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ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT

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NATBIOT 2 - PLE - VRA - DO TRAVEL PACKAGE
Pleven - Vratza - Dolj (7 days)





NATBIOT

We invite you on a 7-day cross-border vacation, exploring some of the sights of the Pleven and Vratza districts in Bulgaria and Dolj County. Starting points are Craiova or Pleven, "node" cities from which interesting routes can leave, considering the international airports of Sofia and Craiova as gateways, for both local and foreign tourists. Distance Sofia-Pleven - 162.6 km (about 2 hours by road).

Obiectivul principal al acestui pachet turistic este de a vă delecta trupul, sufletul și mintea cu: frumuseți naturale foarte ofertante, cu obiective culturale noi, interesante, dar mai ales de a vă oferi un ambient placut, pitoresc, servicii de calitate, savurând delicii culinare tradiționale, naturale și bio, cunoscând astfel ospitalitatea a două popoare vecine și prietene.

WHO IS THIS TRAVEL PACKAGE MEANT FOR?

NATBIOT 2 - PLE-VRA-DO is meant for:

- ✓ tourists who want to experience new, less known destinations;
- ✓ "healthy" tourism enthusiasts - who love exploring nature, who love "movement", who want to discover new cultural goals and traditions and who want to stay in a friendly environment, benefiting from quality services, understanding by quality also healthy, traditional, natural and / or organic food, both for those who have already approached this lifestyle in their daily life and for those who want to approach a healthy lifestyle at least while on vacation;
- ✓ individual tourists or in tourist groups - families with and without children, seniors or young people, formally or informally organized, companies or other organizations for group activities.



WHAT BENEFITS YOU HAVE IF YOU CHOOSE THE NATBIOT 2- PLE-VRA-DO?

- Changing the traditional destinations with some new ones, which will open you new horizons and will get you out of the routine, while maintaining the “comfort”;
- You can have a stay away from the pollution and crowding of the usual destinations, exploring parts of the territory of two neighbouring countries, some less known to the general public;
- Invigorate your body and soul by moving in nature and by visiting the cultural places that bear the spirituality of two peoples;
- You get to rest in hospitable conditions, benefiting from quality services, being able to choose from a wide variety of accommodation units, hotels, modern and/or rustic guesthouses, rooms for rent in local people’s houses, chalets; you are provided with an updated database of these accommodation units, the number of rooms available and their quality level;
- Easy accessibility at the starting points: Pleven is 2 hours away from Sofia, respectively from an international airport, or Craiova, which has an airport where low cost flights operate. The travel package also includes the airport transfer;
- Delight your senses with delicious but healthy dishes, benefitting from the local advantage: the use of natural / organic/ traditional agricultural products;
- You will have the opportunity to benefit from as many organic

products taking into account the fact that both Bulgaria and Romania have registered a spectacular growth in organic agriculture (between 2010 and 2016 Bulgaria recorded the highest growth of organic cultivated areas in the EU, 35%, and Romania is the ninth largest producer of organic products and ranks among the top ten producers with organic production increases, according to the latest FIBL report in 2019.

Thus, the latest FIBL report indicates a 14.2% increase in the ecological surface, the 6th place in Europe in terms of growth dynamics and in terms of the collection of ecological honey from the wild areas, Romania occupies the 4th place in the world in terms of collection areas (1.8 mil. hectares in 2014).

Tour operators are taking advantage of the opportunity to capitalize on organic production.



From the tourist's point of view, here are some of the advantages conferred by the consumption of organic products:

- > no herbicides, pesticides, hormones were used in their production;
- > they do not contain any additives or other chemicals;
- > they are not genetically modified;
- > animal products do not contain traces of antibiotics;
- > they are healthy products, free of toxic residues;
- > they have a balanced content of bioactive substances and minerals;
- > the taste of organic foods is superior to the conventional ones.

Natural products have almost the same advantages as organic ones, with the mention that they do not present quality assurance, and their certification is not regulated, relying in most cases on "trust". In smaller communities, however, trust is based on mutual acquaintance between community members, reducing the risk of consumer deception.

In order to access the travel package NATBIOT 2 - PLE-VRA-DO, resort to a tour operator because:

- it organizes the entire stay according to your preferences for the accommodation, meals, program, without you looking for

the optimal options by yourselves, making sure that the established program is complied with;

- it ensures full-time transportation, including pick up and return from your locality;
- it ensures reservations and negotiates the best price for you.

