



## Villages in the Neamt County

Although the increasing requirements and demands of the people have led to changes in the traditional village, you can still see houses with archaic architectural design: houses with porches, beautifully carved wooden pillars adorned with beautiful flowers, richly decorated chiselled head pieces, with rooms full of rugs and carpets, with dowry chests that hide the masterfully crafted fabrics and needlework of the housewives. A representative example – impressive by the simple order of things and the perfect harmony of proportion and utility, of shape and colour, between man and nature is Ion Creanga Memorial House in Humuleşti. You will be fascinated by its small size, the old shape of the house, the neatly clayed porch, the whitewashed saddle notched log wall, with small windows and low door, high shingled-roof. Here everything has been preserved over time as it were, as if the tenants have just left home and you wait for them to show up while resting on a bench in the courtyard.

You can discover beautiful and rich collections contain items of folk dress and costumes, furniture, homemade wall rugs, blankets, towels, and other traditional objects at:

- ·lon Creangă Memorial House, Humuleşti, phone: 0233 790 620
- Ethnography Museum Piatra Neamt, phone: 0233 216 808
- ·History and Ethnography Museum Târqu Neamt, phone: 0233 790 594
- ·History and Ethnography Museum Bicaz, phone: 0233 254 201
- ·Village Museum Ceahlău, phone: 0233 258 594, 0233 258 059
- ·lulia Hălăucescu Art Gallery Tarcău, phone: 0233 240 951











Maintaining a conservative character, by means of rules and canons kept in community awareness, the villagers have passed on down the generations the encoded and extremely rich language of folk art. The simple shapes and the balanced proportions, the sensible layout and decorations, the geometrical style of representations, the discrete and harmonious colours always impress the beholder.

Owing to the artisans' craft, the richness and diversity of the folk art in the Neamt area give the unique character of the objects.

Artisans, past and present, have contributed to the ever richer folk art in the Neamt County, encoding in wood, clay, metal, leather, weaving and needlework, their spiritual wealth in diverse artistic forms and styles, creating the interesting local specificity. Owing to the artisans' craft, the richness and diversity of folk art in the Neamt County give the unique character of the objects.



#### Wood art

Peasants came to this world and have been brought up in the shadow of the forest, which often provided shelter and food, when times were harsh, fresh air, the beauty of the green canopy, and the diversity of the wildlife, but mostly, the forest has provided the most precious raw material – the wood – which they have been using to create most of the things needed in a tradition household. Wood art is a highly developed craft in Neamţ; with traditional or more recent motifs and shapes, gifted artisans still display their craftsmanship making pieces of furniture and household items.

#### Vasile Găman Museum

The artisan sculptor Vasile Găman bequeaths to his heirs the dowry chest full of beautifully crafted treasures, which, together with his craft, makes today the Vasile Găman Museum-House. An exquisite artisan, he chiselled scrupulously and majestically, tens of crosses and roadside crucifixes, iconostasis and lecterns for many a church in the Neamţ County and in the country, thus building his well-deserved fame. There is proof of Vasile Găman' gift and craft everywhere in his household, starting with the high gate where he "chiselled the history of his kin and folk, for all passers-by to know.





It is a unique and complex creation where with historical moments and scene are chiselled along with the effigy of the great princes. Exquisitely crafted, they display the unity of the concept.

On the road to the Neamt Monastery, turn the country lane on the right on, some 2 km, and stop at the Gămans'. Besides samples of hard work, talent, and exceptional cultural values gathered and displayed as if it were a museum, you will find here welcoming and hospitable people. Should you come on a religious feast, you will also be treated with the renowned pie "poale'n brâu", made by the host, and the "tuica" – the plum brandy – distilled by the artisan. Everything breathes merriment shrouded in holy peace and love of beauty.

#### Wood carvers:

·Vasile Găman, village Lunca, commune Vânători Neamţ, phone: 0233 244 458

·Ştefan Grigoriu, Târgu Neamţ, phone: 0742 925 725, stefan grigoriu@hotmail.com

·Vasile Neamţu, village Nemţişor, commune Vânători Neamţ,

phone: 0741 419 207, 0755 286 031

·Constantin Lungu, Humuleşti, phone: 0233 790093, 0742 999 506, 0726 985 695

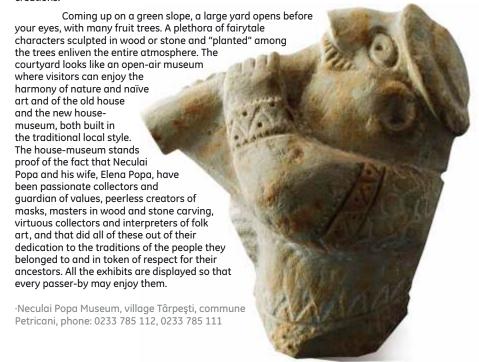
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## Sculpture in stone

Stone is a natural resource to be found in abundance in the Neamt County, mainly the hill and mountain areas and it had multiple uses over the millennia such as the building of strongholds and princely courts, building monumental churches and as foundations of wooden churches, of inns, and other constructions. Millstones, grindstone, casings of wells, crosses and tombstones have been made of large slabs of well-cemented sandstone slabs. Some stonemasons in the village Leghin, commune Pipirig, still use the hard sandstone from the nearby quarry on Mount Domesnic to make crosses and tombstones sculpted with Christian symbols.

#### Neculai Popa Museum

History has taught us that stone can stand the test of time and last for centuries and millennia. And so will the stone sculptures of Neculai Popa, in Târpeşti, endure. He carved in hard sandstone dozens of faces inspired from fairytales thus creating a truly contemporary art in stone. Created in the naive style, these statuettes, exhibited in rooms and yard of his home turned into a museum, animate the atmosphere, making it fun and attractive. When you go to the Neculai Popa Museum in Târpeşti, first you meet the family ancestors sculpted in the solid oak of the large gate. It impresses the visitors with its message but also with the monumentality and expressiveness of the faces. This original creation prepares you for the surprises that you will meet within the household – a world of traditions and personal creations.









### Folk Dress and Costumes

Traditional folk dress and costumes has been one of the most iconic elements of folk culture. Women, while making with their own hand most of the pieces of clothing, ensured their diversity and originality. They have borrowed patterns and scenery, but never have copied them as they were but they added their own mark to each piece. The folk dress and costumes in Neamţ area impresses with an exceptional piece: the sheepskin vest embroidered all over its surface and with grey astrakhan fur hemming all around. Worn as Sunday clothes in church and on all holy days by performers of folk dance and music, the folk dress and costumes in the Neamţ area are still present today in our everyday life.

#### **Furrier artisans**

·Dudanu Vasile, village Suseni, commune Grumăzești, phone: 0740 999 505 ·Dolhescu Nicolae, commune Pipiriq, phone: 0754 555 165

## Basketwork

A special craft is basketwork – they do "weave" not only baskets but also lots of both useful and decorative objects – a wide range of baskets varied in size and use, sets pieces of garden furniture, stools, coffee tables, etc. the artisans, called "coṣărcari" ("basket weavers)" are all over the lower areas in the Neamţ County, where "mlada" grows – a bush with thin and flexible twigs – the raw material for all sorts of baskets. Their stands rich with products can also be seen along the from Roman to Suceava, in the villages Barticeşti and Nisiporeşti, commune Boteşti, but skilled basketwork artisans are also in villages such as Oglinzi – Targu Neamţ, Graşi Groşi, Slobozia – Roznov, Dulceşti, Sagna.

