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Danube Delta

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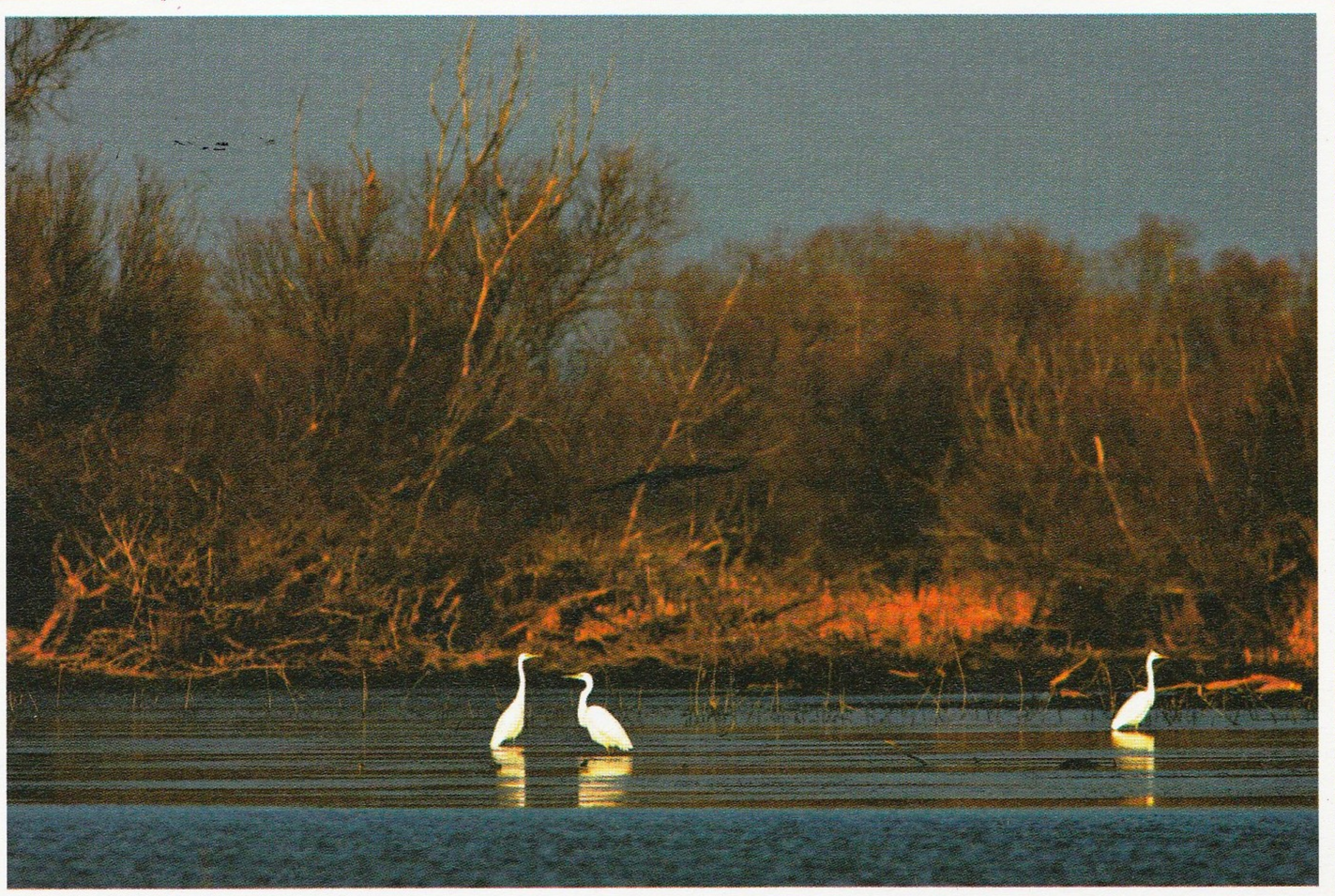
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Danube Delta village is a saint settlement, with blessed people, where different religions meet in harmony, protected by the same unique God, represented or not by symbol-images, but present everywhere, in the world!

(after Paula Popoiu, "Anthropology of habitat in Dobrogea")

The adventure begins ...

A mirror of water, knitting tirelessly strip of young lands born under the eyes of the natives is shared by Romania and Ukraine. Danube Delta is the living treasure that "as a woven cloth in spring, wears the yellow of water, full of alluvia, and green of reed, conceived in silt".

Life bursts inside waters, as well as on narrow strips of land, where reed bows under the wind blow sheltering the most varied and coloured birds in the world. "As in a huge geologic and biologic lab, the land is born and life seeks new ways of being!".

For the nature lovers, Danube Delta creates the sentiment of wildness, of a primitive space full of reed, interrupted here and there by oasis of sand with forests of willows and poplars.

"Delta is the favoured place for water birds, especially predators which share their prey fishes with gold and silver scales with fishermen".

"Sulina branch with lot of bends, the lakes opened suddenly in the middle of reed, the littoral with sand beaches in the east, the small mountains in the south-west, the forests with equatorial aspect on Letea and Caraorman maritime sands, the compact flocks of pelicans, the cows, sheep and pigs" offers the wild picturesqueness of Delta. But the landscape would not be complete without elements that humanize it. All over the Delta, on channels or lakes, you will see fishermen with their boats floating quietly on. Some of them waiting patiently for the fish, others sliding slowly, satisfied by their catch, others looking around.

