

Moldova

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Romanian

Population: 2,600,000

Currency: Moldovan leu (MDL)

Area: 33,846

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Orheiul Vechi', 'writeup': 'An archaeological complex and open-air museum featuring ancient cave monasteries and historical ruins.'}
- {'name': 'Stefan cel Mare Central Park', 'writeup': 'A central park in Chisinau named after Stephen the Great, a national hero, offering green space and monuments.'}
- {'name': 'Milestii Mici Winery', 'writeup': "Home to the world's largest wine cellar, famous for its extensive wine collection and tours."}

Head of State / Government:

President Maia Sandu

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Martisor', 'writeup': 'A spring festival celebrated on March 1st, marking the beginning of spring with traditional crafts and customs.'}
- {'name': 'Wine Festival', 'writeup': "An annual event celebrating Moldova's rich winemaking tradition with tastings, music, and cultural performances."}

Food & Cuisine:

Moldovan cuisine features hearty dishes with influences from Romanian, Ukrainian, and Russian traditions, including mamaliga (cornmeal porridge), placinta (filled pastries), and various meat stews.

Brief History:

Moldova has a history marked by periods under the Principality of Moldavia, Ottoman suzerainty, Russian Empire, Soviet Union, and gained independence in 1991 following the USSR's dissolution.

Important People:

- Stephen the Great - 15th-century ruler and national hero
- Maia Sandu - current president and reformist leader
- Dumitru Matcovschi - notable poet and cultural figure

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing territorial dispute with the breakaway region of Transnistria, which declared independence in 1990 but is not internationally recognized.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Moldova: Europe's Hidden Gem

- Moldova Travel Guide - What to See and Do

- The History of Moldova Explained

- Moldovan Wine Country Tour

- Cultural Traditions of Moldova