

Cluj-Napoca, city presentation



Cluj-Napoca, the second major city in Romania behind the national capital Bucharest, is situated in the north-western part of the country, in the region of Transylvania. Geographically, it is roughly equidistant from Bucharest (324 km / 201 miles), Budapest (351 km / 218 miles) and Belgrade (322 km / 211 miles). Located in the Someşul Mic River valley, the city is considered the unofficial capital to the historical province of Transylvania. Between 1790 and 1848 and between 1861 and 1867, it was the official capital of the Grand Principality of Transylvania.

The city has a population of 325,000 inhabitants, while the residents of the metropolitan area are more than 400,000. However, this number does not include the floating population of students: as Cluj-Napoca is today one of the most important academic and cultural centres in Romania, hosting 6 state-funded universities and 3 private ones, there is an average of over 60,000 students. Among these universities, “Babeş-Bolyai” University is the largest, with more than 40,000 students and 265 programs of study in 43 fields at undergraduate level (of which 160 in Romanian, 77 in Hungarian, 14 in German, 11 in English and 3 in French), 239 programs of study in 36 fields at graduate level/Master Degree (of which 166 in Romanian, 32 in Hungarian, 6 in German, 29 in English and 6 in French), and doctoral programs in 29 fields of study. The university was named after two prominent Transylvanian scientists, the Romanian physician Victor Babeş and the Hungarian mathematician János Bolyai.

The city of Cluj, *Kolozsvár* in Hungarian, *Klausenburg* in German, spreads out from St. Michael’s Church in the Union Square, built in the 14th century and named after the Archangel Michael, its patron saint. It gradually gained an important political, economic and cultural position within the province of Transylvania, being a multicultural city with a diverse cultural and religious life.

A vibrant and pleasant city today, with reasonably priced accommodation and dining in the centre area – within 5-15 minutes’ walk from the “Babeş-Bolyai” University central building –, a wonderful historical legacy and a great atmosphere, Cluj-Napoca also has a diverse and growing cultural scene, with cultural life exhibited in a number of fields, including the visual arts, performing arts and nightlife. It is certainly a great experience for those who want to see urban Transylvanian life at its best as well as a base for those wanting to explore its countryside surroundings, the wild scenic beauty of its Carpathian landscape, the Apuseni Mountains, or the traditional rural area in central and south Transylvania or in the historical region of Maramureş.

How to get there:

Getting to Cluj-Napoca is easy due to its position and its status as a major city in Romania.

By plane:

The *International Airport of Cluj-Napoca* (CLJ), <http://airportcluj.ro/>, located 9 kilometres (5.6 miles) to the east of the city centre, is offering direct flights to Bucharest, Prague, Munich, Vienna (provided by TAROM, Lufthansa, Austrian), and Paris-Beauvais, London-Luton, Brussels-Charleroi, Eindhoven, Dortmund, Bergamo, Bologna, Rome, Treviso, Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Zaragoza, and Tel Aviv (provided by Wizzair – a low-cost company).

