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2016

Romania: Bucharest & Beyond

*The Feel-at-Home Guide to Romania.
Enjoyed by Tourists, Expats & Locals*

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CORINA CHIRILEASA
Bucharest, 2015 citycompass.ro



City Compass Group: Everything you need to feel at home in Romania!

City Compass Romania: Bucharest & Beyond

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Romania: **Bucharest & Beyond 2016**

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of this issue

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around Romania, insights
from insiders*

*Bucharest essentials,
including Old Town
& Pipera*

*A new age — delve
into the local
culture & society*

*Curated & updated
business directory*

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CITY COMPASS 2016 – ROMANIA: BUCHAREST & BEYOND

CHIRILEASA CORINA

I. Chirileasa, Corina

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Local time

Romanian time is GMT+2.

Summertime starts on the last Sunday in March (03:00 becomes 04:00), and wintertime on the last Sunday in October (04:00 becomes 03:00).

Pronunciation & special signs

We use the following special signs (diacritics) in our guide:

- **Ț** or **ț** is pronounced TS like 'ts' in 'skits'
- **Ș** or **ș** is pronounced SH like 'shoe'
- **Ăă, Ââ, and Îî**, are difficult — but not impossible — for most foreigners to master, and they eventually do. They sort of sound like 'uh' but we recommend that you just listen very closely as a Romanian pronounces them, and then practice thousands of times. Seriously!

Conversions

1 inch = 2.54 cm	1 m = 3.3 ft = 1.1 yd
1 mile = 1.6 km	1 kg = 2.2 lb
1 oz = 28 g	1 Imperial gallon = 4.55 L
1 US gallon = 3.78 L	

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Dear Romania-Discoverer,

Since 2008, we have been working on making expats, tourists and locals in Romania FEEL AT HOME! I am proud to present our newest guidebook, which you are browsing through right now, be it in print, on a tablet or a smartphone.

Have fun discovering Romania with our thoroughly updated information in 2016! Thanks to our numerous expert contributors and our dedicated editorial team, you will get introductions to a variety of topics about Bucharest and Romania.

What have we been up to in 2015?

In autumn 2015, City Compass Group organized the first Expat Fair in Romania, bringing together expats and service providers from the expat industries in order to foster a smooth transition and a good life for internationals living in Romania.

With more than 130,000 unique visitors per month on average, City Compass Media projects continued to be by far the most read English news platforms about Romania. We inform those interested in discovering Romania with daily news and first-hand information.

City Compass Tours & Events and its associated slow food catering partner Terra Carpatica provided team building events, city tours and country retreats for hundreds of participants.

In November 2015, City Compass Intercultural Consulting has formed a partnership with German cross-cultural business consulting company ICUnet.AG and hence extended its range of premium HR & expatriate consulting offers for multinationals significantly.

Let us continue to feel at home in this country together and discover the Romania of 2016. Enjoy the read!

VOLKER MOSER

Co-Founder, City Compass

Dear Reader,

I have often heard what a great companion this book has been for many expats and tourists in Romania, and more recently, for natives who returned to their home country after long stays abroad. This is both an accomplishment and a challenge for us: we have to continue to be that great companion for newcomers, while giving our long-time readers something fresh and useful with each new edition.

Many of the Romanians who return home — some of whom share their “coming back” stories in this book too — feel the country has changed a great deal, and this is what we’re covering in the special “A New Age” dossier. More than 25 years since the fall of Communism, Romania seems to have truly come of age. This 8th yearly edition of our guide dives into the past to reveal the old, the forgotten and the recently remembered, and highlights changes in Romanian society — from arts and culture, to politics and social life.

We’re not forgetting the practical sides of life — our regular chapters with places to visit across Romania have been updated, and so has been the Bucharest directory, including the highlighted Old Town, and Pipera — the expat neighborhood.

The expat letters in the beginning of this book bring diverse views of Romania, and so do the practical features such as life in the Romanian countryside, opportunities for expat spouses, or inspiration for family life in Romania, among many others. The updated business directory contains places and businesses we recommend, or which come highly recommended by the community.

We hope you enjoy every bit of this book as much as we have enjoyed putting it together, and that it will help you feel at home in Romania. We’d be happy to hear from you — whether you find this book useful or not — it will help us get even better for the 9th edition!

CORINA CHIRILEASA

Managing Partner, City Compass Media



How to use this guide

Check the table of contents on the next two pages for a quick overview of the book, as well as the highlights on pages 16, 49, 70 and 105, and the alphabetical table of contents at pages 167–168. The content of this guide is based on recommendations from editors and reliable contributors. The practical listings directory includes both editorial listings — picked by editors, or special listings — promoted places, a form of text advertising — both examples to the right. Ads and advertorials are also marked in the book.

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Romania-Insider.com, market leader for English news and features about Romania, with daily bulletins, exclusive features and interviews.

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CityCompass.ro, a portal about Romania for expats & tourists, provides inspiration through first-hand information and local knowledge about Romania and its people in a practical way.

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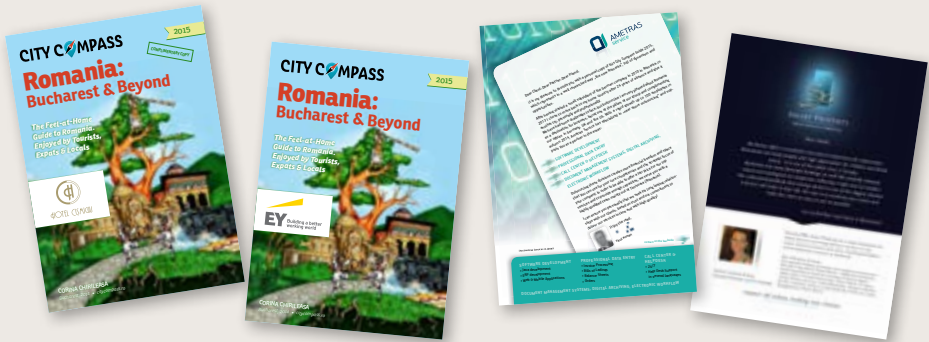
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Romania's history in brief

By Bogdan Popa

Many Romanians are rightfully proud of their country's very long and eventful history. Here are five key historical topics all visitors should know about:

Dacia

Dacia was the name of an ancient kingdom that covered most of what is now Romania. Its rich resources attracted the Ancient Greeks, who colonized the shores of the Black Sea. The ruins of their stunning cities are still to be found in Histria, Tomis (today Constanța) and Callatis (Mangalia). Hundreds of years later, the mighty Roman Empire decided to annex Dacia.

Trajan's Column, which can still be seen in Rome, is considered the best account of the wars that ended with the conquest of Dacia. Romanians define themselves as the descendants of these two populations and speak a Latin language. Sarmizegetusa Regia, the ancient Dacian capital, today in Hunedoara County, also deserves some attention.

Recently, there have been a number of exciting archaeological digs that have revealed more about ancient and pre-historic Romania, as well as unearthing many valuable artifacts. Evidence of a very early Neolithic farming settlement was just discovered. At around 8,000 years old, this settlement is one of the oldest in Europe. Sarmizegetusa Regia is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. The ancient Dacian capital hosts the Dacian Circular Sanctuary, one of the most important remains of its kind.

Vlad Țepeș & Ștefan cel Mare

Everybody has heard of Dracula! But before the myth, there was the history. During the Middle Ages, what we today call Romania was divided into three principalities. Transylvania (the center and northwest) was actually conquered by the Kingdom of Hungary in the 11th Century.

In the 13th Century, the Hungarian kings invited Saxon colonists to migrate there in order to develop the local economy.

The Saxon heritage, architecture and way of life are still very present in Transylvania. Moldova (the eastern part) and Wallachia (southern Romania) have existed as independent states since the 14th Century. For them, the Middle Ages were at times dark: there were civil wars and misery aplenty, yet the period also saw the beautiful and unique frescoes painted on the outside walls of the UNESCO heritage monasteries in Northern Moldova.

Bram Stoker, the author of the novel *Dracula* (first published in 1897), did not, however, know too much about the Romanian Middle Ages. This did not stop him from naming

the main character of his novel Vlad, who shares his name with Vlad the Impaler, the cruel, yet beloved, Wallachian prince (1431, 1456–1462, 1476). His military actions against the Ottoman Empire — since the 14th Century a dangerous, powerful and influential neighbor — reveal a freedom fighter. Romanians still remember him, as much as they do his cousin, Ștefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great, who lived from 1457 to 1504), as both a warrior and church builder.

Troubled times

The 17th Century began with a significant act: Mihai Viteazul (Michael the Brave, who ruled shortly between 1593 and 1601) managed to bring the three principalities under his rule. However, it did not last long. This union became a cornerstone of the Romanian national identity. During the 18th century, the Romanian principalities were run by rulers appointed by the Ottoman sultan, called “phanariots,” who are still considered the last word in corrupt political regimes. When the Habsburgs annexed Hungary to Austria, Transylvania followed during the 17th century, and parts of Moldova's territory were conquered by Austria (1774) and Russia (1812).

Modern times, union and independence

The 19th century brought tremendous transformation for Romanians. First, the long occupations brought reforms, such as the very first Constitutional Acts in 1834. They also brought Western clothes, music and dances, all signs of a newly-developing mentality.

There was also a Romanian Revolution in 1848 and, while perhaps not one of the strongest in Europe, it proved the existence of a young and energetic elite, ready to guide the country in the direction of Western Europe.

This was the engine of the 1859 Union between Wallachia and Moldova, the core of the modern state, still referred to as the “Old Kingdom.” In 1866, a German-born prince, Carol von Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, related to both the French emperor Napoleon III and the German imperial family, became King of Romania. He reigned until 1914, leading a modernization (or Westernization) process stronger than in the previous decades.

A new Constitution was passed in 1866. In 1878, following a war against the Ottoman Empire and the Berlin Congress, independence was officially gained. Yet, there was never direct Ottoman rule in the principalities. Before the First World War, Romania was reliant on agriculture, but industry was beginning to emerge. In 1913, modern Romania asserted its claims as a regional power through a decisive military and political intervention in the Second Balkan War.

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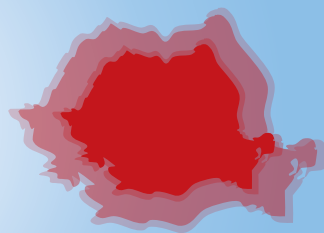
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Facts & figures about Romania

- **Location:** Central and Eastern Europe, bordered by Hungary (W), Bulgaria (S), Ukraine (N, E), the Republic of Moldova (E), Serbia (SW) and the Black Sea (SE). Romania has 225 km of coastline.
- **Capital city:** Bucharest. Iași is the second largest city with 321,000 inhabitants, Tulcea has 200,000. Other major cities: Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Brașov, Sibiu.
- **Regions of Romania:** Muntenia, Transylvania, Moldova, Dobrogea. 41 counties.
- **Population:** 20.1 million (2011 census).
- **Bucharest:** 1.8 million inhabitants.
- **Ethnicity:** 89% Romanians, 6.5% Hungarians, 3.3% Roma, 0.3% others; 18 ethnic minorities politically recognized.
- **Religion:** majority – Christian Orthodox, a minority of Roman Catholics and Greek Catholics.
- **Climate:** temperate – cold, cloudy winters with frequent snow and fog; sunny & hot summers with frequent showers and thunderstorms.
- **Lowest point:** Black Sea – 0 meters. Highest point: Mount Moldoveanu – 2,544 meters.
- **Natural resources:** petroleum, timber, gas, coal, iron ore, gold, silver, salt, arable land, hydropower.
- **Natural hazards:** earthquakes, landslides, floods.
- **Form of organization:** Republic, with a President and a Prime Minister who runs the Government. It has a Parliament with two Chambers.
- **Membership:** EU since 2007, NATO since 2004.
- **Currency:** the Leu – symbol RON. The Leu is a controlled floating currency: exchange rates against the EUR, USD and other currencies are set daily by the country's Central Bank (BNR).
- **Gross Domestic Product:** EUR 150.4 bln (in 2014).
- **Unemployment rate:** 4.9% in August 2015.
- **Phone prefix:** +40; Internet domain: .ro.
- **Flag:** three equal vertical bands; blue, yellow, red.
- **Language:** the official language is Romanian.
- **National holiday:** December 1, celebrating Unification Day

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was held on the 3rd of October 2015 at The Ark.

Highlights:

- 60 companies, with tailored services for expats and special offers — moving & relocation, rent a car and international schools, wellness and hospitality
- 8 workshops — tips and tricks for a smooth integration in Romania
- 400 participants — expats, internationals living in Bucharest and Romanians
- Very open and friendly atmosphere — a day full of information and inspiration for everyone.

If you would like to become an exhibitor or a visitor for the next Expat Fair
please contact us at expatfair@citycompass.ro or visit www.expatsfair.ro

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All Around Romania

The full edition includes:

- Breathtaking mountains and wild forests in Buzău
- **Natural beauty and history in Braşov**
- Culture for the heart in Sibiu
- **Sinaia, the former royal residence**
- **Everything mountain around Romania**
- Cluj-Napoca, where time stands still
- Alba-Iulia, a surprising citadel
- Sighişoara, the medieval getaway
- The tasty Bucovina
- The little wonders of Maramureş
- **The southern soul of Dobrogea — the Black Sea & Danube Delta**
- Getaways near Bucharest
- Recommended places from all around Romania

Braşov, the mountain gateway



By Holger Wermke, updates by Corina Chirileasa

Braşov is probably one of the best known mountain cities in Romania. This central Romanian town, close to the Prahova Valley, is a tourist destination for both locals and foreigners, who choose it not only for its natural beauty, but also for its historical significance.

The city was founded by Teutonic knights at the beginning of the 13th century, and until the 18th century was still predominantly inhabited by Transylvanian Saxons. This heritage gives the city its distinctively German feel.

Braşov's Old Town lies in the heart of the city, with its fan-shaped Town Hall Square (Piaţa Sfatului), lined with red-roofed merchant houses and Town Hall in the middle. The building dates back to 1420 and for centuries hosted the Saxon town council. The Town Hall is home to the city's tourist office, which provides plenty of information about local accommodation, sights and events.

The Old Town, framed by the steep slopes of a surrounding valley, also hosts the 65-meter-high tower of the so-called Black Church, which got its name after a devastating fire swept across the town in the 17th century, leaving it with soot-blackened walls.

The largest Gothic church in Romania, built between 1385 and 1477, became mostly Baroque after several renovations in the interior. It currently hosts a large collection of Turkish carpets.

Through the Şchei gate, some 300 meters behind the Black Church, is the traditional Romanian district. Until the 17th century, Romanians were not allowed to buy property within the city walls – a privilege of the Saxon

population. Thus, Romanians settled in areas outside the fortifications, such as the Şchei District, which is one of the oldest. Here, the houses are smaller, huddled together, and the streets are narrower.

Downtown, a walk up the pedestrian Republicii Boulevard reveals shop after shop, as well as numerous cafés and restaurants, the delight of locals and tourists. Hard to miss from the center is the town's name in Hollywood-style lettering on a mount called Pinnacle (Tâmpa) — 955 meters high. To get there, take the cable car which leaves from the station on Aleea Bradiceanu — also the starting point of a marked footpath up to the top.

Leaving town, at the end of the narrow valley, a forest road leads through the woods to the Poiana Braşov ski resort, 12 kilometers outside the city. It is accessible by car via Stejărişului St. or from the small town of Râşnov. Eight ski-slopes are available, ranging from 300 meters to three kilometers in length.

Braşov's surrounding regions also offer some interesting places. Pretty much everyone has heard of Bran Castle, which is often connected to Count Dracula. The castle was built by the Braşovians to control a toll collection point. There are stories that Vlad Tepeş (Vlad the Impaler), the historical Wallachian prince who inspired the Dracula legend — at least in part — stayed a night or two here.

The castle lies at the edge of the Bucegi Massif mountain range. A recommended natural site is the National Park of King's Rock (Piatra Craiului). Lying along the 25 kilometer-long limestone ridge are a number of peaks, the 2,244 meter Piscul Baciului being the highest. The area is a hideaway for rare plants and animals, among them wolves and bears — a paradise for nature lovers and hiking enthusiasts.

You must not miss the fortified church of Prejmer, about 15 kilometers outside of Braşov. The monolithic white colossus dominates the wide square of the village. Ten-meter-high walls repelled attacking enemies. The village was sacked more than 50 times over the centuries, but the holy fortress resisted. In 1999, UNESCO put it on their world heritage list. All the former Saxon villages in this region have their own fortified church, as you will see if you drive through the country; in contrast, peasant fortresses are a rarity.

How to get there from the capital city: by car, via Ploieşti (either through DN1A, or the A3 highway, then DN1A) — a three-hour ride or longer at weekends, as you have to go through the Prahova Valley and its resorts crippled by traffic jams during weekends and holidays; to avoid it, drive through Ploieşti towards Cheia to reach Braşov directly; by train, also through Prahova Valley — check the Transport section of this guide for railway information.



Sinaia, the pearl of the Carpathians

By Ioana Enache

Sinaia is a must-see city in Romania for its unmatched history. It is the former summer residence of the Royal Family and has a large number of monuments: beautiful buildings designed by famous Romanian and European architects.

Sinaia grew just like in a fairytale. When the first King of Romania, Carol I, visited the area for the first time, he fell in love with the surroundings and decided to establish his summer residence there. At the time, there was just the Monastery of Sinaia and a very small number of inhabitants in the area.

Once he decided to build a castle, the King appointed an architect to develop the plans and, almost at the same time, people of culture, high-ranking politicians and

high-class families started building their own residences in Sinaia. They appointed the best Romanian architects of the time, such as T. Socolescu and P. Smărăndescu, while others decided to work with foreign architects to make sure their properties were elegant, fashionable, and, most importantly, unique.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Sinaia was the place to be: an elegant, cultural and lively city, a special retreat for powerful Romanian and foreign families, and a year-round tourist attraction. Sinaia is a charming, full of history, impressive architecture and great landscapes, but, as communism has left its marks on the city, sometimes its treasures are hidden behind newly-built hotels or blocks of flats. I recommend you to take an organized tour of Sinaia organized by Asociația Redescoperă Sinaia to make sure you see the real city.

My advice would be to stay a week or at least 2-3 days. You really have to spend some time to feel the city: breathe the fresh air and enjoy the beautiful landscape, visit museums, go hiking, go to the park, go to the casino building,

recently re-opened for public eyes, swim in one of the two local pools, get a massage, have a nice dinner, take a walk and you will be highly rewarded for your curiosity. Then, schedule day trips to the Babele rocks, the Rhein cellars in nearby Azuga, or the cities of Braşov, Sighişoara or Bran.

Please take time to visit the Peleş and Peleşor castles, including their interiors. Peleş is one of the best preserved castles in Europe and has a mix of eclectic styles from all over the world in special decorated theme rooms which are a great joy for any visitor. You will have to be informal and patient at the cafeteria across from the castle, which has a self-service system, but recently some nice restaurants have opened nearby.

The main park in Sinaia should be next on your list. It is well maintained and provides a great experience for adults and kids as well as for couples looking for a romantic escape.

George Enescu's house is a little-known touristic spot, as it is not located in downtown Sinaia. The famous Romanian composer's former house is in the Cumpătu neighborhood — which is a residential, quiet and elegant area on the opposite mountain from the city center. Enescu's former residence, which was built using the great musician's own plans and instructions, was recently renovated and offers entry tickets and audio guides (in the main foreign languages) at a ridiculously low price. The visit is rich in information and also very personal as you are surrounded by Enescu's music all the way through.

