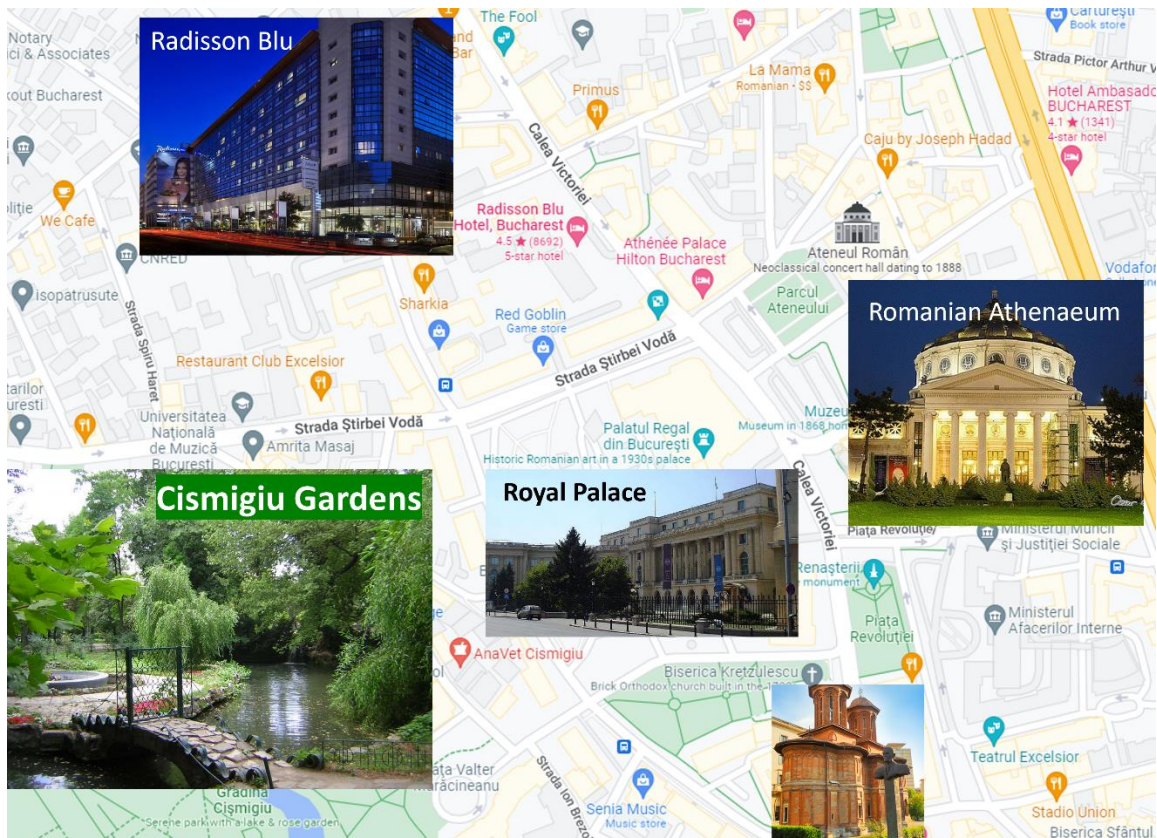


Welcome to Bucharest!

Your information guide for Bucharest

We are glad to welcome you on behalf of the IEEE Romania Section. To make your stay in Bucharest as pleasant as possible, we have compiled some practical information and tips. If you need more information or have any other queries, do not hesitate to contact us.

Venue: [Radisson Blu Hotel](#) Bucharest, Calea Victoriei 63-81, Sector 1, 010065, Bucharest, Romania



1. Weather in March in Bucharest

Bucharest has a four-season climate. In the spring, the weather can quickly alternate between rain and sunshine. June, July and August are the hottest months. As the leaves begin to change color, you can still enjoy warm and sunny days while taking a stroll in the city's many parks or down Calea Victoriei. Winters can be quite cold with moderate snowfall.

