

NAT TAN

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

An open door to youth involvement in problem-solving process of the global affairs

DISCOVER CLUJ-NAPOCA The 2015 European Youth Capital



History, Tourism, Gastronomy and Useful Information



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Welcome to Cluj-Napoca, the heart of Transylvania!

The city has a distinguished charm, given by its almost 2000 years old history (since 124, to be more precise), its geographic location and the life itself. Here, time flows differently, and people take the time to say `hello` to each other, to take a stroll in the Botanical Garden, to watch the reflection of the sun beams in the twin buildings on the "mirror" street and to smile.

The city is a cosmopolite and multicultural one. It is enlivened by the over 100.000 students, who come from all over the country, and even from abroad. This young and high qualified labor force represents a good reason for placing Romania among the top countries in Europe, where the development potential is continuously increasing. Besides the universities, Cluj-Napoca awaits the investors with a developing infrastructure, transparency in decision making at institutional level, industrial parks with all necessary endowments for the business. Hundreds of business people from all over the world come to work in a financial and economical, genuine European center.

We can say that Cluj-Napoca is nowadays a regional innovation center, with significant business opportunities; an attractive tourism destination, a pleasant place to live, to work and to study; a city with responsible and open minded local authorities, with active citizens, as well as with a dynamic and dedicated business community.

Mayor of Cluj-Napoca City



A brief history of Cluj-Napoca

The ancient capital of Dacia Porolissensis, Cluj –Napoca, was recorded for the first time by the Greek geographer Claudius Ptolemy two thousands of years ago.

The first documentary record of the city goes back to 1173 and refers to the settlement as Clus (in Latin “surrounded by hills”). Other names were Kolozsvar (in Hungarian) and Klausenburg (in German). Klausenburg was one of the seven medieval Saxon cities (Siebenburgen) in Transylvania. Its first Romanian name was Clus, often written Klus, and in 1974 it was changed to Cluj-Napoca. The ideal geographic position of the city, situated at the crossroads that linked East, Central and South Europe, determined its specific features such as ethno-cultural pluralism and material development.



Today, the Municipality of Cluj-Napoca is the economic capital of Transylvania. It is an influential academic and medical center, the heart of multiculturalism and diversity. Cluj is also the city where the past, the present and the future forged the identity and local specifics. In the Protocols of the XVIth century, kept almost entirely at *Directia Judeteana Cluj a Arhivelor Nationale* (the National Archives of Cluj county), the citizen of Cluj is proudly referred to as a person who loves his homeland, for which he has a duty to die, to which he must offer and devote everything that he has.

Cluj – the treasure city is therefore an urban republic, a homeland for its inhabitants, a city where the organization of local administration, the proper distribution of taxes, the public order and urban development were, most of the time, more important than European events or princes’ politics. Although Cluj citizens spoke different languages, they knew how to live together in harmony, to mutually accept and respect the values of a city which always hosted different ethnics, religions and social classes. For these reasons, the most valuable and sustainable richness of the treasure city is that remarkable art of living together.

The legends of Cluj

The bridges and their history



The legends of the bridges in Cluj are at least as interesting and spectacular as the city itself. Information regarding the bridges over Someș, *the antic Samus*, built during the Roman era, is not of our disposal at present, but it is possible that the main bridge of the antic Roman city had been situated in the same area as the Grand Bridge in the Middle Ages. That is, in the exact place where today is the road bridge on Horea Street. In the 19th century there

was a legend which said that Decebal, the king of Dacians, lost his life on the bridge over Someș while the Romans were chasing him. The legend may be just an invention of humanist scholars; still, it may have been associated to the ruins of a construction which had survived from the Roman epoch.

The tunnels in Cluj – legend and reality

Most of the Cluj dwellers have heard stories about the city's mysterious underground tunnels built many years ago. The mysteries have always fired people's imagination and continue to intrigue our contemporaries nowadays; however, among the myths that have fascinated the humankind those regarding the mysterious underground world are the most intriguing and enthralling. The hyperbolic verses of Cluj underground legends refer to some big tunnels which linked the center of the city to the church of Cluj-Manastur, formally fortified, to the city of Floresti and to the Austrian-built fortification on Cetatuaia.



The legend of King Mathias

The building where on 23rd of February 1443 King Matthias, the younger son of Ioan of Hunedoara was born dates since the beginning of 15th century. In those days, an entrepreneur - whose name remains unknown for us - bought two buildings located in the Old City of Cluj and built in their place a large building; in the two centuries that followed it became the most comfortable and expensive inn in Cluj.

