

## ROMANIA – A COUNTRY TO EXPLORE

Romania is a country in Southeastern Europe. Its neighboring countries are: Hungary and Serbia to the West, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova to the Northeast, and Bulgaria to the South.

To the East, Romania has a stretch of sea coast along the Black Sea. The country is located roughly in the lower basin of the Danube River, with almost all of the Danube Delta being located within its territory.

The capital city of Romania is Bucharest and its time is the same as Eastern European Time (UTC +2.00). The official language is Romanian, and the country's currency is the Romanian Leu (RON). As far as weather is concerned, the average summer temperature is 22/ 24°C, while the average winter temperature is -3/ -5 °C.

The education system in Romania is organized as follows: pre-university education is divided into thirteen grades (from 0 to 12). Compulsory schooling starts at age 6 and ends at age 17 (10<sup>th</sup> grade). Higher education starts at age 19 and is aligned with the European Higher Education Area: 3-year Bachelor's degree, 2-year Master's degree, 3-year Doctoral studies.

### Places to visit

Geographically, Romania is made up of roughly equal mountainous, hilly and lowland territories. The country's incredible scenery and natural ecosystems, unique architectural patterns and impressive historical vestiges have been recognized by the inclusion of over 25 landmarks from 7 different locations on the list of UNESCO world heritage sites.

If you are passionate about historical places, you will love the Dacian fortresses in the Orăştie Mountains (dating from 1st centuries BC and AD), the Mediaeval Fortresses in Sighişoara, the impressive star-shaped Alba Carolina Fortress, Bran Castle, most famously known as the Castle of Dracula, Râşnov Fortress, Peleş Castle and Pelişor Castle in Sinaia, etc.

Rural Romania attracts many tourists through its quaint villages, folk customs and monasteries. Among them, we mention: the merry cemetery in Săpânţa; Horezu – the place to observe traditional pottery while being made; the monasteries in Northern Moldavia; the wooden churches of Maramureş a.o.

If nature is what you want to explore, here is a list of unforgettable landscapes: Danube Delta - the best-preserved delta in Europe; the Transfăgăraşan Road in the heart of the country, named "the best road in the world" by former Top Gear BBC Journalist Jeremy Clarkson; the Bear Libearty Sanctuary from Zărneşti, near the city of Braşov; the Mud Volcanoes from Buzău County, the Red Lake in Harghita.

Romania is also known for its Black Sea resorts, as well as for several renowned spas and health resorts spread throughout the country, such as Băile Herculane, Băile Felix and Sovata. If you want to practice your skiing or learn how to ski, there are many sky resorts juts a few hours away from Bucharest.

In short, Romania has a lot to offer you in terms of exploration opportunities. It is up to you to choose whether to spend a weekend in the mountains or at the seaside, or to join a two-week trip around the country to see the most of it!

### Visa information

Before coming to Romania, check with your local authorities whether visas are required or not.

Voroneț Monastery



Peleş Castle



Danube Delta



Sibiu



Bran Castle

