

Giurgiulești, Cahul District, Moldova

Europe's least-visited country has one port — and it's here, at the precise spot where Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine converge on the Danube. Industrial by nature, extraordinary by geography.

Pier (direct docking)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

Moldovan Leu (MDL)

Romanian & Russian

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Giurgiulești International Free Port (GIFP) — ships dock directly

Best For: Geopolitical curiosity, Moldovan wine & food, Lower Prut wetlands, river scenery

Walk to center: ~1.5 km to Giurgiulești village; free roaming in the port zone is restricted

Don't Miss: Lake Beleu pelican colony, Cahul spa town, tripoint border view, plăcinte pastries

Getting around: Taxi \$12–\$15 USD

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Lake Beleu & Lower Prut UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** — About 25 minutes north, Lake Beleu is a stunning wetland reserve home to vast flocks of Dalmatian pelicans, white herons, cormorants, and rare flora.
- Văleni Folk Village & Eurovision Fame** — The village of Văleni, home to the famous grandmother who performed with Zdob și Zdub at Eurovision 2005, welcomes visitors with folk music...
- Cahul Spa Town** — About an hour north (~50 km), Cahul is known for its thermal mineral springs and Soviet-era sanatoriums now repurposed for wellness.
- Gagauzia — Orthodox Turkic Autonomous Region** — A remarkable cultural anomaly: the Gagauz people are Orthodox Christian and Turkic-speaking.
- Trajan's Wall Wine Region Tasting** — The Valul lui Traian wine region surrounding the port produces robust reds — Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Rara Neagră, and Saperavi.

BEST WALKS

- Giurgiulești Village Stroll** 1.5 km · Easy · Flat — From the port gate, the village of Giurgiulești is a short drive or a flat 15-minute walk along the main road (traffic permitting).

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		62°	45°	9d
Jun		80°	64°	11d
Aug		86°	67°	4d
Sep		77°	59°	4d
Oct		64°	48°	5d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:22AM–7:53PM · Jun 5:18AM–8:57PM · Aug 6:08AM–8:14PM · Sep 6:45AM–7:17PM · Oct 7:23AM–6:21PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Passport mandatory. Moldova is not Schengen — you must clear passport control at the port gate. Bring the original document, not a copy.
- No photos of security. Do not photograph border checkpoints, military, police, or port infrastructure. This is enforced at an active international border.
- Euros not always accepted. The Moldovan Leu (MDL) is the currency. Tour operators may accept euros, but village shops and local restaurants require Leu or cards — card acceptance is limited in rural areas.
- Moldova is a wine country. The Valul lui Traian region surrounding the port produces some of Eastern Europe's best reds. Try Rara Neagră — you won't find it at home.
- Shore excursions are the easiest option. The port is an industrial zone with no tourist infrastructure. Ship-organized buses are reliable and handle passport control logistics. Independent travelers must pre-arrange a licensed driver.
- Geopolitical context. Ukraine (with active conflict zone proximity) is across the Danube. The border situation evolves — check any port day advisories from your cruise line.

Giurgiuleşti, Cahul District, Moldova — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Tsentr Kul'tury I Dozvillya
Renis'ykoyi Mis'koyi Rady

It's the local cultural and
leisure center.

P Cruise port / terminal