

The background of the image is the flag of Romania, consisting of three vertical stripes of equal width: blue on the left, yellow in the center, and red on the right. The colors have a slightly textured, fabric-like appearance.

Romania



Location and Demography

Romania is situated in the southeastern part of Central Europe and shares borders with Hungary to the northwest, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, the Black Sea to the southeast, Ukraine to the east and to the north and the Republic of Moldova to the east. Roughly the size of Oregon, Romania is the second largest country in the area, after Poland. According to the 2011 census, Romania's population is 20,121,641.



Physical features

Mountains: 31% of Romania's territory

Hills and orchards: 36%

Plains: 33%

Areas covered by rivers and lakes: 3.7%

Total number of lakes: 3,500

Lakes greater than 250 acres: 300

Highest mountain peak: Moldoveanu Mt. —2544 m)

Languages

The official language is Romanian, but sharing many features with other Romance languages such as Italian, French, Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese. Romanian is spoken as a first language by 91% of the population.

Traditions & Folklore

The countryside is the heart and soul of Romania, where peasant culture remains a strong force and medieval life prevails, as it does nowhere else in Europe.

Painted Eggs

The most readily recognizable examples of Romanian art are the famous painted eggs, especially prominent around Easter time. Painting of real hollowed-out eggs was an integral part of preparations for this festival of renewal.



Ceramics

Romanian pottery is still made mainly on traditional kick-wheels with simple finishing tools. Shapes, sizes and patterns reflect the different clays and cultures of diverse areas where are produced. Color glazes and decorations vary from strong geometrics, to delicate florals, animals and humans. There are approximately 30 pottery centers throughout the country, each with its own distinctive style.



Wood

Maramures is the area to see the art of woodwork. Homes are trimmed in elaborately carved wood, wooden gates and even fences are intricately carved.

Hand-carved decorations in complex patterns hold meanings beyond the purely decorative.



www.RomaniaTourism.com

Textiles

Textile weaving is the most widespread craft in Romania, handed down from generation to generation, using distinctive family patterns along with those specific to different districts. Looms still are common in homes and women weave and embroider from childhood through old age.



Rugs

Rugs from Oltenia reflect nature, with flowers, trees and birds. Those of Moldavia have patterns of little branches repeated in rows to create a tree of life. Rugs from Maramures tend to have geometric shapes, resembling those from Turkey and the Caucasian mountains.



Masks

Masks are linked to folk festivals held predominantly in Maramures and Moldavia. Typically made from the hides of sheep, goats or cows, the masks are adorned with fabric, hats, pompoms, metallic bits, feathers, beans, straw and animal horns to represent bears and goats, they're traditionally worn to welcome in the New Year during a couple weeks in December and early January.



Călușarii

The *Calusari* were the members of a Romanian fraternal secret society who practiced a ritual acrobatic dance known as the *calus*.

In their dance, the *Calusari* carried clubs and a sword, as well as a flag and a wooden horsehead.

They swore on the group's flag to treat each other as brothers, to respect the customs of the *Calusari* and to remain chaste for the next nine days.



