

Study Regarding Attractions and Tourist Objectives from Dolj County

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Abstract

Oltenia, although it is less known, is of surprising complexity where there are countless monasteries and hermitages, resorts with "waters that make wonders", villages with old wooden churches, caves, gorges and wonderful wings. Located in southern Romania, in the Oltenia region, Dolj County is a very fruitful and attractive tourist area, with many attractions for tourists.

In order to promote the objectives and tourist attractions from Dolj County, we have presented in this study the ones that should not be missed by a tourist in this area, including the Craiova Art Museum, the Amza Pellea Memorial House, The Roman Castro from Răcarii de Jos, Segarcea wine cellar, Cetate Port, special reservations such as the Paleontological one from Bucovăț, the one Wild Peonies from Plenița, or the Ciuperceni Ornithological Reservation. In the chapter of places of worship, we remembered the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Dumitru from Craiova, but also the monasteries Cârcea, Maglavit, Sadova.

Keywords: forms of tourism, tourism, tourist attractions, tourist spots

1. Introduction

Tourism represents an economic and social phenomenon of modern civilization, being anchored in the life of society and in a relationship of interconditionality with it. [1]

The activity of tourism activity can be manifested through a variety of plans, which can be stratified as follows: from stimulating the economic growth to improving the social structure and from the superior capitalization of the natural-material resources, to the improvement of the living conditions. [2, 3]

A growing tourism sector can effectively contribute on employment, increase national income, and can also make a decisive impact on its balance of payments. Thus, tourism can be an

important driver of economic growth and prosperity. [3]

The existence of a valuable tourist patrimony does not automatically lead to the manifestation of a profitable tourism, unless it is accompanied by appropriate services that make them accessible to tourists and make them worthwhile. [4]

Romania has many beautiful places, attractive from the tourist point of view, and about some of them are said that it have miraculous powers.

The elaboration of the present study aims to promote the tourist attractions and objectives of Dolj County for the purpose of capitalizing them by the inclusion in tourist routes.

According to the classification proposed by the World Tourism Organization (WTO/UN) in 1979, and based on the reasons for choosing the destination, the forms of tourism are: business tourism and professional motives, spa tourism, cultural tourism, leisure tourism, recreation and rest, visits to relatives and friends and other forms of tourism. [5]

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In Dolj County can be practiced the following forms of tourism: business tourism, cultural tourism, rural tourism, agritourism, balneary tourism, Danube tourism, historical tourism, ecumenical tourism and wine tourism.

Cultural and religious tourism could be promoted both in rural and urban areas. In both cases, cultural and religious tourism could be developed by integrating Dolj County resources into the regional tourist circuit that promotes the typical cultural and ethnographic tradition in the historical region of Oltenia. Rural tourism in general could be developed by capitalizing craft activities and promoting both folklore traditions and local ethnogastronomic products. [6]

In urban environment, cultural tourism can be combined with business tourism, which attracts more and more foreign tourists in Dolj County, especially in Craiova, due to economic conditions favorable to foreign investments. [6]

The natural resources of Dolj County include protected areas and natural habitats that, under the conditions of creating suitable environmental management structures, could sit at the base of the development of ecological niche tourism.

An area with tourist potential for Dolj County is the Danube meadow where it is possible to set up tourist ports and pontoons with moorings for vapors and promenades, as well as the introduction of the tourist program of the Danube cruises.

2. Material and method

Dolj County has a variety of natural and built heritage resources that could be used for tourism sector's development.

Dolj County is located in the southwestern part of Romania, being surrounded by the counties: Olt (east), Vâlcea, Gorj (north), Mehedinți (west) and the southern border of the Danube River with Bulgaria. It has an area of 7414 km² (3.1% of the country's territory) and a population of 750000 inhabitants. The main cities in the county are: Craiova, the county seat, Băilești, Calafat, Filiași and Segarcea. [7, 8]

The relief of the Dolj County is represented predominantly by plains, belonging to Romanian Plain and is known as the Plain of Oltenia. In the north of the county there are extensions of the Getic Plateau, and in the extreme south the Danube Delta.

