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Population

2,600,000

Currency

1 leu (plural lei) = 100 bani

Opening hours

Banks and shops, 9 am-12 pm, 1 pm-3 pm Mon-Fri

Kaféer and bars, 8 am-2 am

Restaurants 10 am-11 pm

Shops 10 am-6 pm, 10 am-5 pm Sat

Internet

www.romaniatourism.com

www.atlantic.ro

www.sapteseri.ro

Newspapers

Azi

Nine O'Clock

Bursa

Emergency numbers

Ambulance 961/973

Fire 981

Police 955

Tourist information

The closest you'll find to tourist office is Atlantic Tours.

Address: Calea Victoriei 202

BUCHAREST

PUBLISHING DATE: **2012-05-02** | COUNTRY CODE: **RO**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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Bucharest is undoubtedly Europe's best kept secret. Restaurants, bars, art galleries and museums are now springing up on every newly renovated corner. Travellers are steadily discovering this little gem of a city and seeking out Bucharest's hidden character. Its treasures are well worth hunting for and visitors will find in their quest a place of warmth and spirit. Welcome to Bucharest!

THE CITY



© jit bag

Romanian legend tells that Bucharest was founded on the banks of the Dambovitza River by a shepherd named Bucur, whose name literally means “joy.” Playing the flute he amazed the people, and his wine from nearby vineyards was very popular among the local traders, whom gave his name to the place!

As one of Europe’s most up-and-coming destinations, Bucharest has had to react quickly to its newfound status. As a result, there are a bevy of recently opened venues to eat, drink, shop, club and sleep. Not only this, but standards are high and local residents have come to expect the best.

From Piața Universității, most sights of interest are easily accessible and equally the nearby Calea Victoriei is a great starting point for shopping particularly. These two landmarks constitute the central Bucharest area where many of the most well-known restaurants and bars are situated. Walking in this part of the city is the best way to see Bucharest, but don’t be afraid to venture further north, east and west to discover many more treasures.

Wander the tree-lined streets, take in some authentic folk art and sample a range of international cuisine. Whether you want traditional Romania or contemporary city life, come and find it all before the rest of the world does.



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DO & SEE



© Wheeler Cowperthwaite

Bucharest has many different, beautiful landmarks and the most prominent one is Palace of Parliament. To get a sense of Romanian history, visit the museum of Romanian Peasant or if you feel like a stroll in the outdoors go to the gorgeous Parcul Carol 1.

Palatul Parlamentului (Palace of Parliament)

Built during Ceausescu’s regime, the Palace of Parliament is Romania’s most famous building. A public tour of the opulent staircases and chandelier-filled rooms offers a fascinating insight.

Address: Strada Izvor 2-4
Internet: www.parlament.ro

Arcul de Triumf (Arch of Triumph)

Similar to its Paris namesake, Bucharest’s Triumphal Arch remembers Romania’s Great War soldiers and its reunification in 1918. Initially, the arc was built of wood in 1922, and then finished in Deva granite in 1936.

Address: Șoseaua Kiseleff

Lipscani District

Lipscani, Bucharest's historic centre, retains an old town charm which is almost irresistible! It is located between Calea Victoriei, Blvd. Bratianu, Blvd. Regina Elisabeta and the Dambovitza River and its collection of winding streets boasts antique markets, bric-a-brac spilling out from tiny boutiques and some of the city's most appealing restaurants and bars.

Address: Lipscani

National Art Museum

Romania's most impressive art collection is displayed in this sprawling royal palace (Muzeul National de Arta). Take in works by Rembrandt and El Greco, among a host of European works.

Address: Calea Victoriei 49-53
Phone: +40 21 313 30 30
Internet: www.mnar.arts.ro

Piața Universității

In addition to being the centre for Bucharest's intellectual and political events and the most popular meeting place in Bucharest, the Piața Universității has a dramatic history. During the 1989 Revolution, some of Romania's fiercest fighting took place here. Close by are also the University of Bucharest's School of Architecture, the National Theatre, the Coltea Hospital and the Sutu Palace (History Museum).

Address: Piața Universității, B-dul Regina Elisabeta

Romanian Athenaeum (Ateneul Român)

The superb Romanian Athenaeum is the hub of Bucharest's musical activity. Exquisite mosaics and historical frescoes adorn the 19th-century circular building, which hosts impressive orchestral concerts.

