal the wounds of war. New villages and towns, factories and plants rose from the ashes and ruins. Tractors appeared on the collective-farm fields and new orchards and vineyards were planted throughout the republic.

Soviet Moldavia has become a highly developed industrial-agrarian republic, one of the country's biggest producers of fruits, grapes and wines.

During the post-war period all industrial enterprises were fully modernized and considerably enlarged, and hundreds of new ones were built. The volume of industrial production in Soviet

Moldavia grew 28 times as compared to 1940, the year of Bessarabia's liberation and the Moldavian people's reunification, and the share of industrial output in Moldavia's gross social product reached nearly 60 per cent. The per capita generation of electricity in the republic (2117 kilowatt-hours) is 50 per cent higher than the average world figure (1400 kilowatt-hours), and all settlements in the republic have electricity.

Soviet Moldavia has a multi-branched and highly mechanized agriculture. Gross agricultural output has more than trebled since 1950 (the time of the completion of collectivization in Moldavia). Although occupying only 0.2 per cent of the USSR's entire territory, Moldavia accounts for more than two per cent of the country's entire agricultural produce, and is a major producer of tobacco, grapes, fruits, sugar beet, sunflower seeds and essential-oil bearing plants.

The republic's agriculture employs more than 16,000 specialists with a higher or secondary specialized education. On the average, there are 19 agronomists, zootechnicians, engineers, economists and other specialists per collective farm.

Housing construction is being conducted on a big scale. 25.6 million square metres of floor living space have been built since the time Soviet Moldavia was formed, this being equal to 25 towns with a population of 100,000 each.

Once a land with a nearly totally illiterate population, Moldavia now has 8 establishments of higher education, 48 specialized secondary schools, 60 vocational-technical schools, over 1,900 general education schools and 400 well-equipped boarding schools. Instruction in most of the educational establishments is in Moldavian. Every third resident of Moldavia is engaged in some form of studies.

The republic's more than 700 research establishments are working on major problems of developing the economy, science and culture.



KISHINEV IS THE CAPITAL OF SOVIET MOLDAVIA

Although five centuries old, it has, like many other Soviet cities, become younger, an "ordinary miracle" as this process is sometimes described. The unselfish aid of all the fraternal Soviet peoples and the selfless labour of the Moldavian people have made it a flourishing centre of the republic's political, economic and cultural life. Its plants produce tractors, deep-well pumps, electrotechnical equipment, oscillographs, refrigerators, washing machines, carpets and rugs, cigarettes and brandies—that are famous far beyond the Soviet Union. This enumeration includes only a part of what is manufactured in Kishinev.

Before the establishment of Soviet power Kishinev did not have a single establishment of higher education. Now it is a city of science, being the seat of the Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian SSR and of about forty research and design institutes and laboratories. It is a town of students as well—50,000 young people study at its university, five institutes and dozens of specialized secondary schools.



Plushchad Osvobozhdeniya (Liberation Square)



Moldavian music, temperamental dances and wonderful songs are famed throughout the world. Performing in Kishinev are the choir "Doina", the "Joc" folk dance company and the "Fluieraş" orchestra whose musicians play such rare folk instruments as the chimpoi, the fluier and the taragot, known as the "grandfather of the clarinet". Amateur art is developing extensively, and such amateur ensembles as "Mioriţa", "Merişor" and "Horă" are very popular. There were no professional theatre companies in old Moldavia. They appeared only in the years of Soviet power.



Kishinev now has five professional theatres and a philharmonic society. The Opera and Ballet Theatre in the capital is well known, and its repertoire includes works by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Verdi, Puccini, Gounod and also of contemporary Soviet composers.

Plays by Soviet and foreign authors are staged by the Moldavian Musical Drama Theatre named after Pushkin and the Russian Drama Theatre named after Tchekhov. Classical and modern symphony music is performed at the philharmonic society.