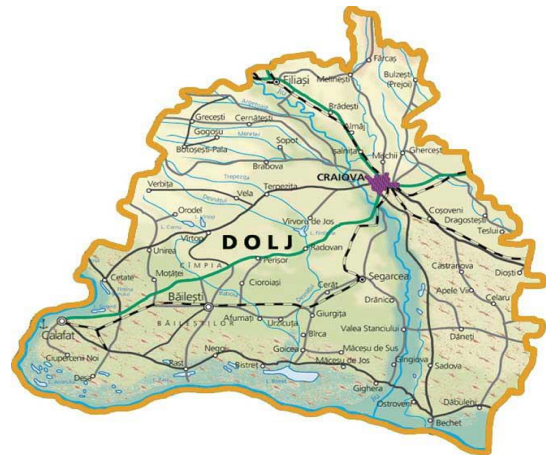


Figure 1. Map of Dolj County

Source: <https://dobdell.wordpress.com/2013/01/30/valorificarea-potentialului-turistic-al-judetului-dolj>

Regarding for the climate, it is moderate continental temperate, with warm summers and mild winters. Hydrography is tributary to the Danube, its most important tributary being the Jiu with its tributaries, and the natural lakes are, Bistreț, Călugăreni, Rast, Maglavit and anthropic lakes, Vârtope, Cornu, Caraula, Fântânele. [9]

The Dolj County infrastructure comprises an International Airport in Craiova, two Danube ports: Calafat and Bechet, border crossing points with Bulgaria. The transport network comprises 221 km of railway, 424 km of national roads and 1691 km of county and communal roads.

The presentation of the series of tourist attractions from Dolj County started with those from Craiova and its surroundings. The city was built on the ruins of the Dacian fortress and later on the Roman Pelendava castro. Named later Ponsion, from the 7th century and Craiova in the 1400s when, at the initiative of the Craiovești landowners, the Great Bănia of Craiova was founded. [10]

3. Results and discussions

In Dolj County there are many places of story, some of them still undiscovered. Some are better known, others are hardly known, but there are certainly many attractive places and tourist attractions to visit. In the paper we presented places worth visiting and bringing visitors closer to history. [11]

First of all, Dolj County can be visited both during the summer and in the cold season. Here are favorable weather conditions to visit nature reserves and natural monuments. [11, 12]

Many tourist attractions can be visited in Craiova, some of them with a special historical meaning, such as: The Bănia House, 3 fountains built in the Middle Ages, Jean Mihail Palace, Elena Farago memorial house, museums, etc. [13]



Figure 2. The Bănia House

Sources: www.monumenteoltenia.ro/casa-baniei-craiova

The Bania House is the oldest building from Craiova. It was built at the end of the 15th century by the Craiovești landowners, and in 1699 it was rebuilt by the prince Constantin Brâncoveanu. During 1718-1739 it became the headquarters of the Austrian administration when it was fortified for defense. Since 1850, the building located on Matei Basarab Street has become the headquarters for various institutions of the city: the Craiova Court, the Loal Seminary, the State Archives and the Buzești Brothers High School, and at present it is an ethnographic museum, whose exhibits include geometric shapes and motifs with whom Constantin Brancusi astonished the whole world.[13]



Figure 3. The Palace of the City Hall of Craiova

Source: <https://www.taradacilor.ro>

Bank of Commerce Palace, a monumental building that houses the Craiova City Hall, is one of the most famous buildings from the city. The Bank of Commerce was designed by architect Ion Mincu in 1906 and completed in 1916 by his student, Constantin Iotzu. The building has a rich interior decorated with stuccoes, vases, Venetian mosaics and wrought iron grilles. [14]