#### Artisan basket workers:

·lon Trifaş, village Barticeşti, commune Boteşti, phone: 0769 414 515 ·lonel Damian, village Barticeşti, commune Boteşti, phone: 0761 743 536 ·losif Chelaru, village Barticeşti, commune Boteşti, phone: 0749 929 101



# Artisans - homemade fabric: ·weaving - Maria Mihalachi, village Bălțătești, phone: 0233 244 458, 0728 028 423, mariamihalachi@yahoo.com ·weaving and needlework - Rodica Ciocârtău, village Boboiești, commune Pipiria, phone: 0740 671 831 ·weaving - Maria Robu, village Săbăoani, phone: 0761 507 923 wegying and knitting – Maria Brânzucă, village Ceahlău, phone: 0233 258 308 decorations made of hemp – Elena Ciocârlan, village Şerbeşti, commune Stefan cel Mare, phone: 0749,811 589, e ciocarlan@yahoo.ro weaving, tapestry, adornments – Children's Club Săbăoani, phone: 0233 743 436 bead adornments – Doina Solomon, Roman, phone: 0743 906 941 knit decorations – Maria Vasiliu, Târgu Neamț, phone: 0745 502 525 needlework, weaving, folk dress and costumes – "Nemteanca" Artisans Association, Târgu Neamt, phne/fax 0233 790 319, 0744 362 464 No other occupation has ever built a greater social and spiritual bond like traditional weaving during winter. Even lon Creangă, the storyteller, would engage as a child in such activities that he later recollected how "looms would rumble all over the village Humuleşti". In such autonomous working environment, a genuine traditional art developed - the homemade fabric, as each loom worker added personal details, ornaments and colours to the popular model in the village, dica Ciocârtău's workshop - loom

## Folk Art

## Weaving and other homemade fabric

The Neamt area is famous for its wall rugs – the "rose" one in Ghindăoani, the "flower" one in Crăcăoani, the "cloud" ones in Băltătești, the "capăi" ones in Hlăpesti, the "fir-tree" one in Săvinesti, "wheel" one in Borca, the "crescent" one in Dobreni, "the ram's horns" one in Pipirig or the "bird" one in Gherăiești. Wool has always been available as there are sheep on almost every farm, so the women still use the old wooden looms, inherited from their mother or grandmother and weave old pieces but in new shapes and with new techniques: long-fleece counterpanes with decorations, rugs and blankets with their decorations in relief, flowerpatterned blankets woven with many shafts, quilts, tablecloths, towels. The gifted artisans in the Neamt area carry on the rug weaving rugs with beautiful and highly appreciated pieces, with geometrical patterns and vivid natural colours. Needlework, knitting, crocheting are still a popular pastime for the women, young and old, in the village. Just like in the past, the hardworking housewife in the countryside makes with her own hands the everyday objects and she decorates the house as well. She chooses her shapes and models but she observes the local tradition lending her own sensitivity and artistry to the pieces she makes.







#### Masks

Masks are accessories for human disguise. Originally used for practical as well as magical purposes, later on they have become ceremonial, festive, and playful. The term comes from the Latin "mascha", meaning sorcerer. Over the centuries, masks have undergone structural changes – body masks, head masks, face and cheek masks and morphological oens - from the animal one to human characters, to satirize people's flaws and cause laughter. Mask games in the County of Neamţ are the most complex and most spectacular New Year's traditions. Elena and Neculai Popa made the most interesting and most successful masks, in the village Târpeşti, whose fame is known worldwide.

With skill and craftsmanship they made hundreds, even thousands of head masks, of all kinds: animals – bear, ram, goat, she-goat, birds; people: old man, old woman, merchant, officer, doctor, gypsy, Old Year and New Year. The used different materials such as fur, cloth, wool fabric, fibres and yarns, wood, straw, brass, horns, and many more. Neculai and Elena Popa developed their own style of depicting facial features: well-shaped eyes, thick lips, teeth, biog nose and ears, long hair and beards, bushy moustaches. For the great originality and diversity of their masks, these artisans were awarded prestigious prizes and honours, in the country and abroad, their talent and effort being thus recognised. Another great creator of masks in the Neamt County is Ion Albu in the village Timişeşti, who despite the tough competition of the Popas, manages to make special masks needed by the masked bands that go making good wishes for the New Year to every household in the village. The expressiveness of these masks was appreciated in more than 100 national and international exhibitions he attended, where he received important awards. He is also the founder of the Folk Traditions Ensemble "Aşa-i datina la noi" in the village Timişeşti. The ensemble has take part in many festivals winning well-deserved success.





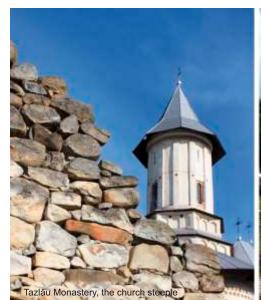




## The Church

You will find in Neamt the highest density of churches, hermitages, and monasteries, besides many other places of worship, which ranks the Neamt County among the most religious areas in Europe. Churches, monasteries, and other religious establishments are spread fairly uniformly all over the county, so whatever road you take you will discover values carved in stone and printed in chronicles, new and old monastic settlements where you may find tranquillity and peace of mind.

Monasteries in the Neamţ area as well as all over Romania have been the cradle of faith, of Romanian culture and civilisation. They have also been a pilgrimage sites, places were worshipers may find rest, strength, and peace of mind times, but also a place where stories are shared. Such places are waiting for you with their gates open, on faire or bad weather alike, at midday or at night. On dedication days, the unity of faith of those who serve daily in places of worship and those who cross their threshold, time and time again, is overwhelming.





## The Church

In Neamt, the numerous churches scattered almost everywhere provide as many dedication days throughout the year. If you in search for a moment of tranquillity and food for body and soul, we invite you to join us in these village and church festivities:

March: The Annunciation – Horaiţa Monastery Dedication Day, 25 March, phone: 0233 246 210

The Annunciation – Durău Monastery Dedication Day, 25 March, phone: 0233 256 674

April – May: Almaş Monastery, the first Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, phone: 0233 242 240

The Ascension – Neamţ Monastery Dedication Day, phone: 0233 251 580

June: The Birth of St John the Baptist – Sihla Hermitage Dedication Day, 24 June, phone: 0744
513 879

The Birth of St John the Baptist (*Sânzienele*) – Dedication Day of the Princely Court Church in Piatra Neamt, 24 June, phone: 0725 891 160

August: The Metamorphosis – Nechit Monastery Dedication Day, 6 August, phone: 0233 297 422
The Metamorphosis – Sihla Hermitage Dedication Day, 6 August, phone: 0744 513 879

The Assumption of Our Lady – Văratic Nunnery Dedication Day, 15 August, phone: 0233 244 616

The Assumption of Our Lady – Bistriţa Monastery Dedication Day, 15 August, phone: 0233 241 091, 0740 303 584

The Beheading of St John the Baptist – Secu Monastery Dedication Day, 29 August, phone: 0233 251 862

