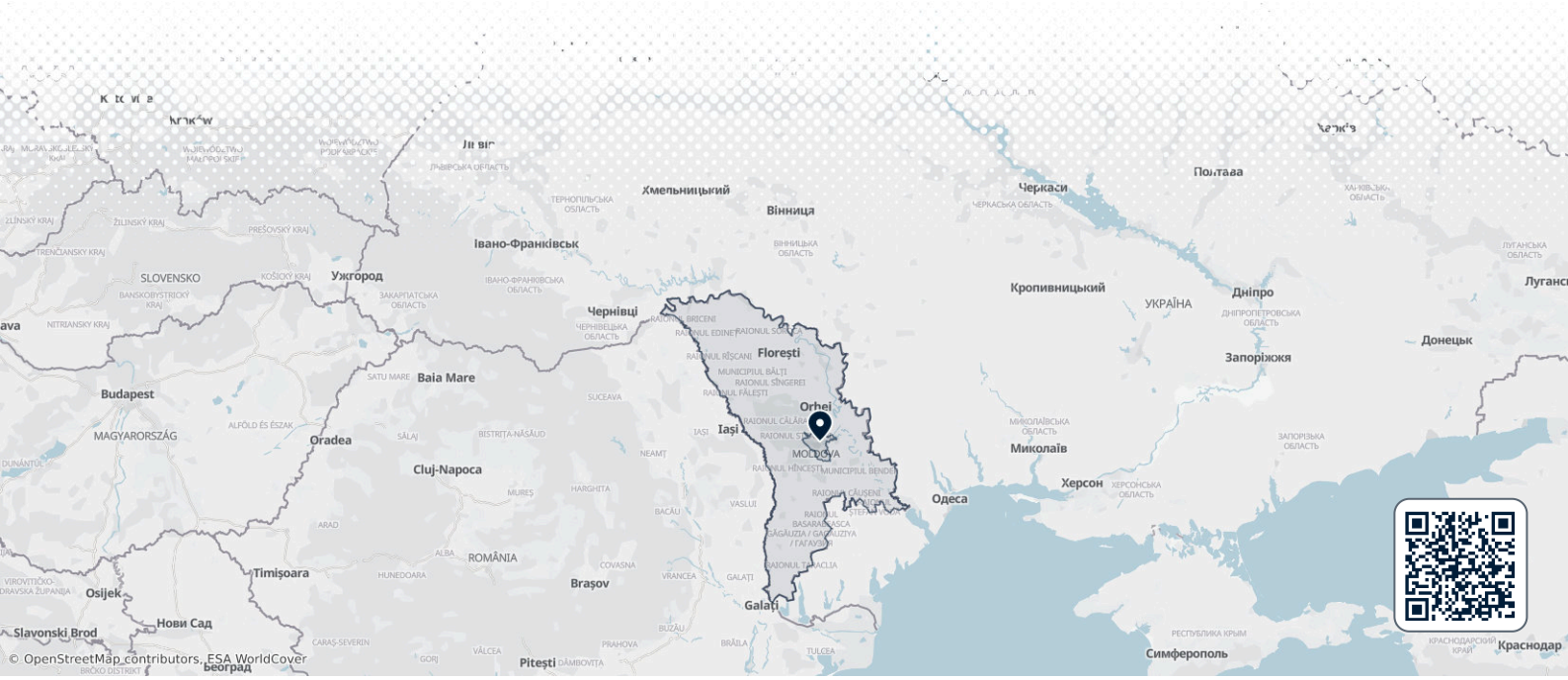


Chisinau

Moldova

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Chisinau is Moldova's capital and largest city. Wide Soviet-era boulevards mix with parks and pale limestone buildings, which gave the city its old nickname, the White City.

Most visitors spend two or three days here. The center is easy to explore on foot, with a cluster of museums, monuments, and green parks. Chisinau also works well as a base for day trips to Moldova's underground wineries and cliffside monasteries.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and the easiest seasons for sightseeing. Summers get hot, often above 30°C in July and August. Winters are cold and grey, with occasional snow.

Plan around **National Wine Day**, held on the first weekend of October. Wineries from across the country set up free tastings on Great National Assembly Square, a good way to taste Moldova's wine culture without leaving the city.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 9° Feels like -5°	-6° / -17°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 13° Feels like -2°	-5° / -15°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 19° Feels like 5°	-1° / -8°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 24° Feels like 13°	5° / -2°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	11° / 5°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 34°	15° / 10°	
July	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 37°	18° / 13°	Up to 5 days above 35°
August	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 37°	17° / 12°	
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 32°	12° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 25° Feels like 13°	6° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 18° Feels like 5°	1° / -6°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 10° Feels like -3°	-4° / -15°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

Ⓐ Great National Assembly Square is the historic and ceremonial heart of the city. Government House, the cathedral, and several monuments all sit around this open square.

