

Public transport and taxis

In Cluj:

- Many buses/trams support contactless tap payment directly onboard.
- Ride-sharing apps like:
 - Bolt
 - Uber

Most modern taxis also accept cards, but it is smart to ask before starting the ride if you intend to pay by card.

#2Payment method

In Romania, card payments are extremely common in cities and tourist areas. You can expect to pay by card at:

- supermarkets,
- restaurants and cafés,
- malls,
- hotels,
- ride-sharing apps,
- most taxis,
- Metro ticket machines,
- many convenience stores.

Cash is still useful for:

- small kiosks,
- some markets,
- rural areas,
- older neighborhood shops,
- or very small businesses.

What card brands work?

The two dominant networks are:

- Visa
- Mastercard

These are accepted almost everywhere cards are accepted.

American Express is much less common. Some hotels or international chains may accept it, but many smaller businesses do not because of higher processing fees. It would be advised to ask beforehand if you plan on using AMEX.

Contactless (“tap to pay”)

Romania is heavily contactless-oriented. In practice:

- tap-to-pay cards are standard,
- nearly all modern terminals support NFC/contactless,
- paying by phone or smartwatch is normal.

Romanian banks widely support:

- Apple Pay

- Google Wallet
- Samsung Pay
- Garmin Pay
- Fitbit Pay
- Xiaomi Pay

Major Romanian banks publicly support these services.

Apple Pay / Google Pay limitations

For visitors, the main rule is simple:

If your physical Visa or Mastercard works internationally, Apple Pay / Google Wallet usually works too anywhere contactless payments are accepted.

A few practical notes:

- Your phone must support NFC.
- Your bank must allow Apple Pay or Google Wallet for your card.
- Some older terminals may ask for PIN after several transactions.
- Small merchants occasionally have unstable terminals or temporary connectivity issues.

#3 Exchange

Best places to check accurate exchange rates

For the “real” market rate (“mid-market” rate), the most commonly used references are:

Google Currency Converter National Bank of Romania (BNR) official rates

(<https://www.bnr.ro/541-cursul-de-schimb>)

The BNR rate is the official benchmark banks use in Romania.

Should you exchange money at the airport?

*Usually: **no**, except for a very small emergency amount.*

Airport exchange offices in Otopeni are convenient, but rates are often significantly worse than:

- bank ATMs,
- city exchange offices,
- or card payments.

A good strategy is:

- exchange only enough for immediate needs if necessary,
- then use an ATM or exchange office in the city.
- Best practical advice for travelers

1. Paying by card is usually the best option

In Cluj especially, Visa/Mastercard + Apple Pay/Google Wallet work almost everywhere.

You may barely need cash at all.

2. If you need cash, use a bank ATM

This is usually the safest and fairest method. Recommended Romanian bank ATMs include:

- Banca Transilvania
- ING

- BRD
- Raiffeisen
- BCR

Bank ATMs generally give better exchange rates than airport booths.
Important: *always choose RON (local currency)*

This is the single most important travel money tip.
When:

- paying by card,
- withdrawing from an ATM,
- or using Apple Pay/Google Pay

the machine may ask:

“Charge in EUR/USD/your home currency?”

Always choose:

“Charge in RON”

This avoids “Dynamic Currency Conversion” (DCC), which often adds a bad exchange rate and hidden markup.

Exchange offices (“Casa de schimb”)

Romania has many exchange offices in Cluj.

Good practice:

- compare the displayed buy/sell rates,
- verify there is no commission,
- avoid tiny tourist-trap booths near stations or heavily touristy streets.

Exchange offices inside malls or established companies are generally safer.

Revolut / Wise / multi-currency cards

These work very well in Romania and are widely used by travelers and locals alike.

They are often among the cheapest ways to:

- convert money,
- pay in RON,
- or withdraw cash.

Simple recommendation

For most visitors:

- Use card payments whenever possible.
- Withdraw a small amount of RON from a bank ATM after arriving.
- Avoid exchanging large sums at the airport.

Electronics - power outlets/socket types in Romania

For those of you travelling from outside EU and UK, please be advised that the electrical system may be different than what you have in your home country.

In Romania, the standard electrical system is:

- Voltage: 230V
- Frequency: 50Hz
- Plug types: Type C and Type F

Outlet type:

Travelers from these regions usually need an adapter

- United States / Canada / Mexico
- United Kingdom / Ireland
- Australia / New Zealand
- Some Asian and Middle Eastern countries



Voltage compatibility matters

Romania uses 230V, which is higher than the 110–120V used in countries like the US and Canada.

Most modern devices are fine:

- phones
- laptops
- tablets
- camera chargers

Visitors should check the label on their charger. If it says something like:

“Input: 100–240V, 50/60Hz”

then it works in Romania without a voltage converter.

Using your mobile phone in Romania - Roaming and Mobile Data

If you don't want to use your own mobile data while in Romania, it's strongly recommended you get an e-sim.

eSIMs work very well in Romania and are supported by the main mobile operators, including Orange Romania, Vodafone Romania, and Digi Romania

What travelers should know

- Most modern smartphones support eSIM:
 - newer iPhones
 - Google Pixel phones
 - recent Samsung Galaxy models
- Visitors can use:
 - an international travel eSIM (Airalo, Revolut, Holafly, etc.)
 - or a local Romanian eSIM
- Installing an eSIM usually requires:
 - Wi-Fi connection
 - scanning a QR code
- It is best to set up the eSIM:
 - before arriving
 - or while connected to airport/hotel Wi-Fi

Coverage and mobile internet

Romania has:

- very good 4G coverage
- widespread 5G in major cities
- generally fast and inexpensive mobile internet

Weather in Romania

Daytime temperatures

- Averages **24-25°C**, **20°C** to **25°C** ranges
- Most days are comfortably warm rather than extremely hot

Night temperatures

- Usually **10-13°C**
- A light jacket or hoodie is useful after sunset

Rain & storms

September has roughly a **21% chance of a wet day** in Cluj on average, and the historical 2024/2025 sequences show that several consecutive rainy days can develop. The forecast does not predict rain for the duration of the conference, but have a small umbrella with you just in case.

Salt Mine visit (Salina Turda)

Salina Turda is underground and much cooler than the outdoor weather. I'd plan for layers and proper walking shoes rather than dressing for Cluj's daytime temperature.

How to dress: think 10–12°C underground

Even if it's warm outside—potentially around **20–25°C** based on the early-September patterns, the mine itself stays much cooler. A reported underground temperature range is about **10–12°C**, so visitors should dress for the mine, not just the outdoor forecast.

This isn't just a quick cave walk. Expect **underground galleries, large dramatic chambers, significant walking, and stairs**, although lifts may be available in some sections. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended alongside a light jacket/hoodie.