

ASSESSING THE TOURISTIC RESOURCES IN VALEA IADULUI

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Abstract.

Valea Iadei – Stana de Vale spreads over about 43 km from the confluence of Iada Valley and Crisul Repede to the pool from Stana de Vale, situated at the meeting point of Vladeasa Mountains and Padurea Craiului Mountains.

The depression Stana de Vale is dominated by high mountains, representing one of the most important tourist hubs in the Apuseni Mountains, especially that it can provide accommodation and food.

The area Valea Iada – Stana de Vale offers conditions for balneary tourism, rest, winter sports, speoturism, mountain walkings, being favoured by the presence of Stana de Vale nearby, as well as by the many natural touristic attractions, natural ski slopes, and so on.

Key words: winter sports, speoturism, natural touristic attractions.

INTRODUCTION

The importance of this area is also ensured by the lake upstream from the village Remeți called Coadă Lacului. In its lower stream, Valea Iadei cuts breakwaters with vertical walls and around Remeți village it develops a karst area with many caves, including cave Lesului Valley, which is declared a natural monument.

Valea Iadului area is a mountainous area that has a rich tradition related to livestock, especially dairy cows and sheep, together with all the habits resulting from this activity (grazing, milking, milk processing primary, mowing and purchasing fodder for feeding the animals, slaughtering pigs during Christmas and lambs during Easter). Also, the trout growth in trout private breeders, represent activities for the tourists to participate directly, to which they add those mentioned above, related to agriculture.

The neighborhood of lakes Dragan and Leșu, as well as the framing of the area in the mountain landscape offers "nature lovers" an appropriate framework for recreation and leisure, away from the bustle and stress of everyday urban life.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The landscape provides a valuable area with spectacular interlacing of steep increases, valleys, ravines, caves, etc.. Valea Iadului,, in fact, separates the mountains of Vlădeasa from the Padurea Craiului mountains, by creating a meadow with a maximum opening of 2-300 meters. In the higher grade, Valea Iadului takes the looks of a gorge (Gorge Remeți).

The altitude varies from 340 m in the area near the confluence of Valea Iadului with Crisul Repede, and up to 1471 m at the top of Piatra Seniului Peak. Due to the lower altitude of the mountains, in the area appeared different plateaus and hills (Platoul Boții, Dealul Lupului, Dâmbul lui Codoban, etc.). The karst topography is represented by caves, sinkholes, potholes (Devil's Mouth – Gura Dracului, Hartoape), Hell Valley basin contains about 300 such formations, one of the richest areas in the country. From these we mention: The Water Cave from Bulz, The cave from Lesu Valley Remeți, the Small Cave or the Cave with 3 openings from Lunca Pizlii, the Shepard's Cave, Ciuhandru Cave, the Spring Valley Cave, the cave from above the water Remeți, the Crystal Cave, the cave from Lunca Acrea, and so on. Other caves can be found at Fața Arsă, Dealul Secăturii, Valea Rea, Dealul Neteda, Culmea Frunții, Dealul Mihai, Dealul Pobraz, Valea Izvor. Another attraction is the glades that are formed on the high peaks, such as Acrea Meadow on the Wolf's Hill and Stana de Izvor. Hell Valley is the most important branch of Crisul Repede, which flows near Stana de Vale (area previously called Hell Mouth). The river sources from Bihor Mountains, from the western foothills of Varful Poienii, near the resort Stana de Vale. Besides the natural lake Toplita (The Bottomless Lake), till year 2000 in the area have been developed works of hydrological arrangement, such as the manmade Lake Lesu, Munteni and Bulz, but also the lakes from Cârligatele, Drăgan-Valea Bisericii, Izvor-Valea Bisericii, etc. Due to the mountain landscape, the Hell Valley presents numerous rapids and waterfalls of peculiar beauty of which mention: Iadolina Waterfall situated at 1 km from the last bridge, under the level of the road, The Bride's Veil waterfall, Saritoarea Iedutului waterfall (20 m high). Besides the attractive natural resources, the area also presents specific human resources:

1. Stana de Vale resort.

In this area there is the Stana de Vale weather station and also the source from which the famous natural mineral water "Wonder Spring" is bottled. It is a resort for rest and treatment for all seasons, administratively belonging to Budureasa village, located at an altitude of 1102 m, with ferruginous mineral and hypotonic waters.