We invite you to follow the route offered by the **NATBIOT 2 - PLE-VRA-DO Travel Package**, starting from Pleven, following the route Gigen, the ancient city of Ulpia Eskus, Brete, the Kopenite and Reseshki waterfalls, Rashov dol near Ritlite, Presechen kamak, Lyutibrod-Vratsa village, Vidin-Calafat bridge crossing, Craiova.

For the tourist's convenience, security and to ensure the observance of the vacation schedule, consider the purchase of the package from a tour operator, road transport insurance (car, minibus, coach), providing assistance, guide (on request), for groups of tourists, differentiated, according to their number.



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Arriving in Pleven, we recommend that you stay in Pleven, which has accommodation places in 11 hotels, 1 villa, 1 guesthouses, 1 motel or in one of the new villas or local guesthouses, with natural, traditional dishes in the surroundings.



The first route we invite you on starts from the village of Gigen, which is 33 km from Pleven city and 22 km from Gulyantsi city and starts with the visit of the ruins of the old **town of Ulpia Eskus**, located in the northwest of Gigen village, 5 km from the place where the Iskar River (formerly known by its Thracian name Eskus) flows into the Danube.

The Roman city was built in the 1st century B.C. as a descendant of a Thracian settlement. Around it, the camp of the Fifth Macedonian Legion was later built. The military camp received the status of a colony after the glorious victory of the Emperor Mark Ulli Traian (98-117) over the Dacians. On the occasion of the victory, Ulpia Eskus was declared a city with its own management. The Roman city has become an important crossroads. Ulpia Eskus is built in the typical Roman way - it has

a rectangular shape and the streets are oriented from east to west and from north to south. Today's visitors can see remains of streets, temples, a large civil basilica. The total area of the city was about 280 acres. The city was at the peak of its development in the fourth century, under the rule of Emperor Constantine the Great (307 - 337). Then the capital of the Roman Empire became Constantinople, and a large stone bridge was built on the Danube, whose opening on July 5, 328 was attended by the emperor himself.



The first excavations of the ancient city took place in 1904 - 1905, then in 1947 - 1951 and archaeologists discovered a large public building and in one of the rooms they found one of the most beautiful coloured Roman mosaics on the Bulgarian lands. The central part depicts a scene from the comedy "Ahei". The mosaic is restored and preserved and can be seen today at the Regional History Museum in Pleven.

During the excavations, the following were also found: another

forum complex, temples of the Trinity Capitol (Jupiter, Juno, Minerva), a large basilica, public buildings, baths, etc. The ancient city is part of the heritage of the Regional Museum of History - Pleven, so some of the discoveries found in Ulpia Eskus are displayed in a specially arranged room of the museum. During its existence, the city was repeatedly subjected to the invasions of Goths and Huns and, finally, was destroyed by Avars in the 6th century (585). In the 10th century, a medieval Bulgarian village was built on the ruins of old Eskus, which existed until the 14th century. The walk here, on foot, visiting the ruins of the city takes about 2h30'.

Then drive by car to the village of Breste - 62 km, about 1h 20'. The village of Breste is included in the municipality of Cherven Bryag. It is 10 km away from Cherven Bryag city centre. The area is rich in elm trees (in Bulgarian - Bryast near the village name - Breste), beech and oak. The Belilkata River springs near the village and 10 km away, we find the canyon of the Rache River.



There are accommodation possibilities in Breste (villa - 32 places) and in Cherven Bryag (2 family hotels - 50 places).

Then, we invite you to start from the village of Breste on a hike to **Reseleshki "Saritura" Waterfall**. The waterfall is situated at approximately 200 meters under the valley of the river Belikata. From the top of the waterfall, an asphalted path descends along the long path of almost 100 m, and at its base a path descends after crossing the river. The height of the Reseleshki waterfall is 10 m.



Unique to the waterfall is the fact that the rock on which the water falls formed a dry cave behind it that can be seen behind the waterfall of the river. Where the water falls, a beautiful rock water was formed, limestone column with vegetation. According to expert geologists in the geological phenomena of Bulgaria, the Reseleshki waterfall is formed in Kalenskata limestone.

