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## **MEMOFISH Project, eMS ROBG-420**

### **"Memory and the Future. Stories about the Danube Civilization "**

#### **DANUBE BOATS route**

**Program  
for a three-day youth tourism package in the cross-border  
region Silistra District - Calarasi County**

**Running time August 30 - September 1, 2019**



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## First Day Tour Theme: Silistra and Tutrakan: Stories about the Danube Civilization

### Silistra in the Past

Between the 11th and 12th centuries Druster (Durostor) was the capital of the northern Bulgarian territories - the Danube region, where civilian rulers and commanders lived, among them the name of Nestor, as well as the metropolitan Drastor (Durostor), including one of the intellectuals and theologians - Christian Leo. During the Second Bulgarian Kingdom - Durostor was the Metropolitan Department and the residence of the governors of the region. Here in 1279 King Ivailo and his army repelled the Tartar attacks. Shortly afterwards, the despot Theodor Svetoslav lived in Durostor, before his arrival in Tarnovo in 1299. Around 1370, Durostor became the capital of an independent feudal principality ruled by Terter, the son of despot Dobrotica.

After the Turkish occupation (1388 and finally 1416), the city became the capital of the great blood Silistra, which extends all over Dobrudzha, Bessarabia and present-day Eastern Bulgaria. In the 15th - 16th centuries, Silistra was a theater of military conflicts between the Ottoman Empire, the Vlach voyages and the armies of knights in Western Europe. At the beginning of the 15th century the city's cathedral was rebuilt. A remarkable period in the history of Silistra is represented by the Russo-Turkish wars from the end of the eighteenth - first half of the nineteenth century, during the time of Generals Rumyantsev, Kutuzov, Suvorov, Bagration, Dibich and others. The prominent Bulgarian captain Georgi Mamarchev, an uncle of GS Rakovski, who is temporarily settled in the town after 1830, is also present in Silistra. With the siege of Silistra by the Russian army in 1853, the Crimean War began - a period from which the fortress "Medzhidi Tabia" dates to this day. The great Russian writer L.N. Tolstoy, at that time a young officer, was involved in the fighting around Silistra. In 1877 Silistra was liberated from the Russian army.

After the Russo-Turkish Liberation War of 1877-1878, the bourgeois class in Silistra took the first steps in the development of industry, banks and commerce. At the end of the 19th century, four joint-stock companies and an agricultural fund, a soap and leather factory, a soft drink factory, many law and business firms, gold processing workshops, hotels and more were operating in the city.

Silistra becomes one of the educational centers in Bulgaria. In the 1990s, at the end of the 19th century, the Silistra State Pedagogical School was opened, whose building is still one of the symbols of the city (the current building of the Art Gallery).

Following the monarch's vision and Bulgarian diplomacy after the two Balkan wars, Silistra and Dobrudzha were occupied by Tsarist Romania in the summer of 1913. During World War I, Silistra was liberated by the Bulgarian army in 1916. Following the failure of the war following the infamous 1919 Treaty of Neuilly, Silistra and Dobrudzha were again transferred to the Kingdom of Romania. The city becomes the center of Silistra County, but it does not change significantly. New buildings in the





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so-called 'Neo-Roman style' are being added to contribute to the European look of the city.

In September 1940 the population of Silistra changed - Dobrudzha was again part of Bulgaria. Silistra is thus the illuminated administrative, cultural and spiritual center of the Krydunavska Dobrudzha ("from the Danube border"). The city is home to the 31st Silistra Regiment, which actively participated in World War II in 1944-1945.

Between 1950 and 2000 Silistra changed its appearance - the city was modernized and industrialized. It is becoming the center of the food, textile and electronics industries. At the same time it is the center of a large agricultural area. Despite the modernization, remarkable monuments of cultural and historical heritage have been preserved and exhibited in the city and the region. The city has many ruins of Roman and medieval fortress, churches, residences and buildings from II - XV century. Here is one of the most valuable ancient tombs of late Europe, with unique murals from the IV century.

Today, traces of the ancient past are exposed and form the National Architectural and Archaeological Reserve "Durostorum - Druster - Silistra".



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## Tourist sites in Silistra National architectural and archeological reserve Durostorum-Drustur-Silistra



The reserve covers most of the city. It contains unique monuments from the Roman Empire as well as from the medieval Bulgarian state. The monuments in the Krydunavsky Park are of the greatest interest. Here we saw the Patriarchal Basilica of Patriarch Damian. A part of Khan Omurtag's famous column was also found here, which, according to most researchers, proves that the "glorious Danube house" he built so far, which he built, is located in Silistra.

### The Danube Garden



The Danube Garden is the first public and Danube park on the territory of Bulgaria. The park was created about 100-150 years ago. It was first mentioned in the Turkish newspaper in 1870. It is a wonderful place to walk, has beautiful views of the Danube River and many playgrounds for young children. The charm of the park lies in the remains of the ancient fortresses, which are located in the immediate vicinity. Some unique tree species that are protected and unique in nature can be seen in the Danube Garden. They are labeled to distinguish them from other trees. The Danube Garden is a place worth seeing.





