

This is my individual research for a journey that I would like to physically make, together with others, when possible, for visiting an interesting natural site, near Iasi city.

It's a **place I never visited**, even if I live in Iasi for more than 20 years...

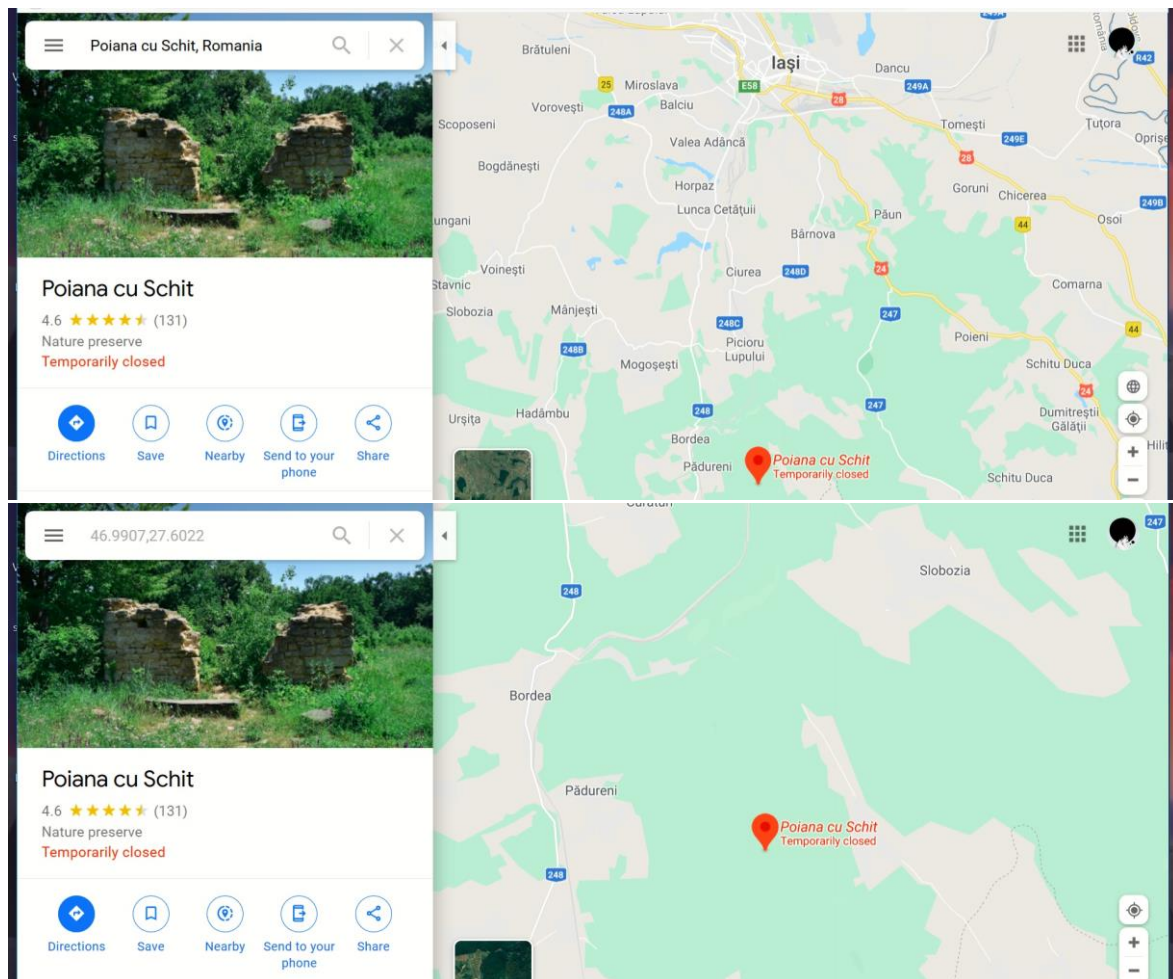
It was only recently, **by the help of Green Bridges project**, that I actually discovered it exists... I might have heard about it in the past but was never quite aware how interesting may be.

