



Romania

Includes »

Bucharest.....	397
Sinaia.....	409
Braşov.....	412
Sighişoara.....	416
Sibiu.....	418
Cluj-Napoca.....	420
Timişoara.....	423
Oradea.....	426
Sighetu Marmăţiei.....	428
Iaşi.....	432
Suceava.....	435
Danube Delta.....	439
Constanţa.....	444
Understand Romania.....	447
Survival Guide.....	451

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 time-warp strolling grounds for Gothic architecture, Austro-Hungarian legacies and, naturally, plenty of Vlad Țepeş-inspired 'Dracula' shtick. Fish – and the birds that chomp them – thrive in the Danube Delta, bucolic Maramureş has the 'Merry Cemetery', and Unesco-listed painted monasteries dot southern Bucovina. And, for the record, the big cities are a blast too.

Best Places to Eat

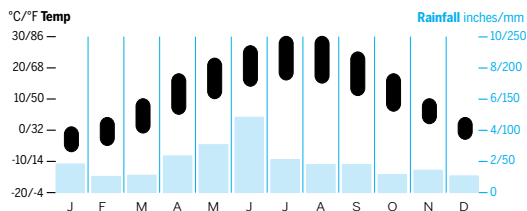
- » Caru' cu Bere (p405)
- » Graf (p427)
- » Crama Sibiu Vechi (p419)
- » Chevalet (p446)
- » Bistro de l'Arte (p413)

Best Places to Stay

- » Doors (p404)
- » Hotel Elite (p427)
- » Hostel Costel (p425)
- » Felinarul Hostel (p418)
- » Casa Wagner (p413)

When to Go

Bucharest



May Some of the best festivals, including Sibiu Jazz and the Transylvania Film Festival

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

Sep The summer heat is gone, but the 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	5.23 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** 1.50–3 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 the Nicolae Ceaușescu dictatorship, then take a train to Braşov – Transylvania's main event – for castles, activities and beer at streetside 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 boiled or fried, sometimes topped with sour cream or cheese.
- » **Ciorbă** Sour soup that's a mainstay of the Romanian 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** Fiery plum brandy sold in water bottles at roadside rest stops.