



NEAMȚ COUNTY
COUNCIL

Neamț Land is a territory that proudly stands for centuries in the heart of Moldavia, and impresses its visitors everytime. Whether we think of the majestic Ceahlău Massif, the calm and enchanted waters of River Bistrița, the old dwellings commissioned by Stephen the Great, the mastery of the paintings from Agapia and Durău Monasteries, or the evocative atmosphere of Humulești, all of them speak of a long history, and a special kind of spirituality. Neamț County delineates a land with an aura of legend, a living history in pages of literature. The writings of Ion Creangă, Calistrat Hogaș, Alexandru Vlahuță and Mihail Sadoveanu reveal a land with a wild nature, with hospitable and welcoming people, and a great past, embedded in Romanian spirituality.

All the four fundamental myths of the Romanians are well represented in the folklore of Neamț Land: the myth of foundation, the myth of creation and human sacrifice, the shepherd myth and the myth of the incubus.

Traveling in the homeland of memories, Neamț County is our invitation for you to come and get to know these places up close and personal. It will be a worthwhile experience, for sure. Miron Costin described the beauty of these places as such: "...Should the Greek goddesses had found out about these lands, they would of course have come here, from their home Olympus".

Neamț County Council



TRAVELING IN
THE HOMELAND
OF MEMORIES:
**NEAMȚ
COUNTY**

Izvorul Muntelui Lake

Along River Bistrița, from Poiana Largului to Bicăz, lies the largest reservoir on the inland rivers in Romania: Lake Izvorul Muntelui. On a 35-kilometer-long stretch of water, along with the hills that overlook it, the villages set on the valleys and the mountain peaks of the more distant landscapes offer scenic landscapes that can easily be seen from the road that closely follows the shores of the lake. At the viewpoint from Hangu, nature reveals in front of your eyes in all its splendor, because of the perfect reflection of Ceahlău Massif ("The Pawn") in the mirror of water of "the sea between the mountains", as Lake Izvorul Muntelui is often called.

Before arriving in Bicăz, the wide surface of the still mountain lake stretches behind Bicăz Dam of 127m high, resembling a concrete mountain parapet, that holds up to 1250000 cubic meters of water. Bicăz dock, located near the dam, is the starting point for boat rides, pedal boat rides, kayaking and other various water sports. Tourists can serve delicious dishes at the Floating Restaurant, and spend the night at a guesthouse nearby, enjoying the fresh air and amazing views.

■ Lake Izvorul Muntelui
■ Bicăz Dam

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Ceahlăul – “The Olympus of Moldavia”

None of the mountains in Romania has ever charmed the eyes or ignited the imagination of hikers as Ceahlău Massif has. It majestically rises tall, like a giant dome of the Eastern Carpathians, on the legendary territory of Neamț Land. Ceahlău is much like a huge and impressive open-air museum displaying exhibits that carry the life story in the form of a legend or simple toponym: Dochia, Panaghia, Toaca, Dorobanțul, the Monks, the Rock in Tears, Butu's Tower, the Shelves with lilies, Detunatele - and many, many others ... It is a vast island of flora and fauna, exquisitely refined through ancestral geological turmoil. Also known as “the Holy Mount of the Dacians” or “the mountain of prayer”, its legendary allure is complemented by its impressive, massive appearance, and a certain mysterious aura surrounding it. Dominating the mountains around, due to its relatively lonely position, which allows its perfect visibility, like an old pyramid or a promontory, Ceahlău Massif is easily seen from many parts of Moldavia and Transylvania.

Consisting of a radius peaks system that converge to two points of maximum height, Ocolașul Mare Peak (1907m) and Toaca Peak (1904m), Ceahlău Massif stretches on



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more than 290 square kilometers, of which only 10% is occupied by the alpine abyss delimited by steep stone walls, which create the appearance of a fortress. Ever since the beginning of time, from the surroundings or from the mountain peaks, the beholders' eyes, caressed by the sun, sought to rejoice and find the ever vivid and overwhelming miracle of nature.

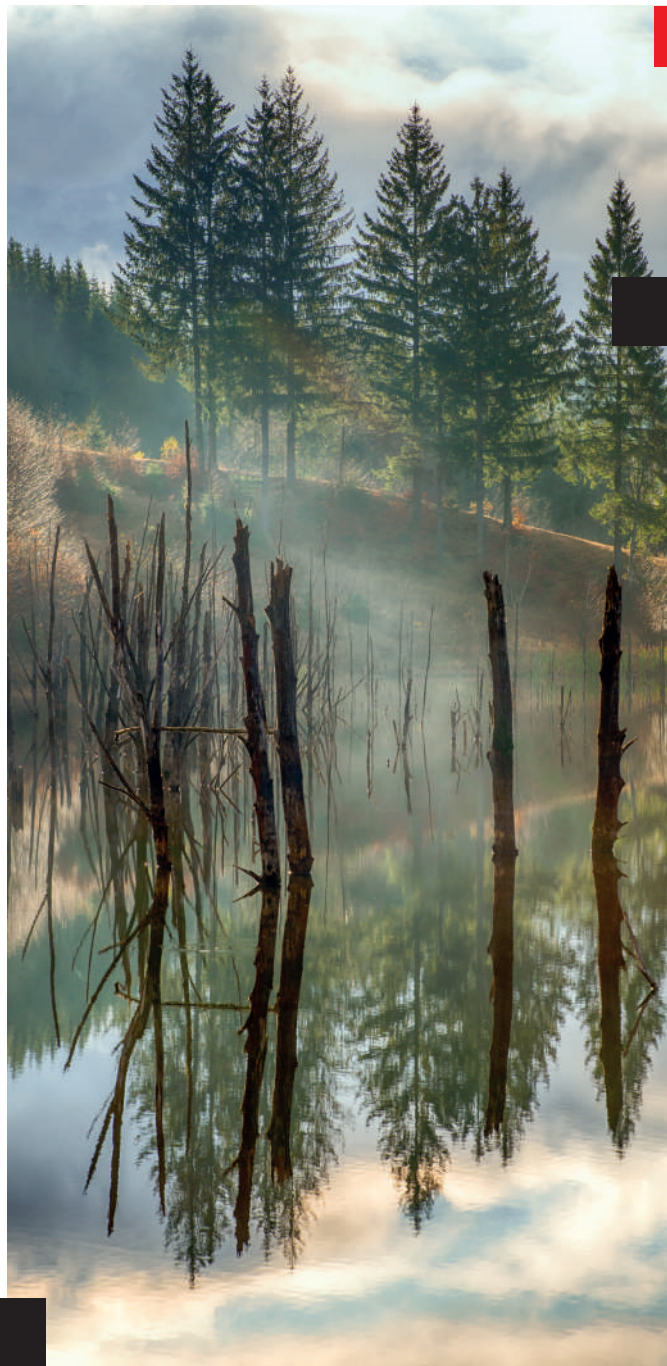
■ Chamois in Ceahlău Massif

■ Trail towards Toaca Peak, Ceahlău Massif

■ Toaca Peak, Ceahlău Massif







TRAVELING IN
THE HOMELAND
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Cuejdel Lake

Mild hills overlapping, wide deciduous forests, green pastures with sheep flocks, and the mirror of water of Lake Cuejdel bordered by a mountain slope which overturned its course, reveal the picturesque landscape of a mountain lake formed not long ago. This is Cuejdel, a natural dam lake, formed between 1978 and 1991 in Stânișoarei Mountains. With a length of 1 km, an area of about 281,700 acres and depths varying between 7m and 14m, it is nowadays the largest natural dam lake in Romania.

Lake Cuejdel, with many trunks of broken trees coming out of the still surface of the water, is a wild oasis, with captivating specimens of flora and fauna, a landscape changing colors from one season to the next, impressing every time.

■ Lake Cuejdel
■ Lake Cuejdel

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Bicaz Gorges

At the west entrance gate, as you come from Transylvania, you encounter an impressive landscape that greets you right when entering the beautiful Neamț Land: Bicaz Gorges. From ancient times until today, the furious waters of Bicaz creek dug up the mountain and formed the most spectacular gorges in the country. The landscape is breathtaking, and you do not know whether it is a dream or reality: giant stone walls that rise up in an attempt to touch the sky, make way for a serpentine road of rare beauty, accompanied all along by the mountain waters roaring while tumbling down over large stone boulders. “The Altar Stone”, impressively and majestically guarding the road, recalls those times when the Dacians, Romanian’s ancestors, used to practice their worship rituals here, about 5000 years ago; “The “Hell’s Throat” is a place where the rocky massifs meet up in the sky, as if they want to unite and become one again, while “The Guardian”, a straight wall that completes the apocalyptic landscape, whispers stories about all the brave climbers who tried to escalate it, in the attempt to push their limits. Tourists can choose among 18 hiking trails crossing Bicaz Gorges, a unique attraction with overwhelming landscapes. The wilderness and massiveness of the limestone cliffs, crossed by the winding road, transform the entire area into an spectacular and interesting place not only for tourists from Romania and abroad, but also for climbing enthusiasts.



