



National Holiday



Trip to Old Orhei

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# Moldova October Edition 2013

Inside and Out

## Places to visit in Moldova

### The Day of Chişinău city



### Volunteers and the mayor of Chişinău city



Arch of Triumph

Ministry of Intern affairs



## Moldova October Edition 2013

Business project

「生活モルドバでの」

桑原英司

By Eiji Kuwabara from Japan.

東欧の国。モルドバ。そこは日本人の知らない土地。  
この国に来るまでは、正直どんな国で何が美味しくて、どんな人々が住んでいるのか全く分からなかった。インターネットで検索しても、掲載されている情報はあまりいい情報ではない。加えて、日本でのこの国の知名度の低さがさらに私の不安を駆り立てた。  
アジア人のほとんどいないこの国で、英語を使いながらの生活に不安を抱え込みながらも、まだ見ぬ世界が広がっていると期待していた。

日本を離れ、トルコを経由して約30時間後、空港のあるモルドバの首都キシナウに到着。8月の終わりに着いた私は、この国の気候に

初め驚いた。その時期、日本は最高気温30度を超える猛暑日が続いていた最中、こちらではもう既に秋に入りかけていた。空港からホームステイ先に向かう車中から見た景色に、夜中だということもあり、ほとんど明かりはほとんどなく、人が歩いている様子もない。夜空には満天の星だけが見えていた。

翌朝、部屋にプロジェクトアブロードのスタッフが来て、キシナウ周辺の様子などについて説明された後は、現地通貨のレイに換えたり、現地の携帯会社でSIMカードを購入する為にキシナウの中心街に出掛けた。そこでは、官公庁の施設やオペラハウス、コンサートホールなども集結しており、これらの建物の大半がかなり前に建造されたもので、それを今でも利用しているモルドバの人々の物を大切に作る心を垣間見た。中心街には、野菜や果物などを路上で販売する出店も多く出ており、入学式前ということもあり、文房具などの学用品の商品も多く揃っており、家族連れで街は賑わっていた。

インターン先の会社にはその翌日伺い、IT関連の新規企業であり、そこで私は日本とモルドバをつなぐビジネスをすることが決まった。正直、今でも不慣れな土地で英語もあまり通じない国で、何ができるかわからず、四苦八苦している毎日である。3か月という長期間でどんなビジネスを展開して行けば、両国にとって良い結果が生まれるのかを今なお考え続けている。しかし、とにかく動き続け、考え続けることでしか答えが出ないのではないかなと思う。故に、現在はモルドバやキシナウに関しての情報収集をしつつ、何かビジネスの種が無いか街中を歩き回っている。

不安と期待を持ってやってきたモルドバだが、その気持ちは正直今なお変わらない。しかし、この国の人達の自然や文化を愛する姿に感銘し、その様な人たちと3ヶ月後には何か形に残せるビジネスをしたいと願って、今日もまた仕事に励もうと思う。



## Moldova October Edition 2013

### Journalism & Language projects

#### "Seven days in Chişinău"

By Neal Simpson from Australia.



My name is Neal Simpson and I am a volunteer with Projects Abroad in Chisinau, Moldova. I have only been here for three days and I have already seen and experienced so many diverse and wonderful things. When someone asked me what kind of first impression I received from Chisinau and Moldova, I truthfully replied, that it was a good one overall. But such a simple response undermines the innate complexity of the effect that experiencing Chisinau for the first time has had upon me. I'll admit, I was pretty confident that I knew what to expect as I had briefly toured around parts of Russia and Eastern Europe some years ago, and with Moldova formerly a part of the Soviet Union, I thought I would be travelling back into the USSR, to mis-quote the Beatles and in some ways I was. But as I walked around Chisinau with Iana - my very helpful guide and translator - absorbing with my eyes every detail of the surrounding street scape, I felt there was a unique character to Chisinau I had not encountered before. It is a melting pot of so many different cultures and influences over the centuries, and not just those of the Soviet Union, has created a city that at times defies belief. Chisinau will amaze, delight, confuse, intimidate, beguile and inspire you, after only one day. Street facades and roads may look grim and degraded but they are offset by the bright flashes of color that illuminate the city in a new light. The inclusion of open markets, flower stalls and the existence of an almost too-good-to-be-true chocolate shop nearly made me forget the mad drivers, roaming stray dogs, treacherous footpaths and the white-knuckle ride in a crowded minibus that had me standing, pressed against the front windshield next to the driver as he dodged through traffic. Ah, good times.

All this had made me realise that Chisinau is a city of cultural, social and aesthetic contrasts that I cannot help to be intrigued by. I don't know what I will see, hear, taste or find tomorrow or next week, all I know for sure is that I probably won't be expecting it, and that it will both surprise and intrigue me enough to keep coming back for more!





## Moldova October Edition 2013

Care **project**

### I love Moldovan people

By Tabitha Keown-Boyd from UK.



