



Museums

Cotroceni Museum

B-dul Geniului 1

Tel: 430 61 71

09:00-15:30

except:

Mon: Closed

Constructed in the 19th century for Queen Marie (1891-93) the palace has also played host to the Ceausescus (although they didn't live there, they did use it frequently for posh functions). The building itself is surrounded by the ruins of a church Ceaucescu had demolished because he thought it spoilt a view; at the end of the tour you see the inscription sitting over the door of the ruin cursing the head of whoever dared to destroy it. In between, the whims and inspirations of Queen Marie betray a prolific, charming executor of rather banal art. Admission costs 10 lei noi while a tour in English, French or Italian costs 20 lei noi. Visits by appointment only, and you will need ID.

Grigore Antipa Museum of Natural History

os. Kiseleff 1

Tel: 312 88 26

Fax: 312 88 63

10:00-17:00

except:

Mon: Closed

This fascinating museum has recently expanded and opened up areas to house some newly discovered curiosities. Full of stuffed animals looking a little startled and even a mammoth (dead) and some interesting rocks - or at least as interesting as rocks can be. The first floor deals with sea life and has a few examples of whales, dolphins and seals. Elsewhere you'll come across a beautiful butterfly collection as well as a few cheeky monkeys and stuffed birds. You can currently enjoy an exhibition of exotic fish, until July 15. Admission 2.50 lei noi (for groups), students and children 3 lei noi, adults 6 lei noi.

History Museum

Calea Victoriei 12

Tel: 311 33 56

10:00-17:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Tue: Closed

Fri: 10:00-17:00

The beautiful and grand neo-classical exterior hides a museum that is in urgent need of restauration and revitalisation. Once inside, you'll find exhibits - all poorly presented - that go into detail about the country's history over the past two million or so years. Plenty of skeletons, jewellery, weapons and tools to see, but all arranged in a rather confusing manner. There are also ancient imports from Greece and Rome are placed in context by exhibitions on the empires that crafted them, and separate halls are devoted to the revolutions of 1821 and 1848. The best exhibits are downstairs: the Lapidarium features a plastercast of Trajan's column (perhaps the world's first cartoon history). Admission is 3 lei noi; 1.50 lei noi for students; 1 leu nou for children and you may well find yourself the only visitor.

Military Museum

Str. Mircea Vulcănescu 125-127

Tel: 212 60 07

09:00-17:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Fri: 09:00-17:00

Not the most popular of museums but it certainly scores high in terms of curiosity. The most interesting sections include the military hardware (a few missiles, helicopters and tanks scattered around what seems to be the car park) as well as a display that focusses on the army's role during the revolution which includes some bloody and harrowing exhibits. Recommended is the Soyuz-40 capsule in which Romanian astronaut Dumitru Prunariu conquered space in May 1981. Sadly, no captions in English. Admission 5 lei noi, students 2.50 lei noi.

Minovici Museum of Ancient Western Art

Str. Dr. Minovici 3

Tel: 665 73 34

09:00-17:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Tue: Closed

Wed: Closed

This amazing red brick, mock Tudor house holds the small and dusty renaissance art collection of Dumitru Minovici, who made barrels of lei in the oil business in the 1930s. Mrs. Minovici still lives upstairs and will happily give you an English-language tour around the Belgian tapestries, Dutch furniture, Swiss stained glass, a complete library and Italian paintings from the 16th/17th centuries. Next door, another villa with folk art is closed for renovations. To get there, walk north-east from Piața Presei Libere or hop off bus No 301 at the Miorița Fountain. Admission 1.50 lei noi, for students and children 0.50 lei noi. Admission 15,000 lei, 5,000 lei for children.

National Museum of Contemporary Art

Calea 13 Septembrie 1, entrance E4

Tel: 411 10 40

E-mail

Website

10:00-18:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Tue: Closed

A recently opened museum which makes excellent use of the wide open spaces in the Parliament Palace to display the works of Romania's finest contemporary artists. There are also works on display by international artists. It's all installations, clever symbolism and grand gestures as opposed to real talent, but you may enjoy the humour. Admission 5 lei noi.

Storck Museum

Str. Vasile Alecsandri 16

Tel: 211 38 89

09:00-16:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Fri: 09:00-16:00

A little walk from Piața Victoriei is all you need to do to find this beautiful house that once belonged to the Storck family. Inside are plenty pieces of art that were executed by various members of the family as well as a fancy model of Curtea de Argeș church (where some members of Romania's royal family are buried). Phone ahead for a tour in French. Admission 2.05 lei noi, 1.02 lei noi for students.

Technical Museum

Str. Gen. Candiano Popescu 2

Tel: 336 93 90

09:00-17:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Tue: Closed

Fri: 09:00-17:00

Amusingly outdated - almost antique - technical museum on two floors in an old hangar in Carol I park. It features lots of turbines, compressors, steam engines, accumulators, antique cars, motorcycles and some impressive models of major Romanian industrial projects. Many of the educational exhibits on the first floor haven't been used in years. Guided tours cost 18 lei noi.

The National Museum of Old Maps and Books

Str. Londra 39

Tel: 230 44 68

E-mail

10:00-18:00

except:

Mon: Closed

Tue: Closed

The opening of a new museum in Bucharest is as frequent an occurrence as an eclipse, and usually about as interesting. This place though, despite the rather workaday name, is a gem, and if you are into old maps and books then you are in for a treat. Though the collection is not the biggest in the world, its utter worthiness in this cultural void of a city makes it a commendable and recommended place to visit. Admission 1 leu nou.

Theodor Pallady Museum

Str. Spătarului 22

Tel: 211 49 79

11:00-18:30

except:

Mon: Closed

Tue: Closed

The museum has only six Pallady paintings, a couple of his sketches and assorted other art. However, the museum occupies the beautifully restored Casa Melik house, built around 1750 by the rich Armenian Hagi Kevork Nazaretoglu, and now the oldest house in Bucharest. Walk over creaking floors and admire the decorated wooden tavane (ceilings). Drawing lessons for kids on Saturdays. Admission 2 lei noi, students 1 leu nou.