

Study Regarding the Types of Banat Tourism

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Abstract

The paper presents the forms of tourism generated by tourism resources from Banat area. The agricultural potential can sustain the practice of rural tourism with resonance in Banat area. Small enterprises focused on tourism activities could facilitate the inclusion of many rural households in the economic circuit, to which would be added some craft activities. Banat is characterized through a remarkable tourist potential, represented by the many natural and cultural objectives. Thus, the Banat Mountains, through the variety and originality of the natural environment, the general morphology, the climatic peculiarities, fauna and flora particularities, which define the specific of tourist natural fund from this area, represent an area with a particularly important potential in the development of some activities in tourism field.

Keywords: forms of tourism, tourism resources, tourist attractions

1. Introducere

Frequently, tourism is considered a tool for supporting local and regional development, of restructuring the economic activities, especially of the ones less developed, but also of rural areas.

At global level, tourism has a particular importance because it contributes with an important share to a country's gross domestic product.[1]

From the point of view of the tourism resources and the types of tourism practiced, the Banat area is characterized by variety and heterogeneity determined primarily by the distribution of the relief forms in the territory, which make it possible to divide the counties of the region into two main categories. The most developed counties from economic point of view, Timis and Arad, have a predominant plain relief, which makes the tourism based on anthropogenic objectives to be predominant. In contrast, the counties less developed from economic point of view, Caras-

Severin and Hunedoara, enjoying a predominantly mountainous relief, have a tourist activity based on natural resources and objectives. [1]

The Banat natural tourism fund is represented by all the physical and geographic elements that by virtue of them are able to attract potential tourists, ensuring the tourist capitalization of this territory. Most of the tourist sites are, currently, constituted by entities somewhat broken by traditional traditions and occupations, by the whole of the local specific, which can only have negative effects both for the present and especially for the future.

2. The variety of tourism types

The various types of tourism are classified: [2, 3]

Urban tourism: the city as a starting point or with its own attractions, having in some cases an urban center for visitors' information;

Ecological tourism, ecotourism: tourism that highlight the environmental protection and education in this spirit; [4]

Thematic tourism: exploiting a certain niche, from natural attractions to local specificity;

Adventure tourism: the tourist is very involved

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in physical activities especially: cycling, canoeing, escalations, etc.;

Rural tourism: getting in touch with the rural community; [5, 6]

Tourism at farms and plantations: accommodation at farm and plantations and participation in specific activities

River tourism: cruises on rivers, artificial canals

Cruise tourism and with yacht: made on the great lakes, oceans and seas, some having own themes

Road tourism often made with own car;

Residential tourism: is made in homes from less frequented areas. It can grow if it connected with a specific event from the region;

Rail tourism, especially when trains are involved and routes with tradition: Orient-Expres, Trans-Siberian, etc.

Camping and caravan tourism require camping sites or specially designed motorized vehicles with accommodation facilities. [7, 8, 9]

3. Geographic delimitation, administrative-territorial organization

The name Banat was used for the first time in the modern acceptance, by the Italian scientist Luigi Ferdinando de Marsigli, during the 1688-1699 period. The form in which he wrote it was that of the Banat of Timisoara, from where, by construction, it reached to the present form of Banat. [1]

Banat's historical province is situated in the south-west of Romania and is a vast amphitheater oriented through west that encompasses various landscapes within its limits, where a special note is the entropic activity. The Banat is situated in the southwestern part of Europe, in the middle of the Danube basin, being framed by the coordinates of 44° 26'40" and 46° 12'18" north latitude and 20° 5'44" and 22° 44' east longitude. Located between the Southern Carpathians, the Danube River and the Tisza and Mureş rivers, the Banat province has as main cities Timisoara, Arad, Resita and Lugoj. The relief consists of a mountainous area to the east and south (a part of Poiana Rusca, Tarcu, Godeanu, Mehedinti Mountains and Almaj and Semenic Mountains), covered by thick forests and pastures, a hilly area in the center (the western part of the Western Piedmont) and a low plain area in the west (south-eastern area of the Tisa Plain).

The Banat area is 28526 km², from which 18966 km² belong to Romania, and about 1/3 to Yugoslavia (9276 km²), while in corner in the north-west part, at the confluence of Mures with Tisa belongs to Hungary (284 km²).

