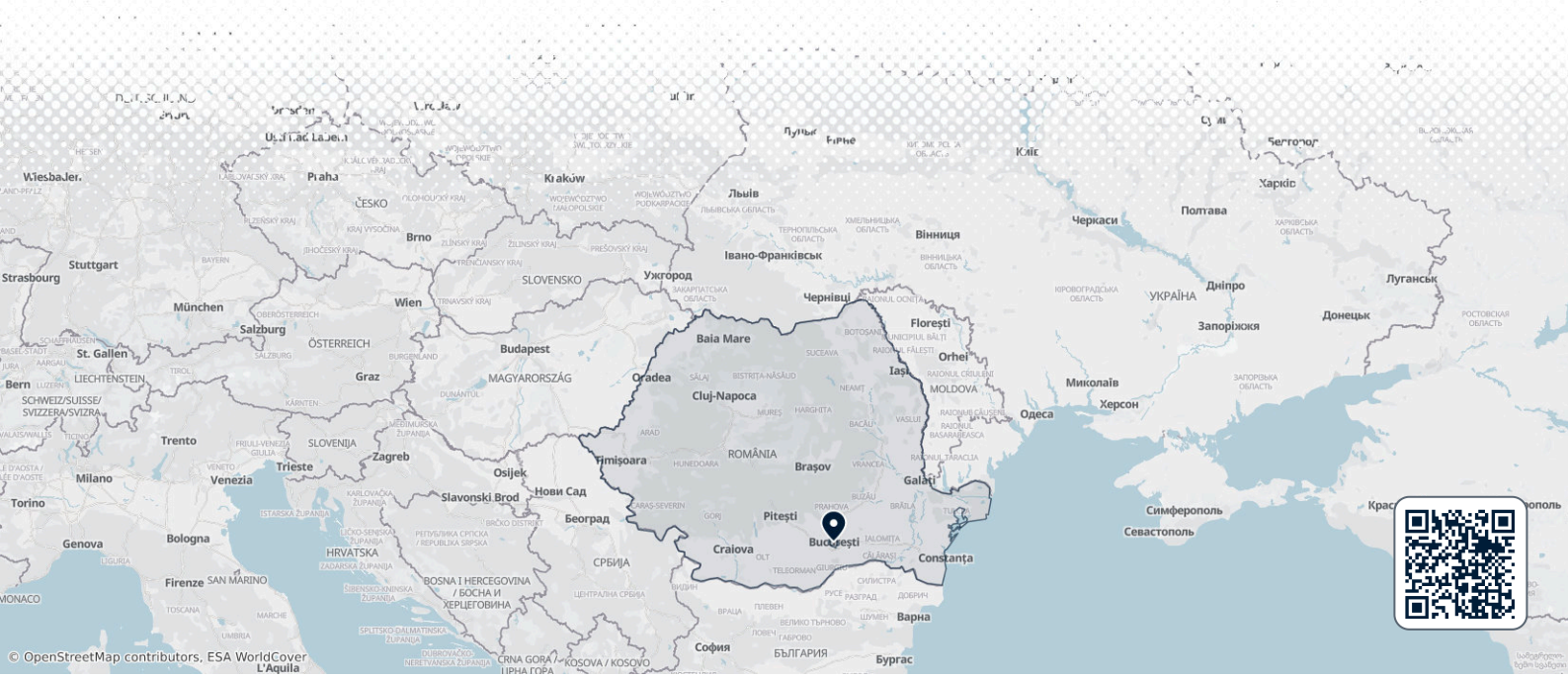


Bucharest

Romania

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bucharest is Romania's capital and largest city. Wide, tree-lined boulevards and grand early-1900s buildings sit beside one of the biggest government buildings in the world, a legacy of decades of very different eras layered on top of each other. Locals once nicknamed it "Little Paris" for its Belle Époque architecture, and much of that character survives in the city centre.

The city rewards travelers who enjoy contrasts: quiet Orthodox churches tucked behind busy streets, parks built around lakes, and a cluster of restaurants and bars in the Old Town. It also makes an easy, affordable base for trips into the Carpathian Mountains. The composer *George Enescu*, one of Romania's most celebrated musicians, is honored across the city, from a dedicated museum to the philharmonic orchestra that carries his name.

When to visit

Spring (April–May) and autumn (September–October) are the most pleasant times to visit, with mild days and thinner crowds. Summers get hot, with July and August afternoons often passing 30°C. Winters are cold and sometimes snowy, but bring a festive mood to the streets.