2. Carligatele Dam

3. Coadă Lacului village situated at the end of storage dam Lesu.
4. Lesu Dam – manmade storage lake with an area of almost 150 ha, built in 1973 and presently used for leisure.
5. The Remeti church (the old one and the new one).
6. Munteni storage lake.
7. The Bulz church.

In fact, on the Valley of Hell are placed Stana de Vale and the villages of Bulz, only two of them (Pusta and Rastoaca) are spreading in the area of Crisul Repede river. A big cross has been placed a few years ago on the peak called by the locals The Bulz Stone, from where you can see the entire village Coadă Lacului. For leisure one can consider activities that can be held close to the manmade lakes and besides the valleys of the area, such as: fishing, sunbathing, boating. On the valleys close to Remeti one can do mountain walks, camp fires, outdoor games, sunbathing, fishing, hunting, climbing, horse riding. You can also visit the shepherds and cow herds from the mountains, and get to know and participate in the well preserved popular habits related to the grazing, milking, cheese and curd processing, sheep shearing, and so on. During the winter season, to the mentioned activities, we add skiing, sleigh rides through the forest, snowboarding, snowmobile rides and other specific activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Choosing the types of agro products that can be implemented in the area, was based on questionnaires filled in by the owners of accommodation in the area. This allowed the inventory of area resources and their implementation into potential agro products (Table 1).

Table 1

Elements with touristic potential specific to Valea Iadului

Products created around a specific local element (paths, natural, cultural, religious places from the area)	Touristic marked paths: Piatra Bulzului - Peșterea Meziad - Satul Meziad, 4-5 hours, 14 km Circuit of Săritoarea Ieduțului, 6 hours, 15 km Leșu-Valea Iadului- Stâna de Vale Resort, 27 km Leșu- Stâna de Vale Peak, Piatra Calului - Stâna de Vale Resort, 20 km	
	Natural objectives: - Valea Lupului stream (forest check point) – the Valley of the Wolf - Forest check point Murgașu - Valea cu Cale stream – the Valley with Lilies - Gugii stream - Runcului stream	- Gura Dracului cave - Hârtoape Cave – The Big Cave and the Small Cave (The Cave With three entry mouths from Lunca Pizlii (Pizli meadow) - The water cave from Remeti (peștera de la fața apei Remeti)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valea Salatruc stream - Valea Izvorului stream – The Valley of the Spring - Valea Bisericii stream – The Valley of the Church - Iadolina waterfall - Valul Miresei waterfall – The Bride’s Veil - Săritoarea Ieduşului waterfall - Stâna de Izvor peak - Piatra Calului peak - Hodrancusa peak (Piatra Bulzului) - Poiana Muncei – Muncei clearing - Poiana de la Lunca Acrea – Acrea meadow clearing - Poiana de pe Dealul lupului – The Wolf’s Hill clearing - Lunca Acrea cave - The cristal cave - Pobraz cave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cave from Valea Leşului Remeţi (nature monument) - The Water Cave from Bulz - The Shepard’s Cave - Cihandru Cave - The caves from Faţa Arsă, Dealul Secăturii, Valea Stravinoasa, Valea Rea, Dealul Neteda, Culmea Frunţii, Dealul Mihai, Dealul Pobraz, Valea Izvor, etc. - Botanical rezervation Buteasa Peak <p>Cultural and religious objectives: The New Church in Remeţi patronized by Peter and Pavel Apostles; The Old Church in Remeţi, patronized by the archangels Michael and Gabriel (1879); The church from Bulz; Heroes Monument (second world war) from Bulz</p>
Products created in special natural conditions - natural reservations	<p>In the area we can create products focused on the beauty of the natural reservations, ecology, ecotourism, etc.</p> <p>The most part of the area is included in the Apuseni Mountain Natural Reservation. To this it can be added:</p>	
	<p>Botanical reservations: The carpathian lily reservation from Hell Valley (Bulz-Remeţi).Buteasa peak, that has a subcarpathian vegetation made of jneapăn (<i>Pinus mugo</i>) associated with <i>Alnus viridis</i>, ghinţura (<i>Gentiana punctata</i>), omag (<i>Aconitum paniculatum</i>), ienupăr pitic (<i>Juniperus sibirica</i>). The Buteasa peak is located near Stana de Vale, over the pitoreque The Devil’s Mill waterfall .</p> <p>Speological reservations: The water cave from Valea Leşului (high biospeleological importance through the anfipodes and coleopteres fauna); The water cave from Bulz; The cave from Faţa Apei Remeţi; The Devil’s Mill Waterfall from Stana de Vale towards Dragan’s Valley (20 mt high), The Yello Spring and Valley, by an extremely rare beauty, punctuated by rare natural elements : The Yellow spring (karst phenomenon which drains the waters that get loose inside the Cetatile Ponorului Cave).</p>	
Products created to highlight the local traditions (traditions, crafts, lifestyle, etc.).	<p>The Bulz villages, Munteni, Remeţi from Valley of Hell are located along the valley and the tributaries, or scattered in hamlets and hidden glades. 5 to 10 households form a hamlet, which receives its name, generally after the main family (Costesti Sturzeşti) or after the main occupation of the primar family (Văcăreşti) etc..The customs and traditions of the celebrations of the religious and rustic holidays in Hell Valley are lost in time but in recent years,we try bringing them to the attention of tourists because they offer a huge performance (poetry, music, dance, artistic representations, gestures, etc.). The carols, the musical instruments (Doba, hidede, whistle, bagpipes, bittern, etc..), the dances,the masks, the crossdressing formed together an ensemble, an inseparable unit, contributing to the full realization of the message communication.</p> <p>The Hell Valley households are pastoral agricultural household type, typical of the Apuseni Mountains areas. Traditional occupations of local residents are</p>	

