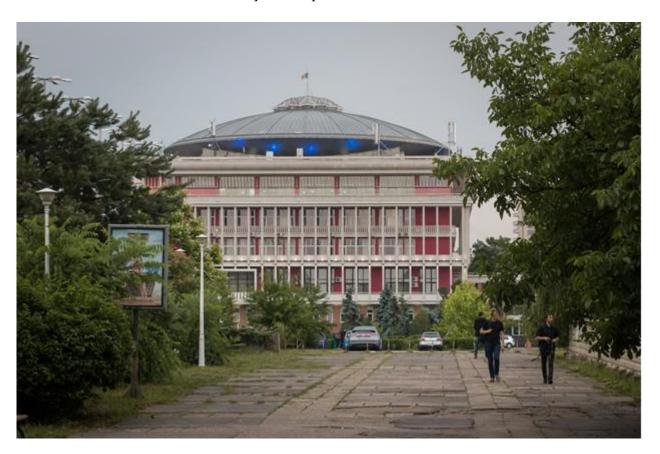






Your information guide for Bucharest

We are glad to welcome you on behalf of the Politehnica of Bucharest. To make your stay in Bucharest as pleasant as possible, we have compiled some practical information and tips. If you need more information or have any other queries, do not hesitate to contact us.



1818

Welcome to Bucharest!





1. Accommodation

In addition to the official hotel for the conference, you are advised to make all your own travel arrangements, including reserving your accommodation. You can either search for hotels near Politehnica Bucharest (UPB) or in the city center (Just a tip: try to avoid the hotels in the heart of Old Town, as it might get very crowded and loud at night. But this is just a remark, might be useful to know)

Below, please see some hotel names to help you locate the best areas in town:

- Hotels near UPB Campus. You can make the reservation either on their website or any other recognized platforms (Booking.com)
 - o Ambiance Hotel
 - o ibis Bucharest Politehnica
- Hotels in city center
 - Mercure Bucharest City Center: 15 17 17a George Enescu Street, Bucharest, 10302,
 Romania
 - o Cismigiu Hotel Bulevardul Regina Elisabeta 38, București 050017
 - o Grand Hotel Continental Calea Victoriei 56, București 010083
 - o <u>Grand Hotel Bucharest</u> (former Intercontinental) Bulevardul Nicolae Bălcescu 4, București 010051

There are other international brands like Athénée Palace, Radisson Blue, and JW Marriott Grand Hotel or 4-star: Novotel, Ramada, The Mansion Boutique, Old Town Boutique Hotel.

2. How to get to the Venue

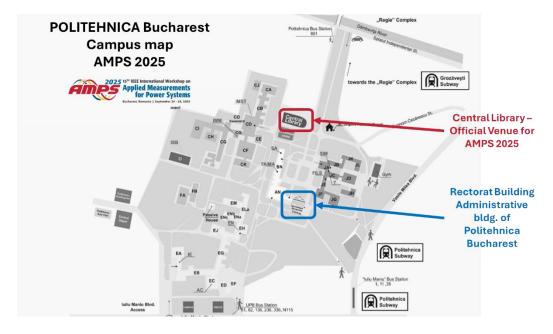
The easiest way might be to take a taxi/uber/bolt. However, in the morning, the traffic might be problematic. In any case, the map shown below can help you to get there. (or just use Google Maps)



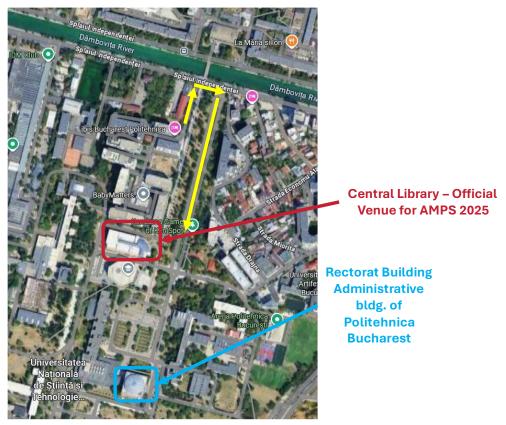








The meeting room is located in the Central Library Building. There will be signs at the entrance of the building with the Room number and other instructions.









