The Jiu Valley, Romania's **former largest coal mining area**, is nowadays defined by wonderful landscapes, an exceptional river basin, and a very ancient history and culture. With a population of around **135.000 inhabitants**, composed by **6 towns and several villages**, Jiu Valley lies in Central-West Romania, close to the Western border. It is fully surrounded by mountains and offers its inhabitants and visitors clean fresh air, a variety of local traditions, and a wide diversity of amenities.

## A privileged location

The area is close to the **Western border** and close to the A1 Highway connecting Bucharest to the West. Also, the area is in the middle of an accessibility triangle, **between three major Romania cities:** Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara and Craiova.

## Tourism potential

The area is home to or close to a number of **dynamic ski resorts** and other **tourist attractions.**

## Sites for investments

The closure of the mines in the area has left behind large parcels of land, most often under single ownership, with connection to transport infrastructure and utilities.

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Jiu Valley

# Jiu Valley

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## Distance to

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Western border** | 210′ | customs |
| **Timișoara** | 180′ | airport |
| **Cluj Napoca** | 180′ | airport |
| **Sibiu** | 120′ | airport |
| **Deva** | 80′ | highway |

## Education

**12.12%** **Higher education**

**15%** **Technical and vocational education**

**3.44%** **Post highschool**

**27.75%** **Gymnasium**

**26,96%** **Highschool**

**12.79%** **Primary education**

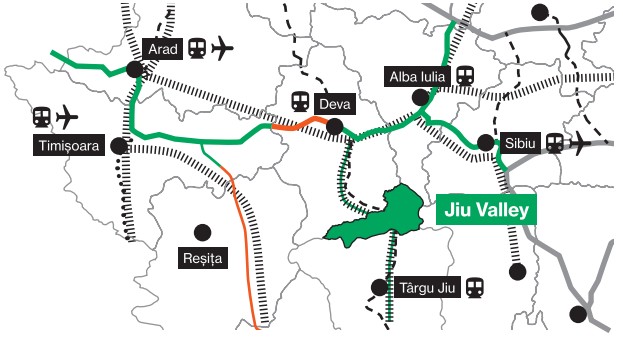
## Advantages

- → **low costs of production**
- → **land reserves**
- → **available labour force**
- → **tourism resources**
- → **136481 inhabitants in the Jiu Valley Functional Urban Area**

The Jiu Valley has a good strategic location, being located **close to the Western border of Romania**, and 1:15 hours away from the Deva-Hunedoara-Orăștie-Simeria agglomeration; 1:30 hours away from the Sebeș-Alba agglomeration; and 2 hours away from Sibiu.

Jiu Valley is around 1 hour away from the A1 Highway, connecting Bucharest to the Western border of Romania. The last portion of the highway, between Deva and Margina, is slated to be finished in 2019. Once that portion of the highway is finalized, one will be able to get from Deva to the border crossing in Nădlac (close to Szeged in Hungary) in under 1:45 hours. The A1 Highway is accessible through the DN66 Express road. The Jiu Valley is also well connected to the national railway grid, and the railway from Simeria-Deva to Arad has been rehabilitated and enables faster travel times. The Simeria-Petrosani railroad is part of TEN-T Comprehensive Network for cargo trains.

**Jiu Valley and the regional infrastructure network**
(source: World Bank)




Major infrastructure proposed in the General Transport Masterplan

- Highway (GTM)
- Express roads (GTM)
- Core network
- Comprehensive network
- County capital
- County limit
- Railway
- Under construction
- Train station
- Finished
- Ariport

## Labor force

While the **unemployment rate in Romania** is relatively low, fluctuating between **3.5% and 5%**, the **Jiu Valley** has a relatively **high unemployment rate**, of around **13%**, indicating the presence of excess labor force. The unemployment rate also varies quite a bit, from a high 18% in Uricani, to a more modest 115 in Petroșani. It is also important to notice that the share of the active population is relatively low (around 40% of the population captured in the 2011 Census), indicating the presence of excess labor force that is not captured in unemployment figures.

## Educational attainment

The **educational profile** of the people in the Jiu Valley is typical of a **manufacturing** area, making it an ideal spot for investments in this sector. Several re-conversion programs and on-the-job training programs have been undertaken in the area, and generous EU and State Budget funding is available for such programs in the future.

## Tourism potential

Jiu Valley is part of an area that already attracts a lot of tourists, and has very **good potential for future tourism development.** Infrastructure improvements in recent years have also enabled a good connection of the Jiu Valley to various nearby tourist attractions, such as the **Straja Ski-bike Resort,** the **Parâng Ski-bike Resort,** the **Transalpina Ski Resort,** the Transalpina Road, the **Rânca Ski Resort,** or the **Orăștie Mountains Dacian sites.** There is also a potential in currently developing resorts such as the **Pasul Vâlcan Ski Resort** (site for 2018 World Cup Downhill Skateboard and Luge Racing) and **Dobraia-Petrila Ski Resort** – a future connection to the Șureanu ski resort.

## Potential investment sites

With the closure of the mines in the Jiu Valley, or reduction in activity, significant areas have been thus open for new investments. The advantage of these areas is that they are most often in **single ownership,** are **well connected to transport infrastructure,** and have all necessary utilities on site.