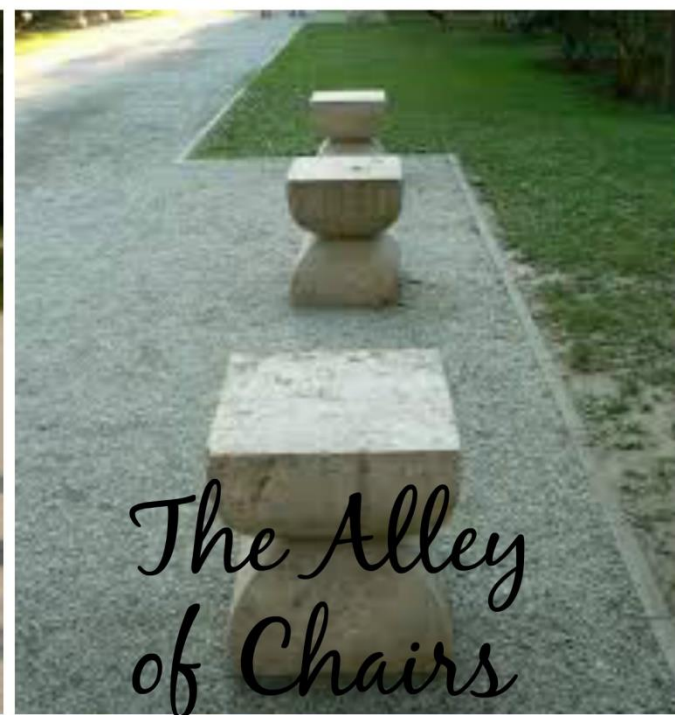
Arts of Romania

Works of Brancusi are in various locales, but one of the finest collections is in the city of Targu Jiu, in Oltenia province on the southern border of the Carpathian Mountains. "The Endless Column" (Coloana Infinita), "The Gate of the Kiss" (Poarta Sarutului), "The Table of Silence" (Masa Tacerii) and "The Alley of Chairs" (Aleea Scaunelor) are displayed in the city's main park as indicated by the great sculptor.