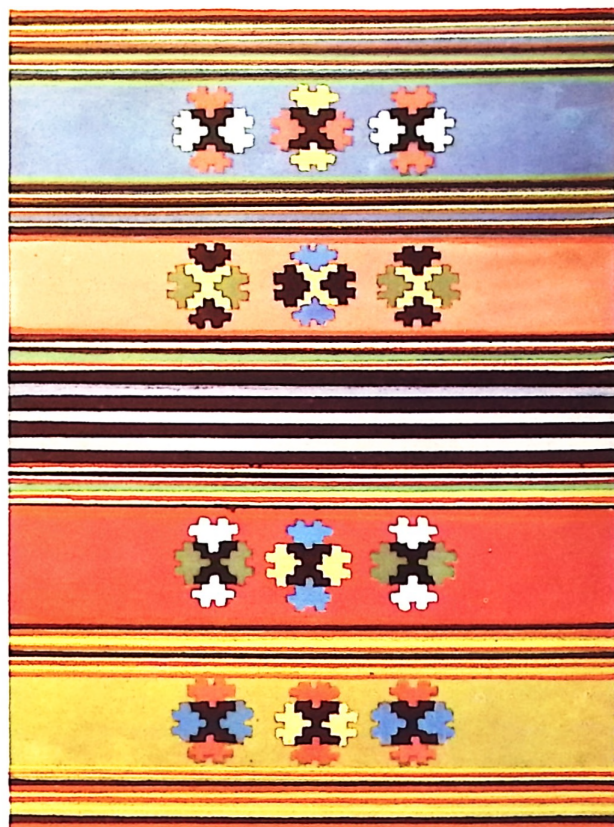
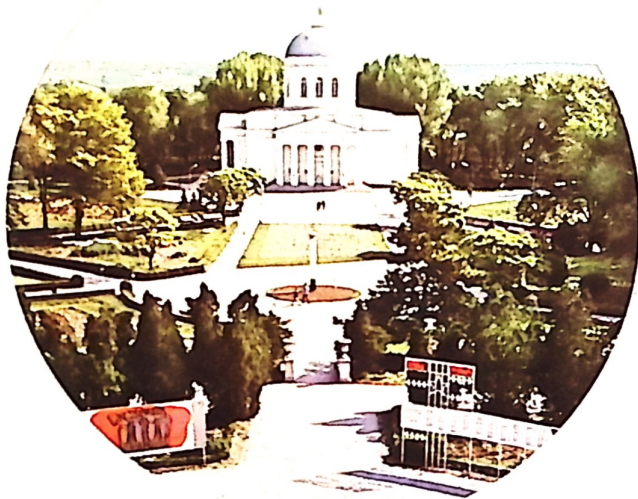
The great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin lived in Kishinev in 1820-1823. The unique beauty of southern nature, meetings with vivid and original personalities gave Pushkin the concept of his romantic poems "The Caucasian Prisoner" and "The Bandit Brothers". It was in Kishinev that he started to work on his "Eugene Onegin". Pushkin visited a Gipsy camp and this inspired him to write the poem "Gipsies". The Pushkin memorial museum will give you an idea of that period in the famous poet's life.

Museum of the History of the Moldavian SSR
Communist Party



When in Kishinev, you will be able to visit the Museum of the History of the Communist Party of Moldavia and its branch - Russia's first underground printing shop where Lenin's newspaper "Iskra" was put out. There is also the G. I. Kotovsky and S. G. Lazo Museum with most interesting exhibits related to the life and work of these Civil War heroes.

Exhibition hall



The Local Lore Museum has a rich collection of Moldavian national costumes and carpets. The national costume worn by women consists of a white linen shirt with colourful embroidered ornaments in front and on the sleeves, a plakhta (worn over the skirt) which by its colour scheme and ornaments resembles a carpet, a colourful belt and a vest covered with beads. The highly skilled embroidery, the unique patterns and abundance of colour will certainly strike your imagination.

