

Road of the Tatars or the Road of War.

The Ottomans accepted the settlement of Lipovans, Ukrainians and Bulgarians from northern Crimea, as well as Germans from southern Russia, as well as Greeks, Jews and Armenians brought here by the flourishing trade.

The War of Independence (1877-1878) put an end to five centuries of Ottoman rule that influenced ethnographic life, names and local culture .

On November 14, 1878, the Romanian army entered Dobrogea, which came under the governance of the Romanian State. In 1879, Tulcea County was formed as an administrative-territorial unit (comprising approximately today's territory) with the administrative seat of the city of Tulcea, the most populated locality in Dobrogea at that time.

In 1860, several Romanian, Turkish, French, Austrian, German consulates were located here. Against the background of Ottoman authority and the increased interest shown by the great powers at the mouth of the Danube, the European Committee of the Danube was founded in 1853 with its headquarters in Sulina.

It played an important role in the development of trade on the Danube, so that the Sulina branch of the Danube became a navigable channel.

1.2. Geographical positioning

The Danube Delta represents the youngest geographical region of Romania, with a special individuality among the deltas of Europe, as well as those of the whole world. Located in the northwestern part of the Black Sea basin, between 44°46'00" lat. N., 45°40'00" lat. N. and 28°40'24" long. E., 29°40'50" long. E., in a mobile region of the Earth's crust, the Danube Delta is practically the most important terminal plain of a European river (except for the Volga River).

The total area of the Delta is 4178 km² , of which 3,466 km² on the territory of Romania (82%) and, respectively, 732 km² on the territory of Ukraine (18%). The limits of the actual delta can be extended to Cape Midia, thus including the Razim - Sinoe lagoon complex.

1.3. Access ways

Access to this area is by land, 38 km from Tulcea via county road DJ222C and access by water, 40 km from Tulcea.

1.4. Level of economic and social development of the region

In Tulcea county, the vine can be grown anywhere. The relief of the region, consisting of a succession of hills and flat lands, the climatic conditions, all of these offer the best conditions for the production of both wines and table grapes.

The most important vineyards of Tulcea County are the Istria-Babadag Vineyard and the Sarica-Niculitel Vineyard.

The main grape varieties processed in the vineyards of these vineyards are: *Italian Riesling, Merlot, Muscat Ottonel, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Feteasca Regală, Feteasca Alba, Aligote, Băbeasca neagră*



Vineyard Istria-Babadag

Located in the eastern part of Dobrogea, south of the Danube Delta, the Istria-Babadag Vineyard includes the Istria, Babadag and Valea Nucarilor wine-growing centers.

The relief is represented by two low formations: the Nalbant Depression and the Agighiol Plain. The Nalbant depression appears as a stepped amphitheatre, which descends from about 100 m in the northern part to less than 50 m altitude in the southern part.

The Agighiol plain in the eastern extremity, has the shape of an arch. It descends in glacia

CHAPTER II – ANALYSIS OF THE TOURIST POTENTIAL OF THE DANUBE DELTA

Tourism represents a branch of the national economy with complex functions that includes activities carried out for the production of goods and services offered for consumption to people who travel outside their usual environment for a period of less than one year and whose main reason is other than the exercise of an action remunerated within the targeted place.

Rural tourism is a form of tourism that takes place in the countryside, capitalizing on local tourist resources (natural, cultural and economic) as well as tourist facilities and equipment, including agro-tourism guesthouses. It uses various accommodation spaces: rural inns and hotels, shelters, holiday villages, farms, etc. and wears various forms of stay, with a wide spectrum of motivations: rest and recreation, health, culture, knowledge, religion, practicing some sports, etc.

Rural tourism is an alternative to traditional, classic tourism, carried out in resorts and tourist centers, as well as to the "standard" - industrial-type tourist offer.

Agrotourism is a form of tourism practiced in the rural environment, based on the provision within the peasant household of the following services: accommodation, meals, leisure, etc.

Through agritourism, the natural and anthropic resources of the area are utilized in a superior way, contributing to raising the standard of living of the rural population. Unlike rural tourism, with a wider scope, agritourism involves:

- accommodation in a peasant household (guesthouse, farm)
- the consumption of agricultural products from that household
- participation to a lesser or greater extent in the respective agricultural activities.

Agritourism is a form of rural tourism that uses only rural tourist guesthouses and agrotourism guesthouses for accommodation and meals, benefiting from an unpolluted and picturesque environment, natural tourist attractions and cultural-historical values, traditions and

state and trends of evolution of deltaic phenomena and for the elaboration of conservation, protection and ecological reconstruction solutions.

The buffer zones have a total area of about 223,000 ha (38.4%) and include natural, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, established around the areas with an integral protection regime to ensure, through the differentiated use regime, the reduction of anthropogenic impact, especially on areas with integral protection regime.

The economic (transitional) zones have an area of about 306,100 hectares (52.9%) and include both natural ecosystems where traditional economic activities are carried out and anthropically modified ecosystems intended for intensive economic activities. In this category are also included the surfaces degraded by human impact, intended for ecological reconstruction, about 11,425 hectares (2%).

According to the definition developed by UNESCO, the biosphere reserve is the place where decision-makers, researchers, managers and the local population cooperate to develop a management model that satisfies human requirements, while preserving natural processes and biological resources, representing a symbol of voluntary cooperation in this direction and a regional center model for monitoring, research, education and training activities in the field of natural ecosystem management.

The Danube Delta is home to over 3,400 species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals, with numerous national, European and world uniques .

The Danube Delta is a true faunal paradise. 98% of the European aquatic fauna lives here, the entire fauna of odonates, aquatic lepidoptera and gastropod molluscs of Europe and rare mammals such as *Mustela lutreola*, *Lutra lutra* and *Felis silvestris* also find their refuge here. The vertebrates that, by their presence, give a specific note to the fauna of the delta. Amphibians are represented by 2 species of caudates and 6 species of anuras, and reptiles by 8 species, mostly snakes (4 species).

There are 65 species of fish, most of them fresh water (60%), the rest migrating in the spring from the Black Sea.

Birds. The avifauna of the Delta totals more than 300 species, 70 of which are non-European.

Five main types are recorded:

■ **Mediterranean** (heron, gypsy, little cormorant, bald eagle, plover, woodpecker, falcon,