

TOURISM CAPACITY OF ORADEA, BAILE FELIX AND BAILE 1 MAI

Brata Anca Monica*

*University of Oradea, Faculty of Environmental protection, 26 Gen. Magheru St., 410048 Oradea, Romania, e-mail: ancabrata@yahoo.com

Abstract

Tourist Area of Oradea is one of the most developed areas in the county in terms of tourism. The area is recognized at national and international level due to thermal water and debasing treatment. Oradea was named "Green Capital" due to the size of green areas. Potential is given by the architecture, history and monuments of the site on a relatively small area. For this is necessary to have accommodation facilities that meet a wide range of services.

Key words: *tourist area, infrastructure situation, services*

INTRODUCTION

Bihor County is located in the part of North-West in Romania, with 7,544 km², occupies the sixth place in the country and the first in the North-West¹.

The county runs between 1,849 m, the highest peak in Bihor and 90 m, the minimum plain altitude in Campia Crisurilor, consisting of all three levels of relief: mountain stage, which occupies 24% of the total area of the county, the hills and valleys 32% and plain 44%².

Regarding climate the average annual air temperature is between 10-11 ° C in the lowlands (10,4 ° C in Oradea), 7-10°C in the hills and low mountains and 2-7 ° C in the mountains (below 2 ° C on the high peaks). The highest temperature of 40 ° C was recorded on August 21, 2000; and the absolute minimum temperature of -29.2 ° C on January 24, 1942.

¹ <http://www.pagitur.ro/informatii/Bihor?t=county-5>, accesat la data de 01.06.2013

² Anghelache, C. - "România 2011 – Starea economică sub impactul crizei", Editura Economică, București, 2011

In Bihor county there are over 60 natural reserves and natural monuments, the most famous are Fortress of Ponor, Sighiștelului Valley, Izbuclul from Monks, Ruginoasa-Dry Valley, Valley Galbena, Padiș Karst Plateau, jumper Bohodeiului, Glade Flower Cave of the Wind Cave Meziad, Pete Creek, Gorge Cris Quick and Apuseni Natural Park, in total 75 784 hectares.

Bihor County is one of the most important counties regarding the tourism potential, characterized by³:

- beauty of the natural landscape;
- Monuments;
- Folklore and ethnographic elements.

Bihor has 5 areas of national and local interest, named :

- a) the Apuseni Mountains
- b) the Oradea
- c) Land area Beiuș
- d) Cris Valley area
- e) the Cris Plain.

Oradea is located in the western part of Bihor County and it has all the access routes: air, rail and road.

According to the Regional Strategic Development Framework 2007-2013 of the North-West Region, most arrivals every month of the year are recorded in Cluj county, except in summer, when the first is the Bihor County, due to flow in resorts and transit⁴.

Positioning in Oradea tourism market requires a knowledge of the characteristics of this market, and to present the potential visitors. The broader analysis is set at EU level, the analysis then narrowing in Romania and the North-West. Important historical monuments, urban and architectural features of the city center are the cultural tourism market to gain particular importance for Oradea⁵.

³ 1.Camera de comerț și industrie Bihor, Județul Bihor-Destinație turistică europeană, Oradea, 2006

⁴ Dr. Könyves Erika (coord.), *Plan de marketing și de comunicare*, studiu realizat de Camera de Comerț și Industrie a județului Hajdú-Bihar în cadrul proiectului intitulat: „Realizarea inovativă a unor pachete turistice comune în vederea dezvoltării turismului din județele Hajdú-Bihar și Bihor”, Debrecen-Oradea, 2011

⁵ . Fetcu (Stoica) și alții (2010) – „*Evoluția serviciilor turistice în România*”, International Scientific Symposium, May 2010, ISBN 978-973-7631-71-8, pp. 24-31

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Infrastructure situation. Oradea is the county seat, also called "Little Paris" because of its location and architectural styles, the city is an important hub.

Characteristics of the main tourist places. Oradea is one of the most important cities in the county with a well-developed tourist infrastructure covering 37 tourist accommodation including 25 hotels and 12 hostels.

Attractions: In Oradea, the people can practice the following types of tourism⁶:

- *Active tourism*: Natural Reserve "The lake" (Baile 1 Mai), Hill Somleu with pothole Betfia (Betfia);
- *Religious tourism*: Church with Moon (Oradea), the Roman Catholic Church Olosig (Oradea), the Monastery of the Holy Cross (Oradea), Greek Catholic Cathedral "Saint Nicholas" in Oradea, Wooden Church (Baile Felix)
- *Historical tourism*: Baroque Complex (Bishop's Palace, String Canonical, the Roman Catholic Basilica in Oradea), fortified (Oradea) Rimanozy Palace (Oradea), Stern Palace (Oradea) Moskovits Palace (Oradea), Palace Hall (Oradea), Black Eagle Palace (Oradea)
- *Recreational tourism*: Zoo (Oradea), Beach Waves (1 Mai), swimming Apollo (Baile Felix), riding "Manaj Il Cavallino" (Baile Felix)
- *Health tourism*: treatment centers (1 Mai and Felix)
- *Cultural tourism*: Iosif Vulcan Memorial Museum (Oradea), Endre Ady Memorial Museum (Oradea), Museum of Cris (Oradea), The State Philharmonic (Oradea), The State Theatre (Oradea), House of Culture (Oradea).

