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Respect pentru oameni și Tereza SINIGALIA

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Medieval Monuments of BUKOVINA

2nd Edition

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■ The Places

In Bukovina, the common landscape consists of smooth and steep slopes, calm and tight turns, straight and winding roads crossing plains, partly forested hills – with grandiose woods, even if not as widespread as they used to be – villages grouped or spread along roads. Tidy farmhouses and large houses speak of people's industry.

All these, despite that the number of traditional houses is continuously decreasing. Other testimonies refer to the people's faith. Here and there, on a peak or on a higher place, there stands the village church. These churches are rather recent generally, since the old ones, from the 14th, 15th, 16th and even the 17th century did not have

*Humor,
general view*



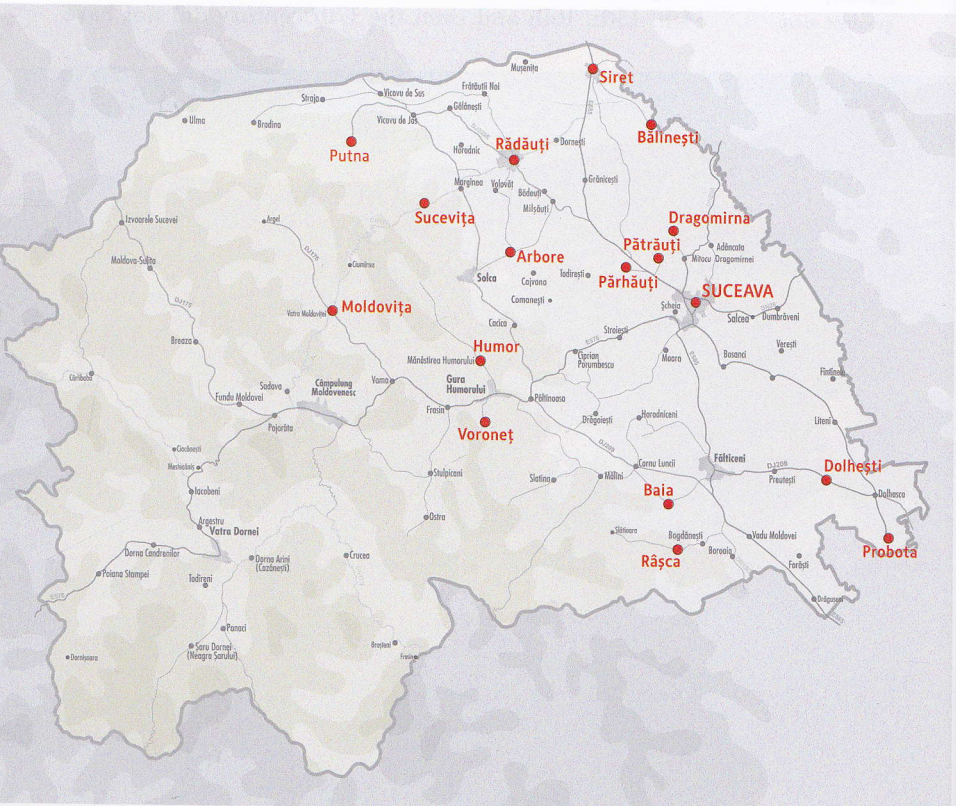
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 a tower or belfry, were surrounded by vegetation and hidden by trees. One could make a difference between them and common houses especially based on their size and the crosses on top, referring to God's presence.

Unlike parish churches, monasteries were built in secluded, forested spaces, where monks retired to pray and repent. Here, the faithful, from the Prince and boyars to the common people, would find spiritual support and advice, sometimes even refuge during foreign invasions or war. Legends refer to decisive moments when Stephen the Great would look for Daniel the Hesychast's moral support, who instead asked him to build monasteries – Putna or Voroneț are such instances.



Geographic location of Romania and Bukovina

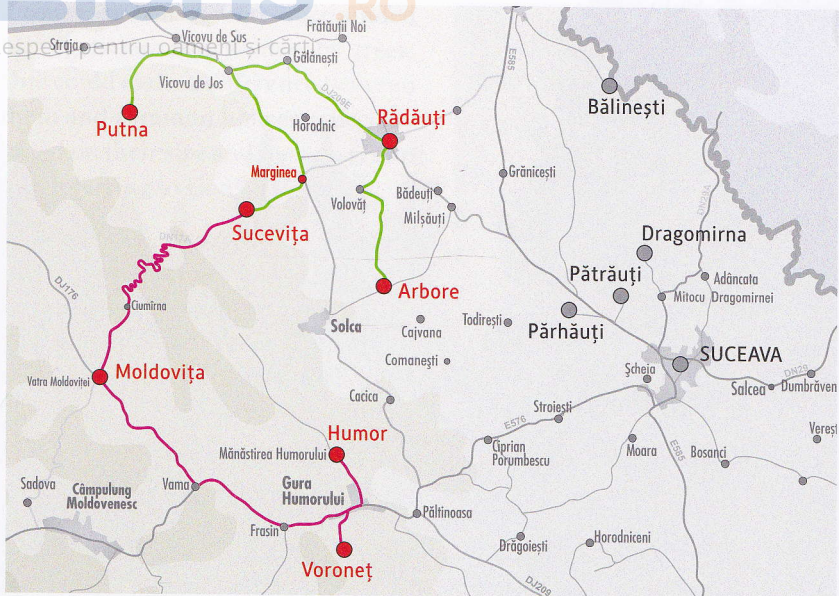
Mediaeval monuments of Bukovina



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Respectăm oamenii, cărțile și cartea