Although winter in Bucharest means lot of show on the ground for a few months, in the last three years no snow was deposited on the ground. However, little snow or rain might be possible during the meeting. If we compare the same time from 2022, we expect to have circa 20 Celsius degrees in Bucharest during the IEEE Meeting.

For accurate information about the weather, please check <https://weather.com/weather/tenday/1/ROXX0003:1:RO>

2. Currency and Exchange Rates

The Leu (RON is the international version) is the official currency in Romania, which is divided into 100 bani. All Romanian bank notes use polymer (not paper). Money may be exchanged at banks, international airports, hotels or authorized exchange offices. ATMs are available at banks, airports and shopping centers. American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. It is recommended to travel with some Euro or USD in cash in case of difficulty in using credit cards. Only Romanian currency is accepted when paying in cash.

For exchange rates you may want to have a look on the website of the National Bank of Romania at <http://www.bnro.ro/Home.aspx>

All banknotes and coins are shown below



3. Electricity

Supply voltage is 230 Volts, 50Hz. Two-pin European-style plugs are standard. In hotels' rooms you can find sockets with or without protective contact for 230 V, 50 Hz and currents up to 10 A or 16 A.



Type C plug (Europlug) The plug is non-earthed and has two round 4 mm (0.16 in) pins, which usually converge slightly towards their free ends. It can be inserted into any socket that accepts 4 mm round contacts spaced 19 mm (0.75 in) apart.



The type F plug, commonly called a "Schuko plug", has two earthing clips on the sides of the plug instead of a female earth contact. The Schuko connection system is symmetrical and unpolarised by design, allowing live and neutral to be reversed. The socket also accepts type E plugs and Europlugs. It supplies up to 16 A.

4. Public transport

4.1. Generalities

The public transport works every day between 5 am - 23 pm. It tends to be crowded during peak hours (7:00 AM to 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM). Taxis are available non-stop.

Taxi

Taxi is quite cheap in Bucharest, with fares between 2.59 Lei/km and 2.99 Lei/km. All taxis are yellow and information from fare to company name, car number, and phone number are visible on the exterior of the car. When calling a regular taxi on the street you will have to pay in cash.

[Star Taxi app](#) is widely used in Bucharest. It is available for both Android and iPhone. Using this app you can order a regular taxi. You can pay either by card (provided via the app) or cash.

Uber and Bolt are available in Bucharest at similar prices or higher.

Bus, Trolley and Tramway

Website: <https://www.stbsa.ro/>

The passengers must have a valid ACTIV electronic card before boarding. The cards can be bought only in the RATB booths, that can be found near the RATB stations. The booths are opened during working days from 5:30 AM to 8:30 PM and generally closed during Saturday and Sunday. The price of a single ticket on ALL URBAN ROUTES is 2.50 Lei. The ACTIV card can be used also for Metro.

The passengers are obliged to validate the card without delay when boarding the vehicle. One payment is valid for 90 minutes. When changing the vehicle, you must validate the card again.

In most of the vehicles you can also pay by credit/debit card. One ride costs 3 Lei.

Metro

The metro system is the fastest way to travel in Bucharest. The center of the city is covered by several stations, who are set around 1-2 km from each other: Piata Unirii, Universitate, Piata Romana, Piata Victoriei. There are multiple types of tickets you can buy:

- 2 fares that costs 6 Lei (3 Lei/1 fare)
- 10 fares that costs 25 Lei (2.5 Lei/1 fare)
- the day pass for 8 Lei.

One fare means that you can go to any station in Bucharest no matter how far and the color of the line. There are no zones marked on the metro map, so the price of one fare is the same.



look out for this sign



4.2. From/to the airport

The *Henri Coanda* airport (OTP is the international code) is located north of Bucharest, 26 km from the city center.