September: The Birth of Virgin Mary – Sihastria Monastery Dedication Day, 8 September, phone: 0233 251 896

The Birth of Virgin Mary – Tazlău Monastery Dedication Day, 8 September, phone: 0233 298 153, 0740 769 752

October: Parascheva the Pious – Dedication Day of the Bishopric Cathedral in Roman, 14 October, phone: 0233 744 029

St Demetrius – Pângărați Monastery Dedication Day, 26 October, phone: 0233 240 337

November: The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel – Pângărați Monastery Dedication Day, 8 November, phone: 0233 240 337

The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel – Războieni Monastery Dedication Day, 8 November, phone: 0233 292 912

The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel – Petru Vodă Monastery Dedication Day, 8 November, phone: 0737 121 100

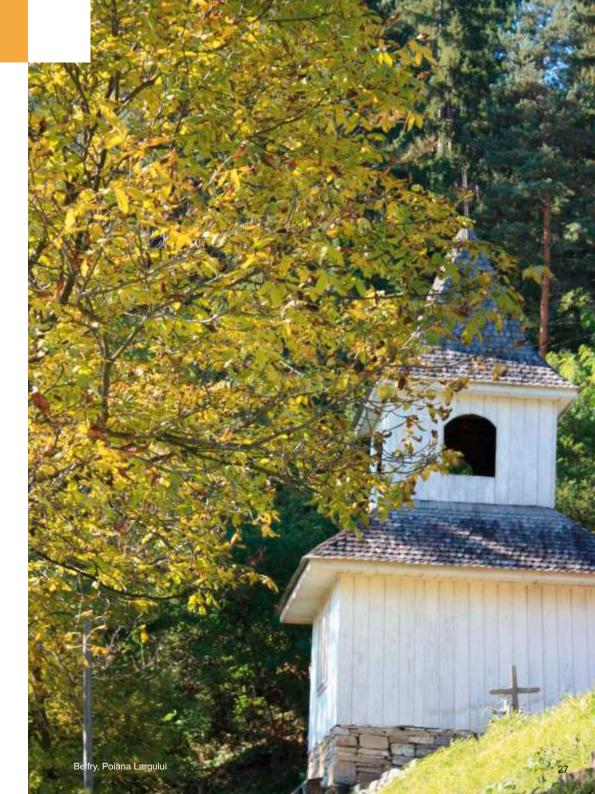
The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel – Agapia Nunnery Dedication Day, 8 November, phone: 0233 244 736

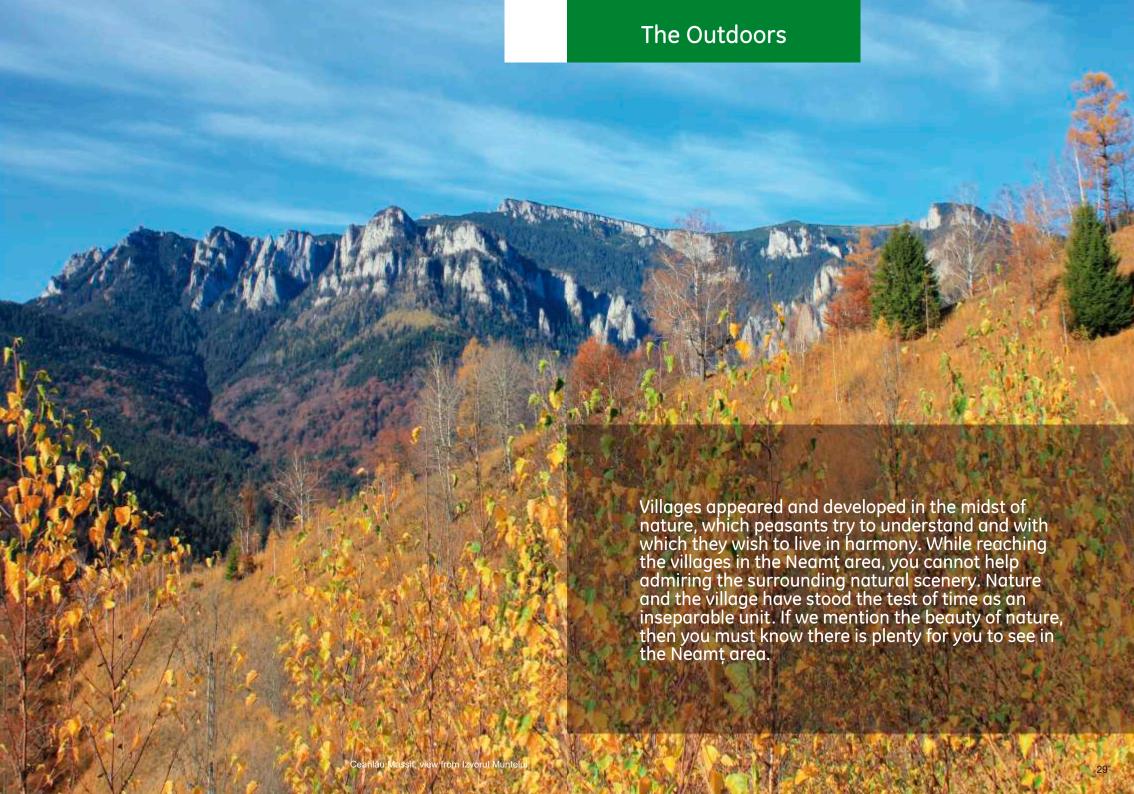
Icon-painting artisans:

on glass – Hăisan Cecilia, Piatra Neamţ, phone: 0746 833 870, cecilia\_haisan@yahoo.ro on wood and fresco – Ciprian Istrate, Piatra Neamţ, phone: 0741 088 782, cipist@yahoo.com



Painting on glass







## The Outdoors

When entering the county through the western "gate", via Gheorgheni, you are welcome by the Bicaz Gorges, the most renowned gorges in Romania, and – there is no doubt about that – the most spectacular result of the karstic evolution of the area – due to limestone erosion and dissolution. Then, the Şugău Gorges of which you can have a glimpse, even when driving at a high speed, before advancing deeper in the Neamt County. These gorges are a wild rocky area where one of the most valuable nature reserves in the Carpathians and in Europe has been established. The value of the reserve lies in its unique scenery, geology, karst, flora and the fauna. Stopping for a couple of hours in this barely known and decoded wonders of the geological evolution will help you recharge your batteries.

As you go onwards, you will discover the majestic dome of the Oriental Carpathians and of the entire land of Moldova, blessed with the aura of the ancestral geological turmoil that lifted it majestically from the bottom of the ocean, then blessed with millennia of people taking shelter in its clearings, grottoes, and pastures, to hunt, graze their sheep, and pray. Here, under the gentle sun, people have found a sight for their sore eyes, and the miracle – forever alive and overwhelming of nature – pervading their soul. Once you reached on Ceahlău Mount, you have to choose between the endless horizon, sometimes clear to the seashore and the overwhelmingly magical lace of rocky cliffs, towers, shelves and walls.

The footpaths in this impressive "open-air museum", with exhibits unique in the diversity of shapes and of stories they carry along as legends or merely in their name: Dochia, Panaghia, Toaca, Dorobanțul, Călugării, Piatra Lăcrămată, Turnul lui Butu, Polițele cu crini, Detunatele – and many others which lure you to unforgettable hikes.



