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CITY GUIDE

BUCHAREST 2013



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BR City Guide

Benefiting from the expertise and Western media standards of a mixed local and expat team of journalists, Bucharest City Guide brings you the must-read insider's lowdown on what to see, where to eat and what to do in Romania's vibrant capital city. With a portable and easy-to-use format, the guide is divided into four sections and features two maps. The sections are: Tourist Info – how to get around Bucharest; Sightseeing – with subsections on Landmarks, Byzantine Bucharest, Museums, Souvenir Shops and Guided Tours; Old Town – the historical zone bustling with restaurants, bars, terraces and cafes at the very heart of the city, with accompanying map; and Restaurants – our recommendations of the best places to eat, organized by type of cuisine (including the top restaurants serving Romanian food). Venues are marked on the map by symbols reflecting the type of establishment they represent.

Business Review – Romania's premier English-language business weekly – has been covering the local economy and financial environment, within a broader socio-cultural perspective, for more than 15 years.

BR Guides

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TOURIST INFO

ARRIVAL

AIRPORT: OTOPENI

Commercial flights to Bucharest now all land at Henri Coanda (generally known as Otopeni), 17 km north of the city. Taxis, trains and buses go to the city center. Ignore any taxi drivers who may assail you as you make your way through the Arrivals terminal. Touch screens in the terminal now allow you to book a taxi from a company of your choice, and give you the time it will take to arrive, tariff and cab number. The car will collect you outside and the journey should not cost more than about RON 40. A cheaper alternative is taking bus 783, which stops in front of the Domestic Arrivals hall and goes to the city center, stopping at Victoriei Square, Romana Square, Universitatii Square and terminating at Unirii Square. Buses run 24 hours a day. The 780 bus connects the airport with the central train station, Gara de Nord. An express bus journey costs RON 7 (travel within the city is cheaper) and you need to purchase a rechargeable card before boarding. The card costs RON 3.7 and can be topped up at any ticket kiosk in Bucharest. It's valid on all means of transport in the capital - buses, trams and metro - and must be swiped either at the barrier or once on board.

The airport is also connected to Bucharest by railway line. The service is not regular and a minibus is required to get to the airport station. Few passengers favor this option.

RAILWAY: GARA DE NORD

If you arrive in Bucharest by train it will most likely be at Gara de Nord. There are ATMs, shops, kiosks and fast-food restaurants. If you're hailing a taxi, walk some distance from the station first, as the drivers that loiter in this area will rip you off. To get to the airport from Gara de Nord, take bus 780.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

SUBWAY

Open: daily, 05:00 - 23:00;
Tickets: RON 4 (90 cents)/roundtrip; RON 6 (about 1.25 euros) daily card

The metro system is the cheapest and easiest way to get around if you don't know Bucharest and also the quickest, although the network is not comprehensive. There are four lines, numbered from M1 to M4. It's particularly useful for north-south journeys along the central axis of squares (M2), mainly Unirii to Aviatorilor. Tickets are on sale from kiosks near the ticket barriers and most trains have maps. For the local version of an Oyster card,



which can also be used also for buses and trams, ask for instructions at the ticket kiosks.

BUSES AND TRAMS

Open: 5:00 - 23:00

Tickets: RON 1.3 for urban lines; RON 3.5 for express lines

Buses and trams are more comprehensive and frequent. You can buy electronic passes charged with a certain number of journeys which must be touched in on board; most stops have a ticket kiosk.

TAXIS

Taxis, which are still cheap by Western standards, can be booked by phone, hailed on the street or found at taxi ranks (the most central one is located next to the Intercontinental Hotel). If you don't book, be sure to choose a reputable cab - look for the tariff displayed on the door, which should be RON 1.39 (less than 50 cents) per km. A higher rate of RON 3.5 per km is charged by a few companies. These are the taxi companies that we recommend for booking by phone:

AUTOCOBALCESCU

Phone: 021.9451

Rate: RON 1.39 / km

CRIS TAXI

Phone: 021.9466

Rate: RON 1.39 / km

LEONE

Phone: 021.9425

Rate: RON 1.39 / km

MERIDIAN

Phone: 021.9444

Rate: RON 1.4 / km

CRIME & SAFETY

Bucharest is generally considered a safe city, and while you should be aware of petty crime and pickpocketing on public transport or in busy parts of town, violent crimes are a rarer occurrence than in Western European cities. Stray dogs are a feature of Romania's capital, so don't be surprised if you encounter them. They usually present no danger, but beware of packs. To report an incident or summon the Police, Ambulance or Fire Brigade, call 112, free of charge.

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SIGHTSEEING

Romania's checkered history is written large on the face of its capital city, which boasts an eclectic mishmash of architectural styles and eye-catching structures. It's worth taking a while to stroll through the center of town; almost any wander will take you past some striking and attractive buildings. However, there are a few landmarks that merit being sought out. Most are on or around Calea Victoriei, one of the city's two main north-south thoroughfares, so easily seen on a walking tour.



MIHAI CONSTANTINEANU

The Athenaeum *the main concert hall of the Enescu Festival*

LANDMARKS

ARCH OF TRIUMPH

Piata Arcul de Triumf,
Sos. Kiseleff

One of the first flagship pieces of Bucharest architecture visitors see en route into town from the airport, the current structure dates from 1936, though the site has hosted an arch since a wooden one was thrown up to commemorate Romania's independence in 1878. Soldiers still parade beneath to mark Romania's national day, and the arch is also a favorite for wedding photos.

THE ARK

196 A Calea Rahovei,
Uranus-Rahova area,
www.theark.ro

Bucharest's old Commodities Stock Exchange is a historical building encapsulating 19th-century industrial architecture, a rarely seen style in Romania. The only part left from the former building is the facade. Currently, The Ark is a multi-purpose space that is used 24/7 as a coffee shop, bar-restaurant and exhibition space.

THE ATHENAEUM

1-3 Franklin St, opposite
the Hilton Hotel

Probably the city's most beautiful building, the Athenaeum is a neoclassical delight. It opened in 1888 after being made possible by public donations. Catch a concert

for an opportunity to admire the fabulous frescoes.

BOTANICAL GARDEN

32 Sos. Cotroceni, 021.410.91.39,
www.gradina-botanica.ro

A wonderful green space in the heart of the city, easy to find and accessible. Founded more than 150 years ago, the garden was completed in 1866 to the design of Ulrich Hoffmann. Today, it covers more than 17 hectares and hosts more than 10,000 species of plant, half of which are cultivated in the impressive glasshouses.