As previously mentioned, a walking tour should not be missed. These tours are organized by Asociația Redescoperă Sinaia, who have done extensive research. The tours will help you discover great places, architecture and monuments, but are also full of short stories that will help you absorb more the greatness of the area. You can start in Sinaia, visit Buşteni and return, or vice versa. For more details, contact Asociația Redescoperă Sinaia for guide recommendations (office@redescoperasinaia.ro).

Skiing, snowboarding and paragliding are also good options in the winter. The view at Cota 2000 — when the sky is clear — is unbeatable and will fill you with good energy and peace.

Sinaia Park offers playgrounds for different ages and a 'Tyrolean' zip-wire experience when the weather allows it. On rainy days, you can take the kids to the Carmen Sylva Cultural Center, where they can read and paint. Check the schedule as sometimes they organize guitar lessons on Saturdays. The playground near Kuib Restaurant in Cumpătu is also a good option while the entire family can also enjoy a nice lunch or dinner.

The cable car up the mountain makes two stops: one at 1,400 m, and the next at 2,000 m. The view on top is stunning — but be warned, at the stations everything is written in Romanian. Between May and September, you can enjoy a long or a short hike and from December to April or sometimes as late as May, you can go skiing. New ski lifts are be-

ing built to manage the high weekend demand.

Up in the mountains, there is also the Stăna Regală cabin and restaurant. It is a hard drive, almost an hour on a poor road, but once there, don't miss the view from Franz Iosif Stone — if the sky is clear, you should be able to see the entire Prahova Valley — a breathtaking view.

Finally, you can take the family to swim at Hotel New Montana or Hotel Mara, or go bowling at Hotel International Sinaia. Be aware that when the weather is bad it can be full on Friday and Saturday afternoons, so you might need to book in advance.

My favorite place for food experience in Sinaia is Kuib, located in the Cumpătu area. They have a large variety from raw food to international cuisine. Also the place is a non-smoking one and this is a plus. Should you want to enjoy traditional Romanian food you can choose Cabana Schiori, or you could try Italian food at Cucina Sofia. Sometimes it is just nice to get a pizza on the go. There is a small pizzeria near Cafeneaua Parcului that is excellent.

In Sinaia it rains often, so it's a good idea to have a raincoat and proper shoes with you. Generally the showers are short and you might see the sun again soon so don't give up the plan for the entire day if it rains in the morning. Carry warm clothes with you at all times — even if it's 38 degrees Celsius in Bucharest. It can still get very cold in Sinaia, especially if it rains or if you're on top of the mountain.

A short drive north of Sinaia brings you to the Rhein Wine Cellar in Azuga, where you can see how they produce Rhein Champagne, which has been made in Romania since 1889. They also have a restaurant and a small wine shop where you can buy award-winning Romanian wines.

If you are staying in homeaway accommodation or want to help yourself to some food, you can find fresh vegetables and fruits at Sinaia market, which is located on a narrow street opposite Hotel Montana. Also, check the Angst supermarket for fresh, locally-produced ham and various meat specialties for the grill. Fresh fish, especially trout, is available in Azuga, a 10-minute drive from Sinaia.

If you have a recommendation to add or want to find out more about Sinaia, please e-mail office@redescoperasinaia.ro — the association focuses on the sustainable development of the city.

How to get there from Bucharest: by car, via the Bucharest — Ploieşti highway, or via the DN1, along Prahova Valley. The only rush hours are Friday afternoon to Sinaia and Sunday afternoon on the way back to Bucharest; by train, from the North Railway Station — check the Transport section in this book.



Ioana Enache is one of the founders of the Asociația Redescoperă Sinaia, which aims to revitalize the town of Sinaia and reestablish it as an elegant, charming and green city with a good quality of life and rich cultural offerings.



Up the mountain

By Corina Chirileasa

Foreigners often praise Romania's mountains for their astounding beauty and for their diversity. Indeed, Romania has plenty of mountainous areas to cater to any taste. The Carpathians are the main chain of mountains in the country.

They can also be found in other countries: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine. But Romania hosts half of this chain, which is vital to Europe as it is the last region on the continent to support large mammals such as brown bears, wolves and lynxes.

Across Romania, the Carpathian Mountains are divid-

ed into three main groups: Oriental (to the east), Meridional (south), and Occidental (to the west). When looking at Romania's map, the country seems to revolve around its mountain chain as its main regions surround it.

The tallest peaks can be found in the Meridional Carpathians, in a group called the Făgăraș Mountains. The highest is the Moldoveanu peak at 2,544 meters. These chains are often compared to the Alps (they are also called the Transylvanian Alps) and are more popular among tourists than other elevations in Romania.

The Occidental Carpathians comprise the Apuseni Mountains to the west, and the Banat Mountains to the southwest. These are lower – the highest peak is at 1,850 meters.

The Oriental Carpathians to the east separate the region

of Moldova from the central region of Transylvania. The highest peak, Pietrosul Rodnei, in the Rodnei Mountains stands at 2,303 meters.

There's another group of mountains often forgotten – the Dobrogei Mountains in southeastern Romania. These are very old, and hence with low altitudes, similar to hills. The highest peak is the Greci at 467 meters. However, the Dobrogei have spectacular views with rolling hills leading to vast plains.

All across Romania's mountains, the hiker will find a diversity of rocks, which have led to beautiful valleys, lakes, waterfalls, and high altitude mountain passes. During winter, skiing is very popular, with several new ski slopes opened in recent years, backed up by EU funding.

Many Romanians enjoy mountain hiking. Especially in the younger generation, there's an increasing wave of love towards the mountain. Foreigners also appreciate what Romania's mountains have to offer, although many foreigners and locals go to mountain resorts out of habit or because it is fashionable, rather than because they love it.

Prahova & Doftana Valleys

This is the most popular region for those who want to spend time in the mountains and the closest to Bucharest – a two-hour drive (or more during weekends, because of the traffic jams since everyone wants to go there). Named after the Prahova river, the region has dug a valley into the Bucegi Mountains in southeast Romania.

We've covered the city of Braşov and the resort of Sinaia on previous pages, but there are several other mountain resorts in the Prahova Valley. The first one on the route from Bucharest to Braşov is Câmpina, then comes Comarnic, followed by Sinaia. Buşteni, Azuga and Predeal follow suit, just before reaching Braşov. These mountain resorts are quite close to each other, so often travelers will find accommodation in one resort, and either ski or hike in others, or just visit places across the valley.

Not as popular as Prahova Valley, but equally - if not even more - beautiful is the Doftana Valley. Lake Doftana offers amazing views, and the whole area is quiet - and yet not as overcrowded. To reach it, drive to Câmpina, then take the right turn.

Not to miss in the Prahova Valley:

The Babele and the Sphinx are two rock formations shaped by the wind and the rain, at over 2,200 meters in altitude. The first resembles a group of old ladies (Babă with the plural Babe means old lady/ladies in Romanian). The latter has an even more interesting shape – that of a head, and is one of the symbols of Romania's mountains. Both are in the Bucegi Mountains, and are reachable from the Buşteni resort, by cable car, or by car from Sinaia on the TransBucegi road.

The Cross on the Caraiman Peak is the tallest cross at such an altitude – 2,291 meters, according to the Guinness Book (2014). It is visible from down the valley when driving in Buşteni. Made of steel and almost 40 meters tall, the cross was built in the 1920s to commemorate Romanian heroes who died in the First World War. To reach it, take the cable car from Buşteni to the Babele (expect long queues at the cable car during the weekend), and from there, hike for about half an hour. Both the route and the view from the cross are spectacular!

The Omu Peak is the highest peak in the Bucegi Mountains (2,505 meters), so it is reachable from the Prahova Valley. It can also be accessed from Sinaia, Buşteni or Bran, on various hiking trails, as well as by cable car from Buşteni. From there, it's a two hour hike on one of the 40 hiking trails starting from Sinaia, Buşteni or Azuga. Ski on one of the 20 slopes in Sinaia, Buşteni and Azuga, including slopes for beginners. Best period – December to March.

The Iulia Haşdeu Castle in Câmpina is a beautiful building erected in the late 1800s by Romanian scientist and writer Bogdan Petriceicu Haşdeu for his daughter Iulia, who died at 18. The castle is full of symbols, and was home to the father's spiritism sessions, where he said he'd meet his dead daughter.

Râncă

Râncă is a recently developed Romanian resort, at an altitude of 1,600 meters, at the foothill of Păpuşa Peak in the Parâng Mountains – the Meridional Carpathians. The resort is crossed by the famous Transalpina high altitude road, and includes six ski slopes.

Arieşeni

This is one of the most popular resorts in the Apuseni Mountains in Western Romania. Also including ski slopes, Arieşeni is the start point to visits in the region – to the Bihorul Peak – the tallest in the Apuseni Mountains, at 1,849 meters – or to the Scărişoara underground glacier, as well as to two famous caves, the Coiba Mare and the Cetăţile Ponorului. The latter has the tallest cave entry in Romania, 75 meters high.

Vatra Dornei

This resort is the most famous in northeastern Romania, in the Moldova region of Bucovina. Part of the Oriental Carpathians, Vatra Dornei also has ski slopes, spas, and breathtaking views. Located at the confluence between the Bistriţa and Dorna rivers, Vatra Dornei is one of the oldest resorts in Romania. While there, walk past several historic monuments – the casino, the main spa building, the Sentinela Spring, the two railway stations and the town hall.



Dobrogea, the southern soul — seaside, history & Danube Delta

By Corina Chirileasa, contributions by Sorana Burtilă

It's rather windy in Dobrogea, a small region in southeast Romania, home to two main attractions: the Black Sea coast with its famous resorts, and the Danube Delta. Besides these two main hot spots, the Dobrogea region itself is worth visiting at length: it has small mountains — the Măcinului range — and picturesque roads winding their way

between the rolling hills, relics of old fortresses, and lots of history which combines in a unique way with the novelty of numerous wind parks.

The two main cities in the region are Tulcea and Constanța, capitals of their respective counties. Tulcea is the entry gate to the Danube Delta, and Constanța is the centre of the seaside attractions, together with its satellite resort Mamaia.

Coming from Romania's Muntenia region (or Bucharest), the easiest way is to choose one of the two bridges

crossing the Danube: Giurgeni – Vadu Oii or Fetești – Cernavodă. The latter is the typical route to the Romanian seaside, via the A3 highway — also known as the Sun Highway. The option to cross the Danube on a ferry is also available at Brăila and Galați.

The northern Dobrogea region closer to the Danube Delta and to the sea has its charm, and driving to Tulcea from either Măcin, Babadag or Topolog will reveal picturesque villages, enormous fields, and lakes dotted here and there. Driving around the large Razim lake is recommended, with its highlight at Enisala, where the medieval castle overlooks the lake and the hilly countryside from on high. Then, going further south, Jurilovca is a must. It gives access to the Doloșman cape and to the Argamum–Orgame ruins. From Jurilovca, boats across the Golovița Lake are available to reach one of the few remaining, almost unspoiled seaside spots in Romania: Gura Portiței.

The beaches, the parties and the unspoiled Black Sea

The Romanian coast at the Black Sea seems to have something for every taste. It's got posh retreats, places for family fun, resorts for hippies and for nudists, lively spots for young people and even a few untouched beaches away from the noise.

Despite complaints from tourist associations that tourism in Romania is underdeveloped, the Romanian seaside is fully booked every summer. Almost everywhere you go, expect it to be crowded from June to the end of August. Some resorts are more popular than others and some have gained almost overnight popularity. The official beach season starts on May 1, when many Romanians go to the seaside for the first time in the year. September is sometimes a good month to go to the Romanian coast, depending on the weather, while August is probably one of the busiest.

When most Romanians speak about going to the sea shore they have one destination in mind: the famous resort of Mamaia. It is the fashionable choice and, as a result, it is overcrowded every summer. The resort is expensive, with plenty of luxury accommodation options, and boasts some lively nightlife. Many choose Mamaia not so much for its beach — which is almost entirely privately managed — as for its parties.

When it comes to parties, Vama Veche is another option, and is definitely cheaper than Mamaia. Vama Veche village used to be a hippie resort, home to the “flower power,” free-spirited generation (think “Woodstock forever”), but it has become increasingly popular in recent years and now hosts a mixed crowd: those who come to regain their free spirit and listen to music while camping on the beach, and those who are there because it is trendy.

While Mamaia is easy to reach — just take the highway from Bucharest and Mamaia will be next to Constanța —

getting to Vama Veche requires a slightly longer journey. Vama Veche is close to the border with Bulgaria, to the south of Constanța. By car, you have to pass Mangalia and head further south, while public transport will get you by train or bus to Mangalia train station and then by bus to Vama Veche, and to its sister resort 2 Mai — which is yet another option for those free-spirited people who want to enjoy a less commercial holiday.

Another option for those searching for a peaceful holiday is Gura Portiței, a seaside resort which lives in two worlds: the Black Sea, and the Danube Delta. To get there, you have to take the boat from Jurilovca, which is in the northern part of the seaside, and cross Golovița Lake. Public transport to the resort is slow, so if you're in a hurry and want to reach Gura Portiței fast, hire a private speed boat. However, if you are taking the one-and-a-half-hour boat trip, which costs RON 30 per person per trip, go early in the morning, as the last boat returning to Jurilovca is at 20:00 and you will want to spend a full day enjoying the wilderness. Remember, private, faster boats are also available for larger groups and the pricing per person is better.

It feels like the end of the world, as it is one of the few remaining, nearly-intact coastal spots in Romania, but you'll not be alone there. There is accommodation available as well as enough room for camping.

If being cut off from the world is your cup of tea, then head to either Corbu or Vadu beaches which are in the northern part of the shore. These are two virgin beaches where, although you will not be completely alone (others have discovered them too), it will be much quieter than the rest of the area. Access is not easy but they are not far from the city of Constanța — just keep north and drive past Mamaia and Năvodari, on the same route which takes you to the Danube Delta. Do bear in mind that these two beaches are indeed virgin, meaning there's no accommodation available and no amenities — just a place to camp, the sand and the sea.

The Danube Delta — the wild side

The Danube Delta is a preferred holiday destination for many Romanians and foreigners due to its uniqueness and tranquility, on the one hand, and for its natural riches, on the other. The Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation, the only delta in the world with this status, is the biggest compact reed area and one of the largest waterbird wetland habitats on the planet: a paradise of pelicans, water lilies and fish.

Most often, the first stop in the delta is the city of Tulcea — the gateway to the Danube Delta. Tulcea is accessible by car or public transport, and the Augustina Trans Company runs daily trips from Bucharest. The trip takes approximately four and a half hours with a twenty-minute break at a service station. The landscape draws attention, and who could resist taking a photo of the sunflower and canola

fields? A train connection is also available from Bucharest.

Tulcea can be overwhelming at first, particularly in the summer months, with the bustle of tourists and the sirens of ships — a turmoil that precedes an adventure into the delta's watery realm. Nevertheless, do not be hasty; regardless of how drawn you are to the Danube, it is worth pausing here, be it for a couple of hours or a night's stay, lodged at one of the many hotels on the waterfront.

Adventure, relaxation, exploration, sports, family, cultural tourism... the delta has a story for everyone. For trips of a day or a day and a half, the recommended option would be to sleep at a hotel in Tulcea and from there take a 4–5 hour trip through the canals.

A trip to Sfântu Gheorghe, one of the oldest Danube branches, will take up to two days. The first towns, Mahmudia and Murighiol, can be reached by car, saving time and money. However, going by water is better. It is, after all, the Danube Delta. Beautiful landscapes reveal themselves on the narrow and hidden canals, so ask locals for help. Nearly every pension provides boat trips on the adjacent lakes and canals.

On the Sfântu Gheorghe branch, people often talk about the town that bears the same name. It's a town that feels remote from the rest of the world, where the Danube merges into the Black Sea.

Access to town is only possible by boat, which can be taken from Tulcea (a four-hour trip), Mahmudia (a two-and-a-half hour trip) or Murighiol (a two-hour trip). The trips are organized by a company called Navrom Delta.

Near Sfântu Gheorghe's sandy beach is the venue for the Anonimul International Independent Film Festival, usually held every August. Danube's middle branch, Sulina, is the most easily accessible to tourists. Daily trips leave for Sulina, either through the Navrom Delta Company or through private companies.

The Mila 23 fishermen's village, situated on the Old Danube, is at the heart of a maze of canals, pools and swamps. It is one of the most important and best known jumping-off points for tourist itineraries in the delta. Crișan fishermen's village completes the picture. This is also the starting point for tourist itineraries, towards the Caraorman bank (renowned for its sand dunes) or towards the Roșu and Puiu lakes.

Finally, at the end of the journey on this branch is the second largest town in the Danube Delta: Sulina; it's the easternmost town in Romania, the headquarters of the European Danube Commission, the location of a maritime graveyard unique to Romania and even to Europe, and has a wild sandy beach.

The westernmost and probably wildest branch of the Danube, the Chilia branch, is the perfect place for people with a passion for nature and fishing. Tourism here is less developed, which is probably why the area has kept its wild, unexplored character. The journey here also begins from Tulcea, either by public transportation or with private

boats, which are impossible to miss during a stroll on the Tulcea waterfront; visitors are overwhelmed with questions such as: do you wish to take a trip to the delta? Do you need fast transportation to a village or town?

We recommend public transportation to anyone coming to the delta, despite the protests this might stir. If the sojourn lasts at least four days and you are not pressed for time, then public transportation is the best option to feel the pulse of the delta. Do not expect luxury conditions! But you should expect to find fascinating people, to discover their life stories, hardships, challenges and joys.

At the end of the journey down the Chilia branch, on the border between Romania and Ukraine, travelers can discover the Periprava Lipovan village, which feels far, far away from the noisy turmoil of the town, in the middle of nature, where the sky, earth and water meet.

This area represents a true cultural mosaic: Periprava is a Lipovan village, Sîștofca and Letea have Ukrainian populations, and C.A. Rosetti has a mainly Romanian population.

The best time of the year to go to the delta depends on the purpose of the visit: spring for ornithologists (April, May), summer for a first trip, when water lilies and pelicans abound (June, July, August), autumn for fishermen (pike in particular) and winter for hunters.

HINTS FOR VISITING THE DANUBE DELTA:

- Remember to **always carry cash** with you, in local currency; you will not find any ATMs, currency exchange points or POSs for payments by card.
- **Write down the destination** you wish to reach and the specific route; while in Tulcea, some people speak foreign languages, English in particular. Once in the heart of the delta, finding someone who can speak foreign languages gets more and more difficult; the exception are large lodging complexes which often have foreign language-speaking staff.
- **Do not forget insect repellent.** There are some myths about the mosquitoes in the delta, but in reality, mosquitoes emerge mainly when night sets in and it is better to go indoors; daytime should be mosquito-free. Nonetheless, with children it's worth applying insect repellent at all times, as their sensitive skin makes them more susceptible to bites.
- Regardless of whether it is summer or not, **do not forget warm clothes** for the cooler nights, as well as **rain coats and wind stoppers** — especially when taking trips on the canals.
- **Mobile phones can't get a good signal everywhere**, so as many details as possible should be planned prior to departure.

All around Romania — practical listings

Braşov

ACCOMMODATION

Ambient Guesthouse

★ 62 Iuliu Maniu Blvd.

☎ +40368 405 522

🌐 www.pensiuneambient.ro

This guesthouse is located near Hotel Ambient and offers quality services and free high-speed internet access. Many tourists are drawn here by the relaxed atmosphere and good-value prices.

Armatti Hotel

★ 5 Lungă St. ☎ +40368 443 200

🌐 www.armatti.ro

New 30-room hotel in Braşov city center, standing for comfort and functionality.

Bella Muzica

★ 19 Piaţa Sfatului

☎ +40268 477 946

🌐 www.bellamuzica.ro

Located in a 400-year-old building with neo-classical architectural features, this hotel has a popular restaurant serving Mexican, Hungarian and international specialties.

