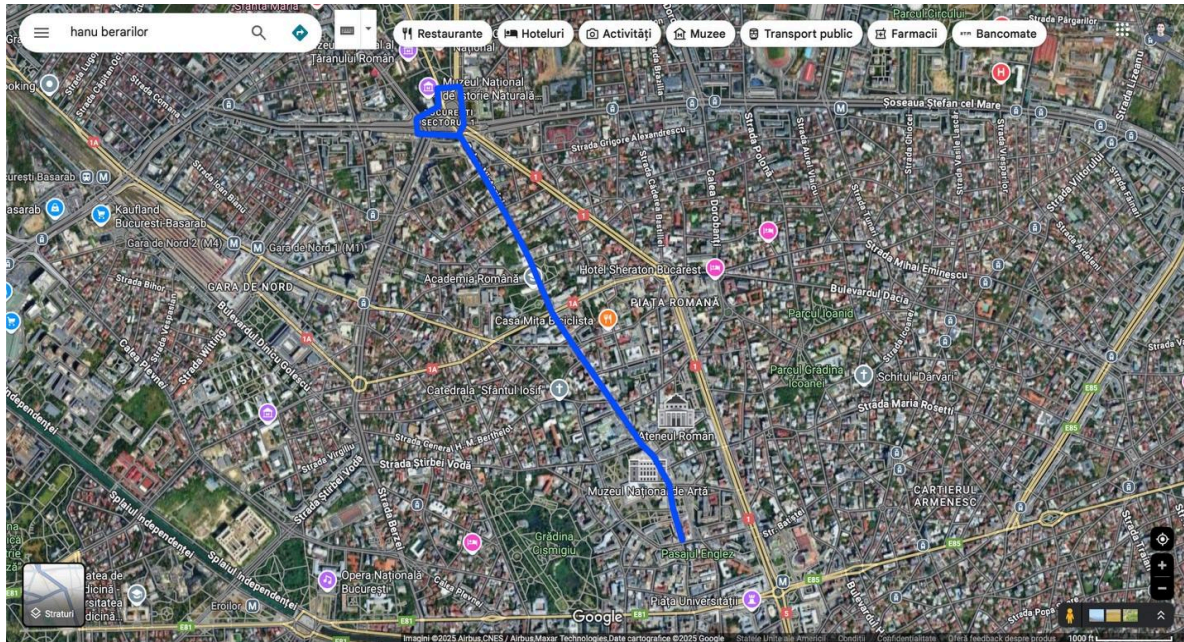


Bucharest Guide

Route 1: Victory Plaza + Victory Road



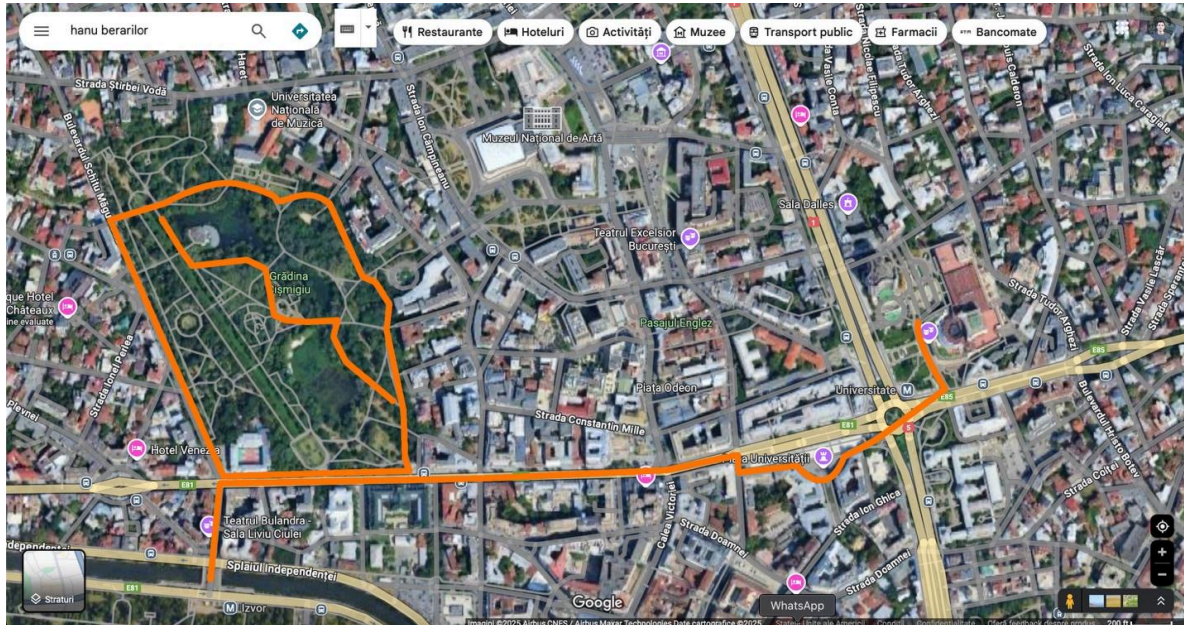
Start by touring the Victory Plaza where you can see the Victory Palace (which houses the Prime Minister) and in front of it an open space blocked from traffic that is dedicated to protests (sometimes you will see people and media there).