CEC PALACE / THE SAVINGS BANK

Calea Victoriei, opposite
the History Museum

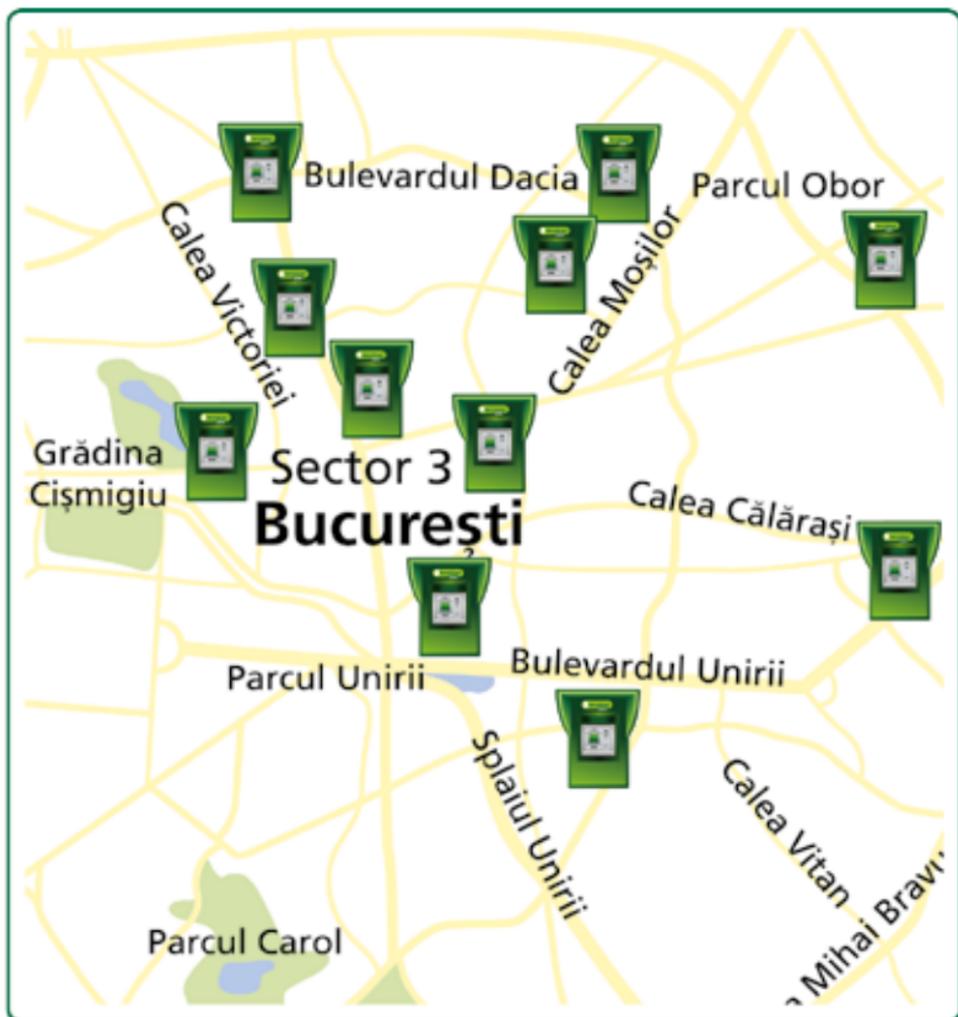
Built in 1900, this must rank as one of the most attractive banks anywhere. Capped by a dome, it features an eclectic array of architectural styles and exudes Renaissance elegance. Arches, columns and spires all



French architect Paul Gutttereau designed the **CEC Palace** building

MIHAI CONSTANTINEANU

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MIHAI CONSTANTINEANU

Cantacuzino Palace is on the European World Heritage List

compete for your attention. When lit up at night it is glorious.

THE CENTRAL ARMY HOUSE

Junction of Regina Elisabeta and Calea Victoriei

Also known as Cercul Militar, this striking neoclassical structure is about to celebrate its centenary. Built to cater to the nation's soldiers, it resonates with military gravitas. Unless you're a Romanian military it's largely off limits, although it is sometimes possible to visit the restaurant (but don't expect the food to match the high standards of the building!).

GEORGE ENESCU MUSEUM / CANTACUZINO PALACE

141 Calea Victoriei,
021.318.14.50,
www.georgeenescu.ro

Romania's most illustrious musical son is celebrated more famously in the biannual festival, but his museum is housed in the Cantacuzino Palace, a lesser known Bucharest gem.

Dating back to the early 20th century and resulting from an architectural collaboration, sculptures adorn the elegant façade, creating a truly impressive spectacle.

PATRIARCHAL CATHEDRAL

21 Dealul Mitropoliei St.

Considered one of the most valuable historical monuments of Wallachian religious art of the 17th century, the site has been the center of the Romanian Orthodox Church since those days and houses the cathedral and the residence of the head of the church, Patriarch Daniel Ciobotea. Although the building has had a number of facelifts, the majority of the cathedral's structure is still original, built between 1654 and 1658.

PEOPLE'S PALACE

2-4 Izvor St, 021.316.03.00,
www.casapoporului.ro

Though often dubbed a monstrosity and a monument to Ceausescu's megalomania, there is no denying that the dictator's vanity project, whose records include the world's largest civilian administrative building, most expensive administrative building and heaviest building, is a memorable edifice. The tour, which now features the roof and basement, is well worth taking.

BYZANTINE BUCHAREST

KRETZULESCU CHURCH

47 Calea Victoriei

Constructed in 1722 in the Brancoveanu style, the red-brick church was built by boyar Kretzulescu, one of Prince Brancoveanu's sons-in-law.



Bucharest City Tour

The 15 kilometer tourist route is served by four double-decker buses with a capacity of 77 seats each. Bucharest City Tour has 14 designated bus stops serving the major landmarks: the Peasant Museum, Victoria Palace, Parliament Palace, Bucharest Museum and Romanian Patriarchy. More destinations will be unveiled during the bus ride, and tickets for the tour are valid for 24 hours, allowing passengers to hop on and hop off at will.

Buses on the Bucharest City Tour line run from 10:00-22:00. A double-decker will circulate every 15 minutes, touring the capital in 50 min. A travel card costs RON 25 for adults and RON 10 for children between the ages of 7 and 14. Children under 7 accompanied by an adult travel free. The card is available for 24 hours from its first validation and can be bought on board.



COURTESY OF STAVROPOLEOS

Stavropoleos Monastery's carved wood iconostas is a must see

The exterior frescoes have been preserved in their original state, while the interior was the work of a famous 19th-century painter, Gheorghe Tattarasu.

STAVROPOLEOS MONASTERY

4 Stavropoleos, 021.313.47.47
www.stavropoleos.ro

Built in 1724, Stavropoleos Church is one of the most outstanding examples of the Brancoveanu style - an original baroque synthesis of Eastern and Western architecture created under Prince Constantin Brancoveanu's reign (1688-1714). The vegetal motifs which adorn the façade and the loggia blend harmoniously with the interior and exterior frescoes

depicting biblical scenes and the carved wood iconostasis, among which one can admire the bi-cephalous eagle, the emblem of Byzantium. The building gets a three-star mention in the Michelin travel guide.

STAVROPOLEOS COLLECTION

4 Stavropoleos, 021.313.47.47
www.stavropoleos.ro

Within the monastery precincts are a library and a refectory displaying a small but valuable collection of old religious objects, which includes icons painted on wood and glass, religious artifacts, decorative art and fragments of fresco recovered from churches demolished during the communist

Roșia Montană Gold Corporation brings back to life the beauty of Roșia Montană



- Roșia Montană Gold Corporation (RMGC) has already restored 20 old houses in the historic centre of Roșia Montană;
- In 2010, RMGC opened a modern exhibition of mining history within the first property restored by the company;
- RMGC has been working on researching and restoring the Roman Gallery Cătălina-Monulești;
- The mining company has another 110 buildings in the pipeline for restoration;
- RMGC currently employs several hundred people to carry out restoration works.

And this is just the beginning. The mining project proposed by Roșia Montană Gold Corporation in the Apuseni Mountains will help preserving the 2000-year history of Roșia Montană, while bringing economic benefits and thousands of jobs for Romania.

Mining builds the future of Roșia Montană, just like it's built its past.

regime. The monastery's library holds over 10,000 books and manuscripts, including titles on theology. A catalog with all religious objects and manuscripts is for sale at the entrance in the church. For guided tours of the collection, book an appointment at manastireast-avropoleos@gmail.com.

ROMANIAN MEDIEVAL ART GALLERY

Within the National Art Museum of Romania, 49-53 Calea Victoriei, www.mnar.ro

Holding the largest collection of its kind in Romania, the museum's more than 9,500 works include icons, fresco fragments, embroideries and textiles, religious manuscripts and rare books, silver, jewelry, woodcarvings, metalwork and ceramics. On display is a selection of approximately 900 works, spanning five centuries of artistic achievement, from the late 14th century through to the early 19th century.