Please note on the map above that the official hotel for the conference (Ibis Hotel) is shown. Even if it is very close to the venue, there is no straight connection between them. You would have to follow the yellow lines and make use of the official entrance of UPB Campus.

For detailed information, you may want to use the **GOOGLE MAP**.

3. Weather in May in Bucharest

In September, Bucharest typically enjoys mild and pleasant weather, with daytime temperatures ranging from 20–27 °C, cooler evenings around 12–15 °C, and occasional short rain showers as summer transitions into autumn.

4. Currency and Exchange Rates

Bank offices and ATMs are available in "Rectorat Building" at two access doors: BRD / Group Societe Generale and BCR / Erste Bank.

For exchange rates you may want to have a look on the website of the National Bank of Romania at https://www.cursbnr.ro/

The Leu (RON is the international version) is the official currency in Romania, which is divided into 100 bani. All Romanian bank notes use polymer (not paper). Money may be exchanged at banks (but nowadays, many banks don't handle cash), international airports, hotels or authorized exchange offices called "casa de schimb" or "birou de schimb valutar". ATMs are available at banks, airports and shopping centers. American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. It is recommended to travel with some Euro or USD in cash in case of difficulty using credit cards. Only Romanian currency is accepted when paying in cash.

All banknotes and coins are shown below

You can exchange money at the airport, at an exchange office, but the exchange rate is not convenient. We advise you to exchange 100 lei (two banknotes of 50) only, for your taxi ride. Alternatively, you can exchange a larger amount of money at an ATM located in the arrivals terminal.









5. Electricity

Supply voltage is 230 Volts, 50Hz. Two-pin European-style plugs are standard. In hotels' rooms you can find sockets with or without protective contact for 230 V, 50 Hz and currents up to 10 A or 16 A.





Type C plug (Europlug) The plug is non-earthed and has two round 4 mm (0.16 in) pins, which usually converge slightly towards their free ends. It can be inserted into any socket that accepts 4 mm round contacts spaced 19 mm (0.75 in) apart.

The type F plug, commonly called a "Schuko plug", has two earthing clips on the sides of the plug instead of a female earth contact. The Schuko connection system is symmetrical and unpolarised by design, allowing live and neutral to be reversed. The socket also accepts type E plugs and Europlugs. It supplies up to 16 A.

6. Public transport

6.1. Generalities

The public transport works every day between 5 am – 23 pm. It tends to be crowded during peak hours (7:00 AM to 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM). Taxis are available non-stop.

Taxi







Taxi is quite cheap in Bucharest, with fares between 1.99 Lei/km and and 3.5 Lei/km. All taxis are yellow and information from fare to company name, car number, and phone number are visible on the exterior of the car. Make sure you have cash.

You can take a taxi directly from the street or you can call the company: Cristaxi (+4)0219466 and (+4)0219455; Meridian (+4)0219444 and (+4)0219888; Leone (+4)0219425 and (+4)0219426; Total (+4)0219424; Dartex (+4)0219595.

<u>Star Taxi</u> is the app for taxi is widely used in Bucharest. It is available for both Android and iPhone. UBER and BOLT are also available in Bucharest at similar prices but sometimes higher.