Address: Str. Benjamin Franklin 1
Phone: +40 21 315 8798

Museum of the Romanian Peasant

This delightful museum (Muzeul Taranului Roman) opened in 1906 and is widely regarded as Romania's best. A veritable treasure trove of pottery, icons and clothing, it also houses the fascinating Communism Exhibition and the ruins of an 18th-century Transylvanian wooden church.

Address: Șoseaua Kiseleff 3
Phone: +40 21 212 9661
Internet: www.muzeultaranuluiroman.ro

Jewish History Museum

This museum, situated in a stunning synagogue built in 1850, tells the story of Romania's Jewish population up until 1937.

Address: Str Mămulari 3
Phone: +40 21 315 5455
Internet: www.romanianjewish.org

Old Princely Court & Church

The Old Princely Court (Curtea Veche) was built in the 15th century by Vlad Tepes, also known as Vlad Dracula. According to the legend, he kept his prisoners beneath the court! What remains today are a few walls, arches, tombstones and a Corinthian column.

Here stands also Bucharest's 16th-century Old Princely Church (Biserica Curtea Veche), the city's oldest church. Original frescoes and Wallachian architecture are among the star features in this ancient Romanian veteran.

Address: Strada Franceza 25-31

Piața Revoluției

Whilst Piața Universității saw some of the darkest days of Ceaușescu's regime, events at Piața Revoluției heralded the beginning of a new age. This building now houses the Senate.

Close by is the former Royal Palace, now home to the National Art Museum, the Romanian Athenaeum and the Athenee Palace Hotel. Also the Kretzulescu Church.

Address: Piața Revoluției

Parcul Carol I

One of the most beautiful parks in Bucharest, designed by the French landscape architect, Eduard Redont. Plenty of open-air concerts in the summer at Arenele Romane.

Address: Calea Șerban Vodă

EATING



© Remus Pereni

Bucharest offers a fantastic selection of international dishes. French, Spanish and Italian cuisines are all available, though sampling local fare is a must. Traditional restaurants are inspiring and offer top-notch food in lively surroundings. Here are a few international and local choices.

Casa Doina

Casa Doina is a terrace garden draws Bucharest's most influential diners. Politicians and executives talk business over superb Romanian dishes.

Address: Șos Kiseleff 4
Phone: +40 21 222 6717
Internet: www.casadoina.ro

Caru' Cu Bere

Beer connoisseurs will be in their element at Caru' cu Bere. Bucharest's oldest beer hall dates from 1875 and sports a Dracula-esque, Gothic-style interior.

Address: Str Stavropoleos 3-5
Phone: +40 21 313 7560

Internet: www.carucubere.ro/welcome

Burebista Vanatoresc

Tuck into wild boar, venison steaks and meatballs in this rustic, cheerful tavern. A hearty folk band adds to the country atmosphere.

Address: Str Batistei 14
Phone: +40 21 211 8929
Internet: www.restaurant-burebista.ro

De Gustibus

De Gustibus is an Italian gem that has got everyone talking. Serving simple but exquisite Tuscan fare.

Address: Str Marcel Iancu 10
Phone: +40 21 211 1449
Internet: www.degustibus.ro

Divan

This is not just a restaurant but a meeting place in an oriental environment. Great food with live entertainment!

Address: Strada Franceza 46-48
Phone: +4 021 312 30 34
Internet: www.thedivan.ro
More Info: info@thedivan.ro

CAFES



© Bart van Poll

Bucharest offers many different types of cafes with lovely coffee and even better pastries.

Café & Latte

Café and Latte is a Bucharest old-timer! It is a popular choice for local students and tourists.

Address: Str. Schitu Magureanu nr. 35
Phone: +40 21 314 38 34

Cafeneaua Actorilor

As the name suggests, this bar is frequented visited by next door's National Theatre actors. Intimate and cosy, thespians whisper dramatically in dark corners.

Address: Adresa Nicolae Balcescu, nr 2
Phone: +40 721 900 842
Internet: www.cafeneauaactorilor.ro
More Info: cafeneauaactorilor@gmail.com

Doncafe Brasserie

Come here for breakfast, lunch or dinner, this café is well-known for its cosy atmosphere. The cheesecake comes highly recommended!