## The Outdoors

Vânători Neamț Natural Park, whose name is a reminder of the former border guard community waged by the Moldova Princely Court, is located in one of the iconic areas for the Romanian culture and history. An area blessed with many picturesque places and scenery, which have enthusiastically inspired artists and writers. Emanating a sweet and gentle tranquillity – so dear to any soul, tired of the monotonous everyday life, or of the daily hustle and bustle – the beauty of this land is not only natural, but it also comes from the harmony of the landscape and the colourful alternation of the seasons witnessed by its splendid canopy. Here, the traveller experiences a never-ending feast of the soul, given by the extremely picturesque and bracing presence of the many hermitages and monasteries – each with its history and cross of passions, luminous cradles of prayer and avowal of faith.

At the foot of Ceahlău, along the national road from Bicaz to the village Poiana Largului, the "sea in the mountains" is waiting for you – Izvoru Muntelui Reservoir – with its picturesque scenery. This is the largest anthropic reservoir on the interior rivers in the country and the only "lake" where "Romania's Navy Day" is celebrated. The reservoir is some 35 km long, at the foot of the Ceahlău Massif. The volume of water behind the impressive dam built between 1950 and 1960 can reach 1,250 million cubic metres.







The dam – built following the design of eng. Dimitrie Leonida – is a "weight" dam and is the largest of its kind on interior rivers in Romania and its total height of 127m ranks it third in the country and ninth in Europe, in terms of weight dams. In 1961, when it was completed it was the fourth weight dam in Europe in terms of height. Along the DN15 – national road – from Bicaz to Piatra Neamţ, two large silver-shining reservoirs, Pângăraţi and Vaduri, enchant the travellers with their spectacular scenery, which make you stop whatever your haste. You blend with the natural scenery and rest your sight on the ducks and swans scattered on the water or on the wide panoramic view of the surrounding mountains.

More recent in the picturesque scenery of the Neamt county, Lake Cuejdel appeared at the foot of Muncelu Hill, as a result of large landslides which pushed down hill over 35 hectares of the left slope of the Cuejdel Valley. There were several successive landslides between 1978 and 1991. If you love nature, you only have to offer to you a moment of dreaming and you can admire the splendour of the colourful autumnal scenery or a unique stop in such an Eden-like site.

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In order for you to discover the Neamt County beautiful outdoors we suggest: Hikes on marked trails in the Bicaz Gorges – Hăşmaş Nature Reserve; Info: the Park Management Direction: Phone/fax 0266 336 540, pnbicaz@mcjuc.rosilva.ro, pncbh@yahoo.com

·Hikes on marked trails in the Ceahlău Nature Reserve (access on trails from Bicazu Ardelean, Neagra, then Izvorul Muntelui and Durău); Info: the Park Management Direction: Phone/fax 0233 256 600, pnc@ceahlaupark.ro ·Have a rest at the chalets in the Ceahlău Massif: Fântânele Chalet, phone: 0730 603 803; Cabana Dochia, phone: 0730 603 801, 0730 603 802, fax 0233 256 577, cabanadochia@yahoo.com.

·By car, motorbike, or bicycle, before reaching the Bicaz Dam, you divert 8 km on your left, away from DN 15, to admire the impressive wide panoramic view of Ceahlău Massif, and have a rest at Izvoru Muntelui Chalet, phone at the chalet: 0723 589 661.

·Hikes on marked trails in the Vânători Neamţ Natural Park, subscription to the tour programmes offered by the Vânători Neamţ National Park Management Direction, phone: 0233 251061, www.vanatoripark.ro ·A visit to the Dragoş Vodă Bison Reserve, commune Vânători Neamţ, phone: 0233 206 002, 0233 206 001, 0233 251 061, www.vanatoripark.ro ·Leisure rides, cruise, lunch included, hydrobikes, speed boat, kayak on Izvoru Muntelui Reservoir, organised by the de Port Bicaz Marina Complex – Moldoturism, phone: 0233 253 848, 0748 110 400, 0744 588 824, 0748 110 401, office@bicazlac.ro

 $\cdot A$  stop on the banks of Pângărați and Vaduri Reservoirs located on either side of DN 15, in the respective villages.

·A stop on the banks of Lake Cuejdel, where you can go by car crossing the commune Crăcăoani, on a forestry road, or via commune Gârcina, some 25 km from Piatra Neamţ by car, and then 3 km on foot, on a wide path, across pastures and through deciduous and evergreen forests.

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So, we invite you to a boletus borsch, a pork stew and spiced cabbage pie, or scrambled eggs with finely chopped meat, mincemeat croquettes "sprinkled" with plum brandy with fenugreek. Moreover, we trust you will appreciate the "hârzob" (trout smoked in fir branches), the monastic chicken, the pickled Saffron milk caps, and the cheese polenta or potato and onion pies called "guguluf". As for the dessert, you are invited to have some shepherd's pie, the famous "poale-n brâu" pies or a teaspoonful of raspberries, blueberries or roses confiture. In the Christmas season, housewives will offer the Moldavian pork stew and the "julfe", a delicatessen of fine pastry sheets stuffed with crushed hemp seeds, also known as "Jesus' Diapers".

But each boarding house in the Neamt area has their own menu, carefully selected to please their guests. They are made with home-grown ingredients in the very garden of the boarding house or in the households of the villages nearby.

Berries such as blueberries, cranberries, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries are presented in the menus under various forms: confiture, sorbet, jams, in a diverse range of delicious cakes, side dish, juices, teas, syrups or the highly appreciated berry-brandy. Acacia, lime tree, rape or poly floral honey completes the rich variety of produce, together with local herbs used for fragrant teas such as wild thyme, St John's Wort, cowslip, berries, acacia, elder, lime tree, mint, and many more.

Freshly gathered mushrooms or the fresh fish are on offer at boarding houses. All sorts of preserved vegetables during autumn – such as prickled ones or "zacusca" appetisers, made according to many and varied recipes known only to the local housewives, make up diverse menus you can indulge yourself with as if it were a royal feast.



