



HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS SOUTH-EAST

SIBIU, ROMANIA



# newcomers' GUIDE 2025



#WEARENATO





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SIBIU



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SIBIU  
ROMANIA



HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS SOUTH-EAST

550324, 28-32 Dumbravii Street, Sibiu



## FOREWORD

### Dear Newcomer,

Welcome to Headquarters Multinational Corps South-East (HQ MNC-SE) and to the city of Sibiu, Romania! We are very pleased that you have chosen to become part of our team!

HQ MNC-SE is the youngest NATO structure on the territory of Romania, Alliance's response to the new challenges of the current security environment in this part of Europe. Our clear mission is to provide command and control of an Alliance's land operation at army-corps level within a very well-established area of operations: the territory of Bulgaria and Romania. The establishment of this headquarters is a security guarantee as the Alliance has once again demonstrated

that it is able to adapt quickly and, to face all security challenges at the same time.

Our headquarters is established in a charming place, the city of Sibiu, a well-preserved medieval fortress in central Romania, a place that warmly welcomes you and makes you bond with it spiritually to return. There are too many sights to discover – its surroundings, the fortified churches, snow-capped mountains where you can hike; theater, philharmonic, museums – one can do so many things. People are extremely kind, and their concern for the common good and the community is something that you won't find everywhere.

All these will facilitate your integration into the headquarters' team and, at the same time, support you and your families to settle into the local community, take part into the socio-cultural life of the city and attend its famous cultural events.

I am proud to be your commander and I am looking forward to serving with you the strongest and longest-lasting military alliance in the world!

**FORTIS IN UNUM!**

**Cristian DAN**

*Lieutenant General, ROU Army  
Commander MNC-SE  
Sibiu, Romania*





## Welcome to Sibiu!

We are proud to be the host of a three-star NATO Headquarters, and we are delighted to receive the military staff who will work in this prestigious institution.

Because the city has a significant military tradition and is widely open to international best practices and values, you will be very well received in Sibiu and in our community that is accustomed and even eager to welcome its guests.

You are invited to discover a multicultural and pluriconfessional society, with over 800 years of history, being at the same time a modern European city, which consistently

invested and continues to invest in infrastructure, education, health, green areas and upgrading living conditions. At the same time, Sibiu is a renowned cultural city and an internationally acknowledged touristic destination, both the city itself and its wonderfully scenic surroundings. The city is also a successful business location; Romanian and foreign investors have found a good environment to develop their production facilities here. In short, this is an overview of a city which will surprise you once you get to discover it and, moreover, to experience it.

For all these reasons, I hope you will find Sibiu to be your home away from home, one that I hope you will choose to stay in for a longer period of time because you will have found it to be functional for daily needs and charming and attractive for your leisure time.

This is an open invitation for you to become part of Sibiu! We are looking forward to receiving you!

With warmest wishes,

**Astrid Cora FODOR**

*Mayor of Sibiu*





The HQ MNC-SE **Newcomers' Guide**, meant to familiarize you with your new assignment in Sibiu, is a living document drafted by HQ MNC-SE Military Public Affairs Office and Family Support & MWR Team, validated by Sibiu local authorities

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Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect official views, nor have the

endorsement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Your comments and suggestions for further improvements will be much appreciated. Feel free to send them at: [hqmcse\\_mwr@forter.ro](mailto:hqmcse_mwr@forter.ro), [hqmcse@forter.ro](mailto:hqmcse@forter.ro) or [mncse.registry@mncse.ro](mailto:mncse.registry@mncse.ro)





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## PART I

## The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Headquarters Multinational Corps South – East (HQ MNC-SE)

### SECTION 1: NATO

NATO was established in 1949. Today there are 32 permanent representatives to the North Atlantic Council: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,

Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



Security in our daily lives is key to our well-being. NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.

NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. However, if diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under the collective defence clause of NATO's founding treaty – Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations.



## SECTION 2: HQ MNC-SE

### MISSION

As part of the NATO Force Structure (NFS), the HQ MNC-SE contributes to reinforcing deterrence on NATO's Eastern Flank and, on order, provides corps-level Command and Control for NATO Land operations during crises situations or at war.

This structure is designed to facilitate operational coherence between national and allied defence plans and better operational integration with allied forces to support the security architecture on NATO's Eastern Flank.

HQ MNC-SE is established in accordance with NATO standards for Army Corps and relies on military and civilian personnel from several NATO member states, with Romania as Framework Nation (FN).



### HISTORICAL MILESTONES



In July 2018, at the NATO Summit in Brussels (Belgium), the President of Romania, his Excellency Mr. Klaus-Werner IOHANNIS, announced Romania's offer to host a NATO Command and Control capability on its territory in order to adapt to an increasingly unstable regional and international security environment and in the context of the adaptation process of the NATO Command Structure. Romania's commitment has been welcomed by the Allies. Further discussions and meetings within the Alliance paved the way for preparing the establishment and development of the new HQ.



In March 2020, the Post Allocation Conference and the Memorandum of Understanding Conference took place at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, with representatives from many NATO member states. Most of the participating nations have committed to supporting the development of the new multinational HQ, including support with personnel and/or logistics.



On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Romania's Supreme Council of National Defence approved the establishment of the Headquarters Multinational Corps South-East (HQ MNC-SE) on the national territory, in Sibiu. Thus, Romania officially committed to the role of Framework Nation.



At the Romanian President's proposal, on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Romanian Parliament endorsed the decision to establish HQ MNC-SE in Sibiu. As a result of the Parliament's decision, upon activation, HQ MNC-SE gained the status of a NATO International Military Headquarters, subordinated to an Allied command.



HQ MNC-SE establishment ceremony took place on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, at the Joint National Training Centre "GETICA". The President of Romania, his Excellency Klaus-Werner IOHANNIS, the Minister of National Defence, Nicolae-Ionel CIUCA and the Romanian Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General Daniel PETRESCU, attended the event. During the ceremony, President IOHANNIS handed over HQ MNC-SE identification flag to Major General Tomiță - Cătălin TOMESCU, appointed Commander of HQ MNC-SE by order of the Romanian Minister of Defence.



The North Atlantic Council activated HQ MNC-SE as a NATO Military Body on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, thus granting it the status of a NATO International Military Headquarters, under the Paris Protocol and the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the status of their forces. The activation officially integrated HQ MNC-SE within the NATO Force Structure(NFS).



DEFENDER Europe 21 Computer-Assisted/ Command Post Exercise took place from 10 to 14 June 2021 in Romania and in Germany, involving over 400 personnel. In order to validate and strengthen its capabilities, HQ MNC-SE has significantly benefited from the support, expertise and operational experience of the United Kingdom's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, the United States Army's for Europe and Africa V Corps, as well as from various structures of the Romanian Armed Forces.



On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the completion of Exercise DEFENDER Europe, HQ MNC-SE Commander, Lieutenant General Tomiță - Cătălin TOMESCU, stated, *"Today, HQ MNC-SE has reached the Initial Operational Capability, which will allow us to operate in the role of a corps headquarters within the NATO Force Structure, in accordance with its present level of development. The results of this exercise are particularly important from the perspective of HQ MNC-SE next milestone - the achievement of the Full Operational Capability by 2024 - ensuring a credible defensive and deterrent capability that NATO needs in the region".*



Starting with July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, following the Romanian Parliament Decision no. 8 of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Headquarters Multinational Corps South-East (HQ MNC- SE) was relocated from Bucharest and began to officially operate in Sibiu Garrison.



On 28th February 2022 the Multinational Corps South East (HQ MNC-SE) held the Change of Command Ceremony in Sibiu Garrison. Lieutenant General Tomiță-Cătălin TOMESCU, who has been in charge of HQ MNC-SE since its establishment in July 2020, handed over command of the multinational corps to Major General Dragoș-Dumitru IACOB.



On 23th October 2023 HQ MNC-SE achieved the Full Operational Capability (FOC) at the end of STEADFAST JUPITER 2023 Exercise when it was certified by the NATO Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) as army corps-level unit able to ensure the command and control of NATO's land operations in MNC-SE area of operations.



On 15th January 2024 the Multinational Corps South East (HQ MNC-SE) held the Change of Command Ceremony in Sibiu Garrison. Dumitru IACOB handed over command of the MNC-SE to Major-General Cristian-Daniel DAN, in the presence of the Chief of the Romanian Defense, General Gheorghiuță VLAD and the Deputy Commander of Joint Force Command Naples (JFC Naples), Lieutenant-General Stephen KELSEY





NATO Rapid Reaction Corps HQs

## HQ MNC-SE CREST

The HQ MNC-SE crest consists of both national and NATO symbols.

The central element of the crest is the NATO compass rose which points out that the HQ is under the operational command of the SACEUR. Behind the NATO logo, there are two crossed weapons, a hatch and a sword, which symbolize the sovereignty of the states and the combat power of the corps.

The green colour indicates that this NATO structure operates mainly in the land domain, and the blue colour represents the core values

of NATO as an organization: preserving peace and freedom of its member states.

The three yellow stars indicate the hierarchical level of the HQ.

The Romanian flag appears in the bottom half of the emblem, as Romania is the Framework Nation of this NATO establishment.

Our motto, a Latin phrase, is **"FORTIS IN UNUM!"** (en. *Strong together*), and it shows Romania's resolution, as part of the Alliance, to ensure a safe and secure environment in the region.





## PART II

## Life in the Headquarters

## SECTION 1: ON ARRIVAL

The **working language** at the HQ MNC-SE, Sibiu is **English**.

## SPONSORSHIP SYSTEM

Upon receipt of the *"Rotation of Personnel"* form, the HQ MNC-SE Human Resources (**G1 Division**) will inform the respective Branch Head / ACOS to nominate a **Sponsor**. The Sponsor will be appointed as early as possible, **prior to** the newcomer's arrival. His duty is to make the necessary administrative arrangements and provide assistance through In-Processing phase. He is in charge of providing the Newcomer with the necessary access forms on the first day at the compound making sure the Newcomer is provided with all the essential briefings. The G1 Division will provide the In-Processing Form.

**N.B. The sponsor should not normally be the person being replaced and should be granted sufficient time to fulfil his sponsorship duties.**

## REPORTING TO YOUR NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENT (NSE) / SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (SNR) AND TO THE HQ MNC-SE G1 / PERSONNEL DIVISION

The NSE / SNR will confirm the arrival of military personnel and coordinate with the G1 Division to make sure that the registration paperwork is complete **before the individual arrives**. Military personnel should also coordinate with their NSE / SNR for national specific in-processing matters.

Upon arrival, the Newcomer reports to G1 Division to start the in-processing procedure and, immediately after, to his NSE/SNR.



For particular periods or events (e.g. exercises, crisis response operations, disaster relief, etc.) a specific **Battle Rhythm** will be implemented.

More details about working hours and leave regulations can be found in the **HQ MNC-SE Directive Workforce and Personnel Management and Administration**.

## NATO ID &amp; SECURITY BADGE

A **NATO AMIS CARD** will be issued by the **G1** as soon as they get the NATO Security Clearance Certificate, passport and NATO travel order (NTO).

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

The **Battle Dress Uniform** (BDU) is to be worn for everyday duty, while more formal uniforms may be required on some specific occasions.

Guidance from each national authority is recommended before arrival.



## WORKING HOURS &amp; LEAVE

The **standard working** hours are:

**Monday to Thursday - 08.00 to 16.30** Eastern European time (GMT+2).

**Friday - 08.00 to 14.00** Eastern European time (GMT+2).

## MILITARY COURTESIES AND CUSTOMS

The HQ MNC-SE military personnel are required to maintain a high standard of military courtesy. All military personnel in uniform will render the appropriate courtesies.



Salutes will be given by other ranks to all officers and by junior officers to senior officers in accordance with national guidelines.

Each National Delegation is responsible for briefing all ranks on the observance of national customs and international courtesies.

HQ MNC-SE personnel are expected to show courtesy and friendliness to Romanian citizens in order to ensure a pleasant and favourable environment for the activities of the HQ MNC-SE and NATO.

## DINING FACILITIES

Dining Facilities (DFAC) for the HQ MNC-SE personnel is available on base.

## SECURITY

All personnel serving or working at the HQ MNC-SE must hold a Personnel Security Clearance Certificate with an access level similar to the classification level of the information to which the individuals need access in fulfilling their duties.

Personnel Security Clearance is the responsibility of the Sending Nation and must cover the entire duration of the tour of duty.

During the in-processing phase, the newly appointed personnel will be briefed on the security regulations and norms for the protection of information that apply within the HQ.

## ON BASE DRIVING REGULATIONS

Before entering the base through the Access Point, any dash camera and [Global Positioning Systems](#) must be turned off. Failure to comply with this regulation will lead to a security investigation.

A **15 km / h speed limit** is mandatory within the base and pedestrians have priority in all circumstances.

**Stopping & Parking** is permitted in marked areas only.

The Military Police (MP) is authorized to conduct random spot-checks at any time.

Some specific rules may be established by MP Policy on-base. Failure to comply with the on-base rules will lead to suspension or revocation of base driving privileges.

**N.B. All vehicles authorized to enter HQ MNC-SE barracks must display at all times the CAR PASS / VISITORS PASS issued by the security structure.**



## CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA

If representatives of the media approach you, please do not try to deal with them by yourself, but refer them to the Public Affairs Office at +40 369733780 or e-mail: [hqmcse\\_pao@forter.ro](mailto:hqmcse_pao@forter.ro).

## FAMILY SUPPORT

**Family Support & MWR Section and Family Support Office** offer a wide range of programs, services and recreational activities to support the well-being of NATO personnel and their families. We aim at promoting self-reliance and resiliency to strengthen the military and its family members and our great ambition is to facilitate building a strong community network of services through community outreach and partnership.

We can provide assistance with:

- Guidance in Tenant / Landlord relations – in close cooperation with HQ MNC-SE LEGAD;
- Guidance for schooling;
- Assistance for Personal Documentation: Personal Identification Code (*rou. -Cod Numeric Personal – CNP*), Romanian Identification Card—ROU ID, etc.;
- Car registration assistance and, in close cooperation with G8 Division, Financial assistance.

***Here is a list of documents you have to bring for your first appointment with the Family Support and MWR section:***

- NATO Security Clearance;
- NATO Travel Order – NTO (dependents who reside permanently with the member should be mentioned on it);
- If the case – Assignment order (some countries do not issue this document);
- Passport of the member and if the case, passports of all dependents\* (\* = spouse / children / partner who will permanently reside with the member during their tour at HQ MNC-SE);
- If the case - Marriage certificate / Birth certificate / The official document through which the sending nation recognize the dependent status of the partner (for spouse / children / partner who will permanently reside with the member during their tour at HQ MNC-SE);
- 2 photos (passport type – 3.5 cm width /4.5 cm length) for member and for each dependent.

***When you come with your car registered outside Romania and you want to use it here, you need:***

- Valid Driver's License;
- Car registration certificate;
- Proof of car ownership (if you choose or have to register your car in Romania);
- Vehicle identification card;
- Valid third party car insurance (motor liability insurance);
- Valid car road worthiness.

**N.B. If documents are written in any other characters than Latin, provide authenticated translation in English or Romanian. Going forward, you must consider this rule valid for any other documents requested in this publication.**



## SECTION 2: STATUS, ENTITLEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

### YOUR LEGAL STATUS AT THE HQ MNC-SE

The status of the HQ MNC-SE members and of their dependents, to the applicable extent, is governed by the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (NATO SOFA)<sup>1</sup>, the Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty (Paris Protocol)<sup>2</sup>, the Agreement between the Government of Romania and SHAPE and SACT to supplement the Paris Protocol, and other bilateral agreements between Romania and NATO.

**N.B. The laws and regulations of Romania shall be complied with.**

### MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER

Law enforcement in Romania is generally conducted by the Romanian Police, but the police authority within the HQ MNC-SE base is represented by the **Military Police**.

One of the tasks of the ROU Military Police force is policing the Romanian Armed Forces, Foreign Armed Forces and International Headquarters. An MP officer / NCO is assigned to the HQ MNC-SE to assist staff with police matters during working hours. Local police assistance is also available.

**N.B. For urgent matters such as witnessing crimes or life-threatening circumstances, you have to call emergency number 112.**

### PRIVATELY OWNED FIREARMS

Romanian law strictly regulates the possession of firearms and ammunition (parts of firearms/ ammunition included) and all the related activities such as transport, import, export, etc.

A firearm is any instrument capable of firing a projectile by an explosion.

Firearms imitations are also subject to Romanian law and are prohibited.

Written prior authorization from the Romanian authorities is mandatory in respect of possession, purchase and import of a firearm for private ownership.

If any privately owned firearm has already been imported in Romania without written authorization, it must be reported to the Romanian Police without delay in order to obtain authorization.

For more information, contact the **MP Office** on base.

<sup>1</sup> [NATO - Official text: Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces, 19-Jun.-1951](#)

<sup>2</sup> [NATO - Official text: Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty, 28-Aug.-1952](#)

### ILLEGAL DRUGS

Extract from Law No. 143 of 26 July 2000 on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illicit Drug Consumption

#### Article 2

Cultivation, production, manufacture, experimentation, extraction, preparation, processing, offering, selling, distribution, delivery with any title, sending, shipping, procuring, buying, holding or other operations on the movement of risk drugs, without right, are punishable by imprisonment from 2 to 7 years and the prohibition of some rights.

If the facts provided in par. (1) involve high-risk drugs, the punishment is imprisonment from 5 to 12 years and the prohibition of some rights.

#### Article 3

(1) The introduction or removal from the country, as well as the import or export of risk drugs, without right, shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 to 10 years and the prohibition of some rights.

(2) If the facts provided in par. (1) concern high-risk drugs, the sentence is imprisonment from 7 to 15 years and the prohibition of some rights.

#### Article 4

(1) The cultivation, production, manufacture, experimentation, extraction, preparation, transformation, purchase or possession of risk drugs for own consumption, without right, shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 months to 2 years or with a fine.

### TAX REGIME AND EXEMPTIONS

The Government of Romania, on one side, and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation on the other side, reached on 02 December 2015 an agreement to supplement the Paris Protocol in order to establish administrative procedures to facilitate the operation of HQ MNC-SE, including fiscal immunities and entitlements of staff members and their dependents only in the interests of NATO and in support of HQ MNC-SE.