The building is located on the Northern side of the small square, at the intersection of some streets, Matei Corvin, Sextil Puscariu, Virgil Fulicea, Victor Deleu and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, near to the place where seven centuries ago there was the main gate of the Old City of Cluj.

The martyrdom of Baba Novac

While Michael the Brave (Mihai Viteazul) was in exile in Prague, seeking to regain the goodwill of the emperor Rudolf II of Austria, his Serbian captain Starina Novak (Baba Novac) was executed in the main square of Cluj. The Prince of Romanian principalities had been defeated by his numerous enemies and forced into exile. Subsequently Baba Novac entered the city of Cluj in December 1600 and went into general Basta's service who entrusted him with the task of defending the Transylvanian border with Lipova. Soon, the Transylvanians became unsatisfied with the imperial rule, so in order to pacify the people Basta gave them Michael the Brave's ex general, Baba Novac.

The statue of St. Mary, the Protector

The statue of St. Mary is the first public monument of the city. It was built in 1744 at the request and with the financial support of governor Antony Kornis, in recognition to St. Mary's protection during the great epidemic of cholera which spread between 1738 and 1742. For this reason it was also called "the plague statue".



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The statue was sculpted by the Austrian sculptor Anton Schuchbauer. It was originally placed at the intersection of Strada Universităţii and Strada M. Kogălniceanu due to the fact that in that area were located some catholic schools, the church and the seat of Jesuit order.

Medieval confrontations and duels

Cluj was probably the most turbulent and bustling medieval city of Transylvania. Therefore, when it was made a royal city, it was very different from any Transylvanian locality carrying urban status; while the population of the other cities in Transylvania was composed mainly of Saxon colonists, generally considered peaceful and homogeneous, Cluj was hospitable to noblemen, to merchants and craftsmen and to a great number of adventurers belonging to different social classes and nationalities.



Thanks to their presence here, Cluj acquired in time an unraveled glamour, which apart from enhancing its prestige gave birth to a tense situation leading sometimes to extremely violent armed confrontations.

A different illumination in Avram Iancu's student days (1842)

Back when Avram Iancu was a student in Cluj, people used to celebrate with grate pomp a holiday called *Illumination* (each evening of 18 April), in the honour of the Austrian emperor Ferdinand birthday (born in Vienna on April 19, 1793), also bearing the title of Prince of Transylvania. Between 1841 and 1846, Avram Iancu was a student at Piarist College in Cluj, situated on Lupului Street (today M. Kogălniceanu), like many other Romanian, Hungarian, Szekler, Saxon, German and Armenian young men.

Touristic Attractions

„Alexandru Borza” Botanical Garden



„Alexandru Borza” Botanical Garden (Republicii Street, 42) – Being a national museum, the garden was founded in 1872, having an initial surface of 4.3 ha. Nowadays, the garden has a surface of 14 ha, a level difference of 20 m and is divided into various sectors, sheltering 11.000 exhibits: the ornamental sector (The Mediterranean Garden, Rosarium, The Japanese Garden), the phyto-geographic sector (the plants are arranged according to their natural associations – The Roman Garden), the systematic sector (the plants are organized by phylogenetic principles), the economic and medical sector, the sector of rare and endemic plants of Romania`s flora. The two groups of greenhouses, having a surface of 3500 m², with tropical plants of great scientific and utilitarian interest, are remarkable. In the precincts of the Botanical Garden functions the Botanical Institute, with its two components: the Botanical Museum (6910 botanical pieces, representing exotic and indigenous plant exhibits) and the Herbarium (660 000 herbarium sheets of dried plants). Entrance price: 5 lei/person.

“Lucian Blaga” National Theatre and Romanian Opera

The two cultural institutions were founded on 18th September 1919, as an expression of spiritual rebirth after the Great Union in 1918. The „Lucian Blaga” National Theatre and the Romanian Opera was built between 1904 and 1906, as seat for the Hungarian National Theatre, by the famous Viennese firm “Fellner und Helmer”, combining stylistic elements of new-baroque and Secession. The hall has 928 seats and it is built in New-Baroque style. For decorating the lobby there were used stylistic modulations inspired by Secession.



The National Theatre and the Romanian Opera have been functioning since 1919.

Matthias Corvinus House



Matthias Corvinus House was built in gothic style back in the 15th century (today Art and Design University of Cluj-Napoca). In this house, which was the city's inn in past, was born on 23rd of February 1443 Matia Corvin, the son of Ioan de Hunedoara. Matia Corvin was the greatest king of Hungary (1458-1490), patron of arts, wise and just, being mentioned in songs and legends even today. In 1467, he

acquitted the owners of the house in which he was born from paying taxes and fees to the city. This privilege was enforced by the next kings and princes. The house served as different institutions. It was a college, but was also home for the ethnographic collections of the Transylvanian Carpathian Society.

