

**Marghila Café** (Map p188; Str Iuliu Maniu 1; per hr €0.40; ☎ 10am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-midnight Sun) Adjoining Egyptian-style café with fast food.

**Net Zone** (Map p188; Piața Muzeului 5; per hr €0.30-0.45; ☎ 24hr 'approximately')

## LANGUAGE COURSES

**Access** (☎ 420 476; www.access.ro; 3rd fl, Str Tebei 21; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon & Thu, 2-8pm Tue & Wed, 2-6pm Fri) Offers Romanian-language courses.

## LAUNDRY

**Perado Laundry** (Map p188; Str Calera Turzeii 13; per load €4.20; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) The ever-valuable, ever-rare wash-dry-and-fold service.

## LEFT LUGGAGE

Plan ahead: the train station had no official left luggage service at research time.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

For a well-stocked and central pharmacy, try **Clematis** (Map p188; Piața Unirii 11; ☎ 8am-10pm).

## MONEY

Steer well clear of the leather-clad money-changing toughies on the streets. The city is full of ATMs and legitimate exchange offices. The **Banca Comercială Română** (Map p188; Str Gheorghe Barițiu 10-12; ☎ 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 12.30pm Sat) gives cash advances and changes travellers cheques.

## POST & TELEPHONE

**Central post office** (Map p188; Str Regele Ferdinand 33; ☎ 7am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) The main **tele-phone centre** (☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) is in the building attached to the back, facing Caragiale Park.

## TRAVEL AGENCIES

The municipality has long delayed its promises to open a tourist information centre. Cluj surely could benefit from one. Retravel (p191) organises enjoyable, good-value trips. Also see p190 for other associations that can help plan trips.

**Pan Travel** (Map p186; ☎ 420 516; www.pantravel.ro; Str Grozavescu 13; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri), a top-notch outfit led by the engaging Andrei, can book accommodation, provide English- or French-speaking guides (€15 to €30 per day) and car rentals (from €30 per day), and arrange trips to the Apuseni or around Maramureș. It's best to contact them ahead, via website or telephone. The trips themselves are authoritative and unstaged – a more 'knock on door'

approach than a pre-planned artificial event. Bus 30 goes from near Piața Unirii.

**Transylvania Ecological Club** (Clubul Ecologic Transilvania; ☎ 431 626; www.greenagenda.org, www.cdcluj.ro), one of Romania's most active grass-roots environmental groups, operating since the mid '90s, focuses on promoting ecotravel in the Huedin region and Apuseni mountains as an alternative to the booming timber industry. It can provide trail maps and find guides. It often works in collaboration with Green Mountain Holidays (p190). At research time, it was looking for a new location.

## Sights

### PIAȚA UNIRII

The vast 14th-century **St Michael's Church** (Map p188) dominates Piața Unirii. The neo-Gothic tower (1859) topping the Gothic hall church creates a great landmark and the church (built in four stages) is considered to be one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Romania. The three naves and vestry were the last to be completed at the end of the 16th century. The choir vaults, built in the 14th century, were rebuilt in the 18th century, following a fire. Daily services are in Hungarian and Romanian, and evening organ concerts are often held.

Flanking the church to the south is the bulky 1902 equestrian **statue of Matthias Corvinus** (Map p188) – the famous Hungarian king and son of Iancu de Hunedoara (János Hunyadi). It served as a focal point of nationalist mayor Funar's efforts to undermine Cluj's links with Hungary. See p185.

On the eastern side of the square is the **National Art Museum** (Map p188; ☎ 496 952; Piața Unirii 30; adult/child €1.30/0.65; ☎ noon-7pm Wed-Sun Jun-Oct, 11am-6pm Wed-Sun Nov-May), housed inside the baroque Banffy Palace (1791). The couple of dozen rooms are filled with paintings and artefacts, including a 16th-century church altar and many 20th-century paintings. The inner courtyard (free entry) sometimes stages outdoor shows, as do the ground floor halls.

Here's why we travel – for superb, fully rewarding, ever-surprising quirks such as this, the small three-room **Pharmaceutical Museum** (Map p188; ☎ 597 567; Str Regele Ferdinand 1; adult/child €0.60/0.30; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat). It's housed in Cluj's first – and Romania's fourth – apothecary (1573), as a bronze-plate map painstakingly attests. Tours are led by a hilarious pharmacist in a white lab coat, who points like a game-show model towards (seemingly