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# New tourist route „The Path of the Clay”

“The Path of the Clay”  
 project



Proj. Code 15.2.1.003,  
 selected under the Interreg V-A  
 Romania-Bulgaria Programme



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### “The Path of the Clay” Project

Proj. code 15.2.1.003, financed by the INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme



## A6. Elaborating the new tourist route “The Path of the Clay”

-2016/7-



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## CHAPTER 01 - PRELIMINARY DATA

The elaboration of a tourist route “The Path of the Clay” is a part of the implementation of “The Path of the Clay” project, in eligible project areas for project 15.2.1.003 (*Romania - counties of Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt and Teleorman; Bulgaria - districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa and Plevan*), with a view to creating a complex and full database, useful as a framework in promoting Romania-Bulgaria cross-border tourism.

The very structure of the project has resulted in the determination of a niche in thematic or recreational tourism, i.e. the specificities of the production and use of clay in the tradition of human culture and civilisation of the Lower Danube Valley.

As a support for the project, clay is a part of the history of the human species, as it covers, along with stone, the primary necessities of people, developing with them and becoming more diverse in harmony and ergonomomy with their evolution.

Of all natural materials used by men, clay is the only one structurally involving fundamental elements of nature, even though in different proportions and processing:

- ground (clay+sand), the basic element of the future object;
- water, the compulsory ingredient for the primary processing of the object;
- air, needed for the gradual drying of the object;
- fire, finally fixing the object's durability.

Of course, other natural components were additionally used, such as wood to initiate and maintain baking temperature, mineral colours for ornaments and marking, wood, metal and stone in the form of tools for primary processing or finishing of the clay object, etc.

It has already been proven that archaic people used stone as a support for their habitual, offensive and defensive activities, also as a material

for construction and creating tools. Clay, discovered in nature in a raw/ spontaneous form (clay), has quickly become a priority in the usage list due to its versatility, facility of procurement and reliability of the finished product.

In progression, clay has acquired many qualities and usages:

- dishes to prepare and store food;
- dishes to store and handle liquids (water, wine, etc.);
- dishes to cook - boiling and baking;
- dishes to deliver food;
- storage dishes for seeds and other materials;
- medical pads, especially for haemostasis;
- domestic tools (teaspoons, salt shakers, strainers);
- games and toys;
- aqueducts;
- tiles;
- setts, kerbstones and bricks;
- ornaments (applied items, bassoreliefs);
- worship elements (altars, idols);
- statues, figurines;
- support for letters/writings or markings;
- construction material for cottages, hearths, homes (adobe);
- binding material for constructions, sealing, levelment (floors);
- adornment objects (beads);
- support for letters;
- other (fumigation, smoking).

Resulting from the need to integrate in the habitual environment, clay has accompanied the development of humans as a locally specific or imported product, as one of the determining products of archaic trade and beyond.

On the other hand, the Lower Danube is placed in the very wide valley between the Carpathians and the Balkans, an area where civilisations and cultures with joint roots developed: the Thracians (Bg) and the Dacians (Romania).

Then, the domination of the Roman Empire dominated both Moesia (Bg) and Dacia Felix (Ro). The Ottoman domination influenced the entire territory. Moreover, the Slavic migration had an impact on local cultures. Trade exchanges, invasions, temporary passages using the Danube as a

“highway” allowed for a close connection of evolution on the two shores, hence the similarities in their culture, civilisation and traditions.

Beyond pragmatism and ergonomics, clay allowed anonymous masters or industrial processors to use one of the most noble features of human beings - creativity/imagination, through man’s direct physical contact with nature and the harmony between his needs and the natural resources in his habitat.

In time, clay remains emblematic for the development of the human species.

The current decline in clay processing is due to the appearance of new materials, to the ratio between production and necessities, revolutionary concepts in industry/constructions, to the loss of significant knowledge regarding its manufacturing and, especially, to standardisation and benchmarking processes.

## CHAPTER 02 - RATIONALE AND ARGUMENTS

### 02.A - THE NEED FOR A TOURISTIC PRODUCT - “THE PATH OF THE CLAY” ROUTE

In the modern period, significant attention is paid to the promotion of the tourism industry at a European level, both as a sustainable resource in local/regional and national economic development, and as a factor for the dissemination and promotion of national identity in a cross-border context.

Besides the recreational character of touristic activities, a strong educational role is played by thematic tourism, whereby cultural, natural, historical, religious, etc. sights become proper tools for the knowledge and reflection of national culture, civilisation and habitat.

Moreover, the internationalization of touristic routes, the development of the sight offer (principal-thematic + complementary-additional + connected-diversified sights) and of touristic facilities/systematic and integrated promotion have created the premises for priority and cooperation, of which this project is a part.

Several European projects based on the promotion of thematic tourism, with topics focused on traditions, crafts, culinary habits, etc., integrated in thematic touristic routes (“rings”) comprising the territories of both countries, have been implemented in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border region so far.

“The Path of the Clay” is a welcome addition to the touristic landscape of the region, and its utility is seen in its strongly interactive and educative historical, cultural and material references.

On the other hand, the certification of the existence of a people, its historical identification and its proper placement in the international context are based on proofs of its existence and of the quality/perenniality of such existence.

As a genuine witness of human evolution, clay can accurately indicate the heritage of national culture and heritage, compared to the specific heritage of other people, both through the remaining artefacts and through the products that are still created.

Moreover, the proof of evolutionary and habitual similarities between neighbouring territories configures a different type of cultural map, which transcends administrative/political borders and may realistically indicate combinations of events and progresses, as well as mutual influences in the complex and complete definition of a people.

Therefore, “The Path of the Clay” covers the community’s need to establish and define the national, cultural and historical identity of a people, as well as to connect such identity to the neighbouring regions.

It is a way of proving and capitalizing the cultural and historical potential in the profile of thematic tourism, which is widely seen in Europe.

## 02.B - CRITERIA AND ALGORITHMS FOR DESIGNING THE MATERIAL

Considering the topic, the proportional coverage of the studied region was established as a first criterion.

For the Romanian part, counties bordering the left shore of the Danube are designed, i.e.

Mehedinti (MH), Dolj (DJ), Olt (OT) and Teleorman (TL).

For the Bulgarian part, the districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa and Pleven are eligible for the project.

Project-specific objectives were identified and selected, then defined and presented for each county/district, as follows:

- fairs for the presentation and sale of clay products (e.g. Craiova, DJ, Ro);
- ethnographic festivals, including the promotion and presentation of pottery (e.g. Bals, OT, Ro);
- schools, workshops dealing with clay, including folkloric art schools (e.g. Pordim, PLEVEN, Bg);
- organised clay processing centres (e.g. Oboga, OT, Ro);
- individual or industrial manufacturers of clay products (e.g. Romana, OT, Ro);
- museums/departments/sections on the history of clay, with a historical or ethnographic profile (e.g. the Casa Baniei Museum, Craiova, DJ, Ro);
- relevant locations for the production and usage of clay for various purposes, including archaeological sites, isolated sights (homes, households, etc.) - e.g. Cherven Bryag, PLEVEN, Bg;

- areas of touristic focus or areas with thematic prevalence - production of clay objects (e.g. Bals, OT, Ro);
- other specific locations (e.g. the History museum, Vratsa, VRATSA, Bg).

The following algorithms for the identification, selection and definition of sights were used:

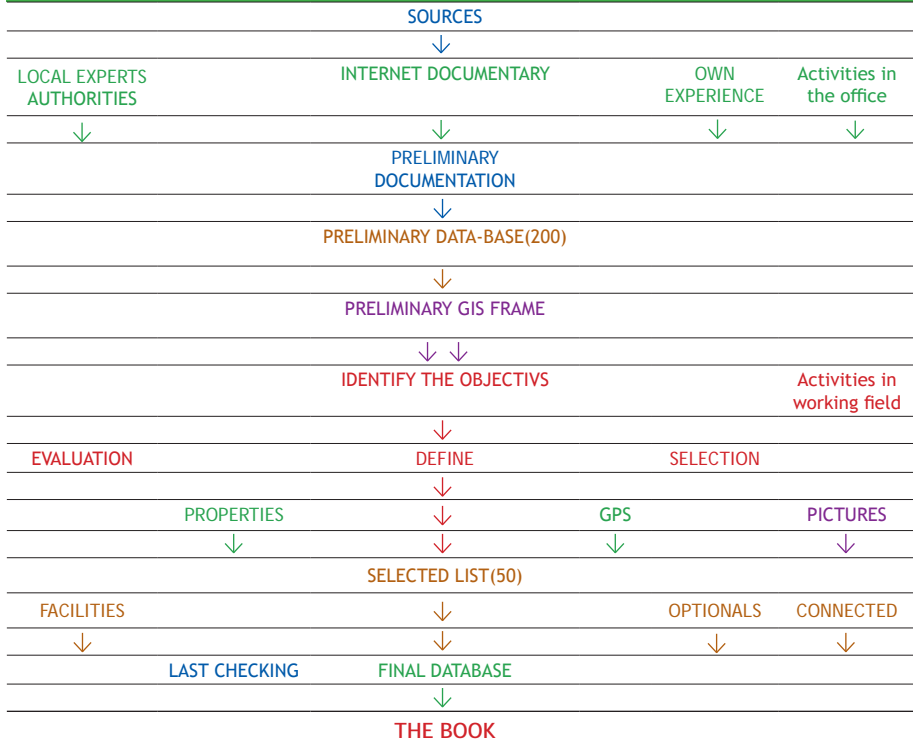
- locations are representative for the project's topic;
- locations are or may be integrated in a cross-border "ring"/touristic circuit which may be divided into sections or considered integral, depending on the type of usage, as well as in several versions of the designed touristic routes;
- locations are connected with touristic facilities;
- locations may be complemented by other areas of touristic focus, even though their profile may be different (entertainment, historical, religious, etc.);

## 02.C - ALGORITHM FOR THE DEFINITION OF SIGHTS

The following defining algorithm shall be applied for each individual sight:

- a. - name of the sight;
- b. - significance of the sight and specificities;
- c. - history, documentation and information on the sight;
- d. - geographical location of the sight (country, district, town/city/municipality, address, GPS location);
- e. - sight-related data (e-mail, phone, visiting hours, access conditions);
- f. - description and interpretation of the sight;
- g. - connected touristic facilities (accommodation, meals, transport, entertainment, internet);
- h. - other visiting options (complementary or related thereto);
- i. - vulnerabilities and weaknesses;
- j. - specificities for the recommendations of the visit;
- k. - complex images of the sight (location, general view, outside/inside, details);
- l. - satellite map of the sight;
- m. - other useful information (distances, cautions, visiting hours, etc.)

## (Eng.) Algorithm for Clay project touristical route



### 02.D - STRUCTURE OF THE TOURISTIC ROUTE

- establishing an integrated and modular route (that may be fragmented) in a continuous flow accessing “ring” for the selected sights, including complementary/optional ramifications;
- mapping the routes, means of transport, distances, facilities on the chosen route;
  - ergonomomy of movement and proper and useful division of the time for movement and the time allocated to visiting each individual sight;
  - quantitative and qualitative balancing of the route, route sharing;
  - identifying non-verbal animations for the route and the sight (indicators, info centres, info points, promotion, etc.);
  - flexible sight accessing models, route simulations.

## CHAPTER 03 - PRELIMINARY STUDY FRAMEWORK

The preparation of a proper assessment of the data for this study is based on:

**03.A - A LIST OF COUNTIES/DISTRICTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE STUDY**, as follows:

COUNTRY	COUNTY/ DISTRICT	CAPITAL	GPS N° E° Alt(m)	Population	Tourism	Important locations	Remarks
RO	MEHEDINTI	DROBETA TURNU SEVERIN	44.635830 22.659581 79	254570	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Danube Gorges (Cazane)</li> <li>- the Roman Castrum in Drobeta + bridge</li> <li>- the Severin Fortress</li> <li>- the Ponoarele karst structure</li> <li>- the Strehaia Monastery</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -2118</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 81000/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO - 25.1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Drobeta Turnu Severin</li> <li>-Orsova</li> <li>-Baia de Arama</li> <li>-Strehaia</li> <li>-Vanju Mare</li> </ul>	
RO	DOLJ COUNTY	CRAIOVA	44.328201 23.794881 110	660544	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Craiova</li> <li>- the Sadova Monastery</li> <li>- the Ciupercenii Noi protected natural area</li> <li>- Calafat (1877)</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -2014</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 91200/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO - 21.1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Craiova</li> <li>-Calafat</li> <li>-Bailesti</li> <li>-Bechet</li> <li>-Filiasi</li> <li>-Segarcea</li> </ul>	
RO	OLT	SLATINA	44.428961 24.371998 174	415442	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Olt County Museum - Slatina</li> <li>- the Brancoveni Monastery</li> <li>- the ruins of the Brancoveni Court - Caracal</li> <li>- ethnography museum - Slatina</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -869</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 34800/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO - 21.7%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Slatina</li> <li>-Caracal</li> <li>-Bals</li> <li>-Corabia</li> <li>-Draganesti-Olt</li> <li>-Piatra Olt</li> <li>-Potcoava</li> <li>-Scornicești</li> </ul>	

COUNTRY	COUNTY/ DISTRICT	CAPITAL	GPS N° E° Alt(m)	Population	Tourism	Important locations	Remarks
RO	TELEORMAN	ALEXANDRIA	43.974781 25.328027 46	360178	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the church + ruins of the ruler's court</li> <li>- Balaci</li> <li>- Roman fortress of TURRIS - Turnu Magurele</li> <li>- St. Alexander Cathedral - Alexandria</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -1204</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 11000/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO - 8.7%</p>	<p><b>Alexandria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rosiorii de Vede</li> <li>-Turnu Mgurele</li> <li>-Videle</li> <li>-Zimnicea</li> </ul>	
BG	VIDIN	VIDIN	43.995164 22.869159 37	101018	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Baba Vida Fortress - Vidin</li> <li>- the Konak History Museum - Vidin</li> <li>- the Belogradchik medieval fortress</li> <li>- the Magura cave - Belogradchik</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 36000/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Belogradchik</li> <li>-Bregovo</li> <li>-<b>Vidin</b></li> <li>-Dunavtsi</li> <li>-Gramada</li> <li>-Dimovo</li> <li>-Kula</li> </ul>	
BG	MONTANA	MONTANA	43.408435 23.225643 147	415442	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Lom history museum</li> <li>- Varshets art gallery</li> <li>- the St. John Rilski Chiprovo Monastery</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 27000/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Berkovitsa</li> <li>-Boychinovtsi</li> <li>-Brusartsi</li> <li>-Chiprovtsi</li> <li>-Lom</li> <li>-<b>Montana</b></li> <li>-Valchedrum</li> <li>-Varshets</li> </ul>	
BG	VRATSA	VRATSA	43.210405 23.553111 361	360178	<p>ATTRACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Vratsa national history museum</li> <li>- the ethnography museum of Vratsa</li> <li>- the Vratsa touristic mountain area</li> <li>- the Oryahovo Museum</li> </ul> <p>ACCOMMODATION PLACES -</p> <p>TOURIST FLOW - 30000/year</p> <p>USAGE RATIO -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Byala Slatina</li> <li>-<b>Vratsa</b></li> <li>-Kozloduy</li> <li>-Krivodol</li> <li>-Mezdra</li> <li>-Mizia</li> <li>-Oryahovo</li> <li>-Roman</li> </ul>	

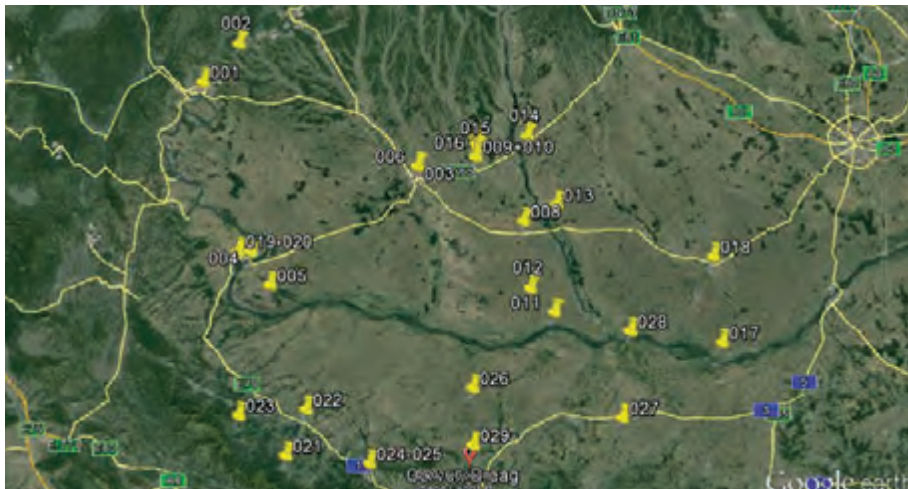


### 03.C - THE LIST OF MAIN LOCATIONS ALONG THE TOURIST ROUTE\*

LOCATION COUNTRY COUNTRY	TARGET	GPS DATA
<b>ROMANIA</b>		
CALAFAT DOLJ COUNTY RO	MUSEUM	43.994428 22.931860 49
DROBETA TURNU- SEVERIN MEHEDINTI RO	MUSEUM	44.624630 22.666201 54
CRAIOVA DOLJ COUNTY RO	MUSEUM FAIR  BANIEI HOUSE	44.318058 23.795329 124  44.314416 23.792372 87
BALS OLT RO	FESTIVAL FAIR	44.355310 24.095673 128
SLATINA OLT RO	MUSEUM	44.429724 24.364309 173
CARACAL OLT RO	MUSEUM	44.112629 24.344703 107
CORABIA OLT RO	MUSEUM	43.774823 24.502004 46
ALEXANDRIA TELEORMAN RO	MUSEUM	43.975057 25.328258 46
ZIMNICEA TELEORMAN RO	POTTERY	43.654130 25.367392 34
<b>BULGARIA</b>		
NIKOPOLE PLEVEN BG	FESTIVAL	43.700858 24.894663 44
PLEVEN PLEVEN BG		43.409186 24.611355 99
KNEJA PLEVEN BG	MUSEUM	43.492775 24.080723 110
VRATSA VRATSA BG	HISTORICAL ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM	43.210240 23.552848 362

\* = proposed for current touristic facilities and other complementary touristic opportunities

VIDIN VIDIN BG	MUSEUM KAZARMA	43.996159 22.867930 37
RO TOTAL	9	
RO DJ	2	
RO MH	1	
RO OT	4	
RO TL	2	
BG TOTAL	5	
VN	1	
VR	1	
PL	3	



### 03.C - THE LIST OF TARGET LOCATIONS ALONG THE TOURISTIC ROUTE + SIGHT TYPE

CLAY PROJECT 15.2.1.003 MAIN ROUTES FOR THE PROJECT=815 Km

TARGET	LOCATION	DETAILS	GPS N	GPS E	ALT-m	COUNTY	OTHERS
001	DROBETA TURNU SEVERIN	IRON GATES REGION MUSEUM	44.624630	22.666201	54	MEHEDINTI ROMANIA	
002	SISESTI		44.768251	22.852876	212	MH/RO	

TARGET	LOCATION	DETAILS	GPS N	GPS E	ALT-m	COUNTY	OTHERS
003	CRAIOVA	BANIEI HOUSE	44.314416	23.792372	87	DOLJ COUNTY ROMANIA	
004	CALAFAT	MARINCU MUSEUM	43.994428	22.931860	49	DJ/RO	
005	DESA	MUSEUM	43.870596	23.032695	35	DJ/RO	
006	CRAIOVA	FAIR	44.318058	23.795329	124	DJ/RO	
007	OBOGA	POTTERY	44.424111	24.089588	144	OLT	
008	CARACAL	MUSEUM	44.112629	24.344703	107	DJ/RO	
009	BALS	FESTIVAL	44.353510	24.095673	128	OLT ROMANIA	
010	BALS	FAIR	44.355310	24.095673	128	OT/RO	
011	CORABIA	MUSEUM	43.774823	24.502004	46	OT/RO	
012	VADASTRA	POTTERY	43.863530	24.378846	66	OT/RO	
013	DRAGANESTI OLT	MUSEUM	44.173613	24.515090	78	OT/RO	
014	SLATINA	MUSEUM	44.429724	24.364309	173	OT/RO	
015	CORBENI	POTTERY	44.382928	24.109111	140	OT/RO	
016	ROMANA	POTTERY	44.400192	24.102921	148	OT/RO	
017	ZIMNICEA	POTTERY	43.654130	25.367392	34	TELEORMAN ROMANIA	
018	ALEXANDRIA	MUSEUM	43.975057	25.328258	46	TL/RO	
019	KAZARMA	MUSEUM	43.996159	22.867930	37	VIDIN BULGARIA	
020	BELOGRADCHIK	MUSEUM	43.627778	22.682976	311	VN/BG	
021	BERKOVITSA	MUSEUM	43.237045	23.125109	408	MONTANA BULGARIA	
022	MONTANA	MUSEUM HOUSE	43.409032	23.225376	145	M/BG	
023	CHIPROVTSI	MUSEUM	43.384442	22.882070	489	M/BG	
024-025	Ethnographic COMPLEX+ HISTORICAL MUSEUM	MUSEUMS	43.210240	23.552848	362	VRATSA BULGARIA	
026	KNEJA	MUSEUM	43.492775	24.080723	110	PLEVEN BULGARIA	
027	PORDIM	SCHOOL	43.377983	24.847643	175	PL/BG	
028	NIKOPOL	FESTIVAL	43.700858	24.894663	44	PL/BG	
029	CHERVEN BRYAG	EXPO/ FACTORY	43.280451	24.082851	116	PL/BG	

### 03.D - APRECIERI DISTANTE RUTIERE ERGONOMICE (Km/timp min.)

-DROBETA TURNU-SEVERIN (001), MEHEDINTI-SISESTI (002), MEHEDINTI = 28 Km/28 min



-DROBETA TURNU SEVERIN (001), MEHEDINTI-CRAIOVA (003), DOLJ = 112 Km/99 min (1h 33 min)



-CRAIOVA (003), DOLJ-BALS (009), OLT = 25 Km/27 min

-BALS (009), OLT-CORBENI (015), OLT = 4 Km/5 min

-CORBENI (015), OLT-ROMANA (016). OLT = 2.5 Km/5 min

-ROMANA (016), OLT-OBOGA (007), OLT = 3.5 Km/5 min



-BALS (009), OLT-SLATINA (014), OLT = 25 Km/23 min



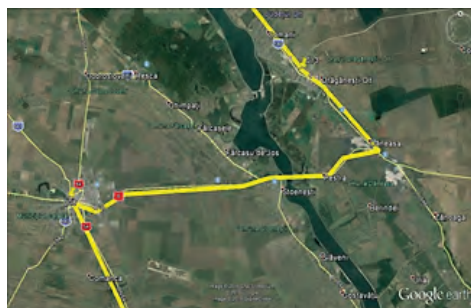
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-SLATINA (014), OLT-DRAGANESTI  
OLT (013), OLT = 36 Km/38 min



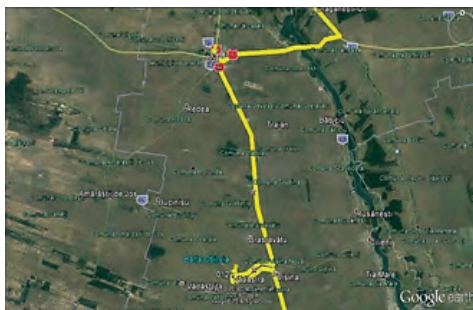
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-DRAGANESTI OLT (013),  
OLT-CARACAL (008), OLT  
= 23 Km/27 min



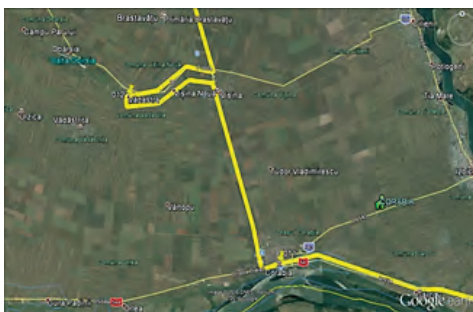
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-CARACAL (008) OLT-VADASTRA  
(012), OLT = 35 Km/33 min



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-VADASTRA (012), OLT-CORABIA  
(011), OLT = 19 Km/ 19 min



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-CORABIA (011),  
OLT-ALEXANDRIA (018),  
TELEORMAN = 80 Km/69 min  
(1 h 9 min)



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-ALEXANDRIA (018),  
TELEORMAN-ZIMNICEA (017),  
TELEORMAN = 41 Km/41 min



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-NIKOPOL (028),  
PLEVEN-PORDIM (027),  
PLEVEN = 69 Km/52 min



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-PORDIM (027),  
PLEVEN-KNEZHA (026),  
PLEVEN = 73 Km/54 min



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-KNEZHA (026), PLEVEN-  
CHERVEN BRYAG (029),  
PLEVEN = 26 Km/ 27 min



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-CHERVEN BRYAG (029),  
PLEVEN-VRATSA (024),  
VRATSA = 57 Km/ 70 min  
(1 h 10 min)



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-VRATSA (024),  
VRATSA-CHIPROVTSI (022),  
MONTANA = 43 Km/37 min



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-MONTANA (023), MONTANA-  
BELOGRADCHIK (020),  
VIDIN = 67 Km/57 min



-BELOGRADCHIK (020),  
 VIDIN-VIDIN (019),  
 VIDIN = 53 Km/54 min



## RELATIVE DISTANCES AND ROAD IDENTIFICATION

LOCATION COUNTY COUNTRY	TARGET	GPS DATA					ROAD CODE	DISTANCES -Km-	
ROMANIA									
CALAFAT DOLJ COUNTY RO	MUSEUM	43.994428 22.931860 49						ROMANIAN START POINT	
DESA DOLJ RO	MUSEUM	43.870596 23.032695 35					DN 55A	22 (CALAFAT)	
DROBETA TURNU- SEVERIN MEHEDINTI RO	MUSEUM	44.624630 22.666201 54					DN 56 DN 56A E 70	99 (CALAFAT)	
SISESTI MEHEDINTI RO	POTTERY	44.768251 22.852876 212					DN 67	27.8 (DROBETA)	
CRAIOVA DOLJ RO	MUSEUM FAIR  BANIEI HOUSE	44.318058 23.795329 124  44.314416 23.792372 87					E 70	112 (SISESTI- DROBETA)	
BALS OLT RO	FESTIVAL FAIR	44.355310 24.095673 128					DN 65 E 574	25 (CRAIOVA)	
CORBENI OLT RO	POTTERY	44.382928 24.109111 140					DJ 643	25 (CRAIOVA)	
ROMANA OLT RO	POTTERY	44.400192 24.102921 148					DJ 643	4.15 (BALS)	
OBOGA OLT RO	POTTERY	44.424111 24.089588 144					DJ 643	3.38 (CORBENI)	

LOCATION COUNTY COUNTRY	TARGET	GPS DATA					ROAD CODE	DISTANCES -Km-	
<b>ROMANIA</b>									
SLATINA OLT RO	MUSEUM	44.429724 24.364309 173					DN 65 / E 574	25 (BALS)	
DRAGANESTI OLT OLT RO	MUSEUM	44.173613 24.515090 78					DJ 546	36 (SLATINA)	
CARACAL OLT RO	MUSEUM	44.112629 24.344703 107					DJ 676 DN 64	40 (DRAGANESTI OLT)	
VADASTRA OLT RO	POTTERY	43.863530 24.378846 66					DN 54 DJ 604	(CARACAL)	
CORABIA OLT RO	MUSEUM	43.774823 24.502004 46					DJ 604	19 (VADASTRA)	
ALEXANDRIA TELEORMAN RO	MUSEUM	43.975057 25.328258 46					DN 54 DN52	80 (CORABIA)	
ZIMNICEA TELEORMAN RO	POTTERY	43.654130 25.367392 34					DN 51	41 (ALEXANDRIA)	
<b>BULGARIA</b>									
NIKOPOLE PLEVEN BG	FESTIVAL	43.700858 24.894663 44						51 (SVISHTOV ZIMNICEA)	
PORDIM PLEVEN BG	SCHOOL	43.377983 24.874643 175						63.4 (NIKOPOLE)	
KNEJA PLEVEN BG	MUSEUM	43.492775 24.080723 110						73.3 (PORDIM)	
CHERVEN BRYAG PLEVEN BG	CLAY ART MUSEUM SCHOOL EXPO	43.280451 24.082851 116						25 (KNEJA)	
VRATSA VRATSA BG	HISTORICAL ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM	43.210240 23.552848 362						56 (CHERVEN BRYAG)	
VARSHETS MONTANA BG	MUSEUM	43.194784 23.284035 411						32.8 (VRATSA)	
BERKOVITSA MONTANA BG	MUSEUM	43.237045 23.125109 408						18.7 (VARSHETS)	

LOCATION COUNTRY	TARGET	GPS DATA					ROAD CODE	DISTANCES -Km-	
BULGARIA									
CHIPROVTSI MONTANA BG	MUSEUM	43.384442 22.882070 498						46.5 (BERKOVITSA)	
BELOGRADCHIK VIDIN BG	MUSEUM	43.627778 22.682976 311						53.7 (CHIPROVTSI)	
VIDIN VIDIN BG	MUSEUM KAZARMA	43.996159 22.867930 37						53.02 (BELOGRADCHIK)	

## CHAPTER 04 - DEFINING THE OBJECTIVES SELECTED FOR THE ROUTE



ASOCIATIA ALEXIS PROJECT FILIASI

Filiași, Dolj county, code 205300, FILIASI, BALTA village, str. LUNCII 1  
Phone 0763 498 010/ E-mail: alexis\_project@yahoo.com

### “The Path of the Clay” Project

Proj. code 15.2.1.003, financed by the INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 001

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = MH **LOCATION** = DROBETA-TR.SEVERIN  
**TARGET** = THE MUSEUM OF THE PORTILE DE FIER REGION



GPS:

N° = 44.624847

E° = 22.666473

Alt(m) = 56

DISTANCES (Km):

- Drobeta-Turnu Severin/Dj-  
Calafat /Dj = 99
- Drobeta-Turnu Severin/Dj-  
Vidin/Vidin = 108
- Drobeta-Turnu Severin/Dj-  
Craiova/Dj = 112

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- set up in 1912;
- including departments of archaeology-history and natural sciences;
- including an ethnography and folklore section (including Sisesti ceramics);
- the Drobeta archaeological site (the castrum, the Roman baths, the amphitheatres) and a thematic (archaeological) park are located in the outdoors facilities of the museum, on the Danube shore;
- address: 2 Independentei street/Drobeta-Turnu Severin, zip code 220 160
- phone: 0252 312 177

Restricted hours because of renovation works: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (except Mondays)

1. Bibliography [1.http://www.cimec.ro/Muzee/MuzeulRegiuniiPortilordeFier/Index.htm](http://www.cimec.ro/Muzee/MuzeulRegiuniiPortilordeFier/Index.htm)

Drobeta Turnu Severin is a young town, established in 1883. From its first years of existence, local authorities focused on collecting and storing ancient objects arising during the various works, originating from Roman or feudal constructions. Such constructions are:

- *the Roman castrum in Drobeta*
- *the bridge built by Apollodor of Damascus by orders of Trajan*
- *the Roman thermae*
- *the polygonal fortress of the 13<sup>th</sup> century A.D.*
- *the Metropolitan Church of Severin*

In 1881, V. Dimitrescu publishes the work "Muzeul Severinului" [The Museum of Severin], presenting both the monuments discovered in the Mehedinți county and antiques discovered by casualty or through systematic research, which had been collected by local authorities in a single place.