ST GEORGE THE NEW CHURCH

Located between Pta Unirii and Universitate, marking the very center of Bucharest

Built by Brancoveanu himself in 1707, the church has been one of the most important buildings in the capital for almost two centuries. After several fires and earthquakes, it was rebuilt in the early 20th century based on the initial plans, with a 12-column loggia. The martyr Prince Brancoveanu is buried here.

MUSEUMS

ART COLLECTIONS MUSEUM

111 Calea Victoriei, Mon-Sat, 11:00 – 19:00, www.mnar.arts.ro

Established in 1978, the Art Collections Museum is housed by the former neoclassical style Romanit Palace, built in 1812 by boyar Constantin Facca. The museum currently holds 42 private collections with over 12,000 works donated to the Romanian State between 1927 and 2002. With local art well represented (through valuable samples of icons on glass and wood, ceramics, furniture, as well as 18th- and 19th-century textiles) the museum also holds noteworthy works by French, Flemish and Dutch artists, including masterpieces by Gustave Courbet, Camille Pissarro, Antoine Bourdelle, David Teniers the Younger and Vincent van Gogh. The recently restored A Wing occasioned the reopening of its cellars to the public. The three vaulted rooms, with niches (in the fake brickwork walls) ending in pointed arches, host the Lapidarium - an important part of the stone sculpture collection of the Romanian Medieval Art Gallery.

ANTIPA MUSEUM

1 Sos. Kiseleff, 021.312.88.63, www.antipa.ro

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and *Bran DRACULA'S Castle* in Transylvania



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COURTESY OF MNAC

*Mircea Cantor's exhibition at **The Contemporary Art Museum***

the Romanian biologist known for the invention of the diorama, the National Museum of Natural History hosts permanent exhibitions of Romanian fauna and animals. Over 2 million exhibits are gathered in different thematic collections: zoology, paleontology, minerals, rocks and ethnography.

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

People's Palace, 2-4 Izvor St, wing E4, entrance from Calea 13 Septembrie, www.mnac.ro

Located in Ceausescu's controversial mammoth building, the museum hosts temporary modern art exhibitions in its vast halls, which create a strange yet welcoming space. The gallery also contains one of the most interesting communist kitsch art collections, unfortunately not on

display. Although getting there requires some effort, it's worth the trip since the museum's roof terrace offers one of the best aerial views of Bucharest

COTROCENI PALACE AND MUSEUM

1 Geniului Blv, 021.317.31.06, www.muzeulcotroceni.ro

Built between 1679 and 1681 by Prince Șerban Cantacuzino in the baroque style of the time, the Cotroceni complex served as the official residence of different rulers. Queen Mary left her unmistakable mark on the place, which bears the proof of her artistic affinities. Cotroceni is the only official residence in Romania that has been used for over four centuries, with the palace and medieval cellars still existing today.



ATRA DOFTANA

or premise
of excellence

There is no specific detail to be more or less taken into account.

The exceptional location in Doftana Valley, on the banks of Paltinu River, the top class design for which the boarding house was actually awarded a lot of prizes from the Romanian architect community, the internationalized menu discretely integrating elements of local specific, from the wood and stone on which the construction is based, up to the fresh country milk: everything ATRA Doftana means starts from the premise of excellence.

Those who at least once visited ATRA know what we are talking about. Those who failed, well, they should better make early reservations for one of the only 8 rooms available...

**For further information, please visit
www.atradoftana.ro or call 0735 020 110**



*Roman emperor Trajan's statue guards the entrance to the **History Museum***

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM (MNAR)

49-53 Calea Victoriei,
021.313.30.30,
www.mnar.ro

Besides its European Art gallery, the museum located in the Royal Palace holds the most important collection of Romanian modern art, with 8,600 paintings and 2,000 sculptures (including works by Brancusi). Approximately 700 exhibits offer an overview of the evolution of artistic trends from the early 19th century - when art in Romania became entirely secular - through to the late 19th to early 20th century, the age of the great masters of national art. For the Medieval Art Collection, see Byzantine Bucharest.

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Calea Victoriei,
021.315.82.07,
www.mnir.ro

From prehistoric times, through the gold treasury of Dacian tribes and the Roman Conquest to the modern era, the museum's 60 halls exhibit historical artifacts, documents and art that connect us to the cradle of European civilization in the neolithic age (6,500-3,500 BC), located on today's Romanian territory.

ROMANIAN PEASANT MUSEUM

3 Sos Kiseleff, Sector 1,
021.317.96.60,
021.317.96.61, www.muzeultaranuluiroman.ro

With an average of 3,500 tourists visiting each month, the museum was recently awarded TripAdvisor's Certificate for Excellence 2013. It was not the venue's first accolade: it took the European Museum of the Year Award in 1996 for its "wonderful collections of objects ... presented and interpreted with exceptional imagination and skill, in an original style with great impact on the visitor." The extensive collection, housed in a Neo-Romanian-style historical building, developed out of the first autonomous museum for peasant art, which was established in 1906. Today the venue is also an urban socializing spot, with a terrace serving Romanian food, an open-air cinema and a highly regarded shop with traditional ceramics, icons and textiles, including the famous Romanian blouse, the "ie".

CASA COMANA RESORT

rediscover nature relaxing with your loved ones



Less than one hour's drive from Bucharest, Comana National Park is a protected area around Comana Forest and the legendary Neajlov Delta, where the spirit of Vlad the Impaler and the majesty of Prince Michael the Brave can still be detected. Besides the excellent facilities that Comana Resort can provide, guests can choose from a wide range of activities, such as cart and boat rides, hang gliding, fishing and riding. For a more relaxing time, there is traditional wine tasting or you can unwind at the spa.

For more information and reservation, you can find us at:

+4 0744 138 606 • info@casacomana.ro • www.casacomana.ro

No 607 Gelu Naum Street, Comana, Giurgiu, Romania.



The Theodor Aman Museum is housed in a neoclassical-style palazzo from the mid 19th century

THEODOR AMAN MUSEUM

8 C.A. Rosetti St, 021.314.58.12,
Tue-Sun, 09:00 – 17:00
www.muzeulbucurestiului.ro

An important 19th-century painter and the founder of the first Fine Arts Academy, Theodor Aman (1831-1891) was the owner and architect of this neoclassical palazzo, which served both as his studio and home. The studio, which was also used as an exhibition space for his paintings, was reconstructed by the curators as it was depicted in many of his works.

VILLAGE MUSEUM

28-30 Sos. Kiseleff,
021.317.91.03,
www.muzeul-satului.ro

The Village Museum is an open-air ethnographic museum in Herastrau Park, showcasing

traditional Romanian village life. Covering over 100,000 sqm, it contains an estimated 300 authentic peasant farms and houses brought from all over Romania and reassembled bit by bit in the park, clustered and arranged to show the real pattern of Romanian villages.

GUIDED TOURS

BUCHAREST CITY TOUR

021.232.03.31, 0735.525.710
www.bucharestcitytour.com,
Cost: from EUR 29

Tour type: Panoramic & Mogosoaia Palace Tour / Snagov Monastery Tour / Walking Tour

To explore interesting sites and hear the story of the “Little Paris”, this is where to come. Generally, the fee includes pick-up and drop-off at your location

in Bucharest, transport by car/minibus, a map of the city and guide services in English.

BUCHAREST TOURS AND EXCURSIONS

021.322.89.94, 0744.510.195, www.bucharesttours.ro;

Costs: from EUR 25 (RON 100)

Tour type: panoramic tour, Bucharest in depth, three museums in one day, Bucharest evening tour

The basic tour includes a two-and-a-half-hour drive through the city center and key neighborhoods of Bucharest, providing a dramatic overview of some of the most beautiful and ancient architecture in Europe. The tour operators promise that you will discover the dramatic, often tumultuous history of Bucharest and Romania, ranging from the battles of the Middle Ages through the monarchy, and Communist rule into the present.

