

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Romanians are very kind and peace loving people. Romanians are not anti-American. We have never encountered any problems on our projects. Like anywhere, it is advisable to always have control of your personal belongings to discourage thievery. You should carry your passport with you at all times. PIMI has complete confidence and trust in our field leaders in Romania. They are very sensitive to the risk level and are especially sensitive to the concerns of US team members. We make every effort to minimize risk in our planning and preparation for short-term service, but there is always some risk involved in short-term missions. We do not see the ministry project as being more important than the safety and security of team members and will not take teams into a field where their safety and security is in question.

ACCOMMODATIONS

For most of PIMI's mission projects to Romania, team members will stay in hotels. These facilities are typically very clean, and the staff members are always very hospitable and accommodating. Several things to be aware concerning the Romanian hotels:

- Not all hotels offer air conditioners in the guest rooms, but most have windows or balcony doors that open. It is recommended to bring insect repellent or insect spray to keep the mosquitoes away!
- Most hotels will have two small, single size beds in the guest rooms.
- Many of the hotels have mini-bars in the guest rooms, which contain soft drinks and snack items. You will be responsible for the charges for any of the items you consume.
- Bring wash cloths to use during the week. European hotels do not typically have wash cloths available.
- You should bring snack items with you; however, there are usually small convenient stores near the hotel where you can purchase snack items.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Upon arrival, each team member will have the opportunity to exchange their US Dollars for Romanian Lei. Please bring dollars that are in good condition (no marks, faded, nor torn currency). Most team members will exchange between \$25 and \$50, to use for snack items and souvenirs. Additional money can be exchanged at Exchange Offices if you plan on spending more during the shopping time. On average, team members bring between \$200 and \$500 to spend while in Europe, based on the amount of souvenirs they desire to take home. You will have the opportunity to exchange money at the hotel desk while at the layover/sightseeing city.

Credit Cards: Very few merchants in Romania will accept credit cards. However, many stores will accept Visa or Mastercard in the layover/sightseeing city, as well as stores within the airports. It is recommended that you contact your credit card company prior to departure to notify them of the dates you will be traveling and the countries you will be visiting. Some credit card companies will put a hold on your account if they see charges from a foreign country in which the card is not often used. **It is also recommended to know the Personal Identification Number (PIN) for your credit card.** Many of the merchants require you to enter this number to use your card.