## Traditional dishes





#### Inns waiting for to stop by at crossroads (E85-DN2):

·Ancuța's Inn, commune Tupilați, phone: 0233 781 400, 0744 548 075, www.hanu-ancutei.ro ·Hanul Răzeșilor, commune Tupilați, phone: 0730 608 141, 0730 947 749, www.hanulrazesilor.ro

#### Masters of confiture in the Neamt County:

·configure, sorbet, syrups – Agapia Nunnery, phone: 0233 244 736 ·confiture, sorbet, syrups – Văratic Nunnery, phone: 0233 244 616 ·Vrâncioaia's "zacusca" appetisers and confiture –

Valentina Lungu, village Dumbrava Roşie, str. Baltagului, nr. 63, phone: 0731 327 627,

www.zacuscatraditionala.wordpress.com
-traditional confiture – Socea Cristina, village

Poloboc, commune Rediu, phone: 0756 948 041

·cold-pressed sunflower oil, confiture,

and "zacusca" appetisers –Valeri Rebegea, village Dobreni, phone: 0754 757 420





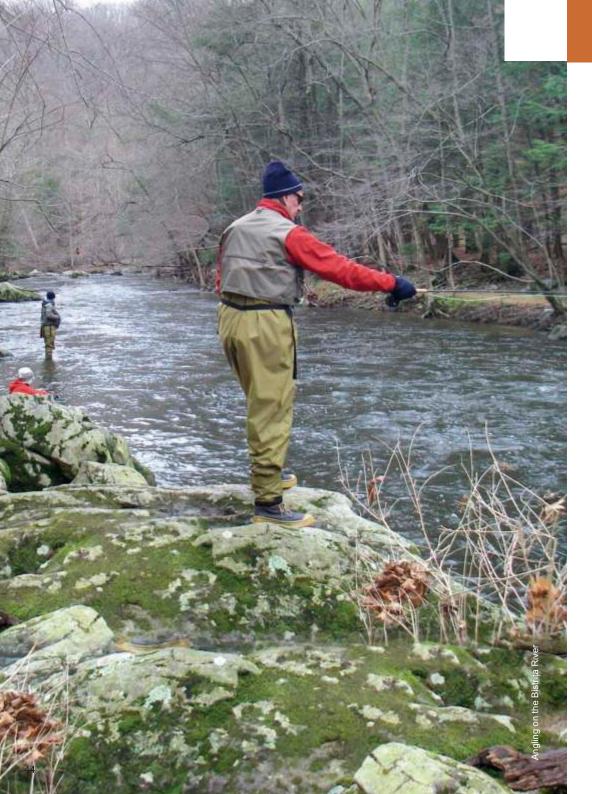
In the hill and mountain landscape in the Neamt area sheep, goats, or cattle are always present and so are the skilled shepherds protected by shepherding dogs. On the slopes or clearings, the wooden sheepfolds appear in their simplicity waiting quietly for the animals to return from their grazing. Shepherding continues to be practiced as it used to, observing the same calendar – day by day, season after season – and the same ancient practice: grazing, watering, milking, and making various kinds of cheese and the food for the shepherds.

More recently developed in the Neamṭ area, tourist sheepfolds, providing special facilities for guests, wait for you to grasp the secrets of pastoral life and to taste the dishes prepared by shepherds. What could be more delicious than a piece of cheese freshly prepared at the fold or a mug of milk, freshly milked and boiled in the milking and milk jug kettle boiled in the cast-iron kettle. If you stay here for a bit longer, you will also taste other cheeses, butter, "balmoş" – a traditional shepherd's dish combining cheese, milk and corn flour – and buttermilk.

#### You are invited to catch up your breath at:

·"Crucea Arsă" Tourist Sheepfold, commune Farcaşa, phone: 0233 256 502, 0745 009 603 ·Hăşmaş Tourist Sheepfold, village Dămuc, phone:0233 256 266, 0728 900 409





## Leisure time sports

## **Angling**

Angling is an old occupation in this area as the waters in the Neamt County have provided a wide range of species: trout, chub, barbel, grayling, minnow, broad snout, carp, etc. in the beginning, practiced with their bare hands. Later on, as tools became increasingly complex and diverse, depending on the species and quantity of fish, angling has kept pace with technology so that an angler's life has become easier. However, you can still see skilful people, who know the areas as the back of their hand, on the rapid creeks in the mountains looking for trout and bullhead near the stones in the rivers or creeks and catching them with their bare hands. As it has become a popular sport, you can often see anglers on the banks of rivers, lakes or man-made ponds. They greatly enjoy the tranquillity of the sites trying their

The Neamt County offers enthusiast anglers the chance to try their skills on the freshwaters or in the purposefully organised ponds where success is guaranteed. And should you miss the big fish, there will be more stories to tell and more enjoyable ones.

#### The following facilities wait for you to try your angling skills:

lines in the water and rejoicing their catch.

·"Izvorul Muntelui" Reservoir (perch, pike perch, trout, bream, rudd, crucian carp), Bicaz, phone: 0233 211 696 – Neamt County Forestry Direction

·Lake Balta Porcului (crucian carp, carp), commune Alexandru cel Bun, phone: 0233 211 696 -

**Neamt County Forestry Direction** 

·Lake Budeşti (medium-sized carp, crucian carp), commune Făurei, phone: 0233 211 696 -

Neamt County Forestry Direction

·Lake Complex Dănăilă (crucian carp, carp, perch, pike perch), Roman, phone: 0233 211 696 –

Neamt County Forestry Direction

·Lake "Ferma Caritas" (crucian carp, carp), commune Săbăoani, phone: 0233 211 696 -

Neamt County Forestry Direction

·Lake "La Moldovean" (carp, Asian carp, bighead carp, crucian carp, bleak fish), commune Dragomireşti, phone: 0233 211 696 – Neamţ County Forestry Direction

-Lake Simioneşti (pike, tench, crucian carp, carp), village Simioneşti, commune Cordun, phone: 0233 211 696 – Neamţ County Forestry Direction

·Lake Trifeşti, commune Trifeşti, phone: 0233 211 696 – Neamţ County Forestry Direction

·Lake "Zimbrăria" (carp, Chinese carp, crucian carp, pike perch, bighead carp, Asian carp, pike, perch), commune Vânători-Neamt, phone: 0233 211 696 – Neamt County Forestry Direction

·Cosma Fish Farm (carp, crucian carp, catfish), village Agârcia, commune Alexandru cel Bun, phone: 0725 814 241, 0746 953 295

·Unghi Pond (carp, Asian carp, crucian carp, perch), village Unghi, commune Dragomireşti, phone: 0233 292 876; For lakes, ponds or reservoirs, an angler's licence is required.

#### You are waited for a taste of trout at:

- ·"Bistra" Trout Fishery in Bicazu Ardelean; info phone: 0744 702 953, www.pastravaribistra.ro
- ·"Cheiţa" Trout Fishery, Bicaz, phone: 0233 253 143
- ·"Stegioara" Trout Fishery, commune Borca, phone:0732 010 580

## Leisure time sports

## Horse riding

At some point in the dim past of the evolution humans, but we do not really know when, man domesticated the horse, took him to his yard and together they "moved" the world forward. The personality and intelligence of this animal are qualities, which favoured the close relationships between man and horse, and which generated the respect thereto. Today, the term used is equitation regarded as one of the most noble sports or pastimes few have the chance to practice, but many fall in love with when they first take it up, probably due to this strong bond between the horse and the horse rider.

Should you decide to stop by in Neamţ, you will be able to admire in our studs beautiful horses of various breeds – Arabian thoroughbred, Romanian Sports Horse, English thoroughbred, Lipizzaner, Gidran, Romanian medium-weight, Guzul, Bucovina. Whenever you have some time to spare, we invite you to attend equestrian performances and competitions, to have a carriage ride, to dressage classes or training, and, why not, to join other visitors in horse riding tours – any of this with make you region your good spirits and lust for life in the great outdoors in the company of horses.

