

Directory

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ACCOMMODATION

Though accommodation prices around Romania and Moldova have risen by 50% or more in the past few years, you're still likely to pay less than in Western Europe and some of Eastern Europe. Choice runs the gamut from seedy camping grounds and inviting family-run *pensiunes* (pensions) to communist relics with smelly lifts and business hotels offering wi-fi and boutique-style luxury.

USEFUL ACCOMMODATION WEBSITES

www.antrec.ro National listings.
www.pensiuni.info.ro For Maramureş.
www.rotravel.com Mostly Transylvania and Maramureş.
www.ruralturism.ro National.

PRACTICALITIES

- Videos you buy or watch will be based on the PAL system.
- Use a European two-pin plug to connect to the electricity supply (220V, 50Hz AC).
- The metric system is used for weights and measurements.
- Colour photographic film, flash cards and video cassettes are easily available in large centres; transparencies and black-and-white film are hard to find.

We list places to stay in budget order, broken down by type of accommodation or price category, and sometimes by their location in the town, depending on the situation. A 'single' means a single bed, usually a matrimonial bed, and a 'double' means two beds. The price usually stands regardless of whether it's one or two people in a single or double.

These days it's rare to find a double for under €30 in a hotel, but private accommodation is usually €15 to €20 including a meal or two.

Unless otherwise noted, breakfast is included in the prices quoted for both Romanian and Moldovan accommodation. For budget accommodation, we have noted when a room has a shared toilet down the hall, or a toilet but no shower. In midrange and top end choices, rooms have both toilet and shower. Even the grottiest hotels supply towels and soap.

There is no uniformity about discounted rates and periods. Many hotels in resort towns such as Poiana Braşov and Mamaia raise their prices during ski or summer seasons, respectively, but not all do. Some of the larger hotels in the midrange or top-end categories have weekend specials; others lower prices slightly on weekdays. Where possible this has been noted, but your best bet is to contact the hotel yourself.

Some hotels are open to bargaining, especially in low season or for extended stays. Occasionally tourist information centres keep information on accommodation – and can make reservations, and even arrange discounts.

BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

Many hotels in Romania post their prices in euros, but you can pay in lei too. In Moldova, prices are listed in US dollars, but you must pay in lei.

You will be asked by officials to briefly present your passport upon registration in both countries.

Camping

While camping grounds (*popas turistice*) in Moldova are practically nonexistent, in Romania they tend to be grungy affairs; this book has recommended very few of them. Don't expect to find any Western-style camping grounds here. They usually comprise wooden huts (*casute*), which fit two to four people, and are packed side by side in a rather unatmospheric way. Bare mattresses are generally provided but you have to bring your own sleeping bag. Not very clean toilets and showers are shared, and hot water is a rarity.

Not only are these places often filled to the brim with local tourists who set up temporary homes for weeks or months on end, they tend to be dirty and cramped. Moreover, a few of them double as poorly disguised houses of prostitution.

The good news is that wild camping anywhere in Romania and Moldova is legal unless otherwise prohibited (in the Danube Delta there are allocated zones; along the Black Sea coast it is forbidden to camp on the beach; and obviously private property and areas in development are off limits). It's possible to spend the night in shepherd huts if you're in a pinch.

Mountain Huts

In most mountain areas there's a network of cabins or chalets (*cabanas*) with restaurants and dormitories. Prices are much lower than those of hotels (about €5 to €10) and no reservations are required, but arrive early if the cabana is in a popular location such as next

to a cable-car terminus. Expect to find good companionship rather than cleanliness or comfort. Many are open year-round. Cabanas invariably close for renovations at some time or other, so ask ahead.

You will also come across unattended, empty wooden huts (*refuges*) in the mountains. These are intended as shelter for hikers and anyone can use them. It is possible to camp free in the mountains and most cabanas allow camping in their grounds.

Homes & Farmstays

Nothing exposes the roots of rural Romanian home life more than a night, or more, in a private home. Often decorated earnestly in traditional rural style, these homes frequently have just a few rooms, and are found in cities, sizeable towns or (best) in the middle of nowhere. Meals (big ones) are arranged – usually dinner is extra – and welcoming host families often provide priceless, authentic extras like arranging visits to shepherds, arranging hikes or horse rides, or taking you to traditional workshops.

Many families rent rooms (*cazare*) as a way of supplementing income. This practice is almost nonexistent – so far – in Moldova, but you can arrange apartment rental in Chişinău (p324).

The trick is finding a good room. Travellers arriving at train stations and, to a lesser extent, bus stations, will be accosted by a gaggle of babushkas offering rooms (even teenagers are in on the act now, hoping to throw a modern spin on things). Make sure you understand exactly where the room is before you accept their offer, and don't part with cash until you've checked the room. Expect to pay €8 to €14 per person.

Most pleasing is *agroturism* (B&Bs in the countryside and villages), which has blossomed in recent years. A number of organisations are representing national or regional B&Bs, including the excellent source **Rural Tourism** (www.ruraltourism.ro), which is put together by Pan Travel in Cluj-Napoca (p187). Its list of rural homes offers more detail than Antrec's (opposite). Contact Pan Travel if you have specific requests.

For comfortable places in the Apuseni Mountains, try www.greenmountains.ro or *Opération Villages Roumains* in Gârda de Sus (p228). Local travel agents can also usually help you find a private home.

The largest *agroturism* organisation in Romania is **Antrec** (National Association of Rural, Ecological & Cultural Tourism; www.antrec.ro), which started in 1994. It has 32 branches nationwide, but they vary wildly – often no one's around, and sometimes staff are incredibly helpful, and sometimes travellers are disappointed.

A few travel agents in Chişinău (p321) arrange homestays around Moldova.

Hostels

Romania currently has 35 accredited Hostel International (HI) hostels and more are opening all the time, as well as some independent ones. Some of the best and friendliest include the Retro Hostel in Cluj-Napoca (p191), Butterfly Villa in Bucharest (p82), and the High Class Hostel in Suceava (p273). Others range from great to shabby would-be hostels in run-down student dorms. The going rate is about €8 to €15 per person in rooms for four to eight people; most have private singles and doubles for higher prices.

There are no hostels in Moldova.

At Romanian hostels, you can count on internet access, good breakfasts, clean accommodation, laundry, lively surroundings and super-friendly, helpful and knowledgeable staff. Some offer reasonably priced local excursions.

Youth Hostels Romania (www.hihostels-romania.ro), based in Cluj-Napoca, lists contact information for Romania's HI-affiliated hostels; these

TOP FIVE DREAM SLEEPS

Five favourites from a big grab-bag that account for atmosphere first.

- Hotel Atlantic (p224) in Oradea: a party pad with giant beds, full-on bars and spas.
- Hotel Concordia (p175) in Târgu Mureş: of all things, London-chic in Székely Land.
- Mioritica (p163) in Sibiel: a B&B with its own private stream in a quaint Transylvanian village.
- Pensiunea Ruxi (p104) in Curtea de Argeş: sweet comfort in a homely B&B.
- Saxon pensions (p151) in Viscri: traditional 200-year-old beds with pull-out mattresses and outhouses out the back.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Unless otherwise noted in text, we use the following budget breakdown of accommodation in this guide:

Budget under €30 for a double

Midrange €30 to €75 for a double

Top End above €75 for a double

provide discounts on certain rooms upon presentation of your HI card.

Hotels

Romanian hotels are rated by a government star system, which should be used as a rough guide at best. The top end of the scale (four and five stars) nearly guarantees semi-luxury with various levels of bells and whistles – though you're not going to find much to rival London boutique hotels here. The three-star category could be called 'anything goes'. Some three-star hotels are as comfortable as any four-star one, while others seem to be two-star variants that found an extra star on the ground and posted it. You can at least be assured of hot water, a phone, private bathroom and cable TV.

Not much separates one- and two-star hotels. Hot water (*apă caldă*) is common but not a given. In rural towns, it can be restricted to a few hours in the morning and evening. In rare cases, cold water (*apă rece*) will be restricted too. You can usually choose between a more expensive room with private bathroom or a cheaper one with shared bathroom. In Bucharest and Chişinău doubles cost €30 or more than elsewhere – those who want a little comfort may end up shelling out €80. Elsewhere such comfort comes for €40 or €50.

BUSINESS HOURS

There is considerable variety throughout the two countries, but banks can be expected to open from 9am to 5pm, with many closing for an hour around noon; some are open on Saturday mornings. Most shops are open from 9am or 10am to 6pm or 7pm, some closing on Sundays; museums are usually open from 11am to 5pm, most closing on Monday. Post offices are open from 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday, until 4pm on Saturday, and closed on Sunday. Most restaurants and cafés open from 8am or 9am and close at 11pm or later.

Theatrical performances and concerts usually begin at 7pm.

Some business change their hours for 'summer' (loosely June to September) and 'winter' (loosely October to May).

Where opening hours vary from standard, they are detailed in the regional chapters.

CHILDREN

If you can handle some bumps in the road and no highchairs in the restaurants, Romania is a superb destination for children. Sighters are certain to bring on the dream factor, with 'Dracula castles', farm animals and shepherds to meet, weird underground worlds in salt mines or ice caves, horse-riding excursions through the mountains, plus fun on the beach or in aqua parks. Moldova offers fewer sights of interest to children, though visits to farms or orchards might help pass the time.

See p19 for kids-oriented destinations around Romania.

Challenges come with lack of children's menus, and toilets not equipped with nappy-change counters. Most malls don't have play centres for kids, and some hotels are more business- than child-oriented. But the X factor is the people, who are almost always willing to accommodate with smaller portions of food or a phone book to sit on. Family-run guesthouses may have toys around (or real-live kids!) for children to play with – and staff are often more than keen to join in too. Nappies and formula aren't tough to find, as most towns have Western-style, well-stocked supermarkets.

If you need to breastfeed, note that this is not something Romanians and Moldovans are used to seeing and doing in public; some discretion would be advised.

It would also be a good idea to have a talk with your children about the issue of orphans and child homelessness in Romania, as they are likely to see some street kids or child beggars and may be troubled by this. A visit to an orphanage might also be an eye-opening, life-changing experience for some children. In this case, bringing along a few extra toys or clothes to give away will make all involved feel good.

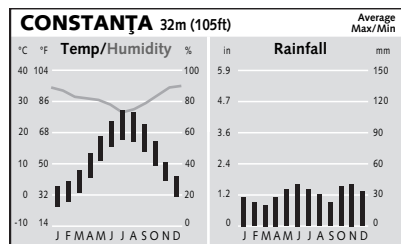
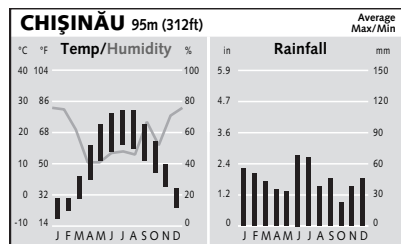
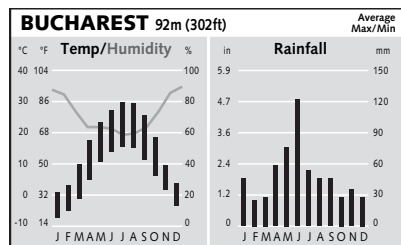
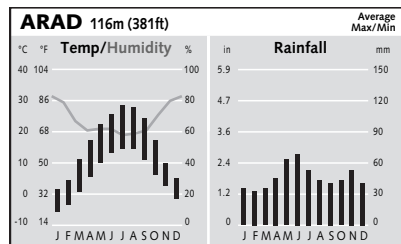
Contact the **Information and Cooperation Centre for Homeless Children** (☎ 21-2126176; <http://members.tripod.com/cicfa>, Str Academiei 3-5) in Bucharest for information about this grave social issue and related charities. For information about the

situation in Moldova and how you can help, see **Save the Children Moldova** (☎ 22 232 582; <http://scm.ngo.moldnet.md>).

For more tips, see Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children*.

CLIMATE CHARTS

Temperatures can vary greatly in Romania and Moldova, depending not only on when but also where you go. Even in the summer,



don't count on the 30° to 35°C heat that has befallen the region in recent years; if you plan to include trips into the mountains, be prepared for cold winds at high altitudes and cool nights everywhere else. Winters are fairly temperate, especially near the coast but, again, in the unpredictable mountains be prepared for virtually any conditions.

See p13 for more practical information on climate.

CUSTOMS Romania

Officially, you're allowed to import hard currency up to a maximum of US\$10,000. Valuable goods and foreign currency over US\$1000 should be declared upon arrival. For foreigners, duty-free allowances are 4L of wine, 2L of spirits and 200 cigarettes. For more information, go to www.customs.ro.

Moldova

Moldova has more complicated customs procedures (Soviet legacies die slowly), but you shouldn't have any problems. Check 'How to Get There' at www.turism.md for the latest changes in customs regulations.