B Triumphal Arch was built in 1841 to commemorate a Russian victory over the Ottomans. It also works as a bell tower for the cathedral next door and doubles as a clock tower.

C Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ's Nativity is the main cathedral of the Moldovan Orthodox Church, built in the 1830s. Soviet authorities closed it for decades and used it as an exhibition hall before it reopened for worship.

D Stephen the Great Monument shows Moldova's medieval ruler, whom the country reveres as a founding figure and an Orthodox saint. It stands at the entrance to E Stephen the Great and Saint Central Park, the oldest park in Moldova, where the Alley of Classics honors the country's writers with a row of busts.

F National Museum of History of Moldova covers Moldova's history from prehistory to the Soviet era.

G National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History is Moldova's oldest museum, founded in 1889. Its striking Moorish-style building holds a complete skeleton of a Deinotherium, an extinct relative of the elephant.

H Valea Morilor Park is the city's largest park, built around a lake with a granite staircase and cascading fountains. It is a popular spot for an evening walk.



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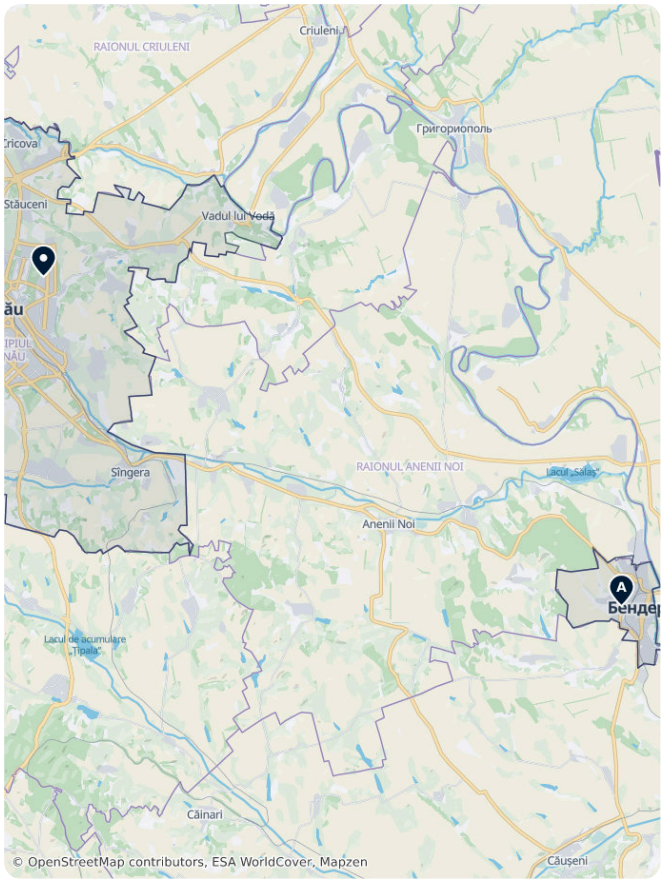
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Give or receive a *mărțișor* on March 1: small red-and-white string trinkets exchanged to welcome spring, sold at stalls across the city for the week before.
- Attend a concert at Organ Hall, a former bank building known for its acoustics and a large pipe organ.
- Watch a performance at Moldova National Opera Ballet, Moldova's national opera and ballet company.
- Rent a paddleboat on the lake at Valea Morilor Park on a warm afternoon.

Day trips

Chisinau makes an easy base for day trips, from underground wine cities just outside town to cliffside monasteries further out.



- Cricova Winery is about 20 minutes north by car or minibus. An underground town of wine cellars with streets named after grape varieties, some 80 meters below ground.
- Milestii Mici Winery is about 25 minutes south. It holds the world's largest wine collection, in over 55 kilometers of tunnels carved from old limestone mines.
- Old Orhei is about 1 to 1.5 hours by car or bus. A cave monastery and ruined fortress cut into a limestone gorge above the Răut River, with hiking trails through the surrounding countryside.
- Saharna Monastery and Țipova Monastery are about 2 hours north, near Rezina. Two Orthodox cave monasteries carved into cliffs above the Dniester River, both reachable in the same day if you have a car.
- Ⓐ Bender is about an hour east by car, plus time at the border. It has a 16th-century Ottoman fortress, and it sits inside Transnistria, a breakaway region not recognized internationally. Bring your passport, expect a registration check, and carry cash, since cards are not reliably accepted there.