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## The Roman Tomb



The Roman tomb in Silistra is one of the most famous ancient monuments in Bulgaria. It dates from IVc, when the city is a Roman fortress called Durostorum. The tomb is a single-storey vaulted stone structure with an entrance from the east and dimensions 3.3m x 2.60m x 2.30m. It is famous for its rich wall decoration (geometric, animal and human figures, hunting scenes, the household couple and their servants), made probably by an Egyptian or Syrian artist. The tomb was opened in 1942 and is today housed in a specially protected building.

## Turkish fort "Abdul Majidi"



The Turkish fort "Abdul Medjidi", or the so-called Medjidi Tabi fortress, is located south of Silistra and is the most preserved of the six fortifications of the Turkish fortification system, which played an important role in the Crimean (1853-1856) and Russo-Turkish wars (1853-1856 and 1877-1878). It was built because of the need to further strengthen the Danubian cities when the river established itself as a natural boundary of the Ottoman Empire. The idea of constructing this system of military







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fortifications was the work of the German military engineer Helmut von Moltke (1800g-1891), who visited the city in 1837. The fortress was built in the period 1841-1853 with the free labor of 300 forcibly collected Bulgarians. The main masters are from Dryanovo and the stonemasons are from the region of Silistra. During the construction of the fortress, they also built the first monolithic Revival temples in Silistra - in Alfatar (1846) and Kalipetrovo (1847). The construction of the fortress attracted the attention of Sultan Abdul Majid, who arrived in 1847 to inspect the construction works. This is where the name of the fortress comes from - the MedzhidiThe fortress was completed during the reign of Governor Said Pasha on the eve of the Crimean War. The fortress played an important role during the Crimean War, which began in 1853 with the battle of Silistra. In the battles around the fortress participated the brilliant Russian writer Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy (1828 - 1910). The facility was also actively used in the Russian-Turkish War of Liberation for the Bulgarians from 1877-1878. The fortress wall is in the shape of a hexagon and reaches a height of 8m. Next to it is a moat, which served both as an obstacle and as a disguise. Mediji Tabia is the only fully preserved interior and exterior fortress from the Ottoman era.

### **Museum of Natural History at the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve**



The Natural History Museum at the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve is located in the northern part of the village of Srebarna. It contains specimens of specimens of the reserve, many photographs and information materials for plant and animal species. The museum has an observation post from which birds in the reserve can be observed through telescopes and binoculars. A video camera was installed in the heart of the lake to monitor where the pelicans nest. Through video, the picture and sounds are broadcast on the screen in the museum.





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## Tutrakan in the Past

The city was built as a fortress in Roman times under the name Transmariska, by Emperor Diocletian, after one of his victories against enemy tribes. It houses part of Claudius' 11th Legion. Information on this is drawn from a stone inscription dated October 18, year 294. The name means "The settlement behind the marshes", referring to the plain on the other side, as a low plain, around the present Romanian town of Oltenitsa. During the Emperor Valent (366 AD), a bridge of rafts was built over the Danube during his war with the Goths. In the late 10th century, settlers from southern Russia settled here, naming Tmutarakan. Medieval Arab geographers mark the city as Rekran, Zakratra, Thrakan, Taraka. In the 15th-16th centuries there were many watermills (along the Danube River) and windmills (on the shores of the coast) that survived until later, and the last watermill (shifmule) survived until 1942. The names of two prominent commanders of the Russian army are recorded in the history of the city of Tutrakan. On May 10, 1773, General Suvorov took over the city. After the withdrawal of Russian troops, the Turks expanded and fortified the fort, but this did not prevent General Kutuzov from conquering it on October 11, 1810.

In the 19th century, Tutrakan was a poor city of fishermen, craftsmen and winemakers, but many boats and water mills were built in the area of boatbuilding. A church, a large and secular school was built in 1862, and the Revival Library was founded in 1873. In 1867 Panayot Hitov's company, together with the flag-bearer Vasil Levski, crossed the Danube near Tutrakan, Romania, to liberate Bulgaria. .

At the beginning of the twentieth century Tutrakan numbered about ten thousand inhabitants and was equal to cities such as Vidin, Lom, Turnovo, Svishtov, Lovech, and even surpassed them by trade. Then Tutrakan became the largest Danube fishing center in Bulgaria. Since 1913 it has been part of the territory of Romania under the name Turtucaia. The city is in decline and its population is also in decline. In 1940, under the Treaty of Craiova, South Dobrudzha (including Tutrakan) was returned to Bulgaria.

Due to its picturesque location on the hills near the Danube, Tutrakan is known as the Turnovo of the Danube.





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## Toursit sites in Tutrakan

### Danube Park



Within the boundaries of the town of Tutrakan, near the Danube is the Krydunavsky Park. The total area of the park area covers nearly 12 acres with several separate areas. Decorative trees and shrubs, an outdoor solarium and wooden lounge chairs are included in the seating area. The children's area includes rest areas for mothers with strollers, play multifunctional facilities, swings, carousel, sandbox and more. There is also an information lane presenting information on biodiversity in the Tutrakan region through thematic plates.