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Monasteries in Neamț

The monasteries in Neamț area keep their pace and serenity, passing over time, over successive transformations of society, over generations, as if they had been there since the beginning of time. Such evidence of the Romanian faith is Neamț Monastery, one of the oldest monasteries in Moldavia and a gem of the Romanian Orthodoxy. Located in the village of Vânători-Neamț, near the town of Târgu-Neamț, the monastic settlement includes the church, dating back from the 14th century, an invaluable religious art museum and a museum of print, and the oldest monastic library, counting over 12,000 volumes in 1862, testimonies about significant historical, theological, cultural and artistic facts. Neamț Monastery is the result of the successive foundations of the voivodes Petru I Mușat, Alexander the Blessed and Stephen the Great, between the 14th-16th centuries. A place full of history and holiness is waiting for you to step down its threshold, with piety and good intentions. Here, it seems that time has lost count and one can easily find peace of mind and heart.

Among the valuable monastic settlements that attract visitors both from Romania and abroad are the monasteries of Văratec, Agapia, Sihla, Sihăstria, Secu, Petru Vodă, Neamț, Bistrița, Pângărați, Bisericiani, Horaița, Nechit, Tazlău and Războieni, as well as the hermitages of Agapia Veche, Icoana Nouă, Daniil Sihastru and Pocrov. Neamț Monastery and Bistrița Monastery are notable for their age, Pângărați Monastery for its unique architecture



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among the monasteries in Moldavia, Agapia Nunnery for the exceptional paintings of Nicolae Grigorescu, and Sihla Monastery for the life full of piety of Saint Theodora. The spiritual and historical inheritance of the monasteries in Neamț County is priceless. Whether you are impressed by the religious significance of these places, or interested in the historical and architectural importance of the settlements, you will surely have plenty to discover and share with your friends.

- Sihăstria Monastery
- Holy painting by Nicolae Grigorescu - detail
- Neamț Monastery, 1210
- Petru Vodă Monastery
- The Archbispheoric Church in Roman, 16th century
- Războieni Monastery





Wooden churches

Churches made of wood, where tradition, faith and holiness blend together, represent genuine hearths where faith has never faded away. You cannot know the true meaning of faith until you enter at least once into a wooden church. The smell of old wood and the atmosphere inside transport you into another world and create a strong sense of connectedness between man and God. Wood lacework arranged in bands and increasingly large and rich decorative fields, folkcraft decorations made in the most authentic Moldavian style, paintings on a layer of plaster, folk architecture made using wood carving, engraving and sculpting techniques, all these are the elements that characterize these architectural jewels. There is an atmosphere of peace and calm that surrounds them, where you can put your senses to rest for a few moments, forgetting about the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Mentioned in historical documents since the 14th century, these wooden jewels are part of the archaic forms of the Orthodox Christian faith, and offer wonderful views alongside the picturesque landscapes of the villages in Neamț.

■ “The Holy Trinity” Wooden Church in Mănăstirea Neamț village, 2000-2002

■ “Saint Parascheva” Wooden Church in Farcașa village, 1774



The village treasures of Neamț have been included in the Transnational Route of Wooden Churches in Romania and Republic of Moldova, which spans across 16 counties in Romania and 3 districts in Moldova. Tourists can discover ancient traditions that tell the story of folk genius and national unity, through all the decorative, pictorial and conceptual aspects of the encountered tourist objectives.

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Discover the wonderful landscapes of Dămuc Commune!

Among Romania’s picturesque and always surprising landscapes, Dămuc commune in Neamț County is a breathtaking area, located at a really high altitude.

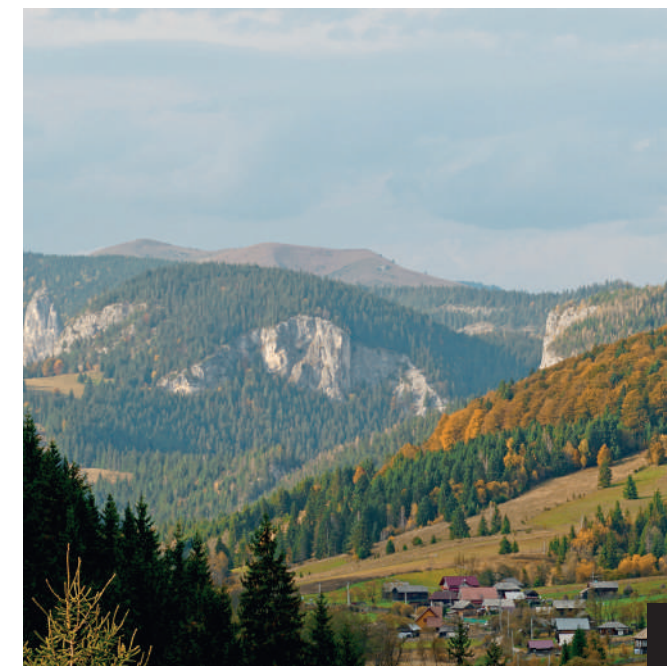
A charming mountain village with forests as far as the eye can see, Dămuc is situated between two majestic mountain ranges, Tarcău Mountains and Hășmașul Mare Mountains, not far away from the impressive Bicaz Gorges. No matter what season you come here, “The Land at the Foothill of Hășmaș” is one of the most beautiful tourist areas in the country, unique for its spectacular landscapes. The houses are built according to the traditional mountain architecture. The locals are welcoming and warm-hearted people, and tell their stories to everyone who’s willing to listen. Here, one can finally escape from the pressure of daily existence, feel that different rhythm of life that can only be experienced in the countryside, and enjoy the really simple and healthy living.

Bicăjel River Valley and Trei Fântâni Village are continuously increasing their tourist visibility, due to their proximity to the much sought-after Bicaz Gorges and also to some other tourist attractions in the area: Bicăjel Gorges, Șugău Nature Reserve, Munticelu Cave, and last, but not least, Via Ferrata Astragalus.

Dămuc commune scored 9 out of 10 points in a research carried out by the Romanian Academy’s Institute of Geography, for its natural setting, mountains, forests, lakes, mineral springs, landscapes, and hunting fund.

■ Trei Fântâni Village, Dămuc Commune

■ Bicăjel Valley, Dămuc Commune



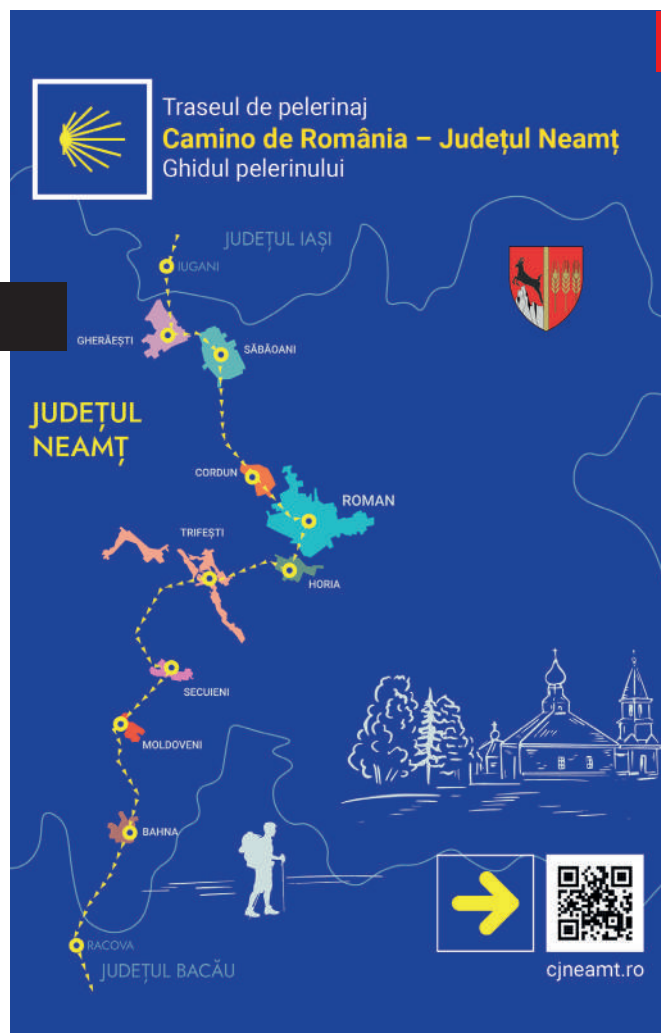
Pilgrim routes in Neamț

The renowned pilgrimage routes of Camino de Santiago and Via Mariae, dating back to the Middle Ages, cross the territory of Neamț County, starting in 2022.