Then walk down Victory Road, where alongside a couple of ice cream places (I think Velocita and La Roomana are nice) you will see: George Enescu Museum, Vernescu House and the Romanian Academy. Continuing on that street you will arrive at the Revolution Plaza where you will see: the Romanian Atheneum, National Museum of Art and the Ministry of Internal Affairs building (where Ceausescu held his last speech before fleeing;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWibCtz_Xwk)

Continuing further down you will get to University Plaza.

Route 2: University Plaza + Cismigiu Park

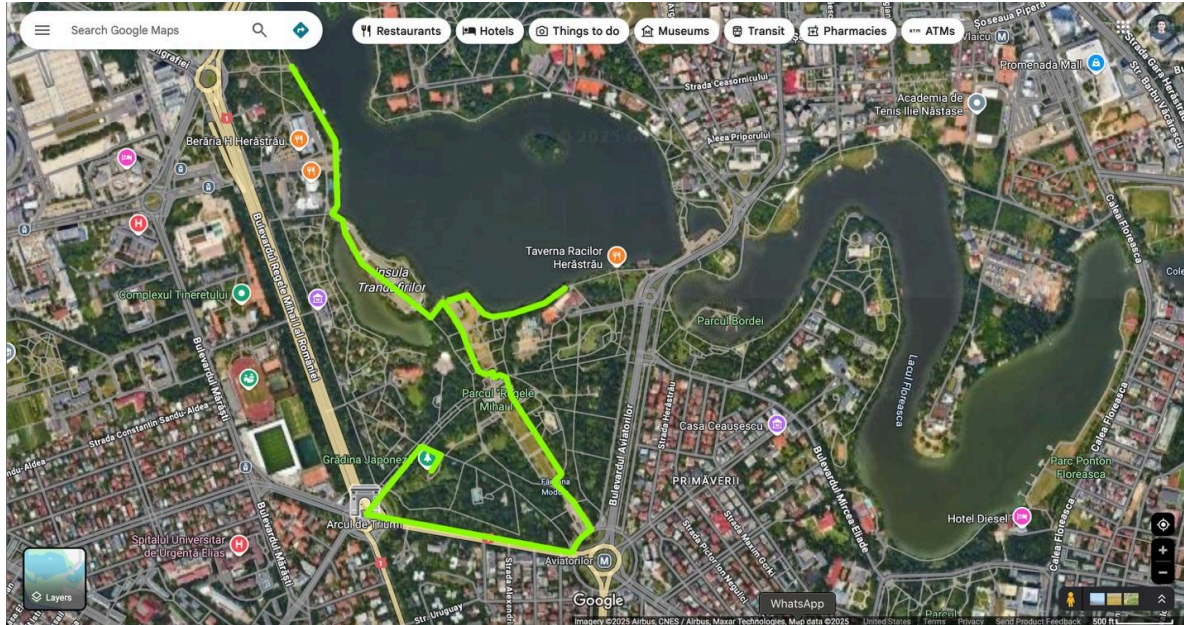


As the name would suggest, University Plaza is right across the University of Bucharest (which houses their Math, History and Literature universities; it is also the place where students would gather at the balcony and protest against communism under Ceausescu). On the other side of the intersection you have the Bucharest National Theatre (TNB).

