

## 11. THINGS TO SEE IN ORADEA



The centre of the city is full of historical and beautiful sights. First, you can venture to Piața Unirii and Piața Republicii. There you can find the Orthodox Moon Church that has a tower with a lunar mechanism that shows the position of the moon daily. There you can also visit Mihai Viteazu's statue, Vulturul Negru hotel and shopping centre with its magnificent stain glass covered passages. Make your way near the centre and see the State Theatre, the pedestrian walking street, and Endre Ady's museum. You can also visit the largest Catholic Cathedral in Romania, and the Museum of the Criș Country (Episcopal palace). It requires some hours to tour around the vast building, which has 365 windows. Do not miss the Canon's Corridor, with archways that date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The citadel is under construction, but it should not be missed. It was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and houses the art college and other governmental offices.



# *University of Oradea*

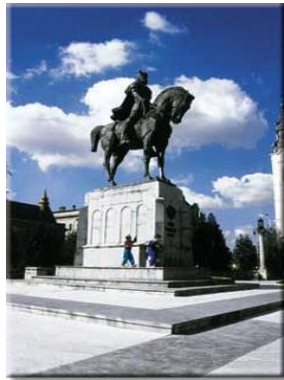
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The Moon Church



The Faculty of Medicine



Statue of Mihai Viteazu



The Catholic Cathedral



Museum



City Town Hall

## 12. THINGS TO SEE IN BIHOR



Near the city is Băile Felix, a known spa resort for its thermal waters and water lilies. It also has many pools where tourists all over the country can enjoy wonderful weekend vacations laying in the sun, swimming, or visiting the water lily natural reservation.

Also nearby is Stâna de Vale, a small resort nearby Beiuș, only an hour or two away from Oradea. It is perfect year-round for skiing in the winter, or hiking in the other seasons.

Four of the major caves in Romania are luckily nearby: The Meziad Cave, The Bears' Cave, Scărișoara Ice Cave, and Ungurului Cave. The Bears' Cave has impressive amounts of stalagmites and stalactites and it is very often visited by tourists, while the Scărișoara Ice Cave is known throughout Europe for its 7500 cubic meters of ice. The caves are usually harder to get to and some require certified tour guides. There are actually many more caves, and you can take tours from local caving groups.



If you want to hike on the narrow paths of the Bihorului Mountains, the best place to start from in the

Padiş plateau, whence start the most numerous marked tourist tracks. For further details, access the web site: [www.padis.ro](http://www.padis.ro).

## 13. THINGS TO SEE IN ROMANIA



**Peles Castle** built by King Carol I as a summer royal residence, on Peles Valley, in 1883. The castle is considered by many one of the most beautiful castles in all Europe. It is built in German Renaissance style, with

rococo, baroque and Moorish-Hispanic elements. From 1914, the castle became a museum. In the communist regime, President Ceausescu closed Peles Castle for visitors. It is again open to the public and it is definitely a must-see.



For those loving active relaxation in the middle of nature and mountain trips, Sinaia is the main entrance in the **Bucegi** massif with its large crest of grassy stone in an ascending line from Varful cu Dor (1885 m) to

Piatra Arsa (2075m), Babele (2290m), Caraiman (2385m), Costila (2490m) and Omu (2507m).



The **Palace of Parliament** is a multi-purpose building containing both chambers of the Romanian Parliament. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Palace is the world's largest civilian administrative building, most expensive administrative building and heaviest building. The Palace was

designed by the Ceaușescu regime as the seat of political and administrative power.

About one and a half hour north-west of Brasov (120 km), is **Sighisoara** (Hungarian: Segesvár, German: Schäßburg), the last inhabited medieval citadel in Eastern Europe. It is a place straight out of the pages of a fairytale - one of the best preserved mediaeval citadels in Europe, a magical mix of winding cobbled alleys, steep stairways, secluded squares, towers and turrets.



On the site of today's Sighisoara, there used to be a Dacian settlement known as Sandova dating as far back as the 3rd century BC. It was the site of an Imperial Roman castrum and legion base from the 2nd century.





**Bran Castle** situated near Bran and in the immediate vicinity of Braşov, is a national monument and landmark in Romania. The fortress is situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia, on DN73. Commonly known as "Dracula's Castle" (although it is one among several locations linked to the Dracula legend, including Poienari Castle and Hunyad Castle), it is marketed as the home of the titular character in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. There is, however, no evidence that Stoker knew anything about this castle. There is evidence, however, that Vlad Tepes actually did use the castle during his raids into Transylvania. The castle is now a museum open to tourists, displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie. Tourists can see the interior individually or by a guided tour. At the bottom of the hill is a small open air museum park exhibiting traditional Romanian peasant structures (cottages, barns, etc.) from across the country.