Camino de Romania

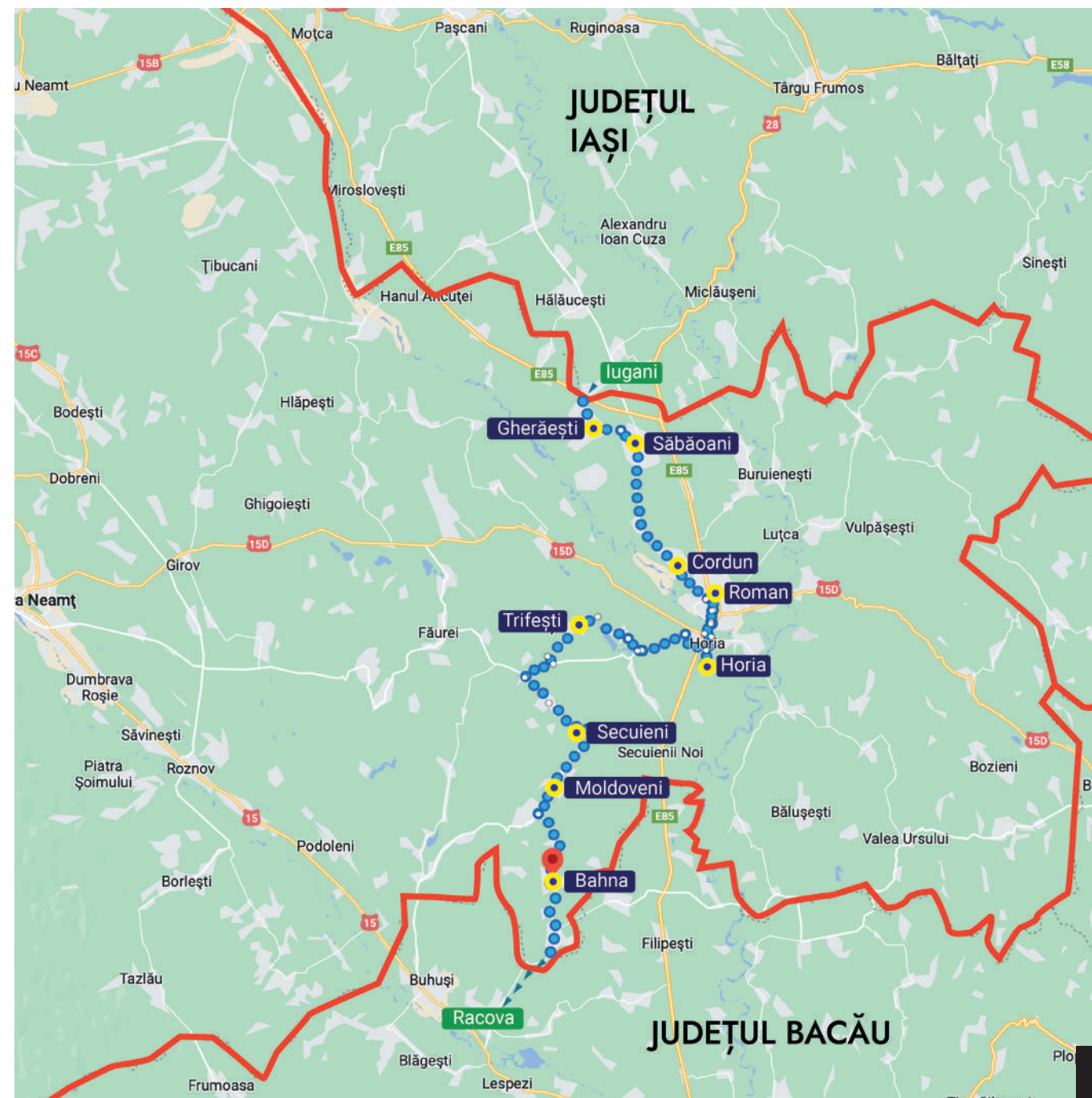
A network of pilgrim routes that have traversed Europe since the Dark Ages, known as “Camino de Santiago”, has recently included Romania and now crosses through Neamț County as well, serving as a bridge between the Orthodox and Catholic churches, tourist attractions, and theme parks along the pilgrimage walks. “Camino de Romania” begins in Iași County, passes through Neamț and Bacău counties, then crosses the Carpathians into Transylvania, through Covasna County. The route is part of “Camino de Santiago” or “St. James Way”, which attracts pilgrims from all over Europe. Annually, approximately 350,000 pilgrims from 160 countries choose to travel the “Camino de Santiago” network of routes that spread across the entire continent. On October 23, 1987, the Council of Europe declared the Camino de Santiago as the first European Cultural Itinerary. “Camino de România

■ Camino de România – Neamț County, Pilgrim’s guide
■ Camino de România – Neamț County, Map of the pilgrimage route



– Neamț County” pilgrimage route includes the Roman area, starting from the north, in Gherăești Commune, and descending south to Izvoare, Bahna Commune. The connection to Iași County is made through Lugani, and to Bacău County, through Racova.

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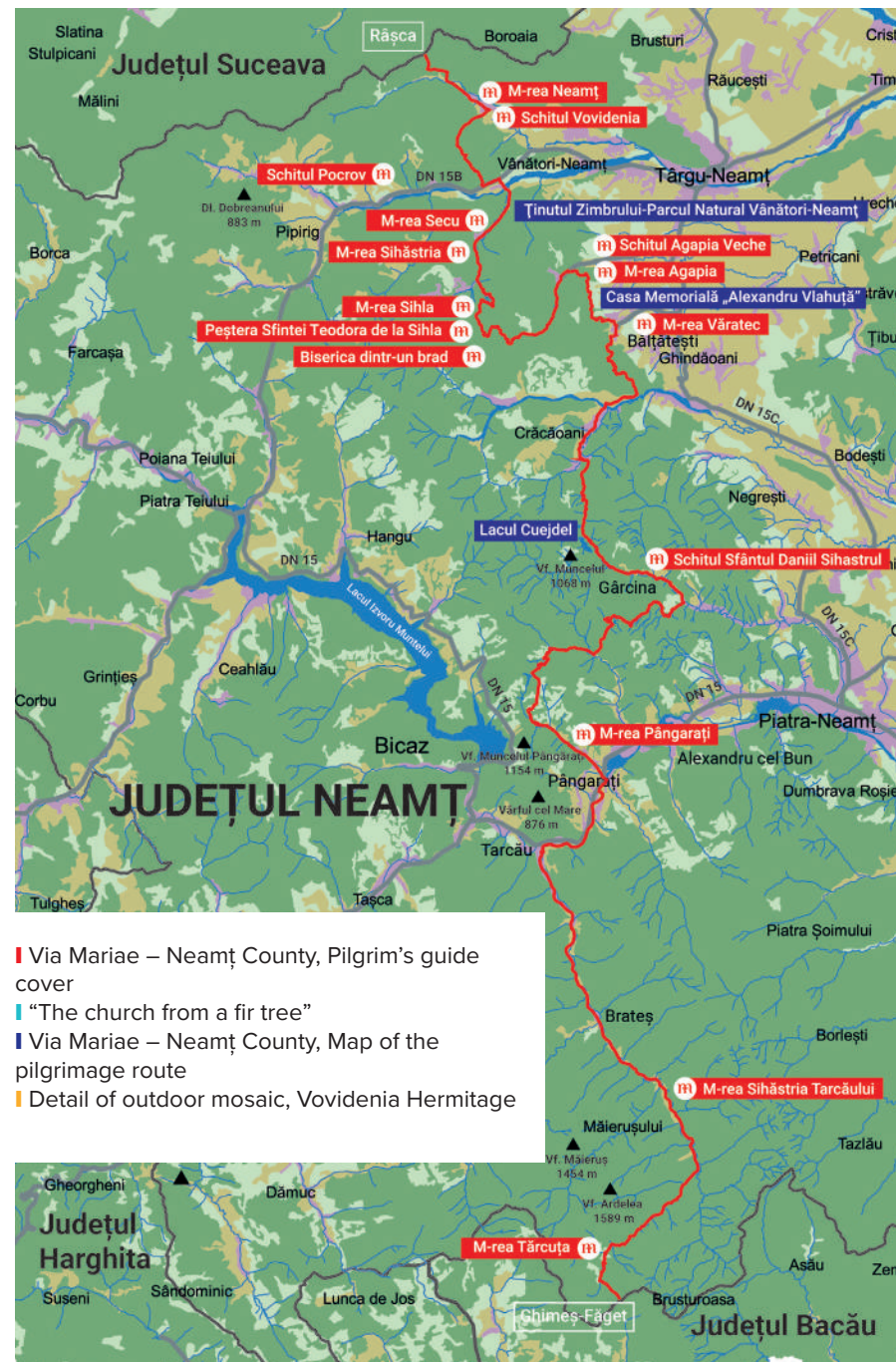


Via Mariae

Via Mariae pilgrimage route (also named “Mary’s Way”) is a spiritual tourist path rooted in the veneration of St. Mary by the nations of Central and Eastern Europe, but it also connects the shrines of Mary, without interfering with any historical, cultural, or religious differences. The route dedicated to honoring the Holy Virgin now stretches across Neamț County, where monasteries and churches hidden in the thick forests, scattered in quiet clearings and in the beautiful valleys, await you to cross their thresholds. Via Mariae draws a large cross on the map of Central Europe -going through Austria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, and Bosnia- thus creating a network of pilgrimage routes based on local values. “Via Mariae – Neamț County” pilgrimage route is a segment of the European pilgrimage route VIA MARIAE. The extension of the route in Neamț was possible due to the joint efforts of Neamț County Council, the Metropolis of Moldavia and Bukovina, Neamț Forestry Service, Vânători-Neamț Natural Park Administration Centre, the local councils of Vânători-Neamț, Pîpirig, Agapia, Crăcăoani, Gârcina, Pângărați, and Tarcău communes, “Eco Travel” Association, at the initiative of “Via Mariae” Association from Harghita County. So, we invite you to take the road less traveled and to become pilgrims, even for a few days, to visit holy places full of spiritual, cultural and historical meaning, to enjoy en-route adventures and stunning landscapes along the way!



