

## Orthodox monasteries featured on new Romanian passport



The new Romanian passport that started being issued from January 2019 has a unique design that features important touristic attractions including three Orthodox monasteries: Curtea de Argeș, Barsana and Tismana.

Romania's simple electronic and temporary passports are among the most difficult to falsify travel documents, stated the police chief Mirel Toanca, the head of the Passport Directorate of the Romanian Police, earlier this year.

In addition to the security elements that make it almost impossible to forge, the new generation of passports has a modern design with details inspired by the history and geography of Romania.

Each page contains a stylized drawing of a historical monument or of a well-known tourist objective in Romania, such as the three places of worship mentioned, but also the Danube Delta, the Red Lake, the Sphinx, Arc de Triomphe, the Fortress of Suceava etc.

The anti-fraud features are based on the new technologies in the field including stylized drawings, micro-printing, different printing techniques and optically

variable elements, as well as some elements made by nanotechnology.

Curtea de Arges Monastery is one of the most famous monasteries in Romania and a must-see attraction if you're looking to discover centuries-old religious sites. It's the monumental church and its unique architectural style that make this monastery one of the most representative in Romania, a country that has hundreds of religious monuments of venerable age.

The burial place of Kings Carol the 1st and Ferdinand and Queens Elisabeta and Maria, this church – also known as the Cathedral from Curtea de Arges – had an overwhelming influence in the past on the architectural style of many religious monuments from the southern part of the country.

Barsana Monastery is one of the landmarks of Maramures. The reason being that, is the beautiful church and the other wooden buildings made by craftsmen from Maramures inside of assembly.

The Barsana Monastery church is one of the tallest wooden church in Romania, having 57m height. Also at Bârsana there is a second church which is part of the UNESCO world heritage.

Considered by many people as “the heart of Oltenia”, Tismana Monastery, together with its medieval walls and angular bulwarks, lies on the Starmina Mountain being surrounded by forests and steep crags, 30 km away from Targu Jiu. As a matter of fact, the Geta-Dacian toponym “tismena” meant “fortress” in its ancient times.

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