

## EVALUATION OF NATURAL AND ANTHROPIC TOURISM POTENTIAL IN BISTRITA-NASAUD COUNTY, ROMÂNIA

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### Abstract

The study aimed to analyze the complex relations between the anthropic factor and natural potential of Bistrita-Nasaud County, with relevance for the turistic phenomenon. Therefore, we proceed to an inventory of potential, based on visits and bibliographic source of information. Also, the study tries a description of administrative units, based on their potential, natural and anthropic, and also to identify typologies of villages, based on their turistic potential. The analyze relives that the county has an abundance of natural and anthropic resources, such as: national parks, protected areas, spectacular lakes, unique caves in Europe, thermal water, traditions preserved thousands years, special culinary dishes. Therefore, a plenty of tourism activities are suitable in this region, including also special tourism such as hunting, equestrian, cultural tourism, rural tourism and agrotourism.

**Key words:** potential, anthropic, natural, tourism

### INTRODUCTION

Starting from the fact that "tourist attraction is the fundamental reason of the public reception by a destination for fun, curiosity or education", a region or territory shows interest as long as it has attraction elements whose planning can determined a tourism activity. [1]

The most important and frequently used classification in the field split the tourist attractions, by their contain, in two main categories: natural tourist attraction and anthropic attractions (man made). [2, 10]

Based on this classification, we will identify and describe the attractions of natural and anthropic within Bistrita-Nasaud County. Also, depending of identified potential, we will determine the types of tourist villages from the county.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodological approach includes the identification of the tourism capital from the Bistrita-Nasaud County in general and in particular, from rural settlements.

The research methods used are the inventory

type analysis of the natural and anthropic potential. The analysis of the tourism potential of Bistrita-Nasaud's County and rural area is based on data and information obtained by bibliographic documentation and potential scoring in admistrative units function on natural and anthropic resources and infrastructe.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Bistrita-Nasaud County develops its relief as a vast amphitheater, indestructible linked to the Carpathian arc, like a kaleidoscope of wonderful natural landscapes [3].



Photo 1. Bistrita-Nasaud county

The county consists of a varied landscape, bordered by a several mountain peaks (Tibles, Rodna, Suhard and Calimani), whose extensions summarize 1/3 of its lands, remaining 2/3 that belong to hilly relief. [4]

The County is drained by a system of rivers which is focused on the main river – Somesul Mare, the total length of the rivers network totalizing about 3030 km.

From the climatic poin of view, Bistrita-Nasaud County falls in the categorie moderate continental [5]

Most of the natural touristic resources are located in the Mountain area.

In Bistrita-Nasaud County we can identify the following categories of natural tourism resources:

- national parks: Rodna and Calimani
- protected areas; within those areas are scientific nature reserves
- spectacular natural lakes
- karst caves
- monuments of nature.

We will describe below some of the most beautiful natural attractions offered by Bistrita – Nasaud County.

*(1)The National Park – Rodnei Mountains.* Rodnei Mountains National Park has been designated natural reserverision in 1990 and is one of the most valuable reserves because such geological structures, but also of interest to fauna, flora and caving in the area. It features including several endemic species of plants. [6]

“Rodnei Mountains” National Park is internationally appointed by UNESCO Committee as a Biosphere Reserve, within the "Man and Biosphere” program. [7]

*(2)Lala Mare” Lake.*

Lala Mare Lake is located in the absolutely superb area of Rodnei Mountains and is part of the Mixed Reserve "Ineu-Lala". It is the largest glacial lake from Romania and is located at 1,815 m altitude.

It is an ideal tourist destination for summer coolness, blending the spectacular view with the fishig. Also here you can admire the mountain peonies.

*(3),„Izvorul Tausoarelor” cave*

The cave was discovered in 1955 and is the longest cave in Romania and uneven. Due to

the difficulty degree, this cave is destined only for cave explorers.

Due to the fact the county is located in a area with mainly a hilly-mountain relief, the vegetation is in stairs, very mixed, depending by alltitude, soil, temperature, etc. We can find here almost all floristic range until the allpine range.

From the point of view of vegetation treasures, the Bistrita-Nasaud County is the one of the most interesting and pretious part of Romania.

The chandelier spruce, populare named „The king of the firs”, was the border guard between Transilvania and Moldavia.

We will continue our introspection in Bistrita-Nasaud County and we will present in the following paragraphs the main „man made” attractions within the County.

Throughout its history Bistrita-Năsăud enjoyed the presence of different cultures, so that the charm of this area is given by the cultural footprint of each nation that pops in this region from the hungarians, saxons, szeklers to Armenian or Hebrew.