CULTURAL TRAVEL AND TOURS

www.cttours.ro, 021.336.31.63, 0724.718.848

Cost: from EUR 29, depending on the tour type and group number

Tour type: Past and Present in Bucharest Architecture, On the Banks of the Dambovita River, Spiritual Break, Dracula's Original Haunts, Art & History

These niche tours allow participants to discover something more specific. They range from explorations of the city's arts, mediaeval history, commercial past and eclectic French architecture to a journey of

discovery into Communist Bucharest and the daily life of the city's inhabitants.

GUIDED BUCHAREST

<http://guided-bucharest.com>, 0745.593.938, 0744.314.110

Cost: Free tour

Tour type: walking tour, bike tour

Starting time: 18.00 every day

Over the course of more than two hours, explore the eclectic architecture and hidden attractions of the city, while unraveling the stories of old and new Bucharest.

HISTORIC HOUSES OF BUCHAREST

<http://historo.wordpress.com>, 0728.323.272

Cost: from EUR 7 (RON 35)

Tour type: architectural Bucharest of different periods

Valentin Mandache offers expert advisory services on historical properties in Romania. His tours impart commentary and analysis on period buildings, architectural heritage and the traditional habitats of Romania's historical provinces, tracing the life story of some of Bucharest's most fascinating buildings.



Tours bring alive Bucharest's period details

OLD TOWN

“A charming, walkable quarter with enough worthy distractions to keep you occupied for the day and enough bars and clubs to ensure you never have to sleep,” is how the BBC travel journalist Mark Baker describes the most vibrant part of Bucharest. This thriving pedestrian area at the very heart of the city, with its intricate narrow streets full of small shops, terraces, cafés, bars and restaurants, is also the place where several layers of 550 years of Bucharest’s documented history overlap, conveying the image of a city in constant transformation. The 16th-century ruins of the Old Princely Court (Curtea Veche), the capital city of Wallachian princes since Vlad the Impaler (Dracula), lay in the vicinity of underground mural remains of 17th-century buildings. The archeological site on the main street of Lipscani brings to light the red-brick ruins of one of the many inns built in this area, which got its name from the town of Lipsca (Leipzig). The German city was at that time the trading partner for the local merchants and artisans who had their busy shops on what was, from the mid 16th to late 19th century, the most important commercial area of Bucharest. The narrow streets around the Old Court were named after the artisan guilds that had their workshops here. Many churches and monasteries, built in the local Brancovenesc architectural style, dot the Old Town. Also known as the town of inns, the neoclassical facades of the Lipscani buildings erected after 1850 are part of the modernization of the capital city under the rule of King Carol I. All important historical buildings constructed during this time on the ruins of old inns, from the Central Bank to the National History Museum, were designed by French and German architects.



The carved wood galleries of **Manuc Inn** are a unique feature of the most important landmark of the Old Town

LANDMARKS

THE CENTRAL BANK - BNR

25 Lipscani St,
021.313.04.10,
www.bnr.ro

Possibly the Old Town's flagship landmark, the headquarters of BNR - Romania's National Bank - is another neoclassical masterpiece, again with French architects at the helm. Constructed in 1885, the building boasts Corinthian columns and marble halls inside. Though its size and smartness put it somewhat at odds with ramshackle Lipscani, its grandeur is not dented.

MANUC INN / HANUL LUI MANUC

62-64 Franceza St,
0769.075.844,
www.hanulluimanuc.ro

Built in 1806 near the Old Princely Court by an Armenian merchant known as Manuc Bei, the wooden inn's open architecture, with its galleries that look upon a generous inner courtyard, was innovative for its time. Recently reopened after renovation works, the historical building today houses two restaurants - one Lebanese, the other Romanian - and a café.

OLD PRINCELY COURT / CURTEA VECHÉ

27-31 Franceza St,
021.314.03.75

Dating back to the 15th century, the Old Princely Court is a real



Lapidarium at Old Princely Court

slice of Bucharest history. Built during the reign of Vlad III (aka Dracula), it has since undergone restoration. Hitherto overlooked as a tourist attraction, efforts to improve and promote the Old Town should see Curtea Veche gain a deserved foothold on the visitor's map.

STAVROPOLEOS MONASTERY

See Sightseeing
4 Stavropoleos St,
www.stavropoleos.ro

THE STREET INN / HANUL CU TEI

63-65 Lipscani St,

One of the few well preserved street inns, Hanul cu Tei was built in 1833 by two merchants, Anastasie Hagi Gheorghe Polizu and Stefan Popovici, who owned several shops located over high-ceilinged cellars. Both the Lipscani and Blanari Street entrances are guarded by tall iron gates that used to be closed by night, for the safety of travelers and goods. Today, the inn hosts art galleries, antique shops, cafés and restaurants.



Where future meets the past

The best way to pay in Bucharest

Bucharest's Old Town is the place where the capital city's 553-year history blends harmoniously with the vibrant rhythms of the 21st century. Sit and admire the slender silhouette of the Old Princely Court ruins from the open terrace of a trendy restaurant. In a space where tradition and change merge seamlessly, using your Visa card instead of cash to pay the restaurant bill feels like the natural choice.

The vast majority of the coffee shops, terraces and restaurants in Bucharest accept Visa card payments. It's a more convenient and safer way to pay, as you don't need to carry large amounts of cash on you. Because most of the POS terminals accept Chip & PIN cards, you will probably need your PIN to pay by card.

The Visa logo, consisting of the word "VISA" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "V" is stylized with a yellow and blue gradient.

ADVERTORIAL

OLD TOWN

SUTU PALACE – BUCHAREST CITY MUSEUM

21.C. Bratianu Blv,
021.315.68.58,
www.muzeulbucurestiului.ro

The lavish neo-Gothic style palace was built in 1832 by one of the wealthiest aristocratic families, the Sutus. Sculptor and decorator Karl Storck added a grand central staircase, transforming the place into a ball venue. Today it hosts the city's museums, with a permanent urban and anthropological collection, as well as a pinacothèque which includes major Romanian and European painters.

VILLACROSSE MACCA PASSAGE

In between Calea Victoriei and Lipscani Street

A walk through the Villacrosse passage can take you back in time to late 19th-century Bucharest, provided you visit at the least crowded time of day. The alley, which now hosts numerous pubs and coffee shops, links Calea Victoriei to the Central Bank on Lipscani Street. The U-shaped skylight-covered passage was built in 1891 by Felix Xenopol and carries the name of Catalan architect Xavier Villacrosse, who moved to Bucharest and served as the capital's chief architect from 1840-1850. It has two branches. In between you can find, among other venues, an Egyptian-themed coffee shop, a Chinese restaurant and the Opium Stage Club.

RESTAURANTS

THE ARTIST

Cuisine: Fusion
13 Nicolae Tonitza St,
0728.318.871,
www.theartist.ro

The Old City Center is home to a small restaurant where avant-garde cooking techniques and equipment are used to transform flavors and presentations, but also to revolutionize the appetite. Dutch Chef Paul Oppenkamp combines traditional techniques with molecular cuisine and Romanian influences, resulting in surprising combinations of textures and flavors. The menu includes lobster "sarmale" (minced meat cabbage rolls), polenta fries and meatballs ("chiftele") with polenta and for dessert the famous "papanasi". It is also revised to include seasonal ingredients.

BELLINI

Cuisine: Italian
2 Ion Ghica St,
021.310.29.78,
www.restaurant-bellini.ro

If you are in the area and you crave a pizza or any other Italian al forno dish, this is the best place to go. Pasta fans should try their tortellini al forno or the cannelloni della nona al forno. The fish dishes are also a specialty, as is the wide range of pizzas. Another plus is the quality of the food.



