

## Season preferences

Romania can be visited the entire year. But, in Romania, like in the most Central-Eastern European countries, the touristic season begins in May and ends in late September. The months of July and August concentrate the peak of demands, as the flux of Romanian and foreign tourists increases. But each season has its beauty. The spring, which in the Southern regions of the country can be felt from the last days of February, is the season when the entire nature is born once again. The field works start again as the migrating birds return on our lands from the hotter countries, especially from the Nile Delta where they stay throughout the winter. The rivers rise because of the rains and the melting of the snow, the willow trees flourish. The vegetation comes to life from its numbness. It is the season of the youth and of physical fortification.

The autumn is the favourite season of the ones who love the colours, as in autumn the green of the Carpathian forests changes into yellow, from the end of September until the beginning of December, then it becomes reddish, rusty and other nuances so beautiful for the eyes of the painters as well as for the eyes of the tourists.

It is the season of the vineyards when you can feel the sour-sweet perfume of the must. It is the season of the fruit gathering, plums and pears, of the noble vines that cover large regions on Romania's hills and tablelands. But the autumn is also beautiful in the Carpathians or in the Sub-Carpathians, or in the Delta. Fishing or hunting, the Delta receives its tourists in the early October with many surprises.

For those who love winter sports, between the beginning of December until April the mountain resorts offer them great satisfactions. From Poiana Braşov to Sinaia, the pearls of the Carpathians, Predeal or Semenic, the entire mountain chain is sprinkled with winter sports resorts. All these have special tracks for beginners as well as for the advanced skiers, ski lifts, comfortable hotels and restaurants, competing with similar units in the Alps.

The thickness of the snow of over 1 metre and even 2 in the northern resorts attracts a large number of tourists each year. And on the high peaks in the north of the country you can ski even in the summer. In most spas, the activity never stops, because of the special treatments, like in Eforie Nord or Mangalia (at the seacoast), or at Baile Felix.

A trip is always a pleasure if you get to see a folk festival. In the renowned restaurants from our capital and from other towns of the country, in the winter sports resorts and even on the seacoast of the Black Sea, the New Year dinner is always organised. The young and the old, all have fun, singing and dancing all night, celebrating what they have accomplished in the past year. Each January,

in Deva (Hunedoara district) takes place the festival of folk dances named 'Calusarii din Transilvania'. In February, at Prundul Bargaului (Bistrita-Nasaud district), the tourists can admire a parade of traditional Romanian costumes connected with the wedding traditions, with the occasion of the Pastoral Folk Festivities. In March, if you are in the Botoşani district, at Buccea, you can take part at Moldavia's contest-festival of folk music 'Village, proud garden!' At Hoteni, Maramures. district each April takes place an old spring habit dedicated to the assiduity of labours (Tanjaua - celebration of the first peasant who goes to work).

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Thousands of tourists watch in May at Huta-Certeze (Satu-Mare district) Samba Oilor (Mutton Raisers' Association for creating only one flock during the summer). It is an old pastoral festivity at the occasion of the sheep's leaving towards the mountains. In June the art creators get together with their admirers with the occasion of the Popular Ceramic Fair at Cocosul de Horezu (Valcea district). A lot of bachelor tourists come in the month of July in the Alba district, at the traditional Young girls Fair at Mount Gaina.

The vendors of handicraft products also come here and this is the place where you can always admire folk songs and dances. Another interesting popular festivity is The Ring Dance in Prislop (Maramures. district), in the heart of the mountains. Here tourists can admire folk dances, costumes from many other districts of the country. In September, at Magoaja-Chinuieşti (Cluj district), tourists can take part at the popular ceremony of Pintea the Brave. With old songs, poems and dances, people recall the personality of Pintea the outlaw, a fighter for social justice, in the natal region of the grand sculpture Constantin Brancusi, in Targul Jiu (Gorj district) the tourist is invited in the month of October at the folk festival from Gorj and the neighbour districts 'Jiule, on your bank'.

And, in December, most tourists chose Sighetu Marmatiei, Botosani, Suceava and other locations in the country, regions where the costumes and traditions for the Christmas and New Year celebration are kept intact.