

# 800 DAYS IN MOLDOVA

The average U.S. Peace Corps volunteer spends about 800 days serving in a foreign country.

July, 2016 • News and activities in Rîșcani, Republic of Moldova • Mark Gilchrist, U.S. Peace Corps volunteer.

Free of charge, free of politics, free of religion, free of advertising, free of SPAM, compliments of the U.S.A...



One image in the Imagini Rîșcani project displays the strength, determination and work ethic of the Moldovan people.

**Imagini**  
RÎȘCANI

## July Villages

Click village names to view.



Ciobanovca



Sverdlac



Poculumbeni



Druța



Poculumbauți



Zăicani



Sturzeni



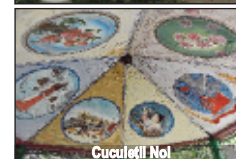
Cuculești Veche



Ivanesti



Alexandresti



Cuculești Noi

I am enjoying this project much more than I thought I would, as I am meeting many, many wonderful people, and learning a great deal about Rîșcani!

I have visited 17 of the 54 villages

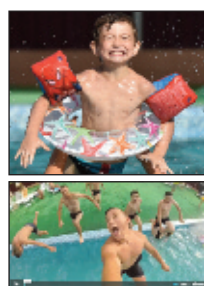
here, riding my bicycle and walking more than 250 km so far – it has been fun, but I feel that most of those miles have been up hill!

The district council, mayors, organizations or individuals may use the photographs for free.

I take one trip each week, and photograph 3–4 villages. I should finish this project in September or early October.



## Want to take better photos?



Do you want to learn photography? Do you know of a person who does? I can teach individual students, a club or a class. *Just ask me!*

I made another fun video for a local family to help promote their swimming pool business.

[Click here for the video](#)

## July 6, the day of deportees

According to reports, in a single day, the Soviets deported more than 11,000 families from Moldova to Siberia and Kazakhstan, on July 6, 1949. They started at 2 a.m., loading more than 35,000 people onto more than 1,500 railroad cars.

This was just a part of an operation that lasted more than a decade, and displaced thousands more people, and many Russians then moved to Moldova.

I have a friend, who's father, in 1947, lived in an abandoned well for six months to avoid deportation.



Varatic plays Rîșcani in soccer. [Click aici](#)

**"All you need to know when living under ..."**

**COMMUNISM**

**Is what the LEADERS want.**

**"All you need to know when living in a ..."**

**FREE SOCIETY**

**Is what the PEOPLE want.**

## Interesting articles

I recently found some interesting articles about life in this part of the world.

• In 1936, a family fled the Soviets and lived isolated in a forest for 42 years before being discovered.

[Click here for the article.](#)

• Sand erosion has buried a fishing village near the Barents Sea many times, sometimes overnight!

[Click here for the article.](#)

• There are at least a thousand large apartment buildings in Moldova, and this article describes how and why they were built.

[Click here for the article.](#)

• One week after Easter, Moldovans visit their deceased relatives in cemeteries and dine with them.

[Click here for the article.](#)



A decorated part of my apartment building in Rîșcani.



I photographed my first arm-wrestling competition, (for both men and women,) this month. *What a show!* [Click here for photographs](#)



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