



# Crișana & Banat

## Includes »

Banat.....	149
Timișoara.....	149
Crișana.....	155
Oradea.....	155
Băile Felix.....	158
Arieșeni & Gârda de Sus.....	160
Arad.....	160

## Best Places to Eat

- » Casa Bunicii (p153)
- » Graf (p157)
- » Rosecas (p157)
- » Nora (p153)
- » Intermezzo (p153)

## Best Places to Stay

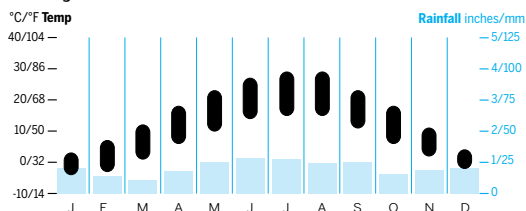
- » Hotel Elite (p157)
- » Hotel Savoy (p153)
- » Hostel Costel (p153)
- » Pensiunea Belanco (p161)
- » Casa Noastră (p160)

## Why Go?

Western Romania, with its geographic and cultural ties to neighbouring Hungary and Serbia, and historical links to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, enjoys an ethnic diversity that much of the rest of the country lacks. Timișoara, the regional hub, has a nationwide reputation as a beautiful and lively metropolis, and for a series of 'firsts'. It was the world's first city to adopt electric street lights (in 1884) and, more importantly, the first city to rise up against dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu in 1989. Outside the metropolitan areas of Timișoara, Oradea and Arad, the remote and pristine Apuseni Mountains are littered with dozens of amazing caves that cry out for exploration and kilometres and kilometres of isolated hiking trails.

## When to Go

### Timișoara



### Apr & May

Budding tree blossoms make a striking backdrop to a city break to Timișoara or Oradea.

### Jun–Aug

Summer brings warm days filled with sunshine and perfect for hiking the Apuseni Mountains.

### Sep & Oct

Timișoara's cultural scene awakens with theatre, opera and classical music.



## Crișana & Banat Highlights

**1** Getting a riveting history lesson at the **Permanent Exhibition of the 1989 Revolution** (p149) in Timișoara

**2** Indulging in a lazy day in **Timișoara** (p149), starting at the outdoor pool, then an

evening at the opera, and finally a nightcap on Piața Victoriei or Piața Unirii

**3** Taking in the stunning but crumbling art nouveau grandeur of **Oradea** (p155)

**4** Looking at the ancient stalactites and stalagmites in

the magnificent **Bear Cave** (p159)

**5** Hiking around or simply gazing at the western **Apuseni Mountains** (p159)

**6** Glimpsing ice from the Ice Age at the appropriately named **Ice Cave** (p159)