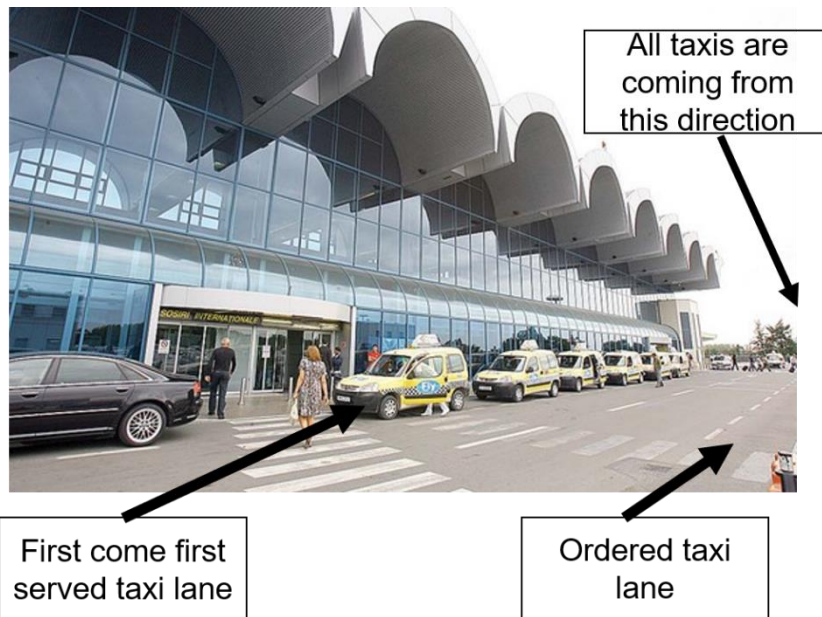
By taxi

Depending on the tariff, a ride between the airport and the city center costs between 60 Lei and 80 Lei. Taxis can be ordered at the airport using the electronic booths right at the exist area of the Arrivals terminal, and the taxi area is just

outside; all prices ranges are available. You will get a ticket with the taxi details, including the car nameplate, company logo, company car number and tariff.



There is also a lane with first come first serve taxis, where taxis are not ordered from the booth, but the prices can be a little higher.



By bus

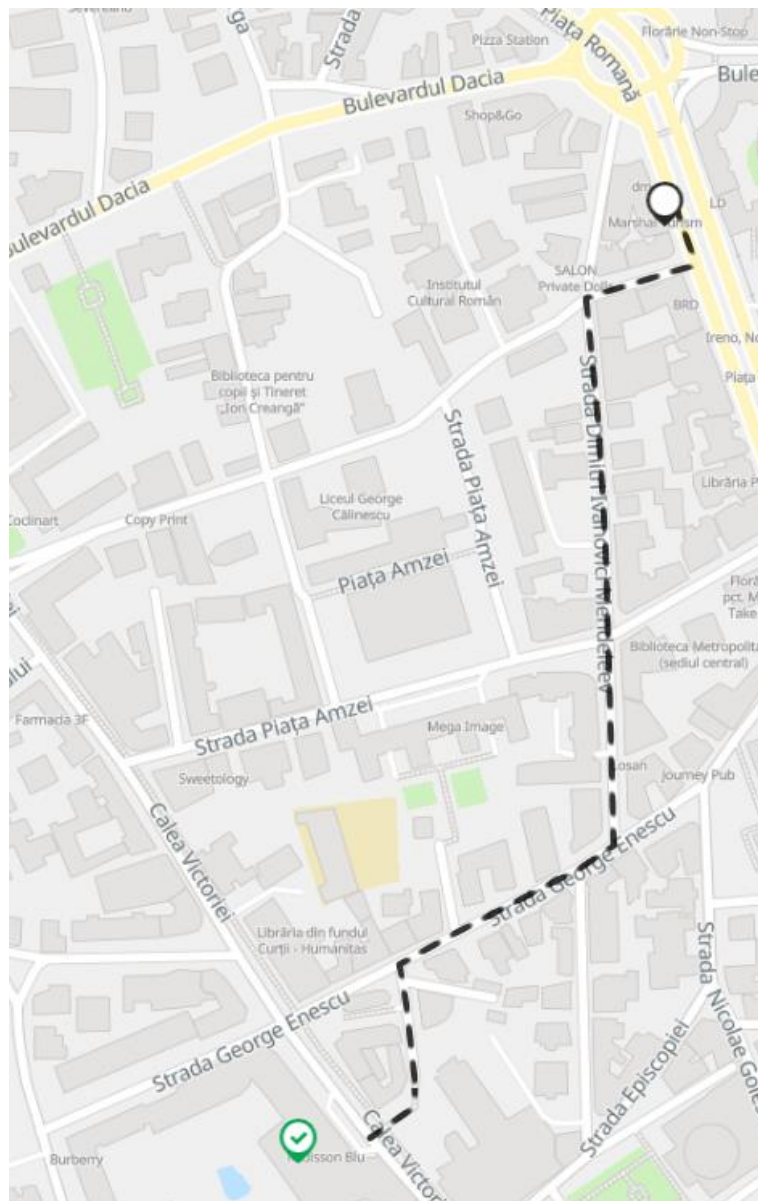
The 783 bus travels regularly (24 h/day) from the Henry Coanda International Airport (Otopeni) to the City Centre (approximate travel time 40 minutes). Here are [the route](#) and [the schedule](#) for the bus 783.