### Danube Fishing and Boatbuilding Museum



The Danube Fishing and Boatbuilding Museum was opened in 1974 in Tutrakan. The museum is located right there because the city has centuries-old traditions in fishing and boatbuilding. It is no accident that the people of Tutrakan had the glory of the best fishermen and boatmasters along the lower Danube. The museum is unique not only in Bulgaria but

also on the whole Balkan Peninsula. The exposition of the museum is located in seven halls in a building built at the beginning of the XX century. The collections are arranged in chronological order so as to trace the historical development of fishing gear and techniques - from antiquity to the present day. Visitors can see original fishing gear, bone and copper fishing rods, clay weights for fishing nets, various types of nets made from vegetable fibers, and more. In addition to the original artifacts,







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the museum introduces visitors to the fishing history and various photographs and documents. One of the photographs dates from 1942 and shows a maroon weighing 393 kg caught near the village of Vrav. A typical fishing lodge has been recreated and the way in which the lodge is connected to the fishing craft. One of the halls in the museum is dedicated to the development of boatbuilding in Tutrakan and the area. In the ancient city of Transmariska, as the old name of Tutrakan, there was a workshop for the repair of vessels, and in the 19th century boats made in Tutrakan were exported to Austria, Serbia and other countries. The Danube Fishing and Boatbuilding Museum sells information brochures, cards and other souvenirs.

### The Fiery Danube



This is one of the biggest summer events in the Bulgarian part of the Danube River. The fiery Danube is the culmination of the annual River Week, during which a variety of cultural and sporting events take place.

On the last day there is a traditional 'River Feast', featuring fishing boat races, Danube swims, children's animations, boozing, outdoor exhibitions, a culinary competition for the finest fish soup, performances by local dance and music schools. Scooter rides, paragliding, cruise ship between Tutrakan and Oltenitsa, open air opera are organized.

In the evening, the quay becomes the scene of rock concerts, and after nightfall the light fiery show "Fiery Danube" illuminates the river.





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## Torpedo Boat



25 years ago, one of the torpedo boats (Project 123K) of the Navy (Navy) of Bulgaria was placed on a pedestal for eternal times in the town of Tutrakan.

## St. Nicholas Cathedral



The temple is located at the beginning of the Fisherman's neighborhood in the northeast of Tutrakan. The church was built with the donations of patriotic Tutrakan citizens and was solemnly consecrated on July 14, 1865. The cathedral is magnificent with its exceptional architecture. The church is three-nave, with each ending east with a semicircle inside and outside the apse. The beautiful and original carving of the royal doors, the iconostasis and the murals were sculpted by the master painters of the Tryavna painting school Zahari Tsanyuv and his son Stefan.



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## Complex "Fisherman's neighborhood"



In Tutrakan, it is the only natural fishing village in the country. With its identity, purity and Renaissance spirit, the Architectural Complex "Fisherman's Mahala" has been preserved for generations in its authentic form with fishing nets, boat shops and fishing houses. He recalls as a living legend this livelihood of our ancestors, passed on from generation to generation and preserves the image of Tutrakan - a prominent fishing and boatbuilding center.

The fishing village is located in the northeast of Tutrakan. It is a cultural monument of national importance with a high degree of authenticity. By the beginning of the twentieth century, 1,437 fishing families lived in it and the number of professional fishermen increased to 2296 with a population of 7926 inhabitants. Notwithstanding the turmoil in the fate of Tutrakan and South Dobrudzha, by the 1940s, the total number of fishermen reached up to 5,000, and there were 1,300 double-edged fishing boats on the "wharf". The architectural reserve "Ribarska mahala" is an integral part of the museum exposition of the Ethnographic Museum "Danube fishing and boatbuilding" and preserves national value.

## History Museum - Tutrakan



It was opened in 1993 at Theodor's House. The exposition reveals nearly 20 centuries of the city's history. In the archeological exposition are exposed finds from the 5th millennium BC, Thracian ceramics, exhibits from the ancient Transmariska fortress, its creation and grandeur, the arrival of Proto-Bulgarians and

Slavs and the construction of the Tutrakan fortress from the time of the First and Second Bulgarian Kingdoms. The museum also has a unique iconic exposition of Renaissance icons from the Tutrakan spiritual district and old printed books and church utensils. The icons are the work of master painters from the Tryavna painting school.







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## Second day tour theme: Danube boats

This route represents the fascination of aquatic ecosystems in the area and their biodiversity. In this landscape, the Danube River dominates. The defining elements are the horizon, the colors that change depending on the time of day and hours of day, the light from the sun and the moon, the changing wind power, the specific smell and noise of the birds, the beauty of the inter-island channels. Biodiversity includes characteristic natural habitats, birds and other animals.