Additional information about the fiscal immunities and entitlements will be received during the in-processing briefings.



## PART III

## Life in Romania

## SECTION 1: FACTS AND STATISTICS ABOUT ROMANIA



**Official Name:** România

**Location:** (South-eastern) Central Europe

**Time Zone:** Eastern European Time (GMT + 2)

**Area:** 238,391 sq. km (92,043 sq. miles)

**Flag of Romania:** Three vertical stripes: blue, yellow and red. 

**Population:** 21,890,000 (January 2024 - based on declared residence address)

**Largest cities (2025 population):** Bucharest (2,151,400), Iasi (387,100), Cluj Napoca (327,200), Timisoara (325,300), Constanta (311,300), Galati (306,400), Craiova (299,700), Brasov (289,500), Ploiesti (225,000), Oradea (221,400), Braila (200,100).

Romania's population lives in 320 cities and towns (56.4% of the total population) and 12,956 villages.

**Main Ethnic Groups:** Romanian 89.6%, Hungarian 6.1%, Gipsy 2.4%, German 0.2%, Ukrainian 0.2%, Lippovan (ethnic Russian Old Believers) 0.15%, Turkish 0.12%, Tatar 0.09%, Serbian 0.09%, Slovak 0.07%.

**Religions:** Christian Orthodox 81%, Roman Catholic 4.3%, Reformed

3%, Greek-Catholic 0.7%, Unitarian 0.3%, Jewish, other.

**Official Language:** Romanian

**Currency:** *Leu* (plural *Lei* --- pronunciation "lay" --- abbreviations: Lei or RON)

**Climate:** Temperate, four distinct seasons

**Capital:** Bucharest (*București* --- pronunciation: *boo-koo-re-sh-tea*)

**Form of State:** Romania is a semi-presidential democracy based on a bicameral Parliament: the Chamber of Representatives or "Chamber of Deputies" (*Camera Deputaților*) and the Senate (*Senat*). All members of the legislature are directly elected from Romania's 41 counties.

Under the semi-presidential system, the president is responsible for foreign and defence policy and handles prosecutors and judiciary appointments.

**Legal system:** Based on European models and Constitution of 1991.

**Electoral System:** Universal direct suffrage over the age of 18.

Parties must win at least five percent of the national vote to gain representation in the Parliament.

**National Government:** The government is led by the Prime Minister, nominated by the political party - or political alliance - with a parliamentary majority, approved by the President of Romania and confirmed by the Parliament.

**Head of the Government:** the Prime Minister.

**Main political parties,** represented in Romania's Parliament following the December, 2024 elections: Social Democratic Party (PSD), Alliance of United Romanians (AUR), National Liberal Party (PNL), The Union for Romania (USR).

**Regional Government:** Forty-one County Councils (*Consiliu Județean*).

Romania is a member state of the **European Union (EU)** and **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.

Source:

<https://romaniatourism.com/fast-facts.html>



## SECTION 2: YOU AND YOUR CAR

### OBTAINING THE ROU ID CARD

All **International Personnel** shall apply for obtaining an ROU ID, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Protocol Section (MFA).

The issuing of the ROU ID is not possible before a CNP is issued by the Romanian General Inspectorate of Immigration/ Ministry of Internal Affairs (IGI). Nonetheless, a CNP will be issued in 30 days after the submitted documents reach IGI. Family Support & MWR Section will provide you with all necessary information regarding this process and will distribute the forms (M for members of the HQ and MF for spouses and/or dependents). Additionally, applicants shall provide a copy of their passports, a copy of their NATO Travel Order (NTO) and 2 photos (passport type – 3.5 cm width /4.5 cm length). Once completed by you, the form will be signed by each individual applicant (you/spouse/children etc.), countersigned by the COM, and submitted to MFA. The ID cards will be issued in 20 working days after the submitted documents reach MFA.

**N.B. According to ROU law, you have to carry the ROU ID Card with you at all times.**

### YOUR CAR

All international personnel and their dependents older than 18 years old can choose to register their personal vehicles (except leasing or rented cars) for the period they are posted in Romania as members of the HQ MNC-SE.

According to the provisions of the **Art. 32** of the **Supplementary Agreement to Paris Protocol**, *"The Romanian authorities shall register vehicles and issue registration plates for the members' and their dependents' privately owned vehicles and trailers. Registration and registration plates shall be provided at actual cost only"*.

Based on members' and their dependents' requests, the Family Support Office is responsible for preparing the documents needed and coordinating the car registration process.

The importation, purchase and use of motor vehicles in Romania are subject to a variety of taxes and duties.

### DRIVING IN ROMANIA

In accordance with **Art. 31** of the **Supplementary Agreement to Paris Protocol**, the provisions of the NATO SOFA, article IV (*ROU accepts as valid the driving permit or license, or military driving permit issued by the sending State to all members and to their dependents, on the condition that they satisfy the driving age required in Romania, 18 years*) shall extend to all members and to their dependents. Upon request of the Romanian authorities,

HQ MNC-SE shall provide an endorsement to confirm that an individual is an Allied Headquarters member or dependent. Whilst in Romania, members and dependents that do not have a driving license and want to obtain it, shall be permitted to obtain a Romanian driving license only if they satisfy the driving age requirement in Romania (18 years).

Romanian traffic regulations will apply to the operation of official motor vehicles and trailers of an Allied Headquarters and to the operation of privately owned cars, trailers and motorcycles of its members and their dependents, regardless of type.

Privately owned cars of any type and trailers temporarily imported will, for the period of such importation, be subject only to the minimum construction, design and equipment regulations applicable to temporarily registered vehicles and trailers in Romania, taking at the same time due account of public safety and order.

Concerning the periodical roadworthiness test of vehicles, privately owned cars and trailers, have to be checked at the specialized technical inspection stations. The operators will issue the required technical inspection certificates.

According to Romanian law, if you wish to drive around in Romania with your owned car registered in your country, one can do so, as long you have a *valid proof of third party car insurance (motor liability insurance), valid car road worthiness and you obtain the road toll badge, called "Rovinieta"*.

If you choose to rent a car, the price waves between 14 and 88 Euros per day, depending on the type of car chosen. A helpful link could be <http://romaniatourism.com/sibiu.html#transportation>.

**Documents required by Border Police** are:

1. When **first entering ROU** territory by car: *passport, NTO, vehicle's registration, valid proof of car insurance, a valid car road worthiness and a valid Driver's License;*
2. When **returning to ROU** territory from leave/mission, etc., travelling by car: *passport, NTO or ROU ID, vehicle's registration, proof of insurance, car road worthiness and a valid Driver's License;*

When renting a car in Europe, please check with the car rental company about taking the car across national borders.

Independent travellers entering Romania by car (own or rental) need to obtain "Rovinieta". This is available at any border-crossing point, postal office and most gas stations at a cost depending on vehicle type and time duration (valid for up to 1 day, 10 days, 30 days, 60 days and 1 year).

In Romania, driving is performed on the right side of the road. Furthermore, in Romania, you give way to traffic coming from your right.



## BASIC DRIVING RULES

Use caution when overtaking other cars – allow sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front so you can see further down the road ahead.

Romania has a **very strict “drink and drive”** law, - **0.0 milligrams** per litre of exhaled air (breath analysis) / **0.0 milligrams** of alcohol per millilitre of blood.

Seat belts are compulsory for front and rear seat occupants. Front and rear seat belts are mandatory everywhere and every time. There are some exemptions, though. One of them is for pregnant women.

Speed limits are implemented rigorously. Radar traps are frequent. Remember, speeding and other traffic offences are subject to hefty on-the-spot fines.

The speed limits applicable to standard cars are as follows:

- In localities – 50 km/h (on certain sectors of roads a higher limit may be established but not more than 70 km/h);
- Outside localities, on national or regional roads – 90 km/h (100 km/h on express or European national roads - E);
- On highways – 130 km/h;

### Standard Speed Limit in Romania

RO	Motorcycle	Bus	Truck	Van	Car
Urban	50	50	50	50	50
Outside Urban	90	80	70	80	70
Express/Euro	100	90	80	90	80
Highway	100	90	80	90	80
Autospeedway	130	110	90	120	100

**Children in cars:** Children must [use a child car seat](#) or a booster seat until they're four.

Children older than 3 years and less than 135 mm high use a booster.

Children under 12 years of age cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

**Documentation:** always carry your driving license, vehicle registration document, and certificate of motor insurance. If your driving license does not incorporate a photograph, you need to have on you your passport or your ROU ID to validate it.

**The minimum age for driving** a car and motorcycle over 125cc is 18.

**Motorcycle** drivers and passengers must wear crash helmets.

**Motor insurance:** third-party insurance is compulsory. A green card is not required, but your insurer should be advised of your trip.

**Visibility Vests** are compulsory. There should be a vest for every occupant, and they should be in the car at all times. In the event of an emergency, put on the vest before getting out of your vehicle.

### Required Equipment

In Romania, two warning triangles, spare light bulbs kit, first aid kit, fire extinguisher and safety vest are compulsory.

During your tour, you could receive a traffic ticket. The Romanian police usually issue the traffic tickets on the spot, but sometimes your plate number could be recorded and a fine mailed to you at a later date. If you receive one in the mail, do not ignore it.

If a Romanian policeman along the side of the road steps your way waving a hand stop sign, you **must pull over** to the side of the road! **Do not speed away** because this would cause a car chase and severe problems with the law!

If you are stopped, do not be disrespectful!

If a communication gap exists and the Romanian policeman writes you a ticket for a violation you cannot understand, accept it and bring it to the MP office at the HQ MNC-SE for clarification.

### Parking is prohibited:

- Within any area or a parking lot not clearly lined, marked or otherwise designated for parking;
- Within a marked triangular space at the end of marked parking spaces;
- Within any area marked “NO PARKING”;
- On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked, at the edge of the curb or street;
- Facing and within the opposing lane of traffic;
- On a sidewalk;
- Within 9 meters of an intersection;
- Within 7 meters of a crosswalk;
- Upon any seeded or grassed area;
- Within 4.5 meters of a fire hydrant;
- Over any posted or clearly marked time limit;
- In any manner to obstruct a driveway;
- In any reserved parking space not authorized to do so;
- In any area that is occupied with construction equipment or materials;
- In any area marked with a yellow curb.



## Vehicle Accidents

In the unlikely event of an accident, specific procedures must be followed. The steps to be taken will depend upon whether the accident is classified as minor (no deaths or injuries at the scene) or major (death or injuries).

### Minor accidents:

If you are subject to a minor car accident which involves two or more cars and you are one of the drivers:

- Exchange license data, name and address, insurance company, policy number and vehicle tag numbers. If any doubts, call the police to assist you;
- Do not leave the scene until the information is exchanged;
- Try to obtain names and addresses of witnesses;
- A mutual agreement may be reached (using the form provided by the insurer);
- Report the incident to your insurance company within 48 hours.

### Major accidents:

Romanian law requires that you assist the injured if the case.

Under Romanian law, you may be required, when possible, to transport the injured. Naturally, this should be done as rapidly and as safely as possible.

If you are subject to a major car accident as a driver:

- Immediately notify Branch head, HQ MNC-SE Provost Marshal, your SNR and a sworn interpreter;
- Try to obtain names and addresses of witnesses;
- Remain on the scene, if able, until the accident has been investigated by the Military police or Romanian police.

In both major and minor accidents, obey the Romanian authorities. They have jurisdiction and can arrest you if you do not fully cooperate. Also, red plastic triangles are required by Romanian law and should be placed on the road to caution other drivers and indicate there is an accident. They should be carried in your vehicle at all times.

If you are the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident that injures or kills another person, criminal charges may be initiated automatically by the investigating police, regardless of the ultimate determination of fault.

In case of an accident, personnel with automobile liability insurance with a Romanian firm must notify that company within 48 hours of the accident. Failure to notify the company within that time period can justify the company's refusal to accept liability. Note to motorcyclists: The above applies to motorcyclists also. Helmets that meet Romanian specifications are also required.

## SECTION 3: ACCOMMODATION

### HOUSING

The HQ MNC-SE compound does not have any military accommodation facility within or outside the base. Accommodation is the sending nation's responsibility. Therefore, you will have to rent a house or apartment from private owners.

The Family Support Office may provide some guidance and ideas for narrowing your house hunting.

#### Basic Rental Rules in Romania

Before signing or ending the rental contract, contact **LEGAD Office** for assistance.

Most landlords expect you to pay rent in advance for the month you intend to live there and require a security deposit as it helps protect them from liability in case you move out of the apartment and choose not to pay.

Unless the contract states differently, the standard term of notice in Romania is **one rental month**.

Also, you have to take into consideration that the **utility bills** are paid by the tenant:

- during winter time: € 150-250/month;
- during summer time: € 50-100/month.

#### Pertinent Facts about Utilities

- The gas used in Romania is natural gas. The great majority of the cities and villages are connected to the gas distribution network. In Sibiu, the gas distribution network covers the entire city.
- Private telephone and internet connection are available by contracting services from one of the available providers (Vodafone, Orange, Telekom, Digi, etc.).
- Electricity supply in Romania is 50-cycle, single-phase, 220 Volt A.C. as opposed to the 60-cycle, 110 Volt used in the other countries. Fittings are of the European type and differ from other standards, and you may need a travel adaptor. It is important to note that an adapter it does not convert the voltage or frequency.

For Romania, there are two associated plug types, types C and F. Plug type C is the plug that has two round pins, and plug type F is the plug that has two round pins with two earth clips on the side.

<https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/advice-for-you/when-travelling/travel-adaptor-for-romania>





**Here there are just some residential complexes in Sibiu.**



[Balanta Residence](#)



[Casian's Residence](#)



[Kogalniceanu Residence](#)



[Green Residence](#)



[New Concept Living](#)



[Cibinium](#)



[Unirea Residence](#)



[Dream House by Duplex Sibiu](#)

For more options, you may visit [locuinteInSibiu.ro](http://locuinteInSibiu.ro).

**N.B.:** Ask before renting if landlords allow pets!

## PETS

### Travelling with pets

**Before going on a trip with your pet, you should know all the imposed flight conditions.**

Pets accompanied by their owners or a responsible person on behalf of the owner for non-commercial purposes, arriving from third countries, must be admitted on the European Union territory only through a designated Point of entry for the veterinary check of such pets. For air carriage, the Points of entry in Romania designated by The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority are Bucharest **Henri Coandă International Airport** and Cluj **Avram Iancu International Airport**.

For journeys within the European Union, your pet must be identified by an electronic chip and hold a European passport. The passport, issued and completed by an authorized veterinarian, certifies your pet has been properly vaccinated.

The applicable European legislation for the movement of pets and animals is Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0576&from=EN>

### Vaccination and deworming program

The most important thing you can do for your pet is to take care of his health and prevent serious diseases so easy to contact in a crowded city. It should be noted that any pet needs internal and external deworming and vaccinations according to a scheme. All these are written on a health card, initialled and signed by the veterinarian. Also, in the health card is entered the personal numerical code of each animal identified by microchipping and registered in the Register of Dogs with owners (RECS).

**The owners must obey Law 258/2013 and the Order of the President of ANSVSA no. 1 of 2014 that oblige that the movement of dogs on the Romanian territory be carried out only if they are identified, registered and vaccinated against rabies, accompanied by health cards.**



The owners' refusal to vaccinate dogs and cats constitutes a contravention and is sanctioned according to GD 984/2005 updated Art.5 let. J, point 3 with a fine of 400-800 lei for individuals and 400-1000 lei in the case of legal entities.

**Prophylactic vaccination** against dogs, cats, ferrets, sheepdogs, animals in special shelters, as well as wild animals in zoos, circuses and other areas where they are housed, **is the obligation of owners and owners of animals**, individuals or legal, in compliance with the veterinary health legislation in force.

Source: <http://sibiu.dsvsa.ro/sanatate-bu-nastare-si-nutritie-animala/sanatatea-animalelor-de-companie/>



## SCHOOLING

**1. Education in Romania** is based on a tuition-free, egalitarian system.

General education in Romania is compulsory for 10 grades and includes primary and secondary levels of education. In secondary education, students' transition from one school level to another, from one class to another, from one profile to another and from one branch to another is possible as determined by the methodology developed by the Ministry of Education. Students in public and private school education can transfer to another school, public or private, with the agreement of the receiving unit. The state guarantees the right to differentiated instruction based on educational pluralism, in line with age and individual peculiarities.

The national education system is structured into **education levels** such as to ensure coherence and continuity of instruction and education according to individual and age particularities of the pupils / students.

The **national education system** includes the following levels:

a. The pre-tertiary educational system, structured on the following levels:

- **Preschool / kindergarten**, consisting of:
  - Before pre-school level (0-3 years);
  - Pre-school education (3-6 years) - junior group, middle group, preparatory group for school.

Preschool education is organized in kindergartens, extended and weekly. Kindergartens can operate as units with legal personality or in other schools with legal personality. Local authorities and the county provide the conditions for the gradual generalization of pre-school.

- **Primary education**, comprising:
  - preparatory class (Children aged 6 are enrolled in the preparatory class. At the request of the parents, legal tutors or guardians, children who turn 6 years old by the end of the calendar year may also be enrolled in the preparatory class and, if they are considered fit to attend. The preparatory class is enrolled in special education children with special educational needs who reach the age of 8 years before the beginning of the school year.);
  - grades 1-4 (Children aged 7 to 10).

Primary education is organized and operates, usually with a morning program.

- **Secondary education**, comprising:

- **lower secondary education:** grades 5-8 (Children aged 11 to 14);  
 - **upper secondary education/ high school:** grades 9-12/13 (Children aged 15 to 18/19) in one of three types of programs:

- theoretical (humanities and science classes);
- technological (services, natural resources, environment protection classes);
- vocational (military, theological, sports, arts and pedagogy schools).

There is also a **3-year professional education program**. Graduates of the professional education program who obtain a certificate of professional qualification may attend high school education courses.

The national **higher education** system is structured on three levels of university studies:

- Undergraduate Studies / Bachelor's degree;
- Master's Degree studies;
- Doctoral Studies.

The forms of organization of school education are full-time education and part-time education. Compulsory education is full-time education. Exceptionally, for individuals exceeding more than 3 years of age class, compulsory education can be provided in the form of part-time education, in accordance with a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education.

