



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Romania - Cluj Napoca

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bucharest
- ✓ **Language:** Romanian
- ✓ **Population:** ± 303,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 179.5
- ✓ **Currency:** Leu (RON - L)
- ✓ **Country code:** +40 (264)
- ✓ **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: 340m. Climate: Summer Continental Climate (Cfb/Dfb).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Botanical Garden, City Hall Palace, Administrative Palace, Bánffy Palace, Tailor's Bastion, Central Park, Museum Square, Neologist Synagogue, [Babes Bolyai University](#), City Walls, Carolina Obelisk, churches.

☺ **Nature:** Turda Gorge (*Cheile Turzii*), Cetatuia Hill, Tarnita Lake, Fantanele Lake, Iulius Park, Bride's Veil Falls, [Trascau Mountains](#), Kolozsvári Bükk.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums (students free / discount):** [Mineralogy Museum](#), [Paleontology and Stratigraphy Museum](#), Art Museum, [Romulus Vuia National Ethnographic Park](#), Memorial Matthias Corvinus House, Observatul Astronomic, History Museum.

👍 **Paranormal Experiences:** [Hoia-Baciu Forest](#).

👍 **Salt Mine:** [Turda](#) (wine tastings next door).

👍 **Skiing (& hiking):** Muntele Mare.

The Earth Becomes My Throne

Budget Bites

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

⌘ **Markets:** Central Market (*Piata Mihai Viteazul*), Piata Oser, Piata Ion Mester.

⌘ **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 – Cluj Napoca](#). I specifically recommend [Rawdia](#).

Mama Said

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

☠ Boycott zoos or aquariums like Moara de Vant, where animals are held in captivity. The Zoologic Museum displaying killed animals isn’t quite ethical either.

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

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

☼ Cluj Days: Culture, May.

☼ Electric Castle: Music, July.

☼ Untold Festival: Music, Aug.

More festivals [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Strada Piezisa, Downtown.

◆ **Theatres:** Lucian Blaga National Theatre, Hungarian Theater, Fabrica de Pensule.

Free-Riding?

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

■ Sign up for the [Cluj Bike](#) bike-share system.

■ Cluj Napoca is connected by a bus/trolleybus/tram system, which can be rather slow due to traffic. Tickets have to be bought before entering the bus, and only a few stops have vending machines... so buy a few in advance when you spot one! Route map [here](#). There are two bus terminals, the Autogara Sens Vest Bus Terminal and the Fany Bus Terminal. Budget bus lines are [Eurolines](#) and [Flixbus](#).

■ Airport: Cluj Napoca International Airport (CLJ)

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

Next?

➔ **In Romania:** Turda, Sighisoara, Sibiu, Brasov, Baia Mare.

➔ **International destinations close by:** Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine, Slovakia.