The Roman Catholic „Saint Michael” Church



The Roman Catholic "Saint Michael" Church (Unirii Square), a great historical and religious architecture monument is one of the most imposing gothic edifice from our country. It was built approximately between 1350 and 1480, being the first hall church from Transylvania. The main portal, carved in 1444 in gothic style, ends with a high accolade, showing in the central part the carved image of Archangel Michael. The tower from the north facade was built between 1834 and 1863 in neo

gothic style and it has 80 meter high, including the cross. The inside and outside decorations and the baroque carved pulpit are also remarkable. An extraordinary execution is the portal of the sacristy, from the Renaissance (1528) with Italian motifs and a strong south-German influence.

The Tailors Tower

The Tailors' Tower (Baba Novac Street / Stefan cel Mare Square) is part of the second fortified precinct of the walls system and of the fortifications of the city, built in the first half of 15th century and continued until the 17th century.



It was built on the South-Eastern corner of the city defense wall, after 1405, following the privileges keyed by King Sigismund of Luxemburg.

The first confirmed documents date from 1457, the time of King Matia Corvin. The administration of the Tower was entrusted to the most powerful guilds of the town – the tailors' guild. Over time, the Tower was devastated several times (1551-1553, 1601, 1627, and 1707). The actual shape is given by the last big reconstruction from the 1709-1711, made by the Austrians, out of over 150 stone wagons. The Tower was renewed again in 1956-1957, when they attempted the opening of a history museum of the city of Cluj, a project forbidden by the communist authorities in 1959.

The Mirror Street

The Mirror Street (Iuliu Maniu Street) A unique attraction in Transylvania, the West side of the street (between Unirii Square and Bolyai Street) was built symmetrically in the 19th century, in eclectic style, following the trends of those days, inspired by architect Hausmann who systematized Paris in a modern conception. The street is named after the Romanian politician Iuliu Maniu who served as Prime Minister of Romania and had an important role in the Unification of Transylvania with Romania.



The Union Square

The current Unirii Square from Cluj formed the core of the medieval city, clustered around the Church of St. Michael. The medieval city walls delimit the historic city center. The square is the largest in size (about 220m/160m) from the old squares in central and south-eastern Europe. There are bigger squares, but they were formed much later. Historical, it is the second largest square of Cluj, after the Small Square (now called the Museum Square). During the communist government the name was changed into the Liberty Square. In the middle of the square it is the Church of St. Michael and the Statue of Matthias Corvinus. The square is surrounded by famous buildings: to the East we find the Banffy Palace, which hosts the Museum of Art, and two buildings constructed in the mirror, which starts from Iuliu Maniu street. On the southern side of the square are the Old City Hall and the National Bank. On the southwest corner we can see the building of Continental Hotel, built in 1894.



Romanian Traditional Cuisine in Cluj-Napoca

The Romanian cuisine, though often criticized for disregarding the principles of healthy nutrition, given the extensive use of fat, salt and forcemeat, is, without a shadow of a doubt, simply tasty. The heartiness characteristic of the traditional dishes reflects the hedonistic drive of the Romanian people in relation to their daily bites.

There are plenty of foreign influences which have shaped, in time, the identity of the Romanian cuisine. Thus, the Greeks, the Turks, the Russians, the Bulgarians and the Hungarians have all contributed to the formation of what one might rightfully call today the traditional dishes of Romania. However, in order to sample the genuine tastes and flavors of this strangely vigorous and mouthwatering gastronomy, visitors should definitely head for the regions where, by means of the rural tourism, they can get a delightful insight into the secrets of the Romanian cuisine and of its produces.

On the other hand, in Cluj-Napoca there are plenty of places where a foreigner's culinary curiosity can be rewardingly satisfied. On top of the traditional delights one can indulge in trying; tourists, if not in the mood for gastronomic experiments, might just as well confine to the routine of their daily culinary preferences, since the city is replete with restaurants where the international cuisine is duly honored, with an emphasis on the French, Italian, Chinese, Indian and American specialties. But here are some main Romanian traditional dishes:

Grilled sausages – “Mici”



Made of a mix of minced pork, beef and lamb, *micii* are the favorite grilled rolls of the Romanian people. Tourists can easily notice the popularity of this dish while strolling around in Bucharest, since ranging from low-key eateries, stalls in the open-air markets to the upmarket restaurants of Bucharest, all the eating venues feature *mici* on their menus. *Micii* are usually eaten generously dipped in mustard and with bread loafs. Briefly, a simple rewarding specialty that should not be missed by tourists with a strong culinary appetite.