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Legend

- Pilgrimage route
- Metropolitan areas
- Agricultural land
- Meadows
- Forest
- Rivers
- Roads
- County border
- ▲ Peaks

Neamț Fortress

The name of Neamț Fortress stays forever written in the history pages of Neamț County. For more than six centuries, from ancient times, the fortress stands on the valley of River Ozana, heroically guarding the land and the Moldavian people. Commissioned by Petru I Mușat and then extended and consolidated under the rule of Stephen the Great, who also set up a defense trench with an arched bridge, the imposing fortress resisted many sieges of the many enemies. The 8-day opposition to the furious Ottoman siege led by the fearsome Mehmed the Conqueror, following the battle of Războieni (1476), or the glorious episode written in their own blood by the 19 frontier guards facing the Polish army led by Jan Sobieski in 1691 are stories whispered by the walls of the fortress. Declared a historical monument in 1866 and restored prior to 2009 under the PHARE Programme, the fortress rises serenely on the hill limiting the town of Târgu-Neamț and belongs to the category of medieval monuments of great historical value in Romania. It stands as a living proof of the rich history of Neamț County. The museum offers 21 exhibition rooms for visitors to explore within the fortress, all of which recreate the image of glorious, old times past.

Every year, close to the 2nd of July, the day when people commemorate the Holy Prince Stephen the Great, locals celebrate “Days of Neamț Fortress”, a much beloved medieval festival gathering thousands of people in Târgu-Neamț.



- “Days of Neamț Fortress” Medieval Festival
- “Days of Neamț Fortress” Medieval Festival
- Neamț Fortress, the inner courtyard
- Neamț Fortress, air view

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“Ion Creangă” Memorial Museum

The house in which Ion Creangă, the much beloved Romanian author, was born and raised, still stands quietly in Humulești, as a proof of the real existence of the characters from his worldwide famous Memories from childhood. You can see the chimney pole with rope and tassel at the end for cats to play with, the hearth of the mantelpiece where Nică leaned when he was learning to walk, the oven that he was hiding when he was playing peek-a-boo, even the weaving and spinning tools of his mother, the trees in the yard, they are all intact - precious memories that accompany us throughout our life. The museum house has been restored, preserving all the peculiarities of the folk architecture of that time, and inside you will discover a rich collection of traditional household items, a true ethnographic treasure. Built in 1830 by Petrea Ciubotariul -Ion Creangă's grandfather-, the house became a museum in 1951. The simplicity of the courtyard and the house, the interiors specific to the traditional village in Neamț area, reminding of the beautiful Moldavian traditions, emanate a sweet and gentle tranquility, far from the madding crowd. Here you can experience the sensation that Nică's adventures intertwine with those of your childhood, and the child within you is reborn, allowing you the pleasure of entirely immersing yourself in the serenity and carelessness of that time.

- “Ion Creangă” Memorial House
- Interior of “Ion Creangă” Memorial House
- Interior of “Ion Creangă” Memorial House



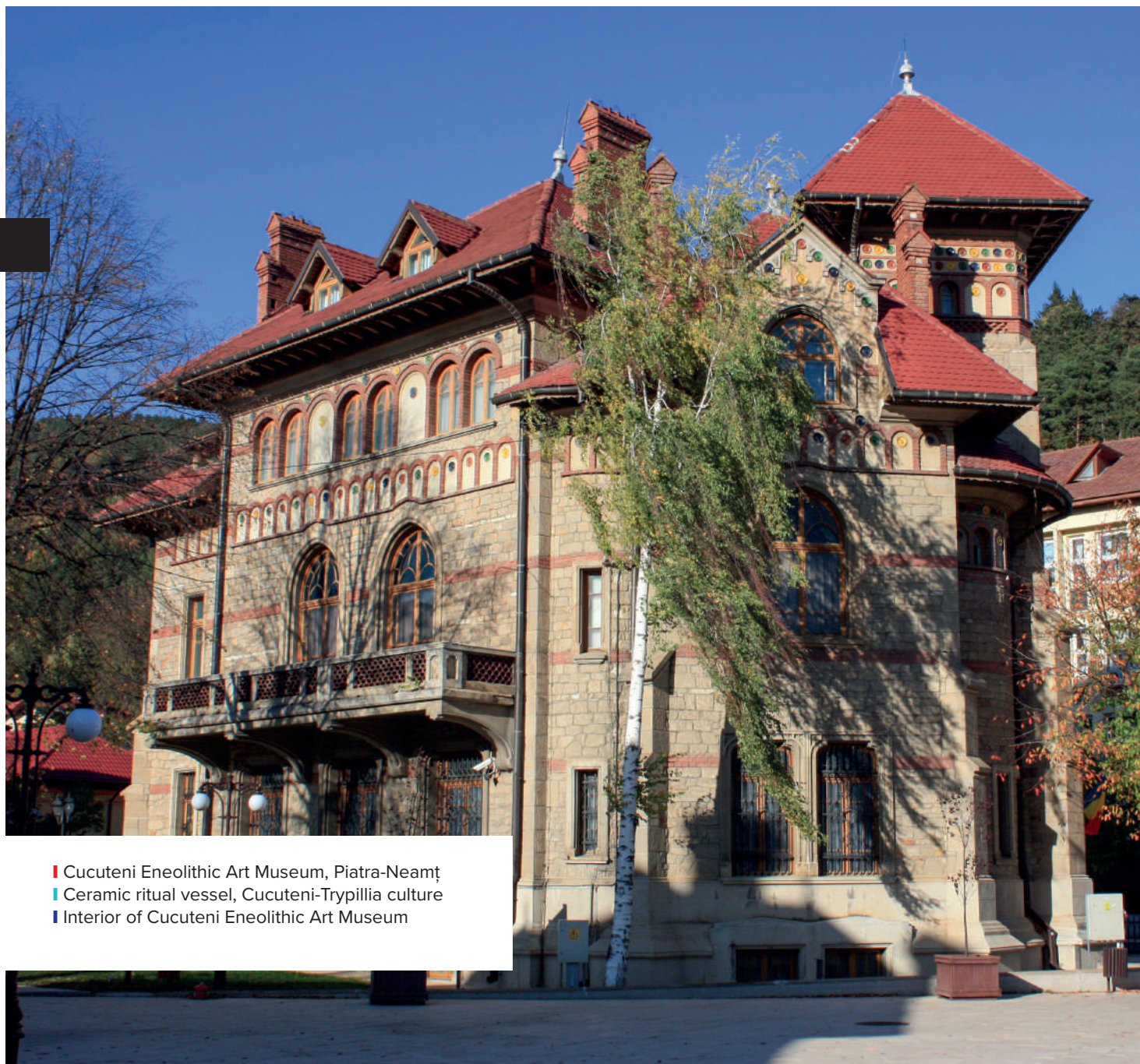
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“Cucuteni” Eneolithic Art Museum

The Cucuteni Eneolithic Art Museum is housed in a beautiful building belonging to the Princely Court Ensemble in Piatra Neamț, built in 1930, by entrepreneur Carol Zani, after a project of the former Chief architect Roger Bolomey, and shelters the richest and most valuable collection in Europe of artefacts belonging to Cucuteni - Trypillia Culture. On display, various ceramic objects, distinguished by their monochrome, bicrom or tricrom paintings, elegant and refined shapes that offer a comprehensive picture of the decorative and figurative art belonging to the most important Eneolithic culture in Southeastern Europe. Developed between 3600-2600 B.C., the collection includes some eight hundred items, most of them tanking in the hoard category. Here, you can admire priceless exhibits such as “The Small Columns Vessel”, “Frumușica Hora”, “Hora-type Vessel”, statuettes in the group of “The Goddesses’ Synaxis”, “The Thinker of Târpești”, to name only a few. Considered to be the highest achievement during Eneolithic Europe, Cucuteni - Trypillia ceramics achieve perfection through the motifs of the decoration, predominantly the spiral, painted with natural pigments, and why not, as the researchers say, even with the artist’s own blood.

