

## R2

### BABADAG – ENISALA – SARICHIOI – SABANGIA / 1 – 3 days

After visiting the cultural and religious heritage sites of Babadag and Enisala described in route 1, short hikes can be made in the protected natural areas of national importance on the territories of Babadag (the **Babadag-Codru Forest**, Korum Tarla nature reserves) and Enisala (**Enisala nature reserve**), before continuing the route to Sarichioi village.

### SARICHIOI



In Turkish, Sarichioi means 'yellow' or 'sunny' village (*sary* – 'yellow, sunny' and *köj* – 'village'), but in spite of its Turkish name, the village is inhabited by Russian Old Believers. Until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we knew almost nothing about the historical past of our village, one of the biggest rural settlements in the area. Usually, as time goes on, a part of the historical information remains in the collective memory of the population; it is transmitted from one generation to another, and gradually it is transformed into legends. But at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we were not told anything about our forefathers' previous life. Considering their particular care for traditions and the old orthodox religion, it is difficult to explain the lack of historical information in the collective memory of the villagers of Sarichioi.

After 1878, the population of Muslim origin retreated, being replaced by Romanian settlers from Moldova and Oltenia. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the majority were Lipovans, as in 1946, almost half of them emigrated to Russia. At present, the ethnic composition includes Romanians, Lipovans and Russians, the village of Sarichioi being the locality with the most ethnic Russians in Romania, which still preserves the traditions and popular customs, neat and clean households, which is, moreover, a characteristic of the Lipovans population. The occupations of the locals are: agriculture, fishing, agro-tourism and carpentry. Located on the shore of the largest fresh water lake in Romania, Lake Razim, the village of Sarichioi has a high tourist potential, but is not significantly exploited. The tourist infrastructure is

provided by three guesthouses and a tourist complex, located on the shore of the lake, and a tourist village located at the foot of Enisala Citadel (Safari village).

The characteristic of this locality is also the traditional architecture, specifically Russian: the secondary facade of the house, facing the street, is "free" (the fence starts from the side where the two facades join - longitudinal and lateral). In old houses, the side wall from the street also has a window with pillars. In the traditional plan of the houses we also find the porch, sometimes delimited by a balcony. The pediment, an important element in the structure of the house, is decorated with motifs made in the tunneling technique. The stylized but suggestive form of the motifs refers to Slavic mythology. In recent years, a motif made of tin (fish scales), taken from other areas of the town, appeared in the decorative composition of the tunnel.





The cultural heritage built in the area includes 46 archaeological monuments registered in the List of Historical Monuments and the National Archaeological Repertory, of which three are of national and international importance (Enisala Citadel Archaeological Site, Enisala Citadel, Hallstatt settlement) and 43 of local importance, among which counts the archaeological sites Point "Palanca" and Point "La Biserică" located in the village of Enisala, the archaeological site Sabangia Village and the archaeological sites from Sarichioi and from the Point "Dealul Bursucului".

On the territory of the town of Sarichioi is the **Insula Popina avifaunistic reserve**, a strictly protected area within the R.B.D.D.

Sarichioi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SMklrHiW1s>

#### *THE STORY OF R2*

*There is also a legend related to the Babadag Forest recorded by Dimitrie Cantemir, which he had heard about since Istanbul period spent in documentation. It is said that some magical ravens lived in this forest, whose tail feathers were used for arrows. If the arrow had feathers from Babadag crows then they could not miss the mark, for that arrow was better than any made in any corner of the Ottoman Empire. He had a magical power; he surpassed them all. The Muslims called the ravens of Babadag ghiudgighin ("those who hold power", according to Cantemir).*

#### **DISCOVER DOBROGEA**

<https://discoverdobrogea.ro/eng/sarichioi-the-village-with-happy-people-and-beautiful-traditions/>