

RURAL TOURISM IN THE DISTRICT OF BIHOR

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Abstract

Rural tourism is not a new form of leisure although in terms of novelty as its characteristics referes to how quickly it has developed. It has positive effects in raising the quality of life in rural areas and also in a better use of the country side. There are rural areas that have managed to maintain the integrity and to stop the depopulation phenomenon due to the promotion of rural tourism.

The district of Bihor is a complex area. Even if in this territory there are various types of tourism practice, rural tourism has managed to promote itself as tourist areas in the North-Western Development Region.

Key words, rural tourism, ecotourism, ethnographic area

INTRODUCTION

Situated at the border, Bihor benefits from many opportunities in creating different type leisures. Many factors are favoring the development of tourism such as the following: geographical location, natural environment, a history full of events, impressive buildings belonging to different styles, termal waters with curative effects, customs and traditions and not least the cuisine where u find a variety of identity: Transylvanian, Hungarian, German, Slovakian.

Before practicing the rural tourism, the district was promoted by other types of tourism hundreds of years back.

First of al the district of Bihor is known for its thermal waters that brought fame to these places. By practicing spa tourism, Băile Felix is the best known spa resort in Romania and also the most advanced because of the work carried out to raise the quality of services.

Also in this segment should be mentioned Băile 1 Mai, and others of lesser importance (Tinca), because we must not forget that the whole western part of the country (hence part by positioning Bihor) benefit from the thermal waters.

In promoting the county in terms of tourism, besides thermal waters an important role had the relief, as part of the landscape. The existence on its territory of the Apuseni Mountains, with spectacular landforms, determined the practice to numerous summer and winter sports, leading to the flourishing of resorts of which by far distinguishes Stâna de Vale.

The district of Bihor has on its territory an area of gorge – Crișul Repede Gorge - with a length of 40 km which is remarkable for the beauty of the caves and landforms.

We can not overlook in this brief presentation of the framework about the elements that are mainly anthropogenic in Oradea, the main city of the Bihor district: The Fortress of Oradea, “The Moon” Orthodox Church, the City Theater, Oradea City Hall, the Complex and the Black Eagle passage, the Muzeul Tarii Crisurilor etc.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Rural tourism in the district of Bihor used the favorable characteristics of the three components that contribute to the tourism offer:

- ✓ rural areas, as the cornerstone of achieving specific activities;
- ✓ rural population, as part of customs and traditions keeper;
- ✓ natural riches, which are processed and intended for tourists.

Consequently of the practice of rural tourism there have been made a number of improvement of rural life. Thus:

- there has been completed work in urban plan and building facilities in the appearance of specific buildings: shops, bakeries, hostels, farms Agro (for the practice of rural tourism);
- it have been created new sources of income in household budgets;
- the combat against enviromental pollution;
- stopping the process of rural depopulation, due to new jobs, etc.

Rural tourism is particularly important because it has promoted also the practice of ecotourism, the way to travel and knowing in a directly and authentic way nature and local traditions regarding:

1. to produce a minimal impact on local nature and culture;
2. an active conservation of natural and cultural heritage;
3. visitor's direct contact with locals;
4. the use of local services (accommodation, meals, folk art, recreation).

The district of Bihor may develop tourism products in the following areas: creation camps (learning traditional crafts), paragliding, hiking, cycling, wildlife observation, etc.

Rural tourism is one of the most effective solutions to harmonize requirements with the demands of tourism in the context of current environmental sustainability.

Rural tourism is becoming increasingly attractive as tourists become more mobile and seek a change from city life. The measure that they enter the life of the country varies from one guest to another.

Further development of rural tourism has an increasingly important role in promoting the county and ultimately play a role in the economy and the district's budget. With his table character and complex content, tourism entails a vast material and human potential, with important implications for economic development and society, the relations between people, at a national and international level.

A proper pricing policy that reflects the actual ratio offer / price will make that the tourist destination choosed to be succeseful. But it should be noted that if prices are too low can determine the tourist potential to become suspicious and therefore lead to a decrease in the intensity of interest.

We saw above that the county has numerous elements of tourism practice.

The natural question that arises is what factors can influence rural tourism?

The simplest answer concerns the customs and traditions, in addition to the natural and the anthropic factors -which are the basis for the development of other types of tourism.

When is wished to encourage the development of rural tourism in a specific area or its implementation it must be tooked into account a number of factors such as the existing tourist atractions or those wich may be promoted, taking into account the resources considered as natural as well anthropic, and not least the existing resources but not used until then.

For the practice of the rural tourism in the district it distinguishes the complex tourist area of Beiuș, wich includes the depression Beiuș and also the edges of the adjacent mountains.

Villages in the contact with the mountains have wooden churches dating since the XVIIIth-XIXth century, popular technical facilities, particulary water mills (Budureasa), some are recognized by fabrics, sewings, traditional products made of wood (dowry chests). In Chișcău lies a museum collection with ethnographic character.

For tourism it have been arranged many hostels, cottages, motels and various points of the average diet.

CONCLUSION

The evaluation of the natural heritage is an important step in the analysis for the development and opportunities for tourism activities in rural areas. Parallel with this valuable information is obtained for the size and location of tourist infrastructure with the purposes of balance, use and conservation, to ensure a sustainable use to the local community and beyond. Besides natural potential the anthropogenic potential existing in a given area is vital in making the final decision in developing the rural tourism and in promoting the region.

Rural tourism has experienced great development in this area, many residents are attracted to the idea to start a business in this field. From a total of 180 hostels, 2 / 3 are found in mountain and hill area and 1 / 3 to the plain that in the Băile 1 Mai and Băile Felix.

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