

CLUJ NAPOCA

City Highlights

This western city in the region of Transylvania traces its origins back to the Dacian settlement of Napuca in the 2-nd century A.D. After the Roman take-over of Dacia, it was renamed *Napoca* and in 124 A.D., received the rank of "municipium". The city quickly advanced socially and economically and during Marcus Aurelius' reign Napoca received the title "colonia", the highest possible urban status in the Roman Empire.



The name Cluj comes from *Castrum Clus*, first used in the 12-th century as the name of the citadel surrounding the city. *Clus* means "closed" in Latin and refers to the hills that surround the city.

German merchants, who arrived here in the 12th century, rebuilt the medieval earthen walls of Clus in stone after the Tartar invasion of 1241.

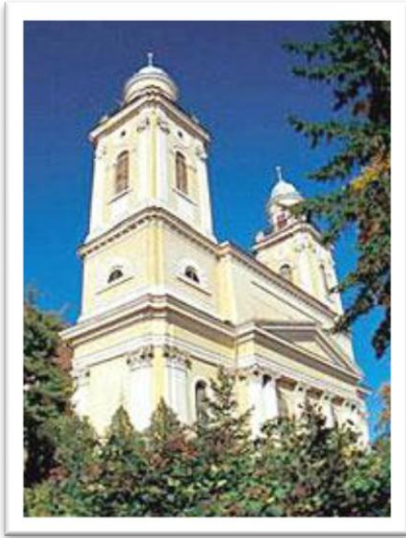


Known as **Klausenburg** to the Germans* and **Kolosvar** to the Hungarians, Cluj became Cluj Napoca in the 1970s, when the communist regime added the name of the old Roman settlement to emphasize its Daco-Roman origin.

With one of the most vibrant economies in the country and a population of around 330,000, Cluj, is today a vibrant cultural and educational city. The six state and several private universities located here also make Cluj Napoca the city with the largest percentage of student population in Romania.

The main square, resplendent with 18th and 19th century buildings and home to many shops and restaurants, is dominated by the 15th century St. Michael's Church, one of the finest examples of gothic architecture in Romania. The square also claims the 18-th century baroque Banffy Palace, housing the weaponry and Romanian art collections of the Art Museum. Visitors who want to learn more about the region should pay a visit to the open-air section of the Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania, a true display of folk architecture. For entertainment, spend an enjoyable evening at the Opera or attend a classical music concert offered by the Cluj Philharmonic.

City Landmarks



Featuring baroque, gothic, Renaissance and neoclassical buildings, the square allows for quick access to **St. Michael's Church** and the **Banffy Palace**. Flanking the church on the south side is a 1902 **equestrian statue** of the 15th



century ruler, Matei Corvin. In the southwest corner of the square stands **Hotel Continental**, built in 1895 in an eclectic style combining Renaissance, classical and baroque elements. During World War II, the hotel served as the German military headquarters in Transylvania.

Across the square, you can visit the **Hintz House**, which served as Cluj's first and longest-running pharmacy (1573-1949) and is now home to the **Pharmacy Museum**

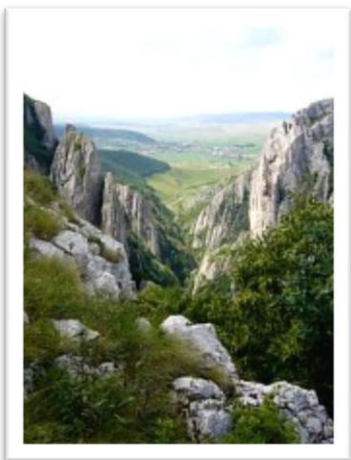
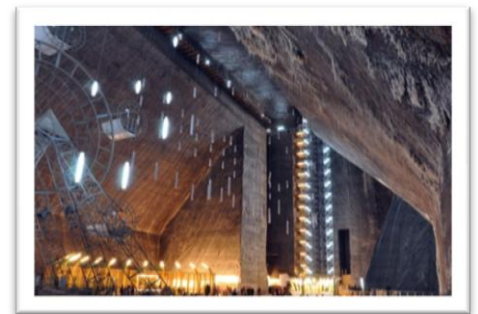
SURROUNDINGS

Apuseni Mountains & Scarisoara Cave (Muntii Apuseni & Ghetarul Scarisoara)
Where: 45 miles southwest of Cluj Napoca

The **Apuseni Nature Park** protects one of the most interesting cave systems in the country. Limestone underlies most of the park and is responsible for the area's impressive landforms and more than 400 caves, many of which can be explored.

Turda Salt Mine

A real museum of salt mining in Transylvania
This mine dating from the seventeenth century had a decisive factor in the development of this prosperous town from Roman times until today.



Turzii Gorge (Cheile Turzii)

A protected natural area, 25 km south of Cluj-Napoca, in the heart of Transylvania. It belongs to the northern part of Trascău Mountains. The diversity of high and steep walls, sharp ridges, rock towers and caves makes it one of the most beautiful and impressive gorge in Romania. Turzii Gorge resembles the shape of a double funnel and was shaped by Hășdate River on more than 3 km length and with vertical walls up to 250 m.

Many caves are present inside the canyon, the longest one being Ungurească Cave - 75 m. Two of the caves (**Cetățeaua Mare** and **Cetățeaua Mică**) were fortified with stone walls in the Middle Ages and served as a hiding place for local people during hard times.