There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency you can bring into the country but, upon entering, the amount must be declared on a customs declaration sheet you'll be given, and then declared again upon exiting the country. You can leave Moldova with up to US\$50,000 (greater amounts must leave via bank transfer). You might be asked to prove that you have at least \$30 for each day of your stay.

You're allowed to cross the border either way with 1L of alcohol, 2L of beer and up to 200 cigarettes, though these rules are not strictly enforced (most tourists leave with several bottles of good, cheap wine!).

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Romania (and Moldova) can get a bad rap, but don't cancel your trip if you're worried about losing a wallet or getting a dog bite – it's not that extreme.

Prominent scams in the country are jacked-up prices for tourists in Bucharest and Chișinău restaurants, taxis that charge extortionate fares (call for a taxi with companies as recommended by your hotel), and a lifted wallet if you're not careful in public squares or jam-packed buses – like much

EMERGENCY NUMBER

Call ☎ 112 for an ambulance or other emergency services in Romania.

of the world. Outside the capital, and away from touristy zones like Brașov, you might end up being surprised you were ever concerned.

In Moldova, you should have US\$5, US\$10 and US\$20 bills ready – it's hard to do much without some 'fees' (such as crossing the border: generally US\$5). Don't expect police to offer any change. See the boxed text, p318, for more information on bribes in Moldova.

In the past guys in bogus uniforms have asked to see passports in Bucharest, and run off with them. Don't hand over your passport in public.

Also see Dangers & Annoyances sections throughout the book, which have been included where relevant.

To call the (Romanian-speaking only) police, dial ☎ 955. In Moldova, dial ☎ 902.

Stray Dogs

Stray dogs are all over Romania, but most evident in Bucharest, where packs of strays number anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 – a legacy, apparently, of when Ceaușescu urbanised the city centre and owners no longer had yard (or indoor) space for the Fidos and Snoopys.

Most are harmless, but bites do happen. In 2005 a Japanese man died following a freak bite that severed an artery. During research we met a traveller who was bitten getting off the bus on his first day – some welcome to Romania! Mama dogs with pups can be snappy. Stay clear of packs, and bring earplugs if barking keeps you awake at night.

Should you get bitten, seek medical advice. See the Medical Services and Emergency sections in the regional chapters for places to call.

See also p367 for information on rabies.

Other Nuisances

Hay-fever sufferers will sneeze their way around the region in May and June when the pollen count is at its highest. Bloodsucking mosquitoes are rife in summer, particularly in the Danube Delta.

Probably Romania's biggest annoyance is getting change for your lei note – a communist legacy puts the burden on the buyer; we've walked away from sizeable purchases akin to €19 because the store didn't have €1 change.

DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Disabled travellers will find it difficult, if not downright impossible, to conquer Romania. Street surfaces are woefully uneven, ramps are rare (though more common in Sibiu, thanks to local government initiatives) and specially equipped toilets and hotel rooms are virtually unheard of. Consider joining a package tour that will cater to your specific needs. Some hotels on the Black Sea coast have wheelchair access, and spas in general may be more accustomed to disabled travellers.

Though there are laws providing for wheelchair access to public buildings, in reality little has been done. Only a quarter of the nation's 52,000 disabled children get any education, for example (and about one in five are abandoned). As the country is still economically and politically finding its footing, persons with disabilities and their problems have not been a priority. The **Romania Motivation Foundation** (☎ 21-493 2142; www.motivation.ro) in Bucharest has worked incredibly hard since its foundation in 1995 to provide access to wheelchairs for locals in need. They also started a wheelchair basketball organisation.

The situation for the disabled in Moldova is in even greater need of overhaul, and travellers will find obstacles all along their route. However, staff at hotels and restaurants will be obliging, and taking a wine tour at Cricova, for example, is entirely possible.

DISCOUNT CARDS

A **Hostelling International (HI)** card yields a token discount in some hostels. You can become a member by joining your own national Youth Hostel Association (YHA) or IYHF (International Youth Hostel Federation); see www.hihostels.com for details. Alternatively, you can buy an annual card for about €5 at one of Romania's HI-affiliated hostels.

Holders of the **International Student Identity Card (ISIC; www.isic.org)** are privy to many discounts in Romania and in Moldova (though only in Chişinău), and the **Euro<26 card** (www.euro26.ro in Romanian) entitles those under 26 years of age to some 600 discounts in Romania (none in

Moldova). Helpful hints for student travellers in Romania are found at www.studenttravel.ro including a list of all ISIC's discounts.

Elderly foreigners may obtain discounted entry to many museums and on some long-distance bus and train journeys, but not much more.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Romanian Embassies & Consulates

Romanian embassies and consulates abroad:

Australia (☎ 026 286 2343; http://canberra.mae.ro; 4 Dalman Crescent, O'Malley, Canberra, ACT)

Bulgaria (☎ 02-973 3081; ambsofro@vip.bg; Mihai Eminescu 4, Sofia)

Canada Ottawa (☎ 613-789 5345; www.cyberus.ca /-romania; 655 Rideau St, Ottawa, Ontario); Montreal (☎ 514-876 1792; romcon@videotron.ca; 1111 St Urbain, Suite M01-04, Montreal); Toronto (☎ 416-585 5802; www.romaniacanada.com; 111 Peter St, Suite 530, Toronto)

France (☎ 01 47 05 10 46; www.amb-roumanie.fr, in French; 5 rue de l'Exposition, Paris)

Germany (☎ 030-212 39 202; www.rumainische-botschaft.de; Dorotheenstr 62-66, Berlin)

Hungary (☎ 01-384 0271; postmaster@roembud.axelero.net; Thököly út 72, Budapest)

Ireland (☎ 031-668 1275; ambrom@eircom.net; 26 Waterloo Rd, Dublin)

Moldova (Map p320; ☎ 22-228 126; http://chisinau.mae.ro; Str Bucureşti 66/1, Chişinău)

Serbia (☎ 011-361 8327; embassy@romania.org.yu; Kneza Miloša 70, Belgrade)

UK (☎ 020-7937 9666; www.roemb.co.uk; 4 Palace Green, Kensington Gardens, London W8 4QD)

Ukraine (☎ 044-234 5261; romania@iptelecom.net.ua; ulitsa Mihaila Kotziubinskogo 8, Kyiv)

USA Washington (☎ 202-232 3694; www.roembus.org; 1607 23rd St NW, Washington DC); Los Angeles (☎ 310-444 0043; www.romanian.org/consulat/services.html; 11766 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 560, Los Angeles); New York (☎ 212-682 9122; www.romconsny.org; 200 East 38th St, New York)

Embassies & Consulates in Romania

Unless stated otherwise, the following foreign embassies are in Bucharest (city code ☎ 21).

Australia (Map pp62-3; ☎ 320 9802; don.cairns@austrade.gov.au; B-dul Unirii 74)

Bulgaria (Map pp62-3; ☎ 230 2150; Str Rabat 5)

Canada (Map pp62-3; ☎ 307 5000; bucast-im@dfait-maeci.gc.ca; Str Nicolae Iorga 36)

France (Map pp62-3; ☎ 312 0217; www.ambafrence.ro; Str Biserica Amzei 13-15); *Consulate:* (Map pp62-3; ☎ 312 0991; Intrarea Cristian Tell 6)

Germany (Map pp62-3; ☎ 202 9853; www.deutsche-botschaft-bukarest.org/ro/home; Str Rabat 21); Sibiu (Map p156; ☎ 269-211 133; Str Lucian Blaga 15-17, Sibiu); Timișoara (Map p216; ☎ 256-220 796; Hotel Continental, B-dul Revoluției 1989 3, Timișoara); *Consulates:* Sibiu (Map p156; ☎ 269-214 442; Str Hegel 3, Sibiu); Timișoara (Map p216; ☎ 256-190 495; B-dul Republicii 6, Timișoara)

Hungary (Map pp62-3; ☎ 312 0073; hunembro@ines.ro; Str Jean Louis Calderon 63-65); *Consulates:* (Map pp62-3; ☎ 312 0468; Str Henri Coandă 5); Cluj-Napoca (Map p186; ☎ 264-596 300; huconkol@codex.ro; Piața Unirii 23, Cluj-Napoca)

Ireland (Map pp62-3; ☎ 211 3967; Str Vasile Lascăr 42-4)

Moldova (Map pp62-3; ☎ 230 0474; moldova@customers.dirigo.net; Aleea Alexandru 40); *Consulate:* (☎ 410 9827; B-dul Eroilor 8)

Russia (Map pp62-3; ☎ 222 3170; Șoseaua Kiseleff 6); Constanța (Map p288; ☎ 041-222 1389; Str Tuberozelor 4, Constanța)

Turkey (☎ 210 0279; Calea Dorobanților 72); Constanța (Map p288; ☎ 041-611 135; turkkons@fx.ro; B-dul Ferdinand 82, Constanța)

UK (Map pp62-3; ☎ 201 7200; www.britain.ro; Str Jules Michelet 24)

Ukraine (Map pp62-3; ☎ 211 6986; Calea Dorobanților 16); *Consulate:* (Map pp62-3; ☎ 222 3162; Str Tuberozelor 5)

USA (Map pp62-3; ☎ 210 4042; www.usembassy.ro; Str Tudor Arghezi 7-9); *Consulate:* (Map pp62-3; ☎ 210 4042; Str Nicolae Filipescu 26); Cluj-Napoca Information Bureau (Map p186; ☎ 264-594 315; Str Universității 7-9, Cluj-Napoca)

Yugoslavia (Map pp62-3; ☎ 211 9871, consulate section 211 4980; Calea Dorobanților 34); Timișoara (Map p216; ☎ 256-590 334; kytygu@mail.dnttm.ro; Str Remus 4, Timișoara)

Moldovan Embassies & Consulates

Moldova has embassies and consulates in the following countries:

Bulgaria (☎ 02-981 7370; moldova@www1.infotel.bg; B-dul Patriarh Evtimii 17, Sofia)

France (☎ 01 40 67 11 20; ambassade.moldavie@free.fr; 1 rue Sfax, Paris) Also handles Spain and Portugal.

Germany (☎ 069-52 78 08; mongenmold@aol.com; Adelheidstrasse nr. 8, Frankfurt)

Hungary (☎ 1-209 1191; amrung@mail.elender.hu; Str Kazinty 17, fsz 5-6, Budapest)

Romania (Map pp62-3; ☎ 230 0474; moldova@customers.dirigo.net; Aleea Alexandru 40, Bucharest)

Consulate: (☎ 410 9827; B-dul Eroilor 8, Bucharest)

Russia (☎ 095-924 5353; moldemb@online.ru; 18 Kuznetskii most, Moscow)

Turkey (☎ 312-446 5527; ambmold@superonline.com; Kaptanpaşa Sok 49, Ankara)

Ukraine (☎ 044-290 7721; moldovak@sovam.com; ulitsa Kutuzov 8, Kyiv) A consulate in Odessa was in the plans at research time.

UK (☎ 020 8995 6818; www.moldovanembassy.org.uk; 5 Dolphin Sq, Edensor Rd, Chiswick, London W4 2ST)

USA (☎ 202-667-1130; moldova@dgs.dgysys.com; 2101 S Street NW, Washington, DC)

Embassies & Consulates in Moldova

These countries have embassies or consulates in Chişinău (city code ☎ 22):

Bulgaria (Map p320; ☎ 237 983; www.bulgaria.bg/Europe/Chisinau; Str 31 August 1989 No 125)

France (Map p320; ☎ 200 400; www.ambafrence.md; Str Vlaicu Pîrcălab 6)

Germany (Map p320; ☎ 200 600; ambasada-germana@riscom.md; Str Maria Cibotari 35)

Hungary (Map p320; ☎ 227 786; huembkiv1@meganet.md; B-dul Ștefan cel Mare 131)

Romania (Map p320; ☎ 22-228 126; http://chisinau.mae.ro; Str Bucureşti 66/1)

Russia (Map p320; ☎ 234 942; www.moldova.mid.ru; B-dul Ștefan cel Mare 153)

Turkey (☎ 242 608; tremb@moldova.md; Str Alexei Mateevici 57)

Ukraine (Map p319; ☎ 582 124; www.mfa.gov.ua; Str Vasile Lupu 17)

UK (Map p320; ☎ 225 902; www.britishembassy.md; Str Nicolae Iorga 18)

USA (Map p320; ☎ 408 300; www.usembassy.md; Str A Mateevici 103A)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Romania has festivals going on all year round in all regions of the country, but Moldova is less festival-frenzied – perhaps because its citizens welcome any excuse to party throughout the year. Here is a calendar of many events. It's worth confirming dates before you show up, as they sometimes shift.

See p16 for a list of our favourites.

