

Bucharest

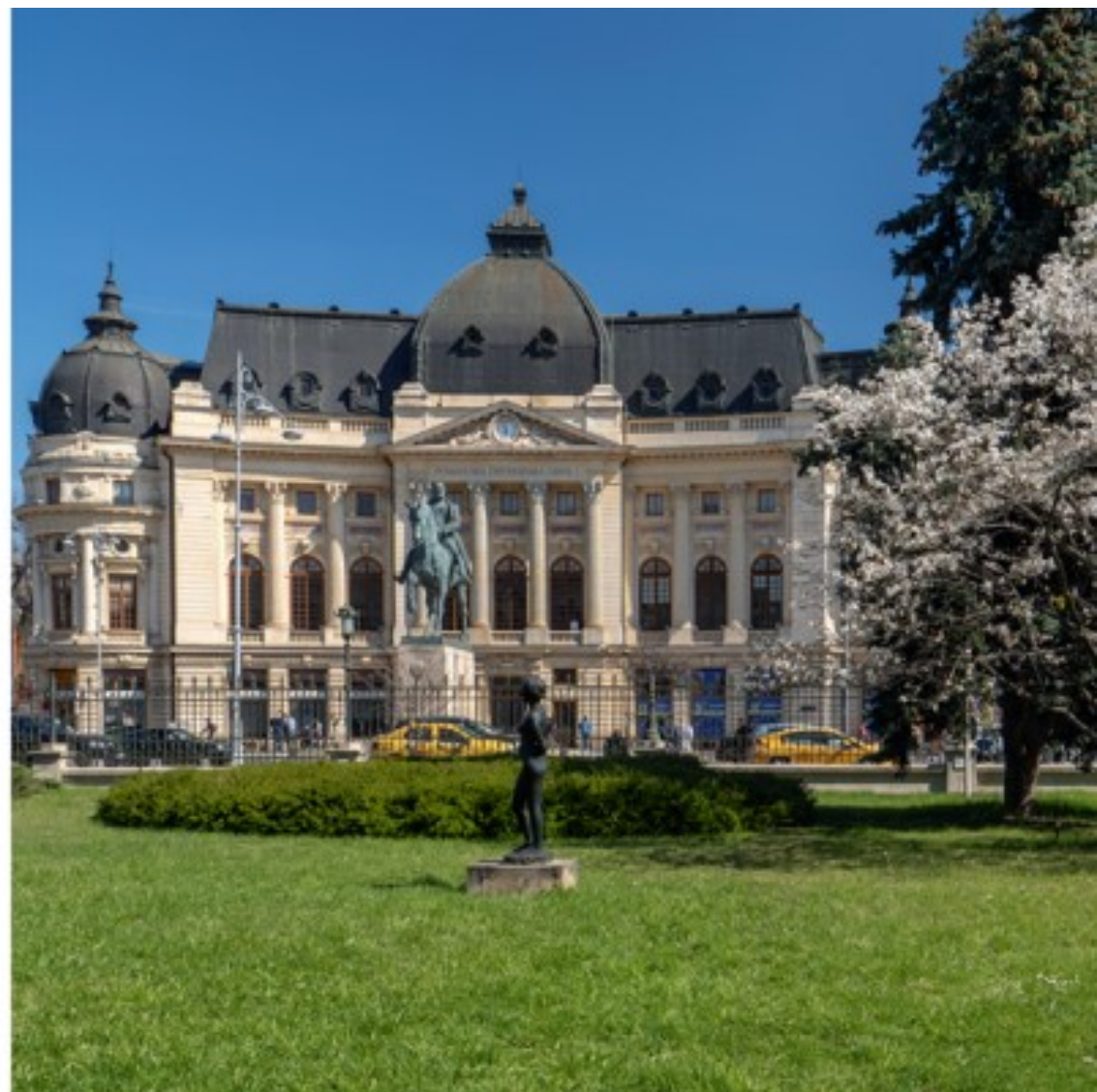


Long regarded as merely a departure point for Romania's more attractive destinations, Bucharest has been reborn in recent decades, having transformed both its look and its atmosphere, and is now one of Europe's most up-and-coming holiday destinations.

First recorded in a chrysoboullion dating from 1459, Bucharest developed gradually, originally around the Princely Court (now the Old Court) on the banks of the Dimbovița, and from the nineteenth century onwards around the houses of Dinicu Golescu, where the Royal Palace would later be built. The adoption of the French cultural model in the nineteenth century transformed Bucharest's architecture and

urban planning, and around the turn of the twentieth century the city even came to be known as 'the Little Paris.' In the first half of the twentieth century, ambitious urban planning works continued apace, a new generation of architects designed buildings in the modernist style, and society became increasingly cosmopolitan and open towards the new. The capital remained a city with a dual personality, however, with its elegant central district providing a stark contrast with insalubrious outlying slums. From the 1950s onwards, during the communist period, the city underwent dramatic changes. It was industrialised and expanded, swallowing up surrounding villages, which were turned into dormitory districts for factory workers. In many

Biblioteca Centrală Universitară (1891-1895), fostul palat al Fundației Regale, construit la inițiativa Regelui Carol I / The Central University Library, formerly the Royal Foundations Palace, built at the behest of King Carol I in 1891-95





De-a lungul Căii Victoriei, una dintre cele mai vechi și mai cunoscute străzi din București, se aliniază clădiri monumentale, precum Cercul Militar Național (1912-1923), Grand Hôtel du Boulevard (1873), Hotel Novotel – construit în 2006 pe locul primului teatru din București (1852), distrus în timpul bombardamentelor din 1944 – și Hotel Capitol (1901).

All along Calea Victoriei, one of Bucharest's most famous streets, can be found major historic buildings, including the National Military Club (1912-23), Le Grand Hôtel du Boulevard (1873), Hotel Novotel, built in 2006 but reproducing the façade of Bucharest's first theatre (1852), destroyed by American bombers in 1944, and the Hotel Capitol (1901).