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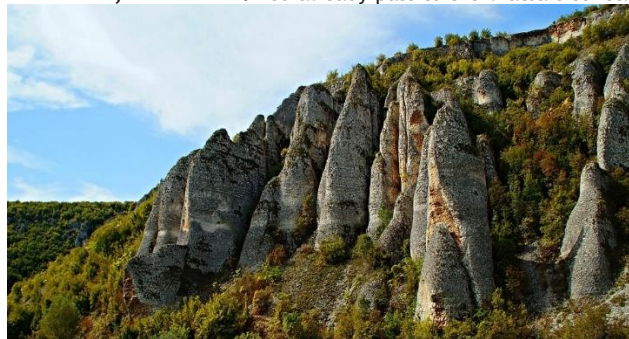
It is practically the Upper Cretaceous section of the area. The rocks are calcareous, with many shells and traces of gastropods, Bryozoa, brachiopods, crinoids, sea urchins and other organisms that populated a coastal part of the Lower Cretaceous Bay about 85 million years ago. Reseleshki Village is 6 km away from Cherven Bryag.

Unique natural formations, multiple caves are an attraction for tourist routes. This is one of the few places in Bulgaria where scorpions are found. **Reseleshki Dolls** natural area is a unique and impressive rock formation - dolls, obelisks. One can also distinguish a gate, inclined on three columns, an old man wearing pants, an elephant and other interesting shapes. The Kuklite Rock Formation is just 10 km from Cherven Bryag. In Reseleshki village you should follow the right direction to Kuklite - to the west, while on the road to Breste village you can see another rocky formation, even smaller - **Kupenite**.



You can travel part of the route by bicycle, it lasts is about 1h.

Nearby, there is the dam formed by the obstruction of the river, which is suitable for fishing and picnics in summer. The natural setting of this area is spectacular and soothing at the same time, urging movement but also relaxation. **Continue on the road to Rashov dol, near Ritlite.** You already pass to the Vratsa district.



The place is associated with the last known battleground of Botev's followers after the death of their leader. At the top, there is a steep meadow where the fight took place. On this a small chapel was built and below a memorial plaque is placed.



Every year in Rashov Dol, on June 3, locals from the village of Lyuti Dol recreate the battle between the rebels and the Ottomans. Ritlita is a natural landmark, with an area of 123 ha on the left bank of the Iskar River, above the village of Lyutibrod. It consists of four almost parallel vertical walls, 200 meters long, and a railway line runs beneath them. These are included in the Register of Conservation and Protected Areas of Bulgaria since 1938 and are included in the territory of the "Vrachanski Balkan" Natural Park.



The name of the natural landmark comes from their resemblance to the side barriers of an ox cart (ritli). The village of Lyutibrod is located in the immediate vicinity of Ritlita, 10 km from Mezdra and 16 km from Vratsa, 320 meters in altitude.

From here you can visit two monasteries. The Cherepishki Monastery "Assumption of Virgin Mary" is located at a distance of 2 km south of the village. The monastery was established during the reign of Tsar Ivan Shisman (1371 - 1393). It was demolished several times and rebuilt.

Another monastery - Osenovlashki Monastery "St. Mary"- is located at a distance of 28 km from Lyutibrod. It is also known as "Seven Altars". Tourists can find more information about other marked routes, guides, accommodation at the "Natura" Natural Protection Centre, located in the town of Vratsa. From here, continue on to the town of Vratsa, 25 km by car, where you can stay at one of the 11 hotels, 1 motel, a chalet.

Here are some of the tourist objectives we propose in this travel package: The city's history museum and the Phaeton

Museum, and as exceptional tourist routes: route in the Vrachanski Balkan Natural Park (spring and autumn seasons are appropriate); Ledenika cave and Ledenika amusement park.



History Museum of Vratsa - the museum exhibits will take you in time from prehistoric times, Roman times and Byzantine times, the Middle Ages to the Bulgarian Renaissance period: Thracian thesaurus and Rogozen, bronze medical instruments, ceramic vessels, agricultural tools and crafts, weapons, paintings and sculptures of famous Bulgarian artists, as well as monuments of culture, reconstructed in a unique way - as a synthesis of high art, education and technology. The Phaeton Ethnographic Museum is unique, presenting a history of vehicle manufacture in the past. The Orazov family was famous for making the carriages at the end of the 19th century, the beginning of the 20th century. Here you can admire collections of costumes and brass musical instruments.

We invite you to the “Vratsa - Ledenika Cave” cognitive path

(3h).