JANUARY

Winter Sports Festival Moldavia's Cămpulung Moldovenesc (last Sunday of January)

FEBRUARY

Enchanted Water Springs Music Festival Târgu Jui's folk music festival, held on the third Sunday in February

APRIL

Rooster Shooting Villagers denounce a (fake) rooster then shoot it; in Apata near Braşov (third Sunday in April)
St George Days Festival Three-day festival in Sfântu Gheorghe, Transylvania (last Sunday in April)

Tânjaua de pe Mara Maramureş peasant festival of fertility with river dunkings of young and old (late April/early May)

Days of Braşov & Juni Pageant Braşov's biggest festival begins in the first week after Easter (late April/early May)

MAY

Mayfest Sibiu's Saxon festival (1 May)

Constanţa Days Constanţa (around 21 May)

International Theatre Festival Week-long event in Piatra Neamţ (late May)

Festival of Sâmbra Oilor Celebrating the hill-bound exodus of sheep from Țara Oaşului, Maramureş (May/June)

GayFest Romania's only gay festival, held in Bucharest (late May/early June)

Bucharest Carnival Week-long carnival with theatre, dance and music (late May/early June)

Sibiu Jazz Festival Weeklong jazz festival in Sibiu

JUNE

Fête de la Musique Bucharest's annual French music festival (21 June)

Suceava Days Street fair, with some religion thrown in, in Suceava (late June)

Dragaica Pagan pre-harvest celebration in Țârگو Vişte (last week of June)

Târgu Mureş Days Carnival in Székely Land (last weekend in June)

Transylvania International Film Festival International player growing every year, in Cluj-Napoca (and also in Sibiu in 2007)

JULY

Maramuzical Festival Four-day folk music fest in Vadu Izei, Maramureş (mid July)

Felsziget Festival DJ/rock festival in Târgu Mureş (late July)

Medieval Festival of the Arts Sighişoara (late July)

AUGUST

National Romanian Folk Festival Constanţa (early August)

House Parade Vama Veche beach DJ festival (10 August)

Hora de la Prislop Folk Music festival held in Maramureş (second Sunday in August) and Bucharest (early August)

Ceahlău Folk Festival Shepherds don traditional outfits and head to Durău in Moldavia (second Sunday in August)

Craftsman's Fair Bucharest's Village Museum's heyday with guest craftsmen from around the country (15 August)

Moldavian Furrier Fair Suceava (mid August)

Mountain Festival Fundata (last Sunday in August)

National Film Festival Costineşti

International Folk Festival of Danubian

Countries Tulcea

International Folk, Dance & Traditions

Festival Bistriţa

Sfântu Gheorghe Film Festival In Danube Delta

SEPTEMBER

George Enescu Music Festival International event in Bucharest in 2008, runs the full four weeks of September

National Pop Music Festival National bands compete in Mamaia (early September)

Miorita Folk singer contest in Târgovişte (mid September)

Sâmbra Oilor Three-day welcoming home of the sheep, Bran (late September/early October)

OCTOBER

Wine Festival Chişinău's huge, messy, wine-splattered festival, scheduled around its City Day (14 October)

Iaşi Days Week-long religious event – and street party – in Iaşi (mid October)

Beer Festival Timişoara's sudsy sprawl with live bands

International Astra Film Festival In Sibiu in 2008

National Theatre Festival Bucharest's week-long event; sometimes runs in November

DECEMBER

De la Colind la Stea Four-day Bucharest music festival

Winter Carnival Mulled wine and winter customs, Tulcea

Gagauz Independence Day Moldovan Gagauz republic's independence day (23 December)

Winter Festival Sighetu Marmatei, Maramureş (27 December)

FOOD

Romanian restaurants are cheaper than Western European ones, but gone are the days when you could fill up for a euro or two. Some locals rarely eat out since communism faded and prices rose.

In this book we have listed prices for main courses (mains), which often start at €2 for a grilled sausage or two and rise up to €10 for something more substantial. Whether you add a garnish, soup, dessert, beer or alcohol, naturally, affects the meal price. Usually you can eat lightly for €5 or €6 per person, and rarely end up spending more than €10.

Chişinău has a surprisingly rich dining scene, with swank eateries that rival Bucharest's (in price too).

For more on food and drink, see p52.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Romania's rather puritan attitude towards homosexuality has been reflected by its laws: only in 2001 it became one of Europe's last

countries to decriminalise homosexual activity (in 1994 the Constitutional Court repealed Communist-era laws against homosexuality but in 1996 it was reinstated as a criminal offence). Until then, people were prosecuted and jailed even for acts in private between consenting adults.

Some homosexuals were tortured during the communist regime. Police harassment and brutality were commonplace – human-rights groups in Romania and abroad have reams of reports of violence, extortion and entrapment, even in the 1990s.

Not surprisingly, few gay and lesbian Romanians show affection in public. The Orthodox Church still considers homosexuality a sin. The situation is slowly getting more relaxed, especially in urban centres. Bucharest has, by far, Romania's most active gay and lesbian scene, represented by Bucharest-based **Accept** (☎ 21-252 5620; www.accept-romania.ro). In late May/early June **Accept** organises a six-day **GayFest**, with films, parties and conferences around Bucharest.

With its lively student population, Cluj-Napoca has gay nights in some nightclubs, and a far more open environment than most of Romania.

See also www.gaybucuresti.ro, which has a chat room.

Moldova

Before Moldova repealed its Soviet antigay law in 1995, it was one of only four European countries to still criminalise homosexuality. Now Moldova has one of the most progressively liberal laws on the continent: homosexual activity is legal for both sexes at 14, the same age as for heterosexual sex. A National Human Rights Plan, which would see the prohibition of discrimination against homosexuals, has been bounced around the government since 2003, but still has yet to pass.

There are annual **Gay Pride parades** in Chişinău in early May. However, homosexuality is still a hushed topic, and politicians still get away with antigay rhetoric. While most people take a laissez-faire attitude towards the notion of homosexuality, being visibly out is likely to attract unwanted attention.

There are no officially gay nightclubs in Moldova. Check out www.gay.md, run by GenderDoc-M (an information centre on gender studies), for the latest news.

HOLIDAYS

Public holidays in Romania are New Year (1 and 2 January), both Catholic and Orthodox Easter Mondays (in March/April), Labour Day (1 May), Romanian National Day (1 December) and Christmas (25 and 26 December).

Moldova's national holidays include New Year's Day (1 January), Orthodox Christmas (7 January), International Women's Day (8 March), Orthodox Easter (March or April), Memorial Day (27 April), Labour Day (1 May), Victory (1945) Day (9 May), Independence Day (27 August) and National Language Day (31 August).

If you travel during public holidays, it's wise to book ahead, as some hotels in popular destinations may be full.

INSURANCE

Though medical insurance is not compulsory in Romania and Moldova, a fully comprehensive travel-insurance policy to cover theft, loss and medical problems is strongly advisable, especially if you intend to do a lot of travelling. A policy that covers the costs of being flown out of the country for treatment is a definite bonus, given the still-limited local facilities.

See also car insurance (p359) and health insurance (p366).

INTERNET ACCESS

Internet cafés are all over Romania (even in smaller towns), often with sliding prices depending on the time of day. It usually costs €0.60 to €1.50 per hour. Speed is generally good, but the noise and cramp factor from ever-present computer-game enthusiasts can be distracting.

Many hotels say they have 'internet access' but actually only have a dial-up link for you to contact a local server if you know of one. Wi-fi access is on a slow-going rise, with a few hotels (including lobby bars) and cafés offering it, particularly around Bucharest.

Chişinău is also full of internet cafés that charge US\$0.50 per hour; pickings are slim outside the capital.

For some internet resources, see p15.

LEGAL MATTERS

If you are arrested you can insist on seeing an embassy or consular officer straight away. It is not advisable to present your passport to people on the street unless you know for

certain that they are authentic officials – cases of theft have been reported. Better still, carry a copy of your passport with you instead of the actual document while touring the city.

Romanians and Moldovans can legally drink, drive and vote (though not simultaneously!) at the age of 18. The age of consent in Romania is 15, in Moldova 16.

Romania and Moldova have high rates of incarceration, and drug possession is a criminal offence in both countries, so getting caught with drugs here is really not a good idea.

MAPS

If you are driving around the country, get a road map in a city bookshop – they are almost never available on the highway. Serious drivers should opt for Cartographia's 1:500,000 spiral-bound *Romania* (€9). Dimap's *Transilvania/Erdély* (€6) has a little more detail of that region.

Regional maps and bookshops are recommended throughout the regional chapters.

MONEY

In both Romania and Moldova the only legal tender is the leu (plural: lei), though they are separate currencies in each country and have different exchange rates (see Quick Reference inside the front cover). In Romania you'll see many prices quoted in euros, while in Moldova people talk in US dollars. Consequently, this book quotes prices in euros for Romania, and in dollars for Moldova.

After tumultuous times of inflation and devaluation in the 1990s, both currencies are showing signs of stability. Joining the EU could mean a rise in prices in Romania, though many things have already risen to a level comparable to some EU members from Eastern Europe. For general costs, see p13.

ATMs

ATMs (cash points) are everywhere and give 24-hour withdrawals in lei on your Cirrus, Plus, Visa, MasterCard or Eurocard. Some banks, such as Banca Comercială Română, give cash advances on credit cards in your home currency.

It's easy to find ATMs in Chişinău, but not in other towns in Moldova.

Currency

Beginning in January 2007, the old Romanian lei (singular: leu) was taken out of circulation, and the new lei (abbreviated 'RON') – with four less zeroes – took over (ie 10,000 old lei equals one new lei). The new lei comes in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500. New ban coins come in 1, 5, 10 and 50 denominations; 100 ban equals one leu.

If someone offers the old notes, don't take them.

Exchanging Money

To change dollars, euros or pounds, you often need to show a passport. Be wary of changers with bodyguard goons out front. Some changers

advertise juicy rates, but disguise a '9' as a '0' subtly etc. Count your money carefully.

Black market activity is not seen much. Don't change money on the street.

Travellers Cheques & Credit Cards

In theory it is possible to change travellers cheques at various Romanian banks, but in practice many banks are not able to do it. You may be better off relying on ATMs. The Banca Comercială Română, and the Eximbank in Moldavia, will give cash advances on major credit cards

Credit cards won't get you anywhere in rural areas, but they are widely accepted in larger department stores, hotels and many restaurants in Romanian cities and large towns. If you're planning to use a credit card, double-check ahead of time; some businesses have been known to put the 'Visa' sticker in the window because 'it looks nice.'

You'll need a credit card to hire a car, unless you're willing to pay a large deposit up front.

American Express is represented in Bucharest by Marshal Turism (p68). It has no representatives in Moldova.

POST

The reliable, but slow, **Romania Post Office** (www.postaromana.ro) sends a postcard or letter weighing less than 20g to Europe from Romania for €0.85; it takes seven to 10 days.

From Moldova, it costs US\$0.35 to send a postcard or letter weighing less than 20g to Western Europe, Australia or the USA.

DHL (www.dhl.com) is the most popular international courier service in the region. It has offices in 22 Romanian cities; in Moldova there are offices in Chişinău, Bălţi and Tiraspol.

SHOPPING

'Western-style' supermarkets and shopping malls are commonplace in much of Romania, so you should be able to find what you need. Local wines or Romanian *țuică* (plum brandy) make good souvenirs – go for Kvint, a Transnistrian brandy if you make it the region.

Other traditional purchases include embroidered blouses, ceramics, wooden sculptures, tablecloths and hand-woven carpets.

Some specific shopping suggestions are found in the appropriate sections in the regional chapters.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

There are no particular problems with travelling alone in Romania or Moldova, other than a head-shake of approving disbelief from the occasional local. Generally hotels charge cheaper rates for one person – sometimes a nifty 50% of a double – but your mouth may water at the (relatively) expensive bottles of wine enjoyed at neighbouring tables that you don't want to shell out for on your own.

TELEPHONE

For national and international phone codes and dialling codes, see Quick Reference inside the front cover.

Romania

Romania's international operator can be reached by dialling ☎ 971. Local numbers in Romania are five, six or seven digits; mobile phone numbers start with ☎ 07.

To make domestic calls in Romania, call ☎ 0 + area code; to call abroad dial ☎ 00 + country code + area code.

For an English-speaking operator abroad, call **British Telecom** (☎ 01-800 4444), **AT&T USA Direct** (☎ 01-800 4288), **MCI Worldwide** (☎ 01-800 1800) or **Sprint** (☎ 01-800 0877).

Romania's telephone centres and phone booths are a sad sight, almost completely ignored by mobile-phone revolutionaries. Many centres are closed or refashioned as mobile-phone stores. Phonecards costing €3 can be bought at newsstands and used at stranded, but still-kicking, phone booths for domestic or international calls.

European mobile phones with roaming work in Romania; otherwise you can get a Romania number from Orange or Vodafone, both of which have shops *everywhere*. The SIM card costs about US\$5 including credit; calls are about US\$0.10 to US\$0.30 per minute.

Moldova

Any European mobile phone with roaming will work in Moldova, though reception inside Transnistria is not a given. Mobile-phone service in Moldova is provided by Chişinău-based **Moldcell** (☎ 22-444 444; www.moldcell.md); Str Belgrad 3, Chişinău) and **Voxtel** (☎ 22-575 757; www.voxtel.md; Str Alba Iulia 75). SIM cards cost US\$6 to US\$8 for eight to 10 minutes of credit.