A multitude of colours burst in an explosion of life from the depths of the water high in the sky. The chaise of animals ones after others, looking for shelter and food makes a noise which does not stop even at sunset.

In summer, water turns green, being invaded by luxuriant vegetation which advances from the channel net to the deep and clear lakes, trying to dethrone the summer king: water lily.

The symphony of colours is lightened in autumn by explosion of red, orange, green-brown and pale yellow of leaves whose fall begins; the lakes complete the palette with blue, indigo and violet. The air is perfumed by the sweet odour of pumpkins harvested from gardens and the smell of golden quince which are to complete the winter provisions of Delta people.

"The winter falls like a blanket of snow and ice of white-grey colour, where the defoliated willows can be seen spreading their greatness in the distance. Reed areas are coloured in pale yellow as their stems and in brown like their flowers. Fishes have move down in the depths, in less cold waters. Mammals retired in caves and holes for a more or less profound hibernation that is interrupted only when the weather



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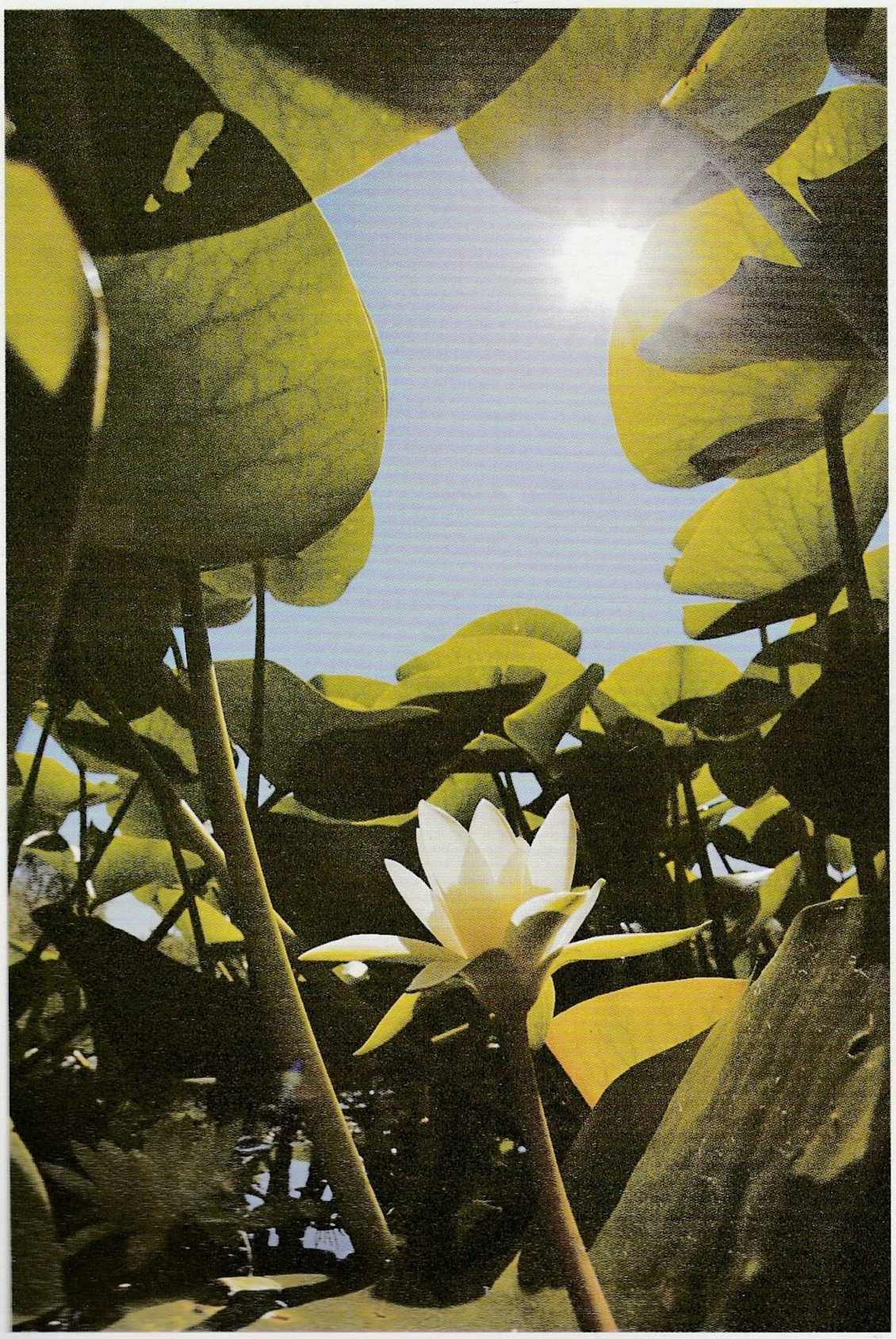




gets warm. The most part of the birds that nestled in Delta left long time ago; others looks for shelter, especially on the shore of the sea or in the southern lagoons of the delta. The channels and dikes are frozen by the breath of the winter frost".

First day! You may leave Tulcea, the old town founded by the Greeks on the bank of Danube River, by car, in the morning. In 30 or 40 minutes you should arrive in Murighiol locality; from here you can take a motor boat to get in 1h: 50min to Sfantu Gheorghe, the largest fishermen village in the Delta and one of the places where you meet the hospitality of the locals and their wish to make you feel good!