The boat route starts from the boat dock or docks at the Danube Park, which depending on the preferences of the visitors may include a visit and lunch on the island of Nameless. This is a Bulgarian island almost united to the Romanian island of Vozhearia. The Namelessen Protected Area was declared by Order No. RD-260 / July 17, 1995 (SG No. 69/1995) with an area of 73.8 ha. The protection regime complies with IUCN Category IV. With Order No. RD-451 / 04.07.2001 of MOEW the Kalimok-Brushlen Protected Site was declared and Namelessen Island became part of it.

In specially designated areas, tourists will have the opportunity to have a picnic and taste specially prepared local soup fish and grilled fish. Industrious fishermen will have the opportunity to test their fishing skills.

The route provides an opportunity to get acquainted with some of the rare and high conservation values not only in Bulgaria but also in Europe, natural habitats.





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## Third day tour theme: Calarasi and Chocanesti: The Future of Fishing

### Calarasi in the Past



Calarasi (in the past, Liqueires and, temporarily, Stirbeu) is a municipality, the center of a county of the same name, Muntenia, Romania. It is the largest city in the county and one of the most important municipalities in the Southern Development Region. Located in the southeastern part of Romania, on the left side of the Danube arm of the Borca, Calarasi is known for its food industry, melamine chipboard industry, steel industry, paper industry and semi-finished products industry.



The name Likirishte probably dates from the beginning of the first settlement of permanent residents in these lands, at the time of the ruler Mihai Vityazul. The name Liqueur is supposed to be closely related to the erection of the first church, St. Nicholas of Mireille Lycie. The people who gathered around the place may have called it the Lycie church in short, and they would be called the people of Lycie church or liqueurs, which is where the name of the village Liquesht comes from. The name Calarasi has two possible origins: the first is from the point of passage from the Ottoman Empire to Wallachia, which was guarded by the horsemen's

captaincy, and the second is that it was taken, by extension, on behalf of the village of Calarasi Century, because of this village and from the city the best horsemen were recruited for the army.







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Liqueur is first mentioned in a map from 1700, a cartographic work by Constantine Cantacuzino, printed in Italy, in Padua.

The population was represented at that time by free people engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry, Romanians and a small number of Bulgarians and Turks. A special category was the relay riders who carried the mail along the Bucharest-Constantinople route. Most probably, they were organized during the reign of Konstantin Bryankoveanu, the first document kept mentioning them, dated May 25, 1722. Of these horsemen, who after their service ceased to settle in the village near their unit, the village of Likireș, it starts to become known as the "riders' village" or Calarasi.

By the end of the eighteenth century, the name Liqueur was less and less used; either the name Calarasi or Liquesht or both were used as the village name. On the map of 1700, Liqueur is listed as a large village. On the Austrian map of 1791, the settlement was recorded under the name "Calarasi or Liqueur".



On May 1, 1734, Calarasi was mentioned as a market place, indicating that the village was growing, that it was beginning to boil over commercial life. Different passers-by have always had a pleasant impression of this market. During this period Calarasi was part of Ialomitsa County, with its center in Urzichen.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, public improvements were made: in addition to the old church that existed in the center of the town, a central khan and numerous pavilions erected, which, along with the houses

of some wealthier inhabitants, would give Calarasi kind of town.

The current Calarasi zone has been many times the scene of wars against the Turkish threat to defend the Danube forest. Several battles have been fought here since the establishment of the settlement and until May 28, 1812, when peace was signed in Bucharest that would bring peace to the inhabitants. Moments of horror have survived the Caucasians and through 1821, together with the outbreak of the revolution led by Tudor Vladimirescu, with their troubles only ending one year after the end of the revolution in 1821. Another moment of panic for the inhabitants is the new Russo-Turkish war of 1828-1829. caused by the war were not enough, a violent plague epidemic erupted in Calarasi in 1828-1830.

In the summer of 1831 the cholera brought on by the Turks broke out, fortunately this new epidemic lasted only a few days.

After all the misfortunes have passed, the restoration of the settlement begins immediately. A standing bridge was built above the mouth of Jezer, a bridge that facilitated access to Silistra; Two buildings have been erected, of which a large barn for 20 horses, and a large quarantine building has been erected to avoid plague and cholera, paying much attention to sanitary measures. All these things have led to a change in the overall view of Calarasi, which increasingly looks like a country town; it lacks only official status.







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The growing needs of the Russians to keep in constant contact with the district authorities made them enter Bucharest, demanding the relocation of the center of Yalomiya County from Urzichen to Calarasi. On April 18, 1833, the center was ordered to relocate to Calarasi, resulting in the search for necessary buildings for the authorities and houses for the county heads, as well as the relocation of the district specialized institutions (prosecutor's office, court and police) to Calarasi.

On November 1, 1833, on the occasion of the introduction of the first commission of the town of Calarasi, the first budget of 8,000 lei was adopted, proposed to be spent



for the modernization of the city's central street and for the construction of a school (4,500 lei were granted). A considerable number of private houses have been built, as well as several public buildings, and the cathedral, badly hit by the 1829 earthquake, has been renovated.