On the way to the Ledenika Cave you can also see the highest Skaklya waterfall in Bulgaria, with a height of 142 m. Unfortunately, the Skaklya waterfall is not permanent, it is very dependent on the rain that fall in spring and autumn. In summer, due to the heat, the waterfall dries. Ledenika Cave - it is located 16 km from the town of Vratsa, in the territory of the Vrachanski Balkan Natural Park.

Vrachanski Balkan Natural Park - covers an area of 28,848 ha. It ranks second among the natural parks in Bulgaria.



Since October 1993 it has been declared a protected area of international importance. In the park we also find the reserve "Vratsa Carstică" - 1,438.9 ha, declared a territory of international importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The Vrachanski Balkan Natural Park has a great biological and landscape diversity. More than 1,050 species of higher plants, accounting for about 1/3 of the Bulgarian flora and 230 species of vertebrates, were identified here. The park is included in the national ecological network Natura 2000.

The park presents a wild nature, unaltered by human intervention. Please observe the rules during the walk!

The cave is located 830 m above sea level in the north - Mount Stresherski Vratsa. Ledenika was opened to visitors in 1961, and in 2005 the infrastructure was completely renovated. It houses 53 species of animals, including the Svetlomrazets cockroach, which has adapted so well to darkness that if it goes out to light it dies.



The name Ledenika is given by the stalagmites and ice stalactites that are formed in winter, close to the entrance. The cave has a lake not very deep, which, according to a belief it fulfils the desire of anyone who has dipped their hands in it. The cave tour lasts one hour, and the route covers 350 meters of cave galleries. The walk begins with the "Entrance" hall - this is the smallest part of the cave, where ice sculptures are formed, hence the name of the "Antechamber", and the visitors pass through a narrow passage and reach a small, round room.

Then you reach the "big concert hall". In it, every year, during the "Botev Days" (May 24 and June 2), concerts are held. In this room, visitors can see interesting formations, such as "Santa Claus", "Giant Head", "Baba Yaga House" and others. After the "concert hall" the route passes over small and large pits on iron bridges and reaches a corridor through which you reach the "White Hall". The "Ledenika" cave was declared a natural landmark and it is listed in the List of protected areas of

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Bulgaria, whereby it is prohibited to destroy the fauna in the caves, to write on the walls, to enter with torches and other lamps of smoke precisely for the protection of this miracle of nature. Depending on the period chosen for your stay you can also attend the National Folklore Festival "Ledenika" (end of June).

Near the "Ledenika" Cave there is the Ledenika Amusement Park created with a European project. It has become a unique place, with a modern attraction, 5D cinema, an amphitheatre and promenade with story characters, which are staged daily and games for all ages, artistic events, contests, carnival, photo-fest with a particular topic, teambuilding and many other activities. In addition to visiting the cave of unique beauty, a professional team of guides and entertainers offers outdoor recreation.



Beyond the joy of discovering spectacular natural beauty, of "charging the batteries" in hiking and knowing the past and present local culture, hosted with the characteristic hospitality of the place, you will be pleased to serve natural, traditional,

organic culinary delights.

The traditional Bulgarian cuisine is rich in spices, with a specific and unique taste. Bulgarian meals are easy to prepare - if you follow a traditional recipe to prepare an authentic Bulgarian meal. The spices, fruits and vegetables used are organic. Only here you will be able to feel the taste of renowned Bulgarian yogurt, as well as preparations with it.

Here are some of the dishes you can't miss: *Shopska Salad* - a combination of cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, peppers and grated cheese on top; *tarator soup* - from yogurt, cucumbers, garlic, olive oil and dill; *Chushka Biurek* (Stuffed peppers) - baked peppers stuffed with eggs and white cheese in a delicious tomato sauce or stuffed with minced meat and sometimes rice; *lyutenitsa* - tomato paste and baked peppers.

After 4 days spent in Pleven and Vratsa districts, start towards Dolj County, after 128.57 km from Vratsa, cross the Vidin - Calafat bridge and enter Dolj County.



You have the choice of accommodation in Calafat, with three 3-star and 2-star hotels, a hostel and several guesthouses nearby. In Calafat you have some interesting tourist attractions to visit: **Calafat Museum of Art and Folk Art, Cetate Grassland (from Danube Meadow) - natural lakes: Fântâna Banului, Maglavit Lake, Golenți Lake, Caraula accumulation lake.**



The Museum of Art and Folk Art - was established in 1969. It is housed in a historical monument building, built between 1907 and 1914, by Architect Constantin Rogalsky. Initially it was a private house known as the Marincu Palace, then from 1927 it became the seat of several administrative and professional education and agricultural institutions. The last renovation and the last partial restorations took place in 1983.

