

# MOLDOVA BUSINESS WEEK

## WELCOME PACK

Everything you need to know for an unforgettable  
experience in the Republic of Moldova



# Welcome Note



**Natalia Bejan**

General Director of Invest Moldova Agency

Dear Guest,

Welcome to **Moldova Business Week 2024!**

We are delighted to host you at Moldova Business Week 2024, an event proudly presented by the Republic of Moldova. This year's gathering is themed "Moldova - Your Next Destination for Investments," focusing on showcasing the country as a prime location for investment opportunities.

Each year, Moldova Business Week convenes foreign investors, local and international entrepreneurs, economic experts, representatives of state institutions, and business leaders. Our goal is to showcase Moldova's investment climate and foster valuable networking opportunities. This year's event will take place on **September 16-20, 2024**, in Chisinau, Edineț, Bălți, and Ungheni, connecting over 1000 participants from various sectors.

Moldova Business Week's agenda is organized into distinct clusters, addressing industry-specific themes to ensure targeted discussions and insights. The clusters include ICT & BPO, Agri-food, Tourism, Green Energy, Automotive and Electronics, Real Estate, Taxation and Creative Industries. This structure enables a focused exchange of ideas and best practices among industry leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs.

We look forward to welcoming you and ensuring that your experience at Moldova Business Week 2024 is enriching and enjoyable.



# Date and Venue

**Monday, September 16th, 2024**

## **Official Program**

Dress Code: Business Professional

The opening event of **Moldova Business Week 2024** will take place on September 16th at the Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel, in Chisinau.

The venue is **20 minutes** or **13 kilometers** away from Chisinau International Airport.

The **Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel** in Chisinau is a 5-star international hotel, offering accommodations, dining options and conference facilities.



### **The hotel's address is:**

77 Mitropolit Varlaam Street, Chisinau, MD-2012, Moldova

Phone: +373 (22) 201201

Email: [info.chisinau@radissonblu.com](mailto:info.chisinau@radissonblu.com)

# Country Information



## Official time:

Moldova is in the **Eastern European Time Zone**. Standard Time in the Republic of Moldova is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.



## Emergencies:

Nationwide emergency number: **112**.



## Language:

The official language is **Romanian**. The majority of the population speaks English and Russian fluently.



## Electricity Usage:

In Moldova, power sockets are of **type C** and **F**. The standard voltage is 240 V, and the electrical frequency is 50 Hz.



## Internet in Moldova:

One of the fastest and cheapest in the world. The country ranks **3rd in the world** by gigabit coverage, with around 90% of the population having access to fast service.



## Credit Cards:

Most locations in Moldova accept **Visa** and **Mastercard**, including malls, large stores, restaurants, and some bars. However, smaller businesses, markets, taxis, and public transportation may not accept them. **Google Pay** and **Apple Pay** are also widely accepted for secure transactions.



## Banking:

Banking hours are **9:00** to **18:00**, Monday to Friday. Banks are closed on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

# Country Information



## Walk:

Walking is recommended, as Chisinau is a relatively small city with a highly walkable center, plus you can discover nice places to enjoy.



## Public Transport:

Trolleybuses are the most common and affordable form of urban transportation in Chişinău. An intra-city trip costs just 6 lei (approximately 30 euro cents). The trolleybus network covers nearly all areas of the city and even extends to some nearby localities within the municipality.

Public Transport  
Map



## Taxi:

In Chişinău, using a taxi is the most convenient way for tourists to get around. Within the city, fares typically range from 50 to 100 lei (3 to 5 euros). You can easily book a taxi through a mobile app, and we recommend two reliable apps available for both iOS and Android devices.

Letz



AmiGo car



## Rent a car:

Alternatives to taxis include car rentals or even hiring a car with a driver (who, in some cases, can also serve as a knowledgeable guide).



## Currency:

The official currency of Moldova is the **Moldovan Leu (MDL)**, with 1 leu equal to 100 bani. Exchange rates vary daily. You can exchange foreign currency at banks or licensed exchange bureaus in airports and hotels. For current rates, visit: **[BNM Exchange Rate](#)**.