The Cucuteni Eneolithic Art Museum represents the achievement of the desire of several generations of archaeologists and recognition of the constant efforts made for over seven decades by the Museum of History and Archaeology in Piatra Neamț.



■ Cucuteni Eneolithic Art Museum, Piatra-Neamț
■ Ceramic ritual vessel, Cucuteni-Trypillia culture
■ Interior of Cucuteni Eneolithic Art Museum



Village Museums

On a green slope, behind a traditional fence, the gate opens onto a large yard, with an open-air alley. On either side of the alley, among fruit trees, you will see many fairy-tale characters -carved in wood or stone- that enliven the entire atmosphere, and at the end of the alley a traditional house with wooden porch stands firmly on the ground. It is the house of the famous artisan Neculai Popa from Târpești - Petricani, transformed into a true ethnographic museum that shelters various objects crafted by the artisan and his wife, as well as others items collected from the villagers nearby. Should you be willing to listen, "The Piper", one of the statues carved in stone by the artisan, will sing you about the famous craftsmen of Târpești village. The masks with intriguing faces will show you villain features of the people, and the plethora of fairytale characters sculpted in wood or stone which decorate the yard stand as testimony of a genuine, yet bygone talent.

After leaving Târgu-Neamț, when heading towards Pipirig, in Lunca village, on a narrow street, behind a fence with carved wooden gates, you can visit the house of another woodworking master, Vasile Găman. The house is an oasis of Romanian traditions, where you can admire a rich and diverse collection of crafted items specific to the area. Here, you will have the pleasure of being told stories about what and how it was, by master Găman himself, who happily awaits guests to cross his threshold.



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- "Vasile Găman" Ethnography Museum
- Vasile Găman, famous craftsman
- "Neculai Popa" Ethnography Museum, courtyard view
- Interior of "Neculai Popa" Ethnography Museum
- Masks for the New Year celebrations on display at "Neculai Popa" Ethnography Museum



Traditional crafts

Neamț area can be looked upon as a genuine “wood civilization”, with local craftsmen using wood in many occupations, from building houses with high roofs and wide eaves to protect the porch from rain and snow, to the churches they erected in the heart of the villages as a testimony of their faith, and to the small furniture or household items. The old houses that still exist today are true testimonies to the skill of the craftsmen from Neamț. Another part of traditional crafts is proudly represented by the art of weaving, embroidery and traditional costumes, a field in which Neamț County has always excelled in diversity and refinement, as seen in the numerous traditional works of art produced over time: rugs, carpets, table runners, towels, saddle bags, belts, blouses, tablecloths, curtains, headbands, and much more... The making of traditional masks is a characteristic feature of Neamț, with craftsmen creating objects with rich emotional symbolism, usually representing animals such as goats, horses, bears, wolves, deer, or characters from popular mythology or folklore. Masks of all kinds can be admired at winter festivals, which are still celebrated according to ancient customs in this region.

- “Nemțeanca” Artisans’ Association, Târgu-Neamț
- Wood art specific to Neamț County
- Traditional vest, Târgu-Neamț area
- Clay art, Ionela LUNGU, Humulești
- Patterns specific to rugs in Neamț County



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Customs and traditions in Neamț

Learned by doing over centuries, customs and canons kept in community awareness are still observed today in Neamț villages. The customs that have been preserved to this day have a time-tested value, being often connected to faith. In the mountain villages, you can still attend the shepherding in spring and round-up and sorting the sheep in autumn. In winter, women still join evening sittings to show their skills of weaving and embroidering, creating items of exquisite artistic value to adorn the houses. Every year, when celebrating major events in rural communities, people participate in the hora, accompanied by music played on the flute, pan flute, trumpet, and drums, to the delight of all dancers. Winter holidays traditions form the longest, richest and merriest folk festival. They represent the living archive of the inhabitants' spirituality, better preserved in the villages of Neamț County. 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 "Plugușorul", the small bottomless barrel covered with skin, cattle or sheep bells, and even with an ox-driven 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. Winter traditions in this area include a rich and varied repertoire, which impresses by message, folk costumes, and music.

- Round dance ("Hora") at Ceahlău Mountain Festival
- Bringing the sheep back home in autumn
- Customs and traditions in Neamț area: Bear dance
- Customs and traditions in Neamț area: "Căiuții" / Children dancing with horse sticks



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Gastronomy

In Neamț, whether you stop for a shorter period or stay longer, you will be able to indulge in traditional platters prepared from smoked pork loin, homemade sausages, meatballs, headcheese, bacon, cheese with red onion, all prepared according to culinary traditions of the region. Other well-known Moldovan dishes that will tingle your taste buds are sour soup with a little bit of borscht, dresala, jellied meat, trout hârzob and, last but not least, a Moldovan stew made with pork, polenta and egg, sheep's feta cheese, and sausages. Delicious poale-n brâu pies filled with sweet or salty cheese, Moldavian "alivenci" served hot and garnished with sour cream, or puff pastry swirls, complete the rich list of traditional dishes. If you want to quench your thirst, the hosts will welcome you with a syrup made from fir buds, perfect for hot summer days, and in the winter cold, with a blueberry liqueur made from forest fruits from the mountains of Neamț, to accompany the stories told around the fireplace.

- Traditional cheese pie
- Smoked trout in fir branches
- Cabbage Roll Meatballs

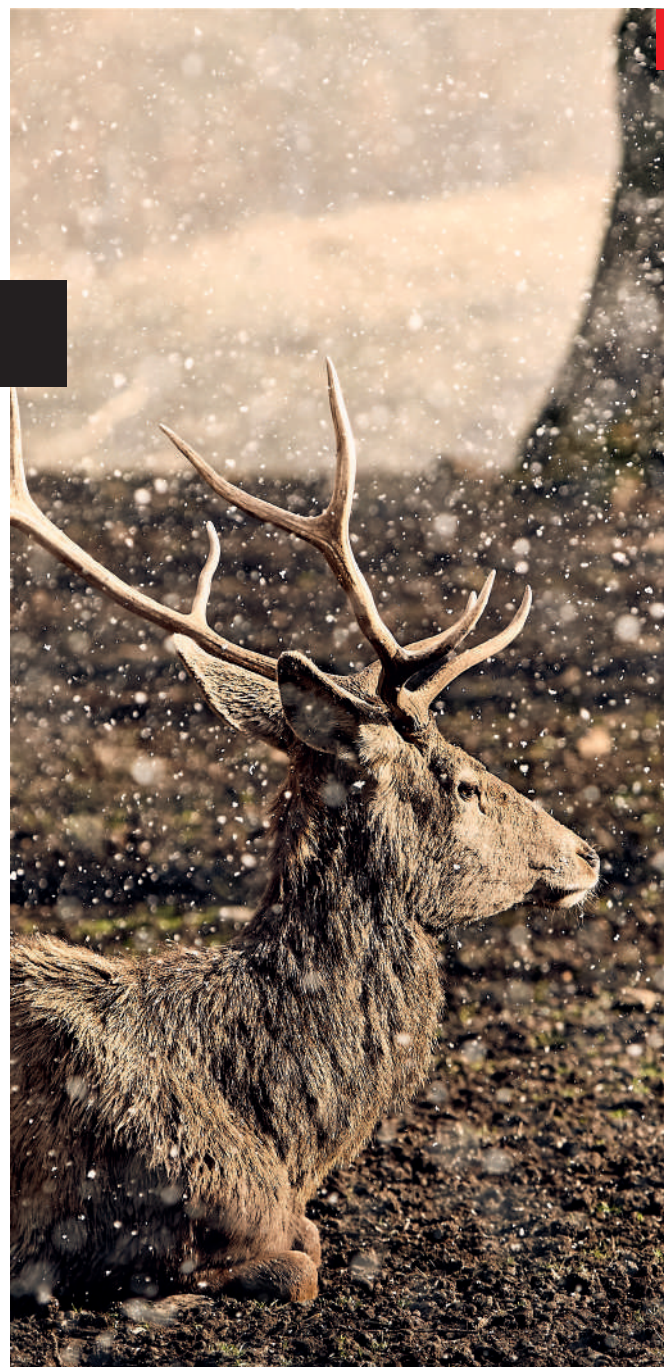


“Dragoș Vodă” Bison and Carpathian Fauna Reserve

VÂNĂTORI – NEAMȚ NATURAL PARK

Located in the north of Neamț County, within Vânători-Neamț Natural Park, “Dragoș Vodă” Bison and Carpathian Fauna Reserve shelters bisons, Carpathian deer, elks, a pair of mouflons, roe deer, foxes, wolves, and various species of birds. Among the three ponds in the reserve, “Bison Lake” hides beautiful specimens of carp, crucian carp, pike-perch, pike, and perch in its peaceful waters. The suspended bridge in the forest, made of wood and raised to a height of 15-20 meters over a length of 200 meters, allows for the observation of fauna and vegetation in this protected area. The bison, the heraldic symbol of Moldova and Europe’s largest land animal, disappeared from the Carpathian fauna in 1800 but reappeared in 1970 with three specimens, two years after the establishment of this reserve. “Dragoș Vodă” Bison and Carpathian Fauna Reserve was established in 1969, and is unique in Romania, since it is the only zoo in the countryside, located at a great distance from the increasingly concentrated urban agglomerations.

