

Timisoara - General & Travel information



Timisoara, the largest city in western Romania and the fifth largest city in Romania, with a population of 251,000 (2021), Timișoara is the administrative centre of Timiș County and is considered the informal capital of the broader historical Banat region (one of the eastern frontiers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, now shared by Romania, Serbia and Hungary).

It is the pre-eminent economic hub of the region, **with a strong presence of automotive industry**, and houses one of the most powerful IT sectors in Romania. There are about 40,000 students enrolled in the city's four public and two private universities, including international students from over 50 countries.

The year 1989 (December) meant the end of the communist regime in the Central and Eastern European countries. The spark that ignited the fire that burnt the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu first appeared in Timisoara. On December 20, 1989, Timișoara was declared the first city free of Communism in Romania. Protests spread all over Romania and on December 22, 1989, communist leader Nicolae Ceaușescu was removed from power.

Did you know?

- The first chocolate producer in Romania was founded in Timisoara in 1890. Today, artisanal chocolate manufacturer [Chantia](#) offers chocolate-lovers 40 different kinds of pralines, all made from pure cocoa butter Belgian-style chocolate.
- Francesco Illy, inventor of *illeta* - considered the blueprint for modern espresso machine - was born in Timisoara in 1892. Illy also developed an innovative packaging technique based on pressurization;
- In 1869 Timisoara introduced public transport with horse-drawn trams, a premiere in Europe.

The charm of Timisoara, a city settled on River Bega, lies in its distinct architectural character, ample green spaces and vibrant cultural life. In 2023 Timisoara was The European Capital of Culture (<https://www.romanianfriend.com/attractions/timisoara-what-to-do-guide>)

Frequently referred to as "Little Vienna", Timisoara is home to year-round musical and theatrical performances, art galleries, museums, cozy restaurants and cafes and buzzing nightlife.

!!! More information about Timisoara <https://www.romaniatourism.com/timisoara.html> and West Regional Development Agency <https://adrvest.ro/>

Where to stay

Selection of hotels near the meeting location (Politehnica University Library Timișoara)

- ✓ **Hotel Timisoara**, <https://hoteltimisoara.ro/en/>
- ✓ **Hotel Opera** , <https://www.opera-hotel.ro/en/>
- ✓ **Hotel Continental**, <https://hotelcontinental.ro/en/hotel-continental-timisoara/>

How to get here

- ✓ **By plane:** Traian Vuia International Airport <https://www.aerotim.ro/en/>
- ✓ **By train:** Trains arrive in Timisoara from Vienna, Budapest or Munich, and the station is very centrally located.
- ✓ **By car:** Budapest (Hungary) = 286 km; Graz (Austria) = 650 km; Ostrava (Czechia)= 793 km