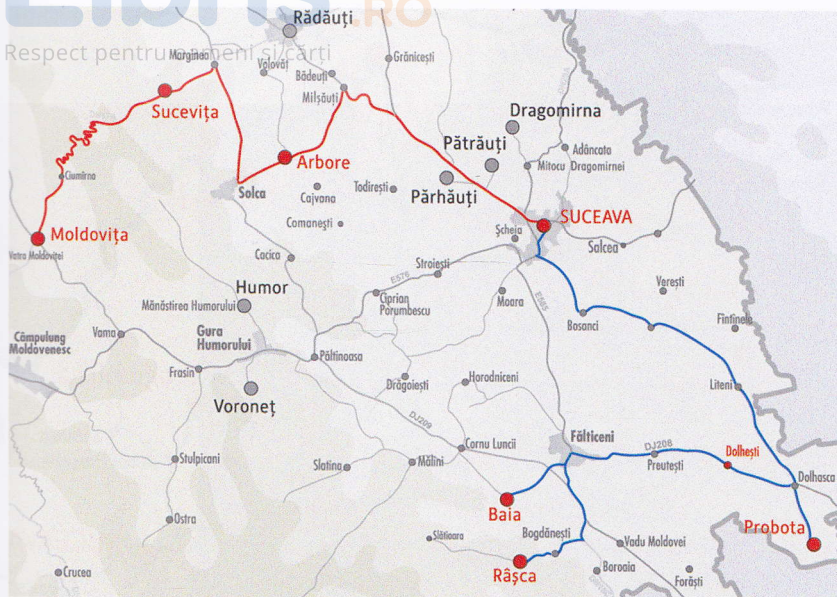
Suggested itineraries

Nowadays, monasteries are surrounded by villages, most often large and prosperous ones. The characteristic seclusion of yore is now gone. Nevertheless, there remain the intention and effort of preserving the genuine monastic spirit of prayer and work untouched as much as possible.

Monasteries and churches are the main attractions of this region. Among them there are the worldwide famous ones, with interior



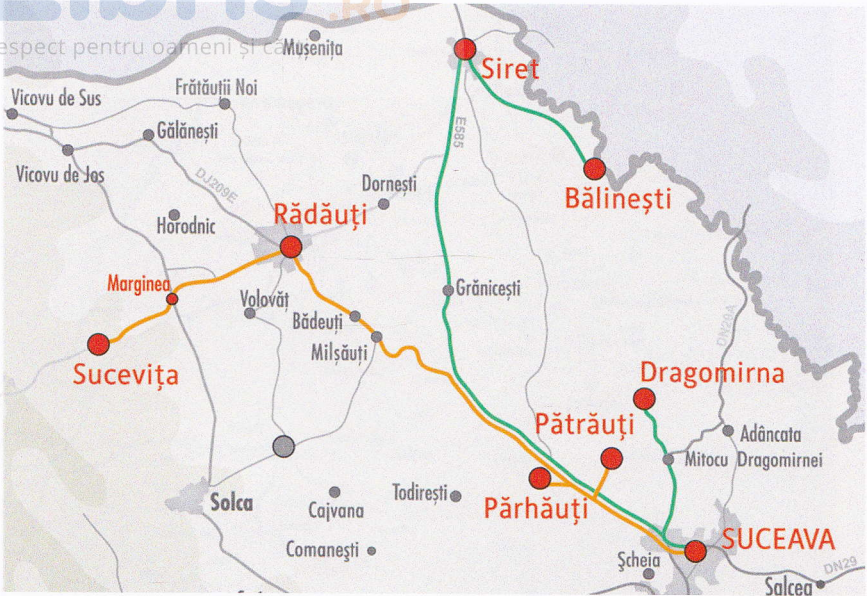
Cultural tourism in Moldovița



Suggested itineraries
The Highlands of Bukovina



Respect pentru oameni și cultură



and external paintings, included on the World Heritage List – Arbore, Humor, Moldovița, Pătrăuți, Probota, St. George church of St. John the New Monastery of Suceava, Sucevița, Voroneț – but also Putna, Dragomirna, Bălinești, Râșca or Baia. Monastic and parish life enlivens each of them, transforming these establishments into vivid spiritual and cultural centres.

Suggested itineraries

Winter in Bukovina





Often, excellent museums display sometimes unique or rare medieval heritage items, ranging from embroidery samples, manuscripts and liturgical silverware to icons, furniture, vestments and architectural items.

Some monasteries which were dissolved at the end of the 18th century or in 1864 have resumed their activity. Most of them are now inhabited by nuns who follow their spiritual vocation and are dedicated to tending to the cultural heritage preserved in these places of worship.





All these churches, monasteries and the buildings belonging to them are undergoing restoration or they have already been restored.

An opportunity for rest and joy

The scientific and material efforts involved in restoration work are immense. For decades, already since the 1950s, with periods of intense activity or with interruptions, nevertheless with remarkable results, the restoration of architecture and mural paintings meant recovering certain treasures and introducing them into the public circuit. One additional consequence was the restatement the value of the Romanian architectural restoration school



Household in Bucovina

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At Moldovița

and the creation of a new one: the mural painting restoration school.

1993 was a crucial year. That year, 7 churches with external murals were introduced on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The first major achievement was the international project for the "Restoration and Conservation of the Probota Monastery", under the patronage of UNESCO. In addition to revealing an exceptional mural painting assembly dating from Petru Rareș' reign, the project proved that there is an immense potential for collaboration and dialogue between specialists from different fields and countries, so as to highlight a fantastic mural and architectural assembly.

The St. George of the Voroneț Monastery

