



Tour Name

Bohemian Bucharest: Markets & Mahallas

Tour City

Bucharest

Tour Snapshot

From the heart of the city to the tastes of the country, this tour takes you on a historical, architectural, and culinary adventure through the many faces (and tastes) of Bucharest! Journey deep into the neighbourhoods of La Belle Époque Bucharest, while sampling the traditional peasant foods that define Romanian cuisine.

Highlights

- Explore the neighbourhoods and flavours of Bucharest, from the grand old centre to the cultural *mahallas*
- Taste traditional Romanian food, including the best local cheeses, the beloved *mici* street snack, and a doughnut only found in this part of the country
- Browse through the biggest and liveliest peasant market in Bucharest
- Sample local beers, from craft/microbrews to everyday big-name beers, and brave a shot of homemade Romanian brandy
- Hop aboard a tram and ride through the city alongside locals

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, food and drink samples, including a 'peasant platter' (local cheese and meats, plus seasonal vegetables and homemade bread), street snack, tram tickets, 2 mici (includes bread and mustard), a selection of local cheeses, 1 Wallachian doughnut, 3 beers, and a shot of palinca.

Exclusions: Additional food and drinks, souvenirs and personal shopping from the market, tips/gratuities for your guide.

Schedule details

- Duration: 5.5 hours
- Meeting point:
On the stairs of the National Theatre in front of the main entrance.

View on [Google Maps](#)

- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///firmly.pint.vertical](https://www.what3words.com/firmly.pint.vertical)

- Starting time: 10.00 AM
- Ending point:
Saint George Square/ Unirea Square

Full Itinerary

Your Bucharest tour begins in University Square, the geographical and administrative heart of the city, and the scene of titanic street battles between miners and students immediately after the Romanian Revolution. Absorb all that sociopolitical history before taking a short walk to Strada Batistei, formerly known as the 'St Germain' of Bucharest and the site of the old American embassy, now an overgrown testament to different times. This area is famed for its 19th-century Neo Romanian architecture that defines much of the national style.

Our first stop will be an exquisite turn-of-the-century townhouse, lovingly restored but with the sense of elegant decay so typical

of Bucharest. Under trees and vines, with grapes dangling overhead, you'll sample a selection of Romanian entrees (*gustari*), including goat cheese, cured meat, spring onions, homemade bread, and locally brewed craft beers, and you can relax and absorb the atmosphere of this recherché little hideaway. It is said that while Romanians love the culture and sophistication of urban life, when it comes to food their taste is always for the peasant food (*cucina povera*) of the countryside, so this peasant platter will be the perfect introduction to Romanian flavours.

To help us digest all those treats, we'll then make our way to the Armenian quarter. The Armenians were a vibrant and successful merchant community in the 18th and 19th centuries, thanks to their valuable role as 'middlemen' for the Ottomans. Based around the Armenian church, their *mahalla* (neighbourhood) features a spectacular variety of architectural styles from all over Europe and the Ottoman empire, as the wealthy merchants strove to out-do each other in taste and elegance. Classical, Belle Époque, Modernist, New-Romanian, Balkanic, eclectic — this quarter boasts all these styles, including the oldest documented house in Bucharest, which you will visit.

Crossing into the old Jewish quarter, we'll then stop for the most famous street-food, *covrigi*, before heading on further on our Bucharest tour to discover one of the most beautiful and peaceful areas of the city: Mantuleasa.

After exploring 19th-century and inter-war Bucharest, we'll stop for an ice-cold Romanian *weissbier*, in a space that can only be described as art-gallery-meets-bookstore-meets-summer garden, before experiencing the quintessential Bucharest public transport: a short ride on a tram. Rattling along the famous Mosilor Street, you'll enter into Communist Bucharest, with its regimented blocks and housing projects, as you make your way to the famous Obor Market. This market is the largest and most famous of all the peasant markets in Bucharest, offering every kind of item, food, or service you could imagine, and even some that you couldn't!

Since you'll be on the trail of the sights, scents, and tastes of Romanian cuisine, we'll stop for a drink of traditional Romanian *palinca* (brandy) to prepare the palate. Next, we'll enter the indoor market to sample a range of Romanian cheeses: cow, sheep, and goat. After that, it's on to the vegetable market, amid a riot of colours and textures, to taste and photograph the fresh local produce.

Probably the most famous and typical of Romanian foods — at least for Romanians — is called *mici*, which translates as 'little.' A kind of skinless sausage, these are served with mustard and cold beer, and every Romanian has their own opinion about where and how the best ones are made. But certainly the stall in Obor Market has been known for more than 50 years as one of the temples of *mici*, and here you will get to try them for yourself!

And finally, because your gastronomic adventure would not be complete without a dessert, we'll grab a sweet Wallachian doughnut, served piping hot, before sending you happily on your way home.

Additional information

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, food and drink samples, including a 'peasant platter' (local cheese and meats, plus

seasonal vegetables and homemade bread), street snack, tram tickets, 2 mici (includes bread and mustard), a selection of local cheeses, 1 Wallachian doughnut, 3 beers, and a shot of palinca.

Exclusions: Additional food and drinks, souvenirs and personal shopping from the market, tips/gratuities for your guide.

Your Trip: For your Urban Adventure you will be in a small group of a maximum of 12 people.

Confirmation of booking: If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We'll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Child Policy: Children between the ages of 6 and 11 inclusively are permitted on this tour at the rate listed above. Please select 'child' above when booking. Children below the age of 6 are not permitted on this tour.

Dietary Notes

We can cater to dietary needs, such as vegetarian/vegan and gluten intolerant. Please notify us at least 24 hours in advance as to whether you have any allergies or sensitivities. You can do so in the "Additional Information" box at checkout.

Local contact

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