



# Romania

## Includes »

Bucharest	1024
Transylvania	1030
Sinaia	1030
Braşov	1031
Bran & Râşnov	1033
Sighişoara	1033
Sibiu	1034
Cluj-Napoca	1036
Timişoara	1037
Understand Romania	1038
Survival Guide	1040

## Best Places to Eat

- » Felinarul Café, Sibiu (p1035)
- » Restaurant Transylvania, Braşov (p1031)
- » Sale e Pepe, Bucharest (p1028)
- » Casa cu Flori, Timişoara (p1038)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Butterfly Villa Hostel, Bucharest (p1025)
- » Felinarul Hostel, Sibiu (p1035)
- » Bed & Breakfast Kula, Sighişoara (p1034)
- » Retro Hostel, Cluj-Napoca (p1036)

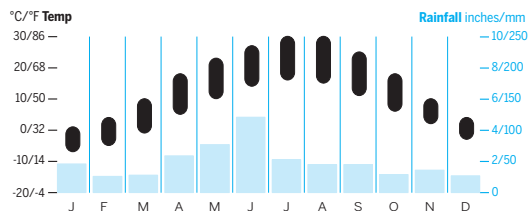
## Why Go?

Romania's rapid urban evolution has had little effect on its singularly beautiful, beguilingly simple and utterly fascinating rural landscape, where aesthetically stirring handploughed fields, sheep-instigated traffic jams, and homemade plum brandy still endure. The Carpathian Mountains offer relatively uncrowded hiking, cycling and skiing. Transylvania's Saxon towns are time-warp strolling grounds for Gothic architecture, Austro-Hungarian legacy and Vlad 'Țepeş' Dracula shtick. Unesco-listed painted monasteries dot Southern Bucovina. And, for the record, the big cities are a blast too.

The antics of an infinitesimal number of con artists have birthed exaggerated stories about Romanians, but in truth you're far less likely to be the victim of crime here than in much of Western Europe. Instead, enjoy the friendliness of a new generation with no vivid memories of Nicolae Ceauşescu.

## When to Go

### Bucharest



**May** Some of the best festivals: Sibiu Jazz, Transylvania Film Festival and Bucharest Carnival.

**Jun** Mountain hiking starts in mid-June, roughly when the Transfăgărăşan Road opens.

**Aug** Folk festivals: National Romanian, Hora de la Prislop, and Fundata's Mountain Festival.

## Connections

Trains, buses and maxitaxis swarm around every available border crossing.

Trains depart Bucharest heading for destinations including Sofia (Bulgaria), Budapest (Hungary), Chişinău (Moldova), İstanbul (Turkey), Belgrade (Serbia), Kyiv (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus) and Moscow (Russia) – the last three via Suceava. Bucharest also has long-haul buses to Western European destinations, and a daily maxitaxi service to Sofia.

Budapest can be easily reached by bus or train from Oradea, Timișoara and Cluj-Napoca.

Suceava has one daily bus to Chernivtsi (Ukraine), as well as Chişinău, though entering Moldova is easier from Iași. Timișoara buses go to countries all over Western Europe, including Spain, Italy and Sweden. Nearly every major city has a bus service to İstanbul.

## ITINERARIES

### One Week

Spend a day viewing the parts of Bucharest that survived Ceaușescu, then catch the train to Brașov, Transylvania's main event, for castles, activities and beers at sidewalk cafes. Spend a day in Sighișoara's medieval citadel, then train back to Bucharest or on to Budapest (Hungary).

### Two Weeks

Arrive in Bucharest (by plane) or Timișoara (by train), then head into Transylvania, devoting a day or two each to Brașov, Sighișoara and Sibiu. Tour Southern Bucovina's painted monasteries, then continue to Kyiv (Ukraine), Chişinău (Moldova) or return to Bucharest.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **Mămăligă** Essentially cornmeal mush that's boiled or fried, sometimes topped with sour cream and/or cheese
- » **Ciorbă** This soup is a mainstay of the Romanian diet and a powerful hangover remedy
- » **Mușchi de vacă/porc/miel** Cutlet of beef/pork/lamb
- » **Piept de pui** Chicken breast
- » **Wine** Among the best Romanian wines are Cotnari, Murfatlar, Odobești, Târnave and Valea Călugărească
- » **Țuică** A once-filtered clear brandy made from fermented fruit (the tastiest and most popular is plum țuică), usually 30 proof. *Palincă* is similar, only it's filtered twice and is usually around 60 proof.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Romanian leu (plural lei)
- » **Language** Romanian
- » **Money** ATMs abundant
- » **Visas** Not required for citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 237,500 sq km
- » **Capital** Bucharest
- » **Country code** 240
- » **Emergency** 112

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	3.01 lei
Canada	C\$1	3.01 lei
euro zone	€1	4.11 lei
Japan	¥100	3.44 lei
New Zealand	NZ\$1	2.23 lei
UK	UK£1	4.67 lei
USA	US\$1	2.89 lei

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget double hotel room** 100–150 lei
- » **Two-course evening meal** 20 lei
- » **Museum entrance** 6 lei
- » **Bottle of beer** 4 lei
- » **City transport ticket** 1.5–3 lei

## Resources

- » **Romania National Tourism Office** ([www.romania-tourism.com](http://www.romania-tourism.com))
- » **Romania and Moldova Travel Guide** ([www.romaniaandmoldova.com](http://www.romaniaandmoldova.com))
- » **Vivid** ([www.vivid.ro](http://www.vivid.ro))