Casa Rozelor

★ 20 Michael Weiss St.

☎ +40268 475 212

🌐 www.casarozelor.ro

This hotel is located in a 15th century building in the historical center of Braşov, which carries the National Cultural Heritage status. It is quiet, very clean and chic.

Casa Wagner

★ 5 Piaţa Sfatului

☎ +40727 800 367

🌐 www.casa-wagner.ro

This hotel can be found in Braşov's central Piaţa Sfatului and some of the rooms have a view towards the Black Church (Biserica Neagră).

Kronwell Hotel

★ 7 Gării Blvd. ☎ +40368 730 800

🌐 www.kronwell.com

A four-star hotel, including a conference room for 650 and a spa and wellness center.

RESTAURANTS

Casa Hirscher

★ 12-14 Piaţa Sfatului

☎ +40268 410 533

🌐 www.casahirscher.ro

Excellent food in a very downtown location.

Ceasu' Rău

★ 56 Iuliu Maniu St.

☎ +40268 476 670

🌐 www.sergianagrup.ro

The best mici in town, we've been told.

Keller Steak House

★ 2 Apollonia Hirscher St.

☎ +40268 472 278

🌐 www.kellersteakhouse.ro

Located in the historical center of Braşov, in a building dating from the late 1400s, it serves beef, chicken, fish, pork and lamb specialties. The wine list boasts over 100 varieties.

Poarta Şchei 4

★ 4 Poarta Şchei St.

☎ +40743 236 733

🌐 www.poartaschei4.ro

Small bistro downtown, near Sfatului Square.

Sergiana

★ 28 Mureşenilor St.

☎ +40268 419 775

🌐 www.sergianagrup.ro

This venue is a must for traditional Romanian food and music. Wearing traditional Transylvanian costumes, the staff serve home-made bread and pork crackling with red onion.

TEA HOUSE & CAFES

Café de Paris

★ 56 Republicii St.

☎ +40742 479 563

🌐 fb.com/cafedeparisbv

Ceai Et Caetera

★ 15 Latină St. ☎ +40724 302 737

🌐 www.ceaietc.ro

Non-smoking venue, with a very pleasant atmosphere.

Colaj Café

★ 2 Hirscher Apollonia St.

☎ +40725 974 152

🌐 fb.com/ColajCafe

Festival 39

★ 62 Republicii St.

☎ +40743 339 909

🌐 www.festival39.com

PUBS & CLUBS

Formula Pub

★ 29 Eroilor Blvd.

☎ +40268 414 113

🌐 www.formulapub.ro

This pub has a formula racing simulator inside.

For Sale Pub

★ 24, 15 Noiembrie Blvd.

☎ +40788 758 582

🌐 fb.com/For-SALE-PUB

Publick

★ 1 Republicii St. ☎ +40730 273 842

🌐 fb.com/public.cafe

ENTERTAINMENT

Equus Silvania

★ 507210 Şinca Nouă village

☎ +40740 185 583

🌐 www.equus-silvania.com

This horse riding center and guest-house close to Braşov is perfect for an active family weekend.

Paradisul Acvatic

♣ 2F-2G Griviței Blvd.
 ☎ +40268 440 070
 📧 www.paradisulacvatic.ro

This is a large recreational complex, with modern indoor and outdoor pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, solarium, massage center, beauty salon, and water slides.

Parc Aventura

♣ 16Bis Paltinului St.
 ☎ +40755 085 555
 📧 www.parc-aventura.ro

The park offers 100 different routes among the trees at different heights, depending on the chosen route.

Wolf Park Adventure

♣ Brazilor St., Zărnești
 ☎ +40786 226 500
 📧 www.wolfparkadventure.ro
 Adventure park featuring four progressively difficult tracks and six tyrolean traverses.

SHOPPING**Republicii & Mureșenilor St.**

Republicii is the main pedestrian street of the old center. It features a surprising amount of shoe, clothing, accessories, and book stores. Most shopping places are to be found on these two streets. You will also find ATMs, pharmacies and banks there.

Coresi Shopping Resort

♣ 1 Zaharia Stancu St.
 ☎ +4021 367 2168
 📧 www.coresibrasov.ro

Eliana Mall

♣ 2 Bazaltului St.
 ☎ +40751 018 922
 📧 www.eliana-mall.ro

Magnolia Shopping Center

♣ 18 Crișului St.
 ☎ +40268 317 000
 📧 magnoliacenter.ro

Unirea Shopping Center

♣ 3A Gării Blvd.
 ☎ +40268 301 030 ext. 101
 📧 www.unireashop.ro

Sinaia**ACCOMMODATION****Piatra Șoimului Complex**

♣ 10C Gârbovei St.
 ☎ +40244 310 302
 📧 www.piatrasoimului.ro

Villa Poem Boem

♣ Cumpătu Residential Area
 ☎ +40723 347 103
 ☎ +40722 687 936
 📧 villa@poemboem.com
 📧 www.poemboem.com
 Enjoy an exclusive retreat in Sinaia at PoemBoem Villa and feel the refreshing air of the mountains in the peaceful garden with spring water. Indoor you will be charmed by the warm spirit of the villa, the beautiful decoration, fire place, sauna and high quality amenities. Perfect city getaway for families and romantic escapades!

Hotel International

♣ 1 Avram Iancu St.
 ☎ +40344 403 841
 📧 www.international-sinaia.ro
 We would avoid the big hotels in Sinaia as they don't match the spirit of the city. For larger groups, however, you might have to consider them.

ENTERTAINMENT**Peleş Castle**

♣ 2 Peleşului St.
 ☎ +40244 310 918 📧 www.peles.ro

George Enescu Memorial House

♣ 2 Yehudi Menuhin St.
 ☎ +40244 311 753
 📧 www.georgeenescu.ro

Walking Tours — Redescoperă Sinaia

📧 office@redescoperasinaia.ro
 📧 tours@citycompass.ro

Stâna Regală

☎ +40726 764 262
 📧 www.stanaregala.ro
 It underwent refurbishing works this year and reopened at the beginning of September.

SHOPPING**Angst**

♣ 20 Republicii St.
 ☎ +40244 312 251
 Fresh meat and cold cuts.

Billa

♣ 41 Carol I Blvd.

Mega Image

♣ 33 Carol I Blvd.

Penny Market

♣ Calea Prahovei FN
 This budget supermarket is suitable for larger purchases.

EATING & DRINKING**Kuib Restaurant**

♣ 10C Gârbovei St., Cumpătu
 ☎ +40732 127 737
 📧 www.kuib.ro

Cucina Sofia

♣ 1 Avram Iancu St.
 ☎ +4086 511 726
 📧 www.cucinasofia.ro

Ramayana Cafe

♣ 19 Carol I Blvd.
 ☎ +40747 178 323
 📧 www.ramayana.ro
 Indian-themed cafe and tea house in Sinaia

Other mountain resorts

Arieșeni

Iara

☎ +40735 884 469
 ☞ www.pensiuneaaiara.ro

Azuga

Bio Boutique Hotel Club Austria

☎ 12 Primăverii St., Poiana
 Țapului ☎ +40244 323 345
 ☞ www.clubaustria.ro

Lux Garden Hotel

☎ 10 Sorica St. ☎ +40372 057 100
 ☞ www.luxgardenhotel.ro
 This is a five-star hotel close to the Sorica ski slope.

Bran – Moeciu – Rucăr

Casa din Bran

☎ 367A Gen Moșoiu St., Bran
 ☎ +40268 236 557
 ☞ www.casadinbran.ro

Conacul Boieresc

☎ 1 Balaban St., Bran – Simon
 ☎ +40728 997 727
 ☞ www.conacul-boieresc.ro

Floare de Măceș Farm

☎ Glăjăriei Valley, Bran
 ☎ +40773 324 079

La Maison

☎ 42 Ciubotea St., Bran
 ☎ +40733 662 647
 ☞ www.pensiunealamaison.com

Bușteni

Casa Sara

☎ 7 Urlătoarei St.
 ☎ +40729 255 900

Canta Cuisine Restaurant

☎ 1 Zamora St. ☎ +40244 320 520
 ☞ www.cantacuzinocastle.ro

Located in the Cantacuzino Castle, it offers French cuisine all year round.

Cantacuzino Castle

☎ 1 Zamora St. ☎ +40737 299 464
 ☞ www.cantacuzinocastle.com
 The castle is open for visitors and guests all year round and can be booked for private events.

Il Piccolo Castello

☎ 33 Victoriei St. ☎ 40766 332 465

Câmpina

Iulia Hașdeu Museum

☎ 199 Carol I Blvd., Câmpina
 ☎ +40244 335 599
 ☞ www.muzeulhasdeu.ro

Doftanei Valley

Atra Doftana

☎ 780b Fundătura Cerbului St.,
 Valea Doftanei, Teșila Village
 ☎ +40735 020 110
 ☞ www.atradoftana.ro
 Beautiful design, great view to the lake and a gourmet restaurant.

Predeal

Hotel Orizont Predeal

☎ 6 Trei Brazi St.
 ☎ office@hotelorizont.ro
 ☎ +40 268 455 150
 ☎ +40 268 455 473
 ☞ www.hotelorizont.ro
 Hotel Orizont welcomes you with 139 four-star rooms, a modern SPA, Orizont Forum Conference Center, Orizont Restaurant with international cuisine, Miorița Restaurant with traditional Romanian cuisine together with a winery, 4 bars with a distinguished architecture and a cigar club.

Miorița Restaurant

☎ 6 Trei Brazi St.
 ☎ +40268 455 150
 ☎ +40268 455 473
 ☎ restaurant@hotelorizont.ro

☞ www.hotelorizont.ro

Romanian traditional Restaurant and winery, Miorița, has been inaugurated in the fall of 2011. The concept that we are proposing is the Romanian traditional cuisine combined with a spectacular design for the refined and modern guest, identified by us as being the special Hotel Orizont Predeal guest.

Casa Dunărea

☎ 31 Panduri St.
 ☎ +40268 456 222
 ☞ www.casadunarea.ro

Predeal Confort Suites

☎ 33, 3 Brazi St.
 ☎ +40268 455 795
 ☞ www.predeal-hotel.ro

Ursulețul

☎ 35 Vasile Alecsandri St.
 ☎ +40268 456 456
 ☞ www.ursuletul.ro

Râncă

Cabana Transalpina

☎ Transalpina High Alt. Road, km 34
 ☎ +40765 959 220
 ☎ fb.com/CabanaTransalpina

Piatra Râncii

☎ Transalpina High Altitude Road
 ☎ +40747 529 698

Vatra Dornei

Domeniul Dornei

☎ 170, Dorna Arini
 ☎ +40733 663 648
 ☞ www.domeniuldornei.ro

Hotel Dorna

☎ 5A Tudor Vladimirescu St.
 ☎ +40230 370 038
 ☞ www.hoteldorna.ro

Le Baron

☎ Dorna Arini
 ☎ +40230 576 082
 ☞ www.complexturisticlebaron.ro

La Bella Vista

📍 576A Poiana Negrii
☎ +40728 878 988
🌐 www.labellavista.ro

Pensiunea Poiana

📍 545 Poiana Pietrei, Poiana
Negrii ☎ +40745 809 234
🌐 www.pensiuneapoiana.ro

Poiana Izvoarelor

📍 80 Popeni St. ☎ +40746 228 990
🌐 pensiuneapoianaizvoarelor.ro

Waldhaus

📍 82A Colăcelul St.
☎ +40723 465 241
🌐 www.waldhaus.ro

Seaside

Mamaia

ACCOMMODATION**Blue Beach**

📍 6 Aleea Lamia
☎ +40770 897 858

Hotel Vega

☎ +40241 607 607
🌐 www.hotelvega.ro

This is a five-star hotel, the most expensive in Mamaia and indeed the whole Romanian coast. It has its own private beach, a gym and offers the possibility of arriving by helicopter.

Hotel Iaki

☎ +40241 831 025 🌐 www.iaki.ro
This is a four-star hotel owned by Romanian football player Gheorghe Hagi. The hotel has its own beach and an indoor spa, as well as a conference center.

Hotel Phoenicia Luxury

📍 1 Mamaia Nord, Km 2, DC 86, Năvodari ☎ +40735 005 050
🌐 www.en.phoeniciaholiday.ro
Another four-star hotel, owned by the Phoenicia group, which has a chain of hotels in Bucharest. This

one is located between Mamaia and Năvodari.

DISCOS & FUN**Crema Summer Club**

☎ +40755 996 600
🌐 summerclub.crema-cafe.ro

Crazy Beach

☎ +40726 676 666
🌐 www.crazy.com.ro
Restaurant, club and terrace on the beach, all very popular.

Ego Club Mamaia

☎ +40726 202 272 🌐 egoclub.ro

Fratelli Beach & Club Mamaia Nord

☎ +40725 510 000
🌐 fratelli.ro/clubs/fratelli-beach-club

Le Gaga Mamaia

☎ +40729 534 242 🌐 legaga.ro

Oha Beach

☎ +40748 130 471
📱 fb.com/OhaBeach

ENTERTAINMENT**Aqua Magic water park**

📍 334 Mamaia Blvd.
☎ +40241 831 183
🌐 www.aqua-magic.ro

RESTAURANTS**Rapana**

📍 Mamaia, Mamaia Beach
☎ +40722 255 522 🌐 rapana.ro

IpaNera

📍 Mamaia Beach
☎ +40730 013 333 🌐 ipanera.ro

La Fattoria

📍 Mamaia Seafront
☎ +40729 994 993
🌐 www.lafattoria.ro

Vama Veche

Many people prefer to stay with the locals, in their homes. Below we list several accommodation units.

ACCOMMODATION**Club D'Or**

📍 15 Ion Creangă St.
☎ +4043 335 114 🌐 clubdor.ro

Hotel Jakuzzi

📍 5 Meduzei St.
☎ +40723 068 082
🌐 www.hoteljakuzzi.ro

Hotel Laguna

📍 1 Midei St. ☎ +40722 372 004
🌐 www.corsarulvamaveche.ro

Marina Park

📍 12 Nichita Stănescu St.
☎ +40772 269 844
🌐 www.marinapark.ro
This is a compound with a motel, a camping area (for tents and caravans) and a restaurant.

Maris

📍 12A Ion Creangă St.
☎ +40728 592 273
🌐 www.maris-vamaveche.ro

Pura Vida Hostel

☎ +40786 055 288
📱 fb.com/PuraVidaBeachHostel
The hostel also organizes bus transport from Bucharest to Vama Veche — the only such bus that we know of which connects Vama Veche to the capital.

Sandalandala Camping

☎ +40754 071 131
🌐 www.sandalandala.ro
This was recommended as a cool place, including a lounge bar.

Tagoo Vama Veche

📍 16 Albatros St.
☎ +40728 592 273
📱 fb.com/Tagoo

RESTAURANTS

Amphora

♣ 36 Falezai St. ☎ +40751 266 570
Restaurant, café & beach bar.

Bibi Bistro

♣ Ion Creangă/Ștefan cel Mare St.
☎ +40722 191 366
☐ www.bibibistro.ro

Cherhana Vama Veche

♣ On the beach ☎ +40743 335 805
This one is just by the beach and has always been highly recommended. Always fresh fish, simple dishes and a 'must try' landmark in Vama Veche.

Lyana Vama Veche

♣ Falezai St. ☎ +40722 671 213
☐ fb.com/LyanaVamaVeche

Povestea Ceaunului

☎ +40752 037 148
☐ fb.com/terasapovestecaeunului

2 Mai

ACCOMMODATION

Camping La Rulote

☎ +40724 196 505
☐ www.camping2mai.ro

RESTAURANTS

Micul Golf

☎ +40748 221 843
Restaurant & accommodation on the beach.

Vadu

RESTAURANTS

Vadu Pescarilor

☎ +40728 531 855
☐ fb.com/VaduPescarilor
Very hard to reach; drive for 20 km from Năvodari to Corbu, then at the exit in Corbu turn right, drive 6 km on quite a bad road.

Gura Portiței

Eden

☎ +40722 555 645
☐ www.guraportitei.ro
This is a compound of villas on a small island surrounded by Golovița lake.

Eforie Nord

ACCOMMODATION

Astoria

♣ 9 Tudor Vladimirescu St.
☎ +40241 743 490
☐ www.astoria-eforie.ro

Europa Hotel & Spa

♣ 13 Republicii Blvd.
☎ +40241 741 710
☐ reservation-hoteleuropa@anahotels.ro

ENTERTAINMENT

Ana Aslan Health Spa

♣ 13 Republicii St.
☎ +40241 702 840
☐ anaaslan-spa@anahotels.ro

Ana Yacht Club

♣ On the beach facing the Europa Hotel

SCUBA DIVING

The best places for scuba diving are at Cap Midia, in Eforie Sud, Costinești, Olimp, Mangalia and Vama Veche, and on shipwrecks near Constanța, Mangalia and Capul Tuzla.

Respiro Dive Center

♣ Mamaia, Club Mediteranean
☎ +40726 483 483
☐ www.respirodive.ro

Paradis Land Neptun

♣ Alea Plopii, Neptun – Mangalia ☎ +40756 166 611
☐ www.paradisland.ro
Pirate-themed adventure park.

Danube Delta

TRANSPORT

Augustina Trans

♣ 242A Calea Plevnei, Bucharest
♣ 28 Portului St., Tulcea
☎ +40743 334 840
☐ augustina.autogari.ro
The route by car is Bucharest–Slobozia–Țandărei–Hârșova–Tulcea.

Navrom Delta Tulcea

♣ 26 Portului St., Tulcea
☎ +40240 511 553
☐ www.navromdelta.ro

ACCOMMODATION

Green Village Resort

♣ Sfântu Gheorghe, Danube Delta
☐ reservations@greenvillage.ro
Located in Sfântu Gheorghe, the place where the Danube meets the Black Sea, the four-star Green Village Resort can mean both a holiday by the Black Sea shore and a getaway in the heart of the fascinating Danube Delta – one of the wildest and beautiful places in Europe, that combines relaxation and comfort with adventure and wildlife.

Cormoran Complex

♣ Uzlina village, Murighiol
☎ +40744 656 372
☐ www.cormoran.ro

Delta Nature Resort

♣ 2 Șoseaua Parcheșului, Somova
☎ +40737 507 683
☐ www.deltaresort.com
A five-star resort with 30 villas, 12 of which overlook the Somova lake. The outdoor pool also overlooks the lake.

EcoTourism Delta

♣ 180 Bis, Crișan village
☎ +40744 957 148
☐ www.ecotourismdelta.ro
B & B run by Petre & Caroline Vasiliu.

Bucharest Practical Handbook

The full edition
includes:

- **A quick look at all of Bucharest's neighborhoods**
- **The bustling Old Town**
- The expat choice — the Northern Pipera area
- **A walk downtown Bucharest — main highlights**
- On Romanian food & Bucharest restaurants by an expat foodie
- Opportunities for expat spouses
- Bucharest for families with kids
- **Transport essentials — in & out of Bucharest**
- At home — an insider's tips
- Bucharest shopping spree — the fundamentals
- Settling down in Romania — migration & tax rules
- Practical listings directory

A stroll through Bucharest's neighborhoods

By Bogdan Popa

Let's take a ride on tram number 41. It connects *Piața Presei Libere* (Free Press Square) with Ghencea Stadium — the North with the West of Bucharest. The full ride goes through Giulești, Crângași, Militari and Drumul Taberei neighborhoods. When boarding the tram at *Piața Presei Libere*, remember that the huge building called *Casa Presei Libere* (House of the Free Press) was built in the 1950s. It neighbors the Bucharest Exhibition Center (Romexpo), built on the spot of the former hippodrome, and the wonderful Herăstrău Park.