If you want to take the bus from the **Airport Otopeni Henri Coanda** to the city, the **bus stop** is **downstairs, in front of Arrivals Entrance** (from International

Arrivals, take the stairs, follow the signs to get to “Arrivals” and then exit) or follow the yellow “Bus signs”. There is a kiosk/ machine where you can buy tickets, the driver doesn't sell tickets. You can buy a travel card in the bus station.

At Victory Square (Piata Victoriei), Romana Square (Piata Romana), 21 December Square (Piata 21 Decembrie), Unirii Square 1 (Piata Unirii 1) and Unirii Square 2 you have access to Subway (Metrou).

For Radisson Blu Hotel you have to get off at Piata Romana (Romana Square), then walk 670 m (about 9 minutes).



5. Emergency medical care

In case of emergency you should call 112. If possible, you should ask a Romanian person to do this for you, because the operator might not speak fluent English. Basic emergency medical care is provided for free. However, you are advised to carry a European health insurance card or to contract a travel medical insurance.

6. GSM and Internet connection

The telecom companies with good coverage in Romania are Vodafone, Orange, DIGI, and Telekom. Prepaid SIM cards are available starting from 5 Euro. They can be bought at the airport (in a newspaper shop) or in the city at various providers. The prepaid sims include several GBs of internet data and international minutes.

7. Pharmacies

Pharmacies are available everywhere in Bucharest. You can buy pharmaceutical drugs without a doctor's prescription, including for stomach, flu, headache, and others. All pharmacies operate under the EU regulations.

8. Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in Romania. However, good restaurant or taxi services may be rewarded by 10 to 15% of the bill.

9. Discover Bucharest

If you have some time and want to discover Bucharest, we scheduled some few suggestions for you.

9.1. Romanian Food

- **Sarmale** (cabbage rolls): these round cabbage leaves stuffed with minced meat (and some rice) are a favorite among 99% of Romanians. Most say this is the best traditional food and the main festive dish cooked on all special occasions.
- **Mici or mititei**: small rolls of grilled minced meat that comes in various combinations with pork, sheep or beef. It's every meat lover's dream come true.

