



# INFORMATION GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



## Romania – facts and figures

### Official name

Romania (România)

### Official language

Romanian

### Currency

Romanian leu (RON)

### Political system

Unitary semi-presidential  
republic



Flag



Coat of arms



### Location

South-East Europe



### Capital

Bucharest



### Major cities

Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca,  
Iasi, Constanta, Craiova



### Time zone

GMT +2



### Area

238,397 km<sup>2</sup>



### Population

19.2 million



### Religion

Christian – Orthodox



### Country code

+40



### Academic year

1<sup>st</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> June



### International students

27.000 +

# Romania

Romania is a country located in the south-east of Central Europe, on the lower course of the Danube, in the north of the Balkan peninsula and on the north-western shore of the Black Sea. Almost the entire surface of the Danube Delta and the southern and central part of the Carpathian Mountains are located on its territory.

It borders Bulgaria to the south, Serbia to the southwest, Hungary to the northwest, Ukraine to the north and east and the Republic of Moldova to the east, and the Black Sea coast is to the southeast.

Romania is a country with a history of thousands of years, with beautiful traditions and customs, enchanting landscapes, and a rich culture and gastronomy. It is a country with both eastern and western influences, and it can be described as a latin island among the East-European countries.



## Life quality

- ranked number 48 in the world in air quality by World Health Organization;
- one of the safest countries in Europe, with the crime rates among the lowest in Europe;
- one of the world's fastest internet (ranked 3rd place in the world);
- 210 sunny days per year offer plenty of opportunities to enjoy the time outdoors!

## Cultural life

- The capital (Bucharest) offers more than 40 museums;
- Romania has the second-largest outdoor museum in the world (Astra Museum in Sibiu);
- cinemas, theatres, classical music, festivals, concerts provide entertainment for all.

## A great place to travel

- home of 7 UNESCO world heritage sites, like the Danube Delta, the monasteries of Moldavia, the historic centre of Sighișoara, the wooden churches of Maramureș, and so on;

- Romania has mountains, hills, plateaus and plains, seaside and delta, with a variety of picturesque landscapes;
- a few sightseeings: the Mud volcanoes in Buzău, the painted monasteries in Bucovina, the rock sculpture of Decebalus, the Merry Cemetery of Săpânța, mediaeval castles: Bran castle, Peleş castle and Corvin Castle, the Danube Delta, the mediaeval city of Sighisoara, Alba Carolina Citadel, Transfăgărășan and Transalpina roads, Turda salt mine, Scărișoara ice cave.



#### Did you know ...?

- Peles Castle was the first castle in Europe that was completely lit with electricity.
- The Black Church in Brasov has the largest organ in Europe, with 4000 pipes.
- In Romania is the second largest underground glacier in Europe, the Scarisoara Cave Glacier, with a volume of 75.000 cubic metres and an age of over 3.500 years.
- The "Astra" National Museum Complex in Sibiu is the second largest open-air museum in the world.
- In Romania, there is the only museum dedicated to gold in Europe, situated in Brad and it has almost 2000 gold exhibits brought from all corners of the world.
- The Baci Forest in Cluj Napoca was considered the most paranormal area on the planet.
- Transfagarasan is considered the most beautiful road in the world.
- Romania has the second largest administrative building in the world, the Palace of the Parliament.
- The tallest wooden church in the world and the second wooden structure in Europe is the Peri Monastery in Sapanta, Maramures (78 metres high).
- Romania is the richest country in Europe in terms of gold resources.
- In 1889, Timisoara became the first city in Europe to have electric public lighting.
- The oldest modern city on the territory of Romania is Constanta.
- The Danube - Black Sea Canal is the third longest man-made waterway, after Suez and Panama.
- Romanian, the official language of Romania, is the only Latin language spoken in Eastern Europe.
- Sighisoara is the largest continuously inhabited mediaeval fortress in Europe.

## Bucharest

Bucharest is the capital and largest city of Romania, both in terms of population and surface area. It is the main cultural, financial, entertainment, and media centre in the country with a significant influence in Eastern Europe as well. It is also one of the most populated cities of the European Union (EU) within city limits and the most populated capital in Eastern Europe.

Historically attested in 1459, at that time a small fortress, Bucharest became the capital in 1659, first as capital of Wallachia, and since 1877 is capital of Romania.



