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ROMANIA

Romania is a European country located in Eastern Europe, on border with Ukraine, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova and counts approximately 25 million inhabitants. The name "Romania" comes from the Latin word "Romanus" which means "citizen of the Roman Empire." The country was once the nucleus of the Kingdom of Dacia (82BC- 106 AD) before the Roman Empire, under the rule of Emperor Trajan, invaded and colonized the area between 101 and 106 AD. Until 271 AD, the Roman conquerors intermingled with native inhabitants and thus created the Romanian people and culture. This is the reason for its actual language of a Latin origin and its Latin alphabet in a Slavic part of Europe. The Land is often compared to a "Latin island in a Slav sea".



Romania's landscape is composed of the Carpathian mountains chain running from North all across the central land, rich in minerals and metals; the fertile plain in the Vallachia; the Danube Delta in the south flowing to the Black Sea and forming there the largest natural reserve in Europe with resources of oil, natural gas, copper and uranium.

Romania is divided into 3 historic principalities united on 1st december 1918 (the National Day):

Transylvania in the north, known as the land of the Count Dracula, the Vampire. The character was created in 1897 in the novel of supernatural by Irish writer Bram Stoker, inspired by one of the best-known figures of Romanian history, Prince Vlad Draculea, nicknamed Vlad Tepes (*Vlad the Impaler*), who was the ruler of the country from 1456-1462 and a military leader who fought bravely against the invading Turkish army. Dracula's Castle in Bran still exists and is visible.

Vallachia (*Tara Romaneasca*) in the south. It is bordered by the Danube River in the east, south and west, and hosts the capital of Romania, Bucharest.

Moldavia in the east, whose eastern part, following the fall of communism, has become an independent state.

After the Second World War Romania has been closed for more than 40 years behind the "Iron Curtain" and almost isolated from the rest of the world by the communist regime, until 1989.

Since the 1st of January 2007, the country joins the European Union, 17 years after the fall of Communism.



BUCHAREST

Since 1862, the capital city of Romania is Bucharest, which lies on the Wallachian plains between the Carpathian foothills and the Danube River. Dacians settled it as early as 70 BC but the legend says it was founded on the Dambovitza River by a mythical shepherd named Bucur. The term “bucurie” means joy and for that, sometimes, the city is called *Orasul Bucuriei*, city of joy.

In 15th century, the town developed under the Prince Vlad the Impaler and it became later an Oriental market and administrative centre under the domination of the Ottoman Empire for three hundred years.

In 1601, the principalities of Moldavia, Walachia, and Transylvania were united for the first time under Prince Michael the Brave. During Michael's reign, Romania maintained a degree of sovereignty, but after his death, the Turks again dominated the region. They ruled through Greek officials who abused their power to exploit the peasants.

However, the city was destroyed by Sinan Pasha's forces at the end of the 16th century, but it was rebuilt under the reign of Radu Mihnea.

In 1716, the city and the Wallachia region were placed under the rule of the Phanariotes and it was a landmark in Bucharest's history. In 1737, the city was attacked by Habsburg troops and stricken by economic crisis.

In 1862, the city became the capital of Romania and acquired a strong cosmopolitan character, with foreigners constituting approximately one-quarter of the population.

During 19th century the city was modernised on European lines thanks to the reign of King Carol I and reached its maximum glamour and richness during the inter-war period when sprang up cosmopolitan high culture, artistic, literary life and many marvellous Belle Époque and neoclassical buildings on Parisian models. The most important buildings erected were the National Bank (1883-1885), the Romanian Athenaeum (1888), the Museum of the Romanian Literature (1873), the Romanian Academy (1890), the Justice Palace (1890-1895), the Northern Railway Station (1862-1872), the Parliament Palace on the Hill of the Metropolitan Church (1907), “Grigore Antipa” Museum (1908).

In 1935, the Triumph Arch (27m high) was built on the Kiseleff Avenue, longer than Champs Elysees in Paris.

From all this, by the end of 1930 the city was nicknamed “Paris of the Balkans” or “The Paris of the East”, or even “Little Paris” (*Micul Paris*).

The year 1938 defined the highest level of economic development during that time. In that period, there were two countries in the world that attracted the immigrants: America and Romania.

The national currency was at a 2/1 parity with the US dollar. The parliament had to adopt an anti-immigration law.

Prosperity did not last long, though as during the Second World War the city was bombarded by both the Allies and the Germans with many monuments destroyed and many victims.





