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RURAL TOURISTIC POTENTIAL OF SOUTH CRISANA

POTENŢIALUL TURISTIC RURAL AL SUDULUI CRIŞANEI

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Abstract: *In this paper we will present an analysis on the potential of rural tourism in the south region Crisana.From an administrative stand point, the South part of the Crisana region is bordered by Bihor in the north, the Alba, county in the East, the Timis county and the county of Hunedoara in the south and the border with Hungary in the West.The varied relief, which decreases from east to west, the existence of a continental temperate climate with many areas of shelter (Halmagiu depressions, Baita, Almas-Gurahont, Moneasa, Mures river lane), important surfaces of forested areas, about 25-30 % of the surface of this area, the existence of mieral water sources, a rich hydrographic network, dominated by the two arteries Crisul Alb and Mures and also a karst landscape, provides sufficient conditions for practicing a quality rural tourism.*

Key words: *Crisana, touristic potential, rural tourism*

INTRODUCTION

From an administrative stand point, the South part of the Crisana region is bordered by Bihor in the north, the Alba, county in the East, the Timis county and the county of Hunedoara in the south and the border with Hungary in the West.

The gateway from Western Europe to the South-East Europe, south Crisana, fig.nr.1, has four points of crossing the border with Hungary: Nadlac, Varsand, Turnu and Curtici, and lies from the heart of the Apuseni Mountains, altitude 1486 m, Peak Gaina, from east until the wide and flat plain formed by the Mures river and the Crisul Alb river, altitude 90 m, to the west[1].

The southern area of the Crisana region is at the junction of major national and international traffic arteries and is crossed from North to South

by the national road DN 79, which is part of the European route E671, with links out of Romania at Bors and Varsand, from East to West, the national road DN7, which is part of European route E68, bordering Hungary to Nadlac and from North to South East, the national road DN 76, which connects Oradea to Deva, part of the European road E79, fig.1.

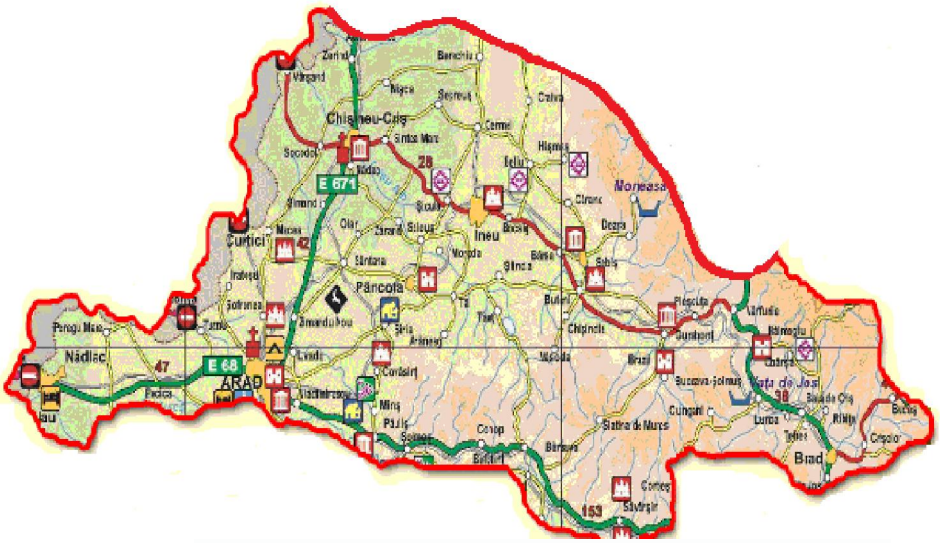


Fig. 1. Physico-geographical map of the southern part of Crişana
Source: processed by www.celendo.ro/harti-romania.

The varied relief, which decreases from east to west, the existence of a continental temperate climate with many areas of shelter (Halmagiu depressions, Baita, Almas-Gurahont, Moneasa, Mures river lane), important surfaces of forested areas, about 25-30 % of the surface of this area, the existence of mieral water sources, a rich hydrographic network, dominated by the two arteries Crisul Alb and Mures and also a karst landscape, provides sufficient conditions for practicing a quality rural tourism.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To analyze the rural touristic potential areas for the south Crisana region, we used the bibliographic study, study in Crisana region, meetings and discussions with local authorities and with the locals in age as well as

analysis among entrepreneurs in the area

RESULTS AND DISCUTIONS

The special areas in south of Crisana region : Mountains of Zarand, Codru Moma, Bihor, Metaliferi, Crisul Alb Pass between localities Varfurile and Aciuta, Depression Baita, Brad, Sebiş, Gurahont, Halmagiu, Lipovei Hills, Mures river plain, Cris, Mures Meadow.

Hydrography: the main water courses are Mures and Crisul Alb. Mures, the second longest river as length and hydrographyc surface in Romania, after the Danube, crosses the Arad County on a surface of 220 km and on a surface of 105 km the Hunedoara County[4]. The deep waters are of several types: thermal, semitermale bicarbonate, carbonated, ferruginous, sulfate chlorine, being used for healing, and lakes allow the development of leisure activities: Taut, Ghioroc.