Soon after leaving the departure terminal, tramway 41 crosses Grant Bridge. Originally built out of wood, connecting the northern districts built in the 1920s and the 1930s, until 2011 Grant Bridge was the only connection between two parts of the city divided by railway tracks. While on the bridge, take a look at the football stadium on the right, the veritable temple of the Giulești district. Looking right, the new bridge over the railroad and the student dormitories in Grozăvești are visible. Giulești was originally a village, integrated into the municipality of Bucharest in the 1950s, to create space for new buildings and green areas. Blocks of flats were built, but some streets in Giulești are still full of small family houses. Most of the people who live there were Romanian Railways (CFR) employees.

Crângași, the district which begins at the end of Grant Bridge, is also a 'new' addition to Bucharest. It consists mainly of blocks of flats. The open-air market, one of the most famous in Bucharest, was modernized, and more than just fruits and vegetables can be found here. *Lacul Morii* (Mill Lake) lies to the right, which prevents the Dâmbovița River from flooding Bucharest. Many legends surround it — a former cemetery for the plague victims of 1813 — but locals still like taking an afternoon walk.

After leaving Morii Lake on the right and catching a glimpse of the Parliament Palace on the left, the 41 reaches Militari district. The area used to be inhabited mostly by members of the military — *militari* means 'soldiers'. It features a combination of large blocks of flats with houses and villas. It is a very populated and animated area, so expect a lot of small shops and a few cheap open-air markets. The Militari district is home to one of the most interesting and vivid theaters in Bucharest: the Masca theater, famous for public space performances and wonderful displays of *commedia dell'arte*. Breaking the journey at Lujuerului Underpass and taking a left onto Iuliu Maniu Boulevard leads to the campus of the Politechnical University of Bucharest. On the other side of the street, the famous APACA textile factory still stands. The Presidential Palace is next in line, with the Bucharest Botanical Garden as its

neighbor across the street. *Drumul Taberei* district begins nearby — one of the largest in Bucharest, consisting mainly of blocks of flats, carefully planned with lots of green space between them. The name comes from the military camp set up during the 1821 revolution against the Ottoman-imposed Princes of Wallachia. Continuing towards *Drumul Taberei* district by tram 41 leads to the new Sf. Vineri Church, one of the newest and largest in Bucharest. Finally, at the end of the line is Ghencea stadium, Steaua Bucharest's training base. *Ferentari* is perhaps not a place to recommend to the average tourist, while the nearby *Rahova* district has a similar reputation, albeit not entirely deserved. *Viilor* (the vineyard district) harks back to the days when wine-making was one of the area's main businesses. Bellu Cemetery (the biggest in Bucharest) is currently its main attraction and is part of Romania's collection of national heritage buildings.

Next to Bellu, the *Tineretului* district — a quiet, pleasant area — is centered around the park of the same name. Once there, try to locate the Dâmbovița River. Follow the river in order to get to the new National Library, recently inaugurated. The building, planned in the 1980s and nearly finished in 1990, was then abandoned for almost 20 years. Close to it, the church built by Bucur, a shepherd and the legendary founder of Bucharest, is squeezed between office buildings and blocks of flats. Keep walking to reach *Piața Unirii*, with its bright view of the Parliament Palace. Climb the hill to the 17th Century Patriarchy Church, packed with believers during religious celebrations.

On reaching *Piața Constituției* (Constitution Square), stick to the river and give *Cotroceni* district a chance: quiet streets lined with beautiful 19th and early 20th century villas. Most streets bear the name of famous doctors.

Then take bus 104 from Unirii Square to reach the National Arena (*Arena Națională*). *Pantelimon* was the home of Bucharest hip-hop. Its neighbor, the district of *Colentina*, was named after the river that flows through the area. In neighboring *Fundeni*, try finding the Fundenii Doamnei church, an extraordinary example of oriental architecture. *Vatra Luminoasă* mixes interesting old streets and blocks of flats. This was originally a settlement built as a charitable donation to the visually impaired. Buying some fresh, cheap and organically-grown vegetables at the *Obor* market would make a nice end to the trip.

Back north, *Floreasca*, *Primăverii*, *Domenii* and *Kiseleff* districts are greener areas, with more villas and houses than blocks of flats, and a lot of interesting corners and side streets. Property in these areas are sought after by many people, due in part to the child-friendly parks. At the intersection between Domenii and Kiseleff, the Arcul de Triumf overlooks the rugby stadium and Herăstrău park. Just where we started our stroll!



Old Town: a miniature of the unexpected & developing Romania

By Andrei Chirileasa, updates by Simona Fodor

Nowhere is Romania's fast, yet very uneven development more visible than in Bucharest's Old Town (or 'Centrul Vechi'), a 15-hectare area in the very heart of the country's capital, where more than a hundred restaurants, cafes, pubs, clubs and shops have appeared in the last five years.

Someone who last visited Bucharest some ten or fifteen years ago will definitely be in for a big surprise when re-visiting the area. Instead of the old, ruined buildings that used to flank Lipscani street, one can now find newly renovated buildings, inviting bars, stylish restaurants and laid-back terraces, with lots of people drinking their morning coffees, afternoon beers or evening cocktails, or just strolling around the area, soaking up the atmosphere.

The place is very lively, truly the beating heart of Bucharest, but may also become a bit tiring if you're not a fan of being surrounded by crowds of people. But no worries, there's always a quiet terrace or a nice cozy bar where you can take refuge and sip a glass of wine or have a nice meal.

But don't expect it to be perfect. Bucharest's Old Town is nothing like anything you've seen in Western European capitals, where everything is in place. It is still a work in progress, like much of Romania. So don't be surprised if, near

the cafe you choose, there's a building that looks like a ruin. Sometimes it even happens that pieces of debris fall from buildings at random. No serious accident has ever happened, but you should still be careful around such places.

There's still a long way to go until Bucharest's Old Town is 'polished' like those of other European capitals, but progress is visible every year. New restaurants, pubs and shops appear, some of them featuring really nice decor, some serving really good food, and others being known for their live music and relaxing atmosphere.

The whole area is very competitive, and the venues which don't make a success of themselves straight away quickly disappear, making space for others — hence the dynamism of the place (and a disclaimer for the listings which follow — the info here was valid in September 2015 when this section was written).

Old Town lives at a fast pace. We have spent plenty of time there and highlighted the places that caught our attention the most. There is, of course, more for you to discover on site!



Andrei Chirileasa is Editor-in-Chief and partner at *Romania-Insider.com* and *City Compass Media*. He is a business journalist, with over 10 years of experience, and worked with *Ziarul Financiar* until the spring of 2014, when he decided to go entrepreneurial. He is also a foodie and enjoys cooking.

RESTAURANTS

There are restaurants catering to all tastes in Old Town and they could fill an entire guidebook themselves. The following, among which are some of our favorite places, are listed in alphabetical order.

Aubergine Healthy Food

♣ 33 Smârdan St.

☎ +4021 313 7922

🌐 www.aubergine-restaurant.ro

A Mediterranean menu and a focus on healthy food.

Barză Viezure Mînz

♣ 21 Șepcari St.

☎ +40783 416 626

🌐 fb.com/barzaviezureminz

Must visit delicatessen shop and take-out restaurant with traditional Romanian products.

Bel Mondo

♣ 6 Covaci St.

☎ +40725 966 626

🌐 www.restaurantbelmondo.ro

Italian cuisine in a nicely renovated building in the new part of Old Town.

Berăria Nenea Iancu

♣ 3 Covaci St.

☎ +40752 034 171

🌐 www.berarianeneaiancu.ro

The venue offers local-themed food and a varied range of national and international beers.

Brauhaus Smardan

♣ 39–41 Smârdan St.

☎ +40725 523 081

🌐 www.brauhaus.ro

Burger Bar

♣ Șelari Passage

☎ +40212 339 096

🌐 www.burger-bar.ro

A new restaurant that serves great burgers.

Califatul Șelari

♣ 19 Șelari St.

☎ +40748 161 845

🌐 www.calif.ro

Very good kebabs, as well as other oriental delights. Some really nice new recipes for those who want to eat healthier food.

City Grill Covaci

♣ 19 Covaci St.

☎ +40729 626 262

🌐 www.citygrill.ro

This is a place with a simple menu and affordable prices, for quick lunches or dinners. The one on Covaci, which is located in the opposite part of Old Town, is new and also nice.

City Grill Lipscani

♣ 12 Lipscani St.

☎ +40729 626 262

🌐 www.citygrill.ro

Caru' cu Bere

♣ 5 Stavropoleos St.

☎ +40213 137 560

🌐 www.carucubere.ro

This is one of the favorite tourist spots. It is almost always crowded, so definitely worth booking in advance. You will like the architecture of the place — a historic building with an interesting story to tell. Food portions are large and there are plenty of Romanian dishes on the menu.

Chocolat

♣ 12A Calea Victoriei

☎ +40213 149 245

🌐 www.chocolat.com.ro

Boutique restaurant, famous for its desserts.

Crama Domneasca

♣ 13–15 Șelari St.

☎ +40758 333 000

🌐 www.cramadomneasca.net

Good Romanian cuisine, large portions, wine cellar and garden terrace during the summer. The restaurant has a medieval feel. Book a table in the basement and ask for a tour of the cellar.

Divan

♣ 46–48 Franceză St.

☎ +40213 123 034

🌐 www.thedivan.ro

Turkish restaurant, lounge and cafe.

Dristor Kebab

♣ 17 Franceză St.

☎ +40213 155 540

🌐 www.dristorkebab.ro

The most famous kebab place in Bucharest, initially opened in Dristor neighborhood, and now with a location in Old Town too. Deliveries and take-away also available.

Gyros Thessalonikis

♣ 2 Gabroveni St.

☎ +40762 646 269

🌐 www.gyros-thessalonikis.ro

Hanul lui Manuc

♣ 62–64 Franceză St.

☎ +40213 131 411

🌐 www.hanuluiimanuc.ro

This complex includes several restaurants, some facing Unirii Square, while the main one has an interior courtyard. It has been recently renovated and is one of the famous, historic names in Bucharest. The complex includes a Lebanese restaurant and Cafe Manuc.

Il Peccato

♣ 30 Franceză St.

☎ +40213 116 767

🌐 www.ilpeccato.ro

A new Italian restaurant.

Lacrimi și Sfinți

♣ 16 Șepcari St.

☎ +40725 558 286

🌐 www.lacrimisifinti.com

Romanian-inspired food (often) cooked and created by Romanian poet Mircea Dinescu. Very interesting interior and good food.

La Bonne Bouche

♣ 30 Franceză St.

☎ +40731 247 876

🌐 www.labonnebouche.ro

La Bulivar

☛ 14 Franceză St.
☎ +40720 619 050
🌐 www.labulivar.ro

La Haleală

☛ 17 Șelari St.
☎ +40721 332 211
🌐 www.lahaleala.ro
A fast food place with a large range of kebabs.

La Historia de Sudamerica

☛ 3 Sf. Dumitru St.
☎ +40722 626 043
🌐 www.lahistoria.ro
Restaurant and pub in an 1850 building in Old Town. It features a menu with South American influences. Cocktails and drinks on the same theme.

La Mama

☛ 1 Băcani St. (corner with Lipșani)
☎ +40725 526 262
🌐 www.lamama.ro

Latin Pizza

☛ 34 IC Brătianu Blvd.
☎ +40746 909 189
🌐 www.latinpizza.ro
Pizzas the Italian way. Take away also possible.

Marin Seafood Grill

☛ 4 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40213 138 475
📱 fb.com/MarinSeafoodGrill
Fresh seafood cooked on a wood stove in front of the customers. The healthy alternative to kebabs.

Meze Taverna

☛ 6 Nicolae Tonitza St.
☎ +4021 5395 353
🌐 www.mezetaverna.ro
Greek restaurant with a fresh, Mediterranean feel in its food as well as design.

Mica Elveție

☛ 60 Franceză St.
☎ +40212 245 017
🌐 www.micaelvetie.ro

Micul Paris Bistro

☛ 16 Smârdan St.
☎ +40314 381 411
🌐 www.restaurantmiculparis.ro

Red Angus Steakhouse

☛ 56 Franceză St.
☎ +40756 600 000
🌐 www.redangus.ro
This restaurant lives up to the promise of its name: steaks from Europe, the US and New Zealand.

Saray

☛ 21 Lipșani St.
☎ +40733 135 834
🌐 saray-restaurant.ro
Turkish cuisine.

Sector Gurmand

☛ 52 Franceză St.
☎ +40733 722 126
🌐 www.sectorgurmand.ro

Sushi Ko

☛ 8 Stavropoleos St.
☎ +40758 088 400
🌐 www.sushiko.ro
Japanese cuisine in Old Town. Situated at the main junction of Stavropoleos and Smârdan streets — hard to miss!

Taverna Racilor

☛ 18 Smârdan St.
☎ +40758 880 270
🌐 tavernaracilor.ro

The Artist

☛ 13 Nicolae Tonitza St.
☎ +40728 318 871
🌐 www.theartist.ro
A Dutch chef brings the experience of a modern, fusion restaurant to Bucharest. Try the 'spoon tasting': a spoon-sized version of all dishes.

Trattoria Buongiorno

☛ 52 Franceză St.
☎ +40733 110 464
🌐 www.trattoriabuongiorno.ro

Trattoria Il Calcio

☛ 3 Stavropoleos St.
☎ +40720 667 766
🌐 www.trattoriailcalcio.ro
The already famous Italian restaurant chain in Bucharest recently opened one of its trattorias in Old Town, on the former premises of Negresco restaurant.

Vecchio 1812

☛ 16 Covaci St.
☎ +40314309 578
One of the oldest buildings in Old Town, built in 1812, hosts this elegant Italian restaurant. One of our favorites.

PASTRIES & ICE CREAM**Cremeria Emilia Romană**

☛ 38 – 42 Franceză St.
☎ +40726 671 227
📱 fb.com/cremeriaemilia

La Delicii

☛ 5 Covaci St.
☎ +40758 060 890
🌐 www.ladelicii.ro
This is an ice-cream parlour.

La Folie Centrul Vechi

☛ 13 Franceză St.
☎ +40746 582 528
🌐 www.la-folie.ro

CLUBS**Bordello's**

☛ 9-11 Șelari St.
☎ +40748 881 085
🌐 www.bordellos.ro
One of the most popular and busiest places in Old Town, with three floors and an adjacent restaurant, offering parties every weekend and different evening events during the week.

Bound

☛ 30 Smârdan St.
☎ +40721 762 756
🌐 www.bound.ro

Cliché

♣ 41 Smârdan St.
☎ +40729 056 254
🌐 www.clubcliche.ro

Club A

♣ 14 Blănari St.
☎ +40213 161 667
🌐 fb.com/ClubA.Bucuresti
This is a club with a history in Bucharest, as it was opened during the Communist period. It plays mostly golden oldies and prices are aimed at students.

El Comandante Junior

♣ 43 Lipscaeni St.
☎ +40728 555 043
🌐 www.elcomandantejunior.ro
One of several El Comandante clubs in Bucharest, this is a small club which plays good music.

Finnish Cocktail & Club

♣ 28 Şelari St.
☎ +40753 578 209
🌐 www.finnish.ro

Fire

♣ 12 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40732 166 604
🌐 www.fire.ro
This is the place to go for rock and indie music. Lots of live shows.

Freddo

♣ 24 Smârdan St.
☎ +40722 373 336
🌐 www.freddo.ro

La Bonita

♣ 24 Şelari St.
☎ +40758 660 500
Mexican and Texan fast-food & club.

Laboratorul de Cocktailuri

♣ 8 Stavropoleos St.
☎ +40722 528 040
Designed like an old pharmacy, Laborator offers the young, hip customer a wide selection of cocktails, served in test tubes or chemistry beakers.

La Muse

♣ 53 Lipscaeni St.
☎ +40734 000 236
🌐 www.lamuse.ro

Maraboo

♣ 12 Blănari St.
☎ +40740 111 550
🌐 www.maraboo.ro

Mojo

♣ 14 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40760 263 496
🌐 www.mojomusic.ro
This seems to be the meeting place for expats in Old Town. You will find a lot of British people hanging around. The venue organizes Karaoke evenings, comedy evenings and quiz nights.

Old City

♣ 14 Şelari St.
☎ +40729 377 774
🌐 www.oldcity-lipscaeni.ro

Shoteria

♣ 17 Şelari St.
☎ +40735 400 504
🌐 shoteria.ro
As the name suggests, the venue is open for shots.

The Tube

♣ 30-34 Lipscaeni St.
☎ +40751 045 047
🌐 www.thetube.ro
Live music, plenty of space.

PUBS & CAFÉS

55 Jazz

♣ 9 Franceză St.
☎ +40731 672 728
🌐 www.55jazz.ro

Argentin

♣ 11-13 Blănari St.
☎ +40213 528 963
A famous fast food and beer place which started out small, but expanded over the years — it can be found across the street from Club A.

Barbero

♣ 38 Lipscaeni St.
☎ +40767 508 080
🌐 www.barbero.ro

Bazaar

♣ 10 Covaci St.
☎ +40721 999 999
🌐 www.thebazaar.ro

Beer O'Clock

♣ 4 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40735 187 012
🌐 www.beeroclock.ro
All the beers you can dream of in one single bar.

Berăria Siegfried

♣ 29 Lipscaeni St.
☎ +40756 014 041
🌐 www.berariasiegfried.ro

Bernschutz Tea House

♣ 6 Ion Nistor St.
☎ +40213 104 788
You can either sit and drink tea or buy it to take home.

Bicicleta

♣ 2 Şelari St.
☎ +40735 616 298
A rendez vous place for creatives, where all kinds of bicycle parts have been used to create a unique design.

Bistro Carusel

♣ 55 Lipscaeni St.
☎ +40728 828 929
🌐 carturesticarusel.ro

Biutiful

♣ 6-8 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40737 297 297
🌐 www.biutiful.ro
Designed like a sophisticated pub, offering both food and drinks, Biutiful is one of the higher-end places in Old Town, in terms of both clientele and prices.

Café Deko

♣ 1 Covaci St.
☎ +40733 562 233
🌐 www.dekocafe.ro

Curtea Berarilor

☛ 9-11 Șelari St.
☎ +40213 137 532
🌐 www.curteaberarilor.com

D'Eight

☛ 2-4 Franceză St.
☎ +40721 333 533
🌐 www.deight.ro

Energiea

☛ 4 Brezoianu St.
☎ +40736 374 432
🌐 www.energiea.ro

Not in the main part of Old Town, but worth the short walk, this self-proclaimed "urban experiment" is a meeting point for the young and creative.

Entourage

☛ 5-7 Eugen Carada St.
☎ +40736 661 016
An urban-cool place with a good selection of food and drinks.

Godot Cafe Theater

☛ 14 Blănari St.
☎ +40736 414 244
🌐 www.godotcafeteatru.ro

Halftime SportPub

☛ 14 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40768 585 148
🌐 www.halftimepub.ro
The place for sports fans. Live matches.

Les Bourgeois

☛ 20 Smârdan St.
☎ +40720 132 994
🌐 www.lesbourgeois.ro

Nomad Skybar

☛ 30 Smârdan St.
☎ +40735 448 080
📱 fb.com/nomadskybar

Oro Toro by Osho

☛ 38-42 Franceză St.
☎ +40744 633 724
🌐 www.orotoro.ro
American cuisine and burgers. This chain of restaurants also includes units in five Bucharest malls.

Oktoberfest

☛ 9-11 Șelari St.
☎ +40724 333 233
🌐 www.oktoberfest-pub.ro
Music, beer and lots of space over several floors. They recently opened a new branch at 3 Franceză St.