In 1912, Prof. Al. Barcacila establishes the "Historical Museum of the Traian High School", which will be moved in 1926, into the newly erected building along the Roman castrum; from the beginning, this should have sheltered a museum which would be named "*The*

*History and Ethnography Museum of Turnu Severin*".

After 1945, the museum gains in importance and extends its research area, being referred to as *the Museum of the Portile de Fier region*.

*The museum in its current form* was opened on May 15, 1972, with two departments: history and nature sciences with an aquarium presenting species of Danubian fish. The Ethnography and Art departments were created later on.

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

### ACCOMMODATION (hotels):

- hotels in Drobeta-Turnu Severin: "Corona" (+restaurant, internet, parking) 106 A Tudor Vladimirescu Blvd.;
- "Clipa" (+restaurant, internet, parking) 165 Brancoveanu street;
- "Condor" (+restaurant, spa, internet, parking) 1 Alunis Blvd.

### MEALS (restaurants):

- "Rustic-Tabaci" 1, N. Grigorescu street;

“Dunarea”, 52 Grigore Titeica street;  
“OK”, 42 B Tudor Vladimirescu street.

#### FACILITIES:

Hotels, pensions, motels, internet, parking, ATMS, banks, hospitals, parks, historical, cultural, religious monuments, entertainment.

#### CONNECTED:

The Central Park;  
The Drobeta Roman archaeological site;  
The medieval Fortress of Severin;  
The Simian Island (replica of the Ada-Kaleh);  
The Portile de Fier Water Power Plant;  
The Danube Gorges (Cazane).

#### TRANSPORTATION:

- river transport, including cruises on the Danube;
- railway transport (station);
- road transport to all directions, cars + buses (bus station).

#### WEAKNESSES:

- difficulties to communicate in international languages;
- permanent repairs/renovations that temporarily restrict the tourists' access;
- low promotion for the Simian Island (Ada-Kaleh);
- the ruins of Trajan's Bridge - Drobeta/Pontes in a precarious state, permanent working site.

#### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- an extraordinary and properly organized collection of clay artefacts, from the oldest ages to the modern times;
  - integration of clay artefacts in the complementary historical context;
  - multiple facilities and tourist attractions.
- + an excellent school of restorers/ creators of old ceramics (K. Para, Vacuta);



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 001/DROBETA-TURNU SEVERIN/MH





## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 002

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = MH **LOCATION** = SISESTI

**TARGET** = CERAMICS/POTTERY WORKSHOP



GPS (reference):

N° = 44.768251

E° = 22.852876

Alt(m)=212

DISTANCES (Km):

- SISESTI - DROBETA-TURNU SEVERIN = 28

“Adevarul Turnu-Severin”-article by Alexandra Georgescu/2013 photo by Corina Macavei

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

This is the place where the archaic tradition of pottery is still maintained, including by means of a modern pottery centre/factory.

Permanent ceramics stand at the “Gheorghe Ionescu-Sisesti” Museum

Contact: Sisesti Municipality, phone 0252 384 144 zip code 227 455

Bibliography 2. <http://zigzagprinromania.com/blog/ceramica-sisesti-mehedinti/>

- Sisesti has 2959 inhabitants according to the 2011 census. It includes 6 villages: Caramidaru, Ciovarnasani, Cocorova, Craguesti, Noaptesa and Sisesti.
- it is the only place in Mehedinti where pottery is still practised.

Documents certify the presence of pottery from the times of the Dacians. Since then, the craft has developed from one generation to another. Pots, cookware, dishes, bowls, jars or tiles made with love and devotion are still made nowadays.

#### *What makes Sisesti ceramics so valuable?*

Its simplicity, elegance and adornments made with a special brush, named *boielnic*.

The decorations are geometric or typical to the folklore on the Cosustei Valley - **firetrees, spirals, small serpents and the sun.**

Let's not forget of the natural colours, made of red or yellow-coloured clay!

#### *How does the process work?*

We discovered it in the materials written by Sisesti and then from the locals directly.

The soil comes from the Bora hill. The extraction place is known by the villagers as Mirzaci.

After the kaolin is separated from impurities, it is taken to the fermentation pit. It is broken into small pieces and turned into white paste. Sand brought from the facility at the end of the village is added, and the resulting mixture is taken to the potter's wheel.



A man who takes tradition forward: Gheorghe Garbovan from Sisesti.

#### *This is where the miracle happens!*

The material becomes alive, in various shapes, due to the craftsman's skills.

Fresh dishes are left to dry and then baked, slightly inclined. Burning lasts about 10 hours.

#### *How does the potter know when it's done?*



This is where the miracle happens! Pots are burnt in order to make Sisesti ceramics.

When black smoke comes out of the furnace's chimney.

After the furnace is opened, hot dishes are left to cool for some days. Tadam, a new creation of burnt clay is now ready for trade or exhibitions.

We shall now tell another story.

*The old tradition of Sisesti was almost lost.*

About 200 potters, 52 furnaces and a ceramic factory were available here in 1883.

1939 saw the erection of a new and modern school in Sisesti. Its patron was Gheorghe Ionescu Sisesti, a scholar in agronomy and a great lover of the traditions in his natal village. He endowed the school with a ceramics workshop.

The head craftsman was Dumitru C. Popescu, recent graduate of a higher education institution in Bucharest.

He relaunched pottery in the workshop, training a generation of great mas-

ters, such as: Titu Marin, Ionica Popescu, Georgica Brandusescu, Andronache Marin and others.

By 1980, 15 potters worked in Sisesti (see more details in Titu Dinut - Monografia Sisesti: repere monografice).

Only Titu Marin and Ionita Trasca still worked in 1990.

*The rainbow appears after the tempest*

The critical point was overcome in 2001, as the Sisesti Municipality accessed EU funds and revived the pottery tradition. Old Titu Marin trained a team of apprentices, and the first dishware came out of the new furnaces a year later.

The pottery tradition goes on in Sisesti! The utility or decorative ceramics manufactured by the 15 employees in the Ceramics Department has been awarded prizes in many national and international tourism fairs.

Moreover, dishware are introduced into the local economic circuit, as stands with pottery products are installed in the supermarkets of the county.

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

- the "Oala cu sarmale" folkloric festival in May, every year;
- the modernised local pottery centre;
- the local museum;
- the natural area bordering the commune;
- the BALA resort, 20 km away, GPS: N = 44.882155; E = 22.837014; alt(m) = 237.

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES**  
in Drobeta-Turnu Severin (28 km, about half hour by car).

## CONNECTED:

- Drobeta Turnu Severin/MH, with a diverse offer of touristic sights and facilities;
- the natural area of Sisesti;
- the openness of local authorities toward any project contributing to sustainable community development.



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 002

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road, route DN 67 (Drobeta-Turnu Severin-Sisesti), 28 km, half hour by car.

**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

- traditional centre for manufacturing clay products, modernised;
- interactivity with pottery craft in a specific workshop, modernised;
- possibility to understand the immense potential of pottery, where the community and local authorities

- are interested in and devoted to sustainable local development;
- a success model in preserving and promoting old crafts (pottery).

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = DJ LOCATION = CRAIOVA

TARGET = CASA BANIEI



GPS:

N° = 44.314416

E° = 23.792372

Alt(m) = 87

DISTANCES (Km):

• Craiova, Dj - Calafat, Dj = 91

• Craiova, Dj - Slatina, Ot = 50

• Craiova, Dj - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mh = 112

• Craiova, Dj - Targu-Jiu, Gj = 113

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

- the “Casa Baniei” historical monument is the oldest civil building in Craiova and hosts the ethnography department of the Olteniei Museum in Craiova.
- the museum hosts impressive collections in both numbers and value, of ethnographic items (popular clothing, fabrics, religious items, traditional crafts/occupations).
- permanent or temporary exhibitions, as well as a school of specific crafts (sculpture, pottery, religious painting, etc.) are presented within the museum.
- address: 16 Matei Basarab street; phone = 0351 444 030
- it can be visited every day (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) except Mondays.

Bibliography 4. <https://www.muzeulolteniei.ro/index.php?view=content&c=26>

**THE ETHNOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT (CASA BANIEI)**

Casa Baniei, a medieval architecture monument and the oldest civil construction in Craiova, was erected at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century by the Craiovesti boyars, and it was rebuilt by Constantin Brancoveanu, the martyr ruler, in 1699. Only a part of the cellars is left from the initial construction of the Craiovesti.

In the turmoil of history, the old structure was set to fire many times, it was subject to various dominations and managements, as well as architectural transformations, additions and deletions, as needed.

Thus, during 1718-1739, Casa Baniei becomes the headquarters of the Austrian administration, which reinforces it for defence purposes. In 1750, the building is

given by Grigore Ghica to the Ramnicului Bishopric. As of 1850, the building becomes the headquarters of various municipal institutions: the Court of Law of Craiova, the Fratii Buzesti College, the Local Seminar, the Public Archives. Starting 1933, the building would host the Olteniei Museum until 1948, when it will be used by the Metropolitan Church of Oltenia.

Starting 1966, the old monument has been hosting the Ethnography Department of the Olteniei Museum.

The Ethnography Department organises: permanent and temporary exhibitions including documentary-ethnographic values of traditional and contemporary art from its own sources or from other institutions; sessions, conferences, meet-

ings with relevant specialists, book releases, ethnographic film projects and other para- and meta-museum activities.

The Ethnography Department provides the audience with: relevant information, bibliography on the models and values of traditional culture and arts; scientific ethno-folkloric publications edited by the museum, such as the annual publication *Oltenia, Studies and communications, Ethnography*, as well as other promotional materials: informative leaflets, guidebooks, postcards, etc.; contemporary traditional art objects (ceramics, religious paintings, fabrics, painted eggs, musical instruments, etc.) and traditional art objects for sale purposes, through the shop “La carul cu oale”.

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### **TOURISTIC FACILITIES: - full**

- the sight is located in an outstanding park, near the “Sf. Dumitru” Cathedral;
- Craiova provides a full range of touristic facilities, at a high quality level and competitive pricing.
- the sight provides a documentary point, qualified presentation, and photos are accepted;
- the sight is included in the departmental structure of the Olteniei Museum, along with the archaeology/ history and the natural sciences departments.

### **ACCOMODATION:**

- “Ramada Plaza” hotel (hotel, restaurant, internet, parking), city centre;
- “Golden House” hotel (hotel, restaurant, internet, parking), 18 Brestei street;

- “Green House” hotel (hotel, restaurant, internet, underground garage), 25 Fratii Buzesti street.

### **MEALS:**

- “Ambasador”, 22A Pelendava street;
- “Le Baron”, Vasile Alecsandri street;
- “La Rocca”, Brazda lui Novac street.

### **FACILITIES:**

- Craiova hosts many comfortable hotels, restaurants and bars, shopping centres, cinemas, shops of all sizes, ATMs, banks, hospitals and health centres, many natural recreation areas.

### **CONNECTED:**

- the Romanescu park, a natural monument, an important recreation area;
- the history and archaeology department of the Olteniei Museum of Craiova;

- nature sciences department of the Olteniei Museum of Craiova;
- the Art Museum;
- the Youth Park;
- the “Marin Sorescu” National Theatre;
- the Oltenia Philharmonics;
- the Jiu river lowlands;
- the old city centre of Craiova.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road transport to all directions, including access to the Pan-European Corridor IV;
- two bus stations for regular routes to all directions;
- railway transport to all directions (central train station);
- airport.

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 003





### WEAKNESSES:

- low international language skills;
- weak non-verbal animation of exhibits, low promotion;
- limited touristic interactivity.

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- “Casa Baniei” is a top-flight cultural centre presenting the culture and traditions of the Oltenia region in an organised and complete manner;
- it hosts full collections of all regional ethnographic sections, and it provides opportunities to interact with thematic tourists;
- it allows for complementarities with the project topic, through the extremely rich collection of ceramic artefacts (dishware, statues, ornaments, etc.) of the history/archaeology department;
- it hosts a pottery and craftsmanship school for children;
- it may provide highly qualified and professional consultancy.

### SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 004

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = DJ LOCATION = CALAFAT

TARGET = MARINCU MUSEUM



GPS (reference):

N° = 43.994428

E° = 22.931860

Alt(m) = 49

DISTANCES (Km):

• Calafat, Dj, Ro - Vidin, Vidin, Bg = 17

• Calafat, Dj - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mh = 99

• Calafat, Dj - Craiova, Dj = 89

• Calafat, Dj - Bechet, Dj = 96

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- The Art Museum of Calafat is located in the “Casa Marincu” historical monument building, close to the Town Hall.
- the museum includes history/archaeology, ethnography and art departments. The Bulgarian-Romanian Cultural Centre is located here as well.
- the museum includes old archaeological artefacts (Roman and medieval), as well as modern ethnographic artefacts, in the context of a wide heritage of local traditions and crafts.
- address: 6, 22 Decembrie street, zip code 205 200 phone 0251 232 521
- qualified manager

Bibliography 3. <http://www.montana-vidin-dolj.com/ro/cultural-resources/?objId=61&city=3>

## THE ART AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM OF CALAFAT



The Art and Ethnography Museum of Calafat is located in the impressive Marincu Palace. The building was erected during 1906-1908 by the architect Constantin Rogalski, in a Neo-Baroque French style, with outstanding decorative elements of travertine and marble, marble columns and artistically painted walls. The palace's yard has a surface of 8333 sqm and was designed by the Adotti Italian designer. Landowner

Ionita Marincu owned the building. Various administrative and educational institutions operated in the building as of 1927. Restoration and conservation works were performed in 2003.

The museum hosts contemporary Romanian art items - paintings, imprints, works of artists in the Dolj county, paintings by Nicolae Grigorescu, Henry Catargi and Teodor Pallady, sculptures by Ion Irimescu, Nicu Enia and George Demetrescu Mirea. The museum holds a collection of national costumes, carpets and other items. The building also hosts the Hall of the Romanian-Bulgarian friendship.

Contact:

Address: Calafat, 6, 22 Decembrie street

Phone: +40 251 232521,

fax: +40 251 230883

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES: - full

- Marincu Chapel, of the municipal cemetery (a complex of funeral chapels);

- The 1877-1878 Independence War Monumental Complex
- the municipal park, place of recreation + the shore of the Danube (the left side);
- the Ciupercenii Vechi protected natural area;
- authorized fishing in the Danube.

- road: E79 road, Pan-European corridor IV;
- DN 55A (to Drobeta-Turnu Severin);
- car/bus transportation network;
- road transport (reconsidered).

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 004

#### ACCOMODATION:

- Coliseum hotel, 16 Gheorghe Doja street (+spa, restaurant, parking);
- Amfiteatru hotel, 11, 1 Decembrie 1918 street (parking, restaurant).

#### MEALS (restaurants):

- OK restaurant, 26 Al. Ioan Cuza street.

#### FACILITIES:

hotels, pensions, motels, internet, parking, ATMS, banks, hospitals, parks, historical, cultural, religious monuments, entertainment.

#### CONNECTED:

- the Danube shore;
- the 1877-1878 Independence War Monumental Complex
- the Marincu Chapel;
- the municipal park;
- the Ciupercenii Vechi protected natural area.

#### TRANSPORTATION:

- railway transport (train station), including international transport (Golenti: international train Hungary-Romania-Bulgaria);



#### WEAKNESSES:

- difficulties to communicate in international languages;
- weak non-verbal animation;
- higher promotion of the Vidin/Bulgaria area (easy access on the bridge, services, etc.);
- the museum needs renovation works (adjacent green areas are not properly developed).

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- transit node, Pan-European Corridor IV, easy access (bridge) Bulgaria/Vidin;
- old and medieval ceramic artefacts with local/regional specificities;
- many other local and cross-border touristic offers.

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 005

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = DJ LOCATION = DESA  
TARGET = PRIVATE MUSEUM



### GPS:

N° = 43.86915

E° = 23.02525

Alt(m) = 42

### DISTANCES (Km):

- Calfat, Dj - Desa, Dj = 22
- Desa, Dj - Bechet, Dj = 89

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- the only private museum in Oltenia was established in Desa, from the initiative of the “Castravita” Cultural Association, including history/ archaeology and ethnography departments.
- the museum is arranged as a peasant’s home (kitchen and bedroom), with regionally specific products, tools and artefacts.

Bibliography 5. <http://www.indiscret.ro/vechi/articol-muzeul-din-casa>

### THE MUSEUM IN A HOME

*A former history teacher from the Dolj commune of Desa turned his home into a museum including hundreds of ethnographic, historical and archaeological items. Marin Oprisan's idea developed as he got his retirement decision.*

“The Big Home” is not the “Castravita Museum” for the Oprisan family of Desa.

At the ground floor, we find ethnographic items collected by Marin from the people in the village, placed in a small room that has been arranged as a kitchen. The first floor hosts numismatic items, old documents certifying certain historical moments, archaeological parts found in the area and some historical items, arranged like in a museum. “I have repre-



sentative traditional costumes for all the five counties of Oltenia. Unfortunately, I do not have enough room to exhibit them. I have gathered the items from the people in the village. People come from other villages or towns and bring what they have been able to find. They do not ask for money in exchange, but I couldn't give them anything anyway", says the former history teacher.

*After classes, he searched for archaeological parts on the Danube shore*

Marin Oprisan taught history in Desa as of 1967. However, he did not focus exclusively on the information in the handbook. He got involved in extra-school activities, taking his pupils or student groups to the archaeological sites in the area. "I have got my passion for archaeology from my university professor, Octavian Torop. I have undertaken research

in the area with groups of students from the University of Craiova, as a Roman fortress had existed on the Danube shore", says Oprisan.

*Marin Oprisan, the flagship of the Castravita site*

If retirement means separation from one's job for some people, for Marin Oprisan it meant more time for his passion, i.e. archaeology: "As I retired, I thought that I had to pursue my research activity, as I hoped that I could help the younger generation in maintaining historical values. Thorough research in the area began about 20 years ago, when two young archaeologists, Florin Ridichie and Daniel Bondoc, came to me and asked for my help. Since then, funds are allocated and excavations are made every year, with new and new vestiges being found."

*The flagship of the museum*

The museum he arranged in his home includes hundreds of exhibits. The flagships of Oprisan's museum are a 19th century old document and one-century-old school record that call the attention of visiting pupils. Local pupils, as well as students come to Marin Oprisan's museum. "I have a very good cooperation with schools in the county, with the University of Craiova and with the Oltenia Museum, which is always present on the archaeological site of Castravita."

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

- naturally, the closest settlement with proper touristic facilities is Calafat, in Dolj:  
hotels, pensions, motels, internet, parking, ATMs, banks, hospitals, parks, historical, cultural, religious monuments, entertainment.

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES**

- accommodation facilities (hotels/pensions), meal facilities (restaurants, bars) and other touristic facilities may be accessed in Calafat, Dj, at a distance of 22 km, on DN 55A (see sight sheet 004)

**CONNECTED:**

- the Ciuperceii Vechi protected natural area;
- the Danube lowlands;
- the archaeological site of Desa/ Castravita + Ruptura, under the scientific management of the Oltenia Museum.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- by car, Calafat-Desa, 22 km, no more than 30 minutes.

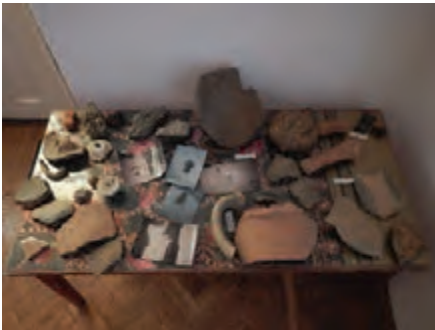
**WEAKNESSES:**

- the sight is small in terms of both size and importance, but it allows for a more realistic view on the traditional rural environment of Oltenia;
- own touristic facilities are missing.

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

- it is a private initiative of identification, collection, conservation and exhibition of the local ethnographic and historical cultural heritage, a model of recovery and capitalization of representative artefacts for the Danube area.
- it allows for a comparative assessment of the rural specificities of the Danube.
- CONTACT Prof. Oprisan Marin, phone 0761223129

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 005



**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DJ **LOCATION** = CRAIOVA

**TARGET** = THE CRAFTSMEN'S FAIR (annual event, October - Craiova/Dolj, civic centre)



**GPS:**

N° =44.318929

E° =23.798361

Alt(m)=108

**DISTANCES (Km):**

- Craiova / Dj - Slatina, Ot = 50
- Craiova / Dj - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mh = 112
- Craiova / Dj - Targu Jiu, Gj = 113

CUVANTUL LIBERTATII Newspaper Craiova, author Magda Bratu

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

An annual event organised in October, in the Mihai Viteazu Square of Craiova (the esplanade of the “Marin Sorescu” National Theatre or in the civic centre), including sale exhibitions of products of typical crafts of Oltenia (fabrics, religious paintings, ceramics, etc.), connected with novel folkloric moments.

Bibliography 6. <http://www.gds.ro/Local/Dolj/2016-10-19/craiova-xxxix-editie-targului-mesterilor-populari,-perioada-21-23-octombrie/>

The Oltenia Museum - Ethnography Department - “Casa Baniei”, with the financial support of the Dolj County Council and in partnership with the Local Council and the Craiova City Hall, organise the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of the Craftsmen's Fair during October 21-23, in the Mihai Viteazu square. This dynamic cultural event provides visitors with the opportunity of finding the beauty of outstanding rural heritage and the proof of the natural and sacred gesture of return to traditional crafts.

Seen by ethnography specialists in the country as a feast of folkloric tradi-

tions and customs, the Craftsmen's Fair in Craiova will bring together this year more than 140 potters, wood carvers, furriers, weavers, fellmongers, religious painters, ironmongers, pastry chefs and not only, from more than 30 active craft centres in the country (Maramures, Cluj, Harghita, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Brasov, Valcea, Arges, Mehedinti, Gorj, Sibiu, Hunedoara, Prahova, Suceava, Salaj, etc.) in an outstanding cultural event implying scientific responsibility and devotion to values, with a view to conveying the expression of traditional and genuine crafts to the local community.

For three days in October, the open air popular art exhibition with sale invites the wide audience to make direct contact with Romanian villagers, in a format much closer to its identity and cultural mission, with expressive plurality and multiple valences, in vivacious and refined centres of genuine crafts, able to provide the much-sought ceramics, fabrics, weaves, leather items, religious paintings, painted eggs, etc., as well as beekeeping products and traditional delicacies - smoked products, cheese varieties and desserts.

The official opening of the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of the Craftsmen's Fair will take place Friday, October 22, 12.30 p.m., in the Mihai Viteazu Square, and the open air sale exhibition and the demonstrations of craftsmen may be visited and admired every day, until Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The prizes of the festival will be awarded on Saturday, October 22, at 1.30 p.m., and the official opening of the fair will take place on Sunday, October 23, at 7 p.m.

A diverse range of popular art and creation artefacts will be exhibited, from traditional costumes to ceramics, domestic items, fabrics, weaves, painted eggs, religious paintings on wood and glass, traditional blankets and clothings, maize husk weaves, woven baskets, furniture, objects of metal and precious materials, traditional food products from the area of Sibiu, Harghita, Covasna. Beekeepers from Caras-Severin, Hunedoara, Cluj, Arges and Valcea will also be present, offering specific products, traditional pastries, buns, pies, chocolate, gingerbread, halva, jam and "zacusca". Manufacturers of traditional edible oils made of sunflower, pumpkin seeds, grapeseeds, as well as manufacturers of natural juices are also invited.

The famous weavers of Sapanta-Maramures, Maldarasti-Valcea, Gorj and

Mehedinti will be accompanied by the weavers of Bechet and Argetoiaia (Dolj county), in order to validate once more, if needed, the chromatic and symbolic beauty of Romanian traditional costumes in the entire country - from Oltenia, Transylvania or Moldavia.

The ceramics of Oltenia, from famous centres such as Horezu, Oboga and Lungesti, will be completed by the unmistakable blue found on the ceramics of Harghita, Maramures, in an outstanding exhibition.

