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# The Complete Insider's Guide To Romania: 2013



## Synopsis

When most people think of Romania, they think of gymnastics, vampires, gypsies and orphans. I know because I knew little else when I first set foot here years ago. It's not Romania's fault that it is so poorly understood outside its borders. It is only just now that visitors are starting to appreciate this magnificent jewel right at western Europe's doorstep. While other guidebooks on Romania are written by people who visit here once every few years, I live here and this is my home. I speak the language and understand the culture. It is my privilege and honor to now extend my knowledge unto you. If you or anyone you know is going to Romania, even for a short time, this book will be worth its weight in gold to you as an expert guide on traveling, visiting and understanding Romania. Included inside are Romanian food recipes, detailed travel tips, exact guides on how to never get ripped off, what dangers to avoid, understanding Romanian cultural basics, how to talk to people and most importantly, how to have a wonderful time!

## Book Information

File Size: 885 KB

Print Length: 300 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 148492178X

Publication Date: May 31, 2013

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00D4E0X7E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #555,756 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34

in Â Â Books > Travel > Europe > Romania & Moldova #158 in Â Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Europe > Eastern Europe

## Customer Reviews

This is NOT at typical guidebook. It starts with the authors very funny observations on Romania, moves to good descriptions of important places and sites and ends with information for people who

plan to live there. As a very experienced traveler, what I like about it is its honesty and selectiveness. It is free of travel writer hype, where every site is wonderful. It doesn't discuss every last attraction, confusing you and making it difficult to plan an itinerary. Instead, you get highly opinionated recommendations and practical information. This has made planning my upcoming trip to Romania so much easier.

The Complete Insider's Guide to Romania is the essential guide for foreigners who want to vacation in Romania and fully appreciate its culture without encountering problems associated with currency exchanges, transportation, lodging, and cultural differences. This book does not contain detailed information about city tours and hotels like some tour guides, but it contains everything else you would want to know about Romania: how to use its buses, trains, trams, subways, and airports, and information about Romania's history; its best castles, museums, and other tourist attractions; its unique foods and beverages, proper etiquette, basic Romanian expressions, etc. I purchased this book after having vacationed in Romania twice. Had I purchased it before my first vacation there, it would have been a God-send because it would have prevented me from being charged excessive rates by taxi drivers, tour guides, hotel receptionists, and money exchange personnel. The author of the book has adopted Romania as his home and has lived there well over a decade. In his book he displays his love for Romania and his wishes to introduce foreigners to the unique aspects of Romania and not just those aspects promoted by large hotels and travel agencies.

I actually have never written a review on Amazon before but I really enjoyed this book so I felt like it was time. First off, I have been to Romania a lot over the past few years (about 15 weeks). The mass market guidebooks are awful and out of date. I was looking for something that was written by an insider for additional tips as I have been to all the major sites and many not mentioned in guidebooks. This isn't a traditional guidebook though but the book will give you insiders tips and explanations. The writer has a great sense of humour which is conveyed well (it probably helps that I am an American so I got a lot of his references). The book covers things such as tourism basics, history, geography, weather, money, food, transportation, holidays, culture, recommended cities/rural places, people, urban/rural tourism, and living in Romania (marriage, dating, working, live events). Like all guidebooks this includes vocabulary too. During my time in Romania I found that I wanted to understand the people/culture/history more and this book really does cover it well. I actually found myself nodding my head a lot in agreement based on my experiences and chuckling

at his experiences (thank you very much for mentioning not to use the loo at Gara de Nord in Bucharest - I really laughed out loud at that section and shared it with others). I also found the explanations on "people in Romania" really interesting. One part that I really found helpful was the explanation on the alphabet. I have learned many words due to my time spent in the country but never really understood why a 'c' is pronounced one way for one word and a completely different way for another word, for example. This explanation helped a lot and will make pronouncing things much easier for my next trip next week. I also liked the vocabulary in the back which I need to work on - I am pretty good at identifying things on menus already but pronunciation has been a weakness for me. The book covers so many topics of living in Romania as well which I found extremely beneficial as my plan is to eventually buy a second home there. The only negative about this book and it really isn't a book issue but a Kindle issue is that in some places the formatting on the Kindle is awful and words run together such as in the vocabulary section. For example, you have the word in romanian, the pronunciation and the english translation but it all appears as one big word. It's easy enough to decipher but Kindle could do better with their formatting. Overall, I would recommend this book. If you are a first time visitor, I would use other resources as well to plan hotels, sites, etc.

Beginning on p.260, are many Romanian words and phrases. The Romanian spelling, the Romanian phonetic, and English translation are presented. But something has happened, all those variables are mashed together as if one word. It is very difficult to use, useless, really. WHY DON'T YOU FIX IT?

When I received an invitation to jury a film festival in Sibiu Romania, I immediately said "yes" - then realized I knew next to nothing about Romania. This self-published book was a delightful find, quirky and funny, it was like learning about a place from a best friend who had been there.

This is a somewhat quirky account of the country by someone who has lived there, not so much for finding tourist hotspots, but explaining very basic information about how the country is organized and how to get around and along in it. Extremely useful for independent travelers..

Very well written book, on "true Romania". The author was entertaining and at the same time very informative. We read the book, then put it to the "test" when we journeyed through Romania this past Spring/Summer. Spot on, and very helpful. Highly recommend for pre travel to Romania, or if you just want to learn a bit more about a different, unique culture-from someone who is living it, and

not just "reporting" it.

This was the most helpful guidebook for Romania out of the 3 I read. There were things in here that weren't mentioned in my other 2 books or websites I read, such as Romania being mostly a cash-only country. That's... kind of important. I took copious notes that I plan to print out and take with me. I just wish there was a newer version and the extensive section on Romanian recipes was not very useful.

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