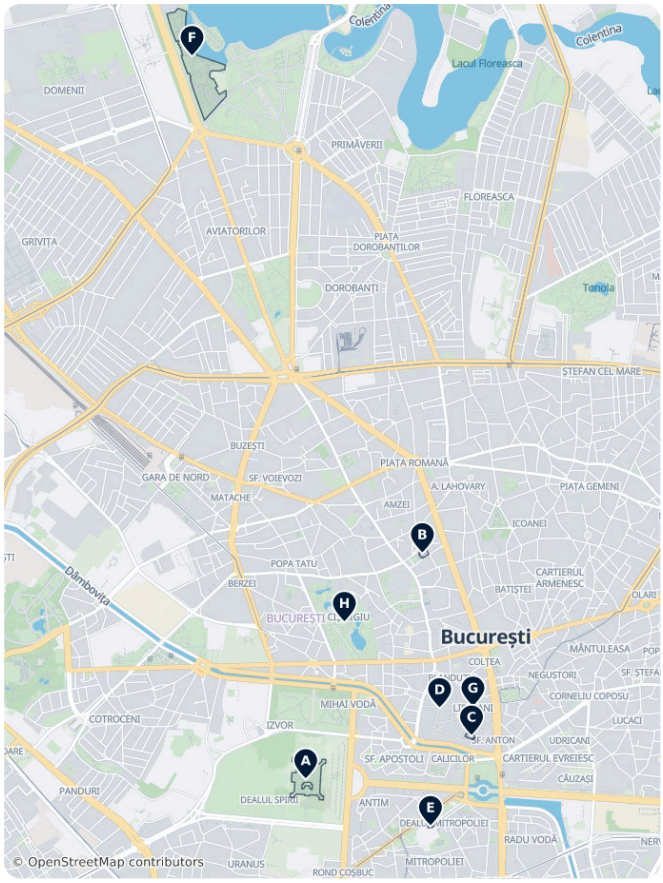
Time a winter trip around **Bucharest's Christmas Market**, held from late November into early January around University Square and Piața Constituției — one of the largest in the region.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 12° Feels like -2°	-4° / -14°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 16° Feels like 2°	-3° / -12°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	12° / 21° Feels like 8°	1° / -5°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25° Feels like 15°	6° / 0°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	11° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 35°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	32° / 38°	18° / 14°	Calm winds · Up to 7 days above 35°
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	32° / 38°	18° / 14°	Calm winds · Up to 7 days above 35°
September	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	13° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 27°	7° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 21° Feels like 8°	3° / -4°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 0°	-2° / -11°	Dry air

Best months: May, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Palace of the Parliament is one of the largest administrative buildings in the world and the heaviest building on record, built under *Nicolae Ceaușescu* in the 1980s. Guided tours cover only a fraction of its more than 1,000 rooms, but even a short visit gives a sense of its scale.

B Romanian Athenaeum is Bucharest's main concert hall and home to the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra. Its domed, columned facade is one of the city's most photographed buildings.

C Old Princely Court marks the site of the 15th-century princely court traditionally linked to *Vlad the Impaler*, whose 1459 document is considered Bucharest's founding record. The ruins sit at the heart of the Old Town, surrounded by cafes and bars.

D Stavropoleos Monastery is a small Orthodox monastery church tucked behind the Old Town's main streets, known for its detailed stone carving and calm courtyard.

E Romanian Patriarchal Cathedral is the seat of the Romanian Orthodox Church, set on a hill above the city center.

F Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum is an open-air museum with more than 100 traditional houses, churches, and windmills brought from villages across Romania. Set beside Herăstrău Lake, it makes an easy half-day visit.

G Cărturești Carusel is a bookshop built inside a restored early-1900s bank, with a dramatic spiral staircase and skylight running through several floors. It's one of Bucharest's most photographed interiors.

H Cismigiu Gardens is a central park built around a small lake, with shaded paths and a bandstand — a good place to slow down after a day of sightseeing.

