

# "The Danube Delta" Museum of Ecotourism

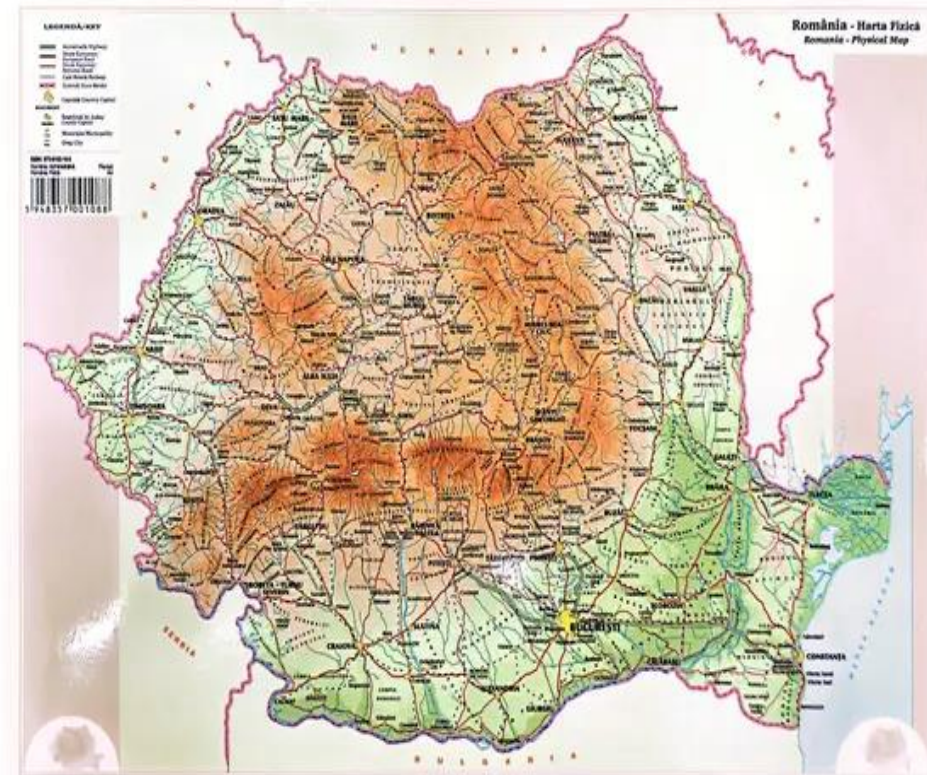


# Danube River's Journey Through Romania

- ▶ The Danube flows for approximately **1,075 km** through Romania (about 40% of its total length), making it the longest section across all 10 countries it traverses.

## The Journey:

- ▶ **Entry:** Enters at **Baziaș** (border with Serbia on 235 km), here being the **Danube Gorges**
- ▶ **Southern Border:** Acts as a natural border with **Bulgaria** for 470 km.
- ▶ **Internal Path:** Turns north and flows through Romania for **315 km** before reaching the sea.





## TULCEA - the location of the museum

Tulcea is recognized as the "**Gateway to the Danube Delta,**" being the main starting point for exploring it, as well as the logistics hub for naval transport.

The city is located exactly where the Danube begins to split to form the Delta. More specifically, upstream of Tulcea, the river bifurcates into the **Chilia branch** (to the north) and the **Tulcea branch** (to the south).

Subsequently, just east of the city of Tulcea, the Tulcea branch itself divides into the other two branches: **Sulina** (which runs straight toward the east) and **Sfântu Gheorghe** (which meanders toward the southeast).

The Danube concludes its journey through a spectacular delta that begins at Tulcea, the city where "**The Danube Delta**" **Museum of Ecotourism is located.**

Before we step onto a boat, we must visit this museum that captures the soul of this wilderness: **The Danube Delta Eco-Museum Center** in Tulcea.



# "The Danube Delta" Museum of Ecotourism

As part of our theme, A Danube Museum Itinerary, I begin the presentation in the heart of the Delta, journeying upstream toward the river's springs. Our focus today begins with the Danube Delta Museum.

While many tourists rush to board their boats, I suggest an essential stop: the Delta Museum in Tulcea. Why is it important? Because this Ecotouristic Center is a 'Delta in miniature.'

The museum is part of the **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve** ecosystem. It serves as a scientific hub for monitoring biodiversity and participates in many European research projects for sturgeon restocking and habitat restoration along the Lower Danube.