- ·Equestrian performances and competitions, leisure horse rides and tourism, horse riding classes, dressage, and training at Dumbrava Stallion Stables, some 10 km away from Târqu Neamt, phone: 0233 660 373
- ·horse-riding, carriage rides for leisure, horse-riding school at the
- "Virgil Bărbuceanu" Equestrian Centre in Piatra Neamt; phone: 0233 217 167, 0746 912 427



#### Other attractions to spend your leisure time:

·Tree climbing, paintball, archery, relaxation and snacks at Activ Parc, commune Negreşti, some 15 km from Piatra Neamţ; Info Phone: 0754 542 644, activ.parc@amail.com, www.activ.parc.ro

·Cable car rides in Piatra Neamt; info Cable Car: 0233 218 008

Ski, tubing, ski lift at Cozla Tourism Complex, Info Phone: 0233 218 008

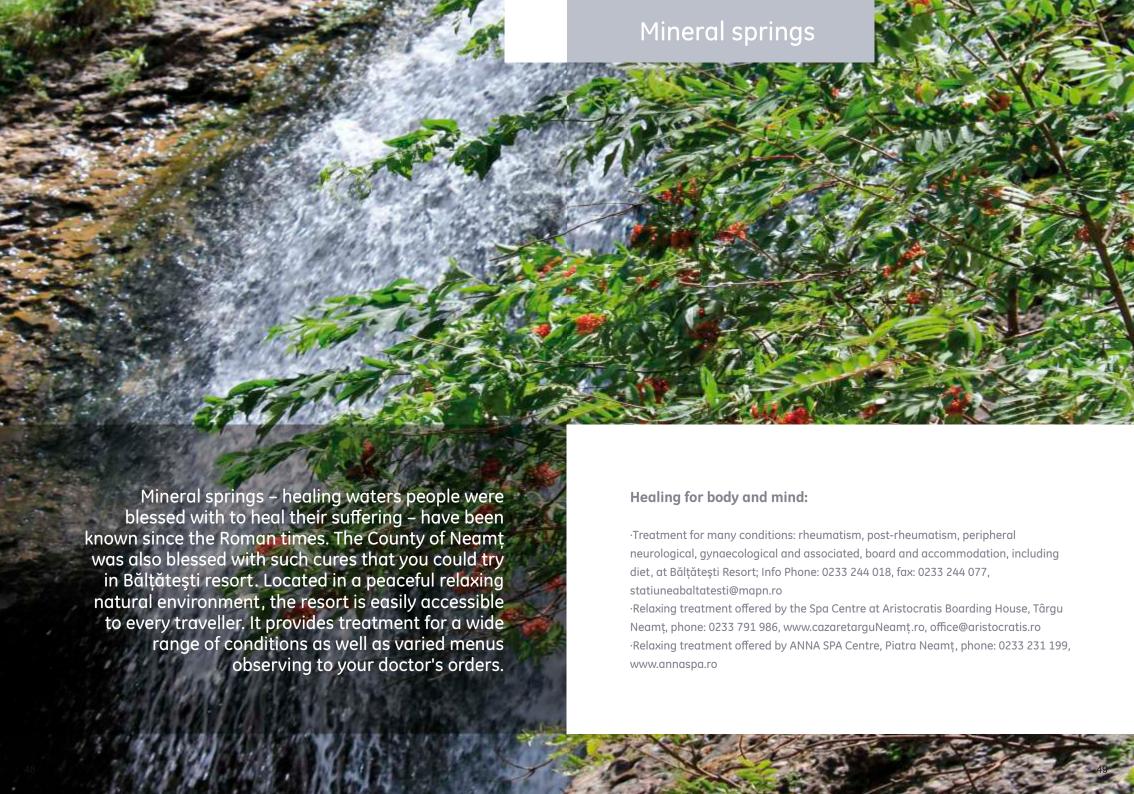
·Flights in light aircraft and motor delta gliders, Phone: 0743 496 090, www.aviasport.ro ·Off-road – Club Off-road Piatra Neam , phone: 0764 092 483, 0730 131 411,

office@offroadpiatraNeamt.ro

·Swimming, tennis, basketball, volleyball, handball, roller skating, skateboard, skating, playgrounds for children, terraces, restaurants, barbecue facilities at the Municipal Open-air Swimming pool in Piatra Neamt, Phone: 0233 217 167, 0749 166 640 ·Mountain Bike – National Cycling Competition "Mountain Bike Marathon – Bicaz", phone: 0728 116 828

Areas suitable for paragliding: Cozla Hill, Pietricica Hill in Piatra Neam , Ștefan cel Mare, and Tașca.









Corvées, evening sittings, the hora, accompanied by music played on the flute, pan flute, trumpet, and drums are still present in the village. Many foreign travellers and Romanian scholars highlighted the rich variety of folk music and dance in the area. Dimitrie Cantemir noted, "As Moldavians have over a hundred various dances and some so exquisite that the dancers seem not to touch the ground but they appear to fly."

Winter holidays traditions form the longest, richest and merriest folk festival. They represent the living archive of the inhabitants' spirituality, better preserved in Moldova and especially in the villages of the Neamţ County. Winter traditions in this area include a rich and varied repertoire, which impresses by message, folk costumes, and music.

Carols are a must on Christmas festivals – carols and religious theme dramas are performed by groups of children or youth. The New Year is greeted with the "Pluguşorul", the small bottomless barrel covered with skin, cattle or sheep bells, and even with an oxdriven plough. Then, the village sky is filled with sounds of "sorcova" and spectacular mask dances – she-goat, stag, bear, young horsemen dance, and the outlaws' drama. The customs and traditions in the Neamţ area engage large numbers of participants in a ceremonially festive atmosphere, which is also competitive and jolly. Here in Neamţ, we wait for you on the villages' festive days, on the mountain festival, on the snow festivals, to attend folk drama festivals, the sheepherding celebration, picnics in the countryside, customs and traditions festivals.

## Folk Traditions and Customs

#### You are invited to join us at the following events:

#### May:

- ·"Armindeni" herding sheep to the mountains event organised in the commune Bicaz Chei;
- ·"Dowry Chest" Folk Art Festival

#### June:

- ·"The Days of the Town", event organised at the Princely Court Square in Piatra Neamţ; Julv:
- ·The Days of the Neamt Stronghold, Târgu Neamt;
- ·"Hard as a Rock" Festival (skateboard, downhill, and streetball) at the Open-air Swimming pool in Piatra Neamt and on Cozla Hill;
- ·Medieval Art Festival, Târgu Neamț

#### August:

- •Mount Ceahlău Festivities event organised in Durău resort, at the foot of Mount Ceahlău •International Folklore Festival, event gathering European folk song and dance groups for six days;
- -Romanian Navy's Day, event organised in Bicaz Port and on the Izvoru Muntelui Reservoir, 15 August;

#### December:

·Winter Feasts – traditional performances and events organised in localities all over the county



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# **Bicaz Chei**: Guest Houses: TEO\*\*\*\*, phone. 0744 472 309, pensiuneateo@cazarebicaz.ro; VERESKO\*\*\*, phone. 0757 361 570, 0266 380 001, www.vereskovila.com, andrasgall@yahoo.com; Popas turistic TEO\*\*\*, phone. 0744 385 482

Bicazu Ardelean: PALEU Guest House \*\*\*, phone. 0233 255 393

Izvoru Muntelui: IZVORU MUNTELUI Chalet\*\*\*, phone. 0744 597 141; IZVORU MUNTELUI Bungalows \*\*\*, phone. 0744 597 141; IZVORU MUNTELUI Camping \*\*\*, phone. 0744 771 709