On June 26, 1837, the chairman of the City Commission, together with one committee member, made a detailed report of the changes to be made in the city: to replace the reed roof of houses with clay bricks within a year, the chimneys the houses to be made of bricks, not straw and

earth, etc. It is proposed to develop rules for fire prevention; after the devastating fire in Bucharest on the night of March 23, 1847, water barrels were made in Calarasi. In 1852, 24 lanterns were operated in Calarasi at night, costing the City Commission 1260 lei.

For 19 years, between 1833 and 1852, there were four ruler visits to Calarasi.

Although in 1833 wealthy people, especially merchants, came to Calarasi, a small part of them set here permanently, most of them doing business and leaving the city, not daring to remain in a privately owned town without any prospect of the future. Residents of the city often expressed their desire to free themselves from the dominion of the owner of the mansion, being convinced of the benefits that liberation would provide to the development of the city.



Many times complaints have been sent to the Ialomita County Government, and none have the expected results. Residents are not left behind and activated in the coming years; so, in 1849, they approached Lord Barbu Stirbey, who in November 1849 responded to the report, allowing the city to know a huge development if it was "free." He orders a topographic engineer to be sent to draft the Calarasi city plan with utmost precision, a plan that will create straight, parallel streets, intersected by others, forming large rectangles, with 4 squares and one boulevard. On July 28, 1851, Barb Stirbey came to Calarasi in person, where he was greeted as he was supposed. She

is convinced of the progress of the works and of the misery that the residents have suffered because of the city's location on private property. The amount to be paid,





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250,000 lei, for the liberation of the city was difficult to collect and finally paid. In September 1852, the Calarasi began preparations for the official proclamation of the liberation of the city, so that on September 24, 1852, Calarasi became free. The city was then named Stirbeyu, but it was lost in the following decades and was only used in official documents until 1881.

At the end of the 19th century, Calarasi had the status of an urban commune and was the center of Ialomitsa County (a statute adopted in 1832 by the town of Urzichen), with the village of Maguren included in the official town as well. , with a total population of 8125 inhabitants. The city had 4 churches, two synagogues, one real high school with 91 students and seven primary schools (three for boys, two girls and two mixed) with a total of 971 students (of which 375 were girls). The 1925 Soček Yearbook records the city with the same status and a population of 13,050. In 1931, the city was given the suburban commune Mircea-Voda, formed by the village of Mircea-Voda. In 1950, after the national administrative reorganization, Calarasi was granted the status of a district town, the center of the Ialomitsa district, and of the Calarasi district in that area. In 1952 the area was removed and the Calarasi region (with its further center in Calarasi) was relocated to the Bucharest district. The town was granted the status of a regional town in 1964. Later, the commune of Mircea-Voda was abolished and the village of Mircea Voda was transferred to the town of Calarasi.

In 1968, under the new administrative reorganization, Calarasi was granted municipal status and returned to the restored Yalomitsa district. Although it is the only municipality in the county, Calarasi is no longer a center, the center has been relocated to Slobozia. At the same time the villages Mircea-Voda and Magurei were removed and included in the settlement Calarasi. The city regained its status as the center of the district in 1981, when Calarasi County was founded, from the southern half of Ialomitsa County until then, along with the southeast of Ilfov County. The municipality had Modelo as a suburban municipality between 1968 and 1989, when the concept of a suburban municipality / commune was rejected.





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## Tourist sites in Calarasi

### Borča Channel in the Danube



Before the Danube flows in the Danube delta in three other channels in the lowest regions of the country, the river extends its waters into 8 other channels. The Borca one is one of them, located in Calarasi and is one of the great attractions of this region. The channel is navigable, and near Cernavoda offers incredible views of the wild land surrounded by forests. Do not miss the opportunity

to take a boat trip or stay at any of the emerging beaches.

### The Beaches



Due to its position on the Danube, the town of Calarasi has several beaches, where you can swim freely. The Grand Beach is one of the most sought after fine sand beaches in the city, near Central Park. Youth Beach or Motorists Beach (4 km from the city) are two other options.

### The church of the former Ngoost Monastery



The church of the former Ngoost Monastery is almost completely renovated. This place of worship was erected in the Baragan plain, in the seventeenth century, by order of the Duke Matthew Basarab and his wife Helen. A Romanian History Page That Is Worth Adding To Travel Stories In The Country!







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## The Lower Danube Museum



The Museum of the Lower Danube is a public cultural institution, legal entity of regional and regional importance in the service of the society, which collects, preserves, studies, restores, communicates and exhibits for the purpose of knowledge, education and recreation, material and spiritual evidence of existence and evolution human communities as well as the environment. The Museum of the

Lower Danube is under the authority of the County Council of Calarasi. The activity of the museum is funded by funds from the budget of the Calarasi County Council, as well as from its own revenues, which come from fees for services offered, from donations and sponsorships, from other specific activities.