- Carpathian red stag in Vânători-Neamț Natural Park
- Bison in Vânători-Neamț Natural Park
- Bisons roaming free in Vânători-Neamț Natural Park
- Bisons roaming free in Vânători-Neamț Natural Park



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Bison Land in Neamț County – Best Ecotourism Destination

BISON SAFARI

The importance and attractiveness of Bison Land as a tourist destination has increased significantly over the past years, as it became worldwide known and sought after by a large number of both national and foreign visitors. Vânători-Neamț Natural Park Administration has also arranged a Bison museum and two trails that allow tourists to encounter European bison in their natural habitat.

So, if you come to Neamț, make sure you don't miss the one of a kind experience of Bison Safari! You can practice Bison Safari either on foot or by using an offroad vehicle, accompanied by a ranger, observing bison roaming in the wild, and other animals from the rich wildlife of the natural park.

Tourists have the opportunity to explore Bison Land, the Best Ecotourism Destination in Romania, internationally acclaimed and annually awarded since 2017 for the good practices of conservation, promotion and development of the area. The European bison has been thriving here since the spring of 2012, when five bison, three males and two females, were released. Bison Land is the only place in Europe where the bison, heraldic symbol of Moldavia and the largest land animal on the continent can be seen, in three kind of habitats: in freedom in the forests of the Park, in semi-freedom in the acclimatization enclosure,



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and in captivity inside “Dragoș Vodă” Carpathian Wildlife and Bisons Reserve.

A species on the verge of extinction 10 years ago is now the pride of the Moldavian forests, being hosted in Bison Land, which overlaps Vânători-Neamț Natural Park. Over 60 bison roam free here, half of which came to life in this amazing natural area, spreading on a surface of approximately 76.160 acres.

A bison safari through the forests in Neamț gives you the opportunity to observe, get close and enjoy the encounter with a real bison (which weighs about a ton), one you can find in the nature park, assisted by a ranger, on foot or by car, in the wild or in semi-freedom.

Every season, but especially in autumn, local producers, talented craftsmen and artists from Neamț gather at EcoBrunches in Bison Land, events celebrating both culture and gastronomy, that support the preservation of local authenticity, and the promotion of Bison Land as the only ecotourism destination in Romania included in Top 100 Sustainable Destinations worldwide.



Vânători – Neamț cultural monastic landscape often referred to as “The Athos of Romania”

VÂNĂTORI – NEAMȚ NATURAL PARK

A perfect blend of nature, spirituality, history, and culture has given rise to a sacred space in Neamț, also known as “the Athos of Romania”. The location overlaps Vânători-Neamț Natural Park and Romsilva District, with an area of over 74132 acres, of which 64248 acres are forests, home to 41 species of mammals, 103 species of birds, and seven species of fish. Even more interesting is that over a quarter of the plant species in Romania can be found here. The park’s maximum altitude of Buhalnița Peak (1,231 meters) is not by far the most impressive fact. What really catches the eye and soothes the soul is the idyllic aspect of the territory, seemingly taken out of fairy tales, which hosts a large number of monastic settlements, approximately 1000 monks and nuns living in the six monasteries and ten hermitages in the area. There are also monks living in seclusion in the woods, proof of the fact that there has been uninterrupted monastic activity in the area since the 14th century.

The monastic villages of Văratec and Agapia represent the largest Orthodox monastic settlement in the world. The presence of nuns and monks communities in these places for hundreds of years has actually shaped a very special interaction with the landscape and developed a unique model of conservation and preservation. The long



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history of the place and everything that has been built in this area represents, in fact, a form of sustainable social economy. In a place full of beauty and spirituality, which still preserves the peaceful atmosphere of days past, and people honor the “customs of the earth”, visitors can spend a very special holiday, away from the noise and stress of daily existence.

And because this corner of heaven in Neamț is so special, starting from April 2021, the monastic cultural landscape of Vânători – Neamț has been included on the tentative list of UNESCO Cultural Heritage Monuments.



Leisure and recreation

With a rich natural and anthropic heritage, Neamț County awaits you to spend beautiful and relaxing vacations inside its borders, with various and adventurous activities. A boat, pedal boat or steamboat ride, SUP or kayaks and canoes competitions on Lake Izvorul Muntelui and Lake Bâta Doamnei, a hike on Ceahlău Massif, in Vânători-Neamț Nature Park or in Șugăului Gorges, climbing the straight rock walls of Bicaz Gorges or floating with birds in a paraglider or motodeltaplan will fill your lungs with clean air and your soul with happiness. Yes! You got it right: Neamț is the county where you can venture into discovering, by flying, the unspoiled, unexpected beauty of landscapes; you can even sign up for obtaining a light aircraft piloting licence. Also in Neamț, you can try the longest via ferrata route in Romania, Via ferrata ASTRAGALUS from Șugău Gorges – Munticelu Nature Reserve, a project initiated by the well-known climber Constantin Lăcătușu, the first Romanian to reach the highest peak on the planet, EVEREST.

The goldola lift in Piatra-Neamț guarantees a spectacular view of the whole city, from high above. Tourists are welcome to the scenic and exciting four seasons world of Durău Park, a ski slope during winter and amusement park during summer, where a mountaintop of fun, excitement and beauty is awaiting for them.

The picturesque landscapes along the villages are a sure invitation to biking trips, off-road or ATV-riding, paintball, archery and more. The municipal lido in Piatra-Neamț and



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“Moldova” Leisure complex in Roman are other places that offer tourists diverse and attractive activities for their free time. The lakes and ponds in Neamț are waiting for fishing enthusiasts to share their stories with a fishing line. “Virgil Bărbuceanu” Equestrian base and “Dumbrava Stallion Reserve”, the therapeutic springs in Bălțătești, and SPAs in Neamț will convince you that Neamț County is the ideal destination for spending leisure time and practicing outdoor activities.

- Bicaz Kayak Fest, Lake Izvorul Muntelui
- Horseback riding competition at “Col. Virgil Bărbuceanu” Equestrian base, Piatra Neamț
- Snowboard, Cozla Leisure Complex
- Discover Neamț Land by bicycle! - Bike Trip Experience



ACTIVITIES INFO

Renowned for its unspoiled natural environment, Neamț County attracts a large number of visitors every year for a wide range of annual festivities celebrating traditional culture, music, good food, and fun filled events. Make sure you book your place in advance!

- Snow Festival in Durău Resort – January
- Union Day – January
- “Florile Ceahlăului” National Festival of Folk Music for Children and Young People – March
- B-Zone Folk Music Festival – May
- “The Hope Chest” Folk Art Festival – May
- Bicaz Kayac Fest – June
- Piatra Fest – June
- “Bate Toaca” Mountain Running Marathon – June
- Medieval Festival “Days of the Neamț Fortress” – July
- “Musical Holidays” International Festival – July
- Water Music Festival – August
- Ceahlău Mountain Festival – August
- “Ceahlău” International Folklore Festival – August
- Piatra Neamț Waterways Challenge – September
- Marathon MTB Bicaz – September
- Neamț Music Festival – September
- Piatra Neamț Drama Festival – September
- “Steaua sus răzare” Festival of customs and traditions – December
- Christmas Fair in Neamț – December



Whether you love the busy rush of the city or the tranquility out in the countryside, Neamț County is the place to be!

■ Skiing and sledding slope at Durău Park, Durău Resort

■ Parade of medieval costumes during “Days of Neamț Fortress”

■ Fire show at “Days of Neamț Fortress”

■ Concert during “Days of Neamț Fortress”

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ACCOMMODATIONS & DINING

Blessed with a wealth of natural and man-made wonders, Neamț County invites you to indulge in beautiful vacations on its lands, offering a variety of activities, from adventures to relaxation. Visitors can embark on a serene boat ride, sail on a steamboat, pedal a hydro-bicycle, stand-up paddleboard, or participate in kayak and canoe competitions on the Lake Izvorul Muntelui and Lake Bâta Doamnei. One can also trek through the majestic Ceahlău Mountain, explore the Vânători-Neamț Natural Park, or navigate the Șugău Gorges. Moreover, travelers are able to scale the sheer rock faces of the Bicaz Gorges, or soar alongside the birds with a paraglider or ultralight flying experience that will fill the lungs with fresh air and the spirit with joy. Yes, you read that right: Neamț is the county where you can venture on aerial hikes and even sign up for light aircraft piloting courses.

And right here, you can also tackle Romania's longest via ferrata route, "Astragalus" in the Șugău Gorges – Munticelu, a project initiated by the renowned Constantin Lăcătușu, Piatra-Neamț born climber and the first Romanian to conquer Everest.