Bucharest is located in the south-east of Romania, in the Romanian Plain and on the banks of the Dâmbovița river, less than 60 km north of the Danube River and the border with Bulgaria. Bucharest is situated at 425 km from Sofia, 735 km from Belgrade, 1730 km from Berlin, 1140 km from Vienna, 1285 km from Athens, 2040 km from Rome, 2460 km from Paris.

### Did you know ...?

- Between 1900 and 1930, the city of Bucharest was one of the most beautiful and modern cities in Europe, being equal to Paris - hence the name Little Paris.
- The Politehnica metro station is paved with marble and granite tiles containing fossils from 180 million years ago.
- According to the Academy of World Records, the Palace of Parliament (former People's House) is the 2nd largest building in the world, the most expensive and the heaviest building ever built.
- The Arc de Triomphe was originally built of wood, in 1922, to honour the courage of the Romanian soldiers who fought in the First World War.
- The first road in Bucharest was the Wooden Road (known today as Calea Victoriei) and the

area was paved with tree trunks.

- The oldest park in Bucharest is Cișmigiu Park, opened to the public in 1860.
- Bucharest was the first city to introduce oil lamp lighting in 1857.
- The Odeon Theater is one of the theatre buildings in Europe with a retractable ceiling.
- The city of Bucharest was among the first in Europe equipped with horse-drawn omnibuses (1840).

### Sightseeings

- ❖ Palace of Parliament
- ❖ Historic Centre
- ❖ King Michael I Park (former Herăstrău)
- ❖ Cotroceni National Museum
- ❖ Bucharest Botanical Garden
- ❖ Stavropoleos Monastery, also known as Stavropoleos Church
- ❖ Village Museum
- ❖ Romanian Athenaeum
- ❖ The Urban Fountains in Piata Unirii
- ❖ Ceaușescu Mansion or Spring Palace



### Festivals

- ❖ B'ESTFEST
- ❖ Summer Well Festival
- ❖ Asia Fest
- ❖ Wish Fest
- ❖ Metropolis Caravan
- ❖ Animest International Animation Film Festival



### Near Bucharest

- ❖ Comana Natural Park
- ❖ Cernica Monastery
- ❖ Mogoșoaia Palace and Park
- ❖ Therme Bucharest
- ❖ Snagov lake and park



### Easy to reach



- ❖ Carpathian mountains through Prahova Valley - mountains (Brasov city, Busteni, Sinaia, Poiana Brasov)
- ❖ Black Sea seaside and resorts (Constanta, Costinesti, Mamaia, Mangalia, Vama Veche).



## How to get here

### → By air

The best way to travel to Romania is by plane. Bucharest is served by two airports: Henri Coandă International Airport (OTP) and Aurel Vlaicu International Airport (BBU).

**Henri Coanda International Airport**, also known as Otopeni airport ([website](#)), is located in Otopeni (20 km North from Bucharest) and most major airlines are flying from here. The airport connects Bucharest with the major cities in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and also operates internal flights with all the major cities in Romania.

The airport is connected by train to the North Railway Station (Gara de Nord) in Bucharest, and with the city centre with the express bus line 100. Both the train and the express bus are running throughout the day and night. Also, taxis and ridesharing companies can be used for transfer to Bucharest.

**Aurel Vlaicu International Airport**, also known as Băneasa Airport ([website](#)), is located in Baneasa (8 km North from Bucharest) and it mainly serves scheduled flights and for charter flights. There are 3 ways to get in the city from Aurel Vlaicu International Airport: by train to the North Railway Station (Gara de Nord), by city bus or the express bus line 100, or by taxi or ridesharing companies.

### → By train

There are direct trains to Romanian cities from Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Sofia, Thessaloniki and Istanbul which either stop in border cities like Oradea and Timisoara or head to Bucharest.

Most of the cross-country trains in Eastern Europe operate with 1–2-hour delays and travel at low speeds, which makes a journey with them quite long (10+ hours).

### → By car

The main roads in the region are generally good and linking with Romania is easy, but some routes are quite heavy on traffic.

There are border checks in Romania, as the country is not part of the Schengen area yet. Border crossing points are located all over Romania's land borders. If you're entering Romania from the Western border, consider stopping for 1 night in Oradea, Arad or Timișoara.