The anthropic tourism potential is a major category for Bistrita and gradually gaining in the touristic area of interrest, as well as the modern man inclination for knowing himself through the most significant achievements of communities at various stages of their history.

In the county of Bistrita-Nasaud can find a multitude of anthropic attraction, from the vestiges of Roman constructions - Roman camp from Orheiul Bistrita until the medieval artifacts – ruins of Ciceului and Rodnei citadels, Evangelical Churches from Herina and Dumitra and places of pilgrimage for believers - Piatra Fantanele, Parva or Nuseni Monasteries. But those who gain most tourists are from far are the resorts and here, we are mention the Sangeorz - Bai resort but also to the artificial lake from Colibita, around which was developed the resort. Besides those are other significant anthropic tourist attractions such as Baile Figa, Piatra Fantanele, Blaznei Valley or Vinului Valley.[8]

About the air is said that is the most ozonate from Europe.

A valuble heritage who is not exploited is the grandious mansions of nobility. In present,

most of them are deteriorated. Only in Uriu village are three mansions.

Another important aspect which we will analyze forward is the scoring from the point of view of tourism potential granted to the each administrative unit from the county. This points are calculated taking into consideration the existence of naturale and anthropic turistic objectives, as well as the existence of infrastructe. Next will be presented and analyzed in detail (Table 1) the scores giving to the administrative unit from the county, according to the tourism potential.

As shown in Table 1 the data resulting from scoring application in tourism following the criteria set for the financing of a project submitted under Measure 313, conducted by RDP, Annex 10, the maximum score achieved by the villges in Bistrita-Nasaud County, was 8 out of 10 .

The 8 points were obtained by only 2 villages, in 4 were recorded 7 points, 10 villages received 6 points. We can concluded that 27.59 % from the villages are in the first grid of scoring, with points between 8 and 6.

Table 1. The list of Bistrita-Nasaud villages with points awarded based on the tourism potential

No.	Village	Score	Total	
			Number	%
1	Lechinta, Rodna	8	2	3.45
2	Maieru, Prundu Bargaului, Sant, Tarlisua	7	4	6.90
3	Budacu de Jos, Caianu Mic, Lesu, Nuseni, Rebrisoara, Sieu, Silvasu de Campie, Telciu, Urmenis, Zagra	6	10	17.24
4	Cetate, Cosbuc, Dumitra, Ilva Mare, Nimigea, Salva, Sieu-Magherus, Sintereag	5	9	15.52
5	Branistea, Chiochis, Ciceu-Mihaesti, Galatii Bistritei, Lunca Ilvei, Matei, Milas, Monor, Parva, Romuli, Runcu Salviei, Sănmihaiu de Câmpie, Sieu-Odorhei, Spermezeu, Teaca, Tiha Bargaului, Uriu	4	17	29.31
6	Dumitrita, Feldru, Ilva Mica, Joseonii Bărgaului, Magura Ilvei, Mariselu, Petru Rares, Rebra	3	8	13.79
7	Budesi, Chiuza, Ciceu-Giurgesti, Livezile, Micestii de Campie, Sieut	2	6	10.34
8	Negrilesti, Poiana Ilvei	1	2	3.45
Total villages			58	100

Own calculation based on:

<http://fondurieuropea.newschannel.ro/downloadform/pndr-masura-313-anexa-10-lista-comunelo...>

We will review in the following paragraphs the main villages considered to have the greatest potential.

### Lechinta village

In Lechinta Village we identify beautiful old churches: the Evangelical Church from century XV, the Orthodox church „Sfantul Mare Mucenic Gheorghe”, the wood church “Sfinții Arhangheli Mihail și Gavriil” build in 1711, the wood church „Sfânta Cuvioasă Paraschiva”, etc.

### Rodna village

The tourist routes to National Park „Rodna Mountains” start from here. Also, from here you can visit the sheepfold from Rodna Mountains and also can be made hore riding.

### Maieru village

Here we can find a spectacular relief, peaks with splndit panoramic view. Also in Maieru area you can see the edelweiss.

Here is the museum „Cuibul Visurilor” were are presented ethnographic objects (agricultural tools, costumes), historical (Dacian vessels, sketches, maps, documents) and documents that belonged to the writer Liviu Rebreanu, who grew up in the area Maieru. In this museum is one of the great village collection from Romania.

Another aspect, also important as the one describe above, closely linked to the valorification of tourism attractions is the identification and presentation of the number of establishments with tourism functions from the county.