Cabane în Masivul Ceahlău: Fântânele Chalet, phone. 0730 603 803; Dochia Chalet, phone. 0730 603 801, 0730 603 802, fax 0233 256 577, cabanadochia@yahoo.com

Ceahlău: ECOTUR Villa\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 258 571, reservations@ecotur.ro; PELLEGRIN Villa\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 555, 0744 672 918, pellegrin2005@yahoo.com; Guest Houses: ŞOIMUL\*\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 616, www.soimulsicorbul.ro; ARTED\*\*\*\*, phone. 0720 550 767, www.complex.arted.ro; CASA KAROL\*\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 258 154, casakarol@yahoo.com; CORBUL\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 616, corbul@soimulsicorbul.ro; LAVINIA\*\*\*\*, phone. 0745 624 773; PERLA\*\*\*\*, phone. 0751 840 252; AGNES\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 607, 0758 583 528, pancu.sorin@yahoo.com; ANTIA\*\*\*\* phone. 0744 545 253, 0747 065 531; MIHĂILESCU\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 508; TOTAL\*\*\*\* phone. 0233 258 110, 0374 910 944; VANATORUL\*\*\*\* phone. 0745 009 603, 0233 256 502 pensiuneavanatorul@yahoo.com; ALPIN\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 538; SENIN\*\*\*\*\*, phone. 0727 316 885; DARIA\*\*\*\*, phone. 0740 608 553; Camping houses IZVORUL BISTRICOARA\*\*\*\*\*, phone. 0744 771 709

Durău: Hotels: BISTRIȚA\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 578, fax 0233 256 590, office@bistritaromania.ro; CASA PELERINUL\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 583; BRADUL\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 634, fax 0233 256 501; CASCADA Hostel \*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 256 668, office@hotelcascada.ro; CRISTINA 2 Villa\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 673; Guest Houses: GOLD\*\*\*, phone. 0752 243 924, office@pensiuneagold.ro; MARIA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 256 653; RAPSODIA\*\*\*, phone. 0745 570 757; CONSTANTA\*\*\* phone. 0742-087377, ctc\_durau@yahoo.com; GABRIELA\*\*\* phone. 0744 509 394, cezarmocanasu@yahoo.com; TERRAMONT\*\*\*, phone. 0767 564 223

**Grințieş**: Guest Houses: IOANA\*\*\*, phone/fax 0266 315 812/ 0233 265 555, 0722 719 719, casaioana@yahoo.com; MARGARETA\*\*\*, phone. 0743 098 036, topoliceanumihai@yahoo.com

Poiana Teiului: Guest Houses: DOCHIA\*\*\*, phone. 0744 697 045; TEIUL\*\*\*, phone. 0746 709 494; ELVI\*\*, phone. 0233 257 295; elvi@yahoo.com, GEONA \*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 257014, 0788 454 792, cristipanaite70@yahoo.com, www.pensiuneageona.ro; PARADISO\*\*\*, phone. 0751 743 456, pensiunea\_paradiso@yahoo.com

and the same of

Farcaşa: Guest Houses: ORIENT\*\*\*, phone. 0744 911 065, office@pensiunea-orient.ro; ORIZONT\*\*\*, phone. 0744 702 408, pensiuneaorizont@yahoo.com

## You can have a rest at

**Borca:** Guest Houses: POPASUL VÂNĂTORULUI\*\*\*\*, phone. 0749 313 340; VITORIA\*\*\*, phone.0233 268 267, 0744 276 727

Pipirig: Guest Houses: CASA AFETELOR\*\*\*, phone. 0233 252 066, casaafetelor@casaafetelor.ro; STÂNCA\*\*\*, phone. 0745 455 699; MARIA MARIOARA\*\*\*, phone.

0233 790 279, 0740 012 976

Vânători Neamţ: Guest Houses: EDERA\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 251 901, 0233 251 909, 0745 436 818, 0742 543 498, eurocompanytoursrl@yahoo.com, www.pensiuneaedera.ro; MARIA INN \*\*\*, phone. 0233 790 196, 0753 634 032, www.hanmaria.ro, URŞILOR INN\*\*\*, phone. 0233 251 364, hanul\_ursilor.@yahoo.com, www.hanulursilor.ro; PERLA NEAMŢULUI\*\*\*, phone. 0233 251 511, 0233 236 931, 0745 013 794, 0744 776 366, perlaneamtului.@yahoo.com, www.perlaneamtului.ro; ZIMBRU\*\*\*, phone. 0233 251 250, 0745 357 438, 0745 511 346, contact@pensiuneazimbru.ro, www.pensiuneazimbru.ro; MARIANA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 251 002

Răucești: Guest Houses: CAMELIA\*\*\*, phone. 0751 017 774, cameliaapostoae@yahoo.com; BĂILE OGLINZI Chalet, phone. 0233 790 111, fax. 0233 790 317, statiuneaoglinzi@yahoo.com

Targu Neamt: DOINA Hotel\*\*\*, phone. 0233 790 270, fax 0233 790 843; OZANA Hotel \*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 791 807, hotelozana@gmail.com; CASA ARCAŞULUI Motel\*\*\*, phone. 0233 790 699, casaarcasului@yahoo.com; Guest Houses: ARISTOCRATIS\*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 791 986, office@aristocratis.ro; BELLA\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 790 291, mona\_atomei@yahoo.com; CASSANDRA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 791 191, 0742 052 707; LA CETATE\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 660 249; LA STRUȚI\*\*\*, phone. 0720 065 308, www.pensiunealastruti.ro; TREI STEJARI\*\*\*, phone. 0233 790 913, 0751 190 529; REMEMBER\*\*\*, phone. 0737 023 206,www.pensiunearemember.ro, STEAUA NORDULUI\*\*\*, phone. 0233 790 995, www.steauanordului.bleu.ro; VOIAJORUL\*\*\*, phone. 0758 631 499; FANNI\*\*\*, phone. 0743 260 056; Bungalow LA CETATE\*\*\*, phone/fax. 0233 660 249

Agapia: Guest Houses: VĂRATEC\*\*\*\*, phone/fax. 0233 245 113, rezervari@pensiuneavaratec.ro; AGAPIA\*\*\*, phone. 0742 633 265; CASA DINTRE PINI\*\*\*, phone. 0740 245 985; CODRII DE ARAMĂ\*\*\*, phone. 0233 244 900, fax 0233 244 999; EDEN\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 247 217, office@edentur.ro; EULOR\*\*\*, phone. 0744 648 907, www.pensiuneagapia.ro; MARIA\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 245 004, contact@pensiuni-agapia.ro; PUNGUŢA CU DOI BANI\*\*\*, phone. 0741 746 835; CASA ANCA\*\*\*\* 0233 244 819, casaancaagapia@gmail.com; CASA DE LA VĂRATEC\*\*\*, phone. 0233 272 562, 0744 633 699, rezervari@casadelavaratec.ro; DARIA\*\*\*, phone. 0742 899 549, pensiunea.daria@yahoo.com

