

# 800 DAYS IN MOLDOVA

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

News and perspectives of Rîșcani and the Republic of Moldova • Mark Gilchrist, U.S. Peace Corps volunteer

July, 2017

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



The Moldovan national flag in front of the Rîșcani district offices in the city of Rîșcani.

## Singing "Happy Birthday" in Moldova and in America

The most popular song in many countries is often the one people sing on birthdays. In America, that song, "Happy Birthday," was copyrighted for decades, and, until recently, professionals who sang the song, or used it in films, paid, in total, millions of dollars each year.

### Moldova:

Many years live, Many years live, To many years!  
(*Mulți ani trăiască, Mulți ani trăiască, La mulți ani!*)

### America:

Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You,  
Happy Birthday dear (Name), Happy Birthday to You!  
(*Fericit naștere zi pentru tine, Fericit naștere zi pentru tine, Fericit naștere zi, dragu (Name) Fericit naștere zi pentru tine!*)



Playing soccer at the stadium in Rîșcani.



## For love of country



July 4 is the day of independence in America, (which is August 27 in Moldova,) and people celebrated this national holiday with picnics and other outdoor activities, ending the day with fireworks everywhere.

In Moldova and in about 16 U.S. states, it is legal to use small fireworks without a professional license.

The Moldovan flag is identical to the Romanian red, yellow and blue flag, with an additional crest of icons.

The American flag has 13 stripes, representing each of the original colonies, and 50 stars for each of the current states. Due to its precise layout, flag makers say that it is the most difficult flag in the world to make.

Both countries have special days to celebrate their flags; April 27 in Moldova, and June 14 in America.

People in both countries fly their flags at half-mast when in mourning. In America, government buildings usually fly the flag of their state along-



Fireworks above Rîșcani for the city's birthday party on September 21, 2016.

...ropean Union or of the city or district.

Americans have more patriotic habits, such as playing their national anthem before sporting events. They pledge allegiance to begin school, and before official meetings and large gatherings, where they may also pray.

Through unregulated commercialism, Americans are far ahead of Moldovans in wearing their flag on clothing and using it in decorations. Both countries regulate use of the flag, but the U.S. laws are not enforceable, so only government workers during their work must conform.

A person cannot be punished even for burning the American flag, an act that has been ruled as free speech.

The U.S. flag code requires American flags flown at night to be lighted, with exemptions for the flags that astronauts placed on the moon. With those flags, Americans, wherever they are in this world, can look up and salute their "Star Spangled Banner."

## Sports in Moldova

Moldovan school children can usually play soccer, basketball, volleyball and a few other sports, but the choices are not nearly as great as those offered in Europe and America, where students can usually choose among a dozen sports.

The national sport here is **Trânta**, a type of wrestling that was likely chosen as the national sport for its historical ties to the culture here and in Romania, rather than for its current popularity as a spectator sport.

The most popular sport here is soccer, (fotbal). But since it is supported by an association and tax money, with no admission charge for most local games, soccer is not played at the same professional level as in Europe or the U.S., so few

Moldovans are able to enjoy careers in sports.

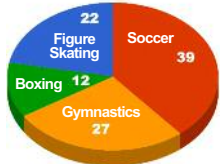
Last year, 23 Moldovan athletes competed in the Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, winning a bronze medal in a kayak event. In only six summer games since the country's founding in 1991, Moldovans have won **six medals**; not bad for a country with only 3.4 million people – about as many as in the U.S. state of Connecticut.

Most teams in America – even children's teams – have unique names, such as the Braves, or the Cowboys, Yankees, Red Sox or Lions, but in Moldova, teams are named after their village or city.

With the name, American teams also have mascots, which many soccer teams around the world also have.

Soccer, American football and basketball have cheerleaders, who excite the spectators and encourage them to cheer for their team.

### 100 People



I asked 100 people this month about spectator sports. The most popular sport was Soccer, (fotbal), followed by Gymnastics, Figure Skating and then Boxing. Men liked Soccer the most, and then Boxing, while only eight women liked Soccer and only one woman liked Boxing. Nearly half of the women said they liked Gymnastics, and more than a third were Figure Skating fans.

### How to name a Moldovan girl

Do you want your baby girl to be more like a Moldovan? Just put an "a" at the end of her name, as this is how all girls in traditional Moldovan families are named.

So a Moldovan Julie would be Julia, Natalie would be Natalia, and Marie? Maria.

You can often name your girl by ending a boy's name with an "a," making Alexan-

dra into Alexandra, Andre into Andrea, and Dorin into Dorina, for example.

While many Moldovan names are very similar to English ones, with slight variations, at least a few are not so easily translated; Mike and Mihail, for example, and John and Ion, (or Ioan,) to name a few.

<b>July</b>	1st	30th
<b>Day length</b>	15:49 hrs.	14:55 hrs.
<b>Sunrise</b>	5:13 am	5:42 am
<b>Sunset</b>	9:03 pm	8:38 pm
<b>Full Moon</b>	9th	
<b>Avg. Temp.</b>	69°F	
<b>Rainfall</b>	3.5 inches	
<b>Holidays &amp; Special Days</b>		
4 - (U.S.A.) Independence Day		
29 - Constitution Day Moldova		

Photographs and Videos, at:  
[www.Markstrail.com](http://www.Markstrail.com)

Alexandrești	Duruitoarea N.	Pociumbăuți
Avrameni	Gălășeni	Pociumbeni
Balanul Nou	Grinăuți	Proscureni
Borosenii Noi	Hiliuți	Racaria
Braniste	Horodiste	Recea
Bulhac	Ivanești	Reteni
Ceparia	Malaiești	Saptebani
Ciobanovca	Mihaileni	Singureni
Corlateni		Stîubeieni
Costești		Sturzeni
Cubara		Sumna
Cucuieții Noi		Sverdiac
Cucuieții Veche	Mihailenii Noi	Varatic
Damașcani	Mosen	Varatic
Druța	Păscauți	Vasileuți
Dumeni	Petruseni	Zăicani
Duruitoarea	Pîrjota	

**Imagini**  
RÎȘCANI

NEXT: Alunis, Luparia, Malinovscoe, Nihoreni, Ramazan, Rîșcani, Slobozia-Recea & Ușurei

"The first 90 minutes are the most important."  
Bobby Robson  
on soccer

**JOKE OF THE MONTH**  
**Question:** Why are soccer players good at math?  
**Answer:** They use their heads!

