

EUROMEETING

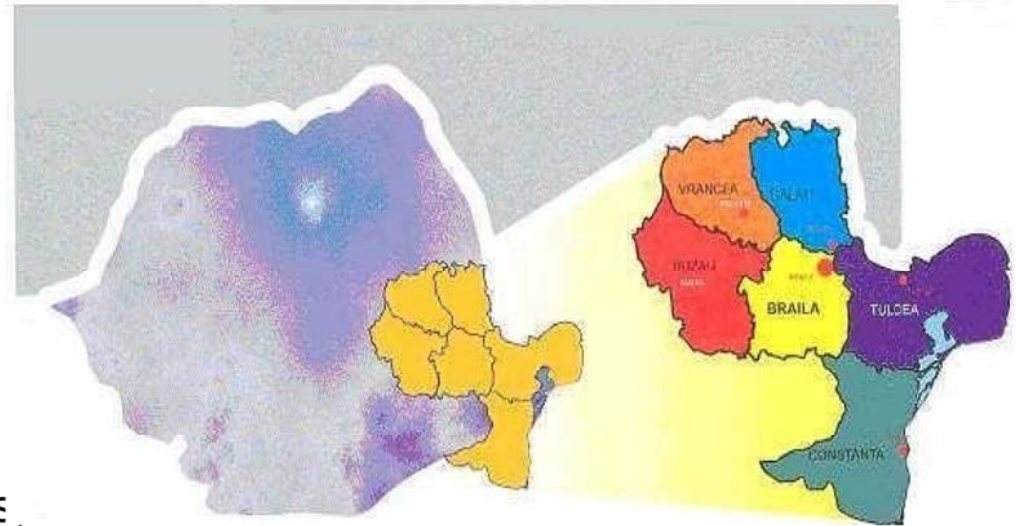
Cultural routes in the Danube Delta

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Cultural routes in the Danube Delta

Romania has a variety of tourism assets and attractions which have been developed and promoted for both international and domestic tourism:

- natural assets (i.e. mountains, the Black Sea coast, the Danube River and the Danube Delta, flora and fauna, natural spas),
- historic and cultural routes,
- and other attractions such as:
 - handicrafts and performing arts,
 - festivals and vineyards,
 - conferences, exhibitions and business related tourism.





Before flowing into the Black Sea at the end of its 2 850 km journey, the Danube opens out into one of Europe's best-preserved delta, composed of three main branches, explored by rowing boat (*lotca*) from Tulcea: to the north lies Chilia, the longest, giving access to the Letea forest; in the middle is Sulina, the busiest, with the delta's only town; and to the south is Sfântu Gheorghe, the oldest. With 35 ecosystems comprising thousands of species, the delta is a UNESCO protected area. First mention of the Danube Delta was made by the Greek historian Herodotus who described the moment when Persian fleet of Darius entered the Delta, after a stop in Histria (Vth century B.C.). On this occasion Herodotus mentions that the Danube is divided into five branches before flowing into the Black Sea.

HISTORICAL VESTIGES and MUSEUMS



Histria Fortress & Lake Sinoe - 32 miles north of Constanta

Heading north from Constanta towards Tulcea, you'll pass through Istria. Four miles east of the village, on the shores of Lake Sinoe, you'll find the ruined Greek-Roman city of Histria. Histria Fortress, the Pompei of Romania, was the oldest Greek settlement in Romania. Founded in the 7th Century BC by the Greeks from Miletus, the richest city in Ionia (Asia Minor), this trading post soon became the main Greek port at the Black Sea. The city prospered under the Roman and Byzantine occupation until invading forces⁴ wiped it off the map in the 7th century of our era.

HISTORICAL VESTIGES and MUSEUMS

Jurilovca - 47 miles north of Constanta (7 miles southeast of Babadag)

- A charming and strange fishing village, Jurilovca was established by the Lipovan fishermen in the 18th century.
- At **Capul Dolosman**, (Dolosman Head) to the east of Jurilovca you can admire vestiges of a 6th century BC Greek colony mentioned for the first time by Hecataeus of Miletus (6th -5th centuries BC).