So it makes it perfectly for documenting a virtual journey about it and hope to make it happen as soon as possible.



The Poiana cu Schit nature reserve

"Poiana cu Schit" is a natural reservation of national interest, with floristic character, with an area of 9.5 ha, located on the administrative territory of Grajduri commune (Borosești forest). It is owned by the state and in the administration and custody of the Iași Forestry Directorate.



My journey will start from my home and back, using public transport – in this case the train - and walking (aprox. 12 km). It is a full day journey, leaving the city in the morning, coming back in the evening.

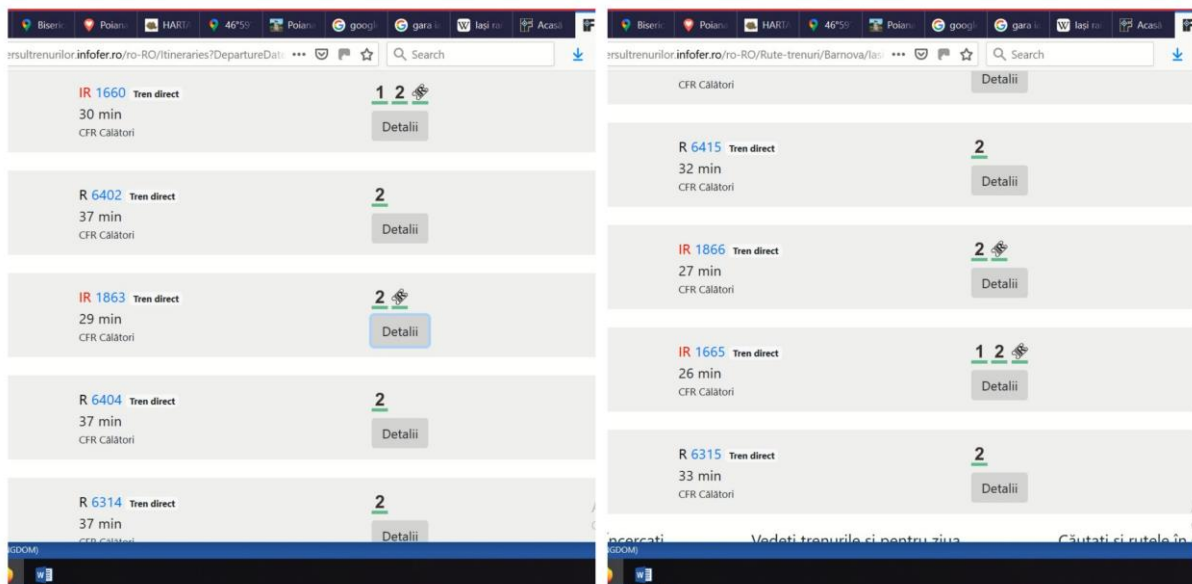
It is by chance that I live very near to the **Central Station in Iasi** so I'm very close to the starting point. The Central Station may also be the perfect meeting point for a group.



