

BUCHAREST A CITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL BUCHAREST**



SOME DATA

Geography - It is located in the southeast of the country, on the banks of the Dâmbovița River, less than 60 km (37.3 mi) north of the Danube,

History - Bucharest was first mentioned in documents in 1459 in a document signed by Vlad the Impaler

The legend has it that Bucharest was founded by a shepherd named Bucur, but historical sources indicate that it was most likely established at the end of the 14th century by the medieval prince Mircea the Old on the grounds of a small fortification.

Despite its commercial importance and geographical location, Bucharest was more resemblant to an Oriental city than to a European capital. Luckily, its history changed completely in the second half of the 19th century.

Amedeo Preziozi

He was an artist from Malta, who visited Bucharest in 1868-1869 and became its the first official artist



Historical aspects

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The Beginnings

Bucharest was based in what is today known as the Old Town, around the area known as Curtea Veche, - Old Princely Court, on the left side of Dâmbovița river.

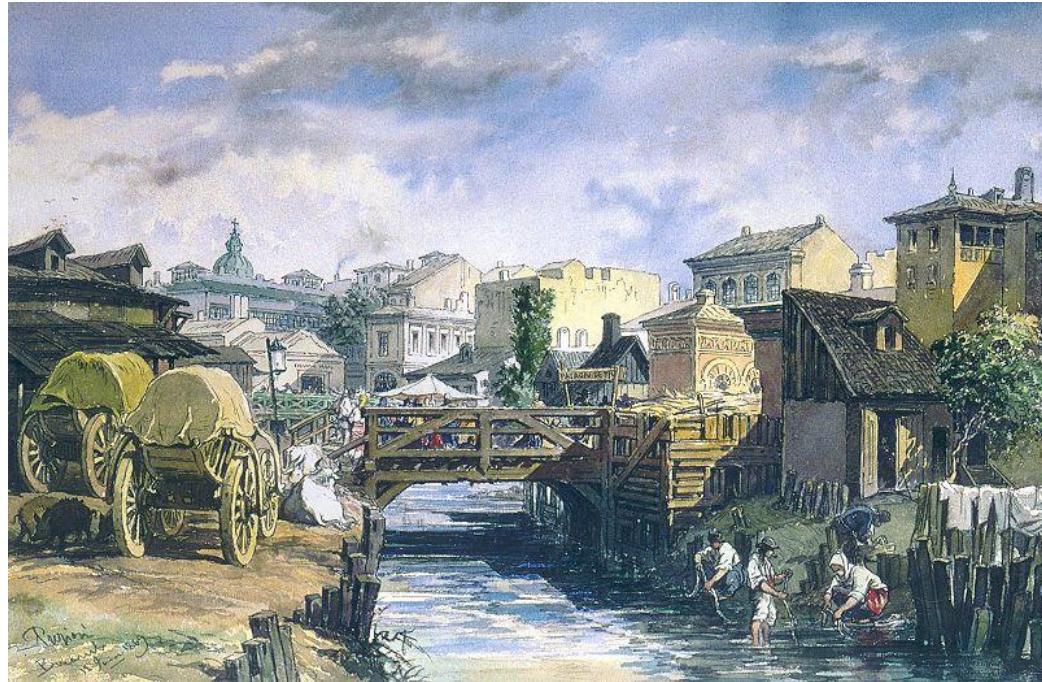
Being one of the "youngest" European capitals, Bucharest was not surrounded by defensive walls

The city was partially destroyed by several earthquakes and fires, but managed to survive and to recover.

The Phanariots (they came from the Greek district of Constantinople, Phanar) ruled over Bucharest until 1821. During this time the city grew in size and importance, despite regular disasters: there were major earthquakes in 1802, 1804 and 1812, while plague returned in 1813-14, during which as many as 40,000 people died. They also modernized the city.



Dâmbovița



A small river, today it looks like a channel, Dâmbovița played a major role in Bucarest's development.

The first settlements appeared along its banks , then the industry developed, due to the large number of mills.

A blessing and a curse, Dambovita flooded the city almost every year, was the main source of water for the city, the axis around which it developed

At the end of the 19th century, its course underwent major changes.

Today it is unrecognizable



The Old City Centre



Old City & Entertainment

Bucharest has a lot of restaurants. Among them it is famous a German style restaurant located in the Old City area – Carul cu Bere (Beer cart). In the area here are a lot of pubs and cafes.





