

BUCHAREST

After 3 nights in Kiev, we traveled to [Bucharest](#), the capital of [Romania](#).

First a little about Romania:

The country has been considered to belong to both Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Romania is a large country with a lot of mountains and therefore has a varied climate. The population is around 20 million. There is no state religion in Romania. Most of the Romans are orthodox.



Romanias plassering i Europa.



Flagg



Riksvåpen

A little about the history of Romania:

The area of today's Romania has been inhabited by various ethnic groups through prehistory. The original inhabitants were an [Indo-European](#) people called [Thracians](#). A 34,000 and 36,000 year old jaw bone was found, making it one of the oldest fossil finds of [modern people](#) in Europe.

82 BC The kingdom of [Dacia](#) reached its largest extent

101 to 106 The Dacians were defeated by the Roman Empire during Emperor [Trajan](#) during two wars.

The 200s during the migration. The area was flooded with new population groups such as [Goths](#), [Huns](#), [Gepids](#) and [Avars](#).

In the 700's, the area was conquered by [Bulgars](#) and thus entered the [First Bulgarian Empire](#).

In the [Middle Ages](#), Romanians were resident in three separate principals: [Wallachia](#), [Moldova](#) and [Transylvania](#).

In 1541, the entire Balkan peninsula and most of [Hungary](#) fell under the [Ottoman Empire](#), including Moldavia, Valakia, and Transylvania.

The area was eventually conquered by Austria-Hungary and Russia.

After the failed revolution in 1848, the European powers did not support the Romanian's expressed desire to be joined into one state.

In 1859, both Wallachia and Moldavia chose Alexandru Ioan Cuza as prince, and the [Danubian Principals](#) were thus united in a [personal union](#).

In 1877, Romania declared independence from the Ottoman Empire.

In 1916, during [World War I](#), Romania entered the [Entente](#) side.

Romania in the [interwar period](#) is known as România Mare (Great Romania), since all ethnic Romanians were now united in one kingdom.

After the war, Soviet pressure led Romania to become a [communist people's republic](#).

In 1989, the regime was overthrown and the transition to a market economy and multi-party system began.



The location of Bucharest in Romania



Flagg



Coat of arms

A little about the history of Bucharest:

Bucharest was first mentioned in written sources in 1459. The city became an important trading place in the principality of Wallachia and was in periods the capital and residence of the princes. After Wallachia joined Moldova in the Principality of Romania in 1859, Bucharest became the country's capital in 1862. As the capital of an independent kingdom after 1881, the city grew rapidly and became a modern metropolis. It became known for its rich cultural life, for its architecture and for its fashionable urban life. The city had Paris as a model and created magnificent boulevards and avenues with Parisian role models, making it nicknamed 'Eastern Europe's Paris' or 'Little Paris'. War injuries, earthquakes, and President [Nicolae Ceaușescu's](#) extravagant urban regeneration efforts have stricken the city's historic architectural heritage. After the fall of communism, Bucharest has once again had an economic and cultural rise.

After 2 nights in Minsk and 3 nights in Kiev, we continued our trip to Bucharest on the 2nd of June.

We had agreed with the driver who had driven us around town for two days to pick us up at the hotel at noon to drive us to the airport.

We had booked flights via [travel2be](#) and got tickets on a plane that went 14.40 from [Boryspil International Airport](#). This is an airport located 20 miles east of Kiev. [Link to the website.](#)

The aircraft was operated by [Wind Rose Aviation](#). [Link to the website.](#) The flight was scheduled to take 1 hour and 50 minutes.



The driver was exactly on time outside the hotel. Here we are heading towards the airport.



Here we are crossing the [Dnieper](#).



There are large apartment buildings on the outskirts of Kiev.