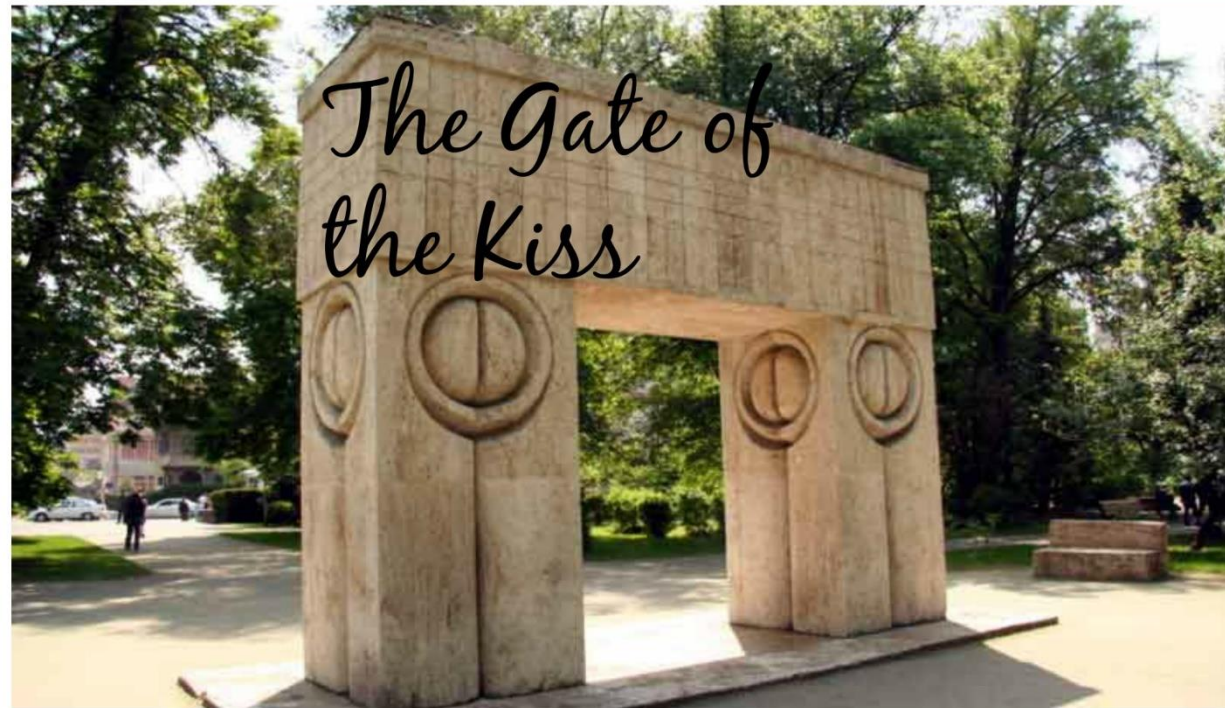
The Table of Silence



*The Alley
of Chairs*



*The Gate of
the Kiss*



*The Endless
Column*



Cuisine

Romanian cuisine shares some similarities with other Balkan cuisines such as Greek, Bulgarian and Turkish cuisine. *Ciorba* (sour soups) includes a wide range of sour soups, while *mititei* (dish of grilled ground meat rolls made from a mixture of beef, lamb and pork and spices such as garlic, black pepper, thyme, coriander, anise, savory and sometimes a touch of paprika), *mamaliga* (similar to polenta), and *sarmale* (dish of grape, cabbage, monk's rhubarb or chard leaves rolled around a filling usually based on minced meat) are featured commonly in main courses.

Pork, chicken and beef are the preferred meats, but lamb and fish are also popular. Certain traditional recipes are made in direct connection with the holidays: chiftele (minced-meat balls), toba (thick sausage) at Christmas. At Easter they eat drob (dish similar to a haggis, made of minced lamb's offal wrapped in caul and roasted like a meatloaf.), pasca (sweet-cream cheese cake) and cozonac (sweet bread).



Mămăligă



Mititei



Sarmale



Ciorbă de burtă

Culture



Several writers rose to prominence in the 19th century, including George Cosbuc, Ioan Slavici, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Vasile Alecsandri, Nicolae Balcescu, Ion Luca Caragiale, Ion Creanga and Mihai Eminescu, the later being considered the greatest and most influential Romanian poet, particularly for the poem Luceafarul.



Mircea Cartarescu is a Romanian poet, novelist and essayist. Born in Bucharest, he graduated from the University of Bucharest's Faculty of Letters, Department of Romanian Language And Literature, in 1980. Between 1980 and 1989 he worked as a Romanian language teacher, and then he worked at the Writers Union and as an editor at the Caiete Critice magazine.

Tourism

Romania offers
countless unique travel
experiences that are
waiting to be
discovered.

Black Sea Resorts

Warm climate, miles of sand beaches, ancient monuments, vineyards and modern resorts invite travelers to seriously consider Romania's Black Sea Coast as their summer vacation destination. Beaches, stretching from Mangalia to Mamaia, are dotted with fine resorts and hotels, and countless sports and entertainment facilities.



Danube Delta

The Delta is formed around the three main channels of the Danube, named after their respective ports: Chilia (in the north), Sulina (in the middle), and Sfântu Gheorghe (in the south). The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve has the third largest biodiversity in the world (over 5,500 flora and fauna species), exceeded only by the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Galapagos Archipelago in Ecuador.



Bran Castle

Surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend and perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, Bran Castle owes its fame to its imposing towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stoker's Dracula.

Location: Transylvania - Central Romania

Nearby large town: Brasov (16 miles northeast)



Peleş Castle

Nestled at the foot of the Bucegi Mountains in the picturesque town of Sinaia, Peles Castle is a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance architecture, considered by many one of the most stunning castles in Europe.



Voronet, Monastery

Perhaps the most famous and stunning of the painted monasteries is Voronet (Vo ro nets), founded in 1487 by Stephen the Great to celebrate a victory over the Turks. Widely known throughout Europe as "the Sistine Chapel of the East" due to its interior and exterior wall paintings, this monastery offers an abundance of frescoes featuring an intense shade of blue commonly known as 'Voronet blue.' The composition of the paint continues to remain a mystery even now, more than 500 years after the church was built.



People

Romania is associated with big names in arts and sports.

*Gheorghe Hagi is called King of Romanian football and Maradona of the Carpathians. It is the best scorer in the history of the Romanian national with 35 goals scored.

