



## CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

Dynamism and diversity are the key words when describing the cultural life of Cluj-Napoca. Besides Romanian and Hungarian, which you can currently hear on the street, there are many other ethnic groups.

HELLO!

Romanian: Bună!

Hungarian: Szia!

German: Hallo!

The German and Jewish communities have deep roots here; newly formed communities –Italian, Turkish, Chinese, Arabic - are already making their presence felt. Never a moment in this city is it bland, boring or quiet. More than 100,000 students, Romanian as well as from abroad, give the city a modern vibration and keep it connected to the newest cultural trends.

People living in Cluj-Napoca make it a point to have the best selection of films, concerts, plays, and exhibits, lectures, and sports events. That is why the cultural calendar is filled with the most prestigious and interesting events. Within the same week, you can feel like in Vienna, on the sound of Strauss’ waltzes played by the Philharmonic Orchestra, be amazed by a post-modern photography exhibition at the Art Museum and hear trendy bands playing while enjoying a cold beer during the Septemberfest festival.

Some annual events have a long-established tradition and represent important cultural landmarks for the city.



(Photo: Promotional Poster) For over 40 years, the “Transylvania” Philharmonic Orchestra has been enchanting the faithful audience with classical music festivals, like the “Mozart Festival” and the “Musical Autumn in Cluj”. “The Night of the Ad Eaters” is a show that offers 6 hours of non-stop action, 500 of the finest, funniest, most creative and most unexpected advertising films from around the world. Less famous than its German counterpart (Oktoberfest), Septemberfest in Cluj-Napoca is the time to taste a huge variety of beer brands and enjoy the trendiest bands playing live in open-air concerts.



(Photo: Logo TIFF Cluj) Already at its 5th edition, The Transylvanian International Film Festival turns Cluj for nine days into the Romanian capital of film flashes, cameras, national and international stars, one of the most ambitious cultural events in Romania. Free screenings, low-priced tickets, movies that take your breath away.

Good-quality folk dances, traditional clothing, traditional crafts and arts, and much more can be seen during the “Transylvanian Fair” Folk Festival. Without a doubt, the most vibrant event is “De La



Hoya” Techno& Rave Festival: local and international DJ’s, bands and groupies recreate for three days the atmosphere and thrill of the Love Parade.

No other cultural event could be more suitable to end the year than The Grand Opera Ball. The most representative public figures of the city, as well as artists, fashion designers, singers, celebrate the New Year’s Eve in the brightest, most glamorous and opulent event of the year.

Besides these cultural landmarks, daily life in Cluj-Napoca is full of smaller but no less important events, which are very accessible and make the bulk of the cultural life of the city. You can always find exhibitions, fairs, book presentations, lectures, debates and workshops, language classes, arts & crafts courses and so much more. Drop into local “around the corner” art galleries to get in-depth opinions about your latest acquisitions, or find your favourite singer’s latest album in the well-supplied music stores. *(Photo: Arts Museum Cluj-Napoca)*



Numerous clubs and bars feature local celebrities as well as prestigious bands and DJs in live concerts, from rock to techno and from jazz to alternative.

Cluj-Napoca's intense cultural life rests on the bedrock of the city's numerous and prestigious institutions, with a well-established audience, patrons, visitors and enthusiasts. Cluj-Napoca is

one of the few cities in Europe that has two State Theatres and Operas, one in Romanian and one in Hungarian, a testimony to the diversity and friendliness that characterize the city’s cultural atmosphere. Every season, they feature international classics as well as local directors, playwrights and actors. The “Puck” Puppet Theatre is a very interesting cultural presence; its shows are enjoyed by hundreds of young children and also by adults who feel young...

*Photo: National Theatre in Cluj-Napoca*



For many, the “Transylvania” Philharmonic Orchestra has no need of further presentation. Besides the above-mentioned festivals, the prestigious orchestra and choir hold concerts every Friday during the season, quite often with famous international guests.

The museums are a cultural universe unto themselves. The Art Museum, located in the former governors’ residence, combines the old and the new in its numerous collections and exhibitions. The National Museum of Transylvanian History, with its collection of Roman sculptures and inscriptions (lapidarium) as well as some of the finest 18th century Baroque furniture and weaponry, is must see. Open-air museums are not very common, but the Transylvanian Ethnographic Museum has reconstructed a genuine traditional Transylvanian village on the Hoia hill, near Cluj-Napoca. The Biology, Geology and Gemmology



Museum is also a very important research institution, organising periodical exhibitions of newly discovered gems, crystals and fossils. Perhaps one of the most fascinating and unusual museums is the Pharmacy Museum. It gives a unique glimpse into the procedures, techniques and, why not, spells that were used to manufacture medicines and treatments during medieval and modern times.

Spiritual and religious life is also very active in Cluj-Napoca. All religious denominations have at least one worship place. The city also has four cathedrals: Orthodox, Greek-Catholic, Roman-Catholic and Unitarian. Religious studies are encouraged through Church-run seminaries or University faculties. *(Photo: Synagogue in Cluj-Napoca)*



Besides their religious activities, all denominations are actively involved in civic life through numerous associations and NGOs. Organ concerts are much appreciated due to the wonderful acoustics of the old churches.

One of the favourite leisure activities in Cluj-Napoca is going to the movie theatre. Famous Hollywood releases as well as independent productions can become the highlight of your evening. "Republica", "Arta-Eurimages", "Victoria" are the most important movie theatres. Each sells discount tickets on a specific day of the week. Numerous radio stations, both national and local, as well as local television stations complete the

cultural landscape. You can keep yourself updated with the latest local news, find out about "what is happening in the city" and feel involved in the energetic life of this fast-paced community.



Although an academic and business community, the inhabitants of Cluj-Napoca have not neglected outdoor activities. Cluj-Napoca has professional sports teams in virtually every league: football („CFR Ecomax" in the first league and „U" Cluj in the second league), basketball (U Banca Transilvania), handball, and martial arts. The "Avram Iancu" Auto Rally gathers crowds of motor enthusiasts, just like the dirt-track motorcycle racings. Sports facilities include two stadiums, the "Horia Demian" Sports Hall, the "Iuliu Hatieganu" Sports Park, the Olympic swimming pool and numerous smaller facilities, both public and private: tennis courts, artificial turf football grounds, basketball courts and special facilities for roller-skates and skateboard enthusiasts.

*Photo: Central Park in Cluj-Napoca*







Cluj-Napoca is gradually becoming one of the top shopping destinations in Romania. There are, of course, large shopping centres, keeping you well supplied with the essentials and the latest releases. But the true charm of Cluj-Napoca is found in the smaller stores and boutiques. There you can shop for antique books, perfumes and luxury furniture, souvenirs and art pieces, while enjoying a pleasant conversation with the owner. Shopping for clothing and footwear is quite a challenge, given the wide variety, from international brands to locally manufactured products, which you can find on the premises of the numerous stores. Also, sports equipment can be found at bargain prices off-season.

In December and April, the traditional Holidays Fair attracts thousands of dedicated shoppers. All stores stay open longer and have an abundant offer. You can spend hours browsing through the richly decorated isles. Usually, January is the month when all shops have appealing discounts.

*Photo: Unirii Square during winter holidays*



# Cluj - Napoca