Duration in high school - as full-time education - is 4 or 5, in accordance with the framework plans approved by the Ministry of Education. For some forms of education frequency and for part-time high-school education, the duration of studies is extended by one year.

The education for children with special educational needs or home bound for medical reasons can be organized at home or in addition to healthcare units.

## 2. Education in Sibiu

***N.B. There are no educational establishments in the HQ MNC-SE Base.***

Sibiu has a variety of educational units, both public and private.

Members and their dependents will be granted access to education, including Romanian language learning, provided by Romanian authorities (including regional, municipal authorities and the like), under the same conditions and subject to the same course fees as applicable to comparable Romanian citizens.

The Romanian authorities will recognize, validate and certify, in accordance with the applicable Romanian laws, diplomas issued by different schools on the condition that such schools hold the necessary authorization and/or accreditation according to applicable Romanian law. The Romanian authorities will allow the transfer of students from such schools into the Romanian educational system at all levels of education except the higher education (university level). The graduates from such schools are accepted to the higher education on the same conditions as the Romanians citizens.



### PUBLIC EDUCATION

Currently public education in Sibiu is provided mostly in Romanian language, with some schools providing education in German or Hungarian as a mother tongue. There are no public educational units with English as the only language of instruction; yet **intensive or bilingual classes are available with English, German or French.**

**Intensive** study of a foreign language such as intensive English, German or French at **lower secondary and upper secondary/ high school levels** implies extra classes as one or two optional courses are conducted in these languages that add to the ones allocated by national curriculum. Selection for attending such classes is based on a two-part examination (Grammar/ Vocabulary and Speaking).

**Bilingual** classes are only available to **high school students** and it implies study of one or two subjects such as English history, English geography or English civilization conducted in English only, one hour per week, in addition to the national curriculum specifications. Both Science and Humanities sections can provide bilingual programs.



Samuel von Brukenthal College

German classes – with German **as a mother tongue** can be taken in several schools such as **Samuel von Brukenthal High School** and **Octavian Goga High School.**

Hungarian classes – with Hungarian **as a mother tongue** can be taken at the **Octavian Goga High School.**



The **Lucian Blaga University** of Sibiu is one of the oldest universities of Romania, established more than 225 years ago. Today, the university has the license for foreign languages in 9 faculties, 7 license domains, 12 specializations, and over 20,000 students, both Romanian and foreigners. The university consolidated the traditional specializations of French, German and English philological sections by adding Art and Cultural



The Lucian Blaga University

Management components. The university is a major factor in attracting young people and investors to the area. For detailed information, visit <https://www.ulbsibiu.ro/en/>.





## PRIVATE EDUCATION

In Sibiu, there are private kindergartens with German and Romanian as language of instruction.

The **ERI Romanian-Finnish School** from Sibiu provides pre-school, primary and middle school classes. Students with Special Educational Needs benefit from the program and curriculum especially designed and adapted to their needs with specialized support. The school complies with the Romanian National



Curriculum, is authorised by the Ministry of National Education and all subjects are studied in Romanian.

An alternate option for children is to remain **enrolled in their current schools**, if these offer **online/distance learning** and **ERI Romanian-Finnish School** will provide a learning space with internet connection and a fluent English speaker teacher. Moreover, as long as the schools of origin accept, children will be able to participate in some instructional activities together with their class groups and will be able to send proof of their activity (photos or recordings) for their evaluation to be evaluated and promoted by the schools in which they are enrolled.

The **Romanian - Finnish School** in partnership with **HILL CASTLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - Online International Education** is another option for distance learning with **English** as language of instruction.

**Anima Primary School** and **Fram Primary School** are two private schools authorized by the Ministry of National Education in Romania to provide Romanian curriculum, in Romanian language, for the primary cycle. Both of them are also registered with Cambridge Assessment International Education to deliver the Cambridge Primary educational program, for children aged 5 to 11.

At the moment, they are following the Romanian National Curriculum using English language intensively in everyday communication and offering during the after-school programs, adopted basic elements that respond to the standards of the Cambridge Curriculum of international schools.

Starting with the academic year 2023-2024, they are considering the option of offering two types of programs in parallel. A Romanian line that follows the Romanian curriculum, offering extra English classes and an international line that offers classes in English exclusively, according to the international curriculum.

Sibiu is also home to a number of **educational centres** providing language courses (English, German, or French) such as *Educational Centre Romania Sibiu*, *K&M Education*, *Martin EDU Center*, etc. One of them, "*Ille et Vilaine*", is a friendship association that organises various activities for French language speakers, and especially French language courses for francophone children.

For more information, contact the **Family Support Section**.

## OBTAINING ROMANIAN PHONE NUMBER

The country code is **00-40**.

Mobile telephony Romania is in the world's top 3 listings of 4G coverage.

4G (16Mbps) coverage is provided through antennas from Digi, Orange, Telekom or Vodafone. Other providers use the antenna systems of these four providers.

The new 5G network is also available through the same providers. For a worldwide coverage map, one option is to consult the link: [5G coverage map worldwide - nPerf.com](https://www.nPerf.com)

Mobile phone services can be contracted online or by visiting a shop of the provider. Contracts are offered with a new phone or without (SIM only). Usually a valid ID is required. You are advised to verify specific list of requirements of the mobile phone services provider you chose. Some additional charges may be made for occasional roaming in the European Union ("roam like at home"). Additional charges may be made for more permanent use abroad.



## SECTION 4: USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, HEALTH INSURANCE & IMMUNIZATIONS

Primary healthcare in Romania is based on the network of General Practitioners, working closely with local departments of the Ministry of Health and National Health Insurance House. The primary care team is commonly formed by the family physician and practice nurse.

Healthcare in Romania is dominated by a public system that is financed mainly through mandatory social health insurance contributions. Adults are considered uninsured if they do not contribute to the healthcare fund, meaning they can only benefit free of charge from a basic health package that covers emergency care, pregnancy care, communicable disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

A private healthcare system where patients pay for health services based on their own requests and preferred choices also exists.

Health and travel insurances are accepted in medical establishments in Romania, provided payment is confirmed first by the foreign insurance company. Romanian insurance com-

panies sell health insurance for the duration of the tour in the territory of the Romanian.

(1) EU citizens: The member and the dependents must have health insurance, a private one, or they can choose to be registered in the Romanian Public Healthcare system.

The following documents may be required: a valid ROU ID card and full health insurance (usually, the E 106/S1 form serves this purpose).

#### CASE 1 – Private insurance.

The member will inform G1 Division & GMED about their private insurance and will submit a copy of it.

#### CASE 2 – Public Registration

**REQUIRED** documents for public registration:

- full health insurance (usually the European S1 Form – “E 106/S1” – serves this purpose);
- registration requests to the Defence, Public Order, National Security and Judicial Authorities Healthcare System/Department;
- CNP document;
- Copy of ROU ID, passports, birth certificate, marriage certificate.

(2) NON-EU citizens: usually use a private

healthcare system/insurance (Tricare, etc.). They will inform the G1 Division & GMED about the insurance company and the private clinic/hospital chosen for this purpose.

#### (3) Enrolling in the ROU Healthcare System

If you choose to be enrolled, the following documents may be required:

- a valid ROU ID card
- full health insurance (usually, the E 106/S1 form serves this purpose).

Bring the S1 form to GMED & Family Support & MWR Section. They will assist you during the enrolment process. You also have to choose a Romanian Medical General Practitioner.

(4) Immunization: **DO NOT FORGET to bring** with you the immunization (vaccination) records for you and your family members and make sure they are up-to-date. Remember, all children entering Romanian public schools must have had a series of immunizations.

Failure to provide proof will result in children not being allowed to attend school.

Below is the current mandatory vaccinations scheme in Romania, **BUT DO CHECK WITH THE CHILD'S DOCTOR FOR GUIDANCE;**

#### Romanian national immunization schedule

RECOMMENDED AGE	TYPE OF VACCINE	COMMENTS
First 24 hours of life 2 – 7 days	Hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B)* <sup>1</sup> Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccine (BCG)	In maternity ward
2 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B) Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine* <sup>2</sup>	Family physician
4 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B) Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine* <sup>2</sup>	Family physician
11 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B) Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine* <sup>2</sup>	Family physician
12 months	Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (ROR /MMR )	Family physician
5 years	Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (ROR /MMR )	Family physician
6 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine (DTaP-IPV)	Family physician
14 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus vaccine for adults/ Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis vaccine	Family physician

\*<sup>1</sup> In the event Hepatitis B vaccine is not available for administration within 24 hours since birth to the babies born of HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen) positive mothers, the following vaccination schedule will be temporarily complied with:



RECOMMENDED AGE	TYPE OF VACCINE	COMMENTS
6 weeks	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B) <i>First dose</i>	Family physician
30 days since the first dose	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B) <i>Second dose</i>	Family physician
30 days since the second dose	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B) <i>Third dose</i>	Family physician

At 11 months old, the infants will be vaccinated according to the National Immunization Schedule, respectively they will receive the 4th dose of the Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis - Injectable Poliovirus Vaccine - Haemophilus influenzae type B - Hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib-Hep. B). Infants born of HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen) negative mothers will be vaccinated according to the National Immunization Schedule starting with 2 months old, without the need for the Hepatitis B vaccine dose that was not administered at birth.

\*<sup>2</sup>The pneumococcal conjugated vaccine will be included in the National Immunization Schedule depending on funds availability.

Only disposable syringes will be used to administer all vaccines.

## REFERENCE PROVIDERS OF HEALTH SERVICES

under contract with Casa de Asigurari de Sanatate (CAS) Sibiu as of 01.08.2021

NAME OF THE SANITARY UNIT WITH BEDS	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	E-mail address
SIBIU COUNTY EMERGENCY CLINICAL HOSPITAL	Sibiu, B-dul C. Coposu nr. 2-4	0269 215 050	scjsib@yahoo.com
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL DR. GHEORGHE PREDA SIBIU	Sibiu, str. Dr. Bagdazar nr. 12	0269 214 335	office@medicina-psihiatrie.ro
PULMONOLOGY HOSPITAL SIBIU	Sibiu, Aleea Filozofilor nr. 3-5	0269 210 979	spitaltbcbs@gmail.com
PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SIBIU	Sibiu, str. Ghe. Barițiu nr. 1-3	0269 217 810	secretariat@pediatriesibiu.ro
HOSPICE CARL WOLFF ASSOCIATION SIBIU	Sibiu, str. Pedagogilor nr. 3-5	0269 221 131	carlwolff@carlwolff.ro
EUROPEAN PRIVATE HOSPITAL POLISANO SIBIU	Sibiu, str. Izvorului nr.1A	021 93 83	office@clnicapolisano.ro
RAILWAY SYSTEM GENERAL HOSPITAL SIBIU	Sibiu, str.C. Noica nr. 20	0269 213 163 0269 213 008	spitalcfsibiu@gmail.com
SC MISAN MED SRL SIBIU	Sibiu, str. Hipodromului nr. 3B	0369 801 555 0748 200 207	misanmed@yahoo.com
SC CLINICA NEWMEDICS SRL SIBIU	Sibiu, str. Zaharia Boiu nr. 4	0774 634 528	office@clinica-newmedics.ro
EMERGENCY MILITARY HOSPITAL "DR. ALEXANDRU AUGUSTIN"	Sibiu, B-dul Victoriei nr. 46	0269 211 209	secretariat@spitalmilitarsb.ro

Source: [www.casan.ro/cassb](http://www.casan.ro/cassb)



## BANKING

Most banks in Romania require you to be in the country to open an account. Currently, there are lots of options to choose from, with many different levels of international options available.

You need to schedule an appointment. Contact the bank of your choice for their specific list of requirements (e.g. ROU ID, CNP document, passport, renting contract, etc.), as some tend to differ.

It is mandatory to have a Romanian bank account **in Romanian currency (RON)** in order to benefit the fiscal entitlements.

The same bank account can be used to receive income, to cash a check in RON, to pay phone or other utility bills and for the automatic payment of shopping.

Most bills can be paid at a Post Office or any bank as well, but the easiest way is using online apps. More detailed information on banking in Romania will be received during in-processing briefings.

## POSTAL SERVICES

The collection of official mail is a function carried out by the Central Registry. Any correspondence that does not pertain solely to the business of NATO/MNC-SE is considered unofficial mail.

All military and civilian personnel who want to receive their **personal mail** (i.e. telephone, electricity, and water bill) **have to use their accommodation address.**

For official mail, please follow the example below:

**COMANDAMENTUL CORPULUI MULTINAȚIONAL SUD-EST  
Strada Dumbrăvii nr. 28-32, Sibiu, ROMANIA, cod poștal 550324**

## VOLUNTEERING

While in Sibiu, if you wish to truly emerge in the feel of this special community, you have many options to get involved in the city's projects and events as a volunteer. From volunteering for the organization of the huge events of the city such as the International Theater Festival in Sibiu to helping out in social causes supported by foundations working with persons with disabilities, for example, your contribution will be much appreciated. Our office will get you into contact with the local authorities in this respect.

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER



WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS!





## USEFUL WORDS &amp; EXPRESSIONS IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

ENGLISH	ROMANIAN	PHONETIC SPELLING
Hi/ Hello	Salut	/sa'lut/
	Bună	/'bu.nə/
Hello (on the phone)	Alo	/a'lo/
Good morning	Bună dimineața	/'bu.nə di.mi'nẽa.ʦa/
Good day	Bună ziua	/'bunə 'zi.wa/
Good evening	Bună seara	/'bu.nə 'sẽa.ra/
Good night	Noapte bună	/'nõap.te 'bu.nə/
Goodbye	La revedere	/la re.ve'de.re/
Bye	Pa	/pa/
Yes	Da	/da/
No	Nu	/nu/
I	Eu	/jew/
You	Tu	/tu/
And	Și	/ʃi/
Thank you	Mulțumesc	/mul.tsu'mesk/
Thanks	Mersi	/mer'si/
You're welcome	Cu plăcere	/ku plə'tʃe.re/
Please	Te rog /Vă rog	/te 'rog/ /və 'rog/
Excuse me	Scuzați-mă	/sku'za.tsi.mə/
Sorry!	Scuze!	/'sku.ze/
I'm sorry	Îmi pare rău	/im'i 'pa.re rəw/
Enjoy your meal/ Bon appétit	Poftă bună	/'pof.tə 'bu.nə/
Cheers	noroc	/no'rok/
Fork	furculiță	/fur.ku'li.tʃə/
Spoon	lingură	/'lin.gu.rə/
Knife	cuțit	/ku'tsit/
Still water	apă plată	/apə 'pla.tə/
How much is this?	Cât costă această?	/ʃkit ɔ'kos.tə a'tʃẽas.ta/
When?	Când	/kind/
What?	Ce	/tʃe/
Who?	Cine	/'tʃi.ne/
How?	Cum	/kum/

ENGLISH	ROMANIAN	PHONETIC SPELLING
Where?	Unde	/ʃ'un'ɔ̃de/
Yesterday	Ieri	/jeri/
Now	Acum	/a'kum/
Tomorrow	Măine	/'mij.ne/
My name is...	Mă cheamă...	/mə'kẽa.mə/
Nice to meet you	Încântat de cunoștință	/in.kin'tat de ku.no'ʃtin.tʃə/
	Îmi pare bine	/im'i 'pa.re 'bi.ne/
How are you?	Ce faci?	/ʃtʃe 'fatʃi/
OK/fine/well	Bine	/'bi.ne/
Very well	Foarte bine	/'fõarte 'bi.ne/
I like	Îmi place...	/im'i 'pla.tʃe/
I don't like	Nu îmi place	/nu im'i 'pla.tʃe/
I want	Eu vreau	/jew vrəw/
I'm hungry	Mi-e foame	/mje 'fõa.me/
I'm thirsty	Mi-e sete	/mje 'se.te/
I'm warm	Mi-e cald	/mje cald/
I feel cold	Mi-e frig	/mje frig/
I feel bad	Mi-e rău	/mje rəw/
One	Unu	/'u.nu/
Two	Doi	/doi/
Three	Trei	/trei/
Red	roșu	/'ro.ʃu/
Green	verde	/'ver.de/
Blue	albastru	/al'bas.tru/
Help!	Ajutor!	/a.zu'tor/
Leave me alone	Lasă-mă în pace	/'la.sə.mə in 'pa.tʃe/
Are you ok?	Ești bine?	/je'ʃti 'bi.ne/
I'm ok	Sunt bine	/sunt 'bi.ne/
I'm sick	Sunt bolnav	/sunt bol'n'av/
Fire!	Foc!	/fok/
Man	bărbat	/bər'bat/
Woman	femeie	/fe'me.je/



# PART IV

## Sibiu Profile

### SECTION 1: ARRIVING IN SIBIU

#### BY PLANE



[Sibiu International Airport \(SBZ\)](#)

When you arrive by plane in SIBIU, it will be at [Sibiu International Airport \(SBZ\)](#) ([www.sibiuairport.ro](http://www.sibiuairport.ro)), one of the most modern and dynamic international airports in Romania, located about 3 km West of downtown Sibiu. Facilities at Sibiu Airport include ATMs and an exchange office inside the terminal, opened during flights. Major car rental companies have offices and information desks located in the passenger terminal, arrivals area (<https://www.sibiuairport.ro/en/info/inchiriazamasina/>). The airport provides free primary medical care to both passengers and staff 24/7.

There are direct flights from multiple destinations in Europe, ensuring easy access to and from: London Luton, Madrid, Dortmund, Memmingen, Nürnberg, Frankfurt Hahn, Karlsruhe Baden-Baden, Stuttgart, München, Vienna, Venice Treviso, Corfu, Bologna, Billund, Milan Malpensa, Liverpool, Dublin, Brussels Charleroi, and also charter flights to Antalya and Hurghada (in summer season).

The destination list is currently valid. Sibiu International Airport updates in real-time the list of destinations on [www.sibiuairport.ro](http://www.sibiuairport.ro).

The airlines with service from Sibiu International Airport include Austrian Airlines, Lufthansa, Blue Air, Ryanair, Wizz Air and Fly Lili.

