

ROMANIA

Cities & Regions

(Everything You Need to Know to Travel in Romania)

Romania Facts

West Virginia Facts

TIME: GMT +2 7:00 p.m. Tues.
AREA: 91,725 sq. miles

Noon Tues.
 24,077 sq. miles



POPULATION: 21,400,000

RELIGION: Christian Orthodox 87%,
 Roman Catholic 5%
 Protestant 5%

LANGUAGE: Romanian
 31 letter Latin alphabet

CURRENCY: Romanian Leu (Ron)
 2.06 lei
 100 Banat = 1 lei

CLIMATE: Temperate, 4 seasons

CAPITAL: Bucharest

HI ELEVATION: 2400 m / 7874 ft

NATIONAL ANTHEM:
 DEȘTEAPTĂ-TE ROMÂNE!

MILEAGE: 1 km

MOUNTAIN RANGE:

1,816,856
 New York State 19,490,297

English

US Dollar
 \$1.00
 100 pennies = \$1
 Temperate, 4 seasons
 Charleston
 1,482 m / 4,863 ft

The Star Spangled Banner
 1.6 miles

The Carpathian Mountains
 extend more than 600 miles.

Appalachian as part of
 the Allegheny Mountains.

VIP WORD: Toaleta

Toilet

MONEY MATTERS

Romania's currency is Leu (plural "Lei") (pronunciation: *lay*).

Banknote denominations: 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 lei

Coins: 1, 5, 10 and 50 bani pieces. (pronunciation: *bahnee*)

1 leu = 100 bani

Foreign currencies may be exchanged at banks or authorized exchange offices (called: "casa de schimb" or "birou de schimb valutar"). International airports and larger hotels also offer currency exchange services.

Exchange rates** for foreign currencies, valid on February 3, 2010:

one US dollar = 2.93 Lei (2 lei and 93 bani)

one Canadian dollar = 2.77 Lei (2 lei and 77 bani)

one British Pound = 4.66 Lei (4 lei and 66 bani)

one Australian dollar = 2.58 Lei (2 lei and 58 bani)

4 one Euro = 4.08 Lei (4 lei and 08 bani)

** Official exchange rates announced by the National Bank of Romania

ATM (*Bancomat*)

ATM machines are available at main banks and at airports and shopping centres. Do not expect to find ATMs in remote areas or villages.

Credit cards

Major credit cards including American Express, Mastercard and Visa are accepted in large hotels, car rental companies and stores in the main cities. However, credit cards are unlikely to prove useful in small towns or away from tourist areas.

Travelers' Checks

Preferably in US dollars or Euros, Travelers' Checks can be cashed in large banks, some hotels and selected exchange offices but most of them charge considerable commissions. Do not count on cashing such checks outside Bucharest and a few other major cities. For travel around the country it is a good idea to carry cash. Small stores and restaurants might accept U.S. Dollars in small denominations (\$ 1, 5, 10 and 20) but the exchange rate offered will not be the best. Street handicraft vendors prefer Romanian currency.

ROMANIAN TIMELINE

10,000 B.C. — approximate date of the first known art in present day Romania: cave paintings in northwest Transylvania.

4,000 B.C. — approximate date of pottery (dated to the Neolithic Age) that is found in all regions of Romania.

3,000 B.C. — Thracian tribes of Indo-European origin, who migrated from Asia, occupied the actual territory of Romania.

2,000 B.C. — a distinctive Thracian sub-group emerged in what is now Romania. The Greeks called these people Getae, but to the Romans they were Dacians. Herodotus called them "the fairest and most courageous of men" because they believed in the immortality of the soul and were not afraid to die.

700 B.C. — Greeks arrived and settled near the Black Sea. The cities of Histria, Tomis (now Constanta) and Callatis (now Mangalia) were established. Western-style civilization developed significantly.

70-44 B.C. — Dacian king Burebista controlled the territory of modern-day Romania. Burebista created a powerful Dacian kingdom.

100 A.D. — Dacian civilization reaches its peak.

101-106 A.D. — Romans conquer and colonize Dacia (today's Romania). Dacia becomes a Roman province and Dacians adopt the conquerors' language.

106-274 A.D. — Dacia is a province of the Roman Empire.

271 A.D. — after fighting off the barbarian Goths, Roman troops abandon Dacia.

4th Century — Christianity is adopted by the Daco-Roman, Latin-speaking people.

4th-10th Centuries — nomadic tribes from Asia and Europe (Goths, Visigoths, Huns, Slavs, Magyars) invade Dacia.

11th Century — Romanians were the only Latin people in the eastern part of the former Roman Empire and the only Latin people to belong to the Orthodox faith.

Hungarian (Magyar) forces invade northwestern and central Romania (Transylvania).

12th Century — Saxon (German) settlers begin to establish several towns in Transylvania. (Germans were invited to settle in Transylvania by the king of Hungary who wanted to consolidate his position in the newly occupied territory).

13th Century — The first formal division of the formerly unified Romanian population.

Italy force Romania to cede Northern Transylvania to Hungary and Southern Dobrogea to Bulgaria. Widespread demonstrations against King Carol II. Marshall Ion Antonescu forces him to abdicate in favor of his 19-year-old son Michael. Carol II flees Romania.

1941 — Marshall Ion Antonescu imposes a military dictatorship. In order to regain Bessarabia, Romania joins Germany against the Soviet Union.

1944 — King Michael engineers a royal coup and arrests Marshall Ion Antonescu. Romania changes sides and joins Soviet forces against Fascist Germany.

1945 — The Yalta Agreement makes Romania part of the Soviet system.

1947 — With Soviet troops on its territory, Romania enters the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union. The communists, who gradually took power, force King Michael to abdicate and proclaim Romania a People's Republic.

1950s — After Stalin's death, Romania begins to distance itself from Moscow.

1968 — The condemnation of Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia by Romania's communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu, earns him praise and economic aid from the West.

1980s — Obsessed with repaying the national debt and megalomaniac building projects Ceausescu orders a ban on importation of any consumer products and commands exportation of all goods produced in Romania except minimum food supplies. Severe restrictions of civil rights are imposed.

1989 — Romanians unite in protests against the communist leadership and local demonstrations sparked a national uprising that finally ousted communist ruler Nicolae Ceausescu and his cabinet.

1991 — Romanians vote for a new Constitution.

2004 — Romania joins NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

2007 — Romania becomes a member of the European Union (EU).

Timeline copied from <http://www.romaniatourism.com/history.html> 02 February 2010.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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A visually appealing professional performance of the Romanian National Anthem.

Coutsoukis, Photius. "Romani – 2009". <http://www.theodora.com/wfb/photos/romania/http://www.infoghidromania.com/images/Complexul%20Manastirea%20Barsana,%20Județul%20Maramures.jpg>

This site was developed to provide information on a variety of subjects. The founder is Romanian and has developed a comprehensive site on Romania with updated statistical information and some great photos.

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Eidelberg, Philip Gabriel. "The Great Rumanian Peasant Revolt of 1907: Origins of a Modern Jacquerie." E.J. Brill: Leiden. 1974.

Tells the story of the peasant revolt and subsequent consequences. Includes map including one of Romania before Transylvania became a part of the country.

Gheorghe, Tudor. "Cantecul strainatatiei." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?playnext=1&playnext_from=TL&videos=Jsg3XHVNZyg&v=XbQCyhluIE8>. 25 January 2010.

A great video with beautiful photography of Romania.

Iorga, N. "A History of Roumania. Land, People, Civilisation. T. Fisher Unwin Ltd.: London. 1925.

Translated by Joseph McCabe. A comprehensive scholastic history of the country. Foldout map. Includes a reference to a book "The Queen of Roumania's Fairy Book." By Queen Marie.

Kinter, Tom. "Tom's Place." <http://www.tkinter.smig.net/index.htm>." 02 February 2010.

A well compiled site with information on Romania and her Queens.

Comprehensive information on Queen Sylva, Queen Marie and Princess Illeana as well as information on Romania the country. Includes many images, samples of published work by the queens.

Marie, Queen of Rumania. "My Country." Hodder & Stoughton: New York. 1916.

The author became Queen of Rumania about 1915. She was already a published author even though she was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria. This publication has a variety of photos and tells the story of the Queen's visits through the Romanian countryside.