Land & Climate

* Romania is about the size of Oregon.
* The Carpathian Mountains are the country’s dominant geographical feature.
* The Danube River runs along Romania’s southern border and empties into the Black Sea.
* Borders: Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine

History

* The area known as Romania was conquered by the Roman Empire in 106AD. The colonization by the Romans led the native Geto-Dacians to assimilate and adopt the language (Latin). The name Romania means “Land of the Romans”.
* Today it is part of the European Union (entering in 2007).

Population

* About 22.2 million people. Ethnic Romanians comprise 89.5% of the population. There is a significant Hungarian minority 6.6% which lives mostly in Transylvania and indentifies with Hungary and its culture. Another minority group are the Roma (also know as Gypsies).
* Most of the population live in cities – due to forced urbanization under Ceausescu.

Language

* Romania is a Latin-based language in the same family as Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. Most children learn English in school from a young age. The Roma speak Romany.

Religion

* Most are Romania Orthodox Chrisitans, Protestant or Roman Catholic.

Flag

* Three equal vertical bands of blue, yellow and red. It is modeled after the flag of France. The colors represents the principalities of Walachia (red & yellow) and Moldavia (red and blue), which united in 1861 to form Romania.

Horezu pottery is a traditional Romanian art. The manner of production of this Romanian style of pottery began in the village of Horezu, which hosts an annual pottery fair. Horezu is also the location of a monastery that has been given the status of [World Heritage Site](http://goeasteurope.about.com/od/introtoeasteuropetravel/a/UNESCOSitesEE.htm).