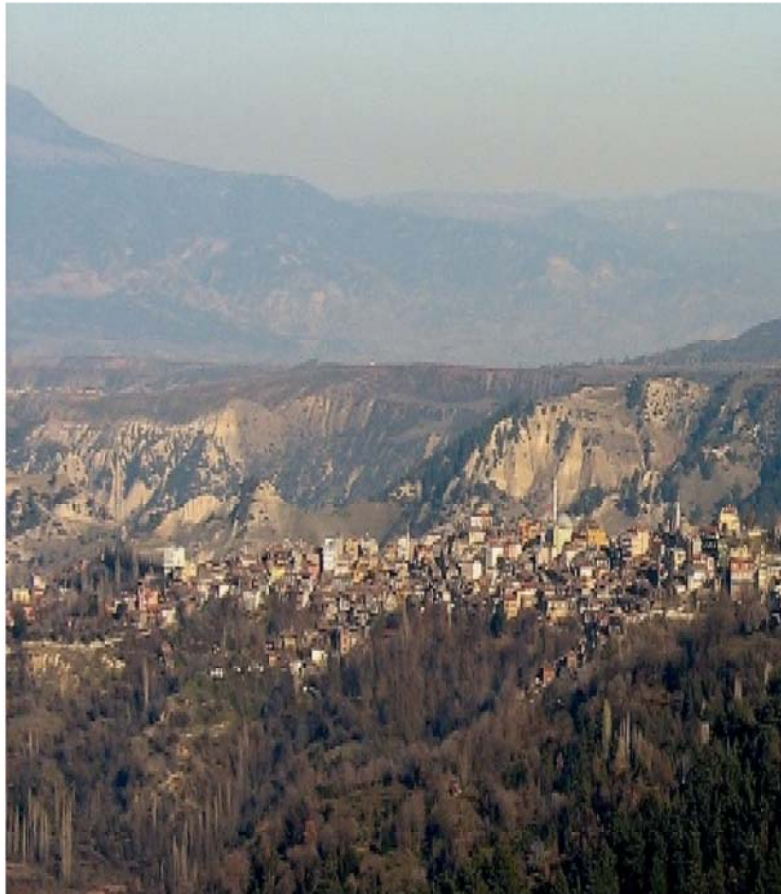
HISTORICAL VESTIGES and MUSEUMS

Enisala - 17 km from
Jurilovca



Former Roman, then Byzantine and Genoese fortress, Enisala is today a village stretching between lakes Babadag and Razim. Currently the tourists can visit the ruins of the Byzantine fortress: Heracleea (VIth century B.C.) restored by the Genoese craftsmen in the 13th century to develop their commercial activities on the Danube. Here you can also visit a traditional fisherman's house converted into a museum displaying colourful tapestries and folk art.

HISTORICAL VESTIGES and MUSEUMS



Babadag - 57 miles north of Constanta

The town of Babadag, known during the Roman rule as Vicus Novium, was first documented in the 13th century. The name of the town comes from Baba (meaning father) and Dag (meaning mountain) in Turkish, that is “the Father’s Mountain”.

The **Museum of Oriental Art** in Babadag is worth paying a visit. Other places of interest here include the **Ali-Gazi-Pasha Mosque**, **Kalaigi water spring** and **Ali-Gazi-Pasha tomb**.

HISTORICAL VESTIGES and MUSEUMS



Take the road that parallels the Sfântul Gheorghe branch to the beautiful traditional fishermen's village of **Dunavatu de Jos**, the furthest point accessible by road in the **Danube Delta**. Along the way, visit the vestiges of the Roman - Byzantine **fortress of Salsovia** and the **Ethnographic Museum in Mahmudia**.



The village of **Murighiol** is home to the ruined Roman city of Halmyris, one of the most important ancient sites in Romania. Halmyris was continuously inhabited from the 6th century BC to the 7th century our era.

HISTORICAL TOWNS IN THE DANUBE DELTA



Tulcea

Tulcea town located at the end of the Danube, the second largest river in Europe, at the tip of the three incoming river channels, is the place to start exploring one of the largest wetlands on earth known as the Danube Delta.

The city of Tulcea, laid out on seven hills like Rome, has been an important harbor since ancient times. Aegyssus, as the city was known in antiquity, was conquered by the Romans who rebuilt it after their plans, their techniques and architectural vision.

HISTORICAL TOWNS IN THE DANUBE DELTA

Tulcea



Aegyssus was first mentioned in the documents of Diodorus of Sicily (3rd century BC) and later on in the works of the Latin poet, Ovid, who referred to it in *Ex Ponto*, attesting that the name traces its origin back to its founder, a Dacian named *Carpyus Aegyssus*.

The town was successively under the Byzantine (5th - 7th century), Genoese (10th - 13th century) and Ottoman rule before finally being reunited with Romania in 1878.

Some of the highlights include St. Nicholas' Church (1865), the Azzizie Mosque (1924), the Danube Delta History Museum, the Art Museum, the History and Archaeology Museum and Folk Art & Ethnographic Museum. The local Lipovan, Russian and Turkish minorities lend the city a multi-ethnic flavour.

HISTORICAL TOWNS IN THE DANUBE DELTA



Sulina

Sulina, the terminus for cruise liners sailing across the Delta, was mentioned for the first time more than 1,000 years ago under the name of Selina in a work written by the Byzantine Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus.

Sulina is a town at the mouth of the Sulina branch of the Danube. It is the easternmost point of Romania and of the continental European Union.



HISTORICAL TOWNS IN THE DANUBE DELTA

Sulina

This port town once bustled with traders from Europe and the Middle East, adventurers and sea pirates.



During the 19th century, the town served as headquarters for the European Danube Commission, when the Danube was turned into a waterway suitable for commercial shipping. This huge project attracted workers from all over Europe, and the Anglican, Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish tombstones in Sulina's cemetery bear witness to the former international character of this community.



There are also worth mentioning the 19th century **Greek Church of Saint Nicholas** on the waterfront and the 60-foot-tall **lighthouse**, located north of the town, built in 1802 and restored in 1870 by the Danube Commission.

RELIGIOUS SITES

Niculitel Basilica - west of Tulcea



The town of Niculitel is well-known for its vineyards, but also for a Christian basilica built in 370 AD during the reign of Emperor Valerius.

In 1971, a violent rain washed away the earth concealing the church, revealing a unique monument, a crypt housing the bones of four Christian martyrs (Zotikos, Attalos, Kamasis and Phillipos).

The four coffins can now be seen at **Cocos Monastery**.



RELIGIOUS SITES



Celic Dere Monastery – west of Tulcea

Celic Dere (meaning "Steel Brook" in Turkish) was established as a monastic settlement on the valley of Celic stream in 1841.

The monastery's museum contains various religious objects, a rich collection of old books, antique handmade carpets and the oldest icon in Romania brought from Mt. Athos in Greece.

RELIGIOUS SITES



Cocos Monastery – west of Tulcea

Cocos Monastery was established in 1833. Besides the impressive collections of fine and decorative art, archeological finds and old coins, it shelters the bones of the Christian martyrs discovered in Niculitel monastery.



FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- International Folk Music and Dance Festival (*August*);
- Fisherman's Day (*September*);
- St. Andrew's Day, Patron Saint of Tulcea (*November*)



Thank you for your attention!

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