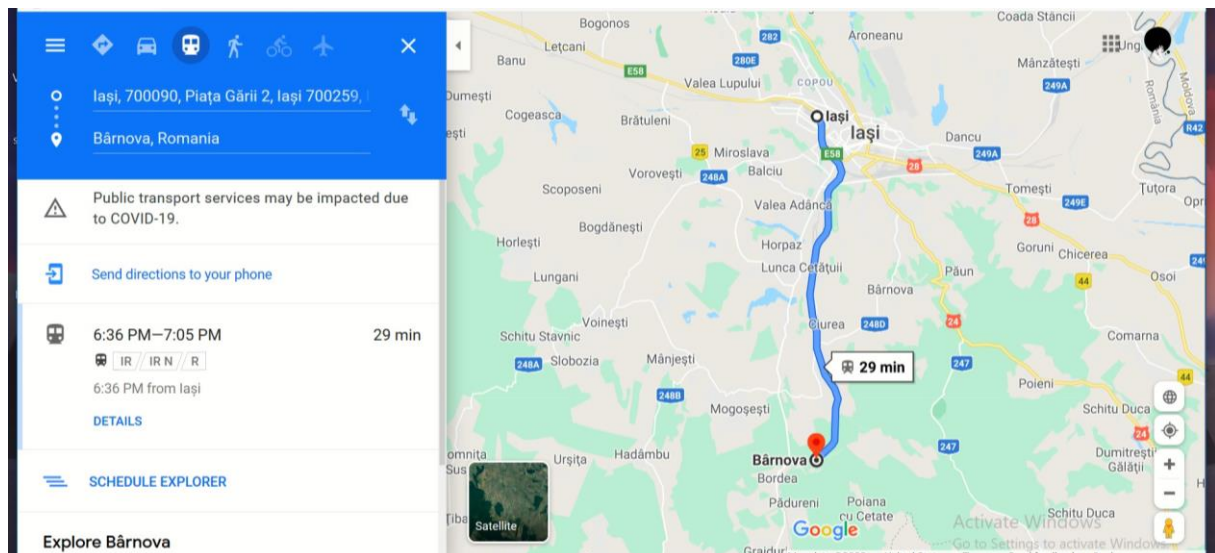
The route we search is Iasi – Barnova.

There are many trains that could be used, as Barnova is the first station for all trains that go south to Vaslui and further, to capital, Bucharest.

This is a sample of possible trains – definitely a morning train for going (trains starting from 4.45 a.m.) and an evening train for returning (last train at 23.00 p.m.). There is not much variation, the train schedule does not differ much depending on the days, and on weekends there are enough options to create a trip. The train schedule can be accessed here: <https://infofer.ro>



The journey will take about 30-40 minutes, a ticket is 2.5-3.00 Euro.



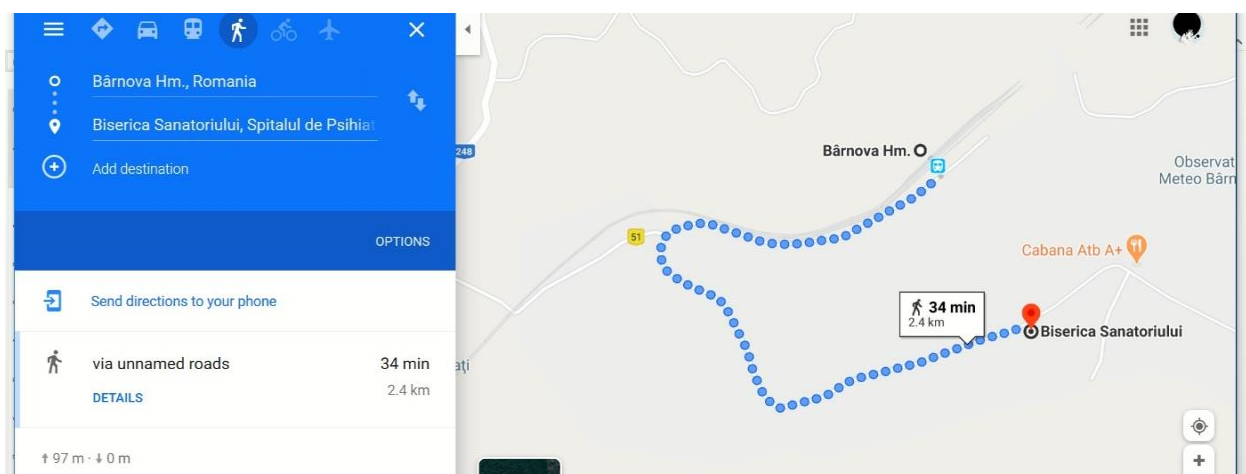
An interesting detail about the train journey: **the route includes passing through Bârnova Tunnel** (Location - $47^{\circ} 0'57'' \text{ N } 27^{\circ} 34'26'' \text{ E}$ - CFR Bârnova Station). The first tunnel was built in 1892, the second in 1980 when the line was doubled.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6la5N5uQeAQ>

