

Chisinau – Moldova: Travel and Accommodation

Arriving to Chisinau

By plane

There are a range of large and budget airlines that fly directly to Chisinau (check Skyscanner). Increasingly, flights with Air Moldova are cancelled last minute. As an alternative, there are regular flights to Iasi (pronounced Yash) or Bucharest in Romania, with onward bus and plane connections to Chisinau.

Travelling from Chisinau airport to the city

The airport is conveniently located about 14 kilometres from the city and a taxi from the airport will cost about 300 MDL (10-15€).

You will need to find a taxi that will accept cash payment. Always use licenced taxis and agree the price beforehand. Most taxi drivers also accept euros.

By bus

Bus from Romania

There are regular bus services to Chisinau from Iasi and Bucharest in Romania. Iasi is a shorter journey of about 3 hours whereas Bucharest is about 6 hours. Ensure you book your bus via the official company, [SVS](#), directly.

Chisinau has three different bus stations, but it will stop where you ask along the route. The easiest is to ask to be dropped in the city centre, at UNIC mall. It is a short walk from there to the volunteer accommodation and there are many cafes and restaurants in the area with free wifi to connect with the others or Google maps.

By train

Train from Iasi, Romania

Trains from Iasi are inexpensive at around 8€ one way and tickets can be booked online via the [official website](#). Trains to Chisinau run from the secondary station in Iasi (Iasi-Socola), which can be reached by bus or taxi from the airport or town centre. Trains arrive/depart in Chisinau very close to the Dignity Centre.

Taxis

Regardless of how you continue your journey (bus or train), you should **always** use licensed taxis. In the case of Iasi, take an official taxi from outside the airport.

Train from Bucharest, Romania

Trains from Bucharest run three times a week. The journey takes 13 hours but is nice. It includes a one hour stop at the border while they change all the wheels. This is by design to prevent East-West invasion during the Cold War!

Other travel information

Taxis

- YANDEX GO and ITAXI are the two best companies to get a taxi.
- You will need a Moldovan phone number to be able to book a taxi but they will accept cash.
- Always use licenced taxis and agree the price beforehand.

Car hire

- Cars can be useful but not necessary.
- If arriving from Romania you will need to check you can drive into Moldova as not all car hire companies will allow you. [Romania Rent a Car](#) is the best option but you should still double check before you travel.

Accommodation

Volunteer Apartment

Beds and amenities

We have a comfortable and safe, shared volunteer apartment close to the Centre. It can host up to 6 volunteers and has 3 bedrooms, each with 2 beds. If there is space in the apartment during your volunteer period, you will likely be in a shared room. We do not book mixed gender rooms.

The apartment has a shared lounge, kitchen, washing machine and 2 toilets. All bedding and a small towel are also provided.

Location and arrival

The location of the apartment is <https://goo.gl/maps/CEUcE3k67paBCuwx9>. It is 10-15 minutes' walk from the Dignity Centre and close to the Stefan Cel Mare Boulevard and city centre.

Please note, if you are going to arrive after 10pm, you will need to find your own accommodation for that night.

Cost and payment

The apartment is 15€ a night. The total cost of your stay is due on your first day volunteering with us and is payable online via the [website](#).

Checking availability and requesting to book

If you would like to stay in the volunteer apartment, you must first confirm your volunteering dates with the Office. Only then should you email accommodation@refugeesupporteu.com to check availability and request to book a bed. Please note: **Volunteer apartment requests and bookings can only be made via this email address!**

Subject to availability, you can book one night before and one night after your volunteering period. If you wish to do this, please make this clear when checking availability. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer more nights either side of your volunteering as demand for beds is very high.

Please remember, this apartment is to assist with volunteer accommodation and is run on a first-come, first-served basis. We are not running a hotel or hostel service. Our focus is on the Dignity Centre and its members.

Other accommodation options

There are a many hotels as well as some AirBnB options. The Dignity Centre is very centrally located and close to the main bus station.

Chisinau Dignity Centre

Most of our work is based at the Refugee Support Dignity Centre: [Boulevard Yurii Gagarin 7, num 62](#). Find us on [Google Maps](#).

We work from Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm, and Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm.

Other useful information

Using your phone in Moldova

Using the Moldovan network without a Moldovan SIM card is **extremely** expensive and/or sometimes doesn't work. We therefore strongly advise you not to use mobile data until you purchase a Moldovan SIM. You can buy an ORANGE SIM at the airport, any kiosk or ORANGE shop in the city for 39MDL (around 2€) with data for 2 weeks and calls included. It is easy to top up.

Without a Moldovan SIM, you may not be able to send SMS to communicate your arrival. If you are unable to purchase one, we recommend using the Wi-Fi in a local café or restaurant (which is readily available) and messaging the team via WhatsApp.

Money

- If arriving via Romania, it's helpful to have some Romanian currency. All airports have cash machines.
- In Moldova most expenses are cashless except the trolleybus, tips and the small, independent coffee shops. You can withdraw cash from ATMs having in mind your bank may charge for this.

Sightseeing

- [Old Orhei](#) is a historical and archaeological complex about one hour away from Chisinau. To visit, you either need to hire a car or go with an organised trip.
- There are many museums and parks in Chisinau.
- The Central Market in Piata Centrala is worth a visit but less so for souvenirs.