	<p>processing wool, hemp and flax. In Bulz village there is a complex of peasant industry composed of a water mill, a mill for traditional wool clothes and a beating whirlpool, all three operated by the waters of Hell Valley. The traditional architecture and customs are also of high interest.</p> <p>As ethnographic elements and traditional manifestations in the area we may remember the traditional dances and customs (caroling, the women's gathering for spinning), oral theatre, and the 2 water mills from XIX century.</p> <p>We can also mention the Fiklor Festival „The Vama Sarii Fair” held on the first Sunday in the month of June, the pottery artisans (unglazed white ceramic), the traditional dances group and the caroling traditions from Vadu Crisului. Every year, in the area, the festivities of „Bulz Days” are organized.</p>
Products based on agricultural activities (agricultural locally processed products)	The area, while offering guests traditional dishes with products from their own households, hasn't developed yet a local brand, at least temporarily. The area products are diverse and very popular: trout, palinca, etc. An agrotouristic product focused on promoting local brands requires registration of the local products as traditional specific brand.
Products aimed at specific consumer needs (biking, climbing, camps, competitions, camping, pilgrimage, etc..)	<p>The opportunities offered by the area allow the creation of specialized agroproducts, but there is no "support services" for them so far. Therefore, related to the consumer's needs, we highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the area allows climbing activities but the Salvamont Center in Stana de Vale is not active yet - although the tourists can practice mountain biking, there is no special path set for this sport - the pilgrimage resources of the area are very few - there are no school camps, but accommodation and leisure locations are available for theme camps, competitions and so on
Products targeted to a specialized clientele (on different areas: agriculture, architecture, speleology, geology, etc.).	<p>The area offers different opportunities to create specialized products for customers, that finally have a learning or knowledge purpose. Activities can be practiced in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agriculture – preparation of traditional Ardeal products, fishing, picking medical plants and forest fruits - speleology – in the area there are over 250 caves that can be studied by the specialists - geology, geography – the area gives the opportunity to study many landforms
Products with educational aim (agricultural, environmental, etc.).	If the product above is for people who specialize in one area and want to deepen the practice, this product is for those who want to learn new things that they do not know or not practiced yet

CONCLUSIONS

As shown, based on the identified resources and the results of the analysis of tourist attractiveness of the Valley of Hell, the opportunities go beyond the border of agrotourism in its pure form. This does not mean they can not develop and implement agro products in accordance with the basic elements of this type of tourism. Furthermore, we wish to emphasize that in addition, you can create and promote agro products to exploit at the same time specific resources of pedestrian tourism, cultural and religious tourism, previously identified.

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