

Timișoara

Places to Visit

Victory Square

Timișoara's Victory Square or Piata Victoriei provides a lasting symbol of the Romanian Revolution. Prior to the dramatic events of 1989 it was known as Opera Square, in honour of the Romanian Opera House. To commemorate the tens of thousands of people who joined mass political demonstrations it was renamed, and is still a place where residents converge to celebrate modern day victories or contemplate the past. Surrounding the square are some of the city's most elegant buildings, the focal point of which is the impressive Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral. Built between 1937 and 1949, the towering 97 meter high structure is home to a number of valuable religious objects and ornate mosaics.

Considered Timișoara's cultural hub, Victory Square is also home to three of the city's main theatres and its regal Opera house.

Union Square

The picturesque Union Square or Piata Unirii lies at the heart of Timișoara. Originally the city's commercial centre, the square is today a vibrant blend of historic culture and modern leisure. The square is home to some of the city's most stunning examples of Baroque architecture, including the Serbian and Roman Catholic Cathedrals. Also notable is the Nicolas Lenau College, located on the north side of the square and having been built in 1761, was the city's earliest theatre.

Recently transformed by numerous cafes and bars, Union Square now enjoys a flourishing social scene where visitors can relax and enjoy the stunning surroundings.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral

Found on the East side of Union Square and opposite the equally impressive Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, St George's or "The Dome" is one of Timișoara's most renowned buildings. Built between 1736 and 1754 to the designs of Austrian architect Fisher Von Erlach, the cathedral features rich Baroque architecture and impressive interior paintings.

Botanical Park

Known throughout Romania as the *City of Parks or City of Flowers*, Timișoara is also famous for its lush green spaces. Visitors can enjoy strolling through a chain of parks that surround the historic town centre including Rose Park, Central Park and the Children's Park. The Botanical Park located near Union Square is one of the most beautiful, featuring an abundance of landscaped gardens, trees and flowers.

Banat Ethnographic Museum

Located in the city's oldest fortress close to Union Square, the Banat Ethnographic Museum offers visitors a heady dose of Romanian culture. The museum houses over 2,000 exhibits that range from traditional folk costumes, crafts, furniture and religious items. Throughout the year the museum also hosts a number of special exhibitions and shows.

Museum of Fine Arts

Timișoara has a flourishing art scene with a number of galleries to be enjoyed throughout the city. The most renowned venue is the Museum of Fine Arts, housed in a spectacular 18th Century Baroque Palace that was once the residence of the city's governor. Located on the south side of Union Square, the museum hosts a large permanent collection of works by Italian, German and Flemish artists, plus a number of short term exhibitions.