



Craiova

the city within my heart

- Craiova, Romania's 6th largest city and capital of Dolj County, is situated near the east bank of the river Jiu in central Oltenia. It is a longstanding political center, and is located at approximately equal distances from the Southern Carpathians (north) and the River Danube (south).
- Craiova is the chief commercial city west of Bucharest and the most important city of Oltenia.



There are many amazing places to visit. Some of them are:

- **"Marin Sorescu" National Theatre**

One of the best theatres in Romania with a long tradition. Offers a wide number of plays put in scene by some of the finest artists. On a monthly basis it hosts events such as fairs, Gaudeamus book festival, movie festivals, conferences, etc.



"Nicolae Romanescu" Park

- **Nicolae Romanescu Park** is a park in Craiova, Romania. It was designed by the French architect Édouard Redon and constructed between 1901 and 1903. It is considered the largest natural park in eastern Europe. It has an area of around 23 acres (9.3 ha) and the area of the lake within the park is about 10 acres (4.0 ha).
- This park has a few interesting features:
- The Suspended Bridge – a suspended bridge built in 1901–1902. This is very old.
- The Charmed Castle – a castle (a former restaurant) on one of the hills, near the bridge.
- The Craiova Hippodrome – inaugurated in 1903, used for trotting and galloping horse races and is now used for athletics competitions.
- The lake – a lake with a fountain in the middle of the park. Wild ducks can be seen on the lake. The surface covered by water in the park is over 4 ha.
- Glorieta (the belvedere dome) – is on a hill at the entrance of the park behind the bust of Nicolae P. Romanescu.
- The zoo – one of the oldest zoological gardens in Romania. It hosts a large number of exotic animals such as jaguars, tigers, lions, African ostrich, emu, bears, wolves, capuchin monkeys, rabbits, deer, goats and llamas. You can also see birds such as white storks, Asian peacocks, pheasants, guinea fowl and much more. It is close to the lake.
- It is the third largest park in Europe. The total area of the park is 94 ha.



Shakespeare Festival

- The Romanian International Shakespeare Festival was founded in Craiova, Romania, in 1994, and took place every three years during its first five editions. Since 2006, it has taken place every two years. The main organizers of the festival are the National Theatre Craiova (represented by its General Managing Director, Mr. Mircea Cornisteanu) and the “William Shakespeare” Foundation (Presided by Mr. Emil Boroghina), and, since 2006, it has also taken place in Bucharest, in collaboration with Arcub, the Centre for Cultural Projects of the Bucharest City Hall and General Council. Another important partner is the Romanian Cultural Institute.



English Park

- English Park in Craiova, a real oasis in the city center was set up in the interwar period. It was part of a project , the White House was also built in that, the first block of flats of Craiova. English Park is an English style garden, the work of architect Constantin Otsu. Here there is a beautiful fountain and rounds of flowers that delight every visitor.

Tourists visiting the park have the opportunity to admire the White House, built in the interwar period, with chic shops on the ground floor, the former Bank of Discount, and St. Elias church, historical monument, built in 1720 by family Otelesanu.



Botanical Garden

- The Botanical Garden of Craiova was founded in 1952 at the initiative and under the guidance of prof. Alexandru Buia (1911–1964). All started when on August 29, 1952 the park "November 7 - Fountain Jianu" (the ground) was assigned to the Agronomic Institute of Craiova (today part of the University of Craiova) in order to start the creation of the future Botanical Garden.
- The initial goal was to provide the students of the Faculty of profile (agronomy and horticulture) with training material as needed, especially for the newly created Agronomic Institute of Craiova (1948). Beside the broadening of the scientific base for the researchers and teachers, it also aimed to allow visitors to get in contact with the high variability of the plant world.
- On March 13, 2002, the College Senate of University of Craiova endorsed the decision to name the Botanical Garden "Alexandru Buia" as token of appreciation to prof. Buia, all this during the celebration of 50 years of its foundation.



Museum of Oltenia

- The **Museum of Oltenia** is a multidisciplinary museum in the city of Craiova, Oltenia, Romania.
- The archaeology section of museum was founded on 1 April 1915. The natural history section was founded in 1923 and the museum as it is structured today was established in 1928.
- The museum is divided into three sections housed in separate buildings: ethnography, history/archaeology, and natural history. The collection is based on donations made in 1908.
- The building on Matei Basarab Street dates from the 15th century and is one of the oldest in the city. It houses the ethnography exhibits. The building on Popa Street is the location of the natural history section and also a traditional pottery shop. The building on Madona Dudu Street houses the archaeology and history exhibits, including a new wing.



