



THE TOWER OF CHINDIA

EXPLORE THE SPECTACULAR

Romania's Dâmbovița County offers both beautiful natural landscapes and the perfect historic destination



VLAD THE IMPALER

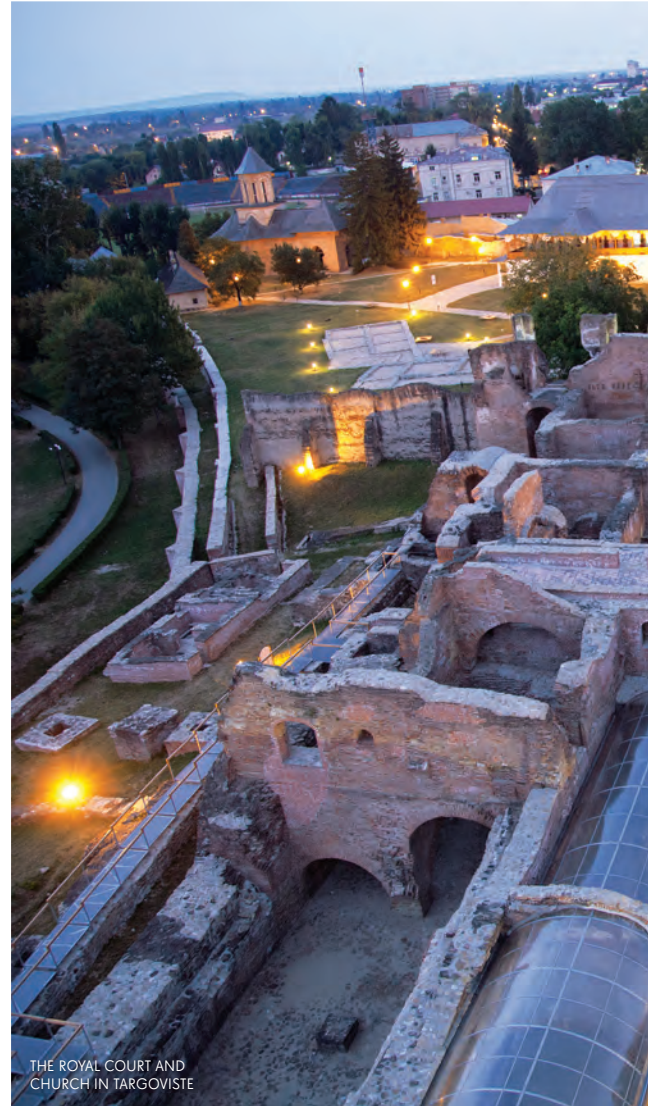
Situated near the Carpathian Mountains, Dâmbovița County is resplendent with many landscapes of outstanding natural beauty.

Located in southern Romania, 80km west of the capital Bucharest, Dâmbovița County covers an area of 4,054km², of which 60% consists of farming land and approximately 30% is covered by forests. The Omu Peak (2,505m) in the Bucegi Mountains is one of the 10 highest peaks in Romania. The area is part of two important hydrographic systems: the Ialomita River and the Arges River, with the major affluent of the latter, the Dâmbovița River, giving the county its name.

The landscapes are spectacular, the climate is continental temperate and the hunting and

fishing opportunities rich. Great museums, historical and arts monuments, cultural and sports events, spiritual heritage, and its status as a university centre, as well as the traditions perpetuated through folklore and ethnography, are constantly attracting tourists from all parts of the world.

For more than 300 years, Targoviste, the capital of the county, was also the capital of the historic Province of Wallachia, where 33 voivodes reigned and struggled to keep the integrity of the national spirit. One of them was the legendary Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler), who built what remains the symbol of the town: the Tower of Chindia. A great warrior and defender of the Christianity, Tepes left us the legend of Dracula, one of Romania and



THE ROYAL COURT AND CHURCH IN TARGOVISTE

Targoviste's most famous figures. As capital of Wallachia, the city was the centre of economic, political and cultural life, and the ensemble of the Royal Court in Targoviste has been included in the list of Historic Monuments of Romania.

Dâmbovița is the perfect destination for lovers of history and architecture. From the Royal Court of Targoviste and the Tower of Chindia to the Brancoveanu Palace at Potlogi, from the Metropolitan Church of Targoviste to the Ialomitei Cave Monastery, tourists will have the opportunity to visit places vital to Romania's cultural heritage.

In Dâmbovița County, there are plenty of fascinating natural wonders for keen mountain hikers and those who enjoy exploring the beauty of nature.



BOLBOCI LAKE



THE SPHINX OF BUCEGI



BABELE, ("THE OLD LADIES")

For a better preservation of the natural environment and its biodiversity, the Bucegi Mountains have been included in the Bucegi Nature Reservation, where you will find its two famous natural monuments, the Babele and the Sphinx of Bucegi.

According to unofficial sources, the Sphinx of Bucegi was photographed for the first time in 1900 and given its name in 1936. The rock is situated at an altitude of 2,216m, measures 8m by 12m and resembles a human face. Some researchers believe that it was carved by human hand and it would represent a supreme deity of some ancient Indo-European tribes.

Close by, near the Baba Mare Peak (2,292m), there is a group of rock formations that look like stone mushrooms and are

known as the Babele ('the Old Ladies'). Their genesis has been the subject of many legends and theories. Some researchers believe that water and wind, together with frosting and defrosting processes were the moulding agents here. At the same time, an important factor appears to have been the alternation of rocks, grit stones and limestones on the Bucegi Plateau, but no one could deny either the human intervention in finishing the shapes. Up to now, no scientific evidence could offer a complete explanation of this phenomenon, therefore the legends surrounding these rocks are still developing, uniting the reality and the supernatural.

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