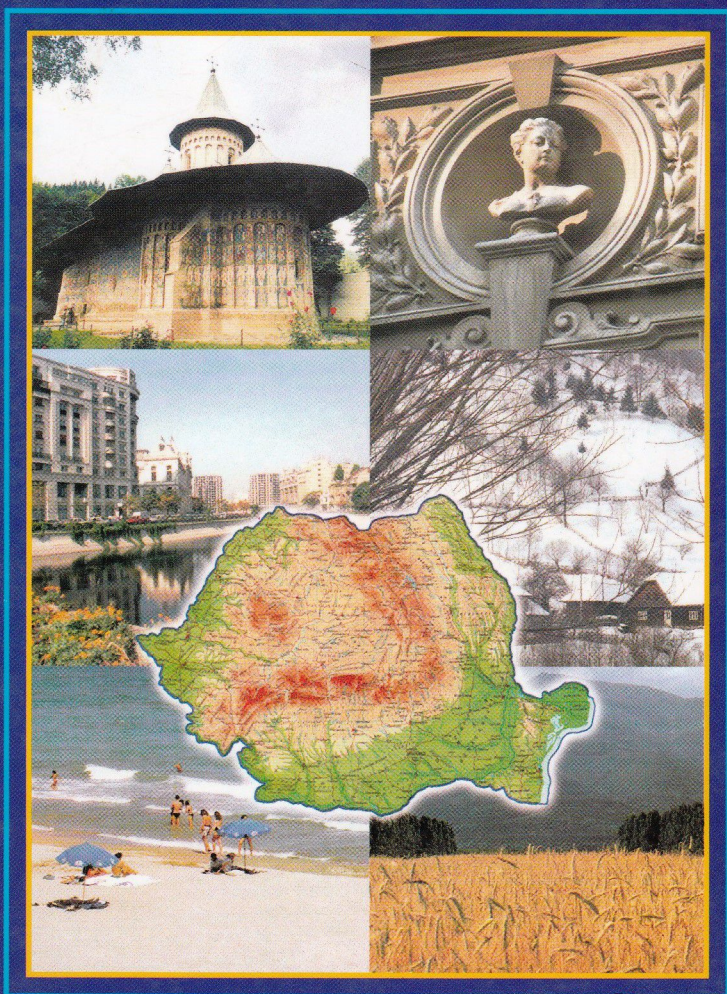


Touristic Romania



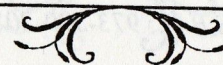
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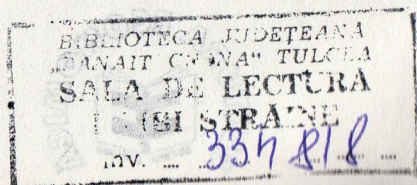
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The Black Sea's Romanian seacoast has a complex formation, offering an important touristic value. It has a total length of 244 km. The Danube Delta and the Razim-Sulina lagoon complex represent the northern side. Towards the south is the actual seacoast stretching on a length of about 70 km. The large sunny beaches (9-12 hours of sun per day), with fine sand, sweet and salt water lakes, therapeutic mud, mineral springs and high sea walls. The Black Sea's water with a low salinity level and without tides, the absence of dangerous fauna or rocks, but with an exciting climate gifts the Romanian seacoast with remarkable qualities. The well known spas at Mamaia, Eforie Nord, Eforie Sud, Techirghiol, Costinești, Neptun, Jupiter, Aurora, Saturn and Mangalia, with a large number of accommodation places and great treatment facilities give the tourists great reasons to come here to cure and relax.

The Black Sea is considered to be the first touristic areas of our country, representing an important national richness with its great therapeutic qualities and its archaeological treasures. The seacoast has known an important development of its material base, to assure the relaxation, recreation and treatment of the tourists who come here every year. The total accommodation capabilities now exceed 140000 places, the total number of tourists coming here every year summing up to 2 millions. The Romanian seacoast has developed, having at base a large plan of systematisation that added the touristic development of the area to the social and economical one. In a short period of time a large number of hotels have been built, as well as restaurants, clubs, gardens, parks to create a modern tourism for the pleasure and relaxation of the people who come here. Of course the organisation of each resort has been influenced by the region's relief, by the shore's shape, the dimensions of the natural beaches or of the newly created ones. So, with these natural factors given, of course the structure of each resort is different.

