

Welcome to Timisoara, Romania!



The city is located in the Western part of Romania, close to the borders with Hungary and Serbia.

The local time in Timisoara is GMT+2.

How to get here?

By plane. The city is served by Romania's third-largest airport, **Traian Vuia International Airport**, located 11km away from the city center. Some important carriers operate here, for example Lufthansa, Tarom (the Romanian national company), or low-cost companies Wizz Air and Ryan Air. Both Tarom and Ryan Air have daily flights to and from Bucharest. Connections to and from many European destinations can be made by Lufthansa via Munich.



There are several direct flights from some European cities to Timisoara: from Paris, Berlin, Dortmund, Milano-Bergamo, Bologna, Rome, Bari, Treviso, Verona, London, Barcelona, Madrid, or Valencia.

By car. If you choose to fly into Budapest or Belgrade, you are a 3-hour drive away from Timisoara. Thus, you can rent a car or book a place with one of the companies that offer transfers to and from these two nearby airports. The cost should be around 35 € for one trip.

By train. There are direct trains daily from Budapest (a 4-hour trip), Vienna (8 hours) and Munich (15 hours). For Belgrade, take the international train to Vrsac and change there to Belgrade Dunav (5 hours). Travelling to/from Szeged you have 2 trains daily. There are several trains to Bucharest and most major towns in Romania. Note that transport by train takes longer because of the poor infrastructure.

Public transport and taxis in Timisoara

The city has an excellent public transport service including trolleybuses, trams and buses. There are two types of tickets, one for the three express lines (buses) and one for the rest of the buses, trams and trolleys. The price for one ticket is just 2 Lei, around 0.5 €, and you can find them at newspaper/cigarette stands around almost every stop. You can also buy passes for a day, a week, two weeks or a month, on one, two or all lines. Single tickets and certain passes are available from the many kiosks which display the yellow RATT (the public transport concern) sign. Remember to validate your ticket onboard. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.ratt.ro/>.



In Timisoara there is no shortage of taxis. You can reach about any point in Timisoara by paying a fee of around 20 Lei (about 6€). Don't negotiate with the driver and insist for the meter to be turned on. If you don't want to overpay avoid private taxis and instead call for a local taxi company (recommended: Tudo, Radio, Timisoara, Autogenn, Fan or Prompt). The taxis licensed by the City Hall have a distinctive oval black sticker on the backseat

doors, while the pricier, probably scam taxis have a sign on the top of the car which only says 'Taxi' and doesn't mention the name of the taxi company. These taxis are at least twice as expensive, but they are also legal.

Currently there's a running trial for an app for iPhone and Android called **StarTaxi** that allows you to request taxis using the smartphone and Internet connection. You can set it up to English and as long as you have a clear GPS signal you don't even have to know your current address.

And of course you can safely use **Uber** or rent a bike.

Internet access

Around the city, most hotels, bars, coffee shops and restaurants have their own free wireless networks. These are usually available without registration, but in case a password is required the staff should be able to provide it.

Exchange rates and general payment policy

Most venues accept both cash and card payment. However, if you decide to/have to pay cash, please note that only the local currency (RON) is accepted. Approximate exchange rates: 1 EURO ~ 4.5 RON, 1 USD ~ 4.2 RON. Tips are not included on the bill but it is customary to tip anywhere between 10 to 15% (at restaurants, pubs and other venues).



Mobile phone cards

Prepaid mobile phone cards can be bought from different mobile operators. We recommend buying the cards from the official operators' shops, since they can also give you more information about the offers they have. Several mobile operator shops can be found in Victory/Opera Square or Alba Iulia street.

Accommodation

Plenty of options available, including big chain hotels and nice, clean hostels.

4* Hotels:

Hotel Timisoara (right in the city center, overlooking Victory/Opera Square)

Hotel Continental (very near the city center)

NH

Excelsior

Josefin Residence

4* Boutique hotels

Casa del Sole (in a quiet area, nice rooms, has a garden and a pool)

La Residenza (in a quiet area, luxurious interiors, has a garden and a pool)

Reghina Blue (very close to the Polytechnic University, has an outdoor pool, a spa section and a garden)

3* Hotels

Savoy (near the city center and the Bega river)

Boavista

Vanilla (near the students' campus, has a beautiful garden)

Other options:

We recommend three hostels: Hostel Costel, Exit Routine Hostel and Timisoara Central Hostel.

There are, of course, apartments that can be rented on Airbnb.

About Timisoara

[Timisoara Tourist Information Centre \(Centrul de Informare Turistica\)](#)

Address: Str. Alba Iulia nr. 2

Phone: (+4) 0256 437.973

E-mail: infoturism@primariatm.ro

Open: (May - September) - Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Closed Sun.

