**Bucharest Sights or Things to Do**

1. **The Parliament Palace (Palatul Parlamentului)- The People’s House--**This imposing structure is the heaviest and second largest building in the world, after the Pentagon. It was commissioned by Ceausescu during his systematization plan (1972). The objective of the construction of a “multilaterally developed socialist society” and are built in a distinct socialist style. This popular attraction is the first on the list as it’s one of Bucharest’s representative monuments.
2. **The National Art Museum--** Founded in 1948, it is the home of the Royal Collection. The National Art Museum is currently located in what used to be the Royal Palace and provides a comprehensive collection of Romanian art.
3. **Romanian Athenaeum (Ateneul Roman)--**This cultural home was founded in 1868 by a group of musicians, who wanted to promote and raise the public interest for symphonic music. The Athenaeum is more than 100 years old and has become a symbol of Romania’s capital.
4. **The Village Museum (Muzeul Satului)**--This traditional Romanian museum is located on the Herastrau lake shore and is one of the biggest and oldest outdoor museums in Europe. The specific Romanian collection features ancient houses, churches, wind mills, cloth mills and instruments that have artistic and historic value.
5. **The Cotroceni Palace**--Currently the residence of the Romanian President, Cotroceni Palace also accommodates a museum to depict the history and evolution of Medieval and Modern Cotroceni. Adjacent to the palace are the church and monastery, witnesses of three centuries of history that lead to the general evolution of the Romanian society.
6. **Snagov Monastery**--The ancient structure was built in the 14th century by Mircea I of Vallachia and is located on a small island in the middle of Snagov Lake. It is an important landmark in Bucharest’s history because it is the final resting place of Vlad Tepes, the legendary voivode, better known as Count Dracula. It is located 25 miles north of Bucharest.
7. **The Russian Church**--Located in downtown Bucharest, the Russian Church is a beautiful structure, created in a Byzantine style and an important landmark for orthodox Christians.
8. **Lipscani**--This neighborhood is the oldest part of Bucharest, in what remains today of the historical city. Between the middle ages and the late 20th century, Lipscani was the most important and vivid commercial centre of the capital. Today it features old structures, monuments and medieval churches, such as the Stavropoleus Church, a place famous for its Byzantine music and the largest collection of Byzantine books in the country. The architecture is in the Brancovenesc style, developed in Romania during the reign of Constantin Brancoveanu and present in many buildings throughout the country.
9. **The Cismigiu Gardens**--This complex of parks and gardens is a perfect place to relax, unwind and admire the rich Romanian vegetation. Situated in the city centre, Cismigiu Park features a large artificial lake and stretches over 17 hectares, this making it the largest green portion in the city’s central area. The main entrance is through Regina Elisabeta Boulevard, is just opposite the Bucharest City Hall.
10. **Herastrau Park**--Another impressive collection of wildlife, Herastrau Park lies in the northern part of the city and is more than 1 square km in size. This is the place where you can find the Village Museum and an alive and active area, filled with people and open spaces for recreational activities. The large Herastrau Lake is a good place for romantic boat rides. Bucharest is a large city, but adjacent to its public and crowded capital areas are these parks, which provide the perfect places for long walks and a “battery recharge.
11. **The Arch of Triumph** *Address: Piata Arcul de Triumf*
Initially built of wood in 1922 to honor the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in World War I, Bucharest's very own Arc de Triomphe was finished in Deva granite in 1936. Designed by the architect, Petre Antonescu, the Arc stands 85 feet high. An interior staircase allows visitors to climb to the top for a panoramic view of the city. The sculptures decorating the structure were created by leading Romanian artists, including Ion Jalea, Constantin Medrea and Constantin Baraschi.
12. **Calea Victoriei** *(Victory Avenue)*
**Calea Victoriei** is Bucharest's oldest and arguably, most charming street. Built in 1692 to link the Old Princely Court to Mogosoaia Palace, it was initially paved with oak beams. The street became Calea Victoriei in 1878, after the Romanian War of Independence victory. Between the two world wars, Calea Victoriei developed into one of the most fashionable streets in the city.Stroll along this street from Piata Victoriei to Piata Natiunilor Unite to discover some of the most stunning buildings in the city, including the **Cantacuzino Palace**, the historical **Revolution Square**, the **Military Club**, the **CEC Headquarters** and the **National History Museum**.

**Day Trips Out of Bucharest**

1. **Two Castles in One Day Tour** This is a small group full day tour from Bucharest to Transylvania on a very picturesque route through Carpathian Mountains allowing you to discover two of the most beautiful Romanian castles. **Peles Castle**, erected between 1873 and 1914, has been the summer residence of the Romanian Royal family and it is the most visited museum in Romania. **Bran Castle** (14th century) has been serving for ages as a military fortress controlling the entry route to Transylvania and it is nowadays frequently associated with Dracula’s myth. On our way back, we will stop for a short walk in Brasov downtown, just to show you how a typical Transylvanian old city looked like. 12 hour minivan tour—constant great reviews on Trip Advisor, etc.