The most important architectural realisations at the seaside are the new hotels, some of which have capacities of 1000-1500 beds and are very well equipped. The general concepts as well as the simplicity of the volumes, the plasticity of the ensembles and every detail of the new buildings reveal the orientation towards a mod-

ern architecture. The elastic structures of the constructive elements give the buildings an optimist, humorous trend, and a summer look to the surroundings.

For the numerous sports fans, the seaside disposes of powerful sportive bases: 45 pools (6 of which covered), 60 tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, 7 nautical bases with the appropriate equipment, 30 minigolf terrains, 5 bowling arenas, riding spaces. Mamaia holds the first nautical ski base on the Romanian seacoast. Every year, internal and international competitions with known, valuable players, take place at these bases. Discos like Select, Perla, Lebăda, Colibri, Casino in Mamaia; Vraja Mării and Potcoava de Aur in Eforie Nord; Casino in Eforie Sud; Tineretului in Jupiter; the Automobilists' Club in Venus; Casino in Mangalia are always full with young people. Every year during the summer at Mamaia takes place the already renowned national Pop Music Festival and also a Folk Festival. Here tourists can always go to theatres, operas, and a large number of expositions.

We will also remind you that you can also spend your time visiting museums, veritable artistic, historical, archaeological treasures. Tourists are invited to go in the numerous trips on Romania's most important itineraries – in the Delta, on Valea Prahovei, in Bucharest, at the Bucovina monasteries, in Maramureş and in the Oaş region, at Porțile de Fier or even in some

foreign countries, in Kiev, Istanbul or Athens.

In 1991 at the Romanian seaside were 12 resorts with more than 200 hotels and 300 public alimentation services.

The Romanian seacoast is accessible:

a) by plane, landing on the Mihail Kogălniceanu international airport, 25 km from Constanța, the largest city at the seaside;

b) by sea, docking in Constanța or in the Tomis touristic port (85 miles from Varna – Bulgaria, 182 miles from Odessa – Ukraine, 196 miles from Istanbul, 560 miles from the Greek port Pireu);

c) in car, using the international roads E60 and E87 that cross Romania, coming from different regions in Europe;

d) by train, getting off at the Constanța or Mangalia stations;

e) cruising down on the Danube, via Cernavodă and from here on the Danube-Black Sea canal (inaugurated in 1984) and docking in Agigea, just south of Constanța. The transport from Constanța (located at 265 km from Bucharest) to different resorts is assured by buses, trains or automobiles.

The distances from Constanța to the resorts are:

- in car – Mamaia 4 km, Eforie Nord 13 km, Techirghiol 16.5 km, Eforie Sud 16.4 km, Costinești 29.3 km, Neptun 38.2 km, Jupiter 41.4 km, Venus 43.2 km, Saturn 45.4 km, Mangalia 44.5 km;
- by train – Eforie Nord 14 km, Eforie Sud 17 km, Costinești 26 km, Neptun 39 km, Mangalia 43 km.



THE DANUBE DELTA

Placed in the northern region of the Romanian seacoast, at 122 km from Constanța, the Delta is a huge surface covered with reeds, small floating islands, water lilies, amphibian and carnivore plants, poplars and wiping willows forests. The Delta is the richest European park in fauna, with more than 300 species of birds, 110 species of fish of great economical value – carp, sheat-fish, pike perch, as well sturgeons. The flora of the Delta is unique in Europe. From May to October, the tourists can use the floating dock-beds, motor boats and fishing boats. A really comfortable hotel is Lebăda, at Crișan, in the very heart of the Delta, at the 14.5 mile, on a piece of land near Sulina, between the Danube and the Black Sea. The gate towards the Danube is Tulcea, city with many touristic objectives, hotels (Delta, Egreta), a camping and restaurants with special menus (Danubius, Delta and others).

Between the beauties nature offered Romania, the Delta occupies a privileged place. The Danube, Europe's second river in length stretches on an area of 5640 km², 4470 of which in Roma-

nia. The beauty and rarity of the landscapes make the Romanian Delta one of the most attractive in the world. Witness, just like the Olt, of the Romanian history, the Danube has created in years and years this immense area of reed thicket, water and sun – the Delta. Unique by its richness and biological value, the Delta occupies an important place in the Romanian tourism.

But what does the Delta symbolize? The youngest European relief, with an area growing each year with 40 cm. The richest ornithological fauna, with more than 300 species of birds. More than 240000 ha covered by reeds. The largest lake in Romania – Razim, with a surface of 42000 ha. Romania's most extended sand dunes, 20000 ha. Romania's richest entomological fauna (species of insects), with species unique in the Letea swamps. The shortest winter in Romania, with only 20 days of 0 degrees Celsius temperatures. The most extended beach on the Romanian sea-coast, 30 km long and 1-2 km large between Sf. Gheorghe and Sulina. Sulina is the Romanian city with the lowest altitude – 3.5 m.