Getting there

- **By air**: Chisinau International Airport (KIV) is Moldova's only international airport, about 14 km south of the center. Book a ride through a taxi app rather than hailing one at the curb, where prices are less predictable; the trip takes about 20–30 minutes.
- **By train**: Moldova's rail network is slow and limited for travelers. A few direct trains run to Bucharest and Iași in Romania and to Odesa and Kyiv in Ukraine, but journeys take far longer than the equivalent bus.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches are the most practical overland option, with regular connections to Bucharest, Iași, Kyiv, and other regional cities.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Buses, trolleybuses, and minibuses (rutiere) cover the city. Pay the driver or conductor in cash as you board; contactless card payment is not yet standard on Chisinau's public transit.
- **Taxi and ride-hailing**: Yandex Go and Bolt both operate in Chisinau and are the easiest way to get a fair price; street taxis sometimes quote tourists a higher fare.
- **On foot and by bike**: The center is compact and walkable, with wide, tree-lined boulevards. Dedicated cycling infrastructure is limited, so cycling works better in the parks than on main roads.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The historic center is compact and easy to cover on foot, but some sights, like Valea Morilor Park, sit a 30-40 minute walk from the main square. A short taxi or minibus ride bridges the gap.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Cycling infrastructure is limited and city traffic can be heavy on main roads, so most visitors stick to walking or public transit.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city itself; the center is small and walkable. A car helps for reaching the wineries and monasteries outside town, where bus schedules are infrequent.
- **Parking**: On-street parking in the center is metered; pay through the local parking app or by the SMS code posted on the sign. Several paid car parks sit near the main square.
- **Rental**: Renting a car is straightforward and inexpensive by regional standards, but confirm your rental company allows cross-border trips before heading into Transnistria.

Food & drink

For a sit-down meal, look to the restaurants and wine bars clustered around the city center. Most build their wine lists entirely around Moldovan producers, a good way to try wine from around the country.

Central Market is the place to see where Chisinau actually shops: a block-sized market selling local cheese, honey, and produce. It is worth an hour even if you are not buying anything.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Zeamă · zeamă
Sour chicken soup with vegetables and noodles or dumplings.

DINNER

Sarmale · sarmale
Cabbage or grape leaves stuffed with meat and rice, simmered slowly.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Plăcinte · plăcinte
Thin pastries filled with cheese, potato, cabbage, or fruit.

Brânză · brânză
Soft sheep's-milk cheese, eaten with bread or in pastries.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Plăcintă cu mere · plăcintă cu mere
Apple-filled pastry, a common dessert and street snack.

DRINKS

Moldovan wine · vin
Red, white, and sparkling wine from vineyards across the country; Moldova has some of the world's largest wine cellars.

Rachiu · rachiu
Strong fruit brandy, often homemade from plums or grapes.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Mămăligă · mămăligă
Firm corn porridge served as a side or main, often with cheese and sour cream.

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Safety & health

Chisinau is a safe city for tourists, with low rates of violent crime. Watch for pickpockets in crowded markets and on public transit, as in any capital city.

The most common tourist scam is an overpriced taxi ride from the airport or a street hail; book through a ride-hailing app instead of flagging a cab. Only change money at banks or licensed exchange offices, never with people offering rates on the street.

If your day trip takes you into Transnistria, carry your passport and expect a registration check at the border; the region operates outside Moldovan control.

History

Chisinau's name first appears in a document from 1436, as a small settlement on the Bâc River. It grew under Moldavia's medieval princes, including *Stephen the Great*, whom Stephen the Great Monument honors today. The Russian Empire annexed the region, then called Bessarabia, in 1812. It rebuilt Chisinau as a provincial capital, laying out the wide, orderly streets still visible in the center today. The poet *Alexander Pushkin* lived here in exile from 1820 to 1823, and Alexander Pushkin Historic House Museum preserves the house where he stayed. In 1841, the Russian administration raised Triumphal Arch to mark a victory over the Ottoman Empire.