Orient Express

☛ 37 Smârdan St.
☎ +40725 927 507
🌐 www.orientexpressbarbistro.ro

Origo

☛ 9 Lipscani St.
☎ +40757 086 689
🌐 www.origocoffee.ro
Located slightly away from the main streets of Old Town, Origo is the new meeting point for coffee lovers.

Sankt Petersburg Pub

☛ 55 Gabroveni St.
☎ +40729 191 855
🌐 www.sanktpetersburgpub.ro

SanThe Fitoceainarie

☛ 104 Lipscani St.
☎ +4021 528 0305
📱 fb.com/SanThe-Fitoceainarie
Fairy-tale decor with a social purpose as the place employs people at risk of social exclusion. Each product is priced RON 8.

Storage Room

☛ 35 Smârdan St.
☎ +40726 093 737
🌐 www.storageroom.ro
Small and unconventional.

St. Patrick

☛ 23-25 Smârdan St.
☎ +40755 110 008
🌐 www.stpatrick.ro
Irish pub and restaurant.

The Bankers

☛ 15 Șelari St.
☎ +40733 054 488
🌐 www.thebankers.ro

The Barrel

☛ 27 Smârdan St.
☎ +40726 412 646
🌐 www.thebarrel.ro

The Coffee Shop

☛ 5 Băniei St.
☎ +40756 077 399
🌐 www.caffea.ro
This location of The Coffee Shop chain is next to the Sf. Gheorghe market. A varied range of coffees is available and the staff can give advice on brewing techniques.

The Drunken Lords

☛ 3-5 Nicolae Șelari Entr.
☎ +40736 238 815
🌐 www.thedrunkenlords.ro

The Elbow Room

☛ 82A Lipscani St.
☎ +40752 550 986
🌐 www.elbowroom.ro

The Embassy — Hanul cu Tei

☛ 63-65 Lipscani St.
☎ +40733 500 303
🌐 www.embassy-hanulcutei.ro

The Vintage Pub

☛ 43 Smârdan St.
☎ +40743 797 173
🌐 www.thevintagepub.ro

Tucano Coffee

☛ 79 Lipscani St.
☎ +40763 032 930
🌐 www.tucanocoffee.ro
Various coffee specialties, deserts and food.

Valea Regilor

☛ 16-20 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40213 112 969
Valea Regilor is one of the best-known places for hookah pipes, and serves a wide range of teas.

Van Gogh

☛ 9 Smârdan St.
☎ +40311 076 371
🌐 www.vangogh.ro
This is a favorite spot, but mainly

for those who smoke; close to the center of Old Town but on a quiet street, Van Gogh includes a coffee shop, cafe, wine bar and meeting/training space for hire on the top floor.

WINE SHOPS & BARS

Abel's Wine Bar

☛ 10 Nicolae Tonitza St.

☎ +40371 033 643

☞ www.abelswinebar.ro

New wine shop on one of Old Town's less crowded streets.

Dyonisos

☛ 19 Șepcari St.

☎ +40723 655 156

☞ dionisos.bar

This shop used to be ran by Beros & Van Schaik, but was acquired and re-branded in the fall of 2014.

Bruno

☛ 3 Covaci St.

☎ +40757 557 291

☞ www.brunowine.ro

Nice little wine bar, with a cozy atmosphere and friendly staff.

Corks Cozy Bar

☛ 1 Băcani St.

☎ +4021 3112 265

☞ www.corks.ro/en

New wine bar with a large selection of Romanian and international wines, as well as snacks and meals.

Wine & Company

☛ 28 Lipscani St.

☎ +40212 502 072

☛ 18 Smârdan St.

☎ +40213 104 140

☞ www.wineandcompany.ro

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS

Art Souvenirs

☛ 52 Lipscani St.

☎ +40724 550 780

☞ www.artsouvenirs.ro

Hircus

☛ 43 Lipscani St.

☞ fb.com/hircus.ro

Gift shop retailing a variety of cashmere, silk and wool scarves and clothing, diaries and various meditation-practice items.

Souvenir Shop

☛ 13 Smârdan St.

☎ +40213 103 225

☞ www.souvenir-shop.com.ro

This shop can be found near Hotel Rembrandt.

The Souvenir Shop

☛ 24 Franceză St.

☎ +40724 089 737

☞ www.multesimarunte.ro

THEATERS

De pe Lipscani Theater

☛ 53 Lipscani St.

☎ +40734 000 236

☞ www.teatruldepeipscani.ro

Independent theater company with a varied repertoire.

Passe Partout Theater Company

☛ 53 Lipscani St. (Rapsodia Hall)

☎ +40213 158 980

☞ www.passe-partoutdp.ro

The best choice if you do not understand Romanian. The theater features pantomime shows.

HOTELS

Europa Royale (4*)

☛ 60 Franceză St.

☎ +40213 191 798

☞ www.groupeuropa.com

On the edge of Old Town.

Hotel Cismigiu (4*)

☛ 38 Regina Elisabeta Blvd.

☎ +40314 030 500

☞ www.hotelcismigiu.ro

Very close to Old Town.

Intercontinental Hotel (5*)

☛ 4 Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd.

☎ +40213 102 020

Just a few steps away from Old Town. It has a nice view over Bucharest's city center.

Little Bucharest Hostel

☛ 15 Smârdan St., 2nd Fl.

☎ +40786 055 287

☞ www.littlebucharest.ro

This is part of the Pura Vida Hostel chain. It is an artist's vintage house in the middle of Old Town, with a nice view of the area.

Pura Vida Sky Bar & Hostel

☛ 7 Smârdan St.

☎ +40786 329 133

☞ sky.puravidahostels.ro

Sky-bar and hostel part of the Pura Vida independent local hostels network, opened in 2015.

Rembrandt Hotel (3*)

☛ 11 Smârdan St.

☎ +40213 139 315

☞ www.rembrandt.ro

'Z' Executive Boutique Hotel (4*)

☛ 4 Ion Nistor St.

☎ +40731 699 971

☞ www.zhotels.ro

This hotel is located on a small street at the edge of Old Town, and close to Universitate Square. It has a good view over the center.

SHOPPING

Adidas Outlet

☛ 76 Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 104 075

Bizon Shoe Shop

☛ 41 Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 155 410

Cărturești Carusel

☛ 55 Lipscani St.

☎ +4021 317 3459

☞ carturesticarusel.ro

Hip book & music store opened in February 2015 in an revamped iconic building in Old Town. Good selection of English-language titles.

Carrefour Express

☛ 54 Franceză St.

One of the few supermarkets in Old Town, opened next to Red Angus Steakhouse.

Cocor

☛ 29-33 I.C. Brătianu Blvd.

☎ +40213 131 403

☞ www.cocor.ro

Just across the street from Old Town. You can't miss it due to the large advertising façade. It accommodates some Romanian designers' shops, a Subway restaurant and a Billa supermarket.

H&M

☛ 30-34 Lipscani St.

☎ +40314 052 450

☞ www.hm.com/ro

This is the flagship store for H&M in Bucharest. It covers three floors and includes an H&M home department.

Lashez

☛ 26 Smârdan St.

☛ 57 Lipscani St.

Clothing shops.

Marelbo

☛ 73 Lipscani St.

Leather shoes at low prices.

Ollie Gang Shop

☛ 1 Blănari St.

☎ +40726 543 128

☞ www.olliegangshop.ro

Urban lifestyle boutique.

Unirea Shopping Center

☛ 1 Unirii Square

☎ +40213 030 208

☞ www.unireashop.ro

Bucharest's most central mall; many fashion stores (Zara, H&M, New Yorker, Bershka), jewelry shops, restaurants and fast food outlets, plus a play center for kids, billiards and bowling (on the top floor).

Victoria Store

☛ 17 Calea Victoriei

If you want to experience the feeling of shopping in the old Bucharest of the Communist Era, then you might find a visit here interesting.

Yves Rocher

☛ 22 Smârdan St.

☎ +40213 192 944

☞ yves-rocher.com/ro

BANKS**Banca Transilvania**

☛ 102 Lipscani St.

☎ +40214 072 360

☞ www.bancatransilvania.ro

BCR

☛ 14-16 Doamnei St.

☎ +40213 149 940

☞ www.bcr.ro

BRD

☛ 14 Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 178011

☞ www.brd.ro

CEC Bank

☛ 18-22 Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 195 540

☞ www.cec.ro

Garanti Bank

☛ 43 Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 145 008

☞ www.garantibank.ro

Piraeus Bank

☛ 12C Calea Victoriei

☎ +40213 117 069

☞ www.piraeusbank.ro

Raiffeisen Bank

☛ 90A Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 701 000

☞ www.raiffeisen.ro

PHARMACIES & COSMETIC SHOPS**Centrofarm**

☛ 24 Lipscani St.

☎ +40314 329 591

☞ www.centrofarm.ro

D&M

☛ 60 Franceză St.

☎ +40374 293 234

☞ www.dm-drogeriemarkt.ro

Plafar

☛ 24 Lipscani St.

☎ +40730 110 132

☞ www.plafar.net

This pharmacy sells natural products, homeopathic remedies and traditional medicines.

Sensiblu

☛ 12 A Calea Victoriei

☎ +40213 153 160

☞ www.sensiblu.com

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT**Curtea Veche Palace**

☛ 21-23 Franceză St.

Gabroveni Inn

☛ 84-90 Lipscani St.

Historic building, recently renovated. It hosts cultural events and one of the headquarters of Arcub, the cultural center of the Bucharest City Hall.

The Central Bank

☛ 25 Lipscani St.

☎ +40213 130 410

☞ www.bnro.ro

National History Museum

☛ 12 Calea Victoriei

☎ +40213 158 207

☞ www.mnir.ro

Stavropoleos Monastery

☛ 4 Stavropoleos St.

☎ +40213 134 747

☞ www.stavropoleos.ro



A walk downtown Bucharest

By Bogdan Popa

Big, noisy, chaotic... well, it's a capital city after all. But Bucharest — some two hundred years ago nicknamed “the City of Joy” — has a lot of things to offer which can only be discovered on foot.

Start at **Piața Victoriei** ❶ (Victory Square). Kiseleff Park (named after the Russian general who oversaw the beginnings of modern Romania), which adjoins the square, is very green and child-friendly. Three museums are located there (Peasant, Natural History, Geology). Cross the square carefully and start walking on newly refurbished **Calea Victoriei** (Victory Street). It is one of Bucharest's main streets — take a look at Cantacuzino Palace (the George Enescu Museum) to catch a glimpse of its former glory. Keep walking, past more glorious residences (the Kotzebue and Vernescu palaces, for instance) — and you will reach the Romanian Academy building. An option is now to turn left on **Dacia Boulevard** and, as you reach **Piața Romană** ❷ (Roman Square), to explore the area named **Grădina Icoanei** ❸, with its elegant villas, twin parks and quirky cafes.

Yet, from the intersection with Dacia Boulevard you can also go straight ahead on Calea Victoriei. The Museum of Art Collections — recently re-opened after a long refurbishment — might be an interesting choice. As the street nears the National Museum of Art (the former Royal Palace), notice the luxury shops which are scattered along the street.

You may want to spend some time in this area. The Romanian Athenaeum was built as a conference hall in 1888, but it now hosts the Romanian Philharmonic Orchestra. Sometimes, if the musicians are not rehearsing, you can visit the main auditorium and the beautiful marble main hall. The statue of national poet Mihai Eminescu (1850-1859) stands in front of this beautiful landmark of the city. The street behind the Athenaeum takes you to the entrance of the University of Bucharest's Central Library. Like most of the buildings in the area, it was built in the now lost gardens of the Romanian painter Theodor Aman's house. Now a museum with free entrance, this hidden jewel is worth a visit. Wondering about the garden? Take a look at the owner's paintings to help you imagine its tranquility.

But tranquility is not the word for **Revolution Square** ❹. In December 1989, heavy machine guns and tanks were heard there for several days. Try to imagine them occupying the very spot where the equestrian statue of the first modern

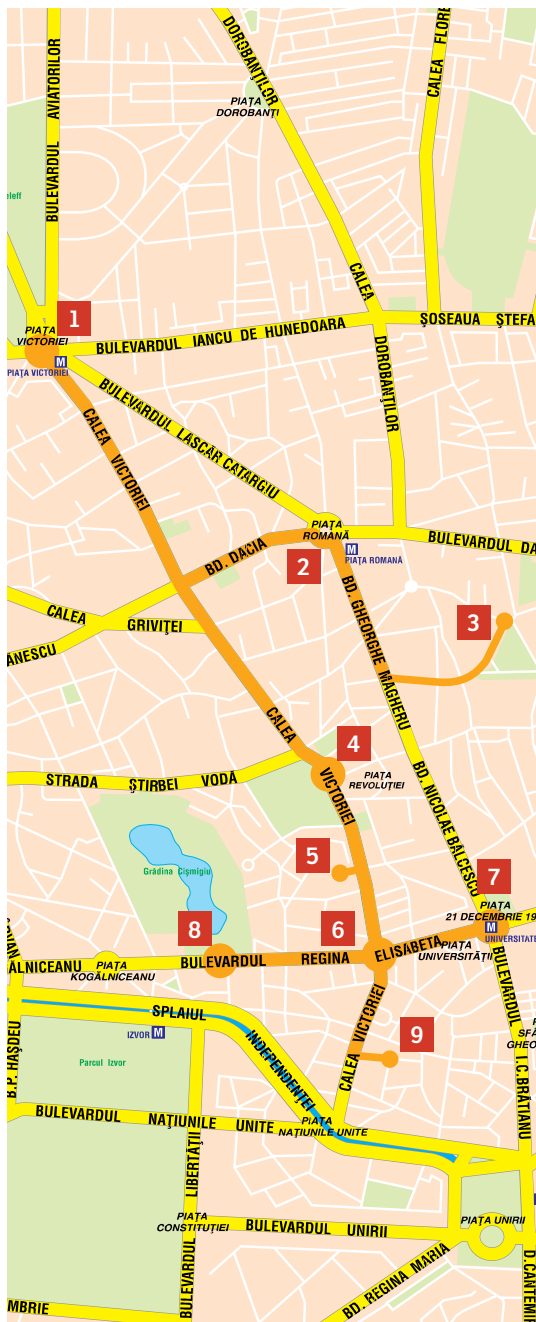
king of Romania, Carol I (1866-1914), stands today. On the cold winter evening of 22nd of December 1989, both the Library and the National Art Museum were set ablaze. It took years to restore their former glory — but the process was certainly worthwhile. The site of the action during the 1989 Revolution was no coincidence — the controversial Memorial of the Revolution stands in front of the building which hosted the Central Committee of Romania's Communist Party. Built in the 1940's as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it serves its original purpose again today. On the left-hand side of the building as you look at it, another controversial structure makes you think about the energies Bucharest has sometimes unleashed. From the ruins of a villa destroyed in 1989, a glass and iron building has sprung up. Like it or not, it is a powerful symbol.

Keep walking and, as Calea Victoriei crosses **Ion Cămpineanu Street**, late 19th century buildings, interwar Bauhaus and contemporary architecture meet again — proof that the style of the buildings was always a matter of personal choice in Bucharest. However, keeping height and distance to the next building within reasonable limits was a more important rule. Do not let yourself be fooled by the fake entrance of the **former National Theatre** ⑨: the hotel that stands here was built in 2005 on the site of the former theatre, critically damaged in an air raid in April 1944.

As you pass the Odeon Theatre, with the monument of Kemal Atatürk in front of it, you come again to a crossroads. The early 1900's building of the **Cercul Militar Național** ⑥ will certainly catch your attention.

Turn to the left and the **University of Bucharest** (established in 1864) will be on your left side. In front of it, statues of the founders of the modern educational system may be seen — in the middle, however, is Mihai Viteazul (1558-1601), the prince of Wallachia who inspired the 19th century young, Western-minded and energetic elite of Romania to build up the nation of today. The **University Square** ⑦ might not be very impressive — but millions of tears of joy and sadness were shed on that roundabout during the 1989 Revolution...

At the crossroad between Calea Victoriei and **Queen Elisabeta Boulevard** ⑧, turn to the right and you will reach Cismigiu Park. In front of it you can see the Bucharest City Hall (in the so-called Romanian 'eclectic' style) and the State Archive. Or, walk straight ahead, and Calea Victoriei will take you into the **Old Town of Bucharest** — also known as Lipscani after its main street. Take a minute to look at the National Museum of History (the former Central Post Office of Romania) and the buildings around it. Old Town was an area of merchants and craftsmen, then of banks and finance. Today it is the pedestrian area of the city, dominated by coffee shops, bars and restaurants. Time to chill and to reflect on a city which is truly one of a kind. End your journey by admiring the old **Stavropoleos Convent** ⑨, one of the most beautiful places in Bucharest.





Getting around, in and out of Bucharest

Public transport

The local public transport company called RATB (Regia Autonomă de Transport București) runs street-level transportation in the Romanian capital — buses, trolleybuses and trams — and is a great way of getting around. Day buses run from 5 AM to 11 PM, when some night buses take over. Tickets must be purchased beforehand and validated upon boarding. The system is a bit complicated and it requires getting used to, even for Romanians.

The ticketing system uses plastic cards that can be charged with any amount of money, resulting in the right to a certain number of journeys. One trip costs RON 1.3 on Bucharest's regular public transport, and RON 3.5 for Express lines, such as the one connecting Bucharest Otopeni airport with downtown. The plastic cards can be recharged either with a subscription if you travel frequently, or with various amounts of money if you take a bus trip once in a while. The same cards work on trams, buses and trolleys. The card must be validated after boarding the bus using the orange devices onboard, by keeping the card in front of the orange machine for a few seconds, until it beeps. Any transfer to another means of transport needs further validation.

The express bus system serves destinations outside the city center. Two or 10-journey tickets, as well as monthly passes, are available for these buses. For bus schedules and routes, visit www.ratb.ro — English section available. Use Google Maps, which now offers information about public transport in Bucharest, as well.

Night buses

Night transportation in Bucharest starts at 11 PM and buses arrive every 40 minutes from 11 PM to 1 AM and 3 AM to 4.30 AM, and every two hours between 1 AM and 3 AM. The price of a trip is the same as during the day: RON 1.3, and all subscriptions for day buses work for night buses as well. All the night buses — 25 such lines — have the letter N in front of their number (N101, N102 and so on).

BUS, TRAM & TROLLEY-BUS FARES

→ **One trip:** RON 1.3

→ **For 1 urban line:** RON 30/month

- For **2 urban lines**: RON 35/month
- For **all urban lines**: RON 50/month
- For all urban lines, **valid 1 day**: RON 8
- For all urban lines, **valid 7 days**: RON 17
- For all urban lines, **valid 15 days**: RON 25

Special tourist line



Red double-deckers carry tourists along the Bucharest City Tour route. The buses serving this line run several times a day between 10:00 and 22:00 on the circuit *Piața Presei Libere*, Village Museum - Muzeul Satului, Arcul de Triumf, Piața Victoriei, Calea Victoriei, People's Palace - *Palatul Parlamentului*, Piața Unirii, Universitate, Piața Romană, Piața Victoriei, Piața Charles de Gaulle, Șoseaua Kiseleff and back to *Piața Presei Libere* (*Piața* means Square.) The route is 15.4 km long and should take 50 minutes, with buses running every 15 minutes. The price of a ticket is RON 25 (the equivalent of € 5.8) for adults and RON 10 (some € 2.2) for children up aged between 7 and 14. The transport card can be bought on the bus and is valid for 24 h.

Subway

Metrorex manages the subway network and the system operates between 05:00 and 23:30 daily. There are five lines: M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5, and the most frequently used is the north-south M2. Some of the most crowded metro stations — especially in the morning and afternoon rush-hours — are Unirii, Universitate and Victoriei, which are also good meeting places.

