



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Romania – Brasov & Region

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bucharest
- ✓ **Language:** Romanian
- ✓ **Population:** ± 275,500
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 267.3
- ✓ **Currency:** Leu (RON - L)
- ✓ **Country code:** +40 (268)
- ✓ **Visa:** For some nationalities, [info here!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

3000BC: Thracian tribes. 2000BC: Dacians. 700BC: Greeks. 106-271AD: Romans colonize Dacia. 4th century: Christianity. 4-9th: Goths/Visigoths/Huns/Slavs. 896-1100s: Hungarians (*Magyars*). 12th: Saxons (*Germans*) in Transylvania. 14th-15th: Resistance to Ottomans→1526: Conquered anyway. 1600-'01: Transylvania/Moldova/Wallachia (T/M/W) under Michael the Brave. 1821: Russia administers M/W, native Romanian rulers. '56: Russia's defeat in Crimean War: Control in Romania ends. '66: German Prince Karl succeeds him (*invited by parliament*). '77-78: Independence of Ottomans, by siding with Russia in Russo-Turkish War + acquires coastline. '81: Kingdom. 1904: Oil industry. '16: WWI with Allies. '18: End war→population ↑. '30s: fascist Iron Guard movement. '40: Gen. Antonescu seizes power→ unites with Nazi Germany. '44: Switch to Soviet. Soviet-style people rep. '65: Ceausescu: Comm. Leader: repressive / personality cult. '77: Earthquake kills 1500. '85-'86: Foreign debt program: food shortages/power cuts. '89: Bloody national uprising→Ceausescu killed. Democratic. '90: ec/pol reforms. First free multi-party elections. '04: NATO. EU reforms. '07: Enters EU. '08: EUR warning: corruption. '09: Financial Crisis, 20bn rescue. '17: Protests against government watering down corruption measures. '18: Referendum against gay marriage fails: low turn-up.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget	Winter	high	season	for	skiing,	summer	and	spring	for	hiking		

Altitude: 538m. Climate: Continental Climate (Dfb).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights (*can be discovered by Geocaching*):** Historical Centre, Rope Street (*strada sforii*), Council Square, Yekatarina Gate, Biserica Neagra, Weavers Bastion, City Wall, Watchtowers (*turnuls*), Hollywood Sign, Prima Scoala, Citadel, Feldioara Fortress, Rasnov & many churches.... The standard [‘free’ \(tip-based\) walking tours](#) are available.

☺ **Nature:** Mount Tampa (*cable car available, but short hike*), Dealul Lempes, 900-year-old Oak Tree, [Craiuului NP](#), Bucegi NP. Check blog story for recommended hikes.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Skiing & Snowboarding:** [Poiana Brasov](#), (*further away: Azuga, Predeal, Sinaia*). Ice-skating: Poiana Brasov, [Olympic Ice Rink](#).

👍 **Museums & sights:** [Bran Castle](#) (*Dracula*), Museum of Urban Community, Ethnography Museum, [Art Museum](#), History Museum.

👍 **Entertainment:** Bowling, Table Tennis, Minigolf & more at [Entertainment Center Poiana Brasov](#). [Parc Aventura](#), [Paradisul Acvatic](#), [Smile Aqua Park](#).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Lidl (*cheapest*), Carrefour, Profi, Mega Image.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Piatra Astra, Piata Star, Piata Tractorul.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Sarmale (*cabbage rolls*), Mamaliga (*polenta*), Zacusca (*vegetable dip*), Ciorba (*soup – many kinds*), Balmos (*corn-flour-cheese-dish*), Jumari (*smoked bacon*), Mici (*BBQ meat*), Cighir (*organ meat balls*), Drob (*meat loaf / organ haggis*), Salata de Vinete (*baba ganoush*), Placinta (*savory pie*), Cascaval Pane (*deep-fried breaded cheese*), Toba (*pig-organ-head-stew*), Tochitura (*pig stew*), Chiftele (*meat balls*), Frigarui (*shish kebab*), Limba cu Masline (*cow tongue*), Snitel (*schnitzel*), Stufat (*stew*), Papanasi (*desert*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe and especially in Romania, where religious 'fasting food' (*mancare depost*) is entirely vegan and available everywhere. Local vegan dishes: Zacusca, Sarmale Depost, Mamaliga, Salata de Vinete, Lahnia de Fasole / Fasole Batuta (*beans mash*), Tocana (*vegetable stew*), Pilaf de Orez (*rice with vegetables*), Ardei Umpluti (*stuffed bell peppers*), Ghiveci (*veggie stew*), Mancare de Mazare / Praz (*pea / leek stew*), Chiftelute / Snitel de Ciuperci (*mushroom fried stuff*). Every bigger supermarket has a big supply of 'depost' products and there are several full-vegan restaurants. Check them here: [Happy Cow – Brasov](#). I specifically recommend [Ma Cocotte](#).

Mama Said

- ☠ Europe in general, and also Romania, is very safe... but use your common sense like everywhere.
- ☠ Boycott zoos or aquariums like Zoo Brasov, where animals are held in captivity.
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable.

Next?

- ➔ **In Romania:** Sinaia, Ploiești, Bucharest, Balea, Sibiu, Sighisoara.
- ➔ **International destinations close by:** Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine, Slovakia.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are very affordable in Romania. (*Wild*) Camping is a good option in summer only. Book hostels with \$15 discount via this [Booking.com link](#)!
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting ([20% discount for Trusted Housesitters via this link](#)!) Also check [WorkAway](#) or [HelpX](#) for work-exchanges.

Festivals

- ⚙ Brasov Oktober Fest: Sep (*I know – weird*).
 - ⚙ International Opera Festival: Sep.
 - ⚙ Contemporary Drama Festival: Nov.
- More festivals [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ **Nightlife areas:** Historical Centre. Metalbars: La Fifi & Rockstadt.
- ◆ **Theatres:** Opera Brasov, Filarmonca Brasov, Sica Alexandrescu Theatre.

Free-Riding?

- Walking is an excellent option to see the more subtle details of Brasov.
- There's no Brasov bike share system (*yet!*), but there are several bike rental companies and some hotels and hostels offer this service.
- Brasov is connected by a bus system, which can be rather slow due to traffic. Tickets have to be bought in advance at ticket boxes (*only available at certain stops, so when you find a ticket machine buy a few tickets in advance!*). Brasov's main bus stop is Livada. There are three central bus terminals for buses out of town: one located at Blvd. Garii 5, one at Strada Avram Iancu, and one is called Autogara Bartolomeu (*reached by city bus 12 - for buses to Bran and Rasnov*). Budget bus lines are [Eurolines](#) and [Flixbus](#).
- Brasov's station is located at Blvd. Garii 5, and can be reached by bus 4. Trains are operated by CFR; find timetables on [their website](#). Train travel is rather slow, but cheaper and more scenic.
- Airport: Brasov Airport (BRV), Henri Coanda International Airport (Bucharest – OTP).
- Hitchhiking is relatively safe and quite common. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) for a cheap ride.