The Piatra-Neamț cable car lift is a true draw for tourists, while the Durău Park leisure complex at the foot of the Ceahlău Massif operates all year round, offering ski slopes in winter and a leisure park during the summer.

Picturesque landscapes stretching along the villages allure the traveler to hit the trails with mountain bikes, while the municipal beach of Piatra-Neamț and the "Moldova" Leisure Complex in Roman provide tourists with a diverse and attractive range of leisure activities. The lakes and ponds of Neamț await angling enthusiasts to exchange tales over a cast line. The "Virgil Bărbuceanu" equestrian base, the horse farm at Dumbrava, the therapeutic springs at Bălțatești, and the natural spas in Neamț are other attractions that visitors will find in Neamț County.

Come and discover the boundless beauty and the adventurous heart of Neamț — a place where every journey becomes a story worth telling.

Accommodation and meals

Piatra Neamț: Hotels: CENTRAL PLAZA****, tel/fax +40 233 216 230, office@centralplazahotel.ro; ATLAS APARTHOTEL & RESTAURANT****, tel. +40 771 110 013, office@atlasaparthotel.ro; La CURTEA DOMNEASCĂ****, tel. +40 233 273 637, popa_geanina@yahoo.com; Grand Hotel CEHLĂU***, tel. +40 233 219 990, office@hotelceahlau.ro; **Guest Houses:** CASA MOLDOVEANA***, tel. +40 749 538 874, pensiuneacasamoldoveana@gmail.com; LIDO***, tel. +40 233 226 349, office@pensiunealido.ro; DIMINEȚI ÎN CERDAC***, tel. +40 755 860 572, contact@diminetiincerdac.ro; BACHUS***, tel. +40 724 517 489, rezervari@pensiuneabachus.ro; CORNELIUS***, tel. +40 233 211 511, pensiuneacornelius@yahoo.com; **Rooms for rent:** GREENLOFT***, ouatu.daniela@yahoo.com; COCHET ACCOMMODATION ***, tel. +40 754 302 465, motelcochet@gmail.com; CLEMENT APARTAMENTS***, tel. +40 758 545 5555, booking@apartclement.ro; DURĂU RESIDENCE***, tel. +40 744 637 577; KM O RESIDENCE***, ouatu.daniela@yahoo.com

Târgu-Neamț: Hotels: TESA BOUTIQUE HOTEL****, tel. +40 754 404 953, chiriliuc_georgiana@yahoo.com; VICTORIA***, tel. +40 233 790 270, rezervari@hotelvictoria-targuneamt.ro; OZANA***, tel. +40 755 026

666, rezervari@hotelozana.com; CASA ARCAȘULUI***, tel. +40 233 790 699, casaarcasului@yahoo.com; **Guest Houses:** ARISTOCRATIS****, tel. +40 233 791 986, contact@aristocratis.ro; BELVEDERE***, tel. +40 747 295 151, rezervari@pensiuneabelvedere.ro; LA CETATE***, tel. +40 233 660 249; STEAUA NORDULUI***, tel. 0744 704 271; CASSANDRA***, tel. 0755 656 016, 0742 052 707, adinagavrioloia@gmail.com; **Rooms for rent:** CATTALEYA EVENTS HALL***, tel. +40 754 757 555, designchicbys@yahoo.com

Roman: Hotels: ROMAN by Dumbrava Business Resort***, tel. +40 741 176 662, contact@hotel-roman.ro; MARIKO INN***, tel. +40 233 742 525, marikoinn@yahoo.com; ZARA***, tel. +40 233 733 731, hotelzara_roman@yahoo.com; COMPLEX PHOENIX***, tel. +40 333 105 552, duroinvestsrl@gmail.com; **Guest Houses:** HANUL MĂRIOAREI***, tel. +40 722 520 968, contact@marioarei.ro

Bicaz: Hotels: ADORA***, tel. +40 233 253 059, contact@hoteladora.ro; COMPLEX ANCORA***, tel. +40 757 578 558, hotel.ancora@yahoo.com; **Guest Houses:** PESCARUȘ***, tel. +40 233 254 080, +40 748 110 401, office@bicazlac.ro; BIA PĂPĂDIA***, tel. +40 233 227 659, cabanabiapapadia@yahoo.com; PANAGHIA***, tel. 0730 347 031, stratulatcarmen@yahoo.com; LEBĂDA River Vessel***, tel. +40 748 110 401, office@bicazlac.ro; Cheița Trout, tel. +40 233 253 143

Agapia: Guest Houses: EDEN****, tel. +40 233 247 217, office@edentur.ro; EULOR****, tel. +40 744 648 907, pensiuneaagapia@yahoo.com; CASA ANCA****, tel. +40 233 244 819, casaancaagapia@gmail.com; www.pensiuneacasaanca.ro; VĂRATEC***, tel. +40 233 245 113, +40 723 118 143, rezervari@pensiuneavaratec.ro; AGAPIA***, tel. +40 746 790 742; CASA DINTRE PINI***, tel. +40 740 245 985, anaparvu57@yahoo.com; CODRII DE ARAMĂ***, tel. +40 233 244 900, fax +40 233 244 999, cristinanecula1961@gmail.com; MARIA***, tel. +40 233 245 004, +40 744 790 466, contact@pensiuni-agapia.ro; Vila Q***, tel. +40 742 550 326, fax +40 372 252 389,

office@vilaq.ro, http://vilaq.ro/

Alexandru cel Bun: Hotels: OSCAR***, tel. +40 752 212 446, adiaconitei_florin88@yahoo.com, www.hotel-oscar.ro; **Guest Houses:** LORY****, tel. +40 748 939 209, cichicristian@yahoo.com; AMBIANCE***, tel. +40 745 483 793, cazare@ambiance.ro; TROIAN***, tel. +40 233 241 444, pensiunea_troian@yahoo.com; URSULEȚ***, tel. +40 233 261 441, pensiuneursulet_nt@yahoo.com; CAMENA***, tel. +40 233 233 381, office@pensiuneacamena.ro; AYAN***, tel. +40 744 581 883, contact@pensiuneayan.ro; DRUMUL PLUTAȘILOR***, tel. +40 722 305 703, drumulplutasilor@gmail.com; IANIS***, tel. +40 744 581 883, contact@pensiunea-ianis.ro, https://www.pensiunea-ianis.ro/; ROUA*** & ROUA BLUE***, tel. +40 741 748 945, contact@pensiunea-roua.ro; ROYAL SPA***, tel. +40 740 840 427, pensiunearoyalspa@gmail.com

Bălțatești: Hotels: BĂLȚĂTEȘTI***, tel. +40 233 244 017, NARCISA**, tel. +40 233 244 218; OZANA**, tel. +40 233 244 017; TOPOLIȚA**, tel. +40 233 244 017, statiuneabaltatesti@mapn.ro

Bicaz Chei: Guest Houses: TEO****, tel. +40 744 472 309, pensiuneateo@cazarebicaz.ro; VERESKO***, tel. +40 745 283 114, reservation@vereskovilla.com

Bicazu Ardelean: PALEU Guest House*, tel. +40 733 692 467; "Bistra Montană" Trout tel. +40 744 702 953; SORINA DEEA HOSTEL***, tel. +40 735 825 485**

Borca: Guest Houses: POPASUL VÂNĂTORULUI****, tel. +40 749 313 340, ematofan@gmail.com; VICTORIA***, tel. +40 233 268 267, lia_excelsior@yahoo.com; STEGIOARA Trout***, tel. +40 233 268 018, office@neamt.rosilva.ro

Chalets in Ceahlău Massif: Fântânele Chalet, tel. +40 730 603 803, rezervari@cabanafantanele.ro; Dochia Chalet, tel. +40 730 603 801, rezervari@cabana-dochia.ro



TRAVELING IN
THE HOMELAND
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Ceahlău: ECOTUR Resort****, tel. +40 233 258 571, reservations@ecotur.ro; PELLEGRIN VILA**, tel. +40 744 985 484, vila.pellegrin@yahoo.com; **Guest Houses:** CASA IRINA**, tel. +40 745 617 436; ȘOIMUL**, tel. +40 722 214 258, office.savinesti@kober.ro; PERLA**, tel. +40 723 589 715, cazare@perlaturau.ro; AGNES**, tel. +40 758 583 528, pancu.sorin@yahoo.com; VÂNĂTORUL**, tel. +40 745 009 603, pensiuneavanatorul@yahoo.com; CASA KAROL**, tel. +40 723 241 821, email: casakarol@yahoo.com

Dobreni: Guest Houses: VALEA CELOR DOISPREZECE**, tel. +40 741 120 012, valeacelordoisprezece@yahoo.com