Note: Currency restrictions for entry/exit are 10,000 euros or equivalent.

# Country Information



## Climate:

The weather in September is warm and sunny. You can expect average temperatures between: **22°C** and **30°C**. There are usually 10 hours of sunshine each day, which represents 70% of the 13 hours of daylight.



## Medical Facilities:

There are several hospitals and private clinics in Chisinau that can provide you with medical assistance in case of emergency. Some of them operate 24/7, such as Medpark and Novamed.



## Shopping:

There are **two malls** in Chişinău, Maldova and Port Mall, where you can explore a variety of products from Moldova and around the world. Both malls also offer cinemas and cafes with stunning views, making them popular destinations for shopping and leisure.



# Useful Contacts

Further **questions regarding the event** may be answered by the representant from Invest Moldova Agency:

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032 94 (also available on WhatsApp)



For foreign delegations, **questions regarding embassies, agenda**, please contact:

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879 (also available on WhatsApp)



# Discover City Center

You are about to see the most beautiful parts of the city, including the main streets, tourist attractions, and government buildings. The guide will accompany you, sharing captivating details and stories about the construction and development of the city up to the present day.

## Central Park:

Chişinău's Central Park, a lush green oasis in the heart of the city, is home to iconic landmarks such as the [Triumphal Arch](#) and the [Nativity Cathedral](#). This vibrant space highlights Chişinău's commitment to green urban living while



## Old City:

In the old part of Chişinău, you can explore historic landmarks like the [Central Hall](#), [Post Office](#), and [Organ Hall](#), all situated within 50-100 meters of each other. This charming area provides a compact and accessible way to experience the city's rich history and architectural beauty.



## Souvenirs Shop:

On the main street of Chişinău, you can find the charming shop “[Fantezie](#)” offering traditional clothes and souvenirs, perfect for taking a piece of Moldovan culture back home.





**Enjoy Delicious Cuisine:** Moldovan cuisine is a delightful blend of various influences, featuring hearty dishes such as mămăligă (polenta), plăcintă (savory or sweet pastries), and sarmale (stuffed cabbage rolls).

Some of these locations are within walking distance, ranging from **300 to 500 meters** from the Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel, while the **farthest is 1.800 meters away**.



#### **Traditional Restaurants:**

- Fuior
- La Plăcinte
- La Taifas



#### **Asian Food Restaurants:**

- E-sushi
- Madame Wong
- Asian Street Food



#### **European Food Restaurants:**

- Zaxi
- Atypic
- Lume NeoBistro



#### **Pastries and Cafes:**

- Creme de la Creme
- Delice d'Ange
- Old Street Cafe
- Tucano Coffee



#### **Wine**

- Plin cu vin
- Tramezzini
- 513



#### **Beer**

- Keller Holz Gastropub
- Draft
- Lake House

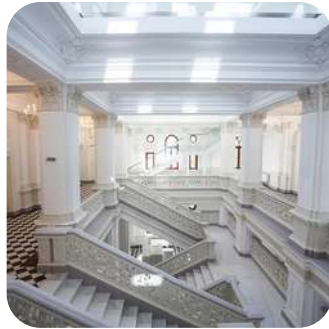


#### **Cocktails**

- Marlène
- Daily Dose
- Amor Amar

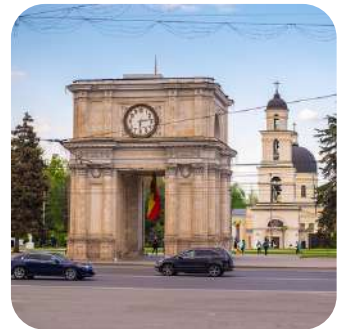
## Museums

In Chişinău, you can discover a rich cultural tapestry through its museums. The **National Museum of History** of Moldova offers insights into the country's past, while the **National Museum of Fine Arts** showcases local and international artworks.



## Triumphal Arch

The Triumphal Arch in Chişinău stands as **a symbol of Moldova's independence** and commemorates its victory in the Russo-Turkish War. It offers a picturesque view of the city and serves as a popular spot for visitors and locals alike.



