

UNIVERSITY OF PETROȘANI (UPET)

Travel & Accommodation Guide

Summer School / Hackathon — Petroșani, Hunedoara County, Romania

On-site, 29 June – 4 July 2026

For participants travelling from other countries and universities. This guide sets out the main ways to reach Petroșani from international airport gateways, with journey times and indicative costs, followed by accommodation options near the UPET campus across budget and mid-range tiers. All prices are planning estimates for 2026 and are subject to change; please confirm at the time of booking.

AT A GLANCE

Closest major airport: Sibiu (SBZ), ~120 km / ~2 h 25 m by road — but weak onward public transport.

Best no-car gateway: Bucharest (OTP) — direct train (~6 h, ~€16) and direct coach (~€18–21) to Petroșani.

Rail anchor: Petroșani is on the Simeria–Petroșani–Târgu Jiu line; the city station is ~1 km from campus.

Cheapest beds: UPET student dormitories on campus — €17/night per place, €34/night per room (20 rooms available).

Exchange rate used throughout: 1 EUR ≈ 5 RON (approximate, June 2026 — verify before travel).

Part 1 — Transport options to Petroșani

Petroșani has a **city-centre railway station (Gara Petroșani)** about **1 km from the UPET campus** (Strada Universității nr. 20). It lies on the **Simeria–Petroșani–Târgu Jiu line**, which connects northward to the Arad–Alba Iulia–Brașov trunk at Simeria/Deva, and southward to Târgu Jiu–Filiași–Craiova–Bucharest. The universal routing is therefore: fly to any gateway → reach a mainline station → take a CFR train to Gara Petroșani.

Gateway comparison

Airport gateway	Distance to Petroșani	Best onward option	Approx. time*	Approx. cost (per person)
Sibiu (SBZ) — closest	~120 km / ~2 h 25 m drive	Rental car or pre-booked group transfer (no direct train/bus)	~2 h 25 m by car	Transfer/rental varies; fuel ~€18–26
Bucharest (OTP) — main gateway	~320 km road / ~366 km rail	Direct train (IR) or direct coach (Normandia)	Train ~6 h 16 m; coach ~6–7 h	Train ~€16 (2nd cl.); coach ~€18–21
Cluj-Napoca (CLJ)	~235 km / ~3 h 20 m drive	Direct coach; or train via Simeria	Coach ~3 h 50 m; train ~6 h 20 m	Coach ~€25; train varies

Airport gateway	Distance to Petroșani	Best onward option	Approx. time*	Approx. cost (per person)
Timișoara (TSR)	~225 km / ~3 h drive	Train via Simeria (change)	~5–6 h	From ~€6.5 (2nd cl.) + connections
Budapest (BUD), Hungary	~510 km / ~5 h 50 m drive	Train or coach via Arad/Deva (change)	~9–10 h	Train ~€31–37; coach from ~€38
Craiova (CRA) — minor	~170 km / ~2 h 35 m drive	Direct trains on southern leg of the line	~3–4 h	Low (domestic rail fare)

*Onward leg from the airport to Petroșani; add the international flight and connection time. Budget a full travel day from most gateways.

Student rail discount — read carefully. Students up to age 30 receive a 90% reduced 2nd-class fare on domestic CFR trains, but **only on the route between their place of residence and their university town**. For most international participants this discount will not apply to the airport→Petroșani leg, so budget the full (still low) fare. Only orphans / foster-care students receive 100% gratuity.

Gateway details

1. Bucharest Henri Coandă International (OTP) — main international gateway

- **Distance:** ~320 km road (~5 h drive); ~366 km by rail.
- **Airport → Bucharest Gara de Nord:** direct train every ~30–40 min, ~21–25 min, ~5.5 RON (~€1.1). Long-distance trains depart from Gara de Nord.
- **Train to Petroșani:** direct InterRegio trains (about 3/day). IR 1821 covers 366 km in 6 h 16 m; 2nd class 79.9 RON (~€16), 1st class 122.4 RON (~€24).
- **Direct coach:** Normandia Transport from Autogara Militari to Autogara Siva Trans, 3 daily; ~6 h 15 m–7 h; fare 90 RON (cheapest ~€21, sometimes ~€18 on obilet.com).
- **Car rental:** major agencies at OTP; ~5 h drive; fuel roughly €25–35 one way plus rental.
- **Verdict:** best for budget no-car travellers because of the direct train and direct coach.