The Romanian Banat area (Figure 1) comprises the Timis County as a whole, the county of Caras-Severin, except Bucova, Cornisorul, Boutarii de Sus and Botosani; Arad County from the left of Mures, the western part of Mehedinti County (from Varciorova). [1]

The historical territory of Banat is spread over the territory of three countries: Romania, Serbia and Hungary.

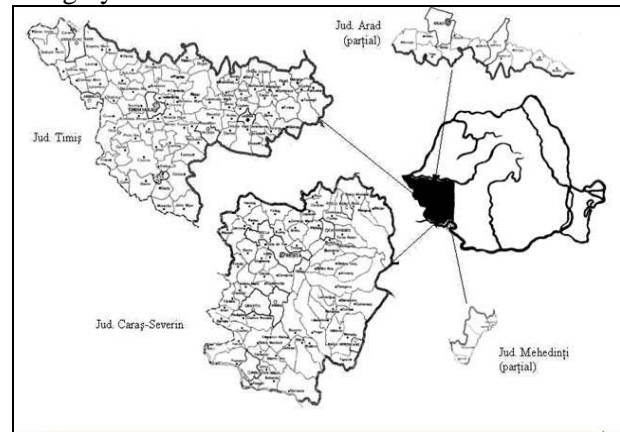


Figure 1. Romanian Banat [12]

4. Types of Banat tourism

The rich range of tourism resources in Banat can generate a multitude of forms of tourism: [10]

1. Traveling tourism. It is possible to be realized on the main roads a transit tourism through the Mures corridor, the Timis-Cerna corridor, the Danube Gorge, through the Transylvanian Iron Gate, on the Crisul Alb Valley, through Banat Mountains, or through an itinerant tourism for visiting tourist objectives'. Within the Banat Mountains, the Poiana Rusca Mountains, the Zarand Mountains and the Metaliferi Mountains, have been formed tourist circles with themes, depending on the categories of attractive tourist resources.

2. Thermal and spa tourism. It is a point of interest through the springs of mineral and thermal waters, whose curative qualities are valorized through a satisfactory network of spa resorts. Among them, Baile Herculane ranks on the first place, as a resort with international recognition, following the resorts of regional interest - Moneasa, Lipova,

Buzias and resorts of local interest, such as Calacea. [10]

3. Rest and recreation tourism. It is practiced in all tourist resorts, in localities with recreational facilities, on the banks of the water, at the edge or in the forests, on weekends or on holidays, vacations.

The Surduc reservoir, located on the administrative territory of the Fardea commune, extends between Fardea, Mitnicul Mic, Gladna and Surducul Mic. The construction of the dam began in 1972, and the accumulation reached nearly 25 million cubic meters in 1977 and an area of 362 hectares. The second construction stage began in 1988 and is designed to accumulate 51 million cubic meters on an area of 538 hectares. The main purpose of the reservoir lake is to provide drinking water to the Timisoara area, through Bega Canal, flood defense and, of course, for fishing and hunting tourism purpose.

The lake is mostly surrounded by deciduous forests and meadows and has numerous holiday houses (over 270) on the banks. In the area, the fauna is particularly rich, making the hunting attraction to be particularly great. The animals most commonly encountered are poppy, rabbit, ferret, pheasant, wolf, fox, boar, deer or even bear. Besides the lake, or in the neighboring villages, the owners of holiday homes or houses from the village, offer accommodation and food to tourists eager to benefit from these facilities. [1, 10]

4. Business tourism. The area of the three counties represents a good land for businessmen, for foreign investors, both through the existing economic traditions and by the possibilities to exploit the tourist potential of the disadvantaged areas. Moldova Noua-Pescari, Anina, Sasca Montana, Rusca Montana-Ruschita, Ocna de Fier-Dognecea, Mehadia, Secu, Doman or mono-industrial areas proposed to receive the status of a disadvantaged area: Nadrag, Tomesti, Margina or assisted areas: Jimbolia.

