



## General Information about Romania

Surface:	237.500 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	22.760.449 inhabitants
Population density:	96 inhabitants / km <sup>2</sup>
Capital and the biggest city:	Bucharest (2.064.474 inhabitants)
Official language:	Romanian
National currency:	Leu (RON)
Time zone:	+2:00 hours (+1:00 hour Daylight Saving Time) from UTC/GMT
Imported products:	vehicles, cars, oil, ferrous, steel
Gross domestic product:	22.759 mil American Dollars
Form of state:	republic
Neighbors:	N – Ukraine, S – Bulgaria, E – Moldavia, V – Hungary



Climate in Romania is known as cold winters and hot enough summers. In Bucharest the average temperature in July is 29 °C (84.2 °F), in January -3 °C (26.6 °F), and the annual amount of precipitations is approximately 60 cm<sup>2</sup>. In Romania, you can travel by car, coach bus, train, airplane, and for vacation pleasure at the sea side, by boat. Bucharest is the biggest industrial center of the country. 51% of Romania's population is urban, and this percentage is continuously rising. The second biggest city is Brasov, with a population of 323.835, and Constanta (where you are coming for the Black Sea Kite Festival) has a population of 350.476 and is the biggest Romania's harbor.

## About Bucharest

Bucharest is situated on the banks of the Dâmbovița River, which flows into the Argeș River, a tributary of the Danube. Several lakes – the most important of which are Lake Herăstrău, Lake Floreasca, Lake Tei, and Lake Colentina – stretch across the northern parts of the city, along the Colentina River, a tributary of the Dâmbovița. In addition, in the centre of the capital there is a small artificial lake – Lake Cișmigiu – surrounded by the Cișmigiu Gardens. The [Cișmigiu Gardens](#) have a rich history, being frequented by famous poets and writers. Opened in 1847 and based on the plans of German architect Carl F.W. Meyer, the gardens are currently the main recreational facility in the city centre.

Besides Cișmigiu, Bucharest contains several other large parks and gardens, including [Herăstrău Park](#) and the [Botanical Garden](#). Herăstrău is located in the north of the city, around Lake Herăstrău, and is the site of the [Village Museum](#), while the Botanical Garden is the largest of its kind in Romania and contains over 10,000 species of plants, many of them exotic; it was once a pleasure park for the royal family.



Bucharest is situated in the south eastern corner of the Romanian Plain, in an area once covered by the Vlăsiei forest, which, after it was cleared, gave way to a fertile flatland. As with many cities, Bucharest is traditionally considered to have seven hills, similar to the Seven Hills of Rome. Bucharest's seven hills are: Mihai Vodă, Dealul Mitropoliei, Radu Vodă, Cotroceni, Spirei, Văcărești and Sf. Gheorghe Nou.

The city has a total area of 226 square kilometers (87 sq mi). The altitude varies from 55.8 meters (183.1 ft) at the Dâmbovița bridge in Cățelu, south-eastern Bucharest and 91.5 m (300.2 ft) at the Militari church. The city has a relatively round shape, with the centre situated approximately in the cross-way of the main north-south/east-west axes at University Square. Bucharest's extensive public transport system is the largest in Romania and one of

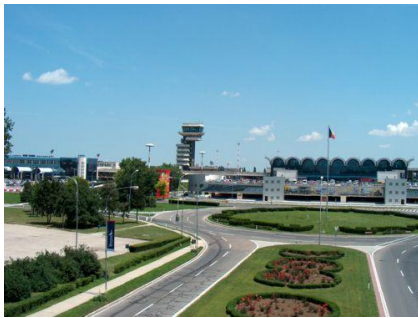


the largest in Europe. It is made up of the Bucharest Metro, as well as a surface transport system run by RATB (Regia Autonomă de Transport București), which consists of buses, trams, trolleybuses, and light rail. In addition, there is a private minibus system. As of 2007, there is a limit of 10,000 taxicab licenses, down from 25,000 in the 1990s, and the even higher demand is supplied by taxis registered in Ilfov county.