## Presidency and Parliament

The Presidency and Parliament buildings in Chişinău are iconic landmarks representing the **country's governmental institutions**. They are located in the city center and are notable for their neoclassical architecture.



## Stefan cel Mare Monument

The Stefan cel Mare Monument honors **Moldova's most celebrated ruler**, Stefan cel Mare, who defended the country against invaders. It stands prominently in a central square, symbolizing national pride and heritage.



# Travel to Moldova

Dear guest, we are delighted to have you in Moldova and we hope you have a wonderful stay here and come as a tourist but leave as a friend.

Moldova, a small yet diverse country in Eastern Europe, offers a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, natural landscapes, wine regions, historical sites, and adventure trails. Central to the Moldovan experience is the warm hospitality and authentic charm that permeate every aspect of your visit. Let Moldova surprise you—here's how.

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# 20 Interesting Facts about Moldova

## 1. **Winemaking - A Way of Life**

Moldova hosts two **world's largest wine cellars and wine collections**. Cricova is the largest wine cellar in Europe, while Mileștii Mici is the largest wine collection in the world counting more than 1.5 mln wine bottles, included in the Guinness World Records.

## 2. **The first E-Park in Europe**

Moldova Innovation Technology Park founded in 2018 offers a unique incentive of **only 7% flat tax**, creating opportunities for more than 1700 companies in the IT field.

## 3. **Moldova's Path to the EU: Negotiations Reach New Milestone**

Moldova embarked on its path to becoming a member of the European Union in December 2023, with officially launching the accession negotiations on aligning its laws and practices with EU standards on 25th of June 2024.

## 4. Although small, Moldova is included in the **top 10 exporters** of plums, cherries, apples, apricots and apples in Europe.

## 5. **The second Summit of the European Political Community in Moldova**

On June 1st, 2023, Moldova became the center stage for the second summit of the European Political Community (EPC). This gathering brought together 45 heads of state or government from across Europe, including EU member states and non-members. The summit aimed to foster political dialogue and collaboration on issues of shared interest, promoting security, stability, and prosperity for the continent.

## 6. **Castel Mimi** is the first wine castle in Moldova. It was founded in 1893 and is included in the top 15 architectural masterpieces in the world of wine.

7. Moldova boasts 5 elements inscribed in the **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage**:  
The art of the traditional blouse with embroidery on the shoulder (altiță), Men's group Colindat, Christmas-time ritual, and Cultural practices associated with the 1st of March and the Traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship.
8. **The "Emil Racoviță / Cinderella" cave**, is the third largest gypsum cave in the world and is in eighth place in the ranking of all giant underground on Earth. With a height of about 11 meters, most of the ceilings and walls are like mosaics, due to the formations appearing after the crystallization of gypsum.
9. **Wine Day Festival**:  
Moldova is the only country in the world with a dedicated wine festival at its 23rd edition, taking place early and joining tourists and friends worldwide.
10. **Moldova's First Satellite Launched into Orbit in August 2022**  
In a historic achievement for Moldova, the country launched its first satellite into Earth's orbit in August 2022. The satellite was delivered to the International Space Station by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, marking a significant step forward for Moldova's space program.
11. The second **official language of Gagauzia**, located in the southern part of Moldova, is Turkish, carefully preserved by its 200,000 speakers.
12. Here you will find the **largest village in Europe** — Congaz.
13. The northern city of Soroca is well known as the **"capital" of the Roma**. Here lives the "King of the Roma", who is the baron of the Roma from Moldova.

14. During the Soviet Union, Moldova produced **food for cosmonauts**. Namely, unique technologies and methods of production and storage of fruit and berry products were developed in Moldova.
15. Moldovans **love New Year's Eve** so much that they celebrate it twice: in the new style, but also the old style, on December 31 and January 13.
16. The **first cosmonaut** in the world, Iurie Gagarin, spent 2 days in the Cricova cellar.
17. The largest animal that ever lived in this territory is the "Deinotherium", an elephant-like race. The skeleton of this animal is now kept in the Ethnographic Museum and is considered the **second largest in Europe**.
18. The **black soils** (chernozem) of Moldova are among the most fertile soils in the world.
19. The Struve geodetic arc, located in the village of Rudi in northern Moldova, is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
20. **The Eiffel Bridge** spans the Prut River, linking the city of Ungheni in the Republic of Moldova with the commune of Ungheni in Romania. This iconic bridge was designed and constructed by the company of Gustave Eiffel, the renowned architect behind the Eiffel Tower in Paris.