It exhibits the contemporary Romanian art: painting, graphics of artists from Dolj County, canvases by Nicolae Grigorescu, Henri Catargi, Theodor Pallady, sculptures by Ion Irimescu, Nicu Enea, George Demetrescu Mirea. The folk art collection contains clothing items, carpets, braids, tools, household items.



Cetate - the Danube port village - Until the discovery in the area of the remains of a Geto-Dacian fortress, the village located 25 km from Calafat and 73 km from Craiova was called "Ulmi" (elm trees) due to the large elm forests that existed there. Slowly, the locals began to say "La Cetate" and... Cetate has remained its name until today. In his memorial and travel prose "Călătorind pe Dunăre și în Bulgaria", Dimitrie Bolintineanu says about the Cetate commune that it is "sitting on the hill, between two ruins, like a small fortress" and that it was "a witness to the Russian-Turkish war in period 1827-1829".

Until 1959, there was a cereal port in Cetate, which was later decommissioned. The Cetate village enjoyed prosperity thanks to the landlord Barbu Drugă, a preeminent owner of land, mills and houses, who - in order to facilitate the grain trade - established the port of Cetate.

Also here, the Cetate Grassland (6ha) of the Danube meadow is a protected area. Here, in the flooded meadow of the Danube, several lakes have been formed that provide feeding, breeding and living conditions for several species of migratory, passage or sedentary birds.

The special avifaunistic protection area Maglavit is located in the area of Cetate, Maglavit and Calafat. The area has 3562.6 ha. The hydrographic network is represented by a sector of the Danube, the lakes: Basarabi, **Golenți**, **Maglavit**, Hunia, Moreni and **Fântâna Banului**, along with several temporary lakes and marshy areas.

The mentioned lakes are natural, developed in the low areas of the meadow, with a large surface area and shallow depth, being used for irrigation and fish farming. Their connection with the Danube is still maintained, with water supply directly from the river. The Maglavit Special Avifaunistic Protection Area overlaps partially the Danube protected natural area at Gârla Mare-Maglavit, including the Cetate Grassland nature reserve.

It has been declared as a Special Avifaunistic Protection Area for the conservation of 36 species of birds. The location of the Maglavit Special Avifaunistic Protection Area on a very important migration route that connects the Pannonian Plain and the Balkan Peninsula - Bulgaria - Bosphorus, explains the great deal of species that can be seen in this area during the spring and autumn passages. The most significant ones are the ruff, the pygmy cormorant, the little egret and the black-crowned night heron. The passage of ducks and shorebirds, of great diversity in terms of species diversity, of which many species can be seen.

All these lakes / ponds, beyond the beauty of the landscape, can be ideal places for "Bird watching", but especially for fishing. Maglavit Pond is located between Maglavit township and the Danube. You can only fish with a fishing permit, the required tax

is RON 20 / 12 h. Species of fish found in the pond: carp, wels catfish, Prussian carp, hake, common rudd, common perch, common bream.

The Cetate pond is located on the road to the Cetate Harbour, and it is a private pond. Here you can fish for a fee, and the fish can be taken home.

If fishing relaxation is an option for your stay, we recommend **Caraula Lake**, 45 km from Calafat and 53 km from Craiova. Caraula Lake was built in 1971, with the purpose of using an irrigation system to expand the vegetable garden within the former Cap Caraula.

After a while, this system was replaced by a centralized system with Danube water, benefiting from the irrigation canal Izvoare - Giubega, and the lake remained as a fish pond, which was populated with various fish species. Caraula Lake is located about 3 km from Caraula village, stretching over an area of 20 ha, fishing is allowed throughout its surface. The period allowed for fishing is for the whole year, the fish caught can be taken.

Arriving in **Craiova** you have a great deal of accommodation places that offer quality services, which mainly includes "healthy" menus in their own catering establishments. There is plenty for you to choose from! Only in Craiova, without taking into account the surrounding areas, the following are registered: 26 hotels, 14 guesthouses, 2 villas, 4 hostels, 2 motels and numerous rooms to rent.