2. Sibiu International (SBZ) — closest major airport

- **Distance:** ~120 km road (~2 h 25 m drive); closest of all gateways.
- **Airport → Sibiu centre:** Tursib bus line 11 (also 112/118), ~10–20 min, ~3.5 RON (<€1); taxi ~15–20 RON (€4–5). Sibiu's airport is the closest to its city centre of any in Romania.
- **The catch:** no direct train and no direct bus to Petroșani — you must change (typically via Simeria/Orăștie), ~4 h 30 m to ~6 h with awkward connections.
- **Best option:** rental car (~2 h 25 m, ~€18–26 fuel) or a pre-booked private/group transfer — strongly recommended for groups.
- **Verdict:** closest and ideal if you drive or pre-arrange a transfer; weak for independent budget transit.

3. Cluj-Napoca International (CLJ)

- **Distance:** ~235 km road (~3 h 20 m drive).

- **Airport** → **city/station**: bus A1E to Mihai Viteazul Sq. ~20–25 min, 6 RON (~€1.2); or line 5 to the main railway station ~35 min, 3 RON. Taxi/Bolt ~35–40 RON (€7–8).
- **Onward**: direct coach (Normandia) ~1/day, ~3 h 50 m, ~€25. By train, change at Simeria (~6 h 20 m total).
- **Verdict**: decent with a direct coach; train requires a change.

4. Timișoara Traian Vuia International (TSR)

- **Distance**: ~225 km road (~3 h drive).
- **Onward**: train via Simeria (change), several connections, ~5–6 h, from ~32 RON (~€6.5) 2nd class.
- **Verdict**: comparable to Cluj; viable via Timișoara's low-cost links.

5. Budapest Ferenc Liszt International (BUD), Hungary — low-cost gateway

- **Distance**: ~510 km road (~5 h 50 m drive).
- **Onward**: no direct service. Train via Arad/Deva (change) ~9–10 h, ~€31–37; coach (FlixBus etc.) to Deva then change, ~10 h, from ~€38.
- **Verdict**: only worth it for very cheap Budapest flights, ideally if driving.

6. Craiova (CRA) — minor option

- **Distance**: ~170 km road (~2 h 35 m drive).
- **Onward**: Craiova is on the southern leg of the same line, so Bucharest–Petroșani trains pass through; direct trains ~3–4 h. Limited international flights.
- **Verdict**: convenient by rail if a suitable flight exists.

Romanian rail summary (CFR Călători) to Gara Petroșani

- **Line**: Simeria–Petroșani–Târgu Jiu. Northbound connects at Simeria and Deva to the Arad–Brașov–Bucharest trunk; southbound runs to Târgu Jiu–Filiași–Craiova–Bucharest.
- **Simeria** → **Petroșani**: 80 km, ~1 h 45 m–2 h 20 m; 2nd class ~24.7 RON (~€5), regional ~14.5 RON (~€3); ~4 connections/day.
- **Bucharest Nord** → **Petroșani**: 366 km, direct IR 1821 in 6 h 16 m, 79.9 RON (~€16) 2nd class.
- **Key hubs**: Simeria, Deva, Filiași, Craiova, Bucharest Nord.
- **Booking**: bilete.cfrcalatori.ro or mersultrenurilor.infofer.ro; buy online up to departure.

Intercity bus / microbus serving Petroșani & the Jiu Valley

- **Deva** ↔ **Petroșani**: Expres Transport Tg-Jiu microbus (daily), ~2 h, 48 RON (~€10); plus frequent county microbuses Petroșani–Hațeg–Deva.
- **Local Jiu Valley**: frequent minibuses Petroșani–Vulcan–Lupeni–Uricani and Petroșani–Petrila (1.5–5 RON).
- **Long-distance coach**: Normandia Transport (Bucharest, Cluj), FlixBus (via Deva). Booking via autogari.ro and obilet.com.