The Delta is a place where many interesting things connected to our history, relief, climate, hydrology, fauna and flora, natural reservations and natural monuments, navigation, fishing, settlements and people can be learned...

The Delta's fauna is a huge mosaic of species, unique in Europe and with 'tiles' unique in the entire world. This can be easily explained by

the structure of this laboratory, with a nature changing each moment; it is the perfect place for the birth of new species. Delta's ornithological fauna is unique on our planet, adding up to more than 300 species of birds, 70 of which are from outside Europe. In the Delta's perimeter exist species of birds from Northern Europe and Northern Asia as well as from southern regions of the planet like Africa, Iran and India. The Delta hosts these main categories of birds: Mediterranean ones – the heron, the small cormorant, the grey eagle, the gruidae, the green woodpecker, the winter duck, the pelican; European – the bunting, the terns, the fisher eagle; Siberian – the Danube falcon; Chinese – the egret, the mute swan, the large cormorant, the mandarin duck. A large number of these birds have been declared natural monuments – the '**white monuments**' like the pelican, the large egret, the small egret, the mute and the singing swan; the '**coloured monuments**', with black, white, yellow, red, brown and blue feathers like the gruidae, the green woodpecker, the winter duck, the eagles and many others.

In the Delta are known more than 110 species of fish. On its three branches – Chilia, Sulina and Sf. Gheorghe – where the water flow is usually faster we can find the sterlet, the large bleak, the sturgeon, the herring, the beluga, the carp, the sheat-fish, the pike perch, the barbell, the pike. In the calmer waters, lakes or canals (old

branches of the Delta) we can find the crucian, the perch and the carp and in the waters of the Razim-Sinoe Lake you could catch some pikes, perches or flounders. In the maritime sector of the Delta live beautiful specimens of sturgeons and herrings.

There are numerous places where you can rest in the Delta. The main access way towards this wonderful place is Tulcea, a city with more than 100000 inhabitants. Built on 7 hills, the city dates from the Roman period, and has had an eventful history. In one of his poems, the known Roman poet Ovidiu named the city Aegyssus: 'The old city is placed near the Danube (or the Istru) / With its great walls it is not easy to defeat/ It was Aegyssus who built it and Aegyssus is its name...'

Tulcea is proud with its museum 'The Danube Delta', its hotels 'Delta' and 'The Egret' and with the large sea walls, the Independence monument and with all the other monuments.

Here are a few suggestions of trips in the Delta:

1. Tulcea

- Maliuc ('Salcia' hotel)
- Crişan ('Lebăda hotel)
- Sulina ('Farul' hotel)

2. Crişan

- Mila 23
- Ghiolul Matia
- Lac Fortuna-Maliuc

3. Sulina

- Canal Busurca
- Canal Roşu
- Ghiolul Roşu
- Lac Puiu
- Canal Litcov
- Canal Perivolvca
- Braţul Sf. Gheorghe

4. Sf. Gheorghe

- Canal Dunavăţ
- Lac Razim
- Goloviţa
- Portiţa
- Canal Dranov

5. Tulcea

- Braţ Sf. Gheorghe
- Canal Ivancea
- Lac Roşu şi Roşuleţ
- Sulina
- Crişan
- Lac Matia
- Canal Lopatna
- Mila 23
- Canal Sontea
- Lac Fortuna
- Maliuc
- Tulcea

6. Tulcea

- Canal Litcov
- Lac Roşu şi Roşuleţ
- Sulina
- Tulcea

Other trips are also possible, departing from points like Tulcea, Maliuc, Crișan, Murighiol, Sf. Gheorghe, Sulina, with fishing boats or motor boats on the canals, for fishing or pleasure, and even on the Black Sea.

In the Delta each season has its specific touristic attractions. In the spring you can admire the beautiful vegetation, the birds' return. In the summer the lakes covered with water lilies are perfect mirrors for the rising and set-down of the sun. This would be the perfect time for the heliothermic cures and for fishing. The autumn is the season of the hunters and fishers. Now the birds that spend the winter here arrive.

ACCESS WAYS:

By slow or fast trains: Bucharest – Medgidia – Tulcea (5-8 hours); slow trains: Constanța – Tulcea (4 hours).