Moldtelecom, the state-run telephone company, sells pay cards which can be used

BLOKE ON THE BILL

One strike against the EU is the standardised currency, which makes cross-Europe travel a little less exciting than it once was. For now, the portraits on Romania's money still tell a tale of its history.

1 leu: Nicolae Iorga (1871–1940) The cofounder of the Democratic National Party was renowned as a rare voice against fascism as WWII loomed. He was eventually tortured and executed and his body was left on the road. A copy of the paper that he wrote for had been stuffed down his throat.

5 lei: George Enescu (1881–1955) Famous for composing 'Romanian Rhapsodies' (1903), he left Romania after communism took over. Many of his works were lost because he rarely wrote them down!

10 lei: Nicolae Grigorescu (1838–1907) Romania's best-known painter progressed from Ruben copies to originals of traditional scenes around Romania.

50 lei: Aurel Vlaicu (1882–1913) The first Romanian to excel in flight (vampires included), he died in crash of his *Vlaicu II* in 1913.

100 lei: Ion Luca Caragiale (1852–1912) This playwright was happy to take the piss out of everyone with his rather ironic stabs at the modernising Romania at the end of the 19th century.

500 lei: Mihai Eminescu (1850–89) The mere mention of this national poet inspires Romanian pride. He suffered from manic-depressive psychosis, but probably died from syphilis (aged 38).

to dial any number within Moldova only, for US\$2.25 or US\$3. These are sold at any telephone centre in the country. To make an international call using a prepaid card, you need to use a private company such as Treitecom. Its cards cost from US\$3.75 to US\$35.

Prepaid telephone cards can be used to call locally, internationally or to mobile phones. Cards are sold in denominations of 50, 100 and 200 lei – available at telephone centres and street kiosks. Neotel also have good-value phone cards.

TIME

Both Romanian and Moldovan time is GMT/UTC plus two hours, and both countries observe daylight savings time. Both also use the 24-hour clock. Dates are listed with the month first, followed by the day and year, ie 09/08/07 refers to 8 September 2007.

TOILETS

Let's just say that public toilets in these countries won't be among your highlights. We even heard a tale of the Duke of Luxembourg getting uppity over one in Transylvania. The toilets at train and bus stations are often smelly holes in vile pits that will make you rush out gasping for fresh air. While the vast majority are quite usable, the fact that many do not have a toilet seat (or have a cracked or soiled one) can be annoying for those not used to the squatting technique.

Though you might be handed a coarse piece of toilet paper by a WC clerk at the entrance for a nominal fee, this is where having some extra tissues comes in handy.

Many toilets have a plastic bin by their side. This is intended for used toilet paper. Women's toilets are marked with the letter F (*femei*) or with an s. Men's are marked B (*bărbați*) or t.

In Moldova most toilets bear Russian signs: Ж for women and M for men.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Local Tourist Offices

Amazingly, Romania still has no national tourist office network, making information tough to track down. A handful of highly efficient, independently run tourist centres – such as those in Sibiu, Târgu Mureș and Arad – have sprung up in the past couple of years (shockingly Bucharest is not represented.)

Many travel agencies cheerfully offer trips out of Romania, but occasionally help out with local information too. In each city section, we have recommended the places where you are most likely to get the best help.

Tourist Offices Abroad

Contrary to the disheartening lack of information locally, Romania runs 16 efficient tourist offices abroad, coordinated by Romania's **National Authority for Tourism** (www.turism.ro); but www.romaniatourism.com is the best site for government-provided information.

Some offices abroad:

France (☎ 01 40 20 99 33; roumanie@office-tourisme-roumanie.com; 12 rue des Gaillon, Paris)

Germany Berlin (☎ 030-241 9041; www.rumaenien-tourismus.de; Budapest Str 20A, Berlin); Munich (☎ 089-5156 7687; Dachauer Str 32-34, Munich)

Moldova (☎ 32-273 555; romtur@ch.moldpac.md; B-dul Ștefan cel Mare 151-153, Chișinău)

UK (☎ 020-7224 3692; www.romaniatourism.com; 22 New Cavendish St, London W1M 7ZH)

USA (☎ 212-545 8484; www.romaniatourism.com; 14 East 38th St, 12th fl, New York, NY 10016)

VISAS

Romania

In order to obtain a visa, you will need a passport that's valid for at least six months beyond the date you enter the country.

Citizens of all EU countries, USA, Canada, Japan and many other countries may travel visa-free for 90 days in Romania. Australians and New Zealanders no longer need to arrange a visa in advance. As visa requirements change frequently, check at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (www.mae.ro) before departure.

Romania issues two types of visas to tourists: transit and single-entry. Transit visas (for those from countries other than the ones mentioned above) are for stays of no longer than three days, and cannot be bought at the border.

To apply for a visa you need a passport, one recent passport photograph and the completed visa application form accompanied by the appropriate fee. Citizens of some countries (mainly African) need a formal invitation from a person or company in order to apply for a visa; see www.mae.ro for details.

Regular single-entry visas (US\$25) are valid for 90 days from the day you arrive. Single-entry visas are usually issued within a week (depending on the consulate), but for an extra US\$6 can be issued within 48 hours.

Transit visas can be either single-entry (US\$15) – valid for three days and allowing you to enter Romania once – or double-entry (US\$25), allowing you to enter the country twice and stay for three days each time.

In Romania, you can extend your tourist visa for another 60 days at any county police office, but it can be trickier than just leaving the country and coming back in. Technically it takes a couple of days and shouldn't cost more than US\$50. You may have to show you have US\$100 per day for your stay. You must apply before your current visa expires. It's easier if you get a travel agent to help.

Check your visa requirements for Serbia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Ukraine if you plan to cross those borders. If you are taking the Bucharest–St Petersburg train you will need Ukrainian and Belarusian transit visas on top of the Russian visa.

Moldova

As this book went to press, Moldova was changing its sometimes vexing visa situation. It's a good idea to check www.turism.md (under 'How to Get To') for the latest changes on the visa rules.

Beginning in 2007, citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Japan and Switzerland can enter Moldova without a visa. Visitors from Israel can present their passport (valid for six months after the visa's expiry date) and one photo to the nearest Moldovan consulate to obtain a visa. It's likely that citizens of Israel and Norway also will be able to visit without a visa by the time this book is published.

All other nationalities, including Australians and New Zealanders, require either a tourist voucher from an accredited travel agency or an invitation from a company, organisation or individual (difficult to get). Tourist vouchers ensure that you have a hotel prebooked and prepaid. Payments to the consulates are usually in the form of a bank deposit at a specified bank.

The main three border crossings from Romania are at Sculeni (north of Iași), Leuseni (main Bucharest–Chișinău border) and Cahul if arriving by bus or car from Romania – others have a history of being trickier to cross, though this may change with the easing of visa restrictions.

Visitors to Moldova no longer have to register with the police after their arrival.

Previously, an HIV-AIDS test was required for foreigners intending to stay in Moldova longer than three months. Certificates proving HIV-negative status have to be in Russian and English.

COSTS & REGISTRATION

The price of a single/double-entry tourist visa valid for one month is US\$60/75. Single/double-entry transit visas valid for 72 hours cost US\$30/60. Special rates are available for tourist groups of more than 10 people, and for children, disabled travellers and senior travellers.

Visas can be processed within a day at the **Moldovan consulate** (☎ 4021-410 9827; B-dul Eroilor 8, Bucharest) in Romania.

VOLUNTEERING

England-based **Project New Life** (www.projectnewlife.org) is a religious nonprofit organisation that keeps religion out of its tireless efforts to help children in Romania and Moldova. Contact them about volunteering on their ongoing projects.

Clipa Siderala (www.clipa.md) is a Moldovan-based organisation run by volunteers that helps orphans.

Global Volunteers (www.globalvolunteers.org) offers one-week and two-week volunteering projects helping orphans and teaching English. Volunteers pay for the experience (a two-week slot is €1756 including lodging, food and insurance).

Sites like www.volunteerabroad.com list many other options.

Transport

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GETTING THERE & AWAY

ENTERING ROMANIA & MOLDOVA

Travellers entering Romania should not experience any trouble at customs and immigration, particularly if they come from a country which does not require them to possess a Romanian visa (see p354).

Moldova's a bit different. As a result of the Soviet legacy, travellers may experience some questioning on entering Moldova but, thanks to the same legacy, any potential complication is easy to resolve on the spot – most often by offering a few dollars (often about US\$5 at the border).

AIR

Many airlines fly into Bucharest, but Carpatair's hub is in delightful Timișoara. Budget airline Wizz Air connects Budapest with Transylvania's Târgu Mureș.

Airports & Airlines

Flying is a popular way to enter Romania, though there are no direct flights from North America, Asia or Australia. Most international flights land at Bucharest's **Henri Coanda Airport** (formerly Otopeni; airport code OTP; www.otp-airport.ro; ☎ 201 4788; Șos București-Ploiești). An exception is discount airline Wizz Air, which uses the capi-

THINGS CHANGE

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change: prices for international travel are volatile, routes are introduced and cancelled, schedules frequently change and special deals come and go. Airlines and governments seem to take a perverse pleasure in making price structures and regulations as complicated as possible.

The details given in this chapter should be used as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

tal's older **Băneasa Airport** (airport code BBU; www.baneasa.aero; ☎ 232 0020; Șos București-Ploiești 40) for all flights. Wizz connects Bucharest with London (Luton) three times weekly. It also offers flights to Budapest, Rome, Barcelona and Dortmund. Wizz also connects Budapest with Târgu Mureș three times a week.

Carpatair sends planes from its hub in Timișoara to several cities in Germany and Italy, plus Paris and Chișinău. Tarom is Romania's struggling state airline.

Moldova's only airport is **Chișinău International** (airport code KIV; www.airport.md; ☎ 22-526 060). **Voiaj Travel** (www.voiaj.md) in Chișinău publishes the latest airport schedules. The national airline is Air Moldova, which serves Bucharest's Henri Coanda Airport too.

AIRLINES FLYING TO & FROM ROMANIA

Air France (airline code AF; ☎ 21-319 2705; www.airfrance.com)

Air Moldova (airline code 9U; ☎ 21-312 1258; www.airmoldova.md)

Austrian Airlines (airline code OS; ☎ 21-204 2208; www.austrianair.com)

British Airways (airline code BA; ☎ 21-303 2222; www.british-airways.com)

Carpatair (airline code V3; ☎ 256-300 900; www.carpatair.com)

ČSA (Czech Airlines; airline code OK; ☎ 21-315 3205; www.csa.cz)

KLM (airline code KL; ☎ 21-312 0149; www.klm.com)

LOT Polish Airlines (airline code LO; ☎ 21-314 1096; www.lot.com)

Lufthansa (airline code LH; ☎ 21-204 8410; www.lufthansa.com)

Swiss Airlines (airline code LX; ☎ 21-312 0238; www.swiss.com)

Tarom (airline code RO; ☎ 22-541 254, 0992 541 254; www.tarom.ro)

Turkish Airlines (airline code TK; ☎ 21-311 2410; www.turkishairlines.com)

Wizz Air (airline code W6; ☎ 403 6440 2000; www.wizzair.com)

AIRLINES FLYING TO & FROM MOLDOVA

AeroSvit Airlines (airline code VV; ☎ 422 237 682; www.aerosvit.ua) From Kyiv, Ukraine.

Air Moldova (airline code 9U; ☎ 21-312 1258; www.airmoldova.md)

Austrian Airlines (airline code OS; ☎ 22-244 083; www.austrianair.com)

Carpatair (airline code V3; ☎ 22-549 339; www.carpatair.com)

Moldavian Airlines (airline code 2M; ☎ 22-529 356; www.mdv.md)

Tarom (airline code RO; ☎ 22-541 254, 0992 541 254; www.tarom.ro)

Transaero (airline code UN; ☎ 22-542 454; www.transaero.md)

Turkish Airlines (airline code TK; ☎ 22-527 078; www.turkishairlines.com)

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the USA will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

Tickets

At better-known travel agencies you may pay slightly more than a rock-bottom fare in return for security and peace of mind.

www.cheapflights.co.uk Posts bargain flights out of the UK only.

www.dialflight.com Offers worldwide flights out of Europe and the UK.

www.expedia.com Good site for checking worldwide flight prices.

www.lastminute.com Mostly deals in European flights, but has some worldwide flights including a link to an Australian version.

www.statravel.co.uk STA Travel's UK website. There are also websites in Australia (www.statravel.com.au) and the USA (www.statravel.com).

www.travel.com.au A good site for Australians to find cheap flights. From New Zealand try www.travel.co.nz.

For last-minute tickets online try **Skyaction** (www.skyaction.com). **Priceline** (www.priceline.com) tries to match the ticket price to your budget.