Part 2 — Accommodation in Petroșani

The town is small; most hotels are within 1–2 km of the UPET campus (Strada Universității nr. 20) and the city centre. Prices are 2026 planning estimates, subject to change. Star ratings (where shown) follow the property's own classification.

Accommodation comparison

Property	Class	Distance from campus	Price/night (est.)	Notes
UPET student dormitories	2★	On campus	€17/place; €34/room	20 rooms available; renovated; see photos below
Central studios / (garsoniere_	Unclass.	~0.4–1 km (central)	~€23–40	Self-catering apartments; sleep 3–4
Hotel La Belle Epoque	3★ (4★ on some sites)	~1.5 km	~€43–63	Best-reviewed in town (9.3); former theatre
Hotel Oxigen Petrosani	3★	~1 km	~€50–57	Renovated 2017; shuttle arrangeable
Hotel Petroșani	Hotel-standard	~1 km	~€50 (apt ~€80)	Has hosted Erasmus+ groups; group-friendly
Hotel Rusu	3★	~10 km (Parâng massif)	From ~€46	Conference rooms + own bus/ski shuttle; spa
Pensiunea Bujor de Munte	3★	~12 km (Parâng)	From ~€55	Scenic; car-dependent for daily commute

Tier 0 — University dormitories (cămine studențești) — cheapest, on campus

The UPET campus includes **5 student dormitories with 600 places**, plus a student restaurant (cantina). Configuration: Cămin 1 has 2/3/4-bed rooms with shared bathroom per floor; **Cămin 2** has double rooms with private bathroom and **dedicated guest rooms (camere de oaspeți)**; Cămin 3 has modules of two 2-bed rooms sharing a bathroom; **Cămine 4 & 5** are studios with two beds, kitchen and bathroom. All have cable TV and WiFi.

For this event, UPET offers renovated guest accommodation in its campus dormitories at **€17 per night per place (bed) and €34 per night per room**, with **20 rooms available**. This is comfortably the best-value option in town and is located on campus, beside the venue — it should be the organisers' first choice. To reserve, contact UPET directly (sabinIrimie@upet.ro and OanaRavas@upet.ro).

UPET campus accommodation — photographs



Twin room — two single beds (renovated)



Kitchenette / cooking area



Private bathroom with walk-in shower

Tier 1 — Budget / student-friendly (private, ~€28–40/night)

Central studios / garsoniere (unclassified self-catering apartments — no star rating; no traditional hostel exists in town):

- **Cozy Central Studio** — ~32 m², sleeps 3, kitchenette, free WiFi & parking; ~195 RON (~€39)/night, walking distance to campus.
- **Dream Studio Petrosani** — central, sleeps 3, equipped kitchen, terrace; ~190–199 RON (~€40)/night.
- **Dream Studio 2 Petrosani** — Constantin Mile bl. 2, equipped kitchen; ~€28–40 (140–200 RON)/night.
- **Central Park Studio** — ~400 m from centre, sleeps 4, equipped kitchen; from ~115 RON (~€23) single occupancy.

Tier 2 — Mid-range central hotels (~€43–63/night)

- **Hotel La Belle Epoque — 3★** (listed inconsistently as 3★ on Booking.com and 4★ on Tripadvisor) (Str. Grivița Roșie nr. 36; ~1.5 km from campus): atmospheric hotel in a converted former theatre, guest-rated 9.3 (573 reviews); restaurant, bar, free parking & WiFi, exterior jacuzzi. Documented paid double ~215–235 RON (~€43–47); “from €63” on one site. Ranked #4 of 5 hotels in Petroșani; best-reviewed in-town option, good for visiting faculty.
- **Hotel Oxigen Petrosani — 3★** (Blvd. 1 Decembrie 1918 nr. 135, ~5-min walk to centre, ~1 km from the station): renovated 2017, buffet breakfast (~35 RON extra), free parking & WiFi, Carrefour Market next door, airport transfer arrangeable. From ~€50–57 (250–285 RON)/night double; cash payment.
- **Hotel Petroșani — hotel-standard rooms** (central, near Parcul Central, ~1 km from the station): renovated; restaurant (Romanian/international), gym, garden. Superior Twin/Double 250 RON (~€50)/night; Apartment 400 RON (~€80). Has hosted Erasmus+ academic groups — explicitly group-friendly.