On August 31, 1944, the Soviet Red Army entered Bucharest and on November 8, 1945, the Soviet-backed Petru Groza government took over the country.

After the establishment of Communism Bucharest continued growing. New districts were build, most of them dominated by the typical communist tower blocks. During Nicolae Ceausescu's leadership (1965–1989), much of the historic part of the city was demolished and replaced by "Socialist Realism" style development: the *Centrul Civic* (the Civic Centre), the Palace of the Parliament, where an entire historic quarter was razed to make way for Ceausescu's megalomaniac plans.

The Romanian Revolution of 1989 began with massive anti-Ceausescu protests in Timisoara in December 1989 and continued in Bucharest, leading to the overthrow of Ceausescu and the Communist regime.

The free elections in November 1996 greeted the new president Emil Constantinescu and a democratic government. After 2000, the city was modernized and numerous historical areas were restored.

Contemporary Bucharest is enormous, the 6th largest metropolis of the European Union after London, Paris, Berlin, Rome and Madrid and also the largest population centre between Vienna and Istanbul. It counts 2.5 million inhabitants and is the industrial and commercial centre of Romania.

Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards is home to 37 museums, 22 theatres, 2 opera houses, 3 concert halls, 18 art galleries and a wealth of libraries and bookstores.

THE ROYAL PALACE - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART OF ROMANIA

It is the meeting venue of the international Symposium "UPDATE IN CARDIOLOGY 2015" promoted by Fondazione Internazionale Menarini and organized by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila of Bucharest and the Romanian Society of Cardiology.

It hosts the National Museum of Art of Romania *Muzeul Național de Artă al României* and is one of the most imposing neo-classical building in the city. It used to be the Royal Palace and is located in the Revolution Square on Victoria's Boulevard, the largest and oldest boulevard of Bucharest. Prince Dinicu Golescu first erected



the building around 1820 and it underwent changes over several decades. In 1837 it became home of the royal court of Prince Alexandru Ghica, later of Alexandru Ioan Cuza and then the residence of Prince Carol I who remodelled the palace with the French architects Paul Gotterau and Karl Liman. After a fire in 1926, Carol II enlarged the structure to the actual form after the Romanian's architect D. Nenciulescu drawings, between 1927 and 1937. The palace was completely finished in 1937, following the plans of Nicolae Nenciulescu.

The construction is shaped in U-form, with an inner courtyard and two entrances on the facade: the left one was for the king and his guests, and the right one for the dignitaries. The entrance leads to an octagonal lobby on the left side, decorated in Neo-Byzantine style, ending in the Guest Stair. On the right side, the Official Lobby leads to the old

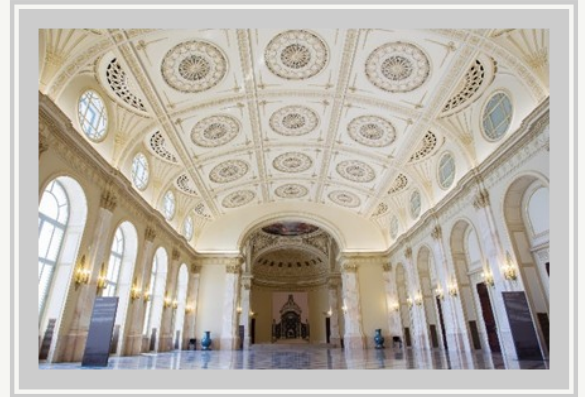


throne room through the Voyvode Stair - a masterpiece recovered from the old palace. On the side of the stair unfolds a row of paired columns, vaulted by a painted dome with relief medallions at the base, depicting the most important Romanian voivodes. The throne room measures 1,000 square meters and is 12 meters high, covered by a semi-elliptical arch, which rests on the corintic pillars.

After the monarchy was abolished, the palace became in 1948 the house of the Romanian National Art Museum. There is not much left inside the palace to remind of royal times. Only huge staircases, ballrooms, amazing halls and some statues give you a glimpse of what being part of a royal family meant in Bucharest at the beginning of the 20th century.