Australia & New Zealand

From Australia, expect to pay around A\$1700 return during low season and upwards of A\$2200 during high season. Austrian Airlines, British Airways and Qantas all have some good fare deals. Sometimes prices for

flights from New Zealand can be disturbingly high – try NZ\$15,000 return. If so, it may be cheaper to book a separate ticket to Sydney.

Eastern Europe

Bucharest is connected with regular flights to and from Prague, Budapest, Warsaw, Sofia and Moscow. Chişinău is connected with regular flights to and from Sofia, Minsk, Moscow, Budapest and Prague. In 2006 Wizz Air began a Budapest–Târgu Mureş service.

Romania & Moldova

Air Moldova and Tarom together operate daily flights between Chişinău and Bucharest (about €225 return), and Moldova's Transaero also has flights on that route. Air Moldova also has daily flights to Timișoara.

Turkey

Tarom and Turkish Airlines operate regular flights between Bucharest and Istanbul for about €200 return. Air Moldova connects Chişinău with Istanbul daily.

USA & Canada

Tarom has a flight at least once a week direct to/from New York. Peak season prices hover around US\$1000, with off-season rates falling to US\$600.

Western Europe

Bucharest is linked with all of the major European capitals, while Chişinău has direct flights from Amsterdam, Rome and Paris. Carpatair's Timișoara hub connects Romania with many places in Germany, Italy and Paris. Tarom also runs flights from Timișoara to Milan, from Sibiu to Munich and Stuttgart, and from Cluj-Napoca to Vienna, Frankfurt and Munich.

The big news for 2007 was Wizz Air's start-up of discount fares from London Stanstead to Bucharest; other airlines' London–Bucharest fares start around £170 return. For other Western European cities, expect to pay between €250 and €500 return.

Air Moldova travels daily to Vienna, four times a week to Rome, three times a week to Athens and five times a week to Frankfurt.

LAND Border Crossings

When crossing the border by car expect long queues at Romanian checkpoints, particularly on weekends and public holidays. Carry food

and water for the wait. Don't try bribing a Romanian official and beware of unauthorised people charging dubious 'ecology', 'disinfectant' or other dodgy taxes at the border. Though this is unlikely to happen, request a receipt if you are unsure. It is best to stick to the major border crossings, as staff at smaller ones may not always know how to process foreign visitors.

To avoid hassles entering Moldova, check the changing visa situation beforehand. Also see p355.

Bus

TO/FROM ROMANIA

Eurolines (www.eurolines.com) covers most bus routes across Europe, and has many links with central and western Europe. It has offices all over Romania. A one-way ticket to Vienna costs €65, Paris €125. Many routes offer a 10% to 15% discount for those aged under 26 or over 60. Children under 12 and under four years old receive additional discounts. Some passes, good for extended periods, are available.

There are many daily buses, on various bus lines, to Budapest from cities throughout Romania, including Bucharest, Arad, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Târgu Mureş and Satu Mare. There are no bus services from Moldova to Hungary.

Maxitaxis (see p360 go between Bucharest and Ruse, Bulgaria, but otherwise there are no buses to Bulgaria. Buses galore, however, trundle across Bulgaria on the 804km route between Bucharest and Istanbul in 19 hours. There are also some leaving from Constanţa.

BETWEEN ROMANIA & MOLDOVA

Maxitaxis connect Iaşi, Moldavia, with Chişinău across the border in Moldova five times a day. Daily buses connect Bucharest with Chişinău, a 12-hour trip.

TO/FROM MOLDOVA

Eurolines (www.eurolines.md) connects Moldova with Italy, Spain and Germany; offices are found all over Moldova.

Daily buses between Chişinău and Kyiv, Odesa or Moscow run through Transdnistr and Tiraspol; even if you have a Moldovan visa, local authorities are likely to make you pay for an additional transit permit. There are occasional buses to Istanbul.

Car & Motorcycle

The best advice here, and it's worth repeating, is to make sure all your documents (personal ID, insurance, registration and visas, if required) are in order before crossing into Romania and Moldova. A fairly easy access way is from Hungary at Oradea; crossing to/from Bulgaria isn't always easy due to border restrictions – the most popular route is into Ruse, south of Bucharest.

Driving into Moldova is possible but can bring on an extra dose of police 'fees' at the border (we've heard US\$250!). Generally it's recommended to hire a car in Chişinău.

The Green Card (a routine extension of domestic motor insurance to cover most European countries) is valid in both Romania and Moldova. Extra insurance can be bought at the borders.

See p360 for more information on driving in Romania.

Train

International train tickets are rarely sold at train stations, but rather at CFR (Romanian State Railways) offices in town (look for the Agenţie de Voiaj CFR signs) or at Wasteels offices. Tickets must be bought at least two hours prior to departure.

Those travelling on an Inter Rail or Eurail pass still need to make seat reservations (€3 to €4; €15 for a sleeper) on express trains within Romania. Whether you have a rail pass or not, practically all international trains require a reservation (automatically included in tickets purchased in Romania). If you already have a ticket, you may be able to make reservations at the station an hour before departure, though it's preferable to do so at a CFR office at least one day in advance.

BETWEEN ROMANIA & MOLDOVA

There's an overnight train service between Bucharest and Chişinău; at 12 or 13 hours, the journey is longer than taking a bus or maxitaxi (the train heads north to Iaşi, then south again), but is more comfortable. It also lets you experience a unique bogie change at the border. The train lurches, vibrates and clanks while the undercarriages are changed; to slow down a potential invasion, the USSR changed all its train tracks to a wider gauge and, to this day, trains entering and exiting the ex-Soviet Union must undergo this bizarre operation.

FROM BULGARIA & TURKEY

The train service between Romania and Bulgaria is slow and crowded but cheap. Between Sofia and Bucharest (11 hours) there are two daily trains, both of which stop in Ruse. Sleepers are available only on the overnight train; buy your ticket well in advance to guarantee yourself a bunk for the night.

The *Bosfor* overnight train travels from Bucharest to Istanbul (803km, 17 to 19 hours).

FROM HUNGARY

The Budapest–Bucharest journey (873km) takes around 13 to 15 hours. To or from Arad it is a mere 28km to the Hungarian border town of Lököshaza, from where it is a further 225km (4½ hours) to Budapest. It's also possible to pick up the Budapest-bound train from other Romanian cities, including Constanţa, Braşov and Cluj-Napoca. From Chişinău, you must go to Bucharest, then catch a Budapest-bound train.

FROM UKRAINE & BEYOND

Between Romania and Ukraine there is a daily Bucharest–Moscow train that goes via Kyiv. A second train, the Sofia–Moscow *Bulgaria Express*, takes an alternative route through western Ukraine to Chernivtsi (Cernăuţi in Romanian), and stops at Bucharest. Some wagons of this train continue to St Petersburg through Ukraine and Belarus (you will need transit visas for these countries).

From Chişinău, one daily train goes to Lviv and St Petersburg, two to Minsk and three to Moscow. Westbound, there are nightly trains to Romania and beyond.

FROM WESTERN EUROPE

There's only a direct train service to Bucharest from Vienna.

RIVER

There are ferry crossings into Vidin, Bulgaria, from Calafat (p113). Ferry crossings between Giurgiu and Ruse, Bulgaria, are no longer in operation.

TOURS

It's generally cheaper to use a Romanian-based operator if you want a prebooked tour (see p67). Here are a few recommended international tour agencies offering Romania tours:

Quest Tours (☎ 800-621 8687; www.romtour.com) US-based operator offers 'best of's and a week-long Dracula tour (€993, not including flight).

Transylvania Express (☎ 44-7798-932933; www.transylvaniaexpress.com) Beginning in 2007, this luxury 14-day train journey starts and ends in Budapest, but takes in much of Transylvania, plus Maramureş and Sucevina.

Transylvania Uncovered (☎ 44-1-539-531-258; www.beyondtheforest.com) UK-based operator books a variety of inclusive trips including a week chasing Dracula (from €1300) or a week's stay in a restored Saxon home (from €650).

GETTING AROUND

AIR Airlines in Romania & Moldova

State-owned **Tarom** (www.tarom.ro) is Romania's main carrier. Based in Timișoara, **Carpatair** (www.carpatair.ro) also runs domestic flights. Sometimes return fares are only slightly more than one-way fares, which are usually €50 to €60.

BICYCLE Romania

Cyclists are becoming a more frequent sight in Romania, particularly in Transylvania, Maramureş and Moldavia. And biking certainly offers an excellent way of seeing the country and meeting locals. Intercity roads are generally in decent condition but are often more trafficked than the hellish roads inside villages and towns. As so many places of interest require climbing steep roads, being in top shape is definitely a plus! Also, be aware that motorists are not as used to sharing roads with cyclists as in some western countries, and may drive accordingly.

It's possible to hire or buy bicycles in most major towns, for €5 to €12 per day. Many towns have bike-repair shops, but it's not a bad idea to bring spare parts.

Bicycles can be taken on trains. Most trains have a baggage car (*vagon de bagaje*), marked by a suitcase symbol on train timetables. Bicycles stored here have to be labelled with your name, destination and the bicycle's weight. But it is easier and safer simply to take your bicycle on the train with you. On local and express trains there is plenty of room at either end of the carriage next to the toilet. Don't block passageways. You might be charged a minimal 'bulky luggage' fee.

Read more, if you speak German, at www.bikeromania.de.

See p46 for more information on biking in Romania.

Moldova

Being flat as a board, Moldova makes cycling an excellent way of getting around. That is, if it weren't for the bad condition of most of its roads, and for a lack of infrastructure – outside of Chișinău, you'll have to rely on your own resources or sense of adventure (and trying to enlist help from friendly locals) if you run into mechanical trouble.

BOAT

Boat is the only way of getting around much of the Danube Delta, where you can pick up ferries or hop in fishers' boats from Tulcea (p303).

BUS

A mix of buses, minibuses and maxitaxis combine to form the seriously disorganised Romanian and Moldovan bus systems spread across a changing array of bus companies. Finding updated information can be difficult without local help. Sometimes the bus stations (*autogară*) themselves move around, particularly the migratory lots from which maxitaxis depart. Posted timetables are often out of date; it's better to ask someone.

SUV-sized maxitaxis have emerged this decade. These guys usually fit 10 to 20 people and tend to rush along the same routes as buses, but often lack any real storage space – you may have to plop your bag on your lap. Some routes – such as Brașov–Sinaia or Sibiu–Cluj-Napoca – are more useful than others. Generally – not always – it's easier to plan on the train.

Fares are cheap and calculated per kilometre – it's about 1 lei (€0.29) per 10km; the 116km trip from Brașov to Sighișoara is about €3.50.

This chapter reflects the situation at research time; the routes should remain roughly the same, but don't get mad if you discover new fares and departure/arrival points.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Some day a video game will be made of a Sunday drive across Romania, considering all its hazards – strolling cows and sheep, slow-going horse carts filled with hay, bear-sized potholes, speed traps, unmarked curves, aggressive drivers. It can be draining. The

200km you're accustomed to driving back home can really drain hardened drivers here. Many roads are best suited to 4WD; some mountain roads require it. But driving allows access to some pockets of rural villages and mountains that are hard to reach otherwise.

Only drive if your car is in good shape and has been serviced recently. Repair shops are increasingly used to the BMWs and Mercedes that the rich folks of Bucharest or Chișinău like to drive, but certainly know the abundant Dacias (and their identical Renault models).

Romania has only a few short stretches of motorway (*autostrada*). Some major roads (*drum național*) have been resurfaced, but many remain in a shockingly poor, potholed condition. Secondary roads (*drum județean*) can become dirt tracks, and mountain and

forestry roads (*drum forestier*) can be impassable after heavy rain. While roads are being repaved all the time, roughly half of the country's roads are unpaved – and paved ones are sometimes rougher than dirt roads.

Western-style petrol stations are easy to come by (but fill 'er up before heading on long trips through the mountains or remote village areas). A litre of unleaded 95E costs about €1. Most stations accept credit cards.

If you're bringing your own car, most borders are open 24 hours. The most popular crossing is at Oradea, between Budapest and Cluj-Napoca.

Hire

Avis, Budget, Hertz and Europcar have offices in most cities and at Henri Coanda airport in Bucharest. Local companies are usually

SHOULD YOU DRIVE?

Lonely Planet remains divided on this, so much so that the co-authors have opposite viewpoints. Here's their thoughts on whether it's worth taking your wheels onto the highways.

No! Are you nuts?

Driving in Romania is more treacherous than I've seen in 40 countries. Indeed, I strongly discourage it for visitors. I was involved in several minor car accidents, mostly due to ice (ice/snow removal is still in its infancy here), and innumerable near-misses while researching this book. Despite the country's on-book driving regulations, in reality the situation is lawless. The prevailing belief is that racing along at the very edge of disaster is the pinnacle of skilled driving. Romanians routinely risk death just to gain three seconds on their journeys, even if they're just going to church. Moreover, anyone not conducting themselves in this unhinged manner is considered a menace, inviting abuse in the form of sustained horn blaring and curse words. And it doesn't end there. Hapless livestock, free-range pets, moonshine aficionados, sizable debris and even the crumbling, collapsing roads are against you. Even in good weather, this is white-knuckle driving of the first order. Passengers, particularly in maxitaxis, should consider tequila shots and blindfolds before long trips.

