



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Romania - Bucharest

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bucharest
- ✓ **Language:** Romanian
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1.8 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 228
- ✓ **Currency:** Leu (RON - L)
- ✓ **Country code:** +40 (21)
- ✓ **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: 55.8-91.5m. Climate: Humid Subtropical Climate (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights (can be discovered by Geocaching):** Old Town, CEC Palace, Assan's House, Foisorul de Foc, Dambovită River, Piața Revoluției, Calea Victoriei, Triumph Arch, Coral Temple, Coltea Hospital, CCA, Central Library, Palace of Justice & Patriarheiei & BNR, KM-Zero, [NBR](#), churches, parks, Morii Lake, Vacaresti Natural Reserve.

☺ **Museums – Free Days:** [MNAR](#) / [Art Collections](#) (1st Wed/month), [Zambaccian](#) (1st Wed), [Pallady](#) (1st Wed), [Municipality](#) (1st Sun), [National History](#) (26th), [George Enescu](#) (26th), [Romanian Peasant](#) (26th).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums & sights:** MNAC, [Theodor Aman](#), [Parliament Palace](#), Royal / [Cotroceni](#) Palace, [Ceausescu Mansion](#), [Romanian Kitsch](#), National Military, Old Maps & Books, [Geology](#), Storck, [George Severeanu](#) & more!

👍 **Theatre / Concerts:** [Bucharest National Opera House](#), Roman Athenaeum, Arenele Romane.

👍 **Wine tastings:** [Wine Ambassador](#) (mention Budget Bucket List and get 10% off the end bill).

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Mega Image, Carrefour, Profi.

⌘ **Markets:** Piața Amzei, Piața Agronomiei, Piața Progresul, Hala Traian, Piața Obor, Piața Dorobanti, Piața Norilor, Piața Ramnicu Sarat, Piața Taranului.

⌘ **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’ (*manicare 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 – Bucharest](#). I specifically recommend [Raw Corner](#) and [Barca](#).

Mama Said

☠ Europe in general, and also Bucharest, is very safe... but use your common sense like everywhere.

☠ Boycott zoos or aquariums like Bucharest Zoo, where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is drinkable. It’s one of the healthiest water worldwide.

Next?

➔ **In Romania:** Sinaia, Braşov, Ploieşti.

➔ **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

☼ Bucharest Wine Fair Revino: May.

☼ Rock the City: Jul.

☼ Summer Well: Aug.

More festivals [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Lipscani Street, Historical Centre.

◆ **Theatres:** Bucharest National Opera House, Roman Athenaeum, Arenele Romane, National Theatre, Odeon Theatre, Sala Palatului, Bulandra Theatre, Tandarica Theatre, Metropolis Theatre, Masca Theatre, Theatre Coquette, State Jewish Theatre, Small Theatre, Nottara Theatre, Unteatru, Comedie Theatre, ACT & More.

Free-Riding?

■ Walking is an excellent option to see the more subtle details of Bucharest.

■ Sign up for the [l’Velo](#) bike share system.

■ Bucharest is connected by a bus/trolleybus/tram system, which can be rather slow due to traffic. Tickets can be bought from bus drivers or you can pay via a charged Activ or Multiplu Card (*can be bought at kiosks*). The central bus terminal is located at Şoseaua Orhideelor 49. Buses from the airport require a separate card and are slightly more expensive, but still crazy cheap. Budget bus lines are [Eurolines](#) and [Flixbus](#).

■ Bucharest’s fastest and most efficient way of public transport (*because of the insane traffic*) is by metro / subway. Tickets are cheap (*19: 5 lei/2 trips*) and can be bought 1-way or return (*can be used on different days*) at the ticket boxes before the entry gates. It operates until approximately 11PM.

■ Airport: Henri Coandă International Airport (OTP).

■ Hitchhiking is relatively safe and quite common. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) for a cheap ride.