

## City Highlights



The university town of Craiova, founded on the site of the Dacian stronghold Pelendava (which later became the Roman Castra Nova), prides itself on the strong academic tradition and wealth of important historical figures who passed through here on their journey to fame: Wallachian Prince Mihai Viteazu - who served as the ban (military governor) of Craiova and achieved the first unification of the three Romanian principalities in 1600, the world-famous sculptor Constantin Brancusi - who studied at the Craiova Art School (Scola de Arte si Meserii) between 1894 - 1898 and carved his first sculptures here, and Craiova-born Petrace Poenary (1799- 1875) - inventor of the first cartridge fountain pen.

### *Interesting fact:*

- The majority of train locomotives in Romania originated at the Electroputere workshops in Craiova.
- In 1913, the treaty of peace which ended the Balkan War, treaty known in history as The Peace from Craiova, was signed here.
- The bans had the right of coining money stamped with their own effigies, hence the name of *bani* (centimes) in Romanian language.

## Landmarks

The city hosts a great number of **religious buildings**, many of them dating back to medieval times. The **Church of Cosuna Monastery** for example is the oldest building preserved in Craiova, dating from the 15th century. You can spend a relaxing afternoon visiting the monastery, located only 2.1 miles outside of the city centre. Another religious site, **Madona Dudu Church**, is renowned for its mural paintings, completed by the famous Romanian painter Gheorghe Tattarescu (1818 – 1894).

For those who want to find out more about the history and the traditions of this region we recommend a visit to the **Oltenia Museum**, housed in **Baniei House** (1699), the oldest non-religious building that exists in Craiova and one of the oldest lay buildings in the country.



Art lovers should definitely not miss the **Art Museum** in Craiova, hosted in the **Dinu Mihail Palace**, built in the early 1900s in neo-classic style by a French architect. The Museum exhibits valuable masterpieces created by famous Romanian painters, among them Craiova-born Theodor Aman (1831 - 1891) and Nicolae Grigorescu (1838 – 1907). One of its main attractions is the section dedicated to **Constantin Brancusi**, comprising six of his early sculptures.

At the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, Craiova's architecture underwent a transformation with the creation of the Brancovenesti style, a combination of Romanian traditional art, Byzantine and Venetian elements. Churches still displaying elements of the Brancovenesti style include: **the Saint Ilie Church / Biserica Sfantu Ilie**, built in 1720 by Ilie Otetelesanu and the great tradesmen of the town, **the All Saints Church / Biserica Tuturor Sfantilor** (1700), **the Old Saint Gheorghe Church / Biserica Sfantu Gheorghe Vechi** (1730), **the Obedeanu Monastery / Manastirea Obedeanu** (1747), **the Mantuleasa Church / Biserica Mantuleasa** (1786), **the Saint Nicolas Church / Biserica Sfantul Nicolae** (1794).

**The Jitianu Monk Monastery**, located 4.6 miles south of the city centre, was built under the guidance of Lady Balasa, wife of ruler Constantin Basarab Carnu (1654- 1658), and houses a rich collection of medieval art objects.

For those interested in enjoying a relaxing afternoon outside, the **Nicolae Romanescu Park**, is a veritable green oasis. The park is one of the valuable monuments of landscape architecture in Romania. The plans for the park, designed by French architect Emile Rendont, were awarded the gold medal at the 1900 World Fair. Through the initiative of Nicolae P. Romanescu, then mayor of Craiova, work on the park began in 1901 and was completed in 1903.



(<http://www.turistik.ro/romania/craiova/parcul-nicolae-romanescu#sthash.8U5wo18u.dpuf>)

For the ones who want to experience the nature more scientifically, a stop at the **Botanical Garden** would be the best choice.

## Museums

### Craiova Art Museum

*Address: Str. Calea Unirii 15 (located in the Dinu Mihail Palace)*

*Telephone: (251) 412.342*



The sumptuous neobaroque palace that houses the museum was completed in 1896, following the plans of the French architect Paul Gotereau, who also built the CEC building in Bucharest.

The main attraction of the museum is the art gallery dedicated to Romanian-born Constantin Brancusi, exhibiting six of his early sculptures (including variants of his best-known works): *The Kiss* (1907), *Vitellius* (1898), *Woman Torso* (1909), *The Vainglory* (1905), *Boy's Head* (1906), *Miss Pogany* (1902). Brancusi's 'studio' has been recreated in the museum.

### Museum of Oltenia

*(Ethnographic Section)*

*Address: Str. Madona Duda 44*

*Tel: (251) 411.906*

*Email: [office@muzeulolteniei.ro](mailto:office@muzeulolteniei.ro)*

*[www.muzeulolteniei.ro](http://www.muzeulolteniei.ro)*

Hosted in the Bania House (Casa Baniei), which is a major architectural and historical monument of Craiova you can learn anything and everything about the history of the region, starting with the prehistoric times. Great care has been taken in presenting, in full detail, the traditional trades and occupations of peasants in Oltenia, starting with hunting, fishing or gathering and ending with raising cattle, working the fields, harvesting the crops, emphasizing the continuity of the locals. The museum exhibits wooden carvings and ceramics, a large

collection of jars, bowls of all kinds, plates, carpets in the style and manner used in Oltenita as well as fascinating folk costumes from Oltenita.

## Historical Centre Map