*Nadia Comaneci is a Romanian former gymnast, winner of three Olympic gold medals at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and the first female gymnast to be awarded a perfect score of 10 in an Olympic gymnastic event.

*Simona Halep is a Romanian professional tennis player who is currently ranked world No. 3.



Gheorghe Hagi

A ballerina in a white leotard with gold and black stripes on the sleeves is captured in a high leap on stage. Her arms are extended horizontally, and her legs are split in a wide, elegant pose. The background is dark with out-of-focus stage lights.

Nadia Comăneci

A photograph of tennis player Simona Halep celebrating a victory. She is smiling broadly, with her right fist clenched in a celebratory gesture. She is wearing a white tennis dress with a dark blue V-neck collar and white stripes. The dress features a Lacoste crocodile logo and a WTA logo. She is holding a red and black tennis racket in her left hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

Simona Halep

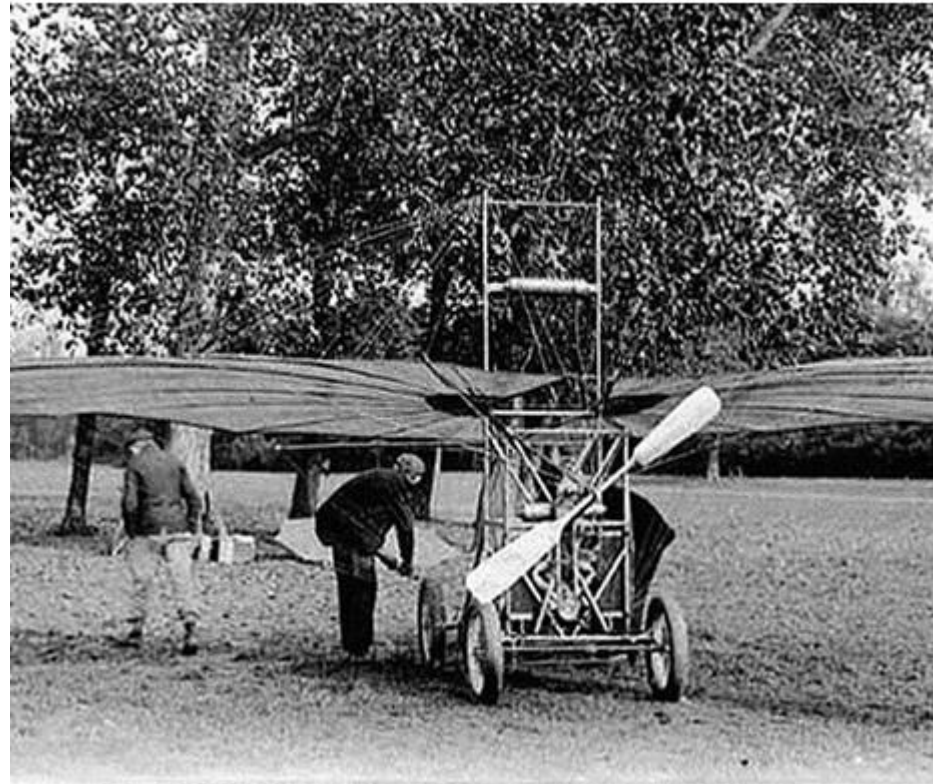
- * Constantin Brâncuși (1876 - 1957) — the artist whose works redefined sculpture, the most important sculptor of the Twentieth-Century.
- * Angela Gheorghiu "The world's most glamorous opera star" (New York Sun).
- * Alexandra Nechita — a young Romanian painter living in California, known for her distinct style
- * Ilie Nastase — won two Grand Slam singles titles during his illustrious career .
- * Other world renowned Romanian artists include the writer Eugen Ionesco, pan flute virtuoso Gheorghe Zamfir and musician George Enescu.