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What to experience

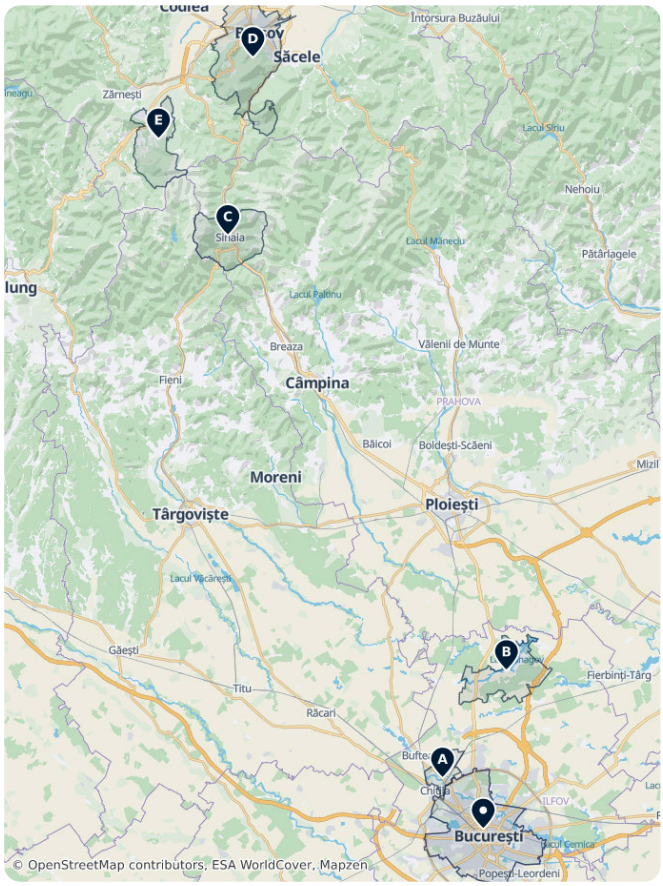
A few Bucharest rituals are worth building into a visit beyond the main sights.

- Rent a rowboat or pedal boat on the lake in Herăstrău Park, a popular weekend activity for locals.
- Spend an afternoon at Therme București, one of Europe's largest thermal-spa and water-park complexes, about 30 minutes from the centre.
- Browse the antique shops and art stalls along Strada Hanul cu Tei in the Old Town.

Day trips

Bucharest makes a good base for exploring Wallachia and the Carpathian foothills, whether by train, car, or an organized tour.

- A Mogoșoaia — about 30 minutes by car. An 18th-century Brâncovenesc-style palace set beside a lake, with gardens that make an easy half-day trip.
- B Snagov — about 45 minutes by car. A forested lake popular for walks and boating, with a small monastery on an island said to hold *Vlad the Impaler*'s grave.
- C Sinaia — about 2 hours by train. A mountain town built around Peleș Castle, a lavish 19th-century royal residence in the Carpathian foothills.
- D Brașov and E Bran — about 2.5–3 hours by train or car. A well-preserved Transylvanian old town sits below Tâmpa Mountain, home to a large hillside sign like the Hollywood sign, and a hilltop castle nearby is marketed as "Dracula's Castle" despite a thin historical connection to the novel.



Getting there

- **By air**: Henri Coandă International Airport (OTP), Romania's main gateway, is north of the city in Otopeni. A direct train reaches Gara de Nord in about 25 minutes; Express Bus 100 takes 40–50 minutes. Book a taxi at the airport's official yellow terminals, or use Uber or Bolt, for a 30–50 minute ride depending on traffic.
- **By train**: Gara de Nord is Bucharest's main station, with domestic connections to Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu, Iași, and Constanța, and international routes to Budapest, Vienna, Chișinău, and Sofia. CFR Călători
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches from other Romanian cities and neighboring countries arrive at terminals near Gara de Nord.

Getting around

- **Metro**: Metrorex is the fastest way to cross the city and avoids surface traffic. Tap a contactless bank card or phone directly at the turnstiles, or buy a card from the orange vending machines in stations.
- **Trams, buses, and trolleybuses**: Run by STB and reach areas the metro doesn't. Tap a contactless card directly on board, the same way as the metro. STB
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber and Bolt both operate widely and show the price upfront.
- **On foot**: The centre and Old Town are compact and walkable, though the city spreads out widely beyond them.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The historic centre and Old Town are compact and easy to explore on foot, but the city spreads out widely and heavy traffic makes some boulevards unpleasant to cross.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Bike lanes are limited and traffic is often heavy, though a growing network connects some parks and boulevards.

Driving

- **Car needed?** No — traffic is heavy, the one-way system in the centre is confusing, and public transport covers the main sights well. A car is more useful for day trips into the Carpathians.
- **Parking**: Metered on-street parking operates in much of the centre, usually paid via a parking app or SMS; guarded car parks near major sights cost more but save time.
- **Restrictions**: No congestion charge, but traffic on the main boulevards gets heavy at rush hour — avoid driving through the centre during morning and evening peaks.

Food & drink

Bucharest's food scene mixes hearty Romanian classics with a growing number of modern restaurants and craft breweries. For something distinctive, Caru' cu Bere is a beer hall with a Neo-Gothic facade and Art Nouveau interior, serving traditional Romanian grill dishes since 1879 — reserve ahead, as it's popular with both visitors and locals.