Analyzing the data in the table below, we see that the number of total turistic establishments from the county records in the early 90’s a numer of 27 establishments. The number remains slightly constant for aproximatively 10 years, followed by a constant increasing in the period 2011 – 2013. Starting with 2014 we can observed a decreasing trend.

We meet the same decreasing trend in the last years also for the rural turistic establishments.

A brief analysis of these numbers indicates a major establishments deficit.

Regarding the accommodation places, the trend is descending, compared with the early 90’s. So, if in year 1991 we had 838,000 accomodation places per year, in 2015 the number decreased at 745,400 places.

Regarding the agroturistic establishments, the accommodation places increased with 160 % in 2015 comparative with 2010, when we have the first record. Unfortunaly, we

observed that after a constant increasing in period 2010 – 2014, in 2015 the number of accommodation places start to decrease.

Table 2. Establishments of touristic reception with functions of tourists accommodation by type of establishment in Bistrita-Nasaud county

Type of establishment	UM	1990	1995	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	no	27	28	23	27	38	49	49	45	44
	vs 1990(%)	100.0	103.7	85.2	100.0	140.7	181.5	181.5	166.7	163.0
Hotels	nr	9	14	11	13	15	18	18	16	16
	vs 1990(%)	100.0	155.6	122.2	144.4	166.7	200.0	200.0	177.8	177.8
Hostels	no	:	:	:	:	1	1	1	1	1
Motels	no	:	1	1	3	4	4	4	3	3
Touristic villas	no	8	3	1	:	3	4	4	:	1
	no	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	7
Campings	no	1	1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Scool nad pre-school camps	no	6	5	5	4	2	2	2	1	1
	vs 1990(%)	100.0	83.3	83.3	66.7	33.3	33.3	33.3	16.7	16.7
Touristic boarding houses	no	:	:	4	2	5	9	9	8	8
	vs 2000(%)	:	:	100.0	50.0	125.0	225.0	225.0	200.0	200.0
Agroturistic boarding houses	no	:	:	:	4	7	10	10	8	7
	vs 2010(%)	:	:	:	100.0	175.0	250.0	250.0	200.0	175.0

Source: INS, Tempo\_tur101D,2017 [9]

Table 3. Touristic accommodation capacity in function by type of establishment in Bistrita-Nasaud county

Type of establishment	UM	1991	1995	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	thousands places /days	838.0	818.8	677.2	718.7	757.1	831.0	801.6	791.6	745.4
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	97.7	80.8	85.8	90.3	99.2	95.7	94.5	88.9
Hotels	thousands places /days	764.5	746.0	626.9	634.0	615.3	641.2	614.4	571.9	532.0
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	97.6	82.0	82.9	80.5	83.9	80.4	74.8	69.6
Hostels	thousands places /days					6.5		6.5	4.0	2.4
	vs 1991(%)									
Motels	thousands places /days	7.9	2.2	2.5	26.2	42.0	51.6	47.0	47.9	44.2
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	27.8	32.0	333.1	534.0	655.7	597.2	608.9	561.3
Touristic villas	thousands places /days	7.6	15.0			3.3	1.9	1.6	0.4	
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	196.1			43.4	25.0	21.1	5.3	
Touristic chalets	thousands places /days	12.4	10.4	1.7		2.1	3.5	4.9	32.8	44.0
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	83.6	14.1		17.2	28.0	39.3	264.2	354.9
Campings	thousands places /days	1.8	0.5							
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	27.8							
Scool nad pre-school camps	thousands places /days	46.7	40.6	24.9	22.1	22.1	11.0	9.2	12.2	5.5
	vs 1991(%)	100.0	86.9	53.3	47.3	47.3	23.6	19.8	26.2	11.8
Touristic boarding houses	thousands places /days			21.1	19.2	36.7	72.3	68.4	69.3	72.5
	vs 2000(%)			100.0	91.0	173.9	342.8	324.3	328.9	343.7
Agroturistic boarding houses	thousands places /days				17.2	29.0	49.5	49.6	53.0	44.7
	vs 2010(%)				100.0	168.7	287.7	288.1	308.3	260.0

Source: INS, Tempo\_tur103B, 2017 [9]

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## CONCLUSIONS

The Bistrita-Nasaud County it is extremly tenderer county, with a larger density of tourism objectives, responding to a varius demands in this respects. Unfortunately, this potential is not vey well known and also, is not put into light.

There is no studies by zones and subzones regarding the attractiveness and negative aspects, but some good sense appreciations based on direct observation cand be made and can be contestated hardly: village aspect, the aspect of natural and cultural objectives, services quality, etc.

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