Durău: Hotels: BISTRIȚA****, tel. +40 233 256 570, office@bistrita-romania.ro; ADMIRAZ****, tel. +40 741 808 182, hoteladmiraz@gmail.com; CASA PELERINUL**, tel. +40 233 256 583; CASCADE Hostel**, tel. +40 233 256 668, office@hotelcascada.ro; **Guest Houses:** GOLD**, tel. +40 752 243 924, pensiuneagolddurau@gmail.com; MARIA**, tel. +40 744 702 434; RAPSODIA**, tel. +40 745 570 757; GABRIELA**, tel. +40 744 509 394, cezarmocanasu@yahoo.com; MONTAN**, tel. +40 745 451 018, chirilaconstantin65@yahoo.com; BOBU**, tel. +40 764 745 336, +40 766 269 731, +40 233 254 928; pensiuneabobu@yahoo.com

Dumbrava Roșie: BALCOST Motel**, tel. +40 233 282 240, motelbalcost@gmail.com; **Guest Houses:** ANDRA**, tel. +40 233 282 559, pensiune_andra@yahoo.com; BYBLOS**, tel. +40 749 056 056, rezervare@pensiuneabyblos.ro; OCTOGON**, tel. +40 745 532 262, rezervari@pensiuneaoctogon.ro; RUSTIC**, tel. +40 745

646 148, popas.rustic@yahoo.com; CASA EDELWEISS**, tel. +40 233 217 502; CLASSIC**, tel. +40 233 282 290, dumbbravatour@yahoo.com

Dulcești: CONDOR Motel**, tel. +40 233 761 001, +40 745 788 718, office@condorresort.ro

Farcașa: Guest Houses: ORIZONT**, tel. +40 233 267 029, +40 744 702 408, pensiuneaorizont@yahoo.com; ORIENT**, tel. +40 744 911 065, office@pensiunea-orient.ro

Gârcina: Guest Houses: BALAN****, tel. +40 233 242 542, +40 747 768 607, pensiuneabalan@yahoo.com; ALMAȘ**, tel. +40 722 236 307, pensiunea.almas@gmail.com; Bursucărie**, tel. +40 757 792 758, danachirila10@gmail.com; CASA DAVIS Guest House**, tel: +40 726 444 377, casadavis21@gmail.com

Girov: Guest Houses: ELENA**, tel. +40 233 290 770, +40 744 283 754, pensiuneaelena@yahoo.com; ANA**, tel. +40 233 290 221, +40 769 071 701

Grințieș: Guest Houses: MARGARETA**, tel. +40 743 098 036, topoliceanumihai@yahoo.com; GURA ARȘITEI**, tel. +40 787 786 433, pensiuneaguraarsitei@gmail.com; LA ROCA**, tel. +40 753 782 605, ducagrין@yahoo.com

Hangu: Guest Houses: GRĂDINILE ROMANE****, tel. +40 752 804 617, gradinileromane@gmail.com; CASA BĂLAN**, tel. +40 233 242 542, +40 740 304 843, virginia_victor@yahoo.com; ESTIVAL**, tel. +40 233 216 628, +40 745 146 313, hamion_sc@yahoo.com; IOANA**, tel. +40 741 597 473, contact@pensiuneioana.ro; LOSTRIȚA**, tel. +40 736 899 637, rezervari@pensiunealostrita.ro; La Bunica**, tel. +40 751 070 587, alabartacom@gmail.com

Horia: IMPERIAL MOTEL**, tel. +40 233 747 111, +40 722 305 028, motel_imperial@yahoo.com, contact@motel-imperial.ro

Negrești: ACTIV Park & Hostel**, tel. +40 754 542 644, activ.parc@gmail.com, www.activparc.ro; LA BUNICA Bungalow**, tel. +40 233 246 836, bungalow.labunica@gmail.com

Pângărați: Guest Houses: BALAD`OR****, tel. +40 727 736 685, constantinbrauros@gmail.com; CASTELUL DE SMARALD****, tel. +40 753 477 627, rezervari@casteluldesmarald.ro, www.casteluldesmarald.ro; STEJARRO MANSION****, tel. +40 748 474 360, neostejarro@gmail.com, rezervari@stejarro.ro, https://www.stejarro.ro/; ONȚANCA**, tel. +40 233 240 703; VATRA BUNICII**, tel. + 40 734 009 493; VATRA SATULUI**, tel. + 40 722 619 547

Petricani: HANUL VERDE Guest House**, tel. +40 767 719 684, office@asvinea.ro

Pipirig: Guest Houses: CASA AFETELOR**, tel. +40 233 252 066, casaafetelor@casaafetelor.ro; MARIA MĂRIOARA**, tel. +40 233 790 279, +40 740 220 679; SECU**, tel. +40 783 023 439

Poiana Teiului: Guest Houses: GEONĂ****, tel. +40 233 257 014, +40 788 454 793, cristipanaite70@yahoo.com, www.pensiuneageona.ro; TEIUL**, tel. +40 746 709 494, craciunflorin15@yahoo.com; PARADISO**, tel. +40 751 743 456, pensiuneaparadiso@yahoo.com

Răucești: Guest Houses: PARADISUL VERDE**, tel. +40 742 990 306; CAMELIA**, tel. +40 751 017 774, cameliaapostoe@yahoo.com; BĂILE OGLINZI Resort**, tel. +40 233 790 111, fax. +40 233 790 317, statiuneaoglinzi@yahoo.com

Săvinești: CASA DRUMEȚULUI Guest House**, tel. +40 233 281 147, +40 745 234 036, rezervari@casadrumetului.ro, opreasorin2@gmail.com

Tarcău: Guest Houses: FORTUNA****, tel. +40 742 081 932, office@pensiunea-fortuna.ro; CHEZ MARIE****, tel. +40 767 594 475, contact@pensiuneachezmarie.ro;

















MĂIERUȘ****, tel. +40 711 963 308, maierustarcu@gmail.com; COROLA**, tel. +40 233 890 960, pensiuneacorola@yahoo.com; GOȘMAN Hunting lodge**, tel. +40 233 240 057, office@neamt.rosilva.ro, neamt.rosilva.ro; Linia Verde Guest House, Bungalow & Camping**, tel. +40 233 240 050

Tupilați: Inns: HANUL ANCUȚEI**, tel. +40 233 781 400, office@hanu-ancutei.ro; HANUL RĂZEȘILOR**, tel. +40 730 608 141, hanulrazesilor@yahoo.com; HANUL PĂDURARILOR**, tel. +40 233 242 800, rezervari@hanulpadurarilor.ro

Vânători-Neamț: Guest Houses: EDERA****, tel. +40 233 251 901, eurocompanytoursrl@yahoo.com; BRANIȘTE**, tel. +40 233 278 345, pensiunea.braniste@yahoo.com; HAN MARIA**, tel. +40 233 790 196, madalinaef3@gmail.com, HANUL URȘILOR**, tel. +40 233 251 364, hanul_ursilor@yahoo.com; PERLA NEAMȚULUI**, tel. +40 233 251 511, contact@perlaneamtului.ro; Han Rustic**, tel. +40 752 388 388

NEAMŢ COUNTY



- | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Fortress |  | Boarding house |
|  | Monastery |  | Tourist Sheepfold |
|  | Hermitage |  | Leisure Park |
|  | Museum |  | Horse-riding |
|  | Memorial House |  | SPA |
|  | Artisan |  | Angling lakes |
|  | Nature Reserve |  | Ponds |
|  | Lake |  | Trout fishery |



TRAVELING IN
THE HOMETLAND
OF MEMORIES:
**NEAMȚ
COUNTY**



**NEAMȚ COUNTY
COUNCIL**

Thanks to its rich heritage, the many tourist attractions and the beauty of the natural environment, the large number of monasteries and churches, and more than 530 historical monuments, Neamț Land is nowadays one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Romania, and has been declared “European Destination of Excellence” in 2018.

We are delighted to present you with ideas for a great trip among the historical and traditional landmarks of Neamț County, among nature wonders that you can only find in this part of the country. The “stone kingdom” of Bicaz Gorges, the picturesque views of monastic settlements, the legendary Ceahlău Massif, the worldwide famous Bison Land, the “sea between the mountains”, the swan lakes, the tasty Moldavian cuisine, and the renowned hospitality of the people are just some of the reasons to plan your holiday in Neamț County.

You will enjoy unique, unforgettable experiences every time, since Neamț County is like a well of wonders. At the end of the trip, the fascinating natural settings, the bounty of cultural and spiritual elements, the many legends, traditions and historical testimonies will be completed by your own perception about the destination, which will go beyond the five senses.

Land of beauty and wonders, Neamț County seems taken from one of Mihail Sadoveanu’s tales: *“After God separated the waters from the dry land and after wrinkling the earth, He began the impartion of gifts to all lands. He gifted the sea, silky and blue to some of the lands, He sat other realms with tall mountains, covered with snowy white coats, He covered some lands with fields of gold, above all of these placing the high heavens. But there was an empty place left, which He had either forgotten, or had overlooked in the first place, before the wrinkling of the earth. Then He took from each, not much, just as much to fill a land that you would walk afoot one day and one night with full moon.”*