The Art Museum from Craiova was built in 1896 following the plans of a French architect and inaugurated in 1909 by Nicholas and Jean, the sons of Constantin Mihail. Considered the most expensive palace from Oltenia, the building belonged to the richest man from the interwar Romanian period, Jean Mihail. It is located in the city center, and since August 1954, the Jean Mihail Palace houses the Craiova Art Museum. In the two rooms are exhibited works of the great sculptor Constantin Brancusi: "The kiss", made in stone in 1907, "Vitellius" is the oldest sculpture of the sculptor, made in 1898 from plaster, "Tores of woman" is a work of marble that dates back to 1909, the "The pride" made in 1905, "Head of boy" made in 1906, "Miss Pogany", "The Chair" and "Ecorseul" made in gypsum in 1902. Art Museum of Craiova was rehabilitated, and for finishing was used gold leaf, silk of Lyon, oak parquet, as it was originally used to build the building. [13,15]



Figure 4. Jean Mihail Palace (The Art Museum from Craiova)

<https://www.muzeuldeartacraiova.ro>



Figure 5. Botanical Garden from Craiova

Source: <https://www.gds.ro/Local/2016-09-20/gradina-botanica,-deschisa-doar-pentru-plimbare-si-alergare>

Botanical Garden from Craiova is located in the southwestern part of the city and covers an area of approximately 13 hectares. It was founded in 1952 under the leadership of Professor Al. Buia, a botanical professor and then the Rector of the Agronomic Institute of Craiova. It was established on the territory of the city park November 7. It has living biological material for fundamental and applied research. [16, 17]

"Nicolae Romanescu" Park is spread over an area of 90 hectares, being the largest park from Eastern Europe and the third largest from Europe. It was designed in the early 1900s by a French architect who won with this project the gold medal at the Universal Exhibition from Paris. [18]



Figure 6. "Nicolae Romanescu" Park

Source: <https://locuridinromania.ro/judetul-dolj>

Even from the entrance in the park, it can be seen the greatness and diversity of the trees, which were planted more than 100 years ago, and the castle and the suspended bridge attract attention. In the park there is one of the oldest zoological gardens from Romania. [13, 18]

Other historical, architectural and art monuments from Craiova are: **The Craiova Library**, founded by Alexandru and Aristia Aman, together with the other 400 existing libraries in the territory, enliven the spiritual life of Dolj County; the **Oltenia State Philharmonic**, founded in 1850, and the **Opera and Operetta Theater**, founded in 1861, which ensures, through repertoire and interpretation, the satisfaction of musical requirements of those who love music; **The puppet theater**, founded in 1949, despite the limited space in which it operates, it won its national and international notoriety, the **National Theater from Craiova**, established in 1850, which has always had a share of the highest class artistic expression, the **Glogoveanu House**, built on a rectangular level with specific traditional elements and a sober architecture belonging to the Glogoveni landowners. In this house also lived Tudor Vladimirescu, who became the businessman of the Glogoveanu landowner, the **House of Jianu**, built at the end of the 18th century by the Jianu family, **The fountain** built by Matei Basarab, restoring it, from where it wears and the name of **Basarabestilor Fountain, Cula Poenaru**, built in the village of Almaj.[18]

The religious buildings from Craiova date back to medieval times and amazed by the combination of architectural styles and interior paintings. These include the Coșuna Monastery, the Madona Dudu Church or the Mântuleasa Church.

Other interesting places can be admired in Dolj County, such as: Ciupercenii Noi Ornithological Reservation, Bucovăț Paleontological Reservation, Roman Castro from Rarei de Jos, Amza Pellea Memorial House, Craiova Botanical Garden, etc. [18]



Figure 7. The Forest from Plenita

Source: <http://www.montana-vidin-dolj.com>

The Forest from Plenita is situated on the border with Mehedinți County and is the only area from Romania that houses the wild peony called *Paeonia Peregrina*. There are many legends about this plant, including one that states that there are strong forces that shine in peony during the full moon nights. On the other hand, Plinius, an important erudite of the Roman Empire, mentioned this plant in his encyclopedia, saying he is responsible for curing more than 20 diseases. [19, 20]



Figure 8. Bucovat Paleontological Reservation
Source: greenly.ro/arii-protejate/valea-rea-si-raparsie-olteneasca

Bucovat Paleontological Reservation. In the area of Bucovat commune, first mentioned by the naturalist Sibiu L. Bielz in 1849, there is an impressive collection of shells of mollusks shells from the Paleolithic age. Fossils are spread over an area of 4 hectares. Among the fossils discovered here, 62 species of no vertebrates have been discovered. [19, 21]