Going West on Queen Elizabeth Boulevard you have Cismigiu Park and on the corner Gheorghe Lazar High School. A walk through Cismigiu is nice and there is a lake where usually in the summer you can rent a boat to go on it.

Going South of the high school you can get to one of the bridges that allows you to see the Danube River from above.

Route 3: Old Town



Herastrau is a huge park that can be entered on many sides. I recommend starting at the Triumph Arch (under which you can go) and through the park or along the street going down to Aviatorilor Plaza where one of the main entrances is. From there go into the park along the marked pathway (or another if you prefer the shade) until you reach the lake. From there you can walk to the left onto Rose Island which hosts a series of statues and continue in that direction along the lake, or if interested in a shorter segment you can go to the right.

No tourist attractions here, the beauty is walking along the lake in (hopefully) nice weather. Any segment should be fine for that.

Traditional food restaurants (in this order)

1. Caru cu Bere (worth both for the food and for the beautiful interior; would recommend calling in ahead of time to get a reservation) - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/eRsEXRx1KfDmV4rP7>
2. Hanu Berarilor Casa Oprea Soare - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/LZYLtbETBZL9E2pE8>
3. Hanul lui Manuc - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/puFA7N429UKgEM2F7>
4. Casa Doina - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/9HcYitQg1Mxd2Tjy7>

Traditional foods

- Mamaliga
- Sarmale
- Mici (grill staple in Romania; you eat them with mustard)
- Ciorba (similar to a soup but with a bit sour and with a different taste profile)
- Tocanita

Traditional deserts

- Papanasi (donut holes with sour cream and jam)

Fast Food/ Bites

- Dristor Doner Kebap (most known shaorma chain; some locations 24/7; personal favorite)
- Dristor Kebap (in Old Town; brother restaurant of the big chain; good 2nd option if you can't get to the 1st)
- Cartofiserie (French fries on the go)
- Luca/ Petre/ Matei (bread products on the go; "covrig" is a very popular item somewhat alike a pretzel; the three mentioned are chains, but there are also a lot of independent stores throughout the city that offer them) -
<https://lucatraditie.ro/produse>; <https://www.simigeriapetru.ro/ro/simigerie/covrigi>; <https://simigeria-matei.ro/produse-matei>
- Paul (French patisserie chain); Casa Victoria (Romanian patisserie chain; local patisseries are also common throughout the city and should be good alternatives)

