



OUTCAN Guide | Life in Sibiu, Romania

LOCATION

Country: Romania

Town: Sibiu

Base: Headquarters Multi-National Corps Southeast (HQ MNC SE).

Other info to Consider:

- Family (non-dependants) can visit and stay 90 days **without visa** (non-Schengen Area).
- Although a Romanian issued ID can usually be obtained within two weeks, it is recommended upon posting to travel to Romania with a NATO travel order covering the first year (both for member and dependents).

POPULATION

Size: 425,906

Ethnicity: 80% Romani (derogatory term Gypsies), 10% Romanian, 10% other (Hungarian, Ukrainian, Germans)

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: Romanian

Prevalence of French or English speaking: Very limited. Some establishments will have an English-speaking employee; however English is not spoken freely and commonly. French as a second language can occur sometimes.

COST OF LIVING

Exchange rate to consider: Lei (RON) 1CDN = 3.43 RON (Feb 2024), rent, cars are charged in Euros.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- In Sibiu, the summers are warm, the winters are freezing and snowy, and it is partly cloudy year-round. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from -6°C to 26°C and is rarely below -16°C or above 31°C.

Laws and Culture:

- There is zero tolerance for driving under the influence of alcohol. Penalties are severe. Convicted offenders can expect heavy fines and jail sentences, and your driver's license may be confiscated immediately.
- It is illegal to refuse a breathalyser test.
- Winter tires are mandatory during winter months.
- A motorway vignette (locally known as a rovinietta) is required to travel outside major cities. You may purchase these at border points, post offices and large gas stations.
- Romanian authorities consider a child born to a Romanian parent as a Romanian citizen. This is true even if the child was born in Canada and has a Canadian passport.
- If the member is a Canadian citizen, but also a citizen of Romania, the ability to offer member and family consular services may be limited while they are there.

- There are harsh penalties for engaging in sexual acts with a minor. The age of consent in Romania is 18.
- Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Convicted offenders can expect jail sentences of up to 15 years and heavy fines.

Safety and Security:

- Must carry an international driving permit.
- Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, occasionally occurs, particularly on public transport and in bars and night clubs.
- There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorist attacks have occurred in a number of European cities. There is a potential for other violent incidents.
- Credit card and ATM fraud is a concern, particularly in areas frequented by tourists.

Level of isolation:

- Currently one Canadian member is posted to Sibiu with anticipated subsequent members posted in 2022 (2 additional) and 2023 (1 additional).
- May feel very isolated due to the language barrier.

HOUSING

- The majority of available accommodations are apartments. The selection for houses (duplex, row house, town house or single) is small within the city centre.
- Fully furnished apartments are the most common in Sibiu, however one can also find a non-furnished apartment or a house with a fully fitted kitchen only.
- House insurance is mandatory (with earthquake coverage).
- It is imperative that members do not secure any type of housing without obtaining prior approval from CFSU(E) Housing Officer.

EMPLOYMENT

Are there employment opportunities for spouses? Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment on the economy is not a realistic option.

- Limited, language barrier.
- There are very limited employment opportunities available through CFMWS, families should plan to be single income for the duration of the posting.
- Employment is extremely limited. Families should plan to be a single-income family for the duration of the posting. [CFMWS | MFS | OUTCAN Europe | CFMWS](#)

Op Tempo: The op tempo will vary greatly depending on position. TD is possible.

HEALTH CARE

Access: The standard of health care in Romania is well below western standards and represents a medium health hazard. **Members posted to Sibiu can expect challenges in establishing health care for themselves or their families.** Conducting a medical and dental in-clearance and maintaining regular communication with GK Medical Clinic on health matters is strongly recommended.

- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe and can be accessed.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP. [PSHCP Member Portal \(pshcp-msh.ca\)](#)
 - Public hospitals practice minimal infection control discipline and whenever possible these hospitals should be avoided.
 - Private hospitals do have a higher standard of health care which is considered adequate.

- It is highly recommended that members requiring non-emergent surgery or procedures be sent to Germany for medical treatment.
- Sibiu also has a military hospital, however unlike in Canada, this hospital is also opened to the public. Priority is given to military members and their dependents.
- English services not always available, French is very limited.

Special needs:

- Depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed.
- It may be a wait before finding an appropriate match and at times may not be possible based on availability of English/French speaking providers or resources.
- It is highly advised that the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and / or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting.

Consideration for pregnancy / birth: Health care for pregnancy and birth is available on the economy, private care.

Dental: Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay up front, and you can then claim your expenses.

SCHOOLING

- At this time, Romanian schools in Sibiu and the surrounding areas teach some classes in English and French. However, there are no international schools available in the region that have been assessed to be sufficient for native English or French speakers.
- Children’s Education Management (CEM) has reviewed and approved several schools in the Bucharest area (290km distance). These are the only schools currently approved in Romania. Unfortunately, they don’t offer boarding.
- At this point, there are limited options for families with school aged children posted to Sibiu but in the two years before a family could get posted (the one member posted in 2021 is single), a lot can happen. To be monitored closely by CEM and potentially influenced by the CAN Corps Sergeant-Major posted in 2021.
- For an approved list of schools, please contact Children’s Education Management at:
 - CEMGEE@forces.gc.ca
 - Children's Education Management - Canada.ca
 - Gestion de l'éducation des enfants - Canada.ca

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- The Curriculum varies depending on choice of school.
- None of them offers Canadian history or geography at the elementary level.

Resources for special need children:

- Access to Special needs services is depending on the choice of school, language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed, it may be very limited.
- Consult with CEM and school prior to any commitments.

CHILDCARE

Things to Consider:

- Local childcare is available, no guarantee that staff will be English or French-speaking.

TRANSPORTATION

Things to Consider: Airport: Sibiu International (SBZ)

- You should carry an international driving permit.
- Romania has one of the highest rates of road-traffic deaths in Europe.
- Registering and licensing a vehicle is a long and arduous process (months).

Public Transport:

- Good public transportation throughout the city.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- No physical centre. Families in Sibiu are supported by the Remote Team:

MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com

Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:

- Not at post, MFS(E) SW for dependants only, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for member and family are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Italy.

Communications (e.g. Quality of Internet connection): Romania including Sibiu has the cheapest fast internet and cell phone network of Europe and one of the cheapest and fastest in the world.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities:

- Plenty of recreational activities and venues are available in this area for the whole family.

Availability of playgrounds: Yes, many.

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common law relationships recognized? No.

Are same sex couples recognized? No.

Medications that are illegal in the country:

- Use without a prescription of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is illegal. Cannabis is illegal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- European Commission Country Reports (2023)
https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/2023-european-semester-country-reports_en
- Canadian Travel Advisories
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from the US)
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/romania>
- Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/romania>

For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below

- MFS(E) Social Worker: MFSSocialWork@cfmws.com
- CAF Social Worker: GKMedicalClinic@forces.gc.ca
- MFS(E) Team: MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com
- MFS(E) Regional Office: +49 (0) 2451 717 173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com