Art Museum

- The **Craiova Art Museum** is an art museum in the city of Craiova, Oltenia, Romania.
- The museum is housed in the Constantin Mihail Palace, built from 1898 to 1907 according to the plans of French architect Paul Gottereau. The palace once belonged to Michael Constantine (1837–1908), a member of one of the richest families in Romania. The palace is decorated with Carrara marble stairs, Lyon silk walls, Murano glass chandeliers, painted ceilings, partly gilded stucco, and Venetian mirrors. It has hosted kings of Romania, in 1939 the exiled Polish president Ignacy Mościcki (1867–1946), and the former Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito (1892–1980).
- The museum was founded in 1954. It is the main art museum in Craiova and it is a significant tourist attraction for the city. A major attraction of the museum is the gallery dedicated to Constantin Brâncuși, exhibiting six of his early sculptures (including variants of his best-known works): *Vitellius* (1898), *Miss Pogany* (1902), *The Vainglory* (1905), *Boy's Head* (1906), *The Kiss* (1907), and *Woman Torso* (1909). It also has a variety of paintings by important Romanian masters such as Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Vasile Popescu, Ștefan Luchian, and Theodor Pallady, together with some Romanian icons.



Oltenia State Philharmonic and Romanian Opera

Repertoire:

Operas: Carmen Georges Bizet

Othello Giuseppe Verdi

The Elixir Of Love Gaetano Donizetti

Don Giovanni Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

La Boheme Giacomo Puccini

Operettas

Ballet: Carmina Burana

Dance with me

That jazz

Shows for children

Musical Comedies: Good evening, Mr. Wilde



• Oltenia State Philharmonic's Symphony Orchestra

- A prestigious cultural institution, *Oltenia State Philharmonic - Craiova* has been founded in 1904, and established in 1947 by a Royal Decree. Currently, the concert activity is performed by the *Symphony Orchestra* (consisting of 80 professional musicians), the *Academic Choir*, and also by different chamber music ensembles, including the *Chamber Orchestra*.
- The Symphony Orchestra repertoire includes symphonic masterpieces, oratorios, requiems, famous classical music works, arrangements of renowned jazz pieces, covering a large historical period, from Baroque to contemporary music.
- Permanently preoccupied with the accuracy of its performance, and appreciated constantly by the audience and music critics, *Oltenia Philharmonic's Symphony Orchestra* was invited to play in the most important concert venues in Romania. Also, has performed concert tours in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Spain, Switzerland, Gibraltar, ex-Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran, South Korea.

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- A group of people in traditional folk costumes performing on a stage. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, a woman in a light pink dress and a white lace headscarf is visible on the left. To her right, several other performers in various traditional outfits, including long skirts, blouses, and hats, are standing. In the background, a man in a dark suit and a white shirt is visible, possibly a conductor or a musician. The overall atmosphere is that of a cultural performance or a theatrical production.
- The *Symphony Orchestra* was conducted by great musicians, such as Alexandr Dmitriev (Russia), Kurt Adler (USA), Wolfgang Grohs (Austria), Carmen Moral (Peru), Ivan Marinov (Bulgaria), Andre Neve (Belgium), Stanislav Wislocki (Poland), Constantin Silvestri, Mihai Brediceanu, Sergiu Comissiona, Iosif Conta, Erich Bergel, Emil Simon, Horia Andreescu, Camil Marinescu, and collaborated with famous soloists, such as: Pavel Kogan, Igor Oistrakh, Mikhail Homitzer, Vladimir Viardo, Boris Gutnikov, Vladimir Orlov, Alexander Slobodianik (Russia), Jose Manuel Esteban (Spain), Thierry de Brunhoff (France), Weimer Stanley (USA), Marcella Crudeli, Fausto Zadra (Italy), Mincho Minchev (Bulgaria), Ion Voicu, Stefan Ruha, Lola Bobescu, Silvia Marcovici, Radu Aldulescu, Valentin Gheorghiu, Dan Grigore, Nicolae Herlea, Ileana Cotrubas, Viorica Cortez, Mariana Nicolesco, etc.