Bus, Trolley and Tramway

All the buses, trolleys and tramways are operated by STB. Website: https://www.stbsa.ro/index The passengers must have a valid ACTIV ticket.
The ticket can be purchased:

- As physical ticket at booths that can be found near the STB stations (but they tend to close them as more and more people are using digital wallets). The booths are opened during working days from 5:30 AM to 8:30 PM and generally closed during Saturday and Sunday. The price of a single ticket on ALL URBAN ROUTES is 3 Lei. When you ask for an electronic card, besides the credit that you buy for traveling (min: 2.6 Lei max: 50 Lei), you will have to pay also the card. The passengers are obliged to validate the card without delay when boarding the vehicle. Any transfer to other vehicle implies the validation of a new ticket
- Digital ticket (more convenient) using the app 24Pay crate account, save your card and purchase tickets for STB. One journey is 3 lei and is valid for 90 minutes. The ticket will be shown in your app. If the "control" will come, you can show them the app with the ticket.
- Directly on the bus. Some vehicles (but not all of them) have special machines where you can scan your credit/debit card and they will charge you 3 lei for the journey. Some machines print also a receipt (but not all of them). If the "control" come, we just need to show them the transaction on you phone.

Metro/Subway/Underground System

The metro system is the fastest way to travel in Bucharest. The center of the city is covered by several stations, who are set around 1-2 km from each other: *Piata Unirii, Universitate, Piata Romana, Piata Victoriei*. There are multiple types of <u>tickets</u> you can buy:

- 2 fares that cost 10 Lei
- 10 fares that cost 50 Lei







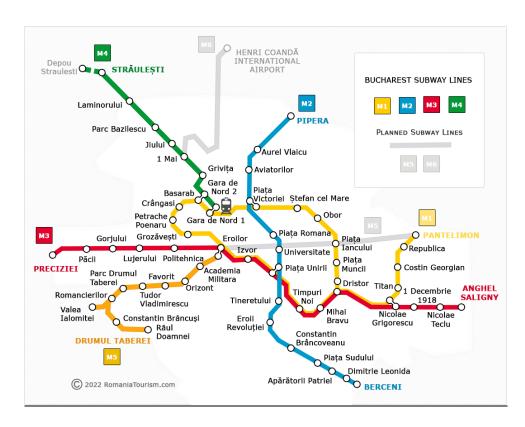
- the day passes and weekly passes (for metro only)
- Day and weekly passes for Metro+STB. (More info here: https://www.stbsa.ro/eng/abonamente_eng

The tickets can be bought at each Metro station, using Vending Machines (cards only) or at Booths (with human interaction and cash only). There is also the po

One fare means that you can go to any station in Bucharest no matter how far and the color of the line. There are no zones marked on the metro map, so the price of one fare is the same.



Look out for this sign



6.2. From/to the airport

The *Henri Coanda* airport (OTP is the international code) is located north of Bucharest, 26 km from the city center.

By taxi







Depending on the tariff, a ride between the airport and the city center costs between 45 lei and 60 lei. Taxis can be ordered at the airport using the electronic booths right at the waiting area of the arrivals terminal, and the taxi area is just outside; all prices ranges are available. The machine will provide a ticket with the taxi details, including the car nameplate, company logo, company car number and tariff. The car is not already outside, you may need to wait for the car between 2-5 minutes. The taxi will arrive from the left side as you exit the building (use the door in front of the electronic booths). Look for the license plate of the car as you wait outside.



There is also a lane with first come first serve taxis, where taxis **are not ordered** from the booth, the prices are higher and might **not be a convenient experience**. Better not to use those taxis.

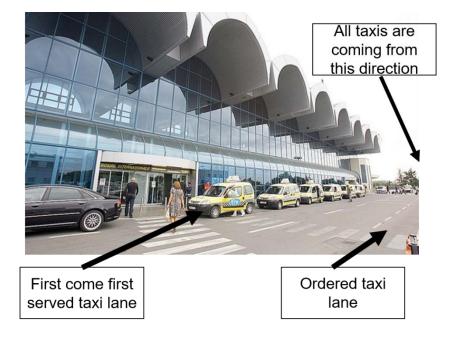
By Uber or Bolt

For those car sharing companies, it might be a bit difficult, as they are not allowed to enter the arrival terminal. So, if you want to use their services, you would have to exist the terminal, pass the parking lot and wait for the car in the roundabout, under the train station.