MHAI CONSTANTINEANU

Old City terraces attract both tourists and locals until late in the night

BON

Cuisine: French

33 Smardan St, 021.367.21.98,
0721.375.622

The latest addition to the Old Town quarter, with an impressive décor fashioned out of authentic Transylvanian wooden doors, the bistro is a purveyor of fine dining. Try the veal with garlic and onion, served with local polenta, or the classic oysters with caviar and champagne, as well as the delicious crème brûlée with lavender. Prices are high.

LA BONNE BOUCHE

Cuisine: French

30 Franceza St, 0731.247.876,
www.labonnebouche.ro

One of the best French bistros in town is also one of the most crowded venues in the historical area (make a reservation).

The classic menu includes both meat and fish dishes, while the wine list features special labels that are hard to find elsewhere.

CARU'CU BERE

Cuisine: Romanian

5 Stavropoleos St,
021.313.75.60, 0726.282.373,
www.carucubere.ro

Be prepared for the full range of Romanian dishes served in the oldest beerhouse in the city. Opened in 1879, this historical landmark is one of the few venues in Bucharest preserved as such, with architecture that reminds visitors why Bucharest was once dubbed the “little Paris”. Distinctive elements include the murals, stained glass and carved cross-beams. Along with the beer, made to a secret original recipe, The Beer Cart is also famous for its atmosphere. The place is packed all week.

CHARME

Cuisine: Mediteranean

12 Smardan St,
021.311.19.22,
www.charme.ro

A minimalist design, classy atmosphere and a well-balanced menu that combines some fine pasta dishes, including seafood and fish, with generous steaks and a good selection of desserts.

CRAMA DOMNEASCA

Cuisine: Romanian

13-15 Selari St,
0726.322.004,
www.cramadomneasca.com

Serving up Romanian cuisine at its best, from the classic sour soups, “sarmale” and “mici”, to large pork steaks and eggplant salad, the restaurant located opposite the National Bank also has a good selection of house wines. The service is friendly and the live “taraf” music program lends the place its unique atmosphere.

DIVAN

Cuisine: Turkish

46 Franceza St,
021.312.30.34,
www.thedivan.ro

Kebab lovers can take their pick from beef, lamb, chicken and marinated meat stuffed in an eggplant. Vastly superior to other palces in town, Divan’s long menu gives diners extensive choice. The evening entertainment program features belly dancers.

LACRIMI SI SFINTI / TEARS AND SAINTS

Cuisine: Romanian

16 Sepcari St,
0725.558.286,
www.lacrimisifinti.com

If your Romanian friends invite you to taste the “modern local cuisine”, make sure they have enough money to pay an extremely pricey bill that is not quite justified by the quality of the food. Owned by a famous local poet turned chef, the restaurant thrives more on his persona than on the local culinary specialties.

MALAGAMBA

Cuisine: International

2 Sf. Dumitru St,
021.313.33.89,
www.malagamba.ro,
Daily 13:00 – 00:00

An excellent spot, warm service with attention to detail and superb food make Malagamba a welcome addition to the burgeoning Lipscani gastronomic scene. The dishes are creative and well presented, with light and original options, and can be enjoyed on the terrace, which affords good people-watching. Keep an eye out for special events (like live jazz) and offers.

MANUC BISTRO

Cuisine: Romanian

62-64 Franceza St,
021.313.14.11, 0769.075.844,
www.hanulluimanuc.ro

Located inside the flagship Old Town historical building



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COURTESY OF LACRIMI SI SFINTI

Old Romanian cuisine is the pride of **Lacrimi si sfinti**

is the Romanian restaurant of Manuc Inn. For those who want to understand the special flavors of Romanian cuisine, try the haidouk sour soup with lovage (the taste and smell of these green leaves at their best). Enjoy the large open terrace in the inner courtyard of the inn, and the 18th-century décor and atmosphere of the three-storey interior.

MANUC LEVANTIN

Cuisine: Lebanese
62-64 Franceza St, 021.313.14.11,
0769.075.844,
www.hanulluimanuc.ro

This eatery had been languishing in relative obscurity for the last few years until new life was

breathed into it in 2011 with the inclusion of a new restaurant with a genuine Middle Eastern chef. You may be surprised by the fresh flavors such as coriander, mint, thyme, pomegranate and any number of vegetables you would otherwise find unobtainable in out-of-season Bucharest markets, which make for exceptional Lebanese food. The prices are decent too.

MICA ELVETIE ST. MORITZ

Cuisine: Swiss
60 Franceza St,
021.224.50.17,
www.micaelvetie.ro

Legendary Mica Elvetie chef, the famous Jakob Hausmann, rustles up a wide variety of food, based

on fresh, seasonal produce. The restaurant has now a summer terrace, a perfect destination for enjoying a sophisticated meal when the mercury temperatures.

NEGRESCO

Cuisine: International
3 Stavropoleos St,
0720.667.766,
www.negresco.ro

The architecture of this 1873 building and the beautifully restored interior decoration, which has retained many of the original elements, are not the only reasons to recommend this restaurant, adorned with painted glass, and its underground Crama (wine bar), with a golden floor mosaic, a Zinc bar and frescoes. The Italian cuisine-based menu, with an interesting selection of salads, also has a Romanian section with several traditional dishes.

RED ANGUS

Cuisine: Steak House
56 Franceza St,
0756.600.000,
www.redangus.ro

The beef here, which is imported from the US and certified to boast the second highest level of internationally recognized quality, comes with such adornments as coffee rub and caramel onion butter, chili chocolate sauce and red wine, and red wine and black currants, with accompaniments such as Brussels sprouts baked in blue cheese. From Thursday to Saturday, there is live blues music.

BARS & PUBS

ABSINTHERIA SIXTINA

1 Covaci St,
021.310.35.66

Under the “Liberte, egalite, absinthe” motto, the pub/café/bar offers a plethora of alcoholic beverages, from wines and beers to absinth, of course. The music is neither too loud nor too commercial. Another plus is its capaciousness, as it takes up an entire floor of an old building, and never seems too crowded. Adding to the charm there is the small balcony, home to just one table with two chairs.

ATELIER MECANIC

12 Covaci St,
0726.767.611

Atelier Mecanic (Mechanical Workshop) is a bar made of industrial relics, salvaged leftovers, graphics and original furniture from the 1950 to 1970, recalling the industrialization of the country during communism. Nice music and nice people, if you like socializing with Romanian “hipsters”.

BICICLETA

38 Lipscani St,
0735.616.298

How about a “tour de force” with coffees or cocktails in the Old City Center in a bar called Bicycle? The entire place is furnished and decorated with parts of old bikes, with plenty of stools and leather sofas for those who want to



MIHAI CONSTANTINEANU

The Old City is the most vibrant district in Bucharest

feel a bit more comfortable than one does in the saddle.

BEER O'CLOCK

4 Gabroveni St,
0735.187.012,
www.beeroclock.ro

Welcome to beer land! The 30-page menu reads like a book, providing inside information on taste, ingredients and the brewing process of the 164 kinds on offer. Prices range from about EUR 2 for a Czech Primator Dark pint to around EUR 66 for a Sink The Bismark Scottish beer with 41% alcohol.

BIUTIFUL

7-8 Gabroveni St,
0737.297.297,
www.biutiful.ro

The coolest place on the crowded Old Town map, this bar is a happy combination of trendy interior design, excellent (yet affordable) food and good quality service. Both the beef burger and the chicken and lamb kafta served with tzatziki salad are worth trying, alongside one of the many choices of beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks on the house list.