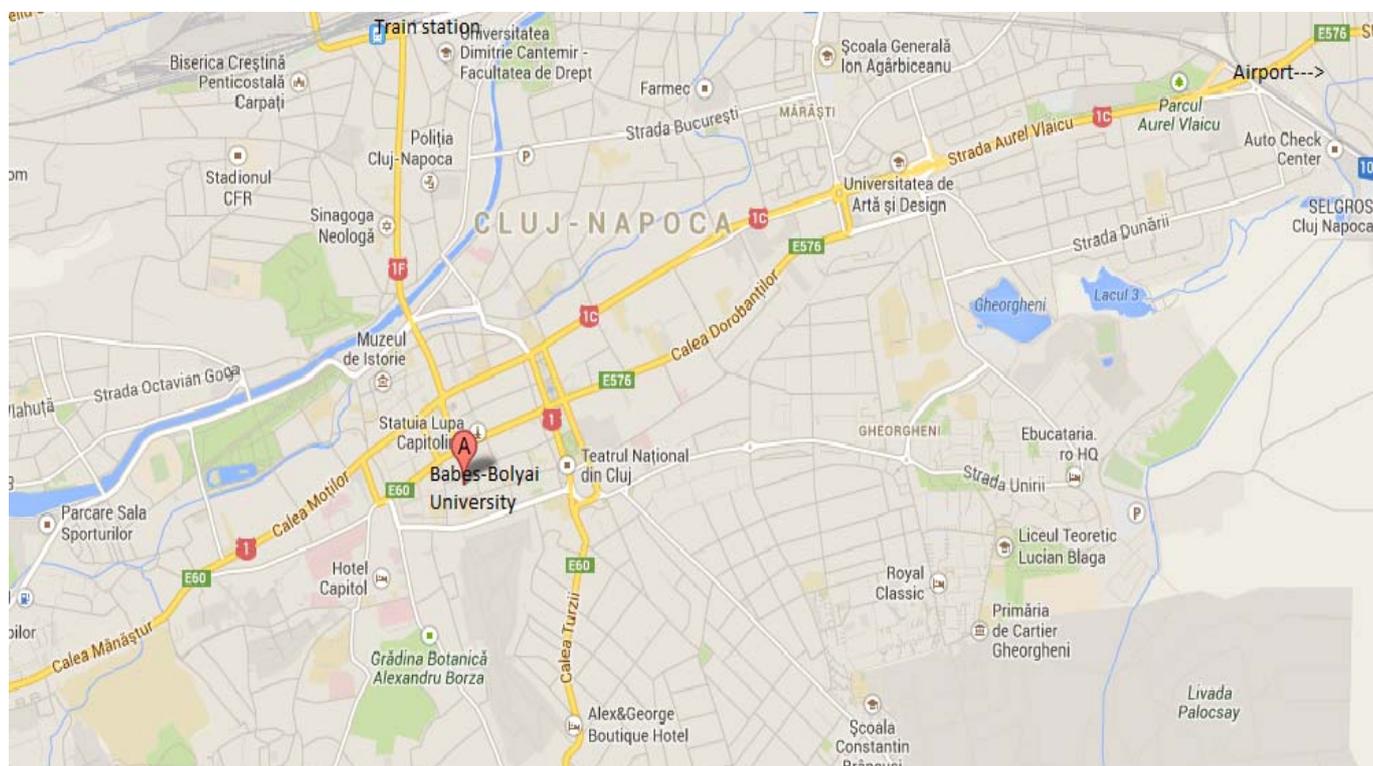
By train:

There are train connections to most Romanian cities, including fast InterCity connections to Oradea, Arad, Timisoara, Brasov, Sighisoara and Bucharest. Many trains to Budapest leave early in the morning.

By car/coach:

Cluj-Napoca has good road connections European road E60 links it to Bucharest and Brasov to the south, Oradea and Budapest to the west, through Bors customs. E81 leads to Zalau and Satu Mare to the north, Brasov and Bucharest to the south. E58 links Cluj-Napoca to Dej, Bistrita, Baia Mare and Vatra Dornei.

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&t=h&om=0&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=105631016851501114654.00000111c2d86a8e32c7b&dg=feature>



What to see and visit in Cluj-Napoca

- St. Michael's Cathedral in the Union Square, in the very heart of the city. It is one of the oldest and most appreciated Transylvanian monuments of gothic architecture, built between 1350 and 1487, probably immediately after the settlement had officially become a town, in 1316. After the Black Church in Brasov, it is the largest Gothic building between Vienna and Istanbul.
- The Museum Square, a 2 minute walk from the Union Square, is home to the Franciscan Monastery.
- The Botanical Garden spreads over 14 hectares of abrupt and hilly land. It is the largest botanical garden of southern Europe and the third largest in the world, and contains among others a Roman and Japanese garden, greenhouses for equatorial and tropical plants, a small water course through its middle, and a tower to get a better view of the garden arrangements. Founded in 1920, the Garden belongs at present to "Babeş-Bolyai" University.
- The Central Park is a welcome break from the rush of the city. The middle of the park hosts a small lake and the Chios Casino, from the terrace of which you can rent rowboats and hydro-bicycles to circle the small island in the centre of the lake.
- The Ethnography Museum of Transylvania and the National Ethnography Park "Romulus Vuia".
- National Museum of the History of Transylvania.
- The National Theatre and Opera, and the Hungarian Theatre and Opera.
- The Philharmonic Orchestra.
- The Art Museum, and The Paintbrush Factory (contemporary art centre).



Piata Unirii / The Union Square

Did you know that:

- Since January 1, 2007, Romania is a member of the European Union
- The national currency is *leu* (RON), the exchange rate is: 1 EUR = 4,5 lei/RON (Nov. 2013)