

The capital city Bucharest is rich in its history with beautiful Art-Deco, Art-Nouveau, Baroque, Byzantine and Bauhaus structures lining the cobble streets. If you want to live in Bucharest then this article will point you in the right direction.

Accommodation in Bucharest comes in a variety of forms and will suit all types of Expat. Certain neighborhoods appeal more than others for Expats and are characterised by price, population density, proximity to nature, shopping, transport or nightlife. The old city in the centre is the most famous place for party nights. The more upmarket northern area is perhaps better suited to the more outdoorsy type with many parks nearby. The Northern Suburbs have several new housing constructions and being further out from the city, is ideal for those who enjoy quieter neighborhoods. The central area is perhaps the most popular by volume of requests and offers good value for money, while the central east is more working class but still desirable. The central west is far less preferred.

Central & Downtown

If you are someone who loves city life, then the Central area is for you. This area includes Piata Victoriei, **Piata Romana**, Piata Universitatii, Icoanei Garden, Piata Unirii, Piata Alba Iulia, Cismigiu Park including Stirbei Voda Blvd., Cotroceni and Foisorul de Foc neighborhoods. The population here includes people from all walks of life.

Downtown in the heart of the Central area certainly has no shortage of entertainment, dining, and shopping for those expats wanting a more colorful experience in Bucharest. The lowest price in this area is around 250 euros for a studio, with standard conditions, or 400 euros for a luxury studio, with one bedroom places starting at 400 euros to 700 euros for duplex/ apartments with three bedrooms built after 1990s or 350 euros if the building is older. The **luxury properties** in these areas start from 500 euros for one bedroom apartment and can run to 1500 euros for a four bedroom apartment. For example, located near Sos. Cotroceni and Strada Nicolae Staicovici area collection of former bourgeoisie villas which are very popular with Expats.

The most sought after areas for mid-range budget rentals are those in or around Piata Romana, **Piata Unirii**, Piata Universitatii. One reason is the location but also the subway makes a difference, which can save you time because the road auto traffic in Central area is significant between 8 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. For example, it can take 60 minutes by car at 8am to reach Pipera from Unirii, a 10km drive. If you have a moped/ motorbike, this is reduced to 25 minutes.

Northern Central

The northern area consists of the neighborhoods and includes Herastrau Park area, Kiseleff, Primaverii, Aviatorilor and Dorobanti, which are considered to be the luxury areas of Bucharest. Here the rents start from 400 euros for a studio running to 900 euros for a reasonable two bedroom apartment and even up to 1900 for a premium luxury three bedrooomed apartments. Villa's start from 2000 euros/ month in the premium luxury sector, plus administration and utilities costs on top of course.

Floreasca, Dorobanti, Domenii, Mai 1, Blvd Ion Mihalache are considered to be desirable by Expats and also safe area with more middle class inhabitants. A studio can be rented for 350 euros, 650 euros for two bedrooms and 900 euros for three bedrooms. In this area you can find many apartment complexes that have private swimming pools, private security service, mini market, kindergarten. .

These are all walking distance from the park of Herastrau (the biggest park in Bucharest) and Kiseleff Boulevard, the most famous because of the Arc de Triumph. These areas are perfect for runners and athletic types as well as for families wanting to use the park for their children given the abundance of space here for outdoor activities.

Herastrau is probably the most popular area here for expatriates so you will have no trouble meeting fellow expats.

Southern Central

Timpuri Noi, Tineretului Park and Carol park are very pleasant, medium-low cost areas and are well placed for Metro and tram lines. 1 bedroom apartments here can be found for 300 euros up to 500 euros for premium quality.

Western Central

Drumul Taberei and Militari in the west is a more working class area, communist building area, very densely populated and is characterized by heavy rush hour traffic. The Metro is still under construction at the time of writing which significantly affects traffic speeds. Buildings tend to be less well maintained, and car parking is more of a problem here than in less dense areas.

Eastern Central

The areas of Piata Muncii and Titan are simple, pleasant and working to middle class areas, but Dristor and Vitan, located between Titan & Alba Iulia is considered less desirable by some. A one bedroom apartment in this area starts from 250 euros. Typically, a long term Expat might live here if surviving on a local salary for example.

Northern Suburbs

If you are someone who enjoys a slower and quieter life, the northern suburbs might be more your style. Composed of neighborhoods Baneasa and Pipera and even Tunari and Voluntari, the northern suburbs have many new buildings of apartments and villas. Walking is not ideal here due to discontinuous pavements, but If you want to be a bit out of town this is a good option. Taxis are among the cheapest in Europe with a 3km journey costing around 1 euro. Also the largest mall in the area of North - Baneasa Shopping City, IKEA, Supermarket Carrefour.

In Baneasa, prices are more acceptable than Pipera. Here a studio starts from 250 euros in older blocks oldest or 400 euros in newer buildings constructed after year 2000. One bedroom apartment start at 400 euros in newer buildings and a two bedroom apartment can start from minimum 600 euros. If you need a four bedroom apartment you might pay for 950 euros. Another option for your family to rent might be a villa, which start from 1100 euros. If the budget is not a problem for you, there are many houses /suites with many services included that can reach up to 3000 euros/ month for the properties with more than three bedrooms.

Pipera has developed very quickly after year 2000. It is recognised as an area with a majority of foreign residents because of the international schools, airport, safety and comfort.

In **Pipera**, the main street is Iancu Nicolae, where Jollie Ville Mall it is located. there may be properties listed as being in Pipera, but are actually located in Voluntari, where prices are significantly lower.

A one bedroom apartment on Iancu Nicolae starts from 600 euros, but the usable space is a generous 70 sqm. New developments generally include parking places, security and sometimes a spa/ pool. Two bedroom apartments starting from 650 euros and a three bedroom apartments are available from 800 euros. A villa in Pipera can be rented starting from 900 euros and can be up to 3500 euros, depending of the usable area, garden and location. For the luxury category the prices can start from 3500 euros / month.

Always remember, the owners are more open to negotiate if the rental contract is a long term one and several rents can be paid in advance.

If you want to be even more out of the city then Snagov or Corbeanca, is a great place to live. Getting out into nature. Here the prices are lower, the air is very fresh.

Each neighborhood offers you something different than the last and it is easy to find the perfect one you are looking for. **Bucharest** is a diverse city, rich in culture and history just waiting to be explored. We have not discussed southern Bucharest as it is less desirable than the areas described above.

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