[Timisoara City Art - Mobile app \(ArtTM\)](#) - is a mobile application which helps people discover public space art in Timisoara. With only a tap, one can identify these monuments on the map, can find the distance and the public transport means needed to reach them and, the most spectacular thing, they can find out with the help of geo-based augmented reality techniques, who did the artwork, when and why.)

[Like a local guide](#) (search this app for info about Timisoara generated by locals - includes places to eat, to go out, but also sightseeing tips and leisure activities.)

Landmarks: What to see?



- **Piața Victoriei (Victory Square or Opera Square).** It is the symbol of the Romanian revolution. Here you can find The Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, The Opera House, The City Hall, The Philharmonic, The Banat Museum and beautiful palaces built at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The focal point is the towering **Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral** (Catedrala Ortodoxa Mitropolitana) at

the south side of the square. Built between 1936 and 1946, its green and red roof tiles are arranged in a mosaic design. In front of the Cathedral, there is a monument dedicated to those who lost their lives during the 1989 Revolution (which overthrew the Communist rule).

- **Piața Unirii (Union Square).** With its picturesque buildings and the numerous bars and coffee places, **Piața Unirii** is the most vibrant part of the city. Here you can find The Catholic Dome, The Baroque Palace (now a beautiful modern art museum), The Serbian Church, and other interesting art nouveau buildings.



- **Piața Libertății (Liberty Square).** Located between **Piața Unirii** and **Piața Victoriei**, **Piața Libertății** is a newly-renovated square with old buildings. Here you can admire the old City Hall and the beautiful St. Nepomuk Statue.

- **The Bastion.** Part of Timisoara's old defensive walls, the Bastion is located near Piata Unirii and it has been recently renovated. There are two art galleries, some restaurants and terraces, as well as a souvenir shop.



- **Parks.** Take a walk in: the Botanical Park (near Piata Unirii, it's the most beautiful park in Timisoara), Roses Park (near Piata Victoriei), Central Park (near Piata Victoriei, just behind the Metropolitan Orthodox Cathedral), or Children's Park (near the Student Campus).
- **Jewish Timisoara.** Three synagogues remain in Timisoara, with one still active. Sinagoga Cetate (Great Synagogue), built in Oriental style in 1865, can be seen near the city center. One of the largest synagogues in Europe, it is currently closed for structural repairs, but it is worth admiring from the outside.
- **Piața Traian (Traian Square).** Also a part of the old city, today **Piața Traian** is more like a separate neighborhood, often called Fabric, due to the old factories that can be found here. The buildings are beautiful, but be careful. Try not to visit the area at night and always keep an eye on your valuables. Nearby you can find Timisoreana brewery.

- **The Baroque Palace/Modern Art Museum.** Open: Tue. - Sun, between 10:00am - 6:00pm; Closed Mon. The collection includes works of 15th - 17th century Italian masters and prints by important European artists, alongside Romanian masterpieces of old and contemporary times.
- **The Museum of the Revolution.** Located on nr. 3-5, Popa Sapca Street, it is a great museum to visit to better understand what happened during the seven days of the 1989 Romanian Revolution. Free entrance.
- **The Museum of the Communist Consumer** (Muzeul Consumatorului Comunist). Located on nr.1 Laszlo Szekely Street. Open 10:00AM - 11:00PM. It's an interesting and unusual little museum that has a vast collection of objects from the communist period. It gives the visitor the chance to enter a different world, one that no longer exists.
- **Banat Village Museum.** Located near Padurea Verde (The Green Forest), **The Village Museum** exhibits old houses and other traditional elements of the Romanian country life.



- If you love contemporary art, in Timisoara there are several **art galleries** you should not miss, the most well-known being **Jecza Gallery**. The house of the local sculptor Peter Jecza became an art gallery and the park in front of the house a public space for sculptures.
- **The Zoo.** Located in the same area as The Village Museum, it's a small zoo, but your children will love it.

Leisure activities: What to do?

The centre of Timisoara is relatively compact, and a **walking sightseeing** tour is certainly feasible, especially since the downtown area is pedestrian-only. If the weather is nice, you can rent a bike and ride on the cycle lanes alongside the Bega River. There is even a separate bicycle route leading from Timisoara to the Serbian border (37 km).

There are two shopping malls in Timisoara: **Iulius Mall** and **Timisoara Shopping City**. Both of them have Romanian and international brands, as well as a Cinema City multiplex, a gym and a pool, and a food court.



There are two flea markets you can visit for cheap vintage items. The most famous is called **Flavia**, and can be very crowded during weekends.

For music and art lovers, Timisoara has an **Opera House** and a **Philharmonic**, as well as 3 state **theaters** (one in Romanian, one in German, and one in Hungarian) and at least two private ones (Electric Theater and Thespis Theater).