The locals of Craiova are expected to attend both the sale exhibition and the craft demonstrations; organisers will arrange special tents to project us to the past of the rural community, where craftsmen paint religious images on glass and wood, turn the potter's wheel in order to create clay dishware, carve sacred or domestic objects in wood, melt metal in order to create craft products.

As every year, the Oltenia Museum, the Dolj County Council and the Craiova City Hall will reward the outstanding merits of craftsmen in preserving and perpetuating the tradition, quality and value of creation.

The award ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 22, 1.30 p.m., as the selection of craftsmen will be carefully analysed by a specialized jury, chaired by Florin Ridiche, PhD, the manager of the Oltenia Museum, and including Cornel Balosu, PhD, Head of the Ethnography Department, Assoc. Prof. Carmen Banta (ethnologist - University of Craiova), Roxana Deca, PhD, Irinel Canurec, PhD, Alina Balan and Loredana Durau - museographers at the Ethnography Department of the Oltenia Museum.

Eight prizes will be awarded, for two sections: "Adults" and "Children and Youth", of which The Fair's Trophy, awarded by the Dolj County Council and

the Oltenia Museum and the Cetatea Baniei Award, awarded by the Craiova City Hall.

Thus, the organisers invite you to explore this year's traditional art exhibition and enjoy the open air demonstrations of craftsmen from all parts of the country, that will show you their craft.

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

### ACCOMODATION:

- "Ramada Plaza" hotel (hotel, restaurant, internet, parking), city centre;
- "Golden House" hotel (hotel, restaurant, internet, parking), 18 Brestei street;
- "Green House" hotel (hotel, restaurant, internet, underground garage), 25 Fratii Buzesti street.

### MEALS:

- "Ambasador", 22A Pelendava street;
- "Le Baron", Vasile Alecsandri street;
- "La Rocca", Brazda lui Novac street.

### FACILITIES:

- Craiova hosts many comfortable hotels, restaurants and bars, shopping centres, cinemas, shops of all sizes, ATMs, banks, hospitals and health centres, many natural recreation areas.

### CONNECTED:

- the Romanescu park, a natural monument, an important recreation area;
- the history and archaeology department of the Olteniei Museum of Craiova;

- nature sciences department of the Olteniei Museum of Craiova;
- the Art Museum;
- the Youth Park;
- the "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre;
- the Oltenia Philharmonics;
- the Jiu river lowlands;
- the old city centre of Craiova.

## TRANSPORTATION:

- road transport to all directions, including access to the Pan-European Corridor IV;
- two bus stations for regular routes to all directions;
- railway transport to all directions (central train station);
- airport.

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 006



## WEAKNESSES:

- as a calendar-dependant event, unique during the year, it is difficult to integrate it in a permanent touristic circuit (even a “touristic ring” of festivals is difficult to organise, given their dispersion, not only in terms of geography, but also in terms of timeline across almost the entire year).

## SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- it provides the opportunity of a full assessment of the crafts, products, traditions and ethnography of Oltenia (and not only!) joined in a single (mobile) location and exhibited in a spectacular range of thematic offers.

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 007

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = OLT LOCATION = OBOGA

TARGET = POTTERY



### GPS:

N° = 44.424111

E° = 24.089588

Alt(m) = 144

### DISTANCES (Km):

•Bals, Ot - Oboga, Ot = 9

(• Bals - Oboga - Calui, Ot = 13)

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- three locations named OBOGA (de Jos, de Mijloc, de Sus) exist along DJ 643, about 9 km from Bals, Olt.
- no guidance/orientation or promotion of the crafts in the area.

Bibliography 7. [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oboga,\\_Olt](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oboga,_Olt)

Oboga is the main village of the eponymous commune in Olt, Oltenia, Romania. It is located to the west of the county, where the Oltetului Plateau meets the Romanati Plain.

Three pottery centres exist in Olt nowadays: Oboga, Romana and Corbeni. [1]

Both enamelled and not enamelled ceramics is manufactured in Oboga. The following products are manufactured:

dinner plates, bowls, mugs for water, for wine, barrels, incense holders, flower pots, jars to keep food, flasks, cups for brandy and coffee, toys, figurines, wedding jugs with representations of animals and birds and even human-shaped dishware, similar to prehistorical ones.

In their work, potters from Oboga use old tools exclusively: *corn de vită* to decorate the dishware, plotog (a

small piece of leather used to file the border of dishware), fichias (a wooden tool used to finish the dishware on the outside), titirez (a wooden tool used for crimpling the edge of plates), goose feathers and straws (used to make very

fine decorations), tatar (the tool used to carve the point of the jugs). [2]

A furnace whose hearth is organised like a table, with two fire mouths and oblique edges of the hearth, is used for burning ceramics in Oboga (GODEA 1995, 51)

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

### ACCOMMODATION MEALS CONNECTED FACILITIES

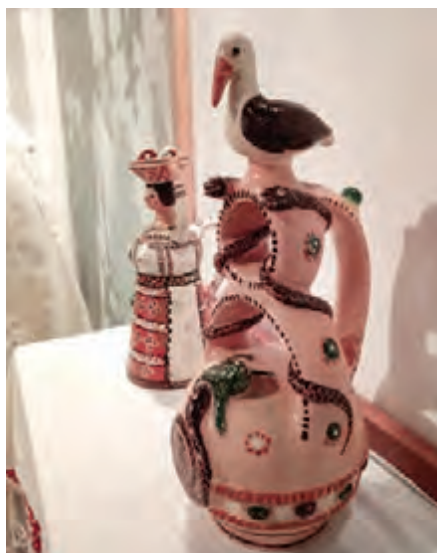
- the need for touristic facilities may also be covered by Balt/Olt, located at an optimal distance from the sight, but full services and attractions can be accessed in Craiova/Dolj (25 km) or Slatina/Olt (25 km), as detailed in the corresponding sheets 003 and 014)
- as a connected sight, we propose the Calui Monastery, Olt, located 13 km from Bals/Olt, an exceptionally beautiful and well maintained historical and religious monument
  - GPS coordinates: N=44.462869 E=24.030996 alt(m)=180.

### TRANSPORTATION:

- road transport, Bals/Ot-Oboga/Ot, 9 km on DJ 643.

### WEAKNESSES:

- potters in Oboga have virtually disappeared, with notable exceptions (the family of the craftsman Ciungulescu is practically naturally disappeared) and the existence of a local pottery centre cannot replace the development of the past.



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 007



- Pottery workshop in Romana/Olt, bordering Oboga (Trusca):



- Pottery workshop in Corbeni/Olt, bordering Oboga (Turcitu):



- Pottery workshop in Oboga/Olt - Ciungulescu:

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

- the Oboga pottery centre, through its reputed workshops (especially those of the Ciungulescu family), has represented a historical benchmark in the range of specific crafts of Oltenia;
- the Oboga brand is currently only accessible in the ethnography department of the Oltenia Museum - "Casa Baniei", where some extremely valuable wedding jugs (Ciungulescu) are exposed.

- Pottery workshop in Corbeni/Olt, bordering Oboga (Chirea):



COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = OLT LOCATION = CARACAL  
 TARGET = THE ROMANATI MUSEUM



## GPS:

N° = 44.112629

E° = 24.344703

Alt(m) = 107

## DISTANCES (Km):

- Caracal / Ot - Craiova /Dj = 55  
- E 70
- Caracal / Ot - Slatina / Ot = 41  
- DN 64

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

Address = Iancu Jianu street

phone = 0249 511 344

The museum is organised through a permanent (basic) exhibition, scientifically structured into eight exhibition halls and a lapidarium in the museum's yard.

What is prevalent and defining for the value of the museum is the collection of Roman artefacts, most of them from ROMULA, the former capital of (Roman) Dacia Malvensis, Dobrosloveni.

Some other valuable artefacts from the Pre-Roman and archaic times are also available.

Bibliography 8. <http://www.cniptcaracal.ro/index.php?page=muzeu-romanatiului>

“The idea of establishing a museum in our town arose in the second half of the 19th century, as the Roman vestiges of Romula became the focus of renowned archaeologists. Alexandru Odobescu, in “*Antichitățile județului Romanți*” [*The Antiques of Romanati*] published in 1877, talked about the many vestiges of the past discovered in Romanati and defined “*the antique character of one of the most interesting counties in the country*”. Many valuable items discovered in the

county entered particular collections, got lost or were taken abroad. A museum had to be established in Caracal in order to save the historical values that were sometimes discovered by accident. Archaeologists wanted to organise an archaeology museum, that would include the many materials discovered both in Romula, and on the entire territory of Romanati. However, unfavourable circumstances prevented this.

Later, in 1900, the magistrate Ion

Hagiescu-Miriste, an intellectual with a multi-sided training and great lover of arts, bought a house on Crinului street and arranged it so that he may expose paintings and sculptures. He wanted that the purchased art objects could be viewed by people and, hence, help develop their aesthetic education.

In 1904, in his will, he left all his fortune to *“the county of Romanati, so that, from the obtained revenue [...] it would maintain as many students as possible to study sculpture in the country, then in Rome and Paris”*.

12 years later, on September 13, 1916, Ion Hagiescu-Miriste adds a codicile to the will, expressing some thoughts on the future of his collection, which had grown bigger year after year and needed the establishment of a museum. After his death, his wife would give the art collection to the prefecture of Romanati, and *“the county would have to keep this collection forever to serve as a museum”*.



The Ion Hagiescu-Miriste home

After *“all expenses for arranging the house as a museum would be incurred, and thereafter, each year, according to the available resources, of course without affecting the scholarships, sculptures and paintings from poor young artists, promising to be famous,*

*would be purchased according to the guidance of the director (dean) of the Faculty of Arts”*.

Ion Hagiescu-Miriste wanted the art museum of Caracal to be *“a school of beauty for the inhabitants of Romanati and a means to encourage poor artists, who nurture a strong love for the art”*.

He died in 1922, without fulfilling his wish of establishing a museum in the town that had adopted him more than 27 years before. The lack of focus on culture and art of the rulers of the county and of the town of those times prevented the creation of the museum. In the meanwhile, his wife and his legal successors alienated many works of art.

In the fall of 1944, a group of students and teachers of the “Ionita Asan” College founded the cultural society “Haralamb Lecca” which, as shown in its *“Articles of incorporation”* of November 1, 1944, primarily aimed at *“establishing an archaeological museum”*. However, the favourable conditions for the establishment of a museum in Caracal only arise in the fall of 1949, thus fulfilling the dream of many generations of intellectuals.

The Romanati Museum was established on September 26, 1949, organised in a building in the town centre, built in the second half of the 19th century, where the exhibition area included two rooms, for its two departments: *history* and *art*. The history department included 65 items, which represented the core of the museum. The art department included 27 paintings by N. Darascu, C. D. Stahi, O. Obedeanu, N. Grimani, Ambrosini and others, of what had been left of the collection of Hagiescu-Miriste.

In March 1950, the museum was moved to a building, a historical architectural monument, built in the second half of the 18th century, whose last owner had

been Niculin Jianu, of the famous Jianu family. Here, on 1 Negru Voda street, it had a venue including two buildings with 23 rooms.

The initial name of the institution - *"The Romanati Museum"*, had an ephemeral existence. A year later, in September 1950, when the Romanati county is dissolved, it changes its name into *"departmental museum"*, then, starting 1968 into *"municipal museum"*. It had this name until April 30, 1990, when, pursuant to a memorandum submitted to the Directorate for Museums and Collections of the Ministry of Culture, the initial name is restored.

The Romanati Museum is organised along the model of a regional museum, representing the area of the former Romanati county, with all its momentous history, leaving more or less visible marks which also have to be known by the successors. Nowadays, the museum located on 24 Iancu Jianu street, in the home of Iancu N. Dobruceanu, a grandson of Iancu Jianu, is organised in four sections:

- the archaeology-history department;
- the "Iancu Jianu" memorial department;
- the art department;
- the ethnography department.

The archaeology-history department holds more than 20,000 highly valuable items, some more than 6,000 years old,



exhibited in eight rooms with an area of more than 400 sqm.

The Lapidarium is located at the entrance to the museum, a valuable sector including more than 20 items: sarcophagi, gate thresholds, funeral pineae, dishes for supplies.

An outstanding item is the sarcophagus of Aelius Iulius Iulianus (size: 2.30 x 1.08 x 1.54 m), made of Vratsa calcar, with sculptural ornaments both on the cover and on the box, erected by his wife, Valeria Gaemellina, together with the children, and discovered near Romula, in the necropolis of Hotarani, in 1952. It is considered to date back to the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The inscription in stoic verses shows that he lived in Romula for 40 years, acting as a mayor and as a quaestor. Here is the full translation of the inscription:

*"To the Mani Gods. To Aelius Iulius Iulianus, decurion, quaestor and mayor of the Romula colony, the worthy husband of myself, Valeria Gaemellina.*

*To my darling husband Iulian, for his worthiness, I, his wife,*

*Have tearfully erected this final home,*

*So that his cold body may rest here after death.*

*He lived for forty years in full honour,*

*He fulfilled his duty and he was  
honoured and praised.*

*I, Gaemellina, in deep piety,*

*Together with my children, his home  
have established*

*Between vine shrubs and over-  
whelming vegetation,*

*Where thick branches cover him in  
their dense shadow,*

*Please, traveller, as you read this, bid  
him farewell.”*

The sarcophagus was not maintained unaltered. It was profaned during the Roman domination, it was broken into twice, at both ends of the lid, and the funeral inventory could no longer be found.

The permanent exhibition of the archaeology-history department, created according to thematic and chronological criteria, based on the main periods in Romanian historiography, presents valuable testimonies certifying a rich material and spiritual life of the locals, from the oldest times until 1944.



Each of the eight rooms of the museum has a well defined topic, abundantly illustrated by images, documents, maps and very valuable texts, objects from various materials and ages, costumes, uniforms and weapons, art objects, all related to the history, social and economic life and culture of the former Romanati county, crossing the periods

of evolution of this area, from the Palaeolithic to the modern ages.

Palaeolithic objects (stone tools, mammoth bones, bone tools, ceramic dishware) discovered in Vladila, Caracal, Farcasele, Hotarani and Gradinile are significant.



The Neolithic and the age of metals are widely illustrated through ceramic dishware, weapons, religious objects, funeral urns, objects of bronze and iron, resulting from the archaeological excavations in Farcasele, Hotarani and Gradinile.

The Dacian-Roman age is abundantly represented through the vestiges discovered in Romula-Malva (the Resca village, close to Caracal). The objects discovered here, such as: mugs, glasses, pots, amphorae, gems, candleholders, sarcophaguses, gate thresholds, stone and brick inscriptions, statues, etc., prove the vitality of the settlement in this age.



The museum possesses a large collection of various types of candleholders, with one, two or three arms, as well as very rare ones, with five or seven arms. Another rare candleholder depicts the head of an old man.

A particular focus was placed on the collection of gems and cameos from Romula. Gems are made of jasper or onyx and figures of gods, mythological scenes or animals are engraved on them.

We must mention Roman bronze statues such as: the Goddess Diana, the Goddess Fortuna - the protector of Romula-Malva and Janus, or other calcar items: Jupiter Dolichenus, Dea Dardanica Romula, etc.



Iron axes (6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries)

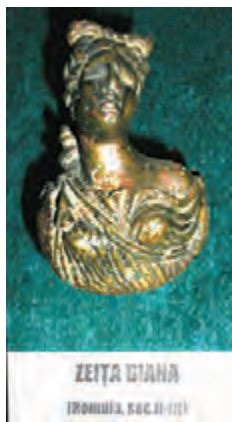
The social and political life of the 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries follows the same joint goals of unity and fight for national independence.

The first documentary attestation of Caracal also dates back to this period, based on the document from the chancellery of the ruler of Wallachia, Radu Voda Paisie (1535-1545), with the date of November 17, 1538, whereby the ruler gives some land bought from Marga from Caracal to Radu vel Clucer, for having served him right.

More numerous and complete mentions start to appear in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in documents issued by Michael the Brave. As a feudal ruler, Michael owned much land to the south of the town, up to the Danube. This is where he built his court around 1597.

Having his court in Caracal, Michael the Brave also issued some documents of his current activity here. The rulers Matei Basarab and Constantin Brancoveanu owned territories around the town and also lived in this court, connecting their names to Caracal through a range of economic, social, political and cultural measures.

There is almost no moment in the historical drama of the Romanian people that the locals of Romanati had not lived at its maximum intensity.



Bronze statues (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries)



Last, but not least, the fragment of votive relief discovered in Romula also dates back to this period (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries).

The period of the 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries is present through objects and photographs, texts, graphs, etc., certifying the persistence and continuity of the Romanians' inhabitation of these territories.



Image from the museum

They are found in the glorious battles of the Middle Ages, in Tudor Vladimirescu's revolution, in the 1848 revolution of Wallachia, in the Union of the Principalities, in the 1877-1878 independence war, in the Romanian union war and on the eastern and western fronts during the Second World War.



All these historical moments are illustrated by means of images and old objects, some of them being donated by great personalities of the times.

The "Iancu Jianu" memorial section is presented separately in the subchapter The "Iancu Jianu" Memorial House.

The ethnography department is in process of re-arrangement, as it does not have a proper exhibition area. The ethnographic heritage includes costumes from the area of Romanati: costumes for men with ornamental vests, coloured threads and soft wool, costumes for women with beautiful garments, costumes for young men or separate clothing, such as veils, hair accessories, etc. The oldest item is a men's shirt dating back to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Likewise, the department includes a collection of more than 4,000 models of sewn items.

The department also includes old agricultural tools, some made with rudimentary means by the craftsmen in villages, such as a wooden plough and domestic items: weaving machines, reelers or silk extraction machines.



Images from the museum

The art section was included in the museum's profile from its very establishment, as many talented painters were born in Caracal: Mihail Lapatty, Marius Bunescu, Gheorghe Teodorescu-Romanat, Ion Musculeanu, Teodor Catana. Likewise, the town also included some art collections.

The initial assets of the department included the paintings, graphs and sculptures remaining from the collection of Ion Hagiescu-Miriste, of which we remind the ones of the painters: Nicolae Darascu (*În piață*), C.D.Stahi (*Fructe*), P. Ioanid (*Târgul de oale*), O. Obedeanu (*Dorobanțul, Linuța și Manciu*), G. Saru (*Portret de bătrân*), N. Grimani (*Viaductul, Portret de fată, Ucenicul stă la îndoială*), Iordănescu Eug. (*Portret de femeie, În pădure, Cu sacaua*), in all 23 Romanian and 8 foreign paintings - Uberti P. (*Reparatorul de umbrele*), Ambrosini (*Doi copii*), Montorane B. (*Fetița cu porumbelul*), Guillaume A. (*Jucătorii de cărți*), Dupont L. (*Flori și fructe, Flori*) as well as two sculptures: (*Soldat obosit*) by Oscar Han and (*Femeie Tânără*) by C. Bălăcescu.



However, these works of art were dispersed during the communist times in various institutions and offices, some without legal procedures, so that not all of them are available nowadays.

A spacious area in the current headquarters of the "Radu Serban"

House of Culture was arranged as an art gallery, so that at least some of the valuable works of art could be viewed. Dozens of paintings, especially by painters from Romanati, are exhibited on its walls.

They are accompanied by modern statues in bronze, stone and wood, busts of personalities who left unforgettable marks in the cultural and social life of the community.



The collection of the department of the Romanati Museum includes 510 items, of which more than 460 paintings by Romanian and foreign painters, many sculptures, paintings on wood and old religious paintings, goblets."

*"Caracal - tărâm de legendă și destinație turistică"*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised and updated -  
Authors: Ion MARIN, Gheorghe BANICA

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

Both the main sight (the Romanati Museum) and the town itself host attractions and touristic facilities:

- connected neighbourhoods which are extremely relevant from a historical/cultural viewpoint:
- Dobrosloveni/Olt-the Romula archaeological site, the former Roman capital of Dacia Malvensis;
- Corabia/Olt - the archaeological site/the Sucidava Roman fortress + the bridge of Emperor Constantin.
- = the town park for recreation in nature (Constantin Poroineanu);
- = the Nicolae Titulescu Home;
- = the “Iancu Jianu” Memorial House;
- = the national tourist information centre;
- = the municipal theatre;
- = local cultural centre, connected to the Slatina/Olt cultural centre.

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 008



#### **WEAKNESSES:**

- = photographs/videos are not allowed in the museum;
- = difficulties to translate into international languages;
- = deficiencies of non-verbal animation.

#### **ACCOMMODATION MEALS CONNECTED FACILITIES**

The main touristic facilities, accommodations, etc. for the identified tourist route are located in the county capital - Slatina, Olt.

Caracal has its own network of tourist facilities, optionally accessible for tourists:

- Casa Romanita hotel - address: 8 Romanitei street;
- “No Name” restaurant-pension, address: 102 Targul Nou street.

#### **TRANSPORTATION:**

Caracal has a bus station with a developed network of buses, to virtually all directions, also for Craiova.

Caracal has a train station connecting it to the main neighbouring cities (Craiova/Dolj, Slatina/Olt, etc.).

#### **SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

The Romanati Museum holds a very rich collection of clay artefacts, scientifically covering the entire Romanati Plain.

Very many archaeological sites are locally labelled (e.g. ROMULA/ Dobrosloveni, Olt - the former capital of Dacia Malvensis), hence the scientific and historical importance for the project.

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = OLT **LOCATION** = BALS  
**TARGET** = THE “POMUL VIETII” FESTIVAL

**GPS:**

N° = 44.353510

E° = 24.095673

Alt(m) = 128

**DISTANCES (Km):**

- Craiova / Dolj - Bals / Olt = 25  
DN65 / E574;

- Bals / Olt - Slatina / Olt = 25  
DN65 / E574.

[https://www.google.ro/search?q=BALS&espv=2&biw=1536&bih=774&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiMkeby\\_FoAhXJHxoKHRucA8oQ\\_AUIBygC#imgc=R37jrP5g1vGNQM%3A-mapio.net](https://www.google.ro/search?q=BALS&espv=2&biw=1536&bih=774&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiMkeby_FoAhXJHxoKHRucA8oQ_AUIBygC#imgc=R37jrP5g1vGNQM%3A-mapio.net)

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

- the festival is organized in May/on an annual basis, in the centre of Bals;
- besides the folkloric section of the festival, the POTTERS’ FAIR + the session of relevant scientific communications are important;
- this complex event may integrate the project topic in the ethnographic context assigned to Oltenia (and not only!)
- the ceramics presented at the festival comes from the region, as well as strongly traditional pottery centres (Korund, Horezu, etc.).

Bibliography 9. <http://www.festivaluri-romanesti.ro/festivaluri/festival-etnofolcloric-pomul-vietii>

“POMUL VIETII” [THE TREE OF LIFE]  
 ETHNO-FOLKLORIC FESTIVAL

Start Date: 21/05/2015

End Date: 21/05/2015

Location: Bals, Olt (click for more festivals in Olt)

Access: Free of charge

Category: Other

Organiser:

The Olt County Council

The Local Council of Bals

The Bals Municipality

The County Centre for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture of Olt

**About the festival**

The *Pomul Vietii* ethno-folkloric festival was created in 1993 and takes place every year, on Ascension Day. It includes two sections:

- The ceramics section, with the “Craftsmen’s Fair”, whose exhibits are assessed and awarded prizes by relevant specialists;



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 009

- The folklore section, including the Parade of Traditional Costumes, as well as a show by artistic and folkloric groups.

Guests take the stage at the end of the festival.

The first edition of *Pomul Vietii* of 1993, the guest of honour was the “Maria Tanase” folkloric band of Craiova, along with the following soloists: Maria Ciobanu, Tudor Gheorghe, Vasilica Dinu and the “Doina Oltului” band of Slatina. Fanfara CFR - Craiova, the Martisorul band of Bals, etc. also attended.

Potters from Oboga, Romana, Horezu, Corund presented their creations in the *Potters' Fair*.

Pottery art on the Oltetului Valley was presented in the scientific session.

Specialists from the Village Museum of Bucharest and from the County Museum of Olt took part.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition took place in 2014, which means that this festival was organised year after year.

## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

- connected to the sight, the entire area (Bals-Corbeni-Romana-Oboga) is the pole of pottery in Oltenia (along with Horezu, Vadastra, etc.), which is important in order to understand and interact with its traditions and archaic practice.

## ACCOMMODATION MEALS

### CONNECTED FACILITIES

The main touristic facilities, accommodations, etc. for the identified tourist route are located in the county capital - Slatina, Olt.

## TRANSPORTATION:

- road transport by car + buses on E574/DN 65 with the county residences - Dolj (Craiova), Olt (Slatina).

## WEAKNESSES:

- the festival is restricted in terms of time (May, every year);

- the tradition of pottery is strongly declining in the entire area, many important centres have practically disappeared - Oboga/Olt.

## SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- it is a complex, traditional event, placing the craft of pottery in the ethnographic context of the entire region of Oltenia.

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = OLT **LOCATION** = BALS  
**TARGET** = THE POTTERS' FAIR

**GPS:**

N° = 44.355310

E° = 24.0956673

Alt(m) = 128

**DISTANCES (Km):**• Craiova / Dolj - Bals / Olt = 25  
DN65 / E574;• Bals / Olt - Slatina / Olt = 25  
DN65 / E574.**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

- integrated in the “Pomul vietii” festival, May, annually (see sheet no. 009)

Bibliography 10. <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bal%C8%99>

Bals has a beneficial location for tourism. Even though it does not host many touristic sights, this activity is well contoured and developed.

To the south-west, at the feet of the Mainesti hill, we find the monastery with the same name. Petre Pandrea, in the newspaper Oltul (year I, issue 101, June 16 1968), in the article “Monumente istorice de pe valea Olteţului” also evokes the church of the hermitage with the outlaws of Iancu Jianu, who retired here and became monks after their captain gave up his mission as an outlaw in 1818. This is also confirmed by the local folklore, whereby the hermitage is known by the name of The Outlaws' Hermitage. From an architectural point of view, the monastery is characterized by a brick construction, 70 cm thick walls, in the form of a ship. It includes the altar, the naos and the pronaos. The iconostasis is made of wall. The naos is separated from the pronaos by a brick wall having a door-sized opening in the middle and two small side openings.

The painting was made during 1810-1812, combining the techniques of fresco and tempera, and illustrating the

Orthodox technique. In the portraits of the patrons, as well as other portraits inside, one can see that the clothing includes specific elements of Romanian traditional costumes. Colours include some shades of red, blue, grey, a bit of green and yellow. Black and dark red lines prevail.

As for entertainment services, they are covered by the Saru entertainment facility, located outside the town, in the forest with the same name, within the commune of Bobicesti. It includes a terrace, a restaurant and accommodation spaces with the level of 3 daisies, with a number of 60 accommodation places.

The Central Hotel of Bals was built in the town centre during the communist period, actually providing improper conditions.

After the 1990s, sports activities developed in Bals, especially tennis, at the initiative of local entrepreneurs, who invested in this sports. At the same time, a hotel was built within the CS Prodchim sports club, Hotel Bals, including 10 rooms, a 30-place restaurant and 6 tennis fields.

Sports activities ensure the occupation of accommodation places during tennis tournaments, of which the most famous

is the “Instirig Cup” International Tennis Tournament.

Another touristic sight is the *Pomul Vietii* ethno-folkloric festival, taking place in June, every year. This aims at preserving the traditions and habits of the Romanati Plain. Likewise, competitions of folkloric dancing, ceramics and the Parade of Romanian traditional costumes are organised within this festival.

In the field of art and culture, Bals has a rich[ heritage and well developed cultural infrastructure. Cultural life is supported by two houses of culture, a cinema currently under renovation, a library and a Youth House.

The museum of Bals includes ceramic objects from the Ciungulescu family in the Oboga commune, located to the north of the Romana neighbourhood.

The Karma rock band is active in the Youth House of Bals as of 1982; it had been established under the name of Asterix, and currently is the only music band in the town.

