



We help you get there

Candidate Information Pack

Bucharest, Romania
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



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1. Bucharest

1.1 Overview

Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"), Bucharest, Romania's largest city and capital, is today a bustling metropolis.

Romanian legend has it that the city of Bucharest was founded on the banks of the Dambovita River by a shepherd named Bucur, whose name literarily means "joy." His flute playing reportedly dazzled the people and his hearty wine from nearby vineyards endeared him to the local traders, who gave his name to the place.

1.2 Things to do in Bucharest

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House of the Free Press (*Casa Presei Libere*). An impressive edifice standing somewhat menacingly at the entrance to the capital, Casa Scanteii (as it is still universally known) was designed by architect Horia Maicu and completed in 1956, one year after the strikingly similar Palace of Science and Culture in Warsaw, Poland. Originally housing almost all of the capital's printing presses and newsrooms, it, today,

carries out much the same function, with the addition of the Bucharest Stock Exchange in the southern wing.

The Arch of Triumph (*Arcul de Triumf*). Initially built of wood in 1922 to honour the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in World War I, Bucharest's very own Arc de Triomphe was finished in Deva granite in 1936. Designed by the architect, Petre Antonescu, the Arc stands 85 feet high. An interior staircase allows visitors to climb to the top for a panoramic view of the city. The sculptures decorating the structure were created by leading Romanian artists, including Ion Jalea, Constantin Medrea and Constantin Baraschi.



Calea Victoriei is Bucharest's oldest and arguably, most charming street. Built in 1692 to link the Old Princely Court to Mogosoia Palace, it was initially paved with oak beams. The street became Calea Victoriei in 1878, after the Romanian War of Independence victory. Between the two world wars, Calea Victoriei developed into one of the most fashionable streets in the city.

Stroll along this street from Piata Victoriei to Piata Natiunilor Unite to discover some of the most stunning buildings in the city, including the **Cantacuzino Palace**, the historical **Revolution Square**, the **Military Club**, the **CEC Headquarters** and the **National History Museum**.

Cantacuzino Palace (*Palatul Cantacuzino*). Grigore Cantacuzino was thought to be one of Romania's wealthiest citizens in 1899. As Prime Minister, it was his wish to have the most elegant residence in Bucharest. Using the designs of architect Ion Berindei, the Cantacuzino Palace was built between 1898 and 1900 in eclectic French style. Combining a neoclassical architectural style with art nouveau elements, it features wrought iron balconies, tall arched windows and a porte-cochere (an elegant wrought-iron doorway) flanked by two lions. Today, the palace houses the **George Enescu Museum**.



Revolution Square (Piata Revolutiei)

The square gained worldwide notoriety when TV stations around the globe broadcasted Nicolae Ceausescu's final moments in power on December 21, 1989. It was here, at the balcony of the former Communist Party Headquarters, that Ceausescu stared in disbelief as the people gathered in the square below turned on him. He fled the angry crowd in his white helicopter, only to be captured outside of the city a few hours later.

The square's importance stretches back long before the dramatic events of the 1989 Revolution. On the far side of the square stands

the former Royal Palace, now home to the National Art Museum, the stunning Romanian Athenaeum and the historic Athenee Palace Hotel. At the south end of the square, you can visit the small, but beautiful, Kretzulescu Church.

The Romanian Athenaeum

(Ateneul Roman) Address: Str. Benjamin Franklin 1

The work of French architect Albert Galleron, who also designed the National Bank of Romania, the Athenaeum was completed in 1888, financed almost entirely with money donated by the general public. One of the preeminent public fundraising campaigns ever in Romania, the "Give a penny for the Athenaeum" campaign saved the project after the original patrons ran out of funds. With its high dome and Doric columns, the Athenaeum resembles an ancient temple.

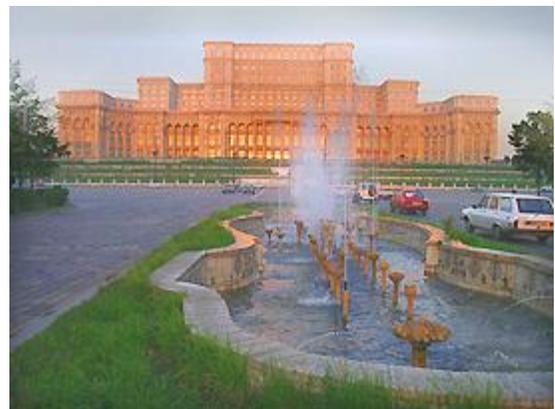


The lobby has a beautifully painted ceiling decorated in gold leaf, while curved balconies cascade in ringlets off a spiral staircase. A ring of pink marble columns is linked by flowing arches where elaborate brass lanterns hang like gems from a necklace. Inside the concert hall, voluptuous frescoes cover the ceiling and walls. Renowned worldwide for its outstanding acoustics, it is Bucharest's most prestigious concert hall and home of the Romanian George Enescu Philharmonic.