Transportation between Sibiu International Airport and Sibiu city:

- By Taxi: There are several taxi companies licensed for transportation from the airport. The taxi area is located outside the terminal building, on the left-hand side of arrivals. If there aren't available any cabs or if you prefer a specific company, airport staff from the Information Office located in the public area can place an order for you, free of charge. The maximum tariff for taxi services approved by the City Hall of Sibiu is approx. 3.10 LEI/km.
- By Bus: no 11, 112, 116, 117 and 118, the bus station is located near the airport entrance.

#### BY TRAIN

Sibiu train station is a rail node for rail lines connecting North to South and West to East. The railway station address is Piata 1 Decembrie 1918 street, no. 6. There are several daily direct trains from Bucharest to Sibiu and several daily



trains between Sibiu and Brasov. Trains to other major cities in Romania connect in Brasov. Usually, the duration of a trip by train from Sibiu to Brasov is 3-4 hours, to Bucharest 5-6 hours, to Cluj-Napoca 3 1/2 hours and to Sighişoara 2 1/2 hours.



For train schedules and online advance booking, please visit: [www.cfrcalatori.ro](http://www.cfrcalatori.ro).

The "CFR online tickets" can be bought by people registered as a user of the service "buy CFR online tickets", in advance up to a maximum of 30 days (representing the maximum period of the advance sale in domestic traffic), but no later than 6 hours from the departure hour of the first train



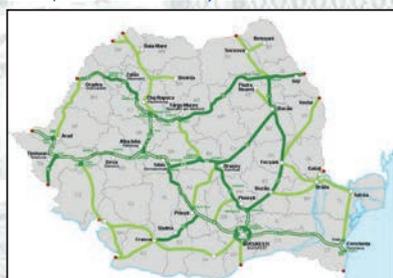


on the route (compared to the boarding hour). If you change your mind, you can change or cancel your “CFR online tickets” and request a refund. The “CFR online tickets” fees can be refunded when cancelling your travel plans, complying with the conditions stated in site Terms Conditions.

Usually, the refund request is necessary to be filled in online by the registered user, from its own user profile by using the section “Orders” within the online application - on the top blue bar of the start page, by accessing “Operations of a ticket” - at the section “Cancelling the travel plans” for a ticket on Paid or Following a change, paid and shall be taken into account only if it is registered at least 6 hours before the departure hour and date of the first train on the route (passenger boarding date and hour). After this deadline (6 hours before the beginning of the trip), “CFR online tickets” WILL NOT be refunded. Exceptions are made by the special cases mentioned in the Terms Conditions site section.

Tickets for same-day travel can also be purchased at the station.

For the list of international trains with service to/from Romania and prepare your trip, please visit: [www.RomaniaTourism.com/Transportation.html#ByTrain](http://www.RomaniaTourism.com/Transportation.html#ByTrain).



## BY BUS

**There are many** bus routes that connect Sibiu and Romania's main cities with Athens, Berlin, Budapest, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Istanbul, London, Milan, Munich, Paris, Rome, and Vienna. For companies, please follow this [link](http://romaniatourism.com/sibiu.html#bybus). (<http://romaniatourism.com/sibiu.html#bybus>).

## BY CAR

Sibiu county is included in the Pan European Corridor IV Plan, crossing Romania from Nădlac through Arad, Timișoara, Deva, Sibiu, Pitești, Bucharest, Cernavodă to Constanța. This project is an occidental to oriental link for commerce and tourism.

This is also the fastest route from Budapest to Sibiu (E75 - E68): Budapest-Szeged - Nădlac- Arad - Deva - Alba Iulia - Sibiu. The Romanian part of the route is the A1 motorway (Romanian: **Autostrada A1**) is a partially built motorway in Romania, planned to connect Bucharest with the Banat and Crișana regions in the western part of the country. When completed it will be 576 kilometers long and it will span the country on the approximate south-east to north west direction. The motorway starts in the western part of Bucharest and connects the following major cities: Bucharest, Pitești, Sibiu, Deva, Timișoara, Arad, reaching Hungary's M43 motorway at Nădlac border crossing point.

NOW THAT YOU ARE IN SIBIU, **SIBIU CITY APP** WILL BE OF GREAT HELP. It offers information about transport inside the city, parking spaces, accommodation, restaurants and bars, city events.

For a full experience, download **Sibiu City App** (Free).



## CITY TRANSPORTATION

**By Bus TURSIB**, the local transportation services provider, offers comfortable buses, equipped with air conditioning and free Wi-Fi. Sibiu also has an electric public transport line, the **Green Line** (rou. *Linia Verde*), a non-polluting alternative, convenient, and affordable. The minibuses can transport 21 people, 10 of them seated, and have ramps



to allow access for people with disabilities.

A *passenger information system* is available through visual, voice or other media, taking the form of static or schedule information (route network maps and timetable booklets/boards at transit stations) and real time information (mobile phone applications).



Information about schedule and routes are available at the Tourist Information Centre, Sibiu Airport (Arrivals Hall) and several other locations within Sibiu (for a complete list, please visit the Tourist Info section at following link [SIBIU, Romania - Travel and Tourism Information \(romaniatourism.com/sibiu\)](http://SIBIU, Romania - Travel and Tourism Information (romaniatourism.com/sibiu)) or you can choose to use the Free Mobile App:

[Tur Sibiu - Apps on Google Play](#)

[Tur Sibiu su App Store \(apple.com\)](#)



## Tickets

Prior to boarding, travelers must ensure that they have a valid travel ticket (ticket, daily ticket, weekly ticket), or a contactless card with which they can purchase a ticket directly from the bus. Our buses are equipped with contactless ticket purchase devices, or you can use the mobile application 24 Pay for purchasing a ticket also directly from the bus.



The travel tickets (except those bought directly by bus) will be validated in the specially designed devices for this purpose, immediately after the climb in the means of transport.

The paper ticket entitles you to a single trip, without interruption, only in the vehicle in which it was validated.

### Subscriptions

Travel passes and tickets can be obtained from the Tursib distribution network, or online, from the company's website.

Validated travel tickets or subscriptions cannot be passed on to other persons.

Children under 5 years are exempt from payment of travel taxes.

<https://tursib.ro/page/travel-titles?language=en>

For **FARES**, please check the official site:

<https://tursib.ro/page/travel-titles/fares?language=en>

**By Taxi** All the taxis from Sibiu are yellow. Usually, there is a starting fee



(normally, it is equal to the price of one kilometre). You should always make sure that any taxi you get into displays clearly the name and telephone number of the company to which it belongs. All taxis are obliged by law to display their



prices on the side of the passenger door; make sure you check the price before getting in. Note that "**Pornire**" means the starting fee and is usually displayed most prominently as it is cheap. Our advice is to avoid any tariff over 3.1 RON per kilometre.

### Ride sharing in Sibiu: **Bolt & Uber**

The service that connects local passengers and drivers using their own cars, offering one-way transportation on short notice, low-cost, safe and convenient car-sharing solution has become available in Sibiu by two providers, **Bolt** and **Uber**. They support local government initiatives to provide safe transportation alternatives for residents.

To access their services, users need to install the mobile app, which they can download from Google Play or the App Store.

In addition to ride sharing, the inhabitants of Sibiu can also rent **climate positive scooters**, cars, fast delivery of personal packages or order food.

## SECTION 2: TOURISTIC SIBIU



**Sibiu** is a city in the historical province of [Transylvania](#), [Romania](#), with a population of around 170.000 inhabitants. It was first attested in 1191 in a papal decree of Pope Celestine. Located some 275 km (171 mi) North-West of [Bucharest](#), the city straddles the [Cibin](#)

[River](#), a tributary of the river [Olt](#). Now the capital of [Sibiu County](#), between 1692 and 1791 and between 1849–1865, Sibiu was also the capital of the [Principality of Transylvania](#).

Sibiu is one of the most important cultural centres and touristic destinations of Romania



and was designated [European Capital of Culture](#) in 2007, along with the city of Luxembourg. Formerly the centre of the [Transylvanian Saxons](#), the old city of Sibiu was ranked by [Forbes](#) magazine as “Europe’s 8<sup>th</sup>-most idyllic place to live”, in 2008 and “Europe’s 6<sup>th</sup>-best touristic destination”, in 2019. Ever since, the city has been featured in the international mass media as an excellent touristic destination, with an invaluable built heritage and a rich cultural life which makes the city vibrant and alive all year round.

Sibiu is a multicultural city. The religious buildings of Sibiu reflect a vivid spiritual life characterized by the peaceful cohabitation of different ethnicities and religions.



The city is the place where the towers of the Orthodox, Evangelic, Franciscan, Reformed cathedrals alongside with Grand Synagogue make the city ecumenical and an amazing sightseeing location.



In 2019, the region of Sibiu held the title of European Region of Gastronomy. In the same year, the city hosted the European Summit



of the heads of states and governments, and in 2020 and 2021, Sibiu made it in the top 5 of European Best Destinations.

The city also administrates [Păltiniș](#) mountain resort, situated at 35 km from Sibiu, which is great for skiing, but also for the highly oxygenated, therapeutic mountain air.



Păltiniș has been the first mountain resort opened in Romania.



Sibiu is a city of superlatives, which recorded many **premieres** in this part of Europe. It was in Sibiu where the first hospital, first library, first school, first pharmacy, first paper mill, first book store, first theatre building, first cast-iron bridge, first mental illness hospital, first

whole Romanian capital bank, first spring factory, first beer factory, first balance factory, first tool factory, first hydropower plant, first Zoo garden and the first open-air cinema in Romania were opened.



The first museum in South-Eastern Europe opened in Sibiu. This is also where the first printing press in Transylvania was attested. So, Sibiu has always been ahead of time and keen to innovate in various fields.





The **first Museum of Natural History in Romania** opened to the public



here, in Sibiu. Sibiu was the first city in Transylvania with public lighting powered by electric power, and it was here where the first electrical means of public transportation in Transylvania entered into operation. The first encyclopaedia in Romania was published in Sibiu, as well as the oldest lightning rod in South-Eastern Europe was installed near Sibiu.



Konrad Haas experimented the first stage rocket in the world in a location near Sibiu. Sibiu proved to be a pioneer, a city with an accentuated innovative spirit due to its people and to the historical context. Sibiu rejoiced in the last years of a significant acknowledgement of its beauty and touristic potential at an international level. The Huffington Post included Sibiu in the list containing "The most charming cities in Europe you'll want to visit", the city being mentioned in numerous articles of the most important newspapers in Europe and the US.

Michelin awarded Sibiu a quotation of three stars (Green Guide), the maximum quotation and the highest awarded to a city in Romania. Due to this profile, Sibiu is included today in the offer of many touristic agencies and attracts a growing number of tourists every year. Also, due to this

visibility and due to the city's development, Sibiu continues to be an attractive touristic location for both Romanian and foreign investors.

After the year 2000, due to the significant economic growth in Romania, the city has modernized and is currently undergoing a period of urban renewal. Various residential and commercial developments are underway.



## SECTION 3: PARKS AND LEISURE TIME AREAS

### PARKS

The city of Sibiu, located at the heart of the Transylvanian lifestyle, is rated as one of the most idyllic places to live in Europe with slow life, happy and friendly people, multicultural and intellectual history which gives the city a bohemian air. Sibiu is a major tourist city in Romania, both for natives and foreigners alike, attracted by its well-preserved medieval architecture, cultural scene and ideal position for [day trips and cultural exploration](#).



#### Citadel Park of Sibiu

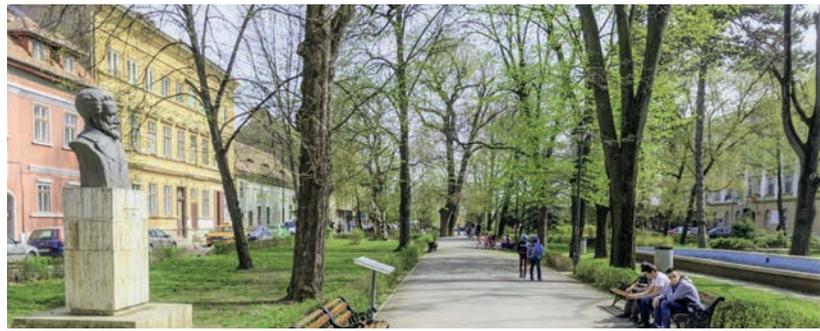
This is a nice place either to have a walk or simply to seat on a bench and admire the medieval towers situated on most beautiful street of Sibiu, **Cetății Street**, especially if you need some quiet time and shade during the summer.

You can also see the Celebrity Lane here on which stars were awarded to worldwide renowned artists who participated or contributed to the success of the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu, one of the most important events of the genre.



**Astra Park**

The park is situated in the heart of the city, delimited by Mitropoliei Street, George Baritiu Street, Ioan Lupas Street and the Unirii Square. Old town park with shaded paths and ornamental fountains, plus regular folk music and dancing demos, it hosts 9 busts of the most important Romanian personalities.



**Sub Arini Park**

It is one of the oldest parks in Romania having been founded in 1856.

At the present the park stretches over 22 hectares on which 68 tree species, among which 30 exotic species and 38 local species. Some of them have their origins in Japan, China, Himalaya, Asia Minor, North America, Central America, Algeria or the Alps area. We mention among these the American red oak, the mahogany tree, the silver spruce, the white poplar of Himalaya, the Austrian pine, Nordman fir, Eronimus Radicans – Japan, Virginian juniper tree, etc.



The oldest trees (specimens of alders, black poplar, lime trees, oak trees) are over 150 years old. A number of 95 species of birds found shelter in this scenery.



<https://sibiucity.ro/en/parc/parcul-sub-arini>

**Zoo Garden**

Sibiu Zoological Garden is one of the popular tourist attractions in the city. The first zoo in Romania, it was established in 1929 in the Dumbrava Forest and hosts over 270 animals and birds from 60 species. Several animals like lion, zebra, jaguar, tiger, wolf, lemur, and lynx call it home. Many of the animals are donated to the zoo over the years. There is also a small lake on the premises of the zoo where you can spend some relaxing time. The zoo has maintained a wonderful playground for children as well.



<https://www.triphobo.com/places/sibiu-romania/gradina-zoologica-sibiu>

**Dumbrava Sibiului Natural Park**

stretches over 960 hectares and it is situated 4 km away from the center of the city in the southwest direction along the road towards Rășinari. It is crossed by the Trinkbach brook, which forms on its course three man-made



Sibiu profile



lakes: one within the Museum of the Folkloric Technique and two within the Zoological Garden. The Dumbrava Forest is a terrace oak forest within which, besides oaks, the hornbeam, the wild cherry tree, the elm, the field maple and the lime



tree vegetate very well. The durmast, the ash tree, the maple tree and the field ash appear sporadically. Among the bushes growing here we mention the privet, the hawthorn, the dovescot, the female cornel, the buckthorn, the guelder rose. Nearby the lake there is a 400 years old oak. Over 100 plant species with flowers grow in the lower vegetation layer of the forest, among which the melandryum pratense, the primula, the lily-of-the-valley, the tussocky grass and the rattlesnake root are the rarest. The Dumbrava Forest was the favorite promenade location for the inhabitants of Sibiu since as early as the 18<sup>th</sup> century, nowadays being famous for the *ASTRA* Museum of the Folkloric Civilization which is situated here.

Two of the manmade lakes, one in the Museum and another within the Zoological Garden which offer the opportunity of a boat ride or a stroll with the hydro bicycle.

## MUSEUMS

Sibiu hosts some of Romania's finest museums and exhibits unique collections that boost Sibiu's fame as a must-see cultural destination in Central and Eastern Europe. Among them, there are ***Brukenthal Museum*** and ***Astra Museum***, two of the most frequented museums in Romania.

### BRUKENTHAL NATIONAL MUSEUM



Brukenthal Museum is a complex of museums situated in different locations around the city which have their own distinct cultural programs. Brukenthal Palace and the collections put together by Baron Samuel von Brukenthal represent the nucleus of the present Brukenthal Museum.

Brukenthal Museum is the first museum on Romania's present-day territory and the first one in South-Eastern Europe was opened in the Brukenthal Palace. In the European Art Gallery, one can admire masterpieces such as the Portrait of a Man with the Blue Chaperon by Jan van Eyck or the works of Hans Memling, Pieter Bruegel the Elder and Pieter Bruegel the Younger. The collections of Baron Samuel von Brukenthal (1721-1803), Governor of Transylvania and an important personality in Sibiu represented the core of the museum. Since its official opening in 1817, the museum has constantly enriched its collection, remaining one of the most valuable museums in this part of Europe. The Large Square building brought the refined atmosphere of Viennese palaces to the heart of Sibiu. The high society of Sibiu used to attend soirées here and have a lovely time under the Murano glass chandeliers and the parlours' luxurious ceilings. The Stamp Cabinet, The Romanian Art Gallery and the Decorative Art Collection are wonderful additions to the collections of this Museum.

**The History Museum**, part of the National Brukenthal Museum, is hosted by *Casa "Altemberger"*, opposite the

Evangelical Church; for more than 400 years (until 1948) this was Sibiu's Town Hall. The building hosts a number of exhibitions spread over three floors, from the "lapidarium" in the basement (featuring pieces from the Roman period) to the collection of coins in the tower. Particularly good is the exhibition devoted to the Romanian National Movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which campaigned tirelessly to encourage and develop a Romanian national consciousness amongst Romanians living in the Habsburg Empire. Not to be missed either is the collection of glass ornaments either made or found in the Sibiu region. Many come from the famous glassworks at Porumbacu de Sus, a short distance east of Sibiu.

**The Museum of Natural History** was founded in 1849, as the Ardeal Natural Sciences Society began its activity supported by renowned national and international personalities from Romania and abroad. The museum is hosted by a historical building situated between two of the fortification belts of the old city. The Museum collections sum up to more than 1 million pieces from the field of geology, palaeontology, botany and zoology.



**Museum of Pharmaceutical History**

In the History of Pharmacy Museum, among the mortars and the jars with alchemical symbols, you will be reminded of Hogwarts' magic. The legend says that in the past, a huge boulder used to hang by a thin spider web above the entrance. Like Damocles' sword, this threatened to fall on those who didn't believe in the remedies that were prepared here. Samuel Hahnemann, the well-known freemason and the father of Homeopathy, also worked in Sibiu, one of the museum's sections being dedicated to the city's homoeopathic tradition.