For a wider spread, head to the Old Town's streets and covered passages, including Pasajele Macca-Villacrosse, where cafes, wine bars, and restaurants cluster together. At lunch, ask for the *meniu zilei* — a fixed-price daily menu that's common and good value.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Zacusca · zacuscă
Cooked vegetable spread of eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes, eaten on bread.

LUNCH

Ciorba · ciorbă
Sour soup made with vegetables, meat, or tripe, often the first course of the main meal.

DINNER

Mici · mici
Grilled minced-meat rolls without casing, a summer grill staple.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Covrigi · covrigi
Chewy, pretzel-like bread rings sold from street stalls and bakeries.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Papanasi · papanași
Fried or boiled dough balls topped with sour cream and jam.

DRINKS

Tuica · țuică
Strong plum brandy, the traditional drink for toasts, often homemade in villages.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Sarmale · sarmale
Cabbage or grape leaves stuffed with minced meat and rice, Romania's closest thing to a national dish.

Mamaliga · mămăligă
Cornmeal polenta served as a side with stews, cheese, or sour cream.

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Safety & health

Bucharest is generally safe for tourists, with low rates of violent crime. Watch for pickpockets in crowded spots like the metro, Old Town nightlife streets, and popular sights.

The most common tourist scam involves unmarked taxis overcharging at the airport and Gara de Nord. Book a taxi at the airport's official yellow terminals, or use Uber or Bolt, which show the price upfront before you ride.

History

Bucharest's name is said to come from a shepherd called *Bucur*, though the city's documented history starts with *Vlad the Impaler*, the Wallachian ruler whose 1459 charter is the earliest surviving mention of the city, issued from the fortress that once stood at Old Princely Court.

By the early 20th century, wide boulevards and Beaux-Arts mansions earned Bucharest the nickname "Little Paris." A major 1977 earthquake and decades of Communist-era demolition later reshaped the old city — under *Nicolae Ceaușescu*, entire neighborhoods were cleared to build Palace of the Parliament, and crowds later gathered at University Square during the anti-Communist revolts of December 1989 that ended his rule.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Romania at a glance:

CURRENCY
RON lei

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



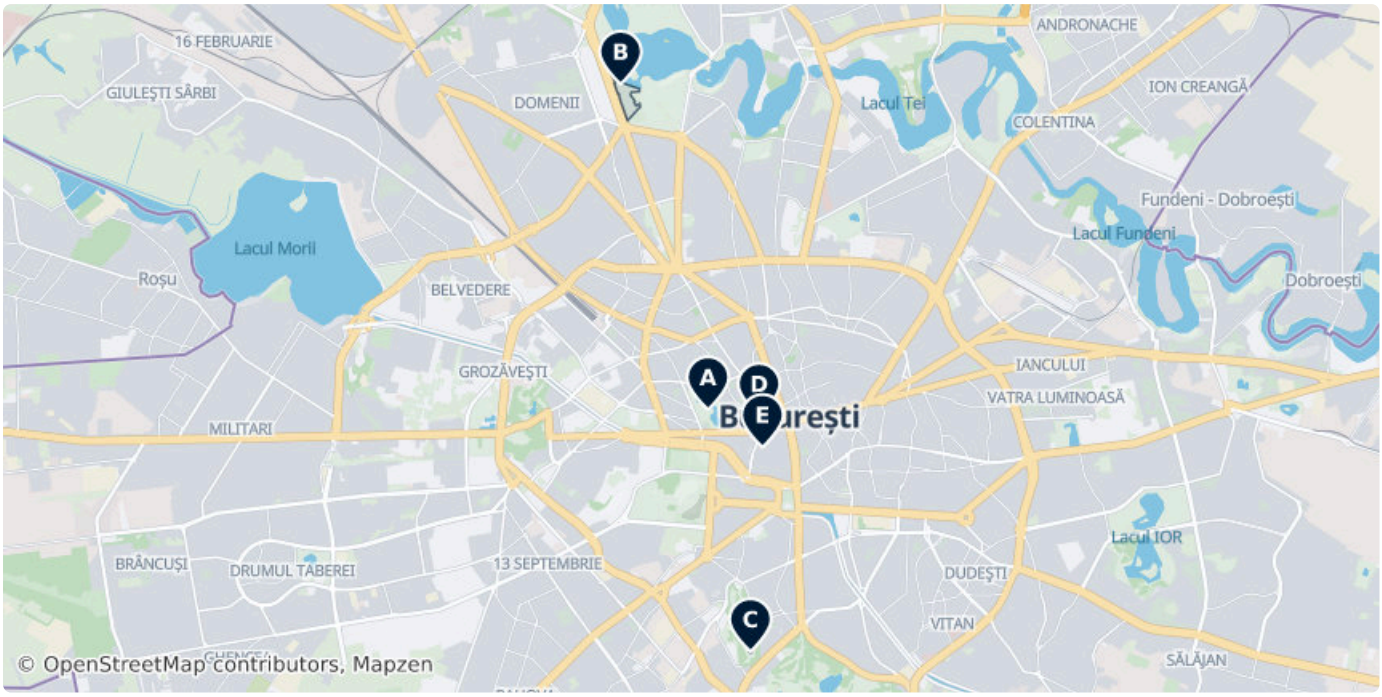
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Romanian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Editor's Choice Highlights