Great local beers

If you like good beers, you can't leave Timișoara without trying our local unfiltered beers. First choice – **Terapia**: produced in Timișoara in a relatively small brewery, it comes in two assortments: Gold (blond beer) and Platinum (unpasteurized white beer – Weissbier/Wiezen). Second choice – **Sara**: made with spring water in the Semenic

Mountains (located just 100 km distance from Timișoara), it comes in two assortments: blond and dark.

For more ideas about what to do while in Timisoara, check out the Tourist Information Centre's [website](#) or this [blog](#).

Food and fun: Where to go out?

Reciproc Café: Famous for their wide range of Fair Trade, artisanal products (including traditional tea, coffee, snacks and natural juice) and their extensive selection of great beers (including our local ones), this bistro is located on one of the main central pedestrian streets, at approx. 10 minutes walking distance from the city center. You can find other bars and terraces on the same street.

For coffee: **Tucano** (Emanoil Ungureanu 2); **Musetti d'oro** (Eugeniu de Savoya 7).

For cake: **Garage Café** (homemade); **Senneville, Prospero**.

For wine: **Enoteca Savoya** and **Storia** (both on Strada Eugeniu de Savoia 11), **Zai Apres Café** (5 Mercy Street).

For beer: **Fabrica de bere** (local brewery, since 1718); **Beraria 700** (in the 700 market area); **Curtea berarilor** (Str. Proclamația de la Timișoara, 7).

For cocktails: **Hype** (new place in town, nr. 3 Lucian Blaga street).

In the city center, but also in the Unirii Square area, there are lots of other pubs and terraces you can try. During summer, many locations open terraces in the main squares and on the banks of the Bega river. **Vineri 15, La Capite, D'arc pe mal, Zai social deck.**

Restaurants

Our favorites: **Homemade** (nr. 40, Gheorghe Doja street) and **Musiu** (nr. 1B Maresal Averescu Street). **Jack's Bistro** (3 Vasile Alecsandri Street) is also a nice and cozy place that serves good food.

Among the best, but priciest, options, we would mention **Sky restaurant** (situated at the top of an office building in 700 market, the restaurant has a great panoramic view). **Locanda del Corso** and **Merlot** offer an exquisite selection of wines. They are also quite pricy, but the food is excellent.

La strada (Iulius Mall) and **Misto** (around Unirii Square) are great options for burgers (tasty and healthy, too) and meat dishes. Another restaurant that we recommend for burgers and fresh food is **AtFabrika** (Iulius Mall). You can choose your ingredients and they are freshly cooked right there.

Grill to chill (Eugeniu De Savoya 12) or **Gratarul cu staif** are steakhouses with great food and good service.

For those who like pizza and Italian cuisine, we suggest **Core e Napoli** (located in the old Bastion), **Stradivarius** (in Unirii Square), **Pomo D'oro** (Str. Evlia Celebi 16), or **San Marzano** (situated on the top floor of the Iulius Mall).

For healthy and mainly vegetarian food, you should go to **Suppa bar** (serves various soups, it is located around Unirii Square), **Biofresh** (Str. Miron Costin nr. 2), and **Salad & Chic** (Eugeniu de Savoya, nr. 8).

Rivière Brasserie: Located on the Bega river bank, close to the West University, it offers good food and our local Sara beer. Also in the University area you can try **Jardin**.

Kiosk (Episcop Augustin Pacha, nr.2). Nice place, small but with good interior design. Suitable for a night out with friends.

Traditional Romanian cuisine can be found at **Casa Bunicii** (1 & 2). **Casa bunicii 1** (Virgil Onitiu street) offers food cooked in family style. That's why the restaurant is called "the grandma's house". **Casa bunicii 2** (Piata Mocioni nr. 8) is basically the same style, but has more tables and is bigger. Both places are suitable if you'd like to taste traditional Romanian food from the Banat region. **Beraria 700** has a varies menu that includes local/regional specialties. Try **papanasi** (desert) here and you won't regret it.

Nearby attractions

Within a 2-3 hour drive from Timisoara, you can find some beautiful places:



- In Caras-Severin county: Valiug (mountains, lake); Semenic (higher mountains); Garana (interesting village); Oravita (oldest theater in Romania, resembles Burg Theater in Vienna; in 1863, Anina-Oravita was the first mountain railway in Romania, still used today for touristic purposes, very picturesque ride); Ochiul Bei, Casacada Bigar
- In Timis county: Altringen, Charlottenburg (villages); Pestera Romanesti; Herneacova
- In Hunedoara county: Hunedoara Castle; Hateg Natural Reserve (buffalos/bison); Sarmisegetusa; Densus Church