Transport from Airport Bucharest Otopeni Henri Coanda to Bucharest city center

Otopeni (officially Henri Coanda) Bucharest's main airport, is 17km north of the city on the DN1. Opened in 1970 but recently extended, it is a spacious, efficient airport.

After getting off the plane and easing your way through passport control, you’ll find yourself in the baggage reclaim area. To a currency exchange desks change just the minimum required (for ex. 20 EUR will be enough to go to city center by taxi), they do not offer decent rates. It’s better to do it in the city at a bank office.

Grab your luggage, which usually arrives promptly (if it fails to arrive head for the small office on the left hand side of the exit, where staff will help you find out where it might have gone), and then it’s off through customs to the arrivals area. Here there are loads of ATMs, a press shop and a small cafe. To the right is a passage leading to the departures terminal: the passage is lined with car hire desks and a few shops, including a chemist.

To order a taxi, look for the multi-language touch screens in the arrivals hall. They are fully automated and very easy to use, and you can choose from the full range of Bucharest taxi companies: all have their tariffs clearly displayed. You can use a low cost company such as Taxi 2000, SpeedTaxi or Taxi Cobalcescu with tariff 1.39 LEI/km (actually 1 EUR is about 4.5 LEI).

Once the taxi company of your choice has informed you (via the screen) how long the taxi will take to arrive (max. 5 min.), and what ID number the taxi has (take the ticket which will be printed), you simply go outside to wait for your taxi. Just make sure you get into the correct taxi: check the company name and ID number with the one on your ticket.

You should ignore the sign saying 'Rapid Taxi.' These are overpriced taxis.

Depending on the traffic in Bucharest (very busy between 8-10 in the morning and 17-20 afternoon) the time to RIN Central Hotel (Street Traian 55A) is about 30-45 min. The total cost for 1.39 RON / km will be around 50 RON.

If you go back from hotel to airport also by taxi you may order it at hotel reception.

NOTE: this system was introduced from security reason, until some years ago there were false taxi drivers that pick up travelers to robe them. Avoid any un-authorized person that eventually will ask you to drive you in the city.

For those who want to head into town in a bit more comfort than your average visitor, there are three good private car options: TransVision (airport-transfer-bucharest.com), BlackCab (blackcab.ro) and VMS City Shuttle (cityshuttle.ro). All three companies offer a comfortable, reliable airport transfer service at decent prices.
You can also get to town by taking bus 783, which stops underneath the arrivals hall, in front of internal arrivals and leaves for the city centre every 30 minutes during the day, and then every 40 minutes through the night. To go to RIN Central Hotel you must get out at the terminal station in Piata Unirii (Union Square) and walk about 10 minutes.

The full timetable of the 783 bus is online at ratb.ro.

You need to purchase an Activ Card before boarding (get it from the little booth which you’ll find on your right hand side as you exit on the ground floor). A return journey into the city and back costs 7 LEI (no singles are available, but there is no time limit on using the return). You also need to pay 3.70 lei for the card, but it can be recharged as often as you like at any ticket kiosk in Bucharest, with as much credit as you like, and used on all Bucharest buses and trams. These cards cannot be bought on board.

There is also a bus line 780 and train to Main Railway Central Station (Gara de Nord) but this are not useful for your trip to City centre.