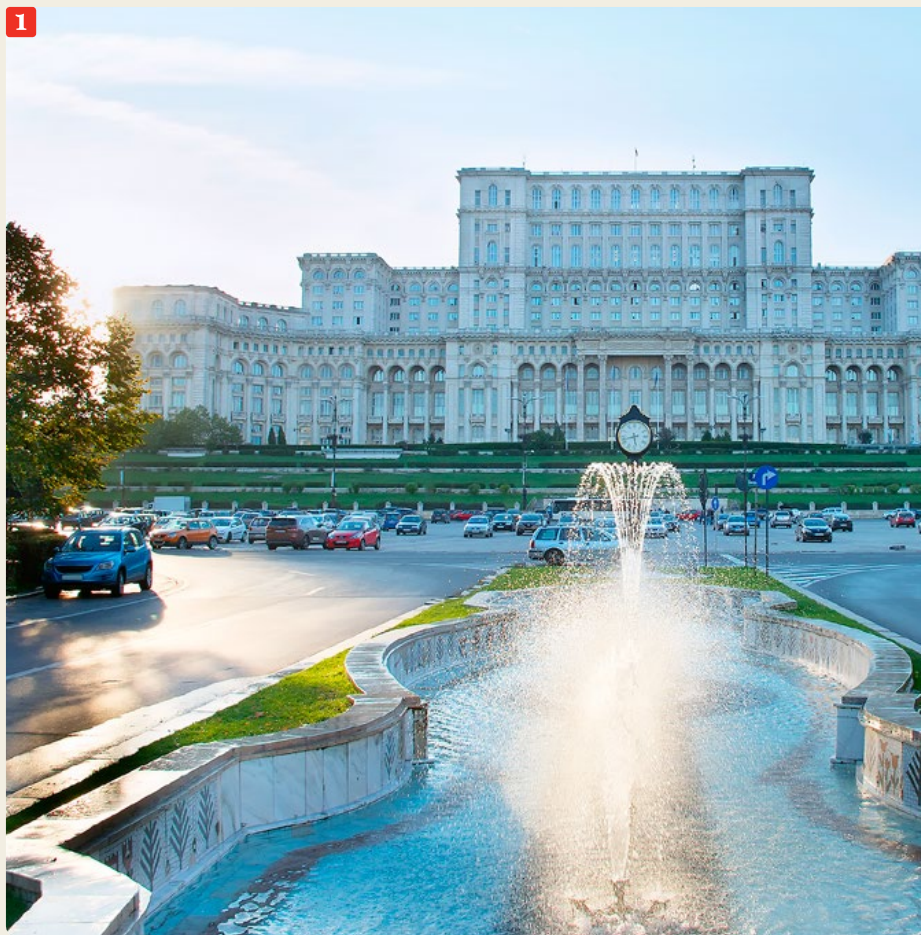


Romania & Bulgaria's Top 17

1



Palace of Parliament, Bucharest

1 Depending on your point of view, the Palace of Parliament (p35) is either a mind-blowing testament to the waste and folly of dictatorship or an awe-inspiring showcase of Romanian materials and craftsmanship, albeit applied to sinister ends. Most visitors conclude that it's a bit of both. Whatever emotions the former 'House of the People' happens to elicit, the sheer scale of Romania's entry into the 'World's Largest Buildings' competition – on par with the Taj Mahal or the Pentagon – must be seen to be believed.

Black Sea Beaches

2 Whether you're looking for all-day tanning, all-night clubbing, or something a little more relaxing, you're sure to find some patch of sand to your liking along Bulgaria's Black Sea coast (p395). Away from the big, brash package resorts, you'll come across charming seaside towns standing above smaller sandy coves, while the cities of Varna and Burgas both have lengthy, less-crowded urban beaches. If it's solitude you seek, head for the more remote beaches to the far north and south.

Below right: Albenia (p424)



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2

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