Climate: Continental - moderate, with slight Mediterranean influences. Winters are very cold, summers are hot, with a climate regime depending on the altitude relief. Average annual temperatures are about 110C on the plains and 60C on the mountain peaks[4].

The main forms of rural tourism with great potential in southern Crisana

Further, according to natural and human tourism resources, we provide an overview of rural tourism potential of Southern Crisana, the forms that we consider having a special potential.

a. **Cultural-historical tourism potential**

Given the troubled history and rural life style found in many villages of Arad and Hunedoara, archaic style combined with the modern one, we believe that they have aroused the interest of many tourists and will continue to be a motivation in choosing these regions for spending holidays.

Next we present the main tourist attractions[7,11]: medieval fortresses: Siria, Soimos, Dezna - XIII century, Ineu - XVII century, Monument of heroes from Paulis, Turkish bazaar of Lipova - 1672, historical monument dedicated to the revolutionaries of 1848 in the village Valisoara, the bust of Crisan from Ribita, Rock of Horea, one of the attractive places of the village of Certeju de Sus, which marks the place

where miners from Certej, Hondol and Sacaramb were mobilized to join the peasant revolt of 1784.

Rural museums are: Museum of religious art and religious objects - Gai monastery, Museum of Lipova, containing documents since during the Ottoman occupation and an ethnographic section, Museum Ioan Slavici and Emil Montia from Siria, Museum Adam Muler Guttenbrun from Zabrani, art and ethnography Savârsin Museum which showcases artifacts, some documents about the personalities of the area, tools used by the peasants of the Mures Valley both field work and in the household; Wine Museum in Minis, Macea (cartoon Exhibition - "Stefan Popa Popa's" - Castle Csernovics) Casoaia sculpture camp, Eugen Popa-Savarsin memorial House.

In this part of the region Crisana, in rural areas, there are many **castles and manor houses** that recall the history of this area.

The most representative is the Savârsin Royal Castle[5,8]. This is a castle owned by the Romanian royal family and located on the Savârsin field. On the actual building site there was the castle of the noble family Forray, in the 18th century. Rebuilt in the early nineteenth century in neoclassical style and fitted with a floor and a beautiful balcony, the castle building underwent many changes over decades inside and outside. The castle is surrounded by a park with lake and a marina.

The arboretum surrounding the castle was founded by Andras Forray, in 1514, who was the land lord and had possessions in the Savârsin area. This park has an area of 6.5 hectares and contains several rare species of trees and shrubs, natural monuments: silver fir, spruce, hazel Turkish secular trees and more.

Mocioni-Teleki Castle in the village Capâlnas

Castle Konopi, Odvos

Castle of Macea Chernov.

Castle Purgly, Sofronea.

Other castles: Castle Nopcsa of Zam, Castle Misici of Lipova, Bohus Castle in Siria, Castle Dietrich-Sukowsky of Pâncota, Castle Kövér-Appel of Fantanele, Castle Salbek of Petris, Castle Solymosy in Mocrea[8].

b. **Rural religious tourism potential**

There is the view that the leisure, holidays or vacations in the countryside and visits to places of worship which is practiced the so-called religious rural tourism.

Our opinion is that according to the considerations for which the visits to the places or worship are made we can distinguish the cultural rural tourism when it aims to see the architecture or painting of these places, or the religious rural tourism when pilgrimages are made when there are religious holidays or when visiting those targets for prayer at certain miracle icons or other symbols that have entered the minds of believers as beneficial to human health.

The diversity of the ethnic communities that live along the Romanian community like Hungarians, Germans, Serbs, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Jews, Gypsies is reflected in the diversity of the religious forms: Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Reformed, Evangelical-Lutheran, evangelical, Greek Catholic, Mosaic.

Most common **places of worship** with historical value are[3]: Orthodox monastery Hodos Bodrog, Felnac village, one of the oldest monasteries in Romania, was recognized in 1177, dedicated to "Virgin's entrance into the Church" Serbian Orthodox monastery Bezdin, in the village Munari, Secusigiu village, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Radna (1756), built on the site of a former church whose cornerstone was laid in 1520 and destroyed by the Turks on the 1551, dedicated to "St. Mary's. Near the cathedral there is the Franciscan Monastery(1747); Lipova Orthodox Church, the religious painting dated in the fifteenth century, rebuilt in Baroque style in the eighteenth century, Monastery and Hermitage Feredeu, Siria, with the healing source from which it derives its name "Saint George", the Catholic Church in Vinga built in 1892 , in Gothic style, built by the Bulgarian community in Vinga, Hermitage Rosia, Dieci village, dedicated to "St. Archangels Michael and Gabriel" Crisan Monastery in the Crisan village, dedicated to "Birth of the Virgin"; Hermitage Criscior , in the Criscior village named "The Saint Trinity", wooden Churches from sec. XVIII-XIX: Obarsia, Corbesti, Rosia, Petris, Poiana[6].