Leif Pettersen

With care & time, sure!

I always recommend to friends comfortable behind the wheel to get a car in Romania. I've driven cars and motorcycles in Vietnam, Bulgaria, Mexico, Guatemala and New York City, and Romania wasn't necessarily any tougher for me – particularly on back roads where some of my favourite Romanian experiences have come, on random routes. Just know that, while you can risk a few looks at the Pacific while driving California's Hwy 1, you can't here. But it's so worth it. Those on tours or who can bike like demons can get to back roads, but those dependent on bus won't see so much. With a car you dictate your pace and stops. You can stop to knock on doors to find the 'keymaster' for closed Saxon churches, or drive through the lovely Bicaz Gorge or on the summer-only Transfăgărașan road. I had some close calls, sure. One time, a very large tractor awaited around a blind curve I took too fast. I braked in time. Then the crew helped me steer between the rusting beast and a rocky cliff – a centimetre on either side of the car. I slowed down after that. You have to.

Robert Reid

YAY, THE DACIA!

Found on dirt roads and new highways throughout Romania are noisy, communist-era Dacia models – like the 1300 – puttering alongside their more polished forebears, Dacia Solenzas or Dacia Logans. Why care? Very few communist-era car models survived *kapitalism* – the East German Trabant died off in 1991, the Czech Tatra stopped production in 1996 and the Soviet Volga is being phased out in 2007. Yet the Dacia remains a Romanian favourite.

It's always been as much French as Romanian. The French Renault company ran much of the production (Dacias are also produced in Turkey, and the new Logan is sometimes billed the Renault Logan). The first Dacia – the simple 1100 – rolled onto bumpy streets in 1968, but the enduring 1300 lasted longer. Because superior parts were used for export models in the 1980s – Dacia tried to tap into the UK market – some Romanians bought their Dacias in Hungary and drove them back.

These days you can find a mid-1980s 1300 for about US\$1000 or more. Hiring a Dacia – particularly Solenzas and Logans – is a good idea. They're safe and dependable, and cheaper. If one should break down, flag down the next passing Dacia. Most Romanians are adept at dismantling the engine and fixing the burps and will be carrying the necessary tools with them!

Herr Travel (p169; ☎ 266-102 342; www.guide2romania.ro; Odorheiu Secuiesc) Tours around Székely Land and Transylvania.

Marina 'Marisha' Voizian (p321; www.marisha.net; Chişinău) Best source of information and tours for Moldova.

Pan Travel (p187; ☎ 264-420 516; www.pantravel.ro; Cluj-Napoca) Engaging guides lead personalised, customised trips around Transylvania, Maramureş and Moldavia.

RoCultours/CTI (p68; ☎ 21-650 8145; www.rotravel.com/cti; Bucharest) Excellent cultural tours around Romania.

Roving România (p130; ☎ 0744 212 065; www.roving-romania.co.uk; Braşov) Personalised tours around Transylvania, including birding trips.

Transylvania Motorcycle Tours (www.tmtours.com) This Cluj-Napoca-based group offers a whirlwind of two-wheeled tours around Romania, including a nine-day

trip along the Black Sea coast, a six-day job across the Carpathians, and a month-long Romania trip.

TRAIN

Rail has long been the most popular way of travelling around Romania. **Căile Ferate Române** (CFR; Romanian State Railways; www.cfr.ro) runs trains over 11,000km of track, providing services to most cities, towns and larger villages in the country. Its website lists timetables. The national train timetable (*mersul trenurilor*) is published each May and is sold for €2 at CFR offices. Another excellent timetable source is www.bahn.de, a German website.

Sosire means arrivals and *plecare* is departures. On posted timetables, the number of the platform from which each train departs is listed under *linia*.

Classes & Types of Trains

In Romania there are five different types of train, all of which travel at different speeds, offer varying levels of comfort and charge different fares for the same destination.

The cheapest trains are the local *personal* trains. These trains are painfully slow. *Accelerat* trains are faster, hence a tad more expensive and less crowded. Seat reservations are obligatory and automatic when you buy your ticket. There's little difference between *rapid* and *expres* trains. Both travel at a fair speed and often have dining cars. Pricier InterCity trains are the most comfortable but aren't faster than *expres* trains.

Vagon de dormit (sleepers) are available between Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Timişoara, Tulcea and other points. First-class sleeping compartments generally have two berths, 2nd-class sleepers generally have four berths and 2nd-class couchettes have six berths. Book these in advance.

Fares listed in this chapter generally indicate one-way 2nd-class seats on *rapid* or *accelerat* trains.

Buying Tickets

Tickets are sold in advance for all trains except local *personal* ones. Advance tickets are sold at an Agenţie de Voiaj CFR, a train-ticket office found in every city centre. When the ticket office is closed you have to buy your ticket immediately before departure at the station.

Theoretically you can buy tickets at CFR offices up to two hours before departure. Some-

COMPARING TRAIN COSTS

This chart is here to help gauge how train fares ebb based on speed and condition. In our experience, the 1st-class price wasn't worth the money; *personal* trains went nearly as quickly on some routes, but were scrappier and more crowded.

Trip	Personal	Accelerat	Rapid	InterCity
100km (1st Class)	€3.50	€6.40	€8.10	€9
100km (2nd Class)	€2.20	€4.40	€5.80	€6.65
Bucharest–Braşov (1st)	€5.70	€10	€11.20	€12.10
Bucharest–Braşov (2nd)	€3.50	€6.50	€7.90	€8.70

times they don't sell tickets for same-day trips, so try to plan a day ahead.

You can only buy tickets at train stations two hours – and in some cases just one hour – before departure. Queues can be horrendous. At major stations there are separate ticket lines for 1st and 2nd classes; you may opt for 1st class when you see how much shorter that line is. Your reservation ticket lists the code number of your train along with your assigned *vagon* (carriage) and *locul* (seat).

If you have an international ticket right through Romania, you're allowed to make stops along the route but you must purchase a reservation ticket each time you reboard an *accelerat* or *rapid* train. If the international ticket was issued in Romania, you must also pay the *expres* train supplement each time.

In a pinch you can board a train and pay the ticket-taker for the ride; ask how much. As one local told us, 'This is Romania – you can do anything if you pay for it.'

Health

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Travel health depends on your predeparture preparations, your daily health care while travelling and how you handle any medical problem that does develop. Romania and Moldova will not provide any major challenges to visitors' health.

BEFORE YOU GO

Prevention is the key to staying healthy while abroad. A little planning before departure, particularly for pre-existing illnesses, will save trouble later. Carry a spare pair of contact lenses and glasses, and take your optical prescription with you. Bring extra medications in their original, clearly labelled, containers. A signed and dated letter from your doctor describing your medical conditions and medications, including generic names, is also a good idea. If carrying syringes or needles, be sure to have a doctor's letter documenting their medical necessity.

INSURANCE

If you're an EU citizen, a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) form, available from health centres or via www.dh.gov.uk in the UK, covers you for most medical care. Valid for three to five years, the EHIC will not cover you for nonemergencies or emergency repatriation. Citizens from other countries should find out if there is a reciprocal arrangement for free medical care between their country and the country visited. If you need health insurance, consider a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an emergency flight home.

HEALTH ADVISORIES

It's usually a good idea to consult your government's travel health website before departure, if one is available:

Australia: www.dfat.gov.au/travel/

Canada: www.travelhealth.gc.ca

UK: www.dh.gov.uk/

USA: www.cdc.gov/travel/

INTERNET RESOURCES

The WHO's publication *International Travel and Health* is revised annually and is available online at www.who.int/ith/. Other useful websites include www.mdtravelhealth.com (travel health recommendations for every country; updated daily), www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk (general travel advice for the layperson), www.ageconcern.org.uk (advice on travel for the elderly) and www.mariestopes.org.uk (information on women's health and contraception).

IN ROMANIA & MOLDOVA

AVAILABILITY & COST OF HEALTH CARE

Medical care is not always readily available outside of major cities, but embassies, consulates and five-star hotels can usually recommend doctors or clinics. They can also recommend where to seek treatment in smaller towns or rural areas. Note that there is an increased risk of Hepatitis B and HIV transmission via poorly sterilised equipment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Bird Flu

In 2005 and 2006, several cases of avian influenza were reported near Tulcea and other parts of the country, with poultry cases reported in May 2006. The Romanian government quarantined a number of towns, including Făgăraş in Transylvania, as a safety measure. No human cases were reported.

Tickborne Encephalitis

This is spread by tick bites. It is a serious infection of the brain and vaccination is advised for those in risk areas. Two doses of vaccine will give a year's protection, three doses up to three years' protection.

Typhoid & Hepatitis A

These diseases are spread through contaminated food (particularly shellfish) and water. Typhoid can cause septicaemia; Hepatitis A causes liver inflammation and jaundice. Neither is usually fatal but recovery can be prolonged. Hepatitis A and typhoid vaccines can be given as a single dose vaccine, Hepatyrrix or Viatim.

Rabies

This is a potential concern considering the number of stray dogs running around Romania. If bitten by a homeless dog, seek medical attention within 72 hours (most main hospitals will have a rabies clinic), but don't panic – while rabies is transmitted via the animal's saliva, the rabies virus is present in saliva only during the final stages of the disease in the animal. It is therefore a relatively rarely transmitted disease. Still, do not take any chances and seek medical attention. Any bite, scratch or even lick from an unknown animal should be cleaned immediately and thoroughly. Scrub with soap and running water, and then apply alcohol or iodine solution.

TRAVELLER'S DIARRHOEA

If you develop diarrhoea, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, preferably an oral rehydration solution (eg Dioralyte). A few loose stools don't require treatment, but if you start having more than four or five stools a day, you should start taking an antibiotic (usually a quinolone drug) and an anti-diarrhoeal agent (such as loperamide). If diarrhoea is bloody, persists for more than 72 hours or is accompanied by fever, shaking, chills or severe abdominal pain you should seek medical attention.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Hypothermia & Frostbite

Proper preparation will reduce the risks of getting hypothermia. Even on a hot day in the mountains, the weather can change rapidly, so

carry waterproof garments and warm layers, and inform others of your route.

Hypothermia starts with shivering, loss of judgment and clumsiness. Unless rewarming occurs, the sufferer deteriorates into apathy, confusion and coma. Prevent further heat loss with warm dry clothing, hot sweet drinks and shared bodily warmth, and by seeking shelter.

Frostbite is caused by freezing and subsequent damage to bodily extremities. It is dependent on wind-chill, temperature and length of exposure. Frostbite starts as frostnip (white, numb areas of skin) from which complete recovery is expected with rewarming. As frostbite develops, the skin blisters and blackens. Adequate clothing, staying dry, keeping well hydrated and ensuring adequate calorie intake is the best prevention for frostbite.

Water

Tap water is generally considered safe to drink in Romania and Moldova. Beware drinking water from the polluted Danube River; some travellers have reported upset stomachs after drinking tea or eating soup or fish prepared with the Danube's waters. In this case, get yourself some Ercefuryl (200mg), an antibiotic available at any pharmacy; it will stop you from doubling over.

Any water found in the mountains should be treated with suspicion – never drink it without purifying (with filters, iodine or chlorine) or boiling it first, unless assured that it's safe to drink by a guide or local authority. At high altitude water boils at a lower temperature, so germs are less likely to be killed. Boil it for longer in these environments.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Emotional stress, exhaustion and travelling through different time zones can all contribute to an upset in the menstrual pattern. If using oral contraceptives, remember some antibiotics, diarrhoea and vomiting can stop the pill from working and lead to the risk of pregnancy – remember to take condoms with you just in case. Time zones, gastrointestinal upsets and antibiotics do not affect injectable contraception. Travelling during pregnancy is usually possible, but always consult your doctor before planning your trip. The most risky times for travel are during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and after 30 weeks.

Language

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Romanian (*limba română*), ‘a Latin island in a Slav sea’, is the official language of Romania and Moldova (where it’s known as Moldovan, *limba moldoveanească*). It holds the intriguing status of being the only member of the Romance language family in Eastern Europe. As a descendant of Latin, it shares a common heritage with French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, but retains many aspects of Latin that no longer exist in the other Romance languages (such as noun cases).

Romanian’s origins date back to the 2nd century AD when Emperor Trajan founded the Roman province of Dacia in the south-west of present-day Transylvania. The linguistic influence of the Romans ceased with their withdrawal by AD 275, and the void was filled with the arrival of the Slavs in the Balkans in the 6th century. The interaction with Bulgarian and Serbian (reflected in many loan words) was intensified from the 13th century through the shared Byzantine culture and the influence of Old Church Slavonic.