On the DN 2 A (E 60) Bucharest – Giurgeni – Vadu Oii – bridge over the Danube – Hârțova and from here to Tulcea on the DN 22A (263 km); DN 22 Constanța – Tulcea (123 km); Galați – Tulcea, crossing the Danube with the ferry-boat (80 km)).

By plane, on one of the regular flights Bucharest – Tulcea (45 minutes).

By ship. Old classical ships on the Brăila – Galați – Tulcea – Sulina track (8 hours). Special, fast ships Brăila – Galați – Tulcea – Sulina (4 and a half hours).



THE DANUBE'S COURSE

After getting its water from the springs in the Black Forest Mountains, in Germany, and through the Brego and Brigah rivers, the Danube crosses 8 countries – Germany, Austria, The Czech Republic, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. The Danube goes through 3 capitals: Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade. It flows into the Black Sea through its three branches: Chilia, Sulina and Sf. Gheorghe, which form the Danube Delta. The Danube has a length of 2850 km, being the second longest river in Europe after the Volga. Its power and length are the results of its 300 tributaries, covering on a surface of 805000 km². More than a third of its length is found inside the Romanian borders (1075 km).

Since the antiquity, the Danube has given travelling possibilities, on water as well as on land, between the Central Europe and the Balcanic peninsula. With its impressive system of canals, the Danube still is one of the important travelling methods between the Western European countries and the Eastern European ones.

The navigation on the Romanian part of the Danube began in 1829, when the first steam ships navigated on the Danube. In the second part of the XIXth century, the first hydro-technical works started, founding the Romanian hydraulic service, specially equipped to sustain navigation (1864-1880). The first Romanian docks were built; the navigable Sulina canal was first used in the beginning of the XXth century as well as the shipyards from Galați, Giurgiu, Drobeta-Turnu Severin. In the present on the Romanian part of the Danube there are 27 passengers and merchandise docks, through which are transported iron ore, construction materials, wood, oil products, cereals. The transit has an important part in the international transport on the Danube, through the Brăila and Galați docks as well as through the Cernavodă dock, near the Danube-Black Sea canal.

The Danube influenced the economical life of the countries it crosses, being at the same time an inspiration source for poets, writers and composers. Let's remember the famous walses 'The Blue Danube' by Johan Strauss and the 'Waves of Danube', written by the Romanian composer Iosif Ivanovici. Also the novels 'The Danube's pilot' by Jules Verne, 'The Golden Man' by Jokay Mor, 'Chira Chiralina' and 'Codin' by Panait Istrati. Some vestiges were discovered on the side

and on the islands of the Danube, attesting the permanent contact between the inhabitants of these areas and the river.

The archeological proofs show the existence of man in this area since the Paleolithic and Neolithic, evidencing the Dacian and Thracian civilization, as well as the Geto-Dacian and Dacian-Roman ones. The Danube has never been an obstacle between the northern and the southern countries; it's been a witness of the passing of the Roman armies towards Burebista's or Decebal's Dacia. The Danube preserved evidences of the invasions of the migrating people, of formation and consolidation of the Romanian feudal state, traces of the defense against the Tartar and Turk invasions and against the Austrian occupation. It kept proofs of the Independence War (1877-1878) and the liberation fight against the Nazis. During the years of the reconstruction, The Danube's valley has known some changes in the soil, landscapes, as well as in the economical life of the riparian countries. The hydro-energetic system at Porțile de Fier I and II (the last being in construction) and the adjacent works at the Danube-Black Sea canal, the traffic ways along the Danube from Buziaș to Tulcea, the powerful urban and industrial centers developed on the side of the Danube are modern resorts to the civil and military constructions from the antiquity and from Emperor's Traian reign,

constructions which amazed in their times by their size and ingenuity. On the Romanian territory can be distinguished 4 sectors of the Danube.

How can we get to the Danube?

By boat, the Romanian part of the Danube is accessible coming from the west, meaning from the riparian cities like: Regensburg, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.

We can also arrive docking in Constanța, coming from the Black Sea; through the Danube-Black Sea canal or through the Sulina canal, in the Danube Delta.

By train or in car we can easily arrive in the Orșova, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Brăila and Galați docks going on the important international ways. Cruises on the Danube are also possible.

By plane, landing in Bucharest or on one of the other airports mentioned earlier. Cruises on the Danube are possible through the Romanian touristic agencies and through the foreign touristic bureaus.