

Cultural Guide for Romania

Dos:

- Say Hello / Bună ziua with a big smile. Smile a lot!
- Romanians used to cook very large meals and invite people over so try to not decline an invitation because it can be a rude thing.
- When kissing, expect to kiss twice, once on each cheek starting with the left one.
- If you are invited to a Romanian's house bring flowers, chocolates or something to drink.
- A gift for children is always appreciated.
- If you receive a gift from a Romanian open immediately.
- If there are shoes in front of the door you should remove yours to but it depends on the choices of the host.
- You should wait to be told where to sit because there may be a seating plan.
- Always wait for the host to say „poftă bună”.
- You can soak up the extra sauce on your plate using bread. We do that a lot.
- When you go to an anniversary buy flowers for the mother of the person who celebrates his/her birthday.
- Expect to be offered second and third helpings.
- You really have to insist that you can't eat more because refusals are seen as good manners and are not taken seriously. It is considered polite to refuse food and this is not taken seriously, as well as is considered polite to keep declining. If you really don't want anything just keep declining.
- It is ok to arrive 15 minutes later.
- If you are in the business field, try to build a personal relationship before focusing on the business.

- If you stay at the corner of the table is considered that you will not get married anymore or if you kiss someone over the doorstep.
- Expect to meet very friendly people.
- You can smoke anywhere. In someone's kitchen, outside, in the restaurants, in the bus station and sometimes in shopping malls.

Don'ts:

- **DO NOT INSULT OUR FAMILY AND ESPECIALLY OUR MOTHER** because this are the most important things for us and you can be punched for that.
- do not bring up topics like „all the Romanians are gypsies” or anything related to that.
- subjects like politics and economics should be avoid as well as the Hungarian-Romanian problem and do not confuse Bucharest with Budapest.
- do not say that we are not-good-behaviour even if we are quite loudly and not so well organized (we adapt a lot)
- don't give flowers in even numbers because they are for funerals.
- try to not mistake the Romanian language with the Slavic ones because it may be considered rude.
- We criticize a lot our country but if you, as a foreigner, criticize too much our country we can get upsed. Romanians swing between loving their country for the good and the bad, and hating it. And in this moment they decide to leave it to search a better life elsewhere.
- do not expect to see garlic hanging by doors or people walking around with wooden stakes in their pockets because even if we have so many stories with vampires.
- We Romanians are so convinced that a cool breeze or draft of air can make us sick that we even have an expression for it: Te trage curentul. (“You'll be pulled by the draft.”) Take the bus on a hot summer day, and you'll probably see the windows open on only one side of the vehicle.

- If someone offers you homemade alcohol don't ask about the hygienic conditions even if you have reason for concern because it can be very rude.