Pan-fried meat – “Tochitură”

Tochitura is traditionally prepared for Christmas. It is, perhaps, one of the most outrageous Romanian specialties, at least from the point of view of a faddy nutritionist. It consists of the meat of a freshly slaughtered pig (occasionally, sundry organs can also be added), fried in a pan in the pig’s own fat. It is often eaten with fried eggs, grated *telemea* (salted cheese), fried sausages and *mămăligă* (polenta). Pickles are strongly recommended.



Cabbage rolls – “Sarmale”

Sarmale are stuffed cabbage rolls. The filling consists of forcemeat (though vegetarian *sarmale* are an option too), and instead of cabbage for the rolls, one can always use grapevine leaves or even dock leaves. In order to eat *sarmale* as traditionally and tasty as possible, tourists are advised to have it with *mămăligă* (polenta) and sour cream.



Cabbage a la Cluj – “Varză a la Cluj”

Even though *Cabbage a la Cluj* is simply considered “messed up cabbage rolls”, this prejudice is not entirely true. This food is traditional in Transylvania, but has become very popular in other regions as well.



Papanash with cow cheese and blueberries – “Papanăși cu brânză de vaci și afine”

Papanash is a dessert made from sweet cow cheese, served with marmalade or jam, and powdered sugar.



Nightlife in Cluj-Napoca

Kharma

Kharma Club has high fidelity sound system, as well as special and intelligent lightning effects combined with the stage light effects and plasma screens. Kharma is the club where novelty is the keyword. The club is divided in: the bar area, where you can find the latest bartending creations, and two other dancing areas which also contain the DJ's desk. The music and the atmosphere of the student parties are usually in the pipeline. The club, together with the garden and the cafe with the same name constitute a very delightful place to drink your coffee in the morning, to meet your business partner or your friends. Every location has its own personality, atmosphere and design.



Address: Lucian Blaga 1-3, Phone No.: +40731800245

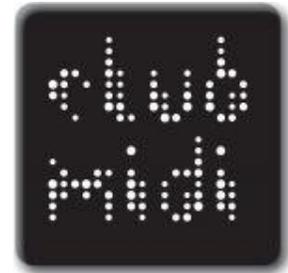
Opening Hours: Thursday - Sunday, 22-04

Midi

Club Midi is the first location in Transylvania aiming to offer events with the best known artists of electronic music. It is set up in a former factory; the design of the location is unique due to the combination of precast and last hour technology of the visuals and audio system.

Address: Berariei 6

Phone No.: +40752238780



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Bar Euphoria Biergarten

Redesigned to respond to the most sophisticated gastronomic demands, having advanced equipment and highly qualified staff, Euphoria Irish Pub awaits for you to enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner by spoiling your taste buds

with a unique menu. Address: Cardinal Iuliu Hossu, 25, Phone No.: +40756393333

Opening Hours: Daily 09:00am - 03:00am

Broadway

Broadway is the place where you can start your day in a cozy atmosphere. After 6 PM Broadway turns into a cocktail bar. Every evening you can enjoy one of the special cocktails made by experienced bartenders, using original recipes and ingredients.

Address: Victor Babes 21, Phone No.: +40730803700

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday: 08:00 am - 02:00 am
Friday - Saturday: 08:00 am - 04:00 am, Sunday: 08:00 am - 00:00 am.



Useful Information

Touristic Information Center

“For visitors willing to be well informed and happy to come back to Cluj-Napoca, and for the people of Cluj-Napoca that identify themselves with the city”

Address: Eroilor 6-8, Phone No: +4 0264 452244; +4 0264 450090

Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 20:00pm, Saturday - Sunday: 10:00am - 18:00pm

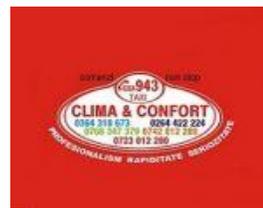


Taxi companies

Clima & Confort Taxi

Taxi Clima & Confort was created in order to offer services of the highest quality.

Phone No.: +40264943; +40742012280; +40723012280; +40768347379



Diesel Taxi

Diesel taxi is the oldest taxi company in Cluj. They answer promptly to your calls at any hour.

Phone No.: +40264946; +40744646663; +40722922211; +40761346946



Napoca Taxi

PRO NAPOCA TAXI is a reliable Company which was established 8 years ago.

Phone No.: +40264953; +40722642251