Within the county of Hunedoara there are many churches such as: Wooden Church "Saint Nicholas" in Salistioara village, built in 1830, Wooden Church "Buna Vestire" in the village Dealu Mare, built in 1868,

wooden church "St. John Gura de Aur" in the Bulzestii de Sus village, built in 1853, wooden Church "Buna Vestire" in the village Tomnatec built in the eighteenth century, wooden church "Inaltarea Domnului" in the Salatruc village, built in 1830, wooden church "Buna Vestire" in the Grosuri village, built in 1855, Church "Saint Nicholas" Ribita village, built in 1417, Church "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" in the Crisan village, built between 1844 to 1852, wooden Church "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" in the Dumbrava de Jos village, a nineteenth-century building, wooden church "Nasterea Domnului" in the Dumbrava de Sus village, built in 1844, wooden church "Sfanta Cuvioasa Parascheva" Ribicioara village, built in 1763, church "Saint Nicholas" Uibaresti village, a nineteenth-century building, wooden church "Buna Vestire" in the village Hartagani, an eighteenth-century building, wooden church "St. Nicholas" in the village of Cave; Orthodox Church "Buna Vestire" in the Baita village, Orthodox Church "Buna Vestire" in the village Trestia, Roman-Catholic church in Baita, Monastery "Acoperemântul Maicii Domnului" from Baita, Ormindea Orthodox Church, Church "Saint Nicholas" in the village of Barsau, a sixteenth-century building, church "St. Demetrius" in the Harau village, built in the eighteenth century, church "Cuvioasa Parascheva" in the Chimindia village, built in the sixteenth century.

c. **Ethnographic and folklore potential**

These lands in southern Crisana offers a wide range of folklore attractions to potential tourists , from traditional crafts to traditional holidays, from local customs to cultural events already in tradition, as: traditional crafts: pottery - Tarnavita, Barsa; fabrics : Sicula, Almas, Blajeni, straw wattle: Ineu, Fantanele, Beliu; painting: Brusturi, Halmagiu; furriers - Pâncota, Ineu, Lipova Savârsin[2]; Curiosities: water mills - Radesti, Valea Mare, Iacobini, Temesesti, Cociuba, Rosia, Varfurile, Blajeni, Ribita, Vorta. Another series of water mills were discovered by authorities: Brazii, Secas, Iacobini, Troas; traditional holidays - Fair of Mount Gaina Girls, Fair of Codrenilor-Vasoaia; rural tradition (nedei) - Tăcăşele, Şortoc, Dieci, Nedeia Ţării Hălmagiului, Ribiţa, Vălişoara, Boz, Burjuc; spring traditions – voice over villages - this tradition symbolizes the concern for the general rules for living together - Chisindia, Taut, Hasmas[2]; summer customs:

Praznicul de pita noua - Pecica, Beliu[2]; Autumn customs - Grapes harvesting - Siria; Grapes ball – Pancota[9]; Winter customs: Singing Christmas carols; Dubasii din Savarsin; Cultural events included in the touristic tour: (Ardelean 1979) "The singing and dancing Festival in the Zarand Country" in Moneasa; The Folk Festival "La izvor de cant si dor"; The Fanfares Parade; The International Fanfare Music Festival in Buteni; Local gastronomy: specialities made from cow, sheep or buffalo milk; meat specialities: several types of sausages (maios, caltabos), ham, pies with cabbage, potatoes or cheese piers, sweet pies with walnuts or poppies; Pancakes Festival in Moneasa[10], Catlanelor Festival; Tasting wines made in Minis-Maderat vineyard, in the Paulis and Minis cellars; Traditional methods to make the brandy with fruits[10].

The main destinations recommended

Below are some tours or destinations that might be included in programs of rural tourism[9,12]: Mures Valley, Valley of the Crisul Alb river, mountain area Codru Moma: Meadow of the Mures river, Zarand Mountains: lowland Gurahont - Halmagiu, the area south of the river Mures, route Deva-Brad-Baia de Cris-Vata de Jos-Halmagiu, Arad Vineyard, thermal swimming pools at Sofronea, Curtici, Macea, Dorobanti.

CONCLUSIONS

Crisana region is a historical region delimited at north by the river Somes and Maramures region, at west by the river Tisa, at south by the Mures river and Banat region, and at east by the peaks of the Apuseni Mountains and Transylvania region. Crisana Region stretches on both Romania and Hungary, and we refered only to the Romanian side of it. Crisana region has an area of 17,717 km2 and if we refer to the current counties, this region includes much of Arad county, without the area between the river Mures and Timis county, north of Hunedoara county Bihor county and part of western Salaj county.

Crisana region has great rural tourism potential areas, but insufficiently explored.

Local authorities and entrepreneurs should find ways of development projects that conquer worth all this potential

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