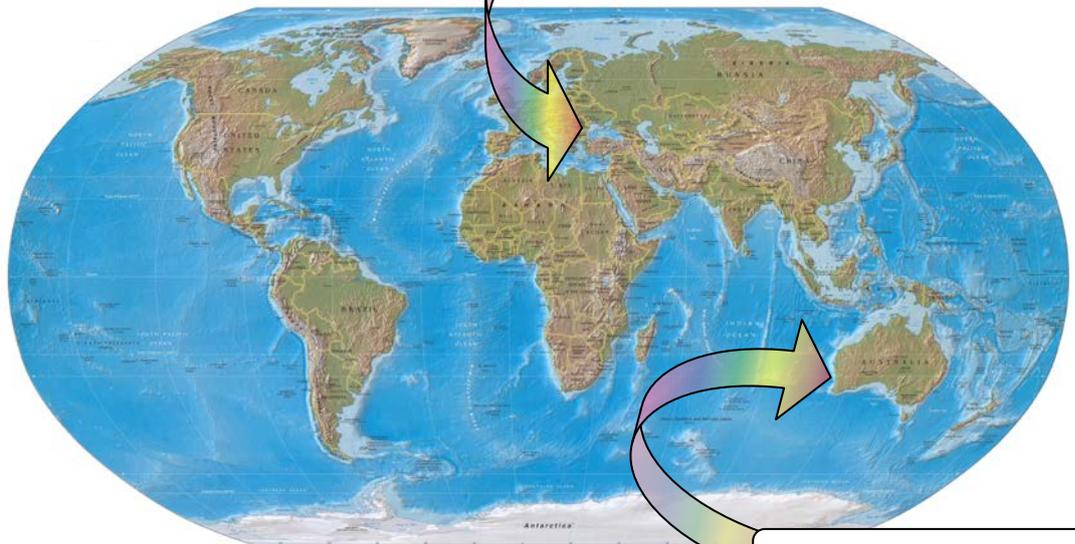


ROMANIA



We were there



Now we are here

FACTS:

- **Full name:** Romania
- **Population:** 21.6 million (via UN, 2006)
- **Capital:** Bucharest
- **Area:** 238,391 sq km (92,043 sq miles)
- **Major language:** Romanian
- **Major religion:** Christianity
- **Life expectancy:** 67 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 new leu = 100 bani
- **Main exports:** Textiles and footwear, metal products, machinery, minerals
- **GNI per capita:** US \$3,830 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Internet domain:** .ro
- **International dialing code:** +40

Romanian Community in WA

Romanian Community of WA

10/93 Kew St, Welshpool WA 6106 ph: 9362 3670 fax: 9362 3670

Romanian Pentecostal Church

8 Balga Ave, Balga WA 6061 ph: 9345 3888

Overview of cultural groups

Romanians constitute by far the majority group 89.5%, but the population includes two important ethnic minorities: Hungarians 7.1% and Germans 0.5%, both concentrated in Transylvania. The number of Hungarians may be understated by as much as 40%, however, and the number of Germans by even more. The number of Roma (Gypsies), officially put at 401,087, has been estimated elsewhere at 2.3 million. Lesser numbers of minorities totaling 1.6%, include Ukrainians, Turks, Russians, Serbs, Croats, Jews, Poles, Bulgarians, Czechs, Greeks, Armenians, Tatars, and Slovaks.

Language/dialects spoken

The Romanian language has official status in Romania. It is spoken as well in Moldova and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia. The official form of the Moldovan language in the Republic of Moldova is identical to that of Romanian. A minor difference in spelling was abolished in 2000. Romanian is also an official or administrative language in various communities and organisations (such as the Latin Union and the European Union).

Romanian speakers are scattered across many other countries, notably Italy, Spain, Israel, Portugal, United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France and Germany.

Dietary preferences

Romanian cuisine is diverse, blending the dishes of the several traditions which it has come into contact with, as well as maintaining its own character. It has been greatly influenced by Balkan cuisine but also includes influences from the cuisines of other neighbours, such as Germans, Serbians, and Hungarians. An exhaustive study of Romanian cuisine is very hard to make, because under the same generic food name are sometimes included products which can hardly belong to the same category. For example, the category **ciorba** includes foods classified otherwise as iskembe, sour soup, borsch and even some soups. The category **tuica** is a generic name here, while in other countries every flavour has a different name, and sometimes there are even different names inside the same category. That happened, mainly, because of a lack of research in this field.

Ciorbă - is a general Romanian word describing soups consisting of various vegetables and meat, similar to the borscht. The sour taste of **ciorbă** is achieved by adding lemons or, more traditionally (since Romania is not rich in citrus fruit), **borș** (fermented wheat bran). "Love parsley" is a frequent addition.

Iskembe - The Romanian name is "ciorbă de burtă", having as a variant "ciorbă de ciocănele" (soup from pig legs), similar in preparation and serving.