This selection highlights Bucharest's rich cultural and historic heritage through iconic locations such as the centrally located Cișmigiu Gardens, the open-air Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum showcasing traditional Romanian village life, the solemn Carol Park Mausoleum, and distinctive urban artworks and passages that reflect the city's architectural and artistic diversity.





A Cișmigiu Gardens

The Cișmigiu Gardens or Cișmigiu Park are a public park in the center of Bucharest, Romania, spanning areas on all sides of an artificial...

Aleea Magnoliei, București, Rumania (44.43709, 26.09054)

cismigiuparc.ro, +40 744 630 000



B Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum

The Village Museum or formally National Museum of the Village "Dimitrie Gusti" is an open-air ethnographic museum located in the King...

Șoseaua Pavel Dimitrievici Kiseleff 28-30, 011347 București (44.47182, 26.07745)

muzeul-satului.ro, +40 21 317 9068



C The Carol Park Mausoleum

A mausoleum located within Carol Park, serving as a memorial site.

București, Romania (44.41126, 26.09687)



D Umbrellas in Pasajul Victoria

A colorful umbrella installation suspended in Victoria Passage.

48 Calea Victoriei, București 010082, Romania (44.43638, 26.09816)



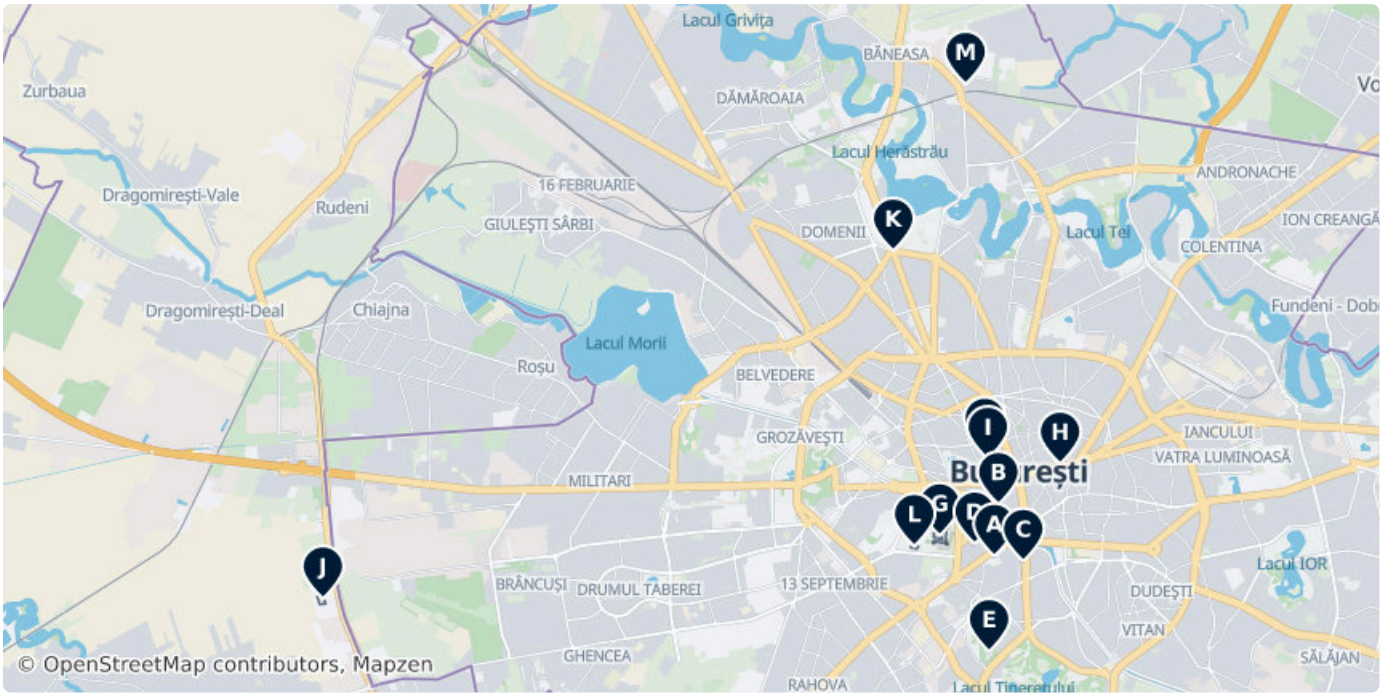
E Pasajele Macca-Villacrosse

Historic covered passage known for its distinctive 19th-century architecture.