The museum in Calarasi was founded in 1951 (by decision No. 316/16 May 1951) in a nationalized house with 6 premises, located near the town hall, on St. Nicolas Street, behind the church of the same name. As a result of the rapid growth of the heritage, it began to function in 1954, having an archeological profile. This development of the heritage is due to a group of enthusiastic intellectuals, among whom is Nice Anghelescu - the first director of the museum, Vasile Kulika, Yatán Konstantin, George Florea, Florian Kirulescu and others. Thanks to their activities, many archaeological reserves and historical monuments have been discovered, and the increase in heritage has forced the authorities of time to change the site of the museum several times.

Between 1968 and 1981, the Kalarash Museum is a section of the history and archeology of the Ialomitsa Regional Museum. In 1981, the Archeological Section was transformed into the Calarasi County Museum, so in 1990 it was awarded the title of Dolev Danube Museum by the Ministry of Culture Commission and Museum.

Many famous people from the scientific and museum world worked at the museum: such as Nice Anghelescu, Apostle Atanasiu, Nikulae Konovic, Krishan Mushetianu, Radu Lungu, Tudor Papasima, Pavel Sushara, Bogdan Panzu, Paul Damian, Traian , Titi Ruse and others. Since May 30, 2012, the Lower Danube Museum is taking advantage of a new exhibit space of approx. 400 sq.m., located in the basement of the Regional Center for Culture and Administration "Barb Stirbei" Calarasi. In this modern space, a series of archeological remains from the earliest times until the Roman era, discovered in the territory of Calarasi county and in the Danube region, are exposed to the general public, such as the coin treasures, found in Rasa (Philip II type tetradrachms and Alexander the Great), Boschnag (Tassi tetradrachms, Zhegaliya (republican Roman denars), Bora (16th century), Byzantine gold coins, middle coins, middle ages Europe and the Ottoman Empire.





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## Valya Roshi Lake



Another attraction in Calarasi County is Valya Roshi Lake (Red Valley), which is worth a visit, even for a few hours. There is water in the natural lake, rich in salt, sulfides, sodium and sapropel sludge, ingredients with therapeutic properties. The waters of this lake, near the Mitreni

municipality, cover an area of 14 ha and are a paradise for amateur fishermen. That is why fishing lovers come to these places to brag about catching fish.

The home of Ana and Marinake Popescu is actually a combination of two buildings, of which the main structure includes a partial basement, a semi-ground floor, a high ground floor and a partially attic bridge, while the annex consists only of a ground floor and a bridge. Over time and lack of proper maintenance, both building blocks have reached an advanced state of degradation, which is why a series of consolidation operations have been carried out in the first stage of the intervention, designed to ensure their continuity in a state of integrity. Possibly one of the most striking features of the Popescu family home was the rich ornamentation that adorned it, both inside and outside.



All elements were badly damaged and in need of thorough restoration. The terracotta ornaments on the exterior of the main building were cleaned and varnished, now contrasting with the yellow of the facade, thus emphasizing the cornice line and the dimensions of the gaps. The decoration is even more gorgeous. And these are not only the ceilings decorated with oil

plasters in the main corridor and in the current boardroom, but especially the decorative plaster found on most walls when paint was removed during the post-war period. Even the outbuilding, which originally housed the carriages of the ground floor and the maid on the floor, was beautifully decorated on the outside, but the removal of some of the elements of the ornament required their completion on the basis of molding materials recovered during the restoration process.





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## The Zoo



One of the largest zoos in Romania, both on the land surface and in the number of species, some of them unique in the country. The only zoo in Romania that reproduces jaguars, Siberian tigers and Emu ostriches, with unique species such as hippos and grizzly bears.

Călarăși Zoo has an impressive number of species of animals, mammals, birds, exotic fish, exotic reptiles and more. You can admire different animals: lions, Siberian tigers, leopards, jaguars, hippos, Alaskan bears, monkeys, peacocks, deer (Carpathian, shovel), mouflon, llamas, goats, ponies, wolves and foxes, rabbits, squirrels, chinchillas, etc., white hedgehogs; large variety of birds, pelicans, swans (white and black), parrots, peacocks, pheasants, parrots, ducks and wild geese, storks, capercaillie, ostriches (emu, african, nandu), raptors (eagle, hawk, owl) exotic ornamental birds, piranha; exotic reptiles, snakes (boa, python), lizards, iguana, Nile crocodile, turtles, tarantulas. The garden was created in 1980, on June 1, and opens under the direction of George Tatavura. Since 1990, Călarăși Zoo has hosted unique animals in Romania due to the exchange of animals between Călarăși Zoo and other similar places abroad. In 10 years, more than 60 specimens of Siberian tigers and jaguars have been obtained. Some of these tigers have come to the Globe Circus, where they are trained and involved in performances. The Călarăși Zoo can be proud of the fact that in recent years it has reproduced more than 50 Siberian tigers, the institution being a space that provides for the perpetuation of captive species. The Călarăși Zoo is an "exporter" for the rest of Romania's zoos. A unique



pair of animals in the country is represented by Alaska bears (grizzlies) weighing more than 1.2 tons and which were part of Nicolae Ceausescu's collection since 1990 reaching Călarăși. The newest structure in the Călarăși Zoo is the Aquarium. The aquarium collects a collection of aquatic animals: exotic fish, exotic reptiles, snakes, crocodiles.







