

Life in Romania

Hello, I'm about to tell you what it would be like to visit Romania. It's very different from the UK. So, first let's start in Falticeni. This is where I go in the holidays when I stay at my grandparents' house. Falticeni is an old, small, clean city - 700 years old, where the hills are scattered with houses, not like apartments, and it is very calm. It has the most fruit trees in Romania and lots of lakes. It specialises in agriculture and is full of small businesses that make clothes, food and other stuff. At the entrances and exits there are roads that are quite squiggly and not at all straight. Here the people are very friendly, and good workers, such as ministers, actors and writers come from here.

Next we will go northeast of the country in Botoşani. I don't know much about Botoşani but I do know there is park called Mihai Eminescu, which is named after a Romanian poet. If you like a two-hour walk around the trees, then this is the place for you.

Now over to the east, where I was born is Iasi, where you might end up if you want to start your trip in this side of the country. (Iasi is pronounced ya-sh). From here you can go down to Constanta. This is one of the only places in Romania where there is a beach and near Constanta beach there is an aquarium, a place where there are dolphins and a water park.

Next, let's go left to the south of the country to Craiova. If you like art there is an art museum, plus if you like plants there is a botanical garden, and that's only some of Craiova! I don't feel like talking about the west and southwest of Romania because there isn't much to see in that quarter, aside from the small bit of mountains near the middle. Now, we're off to northwest in Cluj-Napoca which it has a cool concert.

Not far away, there's a waterfall called Bigar. A huge rock fell from here when it could no longer hold its own weight. This happened in 2021 after all the lockdowns and the waterfall was somewhat like a quarter of a sphere, at least 30cm above the water.

Further in the north is a more traditional place. I know there are other places that are traditional, but I think this place has the most populated area where people celebrate. First the clothes, Romania has different traditional clothing all around the country. The traditional festival clothes worn in Iasi, where I come from are a white base, then a

design which can be a combination of either red, blue or yellow. This top must be paired with either grey, black or beige colour trousers.

Now to the food – Romanian food includes chicken soup, pig soup, sarmale (pronounced - sarr-mAll-leh, these are cabbage rolls), mici (meech - is a type of meat you can make on a grill, cozonac (co-zo-nac - is a type of loaf with chocolate inside), chimney cake - is a chimney shaped cake with melted chocolate inside, mamaliga (muh-muh-lee-guh is polenta) and old-fashioned fruit cake are just some of the traditional foods.

Romanian festivals are great fun. You might listen to music and hold hands in a circle or a person dresses up to look like a bush and plays the accordion. The traditional people in the north are usually friendly and they joke around a lot.

By Eric – age 11