This center is not just a museum; it is a gateway. It is where science meets storytelling, and where the delicate balance of our shared natural heritage is put on display to inspire the next generation of conservationists. Let's explore how this institution serves as a mirror for the entire Danube basin.



# The Danube Delta" Museum of Ecotourism



The visitor follows a path from "land" (birds and animals on the upper floor) toward "water" (the aquarium in the basement). This structure helps in understanding how the Delta's terrestrial fauna depends directly on the aquatic one.

The museum features digital touchpoints that allow visitors to visualize the morphological evolution of the Delta over the past 12,000 years.

All major exhibits are accompanied by bilingual display panels in Romanian and English, making them accessible to international audiences.

The Danube Delta Eco-Touristic Museum Center employs a variety of modern and interactive methods to showcase its exhibits, transforming the visit into a captivating educational experience:

**Multisensory Sound-Enhanced Dioramas:** Birds and mammals (over 150 taxidermy species) are displayed in settings that mimic their natural habitats, using preserved natural plants. These are accompanied by an authentic soundscape, such as bird calls or the rustle of reeds.



The museum shows us more than just fish and birds; it tells the story of the people. We see how the Lipovans, Ukrainians, or Romanians of the Delta lived, how they built their 'lotci' (traditional wooden boats), and how the reed beds provided everything they needed for survival.

# Aquarium - underwater tunnels

The greatest attraction is, without a doubt, the Aquarium. It is the largest in Romania and offers a rare perspective: you can see sturgeons swimming right beside you, through a glass tunnel that makes you feel like part of the ecosystem.

While underwater tunnels exist in many large aquariums, the one in Tulcea offers a specific perspective:

Visitors pass beneath a tank populated with fish from the Danube basin and the Black Sea.

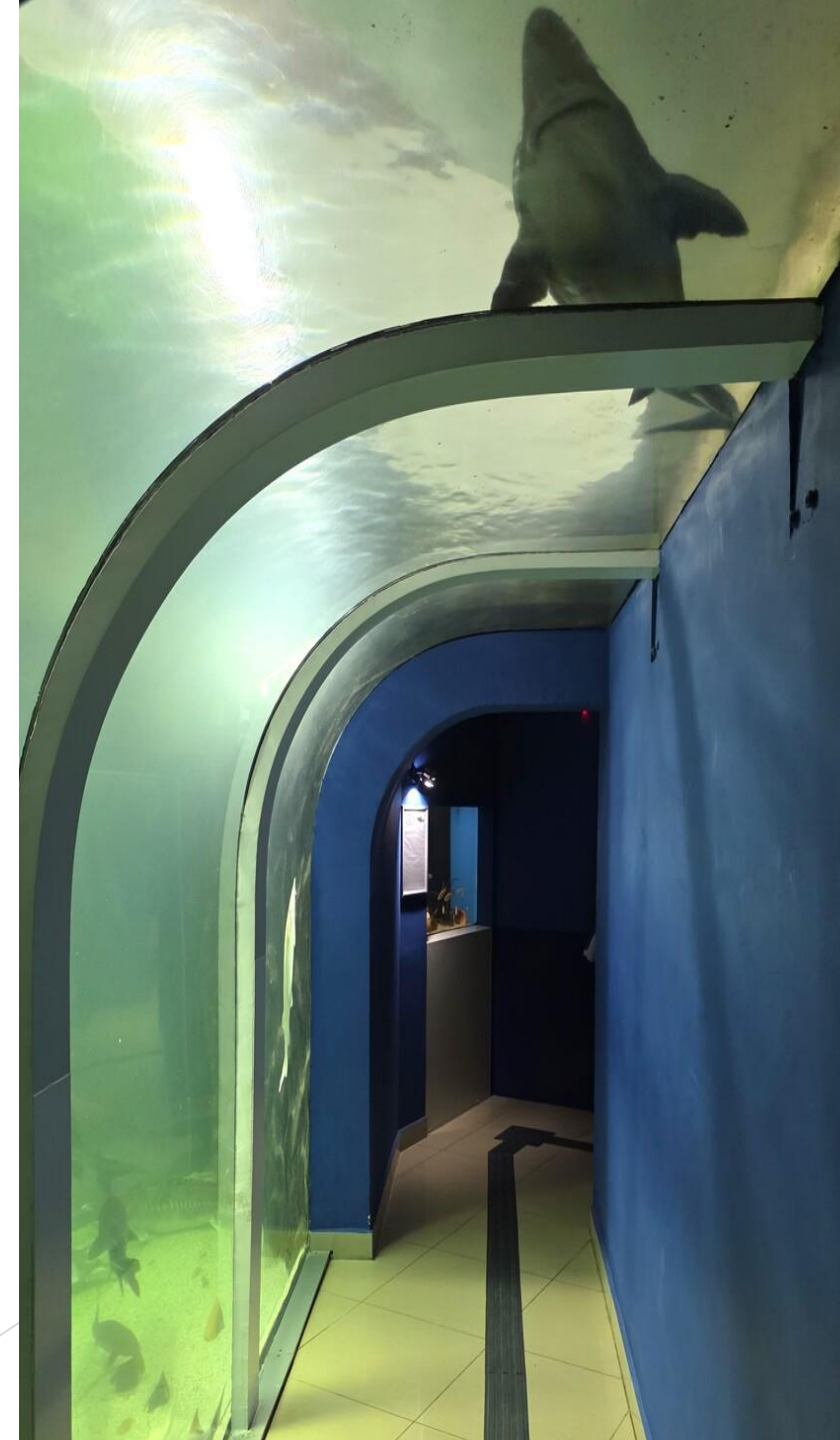
The sensation of seeing a massive beluga sturgeon passing right above your head provides a direct connection with the "monsters" of our waters, which you would otherwise never see in the wild.

