

Romania Project

Tourism in Romania

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I Introduction

“What a beautiful view it is!” This was my reaction when Romanian students showed us some pictures of Romanian sights and Romanian architecture. George, one of Romanian students, said “Romania has the most amazing geography.” As a result, I became interested in Romanian sightseeing spots and I decided to write an essay on the theme ‘Tourism in Romania’. In this report, I will write about the Romanian sightseeing spots in each of the main 3 region: Moldavia (pink area in Image-1), Transylvania (green area in Image-1), and Wallachia (blue area in Image-1).



Image-1 Regions in Romania

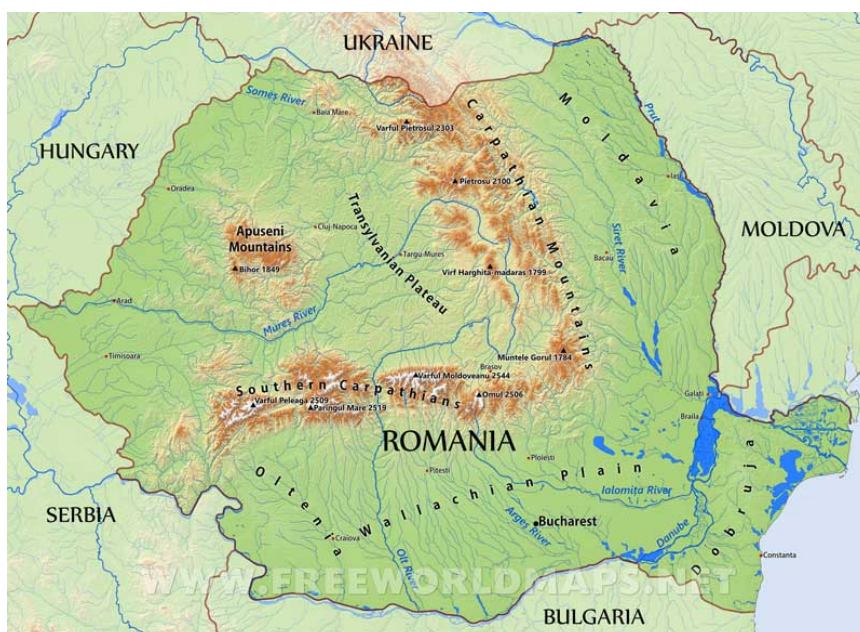


Image-2 Geography in Romania

II Tourism in Romania

II-1 Moldavia

First, I will write about tourism in Moldavia. Moldavia is located on the eastern side of the East Carpathian Mountains (Image-3). Bacau, where the Romanian students live, is also located in this region. Alexia, one of Romanian students, said that Bacau is quite close to the mountains, so they can go on a hiking trip if the heat is unbearable in the summer.

Moldavia is home of many artists, and there are many artistic places there. I will introduce one of these places, the Moldavia monasteries. There are 5 monasteries which are registered as World Heritage Sites. In particular, the Voronet monastery's wall paintings (Image-4&5) are incredibly beautiful. Painted in 1547, these paintings illustrate biblical scenes, prayers and sacred hymns. A lot of people are illustrated on the wall; apostles, evangelists, philosophers, martyrs, angels and demons. The vivid blue color used in these paintings is called "Blue of Voronet". The church was built more than 500 years ago, but the composition of the blue paint is a mystery, even now.



Image-3 Carpathian Mountains



Image-4 Voronet Monastery



Image-5 Wall Painting of Voronetz Monastery

II-2 Transylvania

Second, I will write about tourism in Transylvania. Transylvania is a vast plateau surrounded by the Southern Carpathian Mountains. It is multicultural, unlike the other two areas in this region. The city of Brasov is one of the symbols of this multiculturalism. Brasov is a city developed by German colonists, so there are still remnants of German culture in their lifestyle and architecture.

There are also a lot of historical monuments in Transylvania. “Black Church (Image-6)” is Romania’s leading gothic church. In 1689, the Great fire blackened the walls of the church, so it was named “Black Church”. “Bran Castle (Image-7)” is famous as a home of Dracula. It is said that the model of Dracula is Vlad Tepes, who was the ruler of the Walachia monarchy. Vlad Tepes was a brave warlord and he was brutal, so his nickname was Vlad Dracula.