Also, from Tulcea you can get to Sulina in an hour and a half where you can attend "Music National Contest", at its XIth edition this year. The main aim of this festival is to discover original musical pieces of Romanian composers and to support their collaboration with different musical producers. Due to its multi-ethnicity, Sulina was selected as a host location for this event especially for its cultural-social traditions which these communities have preserved in time.



From Murighiol village you can arrive in Uzlina in 20 minutes only by water and if you get there at noon, you can enjoy good meal with fish soup cooked specially for you and accompanied by a glass of local wine!

Tulcea is also the departure point for Mila 23 village, passing on Mila 35 channel to Sireasa, Sontea, Olguta Channels and, finally, to the Old Danube and the finish point Mila 23. If you wish to continue your trip by water, then you may go farther to Crisan or Maliuc villages.

Either you wish to visit Jurilovca, Gura Portitei or Caraormanul, it is important to keep in mind that during this wonderful adventure you need a companion, a guide, to teach you the secrets of Delta and explain you the beauties of this place.



Traditions of Danube Delta counted by... local people

During my travel to Murighiol, I was pleased to meet someone who loves Delta with passion. At his age of 33 years old, after a long voluntarily involvement in ecological projects, he preferred to return in his native village, in Crisan, to found a family here and to start his own business.

Adrian Cacencu graduated his secondary school in Crisan and his high school in Tulcea. He collaborated with Tulcea Ornithological Society and, he voluntarily worked in different projects abroad concerning pollution and natural reconstruction in countries like France and England.

Once these projects completed, he returned to Tulcea and began working with a tourism agency to organise thematic trips in the Danube Delta.

How did the collaboration with the tourism agency start?

Due to my passion, ornithology, I started to work as a profiled guide and I improved my knowledge stolen from science people. Subsequently, I returned to my village, in Crisan, continuing to work as a guide and



as a collaborator of the tourism agency, becoming friends with its owner.

How did you begin the business with reed?

A long time ago, I visited a photographer in France, who had a very beautiful house covered with reed. I asked him how he thought to cover the roof with reed. It was a legitimate question because in Crisan, the houses that are now built are modern, with last generation materials and all kinds of techniques of insulation. Only very few of them preserved their





traditional roof of reed. My house in Crisan is covered with reed and it cost as much as any ultramodern material of construction roof. The reed resists between 35-40 years with no problems. It offers long term durability and a good isolation to the house. In England, for instance, the reed increases the value of a house with approximately 25-30%!

There is the disadvantage concerning the problem of fires. However, at present, the reed used is treated with a special substance which, in case of fire, turns into foam protecting the roof against fire.

In winter, when strong winds splinter any resistant materials, or, in summer, when the heat heats you, as in an oven, when you enter the house, all houses





covered with reed are the most resistant in the Danube Delta. Much more, it represents the traditional construction here!

As I was telling you, this photographer taught me the logic of using reed on roofs; he put me in contact with a reedman and with a reed sheaf binder. While I stayed there I worked at a few houses, until I get some experience. I also bought few reed constructions outfits and I returned to Crisan.

How many houses are covered with reed in Crisan?

At present, there are over 15 houses and, it shall be completed other 10 in the following period.

How many people are in Crisan, what is its population?

There are 800 families living here, but there are also another 400 who bought holiday houses here.





What is the future of Delta from your point of view, as a local? Shall it exclusively be dedicated to tourism or, other forms of activities can be developed as well?

The main development direction of Delta is tourism. From this point of view, it is a certain fact that Delta is disproportional developed. For instance, Letea is not all developed, unlike Crisan which was developed over night. This was due to the fact that many people came here and bought land and started to build houses. Like Letea, Caraorman village is another place poorly developed from economic point of view.

What can the tourist do in Delta? What is your most valuable thing in Delta?

The nature! It comes first, being the most valuable asset we have here!

And, for the tourists, first of all, you have to listen to them and discover what they like to see. You have to see if they are fisherman, botanists or hunters, or simply tourists to discover what they would enjoy. Once you know all this things, you create their routes and tell them information about Delta. A part of them want to stop for fishing, others want visiting and others wait for hours to see or capture in a



picture a species of bird....So, we are sitting in the bushes, and we prepare our cameras to take a picture. And we wait...

How long do the tourists usually stay in Delta?

Depends on expedition theme: if we talk about those who are coming for bird watching or for the research of different plants, they stay between three and five days. I remember that last year, I had a Belgium couple of young people who were looking for admiring the carnivore plants in Danube Delta. They didn't know if the plants existed in this region! There are some lilaceous plants that eat flies (i.e. very small flies).

Other time, I was the guide of a tourist group which came to examine the degree of accidental pollution in Delta. They stayed for almost a week. It was an exceptional case. What I would like to say is the fact that there are people loving to do this kind of activities.

Also, there are fishermen with whom you go fishing, for carp or pike. They want to go to places full of fish to be sure they will catch something. I remember that I had a group of tourists who wanted to catch a carp and, by mistake, I took them, in a location where the carp never bitted. Just the pike! It was a place called Gura Bodaproste! Unexpectedly, they caught seven-eight pieces of beautiful carp in less than an hour and I barely recovered my senses when the soup was ready. We were lucky that day!

