***About Romania***

Location: (Southeastern) Central Europe

Time Zone: GMT + 2

Area: 92,043 sq. miles (238,391 sq. km)

Flag of Romania: Three vertical stripes: blue, yellow and red.

Population: 22,089,000 (April 2021 - based on declared residence address)

Largest cities: Bucharest (2,151,400), Iasi (387,100), Cluj Napoca (327,200), Timisoara (325,300), Constanta (311,300), Galati (306,400), Craiova (299,700), Brasov (289,500), Ploiesti (225,000), Oradea (221,400), Braila (200,100), .

Currency: Leu ( plural Lei — pronunciation "lay" — abbreviations: Lei or RON )

Capital: Bucharest ( București)

Regional Government: Forty-one County Councils (Consiliu Judeţean).

Romania is a member state of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO

**Weather**

Romania has a temperate climate,with four distinct seasons.

Spring is pleasant with cool mornings and nights and warm days.

Summer is quite warm, with extended sunny days. The hottest areas in summer are the lowlands in southern and eastern Romania where 37 C is often reached in July and August. Temperatures are always cooler in the mountains.

Autumn is dry and cool, with fields and trees producing colorful foliage.

Winters can be cold, especially in the mountains. While not the rule, abundant snowfalls may occur throughout the country, from December to mid-March.

There are significant regional differences in the climate between different regions of Romania.

**Bucharest (Capital)**

Bucharest is the capital city of Romania. It is the largest city in the country. The city has a population of 1.9 million people. It has a humid continental climate. It is the centre of Romanian media, culture and art. Bucharest is the 6th largest city in the European Union by population within city limits.

According to European standards, Bucharest is an old city. The first mention of it appears in 1459. Thanks to the elegant urban architecture and ingenuity of the urban elite, Bucharest was named "Paris of the East", or "Little Paris".

**Arad**

Arad is the third largest city in Western Romania, and the 12th largest in Romania. A busy transportation hub on the Mureș River and an important cultural and industrial center, Arad has one of the earliest normal schools in Europe, and the first car factory in Hungary and present-day Romania.

The city's multicultural heritage is owed to the fact that it has been part of the Kingdom of Hungary, the Eastern Hungarian Kingdom, the Ottoman Temeşvar Eyalet, Principality of Transylvania, Austro-Hungarian Empire, and since 1920 Romania.

**Cluj-Napoca**

Cluj-Napoca is the fourth-most populous city in Romania. Located in the Someșul Mic river valley, the city is considered the unofficial capital of the historical province of Transylvania.

The city hosts a visible population of students and other non-residents, an average of over 20,000 people each year. The city is one of the most important academic, cultural, industrial and business centres. Cluj-Napoca held the titles of European Youth Capital in 2015, and European City of Sport in 2018.

**Constanța**

Constanța is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania, founded around 600 BC, and among the oldest in Europe. Romania’s fifth largest city, it is also the largest port on the Black Sea. The Port of Constanța has a length of about 30 km (19 mi). It is the largest port on the Black Sea, and one of the largest ports in Europe.

Legend has it that Jason landed in Constanța with the Argonauts after finding the Golden Fleece.

**Craiova**

Craiova is Romania's 6th largest city and capital of Dolj County, and situated near the east bank of the river Jiu in central Oltenia. It is a longstanding political center, and is located at approximately equal distances from the Southern Carpathians (north) and the River Danube (south). Craiova is the chief commercial city west of Bucharest and the most important city of Oltenia.

**Galați**

Galați has a rich history also due to the fact that it is located on the Danube , an important European commercial-river artery. Economic life developed around the Shipyard, the River Port, around the Iron and Steel Works and the Mineral Port.

**Iași**

Iași is the second largest city in Romania. Located in the historical region of Moldavia, it has traditionally been one of the leading centres of Romanian social, cultural, academic and artistic life. Known as the Cultural Capital of Romania, Iași is a symbol of Romanian history. In December 2018, Iași was officially declared the Historical Capital of Romania.

Home to the oldest Romanian university and to the first engineering school, Iași is one of the most important education and research centres of the country, accommodating over 60,000 students in five public universities. The city is also known as the site of the largest Romanian pilgrimage which takes place every year, in October.

**Oradea**

Oradea is one of the most important economic, social and cultural centers in the western part of Romania. The city is located in the north-west of the country, on the banks of the river Crișul Repede, that divides the city into almost equal halves.

Oradea ranks tenth in size among Romanian cities. Oradea enjoys a high standard of living and ranks among the most livable cities in the country. The city is also a strong industrial center in the region, hosting some of Romania's largest companies. Besides its status as an economic hub, Oradea boasts a rich architectural heritage and is a member of the Art Nouveau European Route.

**Sibiu**

Sibiu is a town in Transylvania, a historical region of Romania. Nicknamed The City with Eyes, the city is a well-known tourist destination for both domestic and foreign visitors. Known for its culture, history, gastronomy and diverse architecture, the city has garnered significant attention since the beginning of the 21st century. Its historical center began the process of becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it was ranked "Europe's 8th-most idyllic place to live" by Forbes. In 2019, Sibiu was named the European Region of Gastronomy.

**Targu Mures**

Named literally for a 'market' on the Mures River and known as the city of roses, Targu Mures enjoys the best of both Romanian and Hungarian cultures. Numerous vestiges attest the presence of Neolithic cultures and those of the Bronze and Metal Ages in this area. Archaeological diggings have brought to light Roman relics in the surrounding towns.

Targu Mures excels as an important cultural and education centre. It became a modern town in the second half of the 19th century, along with the expansion of the railway line. Today its centrally located Piata Trandafirilor (Roses Square) is lined with modern streetside cafes and restaurants, churches, and monuments.

**Timișoara**

Timișoara is the main economic, social and cultural centre in western Romania. It  was the first European city to be lit by electric street lamps in 1884. It is one of the most important educational centres, with about 40,000 students enrolled in the city's six universities.

Timișoara is a medical tourism service provider, especially for dental care and cosmetic surgery. It has made several breakthroughs in Romanian medicine, including the first in vitro fertilization, the first laser heart surgery and the first stem cell transplant.

Nicknamed the "Little Vienna" or the "City of Flowers", Timișoara is noted for its large number of historical monuments and its 36 parks and green spaces. Along with Oradea, Timișoara is part of the Art Nouveau European Route. The city will be the next European Capital of Culture in 2023.