Here are some of the tourist objectives that we propose during this stay: **Oltenia Museum in Craiova with the history, ethnography and natural sciences departments**, **Casa Băniei** - which currently houses the Ethnography and Popular Art Museum, the Art Museum, Marin Sorescu National Theatre, Vălimărescu House. The Monastery of All Saints, Romanescu Park, the botanical garden, Cula Poenaru.

Oltenia Museum in Craiova with the history, ethnography and natural sciences departments. Oltenia Craiova Museum was established on April 1, 1915, as a result of the passion and dedication of some important families in Craiova at the beginning of the 20th century, but especially after the tireless efforts of the well-known cultural personality that was Stefan Ciuceanu. Currently, the Oltenia Craiova Museum operates in four buildings, the History-Archeology section, on 14 Madona Dudu Street, Department of Natural Sciences, in Ramuri Palace, on 8 Popa Șapcă Street, The Ethnography Section, at Casa Băniei and the Restoration and Conservation Laboratory.





The History-Archaeology department - The museum patrimony is made up of archaeological and historical collections that highlight the history of Craiova and the history of Romanians from antiquity to the present. The archaeological collections illustrate the periods of the ancient history, the Roman period as well as the early Middle Ages. The collections are divided into: Thesaurus (721 pieces, gold and silver objects, of great historical and artistic value:

- Roman jewellery, gold jewellery with precious stones), Archaeological collections (from the Palaeolithic, Bugiulești fossils;
- the stone tools found in Dârjov and Fărcașele, Olt County; painted pottery belonging to the oldest Romanian Neolithic from Cârcea; wooden vessel from Olt Gardens, unique in this part, etc.);
- Medieval collections (the Medieval pieces have been divided into four collections: Medieval Art, Documents, Manuscripts and Prints with over 5,000 objects from medieval times: ornament and clothing items (8th-18th centuries);

- religious objects decorated in Brâncovenesc style, chancery, dowry documents, parchment, etc.);
- The modern-contemporary collection (collections of weapons, seals, decoration-medals, documents, photographs and postcards, Titulescu Fund and flags representing pieces of immeasurable value in the Romanian culture.

They come from private collections, from boyar families: Aman, Romanescu, whose members played a decisive role in local history), Collections of numismatics.

The Department of Natural Sciences - currently preserves over 113,000 pieces, in collections of: Mineralogy, Palaeontology, Botany, Malacology, Entomology, Ichthyology, Batracology, Herpetology, Ornithology, Oology, Mammalogy, Trophies.

Inside the museum you can admire rich and valuable collections: religious objects, musical instruments, decorated eggs, Maria Tanase documents and photographs, ethno-folklore documents, household items. The building that houses this section, Casa Băniei, is a monument of architecture of national interest and the oldest civil construction in Craiova, being rebuilt by Constantin Brâncoveanu in 1699 on the place of the former houses of the 15th century Craiovești boyars.

The Art Museum is housed in a historical building - Mihail Palace built between 1898 and 1907. Mihail Constantin, entrusted its design to the famous architect of the time Paul Gottereau, the architect of the Royal House and the author of the Royal Palace, the Palace of the "Carol I" University Foundation, of the CEC Palace, etc. It was inaugurated in 1909. In 1936, the last descendant of the family, Jean Mihail left the palace to the Romanian state. Since 1954 it has become the headquarters of the Art Museum in Craiova. It houses valuable collections of paintings (Nicolae Grigorescu, Ion Țuculescu, Nicolae Tonitza, Ștefan Luchian, etc.), sculpture, graphics and decorative art that

will surely delight any visitor.

The Marin Sorescu National Theatre was established in 1850. In the first decades of his life it hosted only musical performances and vaudeville. After 1900, the focus has been on dramatic performances, mainly the classics of universal drama, notably Shakespeare and Molière. The National Theatre "Marin Sorescu" in Craiova became a landmark in the Romanian theatrical life in the mid-'56, when many of the "golden generation" actors were hired here (Gheorghe Cozorici, Amza Pellea, Silvia Popovici, Constantin Rauțchi, Victor Rebengiuc, Dumitru Rucăreanu, Sanda Toma, etc.), along with their teacher, director Vlad Mugur.

With the inauguration of the building on April 21, 1973, Constantin Gheorghiu founded the National Theatre Museum here. At present, the museum has a documentary collection that covers a period starting from 1837 (the first artistic events in Craiova) and continuing until now, which includes posters, programs, photographs, paintings, sketches of decoration and costumes and props items illustrating the history of the performing arts over the years, annotated volumes, directing books and correspondence.