Parliament Palace (Palatul Parlamentului)

Address: Calea 13 Septembrie 1, Intrarea A3

Built by Communist Party leader, Nicolae Ceausescu, the colossal Parliament Palace (formerly known as the People's Palace) is the second largest administrative building in the world after the Pentagon. It took 20,000 workers and 700 architects to build. The palace boasts 12 stories, 1,100 rooms, a 328-ft-long lobby and four underground levels, including an enormous nuclear bunker.



When construction started in 1984, the dictator intended it to be the headquarters of his government. Today, it houses Romania's Parliament and serves as an international conference centre. Built and furnished exclusively with Romanian materials, the building reflects the work of the country's best artisans. A guided tour takes visitors through a small section of dazzling rooms, huge halls and quarters used by the Senate (when not in session). The interior is a luxurious display of crystal chandeliers, mosaics, oak paneling, marble, gold leaf, stained-glass windows and floors covered in rich carpets.

Interesting facts:

- It is the world's second-largest office building in surface (after the Pentagon) and the third largest in volume (after Cape Canaveral in the U.S. and the Great Pyramid in Egypt)
- The crystal chandelier in the Human Rights Hall (Sala Drepturilor Omului) weighs 2.5 tons
- Some of the chandeliers have as many as 7,000 light bulbs

2. Cost of Living

The cost of living in Bucharest in Romania is low compared to other places. The overall cost of living is determined using the prices for defined quantities of the same goods and services across 13 Basket Groups. Bucharest in Romania is currently ranked 746 overall out of 950 places (rank 1 is most expensive: rank 950 is least expensive). The cost of living rank for each of the 13 Basket Groups is as follows:

Alcohol & Tobacco costs are very low compared to other places for items such as alcoholic beverages, alcohol at a bar, beer, locally produced spirit, whiskey, and wine (where alcohol is legally sold) as well as for tobacco products such as cigarettes. There are 902 places that are more expensive, and 47 places that are less expensive for alcohol and or tobacco.



Clothing costs are high compared to other places for items such as clothing and footwear products, business suits, casual clothing, children's clothing and footwear, coats and hats, evening wear, shoe repairs, and underwear. There are 293 places that are more expensive, and 656 places that are less expensive for clothing.

Healthcare costs are very low compared to other places for general healthcare, medical and medical insurance, general practitioner consultation rates, hospital private ward daily rate, non-prescription

medicine, and private medical insurance / medical aid contributions. There are 834 places that are more expensive, and 115 places that are less expensive for healthcare.

Restaurants	Avg.
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	5.06 €
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	20.13 €
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	3.87 €
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	1.03 €
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	1.60 €
Cappuccino (regular)	1.63 €
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	0.89 €
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	0.66 €
Markets	Avg.
Milk (regular), 1 liter	0.87 €
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	0.43 €
Eggs (12)	1.72 €
Fresh Cheese (1kg)	4.23 €
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	3.97 €
Apples (1kg)	0.87 €
Oranges (1kg)	0.92 €
Potato (1kg)	0.39 €
Lettuce (1 head)	0.47 €

Water (1.5 liter bottle)	0.57 €
Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)	3.40 €
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	0.62 €
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	1.05 €
Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)	2.71 €



3. Transport



Transport costs are low compared to other places for items such as public transport, vehicle costs, vehicle fuel, vehicle insurance and vehicle maintenance, hire purchase / lease of vehicle, petrol / diesel, public transport service maintenance, tires, vehicle Insurance, and vehicle purchase. There are 597 places that are more expensive, and 352 places that are less expensive for transport.

Transportation	Avg.
One-way Ticket (local transport)	0.32 €
Monthly Pass	11.89 €
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	0.34 €
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	0.33 €
Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff)	3.26 €
Gasoline (1 liter)	1.22 €
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 90 KW Trendline (Or Equivalent New Car)	12,668.57 €

<http://www.transporturban.ro/en/>

4. Accommodation

The best place to look for accommodation is:

www.eastcomfort.com

www.in-bucharest.com

www.apartment.ro

Rent Per Month	Avg.
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	312.11 €
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	210.16 €
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	534.20 €
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	370.15 €

Buy Apartment Price	Avg.
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	1,530.85 €
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Centre	954.35 €