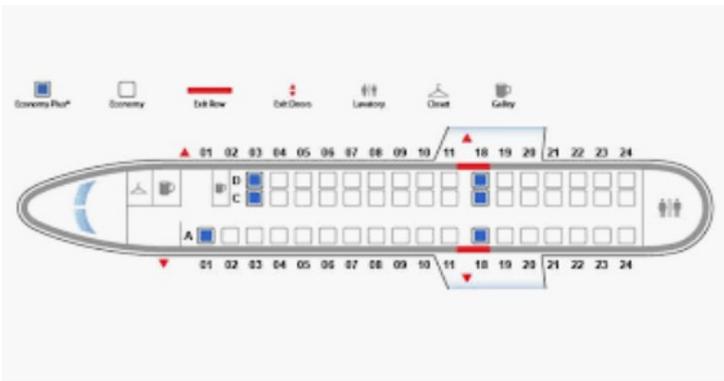
A picture from the airport



While we were waiting for the plane to depart, we had a beer and a wine. Here I'm making the order.



The plane we were traveling with was a Embraer ERJ-145



The seating plan.



Then we were in the air.



Rivers and forests



Much agriculture.



Then we are above the airport



Down on the earth



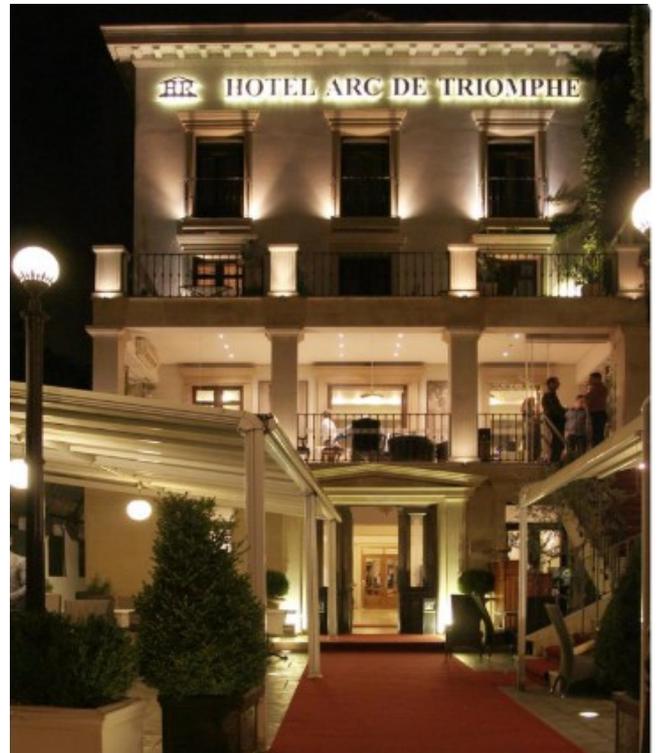
The plane was quite on time, and when we had picked up our luggage, the transfer driver was waiting for us. We had booked a transfer on Internet at [Transport Airport Bucharest](#).



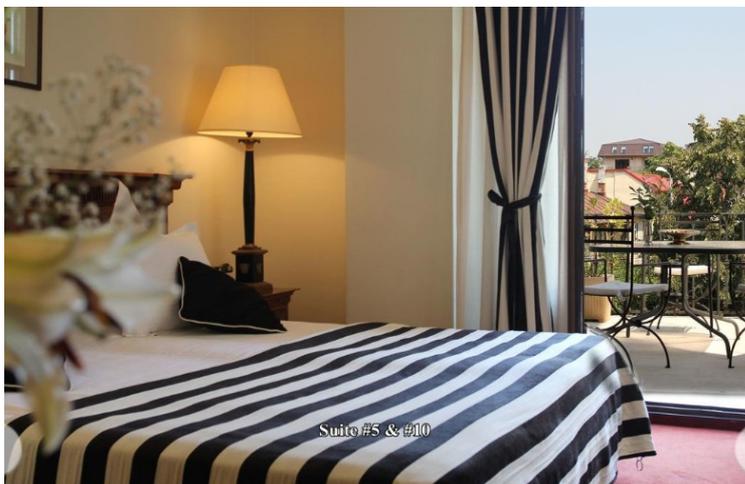
On the way to the hotel.



Then we were at the hotel. I paid cash in Euro this time.



We had booked at a hotel which is called [Arc de Triomphe by Residence Hotels](#)
[Link to the hotel website](#)



The room looked about like this.



Here we are going to order food.



Here the wine has come. Soon comes the food.