5. Cultural-historical tourism. It is developed due to a rich network of historical and archaeological sites, historical and architectural monuments and museums, facilitates the practice of cultural tourism but also of the urban and weekend one. Historical landmarks include: the medieval fortresses of Arad, Timisoara and Resita; the numerous medieval castles, from which the Huniazi Castle - Timisoara, castles from Macea, Curtici, Sofronea, Manastur, Siria, Pancota, Conop, Savirsin, Birchis, Mintia, Santamaria

Orlea, Banloc, Ciocova; monasteries and churches of stone and/or wood with an impressive age, attesting even the very beginning of Christianity in Romania. [10, 11]

6. Mountain tourism is practiced by mountain hiking, favored by the mountains: Zarand, Codru Moma, Banat, Poiana Ruscai, Tarcu, or Depressions: Almaj, Brebu Nou-Garana.

7. Speotourism. The existence of many caves in the area, with some of the most peculiar formations or some of them crossed by underground courses attracts a significant number of tourists.

8. Sports tourism. The mountain frame is especially favorable for practicing winter sports. The mountain resorts Semenice and Muntele Mic are distinguished by a relatively developed accommodation base (more quantitative than qualitative), as well, important points of attraction for winter sports from Parang Mountains, Valcan, Retezat. [1, 10]

From the experience of developing the activities of, sporting and adventure tourism listed above has resulted the need to create an organization of local relevance. Following the initiative of the six communes Slatina Timis, Armenis and Teregoava and the city of Caransebes, which together covers the territory of the area Tarcu-Muntele Mic Mountain, was born at the end of 2000, the Tourist Promotion Association of Tarcu-Muntele Mic-PROMOTOUR.

9. Hunting tourism and sport fishing tourism. The region is known for its excellent hunting possibilities. Although the wealth of quality fish in the Danube is notorious, the commercial offer of fish preparations is almost non-existent and what exist does not correspond to quality demands. This objection goes beyond the field of sport fishing, instilling rather the field of food. However, it is worth mentioning trout offers from the few trout's from the region, which often buy raw materials from other places because their own production is deficient. [10]

10. Tourism for young peoples, capitalized through:

- Nadrag Camp: Located in the Poiana Rusca Mountains at an altitude of 350 m, with an area of 0.4 ha, the camp has 120 seats, the accommodation being made in two villas with 24 rooms each. The camp has a place for food, showers, football and handball ground, chess tables and table tennis;

- Poieni Village Camp: It is located in Poiana Ruscă Mountains at an altitude of 312 m, near Pietroasa and has an area of 2 ha. The camp has 250 accommodation places in villas of 27 rooms. The camp has all the facilities but needs capital repairs, and is currently decommissioned;

- Poieni Strambu Camp: it is located in the vicinity of the Poieni Sat Camp, in the area of Pietroasa commune, at an altitude of 382 m. It has 140 accommodation places in two villas and a cottage. The camp has additional facilities such as: kitchen block, protocol room, showers, thermal station, sports ground, disco. [10]

11. Other types of tourism that can be practiced in this area, some of which are alternatives for the revival and development of disadvantaged areas: Religious, ecumenical tourism, Cruise tourism: in the Danube Delta and throughout the middle Danube basin, The Bega Canal; Urban tourism: There are 36 cities in this region, preserving a valuable architectural heritage, museums in various fields: history, archeology, art, natural sciences, mineralogy, ethnography, technical, some and outdoors; Intercultural tourism in the D.C.M.T. (Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa) Euroregion; Local gourmet tourism; Classical tourism organized in hotels, motels, cottages and camping: the area's accommodation network is particularly diverse, including hotels in the area's cities, such as Padesul Hotel in Faget. Also in Tomesti is Liman Valley Motel with 53 seats in motel and 60 seats in camping. Near the town of Nadrag locality there is Capriorul Cottage with 44 accommodation places in the cottage and 20 in small houses [10].

5. Conclusions

Tourism in the Banat area is represented by a diversified natural potential, from the peaks of the mountains to the plain, through the variety of fauna and flora, as well as by the climate elements and a representative hydrographic network, all

constitute tourist attractions of great attractiveness.

Tourism represents a vast field, often with complex problems. It is of great importance, because it can generate new jobs, attract investments and investors, and implicitly can lead to higher income and higher living standards for the population.

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