The House of Culture is the location of the *Pomul Vietii* folklore band, including pupils of local education institutions.

The band is characterized by the traditional clothing of Romanati.

Ceramic workshops existed on the territory of the current neighbourhood Romana in the past; however, they have disappeared due to the young generations’ lack of interest in these professions.

The *Pomul Vietii* ethno-folkloric festival takes place annually in June, and the Autumn Festival is organised in autumn.

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### TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

- connected to the sight, the entire area (Bals-Corbeni-Romana-Oboga) is the pole of pottery in Oltenia (along with Horezu, Vadastra, etc.), which is important in order to understand and interact with its traditions and archaic practice.

### ACCOMMODATION MEALS CONNECTED FACILITIES

The main touristic facilities, accommodations, etc. for the identified tourist route are located in the county capital - Slatina, Olt.

### TRANSPORTATION:

- road transport by car + buses on E574/DN 65 with the county residences - Dolj (Craiova), Olt (Slatina).

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 010

### WEAKNESSES:

- the tradition of pottery is strongly declining in the entire area, many important centres have practically disappeared - Oboga/Olt (with some notable exceptions).

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- wide possibilities of understanding, viewing and interaction with the tradition of pottery in the region of Oltenia;  
- regional pottery centre (Corbeni-Romana-Oboga), famous and representative at the same time.

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = OLT **LOCATION** = CORABIA  
**TARGET** = MUSEUM

**GPS:**

N° = 43.774823

E° = 24.502004

Alt(m) = 46

**DISTANCES (Km):**

- Corabia / Ot - Caracal / Ot = 41 Km on DN 54;

- Corabia / Ot - Bechet / Dj = 47 Km on DN 54A.

“Gazeta de Sud”, 21.03.2015, photo: Lucian Anghel

Address: 65 Cuza Voda street, zip code 235 300

Phone: 0249 561 364

Daily hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed on Mondays.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

- the museum includes departments of history-ethnography-nature sciences;
- it includes significant historical artefacts, of which outstanding old/archaic ceramic items;
- the ethnography department exhibits local/regional traditions and crafts, the popular costumes, rural tools and agricultural utensils.

Bibliography 11. <http://www.curierulnational.ro/Specializat/2003-09-16/Muzeul+din+Corabia,+ignorat+de+municipalitate>

Our towns of province, of which some are priceless documentary or archaeological sources for the multi-millennium history of the places, are frequently condemned to cultural austerity and isolation. In other words, institutions whose mission is to preserve and capitalize the vestiges of the region are ignored or left to the will of fate. At least this is how such a town is seen “in vivo”, not from hearsay.

In Corabia, “the town of linden trees”, which I visited recently, where modernity, sometimes shadowed in its daily aspects, combined with the traces of the past, the only museum in town, the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, asks for its right to a dignified existence. We are not talking about the space that was devoted to it, i.e. the ground floor of the Cosma Constantinescu Palace, but of the precarious arrangement of much

too small rooms. Despite all the efforts of the management of the facility, which is administered by the Municipality. As mayor Ion Dimienescu informed us, the budget is constantly diminishing, due to the high unemployment rate: 6,000 of the 15,000 people that represent the active population are currently unemployed.

However, at least three ideas would plead for a more generous exposure, for the extension of the museum's area (some areas have even been taken out of the circuit, as they were damaged by floods!), as well as for reconsidering arrangements. The first would be the existence of the Sucidava-Celei archaeological site, of a national importance, which has so far provided 90% of the inventory held by the museum. The second argument is the importance of discoveries in the surroundings, of valuable vestiges dating back to the Neolithic, certifying the uninterrupted inhabitation of the area during six millennia. As a consequence of the first two, the heritage includes 14,000 items, mostly located in warehouses.

Spectacular discoveries in Sucidava: the Gothic fibulae of the 4th century A.D. established in 1951, at the proposal of Prof. PhD Nicolaescu-Plopsor, who managed the Oltenia Museum, this museum of Corabia includes a department of history and one of popular art. The first department exhibits objects from discoveries in the last six decades.

"Thus, we have proof of pre-historical life belonging to the Vadastra neolithic culture (4<sup>th</sup> millennium B.C.), the Salcuta-Gumelnita eneolithic culture, the Celei cultural group (3<sup>rd</sup> millennium B.C.), consisting of ceramics, silex tools, stone grinders. Flax fabrics date back to the eneolithic period, more than 4,000 years old. In 1978, this discovery was unique in Europe. Recovered from

the Celei-type eneolithic residence, the fabric worked in a simple two-threaded technique covered a burnt wicker bed. Unfortunately, the fabric was burnt as well and got damaged; we have the photographs as proof", said director Florea Baciu. Ceramic items from the first age of iron Hallstatt, from the Latene period, as well as Getic ceramics from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. are also exhibited.

Jewellery is not absent either - the pendant and the two golden earrings, dating back to 3600 years ago, are the oldest in Sucidava. Golden rings with stones, silver bracelets, five golden coins, a treasure of Turkish piastres (44 silver items) found before 1989 in Sucidava, the treasure of republican coins (211 silver items) discovered years ago in Gura Padinei and 408 medieval coins - Spanish, Hungarian, Romanian - are all included in the spectacular exhibits of the museum. They are accompanied by two silver Gothic fibulae and a golden coin issued during the reign of Constantine I. "The fibulae were discovered on the plateau of the Sucidava military fortress, in the layer above the first late Roman level, 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and have an outstanding artistic and historical value. The decorative technique (cabochon with almandines), as well as the existence of raptor bird heads, resembles the golden hen and chicken in the Pietroasele treasure, from the same period. Apparently, they were manufactured in a Greek-Roman workshop, nowadays located to the north of the Black Sea, and it is very likely that they come from war loots", continues our interlocutor. "Obviously, there is not enough room for such a heritage", professor Baciu says. The exhibition and the illumination system should be extended and improved."

## **ETHNOGRAPHIC RARITIES - THE VESTS FROM ROMANATI**

The ethnography department includes 2500 popular art items, tools for traditional domestic jobs, clothing items - costumes of Romanati, Vadastra, Vadastrita, Orlea, Dabuleni - museographer Mirela Cojoc tells us. The vests are spectacular with their decorations and waves, with their red and white shades. Likewise, the collection of Oltenia-specific blankets and coverlets, with images of flowers, humans or animals, some dating back to the Neolithic, with alternating colours on the horizontal, the traditional furniture, with the trousseau chest and the weaving machine are rare and extremely varied and rich items.

### **S.O.S. - SAVE CORABIA!**

However, despite so many “proofs” of civilization, despite the vestiges that appear everywhere, cultural life in Corabia seems to be just a small wave in the water, a distant shudder that risks to gradually lose its multi-millennium echo. Despite the scarce budget, the municipality manages to provide for research excavations on the Sucidava plateau, only during the two weeks of the students’ summer traineeships. Future historians and archaeologists are supervised by specialists from the museum, from the University of Craiova, from the Oltenia Museum and from the University of Bucharest. “Unfortunately, the county’s authorities do not pay too much attention to us”, says mayor Ion Dimienescu. “However, we hope that our recently won project, ‘Archaeology and Tourism’, will help us rehabilitate the port and attract more tourists to Sucidava, the Secret Fountain and Constantine’s Bridge Portal.” Till then, should the inhabitants of Corabia settle for the traditional music festival “Floare

de tei”, which was enthusiastically presented to us by Professor Ion Delu?!

We believe that this Danube town, with the shore flooded by rubbish and weed, should be rediscovered. Not under the sign of the legend according to which the settlement was founded based on the transhumance of shepherds coming from the mountains so that they could shelter their herds in the Danube lowlands. Around 1300, in an autumn, the remains of a crashed boat are said to have found here. Of them, people built shelters which, in time, became more numerous. This is how it was born... Corabia, literally meaning ‘The boat’. For its rebirth nowadays, saviours with a clear mind are needed, who are able to place a focus not on political fights or petty wealth, but on the ancestral places whose value does not yet seem to be understood properly.

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### **TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

- recommendation for Slatina, Olt and Alexandria, Teleorman.

### **ACCOMMODATION MEALS CONNECTED FACILITIES**

- the SUCIDAVA Roman fortress/ Celei/Corabia, Olt, including the Constantine Roman bridge;

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

- by road, Caracal/Olt - Corabia/Olt on DN 54, or Bechet/Dolj - Corabia/Olt on DN 54A.

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 011 (the museum is currently in renovation)

### WEAKNESSES:

- small location, severe economic decline, underdeveloped tourism.

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- the SUCIDAVA Roman site, reflected in the basic exhibition of the local

- museum, stands out also in terms of clay artefacts (a museum also exists in the Sucidava site);
- the ethnography department integrates ceramics in the context of local/regional rural life, of its specific traditions and crafts.

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 012

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = OLT LOCATION = VADASTRA  
TARGET = POTTERY



#### GPS:

N° = 43.863530

E° = 24.378846

Alt(m) = 66

#### DISTANCES (Km):

- Vadastra / Olt - Caracal / Olt = 33 Km on DJ 642A;

- Vadastra / Olt - Corabia / Olt = 19 Km on DN 54.

OBSERVATOR EUROPEAN, Radio Romania -Bruxelles

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- pottery centre/workshop using archaic materials, techniques and methods, specific to the VADASTRA culture.

Bibliography 12. <http://www.agerpres.ro/cultura/2014/06/14/destinatie-romania-olt-ceramica-de-vadastra-revitalizata-dupa-aproape-sapte-milenii-de-artizanal-ionel-cococi-11-28-33>

Ionel Cococi, a potter of Vadastra, managed to bring into actuality an ancient culture - Vadastra, through his ceramics worked in a neolithic style. This changed his life, as he became the bearer of Romanian values, traditions

and culture to important European capital cities.

He creates replicas of neolithic Vadastra ceramics, by means of an archaic technique, raising clay dishware without a wheel, by means of a thread.



Photos: Ionel Cococi / Facebook

He created Vadastra neolithic black ceramics, according to a technique from 5000-5500 B.C.

He revived the Vadastra culture after 2000, when he volunteered in an experimental international project focusing on the research and revitalisation of the Vadastra culture and its implementation in the community. The project, coordinated by professor Dragos Georghiu, researched the relics discovered in the site and established issues such as the archaic raising technique in the neolithic period, the decorating technique, the shape of dishes, including the burning technique, aiming at introducing the values of Romanian pre-historical ceramics into the European circuit. He became curious due to what he had found and discovered by accompanying the team of Romanian and foreign researchers; as he says himself, he was “contaminated”.

“Everything started in 2000, during researches undertaken by a team including foreign and Romanian researchers, led by professor Dragos Georghiu. I volunteered to help those researchers, as nobody paid attention to them”, Cococi remembers.

Ionel Cococi says that, after the research team left, he was curious to try to work a ceramic dish by himself.



He still keeps that first dish. He showed it to the team he had accompanied as a volunteer and was appreciated.

“When they next came, I showed them the first dish. They were impressed. You understand that it was a very big step but then I realized that the biggest advantage was that I knew nothing. I had to do many experiments, to complete the burning, the raising technique. I was then invited to Bucharest, to have a lecture in the University of Arts. They said that the materials I used contradicted theory”, says the potter who has had many exhibitions in the country and abroad in the last decade.

He exhibited in the UNESCO headquarters of Paris, at the Committee of Regions of Brussels, in Strasbourg, in Milan and Turin.

He explains the secrets of pottery to children in the Vadastra commune, where he is a trainer for the external ceramics class of the School of Arts and Professions in Slatina.

“Children from the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade come here. I am pleasantly surprised by what the parents of these children say to me, they thank me because they noticed that children talk to them of the Vadastra culture at home”, Cococi adds.

The potter says that his ceramics has turned Vadastra into an internationally renowned brand. “Nowadays, Vadastra is recognized as a ceramics centre, even though, in my opinion, a ceramics centre does not have only one craftsman. Vadastra is now a national and international brand”, the craftsman added.

He says that his workshop and the Vadastra ceramics he manufactures attract visitors, mostly specialists, and that their number could increase and other craftsmen would be gaining if a touristic circuit were created, if there were a

project for investments in workshops and pensions, as some craftsmen in the county stand out in the national and international cultural landscape with their creations, and some places could be interesting for tourists, but have not been used to this purpose yet.

65 French tourists came to Vadastra in 2008, a German family came last year. I managed to arrange the workshop, I am working to arrange a traditional room, I would like to arrange accommodation facilities in time. If someone wrote a project to obtain a grant for workshops, for craftsmen, for pensions, this would change the life of many. A touristic circuit could be established”, Ionel Cococi adds.

The Vadastra neolithic culture was discovered in Vadastra, in the south of Olt, in the points Magura Cetate and Magura Fetelor, where archaeological excavations were undertaken in the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first discoveries are made by Cezar Bolliac, during “archaeological excursions”. The Vadastra culture is one of the most important neolithic cultures, standing out through its originality and perfection, in terms of both typology and the technique of manufacturing tools, ornamental motifs, especially in their arrangement.

Tronconic dishware, hemispheric bowls, fruit bowls - are some of the characteristic shapes of Vadastra ceramics. Decorations are made in the technique of incision-excision and specific incrustation. Spirals, meanders, triangles, diamonds, “wolf teeth” are some of the decorative motifs of the Vadastra ceramics. They cover the entire surface of the dishes in a mathematical arrangement.

Archaeologists discovered traces of neolithic homes, stone, silex, bone tools, weights for weaving machines, spindle

whorls and ceramics from that period. Archaeologists showed that the populations of this culture used traction animals for agricultural works and processed copper, which proves the development of the Vadastra culture.

AGERPRES/(AS – author: Cristina Matei, editor: Georgiana Tănăsescu)

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### TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

Slatina/Olt, Alexandria/Teleorman

ACCOMMODATION MEALS

FACILITIES CONNECTED:

- the archaeological site of Celei/  
Corabia/Olt - SUCIDAVA.

### TRANSPORTATION:

- Vadastra/Olt-Corabia/Olt, on DN 54;
- Vadastra/Olt-Caracal/Olt, on DJ 642A.

### WEAKNESSES:

- recent pottery centre, no traditions in the modern period, specialised in replicas of the archaic ceramics specific to the Vadastra culture.

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- an opportunity to interact with archaic, clay processing-specific techniques, methods and materials;
- from the viewpoint of replicas, it provides a clear image of archaic pottery.

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 012



COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = OLT LOCATION = DRAGANESTI-OLT  
 TARGET = MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 44.173613

E° = 24.515090

Alt(m) = 78

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- an extremely complex facility, including historical monuments (mansion, etc.), a history-ethnography museum, an open air museum and the replica of an archaic village of the type “Telish/Pleven/Bulgaria”, but much more developed and representative;
- it is representative for thematic tourism through a complex and interactive presentation of crafting traditions in Oltenia, as well as regional history.

Bibliography 13. [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul\\_C%C3%A2mpiei\\_Boianului](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul_C%C3%A2mpiei_Boianului)

The Câmpiei Boianului-Traian Zorzoliu Museum is an open air park located in Draganesti-Olt, reproducing a village after the model of the neolithic settlements specific to the Gumelnita culture, whose traces were discovered in Draganesti-Olt. The open air museum would be the starting point of a touristic route that would include other cultural sights from nine settlements in Olt, located in the area of the Boianului Plain.

Initiated by professor Traian Zorzoliu, the neolithic village includes six open air huts, built on a land surrounded by a defence ditch and a wicker fence. The museum is entered on a wooden platform, and the huts are life-sized. One of the

huts is representative for a fisherman’s home, other for a farmer, other for a potter, etc., they include neolithic objects or replicas of neolithic objects, tables, religious altars, domestic tools and tools for various jobs; likewise, a lake-shored home was also reproduced, as such homes were used to store food in the past, since settlements were erected on frequently flooded valleys. The archaeo-park was opened on September 18, 2010, in the presence of county and local officials, as well as 100 participants from 24 countries, who were in Romania at that time with the opportunity of the AARG 2010 International Air Archaeology Conference.

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### TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

- absences, communication difficulties (English language), organisation

### ACCOMMODATION MEALS CONNECTED FACILITIES

- the closest touristic facilities are in Slatina/Olt - full

### TRANSPORTATION:

- road transport, by car and bus

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 013

### WEAKNESSES:

- isolated location, no touristic facilities, low non-verbal animation, communication difficulties

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- full and integrated image of rural cultural values of Oltenia

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## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 014

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COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = OLT LOCATION = SLATINA

TARGET = MUSEUM



#### GPS:

N° = 44.430147

E° = 24.360127

Alt(m) = 145

#### DISTANCES (Km):

- CRAIOVA / DOLJ - SLATINA - OLT = 51 Km on E 574;

- BALS / OLT - SLATINA - OLT = 25 Km on E 574 .

County Museum of Olt - 1 Ana Ipatescu street, Slatina, Olt county, 230079

Phone: 0294415279 (museographer Claudia Balos 0728554606)

The Ethnography Museum (department) - 73 Ionascu street, Slatina was dissolved (retroceded). Phone: 0249435663.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

The Olt County Museum is undergoing renovation for two years, but the ethnography department may be visited every day (from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), except Mondays;

The Ethnography Department includes some facilities, exhibiting traditional costumes, ceramics and rural domestic objects in the Oltenia region.

Bibliography 14. [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul\\_Jude%C8%9Bbean\\_Olt](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul_Jude%C8%9Bbean_Olt)

The Olt County Museum is a county museum of Slatina, located on 1 Ana Ipatescu street. After the First World War, some collectors in Slatina initiate private collections, especially of archaeology, numismatics and traditional art. The Slatina Regional Museum was opened on May 1, 1952. The collector Jack Florescu arranges two rooms to present the collection in his own home. The archaeological excavations in the Salcuta-Gumelnita neolithic tells from Slatina (Streharet), Brebeni and Draganesti-Olt, from Verbicioara of Donesti (Vulturesti), from Sprancenata, from the castrum and the civil settlement of Acidava (Enosesti - Piatra Olt), from Chilia (the free Dacians) or from Ipotesti (the Ipotesti-Candesti-Ciurelu culture) substantially enrich the initial collections. Archaeology collections certify an uninterrupted inhabitation and civilization on the Lower Olt Valley, with items supporting pre-historical or ancient material and spiritual culture: ceramics, tools, human and animal statues; others certify the Dacian civilisation, the Roman civilisation in the Alutus and trans-Alutus limes, the continued inhabitation in the age of migrations (two cultures of this period are discovered in Olt: the Chilia culture and the Ipotesti culture near Slatina - Candesti - Ciurelu), as well as the maintenance of relations with the Byzantine Empire (the treasure of silver Byzantine coins of the 7<sup>th</sup> century,

digital fibulae and Byzantine-specific candleholders). The Middle Ages are reflected by a range of testimonies proving the connections of some rulers to the Olt county: Vlad Vintila, Michael the Brave, Matei Basarab and Constantin Brancoveanu; documents on large families such as: Buzesti, Brancoveanu, Deleanu, etc.; weapons, old books; jewellery; numismatics - coins or coin treasures confirming a sustained trade in a significant place of customs such as Slatina (certified on January 20, 1368). The Modern Ages include collections of documents, weapons, press, old photographs, decorative art and outline the role of the urban settlement in national renewal and assertion processes. The art department includes contemporary paintings and sculptures and is focused on creations of artists from the Olt county, so as to get its own personality. The Olt County Museum currently has two departments open for the public: The department for history and culture of Slatina (permanent exhibition opened on April 20, 2000), with an exhibition surface of 123.28 sqm and the Ion Popescu-Negreni contemporary art department (permanent exhibition opened on July 8, 1999) with an exhibition surface of 237.14 sqm.[1]

The museum's building is classified as a historical monument, with code OT-II-m-B-08582.

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** full, city level

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES - full -  
- PRESTIGE hotel + restaurant:

Phone: +40 349 801 810  
+40 249 415 002

Fax: +40 249 415 001

E-mail: [receptie@bulevard-prestige.ro](mailto:receptie@bulevard-prestige.ro)  
[rezervari@bulevard-prestige.ro](mailto:rezervari@bulevard-prestige.ro)

Address: 12 A.I. Cuza Blvd., Slatina,  
Olt, Romania

Phone: +40 349 801 810  
+40 249 415 002

Fax: +40 249 415 001  
+40 349 801 868

E-mail: [receptie@bulevard-prestige.ro](mailto:receptie@bulevard-prestige.ro)



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 014



**TRANSPORTATION:**

By car/railway, including a developed network of buses

department can be visited starting January 2017.

**WEAKNESSES:**

- the ethnography museum (a department of the Olt county museum) was dissolved (retrocessed)

GPS point: N=44.429822 E=24.353985 alt=122 m;

- the current Olt county museum is under renovation; the ethnography

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

The ethnography department hosts a rich collection of costumes/traditional clothing, blankets and coverlets, trousseau chests, painted eggs, ceramics (especially from the area of OBOGA/Olt), traditional domestic and agricultural tools of Oltenia.

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 015

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = OLT **LOCATION** = CORBENI

**TARGET** = POTTERY WORKSHOP

**GPS:**

N° = 44.382928

E° = 24.109111

Alt(m) = 140

**DISTANCES (Km):**

• 5 km from Bals / Ot, on Craiova / Dj - Slatina / Ot

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

Private pottery workshop (manufacturing) - genuine

Bibliography 15. <http://stiri.travelo.ro/turism-pentru-traditii-in-corbeni/>

The area of Oltenia, especially the Corbeni commune, is renowned for ancient traditions and habits. Old homes hiding carefully kept stories and crafts, especially in the areas of Oboga, Romana, Calui and Corbeni, have been kept along the times. They include one of the oldest pottery centres in Romania. Currently, only 10-15 families still undertake pottery, and only three of them maintain traditional pottery. Ceramics is only one of the reasons tourists come here on the shore of the Oltet river and are able to

enjoy the most beautiful masterpieces, even purchase them. Another outstanding touristic sight is the Calui Monastery, not far away from Oboga. The monastery devoted to St. Nicholas was built by the Craiovesti boyars. The restoration and embellishment of the religious facility was the pride and joy of the Buzesti brothers in 1588. The Calui Monastery currently is one of the religious places standing out with its 16<sup>th</sup> century Romanian architecture, and legends attract both Romanian and foreign tourists like a

magnet. If you travel through the Oltet valley, especially through Corbeni, do not hesitate to stop and admire the beauties of the warm and welcoming place, with people who keep traditions and abundant peace.

Chirea Workshop:



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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** n/a

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES  
n/a

Turcitu Workshop:



**TRANSPORTATION:**

road-based, from Bals/Olt

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 015

**WEAKNESSES:**

missing facilities, communication difficulties, missing promotion

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

traditional workshop in Oltenia, manufacturing clay items

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 016

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**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = OLT **LOCATION** = ROMANA

**TARGET** = POTTERY WORKSHOP



GPS:

N° =44.400192

E° = 24.102921

Alt(m) = 148

DISTANCES (Km):

- about 5 km from Bals, Olt (not marked)

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

Private traditional pottery workshop, with full technical equipment + pottery school

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

- minimal

ACCOMMODATION MEALS

CONNECTED FACILITIES

- acceptable touristic facilities in Bals/Olt or in Craiova/Dj or Slatina/Olt, located about 25 km away

**WEAKNESSES:**

minimal endowments/touristic facilities, no communication (English language), faulty promotion

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

- traditional workshop in Oltenia, manufacturing clay items

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- car/bus transportation network

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 016



**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = TELEORMAN **LOCATION** = MALDAIENI  
**TARGET** = ION MITROI POTTERY WORKSHOP



GPS:

N° = 44.124073

E° = 24.925835

Alt(m) =

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

A family-based workshop, established by two licensed artists who manufacture clay objects, replicas of archaic ceramic (Gumelnita), using techniques and materials of those ages, to the extent possible.

Bibliography 17. [http://adevarul.ro/locale/alexandria/ceramica-cucuteni-traditie-veche-6000-ani-readusa-actualitate-doi-soti-artisti-plastici-teleorman-1\\_56decedb5ab6550cb8a14025/index.html](http://adevarul.ro/locale/alexandria/ceramica-cucuteni-traditie-veche-6000-ani-readusa-actualitate-doi-soti-artisti-plastici-teleorman-1_56decedb5ab6550cb8a14025/index.html)

Ion and Nicoleta Mitroi, two artists of the Maldaeni commune in Teleorman, who are also spouses, take on a tradition older than 6000 years. According to the same millennia-old techniques, they create genuine works of art from Cucuteni ceramics. Their dishes are highly appreciated. ȘTIRI PE ACEEAȘI TEMĂ Mircea Albușescu a fost înmormântat duminică cu onoruri militare. Cole... Viața de poveste a româncei Sara Segal, prima acțriță de limbă idiș di... Sfășietoarea poveste a lui Orfeu și Euridice, tratată plastic într-o l... Two of the most appreciated craftsmen of ceramics from the neolithic period are Ion and Nicoleta Mitroi of Maldaeni, Teleorman county. Using the

same millennia-old techniques, the two artists create genuine works of art by processing Cucuteni ceramics. "This ceramics belongs to the Neolithic period. It is included in the category of decorative arts, like the three other cultures, Cucuteni, Vadastra, Gumelnita and Hamangia. I approached the Cucuteni culture as a topic in college. It seemed to me the most vast and the most challenging in terms of both decorations and shapes. It is more special. I worked some dishes, then I worked on sculpture. My wife took up work first, about 12-15 years ago", sayd Ion Mitroi. The passion Ion Mitroi discovered as he was a student in the Art Institute of Bucharest was also shared by his wife, an engineer.

While the artist devoted many years to his passion for sculpture, his wife fell in love with Cucuteni ceramics and turned her hobby into a lifestyle. "Everything began as a game, as a passion for something I had fallen in love with. Cucuteni ceramics represented an ideal of beauty for me. I started working for myself. I made a dish, two, three, I had already reached a perfection of the dishes I was able to make, and then my husband, who had a wooden sculpture exhibition coming, suggested that I should also bring some of my dishes. I was surprised by the great impact they had on people. Only then did I realize that I had begun to do things that others found as marvellous as I did", Nicoleta Mitroi says. Reinvented ceramics

Other exhibitions followed after the first one, equally appreciated." I had many exhibitions along the times. The latest was at the House of Parliament, where I had more than 100 items, representative items of Cucuteni ceramics, of my authorship. After having worked a lot on faithful replicas, I reached a point when this was no longer enough. I interpreted the shape, the decorations, keeping the work technique that integrated our ceramics. I provided some continuity to this ceramics, and we are proud of this", the artist adds. Thousands-of-years-old technique The dishes of the two artists are created through the same technique as 6000 years ago, when the wheel had not been invented yet. Decorative items that embellish houses abroad are made manually. "Dishes are taken out of the belts, adding one belt after another, and creating the shape with the fingers. After the dish is made, before it gets dry, the raw wall is painted; after some time, you have to rub it with a polished stone, so that the decoration goes into the wall of the dish. After they are burnt at 1000

degrees, they only need some diluted wax for protection", Nicoleta Mitroi explains. They represent Romania in fairs abroad. The two artists travelled abroad with the Cucuteni ceramic dishes. They represented Romania in the tourism fair of Stuttgart and this year they will go to Berlin. "Our parts are found in many places of the world", Ion Mitroi says. The two spouses participate with their works in national fairs of craftsmen. Their labour and the artistic value of their creations were rewarded with prizes along the years. "I got the great prize at the Craftsmen's Fair in Craiova, I got the prize for popular art at the VIP Gala and many other awards", the artist who reinvented Cucuteni ceramics says.

Creation camp Ion and Nicoleta Mitroi have been organising a creation camp for children for five years. The idea was fostered by their will to transmit their passion to others as well. "For five years, we have been organising a summer camp for local children in Maldaeni. Children from the Rosiori and Maldaeni areas come here. We wanted to convey our passion to others as well. It was a pity to go all over the country and not do anything for the place we live in. We thought of doing it at home. We found good people, sponsors who helped us. The children were delighted", Nicoleta Mitroi adds.