World War II and a major 1940 earthquake destroyed much of the old city. The Soviet Union rebuilt it in the monumental style still visible in its boulevards and apartment blocks today. Memorial to Victims of Stalinist Repression and Eternity Memorial Complex commemorate two sides of that period: Stalin-era deportations to Siberia, and the Soviet dead of the war. Moldova declared independence from the USSR in 1991.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Moldova at a glance:

CURRENCY
MDL L

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



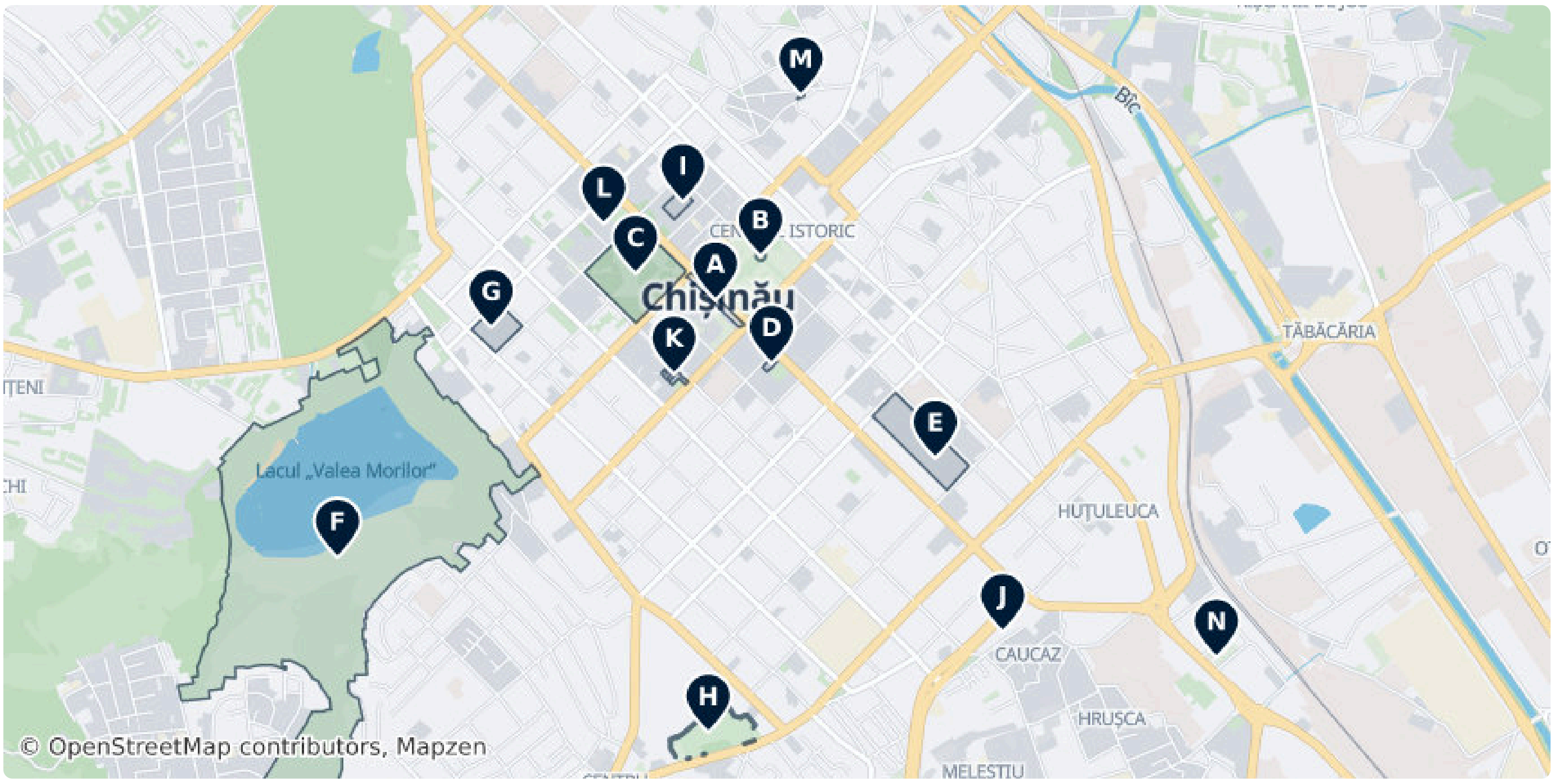
Type C / Type F
220 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Romanian

TAP WATER
Use caution

Chișinău Essentials

Chișinău, known as the 'White City' for its white limestone architecture, blends Soviet-era monuments with expansive green spaces. This selection features the 19th-century Metropolitan Cathedral and the historic Ștefan cel Mare Central Park, the oldest in Moldova. Cultural landmarks include the National Museum of Ethnography and the Organ Hall, once a city bank. The city’s history is further reflected in the Eternity Memorial Complex and the Train of Pain monument, while Valea Morilor Park offers a cascading granite staircase and a central lake.





A Great National Assembly Square

The Great National Assembly Square, formerly known as Victory Square is the central square in Chișinău, the capital of Moldova.

Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfînt, Chișinău, Moldova (47.02450, 28.83217)



B Nativity Cathedral

The Cathedral of Christ's Nativity is the main cathedral of the Moldovan Orthodox Church in Sectorul Centru, Moldova.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.02605, 28.83451)

mitropolia.md, +37322232929



C Stephen the Great and Saint Central Park

Ștefan cel Mare Central Park is the main park in Central Chișinău, Moldova. It is the oldest park in Moldova and spans about 7 hectares.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.02543, 28.82802)



D Organ Hall

Housed in a monumental early 20th-century building that originally served as the City Bank, this concert hall is renowned for its acoustics and features a large Rieger-Kloss organ.

Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 81, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02224, 28.83508)

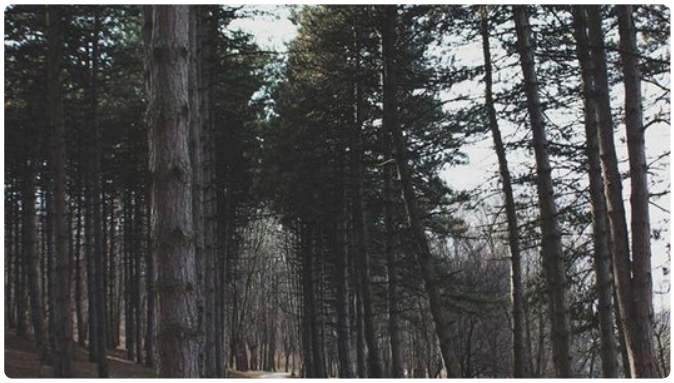
organhall.md



E Central Market

The city's largest open-air market, spanning an entire rectangular city block. It serves as a primary hub for local produce, traditional Moldovan cheeses, honey, and household goods.

Strada Mitropolit Varlaam 63, Chișinău, MD (47.01889, 28.84359)



F Valea Morilor Park

A sprawling recreational area featuring a large central lake, a refurbished granite staircase with 218 steps, and a series of cascading fountains.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.01538, 28.81254)



G Ethnography and Natural History Museum

Founded in 1889, Moldova's oldest museum is housed in a distinctive Moorish-style building. It features extensive collections on regional flora, fauna, and a complete Dinotherium giganteum skeleton.

Strada Mihail Kogălniceanu 82, Chișinău, MD (47.02353, 28.82052)

Mo–Su Closed

muzeu.md, +37322240056



H Eternity Memorial Complex

The Eternity Memorial Complex is a memorial located in Chișinău, the capital of Moldova. The memorial is located along P.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.00919, 28.83180)

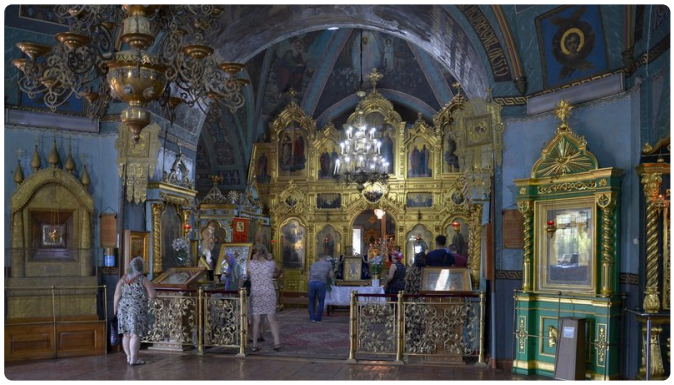


I Moldova National Opera Ballet

The Maria Bieșu National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Chişinău, Moldova, is one of the leading opera and ballet theatres in Eastern Europe.

Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 152, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02797, 28.83048)

tnob.md, +373 22 245 104



J Ciuflea Monastery

Ciuflea Monastery is a Moldovan Orthodox monastery located in Chișinău, Moldova. It is dedicated to Saint Theodore of Amasea.

Ion Vasilenco Street, MD-2001 Chișinău, Moldova (47.01275, 28.84710)

ciuflea.md



K National Museum of Fine Arts

The National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova is a museum in Chișinău, Moldova, founded in November 1939 by Alexandru Plămădeală and Auguste...

Strada 31 August 1989 115, Chișinău, MD (47.02187, 28.83002)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

mnam.md, +37322241303



L Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova is the supreme representative body of the Republic of Moldova, the only state legislative...

Anatol Corobceanu Street, MD-2073 Chișinău, Moldova (47.02719, 28.82637)

parlament.md



M Alexander Pushkin Historic House Museum

House-Museum of Alexandr Pushkin is a museum and architectural monument in Moldova of national value.