Moldavia is famous for its hand-woven carpets which can be described as amazing multi-coloured poems.

There are several architectural monuments in the capital of the republic, including a 19th century cathedral that has now been converted into an exhibition hall – a branch of the Arts Museum.





The "Intourist" restaurant

What is the attraction of Kishinev? It could be the sea of greenery: acacias and chestnuts, lindens and maples, jasmin and roses. . . Roses are everywhere: in the parks and in the baskets of flower-girls, in the hands of people and on tables in restaurants. Or, perhaps, Kishinev's charm comes from the light-coloured buildings made from shell rock? It is white, rough and seems to exude warmth. Or maybe it is the special aroma of sun-drenched earth that attracts so . . .

On a summer evening when the bustle of the city subsides, when stars light up on the black velvet of the sky and the fragrance of flowers goes slightly to your head - it is just the time to sit on the shore of Lake Komsomolskoye and absorb its inimitable beauty.

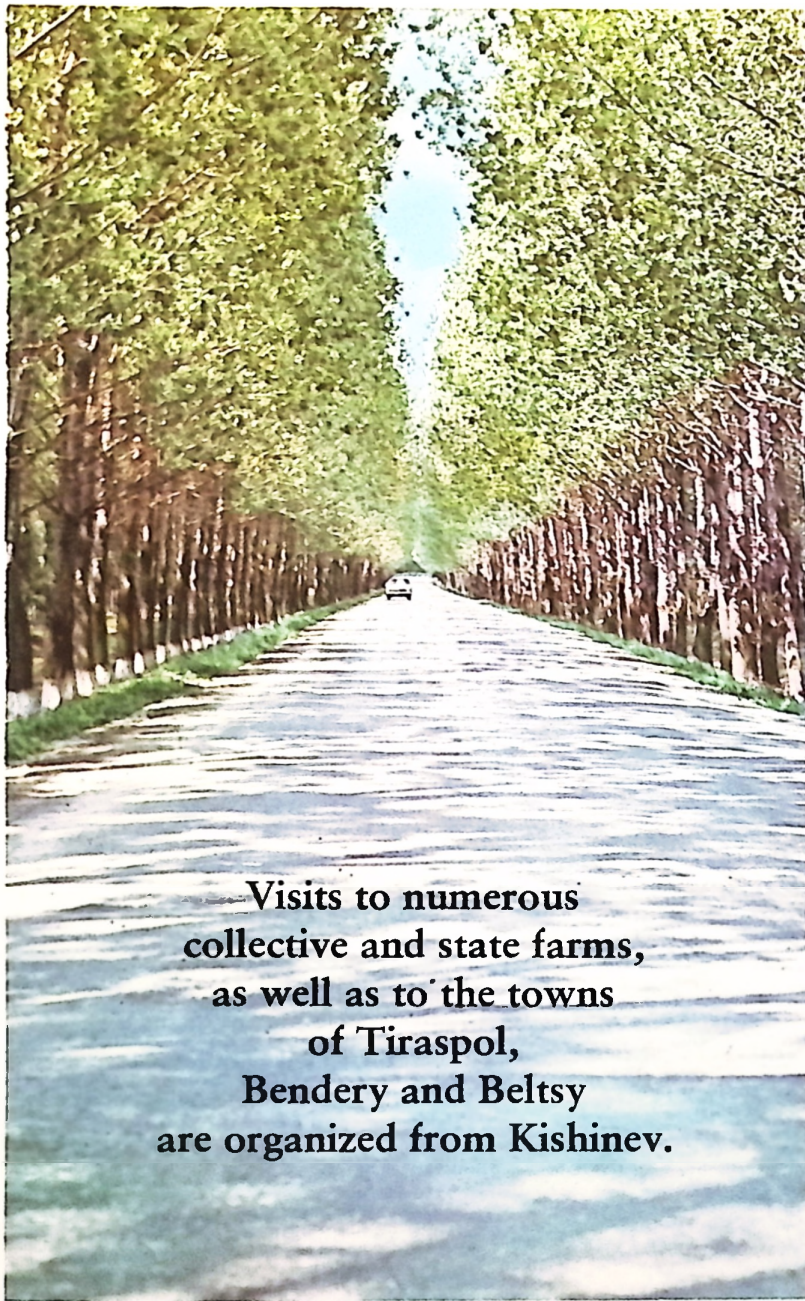
**Visit Kishinev
and you will fall
in love with this
eternally young city!**