CORKS COZY BAR

1 Bacani St,
021.311.22.65,
www.corks.ro

Bucharest's Old Center has a spot for wine lovers who can select their tippie from a dizzying array of options: Corks. The contains over 300 wines, all of which can also be served by glass. The selection includes both recent and vintage bottle.

ENERGIEA

4 Brezoianu St,
0736.374.432,
www.energiea.ro

A gastro-pub/lounge with a beautiful design, inspired by the place's former incarnation as a printing press 80 years ago, Enegeia offers good food, good drinks and a good atmosphere. The menu ranges from quick snacks like roasted nuts or French fries to full-blown main courses such as the delicious marinated ribs. The cocktails are amazing and often surprising: our recommendation is the flagship Energiea, a mix of gin, dry white wine, cucumber, apple juice, honey and fresh mint. Outdoor seating is available in the summertime although you will miss the great decor inside.

GAMBRINUS BEERHOUSE

38 Regina Elisabeta Blv,
0744.31.51.10,
www.berariagambrinus.ro

Gambrinus beer enjoys a long tradition in Bucharest. Its

history dates back to 1869 but it shot to fame in 1901, when the Romanian playwright and publicist Ion Luca Caragiale took it over, transforming the brewery into a location where theatergoers could debate the latest premieres at the nearby National Theater as well as a meeting place for musicians, writers, journalists and politicians. The new owners adapted a statue of King Gambrinus himself, who overlooks the entire brewery from the top of the bar.

INTERBELIC

1 Selari St,
0722.100.193

A well-hidden location, at the intersection of Blanari Street and Lips cani, the bar's intimate atmosphere gives you those long awaited moments far from the madding crowd. The friendly staff and reasonably priced drinks make the place a target destination for locals and expats.

LABORATORUL DE COCKTAILURI

8 Stavropoleos St,
0722.528.040

Resembling an old pharmacy, your favorite cocktails are there for sampling at the "Cocktails Lab". The science theme includes shots from chemical test tubes.

Be warned that it is very crowded on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays so don't expect to find a table.

CAFES

CAFÉ MANUC

62-64 Franceza St, 021.313.14.11,
www.hanulluimanuc.ro

This is the place to savor a carefully prepared Turkish coffee, just one of the dozens of blends on the menu. Try the Manuc coffee (rum, espresso, cream) and all the caffè frappe specialties.

GRAND CAFÉ VAN GOGH

9 Smardan St, 031.107.63.71,
www.vangogh.ro

Classiness ooziness from the high ceiling, understated wooden furnishings, and there's a range of fresh, simple and appetizing eats and drinks appropriate for all times of the day. The delicious smoothies and luxury hot chocolates are just two of the many highlights. In summer you can avoid the smokiness by sitting on the terrace.

KLEIN CAFÉ

Rembrandt Hotel mezzanine

11 Smardan St, 021.313.93.15

Finding a quiet place in the bustling Bucharest Old Town can be a challenging task. Add to that the non-smoking policy and you have a unique and winning combination at Klein Café. Located on the mezzanine of the Rembrandt Hotel, next door to Van Gogh Café, it can be easy to miss unless you are specifically looking for it. And if you do, you can expect friendly service in a cozy and

relaxed setting. The place is good for business meetings or as an out-of-the-office work space as it offers free wireless internet and a quiet spot in a central part of the city.

ORIGO

9 Lips cani St, 0757.086.689
www.facebook.com/
OrigoCoffee/info

From preparation to serving, Origo keeps the coffee experience fresh and personal. Coffee is roasted on site and the baristas are always willing to provide extensive details on the blends on the menu and offer tailored suggestions of new flavors or brewing methods to try. Coffee shop by day and cocktail bar by night, Origo welcomes its guests with relaxed décor, featuring natural and neutral materials and tones. The coffee is also available to go, and you can pick up various blends, teas and brewing utensils and equipment to take home. Non-smoking. Small terrace during summer.

VALEA REGILOR

16-20 Calea Victoriei,
Macca-Villacrosse Passage,
021.311.29.69

The famous Turkish coffee prepared on sand, peppermint tea (erfe) and non-alcoholic wine (karkale) are only a few of the Oriental aromas that blend together in this beautifully decorated place located in the Villacrosse passage. This is also the place to try the Egyptian hookah, also known as the narghile or waterpipe.

RESTAURANTS

Bucharest has several food quarters located mostly in the center of the city, with top 'fine dining' restaurants clustered in the north, on the banks of Herastrau Lake. The central quarters have developed around a few of the capital's landmarks: the Old Town, the Romanian Athenaeum, Intercontinental Hotel and Carturesti book shop/Icoanei Gardens area. The four circumscribe the very heart of the city, with narrow streets and old villas built in the late 19th century and during the inter-bellum period, many of which have been transformed into restaurants. Most eateries have a green terrace, where one can dine al fresco while enjoying the shade of old trees at lunchtime or the cool summer breeze in the evenings. Business Review gives you a selection of top Bucharest restaurants, organized by the type of cuisine, including our recommendations for the best Romanian dining options. For the top places to eat in Old Town, see the Old Town section.



COURTESY OF BUREBISTA RESTAURANT



COURTESY OF KUNNAI

Kunnai - a touch of Thai sophistication

ASIAN

BENIHANA

Howard Johnson Hotel Grand Plaza

5-7 Calea Dorobantilor,
021.201.50.30,
www.hojoplaza.ro

Fabulous fun, with Asian cooks giving a real show intended to activate all your senses at the same time: eyes, smell and taste. Although not traditional Japanese, the Teppanyaki tables, which can host up to eight people, bring together those who are in love with this part of the world's cuisine. The restaurant has one of the best sushi bars in town. This is a place that you must go!

KUNNAI

6-12 Copilului St,
0722.687.343,
www.kunnai.ro

Serving contemporary Thai cuisine, this is one of Bucharest's top restaurants. The sophisticated design of the menu is based on the principle of combining opposing flavors and the special attention shown to the ingredients transforms a meal into a feast of tastes. For starters, order Fish Spring Rolls, a fine cuisine combination of fish and shitake mushrooms wrapped in a delicate feuilletage and the delicious traditional Tom Yam Soup with Prawns. For vegetarians, the Garden Wrap, mixing mint, garlic and basil with lettuce, cucumbers and



Authentic Thai Food in Bucharest

Kunnai
contemporary thai cuisine



For reservations:
+40 722 687 343;
+40 722 687 454;
reservations@kunnai.ro
Copilului 6-12 street,
1st district,
012178 Bucharest
www.kunnai.ro

rice noodles, promises to be an unexpected treat. The epitome of the experience is Chef Sangri's masterpiece - Thai Grilled Fish with Herbs, in which kaffir lime, basil, lemongrass, garlic and chili bring out the best of the tasty meat of a dorada fish.

BALKAN

TORNA FRATRE

34 Tunari St,
021.210.35.57, 0784.111.890,
www.restaurant-tornafatre.ro

For quite some time this place has been the talk of town when it comes to the best Romanian restaurant! One can taste food from all the regions of the country and from the Romanian communities that live in the neighboring countries of Serbia, Bulgaria and Macedonia. Make sure you try the summer yogurt-based soup tarator and the mushroom specialties.

FISH

AL SAPORE

7 Unirii Blv,
0723.572.534,
www.alsapore.ro

Mediterranean restaurant Al Sapore has established itself as a place for refined connoisseurs of the culinary art and luxury services. Gabriele Orazio, the chef, originally from the Italian region of Marche, has devised a menu with a variety of "marchigiane" specialties based on fish and

seafood, drawing on family culinary secrets of over 60 years. There's also an extensive wine list featuring bottles from Romania, Italy and France.

MESOGIOS

49 Jean Louis Calderon St,
021.317.13.55,
www.mesogios.ro

The oldest and most reliable fish house in town serves a wide variety of fresh fish cooked in a straight, simple, Mediterranean manner.