Strada Anton Pann 19, Chișinău, MD (47.03175, 28.83661)

Tu–Su 10:00–16:00

+37322292685



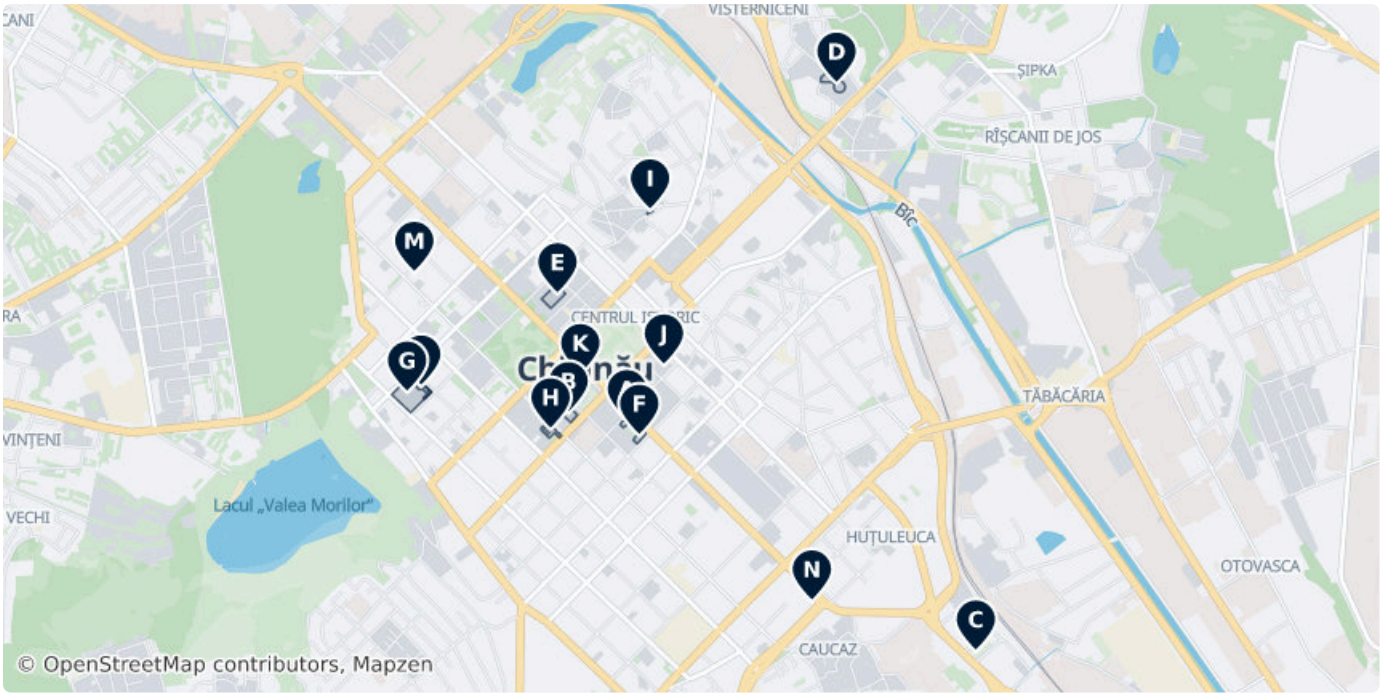
N Memorial to Victims of Stalinist Repression

The Train of Pain – Memorial to Victims of Stalinist Repression is a monument in Chișinău, Moldova.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.01184, 28.85820)

Cultural Heritage of Chișinău

Chișinău's cultural landscape is defined by its diverse architectural styles and institutional history. This collection features the Pseudo-Moorish National Museum of Ethnography, the early 20th-century Organ Hall—originally a bank—and the brutalist State Circus. It includes significant performance venues like the Maria Bieșu National Opera and Ballet Theatre alongside memorials documenting the city's complex 20th-century political history and the preservation of Romanian and Russian dramatic traditions.





A Organ Hall

Housed in a 1911 Neo-Classical building originally designed as the City Bank. Converted into a concert hall in 1978, it features a 4,000-pipe organ and is renowned for its exceptional acoustics.

Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 81, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02224, 28.83508)

organhall.md



B Nicolae Sulac National Palace

Completed in 1972 as the October Palace, this is the city's primary venue for large-scale concerts and the annual Mărțișor international music festival.

Strada Aleksandr Pușkin 21, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02260, 28.83122)



C Memorial to Victims of Stalinist Repression

The Train of Pain – Memorial to Victims of Stalinist Repression is a monument in Chișinău, Moldova.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.01184, 28.85820)

D Chișinău State Circus

An iconic Soviet brutalist structure completed in 1981. Once the largest circus in the Soviet Union, it is recognized for its distinctive circular design and bas-relief decorations.

Bulevardul Renașterii Naționale 7, MD-2024 Chișinău, MD (47.03747, 28.84897)

circ-chisinau.md



E Moldova National Opera Ballet

The Maria Bieșu National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Chișinău, Moldova, is one of the leading opera and ballet theatres in Eastern Europe.

Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 152, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02797, 28.83048)

tnob.md, +373 22 245 104



F National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu"

Housed in a Neo-Classical monument completed in 1954, this institution dates back to 1920. It serves as a central hub for Romanian-language performing arts in Moldova.

Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 79, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02158, 28.83590)

Tu–Su	09:00–19:00

tnme.md



G Ethnography and Natural History Museum

Established in 1889, this is Moldova's oldest museum. It occupies a unique Pseudo-Moorish style building and houses a famous complete Deinotherium giganteum skeleton.

Strada Mihail Kogălniceanu 82, Chișinău, MD (47.02353, 28.82052)

Mo–Su Closed

muzeu.md, +37322240056



H National Museum of Fine Arts

The National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova is a museum in Chișinău, Moldova, founded in November 1939 by Alexandru Plămădeală and Auguste...

Strada 31 August 1989 115, Chișinău, MD (47.02187, 28.83002)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

mnam.md, +37322241303



I Alexander Pushkin Historic House Museum

House-Museum of Alexandr Pushkin is a museum and architectural monument in Moldova of national value.

Strada Anton Pann 19, Chișinău, MD (47.03175, 28.83661)

Tu–Su 10:00–16:00

+37322292685

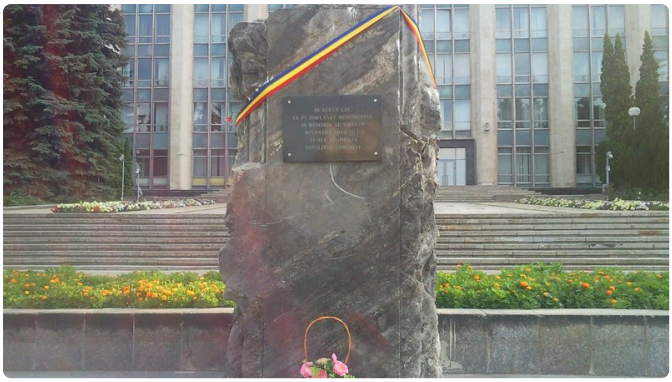


J Anton Chekhov State Russian Drama Theatre

Founded in 1934, the theatre is located within the historic walls of the former Choral Synagogue, which dates back to the late 19th century.

Strada Vlaicu Pârcălab 75, MD-2012 Chișinău, MD (47.02475, 28.83754)

chehov.md



K Monument to the Victims of the Soviet Occupation

The Monument to the Victims of the Soviet Occupation is a proposed monument in Chișinău, Moldova.

Piața Mării Adunări Naționale, Chișinău, MD (47.02432, 28.83200)



L Muzeul Zemstvei

A mid-19th-century architectural monument that formerly served as an orphanage and administrative center. It now functions as an alternative cultural space for independent artists and exhibitions.

Strada Alexei Șciusev 103, Chișinău, MD (47.02380, 28.82145)



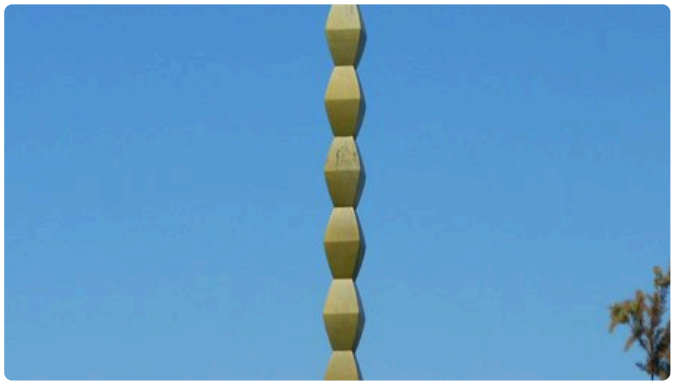
M Mihail Kogălniceanu National Museum of Literature

The Mihail Kogălniceanu National Museum of Literature is a museum in Chișinău, Moldova.

(47.02893, 28.82100)

Mo–Su 11:00–17:00

mnl.md



N Constantin Brâncuși

Constantin Brâncuși was a Romanian sculptor, painter and photographer who made his career in France.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.01411, 28.84734)

Religious Sites in Chișinău

Chișinău's religious landscape reflects its diverse history through a mix of Orthodox cathedrals, Catholic churches, and historic synagogues. The city features grand neoclassical structures like the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ's Nativity and the distinct Byzantine-inspired designs of architect Alexander Bernardazzi, seen in St. Teodora de la Sihla. From the vibrant blue domes of Ciuflea Monastery to the quiet significance of the Glassmakers' Synagogue, these sites offer insight into the spiritual traditions and architectural evolution of the Moldovan capital since the 19th century.