Nearby / mountain options (lower priority — farther from campus)

- **Hotel Rusu — 3★** (Masivul Parâng, Petroșani 907111; ~10 km from the town centre at the foot of the Parâng massif, ~100 m from the TS3 chairlift): 34 double rooms (matrimonial & twin) + 2 garsoniere + 1 apartment, all with private bath, flat-screen satellite TV, minibar, hairdryer, heating, many with balconies and Jiu Valley / Retezat views. Free WiFi, free breakfast, spa/wellness (hot tub, dry & wet sauna, jacuzzi), restaurant, shared lounge, football field, two equipped conference rooms, and EV charging.
 - **Notably group-friendly** — it advertises special offers for organised groups including bus shuttle and ski/resort shuttle services, plus team-building facilities. From ~€46 (271 RON)/night. Well-suited to a retreat or a group that arranges its own daily shuttle to campus, but not walkable to the venue.
- **Pensiunea Bujor de Munte — 3★** (Parâng area, ~12 km from town): 17 doubles + 2 apartments, restaurant, 50-seat conference room, sauna/jacuzzi; rated ~9.1. From ~€55 (275 RON)/night. Car-dependent for a daily campus commute.
- Other Parâng/Petrila options (Conacul Rădăcinilor, Castelul de Vis, etc.) exist but are farther out.

Recommendations & booking strategy

1. **Organisers (do first):** reserve the on-campus UPET dormitory rooms — €17/night per place or €34/night per room, with 20 rooms available — by contacting UPET directly (sabinIrimie@upet.ro and OanaRavas@upet.ro) and confirming dates (29 June–4 July) and cantina meal options. At €17/place this is the cheapest and most practical option (on campus, beside the venue); secure the block early, as 20 rooms will fill for a multi-day event.
2. **If dorms are unavailable, block-book hotels:** reserve Hotel Petroșani or Hotel Oxigen (~€50, group-friendly, central) for faculty/staff, and central studios (~€28–40) or Hotel Onix hostel-regime rooms for students.
3. **Choose the right airport per origin:** Sibiu (SBZ) + pre-arranged transfer/rental car if a SBZ link exists (fastest, ~2.5 h); otherwise Bucharest (OTP) + direct train (~€16) or Normandia

coach (~€18–21). Cluj/Timișoara are good secondary options; Budapest only for exceptionally cheap flights, ideally if driving.

4. **On-the-ground transport:** buy CFR tickets at bilete.cfrcalatori.ro. The student 90% discount applies only on the home–university route, so most international participants pay the (low) full fare. Pre-book a group minibus for the SBZ leg; the final hop from Gara Petroșani to campus (~1 km) is a short walk or cheap taxi.

Off-site option worth noting: Hotel Rusu's built-in conference rooms plus its own bus/shuttle service make it a credible candidate for an evening, social, or team-building session in the mountains — its only drawback for the daily hackathon is the 10 km separation from the venue.

Caveats

- **All prices are 2026 planning estimates** and fluctuate with season, demand, and booking lead time; the late-June/early-July period can push rates up. Confirm at booking.
- **The exchange rate** (1 EUR ≈ 5 RON) is approximate for mid-2026; verify before travel.
- **Train/bus schedules change** seasonally and for engineering works on the Simeria–Petroșani line. Re-check current timetables on infofer.ro / cfrcalatori.ro close to travel.
- **Aggregator prices** (Booking, Hotelmix, KAYAK) are often “from” figures, not date-specific quotes for your exact nights; some sources gave conflicting star ratings and prices. Treat documented paid figures as most reliable.
- **University dormitory rates** (€17/place, €34/room, 20 rooms) are those provided by UPET for this event; availability still depends on demand, so confirm and block-book early.
- **The student rail discount is 90% (not 100%) and route-restricted** to the home–university journey; it generally does not help on the airport→Petroșani leg for international participants.