

## About us



Romania is situated in South-Eastern Europe, sharing borders with Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldavia and the Ukraine, between latitudes 43-37'07" and 48-15'06" North and longitudes 20-15'44" and 29-41'24" East.

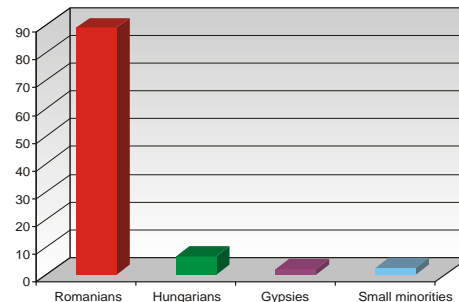
Area: 237,500 sq. km

The Carpathian mountains form an arch in the centre of the country, bordered on both sides by hills and plateaus and great plains off the outer rim.

Over a quarter of the country is covered by forests and the fauna is one of the richest in Europe including wolves, bears, deer, lynx and chamois.

The Danube forms the southern boundary of the country ending with the Delta or the Black Sea, a haven for countless local and migratory birds.

Population: over 23,000,000 of which 89% are Romanians, 6,6% Hungarians, 2% Gypsies, with small minorities of Germans, Ukrainians, Serbs, Slovaks, Turks, Czechs, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, Poles, Albanians...



## History



The territory of Romania has been inhabited since the Paleolithic.

The ancestors of the Romanian people are the Dacians, brave warriors subdued by the Romans under Trajan in two extremely difficult campaigns at the beginning of the 2nd century AD. The relatively brief Roman occupation (165 years), left the Latin language which survived the numerous invasions of migratory peoples.

Over the years a Romanian identity developed progressively with the formation of the feudal states of Wallachia and Moldavia in the 13th and 14th centuries. Centuries of fighting against the Turks ensued in these states. Moldavia and Wallachia were united in 1859 as Romania, and achieved the independence in 9 May 1877.

Transylvania was occupied successively by the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires and, in 1 December 1918, achieved the great union with Romania.

The communist regime, established after the 2nd World War lasted for 45 years and ended with the Revolution in December 1989.





## Climate

The climate is continental-temperate, characteristic for Central Europe, with hot summers, cold winters, lot of snow especially in the mountains, very distinct seasons. The southern regions are the warmest.

## Major Cities and population

Bucharest: 2,300,000;  
 Brasov: 353,000;  
 Timisoara: 333,000;  
 Iasi: 333,000;  
 Cluj-Napoca: 318,000;  
 Constanta: 316,000;  
 Sibiu: 169,000;  
 Targu Mures: 165,000;  
 Suceava: 106,000.



## Language

The official language is Romanian, a language of Latin origin.

English, French and German are widely spoken.

## Religion

Religious freedom is guaranteed by the Romanian constitution. Most Romanians are Orthodox Christians (87%). Catholics of the Oriental and Roman rites are well represented (5%). There are also Reformed/Lutheran (3%), Unitarian (1%), Neo-Protestant, Armenian, Muslim and Jewish communities.

## The Political System



Romania is a parliamentary republic with a bicameral Parliament. The president of the country, the senators and the members of the lower chamber are elected every four years by universal secret ballot.

The ethnic minorities also have a representation in Parliament.

Democratic rights and freedoms are guaranteed by the Constitution.

The national flag is red, yellow and blue.

Romania's national holiday is December 1, the day when the national unitary state was founded in 1918.

Romania's territory is divided into 41 counties (judete, singular - judet) administered by prefects and 1 municipality (municipiu): the mayors of municipalities, towns and villages are subordinated to the district administration. Bucharest, the capital, has its own administration, similar to that of the districts.

The districts: Alba, Arad, Arges, Bacau, Bihor, Bistrita-Nasaud, Botosani, Braila, Brasov, Bucuresti\*, Buzau, Calarasi, Caras-Severin, Cluj, Constanta, Covasna, Dimbovita, Dolj, Galati, Gorj, Giurgiu, Harghita, Hunedoara, Ialomita, Iasi, Ilfov, Maramures, Mehedinti, Mures, Neamt, Olt, Prahova, Salaj, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Suceava, Teleorman, Timis, Tulcea, Vaslui, Vilcea, Vrancea





## Getting here



### By Air

Regular and charter flights of Romanian airlines (namely Tarom) and of the foreign airlines with offices in Bucharest ( Delta, Air France, Lufthansa, Alitalia, Swissair...) connect Bucharest with the world's major airports.

Romania's international airports are Bucharest-Otopeni, Constanta-Mihail Kogalniceanu, Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca.