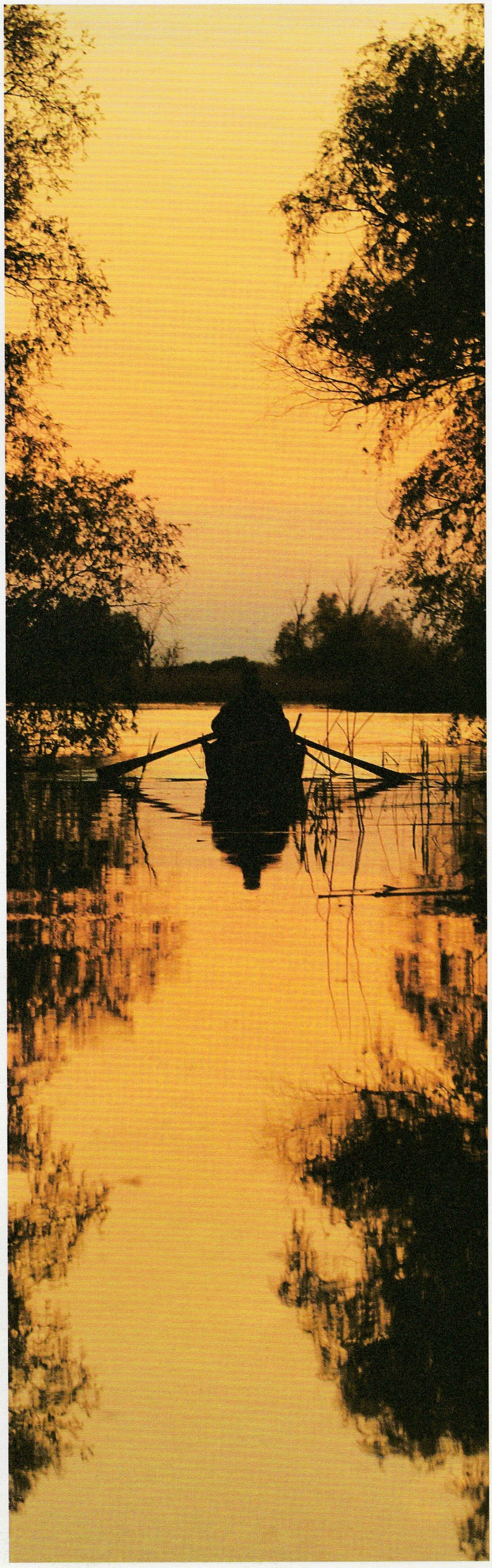
When is the optimum period to come to Delta?

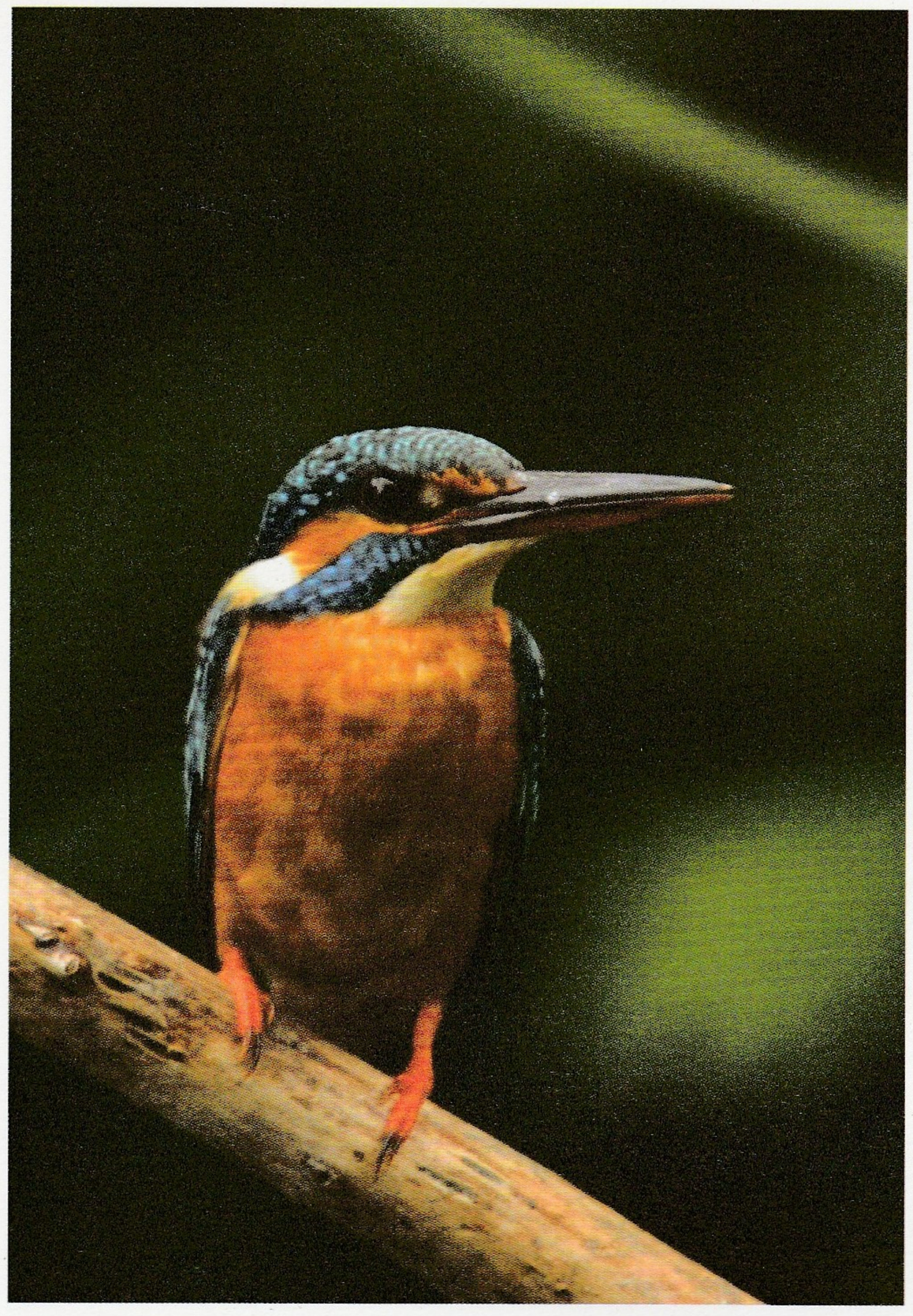
The best moment to visit Delta is immediately after Easter up to September-October, because there are a lot of accommodations closed for winter. Winter season is difficult in Danube Delta. Only the specialists, experienced in Delta because they know what to expect and they have clear objectives to visit.