SUBWAY FARES

- For **2 trips**: RON 5
 - For **10 trips**: RON 20
 - For **unlimited trips**: RON 8/day
 - For unlimited trips: RON 25/week
 - For unlimited trips: RON 70/month
- Note: All these are paper cards.*

You can buy paper cards from the operator at the metro station or from one of the 35 automatic vending machines installed across Bucharest metro stations. It is not possible to use the RATB card on the metro system anymore — the collaboration between the two independent transport companies was suspended in the spring of 2014. In 2015, the Bucharest subway operator announced plans to upgrade its access system and introduce contactless cards.

Road network & traffic in Bucharest

The main (and most congested!) boulevards are Calea Victoriei, Ștefan cel Mare, Buzești, Unirii Blvd., and Șos. Mihai Bravu. The traffic in Bucharest has however improved since the opening of the 1.9 km Basarab flyover, and more recently, with the Mihai Bravu flyover.

Driving in Bucharest is not the easiest task, although we have heard of more hectic driving in other countries. Traffic is a problem here. Some of the streets are also bad, so expect some potholes.

The rush hours — mornings and the end of the work day — are sometimes impossible, while some routes are clogged with traffic all day — Splaiul Independenței, Calea Victoriei, Piața Unirii, Bălcescu Blvd. Magheru Blvd., Piața Romană and Piața Victoriei. Sometimes drivers do not respect traffic lights, nor do they see anything wrong with driving off-road or parking on the pavement! The biggest challenge, apart from getting used to these in the first place,



will be to stop yourself from doing the same after a while!

Avoid going from south to north during rush hours. Expect to hear a lot of honking while driving, especially during traffic jams. To check the state of traffic in Bucharest, visit Google maps and use its Traffic feature for Bucharest. It also shows traffic on the main highways in Romania.

Taxis

It is harder and harder to find a cab in Bucharest by calling the individual cab companies, so try using one of the many apps to order cabs — some of them are also in English, and all will detect your location with varying degrees of accuracy. This will help non-Romanian speakers order a cab with ease, but will require setting up an account. Once that happens, it's pretty easy to order a cab, and you'll be able to find one pretty fast, in our experience. Most cab drivers use only the app nowadays for picking up orders. We'd recommend Clever Taxi and Star Taxi. Search them in your app store.

Starting 2015 an alternative to taxis is car-sharing service Uber. Uber's starting rates are similar to those of most taxi companies in Bucharest but riders don't have to pay in cash or tip the driver as the app takes the money directly from the user's credit card.

Road tax

If you are moving to Romania with your car or are even just driving through, you have to pay the Romanian road tax, which is called *Rovinietă*. The authorities will be able to check electronically whether you have bought a *Rovinietă* or not, as cameras have been installed at city exits.

The tax can be paid for a period of seven days (€3), thirty days (€7) and one year (€28), and can be paid in RON at current exchange rates. Most gas stations sell the *Rovinietă* — try Petrom and Rompetrol.

Parking

Parking is one of the biggest issues in Bucharest. Most office buildings and shopping centers have adequately sized parking lots, but the municipality itself does not offer many options. There are several public car parks however — check the listings section of this guide. To park your car near your home, the municipality offers the option of renting parking places outside your building. After you have bought your parking place from the sector city hall, you can mark it with your car registration number.

Avoid using someone else's paid spot as they may damage your car if you do so a couple of times in a row. People tend to get very angry about this in Bucharest. If someone

takes your parking place, you can use the Romanian method: honk your horn until they come and move their car. It is surprisingly effective. If they do not come, or it happens more than once, lift up their windshield wipers: this will let them know they are in the wrong spot!

Car towing

Cars are parked almost everywhere, including on pavements, at pedestrian crossings, at bus stops, on corners and where “No Parking” signs are clearly posted! There used to be a lot of confusion about car towing in recent years, as it was enforced differently across Bucharest. Car towing was suspended in mid-2015 pending unified rules.

Accidents

The Romanian law requires the driver of any vehicle involved in an accident to stop immediately at the scene of the crash, and find out if anyone is hurt. If someone is injured, call 112 right away and try to provide the injured person all reasonable assistance, including transportation to a doctor or hospital. You must also report to a police station. For minor accidents, there is an option available which does not involve the police, which is called “constatare amiabilă” or “friendly resolution.” Your insurance company will issue a form that you can use. If the accident resulted in only material damages, you must go to a Collision Damage Bureau to obtain repair permits, within 24 hours of the crash.

Getting out of Bucharest

Most Romanians love to get out of Bucharest on weekends, either to the seaside or to the mountains, depending on the season. The most popular Bucharest exits are: the Sun Highway in the east to go to the coast, the Bucharest–Ploiești Highway to go north, and the DN1, also to the north, via Otopeni, which goes to Ploiești and the mountain resorts in the Prahovei Valley. Another exit to the west on AI Highway towards Pitești is the main road to western Romania, and an alternative route for those heading to Transylvania.

The Romanian railway company CFR (Căile Ferate Române) provides a reliable and often scenic means of transport to destinations outside Bucharest. Information in English: cfrcalatori.ro, or m.cfrcalatori.ro. Alternatively, several private railway operators run routes throughout the country.

For CFR, you can buy tickets in advance for all trains at Bucharest's main railway station (Gara de Nord). Visitors departing within 24 hours, however, must buy their tickets at the relevant train station, where queues can be long.

Airport essentials

Taxis

The taxi fare from downtown Bucharest to the airport (or the other way around) should be around RON 50 (less than €10), depending on traffic. Make sure to take a cab with a fare below RON 2 per km, which you will see written on its door. They might try to convince you to pay them for their trip back to the city, but you should not do this.

When arriving in Romania, use the official cab ordering device, which is multilingual and issues a ticket detailing the cab company, cab number and estimated time of arrival. Then wait for your cab in the area marked with two yellow flags outside the terminal. Alternatively, you can also use the Black Cab service — details in the Transport listings in this book.

Airport bus

Express Bus 783 departs round the clock from the International Departures Hall at the airport, and the journey to downtown Bucharest — Unirii Square — takes approximately 40 minutes, or even more, depending on



traffic. It departs Monday through Friday every 15 minutes and every 20 minutes during the weekend between 6.00 and 20:00. At night, it runs every 45 minutes.

The fare is RON 7 for a magnetic card valid for two trips and a monthly ticket costs RON 80. The cards can be purchased at the ticket counter in the Domestic Flights Hall. Cards must be validated upon boarding the bus, using the machines. Express Bus 780 goes to the main train station (Gara de Nord). The fee for one trip is about RON 3.5 and RON 27 for ten trips.

CITY COMPASS

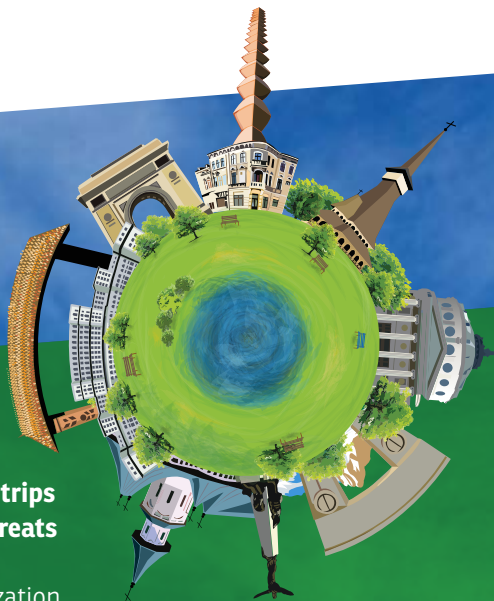
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Practical Listings Directory

The full edition includes:

In this chapter, you will find:

- **Eating & Drinking**, including:
 - Restaurants — by cuisine
 - Cafés & tea houses
 - Pubs & bars
- Hotels & Travel
- Legal & Business, including:
 - State offices & administrations
 - Local authorities
 - Tax & accounting
- Education & Language Lessons
- Public Transport, car rental & taxis
- Shopping, including:
 - Traditional markets
 - All types of stores
- Health Care, including hospitals, dentists & pharmacies
- Fun & Entertainment
- House & Home
- Maternity & Children
- Personal care & Development
- Culture & Arts
- Sports

Eating & Drinking

Restaurants

For Old Town, check page 72, for Pipera/Băneasa, go to page 79.

AMERICAN & STEAK HOUSES

Red Angus Steakhouse

♣ 56 Franceză St.
☎ +40756 600 000
🌐 www.redangus.ro
📘 fb.com/RedAngusSteakhouse
Red Angus Steakhouse is the melting pot of the everlasting American symbols — the love for motorcycles, the fun of playing a pinball and the best blues in town, interpreted by Brent Melancon. Mix all these with tender, juicy steaks and burgers and you get the true Red Angus Steakhouse experience!

Argentine

♣ 8 Șoseaua Nordului, Herăstrău
☎ +40720 100 400
♣ Băneasa Shopping City
☎ +40721 100 400
🌐 www.restaurant-argentine.ro
They serve steaks and sushi, a common combination in South America.

Barbizon Steak House

♣ 10 Montreal Square (Pullman Hotel) ☎ +40212 021 635
✉ barbizon@pullman.ro

Buffalo Baz

♣ 7 Calea Floreasca
☎ +40736 368 335
📘 fb.com/buffalobaz

Burger Bar

♣ 182 Calea Dorobanți
♣ Nicolae Șelari Entrance, Old Town
☎ +40213 130 376
🌐 www.burger-bar.ro

Champions – American Sports Bar and Restaurant

♣ 90 Calea 13 Septembrie (JW Marriott Grand Hotel Bucharest)
☎ +40214 031 917
📘 fb.com/champions.bucharest

Hard Rock Café

♣ 32 Kiseleff St. (inside Herăstrău Park) ☎ +40212 066 261
🌐 hardrock.com/cafes/Bucharest
The famous restaurant now also serves vegetarian dishes.

JW Steakhouse

♣ 90 Calea 13 Septembrie (inside JW Marriott Bucharest hotel)
☎ +40214 031 903
🌐 www.jwsteakhouse.ro

Osho

♣ 19-21 Primăverii Blvd.
☎ +40215 683 031
🌐 www.osho-restaurant.ro

Prime Steaks & Seafood

♣ 63-81 Calea Victoriei, B-4 (within Radisson Blu hotel)
☎ +40213 119 000
🌐 www.world-of-tastes.ro

The Beef Club

♣ 30A Ernil Pangratti St.
☎ +40788 904 244
🌐 www.thebeefclub.ro

Vacamuuu

♣ 111 Calea Floreasca
☎ +40731 351 135
🌐 www.vacamuuu.com

White Horse

♣ 4A Călinescu George St.
☎ +40212 312 795
🌐 www.whitehorse.ro

BRITISH

Peter's Kitchen Bistro

♣ 6 Speranței St.
☎ +4021 312 0242

🌐 www.peterskitchen.ro
Focused on British cuisine but also serves other international dishes.

BULGARIAN

Taverna La Ceflica

♣ 1 Șos. Ștefan Cel Mare
☎ +40212 339 798
🌐 restaurantbulgaresc.ro

CHINESE

5 Elemente

♣ 15 Icoanei St.
☎ +40766 331 511
🌐 www.cincielemente.ro

Nan Jing

♣ 2-4 Gheorghe Manu St.
☎ +40213 181 285
🌐 www.restaurantnanjing.ro/en

Orașul Interzis

♣ 3 Silvestru St.
☎ +40314 254 747
🌐 www.orasul-interzis.ro

Qian Bao

♣ 2 Intrarea Baba Novac
☎ +4 0722 622 865
🌐 www.qianbao.ro

Wu Xing

♣ 6E Dimitrie Pompeiu Blvd.
☎ +40721 221 519
🌐 www.wuxing.ro

FAST FOOD

Most of these fast food outlets have several locations throughout the city: below we list one main location for each. Check their websites for more locations.

Dristor Kebab

♣ 1 Camil Ressu St.
☎ +40213 468 100
🌐 www.dristorkebab.com

KFC☎ +40212 039 030 ☎ www.kfc.ro**McDonald's**☎ +40212 026 800
☎ www.mcdonalds.ro**Nordsee**📍 AFI Palace Cotroceni
☎ +40734 272 212
☎ international.nordsee.com/ro**Pizza Hut**📍 5-7 Calea Dorobanți
☎ +40740 121 901
☎ www.pizzahut.ro**Pizza Hut Delivery**☎ +40212 101 010
☎ www.pizzahutdelivery.ro**Subway**📍 1 Nicolae Titulescu Blvd.
☎ www.subwayro.com**Surf'n'Fries**📍 17 Halelor St.
☎ +40371 049 490
☎ surfnfries.com/ro**FRENCH****Ici et Là**📍 43 Mendeleev St. (Romană Square), 1st District
☎ +40731 453 608
☎ www.icietla.ro**La Cantine de Nicolai**📍 15-17 Povernei St.
☎ +40725 210 608
☎ www.lacantinedenicolai.ro**Le Fin Palais Royal**📍 13 Amzei Square
☎ +40213 136 464
☎ www.lefinpalaisroyal.ro**FUSION & FINE DINING****Prime Steaks & Seafood**📍 63-81 Calea Victoriei St., inside Radisson Blu Hotel)
☎ +40213 119 000
☎ www.tasteofblu.ro☎ info.bucharest@radissonblu.com

Savor a steak prepared to perfection, selected from worldwide awarded producers in a sophisticated atmosphere, accompanied by the most exquisite wine from our walk-in cellar. Opening hours: Lunch — Monday to Friday 12:30–15:00. Dinner — Monday to Saturday 18:00–23:30. Sunday — Closed.

Joseph by Joseph Hadad📍 8 Dr. Ion Cantacuzino St.
☎ +40753 999 333
☎ www.josephrestaurant.ro
Among the best fine dining options in the city, as well as one of the most expensive.**Madame Pogany**📍 40-44 Banu Antonache St.
☎ +40735 091 532
📱 fb.com/madamepogany**TAPAO**📍 30 Ottețului St.
☎ +40747 083 083 ☎ www.tapao.ro**The Artist**📍 13 Nicolae Tonitza St.
☎ +40728 318 871
☎ www.theartist.ro
A Dutch chef brings to Bucharest the experience of a modern, fusion restaurant.**Veranda Casa Frumoasa**📍 5 Clopotarii Vechi St.
☎ +40733 735 932
☎ verandacasafrumoasa.ro
Fine dining experience in an elegant setting.**GERMAN****Casa Warsteiner**📍 132 Uverturii St.
☎ +40732 919 524
📱 fb.com/casawarsteiner.ro**Die Deutsche Kneipe**📍 9 Stockholm St.
☎ +40722 284 560
☎ www.diedeutschekneipe.ro**GREEK****Amvrosia**📍 11 Drumul Bisericii St.
☎ +40722 227 465
☎ amvrosia-restaurant-grecesc.ro**La Zavat**📍 16 Popa Nan St.
☎ +40766 526 791
☎ www.taverna-lazavat.ro**LNKO Souvlaki & Grill**📍 3-5 Pierre de Coubertin Blvd., inside Mega Mall
☎ fb.com/LNKO-Souvlaki-Grill
New Greek restaurant opened in the fall of 2015.**Meze Taverna**📍 6 Nicolae Tonitza St.
☎ +40215 395 353
☎ www.mezetaverna.ro**INDIAN****Haveli**📍 3 Episcopul Radu St.
☎ +40212 110 390
☎ www.haveli.ro**Karishma**📍 36 Iancu Căpitanu St.
☎ +40212 525 157
☎ www.karishma.ro**Kumar's Agra Palace**📍 6 Mântuleasa St.
☎ +40764 523 202
☎ www.agrapalace.ro**Taj**📍 127-131 Calea 13 Septembrie
☎ +40748 133 300
☎ www.tajrestaurant.ro**INTERNATIONAL CUISINE****The Harbour**📍 10-22 Piața Amzei
☎ +40724 388 686
☎ +40213 197 257
☎ www.harbour.ro

This is The Harbour that makes you feel at home. This is The Harbour, the shore of all travelers. And there are a lot of good news nowadays: We give you The New Harbour! A new international menu more delicious than ever, new design, great and friendly atmosphere. Definitely worth seeing!

18 Lounge

✦ 2-5 Presei Libere Square, City Gate South Tower, 18th fl.
☎ +40733 501 401
🌐 www.18lounge.ro
Great view over Bucharest from this top-floor restaurant.

Beca's Kitchen

✦ 80 Mihai Eminescu St.
☎ +40722 308 960
🌐 www.becaskitchen.ro

Casa di David

✦ 7-9 Șoseaua Nordului
☎ +40212 324 715
🌐 www.casadidavid.ro

Chefs Experience

✦ 55 Calea Floreasca
☎ +40723 856 916
🌐 www.chefsexperience.ro

Chez Marie

✦ 48 Dionisie Lupu St.
☎ +40311 072 033
🌐 www.chezmarie.ro

Chico Chillout

✦ 10 Tonitza St.
☎ +40733 324 426
🌐 www.chicochillout.ro

Citronelle

✦ 1 Poligrafiei St. (inside Crowne Plaza hotel)
☎ +40212 240 034
✉ citronelle@crowneplaza.ro

Corso Brasserie

✦ 4 Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd. (inside Intercontinental Hotel)
☎ +40213 102 020

Gargantua

✦ 1 Șerban Petrescu St.
☎ +40726 555 679
🌐 www.restaurantgargantua.ro
Three restaurants in Bucharest.

Goccia

✦ 23 George Enescu St.
☎ +40785 238 910
🌐 fb.com/goccia.restaurant

Iconic Food Wine & Design

✦ 7 Aleea Alexandru
☎ +4720 333 541
🌐 www.iconic-fwd.ro

La Samuelle

✦ 3-5 Charles de Gaulle Square
☎ +40720 492 207
🌐 www.la-samuelle.ro
This venue has an international menu and proposes the 'gourmet travelling' concept.

La Veranda

✦ 1 Poligrafiei St. (inside Crowne Plaza Hotel)
☎ +40212 240 034
🌐 www.crowneplaza.ro

Naan Food & Drink Studio

✦ 26 C.A. Rosetti St.
☎ +40721 662 114
🌐 www.naan.ro

Salon Golescu

✦ 17 Nicolae Golescu St.
☎ +40314 360 338
🌐 www.salongolescu.ro

Simbio

✦ 26 Negustori St.
☎ +4021 310 2700
🌐 www.fb.com/SimbioKitchenBar

Stradale

✦ 1A Șos. București Ploiești (inside Bucharest Business Park office building) ☎ +40744 777 043
🌐 www.flavours.ro/stradale

The Garden

✦ 90 Calea 13 Septembrie (JW Marriott Grand Hotel Bucharest)
☎ +40214 031 919

🌐 fb.com/JWMarriottGarden

Victoriei 18

✦ 16 - 20 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40721 362 483
🌐 fb.com/Victoriei18
Restaurant doubling as showcase for Romanian design products.

Vivolis Flavors

✦ 155 Șos. București-Ploiești
☎ +40785 491 753
🌐 flavors.vivolis.ro
An international menu, reflecting the owners' passion for travel.

Zebra Caffè & Ristorante

✦ 8 Octavian Goga St.
☎ +40733 936 917
🌐 www.zebra-caffe.ro
A streamlined, international menu. The venue also organizes catered events and offers private rooms.

ITALIAN

Caffè Città

✦ 63-81 Calea Victoriei St., (inside Radisson Blu Hotel)
☎ +40213 119 000
✉ info.bucharest@radissonblu.com
🌐 www.tasteofblu.ro
Simple, yet sophisticated Italian dishes, fresh and delicious ingredients to accompany a memorable first date or a successful business meeting. Opening hours: Daily from 11:30 to 23:30.