For language to help when ordering food and deciphering menus, see p56. For a more comprehensive language guide, get a copy of Lonely Planet’s *Eastern Europe Phrasebook*. If you’re keen to engage in further study, James Augerot’s comprehensive *Romanian/Limba Română – A Course in*

ROMANIANLY SPEAKING

Romanian Pronunciation Guide

a	a	as the ‘u’ in ‘cut’
e	e	as in ‘tell’
i	ee	as in ‘meet’
î	’	almost always silent at the end of a word (pronounce as a very short i)
ă	ə	a neutral vowel, like the ‘a’ in ‘ago’
â/i	ew	like an ‘ee’ sound made with rounded lips
c	k/ch	as the ‘k’ in ‘kit’ before a , o , u , ă and â/i ; as the ‘ch’ in ‘chin’ before e and i
ch	k	as ‘k’ before e and i
g	g/j	as in ‘go’ before a , o , u , ă and â/i ; as the ‘j’ in ‘jetty’ before e and i
gh	g	as in ‘go’
j	zh	as the ‘s’ in ‘treasure’
ș	sh	as in ‘ship’
ț	ts	as in ‘cats’

Modern Romanian (2000) is a good resource. It is published by the Center for Romanian Studies in Iași and is available either in Romania or via the internet.

WRITING SYSTEM

The oldest record of written Romanian is a letter rendered in the Cyrillic alphabet to the mayor of Brașov dating back to 1521. There is also evidence of texts written in the Roman alphabet dating back to around 1700, but Cyrillic was used until 1859, when the Roman alphabet was officially adopted. During the period of Soviet rule, a Russian version of the Cyrillic alphabet was used in Moldova, but the Roman alphabet was reinstated in 1989.

Between 1953 and 1994 the letter **â** was replaced by the Slavic **î**. In 1994, the Romanian Academy decided to revert to the original **â** of the Latin orthography. The **î** is still used, mainly at the beginning of some words.

In place names, old spellings such as Tîrgu Mureș (instead of Târgu Mureș) still lurk on the odd map – this book uses the updated **â** spellings for all place names.

PRONUNCIATION

Written Romanian is more or less phonetically consistent, so once you learn a few simple rules you should have no trouble with pronunciation. In any case, you can always fall back on the pronunciation guides included with the words and phrases in this chapter (see the boxed text opposite, which covers the more difficult sounds).

At the beginning of a word, **e** and **i** are pronounced as if there were a faint ‘y’ preceding them, while at the end of a word a single **i** is almost silent, and **ii** is pronounced ‘ee’. Word stress is marked in the pronunciation guides as italic.; it generally falls on the penultimate syllable.

ACCOMMODATION

Where’s a ...?

<i>Unde se află ...?</i>	<i>oon-de se a-flă ...</i>
camping ground	
<i>un teren de camping</i>	<i>oon-te-ren de kem-peeng</i>
guesthouse	
<i>o pensiune</i>	<i>o pen-see-oo-ne</i>
hotel	
<i>un hotel</i>	<i>oon ho-tel</i>
youth hostel	
<i>un hostel</i>	<i>oon hos-tel</i>

I’d like to book a room, please.

<i>Aș dori să rezerv o cameră, vă rog.</i>	<i>ash do-ree să re-zerv o ka-me-ră vă rog</i>
--	--

Do you have a ... room?

<i>Aveți o cameră ...?</i>	<i>a-vets’ o ka-me-ră ...</i>
single	
<i>de o persoană</i>	<i>de o per-so-a-nă</i>
double	
<i>dublă</i>	<i>doo-blă</i>
twin (two-bed)	
<i>cu două paturi separate</i>	<i>koo do-wă pa-toor’ se-pa-ra-te</i>

How much is it per ...?

<i>Cât costă ...?</i>	<i>kewt kos-tă ...</i>
room	
<i>pe cameră</i>	<i>pe ka-me-ră</i>
person	
<i>de persoană</i>	<i>de per-so-a-nă</i>

May I see it?

<i>Pot să văd?</i>	<i>pot să văd</i>
--------------------	-------------------

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Hello./Hi.

<i>Bună ziua/Bună.</i>	<i>boo-nă zee-wa/boo-nă</i>
------------------------	-----------------------------

Good night.

<i>Noaptea bună.</i>	<i>no-ap-te boo-nă</i>
----------------------	------------------------

Goodbye./Bye.

<i>La revedere./Pa.</i>	<i>la re-ve-de-re/pa</i>
-------------------------	--------------------------

Yes.

<i>Da.</i>	<i>da</i>
------------	-----------

No.

<i>Nu.</i>	<i>noo</i>
------------	------------

Please.

<i>Vă rog.</i>	<i>vă rog</i>
----------------	---------------

Thank you.

<i>Mulțumesc/Merci.</i>	<i>mool-tsoo-mesk/mer-see</i>
-------------------------	-------------------------------

You’re welcome.

<i>Cu plăcere.</i>	<i>koo plă-che-re</i>
--------------------	-----------------------

Excuse me.

<i>Scuzați-mă.</i>	<i>skoo-za-tsee-mă</i>
--------------------	------------------------

Sorry.

<i>Îmi pare rău.</i>	<i>ewm’ pa-re ră-oo</i>
----------------------	-------------------------

How are you?

<i>Ce mai faceți?</i>	<i>che mai fă-che-ts’</i>
-----------------------	---------------------------

Fine. And you?

<i>Bine.</i>	<i>bee-ne</i>
<i>Dumneavoastră?</i>	<i>doom-ne-a-vo-as-tă</i>

What’s your name?

<i>Cum vă numiți?</i>	<i>koom vă noo-meets’</i>
-----------------------	---------------------------

My name is ...

<i>Numele meu este ...</i>	<i>noo-me-le me-oo yes-te ...</i>
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

I’m pleased to meet you.

<i>Îmi pare bine.</i>	<i>ewm’ pa-re bee-ne</i>
-----------------------	--------------------------

Where are you from?

<i>De unde sunteți?</i>	<i>de unde soon-tets’</i>
-------------------------	---------------------------

I’m from ...

<i>Sunt din ...</i>	<i>soont deen ...</i>
---------------------	-----------------------

Can I take a photo?

<i>Pot să fac o fotografie?</i>	<i>pot să fak o fo-to-gra-fee-e</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------------------

DIRECTIONS

Where’s the ...?

<i>Unde este ...?</i>	<i>oon-de yes-te ...</i>
-----------------------	--------------------------

Is this the road to (Arad)?

<i>Acesta e drumul spre (Arad)?</i>	<i>a-ches-ta ye droo-mool spre (a-rad)</i>
-------------------------------------	--

Can you show me (on the map)?

<i>Puteți să-mi arătați (pe hartă)?</i>	<i>poo-tets’ sām’ a-ră-tats’ (pe har-tă)</i>
---	--

What’s the address?

<i>Care este adresa?</i>	<i>ka-re yes-te a-dre-sa</i>
--------------------------	------------------------------

How far is it?

<i>Cât e de departe?</i>	<i>kewt ye de de-par-te</i>
--------------------------	-----------------------------

How do I get there?

<i>Cum ajung acolo?</i>	<i>koom a-zhoong a-ko-lo</i>
-------------------------	------------------------------

SIGNS

Intrare	Entrance
Ieşire	Exit
Deschis	Open
Închis	Closed
Camere Libere	Rooms Available
Informații	Information
Secție de Poliție	Police Station
Interzis	Prohibited
Toalete	Toilets
Bărbați	Men
Femei	Women

Turn ...

Viraj ...	vee-rats' ...
at the corner	
la colț	la kolts
at the traffic lights	
la semafor	la se-ma-for
left/right	
la stânga/dreapta	la stewn-ga/dre-ap-ta

It's ...

Este ...	yes-te ...
far away	
departe	de-par-te
left	
la stânga	la stewn-ga
near (to ...)	
aproape (de ...)	a-pro-a-pe (de ...)
right	
la dreapta	la dre-ap-ta
straight ahead	
tot înaintea	tot ew-na-eeen-te

by bus	cu autobuzul	koo a-oo-to-boo-zool
by train	cu trenul	koo tre-nool
on foot	pe jos	pe zhos
north	nord	nord
south	sud	sood
east	est	est
west	vest	vest

castle	castel	kas-tel
cathedral	catedrală	ka-te-dra-lă
church	biserică	bee-se-ree-kă
main square	piața centrală	pya-tsa chen-tra-lă
monastery	mănăstire	mă-năs-tee-re
monument	monument	mo-noo-ment
museum	muzeu	moo-ze-oo
old city	orașul vechi	o-ra-shool ve-ki
palace	palat	pa-lat
ruins	ruine	roo-ee-ne
statue	statuie	sta-too-ye

EMERGENCIES

Help!

Ajutor!	a-zhoo-tor
It's an emergency!	
E un caz de urgență!	ye oon kaz de oor-jen-tșă
Could you help me, please?	
Ajutați-mă, vă rog!	a-zhoo-ta-tsee-mă vă rog

Where's the police station?

Unde e secția de poliție?	oon-de ye sek-tsee-a de po-lee-tsee-e
---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Where are the toilets?

Unde este o toaletă?	oon-de yes-te o to-a-le-ta
----------------------	----------------------------

Go away!

Pleacă!/Cară-te!	ple-a-kă/ka-ră-te
------------------	-------------------

I'm lost.

M-am rătăcit.	mam ră-tă-cheet
---------------	-----------------

Call ...!

Chemați ...!	ke-mats' ...
--------------	--------------

a doctor

un doctor	oon dok-tor
-----------	-------------

an ambulance

o ambulanță	o am-boo-lan-tșă
-------------	------------------

the police

poliția	po-lee-tsee-a
---------	---------------

HEALTH

Where's the nearest ...?

Unde se află cel mai apropiat ...?	oon-de se a-flă chel mai a-pro-pee-at ...
------------------------------------	---

dentist

dentist	den-teest
---------	-----------

doctor

doctor	dok-tor
--------	---------

hospital

spital	spee-tal
--------	----------

Where's the nearest (night) pharmacist?

Unde se află cea mai apropiată farmacie (cu program non-stop)?	oon-de se a-flă che-a mai a-pro-pee-a-tă far-ma-chee-e (koo pro-gram non-stop)
--	--

I'm sick.

Mă simt rău.	mă seemt ră-oo
--------------	----------------

I need a doctor (who speaks English).

Am nevoie de un doctor (care să vorbească engleza).	am ne-vo-ye de oon dok-tor (ka-re să vor-be-as-kă en-gle-za)
---	--

It hurts here.

Mă doare aici.	mă do-a-re a-eech
----------------	-------------------

I'm allergic to ...	Am alergie la ...	am a-ler-jee-ye la ...
antibiotics	antibiotice	an-tee-byo-tee-che
penicillin	penicilină	pe-nee-chee-lee-nă
peanuts	arahide	ara-hee-de

I have (a) ...	Am ...	am ...
asthma	astm	astm
cough	tuse	too-se
diarrhoea	diaree	dee-a-re-e
fever	febră	fe-bră
headache	durere de cap	doo-re-re de kap
nausea	greați	gre-tsoor'
pain	dureri	doo-er'
sore throat	durere în gât	doo-re-re ewn gewt
toothache	durere de dinți	doo-er-er' de deents'

antiseptic	antiseptic	an-tee-sep-teek
condom	prezervativ	pre-zer-va-teev
contraceptives	contraceptive	kon-tra-chep-tee-ve
painkillers	analgezice	a-nal-je-zee-che

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?

Vorbiți engleza?	vor-beets' en-gle-za
------------------	----------------------

Do you understand?

Înțelegeți?	ewn-tse-le-jets'
-------------	------------------

I (don't) understand.

Eu (nu) înțeleg.	ye-oo (noo) ewn-tse-leg
------------------	-------------------------

What does (azi) mean?

Ce înseamnă (azi)?	che ewn-se-am-nă (az')
--------------------	------------------------

Could you please ...?

Ați putea ...?	ats' poo-te-a ...
----------------	-------------------

repeat that

repetă	re-pe-ta
--------	----------

speak more slowly

vorbi mai rar	vor-bee mai rar
---------------	-----------------

write it down

scrie	skree-ye
-------	----------

NUMBERS

0	zero	ze-ro
1	unu	oo-noo
2	doi	doy
3	trei	trey
4	patru	pa-troo
5	cinci	cheench'
6	șase	sha-se
7	șapte	shap-te
8	opt	opt
9	nouă	no-wă
10	zece	ze-che
11	unsprezece	oon-spre-ze-che
12	doisprezece	doy-spre-ze-che
13	treisprezece	trey-spre-ze-che
14	paisprezece	pai-spre-ze-che
15	cincisprezece	cheench'-spre-ze-che
16	șaisprezece	shai-spre-ze-che
17	șaptesprezece	shap-te-spre-ze-che
18	optsprezece	opt-spre-ze-che

19	nouăsprezece	no-wă-spre-ze-che
20	douăzeci	do-wă-ze-chi
21	douăzeci și unu	do-wă-ze-chi shee oo-noo
22	douăzeci și doi	do-wă-ze-chi shee doy
30	treizeci	trey-ze-chi
40	patruzeci	pa-troo-ze-chi
50	cincizeci	cheench-ze-chi
60	șaizeci	shai-ze-chi
70	șaptezeci	shap-te-ze-chi
80	optzeci	opt-ze-chi
90	nouăzeci	no-wă-ze-chi
100	o sută	o soo-tă
1000	o mie	o mee-e

SHOPPING & SERVICES

Where's the ...?