Key places

- Triumph Arch

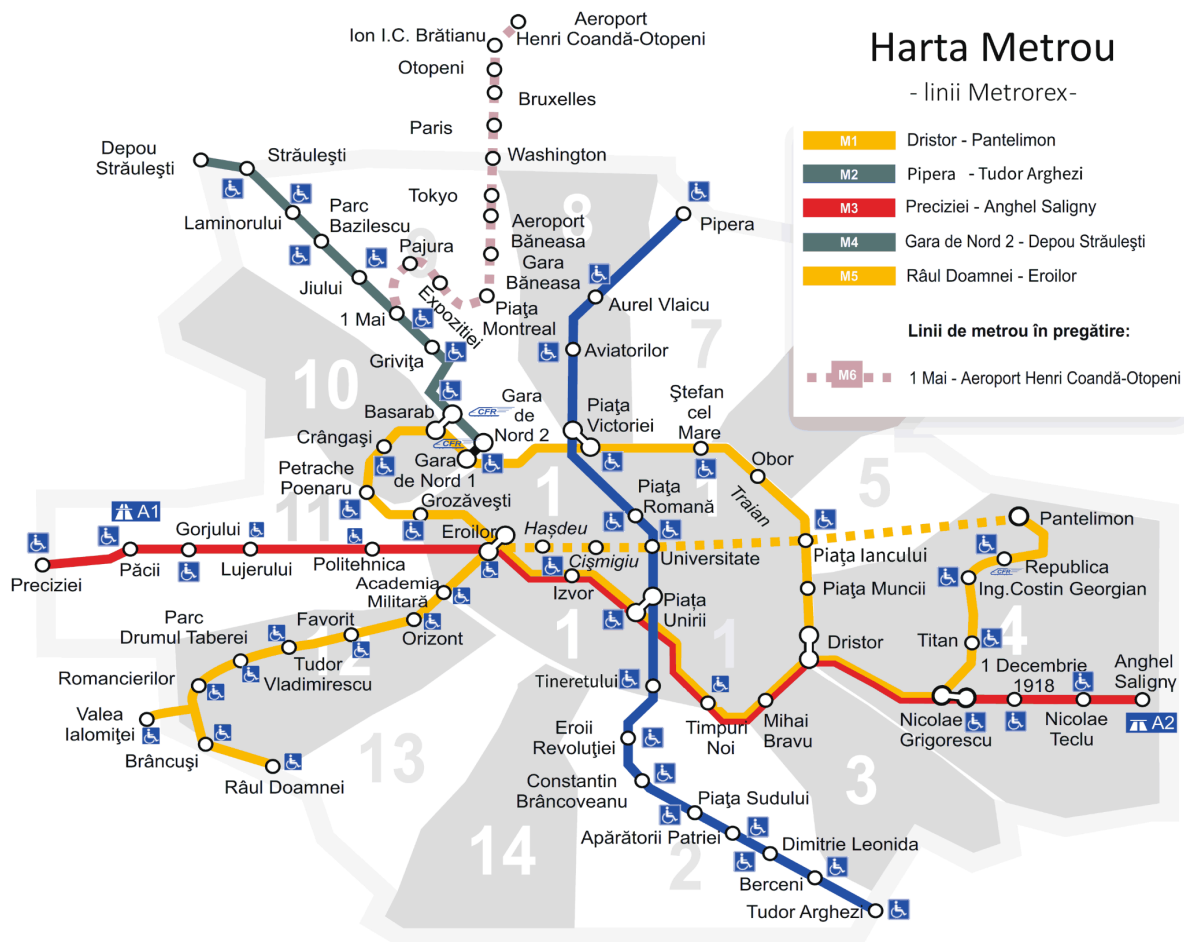
- National Village Museum (houses original version of rural buildings from all across Romania; it is very big so if time is a constraint perhaps don't try to see all the buildings)

- Parliament building (given Unirii Plaza is in renovation at the moment, you could take the route from Gheorghe Lazar High School down to Constitution Square)

Grocery stores:

- Mega Image (lots of locations throughout the city)

Transportation



The subway is very good, followed by the bus service (RATB). You can get tickets for both by scanning your card at the gate (for subway)

or in the bus (for bus). May want to look into a day pass if that makes sense.

"Piata Unirii" (blue line) is very close to where you will be staying.

"Izvor" (red line) is next to Gheorge Lazar High School.

"Universitate" (blue line) is right at the University Plaza.

"Piata Victoriei" (blue line) is at the Victory Plaza.

"Aviatorilor" (blue line) is at the Herastrau Park entrance I recommended.

As you can see, "Piata Unirii", "Eroilor", "Piata Victoriei" and a few others are stations where you can switch lines.

Others:

- tax is included in the sticker price
- tipping is usually done only in restaurants (15% is the norm as far as I remember; tipping at coffee shops or other such places isn't common last I've been)
- pretty much all places should take cards (restaurants, grocery stores, transport, etc.)
- a lot of people (especially say <35 yo) know english and the city is very english friendly I'd say; When asking for help/ directions I'd recommend trying to seek someone who looks like a student