Otopeni International Airport in Bucharest is situated 18 km away from the city centre. The centre can be reached by airport coach or by taxi. In the latter case it is wise to agree with the driver upon the price before beginning the journey.

### By Rail

International express trains connect the main central European capitals with Bucharest, the Black Sea coast and the main cities in the country.



### By Road

The access ways to Romania are: Berlin, Warsaw, Budapest-Petea E 81: Vienna, Prague, Budapest-Bors E 60 or Nadlac E64 or Varsand E 671: Trieste, Belgrade-Moravita E 70 or Portile de Fier E 70: Athens, Tirana, Sofia-Giurgiu E 85; Istanbul, Sofia- Vama Veche E 87: Moscow, Kiev, Kishinev-Albita E 580; Warsaw, Kiev, Chernowitz-Siret E 85. All roads are marked in accordance with international regulations. Cars are driven on the right side of the road and can overtake on the left.

Distances between Bucharest and various main cities are: Athens-1252 km, Berlin-2154 km, Berne ( Zurich)-2125 km, Brussels-2394 km, Bonn-2100 km, Budapest-893 km, Copenhagen-2587 km, Frankfurt-2100 km, The Hague (Amsterdam)-2428 km Helsinki-2900km, Istanbul -704 km, Kiev-1065 km, Kishinev-445 km, Lisbon-4120 km, London-2577 km, Madrid-3530 km, Minsk-1650 km, Moscow-1963 km, Oslo-2820 km, Paris-2401 km, Prague-1465 km, Riga-1955 km, Rome-2149 km, Sofia-407 km, Stockholm -3100 km, Vienna - 1100 km. Warsaw-1797 km.

If you come to Romania by car , bring your driving license, car papers and green card.

### By sea and river

Cruise ships call at the Port of Constanta (on the Black Sea coast), the country's biggest port. Passenger boats also operate on the Danube and the new European riverway Rotterdam-Constanta, includes the Romanian Danube-Black Sea Canal. The former calls at the ports of Sulina, Tulcea and Braila and the latter at Drobeta-Turnu Severin and Giurgiu.

## Formalities

### Tourist Visas

Entry or transit visas may be obtained from the diplomatic and consular offices of Romania abroad by all those in possession of a valid passports, recognized by the Romanian state. Applicants must prove they have the means to support themselves financially for the period of their stay in Romania.

Entry or extension visa fees must be paid in hard currency. Visas can also be obtained at the Bucharest International Airport on arrival and at customs.

### Customs

Romania applies the international regulations of the Convention for Customs facilities for Tourist Traffic.

It is forbidden to import, unless in possession of a special license, lei (the Romanian currency) ammunition, explosives, narcotics, pornographic material.. It is forbidden to export articles of cultural, historic or artistic value.

Anti rabies vaccination certificates are required for cats and dogs.

### Currency Exchange

The national currency is the leu (plural lei). Coins come in units of 500, 1000, and 5000 lei. Bills come in units of 10,000; 50,000; 100,000 and 500,000 lei. Euro and dollar bills are the most readily negotiated currency in Romania.

Avoid the black exchange market as this is an illegal operation and subject to punishment according to the law.

Foreign currency can only be exchanged at banks and authorized exchange offices. As rates can vary from one place to another it is wise to shop around. Keep the exchange receipts as they may be requested when you pay for things in lei.

### Distances from Bucharest to major cities

Alba Iulia: 344 km, Brasov: 171 km, Cluj - Napoca: 446 km, Constanta: 266 km, Oradea: 595 km, Sibiu: 273 km, Targu Mures: 344 km, Timisoara: 567 km, Tulcea: 263 km.

### Public Holidays

January 1 & 2; Easter Monday; May 1; December 1 (the national holiday); December 25 & 26.

### ELECTRICITY

The electric current in Romania is 220 Volts / 50 Hz (EU standard)



## Cuisine



Romanian cooking is rich, tasty and substantial. Here, the food is still naturally cultivated, fruit and vegetables follow their normal season, and winters are cold.

Pork is a special favourite, but you will find good beef, veal, and chicken too. They are all delicious just grilled.

Some of typically Romanian specialities:

"Ciorba" is a range of soup, with sour taste

"Sarmale" is a spicy dish of pickled cabbage leaves stuffed with minced meat and rice.

"Mamaliga", a maize porridge, like polenta.

"Mititei" or "Mici" small grilled sausages perfumed with aromatic herbs.

A range of excellent white and red Romanian wines of the famous vineyards of Murfatlar, Cotnari, Jidvei, Dealu Mare, Odobesti, Valea Calugareasca accompany local and international dishes to perfection, while Tuica and Palinca, the local plum brandy is drunk as an aperitif. But beware, it's a very strong drink!

The local Romanian beers are excellent.