**August von Spiess Hunting Museum**

The museum is housed in the old residence of colonel August von Spiess, hunter of the Royal House of Romania at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The museum, the first of its kind to open in Romania, is organized in several sectors: Weapons and Hunting Instruments, Hunting Trophies, The August von Spiess Memorial Hall, African Trophies

**ASTRA NATIONAL COMPLEX MUSEUM**



The most important ethnographic institution in Romania, Astra Museum, is a complex of museums and the second largest open-air complex in Europe, comprising numerous traditional items in state-of-art conservation with the aim of connecting the audience with traditional values.

**The ASTRA Traditional Folkloric Civilization Museum**

With over 400 architectural and folk-art monuments exhibited on nearly 100 hectares, ASTRA Museum is Europe's largest open-air ethnographic exhibition and among the most interesting in the world. For its excellence, it was distinguished with



3 Michelin stars. You are invited to visit traditional houses and wooden churches brought from all regions of the country, and you will find tools and objects that have long since gotten out of use. ASTRA is more than just a museum with exhibitions; it is a land where memories, crafts and traditions are alive and are being passed on. Through workshops, you can find out how the Romanian spirit takes a real form in the hands of a gifted artisan.



**Franz Binder World Ethnographic Museum**



The museum is organized in a historical monument building, built in the Neo-Gothic style between 1865 and 1867, initially as the headquarters for the Small Craftsmen Association and having various other functions over time. After its restoration in 1989, it became the headquarters of the Franz Binder Museum. The collections of the Franz Binder Museum of Universal Ethnography were constituted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by means

of donations and acquisitions from travellers or owners of such items. Most of them were members of the Association of Natural Sciences in Ardeal, which functioned during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collections were enriched after 1990 by means of successive acquisitions, exchanges or donations. The collections of the Franz Binder Museum (approx. 3000 exhibits) are divided into "old" ethnographic collections composed of exhibits donated during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and "new" collections which entered the museum's patrimony after 1990. The oldest collections are among the most valuable ones. They come from various parts of the world – the African continent being widely represented – and they were mainly collected on the field by members of the local and regional community and then donated to the Association of Natural Sciences.

**Emil Sigerus Museum of Saxon Ethnography and Folk Art**



This is the place to discover one of the most important collections of Saxon folk art in Romania. Housed in a beautiful monument building, the museum is organized in three sections: the folk art galleries, the exhibition and conference hall and the common storehouse-exhibition space dedicated especially to lovers of Saxon art collections. The museum heritage is made up of 8300 items divided into three collections: ceramics, textile clothing and furniture items. The permanent exhibition Transylvanian Glazed Stove Tiles - 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century is located at 12 Huet Square.

**Evangelical Church Museum**

The Legend of the Evangelical Cathedral Tower says that when the Saxons began building the church tower, they wanted to raise the highest tower in Transylvania. Hearing that Bistrița had the tallest church



tower, they secretly sent out two craftsmen to measure the tower's height. When they arrived in the church tower, the craftsmen unreel a rope from the top to the bottom of the tower and found out that the tower was about 75 m high. On their way back, the two craftsmen spent the night at an inn, where the tasty wine loosened their tongues so that they betrayed their mission. While the two craftsmen from Sibiu slept, someone from Bistrița cut off about 2 meters of their rope. This explains why the Evangelical Cathedral Tower is not the highest tower in Transylvania, even though it measures 73 m. From up above this tower, one can still enjoy the most beautiful view. The church, the school and the parsonage document the spiritual lives of the Transylvanian Saxons. One of the oldest edifices in the city, the Evangelical Parsonage, can also be found in Huet Square. If you want to learn more about the Saxons in Transylvania, visit the Teutsch House – The Evangelical Church Museum. Its collections will carry you through over eight centuries of Saxon's existence in Transylvania.

**Museum of Steam Locomotives**

Inaugurated in 1994, the museum comprises 23 standard gauge locomotives, 10 narrow gauge locomotives, 3 snow ploughs and 2 steam cranes. Seven of these locomotives are active and used on various special trains for enthusiasts and other groups. The Locomotives Museum is located opposite the main railway station in Sibiu, comprising the former roundhouse and turntable across the railways' lines. Part of the depot area is still used, so care should always be taken. In addition, there is usually a narrow-gauge steam locomotive based at the depot of the narrow gauge Agnita railway line (follow the thin gauge lines east from the station). The locomotives displayed were built between 1885 and 1959 in Romania and other countries, such as Germany (Henschel & Son, Borsig, Schwartzkopff) and the United States (Baldwin Locomotive Works).

Other options of spending quality time could mean visiting the Hermann Oberth Memorial House, Emil Cioran Memorial House or Malka Friedmann Memorial House.

**THEATERS OF SIBIU**

Sibiu breathes theatre. A play on the Radu Stanca Theatre stage, in open-air public spaces or, why not, a play staged in one of the



other Sibiu's unusual venues may turn your evening into a fascinating experience. Let yourselves be charmed by unique characters and stories and enjoy a theatrical evening!

**Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu**

The "Radu Stanca" National Theater is renowned nationally and internationally as an institution of cultural excellence.



The story of the "Radu Stanca" National Theatre in Sibiu started in 1788 when Martin Hochmeister established the first theatre in Sibiu by turning one of the city's defence towers into a building for performances. The fact that the German community got involved in building this theatre led to the setting up of the German Department, which joined the existing Romanian Department of the Sibiu State Theatre, later known as the "Radu Stanca" National Theatre in Sibiu.

Devised as a multifunctional body, whose main objective is to strategically employ cultural resources as a premise for the full development of the local, regional, and national community, the "Radu Stanca" National Theatre of Sibiu, alongside the

Sibiu International Theatre Festival, the Sibiu Performing Arts Market, the Volunteer Programme, the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies (drama, theatre studies – cultural management, choreography) within the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, and the International Platform of Doctoral Research in the Fields of Performing Arts and Cultural Management, has created an important platform dedicated to creativity, dialogue, and the mobility of performing arts professionals all over the world.

All the activities taking place in the six performance venues, as well as in non-conventional spaces (factories, trams, in the central squares and on the streets), in educational institutions, partner companies, libraries, book shops, etc. are dedicated to high-quality creations and to education through culture.

In time, the "Radu Stanca" National Theatre and its associated structures have become regional pillars in culture, education and research. Artistic quality and collaborations with renowned Romanian and foreign directors who created shows on the Sibiu stage have led to the continuous growth of new performances and new actors. Nowadays, the theatre has a team of permanent artists who contribute to more than 120 shows, in both Romanian and German.

Starting in 2001, the "Radu Stanca" National Theatre in Sibiu went on an impressive number of more than 520 tours in both



Romania and abroad and participated to important festivals around the world: Edinburgh, Avignon, New York, Brussels, Rome, Tokyo, Seoul, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Naples, Paris, Liverpool, London, Budapest, Bogota, Tampere, Poznań, Warsaw,



Barcelona, Lisbon, Porto, Cairo, Yerevan, Tbilisi, Nitra, Athens, Thessaloniki, Belgrade, Varna, Lille, Tel Aviv, Omsk and Chişinău.

The "Radu Stanca" National Theatre and the Sibiu International Theatre Festival played an essential role in obtaining the title of European Capital of Culture for the city of Sibiu in 2007.

Name: "Radu Stanca" National Theater (Teatrul Național "Radu Stanca")

Address: 2 Corneliu Coposu, 550245 Sibiu, Romania

Telephone: 0269 210 092

Email: [secretariat@sibifest.ro](mailto:secretariat@sibifest.ro),

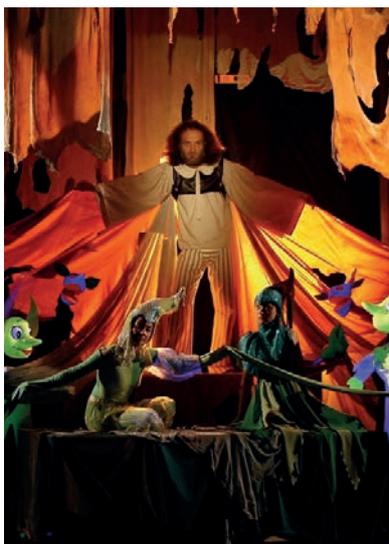
Website: <http://www.tnrs.ro/en>

### GONG Theatre for Children and Youth Sibiu



Excitement, joy, suspense, sadness, intense feelings are experienced by the little spectators who watch stories such as: The Nutcracker, Pinocchio, The Curious Little Elephant, Puss in Boots, Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp, The Valiant Little Taylor, Playing Life, The Pirates' Treasure, Snow White, The Two Cents Pouch, Sweet as Salt, A Mirror to the Soul, The Musicians of Bremen or pantomime shows such as Hallucinations, The Family, The Third Gong, Romeo and Juliet, The Hunchback King or The Prince of Cherries.

The Gong Theatre participated at countless festivals in the country (Bucharest, Arad, Constanța, Timișoara, Cluj) and abroad (Germany, former Yugoslavia, Switzerland, France, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia).



This younger theatre generated two festivals for children and youth: "Sibiu Magic Show" and "Young in Sibiu".

Name: Gong Theatre

Address: str. Al. Odobescu nr. 4, Sibiu, Romania

Telephone: +4 0269 211 349, Fax: +4 0269 211 349,

Website: <http://www.sibiu-turism.ro/Having-fun-The-World-of-Theatre-The-GONG-Theatre-for-Children-and-Youth.aspx>

### The Sibiu State Philharmonics



Classical music and baroque go together so well! The concerts of the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra will take you dreaming on arias of Bach, Beethoven, Strauss or Mozart, and the other famous composers and characters from all over the world. In addition, classical music concerts, summer concerts, educational concerts, The International Lyrical Art Festival, The Carl Filtsch Contest Festival, The George Enescu International Festival, The Romanian-American Musical Days and countless other concerts, shows and festivals animate the stage of the Sibiu State Philharmonics.



The Sibiu orchestra played along with famous Romanian and foreign interpreters such as Ion Voicu, Valentin Gheorghiu, Ștefan Ruha, Monique de la Bruchollerie and Jean Jaques Thiollier (France), Sviatoslav Richter, Rudolf Kerec, Lazar Berman, Dimitri Baskirov (Russia), Ivry Gittlis (Switzerland), Monserrat Caballe (Spain) and many, many others.

The activity of the Philharmonic Orchestra was awarded various distinctions in the last years as proof of its professionalism.

Address: str. Cetății, nr. 3-5 (Sala Thalia), Sibiu, Romania, Telephone +4 0269 210 264, Fax +4 0269 210 264, Email: [office@operanb.ro](mailto:office@operanb.ro) Website: [www.filarmonicasibiu.ro](http://www.filarmonicasibiu.ro)



### Sibiu Ballet Theatre

The Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, Paquita and Carmen, The Ionesco Trilogy, Raimonda, Giselle are only a few of the shows staged by the Sibiu Ballet Theatre.



In June 2010, the Sibiu Ballet Theatre brought "Carmen" by Georges Bizet on an open-air stage for the first time. This brought together 150 artists on the Large Square stage: ballerinas, orchestra, tenors, children choirs and over 3,500 spectators.

The Sibiu Ballet Theatre is also the organizer of the Ballet Gala and of the International Classic and Contemporary Dance Competition. Sibiu Ballet Theatre performs on the stage of the Ion Besoiu Cultural Center. Tickets are available at the Sibiu Cultural Centre (Parcul Tineretului, nr. 1), the Ion Besoiu Cultural Centre (Secretariat) or on the night of the show, at the entrance, subject to availability.

Complete information about the activity of the Sibiu Ballet Theatre may be found on the institution's official web page: [www.sibiuballet.ro](http://www.sibiuballet.ro).

Address: Parcul Tineretului, nr. 1, Sibiu, Romania

Telephone: +4 0269 229 627.



## SHOPPING IN SIBIU

Shopping in Sibiu is an experience not to be missed by any visitor of Sibiu. There are plenty of shopping centres, supermarkets, open-air markets, fashion boutiques and stores, antique, art and souvenir stores, malls and bookstores which cater for a large range of shopping tastes and needs.

It's not just the products as such which entice potential buyers to venture into a virtually endless exploration, but also the fact that shopping in Sibiu is an occasion to sample some of the eclectic charms of the city. Traditional and state-of-the-art at the same time, Sibiu puts forward a shopping platform rich enough to keep busy all sorts of keen shoppers, from fashion victims to visitors in search of picturesque souvenirs to bring back home and to remind them of their stay in the city.

The historical centre of Sibiu, crossed by the locally celebrated Nicolae Bălcescu Street, is a wonderful place to search out not only for the sake of sightseeing but also with a genuine shopping interest. Nicolae Bălcescu is the main pedestrian street in the historic core of Sibiu and the most popular place for downtown shopping. It is flanked by restaurants, cafes, shops, banks, and agencies, while in the summer adorned by open-air cafes and restaurants. During festivals is a place full of happening as many shows take place directly in the street. Amongst others, the historical centre is also a hub of local nightlife opportunities.

### Antique and art stores in Sibiu -

There are plenty of antique and art stores in Sibiu where visitors can delight in buying or, why not, merely admiring, the most miscellaneous range of items: manuscripts, old furniture, decorative items, rare maps, artworks (both fine art and applied and decorative art), old photographs and printings. Connoisseurs might very well tell the difference between the genuine assets and the mere trinkets, but amateurs are warned against rushing into buying the all-tempting and eye-catching items since the valu-

ables are often mixed with unworthy yet alluring exhibits. <http://romaniatourism.com/sibiu.html#shopping>

### Souvenir and folk-art shops in Sibiu

Understandably, foreign tourists might want to purchase something to remind them of their stay in Sibiu. Traditional souvenirs and folk-art works are ideal in this respect. There are plenty of shops scattered throughout Sibiu that cater for this category of tourists, especially within the major shopping centres, but not exclusively.

### MARKETS IN SIBIU

There are plenty of markets in Sibiu, and searching them out is not at all a hollow tourist pursuit. By exploring these markets, visitors can make an idea about the picturesque manner in which locals understand to do their daily shopping. Here, tourists can find products which range from foodstuff to clothing and to almost everything in between these two categories. The diversity of the products, as well as the specific layout of the stalls and stands, lends the local markets of Sibiu a specific atmosphere

### Fresh Produce Markets (Piața)

To discover local, authentic foods and drinks, visit one of Sibiu's fresh produce markets where farmers from the nearby villages sell fruits and vegetables, as well as local cheeses and fresh dairy and meat products.

### Cibin Market (Piața Cibin)



Opened daily, it is the largest fruit and vegetable market in Sibiu is located at the NW end of *Strada Turnului*, near *Podul Cibin* (Cibin Bridge). Don't miss this authentic local market, as you will immerse yourself in a symphony of flavours and colours specific to the area. Every day, local farmers line up mountains of fresh produce on the stalls,



from the famous cheeses to meat, fruit, vegetable, flowers and golden honey. Let yourself be lured by smells, taste foods, talk to people and enjoy a slice of real, local life with all your senses.

**The Green Friday Market**



Every Friday, peasants and local producers bring here the tastiest vegetables, fruits and organic foods to the city. More than just a market, Green Friday is a meeting place and an inspiration. Location: Huet Square Every Friday between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**The Farmers' Market Trasilvania**



The Farmers' Market is organized every Saturday on the plateau in front of the Transilvania Hall. Over 150 farmers sell traditional, fresh and homemade foods, vegetables and fruits.

**Rahovei Market**



(Piața Rahovei), Opened: daily  
Location: Strada Rahovei, near the SE end of Bulevardul Mihai Viteazul.

**Vasile Aaron Market**



(Piața Vasile Aaron), Open: daily  
Location: SE of the Old Town on Str. Semaforului.

**MALLS AND SHOPPING CENTRES IN SIBIU**

The malls and shopping centres of Sibiu stand out as, perhaps, the most rewarding and complete shopping opportunities, guaranteeing clients that nothing between famed designers clothes and foodstuff is missing. However, shopping as such is complemented by a solid leisure infrastructure since the malls and the major shopping centres of Sibiu are laid out with cafes and restaurants, cinemas, sports and gambling facilities and even wellness and beauty care centres. All sorts of services are also provided, such as banking, communications and pharmaceutical services.

**Prima Shopping Center** is the newest retail complex in Sibiu, located in the northern part of the city. Address: Calea Șurii Mari 37, Sibiu 550089, Romania.



**Promenada Sibiu Shopping Center**, the 19<sup>th</sup> mall developed by NEPI Rock castle in Romania, opened its doors on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.



For details regarding opening hours, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, please visit the store website: <http://www.promenadasibiu.ro>.

**Shopping City Sibiu** is the first retail park in Romania outside Bucharest, which opened in November 2006.



For details regarding opening hours, phone numbers and email addresses, please visit the store website: <https://shoppingcitysibiu.ro>.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS**

For a great variety of restaurants, cafes and bars, download the **SIBIU CITY APP** from Google Play and App Store. From traditional cuisine to international dishes, you will find it.

Bon appétit! (Rou: *Poftă bună!*)

**NIGHTLIFE IN SIBIU**

Nightlife in Sibiu has its undeniable highlights, as well as its share of ill-famed temptations newcomers, in particular, are warned against falling into. There are plenty of bars, discos and clubs to keep the party people busy during their nocturnal explorations of Sibiu.

Thus, may it be dancing, drinking, a casual conversation or a theatre performance, Sibiu has something to offer to anyone. It is, as said, a place that embraces all contradictions and this feature holds true with respect to nightlife too.

**SPORTS**

**Binder Lake** is a location opened for water sports or for leisure time activities. Stand-up paddle boarding, canoe, wake boarding and water skiing are some examples of water sports you can practice here.





### Biking in Sibiu

Rent a bike from the **Sibiu Bike City** centres in the city and see the city. If you want to make a sports outing, take the bike tracks that



lead outside the city, through the Dumbrava Forest and then towards the villages nearby. There are aprox. 44 rental centers available in the city – just follow the Sibiu Bike City signs.

### Golf in Sibiu

In Sibiu, Sebes and Alba Iulia, there are sev-



eral [golf clubs](#). The main drawback as far as mass tourism is concerned is most of these are exclusive clubs, and obtaining membership is not quite at hand since members are often selected according to their social, political or cultural profile. However, what matters is that in Sibiu, there are good opportunities, even if not necessarily available to the ordinary tourist who travels for pleasure.