Pasajul Macca - Vilacrosse, 030094 Bucharest, Romania (44.43307, 26.09868)

Historic & Religious Landmarks

This list showcases Bucharest's prominent historic and religious sites, featuring Orthodox cathedrals, churches, and monasteries that highlight the city's spiritual traditions. Included are royal and governmental palaces, a monumental triumphal arch, and mausoleums that commemorate important historical events and figures, offering insight into Bucharest's cultural and architectural evolution.





A Romanian Patriarchal Cathedral

The Romanian Orthodox Patriarchal Cathedral is a functioning religious and civic landmark, on Dealul Mitropoliei, in Bucharest, Romania.

Strada Dealul Mitropoliei, București (44.42456, 26.09793)



B Stavropoleos Church

Stavropoleos Monastery, also known as Stavropoleos Church during the last century when the monastery was dissolved, is an Eastern Orthodox...

Strada Poștei 6, 030085 București (44.43180, 26.09871)

stavropoleos.ro, +4021 313 4747



C Saint Spyridon the New Church

The Saint Spyridon the New Church is a Romanian Orthodox church in Bucharest, Romania on Calea Șerban Vodă, no. 29.

Calea Șerban Vodă 29, 040201 București (44.42388, 26.10356)



D Antim Monastery

The Antim Monastery is located in Bucharest, Romania on Mitropolit Antim Ivireanu Street, no. 29.

Strada Justiției 29, 040116 București (44.42628, 26.09408)

manastireaantim.ro, +40 314 178 078



E The Carol Park Mausoleum

A mausoleum located within Carol Park, serving as a monument to Romania's communist era and war heroes.

București, Romania (44.41126, 26.09687)



F Royal palace

The Royal Palace of Bucharest, known as Palace of the Republic between 1948 and 1990, is a monumental building situated in the capital of...

Calea Victoriei 49-53, 70101 Bucharest, Romania (44.43940, 26.09603)

Tu 10:00–18:00

+40 21 313 30 30



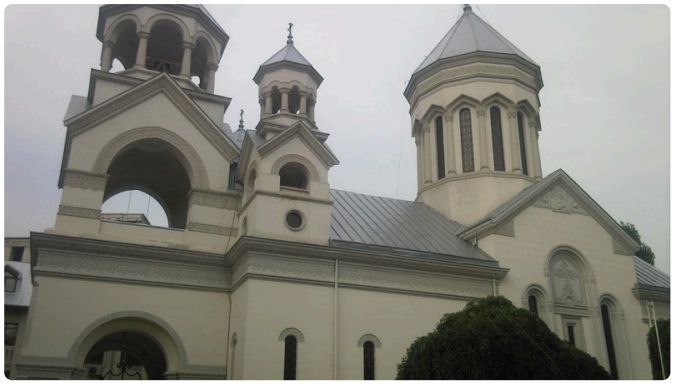
G Palace of the Parliament

One of the largest administrative buildings globally, housing the Romanian Parliament, notable for its massive scale and neoclassical architecture.

Strada Izvor 2-4, 050563 București, RO
(44.42744, 26.08722)

Mar-Oct Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Nov-Feb Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

+40 21 316 0300



H Armenian Church

A fascinating holy place that leaves the visitors stand in awe with their mouths wide open is one of the major landmarks of the city.

Strada Armenească, Bucharest, Romania
(44.43745, 26.11077)

+40 21 314 0208



I Kretzulescu Church

Kretzulescu Church is an Eastern Orthodox church in central Bucharest, Romania.

Strada Walter Mărăcineanu, 010039 Bucharest, Romania
(44.43812, 26.09665)

+4021 410 7116

J Fortul Nr. 17 Domnești

A historic fortification in the Domnești area, part of Bucharest's defensive ring from the late 19th century.

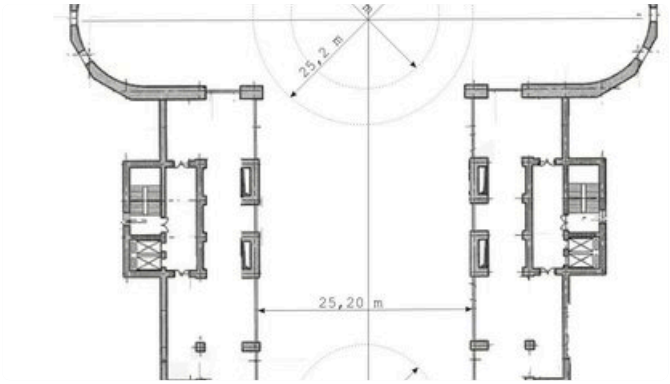
(44.41862, 25.96650)



K Triumphal Arch

Triumphal Arch is a monumental arch in the northern part of Bucharest built to commemorate Romania's participation in World War I and the coronation of King Ferdinand I. It symbolizes Romanian-Franco friendship and serves as a historic and cultural landmark hosting military parades on Romanian National Day.

București, RO (44.46719, 26.07813)



L National Cathedral of Romania

The People's Salvation Cathedral, also known as the National Cathedral, is an Eastern Orthodox cathedral under construction in Bucharest to...

Calea 13 Septembrie, 050826 Bucharest, Romania (44.42594, 26.08222)

catedrala-nationala.ro

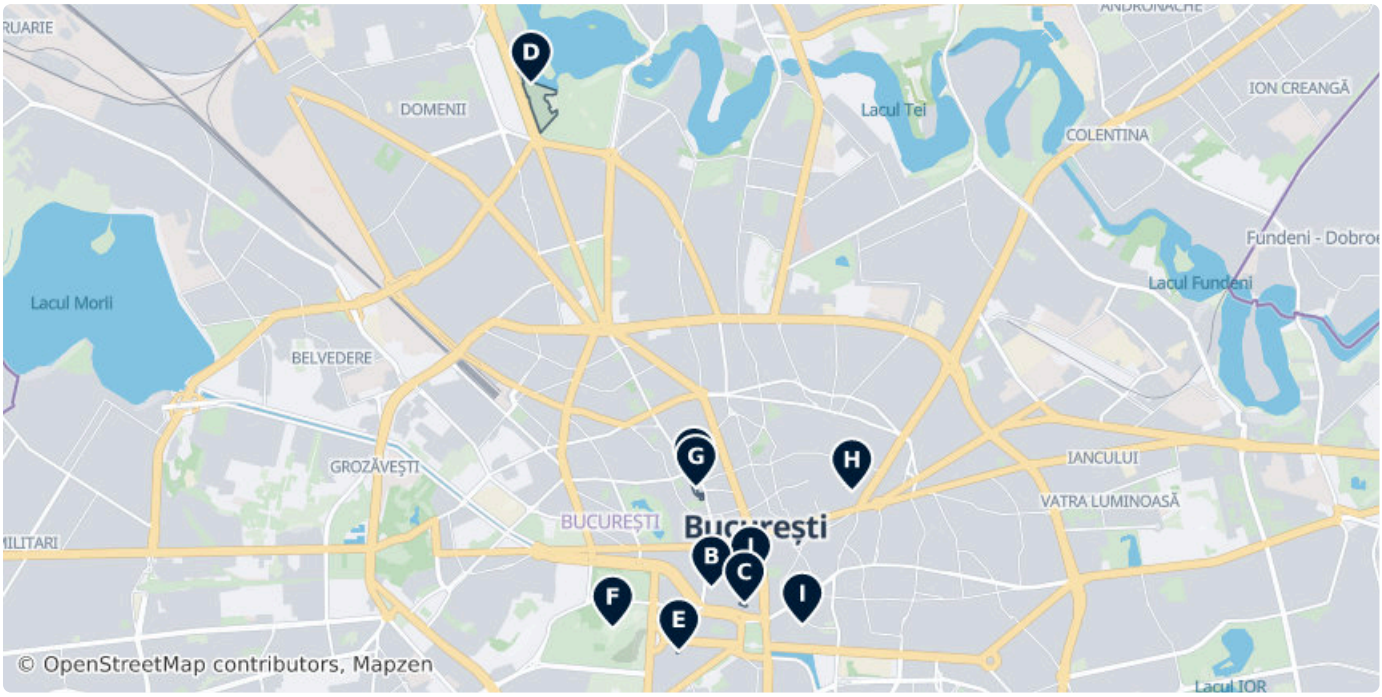
M Congregația Surorilor Oblate Asumpționiste „Mănăstirea Sfânta Treime”

A Roman Catholic religious congregation known as the Assumptionist Sisters’ Monastery, serving the local community.