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## **TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

- limited

## **ACCOMMODATION MEALS CONNECTED FACILITIES**

As a private property, accommodation and meal facilities are missing.

Facilities may be accessed in Slatina/Ot or Alexandria/Tr



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 017

### TRANSPORTATION:

road access by car + buses

### WEAKNESSES:

missing touristic facilities, effective promotion

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

Allowing for an interactive relation with archaic techniques and traditions on clay processing

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 018

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = TELEORMAN LOCATION = ALEXANDRIA

TARGET = MUSEUM



### GPS:

N° = 43.975057

E° = 25.328258

Alt(m) = 46

### DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

A complete and complex museum of history and ethnography, with an excellent performance of the basic exhibition, with replicas and original artefacts, organised and significant, with a strong educational and touristic thematic impact.

Bibliography 18. [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul\\_Jude%C8%9Bean\\_Teleorman](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul_Jude%C8%9Bean_Teleorman)

The Teleorman County Museum is a county museum of Alexandria, located on 1, 1848 street. It was established as a local museum in 1952, and turned into

a county museum facility in 1981. As of 1997, it functions in a new building. It preserves collections of: archaeology, mainly neolithic and getic, from the stations:

Ciolanesti Deal, Silistea, Vitanesti, Zimnicea, Orbeasca de Sus, Albesti, Magura - Bran, Magura - Buduiasca, etc.; coin treasures discovered in: Poiana, Sfintesti, Schitu, Poroschia, Alexandria, Ulmeni, Balta Sarata, etc.; a regional ethnographic collection, capitalized in the permanent exhibition. It includes a preservation laboratory and restoration workshops for ceramics, metal, paper. A research programme on the collectivisation of agriculture in Teleorman was undertaken during 2003-2004, and financed by the Government of the United States of America, through the Department for Public Affairs in Bucharest and the Association Friends of the Museum of

Teleorman county. It currently takes part in a Romanian-English international project researching the pre-historical inhabitation in the Teleorman Valley, along with the National Romanian History Museum and the University of Cardiff. Likewise, as of 2006, the County Museum of Teleorman takes part in a Romanian-French programme investigating palaeolithic inhabitation in the Ciuperceni area, along with the French Archaeological Mission in Romania, the Museum of Bucharest and the V. Parvan Archaeology Institute of Bucharest. The museum has two basic exhibitions open (2010): ethnography and recent history, as well as a temporary archaeology exhibition.

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full

**WEAKNESSES:**

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS**

**CONNECTED FACILITIES**

Full, at the level of the municipality:

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

It is a very well developed and maintained museum, with a rich basic exhibition, properly organised and promoted, with acceptable non-verbal animation.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road transport, by car and bus + railway

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 018





# ROMANIAN LOCATIONS ICLUDED IN THE STUDY

- main, complementary and connected locations -





PROJECT NAME "THE PATH OF THE CLAY"

PROJECT CODE 15.2.1.003




LIST WITH ROMANIAN LOCATIONS:





NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
01	CHIREA ILIE POTTERY WORKSHOP, CORBENI, OLT	44.392201 24.099963	
02	CIUNGULESCU MARINEL POTTERY WORKSHOP, OBOGA, OLT	44.402486 24.097079	
03	MITROI ION POTTERY WORKSHOP, MALDAIENI, TR	44.124073 24.925835	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
04	TRUSCA STEFAN POTTERY WORKSHOP, ROMANA, OLT	44.389760 24.104490	
05	TURCITU GHEORGHE POTTERY WORKSHOP, CORBENI, OLT	44.389624 24.101303	
06	COCOCI ION POTTERY WORKSHOP, VADASTRA, OLT	43.863530 24.378846	
07	CACIULATESTI DJ  RUINS OF THE FORTIFIED CHURCH	43.947669 23.945187	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
08	GOIESTI GRUITSA DOLJ  RUINS OF THE CHURCH WITH EPIPHANY  CHURCHES - HISTORICAL MONUMENTS	44.509205 23.799004	
09	SISESTI MEHEDINTI CHURCH	44.768251 22.852786	
10	FILIASI DOLJ FILISANI CHAPEL	44.558688 23.511337	
11	DRAGHICENI OLT - CLAY CARRIER	44.112629 24.344703	


NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
12	CASA BANIEI CRAIOVA ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM	44.535320 23.469410	
13	NOT CLASSIFIED CERAMICS  PRIVATE COLLECTION	44.535320 23.469410	
14	FILIASI BILTA DOLJ ANTIQUES	44.535320 23.469410	
15	TURNU MAGURELE HISTORICAL CENTRE	43.752268 25.877236	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
16	CRAIOVA DOLJ ETHNOARTA CERAMICS COLLECTION	44.314089 23.819025	
17	KOSTI PARA MEHEDINTI CERAMICS COLLECTION	44.314089 23.819025	
18	KOSTI PARA MEHEDINTI CERAMICS COLLECTION	44.172345 22.980348	





NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
19	BRANCOVENI OLT MONASTERY	44.301315 24.300130	
20	MAGLAVIT DOLJ MONASTERY WITH EPIPHANY	44.033016 23.062453	
21	STREHAIA MEHEDINTI MONASTERY	44.621364 23.192327	
22	CALUI OLT MONASTERY	44.462800 23.031740	


NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
23	SISESTI MEHEDINTI MUSEUMS+CLAY FACTORY	44.768251 22.852786	
24	ALEXANDRIA TR COUNTY MUSEUM TR	43.971336 25.326750	
25	CALAFAT DOLJ MARINCU ART MUSEUM	43.994428 22.931860	
26	CARACAL OLT THE ROMANATI MUSEUM	44.112629 24.344703	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
27	CORABIA OLT  HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM	43.775304 24.502891	
28	DESA DOLJ  PRIVATE ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM	43.869256 23.024783	
29	DRAGANESTI-OLT OLT  THE CAMPIA BOIANULUI MUSEUM	44.173613 24.515090	
30	DROBETA MEHEDINTI  THE MUSEUM OF THE PORTILE DE FIER REGION	44.624630 22.666201	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
31	IZBICENI OLT ETHNOGRAPHY AND HISTORY MUSEUM	43.823526 24.661469	
32	SLATINA OLT COUNTY MUSEUM	44.430260 24.360840	
33	TURNU MAGURELE TR CATHEDRAL MUSEUM HISTORICAL MONUMENTS	43.752268 25.877236	
34	ZIMNICEA TR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	43.657385 25.360729	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
35	OBOGA OLT CLAY PROCESSING AREA	44.423847 24.089511	
36	Km 937 DROBETA MEHEDINTI  ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (CASTRUM)	44.624630 22.666201	
37	CRAIOVA DOLJ  CRAFTSMEN'S FAIR	44.320552 23.794404	
38	VOGNA GOIESTI DOLJ  19TH CENTURY CURCH RUINS	44.523791 23.764897	




NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
39	HINOVA MEHEDINTI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (CASTRUM)	44.545978 22.770919	
40	POIANA MARE DOLJ HOMES MADE OF ADOBE	43.935076 23.068653	
41	SUCIDAVA CORABIA OLT ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	43.764308 24.459127	
42	OSTROVU MARE MEHEDINTI PALEO-CHRISTIAN CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (BRONZE) ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (FORTRESS)	44.302476 22.597242	





NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
43	CIOROIU NOU DOLJ (ROMAN) ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	44.057473 23.435681	
44	VADAstra	43.863530 24.378846	
45	CETATE DOLJ THE CULTURAL PORT OF CETATE	44.087665 23.035697	





# "THE PATH OF THE CLAY" PROJECT LIST OF SIGHTS - BULGARIA

PROJECT NAME "THE PATH OF THE CLAY"





PROJECT CODE 15.2.1.003





NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
01	BELOGRADCHIK MUSEUM	43.63605 22.67343	
02	BERKOVITSA MUSEUM	43.23910 23.12700	
03	BALGARENE ROMAN BRIDGE	43.44675 25.05750	





NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
04	BUTAN MUSEUM SCHOOL- CHURCH	43.65443 23.75006	
05	CHEREPISH MONASTERY	43.09362 23.61621	
06	CHERVEN BRYAG MUSEUM CREATION CAMP CLAY FACTORY	43.26926 24.07652	
07	CHIPROVTSI MONASTERY MUSEUM	43.40379 22.93363	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
08	CHIREN FORTRESS NATURAL AREA CAVES	43.31529 23.55156	
09	GRIVITSA 1877-1878 HISTORICAL MONUMENT	43.414252 24.694757	
10	IHTIMAN* ROMAN FORTRESS	42.43790 23.81594	
11	KNEJA MUSEUM	43.49237 24.08028	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
12	KOZLODUY MUSEUM	43.798886 23.677112	
13	LIPEN CHURCH	43.39057 23.38787	
14	LOM MUSEUM	43.83180 23.22995	
15	MEZDRA ROMAN FORTRESS	43.13686 23.70409	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
16	MONTANA MUSEUM	43.40600 23.23226	
17	NIKOPOL MUSEUM CHURCHES FOUNTAIN	43.70105 24.89470	
18	ORYAHOVO MUSEUM CHURCHES	43.73780 23.95976	
19	OTHERS CERAMIC TABLETS	xxx	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
20	PLEVEN MUSEUM	43.40384 24.61711	
21	PORDIM POPULAR ART SCHOOL MUSEUM	43.37664 24.85260	
22	RABISHA CAVE	43.73231 22.37695	
23	TELISH REPLICA OF A NEOLITHIC VILLAGE	43.32362 24.26093	

NR	LOCATION	GPS	SAMPLE IMAGES
24	VALOGA OHODEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	43.37346 23.72851	
25	VARSHETS MUSEUM	43.19380 23.28049	
26	VIDIN MUSEUM FORTRESS	43.99430 22.84034	
27	VRATSA MUSEUM KULE NATURAL AREA CAVES	43.20105 23.54776	



## ASOCIATIA ALEXIS PROJECT FILIASI

Filiași, Dolj county, code 205300, FILIASI, BALTA village, str. LUNCII 1  
Phone 0763 498 010/ E-mail: alexis\_project@yahoo.com

### “The Path of the Clay” Project

Proj. code 15.2.1.003, financed by the INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 019

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = VIDIN LOCATION = VIDIN  
TARGET = MUSEUM



#### GPS:

N° = 43.996159

E° = 22.867930

Alt(m) = 37

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

complex history museum

Bibliography 19. <http://www.montana-vidin-dolj.com/ro/cultural-resources/?objId=40&city=2>

Konak is a monument of culture with a local importance. It is located in the central part of Vidin, 2 Obstinska street. A small park is arranged in front of it. The building was erected in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Initially, the Turks had built it as a police headquarters, and in the 1970s it was assigned to the community of the Bulgarian church. After liberation, it was provided to the Vidin municipality. The building has two storeys, but, because of the changes it

went through, not many elements were preserved from its initial appearance. As of 1956, it was turned into a museum, presenting the history of Vidin and the Vidin district from the antiquity to the liberation.

Along its historical period, the building underwent substantial changes. Initially, it probably had a storey with passages into two directions, that crossed each other in a 90-degree angle at the centre. A gazebo-shaped room was erected at

the centre. After liberation, the building was transformed, with elements of national renaissance architecture in Bulgaria. It became a museum in 1956. Nowadays, it exposes the exhibits of the Regional History and Archaeology Museum of Vidin, covering the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Contact:

Address: Vidin, ul. "Obstinska" 2

Phone: +359(0)94 601707 - curators

E-mail: museumvd@mail.bg

Website: www.museum-vidin.domino.bg

Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 12 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., closed on Sundays

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES - full -

CONNECTED:

- The Baba Vida Fortress
- The Synagogue
- museums (Kazarma)
- medieval fortresses

## TRANSPORTATION:

road, railway, international (the Pan-European Corridor IV)

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 019



Kazarma Museum Bibliography 20.  
<http://www.muresturism.ro/new/index.php?pag=cms&id=172&p=bulgaria.html>

## VIDIN

The Baba Vida Castle

It was the residence of Shishman (the founder of the last dynasty of Bulgarian kings) and his sons, including the tsar Ivan Sratsimir. The castle has two surrounding walls, an inner yard and two outer yards. It has a surface of 2.5 acres. The main construction follows the spirit of the epoch of the second Bulgarian kingdom (12th-14th centuries). Eleven towers are found on its walls. The castle is surrounded by a defence ditch. The "Baba Vida" Castle of Vidin is a cultural monument of a national importance, one of the one hundred touristic sights of Bulgaria. A small collection museum is arranged inside, along with other tourist attractions. It is sometimes used as a setting for films, theatre stage, concertoes, etc. The town can be entered through the nine gates ("kapias"). Some of them have been very well preserved till now, to the north-south: "Florentin", "Enichar", "Pazar", "Stambol" - on land, and "Top", "Sarai" and "Telegraf" - on the river shore. "Kale" and the preserved gates are a cultural monument of a national importance.

The "Konak" administrative building dates back to the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The residence of the Vidin municipality was here after 1878. An exhibition of the History Museum of Vidin is currently hosted here.

The Mosque and the Pazvantoglu Library (both monuments of culture) have been preserved from 1793-1807.

Another cultural monument of a local importance is the military accommodation building “Krastata kazarma”, a cross-shaped building. It hosts a regional ethnographic exhibition.

Vidin has many cultural monuments built after liberation from the Ottoman Empire (March 25 - April 6, 1878):

- the synagogue (1894);
- the “St. Velikomachenik Dimitri” Church (1923);
- the residence of Vidin’s Bishop (1924)
- national importance; the building of the Municipal Theatre (1891 - the first building constructed after liberation); the Nikola Petrov Art Gallery (local importance).

**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

- a town with many tourist attractions (museums, historical monuments, churches), with full/complex tourist facilities, practically the gateway to Bulgaria

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 020

**COUNTRY** = BG **CTY/DIS** = VIDIN **LOCATION** = BELOGRADCHIK  
**TARGET** = MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.627778

E° = 22.682976

Alt(m) = 311

DISTANCES (Km):

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

history/ethnography museum of a regional focus

Bibliography 21. <http://calatoresc.ro/europa/ghid-turistic-belogradchik-bulgaria/>

The main sights one has to visit in Belogradchik are the Fortress and the Rocks. Belogradchik was built by the Romans in the 1st century and impresses through its geographical location, that is perfectly chosen so as to supervise the entire village. Hence, one may expect an incredible view. The fortress was used by all the peoples who ruled the town, i.e. the Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Byzantine Empire, for military and defence purposes.

The famous Belogradchik Rocks are also located here, which are candidates for the exclusive list of the most beautiful 7 wonders of the modern world. These formations of rocks cover an area about 3 km wide and 30 km long. They are special because their colour changes depending on the season and the time of the day, varying between red, yellow and grey shades.

Close to the town, 17 km away, lies the Magura Cave, one of the largest caves in Bulgaria, maintaining rock drawings dating back to the bronze ages. Here one can see unique stalactites and stalagmites, but, as one walks slowly on the narrow and slippery corridors, one can see cellars where Melnik wine is

stored, symbol of Bulgarian commerce.

The Baba Vidin Fortress (with a gorgeous view of the Danube and the Black Sea shores), the Hadzhi Husein Mosque (the only one in the country maintaining traditional Bulgarian models), the Villa Rustica (the historical site acting as an administrative centre of Moesia Superior in the antiquity) or one of the museums in the town (the History Museum - for traditional objects or the Museum of Nature and Science - if one wants to get acquainted with the regional flora and fauna) are also worth visiting.

Belogradchik is a cultural and historical centre for Bulgaria, maintaining highly valuable remains from Roman, Thracian and Bulgarian ancestors. The town is extremely interesting from an archaeological point of view, and a journey here will make you reconsider everything you knew from your history manuals. A land full of legends and stories, characterized by the architecture of old Roman civilisation, but with Ottoman influences, worth to be visited by fans of cultural-historical tourism and not only. This is how Belogradchik could be described.

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES - full -

### CONNECTED:

- protected natural area
- the Rabisha cave
- museum
- fortress

## TRANSPORTATION:

- road transport, by car and bus

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 020



**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

- complex sight, with museums, churches, fortress, historical monuments and protected natural areas, with complex/full tourist facilities

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 021

**COUNTRY** = BG **CTY/DIS** = MONTANA **LOCATION** = BERKOVITSA  
**TARGET** = MUSEUM



**GPS:**

N° = 43.237045

E° = 23.125109

Alt(m) = 408

**DISTANCES (Km):**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

complex ethnography/history sight

Bibliography 22. <http://www.montana-vidin-dolj.com/ro/cultural-resources/?objId=24&city=1>

The Museum Home of Ivan Vazov is an architectural monument of a national value. It was built at the beginning of the 19th century. It was declared a national monument in 1940, being representative for the Bulgarian architectural and constructive tradition. Nicely sculpted ceilings are made by Bulgarian craftsmen. The national poet Ivan Vazov lived and worked here during 1878-1880. During

the year and a half he lived here, the great Bulgarian national poet was massively inspired by the natural beauties of the Berkovitsa region. His daily activities included contacts with the locals, journeys to neighbouring villages and frequent picnics, all these lying at the basis of poetry such as “La Kom”, “Malini”, the poem “Gramada”, the story “Mitrofan and Dormidolski”

**Contact:**

Berkovitsa, "Poruchik Grozdanoff" № 11

Phone: +359 (0) 0953 88 046,

+359 (0) 878 103966

Website: www.berkovitsa.net

Opening hours: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road transport, by car and bus

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 021



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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES - full -

**CONNECTED:**

- protected natural area
- the Rabisha cave
- museum
- fortress

**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION**

- complex/full offer of ethnography/  
history museums

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**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 022

**COUNTRY** = BG **CTY/DIS** = MONTANA **LOCATION** = MONTANA  
**TARGET** = MUSEUM



**GPS:**

N° = 43.409032

E° = 23.225376

Alt(m) = 145

**DISTANCES (Km):**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

history/ethnography museums, memorial houses, churches

Bibliography 23. <http://www.montana-vidin-dolj.com/ro/cultural-resources/?objld=16&city=1>

The Montana Historical Museum was created in 1953. A wide activity of collection, research and promotion was undertaken for almost five decades. Archaeological excavations took place during 1968-1994. Besides new information on the development of the settlement during the Roman period, studies showed signs of human presence from the stone - bronze age to the end of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The museum currently hosts a rich collection of cultural artefacts. It has several departments: archaeology, ethnography, history of Bulgaria during the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, recent history, modern history, funding, public relations and publicity, cultural monuments. The cultural saloon of the museum presents the cultural and historical development of Montana and its surrounding region, from the 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries b.C. until the 20<sup>th</sup> century A.D. - tangible proofs of the first human communities, the Thracian culture during the bronze and iron age; pottery and metal object collections, small bronze and marble sculptures from ancient Montana, along with medieval Bulgarian silver jewellery of the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Contact:

3400 Montana, 3 Graf Ignatiev street

Phone: +359 (0) 96 30 54 89

Website: [www.montana-museum.weebly.com](http://www.montana-museum.weebly.com)

E-mail: [admin@museum-montana.tk](mailto:admin@museum-montana.tk)

Opening hours: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES**

**CONNECTED:**

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road, by car + buses

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 021



**WEAKNESSES:**

- weak non-verbal animation

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

History/ethnography museum

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = MONTANA LOCATION = CHIPROVTSI  
 TARGET = MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.384442

E° = 22.882070

Alt(m) = 498

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

museum

Bibliography 24. <http://nwomen.info/ro/pages/815691>

Chiprovtsi, located in a pleasant mountain valley - this modest village of Carhos falls short of its former greatness. Chiprovtsi was one of the most important mining centres in the Balkans for gold and silver, and its development continued after the Ottomans arrived, becoming a famous centre of Catholic doctrine. In 1688, after a rebellion against the Turks failed, the town was destroyed and its inhabitants were expelled. The town only got other residents in 1737. The main production activity in the town has been carpet weaving. The museum located in a former school tells more about the past of Chiprovtsi. The screen shows examples of complex jewellery from the 17th century. Moreover, the exhibits include shiny kilims and models of the vertical weaving machine, still used for making carpets.

The Ascension Church is located next to the museum, whose iconostasis dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some remains of the St. Mary medieval cathedral, destroyed by the Turks in 1688, can be seen nearby.



At the St. Mary Cathedral,

in a separate room, one can find the Vratsevskoe Treasure (Vratsa sukrovishta) - a collection of artefacts from the tomb of a Thracian noble woman. Interesting works include a crown of fine gold and a bronze shield engraved with the figure of a god.

The Ethnographic Museum is a renovated school building dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It hosts a collection of coloured Bulgarian costumes. Moreover, musical instruments are exposed, reflecting the history of the fanfare in northern Bulgaria.



Traditional costumes in the Ethnographic Museum of Vratsa

### Carpets, Chiprovtsi

Carpet weaving has gone down from generation to generation in this Bulgarian village. Excellence is transferred from mothers to their daughters. Carpets are woven on vertical weaving machines and decorated with shiny models. The most frequent models include birds (piletata), abstract zigzags (lozite - vine) and a mysterious group of black triangles (Kara-tangaj - black-eyed bride).

Coloured carpets in Chiprovtsi



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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES

CONNECTED:  
- monastery

**TRANSPORTATION:**  
- road, by car + buses

**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**  
History/ethnography museum

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 023



COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = VRATSA LOCATION = VRATSA  
 TARGET = ETHN. MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.210240

E° = 23.552848

Alt(m) = 362

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- an extremely complex sight, due to its many offers (ethnography/history museums, historical monuments, churches, protected natural areas)

Bibliography 25. <http://bgtourinfo.net/rovra.html>

Vraša (70,000 inhabitants) is one of the most picturesque towns in the country, located at the feet of the Vrasa Mountain, with the Leva river, with enormous stones, 115 km to the north of Sofia. The area has various attractive natural features which, along with the possibilities of recreation, provide an outstanding charm to the eastern part of north-west Bulgaria.

The fantastic gorges of the Leva river, known for many times as Vrašata, lie to the south of the town. Vraša is an ancient town discovered by the old Thracians, and referred to as the “Valve” (Fortress Door) by Romans. After the fall of Rome, Vraša became a part of the Eastern Roman Empire. The Bulgarian medieval

town evolved afterwards. During Turkish domination, Vratsa was turned into a garrison and the settlement was many times destroyed and recovered.

The History Museum of the town is famous for its extremely valuable Thracian gold treasures, many exhibitions and much information on the life and final days of the poet and revolutionary Hristo Botev. An impressive monument to the poet is located in the town’s central square. The Ethnographic Renaissance complex includes more valuable and interesting homes, the Ascension Church dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other sights: the oldest school in town (1822), Vasil Levski’s monumental bust.

The Nikola Voivodov Complex includes Voivodov's natal home and the home-museum for typical Vratsa urban traditions at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The home of Prof. Andrei Nikolov - the father of Bulgarian sculpture - hosts a permanent exhibition of his masterpieces.

- protected natural area
- statues
- historical monuments - buildings
- churches

#### TRANSPORTATION:

- road, by car + buses
- railway/international

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES**

**CONNECTED:**

- history museum
- ethnography museum

#### WEAKNESSES:

n/a

#### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- the most complete and complete touristic offer, both for the project profile and for any kind of thematic tourism

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 024



**COUNTRY** = BG **CTY/DIS** = VRATSA **LOCATION** = VRATSA  
**TARGET** = HISTORY MUSEUM

**GPS:**

N° = 43.210240

E° = 23.552848

Alt(m) = 362

**DISTANCES (Km):****DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

- containing the clay tablets targeted by the project, as well as many history artefacts+treasure

Bibliography 26. <http://bgtourinfo.net/rovraca.html>

The History Museum of the town is famous for its extremely valuable Thracian gold treasures, many exhibitions and much information on the life and final days of the poet and revolutionary Hristo Botev. An impressive monument to the poet is located in the town's central square. The Ethnographic Renaissance complex includes more valuable and interesting homes, the Ascension Church dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other sights: the oldest school in town (1822), Vasil Levski's monumental bust.

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full**ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES****CONNECTED:**

- history museum
- ethnography museum
- protected natural area
- statues
- historical monuments - buildings
- churches

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road, by car + buses
- railway/international

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 025



### WEAKNESSES:

n/a

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

- the most complete and complete touristic offer, both for the project profile and for any kind of thematic tourism

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = 026

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = PLEVEN LOCATION = KNEJA

TARGET = MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.492775

E° = 24.080723

Alt(m) = 110

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

Ethnography/history museum

Bibliography 27. <http://purebulgaria.com/s-399-Kneja>

The Kneja municipality is located in North-Central Bulgaria in Plevan District. The Municipality consists of municipal center town of Knezha and villages

Brenitsa, Enitsa and Lazarovo. The land of the Municipality has not been given the gift of picturesque hills and cool mountain ranges and forests, but rather it has vast-

spreading humus massifs called the “corn band of Bulgarian agriculture”. Knezha Municipality borders the municipalities of Byala Slatina, Oryahovo, Cherven Bryag and Pleven. According to archeology documents Kneja has existed since distant antiquity. The tribes of Tribali, Thracians and Slavs used to live on this land. The well preserved part of the boundary fortress bank in the Srebrren locality evidences the significant importance of the settlement in the First Bulgarian Kingdom. Under the Second Bulgarian Kingdom the settlement of Knezha existed. It is mentioned under this name in Turkish lists of 1548. Quite favorable conditions exist for rural and

hunting tourism development in the Municipality. Knezha Municipality has very good environmental parameters in terms of the main components of the environment - water, soils, and air. An environmental program has been adopted, which is being implemented with regards to both waste collection and construction of a sewerage network. A sight is Gergana Forest Park, where there is a small zoo with a rich variety of animals and birds, and it is a park for recreation among varied and rich vegetation with good facilities for children to play and relax.

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

- museum
- protected natural area
- churches

**TRANSPORTATION:**  
- road, by car + buses

**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**  
Full/complex touristic offer

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 026



COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = PLEVEN LOCATION = PORDIM  
TARGET = SCHOOL



GPS:

N° = 43.377983

E° = 24.847643

Alt(m) = 175

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

- popular art school

Bibliography 28. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pordim>

**Pordim (Bulgarian: Пордим)** is a town in Plevna Province in central northern Bulgaria and the administrative centre of Pordim municipality. The town is 155 metres above sea level in the Danubian Plain. In December 2009 the population was 2,117. [2]

Pordim is thought to be the site of the first ever telephone connection in Bulgaria, during the Siege of Plevna of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. It linked Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich of Russia with Prince Carol I of Romania.

The town played an active part in the war of 1877-78 and has two museums, the Alexander II Russian Museum and the Carol I Romanian Museum,[1] both housed in the buildings where the two heads of state stayed during the battle for Plevna, commanding their respective forces.

### TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

acceptable (close location - Plevna)

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES

### CONNECTED:

- History museums
- Historical monuments
- Churches
- Popular art school

### TRANSPORTATION:

- road, by car + buses

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 027



**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Complex touristic offer (churches, museums, popular art school)

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = 028

**COUNTRY** = BG **CTY/DIS** = PLEVEN **LOCATION** = NIKOPOL

**TARGET** = MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.700858

E° = 24.894663

Alt(m) = 44

DISTANCES (Km):

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

Outstanding historical sight

Bibliography 29. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikopol,\\_Bulgaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikopol,_Bulgaria)

Nikopol has a population of 3,892 as of December 2009. [1] It is the seat of Nikopol municipality and provides services to the local villages. Nikopol was partially flooded by the Danube during the 2006 European floods, and is currently working on new town infrastructure to manage fluctuations in the Danube River. The completion of a car ferry in 2010 has linked the town to Turnu Măgurele across the Danube in Romania, spurring local development, including the opening of new restaurants and the town's first hotel. Nikopol also serves as a port for tourist boats where visitors stop and have the opportunity to take a bus into the nearby city of Pleven, or spend the afternoon in Nikopol. The

fifth-largest nature park in Bulgaria, Persina Natural Park, lies partially in Nikopol. Persina Natural Park is the only Bulgarian natural park on the Danube River, and contains marshlands, over 200 species of birds, 475 species of plants, and 1,100 species of animals. Based on the importance and uniqueness, Persina Natural Park has been declared a Ramsar site. Tourist attractions in Nikopol include the ruins of the medieval fortress, the richly decorated 13<sup>th</sup>- or 14<sup>th</sup>-century Church of Saints Peter and Paul, the rock-hewn Church of Saint Stephen, the Bulgarian National Revival Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God from 1840, the Elia water fountain with an immured Ancient Roman gravestone.