Address: 7 Ankara Street
Phone: +40 746 222 444
Internet: www.doncafe-brasserie.ro

Ramayana Cafe

Ramayana might not be situated in the best neighborhood but once you get there you will find a lovely decor and waitress dressed in Indian dresses.

They have great tea and coffee.

Address: Baldovin Parcalabul 11
Phone: +40 788 595 595
Internet: www.ramayana.ro
More Info: rezervari@ramayana.ro

Arcade Cafe

This Italian inspired café is located in the heart of Bucharest. There is sometimes a crowd here but the place is big so you will find a seat.

Address: Smardan, 30
Phone: +40 21 314 5066
Internet: www.arcadecafe.ro

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Sonya

Bucharest's bars are scattered around the city at random, but seeking out the best venues is all part of the fun. Among these you'll find intimate dens, chic cocktail lounges and trendy newcomers to the city drinking scene. As with Bucharest's bars, the city's most exclusive clubs are invariably hidden away. However, there are enough top nightspots here to cater to everyone's taste. Dance the night away or chill out in more mellow venues.

Deja-vu

Order Deja-vu's most exotic cocktail to make the most of the extensive drinks menu. If you're feeling risqué, a Russian barmaid will obligingly squeeze lemon into your mouth with her teeth, to accompany whichever concoction you choose.

Address: Str. Nicolae Bălcescu 25

Phone: +40 21 311 23 22
Internet: www.dejavu-club.ro

Salsa III

Salsa 3 is perfect for a seductive taste of Latino dance and great tasting Sangria. It does not matter if you are new at Salsa or have been dancing for years, everyone is welcome!

Address: Str Mihai Eminescu 89
Subway: +40 21 723 531 841
Internet: www.salsagroup.ro

Club Maxx

Maxx is one of the largest night clubs in Bucharest and known to draw a big crowd and play good music. If you want to get lost in dance then this is the place to go to!

Address: Splaiul Independentei, 290
Phone: +40 724 473 369
Internet: www.clubmaxx.ro
More Info: mariusnonu@clubmaxx.ro

Kristal Glam Club

Kristal Glam Club is one of the best and most popular clubs in Bucharest. Here you will find some of Europe's biggest DJ's.

Address: Bvd. Regina Elisabeta nr. 34
Phone: +40 722 795 184
Internet: www.clubkristal.ro
More Info: office@clubkristal.ro

Barletto Club

Barletto Club is the city's most expensive and exclusive clubs. The DJ's are hot and so are the dancers and people in side, this is not the place to take the bus to...

Address: Strada Oltetului, 30
Phone: +40 743 315 461
Internet: www.barletto.ro
More Info: office@barletto.ro

SHOPPING



© Jerzy Kociatkiewicz

New shops like Vivienne Westwood and Versace in Bucharest are on the rise. You can easily stock up on designer wear like you could in Paris, Milan or London. Equally, if you're hunting down souvenirs, there are no end of little boutiques that sell Romanian knick-knacks - some more authentic than others.

There are four major shopping centres which should cater to all needs. World Trade Plaza (www.wtcb.ro), the Unirea Shopping Centre, and Plaza Romania (www.plazaromania.ro) house departments for fashion, electronics, housewares, food, cosmetics, antiques and souvenirs. Mario Plaza and București Mall are also worth a look, though they are slightly less extensive in their choice. București Mall also houses the city's largest cinema.

There are also plenty of intimate places to seek out more home-grown goods. For hand-woven rugs, painted eggs, pottery and Romanian costumes, spend some time rifling through the wares at the folk art shop of the Peasant Museum. Elsewhere, Pasajul Villacross along Calea Victoriei is a stretch of funky boutiques, while art galleries and antique shops are also dotted about in this area.

If you are looking for antiques, there are plenty and can easily be found in art galleries along Calea Victoriei and around the Old Historical Center (Lipscani street). Piata Obor, at Campul Moslior 5, is Bucharest's largest outdoor market with all sorts of food and a mini bazaar. Piata 1 Mai, at Blvd. Ion Mihalache 123, is an Oriental bazaar where you will find everything from fresh cheese, fruits, vegetables to

flowers and household items.