**Concentric cylindrical tanks:** These create an optical illusion of depth, making the visitor feel completely surrounded by water and fish, without any corners to limit visibility.

The Tulcea aquarium succeeds in making local fauna (carp, catfish, pike, zander) look spectacular.

This aquarium "does not just display fish, but preserves the biological identity of the entire Danube River."

The Danube is the last refuge in the European Union for wild sturgeons.



## Aquarium - underwater tunnels

The Aquarium within the Danube Delta Eco-Touristic Museum Center stands out through several unique elements that distinguish it not only in Romania, but across Eastern Europe.

You can see large specimens of beluga sturgeon, Russian sturgeon, and starry sturgeon—species that are globally protected and emblematic of the Danube.

It is one of the few facilities in the region where you can observe these species up close, in an environment that simulates their natural habitat.

Here is what makes it truly special: the **Sturgeon Sanctuary** (the Centerpiece) - home to some of the oldest fish on the planet, often referred to as 'living fossils'



# Prince Albert II of Monaco's Visit (2021)

A crucial milestone for our presentation, granting the institution diplomatic and ecological recognition at the highest global level.

Prince Albert II is globally renowned as a staunch supporter of ocean and freshwater conservation through the *Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation*. His visit to Tulcea was not merely a courtesy call, but a **recognition of the Danube Delta's strategic importance** for European biodiversity.

**The Sturgeon Aquarium:** The Prince spent considerable time in the aquarium area, fascinated by the beluga and sturgeons. Given that Monaco hosts one of the world's most famous oceanographic museums, his appreciation for Tulcea's technology and species was an immense compliment.

**The Monaco Connection:** A parallel can be drawn between the *Oceanographic Museum of Monaco* and the *Tulcea Ecotouristic Museum Center* - both institutions bridge the gap between scientific research and public education.



# The Danube Delta Museum of Ecotourism

- ▶ **The Center is not only for visiting, but serves as a research base**
- ▶ **The Tulcea Center is not merely a repository for exhibits, but the custodian of the Danube's biological memory. In a Europe where the river has been reshaped by human hand, this museum preserves the image and life of the Danube as nature intended, serving as a benchmark for all our ecological restoration efforts.**
- ▶ **The Danube Delta is a unique treasure of humanity. Facilities like this center are the vital bridge between scientific knowledge and public responsibility**
- ▶ **In conclusion, I would like us to reflect on the fragility of this place. The Danube Delta is not an inexhaustible resource, but an ecosystem that needs our protection.**
- ▶ **By visiting the Museum in Tulcea and exploring the Delta with respect, go to the Delta at least once in your life, but leave behind only your footsteps and take with you only your photographs and the serenity of this unique place.**
- ▶ **As we know The Danube River is more than a waterway; it is a vital ecological artery that connects us all.**

# The Danube Delta

Until you have the chance to visit the Danube Delta in person, we invite you to explore it virtually as a first step through a PPT presentation. This can be accessed on the platform [vima-danube.eu](https://vima-danube.eu)



, within the interest group “**Describing sights of favorite places in Europe**”.

<https://vima-danube.eu/>

There, you will find the link <https://danect.eu/discovery-tours-through-europe/> to the presentation, as well as a map of key locations across Europe

Thank you for your attention!  
Elena M