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## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

- full

## ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES

### CONNECTED:

- Churches
- Fortress
- Fountain
- Museum
- Historical monuments

## TRANSPORTATION:

- road, by car + buses

Access gate to Bulgaria, ferryboat transport Tr. Magurele/Romania

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 028



WEAKNESSES: n/a

## SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

Full and complex touristic offer

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = PLEVEN LOCATION = CERVEN BRYAG  
 TARGET = FACTORY + MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.280451

E° = 24.082851

Alt(m) = 116

DISTANCES (Km):

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

Factory + museum + lapidarium for industrial and artistic clay processing.

Bibliography 30. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherven\\_Bryag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherven_Bryag)

Cherven Bryag (**Bulgarian: Червен бряг Červen Brjag**) is a town in northern Bulgaria, a capital of the Cherven Bryag municipality, Pleven Province. It is situated on the right shore of the Zlatna Panega in river Iskar, 137 km north-east of Sofia, 53 km south-west of Pleven, 12 km north-west of Lukovit, 56 km east of Vratsa, and 55 km south of Oryahovo. The name means “red shore” and refers to the reddish clay in the vicinity of the river. As of December 2009, the town has a population of 13,856 inhabitants. [1] Cherven Bryag is a medieval settlement mentioned in 1431 in Ottoman registers as Dobrolak. [2] Under its present name Cherven Bryag was first recorded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Ottoman

region of Nikopol. On 26 June 1929, Prime Minister Andrey Lyapchev proclaimed the former village and station a town. Cherven Bryag is a railway station on the line Sofia-Gorna Oryahovitsa-Varna/Rousse. It first appeared as a railway station settlement in 1899 on the newly built Sofia-Varna railway line. [3] Cherven Bryag was a starting point of a narrow-gauge railway line to Byala Slatina and Oryahovo, as well as of a normal railway line to Lukovit and Zlatna Panega. Today those lines are no more, out of service. The railway station is in the southwestern end of the town, opposite the central area. Among the local landmarks, the St. Sophronius of Vratsa Church.

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** - full

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES**  
full

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Pleven-Kneja-Cherven Bryag, car.

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code 029



**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

A model of clay processing and production, both from a lucrative viewpoint (industrial - bricks, tiles, etc.) and from an artistic perspective (ceramic museum + open air exhibition), likely to be reproduced and emblematic for the project.



COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = VRATSA LOCATION = ORYAHOVO  
TARGET = MUSEUM



GPS:

N° =

E° =

Alt(m) =

DISTANCES (Km):

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

History/ethnography museum

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

- full/acceptable

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES

**CONNECTED:**

- Churches
- Historical monuments
- The Kamaka Fortress
- Museum

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- road, by car + buses
- ferryboat, gate of access to Bulgaria from Bechet/Romania

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code



**WEAKNESSES:** low promotion

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Complex touristic offer (churches, museum, historical monuments, fortress)

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## 2. Synthetical list of THE PATH OF THE CLAY RO/BG:

“THE PATH OF THE CLAY” Project

Code 15.2.1.003

## LIST OF SIGHTS SELECTED FOR “THE PATH OF THE CLAY” TOURIST ROUTE

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
		ROMANIA			
RO	01	Alexandria TELEORMAN  01.A	Founded in 1952  Sections: archaeology-history; numismatics; ethnography; old books  Zonal ethnographic collection - permanent exhibition	The Teleorman County Museum  Alexandria/Teleorman  1, 1848 street/zip code 140033  Phone/ fax 0247 314 761  9 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Sat, Sun - closed  <a href="http://www.muzeulteleorman.ro">www.muzeulteleorman.ro</a>	43.971383  25.326770  47

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
RO	02	Bals OLT	“Pomul Vietii” [The Tree of Life] Ethno-folkloric festival	The craftsmen’s fair	44.350400
		02.A	Founded in 1993, with two sections: - ceramics (the craftsmen’s fair) - folklore The 23 <sup>rd</sup> edition in 2016	The Tree of Life Festival Bals/Olt Central Park Annually/June (Christ’s Ascension)	24.102360 139
RO	03	Brancoveni OLT	Founded in 1570, reconstructed large church (1700)	Brancoveni Monastery	44.304360
		03.A	Part of the Brancoveni architectural complex (15 <sup>th</sup> century)  Fortified monastery, asylum for elderly people (1959), reopened as a nuns’ monastery (1985)	Brancoveni, Olt county  Zip code 237050 Phone 0249 417 244	24.305912 108
RO	04	Caciulatesti DOLJ COUNTY	Founded in the 17 <sup>th</sup> (?) century, the Alba Monastery	<b>Fortified church (ruins)</b>	43.946912
		04.A	On the place of the former Zdralea hermitage (1520), possibly of Greek origin (very few data)  Fortified church (+massive tower + added tower)  Special bricks (prior to the 18th century)	Caciulatesti (Dobresti commune), Dolj county	23.942822 64
RO	05	Calafat DOLJ COUNTY	Founded in 1904-1907	The Art Museum (Marincu)	43.994406
		05.A	Owned by Stefan Marincu (businessman and Mayor)  40 rooms on 3 storeys  Museum as of 1967 (art and ethnography) + history/ archaeology  Operation of the Romanian-Bulgarian Friendship Centre	Calafat, Dolj county  6, 22 Decembrie street  Zip code 205 200  Phone: 0251 232 521	22.932210 51
RO		05.B	The Tomb of the Marincu Family	The Marincu Chapel	43.98885
				Calafat, Dolj county - municipal cemetery	22.942860 63
RO		05.C	Founded on May 15, 1886 (King Carol I), two towers added in 1904 (war loot)	The Independence War Monumental Complex	43.997212
			Moved to the basis of the cliff and replaced by a monumental complex dedicated to the Independence War		22.934699 61

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
RO	06	Calui OLT 06.A	Founded in 1516 (the Buzescu family), fortified, widely refurbished in 1932-1937  Dedicated to the Jerusalem Patriarchy  The tombs of the Buzesti brothers, Preda and Radu, lie here	Calui Monastery, Oboga, Olt	44.462908 24.031422 164
RO	07	Caracal OLT 07.A	Founded in 1949  Departments: archaeology (artifacts from the ROMULA site, capital of Dacia Malvensis), history, documentation (books	The Romanati Museum Caracal, Olt, zip code 235200 26 Iancu Jianu street Phone 0249 511 344	44.109474 24.347977 108
RO		07.B	Founded in 1896, renovated in 2008	The National Theatre Caracal, Olt, zip code 235200 10 Cuza Voda street	44.113468 24.344752 110
RO		07.C	Central recreation area, park	The Constantin Poroineanu Park Caracal, Olt, zip code 235200	44.113453 24.343209 107
RO		07.D	The Firefighting Service was established in 1805  The tower was built in 1901 - currently decommissioned	Foisorul de Foc [The Fire Tower] Caracal, Olt, zip code 235200 Dobrogeanu Gherea street	44.115116 24.344625 117
RO		07.E	Public forum monument (see legend)	Monument dedicated to the Romanati heroes who died in the First World War Caracal, Olt, zip code 235200 Civic Centre	44.112534 24.374235 102
RO	08	Cioroiu Nou DOLJ COUNTY 08.A	Roman settlement+fortification, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> century, possibly Malva, capital of Dacia Malvensis (after Romula/Olt)  Archaeological site which can be (partially) visited	Roman archaeological site Cioroiasi commune, Cioroiu Nou village, Dolj county	44.057863 23.435666 59

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
RO	09	Corabia OLT 09.A	Founded in 1951, in a building founded in 1907  Combined profile - history, art, ethnography and natural sciences  Exhibition - popular art and old history  In renovation	Archaeology and Ethnography Museum (in renovation)  Corabia, Olt county  65 Cuza Voda street / 235300  Phone 0249 561 364	43.775357 24.502782 47
RO	10	Corbeni OLT 10.A	Famous ceramic centre in the Romanati area  Attested in 1668; 60 families of potters lived in Corbeni in 1863  Private ceramic workshop, Turcitu Gheorghe, fully functional	Turcitu Gheorghe pottery workshop  Corbeni, 52 Crinilor street  Corbeni, Olt county  Phone 0763 834 780	44.389666 24.101129 154
RO		10.B	Famous ceramic centre in the Romanati area  Attested in 1668; 60 families of potters lived in Corbeni in 1863  Private ceramic workshop, Chirea Ilie, fully functional	Chirea Ilie pottery workshop  Corbeni, 77 Crinilor street  Corbeni, Olt county	44.391806 24.099424 154
RO	11	Craiova DOLJ COUNTY 11.A	A 1699 building, founded as a museum in 1934  A specific ethnographic complex for the Oltenia region  Ethnography school - craftsmanship workshop	The "Casa Baniei" Ethnography Museum, Craiova, Dolj county  14 Matei Basarab street, zip code 200760  Phone 0351 444 030	44.314545 23.792262 90
RO		11.B	In the civic centre of Craiova, October, on an annual basis  Reuniting 150 craftsmen of all crafts/ethnographic profiles, from the entire country, especially from Oltenia	The craftsmen's fair  Craiova - Civic Centre  Dolj county	44.317940 23.794817 106
RO		11.C	Founded in 1915, becoming a regional museum as of 1906  Impressive archaeology/ history collections, including a lapidarium and a 12,000 book library	The Oltenia Museum of Craiova  History-archaeology department  8 Popa Sapca street, Craiova, Dolj county, zip code 200410  Phone 0251 417 756	44.317106 23.789861 88

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
RO		11.D	<p>Founded in 1903</p> <p>Total area 96 hectares, of which 4 hectares for the lake</p> <p>35 km alleys + paths, hippodrome, zoological garden, theatre,</p> <p>suspended bridge, replica of a medieval castle</p>	<p>The Nicolae Romanescu (formerly Bibescu) Park</p> <p>Nicolae Romanescu street</p> <p>Craiova, Dolj county</p>	<p>44.300189</p> <p>23.799178</p> <p>80</p>
RO	12	Desa DOLJ COUNTY 12.A	<p>The only private museum in Oltenia, private collection, from the initiative of the "Castravita" Cultural Association, including history/ archaeology and ethnography departments.</p> <p>History/ archaeology and ethnography departments</p>	<p>Private museum</p> <p>Desa, Dolj county</p> <p>Phone 0761223129 (prof. Oprisan Marin)</p>	<p>43.869344</p> <p>23.024730</p> <p>35</p>
RO	13	Draganesti-Olt OLT 13.A	<p>The History and Ethnography Museum of Draganesti-Olt</p> <p>Founded in 1980 in the Ioan Polihroniade Mansion</p> <p>History/ archaeology and ethnography profile + site with replicas of archaic homes</p>	<p>The Campia Boianului Museum</p> <p>360 N. Titulescu street</p> <p>Draganesti-Olt, zip code 235400, Olt</p> <p>Phone 0249 465 239</p> <p>Phone 0756 344 981 (Lala)</p>	<p>44.155046</p> <p>24.539325</p> <p>78</p>
RO	14	Drobeta MEHEDINTI 14.A	<p>Museum complex (history/ archaeology museum), Roman archaeological site (the Drobeta castrum), the Roman baths, the Roman bridge over the Danube, amphitheatre, natural sciences department</p> <p>Founded in 1912</p> <p>In renovation</p>	<p>The Museum of the Portile de Fier Region</p> <p>2 Independentei street, Drobeta-Turnu Severin</p> <p>Mehedinti county, zip code 220160</p> <p>Phone 0252 312 177</p>	<p>44.624965</p> <p>22.666492</p> <p>57</p>
RO		14.B	<p>The ruins of the Severin Fortress, founded by the Ioaniti Knights (1247-1250), conquered by the Turks (1524) and destroyed</p>	<p>The Severin Fortress</p> <p>Dunarii Blvd., Drobeta Turnu Severin, Mehedinti county</p>	<p>44.622635</p> <p>22.656264</p> <p>56</p>
RO	15	Filiasi DOLJ COUNTY 15.A	<p>The Filisanu Chapel - built in 1896</p> <p>French model, Italian architect</p> <p>A building unique in creation and significance (funerary)</p>	<p>The Filisanu Chapel</p> <p>The town cemetery, Dimitrie Filisanu street</p> <p>Filiasi, Dolj county</p>	<p>44.558678</p> <p>23.511351</p> <p>118</p>

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
RO	16	Goiesti DOLJ COUNTY 16.A	18th century church, founded pursuant to a supreme epiphany, a model of medieval architecture and religious adoration	The Crucile Church (ruins) Gruita village, Goiesti commune Dolj county	44.502751 23.804170 235
RO		16.B	19th century cultural site, centred on the ruins of a rural church	The Vogna Church (ruins) Goiesti, Dolj county	44.523713 23.764278 153
RO	17	Hinova MEHEDINTI 17.A	Founded in the 4 <sup>th</sup> century A Roman castrum, part of the "Mehedinti line of the Danube" Treasure (5 kg gold, 10,000 pieces), discovered in 1980	The Roman Castrum in Hinova The Mehedinti county	44.546012 22.770946 50
RO	18	Izbiceni OLT 18.A	The ethnography and history museum (documentation) The "Tudor Gheorghe" cultural centre (audition room) Replica of a 15 <sup>th</sup> century hut and church	The Village Museum Izbiceni, Dolj county Phone 0765 261602 (Prof. Voinea)	43.823645 24.661574 40
RO	19	Maglavit DOLJ COUNTY 19.A	A monastery founded pursuant to a supreme epiphany (1935 - the shepherd Petrache Lupu) An example of religious adoration, a mass phenomenon	The Maglavit Monastery Maglavit, Dolj county	44.032301 23.065582 42
RO	20	Maldaieni TELEORMAN 20.A	Ceramic (pottery) workshop, Nicoleta and Ion Mitroi Gumelnita and Cucuteni ceramics Full clay processing workshop and archaic pottery creation camp	Mitroi pottery workshop Maldaeni, N. Titulescu street, Teleorman Phone 0744 338 778 (Mitroi)	44.123975 24.926532 93
RO	21	Obarsia de Camp MEHEDINTI 21.A	Founded by Gheorghe Plesa, local landowner (1892) Built in the style of the castles on the Loire Valley/France	The Plesa Mansion Obarsia de Camp The Mehedinti county	44.172375 22.980761 94
RO	22	Romana OLT 22.A	Romana ceramics, centuries old Teodora Trusca (Agripina), the ancestor of Stefan Trusca Pottery school, Oboga-type popular ceramics	Stefan Trusca pottery workshop Phone 004 0747 969 807 Romana, Olt	44.389763 24.104531 153

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
RO		Oboga 22.B	Oboga ceramics, the successors of the old potter family Ciungulescu, nowadays in regress	Marinel Ciungulescu pottery workshop Oboga	44.425215 24.086682 146
RO	23	Sisesti MEHEDINTI 23.A	The only place in Mehedinti where pottery is still practised  Founded in 1938, history/ archaeology and ethnography profile	History and ethnography museum  Sisesti, Mehedinti Phone 0756 863 069	44.771149 22.847159 207
RO		23.B	15 employees in the ceramics department  Tiles, bricks, dishes, etc. are made	Factory of ceramics and bricks  Sisesti, Mehedinti	44.770817 22.848686 208
RO		23.C	Founded in 1835  Including a Roman site	The St. Grigore Decapolitul Church  Sisesti, Mehedinti	44.756990 22.868486 201
RO	24	Slatina OLT 24.A	Founded in 1952  Profile - prehistorical archaeology; Romanian plastic art; history; ethnography	The Olt County Museum  1 Ana Ipatescu street Slatina, Olt county, 230079 Phone 0249 415 279	44.430372 24.360446 141
RO	25	Strehaia MEHEDINTI 25.A	Founded in 1645  Fortified monastery complex (Mihai Viteazu)  North-South orientation	The Holy Trinity Monastery  128B Republicii Blvd. Strehaia, Mehedinti	44.621463 23.192235 146
RO	26	Turnu Magurele TELEORMAN 26.A	Founded in 1900, after the model of the Curtea de Arges church, painted after the model of the San Marco Church in Venice	The St. Haralambie Cathedral  6 Republicii street Turnu Magurele, Teleorman	43.746892 24.869705 40
RO		26.B	Founded in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century, also including the ruins of a Roman castrum, necropolis, etc.  used as a fortress in the Middle Ages	The Turris Fortress  Turnu Magurele, Teleorman	43.719405 24.861660 23
RO	27	Vadastra OLT 27.A	Ionel Cococi pottery workshop  Vadastra ceramics, full arrangement	Ionel Cococi pottery workshop  Vadastra, Olt county Phone 004 0761 164 092	43.864116 24.378910 66

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
		BULGARIA			
BG	01	Balgarene PLEVEN 01.1	Reconditioned 15 <sup>th</sup> century Roman road bridge, in use	Roman bridge Balgarene, Pleven district	43.446916 25.057678 47
BG	02	Belogradchik VIDIN 02.1	History museum - local and regional traditional objects	History museum Belogradchik, Vidin district	43.625096 22.681709 538
BG		02.2	Built by the Romans in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century, also used by the Byzantines and the Romans	Belogradchik Fortress Belogradchik, Vidin district	43.623874 22.676522 582
BG		02.3	The largest cave in Bulgaria Palaeolithic paintings on the inside	Magura Cave Rabisha Village Vidin district	43.732383 22.376945 643
BG	03	Berkovitsa MONTANA 03.1	Founded in 1971 Ethnographic exhibition with 14,000 exhibits, including crafts	Ethnography museum Berkovitsa, Montana district	43.239932 23.127016 409
BG	04	Cherepish VRATSA 04.1	17 <sup>th</sup> century church, restored and painted, with a rich cultural history	"The Dormition of Mary" Monastery Cherepish, Vratsa district	43.093686 23.616182 261
BG	05	Cherven Bryag PLEVEN 05.1	Factory of bricks and clay objects Artistic clay processing creation camp Outdoors exhibition with clay-made objects	Creation camp/factory Cherven Bryag, Pleven district	43.269413 24.076072 112
BG	06	Chiprovtsi MONTANA 06.1	Founded in 1988 Including the presentation of local/regional crafts Ethnography department, part of the museum (Katerina)	History museum 2 Vitosa street Chirpovtsi, Montana district	43.383354 22.879021 498
BG		06.2	Founded in the 10 <sup>th</sup> century An outstanding religious and cultural sight, even though it has undergone many destructions	St. John of Rila Monastery Chirpovtsi, Montana district	43.407786 22.933670 388

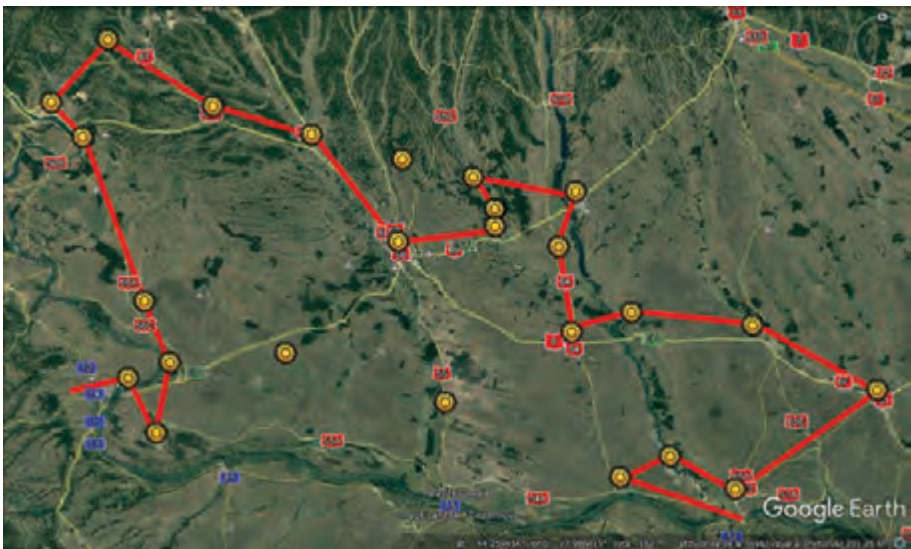
Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
BG	07	Chiren VRATSA 07.1	An outstanding defensive complex, with Roman and medieval elements	Roman fortress Chiren, Vratsa district	43.310976 23.556183 258
BG		07.2	An outstanding karst structure, with many caves, including "God's Bridge"	Karst structure Chiren, Vratsa district	43.315237 23.552384 246
BG	08	Dolni Vadin VRATSA 08.1	Extended ruins of a Roman fortress, including a Roman bridge end	Roman fortress (ruins) Dolni Vadin, Vratsa district	43.691268 24.272123 30
BG	09	Gighen PLEVEN 09.1	Roman colony, part of the Danubian limes An important and complex archaeological site	Oescus Roman Colony Gighen, Pleven district	43.707163 24.465988 26
BG	10	Grivitsa PLEVEN 10.1	A complex of monuments to the Romanian army in the 1877-1878 Independence War, including obelisks, a chapel and a museum	Complex of monuments The 1877-1878 Independence War Grivitsa village, Pleven district	43.414070 24.694416 215
BG	11	Kneja PLEVEN 11.1	History-ethnography local museum	Museum Kneja, Pleven district	43.493360 24.080562 109
BG		11.2	Park, zoological garden, open-air theatre, entertainment area	Gergana Park Kneja, Pleven district	43.520482 24.123378 93
BG	12	Kozloduy VRATSA 12.1	Annual event - June 12 Different ethnic groups present their traditional specificities	Ethnic festival Kozloduy, Vratsa district	43.775534 23.722964 47
BG		12.2	Radetsky - naval museum, a ship built in 1851, part of the revolutionary history of Bulgaria, destroyed in 1924 and officially opened as a museum (replica)	Naval museum Kozloduy, Vratsa district	43.799080 23.676829 26
BG	13	Mramoren VRATSA 13.1	Balgarene-type modern bridge (functional Roman bridge), for road and railway passing	Balgarene-type bridge Mramoren, Vratsa district	43.300989 23.662746 283
BG	14	Mezdra VRATSA 14.1	Founded in the Byzantine period, then built in the medieval period, currently rehabilitated as a museum complex	Roman fortress Mezdra, Vratsa district	43.139887 23.704697 212

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
BG	15	Montana MONTANA 15.1	Founded in 1953, local-regional history museum, including collections of valuable ceramic objects	History museum of Montana 3 Graf Ignatiev street Montana, Montana district Phone +359(0)96305489	43.405952 23.226624 149
BG	16	Nikopol PLEVEN 16.1	Built for defensive purposes before the 11 <sup>th</sup> century and occupied by Romans, Bulgarians and Turks	Shishmanova Fortress Nikopol, Pleven district	43.702941 24.891687 102
BG		16.2	Founded in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century, national architectural monument	St. Peter and Paul Church Nikopol, Pleven district	43.704360 24.895964 40
BG		16.3	Ancient fountain, including a Roman monument with an epitaph	Elia fountain Nikopol, Pleven district	43.698090 24.893090 58
BG	17	Oryahovo VRATSA 17.1	Founded in 1939 Structured in sections of history, ethnography and art, including a lapidarium	History/archaeology and ethnography museum 13 Vasil Levsky street Oryahovo, Vratsa district	43.736569 23.960225 110
BG	18	Pleven PLEVEN 18.1	Founded in 1953 Structured in departments - archaeology, renaissance, ethnography, modern history and natural sciences	Regional history museum Pleven, Pleven district	43.404540 24.617603 111
BG		18.2	Describing the events in the 1877-1878 Russian-Turkish war Founded in 1977, related to the Skobelev park, in the neighbourhood, with the same deep historical meaning	Panorama museum Pleven, Pleven district	43.398738 24.606153 190
BG		18.3	Protected natural area (10 sqm), rocky terrain, caves, entertainment areas, including a wine museum.	Kailaka Park Pleven, Pleven district	43.391882 24.622216 122
BG	19	Pordim PLEVEN 19.1	The only high school with an ethnographic profile, including a small ethnography museum	St. Cyril and Methodius High School 11 Ivan Bozhinov street Pordim, Pleven district	43.376744 24.850150 171

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
BG		19.2	A museum dedicated to the 1877-1878 Russian-Turkish War, the commandment of the Romanian Army operated here (King Carol I)	The Carol I Museum Pleven, Pleven district	43.376662 24.852319 171
BG		19.3	This is where Tsar Alexander II lived, the one the general Osman Pasa gave in to, the 1877-1878 Russian-Turkish War	Museum for Tsar Alexander II, the Liberator Pleven, Pleven district	43.377258 24.844979 174
BG	20	Riben PLEVEN 20.1	A Roman administrative station, where the clay tablets with the oldest writing in the world were discovered	Roman fortress Riben, Pleven district	43.535573 24.620744 56
BG	21	Telish PLEVEN 21.1	A replica of an archaic village, open for visits	A replica of an archaic site Telish, Pleven district	43.327186 24.261186 188
BG	22	Valoga Ohoden VRATSA 22.1	A representative pre-historical archaeological site	Archaeological site Valoga-Ohoden, Vratsa district	43.373591 23.728602 191
BG	23	Varshets MONTANA 23.1	Local history and archaeology museum  Structured into pre-history, history/archaeology, ethnography, numismatics	Museum Varshets, Montana district	43.193816 23.280499 413
BG	24	Vidin VIDIN 24.1	Founded in 1910	Konaka Museum Vidin, Vidin district	43.988996 22.874739 39
BG		24.2	Founded in 1801, initially used for military purposes - exposing the economic life of the city in the modern preiod	Kazarma museum Vidin, Vidin district	43.990583 22.881534 42
BG		24.3	The only fully conserved medieval castle, including a small history museum and outstanding non-verbal animation	Baba vida Vidin, Vidin district	43.993105 22.886375 39
BG	25	Vratsa VRATSA 25.1	History-archaeology profile  This is where the encrypted tablets of Riben/Pleven are kept	Regional history museum Vratsa, Vratsa district	43.200884 23.547448 384

Country	No.	Location	Description	Definition	Central GPS
BG		25.2	Ethnographic museum, complex of local and regional residences, furniture and rural traditions	Ethnography museum Vratsa, Vratsa district	43.202455 23.550558 380
BG		25.3	Bordering the Vratsa town, a splendid protected natural area, dedicated to mountain tourism and mountaineering	Protected natural area Vratsa, Vratsa district Vratsata	43.191700 23.537158 439
BG		25.4	Outstanding Thracian-Roman archaeological site	Archaeological site Vratsa, Vratsa district Vratsata	43.191605 23.531527 448

### 3. MAPS OF THE ROMANIA/BULGARIA TOURISTIC ROUTE





## CHAPTER 05/a - COMPLEMENTARY/ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS, RO

SIGHT SHEET

CODE = A

COUNTRY = RO CTY/DIS = OLT LOCATION = CALUI  
TARGET = CALUI MONASTERY



GPS:

N° = 44.462528

E° = 24.031528

Alt(m) = 164

DISTANCES (Km):

• Bals / Olt - Calui / Olt =  
13 Km

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

Religious settlement established during the reign of Neagoe Basarab (16th century);  
Dedicated to St. Nicholas;  
Fortified citadel, with specific walls.