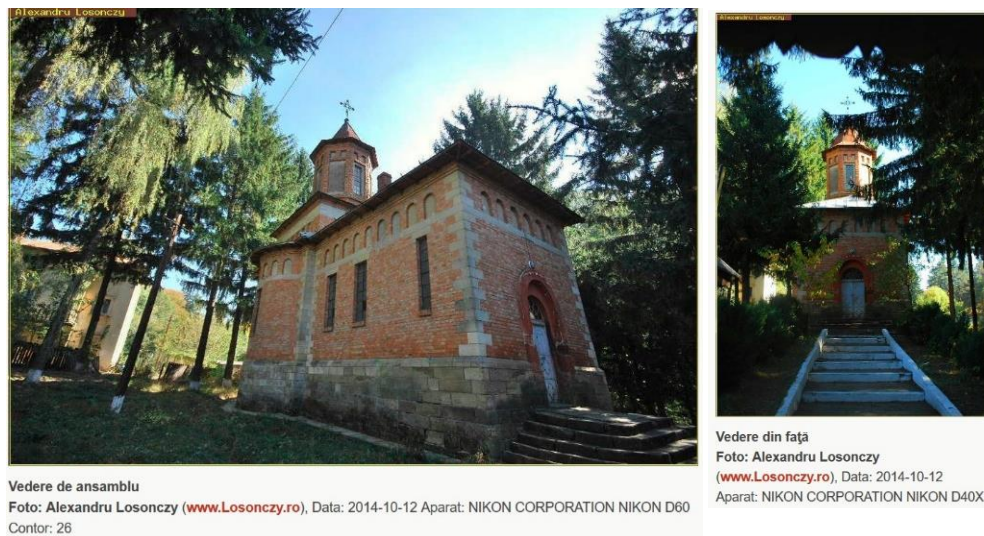
Arriving in Bârnova railway station – cooler and fresh air (forest all around), nature all around, city left behind. Seems that the railway station itself looks very picturesque!



From Bârnova railway station walking to Bârnova Sanatorium Church, go around it on the left and continue the road to the former Bârnova chalet.





Seems that the Barnova Sanatorium Church itself looks amazing, surrounded by mountain trees.



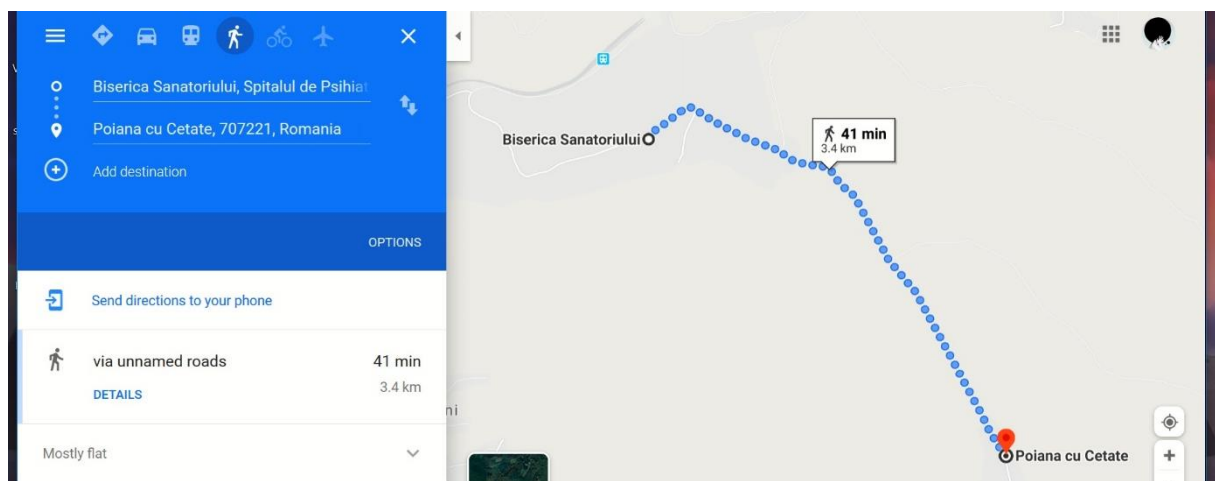
From there, two ways are possible, which makes it perfect for a circuit:

First way: you can continue through the forest following the marking (blue dot ) or



Second way: on the road, until the entrance to the village of Poiana cu Cetate, near the secular oaks (GPS coordinates: 47 ° 0'5.38 "N / 27 ° 35'33.4" E), from where it continues through the forest (red dot marking ) followed by blue dot .

** the blue dot markingt was made in 1984 by the members of the Penicilina tourism club.*



There are indications for finding the place on both walking routes, it should be easy to follow.



About the site ([Poiana cu schit, Poiana cu statui](#))

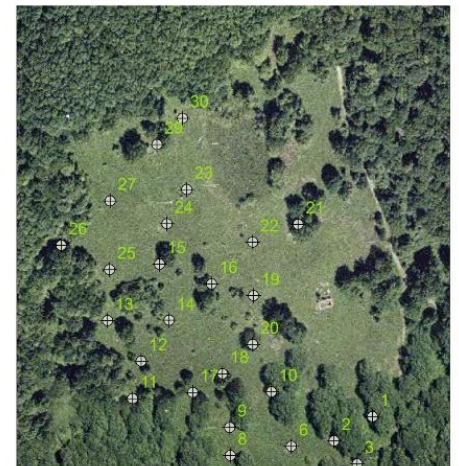
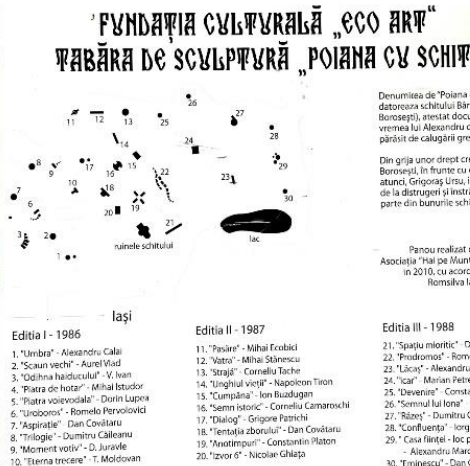
– the translations could be: The glade with hermitage, The glade with statues

- **It hosts a very old historical monument from the end of the 14th century.**
The historical monument is represented by the ruins of a small church, built by the prince Duma the Black, a former great ruler, in the time of the voivode Alexander the Good



- **It hosts an open-air exhibition with thirty sculptures**
The 30 huge stone sculptures, built as an homage of today's world to the greatness of the past were sculpted for three summers between 1986 and 1988 by the greatest Romanian artists of the time. The stone was brought from a village over 10 kilometers away. The sculptures, with weights from 10 to 54 tons, are forming a real open-air museum, being the only stone sculpture camp in Moldova.

A map of all sculptures is displayed there, so they could be easily identified.



Over the years, nature has regained its rights, and some of the sculptures can hardly be found or seen through the abundance of shrubs and vegetation.

Some of the sculpture names that made me curious: The outlaw's rest, Uroboros, Eternal passage, Trilogy, Temptation of fly, Icarus, Old guard, Spring, The becoming, Aspiration (in summer only the top can be seen among the bushes - if you know where to look).