Grano Italian Fine Food

✦ 40 Puțul lui Zamfir St.
☎ +40212 312 386
🌐 www.grano.ro
One of the author's favorite Italian restaurants in town, run by Giulio Da Sacco. It also hosts a small delicatessen shop.

Roberto's

✦ 1-3 Episcopiei St. (inside Athénée Palace Hilton Hotel)
☎ +40731 305 777
🌐 www.robortos.ro

Choose to experience "pura cucina italiana" in this elegant restaurant, an ideal venue for lunch or dinner. Savor delicious antipasti and a wide range of Italian wines, while taking in the views from the restaurant's charming terrace opened all summer long.

Bocca Lupo

📍 1 Joseph Lister St.
☎ +40314 050 050
🌐 www.boccalupo.ro

Cucina

📍 90 Calea 13 Septembrie (JW Marriott Grand Hotel Bucharest)
☎ +40724 000 946
📘 fb.com/JWMarriottCucina

Cucina Borghese

📍 33 Jean Louis Calderon St.
☎ +4021 313 1119
🌐 www.cucinaborghese.com

Cucina di Eleni

📍 35 Stefan Mihăileanu St.
☎ +40733 953 456
🌐 www.cucinadieleni.ro

Gallo Nero

📍 239 Calea Dorobanți
☎ +40728 246 925 🌐 gallonero.ro

La Fattoria

📍 7-9 Șos. Nordului, Herăstrău Park
☎ +40311 046 338
🌐 www.lafattoria.ro

Modigliani

📍 4 Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd. (inside Intercontinental hotel)
☎ +40213 102 020
🌐 www.restaurantmodigliani.com

Osteria Ciao Niki

📍 90 Mihai Eminescu St.
☎ +40734 356 217
🌐 www.osteriaciaoనికి.ro

Osteria Gioia

📍 16 Ion Mihalache Blvd.
☎ +40734 044 642
🌐 www.osteriagioia.ro

Patrizia Ristorante

📍 12 Mihail Moxa St.
☎ +40731 202 027
🌐 www.ristorantepatrizia.ro

Pizzeria Capricciosa Ristorante

📍 2 Ion Ionescu de la Brad Blvd.
☎ +40212 330 635
🌐 www.restaurantcapricciosa.ro
Great for lunch meetings on the way to or from the airport.

Quattro Stagioni

📍 1 Mareșal Prezan Blvd.
☎ +40723 196 380
🌐 www.quattrostagioni.ro

Stadio

📍 11 Ion Câmpineanu St.
☎ +40731 333 311 🌐 stadio.ro

Stradivari's

📍 3 Gh. Șincai Blvd.
☎ +40213 307 005
🌐 www.restaurantstradivari.ro

Zafferano

📍 29 Popa Savu St.
☎ +40212 227 210
🌐 zafferano.ro

JAPANESE

Benihana

📍 5-7 Calea Dorobanților (inside Sheraton hotel) ☎ +40212 015 030
📘 fb.com/BenihanaBucharest

Edo Sushi

📍 122 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40735 111 001
🌐 edo-sushi.ro

Kanpai Bistro

📍 49 George Călinescu St.
☎ +40371 184 961
📘 fb.com/Kanpai49

Yoshi

📍 40-44 Banu Antonache St.
☎ +40314 290 280
🌐 www.restaurantyoshi.ro

Yuki

📍 5 Puțul lui Zamfir St.

☎ +40761 341 667
🌐 www.yukihomedining.ro

Zen Sushi

📍 56 Grigore Alexandrescu St.
☎ +40721 755 455
🌐 www.zensushibucuresti.ro
They have two other restaurants in the city.

LEBANESE

Chez Toni

📍 3 Glodeni St. ☎ +40212 420 204
🌐 www.cheztoni.ro

Coin Vert

📍 75 Sandu Aldea St.
☎ +40213 192 439
🌐 www.elbacha.ro

El Bacha

📍 6 Alba Iulia Square
☎ +40212 691 392 🌐 elbacha.ro

Four Seasons

📍 177 Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40722 216 666
🌐 www.four-seasons.ro

Piccolo Mondo

📍 9 Clucerului St.
☎ +40212 225 755
🌐 www.picolomondo.ro

Zaitoone

📍 2 Nicolae Caramfil St.
☎ +40737 299 900 🌐 zaitoone.ro

MEDITERRANEAN

Sharkia – East Mediterranean Cuisine

📍 63-81 Calea Victoriei St., (inside Radisson Blu Hotel)
☎ +40216 013 600
📘 info.bucharest@rezidorparkinn.com
🌐 www.tasteofblu.ro
Sharkia, our East Mediterranean restaurant invites you to a cozy, warm and friendly atmosphere, where you can enjoy our fresh and delicious cuisine. This restaurant is located in Park

Inn by Radisson Bucharest Hotel & Residence and can be easily accessed by the Radisson Blu guests. Opening hours: Monday to Saturday from 11:30 to 23:00.

Amada

♣ 3 Cristian Radu St.
☎ +40744 496 577
fb.com/amada.taverna

Avalon

♣ 5-7 Calea Dorobanților (inside the Sheraton hotel)
☎ +40212 015 030

Mesogios

♣ 49 Jean Louis Calderon St.
☎ +40727 239 239
www.mesogios.ro
East Mediterranean cuisine.

Octopus

♣ 21-23 I.L. Caragiale St.
☎ +40765 433 305
fb.com/rest.octopus
Contemporary Mediterranean cuisine.

Sole Restaurant

♣ 48 Iancu de Hunedoara Blvd.
☎ +40740 403 333
www.solerestaurant.ro

Yardini

♣ 84A Știrbei Voda St.
☎ +40724 676 106
www.yardini.ro

MEXICAN

Don Taco

♣ 101 Iacob Felix St.
☎ +40213 169 452
www.dontaco.ro

El Torito

♣ 30 Iancu Căpitanu St.
☎ +40212 526 688
www.eltorito.ro

La Tortilla

♣ 90 Dornei St.
☎ +40731 221 121
www.latorrilla.ro

They do home deliveries.

MONGOLIAN

QuanQuan Mongol

♣ 1A Ion Ionescu de la Brad St.
☎ +400212 692 189
www.restaurantmongol.ro

MOLDAVIAN

La Plăcinte

♣ 49 Nicolae Caramfil St.
☎ +40743 110 045
www.laplacinte.ro
Moldavian dishes, mainly pies with all sorts of fillings. They have other restaurants in town.

PASTRY & CONFECTIONERY RESTAURANTS

Crêperie d'Amour

adela@clatitefermecate.ro
www.clatitefermecate.ro
Crêperie d'Amour is a premium crêpe shop addressing the connoisseurs of French cuisine and the lovers of home-made snacks and desserts. The menu includes made-to-order sweet and savory crêpes, prepared on typical crêpières with top quality fresh ingredients. Crêperie d'Amour comes to your event with Bar à Crêpes or its famous LIVE Crêpes.

Agapitos

♣ 4 Corneliu Coposu St.
☎ +4021 326 6095 agapitos.ro
Several other confectionery shops across Bucharest.

Alice

♣ 123-125 Șos. Mihai Bravu
☎ +40744 486 465
www.cofetariaalice.ro
Great cakes, including for special occasions. Usually very popular among buyers, and quite crowded sometimes.

Ana Baking Co.

♣ 134 Calea Dorobanților

☎ +40311 017 405
fb.com/anabakingro

Brot Manufactur

♣ 30 Nicolae Caramfil St.
☎ +0314 258 223
www.brotmanufactur.ro

Biscuit

♣ 3 Popa Savu St.
☎ +40721 754 054
www.biscuit.ro
Pastry and confectionery lab. They make desserts on-demand and sell gluten-free, raw-vegan sweets.

Bread & Spices

♣ 4 Șos. Pipera ☎ +40770 695 416
fb.com/BreadandSpices

Chocolat

♣ 6 Episcopiei St. ☎ +40724 387 865
www.chocolat.com.ro

Cinnabon

♣ Băneasa Shopping City
☎ +40757 037 290 cinnabon.ro
Very good cinnamon rolls and cupcakes. More units in shopping malls — check their website.

French Bakery

♣ 18 Paris St. ☎ +40212 300 059
www.frenchbakery.ro
More locations in Bucharest: check their website.

Le Grenier à Pain

♣ 87 Nicolae Caramfil St.
☎ +40212 331 916
legrenierapain.com.ro

Maison Laduree

♣ 126-130 Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40755 747 325
fb.com/LadureeRomania

Paul

♣ 15-19 Regina Elisabeta Blvd.
fb.com/paul1889.romania
Plus other locations throughout Bucharest.

Rue du Pain

☛ 111-113 Calea Floreasca
☎ +40213 120 060
📧 fb.com/ruedupain.floreasca

RAW & VEGAN**Barca**

☛ 9 Emanoil Porumbaru St.
☎ +40720 928 278
📧 www.restaurantbarca.ro

Fitto Cafe Victoriei

☛ 4-8 Nicolae Titulescu Blvd.
☎ +4021 222 0704 📧 fittocafe.ro
This cafe focuses on fresh and healthy eating and plans its menus accordingly. They serve a Lawyer Breakfast and a Dr. Order one. Catering service available.

La Plantivore

☛ 35 Calea Moșilor
☎ +40733 193 590
📧 fb.com/La-Plantivore
This vegan restaurant does a range of live & raw food and has a smoothie and juice bar.

Ostraw Vegan

☛ 58 Ferdinand Blvd.
☎ +40725 683 426
📧 www.ostrawvegan.com
Raw-vegan sweets.

Rawdia

☛ 50-52 Puțul lui Zamfir St.
☎ +40784 203 251 📧 rawdia.ro
Restaurant, shop and home deliveries.

Satya

☛ 25 Banu Manta Blvd.
☎ +40736 392 587 📧 satya.ro

Soup Up

☛ 14 București Nord Road, Voluntari, inside Pipera Mall
☎ +40742 044 333
📧 fb.com/SoupUp
Soup bar, serving a wide selection, including raw and vegetarian soups. Salads also available.

The Livingroom Café

☛ 3 Hristo Botev St.
☎ +40723 694 937 📧 fb.com/TheLivingroomCafeBucharest
This vegetarian and vegan restaurant does breakfast and brunch and doubles as a sandwich shop.

ROMANIAN**Caru' cu Bere**

☛ 5 Stavropoleos St., Old Town
☎ +40726 282 373
📧 www.carucubere.ro

Casa Doina

☛ 4 Șoseaua Kiseleff
☎ +40212 226 717 📧 casadoina.ro

Hanu' Berarilor

☛ 2 Poenaru Bordea St.
☎ +40213 368 009
📧 www.hanuberarilor.ro

Hanu' lui Manuc

☛ 62-64 Franceză St., Old Town
☎ +40730 188 653
📧 www.hanumanuc.ro
This restaurant is famous in the Bucharest Old Town, and is run by the City Grill Group, the same as Caru cu Bere.

Jariștea

☛ 50-52 Georgescu St.
☎ +40213 353 338 📧 jariștea.ro

La Conu' Iancu

☛ 24 Prof. Dr. Mihail Georgescu St.
☎ +40742 111 852
📧 www.laconuiancu.ro

La Mama

☛ 9 Episcopiei St.
☎ +40213 129 797 📧 lamama.ro

La Mircea Măcelaru'

☛ 15 Maior Alexandru Câmpeanu St.
☎ +40737 521 738
📧 www.lamirceamacelaru.ro
This venue serves traditional Romanian food. A butchery is also available, as is a catering service.

La Nenea Iancu

☛ 55 Romulus St.
☎ +40747 020 603
📧 fb.com/LaNeneaIancu

Nicorești

☛ 13 Toamnei St.
☎ +40212 112 480
📧 www.restaurantnicoresti.ro

Pescăruș

☛ Pescăruș Alley, inside the Herăstrău park ☎ +40731 330 034
📧 www.restaurantpescarus.ro

Zexe Zahana

☛ 80 Icoanei St.
☎ +40732 232 424 📧 www.zexe.ro

SPANISH**Alioli**

☛ 4 Popa Tatu St.
☎ +40213 118 027 📧 www.alioli.ro

El Puerto Iberico

☛ 61-63 Calea Dorobanți
☎ +40735 042 546
📧 www.elpuertoiberico.ro

La Finca by Alioli

☛ 77 Grigore Alexandrescu St.
☎ +40767 150 500
📧 www.alioli.ro

La Rambla

☛ 8 Grigore Alexandrescu St., Victoriei Square
☎ +40213 131 002
📧 www.larambla.ro

Pata Negra

☛ 21 Crișana St.
☎ +40734 349 076
📧 www.patanegra.ro

Sangria

☛ 78 Căderea Bastiliei St.
☎ +40212 112 276 📧 sangria.ro

THAI**Kunnai**

☛ 6-12 Copilului St.
☎ +40722 687 343

☎ +40722 687 454
🌐 www.kunnai.ro

TURKISH

Harem

☎ 7-9 Șos. Nordului
☎ +40756 990 999
🌐 www.haremrestaurant.ro

Les Ottomans

☎ 26 Ianu Căpitanu St.
☎ +40722 600 630
🌐 www.lesottomans.ro

Kafeterya Café

☎ 8 Schitu Măgureanu Blvd.
☎ +40726 222 567
🌐 www.kafeterya.ro
Cafe and restaurant serving several Turkish dishes.

Sultan

☎ 247 Mihai Bravu Blvd.
☎ +40785 551 050
🌐 www.sultanrestaurant.ro

VIETNAMESE

Li-Wu Vietnamese Fast Food

☎ 26 Ștefan cel Mare St.
☎ +40730 201 111 🌐 www.liwu.ro

Toan's – Vietnamese

☎ 12-14 Magheru Blvd.
☎ +40737 053 128
🌐 www.toans.ro
Vietnamese fast food; delivery also available.

CATERING & DELIVERY SERVICES

Many restaurants in Bucharest also provide catering and delivery services — below you can find the listings for a selection of them. If you have a favorite restaurant, ask if they also do home deliveries.

Bucate pe Roate Catering

☎ +40721 282 283
🌐 www.bucateperoate.ro
Catering for events and home food delivery.

Candy Cat

☎ +40216 487 059 🌐 candycat.ro
Pastry and cake deliveries

Coșul de Legume

☎ +40733 686 630
🌐 www.cosuldelegume.ro
Coșul de Legume (which translates as 'The Vegetable Basket') delivers fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as jams and traditional home-preserved fruits and vegetables. Online orders also possible — website in Romanian.

Diet To Go

☎ +40721764752 🌐 diettogo.ro
Home or office delivery of full diet plan meals.

Fabio Pizza

☎ +40372 188 330
🌐 www.fabiopizza.ro
Fabio make some of the best pizzas in town, with interesting recipes, and the choice of ordering a wholewheat base.

Fruitbox

☎ +40736 673 165
🌐 www.fruitbox.ro
Delivers fresh fruit to your office every week based on a long-term contract. The website is in Romanian, but you can call and order the products to be delivered to your door.

Jerry's Pizza

☎ 21 Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd.
☎ +403733 03 030
🌐 www.jerrypizza.ro
Night service available in Bucharest.

Noodles Bar

☎ 2 Camelliei St. ☎ +40726 733 178
🌐 www.noodlesbar.ro

Pomello

☎ +40753 096 000
🌐 www.pomello.ro
Pomello delivers food in bulk, in the pot in which it was cooked.

Salad Revolution

☎ 11 Rabat St. ☎ +40733 725 282
🌐 www.saladrevolution.ro

Satya

☎ 25 Banu Manta St.
☎ +40736 392 587 🌐 satya.ro
This is a vegetarian restaurant that also does home deliveries.

Sector Gurmand

☎ +40733 722 126
🌐 www.sectorgurmand.ro
Food delivery, with daily menus, including a vegetarian one.

Sushi Mania

☎ 79-91 Traian Popovici St.
☎ +40213 278 744
🌐 www.my-sushi.ro

Trenta Pizza

☎ +4021 9645 🌐 trentapizza.ro

Cafés & tea houses

Café Athénée

☎ 1-3 Episcopiei St. (inside Athénée Palace Hilton Hotel)
☎ +40213 033 777
🌐 www.hiltonbucharest.com
Enjoy the coziness of Café Athénée and unwind with a glass of wine, French dishes and gourmet pastry while looking out onto the bustling Revolution Square. As the sun sets, the restaurant transforms into a comfortable lounge and on Sundays it becomes the perfect place for a French Brunch.

The Coffee Factory

☎ 54 Regina Elisabeta Blvd.
☎ +40766 282 470
✉ stefan@contego-coffee.com
🌐 www.contego-coffee.com
The Coffee Factory- the place where you can discover the unique jazz of coffee. Here you can taste the exotic aroma of fresh roasted coffee from all over

the world in a warm and friendly atmosphere. At The Coffee Factory you find, experience or buy the best coffee in town, roasted in our own shop.

Bernschutz

☛ 5 Eremia Grigorescu St.
☎ +40372 790 723
🌐 www.bernschutz.com

Cafepedia

☛ 2 Pictor Arthur Verona St.
☎ +40721 102 101
🌐 fb.com/cafedepediabucuresti

Care Café

☛ 8 Olari St. ☎ +40721 331 014
🌐 fb.com/carecafebucuresti
Cafe opened as part of a social economy project.

Cărturești Garden (Café Verona)

☛ 13-15 Pictor Arthur Verona St.
☎ +40732 003 060
🌐 www.carturesti.ro
A beautiful and popular terrace behind the Cărturești bookshop.

Clubul Țăranului

☛ 2 Șos. Kiseleff
☎ +40213 108 048
Inside & adjoining the Romanian Peasant Museum.

Grand Café Galleron

☛ 18 A Nicolae Goleescu St.
☎ +40213 124 565
🌐 www.grandcafegalleron.ro

Grădina OAR

☛ 19 Pictor Arthur Verona St.
☎ +40216 502 020
🌐 www.gradina-oar.ro
A nice garden terrace tucked away from the Magheru boulevard.

Green Hours

☛ 120 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40788 452 485
🌐 www.greenhours.ro
This is a jazz café known for the many live performances it hosts.

Infinitea

☛ 7 Grigore Romniceanu St.
☎ +40723 175 300
🌐 infinitea.ro
A nice café inside a villa next to the only stair-street in Bucharest.

La Scena

☛ 55 Calea Călărașilor
☎ +40724 081 810 🌐 lascena.ro
Also hosts theater events.

Lente

☛ 8 Arcului St. ☎ +40212 109 696
🌐 www.lente.ro

Nespresso Boutique

☛ 120 Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40800 008 300
🌐 www.nespresso.com/ro
The venue falls under the luxury retail line of the brand.

Readers Café

☛ 56-60 Iancu de Hunedoara Blvd.
☎ +40737 323 377
🌐 www.readerscafe.ro

Sky Bar

☛ 155 Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40724 759 227 🌐 skybar.ro

Starbucks

☛ 6D Dimitrie Pompeiu Blvd.
🌐 www.starbucksromania.ro

The Coffee Shop

☛ 5 Baniei St. ☎ +40756 077 399
🌐 www.coffeea.ro

Tucano Coffee

☛ 18 Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40761 376 626 🌐 tucanocoffee.ro

Pubs & bars

Blă Lounge Bar

☛ 63-81 Calea Victoriei St.,
(inside Radisson Blu Hotel)
☎ +40213 119 000
🌐 info.bucharest@radissonblu.com
🌐 www.tasteofblu.ro
Discover a modern, stylish venue that morphs into an amazing ice

bar by night, a unique experience at the heart of Bucharest. Lounge and sip one of the spectacular vodkas from the bar's selection. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8:30–2:00, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00–00:00.

