

R5

BABADAG – VISTERNA – ENISALA – JURILOVCA – CEAMURLIA DE JOS – BABADAG / 1 – 3 days

VISTERNA



Located between two forests, the village of Visterna has a small number of houses scattered along the road, whose inhabitants deal mainly with subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry.

Specific to the village of Visterna is the practice of the custom called Olaria, which consists of lighting fires on the hills made of vegetable remains, from the fodder consumed by animals during the winter, that is, of the year that has completed its cycle. By burning, everything is purified, to make way for the new vegetation. The gesture of rolling the wagon wheels wrapped in straw on the hills had the same meaning of purifying everything that was bad for the community and, at the same time, symbolized the course of the Sun in the sky. These practices lead to the worship of vegetation, but also of the sun, without which nothing can regenerate, cannot exist.

In 2009, the **Visterna Monastery** was built in the locality, in a picturesque place, near the Babadag-Codru Forest nature reserve, near the Razim lake, but also in a place full of history, such as the Enisala Fortress. The beauty of the place, the simplicity, the respect for traditions and the spirituality in which the Visterna Monastery lives on make visiting it an unforgettable spiritual experience.

We might think that only the old monasteries have legends or stories, but we find them in the new ones too. The Visterna Monastery is no exception and thus I found out that the land on which the small monastery was built belonged to an old woman who donated it to the church after a strange and disturbing dream, which was repeated 3 times and in which a bird came with a baby in its chop, leaves him on the ground and someone stabs him. The old woman thought it was a sign from God and that's how it all started. On the land where a baby was sacrificed in a woman's dream, the kind-hearted nuns from the Visterna Monastery say that the building of the monastery was a sacrifice because there were days when they had nothing but with God's help they managed to achieve.

The beauty of the place, the simplicity, the respect for traditions and the spirituality in which the Visterna Monastery continues make you think that there are places in our beautiful country that are worth visiting and from which you return with peace of mind.



JURILOVCA

The first documentary attestation of the village appears in a Russian military map from the period of the 1828-1829 war, on which the township totaling 20 houses is mentioned. Later, in the travel notes of the Polish agent Korsak, it appears under the name Jirilevca. In 1850, the Romanian agronomist Ion Ionescu de la Brad notes the village as Gucurilika, with 500 houses, and in the background of the Ottoman tapis from the period 1866-1877 it is called Curil(i)ka. Currently, the Lipovians represent a well-knit community

of the locality, which preserves the old norms of the ancestors, so that at the church dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God (October 14), religious services are held in the Slavonic language, and the Julian calendar is used. At the beginning of the century In the 20th century, the village was an important center for the export of black roe and smoked fish, fishing and related activities being the most important occupations of the inhabitants. In fact, even today, the locality's fishing characteristics are promoted in annual events.

The specificity of the community is closely related to the settlement of the commune on the shore of the Razim-Sinoe lagoon complex and to the traditions of the Russians of the Lipovians. Other important aspects that contribute to the community's uniqueness is the popular port specific to the Lipovean population. The traditional costume stands out for its colors in strong tones and shades (red, blue, green, pink) and is worn especially on holidays, being mandatory in church. Some pieces of clothing have changed, others have kept their shape: the men's shirt (rubașca), the belt worn by both men and women (the pois).