SLEEPING



© Nigel's Europe

Whether you are planning a vacation, a special weekend or a business meeting, rest assured, you will find a place that appeals to you. Bucharest offers a wide range of accommodation to suit all needs, a diverse collection of modern hotels, guest houses and hostels.

Athénée Palace Hilton

The Athénée is Bucharest's most dazzling hotel and attracts glamorous and stylish guests to its plushly designed rooms.

Address: Str Episcopiei 1-3
Phone: +40 21 303 3777
Internet: www.hilton.com

J W Marriott

Rivaling the Athénée in the competition for Bucharest's most glitzy hotel, J W Marriott is not far from. The Marriott lives up to its international reputation.

Address: Calea 13 Septembrie 90
Phone: +40 21 403 0000
Internet: www.marriott.com

Hotel Opera

This hotel has recently given a complete makeover and the Opera is now a Bucharest favourite. Its central location, comfortable rooms and excellent service make it a great mid-range choice.

Address: Str Ion Brezoianu 37
Phone: +40 21 312 4857
Internet: www.hotelopera.ro

Hotel Carpați

Hotel Carpați is popular with bargain hunters, you are advised to book early at the Carpați. All needs and pockets are catered for with a choice of six types of rooms.

Address: Str Matei Millo 16
Phone: +40 21 315 0140
Internet: www.hotelcarpatibucuresti.ro

Hotel Capitol

This building was built in 1901, and, in the past, sheltered a famous café which was a favourite meeting place for many writers, musicians and artists. The hotel is situated in a busy and noisy area, but the comfortable and indulgently large beds will guarantee a restful nights sleep.

Address: Calea Victoriei 29
Phone: +40 21 315 8030
Internet: www.hotelcapitol.ro

Nelisse Hotel

Situated only 10 minutes away from the city centre, this friendly little hotel offers a good selection of price-worthy rooms.

Address: Popa Lazar Street 12
Phone: +40 21 252 1905
Internet: www.nelissehotel.ro

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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**KOM IHÅG ATT VÄXLA
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FOREX BANK

Exchange Office

There are more fun things to do on your holiday than look for exchange offices or ATMs. Exchange your currency before you leave and get time to do things that you really want. At Forex Bank you can always buy foreign currency free of charge, at hours that suits you. For more info about Forex Bank visit our website or click:

<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

Bucharest is served by two airports: Otopeni and Băneasa. Otopeni is located 17km from central Bucharest (40 mins), and most international and domestic flights leave regularly from here. Băneasa (tel. +40 21 232 0020) is located 8km north of the centre (20 mins), and mainly serves charter flights for package holidays and internal flights.

Buses run to/from both airports – catch bus no. 131 or 783 from the city centre (Piața Unirii) and get off at either the ‘aeroportul Băneasa’ stop or Otopeni’s departures/arrivals hall. This works in exactly the same way for the opposite journey.

Internet: www.bucharestairports.ro

Public Transport

Walk, bike, take the bus or the metro around Bucharest. With these forms of public transport you can get around the city safely and efficiently.

Bus, tram and trolleybus tickets can be purchased at any RATB kiosk. Punch your ticket in the machine board to avoid a fine. For longer visits 10-trip tickets can be bought. Transport runs from 5 am to around 11.30 pm.

Bucharest’s metro has four lines and 45 stations. Trains run every 5-7 mins and from 5.30 am-11.30 pm. Tickets can be bought for single/return or 10-trip journeys, in addition to the above mentioned monthly pass. Sit at the front of trains to avoid missing station signs which are not clearly signposted.

Taxi

Always make sure your taxi has a meter to avoid unnecessarily high fares. Once this has been established, you are in for a comfortable and inexpensive ride. Just hail a taxi down from the side of the street. Two reputable companies are:

CrisTaxi
+40 723 349 461
www.cristaxi.ro

ProfTaxi
+40 723 3 297 108
www.proftaxi.ro

Pharmacy

Pharmacies in central Bucharest are well stocked and several of them stay open late, Sensi-Blue Pharmacy is

one of them.