What other means of entertainment are in Danube Delta for tourists?

On tourists demand, we have organised an approximately eight-nine hours canoe tours on the route Sulina-Letea, last year. The idea is that you cannot do canoe continuously. The guide must have the experience to combine it with different activities. That's why, last year we chose to stop in Letea for a day to sleep in tents and to walk in the forest. For us, is not difficult to do such expeditions, because we can bear both the sun and the effort. Generally, for tourists, it's more difficult to endure, because after four or five hours of route, they are exhausted. In the first day the tourists are longing to stay in nature, to make a „camp" fire, but in the next day, you have to take them in a location with facilities.

How would you convince a potential tourist to come to visit Danube Delta?



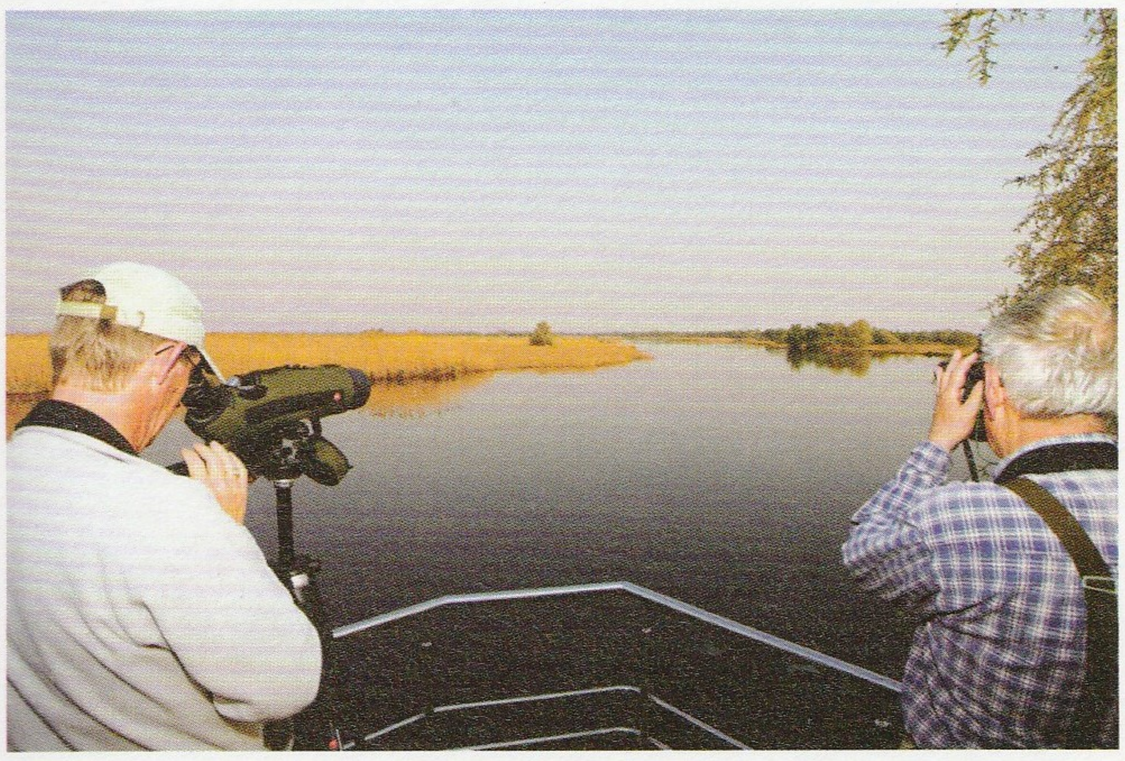




It is difficult to say, in a few words, which are the things that any tourist would enjoy if he comes in the Delta. This place is magnificent, unique through its biodiversity, full of colour and richness, with hospitable local people, and last, but not least, with traditional dishes that you cannot taste it no where in the world! Danube Delta determines you to enjoy each moment because you can realise that it is beautiful and special!