- **Mamaliga**: it is basically boiled corn flour, the Romanian version of 'polenta', and this was basically the substitute for bread decades ago. It's best served alongside sarmale or in the vegetarian version with cottage cheese and cream.
- **Slanina, caltabosi, lebar, toba** also known as 'porcarii' (products made of pork meat), there are best served in the cold winter season. Order a cold platter and you will get them invariably together with various types of cheese. 'Slanina' is smoked fat; 'caltabosi' is a sausage made of the pig's internal organs, minced meat and spices (pepper and thyme); 'lebar' is a sausage made mostly of pork liver; 'toba' is made of the pig's head, tongue, kidneys, heart and muscle. Probably all this does not sound very tasty, but trust us, if it's made right, you will be licking your fingers at the end of the meal.
- **Carnati de Plescoi**: sausages from the region of Buzau (North-East of Bucharest) made from a mix of sheep and beef meat seasoned with paprika.
- **Salata de vinete** or aubergine salad with mayonnaise and a bit of onion.
- **Zacusca** is a salad of reddish color made with aubergines, red bell peppers, onions and tomato sauce.
- **Ciorba** which is basically sour soup and since Romanians are crazy about this, it comes in many varieties. What we recommend is the 'ciorba de fasole si afumatura' (bean soup with smoked bacon) served from a bread bowl and, if you are fond of sour cream, try the pork, chicken or beef ciorba cooked with cream. If you are in the mood for something different, then try the ciorba de burta (tripe sour soup with cream) - it's one of the most loved Romanian dishes.
- **Papanasi** is a hearty delicious dessert with two doughnuts covered by cream and Jam.
- **Placinta cu branza dulce** is a pie with sweet cheese, a dessert that can be found everywhere: restaurants, cafes, bakeries and homes.
- **Cozonac** is a sweet bread dough with nuts and Turkish delight. It is a treat cooked on all special occasions (Christmas, Easter, and other religious holidays).
- **Covrigi** or the Romanian pretzel is a thinner version of the famous German counterpart and it comes in various combinations: with salt, with sesame, poppy or fillings (chocolate, cheese, jam or a sausage). The covrig is the Romanian breakfast if you had no time to eat something at home and you will often see queues of people waiting in front of bakeries to buy these treats in the early hours of the morning.

9.2. Restaurants/Bistros in the City

Here are some examples:

- Caru' cu Bere, located in the Old city center
- Sharkia, part of the Radisson Blu Hotels, ask the hotel personnel for guidance
- Vatra, near the Bucharest City Hall
- Trattoria Adagio Cismigiu

There are many other restaurants in Bucharest. Just search for “restaurants near me” using Google.

10. Bucharest City Guide

- Free walking tours of Bucharest:
<https://bucharest.walkaboutfreetours.com/>
- Bucharest seen from the eye of a traveller.
<https://fullsuitcase.com/highlights-bucharest/>
- Bucharest in The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2023/jan/23/a-locals-guide-to-bucharest-romania>
- Other useful links
<https://www.inyourpocket.com/bucharest/sightseeing>
<http://romaniatourism.com/bucharest.html>

The Radisson Blu Hotel is located on the Victoriei Avenue (Calea Victorie), the central street in Bucharest.



Major buildings and monuments along Calea Victoriei include (from north to south) are:

- The [Cantacuzino Palace](#), hosting The [George Enescu Museum](#)
- [Museum of Art Collections](#)
- [Stirbey Palace](#)
- The [Athénée Palace](#) Hotel, now a [Hilton](#)
- [Romanian Athenaeum](#)
- [National Museum of Art of Romania](#) (Royal Palace)
- The [Central Library](#) of the [University of Bucharest](#)
- [Kretzulescu Church](#)
- [Piata Revoluției](#) (Revolution Square), including the [Memorial of Rebirth](#)
- [Palatul Telefoanelor](#)
- [Odeon Theatre](#)
- [Casa Capșa](#)
- [Palace of the National Military Circle](#)
- [Pasajul Macca-Vilacrosse](#)
- [Bucharest Financial Plaza](#)
- [National Museum of History of Romania](#), with the [Statue of Trajan and the She-wolf](#) on its steps
- [CEC Palace](#)

We wish you a pleasant stay in Bucharest!