OSHO FISH

19 Primaverii St,
021.568.30.31, www.
oshoprimaverii.ro

Alaskan crab "legs", live lobsters, cuttlefish, prawns of every size, shrimps in samphire grass and so much more are displayed in the chiller! This is the cheapest fish house in town, as it imports directly. The daily catch is listed on a blackboard. The Romanian version of fish soup is available, with a base of borsch and lashings of dill.

FRENCH

BISTRO EPOQUE Epoque Hotel

17C Intrarea Aurora,
Cismigiu Garden,
021.313.32.32,
www.hotelepouque.ro

With the two Michelin-starred chef Guy Martin behind the menu, French gastronomic



TRADIȚIE ȘI MODERNITATE

AVINCIS este simbolul renașterii vinurilor românești, sub semnul tradiției și modernității, o întoarcere la origini, dar în același timp o privire spre viitor pentru Valeriu și Cristiana Stoica, care au decis să dea o nouă viață viei familiei din Drăgășani, la porțile mănăstirilor din nordul Olteniei.

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DRĂGĂȘANI - ROMÂNIA

SEDIU

Str. Dr. Grigore Romniceanu nr. 15
050574 București • sector 5

WWW.AVINCIS.RO

avincis.vinuri@avincis.ro

CRAMĂ

Vila Dobrușa • Str. Valea Caselor nr. 1A
245700 Drăgășani • județul Vâlcea

creativity and quality are ensured. The cumin flavored duck liver pate is in itself an experience, as is the milk-fed veal with green asparagus and goose liver ravioli. The wine list is impeccable, showcasing, along with the French bottles, a top-quality selection of Romanian wines.

BON

See Oldtown

33 Smardan St,
021.367.21.98, 0721.375.622

LA BONNE BOUCHE

See Old Town

30 Franceza St,
0731.247.876,
www.labonnebouche.ro

CANTINE DE NICOLAI

15 Povernei St,
0725.210.608,
www.lacantinedenicolai.ro

Even if the 1960s menu is old-fashioned, whatever chef Nicolai Tand produces is perfect! Order the St Jacques (scallops) with puree potato and shaved fresh black truffle. The scallops are grilled for a few seconds so they arrive moist, correctly under-cooked and generous with five of the beauties. Or the soft, flakey, moist saddle of cod, another dish brought to perfection.

L'ESCARGOT

101 Toamnei St,
021.201.71.33,
www.escargot.ro

In an area off Eminescu and surrounded by other restaurants

(Chinese, Spanish, Indian and Mexican) this place stands out as the best with its pricy (but good) French food. It is like a bistro inside, but has a charming small terrace at the rear. L'Escargot is crowned with giant fig trees and apricot trees full of fruit which occasionally drop onto your table.

FUSION

THE ARTIST

See Old Town

13 Nicolae Tonitza St,
0728.318.871,
www.theartist.ro

COLLAGE

10-12 Ion Mihalache Blv,
0758.101.040,
www.collageworld.ro

If you have just finished your visit to the Peasant Museum, then a stop at this "creative cuisine" high-end restaurant just across the street is a must.

THE LOFT

64 Iancu de Hunedoara,
entrance opposite Mega Image
on Stefan Cel Mare Blv.

With a state-of-the-art spacious design The Loft serves food which would be at home in Paris. Order the excellent clam risotto cooked in true keeping with the traditional standards of fine French cuisine or the tender sea bass fillet accompanied by a wonderful mashed (puree) potato, shaved with a generous slice of fresh truffle.



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56-60 Iancu de Hunedoara Blvd., Metropolis Center, Ground Floor, Bucharest
www.readerscafe.ro



COURTESY OF READERS CAFE

Readers Cafe, Bistro and Lounge - a trendy place with gourmet food

INTERNATIONAL

CONCERTO **Grand Hotel Continental**

56 Calea Victoriei,
0372.010.300

An elegant white, black and gray décor, with classical-style furniture and furnishings, silver plates and fancy condiment holders adorning the tables, Concerto is one of the restaurants on Bucharest's fine dining list. The menu is based on the nouvelle cuisine concept. Jazz music played at the right volume will accompany your soups, salads, cold entrees, hot starters, fish, meat or desserts.

CHEZ MARIE

48 Dionisie Lupu St,
031.427.87.76, 0730.344.810,
www.chezmarie.ro

Here you have a delightful, warm place, a great location, excellent prices with four pork grilled dishes, eleven different salads and nine chicken dishes. We recommend the roast duck leg, plus duck fillet, red cabbage with apple and green beans with garlic, a Romanian speciality cooked with a twist.

MALAGAMBA

See Old Town

2 Sf. Dumitru St, 021.313.33.89,
www.malagamba.ro,
Daily 13:00 - 00:00

Taste premium quality steaks and choose your favorite wines from over 50 Romanian and International renowned names in
Barbizon Steak House



"Our delicious range of fish, chicken and vegetarian dishes are prepared, cooked and served with the same care and consideration that goes into our steaks. If you come to Barbizon, I guarantee you will indulge yourself with the finest prime steak, aged to perfection, as well as fresh seafood, innovative side dishes and decadent desserts." [Chef Buçşa]

RESERVATIONS

barbizon@pullman.ro
10, Montreal Square, Sector 1
011469 Bucharest - Romania
T. +40 (0)21 202 16 35

NEGRESCO

See Old Town

3 Stavropoleos St,
0720.667.766,
www.negresco.ro

READERS CAFÉ, BISTRO , LOUNGE

50-60 Iancu de Hunedoara Blv,
Metropolis Center, Ground Floor,
0737.32.33.77

This is one of Bucharest's posh places, where you can enjoy a wide-ranging gourmet menu that runs from Lebanese tapas and sushi to warm dishes such as pasta and steaks. The drinks list includes coffee, tea, non-alcoholic cocktails and one of the most comprehensive ranges of top local wines. From the Coffee & Chocolate menu we recommend Frappe di Menta (espresso, milk, ice and mint syrup), the most refreshing version of ice coffee in town.

DONCAFE BRASSERIE

7 Ankara St,
0746.222.444,
www.doncafe-brasserie.ro

Located near Piata Dorobanti, this brasserie is a relaxing spot with its rich, dark wood and sumptuous seating. On weekdays Doncafe offers a rotating plat du jour with international options like burger, Moroccan couscous and chicken tikka masala. There's a selection of Italian and other European mains, including pork osso bucco with 1,001 aromas, several meat and fish dishes, and some typical homemade pasta choices.

18 LOUNGE

3-5 Piata Presei Libere,
City Gate South Tower,
18th floor,
0733.50.14.01,
www.18lounge.ro

For a dinner with a view in the beautiful area of north Bucharest, try 18 Lounge. The concept is based on offering a refined, tasteful and modern experience at a fair price, with food, wine and other drinks selected using the best ingredients and the best knowledge. The menu changes frequently to give a mix of flavors.

ITALIAN

AQUA

7-9 Sos Nordului,
0731.888.999,
www.aquachique.ro

Possibly the trendiest place on the Herastrau Lake embankment, providing a gorgeous view, Aqua offers a well-balanced Italian menu, from which we recommend the truffles beef, black onion beef fillet and black mussel risotto.

AQUARIUM

4 Alecu Russo St,
021.211.28.20,
www.restaurantaquarium.ro

Over the past 12 years, Aquarium has defended its reputation as one of the best Italian restaurants in Bucharest, due to its constant quality and the excellently cooked pasta and fish dishes.