### Winter sports in Sibiu

The centre of the winter sports is a touristic resort situated 32 km North-West from Sibiu, "Paltiniş" is the highest (1440 m altitude) and the oldest resort in Romania. It was founded by the Transylvanian Carpathian Society (S.K.V.) in 1894. From the initial nucleus of villas, the resort still preserves "Casa turiştilor" (The House of the Tourists, 1894), "Casa medicilor" (The House of the Doctors, 1895), "Sala Monaco" (Monaco Hall, 1898) and another villa, historical monuments. You can ski in Păltiniş or at Arena Platoş.

### Paintball in Sibiu



Paintball is, perhaps, one of the most inspired choices when it comes to combining the need to keep fit with an opportunity that comes close to what one might call a social occasion. Having fun is, thus, guaranteed while indulging in a rewarding, dynamic activity. In Sibiu, there are several paintball centres which occasion visitors to enjoy the benefits of spending time in the company of their friends and work out in the most pleasant manner conceivable, while facing the challenges inherent in the rules of the game, not to mention paintball is an excellent team-building strategy.

### Tennis in Sibiu

There are plenty of tennis courts and clubs which give tourists the opportunity to



indulge in playing their favourite game. Visitors have a wide range of options since, indeed, the clubs and courts are scattered throughout the city. Most of these have trainers focusing on preparing the children for the professional arena, but they also rent the courts for people who enjoy this sport as a mere pastime.

The lessons (private or group lessons alike) are conceived usually exclusively for the little ones.

### Extreme sports



In Sibiu, you may find sports clubs that organize outdoor activities for all ages. Usually, their teams of professionals made up of mountain rescue specialists, climbers, mountain guides, and experienced animators are gladly at your disposal for various activities:

- Zip-line tours at Bălea Lac, Sibiel and wherever the location allows it, at the tourists' demand;
- Open-air climbing wall in the centre of Sibiu;
- Mountain tours and expeditions with experienced guides;
- Camps, excursions, birthday parties and children's activities;
- Teambuilding for various groups;
- Climbing;
- Mountain tourism (trips, hikes, expeditions);
- Mountain sports (ski, ski touring, snowboarding, sports tourism, orienteering, climbing, alpinism, escalade, ice escalade etc.);
- Parachuting, paragliding, powered hang gliding;
- Bike tours;
- 4WD, ATV & Off-Road Tours.



## SECTION 4: SIBIU, A CITY OF CULTURE

Hundreds of events take place in Sibiu every year, in indoor locations as well as outdoor. Sibiu becomes a stage for a wide variety of events, and it always manages to transform into the perfect stage, with the important financial support of the City Hall of Sibiu, which understands that culture is a development vector.

Cultural institutions and private cultural operators are supported by the municipality to produce a very rich calendar of events. Here are a few highlights:

### FESTIVALS

#### Sibiu International Theatre Festival (FITS)



Certainly Sibiu's most visible and grand event. Ten days of theatre in halls, on streets and in the historic squares of the city. Thousands of artists from all over the world and hundreds of performances bring the city alive. The spirit of this event turns Sibiu itself into a festival city. The Theatre Festival in Sibiu is rightfully deemed as one of the largest and most prestigious in Europe.

For further information about the Festival's next edition, please access: <https://www.sibfest.ro/>.



#### Transylvania International Film Festival (TIFF)



Due to the quality of the feature films and to the bohemian atmosphere of the events, TIFF has developed into a well-recognized local and international brand. TIFF is not only about film productions but also about all night long parties, concerts, seminars and unique workshops.



#### Summer Concerts of the State Philharmonic of Sibiu



On warm summer nights, one can listen to the music of the philharmonic orchestra in the most unconventional places in the city. The music programs focus on symphonic rock, film music, and entertainment music but also on religious musical works.

#### Sibiu Jazz Festival



The Festival is considered to be unique in Romania, in terms of its longevity, consistency and the impressive number of celebrities that honored it with their presence. It is the oldest of its kind in the country and one of the oldest jazz festivals worldwide, which made a good cause for Sibiu to be declared „Romania's Jazz Capital” in the 80's. In the world, there are not many festivals of jazz that can boast with over 46 years of successful activity given that the entire history of jazz is barely one century old. For a few days, you can attend concerts, jam sessions and jazz workshops and can listen to the surprising interferences of this music style with other genres.



#### Sibiu International Street ART Festival



Each year, the International Street ART Festival brings more colour to the streets of Sibiu. After more than four editions,



the works of more than 100 renowned artists can be admired in a street art tour that is unique in the world, comprising 106 murals, on over 11,600 m<sup>2</sup>, painted on school walls and on the walls of other buildings in the city.



### Artmania Rock Festival



Famous names such as HIM, Amorphis, Anathema, Lacrimosa, Nightwish or Serj Tankian, who performed on the stage of Artmania Festival, are some of the reasons why the festival has won a top spot on the European rock scene.

### Songs of the Mountains International Folklore Festival



*Songs of The Mountains*, Sibiu's biggest and oldest folklore festival, celebrates the diversity of folk culture through music, dance,



gastronomy and traditions. More than 600 artists and bands from Romania and guests from other countries transform Sibiu's city centre into the stage of universal folklore.



### ASTRA Film Festival



Unique in Southeast Europe, *ASTRA* Film Festival brings Sibiu the most important filmmaker of non-fiction productions in the world. The festival provides film enthusiasts with the opportunity to watch the latest documentaries on current issues relating to contemporary society. The films are featured in Dom – the unique spherical cinema, where innovative technologies such as virtual reality (VR) and 360-degree film projections (full-dome) immerse the viewers in the world of the movie.



### MOVIE NIGHT IN SIBIU

Take an evening to enjoy a great movie in one of the cinema houses in Sibiu:

- Cinegold in the Promenada Sibiu Mall at 1-3A Lector Street
- Cinema Ion Besoiu Cultural Center at No. 3 Emil Cioran Street
- Arta Cinema, No. 1, Piața Aurel Vlaicu

## THE WORLD OF BOOK READING

### The ASTRA County Library



1861 was a great year for the entire Transylvania for at Sibiu, they inaugurated The Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and Romanian Culture (*ASTRA*), an academic society fighting for the rights of the Romanians from Transylvania who were still under Habsburg occupation and after 1867, under Austro-Hungarian occupation.

As literary writings were a strong element of cultural unification for Romanians, in the same era, they also set up the *ASTRA* Library. The great personalities of those times (Octavian Goga, Nicolae Cristea, Vasile Goldiș, Al. Papiullarian, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Andrei Mureșanu, Titu Maiorescu and many others) contributed to the enrichment of the collection of books available at the library - its current collections are part of the national cultural heritage.

To keep up with the new technologies, in 2007, the library inaugurated its B wing, a building equipped with cutting edge technology. Today, the library holds over





680,000 documents, books, journals, CDs, DVDs, manuscripts, correspondence documents, old Romanian books, medals, rare documents and so on. The collection of books is also very diverse, and it includes various materials in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Hebrew, Esperanto, Greek, Hungarian and Russian.

The library currently hosts exhibitions, private viewings, workshops, reading evenings, educational events for children, researches and various cultural, educational events. Also, the library provides its visitors with free internet access.

Address: str. G. Barițiu, nr. 5-, Sibiu, Romania, Telephone: +4 0269 210 551, Fax +4 0269 215 775

**Coffee scented reading**



What can be better than the flavour of a hot coffee or that of a scented tea while browsing through an interesting book? We invite you to take a few moments to relax in Sibiu's café-bookshops!



**The Humanitas Sibiu Bookshop**



The Humanitas Sibiu Bookshop takes you on a journey to the universal world of books scented by flavours of coffee and tea. The experience is truly enjoyable.

Address: str. Nicolae Bălcescu, nr. 16, Sibiu, Romania, Telephone: +4 0269 211 434, Fax +4 0269 211 434.

**The Erasmus Bookshop**

A warm atmosphere, shelves loaded with books in Romanian, German or English, flavoured teas and welcoming hosts... all of these are waiting for you at the Erasmus bookshop located on the ground floor of the Friedrich Teutsch Dialogue and Culture Centre from Sibiu.

In the summertime, you may also enjoy reading at one of the tables from the centre's garden, which makes the entire experience all the more enchanting.

Address: str. Mitropoliei, nr. 30, Sibiu, Romania, Telephone: +4 0269 221 060, Fax +4 0369 815 289.

**The Schiller Sibiu Bookshop**

There is a welcoming atmosphere, books in German or Romanian, tourism books, maps and children's games. If you cannot find the book or magazine you are looking for, the staff at the Schiller bookshop will order it for you directly from Germany.

Address: Piața Mare, nr. 7, Sibiu, Romania, Telephone: +4 0269 223 074.

**ROMANIAN TRADITIONAL CUISINE IN SIBIU**

Romanian cuisine is a diverse blend of different dishes from several traditions with which it has come into contact, but it also maintains its own character. Though hearty and substantial, it is simply tasty. The heartiness characteristic of the traditional dishes reflects the hedonistic



drive of the Romanian people in relation to their daily bites.

There are plenty of foreign influences which have shaped, in time, the identity of Romanian cuisine. Thus, the Greeks, the Turks, the Russians, the Bulgarians, the Germans and the Hungarians have all contributed to the formation of what one might rightfully call today the traditional dishes of Romania. In order to sample the genuine tastes and flavours of this strangely mouth-watering gastronomy, visitors should definitely head for rural tourism so that they can experience a delightful insight into the secrets of Romanian cuisine and of its produces.

There are many restaurants and cafes in the old town of Sibiu, with indoor and outdoor seating where tourists and locals can enjoy not only good food from the local and international cuisine but also good music and a cosy atmosphere.

Some say that happiness lies in simple things. In Sibiu, it lies in the flavours on the plate. In 2019, Sibiu County was awarded the title of Region of Gastronomy. As mentioned on the website of IGCAT, Sibiu and its surroundings, which form the historical region known as "Mărginimea Sibiului" were chosen because they stand out through their **"exceptional heritage and traditions carried on by a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural community"**.



This **multiculturalism** is one of the reasons why the gastronomy of Sibiu is so



unique and appreciated. The mix between centuries-old recipes brought by the Saxons when they moved to Transylvania in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the well-kept traditional Romanian dishes became part of the local food culture.

Another aspect which contributed to the acquiring of this title is the fact that **a large part of the ingredients used in the cooking process are locally-sourced.** This is proof of their freshness, high quality and authentic taste.

Some of the dishes that made Sibiu deserve its fame are:

**Bulz** is a local adaptation of the traditional mamaliga (polenta), made with corn flour and accompanied by cheese, shaped as a ball and cooked on an open fire. The secret consists in using a type of cheese made of fatty sheep milk, called branza de burduf;

**Tocănița de oaie** is a stew made of lamb meat cooked in a cauldron;

**Balmoș** is another variety of polenta, made using a lot of cheese, butter and sour cream;

**Apple soup**, a Saxon recipe made with apples, lemon juice and sour cream;

A plate made with various romanian types of sheep cheese, such as **telemea**, **burduf**, **urdă** and **caș** served with sheep pastrami and slanina (pork fat) aged in paprika;

**Papricaș**, a stew made with meat, potatoes and other vegetables and flavored with paprika.

<https://true-romania.tours/sibiu-european-region-gastronomy-2019/>.



Tourists can also enjoy **other Romanian traditional dishes:**

**Chiftele** (plural of *chiftea*) - are defined as large fried meatballs generously spiced with garlic and traditional herbs (dill,

parsley), salt and pepper. They can be eaten as such or marinated in tomato sauce with mashed potatoes or rice as a side dish. Most of the time, they are made of pork, but variations refer to beef or chicken meatballs.

**Mititei**, the favourite grilled rolls of the Romanian people, is a mix of minced pork, beef and lamb.



Tourists can easily notice the popularity of this dish while strolling around in Sibiu since ranging from low-key eateries, stalls in the open-air markets to the upmarket restaurants of Sibiu; all the eating venues feature mititei on their menus. Mititei are usually eaten generously dipped in mustard and with bread loaves. Briefly put a simple yet rewarding speciality not to be missed by tourists with a strong appetite.

**Drob** is an Easter dish, best described as lamb haggis but, instead of being simmered, it is cooked in the oven. It contains a mix of pre-boiled lamb organs, onion and herbs, occasionally whole hard-boiled eggs. Sundry vegetables or dips can be used as a side dish.



**Toba** is a speciality traditionally prepared during the Christmas holiday season. It is a mix of pig's organs, pig skin, ears, fat and aspic, wrapped in a pig's own stomach and then simmered. The product is then left to dry and served with mustard, pickles or in sundry other combinations.

**Tochitura** is, too, traditionally prepared for Christmas. It is, perhaps, one of the most outrageous Romanian specialities,



at least from the point of view of a faddy nutritionist. It consists of the meat of a freshly slaughtered pig (occasionally, sundry organs can also be added), fried in a pan in the pig's own fat. It is often eaten with fried eggs, grated telemea (salted cheese), fried sausages and **mămăligă** (similar to English porridge or Italian polenta). Pickles are strongly recommended.

**Sarmale** are stuffed cabbage rolls.

The filling consists of forcemeat (though vegetarian *sarmale* are an option too), and instead of cabbage for the rolls, one can always use grapevine leaves or even dock leaves. In order to eat *sarmale* by the book, tourists are advised to order *mămăligă* and cream.





**Ardei umpluți** (bell peppers stuffed with rice and chopped meat) – The stuffed bell peppers are very similar to *sarmale*, meaning the filling is approximately the same. The only difference refers to the wrap: instead of cabbage, we speak of bell peppers.

**Zacusca** is a mix of eggplant, zucchini, onion, tomatoes, mushrooms and bell peppers. It is usually consumed spread on bread loaves, and it is a relief for vegetarians who look for an option into the secrets of the “Romanian cuisine”. *Zacusca* can be eaten fresh, right after cooking, or it can be canned and eaten virtually all year-round.

**Ciorba** is a general term that covers a large range of soups soured with lemon juice, vinegar or, more commonly, borsch (*borș* in Romanian, is a soured juice made of wheat, rye or barley bran or sugar beet fermented in water).



Most often, *ciorba* contains a mix of vegetables (potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, onions, celery, peppers) and herbs, and, depending on what kind of *ciorba* we speak of, it also contains beans, meat (pork, chicken or beef), fish, rice, and the so-called *tăitei* (a sort of traditional pasta made of heavy dough). *Ciorba de burtă* (tripe soup) is, though pretty different in cooking from the general recipe described above, one of the locals' favourites. It is served with garlic sauce, chilly, cream and vinegar.



**Răcitura** also called *piftie*, is prepared, as a rule, during the winter holidays season. It can be made of fish, chicken, or beef, but more commonly of pork, and seasoned with vegetables and heavily spiced with garlic. The meat is boiled in water, and the produce is left to jellify while kept at a low temperature.

**Saramura** is a fish speciality consisting of grilled or fried fish left to marinate in a brine-based sauce. It is precisely the brine that gives the special flavour of this dish. Besides salt and water, the brine is enriched with tomato sauce and seasoned with pepper and aromatic herbs (most commonly thyme and basil). Tourists are advised to eat *saramura* with *mămăligă*, since locals too do the same.

#### Romanian traditional desserts

**Papanashi** is the first thing you should try when it comes to desserts. These fried doughnuts made with cottage cheese and filled with sweet cream are topped with berry jam. They are not so easy to make, so if you didn't like them on the first try, make sure you try them again somewhere else.



**Cozonac** is a sort of sweet bread made of leavened dough. It is delicately flavoured with vanilla or rum, and for some extra thrill, it is enriched with grated lemon or orange peel, raisins, Turkish “locum delight” (*rahat* in Romanian), cocoa filling



and nuts. Traditionally, it is prepared for Christmas and Easter.

**Mucenici** are cooked and eaten only on March the 9<sup>th</sup>, when the Romanians celebrate the 40 Martyrs holidays, *mucenici* consist of leavened and cooked (or boiled) sweet dough glazed with honey and nuts.

#### Romanian traditional beverages

Romania is a major **wine** producer and, though not as reputed as the wine regions in France or Italy, for that matter, it does boast of several high-quality wines. Either red or white, the Romanian wines can very well accompany a hearty meal at one of the chic restaurants of Bucharest. The so-called *Fetească*, *Tămâioasă*, and *Grasă* are the most advisable.

**Țuica** is best defined as a plum brandy traditionally produced in Romania for centuries. It is liquor largely consumed by the locals who, apparently, have developed a bewildering tolerance to the high alcohol concentration of this beverage. Foreigners, however, are advised to drink in moderation. Regional versions of *țuică* refer to *pal-incă* (in Transylvania), *rachiu*, *șliboviță* and *secărică*.

**Vișinata** is yet another alcoholic speciality, made of *rachiu*, cherries and sugar. The homemade *vișinata* guarantees the authenticity of the traditional recipe.

**Socată** is a sweet soft drink made of elderberry inflorescence, water, sugar and yeast. If left too much to ferment, it can develop a significant alcohol concentration, but, all in all, it is a refreshing, unique beverage one should not overlook when searching out the hidden corners of Romanian cuisine.

There are several Romanian **beer** brands curious tourists can try out, though, as a rule, they do not rise to the popularity of the international brands. Reputed national brands refer to *Ursus*, *Timișoreana*, *Silva* and *Bergenbier*, just to list a few. However, while exploring the scene of the local restaurants and bars, visitors should definitely check out the home-brewed beers of the respective venues.



## PART V

## Additional Information –Romania

## GENERAL PRESENTATION

## Location

Romania is situated in the south-eastern part of Central Europe and shares borders with Hungary to the Northwest, Serbia to the Southwest, Bulgaria to the South, the Black Sea to the Southeast, Ukraine to the East and to the North and the Republic of Moldova to the East. Romania is the second-largest country in the area, after Poland. The geographical location of Romania between latitudes 43°37'07" and 48°15'06" North and longitudes 20°15'44" and 29°41'24" East. Romania extends approximately 480 km North to South and 650 km East to West.

Romania's territory features splendid mountains, beautiful rolling hills, fertile plains and numerous rivers and lakes. The Carpathian Mountains traverse the centre of the country, bordered on both sides by foothills and finally the great plains of the outer rim. The forests cover over one-quarter of the country, and the fauna is one of the richest in Europe, including bears, deer, lynx, chamois and wolves. The legendary Danube River ends its eight-country journey at the Black Sea after forming one of the largest and most biodiversity wetlands in the world, the Danube Delta. About a third of the country consists of the *Carpathian Mountains* (also known as the Transylvanian Alps). Another third is hills and plateaus, rich with orchards and vineyards. The final third is a fertile plain, largely devoted to agriculture.

