



Craiova



Getting There

- **By Car**
Craiova is well-connected via major highways, making it easily accessible by road from across Romania and neighboring regions
- **By Train**
The Craiova Railway Station, inaugurated in 1875, serves as a major rail hub in Oltenia. It handles routes from Bucharest, Transylvania, Banat, Constanța, as well as international links to cities like Budapest, Vienna, Munich, Belgrade, and Sofia.
- **By Air**
Craiova International Airport (CRA) handles flights into the city. Alternatively, travelers sometimes fly to Bucharest and continue to Craiova by train or road.

Transportation in the City

Buses and trams are affordable and efficient. Taxis and rideshares are widely available, and walking is perfect for exploring the compact and attractive city center.

Accommodation

Here are solid options across different budgets:

- **Mid-range / Comfortable:**
 - Hotel Golden House – Near the city center and parks, features restaurant and free parking
 - Hotel Oltenia – Modern rooms, fitness facilities, close to Electroputere Mall
- **Well-rated Alternatives:**
 - Ramada Plaza by Wyndham, Hotel 5 Continents, La Favorita Guesthouse Boutique, and others earn consistently positive reviews
- **Budget-Friendly / Local Charm:**

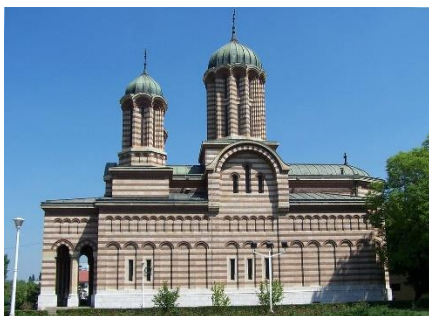
- Green Hotel Craiova, Pensiunea Magnolia, Casa Panduri, Hostel Downtown Craiova, and Casa Trandafirilor offer cozy rooms, community vibes, and excellent value

Top Attractions in the City



- **Nicolae Romanescu Park** - Designed by Édouard Redont and inaugurated in 1903, this romantic-style park spans around 90 hectares. It features a suspension bridge, the "Enchanted Castle", a hipodrome, a lake, zoo, and scenic pathways—making it a perfect spot for relaxation and nature walks.
- **Craiova Art Museum (Jean Mihail Palace)** - Housed in a grand neogothic- and baroque-influenced palace built between 1898–1907, this museum showcases works by Romanian masters like Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Ștefan Luchian, and unique early sculptures by Constantin Brâncuși.
- **Craiova Botanical Garden** - A serene green space complete with arboretum, herbarium, and greenhouses that host tropical plant species. It's a botanical haven in the heart of the city.
- **Museum of Oltenia** - A regional history museum showcasing ethnography, archaeology, folk costumes, and regional traditions—located in a beautifully curated setting.
- **Oltenia Philharmonic & Marin Sorescu National Theatre** - Cultural gems, with the Philharmonic offering classical and contemporary music performances since 1904, and the Theater providing a rich tradition of theatrical productions dating back to 1850.

Churches



Saint Demetrius Cathedral (Catedrala Sfântul Dumitru) - This is Craiova's principal Romanian Orthodox cathedral and the seat of the Metropolis of Oltenia. The current structure, built in Byzantine Revival style, was completed in 1933, replacing much older predecessors dating back to the 15th century. The original church played significant civic and defensive roles, tied closely to the local boyar families. Renovated by Matei Basarab in 1651, it was demolished in 1889 to make way for the present cathedral designed by André Lecomte du Noüy. It became a metropolitan cathedral in 1939.



Madona Dudu Church (Cathedral of the Mother of God or Maica Precesta) is one of the largest and most significant Orthodox churches in Craiova. It was built in the elegant **Brâncovenesc style** (a fusion of Romanian, Byzantine, and Baroque influences) by Constantin Fotescu and Hagi Ion Gheorghe, in the second half of 18th century. The name “Madona Dudu” (or “Mother from the Mulberry”) comes from a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary, discovered inside a **mulberry tree**

where the church’s altar now stands.

- **Hidden Gems**

- *Casa Băniei Museum*: Housed in a 1907 Paul Gottereau-designed palace, with folk art and traditional exhibits.
- *Fountains & Squares*: Magnolia Square and historic fountains like Fântâna Jianu and Fântâna Popova add historical depth to scenic city walks.

- **Seasonal Highlight**

During winter, Craiova’s Christmas Market lights up the city with festive stalls, skating rinks, concerts, and a fairy-tale atmosphere—especially around Mihai Viteazul Square and Nicolae Romanescu Park.

Famous places to eat in Craiova



- **Pastry shop Minerva (Cofetăria Minerva)** is housed in a monumental Moorish-style building built between 1898 and 1903, designed by architects Thoma Dobrescu and D. Nedelcu. Originally, this site served as a hotel, restaurant, summer garden, and wine cellars—collectively known as "Cazinoul Minerva," a social and cultural hotspot preeminent in its time.
- **Casa Ghincea** is a charming retreat specializing in Romanian classics and legendary cakes made from natural ingredients—don't miss the “Bogdanel cake” for a truly local treat.
- **The Manor Restaurant & Lounge**
Elegant fine-dining restaurant consistently praised by both reviewers and locals as one of Craiova’s top choices.
- **Taverna Racilor Craiova**
A seafood gem, rated among the best places in Craiova for fresh, flavorful dishes.
- **Craft**
A modern artisan eatery serving creative dishes and craft beverages—great for food enthusiasts.

Shopping in Craiova

- **Promenada Craiova** is the largest and most high-end mall in the region, opened in October 2023. It has over 150 stores, including major international brands (Peek & Cloppenburg, Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Under Armour, Zara, Bershka, Pull&Bear, Stradivarius, and Lefties in its first Romanian location, Sports Direct, etc.)
- **Electroputere Parc (Electroputere Mall)** was established in 2011 and later expanded, this is Craiova's original modern mall.

Water Park Craiova

Water Park Craiova is the largest aquatic entertainment complex in the Oltenia region, set within or near Tineretului Park. It offers a wide variety of attractions for all ages, operating year-round thanks to its indoor facilities.

Nicolae Mărășescu Athletics Stadium



Located within Nicolae Romanescu Park, the **Nicolae Mărășescu Athletics Stadium** is a key sports venue in Craiova. It hosts track and field events, integrated into the beautiful park architecture. The stadium has a capacity of approximately 5,000 seats.

Starting in 2027, the construction of a Multipurpose Hall near the stadium is planned, which will include an athletics track. This will expand the city's capacity to host large-scale international competitions, including European and World Championships.

Athletic Competitions hosted:

- 18-19th of June 2022 - Balkan Athletics Championships
- 8-9th of July 2023 – National Athletics Championships (Seniors and U23 Youth)
- 7th of June 2025 - International Athletics Championships of Romania - "Iolanda Balaș Soter" (70th Edition)
- 5th of July 2025 - National 20 km Race Walking Championships (Seniors, U23, U20)
- 13th of July 2025 - Balkan U20 Athletics Championships