For travelling in Romania by car, you must have valid insurance for the car, a valid driving licence, valid ID (passport or ID card) and the car must be in a good condition.

In Romania there are toll charges for using certain roads and tunnels. The toll charges can be paid in cash or with a credit card at the toll gates, or via an electronic system.

### → By bus

One option for travelling to Romania is by bus. The cities and capitals of Eastern European countries are connected by bus routes.

FlixBus operates routes in Romania and another major bus line operator is Eurolines. Taking the bus might be a solution for short distances, but on longer routes expect around 8-12 hours on the bus, depending on traffic.

## Living in Romania

Romania is a relatively safe country, with an affordable cost of living and a high-speed and good quality internet. Local products and public transport are relatively cheap around the country, but in the big cities are generally more expensive than the smaller towns and cities.

Accommodation in Romania varies to suit any needs and budget, from new and modern apartments to blocks of flats to beautiful villas outside city centres. Accommodation is also available in Titu Maiorescu University dormitories for students.

The public transport system in Bucharest consists of the underground Metro as well as the surface transport system, which consists of buses, trams, trolleybuses, light rail and taxis or ridesharing companies.

For healthcare services, EU citizens can use the European health card, which gives access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay (6 months or less) under the same conditions and at the same cost as people insured in Romania. Public hospitals can also be accessed by any person living on Romanian territory, who can request assistance in case of emergency. Medical services are free of charge only if there are surgical emergencies or potential endemic skin diseases.

One of the benefits of living in Romania is the quality of food and the many affordable options available in regard to eating out. There are many local stores and international supermarkets such as Mega Image, Lidl, Carrefour, Kaufland, and Auchan. Also, there are local products markets, which can be found within walking distance of most locations. These local markets often have both an outdoor and indoor section, with a wide selection of fresh local and imported products.

Bucharest has many malls located across the city, all of which carry the expected mainstream brands. The malls are all open seven days a week, generally from 9 AM to around midnight. There are also the weekend markets, where you can find locally made Romanian artisan products, along with the locally produced food and wine.

A single person estimated monthly costs in Bucharest are about 600 euros, without rent.

The price for rented accommodation may vary as below:

- Shared Rental - 100 Euro to 200 Euro /month
- Private Housing / Rental – 150 Euro to 400 Euro / month

For a more accurate description of the cost of living in Bucharest, we recommend <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Bucharest>. Also, please check [the complete guide to discover Romania](#) and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= aOSG\\_0iOko](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= aOSG_0iOko), in order to find out more about our country.

## Currency

The national currency in Romania is “leu” (“lei” for plural), and its fractional coin is “ban” (“bani” for plural). The international currency code is RON. The exchange rate is 5 lei for 1 EUR.

The coins of the Romanian leu are: 1 ban (100 bani = 1 leu), 5 bani, 10 bani and 50 bani. The banknotes currently in circulation are: 1 leu, 5 lei, 10 lei, 50 lei, 100 lei, 200 lei and 500 lei, although the 200 and 500 RON notes are seldom used and it is possible that small shops cannot give change to those.



The use of debit and credit cards is commonly used, especially in the cities. All major cards are accepted at most shops, in supermarkets, shopping centres, hotels and restaurants. ATMs are widely available in cities, but rarely found in remote areas or villages.

## Romanian language

Romanian is a Romance language and retains a significant number of features of old Latin and also contains words taken from the surrounding Slavic languages, as well as from French, German, Greek and Turkish. If you've studied other Romance languages, such as Italian, Spanish, French or Portuguese, Romanian will be easier to understand than you think.

Romanian is a phonetic language, so words are pronounced as they are spelled. Certain letters (and letter combinations) are pronounced differently than they are in English.

The Romanian alphabet has 31 letters, similar to the ones in the English alphabet, with the exception of five special letters called 'diacritics':

- ă (like the 'a' in English word 'musical'),
- ș (pronounced as 'sh'),
- ț (pronounced 'ts'),
- â and î (have the same reading, without an English equivalent).

### ❖ Other languages used in Romania

English is widely known by Romanian, especially with the young people. French and German can also be useful. Hungarian is widely used in Covasna and Harghita counties, in Eastern Transylvania. Spanish and Italian are studied by most people in school and are spoken with a good level of fluency.