Calendar of the most important

Fairs and Festivals in Danube Delta

- The annual festival Feast of Waters and Fishing from Murighiol
- Festival of fish scales, whose first edition was organised at Sarichioi, on August 28th, 2007







- This year we are inviting you on the board of the fishing nautical competition „Ivan Patzaichin", the first competition of international rank enrolled last year in competition with sixteen crews, among which two belonging to Moldova Republic and Ukraine! This year the competition shall take place in September.





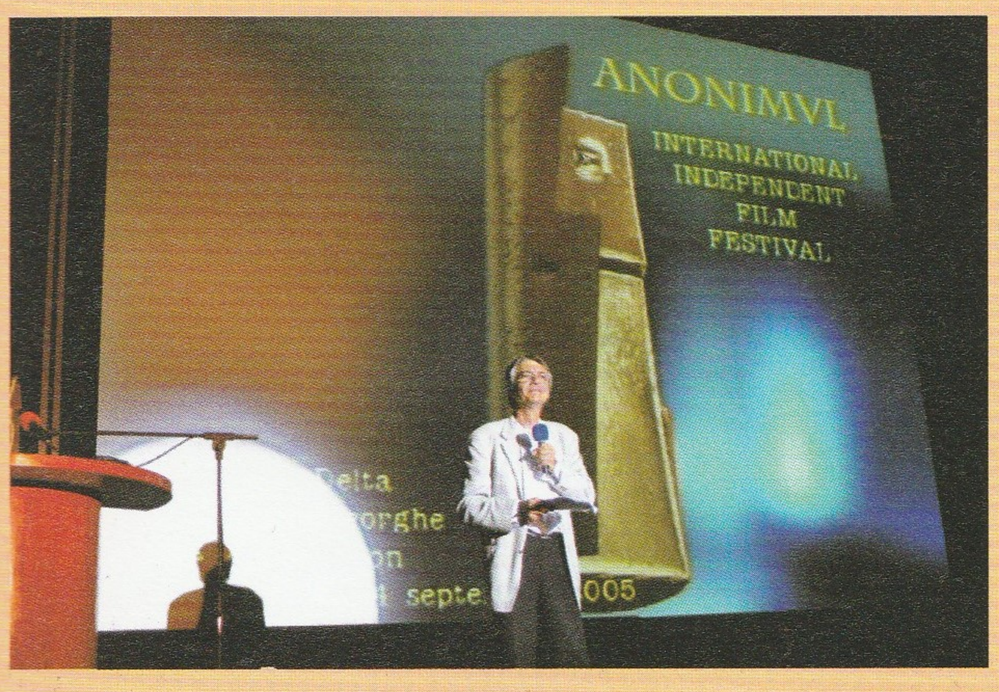


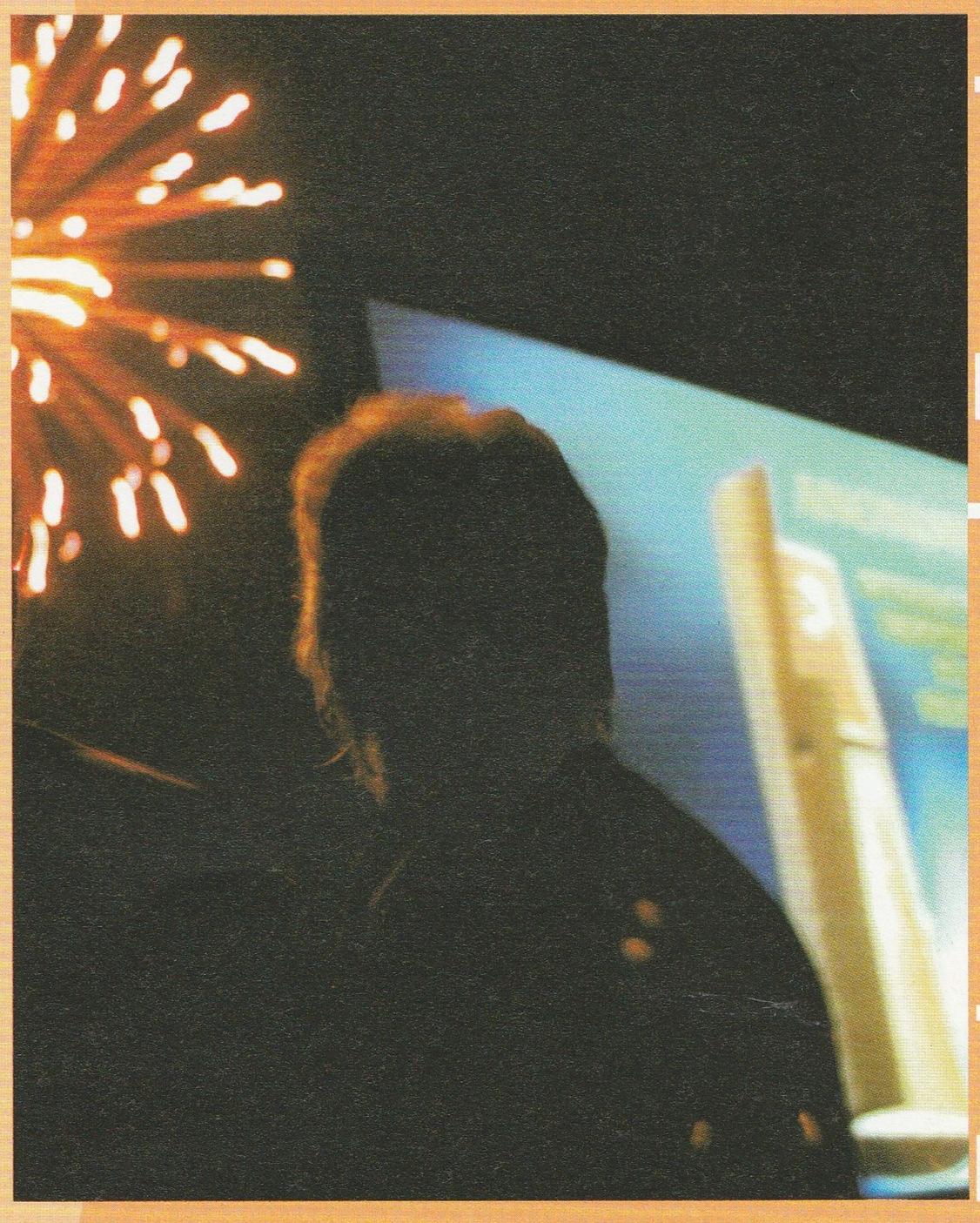
• The most important cultural artistic manifestation organized annually in Tulcea is represented by the Days of the Town, a manifestation which is integrated every two years within the International Festival of Danube. The period when the event takes place is the half of august, on 15 representing both the Day of the Town, and the Navy Day!