Unde este ...?	oon-de yes-te ...
bank	
banca	ban-ka
city centre	
centrul orașului	chen-trool o-ra-shoo-looy
market	
piața	pya-tsa
police station	
secția de poliție	sek-tsee-a de po-lee-tsee-e
post office	
poșta	posh-ta
public toilet	
toaleta publică	to-a-le-ta poo-blee-kă
tourist office	
biroul de informații turistice	bee-ro-ool de een-for-ma-tsee too-rees-tee-che

What time does it open/close?

La ce oră se deschide/închide?	la che o-ră se des-kee-de/ewn-kee-de
--------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Where can I buy ...?

Unde pot cumpăra ...?	oon-de pot koom-pă-ra ...
-----------------------	---------------------------

I'm looking for ...

Caut ...	kowt ...
----------	----------

Can I look at it?

Pot să mă uit?	pot să mă ooyt
----------------	----------------

How much is it?

Cât costă?	kewt kos-tă
------------	-------------

Can you write down the price?

Puteți scrie prețul?	poo-tets' skree-e pre-tsool
----------------------	-----------------------------

That's too expensive.

E prea scump.	ye pre-a skoomp
---------------	-----------------

What's your lowest price?

Care e prețul cel mai mic?	ka-re ye pre-tsool chel mai meek
----------------------------	----------------------------------

Do you accept ...?

Acceptați ...?	ak-chep-tats' ...
----------------	-------------------

credit cards

cărți de credit	karts' de kre-deet
-----------------	--------------------

debit cards

cărți de debit karts' de de-beet

travellers cheques

cecuri de călătorie che-koor' de ka-lə-to-ree-e

Where's ...?

Unde se află un ...? oon-de se a-flă oon ...

an ATM

bancomat ban-ko-mat

a foreign exchange office

birou de schimb valutar bee-roh de skeemb va-loo-tar

Where's the nearest public phone?

Unde se află cel mai apropiat telefon public?

oon-de se a-fla chel mai a-pro-pee-at te-le-fon poo-bleek

I'd like to buy a phonecard.

Aș dori să cumpăr o cartelă de telefon.

ash do-ree sa koom-par o kar-te-lă de te-le-fon

I'd like a SIM card for your network.

Aș dori un SIM card pentru rețeaua locală.

ash do-ree oon seem kard pen-troo re-tse-a-wa lo-ka-lă

Where's the local Internet café?

Unde se află cel mai apropiat internet café?

oon-de se a-fla chel mai a-pro-pee-at een-ter-net-ka-fe

I'd like to ...

Aș dori ... ash do-ree ...

check my email

să-mi verific e-mail-ul sam' ve-ree-feek ee-meyl-ool

get Internet access

să accesez internetul sa ak-che-sez een-ter-ne-tool

TIME & DATES**What time is it?**

Cât e ceasul? kewt ye che-a-sool

It's one o'clock.

E ora unu. ye o-ra oo-noo

It's (two) o'clock.

E ora (două). ye o-ra (do-wă)

Quarter past (one).

(Unu) și un sfert. (oo-noo) shee oon sfert

Half past (one).

(Unu) și jumătate. (oo-noo) sheezhoo-mă-ta-te

At what time ...?

La ce oră ...? la che o-ră ...

At ...

La ora ... la o-ra ...

am

dimineața dee-mee-ne-a-tsa

pm (afternoon)

după masa doo-pă ma-sa

pm (evening)

seara se-a-ra

morning

dimineață dee-mee-ne-a-tsa

afternoon

după amiază doo-pă a-mya-ză

evening

seară se-a-ră

'STREET' ROMANIAN

Here are a few useful terms for getting around.

Aleea	a-le-ya	Avenue
Bulevardul	boo-le-var-dool	Boulevard
Calea	ka-le-ya	Road
Piața	pya-tsa	Square
Șoseaua	sho-sya-wa	Highway
Strada	stra-da	Street

Monday	<i>luni</i>	loon'
Tuesday	<i>marți</i>	marts'
Wednesday	<i>miercuri</i>	myer-koor'
Thursday	<i>joi</i>	zhoy
Friday	<i>vineri</i>	vee-ner'
Saturday	<i>sâmbătă</i>	sewm-bă-tă
Sunday	<i>duminică</i>	doo-mee-nee-kă

January	<i>ianuarie</i>	ya-nwa-ree-e
February	<i>februarie</i>	fe-brwa-ree-e
March	<i>martie</i>	mar-tee-e
April	<i>aprilie</i>	a-pree-lee-e
May	<i>mai</i>	mai
June	<i>iunie</i>	yoo-nee-e
July	<i>iulie</i>	yoo-lee-e
August	<i>august</i>	ow-goost
September	<i>septembrie</i>	sep-tem-bree-e
October	<i>octombrie</i>	ok-tom-bree-e
November	<i>noiembrie</i>	no-yem-bree-e
December	<i>decembrie</i>	de-chem-bree-e

TRANSPORT**Public Transport****Is this the ... to (Cluj)?**

Acesta e ... de (Cluj)? a-ches-ta ye ... de (kloozh)

boat

vaporul va-po-rool

bus

autobuzul a-oo-to-boo-zool

plane

avionul a-vee-o-nool

train

trenul tre-nool

What time's the ... bus?

Când este ... autobuz? kewnd ye-te ... a-oo-to-booz

first

primul pree-mool

last

ultimul ool-tee-mool

next

următorul oor-mă-to-rool

Does it stop at (Galați)?

Oprește la (Galați)? o-presh-te la (ga-lats')

What time does it arrive/leave?

La ce oră sosește/ pleacă? la che o-ră so-sesh-te/ ple-a-kă

Please tell me when we get to (Iași).

Vă rog, când ajungem la (Iași)? vă rog kewnd a-zhoon-jem la (yash')

One ... ticket (to Cluj), please.

Un bilet ... (până la Cluj), vă rog. oon bee-let ... (pew-nă la kloozh) vă rog

one-way

dus doos

return

dus-intors doos ewn-tors

How much is it?

Cât costă? kewt kos-tă

How long does the trip take?

Cât durează călătoria? kewt doo-re-a-ză ka-lă-to-ree-a

I'd like a luggage locker.

Aș dori un dulap de încălțat bagajul. ash do-ree oon doo-lap de ewn-koo-yat ba-ga-zhool

Is this taxi available?

E liber taxiul? ye lee-ber tak-see-ool

How much is it to ...?

Cât costă drumul până la ...? kewt kos-tă droo-mool pew-nă la ...

Please put the meter on.

Vă rog, dați drumul la aparat. vă rog dats' droo-mool la a-pa-rat

Please take me to (this address).

Vă rog, duceți-mă la (această adresă). vă rog doo-ches't-mă la (a-che-as-tă a-dre-să)

Private Transport**I'd like to hire a ...**

Aș dori să închiriez o ... ash do-ree sa ewn-kee-ree-ez o ...

bicycle

bicicletă bee-chee-kle-tă

car

mașină ma-shee-nă

motorbike

motocicletă mo-to-chee-kle-tă

petrol/gasoline

benzină ben-zee-nă

I need a mechanic.

Am nevoie de un mecanic. am ne-vo-ye de oon me-ka-need

I've run out of petrol.

Am rămas fără benzină. am ră-mas fă-ră ben-zee-nă

I have a flat tyre.

Am o pană. am o pa-nă

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**Is there a/an ...?**

Este/Există vreo/vreun ...

yes-te/ek-sees-tă vre-o/vre-oon ...

I need a ...

Am nevoie de ...

am ne-vo-ye de ...

baby change room

loc pentru a schimba un scutech pentru copil

lok pen-troo a skim-ba oon sku-tek pen-troo ko-peel

car baby seat

scaun special în mașină pentru copil mic

skown spe-chee-al ewn ma-shee-nă pen-troo ko-peel meek

child-minding service

o persoană care să aibă grijă de copil

o per-so-a-nă ka-re sa a-ee-bă gree-zhă de ko-peel

children's menu

meniul pentru copii

me-nyool pen-troo ko-pee-ee

disposable nappies/diapers

pampers/scutece de unică folosință

pem-pers/skoo-te-che de oo-nee-kă fo-lo-seen-tsa

infant milk formula

lapte praf pentru copii

lap-te praf pen-troo ko-pee-ee

(English-speaking) babysitter

un babysitter care vorbește engleză

oon bey-bee-see-ter ka-re vor-besh-te en-gle-za

highchair

scaun special la masă pentru copil

skown spe-chee-al la ma-sa pen-troo ko-peel

potty

olîță

o-lee-tsa

stroller

carucior de copii

ka-roo-chor de ko-pee-ee

Do you mind if I breastfeed here?

Vă deranjează dacă vă der-an-zhe-a-ză da-ka

alăptez aici? a-lap-tez a-eech'

Are children allowed?

Copii sunt acceptați? ko-pee-ee soont ak-chep-tats'

Glossary

These handy Romanian words can also be used in Moldova. Hungarian (Hun) is included for key words.

ACR – Automobil Clubul Român
Agentia Teatrală – theatre ticket office (Hun: színház jegyiroda)
Agentie de Voiaj CFR – train ticket office (Hun: vasúti jegyiroda)
alimentară – food shop
Antrec – National Association of Rural, Ecological & Cultural Tourism
apă caldă – hot water (Hun: meleg víz)
apă rece – cold water (Hun: hideg víz)
astăzi – today
autogară – bus station (Hun: távolsági autóbusz pályaudvar)
autostrada – highway

bagaje de mână – left-luggage office (Hun: csomagmegőrző)
bandă roșie – red stripe (hiking)
barcă cu motor – motorboat
barcă cu rame – rowing boat
berărie – beer house
biserică – church (Hun: templom)
biserică de lemn – wooden church

cabana – mountain cabin or chalet
cale ferată – railway
cameră cu apă curentă – room with running water
cameră matrimonială – double room with a double bed
casă de bilete – ticket office (Hun: jegyiroda)
cascadă – waterfall
căsuțe – wooden hut
cazare – accommodation
CFR – Romanian State Railways
cheile – gorge
Crăciun – Christmas
crap – carp
cruce albastră – blue cross (hiking)

de jos – at the bottom
deschis – open (Hun: nyitva)
de sus – at the top
dispecerat cazare – accommodation office
drum – road, trip

en detail – retail (shopping)
en gros – wholesale (shopping)

floare de colț – edelweiss

gară – train station (Hun: vasútállomás)
grădină de vară – summer garden
grind – sand dune

ieșire – exit (Hun: kijárat)
închis – closed (Hun: zárva)
intrare – entrance (Hun: bejárat)
intrarea interzisă – no entry (Hun: tilos belépni)

jos – low, down

mâine – tomorrow
mănăstire – monastery (Hun: kolostor)
menu – menu
metropolitan – the head of a province of the church
muzeu – museum (Hun: múzeum)

noapte – night
notă (de plată) – bill (Hun: számla)

orar – timetable (Hun: menetrend)

păduri – forest
pâine – bread
parter – ground floor
pensiune – usually denotes a modern building or refurbished home, privately owned, that's been turned into accommodation for tourists
peron – platform
piața – square or market (Hun: főtér or piac)
piatră – stone, rock
plecare – departure (Hun: indulás)
popas – camping ground (Hun: kemping)
primărie – town hall
punct galben – yellow circle (hiking)

sală de concert – concert hall (Hun: hangversenyterem)
scaun de WC – toilet (Hun: toalett)
schimb valutar – currency exchange
scrumbie de Dunăre – Danube herring
Sistematzire – systemisation (Ceașescu's scheme for bulldozing entire rural villages and shifting inhabitants into purpose-built agro-industrial complexes on city outskirts or into concrete-block buildings)
șosea – road
sosire – arrival (Hun: érkezés)

toaleta – bathroom
traseu – hiking trail
triunghi roșu – red triangle (hiking)

vamă – customs (Hun: vámkezelés)
vilă – denotes a 19th- or 20th-century two- or three-storey house; many have been refurbished and turned into dwellings for tourists
vin alba – white wine (Hun: bor fehér)
vin roșu – red wine (Hun: bor vörös)

zi – day

spălătorie – laundrette (Hun: pátolyat)
spălătorie auto – car wash
stradă – street
stufăriș – reed bed
sus – up

țară – land, country
telecabină – cable car
teleferic – cable car
telescaun – chairlift
teleski – drag lift
terasă – terrace

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