

Travel Chisinau and accommodation arrangements

FLIGHTS

- Flights into Chisinau Moldova can get disrupted so you may need to book a flight to Iasi or Bucharest in Romania.
- There are currently no Covid restrictions but can you please bring a box of lateral flow tests

TRAVEL FROM CHISINAU AIRPORT

- The airport is less than 10 miles from the city
- If you travelled this way tell us about it so we can update this document!

COACH FROM ROMANIA

- Iasi (pronounced Yash) or Bucharest in Romania run regular bus services to Chisinau (Iasi is a shorter bus journey of 3 hours, Bucharest is about 6)
- There is no central bus station so ask to be dropped in the city centre which will be a short walk to the volunteer house
- If you don't have data on your phone (and using the Moldova network without a Moldova sim is VERY expensive) get some wifi from a local café or restaurant (they all have it) and use that to walk to the house or ask the volunteer group for help. You might ask if one of the volunteers can lend you the taxi fare when you arrive at the house or centre if you have no currency (taxis are cheap)

TRAIN FROM IASI, ROMANIA

- Tickets can be booked online via www.railway.md and are inexpensive (c. £7 for 1st class one way). You would use the secondary station (Iasi-Socola) from Iasi. This is reached by a bus from the airport or town centre, but is also easily reached by an inexpensive taxi. Trains arrive/depart in Chisinau very close to the Dignity Centre

TRAIN FROM BUCAREST, ROMANIA

- This runs 3 times a week and takes 13 hours but is a good journey. It includes 1 hour at the border while they have to change all the wheels (by design to prevent East-West invasion during the cold war)

TAXI

Yandex has lots of vehicles. <https://taxi.yandex.md>. There is a mobile app for Android, but the one for Apple appears more elusive. It will give you an estimate of the cost and is cash only. A taxi between the Dignity Centre/Station and the volunteer house will be 40MDL (two euros)

CAR HIRE

- Cars can be useful but not necessary
- If coming from Romania you will need to check that you can drive it into Moldova. Not all car hire companies allow you. This one should <https://romaniarentacar.eu/>

STAYING AT THE VOLUNTEER HOUSE

- We have a large 4-5 bedroom house that can take up to 8 volunteers
 - First come first served and please remember that our focus is on running the Centre, not running an efficient hotel booking system

- It has safe, comfortable and basic with kitchen, lounge, furniture, bedding, washing machine and a couple of showers
- It is very central with a lot of cafes and restaurants nearby
- It is €10 per night (from 5 Sept)
- Please bring your own towel
- Address is Alexander Puskin Str 7, House 2 (opposite Torro Burgers)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/MmV4vuhvF7ww5Xk68>
- To book a bed here, first make sure you have had confirmation about your volunteering. Once you have that, **you must email accommodation@refugeesupporteu.com** to book a place. **You will not be able to stay unless you book in on this email address!**
- Contact the volunteer group on Whatsapp to let them know about letting you in to the house – you have to go through this metal gateway to get to the front door:



OTHER ACCOMMODATION

- There are a lot of hotels and some AirBnBs to choose from. The Centre is right in the heart of the city close to the main bus station: Dignity Centre Chişinău
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KVyf1TXdRiockhig7>

MONEY

- If arriving via Romania and taking the bus, it's helpful to have some Romanian currency, all airports have cash machines.
- In Moldova most expenses will be cashless except trolleybus, tips and the odd smaller coffee shop. You can use cash points to withdraw a little cash, most work but one or two people had to try a couple first.

DAY OFF

- Old Orhei is about an hour out of town. <https://www.visit.md/en/tour/stary-i-orhei/> You either need to hire a car or go with an organised trip.
- Lots of museums & parks in town.
- Central market worth a visit but less so for souvenirs. (Piata Centrala)