WWW.FINEWINECOLLECTION.RO



BELLINI

See Old Town

2 Ion Ghica St,
021.310.29.78,
www.restaurant-bellini.ro

GARGANTUA

69 Jean Louis Calderon,
Parcul Icoanei,
021.211.40.41,
www.restaurantgargantua.ro

This lovely place is eccentrically attractive inside, but also boasts a delightfully leafy terrace on the fringes of Icoanei Gardens. It is best visited for lunch or dinner, as it is not a place you would chill out at with nothing but a cold beer. So look over the menu and go there to dine, as it is well recommended.

OSTERIA GIOIA

16 Ion Mihalache Blv,
021.311.37.50,
www.osteriagioia.ro

From the starters list try the delicious oven backed pancakes with Fontina cheese and porcini mushrooms. However, the menu's forte is its pastas. We recommend the sophisticated taglioni with vongole clams and arugula or the simple linguine with tomatoes and fresh basil.

PATRIZIA RISTORANTE

12 Mihail Moxa St,
0731.202.027

Located in a beautifully restored old villa, this family-run eatery ranks among Bucharest's top restaurants. If you are a fan of Italian cuisine, here you will find the most delicious tagliatelle

with shrimps and zucchini and the lightest lamb chops served with cognac and mint sauce. The prices are high, but reflect the quality of the food.

ROMANIAN

BUREBISTA / BUREBISTA TERRACE

14 Batiste St,
021.211.89.29, www.restaurantburebista.ro

Named after one of the brave Dacian tribes' kings, who defied the land against the Roman conquerors, this ethnic-looking place has one of the largest menus of Romanian dishes, including specialties such as the delicious fish eggs ("icre"), pork skin ("sorici") and last, but not least, wild boar and deer steak. In the evening, there is a live traditional music program.



COURTESY OF BUREBISTARRESTAURANT

*Wild boar and deer steak are on **Burebista** menu*

CARU'CU BERE

See Old Town

5 Stavropoleos St,
021.313.75.60, 0726.282.373,
www.carucubere.ro

CASA DOINA

4 Sos. Kiseleff,
021.222.67.17,
www.casadoina.ro

Without any doubt, the best Romanian food in town, with well-balanced traditional dishes such as the excellent trout soup and the fried organic chicken with garlic sauce. At this time of year one traditionally orders as starters eggplant salad and grilled pepper salad. The restaurant is also one of the city's historical landmarks. The generous garden with old trees

surrounds a two-storey villa (classified as an architectural monument), built in 1892 in the Romanian neo-classical style.

CRAMA DOMNEASCA

See Old Town

13-15 Selari St,
0726.322.004,
www.cramadomneasca.com

LA TAIFAS

16 Gheorghe Manu St,
(near Calea Victoriei),
021.212.77.88

This is the place for lunch or an early dinner if you have just finished visiting the Enescu Museum. The restaurant is very popular in the summer for its beautiful terrace. The menu includes



several Romanian specialties such as eggplant salad (one of the best in town), sour cabbage rolls and mititei.

LACRIMI SI SFINTI / TEARS AND SAINTS

See Old Town

16 Sepcari St,
0725.558.286,
www.lacrimisisfinti.com

LOCANTA JARISTEA

50-52 Georgescu St,
0744.240.125, 0721.961.936,
www.jaristea.ro

A place that you shouldn't miss, mostly for its Bucharest of the 1930s 'joie de vivre' atmosphere created by the décor and the live music program. The impeccable service is another plus at this themed restaurant. The food is well judged, as is the wine list.

MANUC BISTRO

See Old Town

62-64 Franceza St,
021.313.14.11, 0769.075.844,
www.hanulluimanuc.ro

ROSETTYA

Rosetti Piazza area
9 Dimitrie Bolintineanu St,
0748.220.220,
www.rossetya.ro

This very central restaurant tells the story of the birth of Modern Romania in the mid 19th century through several different menus: Monastery, Greek, French, Austro-Hungarian, Russian and Bourgeois. To learn more about Romanian cuisine at its best, order a combination

of Monastery, Greek and Bourgeois dishes, such as aubergine salad, monastic bulz, grilled trout or roasted pork knuckle with beans.

SLOW FOOD

ICONIC FOOD WINE & DESIGN

7 Aleea Alexandru St,
0727.333.693,
www.iconic-fwd.ro

Prepare yourself for a gastronomic journey into the esthetics of food, where the nutritional ethos emphasizes a healthy and balanced diet, harmony in living and respect for your body. The charismatic David Contant, a highly reputed chef with over 30 years of experience in some of the top global locations, joined Iconic because his vision met the owner's intentions: he wants to create a true Esthetic Space of Life, with cuisine sur mesure, based on the enjoyment of each unique experience and conviviality.

STEAK HOUSES

BARBIZON

World Trade Center

10 Montreal Plaza,
021.202.16.35,
www.pullman.ro

Indisputably the best steakhouse in town, with the bison steak the star of the menu! But this restaurant, located in the Pullman hotel, is more than a steakhouse. The menu includes Italian and Asian dishes, with several



*Bison Rib Eye is the ‘must eat’ delicatessen on the **Barbizon’s** menu*

creative salads combining different influences and a large selection of posh desserts.

OSHO

19 Primaverii,
021.568.30.31,
www.osho-restaurant.ro

They modestly call themselves a steakhouse, but it is much, much more than that. If you enter it from the front end of the building, you will find yourself in a shop which sells all of the chophouse’s products, ‘over the counter’ at retail prices. This includes not only the extensive range of meat products, but an array of up to 20 Italian cheeses and salamis. Add to

that a rich list of French and Italian fine wines, and you have a ‘deli where you can dine’.

THE RED ANGUS

See Old Town

Cuisine: Steak House
56 Franceza St,
0756.600.000,
www.redangus.ro

J.W. STEAKHOUSE

JW Marriott Hotel

90 Calea 13 Septembrie,
021.403.10.10

Pure Americana, with a selection of the best of the USA, from where all of the produce is

imported. The steaks are aged for 21 days at 4 degrees before you get your teeth into them. Side dishes are chosen with the same care as the meat. The house's steakhouse concept has been imported intact from the group's flagship hotel, Grosvenor House in London, where it is a success.

VACAMUUU / THE MOOCOW

111 Calea Floreasaca,
0731.351.153

If you are a steak worshipper, then dining amid meat market décor may be right up your street! This is currently one of the trendiest eateries in Bucharest, with a wide variety of red meat from special Angus beef to lamb and veal. There are extensive salads and side dishes, in case you want to go with a vegetarian friend.

THEMED RESTAURANTS

COUNT DRACULA CLUB

8A Splaiul Independentei St,
021.312.13.53,
www.count-dracula.ro

Cheesy vampiric fun doesn't get much tackier than at Count Dracula Club, which hosts twice weekly visits from the Impaler himself (well, a very amusing impersonator). The atmosphere is suitably creepy and attention has been lavished equally on the menu, which is based on and features quotes from the novel.

And the cuisine is surprisingly good for a theme eatery, although vegetarians might be struggling. Call ahead to check what night old Vlad is doing his bit.

EXCALIBUR

39-41 Academiei St,
021.311.62.82,
www.restaurantexcalibur.ro

The tavern style eatery promises victuals from the middle ages, served by appropriately attired wenches and without modern conveniences such as knives and forks, so be prepared to get thy hands dirty! The food, which is basically meaty Romanian, is humorously styled as Sir Lancelot's Lunch and Sir Arthur's Dinner. The big round tables are great for groups.

TURKISH

DIVAN

See Old Town

46 Franceza St,
021.312.30.34,
www.thedivan.ro

GOLDEN FALCON

18-20 Hristo Botev St,
021.314.28.25,
www.goldenfalcon.ro

After more than 12 years of existence, this place still serves the best Turkish food in town. The largest selection of delicious kebabs and the wide range of starters are pluses that have probably helped it beat off the competition.

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Old Town Hall building before restoration, 2010

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