## Physical features

- Mountains: 31% of Romania's territory;
- Hills and plateaus: 36%;
- Plains: 33%;
- Areas covered by rivers and lakes: 3.7%;
- Total number of lakes: 3,500;
- Lakes greater than 250 acres: 300;
- Highest mountain peak: Moldoveanu Mt. — 2544 m. (8,349 ft.).

## Geography

Located halfway between the Equator and the North Pole, with an area of 238,391 square kilometres, Romania is the largest country in South-eastern Europe and the 12<sup>th</sup> largest country in the whole of Europe. It is roughly the same size as the United Kingdom.

## Topography, terrain and wonders

Romania's terrain is almost evenly divided between mountains, hills and plains.

The Carpathian Mountains are home to one of the largest undisturbed forests in Europe. 400 unique species of mammals, including the Carpathian chamois, call the *Carpathian Mountains* home. 60% of the European brown bear population lives in the *Carpathian Mountains*.



<https://hartaromaniei.org/harta-sibiu.html>

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>

Some 1,350 floral species have been recorded in Romania's Carpathian Mountains, including the yellow poppy, Transylvanian columbine, saxifrage and edelweiss.

The *Carpathian Chamois* (*Capra Neagră*) – indigenous to the *Carpathian Mountains* of Romania – is the largest of the species.

Inside the old Turda Salt Mines (*Salina Turda*) located in Transylvania, Romania stands the world's largest salt mine museum. Originally established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the massive mines were formed completely by hand and machine rather than by using explosives. Visitors are invited to descend as far down as almost 122m into the Earth in order to witness the history of the trade.

Romania features the youngest continental land: (the Danube Delta) in Europe. The mighty Danube River flows 2860 km from its springs in Germany's the Black Forest to the Black Sea. Just before reaching the sea, it forms the *Danube Delta* – the second-largest and best-preserved in Europe – 4.178 square km of rivers, canals, marshes, tree-fringed lakes and reed islands. The Danube Delta is a wildlife enthusiast's paradise (especially a bird watcher's). It is home to the world's largest reed bed and hosts rare species of plants and animals, including endangered sturgeon, otters, wildcats and European mink.

The *Danube Delta* is a final resting place for gravel and sediment washed from the Alps. Formed over a period of more than 10,000 years, the Danube Delta continues to grow; 67 million tons of alluvia and sediments – the bulk of ten Great Pyramids – are deposited every year by the *Danube River*.

The world's largest saline Heliothermic Lake is Lake *Ursul* (Bear Lake) in Sovata – central Transylvania. Heliothermic lakes contain a sun-heated layer of warm, saline water beneath a surface layer of cooler, less saline water. The two layers are separated by a chemocline, a stratum in which salinity increases progressively with depth. (Attribution: U.S. Geological Survey) The lake was named after its shape, which resembles a kind of bearskin. Lake Ursul is also the world's only natural lake whose formation time is precisely known. On May 27, 1875, at 11 a.m., a landslide led to the appearance of this hyper-saline body of water.

The *Iron Gates* (or the Gate of Trajan) – a natural river channel between the Carpathian and Balkan mountains – are the *Danube River*'s narrowest point (150m). The narrow is flanked by 300 meters high cliffs, and the water is 90 meters deep.

The second-largest underground glacier in Europe (in terms of volume) can be found in Transylvania – Romania. The 3500-year old Scărișoara glacier, located in the Bihor



Mountains—100 km southwest of *Cluj Napoca*. It has a volume of 75,000 cubic meters. The 47 meters deep entrance shaft leads to some impressive ice structures, including spectacular 6 meters high ice stalagmites. *Scărișoara* ice-cave is open to the public.

The statue of Dacian king *Decebal*, carved in the rocky bank of the *Danube* River, is the tallest rock sculpture in Europe (approx. 41m tall). The monument celebrates obduracy, audacity and pride. It is a homage to the last king of *Dacia* (today's *Romania*), from Prof. Dr. *Giuseppe Constantin Drăgan*. For more details, please visit the following



website: [www.RomaniaTourism.com](http://www.RomaniaTourism.com).

### Climate

Romania has a temperate climate, similar to the north-eastern United States, with four distinct seasons. Spring is pleasant with cool mornings and nights and warm days. Summer is quite warm, with extended sunny days. The hottest areas in summer are the lowlands in southern and eastern Romania, where 39°C (Degree) is often reached in July and August. Temperatures are always cooler in the mountains. Autumn is dry and cool, with fields and trees producing colourful foliage. Winters can be cold, especially in the mountains. While not the rule, abundant snowfalls may occur throughout the country, from December to mid-March. There are significant regional differences in the climate between different regions of Romania.

### Facts about Romania's climate

Warmest month: July;

Coldest month: January;

Record High Temperature: 44.5°C (112°F) - August 10, 1951, South-Eastern Romania;

Record Low Temperature: -38.5°C (-37.3°F) - January 24, 1942 (Central Romania);

Average annual Rainfall: approx. 66 cm.

Romania Weather Forecast

- [www.weather.com/](http://www.weather.com/)

Sibiu Weather Forecast

- <https://www.wunderground.com/weather/ro/sibiu>

- <https://weather.com/ro-RO/weather/today/I/145dcda83a90ec6d0722b6a8c0f0cfb-40de219f295b075c05e4c8ae3fb82030e>

### People

Romanians are by nature fun-loving, warm, hospitable and playful, with an innate sense of humour.

### Language

Romanian, a Latin based language which is a continuation of the Latin spoken in ancient times in *Dacia* and *Moesia* — the eastern provinces of the *Roman Empire*. A 31-letter Latin alphabet is in use.

Ethnic minorities (*Hungarian* and *German*) use their own languages in school and civil administration. The literacy rate in Romania is 98%. Most Romanians living in towns and cities are able to communicate in English, French or German. In smaller villages, mostly younger people and children speak one or more foreign languages.

### History

The name "*Romania*" comes from the Latin word "*Romanus*", which means "citizen of the Roman Empire."

*Trajan's Column*, one of the most distinctive monumental sculptures to have survived the fall of Rome, represents a visual history of the wars between the Romans and the Dacians, with Trajan as the hero and Decebalus, the Dacian king, as his worthy opponent. Completed in 113, the column has stood for more than 1,900 years. Trajan's war on the Dacians, a civilization in what is now Romania, was the defining event of his 19-year rule.

During the Middle Ages, Romanians were also known as Vlachs, a blanket term ultimately of Germanic origin, from the word *Walha*, used by ancient Germanic peoples to refer to Romance-speaking and Celtic neighbours.

The meaning of the word "*Transylvania*" is the land beyond the forest.

**Transylvania** was first referred to in a Medieval Latin document dating from 1075 as *Ultra Silvam* (*Ultra* meaning "beyond" or "on the far side of . . ." and *Sylva* (*sylvan*) meaning "wood or forest"). The ruins of *Sarmizegetusa Regia* — the capital of *Dacia* (present-day Romania) prior to the wars with the Roman Empire — are located in *Hunedoara* county — central *Transylvania*.

The Roman capital of *Dacia*, *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*, was built during the time of Roman Emperor *Trajan*, some 40 km away. The people who inhabited the area of modern Romania were called "*Getae*" (*Geti*) by the Greeks and *Dacians* (*Daci*) by the Romans.



The earliest reliably dated European modern human fossils, up to now, were discovered in 2002 in south-western Romania (at *Peștera cu Oase* - translated as the "*Cave with Bones*"). The fossil's age is estimated at 37,800 to 42,000 years old.

The oldest cave drawings in Central and Eastern Europe were found recently in Romania's *Coliboaia* cave. Discovered by chance during a routine expedition in a very remote area in *Apuseni National Park*, the 13 drawings, which represent animals such as rhinos, buffalos, horses and cats, are approximately 32,000 years. The drawings are very well preserved, likely because the area where the gallery is located is not subject to flooding. Experts believe that the entrance of the cave was once used for hunting-related rituals.

Ancient *Tomis* (present-day *Constanta*) has been associated with the legend of *Jason* and the *Argonauts*, who embarked on a long voyage from Greece to *Kolchis* (*Georgia*) on the *Black Sea* coast in search of the *Golden Fleece*.

Three clay tablets, dated to around 5300 BC, discovered in the village of *Tărtăria* (central Romania), have been the subject



of considerable controversy among archaeologists, some of whom claim that the symbols represent the earliest known form of writing in the world.

## CULTURE

The Romanian language currently spoken by over 25-million people is 1,700 years old. Romania is a member of the Francophonie, an organization of governments that use French as their primary language or have a special affiliation with the French language or culture.

Romanian is one of the five languages in which religious services are performed in the autonomous monastic state of Mount Athos (Greece). Most Romanians are of Christian faith. The oldest church still standing – Densu Church (St. Nicholas) – was built in the 600s, in Transylvania, on the site of a 2nd-century Roman temple. Ruins of a mid-300s Christian worship building were found in north-eastern Romania in the town of Mihălăşeni (Botoşani County).

Voroneţ Monastery, located in north-eastern Romania, is also known as the 'Sistine Chapel of the East'. The monastery – built in 1488 – is known worldwide for its abundance of interior and exterior frescoes (wall paintings) featuring an intense shade of blue commonly known as Voroneţ blue.

The tallest wooden church in the world, and the second-tallest wooden structure in Europe,

can be found in Săpânţa, Peri – Maramureş (north-western Romania). A 7-m cross that weights approx 450 kg tops the 78 meters tall church, which is dedicated to St. Michael.

The Unitarian Church was founded in Transylvania – Romania, where Francis David was born in 1510.

Pope John Paul II made a three-day visit to Romania in May 1999, the first papal visit in nearly 1,000 years to a nation of mostly Orthodox Church members.

The Brukenthal Museum in Sibiu was established three years prior to the Louvre Museum in Paris. Founded in 1790 by Samuel Brukenthal, the governor of Transylvania, the museum opened to the public in 1817. It is the oldest museum in Romania and one of the first museums in Europe. The art collection includes paintings by Rubens, Van Dyck and Teniers, as well as works of German, Austrian and Romanian masters.

Romania has the second-largest outdoor museum in the world. Astra Museum in Sibiu features more than 300 buildings as well as watermills and windmills, gigantic presses for wine, fruit and oil, hydraulic forges and structures representing village architectural styles from many parts of Romania.

Universal literature found valuable sources of inspiration in Romania's castles. The most famous novels written are "The Castle in the Carpathians" by Jules Verne and "Dracula" by Bram Stoker.

The small town of Zau de Câmpie in Transylvania is home to the unique "Calendar" castle. The structure has four towers (one for each season of the year), seven terraces (one for each day of the week), 12 hallways, 52 rooms (the number of weeks in a year) and 365 windows (the number of days in a year).

The modernist "Dada" movement (Dadaism) of the 1920s was co-founded by Romanian artists Tristan Tzara and Marcel Iancu.

The Merry Cemetery (or the Happy Graveyard) in the village of Săpânţa - Maramureş is one of the world's most unique resting places and a popular tourist attraction! It is famous for its over 800 colourful gravestones, carved in oak, are decorated with colourful paintings and funny epitaphs about the deceased.

A Romanian newspaper has set the record for the most expensive newspaper copy in the world. Stamp and media collector - Mr Joseph Hackmey - recently paid \$1,115,000 for one copy of "The Bison and the Eagle", a newspaper printed in 1858, in Iasi - eastern Romania. The newspaper - shipped in 1858 to a subscriber in the city of Galati - bears eight Bison Head (Cap de Bour) stamps, some of the rarest in the world.

A 150+ years-old linden tree in Copou Park (Iasi - Romania), also called "The Lovers' Tree", has become a favourite destination for true romantic lovers from around the world. It is believed that the tree brings good luck in love.

Romania's national poet - Mihai Eminescu - used to relax and reflect under this linden tree. Eminescu's creation "The Evening Star" (Luceafărul is considered to be the longest love poem ever written. It's a miracle how this tree survived for so long," - says Dr Mandache Leocov, former director of Iasi botanic garden.

Zece Prăjini, in NE Romania, is the hometown of the world's fastest brass fanfare: "Fanfare Ciocărlia". The band has been clocked at 200 beats per minute. The energy and ingenuity of this 12-virtuoso band won their band fans from Memphis to Melbourne, Tokyo to Toulouse. The New York Times called the band's performance at Global fest in New York "brutally exhilarating." "Fanfare Ciocărlia, a leading Romanian brass band, pushes its tradition to extremes. Its oompah is revved up to thrash-metal speeds; bass lines from two tubas make the floor shake; its trumpets and saxophones race through melodies like bullet trains taking hairpin turns" (The New York Times).

### Romanian National Public Holidays

1. New Year's Day (01 January);
2. Day after New Year's Day (02 January);
3. Unification Day (24 January);
4. Orthodox Good Friday;
5. Orthodox Easter Day;
6. Orthodox Easter Monday;
7. Labour Day (01 May);
8. Children's Day (01 June);



9. Orthodox Pentecost /Whit Sunday;
10. Orthodox Pentecost /Whit Monday;
11. St Mary's Day (15 August);
12. St Andrew's Day (30 November);
13. National Day of ROMANIA (01 December);
14. Christmas Day (25 December);
15. Second day of Christmas (26 December).

Of course, you may have your own calendar of national holidays that may not be in line with the above list of holidays.

### Miscellaneous

Romania and wine started their common history 4000 years ago (2000 BC) when the Greeks arrived from the Black Sea, making it one of the world's oldest viticulture regions (in comparison, the Greeks introduced the wine in France around the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, and it was further developed during the Roman time).

Because too much wine was produced and consumed, in 50 BC, King Burebista had to set a limit to the cultivation of wine grapes and wine production through his empire: Dacia (present-day Romania).

Today Romania is the # nine wine producer in the world;

Eleven "indigenous" varieties of grapes that cannot be found anywhere else in the world are still produced by some wine growers in the country.

The name of the Romanian currency "Leu" (lion in English) and the U.S. currency "Dollar" share the same origin: the Dutch coin "löwentaler". The Romanian Leu (plural Lei) got its name after the roaring lion (löwen) engraved on the tail of the löwentaler, while the US Dollar was named after the second part of the Dutch coin "taler" (pronounced daler and meaning silver coin).

The 10-bani note issued by Romania's Ministry of Finance in 1917 is the smallest paper money ever printed (dimensions: 1.08 x 1.49 in). The



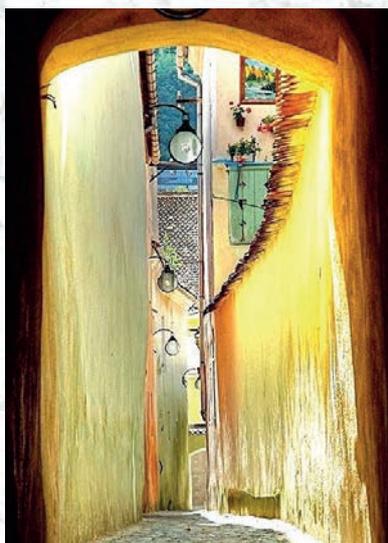
banknote is, in fact, a divisionary note (100 bani = 1 leu), more like a paper coin. (Source: *World Record Academy*)

According to the World Records Academy, The Palace of Parliament, located in Bucharest, is the world's largest and most expensive civil administration building in the world. It also ranks as the biggest office building in Europe with a floor area of 365,000 square metres and second-largest in the world, after the U.S. Pentagon. More than a million tons of marble, steel, crystal and wood have been used to build this palace. The Palace is also the heaviest building in the world, weighing about 4,098,500,000 kilograms.

The city of Brasov (Transylvania) is home to the largest gothic church east of Vienna (Austria). Brasov's famous landmark and Romania's leading gothic church, the Black Church, was built between 1385 and 1477 and got its nickname after the Great Fire of 1689 blackened its walls.

The Black Church has the largest organ in Europe with 4000 tubes (built by Buchholz, Berlin's famous organ builder, in 1836) as well as the largest bell in Romania, weighting 416.3 tons.

Brasov is home to one of the narrowest streets in Europe: "The Rope Street" (*Strada Sforii*). It is approx 1.2 meters wide and connects Cerbului Street with Poarta Schei Street. This street was initially used as an access route by fire-fighters.



The movie *Cold Mountain* was filmed on location in Romania. Hollywood celebrities Jude Law, Renee Zellweger and Nicole Kidman, relaxed in the small ski town Poiana Brasov

after shooting on location in nearby fields and farms.

The Pastrami- a popular sandwich ingredient in America - has its origins in Romania. Little Romania in lower Manhattan was a neighbourhood within a neighbourhood, tucked into the blocks bound by East Houston Street, Allen Street, Grand Street, and the Bowery. When the Romanian-born writer Marcus Ravage arrived in New York in 1900, he found the area thriving; restaurants had opened everywhere, he recalled in a memoir, and the first Romanian delicatessens were displaying "goose-pastrama and kegs of ripe olives".

"Goose-pastrama" was the starting point for American pastrami. The Jewish immigrants who settled in Little Romania brought with them a traditional technique for preserving goose by salting, seasoning and smoking the meat. In America, however, beef was cheaper and more widely available than goose, so pastrami was made with beef brisket instead. Later the name became pastrami - perhaps because it rhymed with "salami" and was sold in the same delicatessens. By the time Little Romania dispersed in the 1940s, New Yorkers from every ethnic background were claiming expertly sliced pastrami as their rightful heritage. Source: New York Public Library.

A game very similar to baseball, and called "Oina", Romanian national sport, was played in Romania long before baseball became one of America's most favourite sports.

US general **George Pomutz** (George Pomut) was born in Gyula - Hungary, to Romanian parents. A Civil War hero, General George Pomutz was awarded the special honour to open the Parade on a nice white horse, marking the end of the Civil War. On February 16, 1866, he was appointed Consul of the United States in Sainte Petersburg, Imperial Russia, serving in that capacity until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1870. During that period, he was involved in the negotiations for the Alaska Purchase. The Liberty ship SS George Pomutz was named after him. Launched on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944, the ship served till 1970. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004, a statue of George Pomutz was unveiled at the Dormition of the Theotokos Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio.