- The orchestra recorded for labels such as: *Electrecord* - Bucharest, *V. D. Gallo* - Lausanne, *Doron, Musicon*(Switzerland), *R. Z.* - Berlin, *Disk Makers*, Pennsauken, New Jersey - USA, *Technical and Musical Company Arad* - Romania.
- The *Symphony Orchestra* repertoire includes, among others, J. S. Bach - *Orchestral Suites* and *Brandenburg Concertos*, J. Haydn - *London Symphonies*, W. A. Mozart - *Violin Concertos*, all the *symphonies* and *concertos* by L. v. Beethoven, J. Brahms, P. I. Tchaikovsky; S. Rachmaninoff - *Piano Concertos*; all the *symphonies* by F. Schubert, R. Schumann, F. Mendelssohn, A. Bruckner; G. Mahler - *Symphonies No. 1, No. 2, No. 4 and No. 6*; D. Shostakovich - *Symphonies No. 1, No. 5, No. 8, No. 9, Chamber Symphony*; Cl. Debussy - *La Mer (The Sea)*, *Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faun (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)*; M. Ravel - *Bolero*; F. Liszt - *Symphonic Poems Les preludes, Orpheus, Tasso, Faust Symphony*; R. Strauss - *Tone Poems Don Juan, Also sprach Zarathustra (Thus spoke Zarathustra), Don Quijote, Till Eulenspiegel, Tod und Verklarung (Death and Transfiguration)*; I. Stravinsky - *Firebird, Le Sacre du printemps (The Rite of Spring), Petrushka*; B. Bartok - *Concerto for Orchestra*. From Romanian music repertoire, the orchestra performs frequently compositions by G. Enescu, P. Constantinescu, Th. Rogalski, C. Silvestri, D. Lipatti, P. Bentoiu, W. G. Berger, D. Capoianu, F. Lazar, I. Dumitrescu, etc.

- In November every year, Oltenia State Philharmonic organizes the renowned International Festival Craiova Muzicala, an artistic event highly acclaimed both by the audiences and critics.
- During the 2015/2016 season, Oltenia Philharmonic has achieved one of the greatest and ambitious projects that an institution of this kind ever conceived and organized: Europe Season - a large, unique demonstration of diversified, enriched concert repertoire, performed by musicians (conductors and soloists) representing the 28 member states of the European Union.





- **The Academic Choir of Oltenia Philharmonic** from Craiova, one of the most valuable artistic ensemble of this genre in our country, was created in 1953.
- The vast repertoire numbers about 1000 of the representative compositions of our choral literature from Renaissance, Baroque, Classic, Romantic and Contemporary composers.
- **The choir of the Oltenia Philharmonic** is comprised of around 60 professional musicians. Their activity extends on two main genres: a cappella and vocal symphonic masterpieces of universal and Romanian musical literature such as: passions, masses, requiems, oratorios, cantatas etc. Among this large repertoire are musicals works as: *Johannes-Passion, Matthaus-Passion Oratorios, The Great Mass in B minor, Magnificat, Christmas Oratorio* by J. S. Bach; *The Seasons, The Creation Oratorios* by J. Haydn; *Requiem, The Coronation's Mass, The Great Mass in C minor* by W. A. Mozart; *Fantasy in C minor for Piano, Chorus and Orchestra* and *Symphony No. 9* by L. v. Beethoven; *Requiem* and *Quattro pezzi sacri* by G. Verdi; *Messiah Oratorio* by G. Fr. Handel; *Stabat Mater* by G. Rossini; *Requiem* by G. Faure; *A German Requiem* by J. Brahms; *Requiem* and *Stabat Mater* by A. Dvorak; *Carmina Burana* by C. Orff; *Mass in E-flat Major* by F. Schubert; *Joan of Arc at the Stake Oratorio* by A. Honegger; *Byzantine Christmas Oratorio* and *Byzantine Easter Oratorio* by P. Constantinescu; *Elijah* and *Paulus Oratorios* by F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy; *Choral Symphony The Bells, Spring Cantata* and *Vespers* by S. Rachmaninoff.