Address: Nicolae Balcescu Boulevard, nr 7, sekt 1
Phone: +40 213 057 314
Internet: www.sensiblu.com

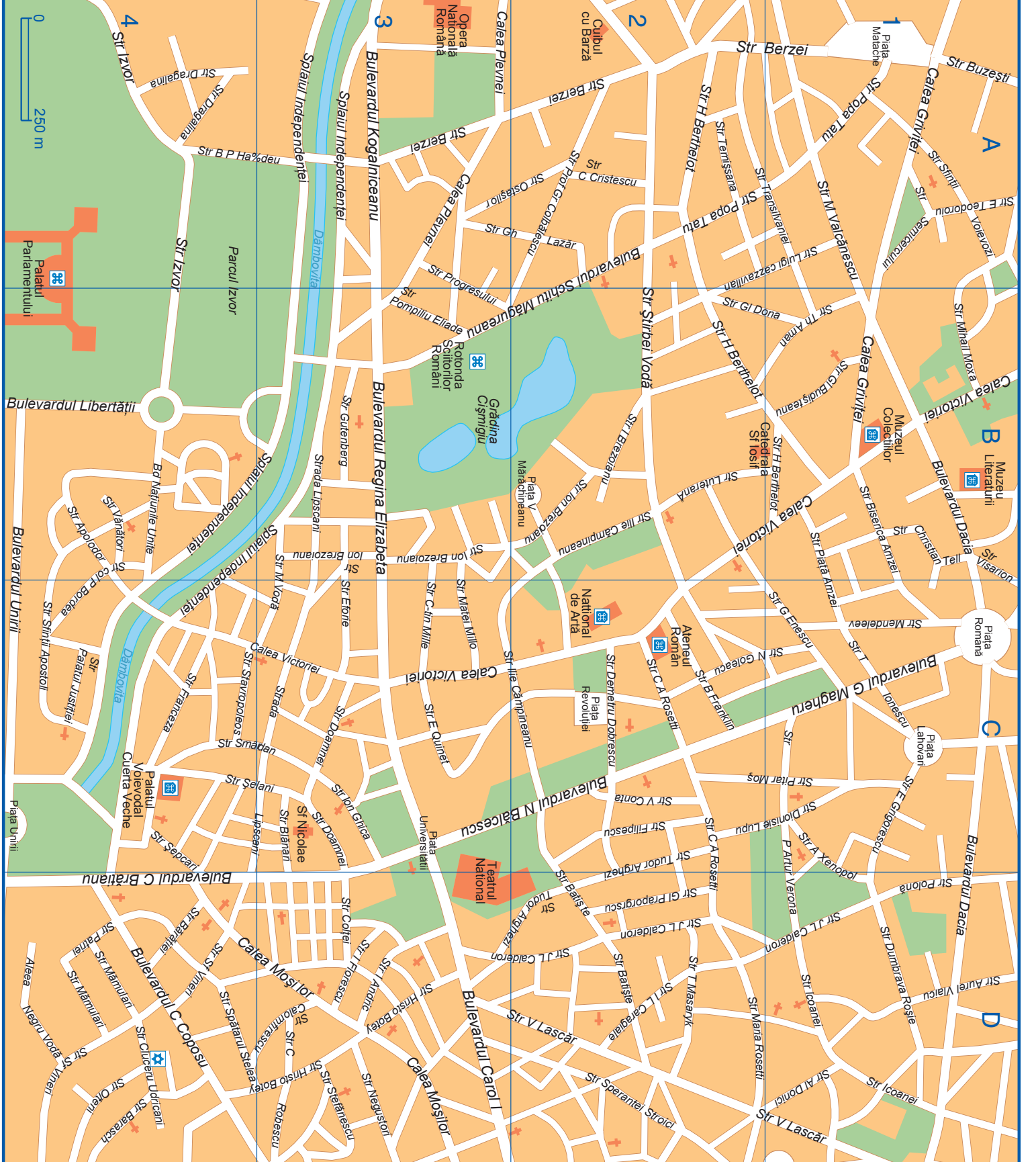
Telephone

Country code: +40
Area code: 21

Electricity

220V / 50Hz





Aleea Negru Voda		Strada C Cristescu	A2	Strada M Voda	B3 C3
Bulevardul C Bratianu		D4 Strada C Robescu	D3	Strada Mamulari	D4
Bulevardul C Coposu		D4 Strada C-tin Mille	C3	Strada Matei Millo	B3 C3
Bulevardul Carol I		D4 Strada Calomfirescu	D3 D4	Strada Mendeleev	C1
Bulevardul Dacia	B1 C1 D1	D3 Strada Christian Tell	B1	Strada Mihail Moxa	B1
Bulevardul G Magheru	C1	Strada Cluceru Udricani	D4	Strada N Goleacu	C1 C2
Bulevardul Kogalniceanu	A3	Strada col P Bordea	B4 C4	Strada Negustori	D3
Bulevardul Libertatii	B4	Strada Coltei	D3	Strada Olteni	D4
Bulevardul N Balcescu	C2 C3	Strada Demetru Dobrescu	C2	Strada Ostasilor	A2 A3
Bulevardul Natiunile Unite	B4	Strada Dionisie Lupu	C1 C2	Strada Palatul Justitiei	C4
Bulevardul Regina Elizabeta	B3	Strada Doamnei	C3	Strada Patriei	D4
Bulevardul Schitu Magureanu	A2 B3	Strada Dragalina	A4	Strada Piata Amzei	B1 C1
Bulevardul Unirii	B4 C4	Strada Dumbrova Rosie	D1	Strada Pictor Artur Verona	C1 D1
Calea Grivitei	A1 B1	Strada E Grigorescu	C1	Strada Pitar Mos	C1 C2
Calea Mosilor	D3 D4	Strada E Quinet	C3	Strada Polona	D1
Calea Plevnei	A3	Strada E Teodoroiu	A1	Strada Pompiliu Eliade	B3
Calea Victoriei	B1 B2 C3 C4	Strada Eforie	B3 C3	Strada Popa Tatu	A1 A2
Piata Lahovari	C1	Strada Filipescu	C2	Strada Prof Gr Colbalescu	A2