A project that I found only browsing on the internet:

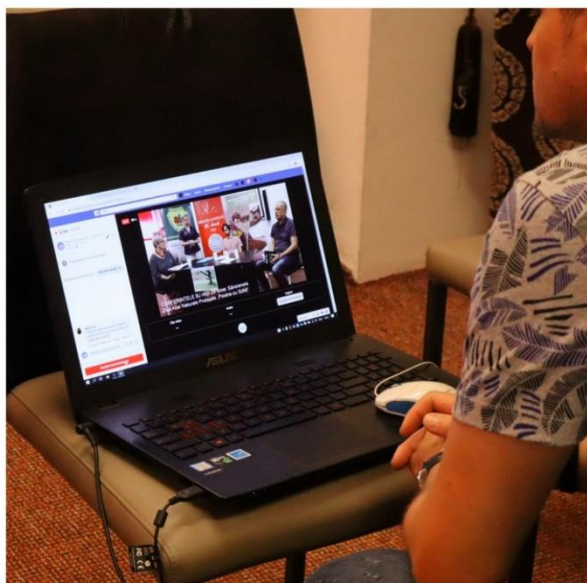
"Sânzienele", Day of the Protected Natural Area "Poiana cu Schit" June 24, 2020

*Sânziănă is the Romanian name for gentle fairies who play an important part in local folklore, also used to designate the *Galium verum* or *Cruciata laevipes* flowers. Under the plural form Sânziene, the word designates an annual festival in the fairies' honor.

This is a project for the promotion and popularization of the protected natural area "Poiana cu Schit" from Bârnova-Repedea forest, initiated and realized by the Academic Foundation "Ideas and Facts for the years 2000" since 2011 and continued in 2020, despite the pandemics, together with the Library County "Gheorghe Asachi" Iasi. **The main objectives of the activities are to discover a special space where history, art, nature meet and coexist less than 20 kilometers from Iasi.**

There was an [online debate](#) organised on 24th June, as an opportunity to review the activities carried out over the years with the involvement of dozens of young people, pupils and students.

A photo exhibition of the site will be displayed in Iasi city centre during all 2020 summer.



Fotografiile fac parte din arhiva digitală a Fundației Academice "Idei și Fapte pentru anii 2000" sau au fost preluate din arhiva personală a domnului Ion Muscalu, colaborator de bază în proiectele de

These are some few pictures from various sources, made over several years and in various seasons.

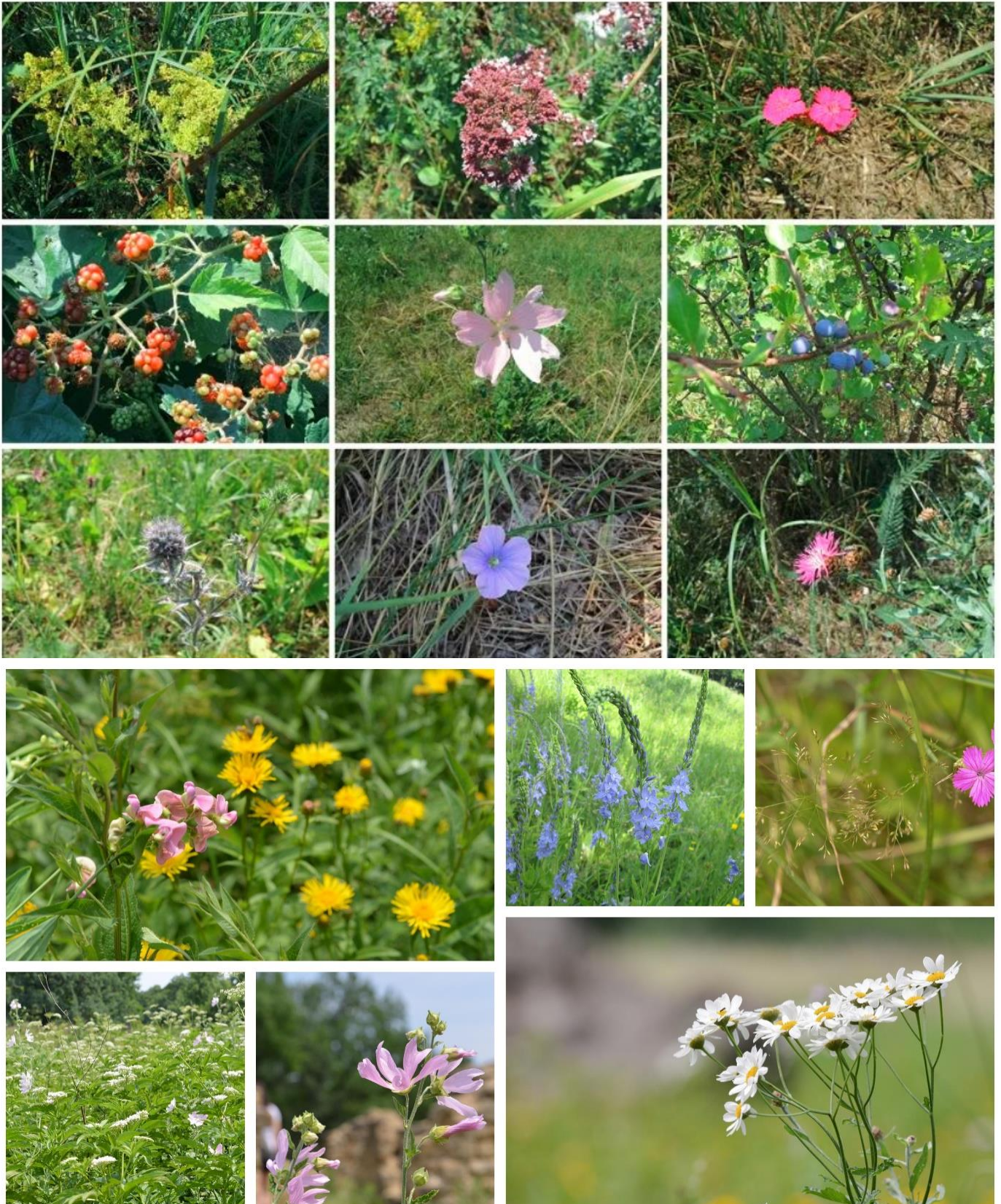
I hope I will add my own collections, once I will visit the place!



