



Romania

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Best Places to Eat

- » Caru' cu Bere (p893)
- » Crama Sibiu Vechi (p901)
- » Bistro de l'Arte (p897)
- » Bella Musica (p898)

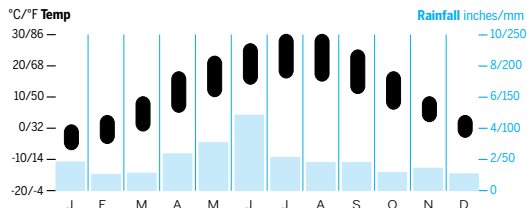
Best Places to Stay

- » Doors (p893)
- » Hostel Costel (p904)
- » Felinarul Hostel (p900)
- » Casa Wagner (p898)

Why Go?

Beautiful and beguiling, Romania's rural landscape remains relatively untouched by the country's urban evolution. It's a land of aesthetically stirring hand-ploughed fields, sheep-instigated traffic jams, and lots and lots of homemade plum brandy. The Carpathian Mountains offer uncrowded hiking and skiing, while Transylvania's Saxon towns are a time warp, with plenty of Vlad Țepeş-inspired 'Dracula' schtick. Unesco-listed painted monasteries dot southern Bucovina, and the big cities are a blast too.

When to Go Bucharest



May Good month for festivals, including the popular Sibiu Jazz Festival.

Jun Mountain hiking starts in mid-June, birding season gets rolling in the Danube Delta.

Sep The summer heat is gone, but still-sunny days are perfect for exploring big cities.

AT A GLANCE

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

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 237,500 sq km
- » **Capital** Bucharest
- » **Country code** 40
- » **Emergency** 112

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	3.59 lei
Canada	C\$1	3.39 lei
Euro Zone	€1	4.41 lei
Japan	¥100	3.66 lei
New Zealand	NZ\$1	2.88 lei
UK	UK£1	5.22 lei
USA	US\$1	3.44 lei

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 120–150 lei
- » **Two-course meal** 30 lei
- » **Museum entrance** 6 lei
- » **Beer** 5 lei
- » **City transport ticket** 1.5–3 lei

Resources

- » **Romanian National Tourist Office** (www.romaniatourism.com)
- » **Bucharest Life** (www.bucharestlife.net)

Connections

The main train corridor to Romania from western Europe passes through Budapest, and at least one train daily makes the overnight slog from here down to Bucharest, via Braşov, and back. The western city of Timișoara has excellent train, bus and air connections throughout Europe. By road, the main entry points from the west are at Arad and Oradea. There are international border crossings to/from Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Moldova, and four ferry crossings into Bulgaria.

ITINERARIES

One Week

Spend a day viewing the parts of Bucharest that survived Ceaușescu, then take a train to Braşov – Transylvania's main event – for castles, activities and beer at street-side cafes. Spend a day in Sighișoara's medieval citadel, then catch a train back to Bucharest or on to Budapest.

Two Weeks

Arrive in Bucharest by plane or Timișoara by train, then head into Transylvania, devoting a day or two each to Braşov, Sighișoara and Sibiu. Tour southern Bucovina's painted monasteries, then continue on to Bucharest.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Mămăligă** Cornmeal mush that's sometimes topped with sour cream or cheese.
- » **Ciorbă** Sour soup that's a mainstay of the local diet and a powerful hangover remedy.
- » **Sarmale** Spiced pork wrapped in cabbage or grape leaves.
- » **Covrigi** Oven-baked pretzels served warm from windows all around town.
- » **Țuică** Powerful plum brandy sold in water bottles at roadside rest stops.