• Under no circumstances you shouldn't miss the "Anonymous" International Festival of Film which shall take place in "Dolphin" holiday village during the month of august at Sfantu Gheorghe.



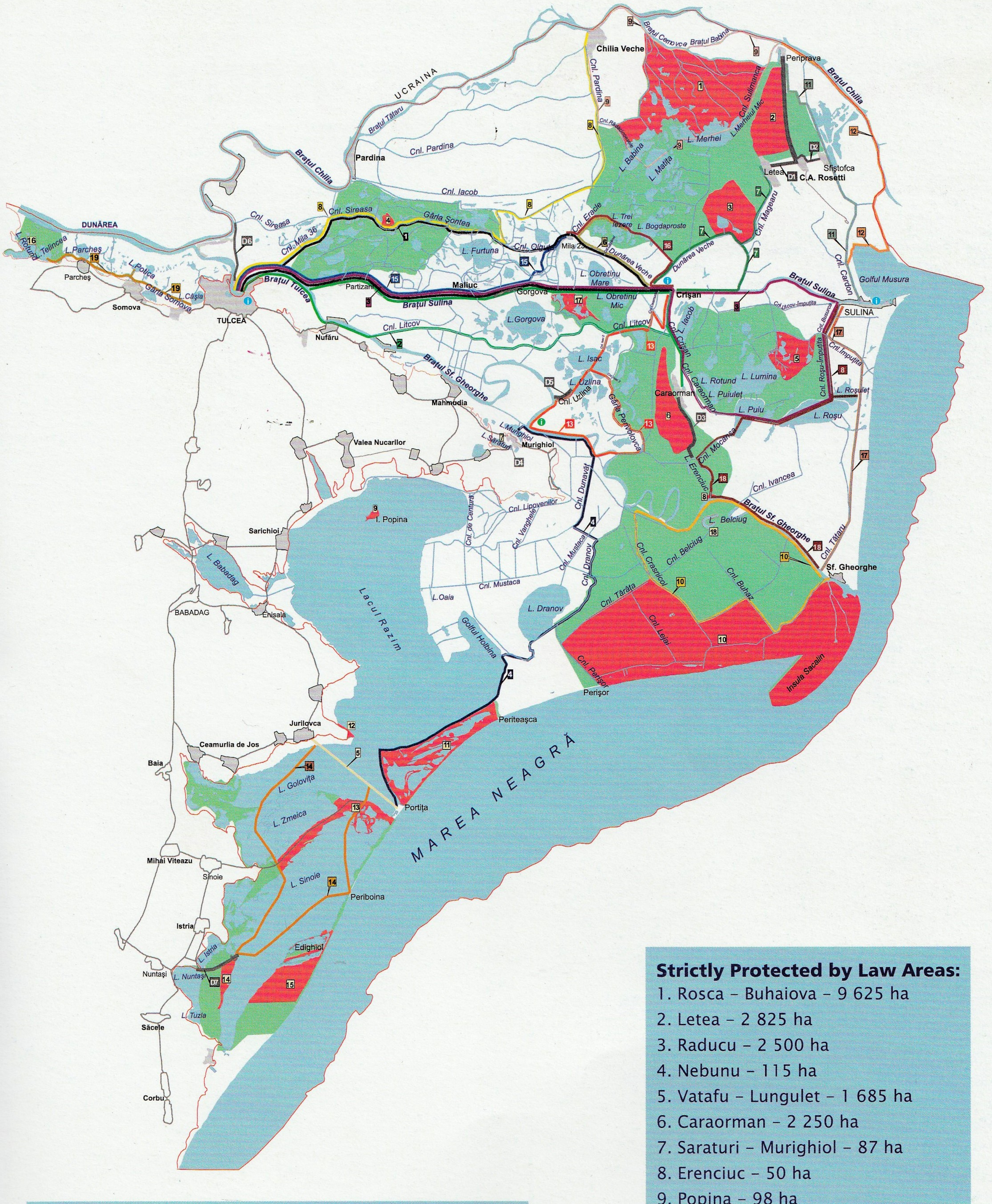




Touristic Routes
Navigable Channels

- 1st Route: Tulcea – Mila 35 Channel – Sireasa Lake – Sontea Lake – Olguta Channel – Dunarea Veche – Mila 23 Village – Crisan – Maliuc – Tulcea
- 2nd Route: Tulcea – Litcov Channel – Crisan Channel – Caraorman –Lebada Hotel – Maliuc – Tulcea
- 3rd Route: Tulcea – Maliuc – Lebada Hotel – Crisan Channel – Caraorman – Puiu Lake – BTT Rosu Stopover – Rosu Lake – Imputita – Busurca Channel – Sulina – Tulcea
- 4th Route: Murighiol–Dunavat Channel–Dranov Channel – Holbina Bay–Razim Lake – Gura Portitei
- 5th Route: Jurilovca – Gura Portitei
- 6th Route: Lebada Hotel – Dunarea Veche – Eracle Channel – Lopatna Lake – Lopatna Channel – Trei Iezere Lake
- 7th Route: Lebada Hotel – Dunarea Veche – Magearu Channel – Dunarea Veche – Sulina Channel Lebada Hotel
- 8th Route, between Tulcea – Chilia Veche: Tulcea City – channels: Mila 36 – Sireasa – Sontea – Razboinita – Stipoc – Pardina – Chilia Veche Village
- 9th Route, Chilia Tour: Chilia Veche Village – Chilia Channel – Babina Channel – Cernovca Channel Sulimanca Channel – Merheiu Mic Lake – Merhei Lake – Matita Lake – Babina Lake – Radacinoasele Channel – Pardina Channek – Chilia Veche Village
- 10th Route, Sf. Gheorghe Tour on Sf. Gheorghe Village, and the following channels: Zaton – Buhaz – Palade – Crasnicol – Sf. Gheorghe Channel – Sf. Gheorghe Village
- 11th Route, Sulina – Periprava: Sulina – Cardon Channel – Sfistofca Channel – Periprava
- 12th Route, between Sulina – Periprava: Sulina – Cardon Channel – Musura Bay – Musura Channel – Stambulul Vechi Channel – Chilia Channel – Periprava
- 13th Route, Uzlina Tour: Uzlina Village Uzlina Channel – Uzlina and Isac Lakes – 3rd Isac Channel – Lake Perivolovca – Sf. Gheorghe Channel – Uzlina Village – continuing with Isac Lake – 2nd Isac Channel – Litcov Channel – Ceamurlia Channel – Crisan Channel – Sulina Channel – Crisan Information and Ecological Education Centre