## Places to visit in Bucharest

- ✓ **Romanian Athenaeum (Ateneul Român)** – This is Bucharest's most prestigious concert hall and one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. It was built in 1888 in neo-classical style after a design by the French architect Albert Galleron.
- ✓ **The Village Museum (Muzeul Satului)** – The Village Museum was established in 1936 and contains over 300 wooden houses, windmills, churches and more, from all over the country. If you don't plan on visiting Romania's rural areas, you shouldn't miss this museum which is one of the largest of its kind in Europe.
- ✓ **National Art Museum** – The imposing building which used to be the Royal palace is located in the Revolution Square (Piața Revoluției), in the northwestern corner.
- ✓ **The Parliament Palace**
- ✓ **Cișmigiu Garden**
- ✓ **Museum of Romanian Peasant (Muzeul Țăranului Român)** – is the winner of European Museum of the Year Award in 1996. A short visit to the museum will convince you that the award is well deserved.
- ✓ **National Theater**
- ✓ **Victory Road (Calea Victoriei)** – is one of Bucharest's most charming streets.
- ✓ **University Square (Piața Universității)** – people gathered here during the 1989 revolution and the sad events of June 1990.
- ✓ **Sala Palatului**

## About Otopeni International Airport



Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport (airport code OTP) is located 16.5 kilometers northwest of the capital of Bucharest, Romania. Recently renamed after Romanian flight pioneer Henri Coandă, the airport is also known as Otopeni for the town it is located in. The airport consists of a single terminal divided into two areas, the Departures Hall and the Arrivals Hall. Over 30 airlines provide transport to almost 5 million passengers each year. The 783 Express Line bus connects the airport with the city center. Taxi, rental cars and some hotel shuttles are also available.

## Exchange

After arriving in Romania, you will be able to buy some Romanian money right from the airport's ATM machines. In Bucharest you will find ATMs all over, and on your way to Constanța and there, you will also find places where you can exchange your money.



To help you form an idea about how many lei (RON) you can buy, this is the exchange rates for EURO in Romania in 2012:

- In January – 1 EUR = **4.3433** RON
- In February – 1 EUR = **4.3486** RON
- In March – 1 EUR = **4.3791** RON

Here are some examples of how much things cost in Romania, so you can plan your budget adjusted to your needs:



- One bread = 0,80 EUR cents
- One bottle of 2 L plain water = 0,80 EUR
- Travel by cab (about 10 minutes) – about 2,5/3 EUR
- Going to the movies – 4,5 to 10 EUR (depending on the cinema and type of movie (2D, 3D, digital))
- Dinner in town – varies from 8 to 20 EUR (depending on your budget and tastes)
- Travel by train – doing an across-the-country trip costs you about 35 EUR

## **About Constanta**

Constanța is the oldest extant city in Romania, founded around 600 BC. The city is located in the Dobruja region of Romania, on the Black Sea coast. It is the capital of Constanța County and the largest city in the region.

The city of Constanța is one of the most important in Romania, one of four roughly equal-size cities which rank after Bucharest. The Constanța metropolitan area, founded in 2007, comprises 14 localities located at a maximum distance of 30 km (19 mi) from the city, and, with 387,593 inhabitants, it is the third largest metropolitan area in Romania.

The Port of Constanța has an area of 39.26 km<sup>2</sup> (15.16 sq mi) and a length of about 30 km (19 mi). It is the largest port on the Black Sea, and one of the largest ports in Europe.

Constanța is one of the warmest cities in Romania. Summer (late May to mid September) is warm, dry and sunny with a July and August average of 23 °C (73 °F). The beginning of summer brings plenty of precipitation, but by early July the weather becomes settled and dry. Most summer days see a gentle breeze refreshing the daytime temperatures. Nights are warm and somewhat muggy because of the heat stored by the sea.



In the last 2 years, the temperatures in Constanta around the 1<sup>st</sup> of May was about the same sunny/partially cloudy with a maximum of 18 °C (64 °F), humidity: 67-78%, wind: 13-18 km/h from East and SSE by day, and partially cloudy with a minimum of 8 °C (46 °F), humidity: 83-85%, wind: 8-10 km/h from South by night.

## **About Romanians**

### **Hierarchy**

- Romania is a hierarchical society where age and position are respected.
- Older people are viewed as wise since they have earned life experience.
- Romanians expect the most senior person, by age or position, to make decisions that are in the best interest of the group.
- Titles are very important and denote respect.
- It is expected that you will use a person's title and their surname until invited to use their first name.

### **The Family**

- The family is the foundation of the social structure and forms the basis of stability for most people.
- The individual derives a social network and assistance in times of need from their family.
- Families are patriarchal. The father is the head of the family.

### **Privacy**

- Romanians are formal and reserved with a strong need for privacy.
- Most do not trust strangers readily.



- They are generally shy and quiet when you first meet and admire modesty and humility in themselves and others.
- Once you develop a personal relationship, Romanians will open up slightly.
- Although always polite, they seldom move to a first-name basis with people outside their extended family or very close friends.

**We are so eager to meet you all between April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>  
at Black Sea Kite Festival and have lots of fun together!**

