



# Moldavia & the Bucovina Monasteries

## Includes »

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Southern Moldavia.....          | 183 |
| Iași .....                      | 183 |
| Around Iași .....               | 191 |
| Piatra Neamț .....              | 192 |
| Bicaz & the Ceahlău Massif..... | 196 |
| Bicaz Gorges & Lacu Roșu.....   | 197 |
| Southern Bucovina .....         | 198 |
| Suceava.....                    | 198 |
| Bucovina Monasteries .....      | 202 |
| Câmpulung Moldovenesc .....     | 207 |
| Rarău Massif .....              | 207 |

## Why Go?

Less visited than other parts of Romania, Moldavia rewards those intrepid enough to seek it out: from glorious medieval monasteries to rugged mountains ideal for skiing and hiking, this singular region combines natural and artistic beauty with plenty of action.

Moldavia's bucolic villages and oddly endearing towns feature some of Romania's friendliest locals. Beyond the hinterland's traditional ways, Moldavian modernity is fully displayed in Iași, Romania's second-largest city and a vibrant student town famous for its nightlife, shopping and exquisite, varied architecture.

Within Romania, Moldavia's known for its rolling plains, interrupted only by the accidental cluster of trees or grazing horse. These sweeping vistas are particularly hypnotic by evening, when fading sunlight spreads across the land and vast sky, suffusing both in tones and shapes as rich and varied as Moldavia's monastic art.

## Best Places to Eat

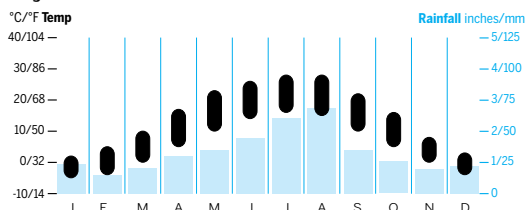
- » La Castel (p189)
- » Latino (p201)
- » Hotel Lacu Roșu (p198)
- » Buena Vista (p189)
- » La Rustica (p189)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Unirea (p187)
- » Hotel Sonnenhof (p200)
- » Hilde's Residence (p204)
- » Gerald's Hotel (p206)
- » Eden Hotel (p207)

## When to Go

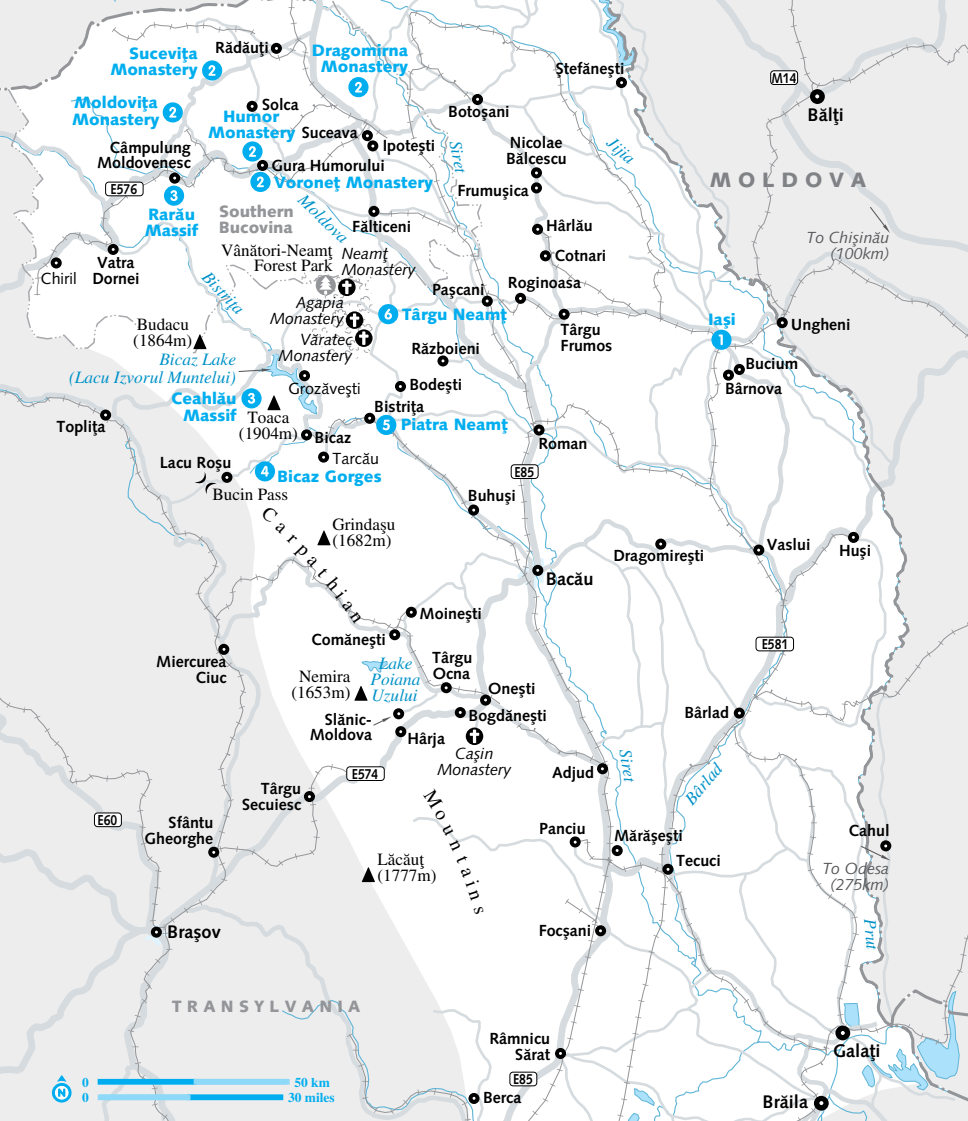
### Iași



**Apr & May** Enjoy Iași when it's rejuvenated by spring flowers, boisterous students and live music.

**Jul & Aug** Escape the summer heat by hiking the Ceahlău and Rarău mountains.

**Sep & Oct** Visit the Bucovina painted monasteries minus crowds, as the autumn leaves change.



## Moldavia & the Bucovina Monasteries Highlights

① Immersing yourself in the cafe life, grand old architecture and general good vibes of university city **Iași** (p183)

② Gazing heavenwards at soaring centuries-old frescoes at the sublime **Bucovina Monasteries** (p202)

③ Hiking or skiing the dizzying **Ceahlău** (p196) and **Rarău** (p207) mountains

④ Bearing down for some white-knuckle driving through the narrow, stupendously steep **Bicz Gorges** (p197)

⑤ Skiing, swimming or drinking with the locals in

mountain-ringed **Piatra Neamț** (p192)

⑥ Saluting Moldavia's medieval might at the grandiose, refurbished **Târgu Neamț fortress** (p194)