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## Chocanesti in the Past



Cukaneș is a rural municipality in Calarasi County, Munteniya, Romania, composed only of the village center of the same name.

The village municipality is located in the south-central part of the district, on the border with Silistra district, Bulgaria, on the left bank of the Danube. Near Cukanesti is the island of Cukanesti on the Danube. The DN31 national

road passes through the village municipality, which connects Calarasi with Oltenitsa. At the end of the 19th century, in the present-day territory of the rural municipality, the rural municipalities of Cokaneșt-Mrdjinen and Cokanjeșt-Serbbi functioned in the Borca district of Ialomica County. The first was made up of the villages of Ciocănești-Mardzhinen, Ciocănești-Pamenten and Gunos, with 1807 inhabitants, two churches and three schools (one mixed, one girls' and one for boys) with a total of 181 students (60 of them girls). The village municipality of Cokaneșt-Serbbi consisted of a single village, glued to Cukaneșt-Mardzhinen and immediately west of it; the village municipality had 1437 inhabitants, a church and two schools - one for boys, with 74 students and one for girls with 57 students. The 1925 Soček Yearbook records the emergence of the current rural municipality of Chocanesti by reorganizing the two former rural municipalities; it consisted of the villages of Andolina, Chokokenesti and Smurdan, had 5114 inhabitants and was the center of the district of Chocanești in the same county.

In 1950, the rural municipality passed into the administration of the Calarasi region in the Ialomita district and then (after 1952) into the Bucharest district. In 1968, it returned to Ialomitsa County, rebuilding, and the villages of Andolina and Smurdan were removed and combined with the village of Cokaneșt. In 1981, a regional administrative reorganization resulted in the transfer of the rural municipality to Calarasi County.

In Cokaneșt there seemed to have existed in the Middle Ages, according to the work of Vasile Radu and Pavel Popovic, "The monograph of the rural municipality of Cokaneșt. The story of a settlement, "scaffolding, ie. a small port through which various commodities, livestock, but mostly salt, are exported to the Balkans. In order to be easily transported across the Danube, the large salt stones worn by carts were crushed with hammers. The name of the village is derived from their name.





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## Tourist sites in Chocanesti

### Fishery Farm



Čiokanješt Fish Farm is part of the Danube Natura 2000 protected area. Consisting of 30 fish pools with a total area of 230 ha, this is a good example of sustainable farm management in harmony with nature. Over 20,000 migratory birds are nesting and feeding sites here, of which 30 are bird species protected at European

level. We advise you to stop for a break and walk around the area. It really is like a mini-delta. And if you have electric bikes, you will find an electric bicycle charging station here or you can rent one. Contacts: [www.ciocanesti-piscicola.ro](http://www.ciocanesti-piscicola.ro)

The Protected Area (framed in the steppe geographic bioregion) is a natural area (grassland, steppes, arable land, natural grassland, poplar plantations, ditches and canals; submerged vegetation, peppers and reeds) providing food, breeding and living conditions for several species of migrating, passing or stuck birds (some protected by law).



### Church of St. Hierarch Nicolae



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Church of St. Hierarch Nicolae in Andolina village, village of Chokenest, Calarasi county, was built in 1942 - 1943 on land donated by Banu Yon in World War II, with the financial contribution of the parishioners, during the period when the parish priest was Dumitru Mihailescu. The church was consecrated after the completion of the interior painting, in 1946. Subsequent modifications were aimed at minor repairs, re-painting of the interior in the 1960s, and after 2000, each time followed by renovations at the site. worship.

The modest size (ship: 16.5 m x 6 m x 6 m) of the church is explained with the limited financial and material resources available during the war. The parish of Andolina is subordinate to Protopopia Calarasi, in turn part of the Diocese of Slobozia and Calarasi.







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## DO YOU KNOW ...?

### Silistra - Tutrakan

1. Which national architectural reserve is located in Silistra?
2. How can visitors observe the nesting of birds in the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve?
3. When was the oldest park created along the Danube?
4. What can be seen in the Roman Tomb?
5. Who gave the idea for the construction of the fortress of Majidi Tabi?
6. When was the Danube Fishing and Boatbuilding Museum opened?
7. What can the visitor see at the Boat Museum?
8. Which summer event is taking place in Tutrakan?
9. What is the name of the cultural monument located in the northeast of Tutrakan?
10. What is Theodor's House?

### Calarasi - Chocanesti

1. Where is the Borchia sleeve located?
2. How many beaches are Calarasi?
3. What can we see in the Lower Danube Museum?
4. What is Valya Rosh Lake famous for?
5. How will you know the House of Ana and Marinake Popescu among other buildings in Calarasi?
6. How is Calarasi Zoo different from the rest in Romania?
7. Where in Calarasi County can you see over 20,000 migratory birds, of which 30 are bird species protected at European level?
8. What birds can we see in the Protected Area?
9. Specify a place of worship in the region.