By bus

The 783 bus travels regularly from the Henry Coanda International Airport (Otopeni) to the City Centre (approximate travel time 40 minutes). Here is the route for bus 783

If you want to take the bus from the **Airport Otopeni Henri Coanda** to the city, the **bus stop** is **downstairs**, **in front of Arrivals** Entrance (from International Arrivals, take the stairs, follow the signs to get to "Arrivals" and then exit) or follow the yellow "**Bus signs**". There is a kiosk/machine where you can **buy tickets**, the **driver doesn't sell tickets**. The price is 7 lei for 2 rides.

At Victory Square (Piata Victoriei), Romana Square (Piata Romana), 21 December Square (Piata 21 Decembrie), Unirii Square 1 (Piata Unirii 1) and Unirii Square 2 you have access to Subway (Metrou).

By train:

From Otopeni Airport to Gara de Nord train station

You can find more details at: https://www.cfrcalatori.ro/en/bucuresti-nord-railway-station-henri-coanda-airport/ - time for the ride = 25 minutes











The train will take you from the airport to "Gara de Nord". From here you need to take the metro, bus or taxi to your hotel.

The tickets can be bought before departure from the booths at the station (if you have time), or inside the train – using the machines accepting credit/debit cards or from the operator (cash or card)

6.3. From/to the Politehnica Universty Campus

By taxi

A ride between the Bucharest city center and the UPB campus is around 15 lei (it includes the tip).

By Metro or Bus

From Piata Universitatii (University Square):

- bus 336 (see the routes above)
- Metro: 1 station till Piata Unirii 2, walk to Piata Unirii 1 to change from M2 to M3 take direction Preciziei, 3 stations, till station Politehnica

From Piata Unirii 1, Metro M₃, direction Preciziei, 3 stations, till the Politehnica station.

While attending the symposium, we advise you to visit the Politehnica station. You will discover here the marble used on the floor extracted from Romanian Carpathian Mountains. The marble incorporates 80 years old fossils. In fact, such marble is used in all subway stations, but the fossils are less visible than in the Politehnica station.













7. Emergency medical care

In case of emergency you should call 112. If possible, you should ask a Romanian person to do this for you, because the operator might not speak fluent English. Basic emergency medical care is provided for free. However, you are advised to carry a European health insurance card or to contract a travel medical insurance.

8. GSM and Internet connection

The telecom companies with good coverage in Romania are Vodafone, Orange, and Telekom. Prepaid SIM cards are available starting from 5 Euro. They can be bought at the airport (in a newspaper shop) or in the city at various providers. The prepaid sims include several GBs of internet data and international minutes. Please, ask the seller to help you to activate the SIM. For EU countries the roaming is working just fine, with the same rates as in your home country.

9. Pharmacies

Pharmacies are available everywhere in Bucharest. You can buy pharmaceutical drugs without a doctor's prescription, including for stomach, flu, headache, and others. All pharmacies operate under the EU regulations.

10. Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in Romania. However, good restaurant or taxi services may be rewarded by 5 to 10% of the bill.







11. Discover Bucharest

If you have some time and want to discover Bucharest, we scheduled some few suggestions for you.