Dark Blă – Upscale late night bar

☛ 63-81 Calea Victoriei St.,
(inside Radisson Blu Hotel)
☎ +40213 119 000
🌐 info.bucharest@radissonblu.com
🌐 www.tasteofblu.ro
Designed for aristocratic leisure, while savoring a single malt whiskey accompanied by an extraordinary cigar. The music selection puts the finishing touches on the exclusive ambience of the place. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 5:00–2:00, Saturday to Sunday 8:00–0:00.

Crowne Café Bar

☛ 1 Poligrafiei St. (inside Crowne Plaza Hotel) ☎ +40212 240 034
🌐 www.crowneplaza.ro

Copper's Pub

☛ 25 Hristo Botev Blvd.
☎ +40729 880 143
🌐 fb.com/Coppers.Pub.Theatre
Restaurant & pub and theater. Serves many Italian dishes.

Fabrica Club

☛ 50, 11 Iunie St. ☎ +40213 350 323
🌐 www.fabrica-club.ro
This venue gathers in one place a bar, pub, billiard & darts and a playground for children.

James Joyce's Pub

☛ 1-3 Walter Mărcăneanu Square
☎ +40749 637 368
🌐 fb.com/jamesjoyce2014

Journey Pub

☛ 25 George Enescu St.
☎ +40213 152 090
🌐 www.journey-pub.ro
This is a pub and restaurant, a good place for going out with

large groups of friends. They have plenty of board games to keep everyone entertained.

Newton Bar

♣ 56 Jean Louis Calderon St.
☎ +40734 630 969
📧 newtonbar.ro

BEER HALLS

Berăria Bragadiru

♣ 157 Calea Rahovei
☎ +40737 500 150
📧 www.beraria-bragadiru.ro

Berăria H

♣ 32 Kiseleff Blvd., inside Herăstrău park ☎ +40725 345 345
📧 www.berariah.ro

Berăria Nenea Iancu

♣ 3 Covaci St. (Old Town)
☎ +40752 034 171
📧 www.berarianeneaiancu.ro

Berăria Siegfried

♣ 19 Șos. Orhideelor
☎ +40756 014 040
📧 www.berariasiegfried.ro

Gambrinus

♣ 38 Regina Elisabeta Blvd.
☎ +40731 422 181
📧 www.restaurantgambrinus.ro

Weiss Beer Garden

♣ 132 Uverturii Blvd.
☎ +40733 582 852 📧 weissbeer.ro

WINE BARS

Crama Oliver Bauer

♣ 10 Dealul Olt St., Drăgășani, Vâlcea ☎ +40757 098 940
📧 www.cramabauer.com
✉ raluca@cramabauer.com
Join us to the world of wine. We invite you to visit our cellar and to experience artisanal wines paired with local Oltenian food. A visit to Crama Bauer comes complete with stunning views over the Olt river and the Dragasani vineyards. Only by reservation, groups from 4 to 15 persons. Contact person: Raluca Bauer

Fox Wines

♣ 87 Dacia Blvd. ☎ +40314 250 091
📧 www.foxwines.ro

Hotels & Travel

FIVE-STAR HOTELS

Athénée Palace Hilton

♣ 1-3 Episcopiei St.
☎ +4021 303 3777
📧 www.hiltonbucharest.com
Set in the heart of the city center, Athénée Palace Hilton is a historic landmark offering upscale accommodation and warm hospitality, a wealth of premium amenities, such as fully equipped Fitness Centre Health Club and a Casino, and great food options in the two restaurants, summer terrace and English Bar.

Radisson Blu

♣ 63-81 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40213 119 000
✉ info.bucharest@radissonblu.com
📧 www.radissonblu.com/hotel-bucharest

Snagov Club

♣ 1B Alea Nufărului St., Snagov Sat, Ilfov ☎ +40213 526 079
✉ reservation@snagovclub.ro

📧 www.snagovclub.ro

Snagov Club can be your fun paradise and your relaxation oasis at the same time. A pool bar with palm trees and good music, SPA Center, 3 restaurants, lake pavilion, pier, generous garden and luxury rooms.

Casa Capșa

♣ 36 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40213 134 038 📧 capsa.ro

Carol Parc

♣ 23-25 Alea Șuter St.
☎ +40213 363 377
📧 www.carolparchotel.ro

Grand Hotel Continental

♣ 56 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40372 121 721
📧 www.continentalhotels.ro

Hotel Epoque

♣ 17C Intrarea Aurora
☎ +40213 123 232
📧 www.hotelepoe.ro

Intercontinental

♣ 4 Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd.
☎ +40213 102 020
📧 intercontinental.com/bucharest

JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel

♣ 90 Calea 13 Septembrie
☎ +40214 030 000
📧 jb.com/JWMarriottBucharest

Marshal Garden Hotel

♣ 50B Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40213 194 444
📧 www.marshalgarden.ro

Premier Palace

♣ 134 Ghencea Blvd.
☎ +40735 991 111
📧 www.premierpalace.ro

Sheraton Bucharest Hotel

♣ 5-7 Calea Dorobanților
☎ +40212 015 000
📧 www.starwoodhotels.com
Opened in August 2015 after the group took over the Bucharest HoJo.

FOUR-STAR HOTELS

Hotel Cișmigiu

✦ 38 Regina Elisabeta Blvd.

☎ +40314 030 500

🌐 www.hotelcismigiu.ro

Conveniently located downtown Bucharest, the newly rebuilt Cismigiu Hotel 4*, one century old and one million stories rich, has come to life again. Creating a fantastic ambiance, its design melts heritage and novelty, mixing Art Nouveau architecture with contemporary style.

Novotel Bucharest City Centre

✦ 37B Calea Victoriei

☎ +40213 088 500

✉ h5558@accor.com

🌐 www.novotel.com

🌐 www.MerciByNovotel.ro

🌐 www.AccorHotels.com

🌐 www.AccorHotels.ro

Located in the heart of Bucharest, on Calea Victoriei, only a few steps away from Old Town and the main city attractions, Novotel Bucharest City Centre is a perfect blend of classic architecture and modern design, the ideal destination either for business or leisure trips.

Park Inn by Radisson Bucharest Hotel & Residence

✦ 2-4 Luterană St.

☎ +40216 103 600

☎ +40216 013 601

✉ info.bucharest@rezidorparkinn.com

🌐 parkinn.com/hotel-bucharest

For optimum relaxation in the heart of the city, choose the Park

Inn by Radisson Bucharest Hotel & Residence. Bucharest travelers can pick from 210 rooms and apartments and enjoy the comforts of home whether you're staying for a weekend or for an extended stay.

Amzei Hotel

✦ 8 Piața Amzei

☎ +40213 139 400

🌐 www.hotelamzei.ro

This hotel has both three-star and four-star rooms.

Arc de Triomphe Hotel

✦ 19 Clucerului St.

☎ +40372 150 700

🌐 www.residencehotels.com.ro

Capital Plaza Hotel

✦ 54 Iancu de Hunedoara Blvd.

☎ +40372 080 080

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- ✦ Change Management
- ✦ Romanian Business Mentality
- ✦ Presentation Skills

☎ www.capitalplaza.ro

Caro Golf

♣ 164 A Barbu Văcărescu Blvd.
☎ +40212 086 100 ☐ hotelcaro.ro
A three-and two-star mix.

Central

♣ 13 Brezoianu St.
☎ +040213 155 635
☐ www.thhotels.ro/hotel-central

Crowne Plaza

♣ 1 Poligrafiei Blvd.
☎ +40212 240 034
☐ www.crowneplaza.ro

Domenii Plaza Hotel

♣ 33 Alexandru Constantinescu St.
☎ +40372 150 600
☐ www.residence.com.ro

Double Tree by Hilton

♣ 3A Nerva Traian St.
☎ +40212 006 270
☐ fb.com/dtbucharest

Europa Royale

♣ 60 Franceză St. (Old Town)
☎ +40213 191 798
☐ www.groupeuropa.com

Golden Tulip Times

♣ 19 Decebal Blvd.
☎ +40213 166 516
☐ www.goldentuliptimes.com

Golden Tulip Victoria

♣ 166 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40212 125 558
☐ www.goldentulipbucharest.com

Grand Boutique Hotel

♣ 1B Negustori St.

☎ +40314 256 230
☐ www.grandboutiquehotel.ro

K+K Hotel Elisabeta

♣ 26 Slănic St.
☎ +40213 029 280
☐ www.kkhotels.ro

La Conac

♣ 367B Odăi Road
☎ +40722 600 835
☐ www.residencehotels.com.ro

Mercure Hotel

♣ 15-17A George Enescu St.
☎ +40372 426 000
☐ H9680@accor.com

NH Hotel

♣ 21 Mircea Vodă Blvd.
☎ +40213 000 545

Orhideea Residence & Spa

♣ 145 Calea Plevnei
☎ +40215 696 360
☐ www.orhideeaspa.ro

Phoenicia Grand Hotel

♣ 87 Alexandru Șerbănescu Blvd.
☎ +40213 000 888
☐ www.phoeniciagrandhotel.ro

Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center

♣ 10 Montreal Square
☎ +40213 183 000
☐ www.pullmanhotels.com

Ramada Plaza

♣ 3-5 Poligrafiei Blvd.
☎ +40215 493 000
☐ www.ramadaplazabucharest.ro

Ramada Majestic

♣ 38-40 Calea Victoriei
☎ +40213 102 715
☐ www.majestic.ro

Venezia

♣ 2 Pompiliu Eliade St.
☎ +40213 106 872
☐ thhotels.ro/hotel-venezia

THREE-STAR HOTELS

Avis Boutique Hotel

♣ 10 Aerogării Blvd.
☎ +40212 324 478 ☐ avishotel.ro

Ibis Gara de Nord

♣ 143 Calea Griviței
☎ +40213 009 110
☐ www.ibishotels.ro

Ibis Parliament

♣ 82-84 Izvor St.
☎ +40214 011 011 ☐ ibishotels.ro

Opera Hotel

♣ 37 Brezoianu St.
☎ +40213 124 855 ☐ hotelopera.ro

Rembrandt Hotel

♣ 11 Smârdan St.
☎ +40213 139 315 ☐ rembrandt.ro

APART HOTELS & SHORT TERM APARTMENTS

R'Urban by PoemBoem

☎ +40723 347 103
☐ www.poemboem.com
Home away, elegant short term rental, self-catering apartment in Armenească, Icoanei area, in central Bucharest. Welcome to R'Urban by PoemBoem!

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ApartHomes

✎ 33 George Valentin Bibescu St.
 ☎ +40212 320 406
 🌐 aparthomes.ro

Hotel Bucuresti – SS Residence Apart-Hotels

✎ 40 – 42 Cuza Voda St.
 ☎ +40720 533 355
 🌐 www.hotelssresidence.ro

HOSTELS**Antique Hostel**

✎ 2A Splaiul Independentei
 ☎ +4031 425 8519
 🌐 www.antiquehostel.ro

The Coziness Downtown Hostel

✎ 28 Drumea Rădulescu St.
 ☎ +40770 357 448
 🌐 www.thecozyiness.com

Friends Hostel

✎ 114 Mircea Vulcănescu St.
 ☎ +40318 053 414
 🌐 www.friendshostel.ro

Funky Chicken Hostel

✎ 63 Gral Berthelot St.
 ☎ +40213 121 425
 🌐 www.funkychickenhostel.com

The Midland Hostel

✎ 22 Bizerica Amzei St.
 ☎ +40213 145 323
 🌐 www.themidlandhostel.com

Pura Vida Sky Bar & Hostel

✎ 7 Smârdan St.
 ☎ +40786 329 134
 🌐 sky.puravidahostels.ro

X Hostel

✎ 9 Bălcești St. ☎ +40213 674 912
 🌐 www.xhostel.com

TRAVEL AGENCIES**TUI Travel Center**

✎ 3-5 Reinvierii St., 2nd Floor (Europa Primex building)
 ☎ +40213 160 890/
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 ☎ +40314 016 396
 ✉ office@eurolines.ro
 🌐 www.tui-travelcenter.ro
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Classy Romania

☎ + 40725 238 464
 ✉ office@classyromania.com

Traffic & Transport

IN & OUT OF BUCHAREST**Henri Coandă Airport**

✎ 224E Calea Bucureștilor, Otopeni town ☎ +40212 041 000
 🌐 www.bucharestairports.ro
 Bucharest's main airport is located 15km north of the city, in Otopeni. Two express buses connect the main railway station and downtown Bucharest to the airport. An official taxi area and taxi-ordering equipment are inside the arrivals hall. A large, paid car park is also available.

Main Railway Station – Gara de Nord

✎ 2 Gării de Nord Blvd.
 ☎ +4021 9521
 🌐 www.cfr.ro/webcam.php
 Live feed of arrivals and departures board. On arrival at

the railway station, take a cab from the official taxi area using one of the ticketing devices at the main entrance, or the subway. Never go with drivers hustling for business, always check the rates on the doors of the cars, and make sure that the driver is using the meter! The subway is accessible directly from the train station. When calling the railway station, keep trying, they don't always pick up the first time.

National Railways Company – CFR

🌐 www.mersultrenurilorcfr.ro
 This company is owned by the state. Traveling by train across Romania is not the speediest — many railways need revamping to sustain higher speeds. Check this website for train schedules, times to destinations, prices, etc. English version also available.
 🌐 bilete.cfrcalatori.ro
 Buy tickets online on this site — English version also available

(you need to register first).

You can also buy tickets directly at the railway station, at any of the automatic ticket vending machines, or helped by an operator.

Regiotrans

🌐 www.regiotrans.ro
 A private railway operator running on several routes in the country. You can buy tickets online, on board and in several train stations.

Softtrans

🌐 www.softtrans.ro
 This is a private railway operator running on the Constanța–București–Brașov and Craiova–București–Constanța routes. You can buy tickets online or on board. The train they operate is very modern and made in Craiova.

TAXIS

Most regular-fare taxis in Bucharest charge between approximately

RON 1.39–RON 1.75. The price per kilometer is written on the door. Avoid taxis that charge anything around RON 3.5. Call any of the cab companies below, use their websites to order, or use the Star Taxi or Clever Taxi apps to get a regular fare taxi. When looking for a cab at the airport or the main railway station, use the official cab areas and ordering devices.

Black Cab

☎ +40758 880 786

🌐 www.blackcab.ro

This is a premium taxi service for comparable prices to regular taxis. You can order via app, website or phone. The Black Cab cars can also be hired for a certain number of hours, with the Waiting and Return services. Limousines and kids cabs also available, as well as subscriptions and priority accounts.

Meridian Taxi

☎ +4021 9444 ☎ +4021 9888

🌐 www.meridiantaxi.ro

Speed Taxi

☎ +4021 9477

🌐 www.speedtaxi.ro

Register as a new user on the site to use the online ordering service.

Taxi Occident

☎ +4021 9413

Taxi Pelicanul

☎ +4021 9665

🌐 www.taxipelicanul.ro

Taxi 2000

☎ +4021 9494

🌐 www.taxi2000.ro

CAR DEALERS

Automobile Bavaria Group

📍 53A Șos. București–Ploiești

☎ +40212 006 263

☎ +40212 006 264

✉ office.baneasa@automobilebavaria.ro

🌐 www.bmw-bavaria.ro

Automobile Bavaria Group is the largest network of BMW car dealers in Central and Eastern Europe. The company has offices in 10 cities in Romania and Germany (near Munich). Our experience and specialists ensure that any customer choosing our network services makes the best decision for him and the car he uses.

CAR RENTAL

Auto Concept

📍 252 Șos. București–Ploiești

☎ +40726 711 775

✉ office@auto-concept.ro

🌐 www.auto-concept.ro

A unique concept on the Romanian car market, which we have specially created to fit your needs, claims and expectations regarding your car and all connected services. We are permanently at your disposal, with optimal advice and solutions in the auto industry.

Avis Romania

📍 Intercontinental Hotel, 4th Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd.

☎ +40212 104 344 www.avis.ro

✉ reservations@avis.ro

Avis Romania offers car rental services in 11 main cities in the country and car rental bookings in the international Avis network. In Bucharest, cars can be rented from Otopeni Airport and downtown locations, or can be delivered to any address within the city, free of charge.

Autonom Rent-a-car

☎ +40742 215 361 🌐 autonom.ro

Europcar

☎ +40213 101 797

🌐 www.europcar.ro

International car rental company, with locations all over Romania.

Sixt

☎ +4021 9400

🌐 sixt.com/car-rental/romania

CAR SHARING

Uber

🌐 www.uber.com/ro

The worldwide service available in Bucharest starting 2015. Prices are similar to local cabs but you won't have to tip the driver.

For trips throughout the country, several car sharing sites are available in Romanian.

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📱 www.4inmasina.ro

Bla Bla Car

📱 www.blablacar.ro

MyLift

📱 www.mylift.ro

BIKE RENTAL

Bikes for rent can be found in several of Bucharest's larger parks (see I'Velo below). An ID and sometimes a small rental fee is necessary to hire a bike for a few hours.

CarpatBike

📍 22 București–Târgoviște St.

☎ +40723 389 833

📱 www.carpatbike.ro

They rent bikes for longer tours, and organize cross-country tours one can join.

I'Velo

📍 Herăstrău park, Tineretului Park, Triumphal Arch

📱 www.ivel.ro

Three bike-sharing centers in Bucharest. A limited number of bikes available for free, others for a fee: RON 5 per hour or RON 15 for 24 hours. Online bike reservation possible. Crowded on weekends.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bucharest Transport Company – RATB

📱 www.ratb.ro

This is Bucharest's main public transport company, operating all buses, trams and trolley-buses in Bucharest, as well as the popular Bucharest City Tour Bus route. A route selector and an English version of the website is available.

Bucharest City Tour

📱 bucharestcitytour.ratb.ro

This bus line is run by RATB and serves downtown Bucharest and the best-known tourist spots in

the city. Double-decker buses run every 15 minutes on this line. Travel cards can be purchased on board the bus, with tickets costing RON 25 for 24 hours — you can hop on and off the bus any time during this period.

Metrorex

☎ +40213 193 601

📱 www.metrorex.ro

This is the metro system operator, a state-owned company. The network includes four metro lines, with the fifth under construction. There are 51 metro stations in Bucharest, and the average distance between stations is 1.5 km. Trains run daily between 5am and 11pm.

LONG-DISTANCE BUSES & RENTAL

Eurolines

☎ +40724 224 232 📱 eurolines.ro

Eurolines covers many routes across Europe, and can organize private bus rental within Romania.

CAR REGISTRATION

Car registration can involve complex procedures even for Romanians, so we'd recommend getting the help of a lawyer or a relocation company.

CAR PARKING

Intercontinental Car Park

📍 4 Nicolae Bălcescu Blvd.

☎ +40213 156 047

📱 www.interparking-romania.ro

Underground car park, next to Universitate Square. It is connected to the Intercontinental Hotel and the National Theater. Over 990 parking spaces available.

Universității Car Park

📍 1 Toma Caragiu St.

☎ +40314 381 859

📱 www.interparking-romania.ro
Underground car park, open 24/7,

with 424 parking spaces and two electric charging points. Within walking distance of Old Town.

Unirea Car Park

📍 Unirii Square — entrance via

Aleea Negru Vodă

☎ +40213 030 165

📱 www.unireashop.ro/categorii/parcare 5

This multi-storey car park adjoins Unirea Shopping Center. Direct connection to the mall and to the Carrefour supermarket nearby.

Obor Car Park

📍 Obor Square — entrance via Obor passage

Underground car park close to Obor market.

Athenaeum

A street-level car park is also available in front of the Romanian Athenaeum — paid during the day and free during evenings and weekends. The same goes for Victoria Square, in front of the Government building.

For more car parks in Bucharest:

📱 www.parkingbucharest.com

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- **Updated** Bucharest neighborhoods, including Pipera — the expat area & Old Town
- **Special dossier** Romania, a new age
 - Back to Romania — Letters from repats
 - Culture, traditions & places
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