**Bălțătești:** Hotels: BĂLȚĂTEȘTI\*\*, phone. 0233 244 017, NARCISA\*\*, phone. 0233 244 017, fax 0233 244 077; OZANA\*\*, phone. 0233 244 017, fax 0233 244 077; TOPOLIȚA\*\*, phone. 0233 244 017

## Locuri de odihnă

**Dobreni:** BEATRIZ Guest House\*\*\*\*, phone. 0745 335 137; LA SĂCĂLENI\*\*\*, phone. 0720 021 615

Gârcina: BALAN Guest House \*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 242 542, pensiuneabalan@yahoo.com

Piatra Neamţ: CENTRAL PLAZA Hotel\*\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 216 230, office@centralplazahophone.ro; CEAHLĂU Hotel \*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 219 990, fax. 0233 215 540, office@hotelceahlau.ro; TORENT Hostel \*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 227 771; VILA GALAXI\*\*\*, phone. 0233 626 676, 0745 636 345, mrejisienache@yahoo.com; Guest Houses: VERDE\*\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 234 401, www.pensiuneaverde.ro; CASA MOLDOVEANA\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 224 679; PÂRÂUL DOAMNEI\*\*\*, phone. 0758 046 822, www.parauldoamnei.ro, pensiuneaparauldoamnei@gmail.com BACHUS\*\*\*, phone. 0233 226 402, fax 0233 221 760, rezervari@pensiuneabachus.ro; CORNELIUS\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 211 511, pensiuneacornelius@yahoo.com; DOMNIŢA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 228 267, www.pensiuneadomnita.ro; LIDO\*\*\*, phone/fax. 0233 226 349,contact@pensiune-lido.com; MARIA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 237 414, 0726 233 081, pensiuneamaria91@yahoo.com

Alexandru Cel Bun: BELVEDERE Hotel \*\*\*\*, phone. 0233 261 470; D&D Hostel \*\*\*, phone. 0233 261 262; Guest Houses: CALUL TROIAN\*\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 241 689, office@calultroian.ro; AURA TOUR\*\*\*\* phone. 0233 234 269, liceulauroraouatu@yahoo.com, LORY\*\*\*\* phone. 0748 939 209, cichicristian@yahoo.com, ADELINA\*\*\*, phone. 0746 809 183, fax 0733 935 921; ALEXIA\*\*\*, phone. 0731 521 755; AMBIANCE\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 231 431, www.ambiance.ro; BOEMA\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 241 797; BRADU, phone. 0744 400 224; FLORA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 241 045, www.pensiuneaflora.piatra-neamt.info; MIHAELA\*\*\*, phone. 0722 403 550 MOLDOVA\*\*\*, phone. 0333 408 064; OANA II\*\*\*, phone. 0233 241 362; ROUA\*\*\*, phone. 0753 053 260; SMĂRĂNDIŢA\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 241 730, pensiuneasmarandita@yahoo.com; RAZA SOARELUI \*\*\*\*, phone. 0745 356 634, iosubconstantin@yahoo.com; \$TEFAN\*\*\*, phone. 0744 871 429; TROIAN\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 235 407, office@troian.aix.ro; URSULEŢ\*\*\*, phone. 0233 261 441, pensiuneaursulet\_nt@yahoo.com; MAGNOLIA\*\*\* phone. 0728 945 926, 0233 241 024, silveanuioan@yahoo.com; CAMENA\*\*\*, phone.0233 233 381, 0744 544 967, office@pensiuneacamena.ro

Pângărați: BALAD OR Guest House\*\*\*\*, phone. 0727 736 685, office@balador.ro, ONȚANCA\*\* phone. 0233 240 703

Petricani: HANUL VERDE Guest House \*\*\*, office@asvinea.ro; CABANA LUPULUI Chalet\*\*

Tarcău: Guest Houses: FORTUNAT\*\*, phone; 0233 261 577, fortunastrajatarcau@yahoo.com; FATA PĂDURII-AMFITEATRU\*\*\*\*, phone; 0744 039 111; COROLA\*\*\*, phone; 0233 890 960, 0744 427 785, pensiuneacorola@yahoo.com; FRASIN\*\*\*, phone; 0233 212 903, 0722 456 555/0744 393 600;

I I THE SENT SECTIONS FREEZER

Bicaz: ADORA Hotel \*\*\*, phone. 0741 793 079, www.hoteladora.ro; Guest Houses: AURORA\*\*\* phone. 0721 705 754, LA STEAGURI\*\*\*, phone. 0766-630387, contact@lasteaguri.ro, www.lasteaguri.ro, CEAHLĂU CORP 1\*\*\*, phone. 0745 460 327; CEAHLĂU CORP 2\*\*\*, phone. 0745 460 327; MONTANA\*\*\*, phone. 0745 028 910; PESCARUŞ\*\*\*, phone. 0748 110 401; BIA PĂPĂDIA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 227 659, cabanabiapapadla@yahoo.com
LEBADA River Vessel\*\*\*, phone. 0748 110 401; Chalets: BARAJ\*\*\*, phone. 0233 254 960, IZVORUL MUNTELUI\*\*\*, phone. 0233 899 003; 0744 597 141, www.cabanaizvorulmuntelui.ro

Hangu: Guest Houses: CASA BĂLAN\*\*\*, phone. 0233 242 542, 0740 283 985 pensiuneabalan@yahoo.com; ESTIVAL\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 216 628, 0745 146 313, hamion\_sc@yahoo.com; IOANA\*\*\*, phone. 0741 597 473, ioanadirtu@yahoo.com; LOSTRIŢA\*\*\*, phone. 0760 489 364; cabana turistică BUHALNIŢA\*\*\*, phone. 0233 264 191

Dumbrava Roşie: BALCOST Motel \*\*\*, phone. 0233 282 240, 0744 679 868, motelbalcost@gmail.com; Guest Houses: ANDRA\*\*\*, phone/fax. 0233 282 559, 0745 525 968 pensiune\_andra@yahoo.com; BYBLOS\*\*\*, phone. 0233 280 993, 0749 056 056, pensiuneabyblos@yahoo.com; CLASIC\*\*\*, phone. 0233 282 290 rezervari@pensiuneaclassic.ro.OCTOGON\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 282 892, balan\_iuliana2000@yahoo.com; RUSTIC\*\*\*, phone, 0233 280 939, 0745 646 148, www.pensiunea-rustic.ro

Săvineşti: CASA DRUMEȚULUI Guest House\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 281 147, 0745 234 036, rezervari@casadrumetului.ro

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Dulceşti: CONDOR Motel \*\*\*, phone. 0233 761 001

Tupilați: Inns: HANUL ANCUTEI\*\*\*, phone. 0233 781 400, 0744 548 075, www.hanu-ancutei.ro HANUL RĂZEŞILOR\*\*\*, phone. 0730 608 141, 0730 947 749, www.hanulrazesilor.ro

Horia: MOTEL IMPERIAL Guest House\*\*\*, phone/fax 0233 747 111, 0722 305 028, motel\_imperial@yahoo.com

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Trifesti: IOANA Guest House \*\*\*, phone, 0745 073 418, andrei\_nicolae@romtelecom.ro

Secuieni: RALUCA Guest House \*\*\*\*, phone. 0751 303 698, Simona Chiselita@yahoo.com

# Neamț County