# Explore Moldova's Historical Sites

Moldova invites you to uncover its history and immerse yourself in its unique cultural heritage. Each corner of this country offers a glimpse into its storied past and vibrant present. Come, explore, and let Moldova surprise.

## **Soroca Fortress: Visit this 15th-century fortress on the Dniester River.**

Soroca Fortress, located on the Dniester River in Soroca, Moldova, is a historic fortification dating back to the 15th century. Originally a wooden fort established by Moldavian Prince Stephen the Great in 1499, it was part of a defensive chain including forts on the Dniester and Danube. Rebuilt in stone between 1543 and 1546 under Petru Rareș, the fortress features a perfect circular design with five bastions. It played crucial roles during the Great Turkish War and the Pruth Campaign. The fortress showcases advanced medieval fortification techniques, such as curved walls and round towers for better defense. Despite its obsolescence by the late 14th century due to the advent of gunpowder, Soroca Fortress remains a significant cultural and historical attraction in Moldova.



### **Hâncu Monastery**

Hâncu Monastery, located in a forest near the Cogilnic River, was founded in 1678 by Mihail Hancu to honor his daughter Parascheva's wish to become a nun. Originally named Viadica, the monastery's history includes a legend of Parascheva retreating to a cave to avoid marriage, prompting her father to build a church where she spent her life. The monastery was destroyed during a Tatar invasion but was rebuilt in 1784. Closed in 1949, it was reopened in 1992 and continues to function today.



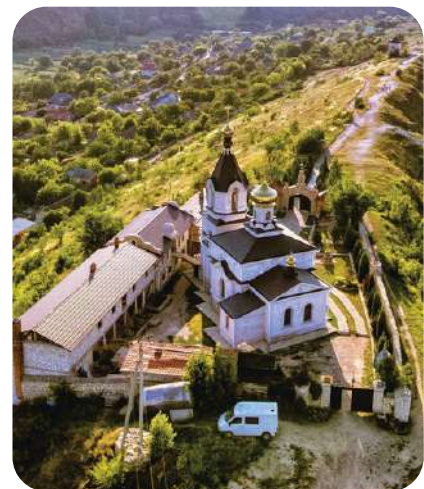
### **Manuc Bey Castle**

Manuc Bei Castle in Hîncești, Moldova, is a historical complex built in French architectural style by the descendants of Armenian diplomat Manuc Bei Mirzaian. The site features the Manuc Palace, the Bailiff's House, and a Hunting Castle. Despite damage from World War II and a 1986 earthquake, restoration efforts began in 2012. This architectural gem offers a glimpse into Moldova's rich history and picturesque surroundings.



### **Old Orhei (Orheiul Vechi)**

Old Orhei (Orheiul Vechi) is a historical and cultural complex along the Răut River, featuring ancient cave monasteries carved into limestone cliffs with Byzantine architectural influences. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage tentative site, it offers stunning landscapes and archaeological remains, making it a must-visit for history and nature lovers.





# Wine of Moldova

Moldova, known as the „**Land of Vineyards and Wine**”, boasts a rich winemaking heritage dating back thousands of years. The country's diverse soils, ranging from fertile plains to sunny hillsides, provides an ideal environment for cultivating a wide variety of grape varieties.

## Popular Grape Varieties:

### **Fetească Albă:**

A native grape producing aromatic white wines with floral and fruity notes.



### **Fetească Neagră:**

Another indigenous grape known for its intense red wines with flavors of blackberries and spices.

### **Rară Neagră:**

A rare grape variety in Moldova, producing complex red wines with a smooth texture and berry flavors.



### **Cabernet Sauvignon:**

Widely cultivated in Moldova, it yields robust red wines with blackcurrant and cedar notes.