(44.49045, 26.09226)

Bucharest Art & History

Discover Bucharest's diverse cultural landscape through its top museums and historic sites. This collection features the National Museum of Art housed in the Royal Palace, the medieval Curtea Veche princely residence, and the open-air Dimitrie Gusti Village Museum showcasing traditional Romanian rural life. Visitors can explore contemporary art at the National Museum of Contemporary Art, historical narratives at the National History Museum, and the Jewish heritage preserved in the Chief-Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen Museum. The list also includes artistic passageways and religious landmarks integral to the city's heritage.





A National Museum of Art of Romania

The National Museum of Art of Romania is located in the Royal Palace in Revolution Square, central Bucharest.

Calea Victoriei 49-53, 010063 București
(44.44007, 26.09579)

Mo–Tu Closed

mnar.arts.ro, 021/313.30.30;021/314.81.19



B National History Museum of Romania

The National History Museum of Romania is a museum located at 12 Calea Victoriei in Bucharest, Romania, which contains Romanian historical...

Calea Victoriei 12, 030026, Bucharest, Romania
(44.43139, 26.09776)

Mo–Tu Closed

mnir.ro, +40213158207



C "The Old Court" - Princely Palace

Curtea Veche was built as a palace or residence during the rule of Vlad III Dracula in 1459.

Strada Franceză 25-31, 030103 București (44.43012, 26.10145)

Mo–Su 10:00–22:00

muzeulbucurestiului.ro/palatul-voievodal-... , 021/314.03.75



D Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum

The Village Museum or formally National Museum of the Village "Dimitrie Gusti" is an open-air ethnographic museum located in the King...

Șoseaua Pavel Dimitrievici Kiseleff 28-30, 011347 București (44.47182, 26.07745)

muzeul-satului.ro, +40 21 317 9068

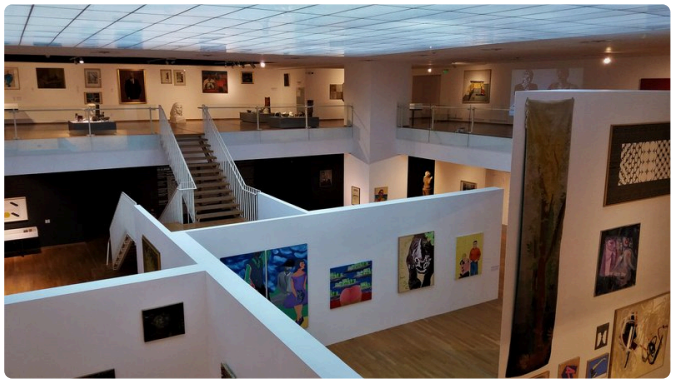


E Antim Monastery

The Antim Monastery is located in Bucharest, Romania on Mitropolit Antim Ivireanu Street, no. 29.

Strada Justiției 29, 040116 București (44.42628, 26.09408)

manastireaantim.ro, +40 314 178 078



F National Museum of Contemporary Art

The National Museum of Contemporary Art is a contemporary art museum in Bucharest, Romania.

Strada Izvor 2-4, 050563 București (44.42814, 26.08663)

We–Su 11:00–18:30

mnac.ro, +40 21 318 9137



G Royal palace

The Royal Palace of Bucharest, known as Palace of the Republic between 1948 and 1990, is a monumental building situated in the capital of...

Calea Victoriei 49-53, 70101 Bucharest, Romania
(44.43940, 26.09603)

Tu	10:00–18:00

+40 21 313 30 30



H "Theodor Pallady" Museum

The Theodor Pallady Museum is a museum located at 22 Spătarului Street in Bucharest, Romania.

Strada Spătarului 22, 020775 București
(44.43913, 26.11354)

Mo–Tu	Closed
We–Su	10:00–18:00, 11:00–19:00

mnar.arts.ro, 021/211.49.79



I "Chief-Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen" History Museum of the Jews in Romania

The Jewish Museum in Bucharest, Romania is located in the former Templul Unirea Sfântă synagogue, which survived World War II.

Strada Mămulari 3, 030771 București (44.42839, 26.10796)

Mo–We	09:00–13:00
Th	09:00–12:30, 15:00–18:00

romanianjewish.org/ro, 021/311.08.70



J Hanul cu Tei Passageway

The fascinating cobblestone passageway offers a variety of galleries, antiques shops and various stores with art supplies.

5 Strada Blănari, București 030061, Romania
(44.43217, 26.10215)

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