Figure 9. Bistret Lake
Source: ecofishdanubius.ro/bistret

Bistret Lake is the largest lake from Dolj County, with an area of nearly 2000 hectares. It is just 5 km away from the Danube and is a refuge lake for

migratory birds. The area is protected by law, and on the lake, it can be seen both birds that remain throughout the year, as well as migratory birds, which retreat there only for the cold season. [19]



Figure 10. The Roman Castro

Source: www.monumenteoltenia.ro/castrul-roman-de-la-racarii-de-jos

The Roman Castro from the locality *Răcarii de Jos* is considered one of the largest castles on the territory of Roman Oltenia. It is currently considered one of the most important archaeological monuments in Dolj County. The fortification has the shape of a rectangle with big side of 170 meter long and a small side of 140 meter, in the corners of which there were surveillance towers. Inside the camp, besides the command building, barracks were built for the soldiers' accommodation, a food store and other establishments. [19, 22]

The ornithological reservation from Ciuperceni-Desa area was declared a protected area in 1971, through several elaborated normative acts. The territory protected by the law spans an area of 200 hectares, and there are over 120 species of birds, some rare. Ornithological Reservation from Ciuperceni Noi stretches over an area of 200 hectares and it is found in the floodplain area of the Danube, and among the bird species that are found in this area are: black stork, the variegated duck, small egret or red stork. The reservation is included in the perimeter of two Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Area Calafat-Ciuperceni Danube and the Desa-Ciuperceni community site of interest), alongside of two other protected areas of national interest (Balta Lata, with an area of 28 hectares, and the protected area Black Balta, with an area of 1.20 ha, located on the administrative territory of Desa commune). [19]



Figure 11. „The memorial house Amza Pellea“
Source: <https://ideipentruvacanta.ro/obiective-turistice-in-craiova-si-impjurimi>

The memorial house Amza Pellea. Amza Pellea, one of the greatest Romanian actors of all time, was born in Bailesti, Dolj County.

In the "Amza Pellea Memorial House" from Bailesti town there are actor's personal objects and family photos. Visitors, fans of the actor, can see in the house an ashtray with his tabby, the baptismal certificate, the last haul, his favorite hat, a vest, a zester mat, and two old watches. [19, 23] Another protected area of the law, the water-nature reserve, is the **Preajba-Făcăi Lake Complex**. It is located near the county seat, Craiova, and covers an area of 28 hectares. The complex includes lakes, marshes, water courses, alluvial forests and sand dunes, but it also includes arable land or meadows. It is protected due to the large variety of flora and fauna specific to wetlands.[19]

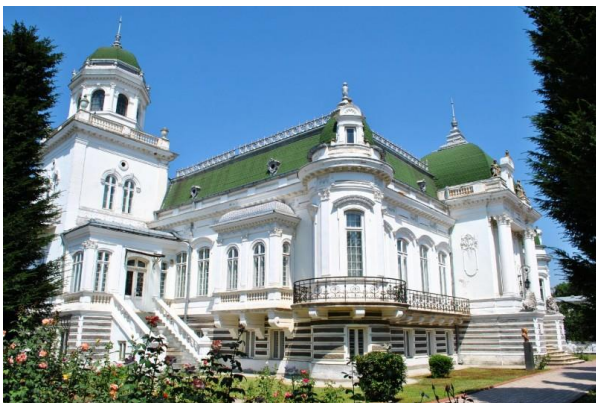


Figure 12. Marincu Palace from Calafat
Source: www.monumenteoltenia.ro

Marincu Palace from Calafat was built in the early 20th century and was made in the neoclassical French style with Baroque and Rococo accents. The fast building was laid by

Stefan Marincu, the former city governor, but also the one who set up the first bank in the locality. Marincu Palace from Calafat was built at the beginning of the 20th century. Marincu Palace was built by Stefan Marincu and his wife in memory of their daughter.[19, 24, 25]