Image-6 Black Church



Image-7 Bran Castle

II-3 Wallachia

Third, I will write about tourism in Wallachia. Wallachia occupies almost all of the Romanian Plain and there are large fields of sunflowers (Image-8). In addition to this, there are many fields of vegetables and fruits.

On top of this, Bucharest, the capital of Romania, is in Wallachia. Bucharest became the capital of the Kingdom of Romania in the 19th century. In Bucharest, there is the parliament palace called "People's House" (Image-9). It is a very big building; it has 1100 rooms! It was made in 1984, and Nicolae Ceausescu, leader of Romania's Communist Party at that time, called this building "People's House".



Image-8 the Field of Sunflowers

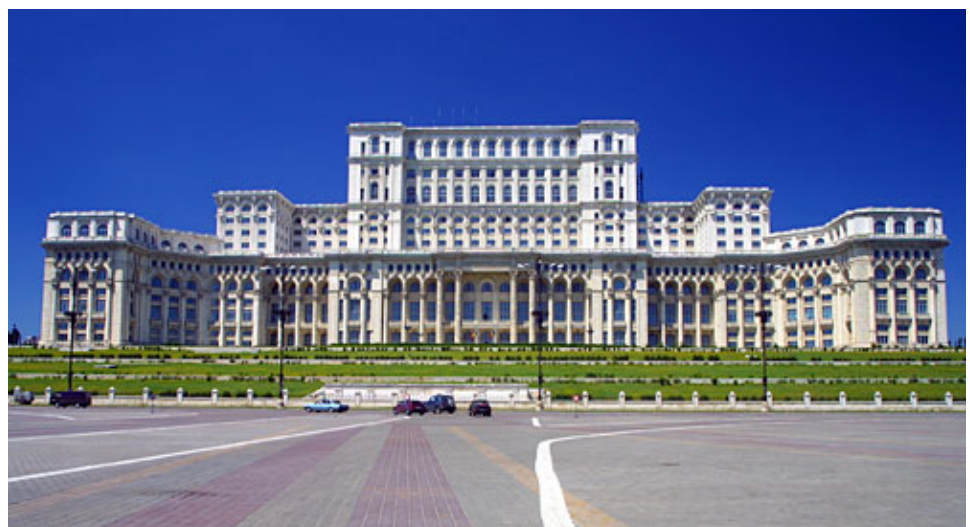


Image-9 People's House

II -4 Recommended Spots

During my research, I asked the Romanian students “Where is your favorite spot in Romania?” in a blog. Two students replied to my question, and recommended interesting spots in Romania. Therefore, I will write about these spots.

Merry Cemetery (Image-10, recommended by Ana)

This is a unique cemetery. Each grave isn't made of stone but made of wood, and they have beautiful carvings and paintings. Ana said “Reflecting the life of its owner (or even the moment of their death), both the illustration and the epitaph carved on the cross seem to mock the tragic way most people see death.” These graves look bright, but the epitaphs have deep meanings.



Image-10 Merry Cemetery

The Fortress of Alba Iulia (Image-11, recommended by Alexandra)

Alexandra said “It is a place where you can somehow feel the history.” This huge fortress was built between 1714 and 1738 and it is considered to be the most representative of the Vauban type (star fortress) in Europe. Between 18th and 19th centuries the fortress served as the military headquarters of Transylvania and also as a general warehouse of military weapon and equipments. These days, the fortress stands out as the most important baroque architectural structure in Romania and Europe.



*Image-11 the Fortress of
Alba Iulia*

III Conclusion

Through this research, I have realized that Romania has a variety of different sightseeing spots. Why does Romania have such range of different cultures? I suppose this is because there is “a diverse geography”. It is thought that the regions are separated by these geographical features, and have developed unique characteristics of culture in each region. There are diverse geographical features such as mountains, plains, and rivers. Therefore, there is a variety of cultures and a lot of sightseeing spots in Romania. In the future, I would like to research Japanese sightseeing spots and introduce the charm of Japan to foreigners.

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