11.1. Romanian Food

- **Sarmale** (cabbage rolls): these round cabbage leaves stuffed with minced meat (and some rice) are a favorite among 99% of Romanians. Most say this is the best traditional food and the main festive dish cooked on all special occasions.
- **Mici or mititei:** small rolls of grilled minced meat that comes in various combinations with pork, sheep or beef. It's every meat lover's dream come true.
- **Mamaliga:** it is basically boiled corn flour, the Romanian version of 'polenta', and this was basically the substitute for bread decades ago. It's best served alongside sarmale or in the vegetarian version with cottage cheese and cream.
- **Slanina**, **caltabosi**, **lebar**, **toba** also known as 'porcarii' (products made of pork meat), there are best served in the cold winter season. Order a cold platter and you will them invariably together with various types of cheese. 'Slanina' is smoked fat; 'caltabosi' is a sausage made of the pig's internal organs, minced meat and spices (pepper and thyme); 'lebar' is a sausage made mostly of pork liver; 'toba' is made of the pig's head, tongue, kidneys, heart and muscle. Probably all this does not sound very tasty, but trust us, if it's made right, you will be licking your fingers at the end of the meal.
- Carnati de Plescoi: sausages from the region of Buzau (North-East of Bucharest) made from a mix of sheep and beef meat seasoned with paprika.
- Salata de vinete or aubergine salad with mayonnaise and a bit of onion.
- **Zacusca** is a salad of reddish color made with aubergines, red bell peppers, onions and tomato sauce.
- **Ciorba** which is basically sour soup and since Romanians are crazy about this, it comes in many varieties. What we recommend is the 'ciorba de fasole si afumatura' (bean soup with smoked bacon) served from a bread bowl and, if you are fond of sour cream, try the pork, chicken or beef ciorba cooked with cream. If you are in the mood for something different, then try the ciorba de burta (tripe sour soup with cream) it's one of the most loved Romanian dishes.
- Papanasi is a hearty delicious dessert with two doughnuts covered by cream and Jam.
- **Placinta** cu branza dulce is a pie with sweet cheese, a dessert that can be found everywhere: restaurants, cafes, bakeries and homes.
- **Cozonac** is a sweet bread dough with nuts and Turkish delight. It is a treat cooked on all special occasions (Christmas, Easter, and other religious holidays).
- **Covrigi** or the Romanian pretzel is a thinner version of the famous German counterpart and it comes in various combinations: with salt, with sesame, poppy or fillings (chocolate, cheese, jam







or a sausage). The covrig is the Romanian breakfast if you had no time to eat something at home and you will often see queues of people waiting in front of bakeries to buy these treats in the early hours of the morning.

11.2. Restaurants/Bistros in the City

The old city center is the best to take a meal. You should not miss "Caru' cu Bere" restaurant. For other restaurants, just go on Google and search for "restaurants near me".

12. Guide city tour Bucharest

- Free walking tours of Bucharest: https://bucharest.walkaboutfreetours.com/
- Explore Bucharest with https://www.triptobucharest.com/

but, don't miss the Parliament Palace http://cic.cdep.ro/en/visiting/opening-hours-and-tariffs

- Bucharest seen from the eye of a traveller.
 https://fullsuitcase.com/highlights-bucharest/
- Hopon-hopoff sightseeing bus tour :

http://romaniatourism.com/romania-maps/bucharest/bucharest-hopon-hopoff-sightseeing-bus-tours.html

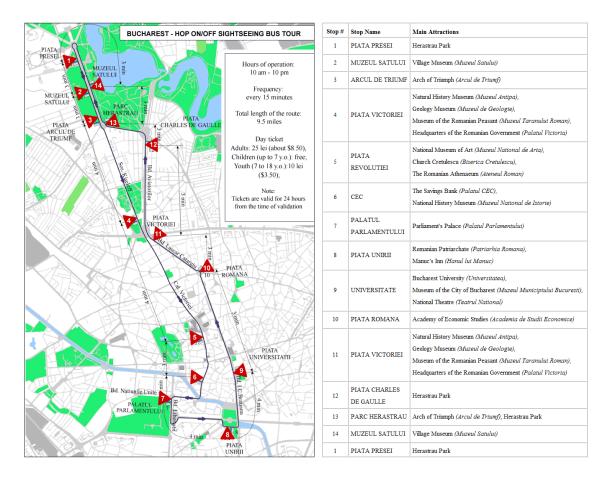
Other useful links

https://www.inyourpocket.com/bucharest/sightseeing http://romaniatourism.com/bucharest.html









We wish you a pleasant stay in Bucharest!