

THE PRESENTATION OF ROMANIA AND OUR REGION, MOLDAVIA

With a surface area of 238,391 square kilometres, Romania is the largest country in southeastern Europe and the twelfth-largest in Europe. Romania's terrain is distributed roughly equally between mountainous, hilly and lowland territories. The Carpathian Mountains dominate the centre of Romania, with 14 mountain ranges reaching above 2,000 m/6,600 ft, and the highest point at Moldoveanu Peak (2,544 m/8,346 ft). These are surrounded by the Moldavian and Transylvanian plateaus and Pannonian and Wallachian plains. Romania's geographical diversity has led to an amazing diversity of flora and fauna.

A large part of Romania's border with Serbia and Bulgaria is formed by the Danube. The Prut River, one of its major tributaries, forms the border with the Republic of Moldova.^[110] The Danube flows into the Black Sea within Romania's territory forming the Danube Delta, the second largest and best preserved delta in Europe, and also a biosphere reserve and a biodiversity World Heritage Site.

Bucharest is the capital municipality, cultural, industrial, and financial centre of Romania. It is the largest city in Romania, located in the southeast of the country and lies on the banks of the Dâmbovița River.

Bucharest was first mentioned in documents as early as 1459. Since then it has gone through a variety of changes, becoming the state capital of Romania in 1862 and steadily consolidating its position as the centre of the Romanian mass media, culture and arts. Its eclectic architecture is a mix of historical (neo-classical), interbellum (Bauhaus and Art Deco), Communist-era and modern. In the period between the two World Wars, the city's elegant architecture and the sophistication of its elite earned Bucharest the nickname of "Little Paris"

Arcul de Triumf is a triumphal arch located in the northern part of Bucharest, on the Kiseleff Road. The first, wooden, triumphal arch was built hurriedly, after Romania gained its independence (1878), so that the victorious troops could march under it. Another temporary arch was built on the same site, in 1922, after World War I, which was demolished in 1935 to make way for the current triumphal arch, which was inaugurated in September 1936. The current arch has a height of 27 metres and was built after the plans of the architect Petre Antonescu. Nowadays, military parades are held beneath the arch each 1 December, with the occasion of Romania's national day.

The *Village Museum*, lying on the Herăstrău lake shore in Bucharest, is one of the biggest and the oldest outdoor museums in Europe. The idea of creating an outdoor museum appeared since the second half of the nineteenth century: Alexander Odobescu proposed the presentation in the *Universal Exhibition* in Paris, in a special pavilion, of monuments of popular architecture. In its early stage, between 1936-1940, the Museum had a surface of 6.5 ha, with 33 authentic sites transferred from the villages studied. Their arrangement was made after a plan developed by the playwright and designer Victor Ion Popa. This plan, which is largely true today, tends to reproduce the map of Romania, by grouping the monuments of architecture and popular technique on the criterion of geographical proximity of villages of origin, in areas representing major historical provinces of the

country. The museum has today over 100,000 m², and contains 272 authentic peasant farms and houses from all over Romania.

Moldavia is a geographic and historical region and former principality in Eastern Europe, corresponding to the territory between the Eastern Carpathians and the Dniester river.

Suceava County seat in Bukovina, Moldavia region, in north-eastern Romania. The city was the capital of the Principality of Moldavia from 1388 to 1565. A legendary land. This is the Suceava county for the visitors of this part of Romania, known as Bucovina, a place where history is all around. A birthplace of an old civilization, The relief is a mountain and hilly one, with wonderful landscapes, with a dense hydrographic network, fast waters flow on sunny valleys. The hundred thousand tourists who visit yearly this county are explained by its geographic position at a cross of roads between North and South, East and West, Among the vestiges perfectly integrated into the nature, a special mention has to be done in connection with the painted monuments which are included by the UNESCO among the masterpieces of the world art. The Voronet Monastery (1488) is shining like a sapphire. At little distances one to another, there are reknown medieval orthodox foundations: Humor (1530), MoldoviTa (1532), Sucevita (1584), monasteries visited by art and beauty lovers. Also here there are the Dragomirna Monastery (1609), an embroidery in stone, the Putna Monastery (1469) built by great Voivod Stefan cel Mare, this being also his grave.

Neamt County is located in the central-eastern part of Romania. Neamt County is an area blessed with many touristic sites: Century-old monasteries, fascinating museums, fortresses and strongholds as well as many natural parks ideal for hiking and wild-life watching. Monasteries Neamt - the oldest in eastern Romania (Moldova) and Agapia – featuring by Romania’s best known painters: Nicolae Grigorescu at Agapia Monastery, the Ceahlau Mountain - also known as The Athos of Romanian Orthodoxy - the beautiful and spectacular Cheile Bicazului (Bicaz Gorges) Vanatori natural reserve are all located in Neamt.

Iasi is the most important political, economic and cultural centre of the province of Moldavia as well as one of the oldest cities in Romania. Located in the northeastern part of the country, Iasi was for many centuries the crossing point of the most important commercial routes linking Poland, Hungary, Russia and Constantinople.

Deeply rooted in history, Iasi has been the main centre of Moldavian culture since 1408. The city prides itself with publishing the first Romanian newspaper and establishing the first Romanian university. Today, Iasi is home to five universities.

The Golden Plateau represents the nucleus of the city, around which the entire settlement developed over the centuries. With the **Palace of Culture** at one end and the **Union Square (Piata Unirii)** at the other, the Golden Plateau features churches and princely palaces on both sides of **Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Boulevard**, which runs right through its centre. Many other important sites can be found on nearby streets.