

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR CITY, GALAȚI

Galati County, the fourth in Romania regarding the industrial power, covers 1,9% of Romania's territory at the East-Central limit, in the fluvial-maritime sector.

Almost the entire life of the county is focused on the Danube, the large river that at the end of its European travel, caresses the banks of Galati City, carrying its waters farther and farther, to the Black Sea and to the whole world. The second river of Europe and the most important fluvial commercial road, the Danube links the Northern Sea to the Black Sea. By means of the Danube-Main-Rhine Channel, declared maritime due to its deep channel up to Braila. In the area of Galati City, the river receives upstream the waters of Siret River, way of communication with the Northern regions of Moldavia and downstream those of the Prut River, natural border between Romania and the Republic of Moldavia. The town of Galati, the county capital, is one of the largest economic centres of Romania. And also the most important Romanian metallurgical and maritime spot, the second port of the country, and the first Romanian port at the Danube. Agriculture plays an important role for Galati County. Here, there are large cereal and vegetable plantations. On the hills of the Covurlui Plateau there are orchards and vineyards. From the noble varieties of grapes result the the fine refreshing wines of Nicoresti or the velvet fragrant wines of Targu Bujor. The land of the county offers not only gifts of the soil, but also of the underground, as we can see on the oil exploitation camp at Schela. Under the hills, lay beautiful villages of hard working people, merry, hospitable and reliable people, lovers of work and beauty. Themselves an asset of the county, they are cultivating their fields and gather the crop in the barns. The religious, business of sport tourism also grew lately. We can say that the Galati economy and the local business people hold the main role in the development of the county. As they have known how to find reliable partners and achieve together products of which they can proudly say : "This is made here, in Galati!".

With a population of almost 600.000 inhabitants, Galati County is among the first 10 districts in Romania and the third regarding the population density.

The Galati landscape slowly goes down from North to South, embraced by the large Moldavian Rivers Siret and Prut. This zone so rich in beauty and natural resources has always been favorable to human life. The archeological vestiges prove signs of permanent settlements since Palaeolithic.

The traveler arrived in the Galati County on land or on water should firstly stop in the capital to greet the Danube, that brings its waves at the feet of the city. He or she has to reach the Domneasca Street, once used by the princes suites that entered the old Romanian Countries, to bring new rulers invested by the Ottoman Gate. On this main road of the city have been rising the most representative buildings and monuments of Galati. Anyone wandering today in the streets could guess under the stylish but modern aspect of this XXI Century city the atmosphere of the former medieval borough residing in so many buildings designed by famous architects. The first stop of the traveler should be in the centre of the city, in the Mihai Eminescu Park, the statue of the greatest Romanian poet, sculpted by Frederic Storck, celebrated 100 years in 2011. Across the street from the Prefecture Palace the traveler's sight will pose on the beautiful building of the Drama Theatre dedicated to the Galati artist of Italian Origins, Fani Tardini. Another son of the city was Nae Leonard "the prince of Romanian Opreretta" whose bust stands

in front of the Musical Theatre which bears his name. Walking further on Domneasca St. we reach the majestic Archbishop Cathedral of the Lower Danube, place of contemplation and bowing in the middle of the daily rush. Add then the visual Art Museum, the first of its kind in Romania. At the entrance of the nice Public Garden, guards the monument of AL. I. Cuza, former administrative leader of Covurlui and prince of the United Romanian Countries. Born in Galati, his home became the first Museum of the City. The halls of the Cuza House render the local intellectual atmosphere at the crossing between the 19th and the 20th Centuries. Elegant interiors in the 19th are also reproduced in the Collections House, but also in the Costache Negri Memorial Museum from Majina, a locality in Galati county.

In the elegant exquisite halls of the Galati County Council, recently restored, responsible people watch over the good trend of the community life and design the modern history of the region with new and new development programs. They also make here plans to organize the most entertaining public cultural events: national and international festivals of folklore, jazz, music, fanfare, film, fairs, exhibitions, concerts, seminars and colloquia. All those gather each year at Galati hundreds of professionals of all kind, and tens of thousands spectators.

Galati is rich in art and history monuments, but also in green places for the nature lover. Beside many parks and public gardens, the traveler should also visit the Natural Science Complex one of the most recent and largest museum institutions in Romania. The 18ha of the Botanical Garden offer unique moments of relaxation in a green oasis is a dream walk along the endless rose alley, that goes down towards the Danube border. Also here in the modern building of the complex, there is the Aquarium with local and exotic fish, and at the upper levels the mineral and animal reigns dispute the spaces. All culminates with the Planetarium and the Astronomical Observatory, the largest and most modern public observatory in the country, where the sky may be studied with new and performing instruments. In the care of the museum Complex there also is the Zoo, from the Garboavele Forest which hosts a large variety of animal species. The book lover has to choose in Galati among multitude of libraries, the largest is the one founded by the erudite historian and writer Vasile Alexandrescu Urechia. The fuss of today reminds the times when this beautiful building was the headquarters of the European Comission of the Danube.

And there are also many other marvels of Galati which should be discovered...