A Metropolis of Chișinău and All Moldova

The Metropolis of Chișinău and All Moldova, also referred to as the Moldovan Orthodox Church, is an autonomous metropolitanate under the...

București Street, MD-2004 Chișinău, Moldova (47.02792, 28.81780)

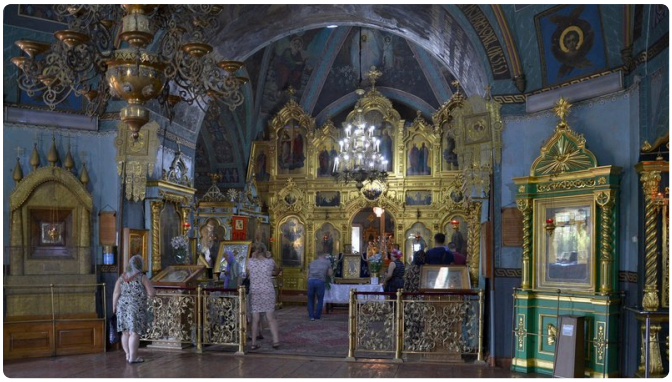


B Nativity Cathedral

The Cathedral of Christ's Nativity is the main cathedral of the Moldovan Orthodox Church in Sectorul Centru, Moldova.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.02605, 28.83451)

mitropolia.md, +37322232929



C Ciuflea Monastery

Ciuflea Monastery is a Moldovan Orthodox monastery located in Chișinău, Moldova. It is dedicated to Saint Theodore of Amasea.

Ion Vasilenco Street, MD-2001 Chișinău, Moldova (47.01275, 28.84710)

ciuflea.md



D Cathedral of Divine Providence

The Cathedral of Divine Providence is a religious building affiliated with the Catholic Church which is located in Chișinău, Moldova, and...

Strada Mitropolit Dosoftei 85, MD-2004 Chișinău, MD (47.02902, 28.82905)

+37322221227



E St. Teodora de la Sihla Church

The St. Teodora de la Sihla Church is a cathedral in Central Chișinău, Moldova.

Strada Alexandr Pușkin, Chișinău, Moldova (47.02084, 28.83037)



F Sinagoga „Geamgiilor“

Also known as the Glassmakers' Synagogue, this is one of the few remaining active Jewish houses of worship in Chișinău, located in a historic building on Chabad-Lubavitch Street.

Strada Habad Liubavici 8, MD-2005 Chișinău, MD (47.02295, 28.84239)

kishinev.org, +373 22 541 023



G Saint Pantaleon's Church

Designed by renowned architect Alexander Bernardazzi in 1891, this Orthodox church is noted for its Greek-cross floor plan and detailed stone masonry characteristic of late 19th-century eclecticism.

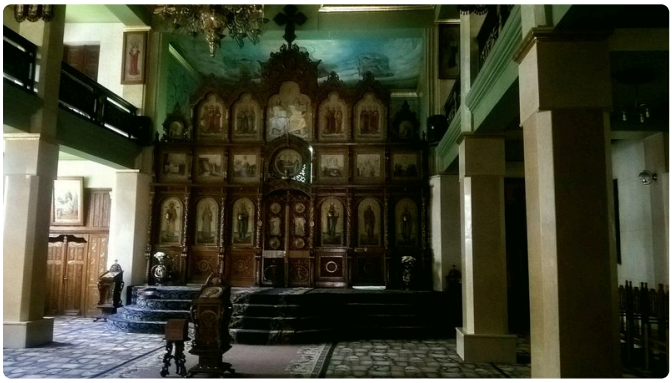
(47.02065, 28.83277)



H Capela familiei Oganowici

A 19th-century Roman Catholic cemetery chapel built for the Oganowici family. It is a protected national monument reflecting the city's Armenian-Catholic heritage.

Strada Odesa, Chișinău, Moldova (47.00908, 28.85311)



I Biserica Sfântul Ierarh Nicolae

A historic Orthodox church and national architectural monument that serves as a traditional example of ecclesiastical design in central Chișinău.

(Unnamed Road), Chișinău, Moldova (47.03296, 28.82053)

J Transfiguration Church

The Transfiguration Church is a Moldovan Orthodox church located in Chișinău, Moldova.

Serghei Lazo Street, MD-2022 Chișinău, Moldova (47.02986, 28.82552)

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