Constantin Vălimărescu House is a historical monument of architecture of local interest, located in the centre of Craiova. The building dates from the end of the 19th century (1892-1893) and was built by the Costa and Nedelcu entrepreneurs according to the plans of the French architect Albert Galleron, who also designed in Romania, the Romanian Athenaeum and the Palace of the National Bank of Romania in Bucharest, Dimitrie Ghika Palace in Comănești and numerous Boyar houses in Bucharest and in the province. During the communist regime, in this house, ASCAR (Cardiac Assistance) operated, then the building was assigned to the Art Museum, which arranged the Collections Department here. After the 1989 Revolution, the house was returned to the descendants of the former owner. They sold it to

Italian Knitwear, which rented it to a bank.

The Monastery of All Saints (Tuturor Sfinților) is a meetinghouse of the Metropolitan Church of Craiova. The wooden church is founded by the monk Daniil from the Tismana Monastery, in 1784, as a church of his native village, Tălpașești, Gorj County. The church will have a troubled history, with despoilment and remaking. It was only in 1975, at the initiative of His Holiness Teoctist, that it will be relocated to Craiova. In the next year, it will become a meetinghouse of the Metropolitan Church.

19 km from Craiova you can see **Cula Poenaru**, a historical monument in Almăj township, built in 1764 by the boyar Barbu Poenaru. In 1801 and 1844, the "cula" was burnt down, thus losing the floor that was not restored. In 1904, the "cula" was donated to the town hall by the descendants of the Poenaru boyar family to be transformed into a school. Subsequently, several classrooms are added to the original building, the core of the original "cula" being thus included in the existing school today. You can see the great hall from the ground floor of the old "cula", only if you enter the school.

Beyond the very attractive cultural objectives of Craiova we propose you to spend some time in the natural setting offered by the **Romanescu Park and the Botanical Garden**.



The Romanescu Park, known for a long time under the name of Bibescu Park, Independence Park or People's Park, is located in the place where, in the middle of the 19th century, there was the estate and the garden of the Bibescu family. The garden, arranged by a German gardener, upon the initiative of the great chancellor Ioan (Iancu) Bibescu, was arranged with pavilions, benches, greenhouses. In 1898, after the appointment of Nicolae Romanescu as a mayor, the park was set up according to the project of the architect Edouard Redont, who also designed the National Exhibition in the Carol - Park in Bucharest.

Nicolae Romanescu Park, the largest natural park in Eastern Europe, green areas, alleys and wooded areas, gaining the status of the largest urban green area in Romania. The park has tree and shrub plantations, a stretch of water of over 4 ha, a 20 ha of racetrack, roads, alleys and paths that total over 35 km in length.



The Botanical Garden of Craiova is a place not to be missed. After the rehabilitation of 2015, it regained its brilliance from the mid-20th century, when it was designed and arranged according to the plans of Professor Alexandru Buia, whose name it bears. It is an oasis of greenery with over 6000 species of plants and shrubs, along with rare flowers.

Depending on the period chosen for your stay, you can enjoy the **cultural-artistic events** organized, which are plenty and interesting, of which we recall: "Craiova muzicală" International Festival - November, Ioana Radu National Festival - October, "Shakespeare" Theatre Festival - April - May.



Traditional, natural, unique and especially tasty **culinary preparations** specific to the Oltenia area, it will complement the beauty of your stay in Dolj County.

Here are some of these: bread in “țest”, “turte”, curly dock fried with polenta roasted on the stove, “ciușcă”, yoghurt, donuts, apple cakes, “chec”, prune dish, beans, fried “ciuști”, cabbage rolls, “raci” soup, Red Kapia-like peppers, but less meaty. They are lined up on a twine in the fall, to get dried, for later use. A mixture is made of fried onion, tomato paste, flour, ground pepper and salt to taste. With this paste, these peppers called “raci” are then filled. Afterwards, these stuffed peppers are

boiled in a pot of water and cabbage juice, so as to cover them, after previously boiling carrot rings, minced chopped parsnip and a little fried onion. Tomato juice or broth is added and simmered for half an hour. Finally, the chopped parsley leaves are added. Bon appetit!

**Enjoy the travel package
NATBIOT 2 - PLE-VRA-DO!**







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