### **Merlot:**

Known for its soft, velvety texture and flavors of plums and cherries.



## **Wine Regions:**

Moldova is divided into several wine regions, each with its own distinct characteristics:

**Codru:** Known for its fertile soil and moderate climate, ideal for growing a variety of grapes.

**Valul lui Traian:** Located in the south, known for its sunny slopes and excellent conditions for red wine production.

**Stefan Voda:** Famous for its sparkling wines and aromatic white varieties.

**Purcari:** Home to the legendary Purcari wines, known for their rich history and exceptional quality.

**Sparkling Wines:** Moldova is renowned for its sparkling wines, crafted using the traditional méthode champenoise. These wines are crisp, refreshing, and often made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes.

**Ice Wines:** In select years, Moldova produces ice wines, made from grapes harvested and pressed while frozen. These wines are intensely sweet with concentrated flavors, perfect for dessert pairing.

Whether you're a connoisseur or a casual enthusiast, Moldova offers a diverse and delightful selection of wines to explore. From crisp whites to robust reds and refined sparkling and dessert wines, each bottle reflects the passion and dedication of Moldovan winemakers. We invite you to discover the flavors of Moldova's vineyards and experience the true essence of its winemaking traditions, at the **Cricova** and **Chateau Vartely Wineries**.

## Cricova Winery

Winemaking - A Way of Life - Moldova hosts two of the **world's largest wine cellars** and **wine collections**.

Cricova, the largest wine cellar in Europe, is located in the heart of Moldova. Famous for its vast underground galleries that stretch for kilometers, Cricova provides a captivating journey into Moldova's rich wine heritage. Visitors can wander through these intricate passages lined with wine bottles and savor selections from its remarkable collection, including its renowned sparkling wines.



## Castle Mimi

Castle Mimi, nestled in Moldova's scenic vineyards, epitomizes both **historic grandeur** and **viticultural legacy**. Originally constructed in the early 20th century and meticulously restored, it harmoniously blends rich history with contemporary elegance. Surrounded by lush landscapes, Castle Mimi invites exploration of its intricate architecture, sprawling gardens, and renowned underground wine cellars.





# Famous Personalities

## Maria Bieșu

A Moldovan opera singer named Maria Bieșu. She made her stage debut in 1961 and eventually rose to the position of **a principal soprano** with the National Opera and Ballet Theatre of Moldova. She received offers to sing in various nations and received acclaim on a global scale for her creative accomplishments. She sang in Italy from 1965 to 1967 at the Milan Opera.



## O-zone

The famous "Numa Numa song" that **conquered the whole world is the hit called "Dragostea din tei"**, produced in 2003, by the band "O-zone", originally from the Republic of Moldova. In February 2009, **Dan Bălan** became the first Moldovan composer ever **nominated for the Grammy Award** as co-author of the superhit "Live Your Life" performed by singer Rihanna and rapper T.I.



## Andrew Rayel

Andrew Rayel, a trance producer and DJ from Moldova, rose to fame rapidly, ranking 77th in DJ Magazine's top 100 DJs in 2012 and climbing to 24th by 2014. His tracks are widely mixed by top DJs like Armin van Buuren, Tiesto, and Hardwell.





## Valentina Nafornița

Valentina Nafornița, a renowned **Moldovan soprano**, gained international fame after winning the BBC Cardiff Singer of the **World competition in 2011**. Born on March 26, 1976, in Călărași, Moldova, she has since performed in prestigious opera houses and concert halls worldwide. Known for her **exceptional vocal range**, emotive interpretations, and captivating stage presence, Nafornița continues to receive critical acclaim in various operatic roles.



## Eugen Doga

Eugen Doga is a renowned Moldovan composer whose diverse body of work spans classical, instrumental pieces, film scores, and ballet music. He has created three ballets ("Luceafărul," "Venancia," "Queen Margot"), the opera "Dialogues of Love," over 100 instrumental and choral works, including symphonies, quartets, and church music, as well as music for 200 movies. His famous **waltz "Gramophone" has gained worldwide recognition** and is included **in the top 200 best classical works of all time**.