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

Craiova/Dolj,Slatina/Olt

**WEAKNESSES:**

n/a

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:

The Bals-Corbeni-Romana-Oboga  
area of crafts/pottery traditions.

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

A representative monument of  
16th century Muntenia architecture;  
The tomb of the Craiova noble  
Radu Buzescu (17th century);

**TRANSPORTATION:**

car, DJ 643

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code A



**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DOLJ **LOCATION** = GOIESTI  
**TARGET** = LA CRUCI CHURCH

**GPS:**

N° = 44.506075

E° = 23.802968

Alt(m) = 234

**DISTANCES (Km):**

- Craiova/Dolj - Goiesti/  
Dolj = 20 Km on DN 6B

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

The church is a historical monument established pursuant to an epiphany of Radu “the Shepherd”, a broad creation of construction materials and methods for the 18th century, along with significant religious symbols (including five heritage churches, made of massive wood, unique).

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

Craiova/Dolj

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

The entire commune of Goiesti/  
Dolj is located on the Amaradia  
valley and includes several religious  
places, historical monuments (the  
St. Pantelimon Church, the Church of  
Muiereni, the Church of Adancata) in  
its villages, which are representative  
for the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century religious  
architecture.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

DN6B





IMAGES: enclosed DVD code B

### **WEAKNESSES:**

All kinds of touristic facilities are missing;

Very difficult access;

High risk when visiting the monument (crash hazard).

### **SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

A rare example of 18<sup>th</sup> century rural architecture, also through the materials and methods used for its creation (outer tower, club section, etc.);

The fact that the church is the outcome of a repeated epiphany, not only in terms of message, but concretized in an independent construction, is also rare.

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DOLJ **LOCATION** = CACIULATESTI  
**TARGET** = RUINS OF A RURAL MILITARY CHURCH

**GPS:**

N° = 43.934116

E° = 23.955337

Alt(m) = 91

**DISTANCES (Km):**

- Craiova/Dolj - Caciulatesti  
35 Km on DN 55.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

An outstanding historical monument, with medieval walls (outer bell tower) and military walls (defence tower), with special techniques in terms of construction methods and materials.

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

Craiova/Dolj

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS**  
**FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Car = DN 55, Craiova/Bechet, 35 km from Craiova, at the entrance to Caciulatesti, on the right

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code C





### WEAKNESSES:

all kinds of touristic facilities are missing.

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

It is a model of 17<sup>th</sup> century rural architecture, combining the religious project with elements of military reinforcement, as a part of the same construction.



## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = D

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DOLJ **LOCATION** = GOIESTI  
**TARGET** = VOGNA CHURCH



### GPS:

N° = 44.523598

E° = 23.764635

Alt(m) = 155

### DISTANCES (Km):

• Craiova/Dolj-Goiesti/Dolj on DN 6B, respectively DC 193, about 25 km from Craiova.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

19<sup>th</sup> century rural church, on the core of a dissolved village, characteristic methods and materials of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

no kind of touristic facilities.

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

The entire commune of Goiesti/  
Dolj is located on the Amaradia  
valley and includes several religious  
places, historical monuments (the  
St. Pantelimon Church, the Church of  
Muiereni, the Church of Adancata) in  
its villages, which are representative  
for the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century religious  
architecture.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

DN 6B DC 193

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code D



**WEAKNESSES:**

no kind of touristic facilities.



**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Cultural site, 19<sup>th</sup> century replica,  
managed by the Alexis Project Filiasi  
NGO (protected ruins of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
century church, replica of a hut, info  
centre, old ethnography artefacts, etc.),  
outstanding natural environment.

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DOLJ **LOCATION** = FILIASI  
**TARGET** = BILTA MUSEUM



GPS:

N° = 43.934116

E° = 23.955337

Alt(m) = 91

DISTANCES (Km):

N/A

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

The open air exhibition includes processed clay artefacts from the representative archaic-Roman and medieval period.

#### TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

- minimal

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code E

#### ACCOMMODATION MEALS

#### FACILITIES CONNECTED:

Fossiliferous site of Romanian II in the Martalogului Valley;

Archaeological sites from the bronze age;

“Curative fountain” + special natural environment;

At the intersection of three rivers:  
 Jiu - Motru - Gilort.

#### TRANSPORTATION:

DN 6 DC 121





**WEAKNESSES:**

- minimal touristic facilities.

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Significant examples of clay processing from the archaic, Roman and medieval, also modern times.

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = F

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DOLJ **LOCATION** = FILIASI

**TARGET** = ETHNOARTA BILTA MUSEUM



**GPS:**

N° = 44.535276

E° = 23.469346

Alt(m) = 106

**DISTANCES (Km):**

• Filiasi / Dolj - Bilita / Dolj  
= 3 Km, car crossing over the  
Jiu river, to the west of the  
town.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

An exhibition with ethnography objects (history, etc.), also with special ceramic items from the archaic, Roman, medieval and modern times.

---

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

- minimal

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code F

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

Fossiliferous site of Romanian II in the Martalogului Valley;  
Archaeological sites from the bronze age;  
“Curative fountain” + special natural environment;  
At the intersection of three rivers:  
Jiu - Motru - Gilort.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

DN 6 DC 121





**WEAKNESSES:**

- minimal touristic facilities.

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Examples of clay processing (specific artefacts from the archaic, Roman, medieval and modern times, also ethnographic ones).

**SIGHT SHEET**

CODE = G

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = MEHEDINTI **LOCATION** = DROBETA TURNU SEVERIN  
**TARGET** = KM 937 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



GPS:

N° = 44.618850

E° = 23.689970

Alt(m) = 41

DISTANCES (Km):

• At the entry to Drobeta-Turnu Severin from Craiova, look for the Canberra Hotel-Restaurant, at the exit from the Simian commune/Mehedinti.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

Archaeological site, former Byzantine port, contaminated with artefacts from the medieval and modern times, located on the Danube shore.

---

## TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

### ACCOMMODATION (hotels):

- hotels in Drobeta-Turnu Severin:

“Corona”(restaurant, internet, parking) 106 A Tudor Vladimirescu Blvd.;

“Clipa”(restaurant, internet, parking) 165 Brancoveanu street;

“Condor”(restaurant, spa, internet, parking) 1 Alunis Blvd.

### MEALS (restaurants):

“Rustic-Tabaci” 1, N. Grigorescu street;

“Dunarea”, 52 Grigore Titeica street;

“OK”, 42 B Tudor Vladimirescu street.

### FACILITIES:

hotels, pensions, motels, internet, parking, ATMS, banks, hospitals, parks, historical, cultural, religious monuments, entertainment.

### CONNECTED:

- The Central Park;
- The Drobeta Roman archaeological site;
- The medieval Fortress of Severin;
- The Simian Island (replica of the Ada-Kaleh);
- The Portile de Fier Water Power Plant;
- The Danube Gorges (Cazane).

### TRANSPORTATION:

DN 67 A

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code G





### WEAKNESSES:

the archaeological site is not properly organised

### SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

Beautiful elements of Simian Ceramics are also present, along with clay artefacts from the Roman, medieval and modern times.

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = H

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = MEHEDINTI **LOCATION** = STREHAIA  
**TARGET** = FORTIFIED MONASTERY



### GPS:

N° = 44.621364

E° = 23.192327

Alt(m) = 145

### DISTANCES (Km):

- Drobeta-Turnu Severin / Mehedinti - Strehăia / Mehedinti = 48 Km on E 70;
- Strehăia / Mehedinti - Craiova / Dolj = 64 Km on E 70.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

A religious and military historical monument (fortress) that stands out both through the materials and methods (+project) used for creating it, and through its exceptional historical meaning.

Devoted to: The Holy Trinity. "A" historical monument; Year of sanctification = 1645;

The location originates from the court of the Craiovesti boyars;

It includes fortified walls + a tower with a defensive military purpose.

It is the only monastery whose altar faces the SOUTH!

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**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

Drobeta-Turnu Severin - Mehedinti / Craiova - Dolj

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES  
N/A

**TRANSPORTATION:**

DN 67 A

**WEAKNESSES:**

- minimal touristic facilities.

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Special model of structure - project and materials, specific to the Romanian Middle Ages;

Unification of the military purpose (fortified walls) with the religious location (monastery).

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code H



**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = DOLJ **LOCATION** = FILIASI  
**TARGET** = KOSTI PARA COLLECTION



GPS:

N° = 44.535276

E° = 23.469364

Alt(m) = 106

DISTANCES (Km):

N/A

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

The Kosti Para collection is disseminated between Drobeta-Turnu Severin (the Para family), Bucharest (the Para family) and Bilta/Filiasi, where a museum was organised to this purpose.

Kosti Para was a restorer/preserver in the Museum of the Portile de Fier Region/Drobeta Turnu Severin/Mehedinti, who had a sudden death.

He was one of the greatest artists specialised in archaic ceramics, working passionately and accurately, in an outstanding manner.

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** minimal

- “Curative fountain” + special natural environment;

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS**

- At the intersection of three rivers:

**FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

Jiu - Motru - Gilort.

- Fossiliferous site of Romanian II in the Martalogului Valley;

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- Archaeological sites from the bronze age;

DN 6 DC 121



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code I

**WEAKNESSES:**

the collection is incomplete, many items are included in private collections and are very hard to recover.

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

A model of archaic ceramic replica, archaic materials and methods for clay processing.

**COUNTRY** = RO **CTY/DIS** = OLT **LOCATION** = DRAGHICENI  
**TARGET** = CLAY CARRIER



GPS:

N° = 44.11721

E° = 24.29370

Alt(m) =

DISTANCES (Km):

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**

red clay carrier, locally used for clay products

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** none

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

Caracal / Olt (museums, park,  
churches, historical monuments,  
museums)

**TRANSPORTATION:** road access

**WEAKNESSES:** multiple

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

example of red clay storage site



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code J

# CHAPTER 05/b - COMPLEMENTARY/ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS, BG

SIGHT SHEET

CODE = I

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = PLEVEN LOCATION = GRIVITSA  
TARGET = 1877-1878 INDEPENDENCE WAR



GPS:

N° = 43.414255

E° = 24.694918

Alt(m) = 224

DISTANCES (Km):

- Pleven / Pleven - Grivitsa  
= about 3 Km

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

### TOURISTIC FACILITIES:

full in Pleven, only 3 km away from the sight.

Touristic facilities are also available next to the monument, at the Grivitsa motel (full)

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:  
Pleven, Pleven district

### TRANSPORTATION:

by car, Pleven-Grivitsa=3Km



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code I



WEAKNESSES:

SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:

SIGHT SHEET

CODE = II

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = LOCATION = IHTIMAN  
TARGET = ROMAN FORTRESS



GPS:

N° = 42.361773

E° = 23.916920

Alt(m) = 827

DISTANCES (Km):

DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

Roman fortress

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** none

**IMAGES:** enclosed DVD code II

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
CONNECTED FACILITIES**

**TRANSPORTATION:** road access

**WEAKNESSES:** multiple

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**  
construction techniques with brick  
and mortar



COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = PLEVEN LOCATION = PLEVEN  
TARGET = PANORAMA



GPS:

N° = 43.398769

E° = 24.606133

Alt(m) = 225

DISTANCES (Km):

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

the most important historical monument regarding the 1877-1878 Russian-Turkish War

#### TOURISTIC FACILITIES: - full

ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:

The town of Pleven, full offer (churches, historical monuments, parks, protected natural areas, museums, statues, historical centre)

#### TRANSPORTATION:

road access by car + buses



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code III



**WEAKNESSES:** n/a

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**  
full touristic offer

## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = IV

**COUNTRY** = BG **CTY/DIS** = VRATSA **LOCATION** = ORYAHOVO  
**TARGET** = VRATITSA



**GPS:**

N° = 43.192010

E° = 23.540673

Alt(m) = 423

**DISTANCES (Km):**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

Thracian-Roman archaeological site

---

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:**

in the nearby town of Vratsa

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS  
FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

Protected natural areas  
Complex touristic offer for Vratsa

**TRANSPORTATION:** road access

**WEAKNESSES:** not promoted

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**

Thracian-Roman archaeological site

IMAGES: enclosed DVD code IV



COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = LOCATION = RIBEN  
TARGET = ROMAN SITE



GPS:  
N° = 43.536133  
E° = 24.621212  
Alt(m) = 67  
DISTANCES (Km):

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:**  
the engraved clay tablets from Vratsa originate here

**TOURISTIC FACILITIES:** none

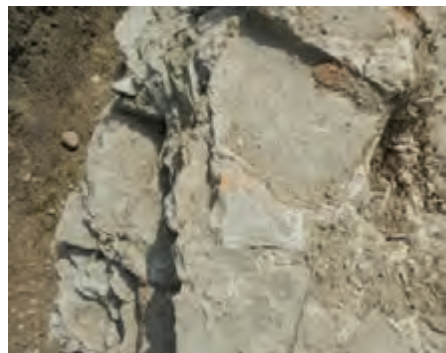
**WEAKNESSES:** multiple

**ACCOMMODATION MEALS FACILITIES CONNECTED:**

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**  
the origin of clay tablets, Vratsa Museum

**TRANSPORTATION:** road access

**IMAGES:** enclosed DVD code V





## SIGHT SHEET

CODE = VI

COUNTRY = BG CTY/DIS = LOCATION = CHIREN  
TARGET = PROTECTED NATURAL AREA



GPS:

N° = 43.31498

E° = 23.270325

Alt(m) =

DISTANCES (Km):

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHT:

Natural site - caves/God's bridge  
Historical site - Roman fortress

TOURISTIC FACILITIES: none

TRANSPORTATION:

road access

ACCOMMODATION MEALS

FACILITIES CONNECTED:

Archaeological site

Protected natural area



IMAGES: enclosed DVD code VI

**WEAKNESSES:** multiple

**SPECIFICITIES/JUSTIFICATION:**  
natural/historical complex site

## CHAPTER 06 - CONSTRAINTS AND WEAKNESSES

The production, processing and trade of clay products is declining, through the natural disappearance of craftsmen, who only exceptionally transferred traditional professional techniques and recipes to their successors.

In the modern times, clay was broadly replaced by other materials (more reliable, better adjusted for industrial production and processing) - plastic, synthetical resins, etc.

Traditional pottery centres were not awarded an efficient community support, even though, especially in western Europe, craftwork and manually performed decorations are clearly valued.

The state of the infrastructure for accessing the sights is still precarious in both analysed countries.

Touristic facilities are seldom available on the sites, but they may be identified and used in large communities (cities-municipalities) nearby.

Non-verbal animations are very poor, relevant road signs are mostly absent.

The presentation of sights in international languages is rare and difficult, explanations are not professional organised, with a prevalence of gratuitous theatrical effects and the material interest of the presenter (sometimes the craftsman himself).

The attempts to organise relevant “schools” are rare and insufficiently supported by the authorities.

The number of years needed for education (2-3 years), the absolute need for practice in the field, the passion and patience required for clay processing, as well as the economic decline of this job reduce the young people’s ability to attend relevant courses or diminish the quality of their work/efforts.

Departments exclusively devoted to “pottery” are generally absent; such products are usually integrated in ethnographic exhibitions, in an extended context or for decorative purposes.

As a general phenomenon, local authorities ignore the cultural heritage belonging to them, fail to develop reliable areas with a touristic focus, fail to undertake regional cooperation for the development of touristic circuits over administrative borders and fail to consult relevant specialists.

A specialised market of clay products (even though specific fairs and festivals are organised!) is absent, hence a decrease in product quality, limited product range and pricing fluctuations, with no control in terms of quantity/quality.

## CHAPTER 07 - "THE PATH OF THE CLAY" TOURISTIC ROUTE - ROMANIA

"THE PATH OF THE CLAY" touristic route was designed as a road transportation "ring" (road transportation is the best way to access most of the selected locations), with two Romania-Bulgaria cross-border junction points, as follows:

- a. The western crossing, at Pan-European corridor IV, by using the road/ railway bridge between CALAFAT, DOLJ, Ro, and VIDIN, VIDIN, Bg.

GPS coordinates: N = 44.004288 E = 22.948133 alt(m) = 33

Access through European road E79

### Bridge crossing fees:

RO/RON	CALAFAT/RO-VIDIN/BG	RON	
	Motor vehicles, 8 + 1 places	27	
	Utility vehicles < 3.5 tons	27	
	People transportation, 9-23 places	54	
	Vehicles > 3.5 tons and < 7.5 tons	54	
	Vehicles > 7.5 tons and < 12.0 tons	81	
	People transportation > 23 places	113	
	Vehicles > 12.0 tons and no more than 3 shafts	113	
	Vehicles > 12.0 tons and no less than 4 shafts	167	
BG/EUR	VIDIN/BG-CALAFAT/RO	EUR	
	Motor vehicles, 8 + 1 places	6	
	Utility vehicles < 3.5 tons	6	
	People transportation, 9-23 places	12	
	Vehicles > 3.5 tons and < 7.5 tons	12	
	Vehicles > 7.5 tons and < 12.0 tons	18	
	People transportation > 23 places	25	
	Vehicles > 12.0 tons and no more than 3 shafts	25	
	Vehicles > 12.0 tons and no less than 4 shafts	37	

The crossing is operational on a permanent basis, except at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. when the shift changes for the border police operating the bridge.

- b. In CALAFAT, DOLJ, Ro, a project-specific sight is the Art Museum (Marincu House), a historical monument of a local focus, hosting a rich collection of ceramic artefacts (Roman and medieval), as well as many ethnography exhibits.

The museum can be visited due to the support of the local municipality, it has a museographer as a custodian, no visiting fee is charged, access is possible upon appointment, possible additional presentation requirements.

GPS coordinates: N = 43.994449 E = 22.931878 alt(m) = 49

Point of reference: the parking of the municipality

Valid contact: phone 0251232521

Address: 6, 22 Decembrie street, Calafat, zip code 205200

Calafat provides full touristic facilities (hotels, bars, coffee shops, house of culture, ATMs, hospital, various shops) easily accessed in the civic centre.

Additionally to the visit at the Marincu Museum, the following can be visited:

- the municipal park, a recreation place;
- the complexes of historical monuments dedicated to the 1877-1878 Independence War;
- the Ciupercenii Vechi protected natural area;
- the shore of the Danube (the left side);
- the complex of chapels in the municipal cemetery, of which the Marincu Chapel (connected to the Marincu Museum).

Road transportation takes place on European road E79, with railway transport through Vidin (Bulgaria) and Craiova, respectively (railway node), as well as buses.

Authorized sports fishing, hikes to the Danube lowlands, bicycle routes may be taken.

- c. Travel from CALAFAT to DROBETA TURNU-SEVERIN, Mehedinti/Ro may be done by road DN 56/A, for an estimated distance of 100 km along the Danube, estimated time 1.5 hours.

- d. DROBETA TURNU-SEVERIN, MEHEDINTI/Ro includes the Museum of the Portile de Fire Region (currently under extension and renovation), including very rich and diverse exhibits of ceramics, statues, of which some are archaic, medieval and modern, eligible for the project study.

The museum is located on the shore of the Danube,  
2 Independenti street, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, zip code 220160  
Phone: 0252 312177  
Visiting hours: every day, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., except Mondays.  
GPS coordinates: N = 44.624841 E = 22.666604 alt(m) = 54

Drobeta-Turnu Severin provides full touristic facilities (hotels, bars, coffee shops, house of culture, ATMs, hospital, various shops) easily accessed in the civic centre.

Additionally to the visit at the museum, the following can be accessed:

- the Drobeta Roman archaeological complex, nearby the museum;
- the medieval Fortress of Severin;
- the Simian Island (sequential reconstitution of the Ada-Kaleh historical island) - in special conditions;
- the shore of the Danube (the left side).

Authorized sports fishing, hikes to the Danube lowlands, bicycle routes may be taken.

Drobeta-Turnu Severin is proposed as a place of rest/travel for the studied ring section (day I), after visiting the sights in Calafat, by crossing the Vidin-Calafat Bridge, on the Romanian territory.

If allowed by the time for travel+visits+rest, the following can be included in the first day:

e. SISESTI, Mehedinti/Ro, an important pottery centre of a regional focus, including six villages, with an estimated population of 2959 inhabitants.

GPS point of reference: N=44.853156 E=22.853156 alt(m)=230

Road access DN 67, from Drobeta-Turnu Severin.

Estimated road distance from Drobeta-Turnu Severin = 28 km, estimated time: 30 minutes.

This is where the regional (archaic) tradition of pottery is still preserved, with a very rich history of pottery at a local level, including an improved pottery centre.

Several sights of a thematic/general focus are located in the commune:

- the ceramic festival "Oale si sarmale", every year, in May;
- the BALA resort, estimated distance 20 km, access time about 30 minutes, GPS coordinates N=44.882155 E=22.837014 alt(m)=237;
- the local pottery centre, the local museum;
- the natural area bordering the location.

Contact: Sisesti Municipality, phone 0252 384144/384003, zip code 227455  
Touristic facilities are located nearby, in Drobeta-Turnu Severin, 28 km away, DN 67.

f. Travel from DROBETA TURNU-SEVERIN to CRAIOVA, DOLJ/Ro may be done by road E 70, for an estimated distance of 112 km, estimated time 1.5 hours.

Depending on the available time, the following historical monuments can be accessed on the route: the Strehaia Monastery, STREHAIA, Mehedinti (GPS N=44.620936 E=23.192021 alt(m)=145), and the Filisanu Chapel, FILIASI, Dolj (GPS N=44.558682 E=23.511305 alt(m)=118).

g. CRAIOVA, DOLJ/Ro would cover the 2nd day, with a local visit. Various study-relevant sights are available, as follows:

I. The History and Archaeology Museum, a department of the OLTENIA MUSEUM/Craiova, currently undergoing re-organisation of its basic exhibition, includes a rich collection of clay objects, of the oldest times, from the Oltenia region.

GPS location: N=44.317496 E=23.789975 alt(m)=88

Address: Craiova, 14 Madona Dudu street, zip code 200410

Phone: 0251417756

Visiting hours: every day, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., except Mondays.

II. The CASA BANIEI Ethnography Museum, a department of the OLTENIA MUSEUM/Craiova, including a very rich collection specific to Oltenia, i.e. ceramic objects, pottery tools and other exhibits. It also includes a pottery school dedicated to children/pupils.

GPS location: N=44.314565 E=23.792176 alt(m)=87

Address: 16 Matei Basarab street Phone: 0351444030

III. The Craftsmen's Fair, organised in the civic centre of the municipality, the Prefecture Square/the esplanade of the Marin Sorescu National Theatre, every year in October, including the exhibition and trade of clay products (ceramics) in Oltenia, as well as at a national level.

Other sights of a touristic focus of Craiova are:

- the ROMANESCU Park and the Youth Park;
- the "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre;
- the Sf. Dumitru Cathedral, next to the Fratii Buzesti College;
- the Art Museum, i.e. the nature sciences department.

The municipality has all types of terrestrial transportation (railway, road) and air transportation, as well as a developed taxi system.

Craiova provides full touristic facilities (hotels, bars, coffee shops, theatres, cinemas, ATMs, hospital, shops, shopping malls, etc.) easily accessed in the civic centre.

h. The 3rd travel day starts in CRAIOVA, Dolj, Ro to BALS, OLT, Ro, by road DN65, on a distance of 25 km, estimated time 30 minutes.

i. BALS, OLT, Ro has a population of 18164 inhabitants and is a major pottery centre of Oltenia and the entire country.

The area of BALS includes locations keeping the old tradition of Oltenia pottery, currently under professional and economic decline, through the natural disappearance of potters and the abandonment of this special craft by the young generation.

I. Thus, BALS annually hosts the craftsmen's fair within the "Pomul Vietii" [Tree of Life] Festival, with a significant exhibition of the creations of manufacturers in Oboga, Horezu, Corund, etc., in the context of a wide folkloric manifestation, organised by local authorities every year in May, in the town centre (GPS N=44.353620 E=24.095356 alt(m)=128.

Contact: Bals Municipality, phone: 0240450145.

II. In CORBENI/Bals/Olt, accessed by DJ 643, GPS coordinates: N=44.382942 E=24.101110 alt(m)=140, pottery is currently undertaken only on a sporadic/occasional basis.

The distance Bals-Corbeni, about 4 km, is covered on DJ 643 in about 5 minutes.

III. The ROMANA village/Bals/Olt, accessible on DJ 643, GPS coordinates N=44.358729 E=24.104497 alt(m)=153, hosts the workshop of craftsman Stefan TRUSCA. He developed in his own household, along with his wife, a complex for the storage of clay, for processing and exhibiting finished products, as well as a 3-year school for training future potters.

Mr Trusca is one of the last survivor of this noble craft and has the ability and ambition to transfer it to the future generations, with the support of local authorities.

The distance Corbeni-Romana is covered on DJ 643, in a couple of minutes (2 km), with ramification to the right, to the concerned village.

IV. In OBOGA, Olt (de Jos, de Mijloc and de Sus), the tradition of this craft disappeared with the family of the craftsman Ciungulescu, famous for the creation of the "wedding jugs", now stored in the Casa Baniei Museum of Craiova. A pottery centre under reorganisation also lies here.

The distance Romana-Oboga (3 km) is covered in 5 minutes on DJ 643, GPS reference point N=44.424170 E=24.089452 alt(m)=146.

Practically, in the area of Bals, the following sights are of interest:

- the “Pomul Vietii” Festival taking place on an annual basis in May, in Bals; and
- the workshop of craftsman Trusca in Romana.

Bals may provide, as a step in The Path of the Clay, acceptable touristic facilities, even though the 3<sup>rd</sup> day route begins in Craiova and ends in Slatina.

The CALUI Monastery is another sight continuing the Bals-Oboga route, an exceptionally complex and beautiful historical monument, which may represent an inevitable touristic option (GPS: N=44.462869 E=24.030996 alt(m)= 180.

j. Travel from Bals/Olt to Slatina/Olt is made on DN 65, on a distance of 25 km, which can be covered in about 25-30 minutes, depending on the traffic.

A stop may be made along the route in the natural area with touristic facilities “Padurea Sarului” - adjustment stop; GPS coordinates N=44.359379 E=24.359379 alt(m)=151.

The OLT river, a historical and geographical landmark of Oltenia, is crossed before entering Slatina.

k. SLATINA, OLT, Ro has the following locations as points of focus for the project:

I. The Olt County Museum, whose section of history and archaeology hosts relevant exhibits of archaic and old ceramics.

GPS coordinates: N=44.430071 E=24.360196 alt(m)=145.

Address: 1 Ana Ipatescu street, zip code 230079, phone: 0249415279

The museum is under renovation and can be visited partially.

II. The Olt Ethnography Museum, located on 73 Oituz street, zip code 230079, phone 0249435663

GPS coordinates: N=44.429832 E=24.353985 alt(m)=122

Among important specific artefacts, the museum also hosts a rich collection of local and regional ceramics.

Considering SLATINA as the end point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the trip, we mention that

Slatina provides full touristic facilities (hotels, bars, coffee shops, theatres, cinemas, ATMs, hospital, shops, etc.) easily accessed in the civic

centre. On the left shore of the Olt, natural hikes may be undertaken, as well as sports fishing.

l. On the 4th day of the trip, we start from Slatina/Olt to the South, towards Draganesti Olt/Olt, using the road DL 546, on a distance of about 36 km, which may be covered in about 40 minutes.

m. In DRAGANESTI OLT, OLT/Ro one can see the Campia Boianului Museum, hosted in historical monument buildings and exhibiting, inter alia, exhibits of local and regional ceramics from all ages.

GPS coordinates: N=44.158112 E=24.521977 alt(m)=76

Address: 360 Nicolae Titulescu street, zip code 235400 phone: 0249465239

It has to be said that the replica of a neolithic village, was created within the Boianului Museum, where clay plays a significant part; the site may be visited as well.

n. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day, travel from Draganesti Olt/Olt to Caracal/Olt, on DN 6 (crossing the Olt to the west around Stoenesti/Olt), the distance of 23 km may be covered in about 27-30 minutes.

o. CARACAL, OLT, Ro provides tourists with a major sight: The Romanati Museum, exhibiting many clay artefacts from the Vadastra culture up to the Roman period inclusively.