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## SAFETY RULES FOR ROWING

1. The event should be carried out in the presence of approved "Safety rules", with specific measures provided and an appointed head of the organization. A "Safety Instruction" shall be drawn up in writing, which shall be approved by the head of the organization and placed prominently in the vessels, cabinet or distributed to all participants.
2. All vessels participating in the event shall be in possession of valid shipping documents and be managed by authorized drivers.
3. When the rowing boats are dragged up to km. 395,000, the spacecraft to stick to the right bank of the river.
4. During the transition from km. 383,000 km. 374,500, not to allow sailing near the fairway of the river, as well as the fragmentation of participating boats and yachts over long distances.
5. When crossing the third part of the hike - crossing the river from right to left bank at km. 374,500, as well as the hauling of the vessels from Calarasi to Silistra, to be carried out with the utmost care for safety, compliance with navigation in the area and strict observance of Art. 6.02, item 2 of the "Rules for navigation in the Bulgarian section of the Danube River" (OPPA).
6. Avoid exceeding the number of persons allowed on the vessels involved.
7. The event should be medically secured and coordinated with border police.
8. The event should be terminated in the presence of prerequisites for worsening of the weather.





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## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROWING VESSELS YAL - 6

1. Rowing boats shall, before sailing, be fitted with life jackets in number of crew in the boat.
2. The paddles should be provided with keys with ropes attached to them to ensure their loss.
3. The paddlers should be equipped with appropriate clothing.
4. The embarkation of the rowers in the boat shall be at the command of the skipper of the boat.
5. It is forbidden to get up straight, take the body out of the board, touch the water with your hands, shake the boat, and speak and shout indecently.
6. In the case of strong wind, the mandatory wearing of life jackets.
7. Move the boats at a safe distance from each other.
8. When approaching a shore or jetty, approach the current and wind at a reduced speed to prevent damage to the hull.
9. The use of any intoxicants is prohibited.
10. In case of injury or discomfort, notify the commandant of the hike immediately.
11. Observe all instructions and commands given by the skipper of the boat.
12. All participants in the hike must submit to the organizer the data from their passports, not later than 7 days before the start of the event, by sending them by fax, mail or e-mail.
13. Each participant must have individual or collective insurance.
14. Each participant shall sign a declaration in their own language before the start that:
  - no health issues - participates in the rowing campaign at his own risk and responsibility - has health insurance - has received a life jacket and will row with it - the paddle will be tied to the boat - will row with the group and will follow the organizer's instructions
15. The following must be taken into account when recruiting crews: - each crew must have one boatman - a person with experience in the river and trained. He receives information from the organizer and determines the actions in his entrusted boat according to them.
  - Crews should be drafted equally (as far as possible) by men and women, experienced and novice rowers. A technical conference should be held before the hike begins.
16. Each participant will receive a river map, program and safety instruction from the organizer.







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## DECLARATION OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE "Rules and instructions for safety when conducting a ROWING BOAT TRIP"

I, the undersigned:

(name surname family)

with a permanent address

in connection with his participation in the rowing boat trip on 31.08.2019  
I declare that I am familiar with the following safety instructions:

1. During the rowing trip it is obligatory to wear a life jacket at all times.
  2. Rowers are equipped with appropriate clothing.
  3. Shafts are provided with keys with ropes attached to them to ensure their loss.
  4. The embarkation of the rowers in the boat shall be at the command of the skipper of the boat.
  5. It is forbidden to get up straight, take the body out of the board, touch the water with your hands, shake the boat, and speak and shout indecently.
  6. In the event of a strong wind, life jackets must be fitted.
  7. Boats must be kept at a safe distance from each other.
  8. When landing on a shore or jetty, the current and wind must be approached at reduced speed to prevent damage to the hull.
  9. The use of any intoxicants is prohibited.
  10. In case of injury or discomfort, the marching officer must be notified immediately.
  11. All instructions and commands given by the skipper of the boat must be followed.
  12. Everyone must obey the instructions of the skipper and skipper.
- I declare that I have no health problems and participate in the rowing campaign at my own risk and responsibility.

Date

Signature





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## FEEDBACK EVALUATION FORM

1. What is your overall rating for the tourist trip (please note!)

☐ good   ☐ very good   ☐ excellent

2. What is your assessment of:

Transportation

☐ good   ☐ very good   ☐ excellent

The accommodation

☐ good   ☐ very good   ☐ excellent

The food

☐ good   ☐ very good   ☐ excellent

Visiting the sights

☐ good   ☐ very good   ☐ excellent

The owing trip

☐ good   ☐ very good   ☐ excellent

3. Please indicate the most interesting points

4. Would you like to make suggestions for changing the organization, visit or accommodation, attractions, etc. (at your request)

5. Would you recommend a promotional tour to your friends?

☐ yes   ☐ no   ☐ not sure





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