## Radu Albot

Radu Albot is a Moldovan **professional tennis player** and the first from his country to win ATP World Tour singles (2019 Delray Beach Open) and doubles (2015 Istanbul Open) titles. He broke into the top 100 in August 2015, reaching a career-high ranking of No. 39 in August 2019. Albot has been a key member of the **Moldovan Davis Cup team** since 2007, holding national records for most singles (28) and total wins (41).



# Moldova's Gastronomy

Moldovan cuisine is distinguished by **simple, fresh** and **natural ingredients**, gathered in the tastiest local recipes, but also inherited from the people with whom we wrote our history.

Love for Moldova goes through the stomach. The warm meal always starts with homemade chicken soup (zeamă), which is said to "soothe the soul", especially after visiting the wineries. After this comes the Moldovan bread, măliga, which is served with meat stew or fried fish, sheep's cheese and cream. The charm of our polenta is that it bakes until it becomes hard, and is sliced with thread after it is turned out of the cauldron. Miniature or giant, depending on the region, sardines woven in fresh or pickled cabbage leaves, or vine, maple or horsetail leaves are another superstar of the local cuisine.





## MĂMĂLIGĂ

Food prepared from corn flour (less often millet, buckwheat, etc.) boiled in water.



## ZEAMĂ

Traditional Moldovan soup made from chicken, vegetables, homemade noodles, sour borscht and greens. It is traditionally served with hot peppers, sour cream and a slice of baked bread. The Moldovan zeama took 95th place in the ranking of 100 soups on the planet according to the Taste Atlas portal.

## SARMALE

Culinary preparation of minced meat (mixed with rice and other ingredients) wrapped in cabbage, vine leaves, etc.



## PLĂCINTA

In Moldova, plăcintă holds a special place in the hearts and kitchens of locals. This beloved pastry, with its origins deeply rooted in Moldovan culture, is **a symbol of comfort and hospitality**, often shared among family and friends during gatherings and celebrations.

Pies usually stuffed with cheese (brinza), potatoes, cabbage or apples.



## Dessert

For dessert, we will start with **baba**, a traditional dessert, slowly baked for long hours in the wood-fired oven. Unfortunately, it is not so easy to find in restaurants, but it is worth the search.

### CUȘMA LUI GUGUȚĂ

A well-known Moldovan dessert that translates to "Guguță's hat". It is a **sweet pastry shaped like a small hat or turban**, often with a spiral design on top. This dessert is popular in Moldova and is enjoyed on various occasions, such as holidays, weddings, or family gatherings. Its unique shape and sweet flavor make it a delightful treat for those with a sweet tooth.



### PRUNE CU NUCI

A traditional Moldovan dessert that translates to "prunes with walnuts." It is a simple yet delicious **sweet treat that combines the rich sweetness of prunes with the crunchy texture of walnuts**. To make this dessert, prunes are typically pitted and stuffed with walnuts. Sometimes, the walnuts are mixed with sugar and spices before being stuffed into the prunes to add extra flavor. The filled prunes are then often rolled in sugar or cocoa powder for a sweet finish.



# Touristic Offer of Moldova

Over the last decade the priority forms of tourism in the Republic of Moldova have been: **rural, wine, cultural tourism, health** and **beauty tourism**.

## Top Attractions

### Museums:

- National Museum of Fine Arts,
- National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History,
- National Archaeology and History Museum of Moldova,
- The Museum of Popular Art,,,"Alexei Mateevici" House & Museum,
- "Alexandr Pushkin" House & Museum,
- Igor Vieru House and Museum,
- Museum Complex "Old Orhei"

### Monasteries and Churches:

- Capriana
- Hincu
- Rudi
- Saharna
- Tipova
- Curchi
- Japca Monasteries

### Wineries:

- Cricova Winery
- Milestii Mici Winery
- Purcari Winery Castel
- Mimi Cojusna

### Natural monuments:

- Prut Toltres
- Natural unity "The Hundred Knolls"
- "Emil Racovita" Cave

### Reservations:

- "Padurea din Domneasca"
- „Plaiul Fagului" etc.



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