**Cluj-Napoca** ([/ˈkluːʒnæˌpoʊkə/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) [*KLOOZH-na-POH-kə*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key); Romanian: [[ˈkluʒ naˈpoka]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Romanian) [ⓘ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cluj-napoca.ogg)), or simply **Cluj** ([Hungarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_language): *Kolozsvár* [[ˈkoloʒvaːr]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Hungarian) [ⓘ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kolozsv%C3%A1r.ogg), [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language): *Klausenburg*), is a city in northwestern [Romania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romania). It is the second-most populous city in the country[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-INSSE-2023-5) and the seat of [Cluj County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj_County). Geographically, it is roughly equidistant from [Bucharest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bucharest) (445 km; 277 mi), [Budapest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest) (461 km; 286 mi) and [Belgrade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgrade) (483 km; 300 mi). Located in the [Someșul Mic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Some%C8%99ul_Mic) river valley, the city is considered the unofficial capital of the [historical province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_regions_of_Romania) of [Transylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transylvania). For some decades prior to the [Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Compromise_of_1867), it was the official capital of the [Grand Principality of Transylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Principality_of_Transylvania).

As of 2021, 286,598 inhabitants live in the city.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-INSSE-2023-5) The [Cluj-Napoca metropolitan area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca_metropolitan_area) had a population of 411,379 people,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Cluj_County_Regional_Statistics_Directorate-2013-4)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-CJ_Cluj-9) while the population of the [peri-urban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peri-urbanisation) area is approximately 420,000.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Cluj_County_Regional_Statistics_Directorate-2013-4)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Cluj_County_Council-10) According to a 2007 estimate, the city hosted an average population of over 20,000 students and other non-residents each year from 2004 to 2007.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Foaia_Transilvan%C4%83-2008-11) The city spreads out from [St. Michael's Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Michael%27s_Church,_Cluj-Napoca) in [Unirii Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unirii_Square,_Cluj-Napoca), built in the 14th century and named after [the Archangel Michael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_(archangel)), Cluj's [patron saint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patron_saint).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-12) The municipality covers an area of 179.52 square kilometres (69.31 sq mi).

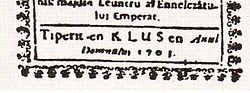
Cluj experienced a decade of decline during the 1990s, its international reputation suffering from the policies of its mayor at the time, [Gheorghe Funar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gheorghe_Funar).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Financial_Times-2008-13) In the early 21st century, the city is one of the most important academic, cultural, industrial and business centres in Romania. Among other institutions, it hosts the country's largest university, [Babeș-Bolyai University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babe%C8%99-Bolyai_University), with its [botanical garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca_Botanical_Garden), nationally renowned cultural institutions such as the [National Theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca_National_Theatre) and [Opera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_National_Opera,_Cluj-Napoca), as well as the largest Romanian-owned commercial bank.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-14)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-15) Cluj-Napoca held the titles of [European Youth Capital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Youth_Capital) in 2015,[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-16) and European City of Sport in 2018.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-17) In 2021, the city joined the [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) [Creative Cities Network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Cities_Network) and was named a UNESCO [City of Film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Film).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-18)

**Etymology**

**Napoca**

On the site of the city was a [pre-Roman settlement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ancient_cities_in_Thrace_and_Dacia) named *Napoca*. After the AD 106 [Roman conquest of the area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Dacia), the place was known as *Municipium Aelium Hadrianum Napoca*. Possible etymologies for *Napoca* or *Napuca* include the names of some [Dacian tribes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dacian_tribes) such as the *Naparis* or *Napaei*, the Greek term *napos* (νάπος), meaning "timbered valley" or the [Indo-European root](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-European_languages) *\*snā-p-* ([Pokorny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indogermanisches_etymologisches_W%C3%B6rterbuch) 971–972), "to flow, to swim, damp".[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-19)

**Cluj**

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Romanian inscription of a religious book: "Printed in Klus in the year of our Lord 1703" (translated).

The first written mention of the city's current name – as a Royal Borough – was in 1213 under the [Medieval Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_Latin) name *Castrum Clus*.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Clujeanet-2-20) Despite the fact that *Clus* as a county name was recorded in the 1173 document *Thomas comes Clusiensis*,[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Lazarovici_et_al-6-21) it is believed that the county's designation derives from the name of the [*castrum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castrum), which might have existed prior to its first mention in 1213, and not vice versa.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Lazarovici_et_al-6-21) With respect to the name of this camp, there are several hypotheses about its origin. It may represent a derivation from the [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) term *clausa – clusa*, meaning "closed place", "strait", "ravine".[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Lazarovici_et_al-6-21) Similar meanings are attributed to the [Slavic term](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavic_languages) *kluč*, meaning "a [key](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_(hydrology))"[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Lazarovici_et_al-6-21) and the German *Klause – Kluse* (meaning "mountain pass" or "[weir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weir)").[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Gaal-2000-22) The Latin and Slavic names have been attributed to the valley that narrows or closes between hills just to the west of [Cluj-Mănăștur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%83n%C4%83%C8%99tur).[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Lazarovici_et_al-6-21) An alternative proposal relates the name of the city to its first magistrate, *Miklus* – *Miklós* / *Kolos*.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Gaal-2000-22)

The [Hungarian form](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_language) *Kolozsvár*, first recorded in 1246 as *Kulusuar*, underwent various [phonetic changes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonetic_change) over the years (*uar* / *vár* means "castle" in Hungarian); the variant *Koloswar* first appears in a document from 1332.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Asztalos-2003-23) Its [Saxon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transylvanian_Saxons) name *Clusenburg*/*Clusenbvrg* appeared in 1348, but from 1408 the form *Clausenburg* was used.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Asztalos-2003-23) The [Romanian name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_language) of the city used to be spelled alternately as *Cluj* or *Cluș*,[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Szab%C3%B3-2007-24) the latter being the case in [Mihai Eminescu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mihai_Eminescu)'s *Poesis*.

Other historical names for the city, all related to or derived from "Cluj" in different languages, include [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language) *Claudiopolis*, [Italian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_language) *Clausemburgo*,[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-25) [Turkish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language) *Kaloşvar*[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-26) and [Yiddish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yiddish_language) קלויזנבורג *Kloyznburg* or קלאזין *Klazin*.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-Szab%C3%B3-2007-24)

**Current official name**

Napoca, the pre-Roman and Roman name of ancient settlements in the area of the modern city, was added to the historical and modern name of Cluj during [Nicolae Ceaușescu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolae_Ceau%C8%99escu)'s national-communist dictatorship as part of his myth-making efforts.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-27) This happened in 1974, when the [communist authorities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Republic_of_Romania) made this nationalist gesture with the goal of emphasising the city's pre-Roman roots.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-28)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-National_Institute_of_Statistics-29) The full name of "Cluj-Napoca" is rarely used outside of official contexts.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca#cite_note-30)