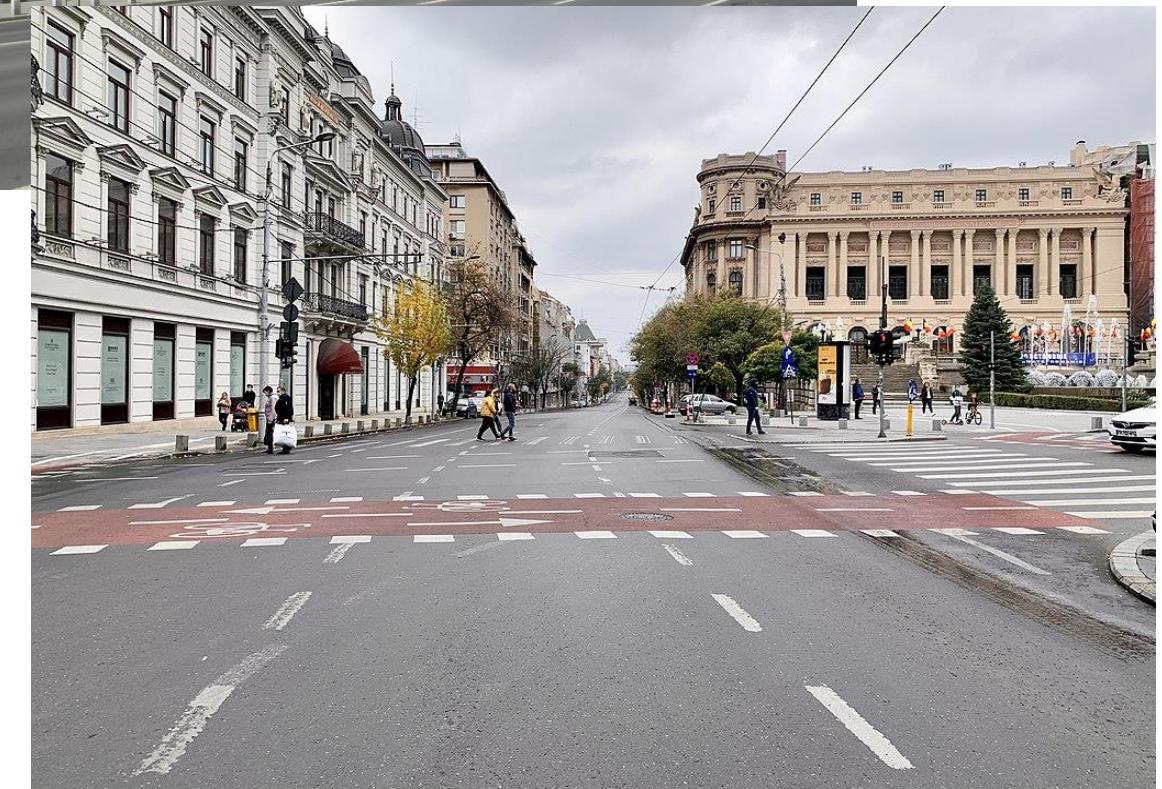
On Calea Victoriei (Victoria Road) the oldest main street



It is the representative street of Bucharest, built in the 17th century, it is still an elegant street full of museums, cafes and representative buildings.



MAIN STREETS



Landmarks

Atheneul Român

In 1865, cultural and scientific personalities founded the Romanian Atheneum Cultural Society. To serve its purposes, the Romanian Athenaeum, a building dedicated to art and science, would be erected in Bucharest.

The building was designed by the French architect Albert Galleron, and inaugurated in 1888





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THE PALACE OF PARLIAMENT



The **Palace of the Parliament** (Romanian: *Palatul Parlamentului*), also known as the **Republic's House** (*Casa Republicii*) or **People's House/People's Palace** (*Casa Poporului*), is the seat of the Parliament of Romania, located atop Dealul Spirii in Bucharest. It reaches a height of 84 metres (276 ft), has a floor area of 365,000 square metres (3,930,000 sq ft)^[2] and a volume of 2,550,000 cubic metres (90,000,000 cu ft). The Palace of the Parliament is the heaviest building in the world, weighing about 4,098.

The palace houses the two chambers of the Parliament of Romania: the Senate (*Senat*) and the Chamber of Deputies (*Camera Deputaților*), along with three museums and an international conference center.

It was built on one of the most beautiful and oldest part of Bucharest.

Trimphal Arch



- The first, wooden, triumphal arch was built hurriedly, after Romania gained its independence (1878), so that the victorious troops could march under it.
- Another arch with concrete skeleton and plaster exterior of elaborate sculptures and decoration designed by Petre Antonescu was built on the same site after World War I, in 1922.
- It was replaced in 1935 by the current much more sober Neoclassical design, more closely modelled in the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The new arch, also designed by [Petre Antonescu](#) and executed in stone, was inaugurated on 1 December 1936.

Palaces and Museums



Sutu Palace - Bucharest City Museum

The Royal Palace – National Art Museum



A visit to Bucharest is not complete if you do not visit the parks



Our visit to Bucharest ends in one of its parks, resting in one of the cafes, enjoying the spring, or maybe the autumn, Bucharest's the most beautiful season.

You can choose between Cismigiu –the oldest park, located in downtown, or in Herastrau, the largest one.