Borsh - is a vegetable soup from Eastern Europe, which is traditionally cooked including beetroot as a main ingredient which gives it a strong red color. Other, non-beet varieties also exist, such as the tomato paste-based orange borsch and the green (zelioni) borsch (sorrel soup).

Tuică - is a traditional Romanian alcoholic beverage, usually made from plums. It is very popular among Romanians as, according to tradition, no meal may start without a shot of țuică.

Religion/spirituality/observances

Romania is a secular state, thus having no national religion.

The dominant religious body is the Romanian Orthodox Church; its members make up 86.7% of the population according to the 2002 census. Other important religions include Roman Catholicism 4.7%, Protestantism 3.7%, Pentecostal denominations 1.5% and the Romanian Greek-Catholic Church 0.9%. Romania also has a historically significant Muslim minority concentrated in Dobrogea, mostly of Turkish ethnicity and numbering 67,500 people.

Based on the 2002 census data, there are also 6,179 Jews; 23,105 people who are of no religion and 11,734 who refused to answer.

Public Holidays:

Date	English Name	Local Name
January 2	Day after New Year's Day	Anul nou
March 8	Mother's Day	Ziua Mamei
April/May	Orthodox Easter	Paștele
May/June	Heroes' Day (Ascension)	Ziua Eroilor (Înălțarea)
June 1	Children's Day	Ziua Copilului
June 26	Flag Day	Ziua Tricolorului
July 29	National Anthem Day	Ziua Imnului național
December 8	Constitution Day	Ziua Constituției

Customs/traditions

In rural Romania you can experience a way of life which vanished from the west nearly a century ago. Traditional occupations such as shepherding, weaving and carpentry are still very much alive in its attractive little villages, where painting icons on glass and colouring eggs provide an attractive contrast to 21st century activities. You can see much that you cannot easily experience elsewhere: ploughing with horses, cutting hay with a scythe, milking a cow, making a horseshoe by hand at the forge. Food in rural Transylvania is frequently organic and, surprisingly to the Western visitor, full of flavour.

Romanian folklore is probably the most varied and traditional in the whole of Europe, so many experts say. You will be captivated by the beauty of the regional costumes which you may see passing through villages near Sibiu, in the Apuseni Mountains or Maramures, Bucovina.

Transylvanian folk music and dancing is well known abroad. The 'Doina', a distinctively ballad, gives expression to a wide variety of feelings whereas dances like 'Invarita' or 'Fecioresti' demand great virtuosity

Recreational activities

The most popular sport in Romania is soccer. Other popular sports include team handball, basketball, rugby union, tennis, gymnastics and *oina*, an old Romanian game similar to baseball.

Romania first participated in the Olympic Games in 1924. Since then, Romanian sportsmen and women have won numerous honours both in the Olympics and in other world sports events.

Athletics, gymnastics, boxing, target shooting, kayaking and boating are some of the events in which Romania has frequently won gold medals in the Olympic Games.

Two famous names in the world of sports are Nadia Comaneci, a gymnast and Ilie Nastase a tennis player. Romanian athletes are famous for football and weight lifting. There are sport schools to train

athletes. Open-air activities like hiking and cycling are popular with some people. Exploring caves is another pastime actively pursued by many. Water sports like wind surfing, water skiing and scuba diving are enjoyed in the tourist area of the Black Sea. Rivers and lakes attract canoeists.

People also like to go to restaurants and bars for leisure. Many of them offer traditional food, folk music and dance.

Environment

Romania is a country in South Eastern Europe. It shares a border with Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova to the northeast, and Bulgaria to the south. Romania has a stretch of sea coast along the Black Sea. It is located roughly in the lower basin of the Danube and almost all of the Danube Delta is located within its territory.

Owing to its distance from the open sea and position on the South Eastern portion of the European continent, Romania has a temperate and continental climate with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is 11°C in the south and 8°C in the north. The extreme recorded temperatures are 44.5°C in 1951 and (-38.5°C) in 1942.

Spring is pleasant with cool mornings and nights and warm days. Summers are generally very warm to hot, with summer (June to August) average maximum temperatures in Bucharest being around 28°C, with temperatures over 35°C fairly common in the lower-lying areas of the country. Minima in Bucharest and other lower-lying areas are around 16°C, but at higher altitudes both maxima and minima decline considerably. Autumn is dry and cool, with fields and trees producing colorful foliage. Winters can be cold, with average maxima even in lower-lying areas being no more than 2°C and below (-15°C) in the highest mountains, where some areas of permafrost occur on the highest peaks.

Precipitation is average with over 750mm per year only on the highest western mountains - much of it falling as snow which allows for an extensive skiing industry. In the south-centre parts of the country (around Bucharest) the level of precipitation drops to around 600mm, while in the Danube Delta, rainfall levels are very low, and average only around 370mm.

Your Notes and Comments: