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Moldova September Edition 2013

Inside and Out

Places to visit in Moldova

Căpriana Monastery



Condrița Monastery



Monastery from Old Orhei



The Cathedral of Christ's Nativity



Ciuflea Monastery



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Medical project

My time in Moldova

By George Bond from UK.

It has been a worthwhile and very interesting experience for me being in Moldova and I have been privileged enough to see work in three different hospitals across Chi in u. During my first week I worked in the “Emilian Cotaga” Republican Hospital for Children. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the surgeries take place and it was nice to see an improvement in the children’s conditions a few days later when their bandages were removed. I saw three surgeries take place in the facial department, one was the removal of a cleft palate which involved a lot of stitching and cutting on the roof of the child’s mouth, in the second operation I observed a teenage girl having two teeth removed, I think this was to make way for the molars to come through as her teeth were crowded. In the third operation in the facial department an older teenager who had obtained injury to his face had his nose realigned in a smaller surgery. For the first two days of the second week and all of the third week I was observing life in the emergency hospital in the city centre and for the rest of the second week I was back in the children’s hospital but worked in the burns department. In terms of the injuries, most of the patients in the emergency hospital were men who had gotten their injuries from working outdoors or accidents caused by accidental misuse of farm machinery. One man, whilst using a log cutter, had cut off his hand, he brought his hand into the hospital in a plastic bag and the surgeons worked with such skill that apparently he will be able to use his hand again in the future. In both the second and third week in the A&E I saw minor surgeries performed on people’s hands, this involved removing knots from tendons which were preventing movement in their fingertips.



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It was great to think that such a small operation would impact these people's lives so positively, essentially enabling them to use their hands again. In the third week in the A&E I observed much larger and more major operations in the hospital. On one occasion I saw a woman undergoing hip replacement surgery which was a complex procedure, on another occasion I witnessed a hernia be pushed back behind the muscle wall it erupted into. Perhaps the most intense procedure I observed was a hemicolectomy. As mentioned previously, at the end of the second week I worked in the burns unit at the paediatric hospital, this was probably the most rewarding work I undertook and has inspired me to become a dermatologist. I like the idea of seeing conditions improving over a period of time and there being a continuity of care with patients. During my final week in Moldova I will work in the other children's hospital in Botanica. I have only worked there one morning so far, so it's hard to pass a comprehensive judgement about the hospital and how day to day life works there. But it seems as though a lot of money has been invested in this hospital, the treatment rooms are brand new and in very good condition, the nurses and doctors have been incredibly friendly and showed me and another volunteer a state of the art new emergency facility which has just opened, this is certainly an exciting enterprise. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working and learning in hospitals in Moldova and would like to thank the translators Anna, Svetlana, Cristina and Elena who accompanied me to the hospital each day, all the translators were very helpful and professional. Anna in particular was probably the most professional, she knew a huge amount about the surgeries and her English was near perfect but as I said all the translators were fantastic. I would also like to thank Dr Topor, Igor and Elena for organising it all and making it possible for me. Inside the hospitals the doctors were also incredibly patient and always willing to explain things. I hope I will come back to Moldova again one day.



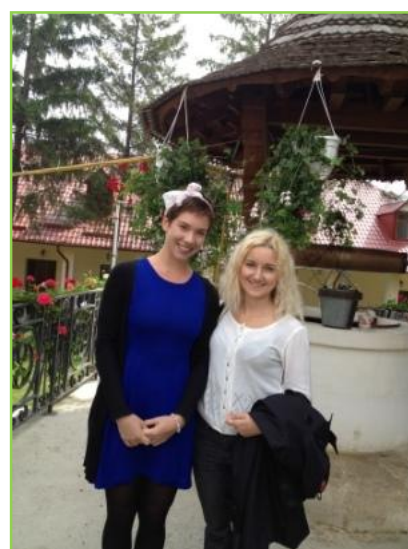
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Teaching project

An Australian volunteer in Chi in u

By Tess Feldman from Australia.

I have now been in Chi in u for nine days, and am having a wonderful time so far. My host family are so friendly and helpful, especially my host mum who is also my translator a lot of the time. I also live with a very cute four and a half year old little girl who loves playing games like Hide and Seek around the house, and the house is a very friendly environment to be a part of. While in Moldova, in the mornings I am working at START, a kind of school or care programme for people with intellectual disabilities such as Down 's syndrome. I am a trained dancer, and my skills in this field are being put to use here – along with many other activities, I am teaching a short dance to some of the students over my three weeks in Moldova. This has been great but also a big challenge so far – teaching people whose language you do not speak, and who also have an intellectual impairment, is unsurprisingly difficult! They are a lovely group of people though, and I am enjoying my work with them very much. The staff working at START do wonderful work – providing for the students in every way they can, and on a very low budget, and they have been extremely welcoming. An excursion to a monastery and to an outdoor gymnasium have been two highlights. Next week I will teach the students about Australia (where I am from), and am looking forward to doing some different craft activities and baking with them. Four afternoons per week I teach dance at a Lyceum, to a group of nine to 13 year old students. This has been a success so far, and the students are working well and should have learnt a complete dance in two weeks' time. The teachers at the school have been very accommodating and pleasant. I am also doing a crash course in beginner's Russian while I am here.



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I hadn't learnt any Russian before arriving, and now I think I have learnt quite a lot. A lesson every second day, on top of all my care and teaching work, means I am quite busy! However, it's a language you would struggle to find a teacher for in Australia, so taking the opportunity while I'm here and surrounded by Russian speakers is great. The Project Abroad staff has been helpful and very kind with meetings, showing me around and checking to make sure all is going well. Last weekend's excursion to the War Memorial with the other volunteers was very interesting and informative. I am looking forward to a visit to another monastery this weekend, as well as seeing a performance in the Organ Hall. The wine in Moldova is meant to be excellent, and so I am very keen to go on a wine tour soon as well! I am really enjoying trying new foods such as Borscht, a traditional Russian beetroot soup, as well as various different biscuits and delicious sweet things. The culture is quite different to that of Australia, and to Western Europe also, which is where I have travelled most, so being here is a really interesting and valuable experience. I have found the people of Chi in u very welcoming, and though we often do not have a common language, they always seem happy to try to help out. I am really enjoying my time here, learning a lot, meeting some beautiful people and new friends, and wishing it wasn't passing by so quickly!



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Erster Eindruck über Moldawien

Artikel von Lara Sophie Bakemeier, Deutschland.



Mein Flieger landete in der Nacht von Samstag auf Sonntag. Am Flughafen erwartete mich Jana von Projects Abroad, um mich zu meiner Gastmutter zu bringen. Die erste Nacht war natürlich sehr komisch in einem fremden Bett zu schlafen. Am ersten Tag wurde mir dann die Stadt gezeigt. Danach hatte ich Freizeit, um die Eindrücke zu verarbeiten. Da ich bereits

einmal in der Ukraine war, war der Kulturschock nicht ganz so groß: Den „Trollybus“ kannte ich daher schon, genauso wie die imposanten russisch-orthodoxen Kirchen und den Stil der Hochhäuser. Chisinau ist nicht zu groß und nicht zu klein; für die Orientierung ist das definitiv ein Vorteil. Meine Gastmutter (Irina) bemüht sich wirklich sehr darum, dass es mir an nichts mangelt! Sei es das Essen, das Erlernen der russischen Sprache oder einfach nur die Bitte um eine weitere Decke zum Schlafen. Am Montagmorgen begann dann mein Projekt an einer Schule; Eugenia von Projects Abroad begleitete mich die ersten Tage dorthin, damit ich mir den Weg einprägen konnte und wichtige Dinge über meine Zeit dort gemeinsam mit den Lehrern/Direktor besprochen werden konnten. In der Schule, in der ich Deutsch unterrichten werde, wurde ich herzlich vom Direktor (der ebenfalls Deutsch spricht) empfangen und er zeigte mir stolz seine Schule. (Ich wurde jeder Klasse einzeln vorgestellt!) Die ersten Tage waren nach den 3-monatigen Sommerferien noch leicht chaotisch. Doch nach 10 Tagen Schule gibt es jetzt endlich einen festen Stundenplan. Die drei Deutschlehrerinnen sind sehr nett und versuchen mich mit in den Unterricht zu integrieren. Am ersten Wochenende fand ein Treffen mit den anderen Freiwilligen von Projects Abroad statt; man sprach Englisch untereinander. Alle sind total herzlich, offen und nett. Wir verstehen uns gut miteinander, auch wenn der Altersunterschied manchmal doch sehr, sehr hoch ist. Ich werde 3 Monate lang hier in Moldawien bleiben. Also ist noch ein wenig Zeit, um die Sprache zu lernen, Neues zu entdecken und neue Menschen kennen zu lernen.



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Photos Page

Volunteer's Happy Moments



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http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=2943

Thank you all for your collaboration!
Thank you for being with us!
If you have anything you'd like to contribute,
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