12 Things About Romania

1. Romania has one of the happiest cemeteries on Earth



2. Romanian inventors have changed the world



3. Romanian is the only Romance language in Eastern Europe

- Most people believe that Romanian language is very similar to those spoken in Russia or other Slavic countries, but in reality, Romanian is a Romance language closely related to Italian, French, Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese.

4. Romania has 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- These include: the Churches of Moldavia; the Dacian Fortress of the Orastie Mountains; the Historic Centre of Sighisoara; the Monastery of Horezu; the Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania; the Wooden Churches of Maramures; the Danube Delta.

5. Romania is Europe's richest country in gold resources



6. Romania boasts the world's largest administrative building



7. Romania's national currency is Leu, which means lion (English)



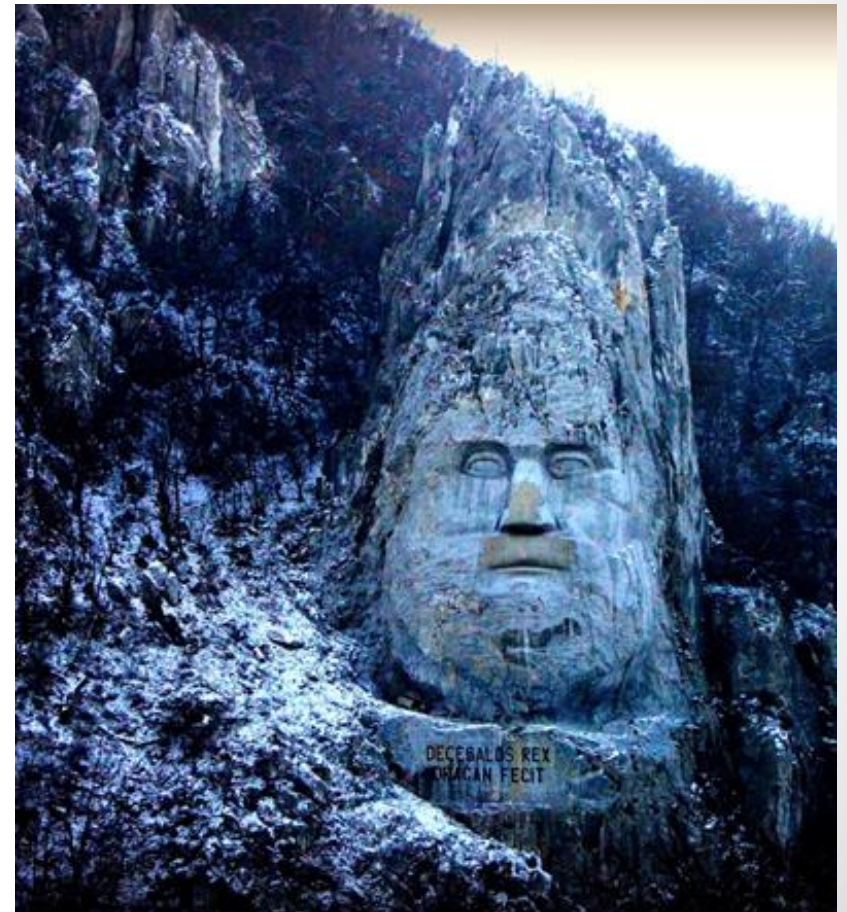
8. Romania has the best-preserved Delta in Europe



9. The largest population of brown bears in Europe lives in Romania



10. The Statue of Decebalus, Europe's largest rock sculpture



11. The only Gold Museum in Europe



12. The first city lit by electric street lamps in continental Europe

- Timisoara, one of the most beautiful and vibrant Romanian metropolises, was the first mainland European city to be lit by electric street lamps, back in 1884.



Tas ir mūsū valsts, un mēs
esam lepni par to.

This is our country and
we are proud of it.

Aceasta este țara noastră și
suntem mândri de ea.



**Made by
Cristian Andreea
and
Constantinescu-Dan Eduard**