

Facts about Romania

Romania has been a member of the European Union since 2007. Located at the border of Central and Southeastern Europe, it is the 9th largest country of the EU by area, and the 7th largest by population. Its capital, Bucharest, is the 6th largest metropolis in the EU.

Facts about Banat Region

Banat is the most western region of Romania, located in Central Europe and divided between three countries: the eastern part pertains to Romania, the western part to Serbia, and a small northern part to Hungary. This fact accounts for the profuse ethnic diversity of the area, comprising not less than 30 ethnic minorities and 17 religious minorities solely in the Romanian Banat.

The capital of the region used to be Timișoara, attested historically as early as the inchoate stage of the Middle Ages, subsuming under Hungarian, Ottoman, Habsburg, and Austrian-Hungarian administration. (<http://www.banaterra.eu/english/>)

Timișoara, European Capital

Timișoara, nominated for European Capital in 2021, is renowned for being a vibrant and historical city. It has become more and more visited by people from around the world annually, who come not only for relaxation, but also to attend business activities, conferences and symposia, or to pursue their studies. Timișoara has been a University Centre of paramount importance in Romania since the 1920s when it was awarded this title by King Ferdinand I.

In addition to the academic dynamics of university life in Timișoara, the city offers the experience of living in one of the oldest and most diverse European cities. Timișoara displays an exquisite array of architectural styles, blending Neo-Gothic, Baroque, and Art Nouveau, old bridges among which one was allegedly designed by the reputed Gustave Eiffel, numerous parks and green areas, and a vivid cultural and nightlife, rightfully deserving the title of “Little Vienna”. Not only does Timișoara provide a rich cultural life with numerous art galleries and a medieval museum originally built in 1315, the only opera hall building in Europe with three different-language-theatres under the same roof (offering Romanian, German, and Hungarian performance shows), but it is also the first European city to have street electricity, and the second European city to have horse-driven trams.

Timișoara maintains a reputation of cafe culture, displaying a gamut of open-air bars in the historical centre, as well as on the banks of the Bega Canal, which snakes around the city. Catering for all needs of art and musical delights, Timișoara features a street-art festival called Street Delivery, the students’ annual festival - StudentFest, an autumn musical festival, Plai - famous for bringing big names as headliners, an international jazz festival held at the mountain resort Gârâna outside Timișoara, and numerous parties that colour up the city’s nightlife (<http://www.romaniatourism.com/Timișoara.html>).