Ryshkanovka, a new residential district



Lake Komsomolskoye



Visits to numerous
collective and state farms,
as well as to the towns
of Tiraspol,
Bendery and Beltsy
are organized from Kishinev.

BENDERY is a neighbour of Tiraspol and one of the oldest towns in Moldavia. It boasts a 16th century fortress and excellent silk fabrics.

The town suffered much damage during the last war and was built anew. New apartment houses, schools, specialized secondary schools, hotels, cinemas and clubs have appeared. A shady park, boulevards, an abundance of flowers and the closeness of the river make the town cosy and attractive.

BELTSY is situated to the north of Kishinev and is a big industrial centre of Moldavia. Its enterprises produce fur mantles, sugar, refined oil, wines and brandies. The town's institute and specialized secondary educational establishments train specialists for various branches of the national economy.

TIRASPOL – one of the centres of Moldavia's machine-building, light, canning and wine-making industries. It is located 75 kilometres from Kishinev on the bank of the Dniester.

The city has more than a dozen schools, a pedagogical institute, a research institute and a drama theatre. Its streets are attractive, especially the Komsomolskaya Embankment.

When staying in the city, you will have a chance to taste famous Moldavian brandies – “Yubileiny”, “Tiraspol’sky”, “Nistru”, “Doina” and “Solnechy”, as well as most diverse wines.



Bendery





It is said that should the entire population of the Soviet Union (more than 250 millions) be seated at a single table and treated to Moldavian wine made from a single grape harvest, each of the guests would be served a litre of excellent wine. Moldavia's wines and brandies are widely known. Many of them have won gold medals at international tastings.

Superb dry and sweet wines are made at the "Gratiesti" state farm five kilometres from Kishinev. The best of them are "Aligote", "Feteasca", "Riesling", "Pinot", "Cabernet", "Muscatel" and others. There is a vocational school at the state farm that trains agronomists and technologists specializing in the cultivation and processing of grapes.

Those who are interested in national customs, will enjoy a trip to the village Strasheny where they will be accorded a traditional welcome in the "Casa Mare".

The **DNIESTER** is Moldavia's main river. It used to be quite capricious in the past and its huge potential energy was wasted. Now this mighty river turns the turbines of hydroelectric power stations. Moldavians are in love with the Dniester, and it is the subject of songs, poetry, tales and legends. Its picturesque banks with beaches make it a wonderful place for vacationing.

SUNNY SOVIET MOLDAVIA IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO WELCOME GUESTS!





The "Butoyash" restaurant

You can travel to Soviet Moldavia from Rumania by train through Ungheny or by car through Leusheny.

In the outskirts of Kishinev motor tourists will find a good motel with a first-class restaurant, a filling and maintenance station.

There is also a camping on the bank of the Dniester near Kishinev. You can have a cabin or put up a tent in a meadow, in a grove or in the picturesque hills descending to the river. On a hot summer day it is a pleasure to linger on the beach and take dips in the river. You will certainly enjoy a boat cruise on the Dniester and admire the beauty of its steep banks overgrown with willows.

From the capital of Soviet Moldavia you can travel by car, rail or air to the major cities of the USSR.



**VISIT THE BLOSSOMING ORCHARD—
THE HOSPITABLE AND SUNNY MOLDAVIA!**



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