- **Poiana cu schit also hosts a nature flower reserve with rare plant species.**

This nature reserve represents the largest and most expressive glade in the Bârnova - Repedea forest massif, which is one of the largest areas of unfragmented forest in Iași.

Flora of the reserve is rich and varied, comprising about **200 species** of plants, with two vegetal associations predominating: the fescue (*Festuca valesiaca* and *F. Sulcata*) and field grass (*Agrostis capillaris*, *A. Tenuis*).



People say that on the way through the forest, if you are lucky you can see deer. Those who went in the winter, say they saw many traces of wild animals: deer, wild boar, rabbits, foxes, various birds.



Very close to this site, there is a **village – Poiana cu Cetate**.

It is an old village, described in the Romanian romantic literature, very remote but beautiful.

[The church of Cujba](#) boyar worth a visit...

‘ [...] you can find the church built in the 17th century by the boyar Cujbă, in the center of which a tree stands on the place where the bell used to ring. There is nothing left of the ceiling. On the walls eroded by rain and shaken by the wind are now inscribed some names of people and some years. The ruins that for centuries have faced the vicissitudes of time and the ignorance or helplessness of people do not seem to be able to withstand for a long time, the walls, once loaded with history, are now full of cracks.’ (<http://www.opiniastudenteasca.ro/supliment/moldova-de-dupa-dealuri/in-poiana-cu-cetate-trecutul-iese-la-vinatoare.html>).



In the village there is a fabulous farm which worth visiting and tasting (homemade organic products, homemade food): <https://www.facebook.com/acasalapoianacucetate/>

Coming back will mean to return to Barnova station (walking on the road or through the forest, depending on the route taken) and catch a train to Iasi

Sources:

<http://www.poianacuschit.ro/>

<http://satul.net/harta-poiana-cu-cetate-is/>

<http://calatorcudor.ro/poiana-cu-schit-iasi/>

<https://www.laurafrunza.com/2015/07/30/rezervatia-floristica-poiana-cu-schit/>

<https://adrianaflora.blogspot.com/2019/02/poiana-cu-schit.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoianaCuSchit/>