Decoration on the wall where we sat.



From our terrace we can look down on the street and the cars that are parked there.



As usual on this trip, we got the hotel to book a taxi with a driver who could speak English. It was arranged here too and here we are on the sightseeing tour.



We didn't have many sightseeing stops in this town.



Nice house.

We wanted to see the [Triumphal Arch](#), which is close to the hotel we stayed at, but it turned out that there is a big roundabout there and the driver couldn't stop. It was a bad picture.



This is a better picture of the triumphal arch.



This is the [Romanian Atheneum](#). It is the city's concert hall and it was completed in 1897.



A [statue](#) of King [Carol I](#), who was the first king in Romania when they broke away from the Ottomans.



Here, we barely see a memorial through the car window.



The Memorial is called [Memorial of Rebirth](#), and is a memorial set up in 2005 to commemorate the 1989 Revolution.



In the same area we see [Kretzulescu Church](#). It was built in 1720-22. It was damaged in the 1940 earthquake and repaired in 1942-3.



An image taken from the web.



[Palace of the Deposits and Consignments](#)

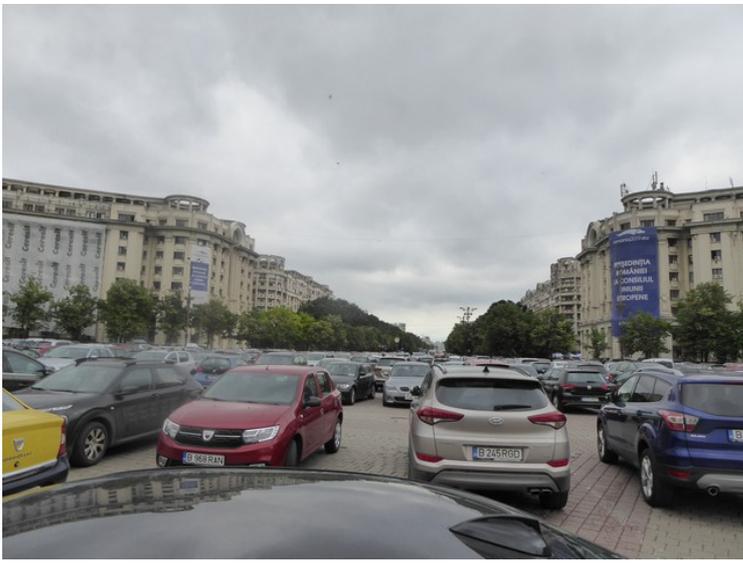
It was built in 1900. It is the headquarters of CEC Bank.



Right next to the parliament, the world's largest Orthodox cathedral, [People's Salvation Cathedral](#), is being built.



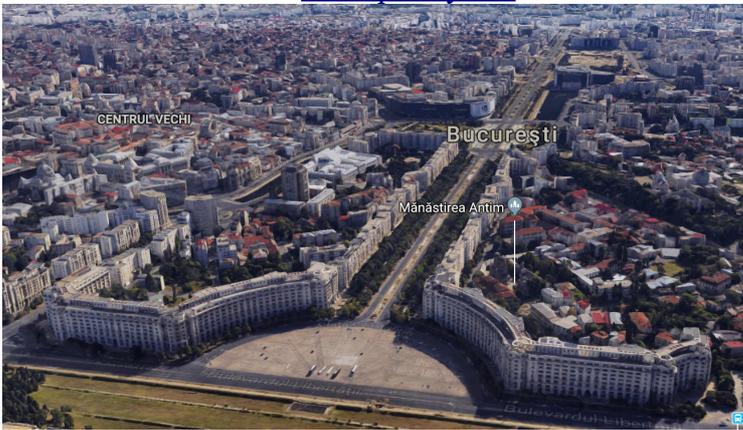
We also had to see the [parliament building](#). It is the world's second largest building after the [Pentagon](#) in the United States.



The driver stopped at a large square right in front of the Palace. It's called [Piata Constituției](#). We look along [Bulevardul Unirii](#) which is 3500 m. The construction started in 1984 and it was supposed to be Romania's answer to the [Champs-Élysées](#) in Paris.