I've been in Moldova for 3 weeks now, and in that time I've had a real adventure. I've travelled around Chisinau on the trolleybus by myself (yikes), taught English lessons at the school, visited famous monasteries, went to a wine tasting at a huge underground winery spanning 120 km, and even had an incredible weekend trip to Kiev. My host family are the nicest family I could have ever hoped for, and they've made me feel really at home in their apartment. They've fed me lots of Moldovan cuisine, including far too many chocolates and lots of delicious home-made Moldovan wine! I was fortunate

enough to be here for my host mum's birthday, where I got to meet lots of relatives as we feasted on a huge meal. My placement at the school where my host mum is Vice-Principal and her 18 year old daughter also attends has been a great experience so far. The students are so friendly and I've especially enjoyed teaching 12th Form classes of pupils my own age because their English is very good and we can have really interesting discussions, for example about Moldovan politics! The only thing I'm not too sure about is that now on Facebook I feel like I'm friends with the entire school, as every class I teach asks if they could add me. I've also had lots of pictures taken with various students - I feel like a celebrity! I've had some very funny and memorable moments since I've been here. For example, one morning soon after I'd arrived I was having some cereal for breakfast. I went to the fridge and pulled out a milk carton, which I then poured over my cereal. Except that this milk was really really thick. So I just thought "hmmm maybe in Moldova milk is thick..." Very stupid looking back on it, I think it was too early in the morning for sensible thoughts. It wasn't until the next day when I was having an afternoon cereal snack with their daughter that I realised what the milk looks like (it's in a plastic bag which they keep in a tin can in the fridge, not easily spotted!), and that what I had put on my cereal was in fact cream. Cereal with cream, although it sounds nice, is not something I would recommend, it doesn't work! My host family all found it very amusing though. Another embarrassing Tabby moment came when I needed to top up my phone. Thinking I would be sensible and put a good amount on it so it didn't run out so soon, I put 200 lei on it. It was only after I'd tried to type in the little code the woman gave me 5 times that it hit me that my SIM card is Moldcell, and I'd just topped up on Orange. So there's £10 down the drain! At least I got a free chuppa-chupp lolly because the woman felt sorry for me. The highlight of my trip so far has been my weekend in Kiev. The 'lowlight' as it were had to be the bus that we got to Kiev. It was a horrible experience and if anyone is reading this now that may be coming to Moldova in the future I would strongly discourage you from choosing the bus!!



## Moldova October Edition 2013



Sure, it's about half the price of the train and takes half the time, but I'm telling you it's just not worth it. The roads to Kiev will be the bumpiest ride of your life, plus if you get the night time bus like we did you won't actually get a chance to sleep until 2am because of all the border controls and passport checking. But as if this wasn't bad enough for an 8 hour journey, the heating system on our bus was broken, so it kept us roasting at about a million degrees centigrade. ( I woke up sweating I was so hot!) It sounds like I'm complaining a lot,

but it made the trip all the more memorable in my opinion! Plus I really appreciated the train coming home. The train was so much fun! We had a cosy little compartment on the train with 4 bunks between three of us (I was on the top bunk, praying I didn't fall out in the night because there was absolutely no railing), it was so cool! We made friends with the train guards for our wagon which was cool because we could practice some Russian, and they gave us chocolates and Fanta. I was already a big fan of rail travel. This journey has made me

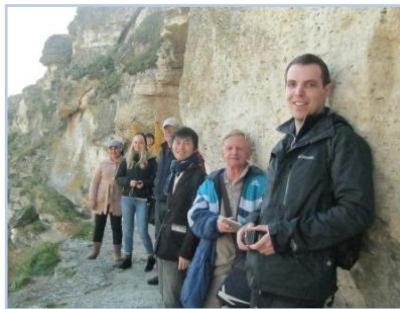
desperate to take a trip on the Trans-Siberian railway!! A fantastic way to spend 16 hours in my opinion, I loved it. Kiev itself was obviously also great. We saw a lot of monasteries (one complete with mummified monks displayed underground which we saw, bleugh), saw some touristy sites like Independence Square (had some pictures with strange cartoon characters) and St Andrew's descent which is lined with souvenir stalls (a lot of shopping took place), St Andrew's cathedral (where we saw a live baptism!), the Holodomor museum, and the Chernobyl museum, which was the best museum I've ever visited. A great weekend all in all! Finally, I'd like to mention how much I love Moldovan people. My host family being no exception, I've found them to be very kind and generous. For example, on one particularly crowded trolleybus journey, I was standing struggling with a big bag of food I bought for the journey to Kiev, the young woman sitting down below me offered to hold the bag on her lap for me, which was very much appreciated! Finally, my favourite person I met was the old lady who sat next to me at last night's 'concert' at the Organ Hall. It was actually a Russian poetry reading, none of which any of us understood. I managed to get into a whispered conversation with the old woman next to me, who was clearly also bored. I found out just how bored she was when she got out her phone, attached some headphones, and started listening to her music. As if this wasn't funny enough, she then passed me a headphone to listen with her! So there I was sat in a poetry reading in Moldova listening to strange music through headphones with an old lady I'd never met before. Thank you, dear old woman whom ever you are, for making my day and the concert considerably more entertaining! I'm very excited for what my remaining 2 and a half weeks in Moldova have in store for me!



# Moldova October Edition 2013

Photos Page

## Volunteer's Happy Moments



## Moldova October Edition 2013



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Thank you all for your collaboration!

Thank you for being with us!

If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact

[moldova@projects-abroad.org](mailto:moldova@projects-abroad.org)