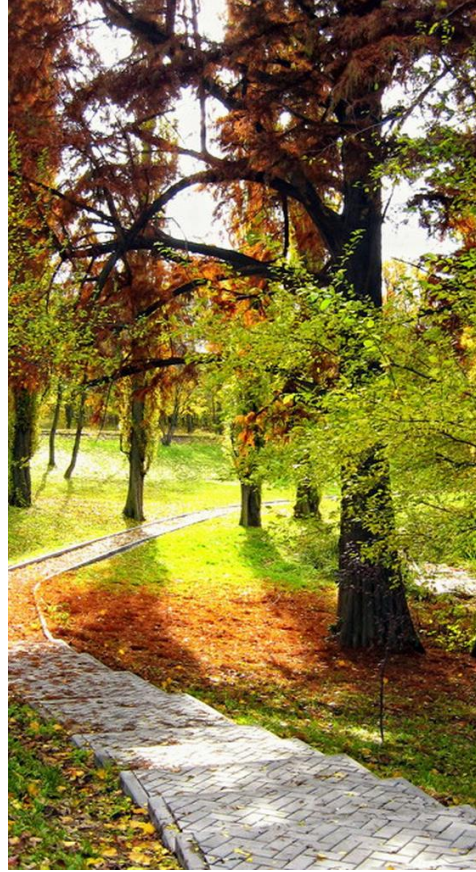


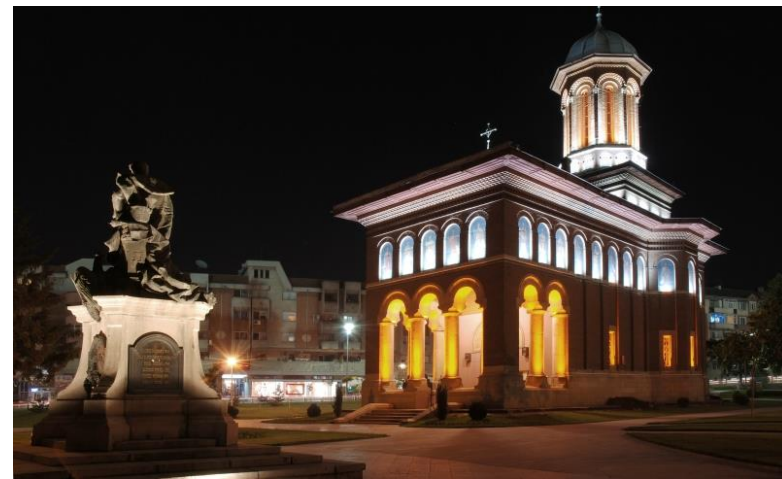


You can also see various Street Art across Craiova's streets.



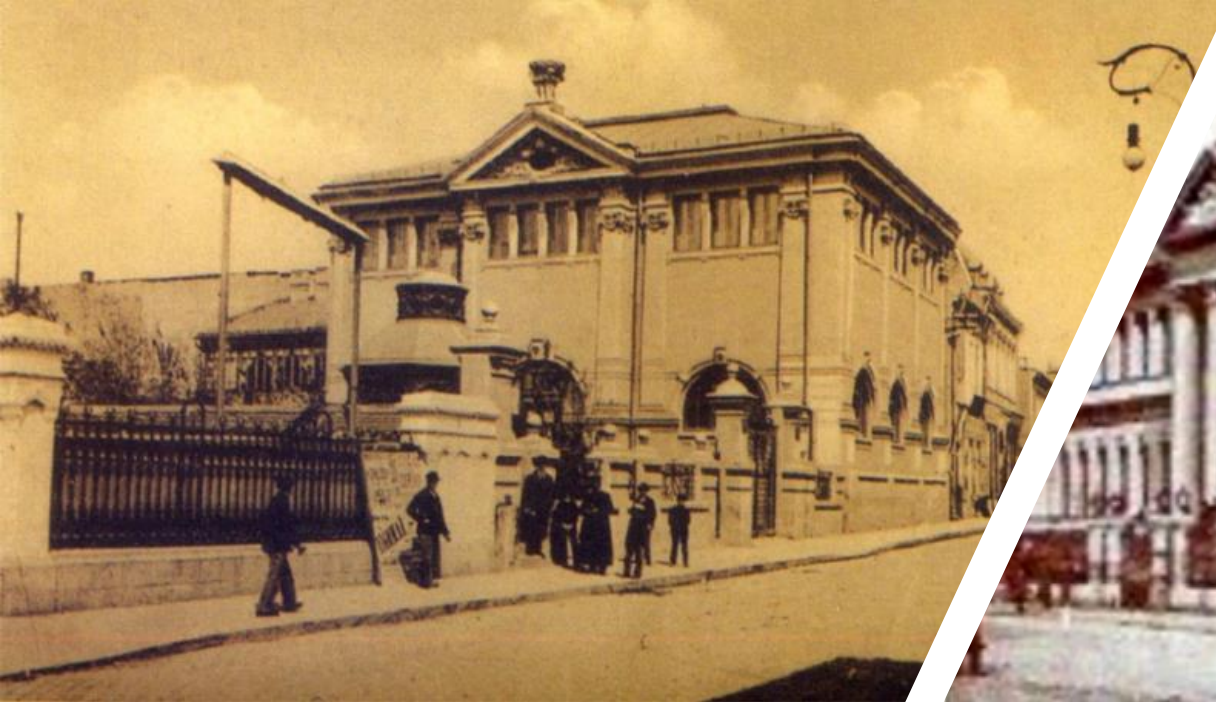









The Old Craiova





The old charm of Craiova.
Horse rider waiting for the
Musters in front of the
English Park, around 1920.
On the background, the
Administrative Palace
building (today Dolj
Prefecture).



Some teachers and a group of pupils from the Bistret School.



June 24 – National Day of
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