- 14th Route, between Jurilovca – Periboina – Istria: Jurilovca Village – Golovita Lake – 5th Channel Sinoe Lake – Periboina Fish Dishes Restaurant – Istria Stronghold – 2nd Channel – Zmeica Lake Golovita Lake – Jurilovca Village
- 15th Route, Tulcea – Mila 23: Tulcea City – Sulina Channel – M.22 Channel – Sontea Lake – Dunarea Veche – Mila 23 Village
- 16th Route, Crisan – Mila 23: Crisan Village – Dunarea Veche – Bogdaproste Channel – Bogdaproste Lake – La Amiaza Lake – Trei Iezere Lake – Lopatna Lake – Eracle Channel – Dunarea Veche – Mila 23 Village
- 17th Route, Sulina – Sf. Gheorghe: Sulina City – Busurca Channel – Imputita Channel – Seashore Tataru Channel – Sf. Gheorghe Village
- 18th Route, Sulina – Sf. Gheorghe: Sulina City – Busurca Channel – Rosu Channel – Imputita Channel – Rosulet Lake – Rosulet Fish Dishes Restaurant – Rosu Lake – Rosu Touristic Camp – Puiu Lake – Mocansca Channel – Erenciuc Lake – Sf. Gheorghe Channel – Sf. Gheorghe Village
- 19th Route: Casla Lake – Somova Lake – Potica Lake – Parches Lake – Telincea Lake

Touristic Routes



Unique Landscapes by Beauty and Biodiversity

D1. Letea Village – C.A. Rosetti Village – Letea Forest – Nebunu Lake

D2. Sfistofca Village – C.A. Rosetti Village – Nebunu Village

D3. Caraorman Village – Caraorman Forest – Erenciuc Lake

D4. Murighiol Village – Saraturi Lake

D5. Uzlina Village – Uzlina Village

D6. Tudor Vladimirescu Village – Sireasa Lake

D7. Nuntasi Village – Istria Stronghold – Sinoie Lake

Strictly Protected by Law Areas:

1. Rosca – Buhaiova – 9 625 ha
2. Letea – 2 825 ha
3. Raducu – 2 500 ha
4. Nebunu – 115 ha
5. Vatafu – Lungulet – 1 685 ha
6. Caraorman – 2 250 ha
7. Saraturi – Murighiol – 87 ha
8. Erenciuc – 50 ha
9. Popina – 98 ha
10. Sacalin – Zatoane – 21 410 ha
11. Periteasca – Leahova – 4 125 ha
12. Capul Dolosman – 125 ha
13. Grindul Lupilor – 2 075 ha
14. Istria – Sinoie – 400 ha
15. Grindul Chituc – 2 300 ha
16. Rotund – 228 ha
17. Potcoava – 625 ha
18. Belciug – 110 ha

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