



## Pedestrian Street Eugen Doga, Chişinău

*Anna was a young woman filled with excitement and anticipation. She had just received important news that she was eager to share with her beloved. News that led her on a journey of discovery about the rich cultural heritage of Moldovan traditional fine crafts and priceless artifacts.*

### ***A place where memories are created.***

Anna stirred from her daydream and gazed at her smart watch, aghast as she realized the time had flown by. It was already past 6 PM, the appointed hour when she was to meet her soulmate, her confidant, her accomplice. They had agreed to rendezvous at their favorite spot on the pedestrian street, the Statue of Two Lovers on the Pedestrian street, nestled in the heart of Chisinau. The pedestrian street Eugen Doga is a symphony of bustling life and cultural heritage.

The Statue of Two Lovers is a romantic monument located in Chisinau's Pedestrian street Eugen Doga. It was created by sculptor Pavel Obreja and depicts a young couple meeting. The man is holding flowers and checking his watch, while the woman is approaching, holding her high heels. The statue was installed in 2017, but from the first day it became an attraction for tourists and locals.

Anna was thinking that this was probably a magical place where memories are created for the future as on this street the earliest photographs of Chisinau known to us were made.

*While approaching the statues Anna saw her beloved one and the creation of her own memories started.*

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He was standing there, anxiously scanning the crowd, his heart beating faster with each passing moment. His eyes darted back and forth, searching for her, and his feet nervously tapping against the pavement. The clock seemed to mock him with each relentless tick, as he pondered where she might be.

Just then, his senses caught her familiar scent and he turned to see her and a dazzling smile illuminated his face. She was late, as usual, but he didn't mind, he was used to that. She approached him, and he asked, ***"Where have you been?"***

- "Back in time," she replied with a mischievous twinkle in her eye.
- "And where would you like to go now?" he asked, with a hint of amusement in his voice.
- "To the future," she answered, with excitement in her voice.
- "Let's go together," he said, taking her hand.
- But just as they were about to leave, she paused and said, "Do you mind if someone else joins us?"
- He was taken aback, but before he could respond, she added, "We're expecting..."
- With a smile, he took a deep breath and replied, "It was worth the wait."

### ***Past and future of the City***

The young couple walk down the pedestrian street till the intersection with the street "Alexandru cel Bun". This place has a special meaning for them as they met there for the first time at the grocery located there.

This place is special for the history of the city as well, Anna told her beloved one. Back in the 18th century here was actually the end of the city. But the wind of change transformed Chisinau and influenced the way it looks today.

From the beginning of the 19th century the Republic of Moldova was transformed as a gubernia of the Russian Empire and Chişinău was declared the capital of the gubernia. Thus, new administrative buildings were needed and

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the easiest way for development was to build everything in a new area. Considering that, the face of the city started to change and new buildings and streets spread starting from the street "Alexandru cel Bun" and continuing with the Cathedral park, the City Hall, and above. Beginning at the north-eastern edge of the grand Cathedral park, this lively thoroughfare winds its way towards the crowning jewel of its architectural splendor, the Monument of National Significance - the urban mansion of the esteemed Catargi family, that can be still admired by the architecture lovers.

*Anna was thinking about the transformations of the city in time. And the wheel of time opened the doors to the period of transformations, to the 19th century. In front of her eyes appeared different images telling stories.*

***In June 1867 the pedestrian Street Eugen Doga and Chisinau itself was in preparation for the visit of Empress Maria Alexandrovna. At that time this was a big event for a small city at the end of the empire.***

***Thanks to this, we have a unique chance to look at Chisinau of 1867 as the preparations process and the city were captured by a photographer, and those pictures are one of the earliest photographs of Chisinau known to us.***



Arch of the Jewish community of the city  
(intersection of Al. cel Bun and E.Doga street).

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Not long after the famous visit, more exactly in 1877 the house of Catargi family appeared in “Le Monde illustre” - 1877, on 21 of April. The illustration presented the quarters of the grand duke Nicolas commander-in-chief in Chisinau.

The house of the Catargi family (street E. Doga intersection with Columna nr 106), can be admired till nowadays, being a public institution.



The quarters of the grand duke Nicholas commander-in-chief in Chisinau. Album: Bessarabia in European newspapers (1877); Source: Le Monde illustré - 1877 - 21 Avril - № 1045; Collection (archives): OldChisinau.com The building has been preserved.

Of course many things happened here during the time, so Anna called back her thoughts to the present days. Actually the pedestrian street is named after a famous musician “Eugen Doga”

### The great composer Eugen Doga

Eugen Doga is a composer from Moldova who has created ballets, operas, instrumental and choral works, music for plays and movies, songs, romances and waltzes, and music for the 1980 Moscow Olympics. The World Intellectual Property Organization (Geneva) in recognition of his outstanding achievements in music awarded him with a special certificate in 2007. Currently Eugen Doga lives with his family in Chişinău. He continues to perform live, and still participates in various festivals. Maestro Eugen Doga continues to write new music even now at 86 years old celebrated this year (2023).

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From time to time the musician is passing by on the pedestrian street, and everytime Anna is there she looks for the artist with her eyes. For a perfect mood Anna would need to hear the well-known waltz “My Sweet and Tender Beast” designated by UNESCO as the fourth musical masterpiece of the 20th century.

Looking that maybe she will see the artist, instead Anna saw a small marketplace with artisans. The selling points were using street furniture having the symbol “Tree of life” on them. This ancient symbol speaks to the idea of life continuing on, of eternal youth and immortality, and acts as a bridge between heaven and earth. Anna saw it as a connection between the past and the present, as the artisans from there were selling souvenirs made nowadays but keeping the techniques used by their ancestors. Anna remembered her journey before she arrived at the date with her beloved one.

Anna continued the discussion saying: *“A few hours ago, I was gripped with fear, but now my confidence has skyrocketed.”*

- Your firm grip on my hand is a testament to your strength, said the boy.
- I am completely serious. Though it may seem like we are facing challenges alone, we have an immense community behind us. I can sense it. The signs are all around us. Just look at the tree of life, with its abundant fruit and full branches, it represents the bounty and generosity of life. And just like the tree, we too have so much to offer. We should write our history bearing in mind our traditions and culture.

*And with that thought, they embarked on the next chapter of their journey, hand in hand, filled with the promise of a bright future.*

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