One of the buildings along the avenue.



The square and the boulevard.



We got the taxi driver to put us off in the old town. The street here is called [Calea Victoriei](#).



This church is called Biserica Zlătari



It turned out that we were put off right near the headquarters of CEC Bank.



CEC Bank.



Here we look north.



Here we look south.



This is [National Museum of Romanian History](#).



Nice street lamp.



We went along a street called Strada Franceză.
There are several outdoor restaurants here.



Goods delivery, [FAN Courier Express](#).



This is [Stavropoleos Abbey Church](#). A monastery and a guest house were built here in 1724, but only the church remains.



Here is the [national council for dealing with complaints](#). It was created in 2006.



There were many restaurants to choose from and we chose this one to sit for a while.



We had Chef Salad.



This is the bouncer. She had a simple job with us, because we had practically sat down when she arrived.



Then she took a picture of us.



Various pigeons.



Flower decorations.



Nice facades.



Tourists ask the bouncer about the direction



The priest passes by.



These guys stood on the street playing and singing.



The bouncer did not succeed this time.



From where we sit, we can look to the CEC Bank.



We saw only one cat on the whole trip.



Then we have to pay.



Manhole cover with coat of arms of the city.



We walk down the side street to find a taxi.
There are restaurants here too.



More restaurants.



Here are the taxis.



Dining time at the hotel. We have ordered fish and the wine is on the table. I help the waiter by removing the foil.



This was the wine. It was good.



The waiter had not come for some reason, so in the meantime this guy, who was working at the reception, arranged everything for us. He just laughed when I said I had helped him by removing the foil.



Here came the fish. It is a fish in the same family as [Zander](#),



Then came the waiter. He had been out shopping.



After the great food I had to have a cigar on the terrace.





Anne Berit was in the minibar and found a whiskey for me. Then I needed another cigar.



Good whiskey.



This tree grows right beyond.

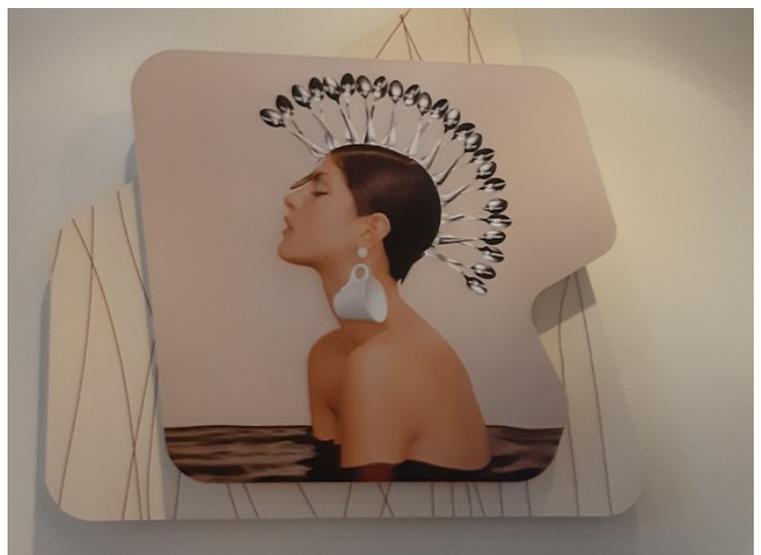


Nice figure in our room.

We asked the taxi driver who drove us during the day if he could drive us to the airport the following day. He couldn't do it. He was going to play a football game. Therefore, we ordered a transfer from the same company that had driven us from the airport to the hotel. It turned out that we got the same driver.



We booked a transfer when we had to check out from the hotel so we arrived a little early at the airport. We had to wait until the check-in desk opened. We have a beer while we are waiting.



This original picture hangs in the cafe.

We were traveling with SAS at 15.25, with a stopover in Copenhagen at 16.50. It turned out that the plane was very late, and we did not reach the plane that departed at 19.05 from Copenhagen. We had to rebook and we got a plane that departed at 20.30. Then we were at Gardermoen at 21.30. Luckily, the luggage had come with the same plane as us, so then it was just to go on the bus to Gardermoen Parkering, pick up the car and drive home.