



Moldavia & the Bucovina Monasteries

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cuib (p190)
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- ➔ Q'usine (p210)
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Best Places to Sleep

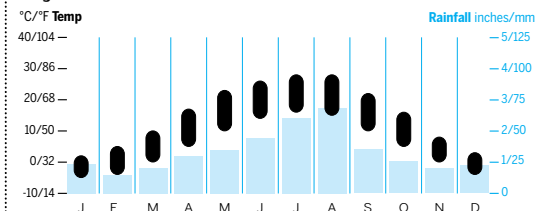
- ➔ Hotel Select (p189)
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Why Go?

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 hiking, this singular region combines natural beauty with plenty of action. Moldavia's bucolic villages and oddly endearing towns feature some of Romania's friendliest locals. Beyond the hinterland, Moldavian modernity is fully displayed in Iași, one of Romania's largest cities and a vibrant student town famous for its nightlife. Bucovina, to the northwest, is home to Romania's pride and joy: a half dozen Unesco-protected painted monasteries from the 15th and 16th centuries that attest to the region's artistic skills and enduring faith. Everywhere you'll find signs of Moldavian prince (and Romanian national hero) Ștefan cel Mare and his epic battles with the Ottoman Empire, above all at the mighty fortresses at Suceava and Târgu Neamț.

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 the crowds, as the autumn leaves change colour.



Moldavia & the Bucovina Monasteries Highlights

- 1 Arbore Monastery** (p204) Admiring the artistry of this church and surrounding painted monasteries.
- 2 Palace of Culture** (p186) Gawking at the size and gleam of Iași's now fully renovated grand royal palace.
- 3 Lady's Stones** (p209) Gazing at this string of soaring

limestone rock formation, part of the Rarău Massif.

- 4 Bicz Gorges** (p197) Bearing down for some white-knuckle driving through these stupendously steep gorges.
- 5 Cucuteni Museum** (p195) Blushing at the more-than-*zaftig* female figurines created by the neolithic

Cucuteni people, at this museum in Piatra Neamț.

- 6 Agapia Monastery** (p193) Enjoying the tranquil beauty of the often-overlooked Neamț monasteries.
- 7 Ceahlău National Park** (p198) Looking out over Lake Bicz from Moldavia's highest mountain, the Ceahlău Massif.