The six-hour mini-series "Hatfields & McCoys" starring Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton – a historical drama inspired by a famous feud between two families in the aftermath of the American Civil War – was filmed in Romania in 2012.

The real [Dracula](#) (*Vlad Dracul*), nicknamed Vlad Țepeș (Vlad the Impaler), was a Romanian prince and military leader who fought bravely against the Turkish army in the mid-1400s. [Count Dracula](#) – the Vampire – was created by Irish writer Bram Stoker in 1897.



Hollywood's original Tarzan was born in **Freidorf** – a suburb of the city of [Timisoara](#), Romania. Considered by movie-makers "the only man in Hollywood who's natural in the flesh and can act without clothes", Johnny Weissmuller (1904–1984) was a box-office hit in the 1932 Tarzan the Ape Man. Freidorf maintains beautiful Secession style architecture and lots of green spaces.

Soprano **Alma Gluck** – the first lyrical artist to sell one million records – was born in Bucharest, Romania, on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1884.

## ROMANIAN PERSONALITIES AND OUTSTANDING BREAKTHROUGHS

During the time, Romania recorded many premieres, pride achievements and fulfilments, all of these being reasons for national pride.

The following examples are just a few of them:

### Science / Technology

- Romanian Inventor **Traian Vuia** was the first European that built and flown a fully self-propelled, fixed-wing automobile aeroplane (March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1906).
- The first substance proved to have a normalizing effect on [blood sugar](#) levels – *pancreatin* (the predecessor of insulin) was discovered by Romanian physiologist, professor of medicine: **Nicolae Păulescu** (1869–1931).
- Between 1914 and 1916, Dr Păulescu performed experiments in which he obtained an anti-diabetic pancreatic extract. In 1916 his extract, injected into diabetic dogs, reduced blood glucose levels.
- The jet engine used by modern aeroplanes was invented by Bucharest-born inventor **Henri Coandă**. Romanian inventor and aerodynamics pioneer Henri Coandă designed and built in 1910 the world's first jet-powered aircraft, known as the Coandă – 1910, which he demonstrated publicly at the second International Aeronautic Salon in Paris. Romania's main international airport, Bucharest Otopeni – Henri Coandă, is named after the great inventor.
- Romanian physician, biologist, and one of the earliest bacteriologists, **Victor Babeș**,

discovered more than 50 germs and a cure for a disease named after him, "Babesiosis".

- Another Romanian biologist, **Emil Palade**, received the Nobel Prize for his contributions to cell biology.
- The birth of the Theory of Sonics can be considered the publication of the book *A treatise on transmission of power by vibrations* in 1918 by the Romanian scientist **George Constantinescu**.
- Mathematician **Ștefan Odobleja** is regarded as the ideological father behind cybernetics– his work *The Consonantist Psychology* (Paris, 1938) was the main source of inspiration for N. Wiener's *Cybernetics* (Paris, 1948).
- In 1924, Romanian physicist **Ștefania Mărăcineanu** was the first scientist who identified the phenomenon of artificial radioactivity and has demonstrated the first laboratory experiment proving the possibility to produce artificial nuclear radiation. In her PhD thesis, Ms. Mărăcineanu showed that lead, being activated with radioactive polonium, starts emitting radiations. This first laboratory proof was investigated for ten more years by French scientists Frederic and Irene Joliot-Curie which formulated a theoretical model for artificial radioactivity. The French savants who received the Nobel Prize in 1935 have acknowledged the initial discovery of Ștefania Mărăcineanu in an article published in "Neues Wiener Journal" (June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1934).
- **Lazăr Edeleanu** was the first chemist to synthesize amphetamine and also invented the modern method of refining crude oil.
- **Michael Horodniceanu**, PhD, P.E., – the President of MTA Capital Construction – was born in Bucharest, Romania. Dr Horodniceanu led the largest transit infrastructure construction program in the USA, and the largest subway expansion program in over 60 years, overseeing \$18 billion dollars in network expansion for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority's mega projects, including East Side Access, Second Avenue Subway, the No. 7 Line Extension, Fulton Centre and the MTA Capital Security program.
- The first fountain pen was invented by [Craiova](#)-born **Petrache Poenaru**



(1799-1875). Mr Poenaru's invention was patented in May 1827.

- Romanian student **Sarmiza Bilcescu** was the first woman to gain admission to Paris Law School (1884). In 1887 Miss Bilcescu became the first woman in Europe to receive a PhD in Law and to become a lawyer.
- The world's first industrial oil refinery opened at Ploiești (southern Romania) in 1857. Oil was exploited commercially in Romania since 1857, two years before oil was discovered in Pennsylvania. The first natural gas compression station in Europe was built in Sărmășel - Romania, in 1927.
- The Romanian city of **Timisoara** was the first in Europe to have electric street lighting (in 1889). Timisoara was also the first European city to introduce horse-drawn trams in 1869.
- The **Peleş Castle** was the first European castle entirely lit by electrical current. The electricity was produced by the castle's own plant. The castle's central heating and vacuuming systems, built in 1883, are still in use today.
- The **Danube - Black Sea canal** - in south-east Romania - is the world's third longest man-made navigation route, after the Suez and the Panama Canals. The first plans to build this canal were made in the late 1830s, but construction works only started in 1975. More than 300 million cubic metres of soil and rock were excavated to build the Danube - Black Sea canal (more than to for the Suez and for the Panama canal). Its banks are reinforced with 4 million cubic metres of concrete. This 95,6 km long Y-shape canal was opened to navigation in 1984. It makes the water distance from the Danube River to the port of Constanta 400km shorter and keeps trade ships away from the Danube Delta.
- Europe's first curved bridge, "**Podul Bisetz**", was built in Giurgiu, southern Romania, in 1905 (a technical innovation of two Romanian engineers: Anghel Saligny and Ion Ionescu Bisetz). In 2007, rail and vehicular traffic were diverted to a new bridge nearby, but the historic Bisetz bridge remains open to pedestrians and bicyclists.

## Sport

- Romanian gymnast **Nadia Comăneci** was the first to achieve a perfect routine and get the first score of 10.00 in the history of gymnastics during the Olympics in Montreal (1976).
- In 2000 Nadia was named as one of the athletes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Laureus World Sports Academy.



### Did you know...?

*The scoring displays of the time lacked the technical capability to show a perfect 10.00 and the organizers could only display a three-digit grade 1.00.*

- The longest career as a motor racing driver is 39 years 364 days and was achieved by **Laurențiu Moldovan** (Romania), who raced in rally cars and formula 1 style cars from July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1968 to July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com).
- Goalkeeper **Helmuth Duckadam** saved a record four consecutive penalty kicks in the 1986 European Football Champions Cup Final, securing victory for his team Steaua Bucuresti. (Steaua Bucuresti defeated FC Barcelona in Seville, Spain).
- Romanian long-distance runner **Constantina Diță** won the women's marathon at the 2008 Summer Olympics in 2 hours, 26 minutes and 44 seconds. At 38 years of age, she became the oldest Olympic

marathon champion in history. Previously the oldest man to win an Olympic marathon was aged 37, and the oldest woman was aged 30. She now lives and trains at altitude in Boulder, Colorado. In 2004 Mrs Diță won the Chicago Marathon with a personal best of 2:21:30.

- Romanian gymnastics trainer **Octavian Bellu** is perhaps the most successful sports trainer in the world. Under his guidance, Romania's national women gymnastics team has won 305 Olympic and European and World championship medals. Mr Bellu's gymnasts have won 16 Gold Olympic medals.

## NATIONAL AND LOCAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

There are many ancient customs and traditions still kept today in the villages of the county of Sibiu. Closely linked to certain religious holidays and ancient rituals, these customs have turned into genuine shows of music, dance, traditional costumes, local cuisine, artistic craftsmanship, creativity and games.

If you take part in such events, you will get the chance to get close to the simple people and to their traditions and daily life with its joys and sorrows.

### Winter traditions, Mărginimea Sibiului

#### The Group of Lads from Mărginimea Sibiului



If you are in Mărginimea Sibiului around the winter holidays, you will definitely have the chance to meet the Group of Lads on the village streets.

The Group of Lads is a custom present in almost all the villages from Mărginimea Sibiului, except for Poiana Sibiului. The groups are traditionally formed on



St. Nicholas, and they are organized differently in each village.

The Groups of Lads start their activity on Christmas Eve by singing carols. First, they sing carols at the house of the mayor, then the priest's house and then the rest of the locals.

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, in Sălișteța Sibiului takes place "The Reunion of the Groups". Lads and lasses from the entire county, dressed in carefully sewn traditional costumes prepared especially for this holiday, get together to dance and sing traditional merry songs. It is a feast of joy, a true spectacle of the diverse popular costumes. For four weeks, the Groups of Lads joyfully spread the news of the Birth of Jesus Christ and of the beginning of a new year.

### The Magi

The Magi (Craii or Irozii) are children interpreting a religious scene.

Their show has a very powerful meaning because it sends its message by a play and not by singing carols. Dressed in traditional costumes with helmets, swords and ribbons, the Magi interpret the scene of the Birth of Jesus at the church on the first Christmas Day. They bring joy and emotion to all those present through their very meaningful message.

### The burial of the year, Jina

At midnight, the lads go to the centre of the commune and perform a complex ceremony to bury the year that passed, and then they salute the coming year with games, songs and fireworks.

### The Bathing of the Johns, Tălmăcel



"The Bathing of the Johns" is a custom that has been preserved at Tălmăcel since ancient times, which is still organized on a yearly basis.

When dawn breaks on St. John the Baptist Day, the entire village is humming with the holiday

### Did you know?

*John (Ion) is one of the most common Romanian names. The spiritual patron saint of those bearing this name is St. John the Baptist celebrated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. The Johns from the village are brought to the river in a procession and they are baptized to have their sins forgiven and enjoy an affluent New Year.*

spirit. After the religious ceremony, the procession was made of up horseback riding young men with national flags, children and lads in traditional costumes, an oxen-driven carriage decorated with cloths and beads and little donkeys with a straw-made old man and woman at the end head to the river.

Once they get to the river, the lads sing traditional songs and bathe all those named "John", one by one. And to forget about the freezing cold, the bathed Johns are rewarded with bagels, wine and brandy. Then the celebration continues on the narrow streets of the village with specific local dancing and singing.

The Bathing of the Johns has become a truly spectacular holiday which gives us a bit of the village's joyfulness and emotion.



### Today,

*the custom took the form of a parade opened by the chief of the shoemakers' guild accompanied by two little children as symbol of guardian angels..*

### The Escape of the Lole, Agnita

Legends say that this custom has its roots in the Middle Ages. When the Turkish invaders sieged the burgh of Agnita, a young girl named Ursula got disguised in a scary costume, went out of the burgh and made deafening noises with her whip, thus chasing the scared Turks.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century the custom of the lole was closely linked to the custom of hand-

ing over the guild box to the new town chief. The gathering was accompanied by the lole, i.e. funny characters whose role was to protect the boxes from the neighbourhoods.

The tailors' guild, the furriers' guild and the coopers' guild come after that, each showing the public their traditional crafts through specific elements and characters. The procession ends with the Transylvanian Hymn then the lole run in groups on the streets to chase the evil spirits by stroking their whips and shaking their cowbells. Passers-by who recognize them get a doughnut as a reward.

### Mărțișor

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, Romanians celebrate the beginning of spring in their own unique way.

To show their friendship, respect or admiration, men and boys offer to their (female) family members, friends and colleagues a "Mărțișor" (a small trinket attached to a red & white lace - red for love and white for





honesty). The tradition is said to have originated in Roman times. Just seven days after the "Mărțișor" Day, on March 8, Romanians celebrate Women's Day - a tradition similar to Mother's Day celebrated in the USA but extended to all adult women.

**Painted Easter Eggs**



The most readily recognizable examples of Romanian art are the famed painted eggs, especially prominent around Easter time. Painting of real hollowed-out eggs was an integral part of preparations for this festival of renewal. Women and children gathered in someone's home and spent a day painting and gossiping. Intricate patterns were actually secret languages known only to residents of the regions where they were painted. The oldest known were painted with aqua fortis (nitric acid) on a traditional red background. They're available in nearly all shops and street markets.

**Ceramics**

Romanian pottery is still made mainly on traditional kick-wheels with simple finishing tools. Shapes, sizes and patterns reflect the different clays and cultures of diverse areas where they are produced. Colour glazes and decorations vary from strong geometrics to delicate florals, animals and humans. There are approximately 30 pottery centres throughout the country, each with its own distinctive style, but the main areas are in Horezu in Oltenia, Miercurea-Ciuc and Corund in western

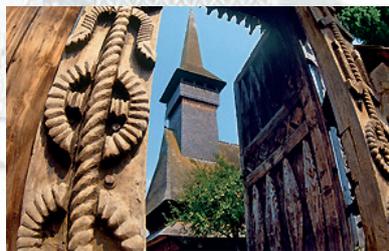


Transylvania, Baia Mare near the northern border, and Rădăuți and Marginea in Moldavia. In the first weekend of September every year, the Large Square in Sibiu hosts the Potters' Fair, where you will find artisans from all over the country presenting their creations for sale or simply for delighting the eye.

**Wood crafts**



Maramureș is the area to see the art of woodwork. Homes are trimmed in elaborately carved wood, wooden gates and even fences are intricately carved. Historically, in this area, a family's community status was displayed through the gate - the more elaborate, the more important the family.



The "Merry Cemetery" of Săpânța is in this region, open all year long, at all times -- it's worth a visit. Hand-carved decorations in complex patterns hold meanings beyond the purely decorative. Trees of life, twisted rope, moons, stars, flowers and wolf teeth to ward off evil spirits are associated with myths and superstitions. They show up in furniture, spoons, ladles, walking sticks, keepsake chests and other decorative objects, sometimes embellished with paint. Wooden flutes and recorders



are also elaborately carved. Most prized are the multi-piped pan flutes, which are now very rare, as few artisans know how to make them and even fewer know how to play them. The ASTRA open-air Museum is the place in Sibiu where woodwork and traditional households from all over the country, stretching over several hectares of land and woods.



**Textiles**

At the edge of the street market adjacent to Bran Castle, there is a peasant cottage with a window behind which usually an old woman sits at her loom weaving and watching the passing scene. She may invite interested visitors into her home, where an English-speaking youngster tells her story which has been weaving since she was seven. She still can weave thread she spins herself from sheep her family keeps in their tiny enclosed courtyard. On view in her tiny weaving room, which is also her bedroom, is a selection of magnificent throws and spreads that she has woven. Not for sale, they're priceless examples of this enduring way of life. Textile weaving is the most widespread craft in Romania, handed down from generation to generation, using distinctive family patterns along with those specific to different

Additional information  
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districts. Looms still are common in homes, and women weave and embroider from childhood through old age. The predominant fibres, wool and cotton, are woven into rugs, wall hangings, table covers and clothing. Some Romanian weavers and embroiderers still work with threads and yarns they produce



themselves, but younger weavers tend to purchase their raw materials. They weave and embroider just about every cloth article used in their homes, from colourful linen and cotton towels to window draperies, bedspreads, rugs, wall hangings, furniture throws and clothing. In a village near Sibiu, part of a bride's dowry is still a tolic, used to decorate horses of those who ride from house to house, issuing wedding invitations.

Embroidery on folk costumes worn for holidays and special occasions (like weddings) follows strict regional patterns and also serves as a sort of secret language known only to people within the different regions. Sibiu uses graphic black and white motifs, reflecting its Saxon heritage; southern regions of Argeş, Muscel, Dâmboviţa and Prahova use red, black maroon, yellow,



gold, and silver threads, reflecting influences of the Ottoman Empire. Buzău uses terra cotta, Oaş uses green, Moldavia uses orange, and Voroneţ blue is made world-famous by its use on the monastery of the same name. Especially beautiful is cut embroidery on white or ecru linen and cotton, done throughout the country.

Source:

<http://romaniatourism.com/traditions-folk-lore.html>

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Name	Phone number	Website
National Public System for Emergency	112	
Sibiu County Police Inspectorate	0040 / 269 208 204, 208 205, 208 211;	<a href="http://www.politiasibiu.ro/">http://www.politiasibiu.ro/</a>
Sibiu County Gendarmerie General Inspectorate	0040 / 269 233 982 , 233 170, 233 190, 233 715	<a href="http://www.jandarmeriasibiu.ro">www.jandarmeriasibiu.ro</a>
County Emergency Situation Inspectorate	0040 / 0269 211 212, 211 213, 211 539, 211 063, 211 407	<a href="http://www.isusibiu.ro">www.isusibiu.ro</a>
SMURD (Emergency Ambulance)		<a href="http://www.smurd.ro">www.smurd.ro</a>
County Ambulance Department	0040 / 0269 230 194, 235 199	<a href="https://www.ambulantasibiu.ro/">https://www.ambulantasibiu.ro/</a>
Sibiu City Hall	0040 /0269 208 800	<a href="http://www.sibiu.ro">www.sibiu.ro</a>
Sibiu County School Inspectorate	0040 /0269 210 817	<a href="http://www.isjsb.ro">http://www.isjsb.ro</a>
Civilian Protection and Mountain Rescue	0040 /0725 826 668 0040 /0SALVAMONT	
General Customs Directorate	0040 /021 313 82 51 (fax)	<a href="http://www.customs.ro">www.customs.ro</a>
Border Guards (Police) ROU	0040 /021 95 90 or 021 316 25 98	<a href="http://www.politiedefrontiera.ro">www.politiedefrontiera.ro</a>
Airport OTP Border Guards	0040 /021 201 3315, 3309	
Customs Office in OTP airport	0040 /021 204 1560	
Customs Office in naval port Constanta	0040 /0726 818 845	
Children Rights and Adoption National Authority	0040 /021 315 3633 0040 /021 310 0789, 0790	<a href="http://www.copii.ro">www.copii.ro</a>
Anti-drug Agency	0800 87 00 700	<a href="http://www.ana.gov.ro">www.ana.gov.ro</a>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	0040 /021 319 2108, 2125	<a href="http://www.mae.ro">www.mae.ro</a>
Ministry of Interior Affairs	0040 /021 264 8705	<a href="http://www.mai.gov.ro">www.mai.gov.ro</a>



