

**Crossing the River Prut** (from Romania to Moldova) September 12, 2011

Marcel Glaskie

I have made many visits to Raducaneni a frontier town in Romania, located halfway between Iasi and Husi on the road number 28.

In Romania I always rent a local car, but unfortunately the hire agreements do not allow the car to be driven out of the E.U (European Union) into the Republic of Moldova.

On my last visit in September 2011, a friend from Raducaneni offered to take me in his private car on a day trip to Moldova.

With a privately owned car in Romania, it is possible to obtain the correct Insurance documentation, to cross out of the E.U.

We set out at 10:00 am from Raducaneni and drove south for about 30 minutes to Albita the frontier bridge crossing over the River Prut.

The last few kilometres before Albita, near the once Jewish town of Dranceni, the road runs along the banks of the River Prut giving some spectacular views.



River Prut, border between Romania and Moldova

All this frontier area was, and still is a vibrant area for contraband. In the 19th century there was a brisk trade in rustled horses and cattle from Bessarabia into Romania.

In the forest just south west of Raducaneni there is a an area deep in the forest, which was the storage and distribution point for the contraband. Today the trade is only in cigarettes from Moldova.

At the frontier the customs post is situated on the east bank of the river, on the road number E581. The wait was about 15 minutes to clear the immigration, and purchase the Moldavian road tax for the days visit.

If you don't have an E.U passport, find out the visa requirements before to plan to travel.

Moldova is a dual language country, both Romanian and Russian are spoken, although the Romanian used there today, contains many old words, now not used in Romania.

This is very useful if you want to identify old Romanian terms, used by Romanian Jews in the 19th century.

The general countryside is very pastoral and villages are quite far apart.

Our destination was a small town Gura Galbeni, located south east of the frontier crossing.



Gura Galbeni

Town entrance

Although this town does not have any Jewish inhabitants today, according to Martin Gilbert and Miriam Weiner there were 111 recorded in the 1930, today those families are living in Israel, many of the local population have worked in Israel and can speak good Hebrew.

My friends Sergiu & Nina in Gura Galbeni, received us in their modern two storey house and entertained us with a tasty Israeli vegetarian lunch of Shakshukah. (Peppers, tomatoes & eggs)



On our return to Romania we stopped at a local W.W. 2, war memorial high on a hill, where we had a magnificent view of the surrounding country side.



World War 2 Memorial

Leusheny, Moldova

Being a Sunday, with many day trippers from Romania returning home, we had a good hours delay at the frontier, before we were able to cross again into Romania.

A memorable day well worth the effort.

Marcel Glaskie  
Ra'anana, Israel