Figure 13. The Wine Cellar of Crown Domain
Source: <https://www.crameromania.ro>

Segarcea is famous for its vineyards, but also for Segarcea Wine Cellar, the royal property of Carol I. Segarcea vineyards benefit from an extremely favorable location for the creation of strong wines, being situated at the 44° parallel in Oltenia, 25 km south of Craiova and 70 km north of the Danube. [26, 27]

The Wine Cellar of Crown Domain is today the attraction point of Segarcea and, next to the Segarcea Monastery, is included in the list of historical monuments of local interest, 10% of the current wine cellar representing the old building. The wine cellar has the shape of a cross and is a gravitational wine cellar with four levels, the path that the grapes pass from the fruit stage to the wine stage, making it gravitationally by falling from one level to another. [28]



Figure 14. Cultural Harbor Cetate
Source: <http://www.imperialtransilvania.com>

Cultural Harbor Cetate is classified as a small paradise on the Danube. It was born from the ruin of the former agricultural port that appeared in 1880. The new destiny started in 1996, the place being transformed into a cultural center. It is the place where the tourist can discover at certain times of the year painting exhibitions or various vernaculars that complement the bohemian landscape of the harbor. [25, 29]



Figure 15. The Sadova Monastery

Source: www.montana-vidin-dolj.com/en/culture-and-religion/?objId=94&city=3

The Sadova Monastery is located in the commune with the same name from Dolj County and is one of the most representative Orthodox monasteries from the county. It was built at the beginning of the 16th century and fortified by Matei Basarab in 1640. In 1693, Constantin Brancoveanu built there a church (which was meant to help the sick peoples). [19, 30]

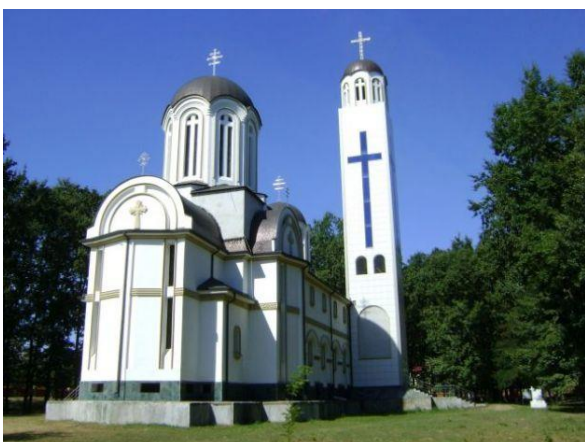


Figure 16. The Maglavit Monastery

Source: <https://locuridinromania.ro/judetul-dolj/comuna-maglavit/manastirea-maglavit.html>

The Maglavit Monastery is a place connected with the name of Petrache Lupu. The construction of the place of worship began in 1936, but it was abolished by the Communists and re-established in 1990. Petrache Lupu is buried at Maglavit Monastery. [18, 31]

In addition, it is possible to visit Ciurumela Forest at Poiana Mare, a forest reserve, with old acacia, appreciated for its wood content and the size of the trees, unique in Europe. The forest reserve is on the right side of the national road Calafat - Bechet - Cernavoda, about 5 km from the Poiana Mare commune. The acacia forest that forms the reserve is over 90 years old and covers an area of 8 hectares. [31]

The Bascov beach is considered to be the symbol of tourism in Dolj or "Oltenia's Seaside". The Danube is the favorite for those who travel about 100 kilometers to swim in the river, this being the cheapest alternative to the Black Sea. [31]

4. Conclusions

Dolj County, with his capital in Craiova, is one of the areas highly appreciated by tourists in the country but also abroad.

Dolj County has a great potential for tourism, which offers the possibility of practicing a wide range of tourism forms.

A visit to Dolj County can turn into the most successful holiday, no matter what the visitor's preferences and exigencies are.

The Oltenian peoples are very nice and welcoming, they have the interest to receive the tourists in the best conditions, and the beauty of the places is amazing due to the beneficial conditions of the climate and the fertile soil. Oltenia hides interesting tourist attractions, unfortunately little known even on local plan.

Re-launching tourism from Romania, of tourist destinations and attracting more foreign tourists could bring additional benefits, but many changes are necessary.

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