The museum gathers a large collection of Romanian and European art dating from the 15th to the 20th century in six departments:

- Romanian Medieval and Modern Art;
- European Painting and Sculpture;
- Prints and Drawings;
- Oriental Art;
- European Decorative Art;
- Contemporary Romanian Art;



The European section is in the left wing, has galleries divided by nationalities, and contains the old masters from all over Europe. The focus is on renaissance art with works by Old Masters such as Domenico Veneziano, El Greco, Tintoretto, Jan van Eyck, Jan Brueghel the Elder, Peter Paul Rubens and Rembrandt, plus a smattering of works by impressionists such as Claude Monet and Alfred Sisley. Among the most famous Old Master works in the collection are Jacopo Amigoni's portrait of the singer Farinelli, a Crucifixion by Antonello da Messina and Alonso Cano's Christ at the Column.

The right wing, on the lower level, contains the medieval Romanian art collection, which is mostly from churches and monasteries that were destroyed in the Ceausescu era. It even includes frescoes from one of them.

The upper level have important collection from modern Romanian artists: the sculptures by Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși (1876-1953) and Dimitrie Paciurea, as well as paintings by Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Theodor Pallady, Gheorghe Petrașcu, Gheorghe Tattarescu, Ioan Andreescu, Ștefan Luchian and Marcel Iancu

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY IN BUCHAREST



The medical and pharmaceutical higher education in Bucharest dates back more than 150 years. Carol Davila, a Romanian physician of French origin, in collaboration with Nicolae Kretzulescu founded the medical education in our country by establishing in 1857 the National School of Medicine and Pharmacy. Despite all hardships, it developed gradually and in November 1869 the founding of the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest became possible, the first faculty of medicine of the University of Bucharest, and of our country.



The defending of the first doctorate theses takes place in 1873, and on 1st of January 1875, at the initiative Nicolae Manolescu (1850-1910) the Medical Students' Society in Bucharest was founded.

The Faculty of Medicine was inaugurated on 12th of October 1903. The statue of Carol Davila was also unveiled in October 1903, initiative that belonged to the participants in the first national medical conference, held in Bucharest in October 1884. The statue was cast in bronze in the workshops of the School of Arts and Crafts in Bucharest. Among the notable professors who contributed, along with Carol Davila, to the initial education development in the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest are included Iacob Felix, founder of the School of Hygiene; Alexandru Marcovici, initiator of the medical clinic; Nicolae Turnescu and Constantin Dumitrescu-Severeanu, founders of the surgical clinic; Zaharia Petrescu, founder of medical therapeutics and Alexandru Sutz, who lays the foundation of legal medicine and psychiatry. An important event in the orientation of Romanian therapeutics and pharmacy was the issuance, in early 1863, of the first Romanian Pharmacopoeia. In addition to its initiator, Carol Davila, a particular merit in achieving this national work belonged to the scholar pharmacist Constantin C. Hepites.

1887, marked a milestone in the development of the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest and a memorable date in the history of Romanian science – three scholars have been invited to teach and were appointed in the management of key departments of the faculty. This is Victor Babeş, one of the great bacteriologists and pathologists of his time; George Assaky, founder of the school of experimental surgery and Nicolae Kalinderu, eminent clinician and initiator of the clinical anatomical orientation in the Romanian medicine. After 1890, other scholars complement the teaching staff of the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest: in 1895 – Thoma Ionescu, founder of Romanian modern surgery, innovator in the field of spinal anesthesia; in 1899 – Gheorghe Marinescu, founder of the Romanian school of neurology; in 1901 – Ion Cantacuzino, bacteriologist, biologist, immunologist and epidemiologist, creator of the Romanian school of experimental medicine.

After World War I, the departments of the Faculty of Medicine were occupied by other leading figures, who consolidated the institution's prestige: Ion Nanu Muscel, clinician and school founder; Anibal Theohari, creator of experimental therapeutics and balneology; Ernest Juvara, innovator in surgical and instrumental technique; Alexandru Obregia, innovator in the science of psychiatry; Mina Minovici, creator and scientific organizer of forensic medicine in Romania; Francisc Rainer, scholar anatomist and anthropologist; Constantin I. Parhon, promoter endocrinology and biochemistry; Dimitrie Bagdasar, founder of the school of neurosurgery; Constantin Ionescu-Mihăieşti, representative of the Romanian school of microbiology, organizer of the practice of sera production and one of the founders of Dr. I. Cantacuzino Institute.

In 1898, the School of Pharmacy becomes part of the Faculty of Medicine, recognizing its nature as higher education institution. It functions under the Faculty of Medicine until 1923, when the Faculty of Pharmacy is founded as a separate institution, within the University of Bucharest. An important role in the creation of the Faculty of Pharmacy and in stimulating pharmaceutical scientific research played the Professor Ştefan Minovici.

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