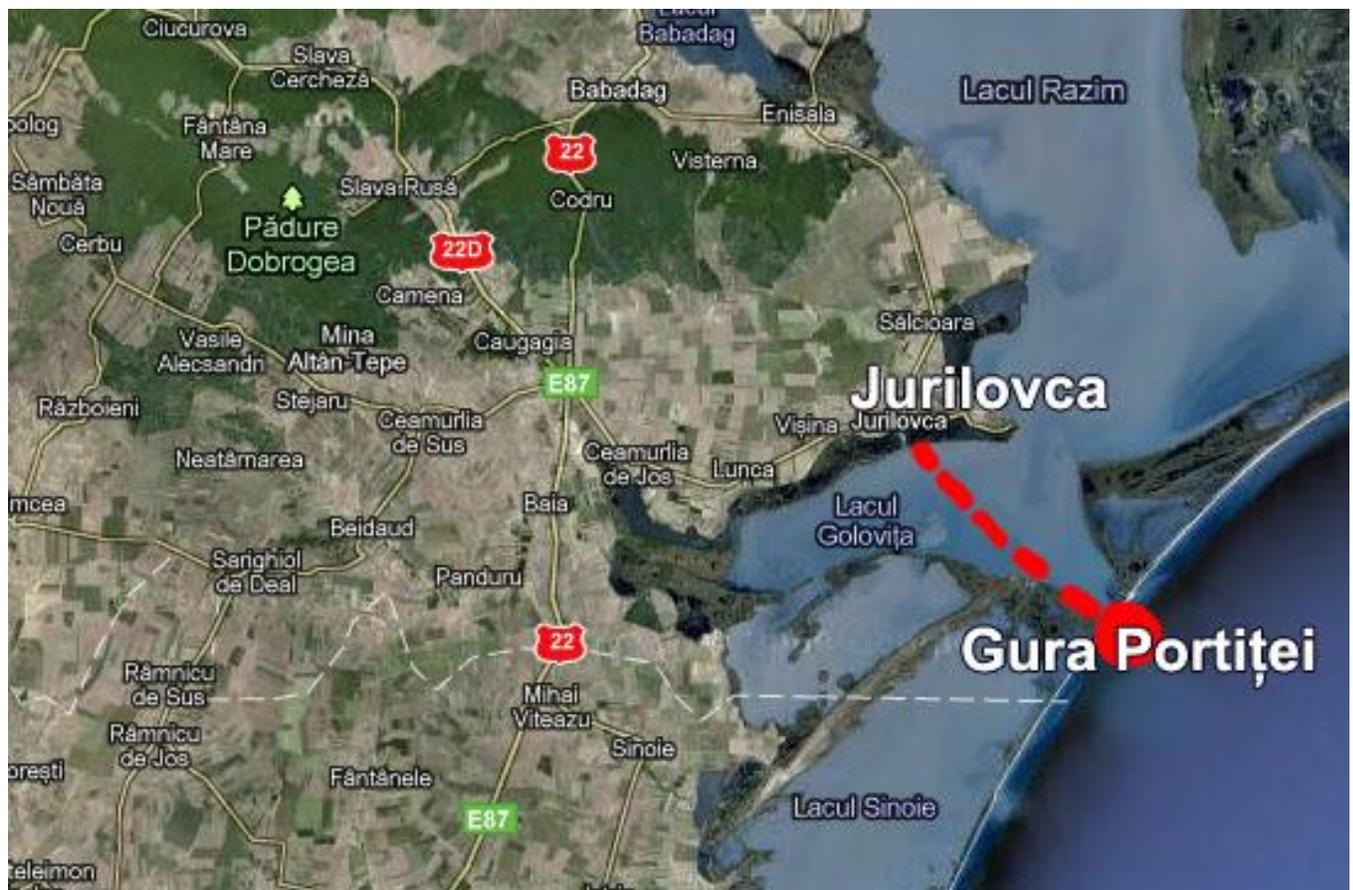




Photo of Jurilovca

VIȘINA

Customs and traditions of the Bulgarians (Vișina): The Babindeni holiday (Midwife's Day or Babe's Day) is celebrated at the beginning of January and is an occasion by which women strengthen their solidarity in the traditional village world. At the center of this celebration is the village midwife, the one who assists the birth of children. Wives met to spend together in her house, bringing gifts in gratitude, and young married women were initiated into the mysteries of motherhood.

SĂLCIOARA

Romanian customs (Sălcioara): Horse baptism is a custom related to Epiphany, the day when locals come to the church yard with horses decorated with red tassels, to be baptized with holy water. The meaning of the custom is to have health and prosperity throughout the year. The flight is a custom linked to the religious holiday of the Ascension of the Lord, celebrated every year, for decades, as the day of the local community in Sălcioara, celebrated with choirs and joyful songs. Dragobetele is a celebration of the local community in Jurilovca, organized as a meeting where traditional local activities are brought back to light, marking at the same time an authentic Romanian celebration.

CEAMURLIA DE JOS

After leaving the town, on one side and the other of the road, numerous tumuli can be seen. It is the area where the richest archaeological fund of the oldest Neolithic culture in Dobrogea - the Hamangia culture - was discovered, and the Menhir statue was also found here, attributed to the first Indo-Europeans, who

came here at the beginning of the Bronze Age. The archaeological site at Ceamurlia de Jos, the "La Pod" point, includes: a settlement dating from the Hamangia period, a rustic villa from the Roman era (2nd century), a civil settlement and a tomb discovered on the eastern edge of the town, funerary discoveries (on the western edge of the locality – group of two and seven tumuli; 750 m NW of the locality – group of two tumuli). In the commune of Ceamurlia de Jos, sport fishing can be practiced both on the Golovita lake and in the fishing facilities in the area. In the village of Lunca, there is the Lunca Tourist Complex, located on the western shore of Lake Golovița and which, together with the Gura Portiței Resort, constitutes the main tourist destination in the Razim-Sinoe Lagoon area. The complex includes accommodation facilities.