The municipality has acceptable tourist facilities.

GPS coordinates: N=44.109513 E=24.347848 alt(m)=108

Address: 26 Iancu Jianu street, zip code 235200, phone: 0249511344.

p. The travel from Caracal to Vadastra/Olt, along DN 54, on a distance of 35 km, may be covered in about 32 minutes.

q. VADASTRA, 1449 inhabitants, OLT, Ro - GPS reference coordinates N=43.863492 E=24.378783 alt(m)=67-is an area of major archaeological focus for the historical culture with the same name, in full scientific operation.

Here we can find the pottery workshop of Ionel Cococi, who creates replicas of Vadastra-type neolithic ceramics with specific techniques/methods and materials of the concerned age. It is a very important location for the study, as it shows the primary forms of production of clay objects, from the oldest times.

r. Travel from Vadastra/Olt to Corabia/Olt is made on DN 54, on a distance of 19 km, which can be covered in about 20 minutes.

s. In CORABIA, OLT, Ro we may visit the Archaeology and Ethnography Museum in 65 Cuza Voda street, zip code 235300, phone: 0249561364, GPS coordinates: N=43.775271 E=24.502868 alt(m)=46, exhibiting, among others, artefacts from the clay culture in the region of Oltenia, as well as items of a local focus.

t. Even though it would be a long day (with many sights to be visited, requiring time and concentration for a proper understanding), the 4th day should end in Alexandria, Teleorman, opening the final part of The Path of the Clay on the Romanian territory. The 5<sup>th</sup> day would include a visit to Alexandria and Zimnicea, followed by the crossing of the Danube and the reaching of the Bulgarian side sight (the right shore of the Danube) - Nikopol, Pleven district, as the second section of the touristic “ring” proposed in the hereby study, the starting point for accessing the Bulgarian offer on an extremely interesting topic, with a high emotional, scientific and educational impact.

Thus, the distance from Corabia, Olt and Alexandria, Teleorman, may be covered on DN 54 (Corabia/Ot - Turnu Magurele/TL), then DN 52 (from Turnu Magurele/TL to Alexandria/TL) on a total distance of about 80 km, which can be covered in about 70 minutes (1 h 10 minutes).

Alexandria may provide significant tourist facilities, which would justify the effort made so as to spend here the night between the 4th and the 5th day.

u. In ALEXANDRIA, Teleorman, the Teleorman County Museum may be accessed on the 5th day, at the address 1, 1848 street, zip code 140033, phone 0247314761, and GPS coordinates: N=43.971328 E=25.326750 alt(m)=47.

The museum includes departments of ethnography, recent history and archaeology. It hosts a rich ethnographic collection (including ceramics) and a very interesting exhibition of old books.

v. Travelling continues from Alexandria/TL on the route of DN 51 to Zimnicea/TL, the end point of the “touristic ring” section in The Path of the Clay project, the Romanian side of the proposed route. The distance of about 41 km may be covered in 42-45 minutes.

w. In ZIMNICEA, Teleorman, Ro we can visit the area of an archaeological focus “Zimnicea Fortress” where significant scientific discoveries were

made on local enamelled ceramics, though the case is not singular, as the entire location has a strong historical/archaeological profile.

GPS reference coordinates N=43.658299 E=25.353067 alt(m)=37.

## CHAPTER 08 - "THE PATH OF THE CLAY" TOURISTIC ROUTE - BULGARIA

- a. Crossing from the East, i.e. crossing the Danube between ZIMNICEA, TELEORMAN, Romania and SVISHTOV, PLEVEN, Bulgaria - GPS coordinates N=43.625954 E=25.376173 alt(m)=20(ROMANIA), respectively N=43.622220 E=25.350585 alt(m)=29.

The ferryboat leaves Svishtov at 7 a.m. and arrives at Zimnicea at 7.15.

Zimnicea	08.30	Svishtov	08.45
Svishtov	10.00	Zimnicea	0.15
Zimnicea	11.30	Svishtov	11.45
Svishtov	13.00	Zimnicea	13.15
Zimnicea	14.30	Svishtov	14.45
Svishtov	16.00	Zimnicea	16.15
Zimnicea	17.30	Svishtov	17.45
Svishtov	19.00	Zimnicea	19.15
Zimnicea	20.30	Svishtov	20.45

Fees for tourists (ferry boat) are as follows (EUR):

- buses with more than 44 places =36
- buses with 22-44 places =27
- buses with 9-23 places =20
- buses with 8+1 places =8
- motor vehicle up to 7 places =5
- motor vehicle up to 5 places =4

On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the thematic excursion, after crossing Zimnicea/TL/Ro - Svishtov/Pleven/Bg by ferry boat, a distance of 70 km shall be covered, in about 2 hours (!).

## RECORDS FOR JUSTIFYING THE USE OF CARS IN THE PATH OF THE CLAY TOURIST ROUTE

NO	TIME	LOCATION	TARGET	GPS N	GPS E	IMGs	OTHERS
01	14.10.16	DRAGHICENI OT	RED CLAY CARRIER	44.11721	24.29370	X	
02	14.10.16	CARACAL OLT	THE ROMANATI MUSEUM	44.10935	24.34818	X	
03	14.10.16	CORABIA OLT	MUSEUM	43.77530	24.50268	X	
04	14.10.16	IZBICENI OLT	MUSEUM	43.82350	24.66158	X	
05	15.10.16	TURNU MAGURELE TR	MUSEUM	43.74643	24.86981	X	
06	21.10.16	CARACAL OLT	HISTORICAL CENTRE	44.11322	24.34604	X	
07	22.10.16	GOIESTI DJ	VOGNA CHURCH	44.52373	23.76412	X	
08	27.10.16	FILIASI DJ	THE HEAD QUARTERS OF THE NGO ALEXIS PROJECT	44.535317	23.469444	X	
09	28.10.16	SEGARCEA DJ	CENTRE	44.09443	23.74581	X	
10	28.10.16	BAILESTI DJ	CENTRE	44.02797	23.34944	X	
11	30.10.16	CALAFAT DJ	THE ART MUSEUM	43.99440	22.93239	X	
12	30.10.16	MAGLAVIT DJ	MONASTERY	44.03310	23.06563	X	
13	30.10.16	CIOROIU NOU	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	44.05769	23.43599	X	
14	05.11.16	RABISHA VIDIN	CENTRE	43.71602	23.62199	X	
15	05.11.16	RABISHA VIDIN	MAGURATA CAVE	43.73231	22.37695	X	
16	05.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK	CENTRE	43.63605	22.67343	X	
17	05.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK	MUSEUM	43.62510	22.68176	X	
18	05.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK	FORTRESS	43.62376	22.67652	X	
19	05.11.16	CHIPROVTSI MONTANA	MONASTERY	43.40379	22.93363	X	
20	05.11.16	CHIPROVTSI	MUSEUM	43.38665	22.87897	X	
21	05.11.16	MONTANA	MUSEUM	43.40600	23.2265	X	
22	05.11.16	VARSHETS	MUSEUM	43.19380	23.28049	X	
23	05.11.16	BERKOVITSA	ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM	43.23910	23.12700	X	
24	06.11.16	PORDIM PLEVEN	TSAR ALEXANDER HOME	43.37710	24.84500	X	
25	06.11.16	PORDIM	MONUMENT	43.37710	24.84500	X	
26	06.11.16	PORDIM	ETHNOGRAPHY HIGH SCHOOL	43.37669	24.85011	X	
27	06.11.16	PORDIM	THE CAROL I MUSEUM	43.376689	24.35250	X	
28	06.11.16	PLEVEN	PANORAMA	43.39920	24.60649	X	

NO	TIME	LOCATION	TARGET	GPS N	GPS E	IMGs	OTHERS
29	06.11.16	KNEJA	MUSEUM	43.49237	24.08028	X	
30	06.11.16	CHERVEN BRYAG PLEVEN	THE BRICK FACTORY	43.26926	24.07652	X	
31	06.11.16	ORYAHOVO VRATSA	HISTORICAL CENTRE	43.73730	23.95868	X	
32	12.11.16	HINOVA MH	THE ROMAN CASTRUM	44.54442	22.77056	X	
33	12.11.16	BURILA MARE MH	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	44.45586	22.58086	X	
34	12.11.16	PRISTOL MH	RO BG SB BORDER	44.22134	22.71807	X	
35	12.11.16	CETATE DJ	CULTURAL PORT	44.08733	23.03566	X	
36	12.11.16	MAGLAVIT DJ	MONASTERY	44.03311	23.06555	X	
37	12.11.16	CALAFAT DJ	BABA LUPA FOUNTAIN	43.99874	22.93572	X	
38	12.11.16	PERISOR DJ	HENRI COANDA MUSEUM	44.14334	23.48960	X	
39	13.11.16	KOZLODUY/BG	RADEZKY MUSEUM	43.79809	23.67816	X	
40	13.11.16	LOM/BG	HISTORY MUSEUM	43.82663	23.23562	X	
41	13.11.16	VIDIN/BG	KONAKA MUSEUM	43.98922	22.87463	X	
42			KAZARMA MUSEUM	43.99048	22.88121	X	
43	13.11.16	VIDIN/BG	SYNAGOGUE	43.99108	22.88421	X	
44	16.11.16	VIDIN/BG	BABA VIDA FORTRESS	43.99257	22.88469	X	
45	20.11.16	RACARII DE JOS BRADESTI/DJ	THE ROMAN CASTRUM	44.51354	23.56921	X	
46	22.11.16	RADOVAN/DJ	"VALEA REA" PROTECTED NATURAL AREA	44.16336	23.60887	X	
47	22.11.16	PERISOR/DJ	HENRI COANDA MUSEUM	44.14329	23.49010	X	
48	22.11.16	CALAFAT/DJ	THE MARINCU ART MUSEUM	43.99461	22.93242	X	
49	23.11.16	GRADINARI/OT	RURAL WALLS	44.59908	24.26508	X	
50	23.11.16	GANEASA/OT	DECORATED HOUSE	44.40248	24.27484	X	
51	23.11.16	PADUREA SARULUI/OT	EUROPEAN TRANSARU	44.36026	24.18821	X	
52	23.11.16	BALS/OT	POTTERY CENTRE	44.35307	24.07755	X	
53	23.11.16	BEHARCA/DJ	HOTELS - RESTAURANTS	44.44685	23.68107	X	
54	25.11.16	CALAFAT/DJ	THE MARINCU MUSEUM	43.99457	22.93241	X	
55	25.11.16	VIDIN/BG	MUSEUM	43.99430	22.84034	X	
56	25.11.16	LOM/BG	MUSEUM	43.83180	23.22995	X	

NO	TIME	LOCATION	TARGET	GPS N	GPS E	IMGs	OTHERS
57	25.11.16	KOZLODUY/BG	MUSEUM	43.75733	23.74129	X	
58	25.11.16	ORYAHOVO/BG	MUSEUM	43.74051	23.96196	X	
59	26.11.16	GRIVITSA/BG	MUSEUM	43.41416	24.69441	X	
60	26.11.16	PLEVEN/BG	MUSEUM	43.40970	24.61366	X	
61	26.11.16	KNEJA/BG	MUSEUM	43.48652	24.09810	X	
62	26.11.16	LIPEN/BG	CHURCH	43.39057	23.38787	X	
63	26.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK/ BG	MUSEUM FORTRESS	43.62185	22.9333	X	
64	30.11.16	VOGNA/DJ	CHURCH	44.523750	23.764189	X	
65	01.12.16	CIOROIASI/DJ	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	44.05781	23.43633	X	
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68	03.12.16	MELINESTI/DJ	CHURCH	44.57118	23.70844	X	
69	03.12.16	BODAESTII DE SUS/DOLJ	CHURCH	44.57189	23.65303	X	
70	08.12.16	BAIA DE ARAMA	CHURCH MUSEUM	44.99820	22.81231	X	
71	10.12.16	MONTANA	MUSEUM	43.438536	23.23177	X	
72	10.12.16	SOFIA	MUSEUMS	42.66643	23.25826	X	
73	10.12.16	MEZDRA	ROMAN FORTRESS	43.13686	23.70409	X	
74	11.12.16	VALEA LUI PATRU DOLJ	MANSION	44.47131	23.51957	X	
75	13.12.16	VANJU MARE MH	MUSEUM	44.42762	22.85186	X	
76	13.12.16	LIVEZILE MH	TMUNICIPALITY CHURCHES	44.51125	22.86233	X	
77	17.12.16	VIDIN	MUSEUMS	43.96156	22.85419	X	
78	17.12.16	MONTANA	MUSEUMS	43.44268	23.21659	X	
79	17.12.16	VRATSA	MUSEUMS	43.22771	23.52150	X	
80	18.12.16	MEZDRA	FORTRESS	43.13688	23.70408	X	
81	18.12.16	VIDIN	MUSEUMS	43.95465	22.85202	X	
82	29.12.16	STREJESTI OT	GRUITSA TYPE CHURCH	44.52836	24.26905	X	
83	29.12.16	DRAGASANI VL	GRUITSA TYPE CHURCH	44.52836	24.26905	X	

## CONCLUSIONS FOR THE ROMANIAN SECTION OF THE “TOURISTIC RING”

Total days proposed for the completion of the “touristic ring”/Ro = V (five)

Total distance of the full route (Calafat-Zimnicea) (km) =500

Total locations proposed for visit =14

Total sights proposed for visit =16

Average time for covering the distance (average) =1 h/50 Km

Average time for visiting a sight =1 ½ h

List of special brands on the proposed route:

- pottery workshop (Sisesti/Mh,Romana/Ot,Vadastra/Ot);
- archaeological sites (Zimnicea,Tl);
- sites/areas of focus for ceramics (Bals/Ot,Draganesti/Ot,Vadastra/Ot);
- complex locations in terms of touristic profile + facilities (Calafat/Dj, Drobeta-Turnu Severin/ Mh, Craiova/Dj).

### b. NIKOPOL, PLEVEN/Bg

Nikopol is reached at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> travel day, from Zimnicea/Svishtov. Practically, this is where the 5-day route on the Romanian section of the “ring” ends.

Nikopol can also be accessed from Romania by using ferryboat transportation (Turnu Magurele).

GPS reference coordinates: N=43.700985 E=24.895268 alt(m)=46

Population: 3186 inhabitants zip code 5940

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day (1<sup>st</sup> day on the Bulgarian section of the “ring”), in NIKOPOL, Pleven/Bg, one may access (depending on the calendar - May, every year!) the ethnographic exhibition The Feasts of Danube culture, presenting important specific (ethnographic) elements of the Danube.

In addition to this offer, historical landmarks may be visited in Nikopol:

- the Nikopol (Sisman) Fortress, whose vestiges certify long-standing positioning of the town in the old and medieval history;
- the Elia fountain, a stone memorial to eternal love;
- the St. Peter and Paul Church, 13<sup>th</sup> century;
- Sisman Park, a splendid presentation of wild nature.

c. travel from Nikopol/Pleven to PORDIM/Pleven is made by route 31, on a distance of 65 km, covered in 55 minutes by car.

GPS reference coordinates N=43.377947 E=24.847197 alt(m)=173.

The "St. Cyril and Methodius" College is located in PORDIM, Pleven, the only college in Bulgaria with an ethnographic profile (dancing and folkloric music), also including a small museum that hosts, besides a collection of traditional costumes (260), other objects used in households (general age of the exhibits - more than 100-150 years).

Exhibits organised in the museum regarding the Russian-Turkish War, 1877/1878 can also be accessed in Pordim.

d. We suggest that the 6<sup>th</sup> travel day (the 1<sup>st</sup> day in Bulgaria) should end in PLEVEN, Pleven, with a very high number of complementary touristic attractions and excellent touristic facilities (hotels, restaurants, bars, shopping malls, etc.):

- the military history museum in Pleven;
- Panorama (the 1877 epic);
- Grivitsa (3 km away from Pleven), a complex of historical monuments related to the 1877-1878 Independence War;
- the Kailaka Park (+the wine museum in the same location);
- the Storgozia Roman fortress (in the Kailaka Park);
- the historical centre of Pleven.

The distance Pordim/Pleven -Pleven/Pleven is small (22 km, to be covered in about 25 minutes on route 2501).

e. in the 7<sup>th</sup> day (the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of visit on the Bulgarian territory), we start from Pleven/Pleven to KNEJA/Pleven/Bg (GPS reference: N=43.493863 E=24.090625 alt (m)=147, with an interesting local museum also exhibiting clay artefacts. The distance is about 47 km (route 12), that may be covered in 30 minutes by car.

f. from Kneja/Pleven, one can continue the travel to CHERVEN BRYAG/ Pleven.

GPS reference coordinates N=44.112649 E=24.344686 alt(m)=104.

Route 306 may be covered in about 30 minutes by car, for an estimated distance of 30 km.

An entire day of thematic tourism (day 7/3) may be spent here, as an important factory based on clay (bricks) also hosts an outstanding cultural centre exclusively dedicated to clay processing.

The centre has accommodation places and restaurant, as well as the logistic facilities of the factory it was developed in, an ambiental park, the place of a large art exhibition based on clay processing. A local museum with similar products, a beautiful chapel and a bar also are available.

Tourists may follow and understand the manufacture of clay products, they may interact with the creation and completion of ceramic items within a genuine workshop, they may admire the exhibits in the local and the open air museum, they may relax due to the environment (park) or the mentioned facilities.

g. on day 8/4, we start from Cherven Bryag/Pleven to VRATSA/Vratsa on route 1203/15, on a distance of 58 km, covered in 1 h and 15 minutes by car.

Vratsa is a major historical and touristic centre, providing visitors with many touristic sights and facilities, which is why we recommend a one-day stay (day 8/4), so as to access at least a part of the local touristic offer:

- the Vratsa national history museum;
- the medieval culas in the city centre;
- the touristic circuits of the Balkans, along Vratsa-Zgorograd;
- the Thracian-Roman archaeological site of Vratitsa;
- the Sofronie Vraceutski ethnographic complex and many others.

#### I. The Vratsa National History Museum

The museum hosts fabulous artefacts from the old history of the Bulgarian territory, starting with the stone age, then Thracian culture and civilisation, the Roman period, up to the modern times. An outstanding treasure is also on display here.

*The most important exhibit is a batch of clay tablets (Riben - "ad Putea" site), where very old and controversial writing is engraved, likely to provide a surprising viewpoint on old regional history, especially since such artefacts have been discovered in Serbia and Romania as well.*

GPS coordinates: N=43.200742 E=23.547366 alt(m)=384.

#### II. The Sofronie Vraceutski Ethnography Museum

GPS coordinates: N=43.202243 E=23.550845 alt(m)=380.

It is a complex of historical buildings with distinct arrangements according to the concerned age, including bedrooms, living rooms, nurseries, metal processing workshops, old ceramics and a central section with an ethnographic theme, rural traditions and events.

Day 8/4 should be spent in the touristic area of Vratsa, including, if possible, a visit to the nearby mountain (16 km away), so as to access the Ledenica Cave, an outstanding national natural monument.

On day 9/5 we leave from Vratsa, Vratsa, on a route crossing two districts (Montana and Vidin), rich in study-specific sights, which may be selected so

that, in the evening, we may reach VIDIN. Thereafter, Vidin would be visited on the 10<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> day, ending the route. Or, if the route began in Nikopol, we may cross the Danube and visit the Romanian town of Calafat/Dolj, which actually begins the Romanian section of the “touristic ring”.

Thus, tourists have to choose between the following sights, in their geographical order on the last section of the Bulgarian “touristic ring”:

**h. MONTANA, Montana/Bg.**

The distance between Vratsa/Vratsa and Montana/Montana is about 40 km (route 79), that may be covered in 40 minutes by car.

GPS reference coordinates: N=43.409032 E=23.225376 alt(m)=145.

Major sights can be accessed here, such as:

- the Montana History Museum hosting archaeology, ethnography, medieval and modern history departments. It includes collections dedicated to the first human activities ever, starting with the age of stone, such as pottery (as well as weapons, sculptures, etc.).

Address: 3 Graf Ignatiev street, phone +359(0)96305489. Visits are allowed from Monday to Saturday.

**i. BERKOVITSA, Montana/Bg.**

The distance between Montana/Montana and Berkovitsa/Montana is about 25 km (route 81), that may be covered in 30 minutes by car.

GPS reference coordinates: N=43.237045 E=23.125109 alt(m)=408.

Major sights can be accessed here, such as:

- the local ethnographic museum, hosted in a representative house of the local rural culture (the Sarbianska house). The museum presents local ceramics and carpets manufactured in Chiprovtsi, including specific materials and tools;
- the Museum Home of Ivan Vazov, a national old architectural monument;
- local art galleries, including more than 1400 specific artistic creations.

**j. CHIPROVTSI, Montana/Bg.**

The distance between Berkovitsa/Montana and Chiprovtsi/Montana is about 47 km (route 81), that may be covered in 50 minutes by car.

GPS reference coordinates: N=43.384442 E=22.882070 alt(m)=489.

Major sights can be accessed here, such as:

- the local history museum, organised along periods and topics, including specific crafts (metal processing, wool processing, weapons, etc.);

- the “Katerina Kushta” ethnography museum, close to the history museum, presenting local cultural and traditional elements;
- the Catholic and Orthodox churches (St. Mary and Vaznesenie), including the St. Nicholas Church;
- the St. John of Rila Monastery (including the Gushovski Monastery).

#### k. BELOGRADCHIK, Vidin/Bg.

The distance between Chiprovtsi/Montana and Belogradchik/Vidin is about 60 km (routes 102/114), that may be covered in about 70 minutes by car (1 h and 10 minutes).

GPS reference coordinates: N=43.627778 E=22.682976 alt(m)=311.

Major sights can be accessed here, such as:

- the local history museum hosting artefacts from various ages, as well as a significant ethnographic and folkloric collection;
- the Roman fortress of Belogradchik(Kaleto), a beautiful historical monument;
- the natural history museum exhibiting artefacts related to wildlife in the surrounding habitats;
- the local art gallery, exposing creations of local artists;
- the mountains in the area (including the Magura Cave - about 25 km away, in the Rabisha village - a major natural and historical landmark).

#### l. VIDIN, Vidin/Bg.

The distance between Belogradchik/Vidin and Vidin/Vidin is about 53 km (route 79), that may be covered in 55 minutes by car.

GPS reference coordinates: N=43.996159 E=22.867930 alt(m)=37.

The History Museum of Vidin has an important ethnography department, exhibited in the “cross-shaped barrack museum”, as well as other sections, such as the archaeology one, structured along ages and periods. The ethnographic display presents the traditional culture of the population in the Vidin area during the 19th-20th centuries (farming activities, winemaking, fishing, etc.).

Address: 13 Tsar Simeon Veliki street, phone = + 0359(0) 94601710/707.

The Konak Museum, presenting the history of Vidin from the Antiquity to its liberation (especially centuries 15-19).

Address: 2 Obstinska, phone + 359(0) 94601707; visits possible from Monday to Saturday.

Other local attractions (Vidin):

- the ruins of the local synagogue;

- the Baba Vida Medieval Fortress;
- the Danube shore (the right side);
- the Nikola Petrov art gallery
- the St. Pantelimon Church (17th century).

Vidin has many touristic facilities (hotels, restaurants, bars, a rich network of shops, road, railway and river transportation, sports and entertainment areas, fishing included).

## RECORDS FOR JUSTIFYING THE USE OF CARS IN THE PATH OF THE CLAY TOURIST ROUTE

NO	TIME	LOCATION	TARGET	GPS N	GPS E	IMGs	OTHERS
01	14.10.16	DRAGHICENI OT	RED CLAY CARRIER	44.11721	24.29370	X	
02	14.10.16	CARACAL OLT	THE ROMANATI MUSEUM	44.10935	24.34818	X	
03	14.10.16	CORABIA OLT	MUSEUM	43.77530	24.50268	X	
04	14.10.16	IZBICENI OLT	MUSEUM	43.82350	24.66158	X	
05	15.10.16	TURNU MAGURELE TR	MUSEUM	43.74643	24.86981	X	
06	21.10.16	CARACAL OLT	HISTORICAL CENTRE	44.11322	24.34604	X	
07	22.10.16	GOIESTI DJ	VOGNA CHURCH	44.52373	23.76412	X	
08	27.10.16	FILIASI DJ	THE HEAD QUARTERS OF THE NGO ALEXIS PROJECT	44.535317	23.469444	X	
09	28.10.16	SEGARCEA DJ	CENTRE	44.09443	23.74581	X	
10	28.10.16	BAILESTI DJ	CENTRE	44.02797	23.34944	X	
11	30.10.16	CALAFAT DJ	THE ART MUSEUM	43.99440	22.93239	X	
12	30.10.16	MAGLAVIT DJ	MONASTERY	44.03310	23.06563	X	
13	30.10.16	CIOROIU NOU	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	44.05769	23.43599	X	
14	05.11.16	RABISHA VIDIN	CENTRE	43.71602	23.62199	X	
15	05.11.16	RABISHA VIDIN	MAGURATA CAVE	43.73231	22.37695	X	
16	05.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK	CENTRE	43.63605	22.67343	X	
17	05.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK	MUSEUM	43.62510	22.68176	X	
18	05.11.16	BELOGRADCHIK	FORTRESS	43.62376	22.67652	X	
19	05.11.16	CHIPROVTSI MONTANA	MONASTERY	43.40379	22.93363	X	
20	05.11.16	CHIPROVTSI	MUSEUM	43.38665	22.87897	X	
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77	17.12.16	VIDIN	MUSEUMS	43.96156	22.85419	X	
78	17.12.16	MONTANA	MUSEUMS	43.44268	23.21659	X	
79	17.12.16	VRATSA	MUSEUMS	43.22771	23.52150	X	
80	18.12.16	MEZDRA	FORTRESS	43.13688	23.70408	X	
81	18.12.16	VIDIN	MUSEUMS	43.95465	22.85202	X	
82	29.12.16	STREJESTI OT	GRUITSA TYPE CHURCH	44.52836	24.26905	X	
83	29.12.16	DRAGASANI VL	GRUITSA TYPE CHURCH	44.52836	24.26905	X	

## CONCLUSIONS FOR THE BULGARIAN SECTION OF THE “TOURISTIC RING”

Total days proposed for the creation of the “touristic ring”/Bg = VI (six)

Total distance of the full route (Svivshtov-Vidin) (km) = 450

Total locations proposed for visit = 12

Total sights proposed for visit = 39

Average time for covering the distance (average) = 1 h/50 Km

Average time for visiting a sight = 1 h

List of special brands on the proposed route:

- Pleven (multiple cultural and historical tourist attractions);
- Cherven Bryag (actual interaction with clay manufacturing);
- Vratsa (multiple natural, cultural and historical tourist attractions);
- vidin (multiple cultural and historical tourist attractions).

## CHAPTER 09 - GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Pursuant to our study, we propose “The Path of the Clay” tourist route, including Romania and Bulgaria, on both sides of the Danube, in a “tourist ring”.

4 counties (Ro) and 4 districts (Bg) are targeted, on a distance of 500+450 = 900 km (of which two crossings over the Danube).

The “ring” includes significant locations (as well as connected and complementary ones): 14+12 = 26, with a total of 16+39=55 sights.

Eligible sights were: museums (ethnography) (folkloric), fairs (craftwork), workshops and schools (pottery), specific centres and areas + connected and complementary offers.

Touristic facilities were decisive for the inclusion of the sight, its significance determined its placement on the circuit.

Niche tourism has a very high potential; unfortunately, weaknesses are also high (weak infrastructure, promotion, animation, management).

This first step in exhibiting the path of the clay supplements wine routes, natural, historical, cultural areas, in the complex landscape of Romanian-Bulgarian culture and civilisation.