Piata Matache	A1	Strada Franceza	C4	Strada Progresului	A3 B3
Piata Revolutiei	C2	Strada G Enescu	C1	Strada Selani	C3 C4
Piata Romana	C1	Strada Gh Lazar	A2 A3	Strada Semicercului	A1
Piata Unirii	C4	Strada Gl Budisteanu	B1	Strada Sepcari	C4
Piata Universitatii	C3	Strada Gl Dona	B1 B2	Strada Sf Vineri	D4
Piata V Marachineanu	B2	Strada Gl Praporgrscu	D2	Strada Sfintii Apostoli	C4
Splaiul Independentei	A3 B3 B4 C4	Strada Gutenberg	B3	Strada Sfintii Voievozi	A1
Strada A Xenopol	C1 D1	Strada H Berthelot	A2 B1 B2	Strada Smârdan	C3 C4
Strada Al Donici	D1	Strada Hristo Botey	D3 D4	Strada Spatarul Stelea	D4
Strada Apolodor	B4	Strada I Andric	D3	Strada Sperantei Stroici	D2
Strada Aurel Vlaicu	D1	Strada I Brezoianu	B2	Strada Stavropoleos	C4
Strada B Franklin	D1	Strada I Florescu	D3	Strada Stefanescu	D3
Strada B P Ha%deu	C2	Strada I L Caragiale	D2	Strada Stirbei Voda	A2 B2
Strada Barasch	A3 A4	Strada Icoanei	D1	Strada T Ionescu	C1
Strada Baratiei	D4	Strada Ilie Campineanu	B2 C2 C3	Strada T Masaryk	D2
Strada Batiste	D4	Strada Ion Brezoianu	B2 B3	Strada Temissana	A2
Strada Berzei	D2	Strada Ion Ghica	C3	Strada Th Aman	B1
Strada Berzei	A2 A3	Strada Izvor	A4 B4	Strada Transilvaniei	A1 A2
Strada Biserica Amzei	A1 A2	Strada J L Calderon	D1 D2 D3	Strada Tudor Arghezi	C2 D2 D3
Strada Blanari	B1	Strada Lipscani	B3 C3 C4	Strada V Conta	C2
Strada Blanari	C3	Strada Luigi cazzavillan	A1 A2	Strada V Lascar	D1 D2 D3
Strada Buzesti	A1	Strada Luteranâ	B2	Strada Vanatori	B4
Strada C A Rosetti	C2 D2	Strada M Valcanescu	A1	Strada Visarion	B1 C1