Peculiarities of the tourist area. Tourist Area of Oradea is one of the most developed areas in the county in terms of tourism. The area is recognized at national and international level due to thermal water and debasing treatment. Oradea was named "Green Capital" due to the size of green areas. Potential is given by the architecture, history and monuments of the site on a relatively small area.

The city is located in the proximity of two major resorts: Baile 1 Mai and Felix. Felix is the largest spa center in Romania.

⁶http://www.turismbihor.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=42, accesat la data de 24.04.2013

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The table below presents the main hotels in Oradea by classification.

Table no. 1.
Classification of hotels in Oradea in the number of stars

No.	Hotel Name (No stars)	Adress	No. Of rooms	Price
1	Hotel Ramada****	Calea Aradului, no.9	127	220-330 Ron
2	Hotel Continental Forum ****	Aleea Ștrandului, no.1	168	50-60 Euro
3	Hotel Elit****	I.C.Brătianu, no.26	30	180-450 Ron
4	Hotel Maxim****	Victor _Babeș, no.5-7	78	45-80 Euro
5	Hotel Eden***	Cantacuzino, no.4	20	160-200 Ron
6	Hotel Transit***	Ogorului, no.62	24	150-280 Ron
7	Hotel Melody***	Transilvaniei, no.5	22	180-300 Ron
8	Hotel Class***	Meziadului, no.2B	30	120-200 Ron
9	Hotel Terra**	Făcliei, no.29	21	80-170 Ron
10	Hotel Scorpion**	Șoseaua Borșului, no.12	23	70-110 Ron
11	Hotel Lan**	Aluminei, no.4	40	80-120 Ron

Regarding the classification of hotels in Oradea by number of stars, we can see a pretty big difference in terms of price. The more stars the hotel has and offers more services, the rates are higher. Also among hotels with the same number of stars there is no difference, both in price and services because they are not all equipped to the same standard.

In the table below we analyzed the main hostels in Oradea

Table no. 2.

Classification Oradea hostels

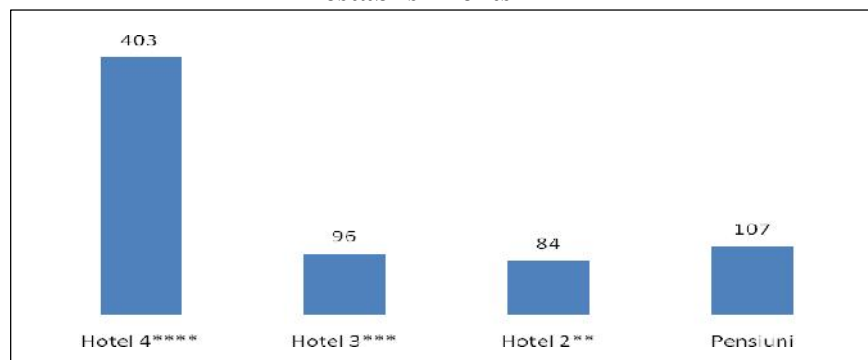
Nr. Crt.	Name hostels	Adrese	No. of rooms	Price
1	Pensiunea Ardealul***	Meșteșugarilor, no.6	18	100-220 Ron
2	Pensiunea Eclipse***	Octavian Goga, no.35A	15	80-120 Ron
3	Pensiunea Hubert***	Ștefan Cel Mare, no.8A	15	70-100 Ron
4	Pensiunea Casa Stoica***	Cloșca, no.4	10	90-110 Ron
5	Pensiunea Casa Mignon***	William Shakespeare, no 1	9	120-200 Ron
6	Pensiunea Phoenix***	Sălajului, no.1	14	80-120 Ron
7	Pensiunea Recidency***	Ion Luca Caragiale, no.15	12	70-110 Ron
8	Pensiunea Hanul Gobe***	Dobrogeanu Gherea, no.26	14	100-150 Ron

In the hostels we can not speak the same classification as in the hotels, as most hostels are classified in category 3 *** and generally provide the same services. We noted that rates do not differ very much from a hostel to another given that most are classified in category 3 ***.

The service and comfort available to all customers fail to meet their requirements.

Fig no.1.

Number of rooms according to the classification of accommodation establishments



Source: conducted by the author on the research done in the field

From the above chart we can see that in Oradea the 4 **** hotels are the most numerous and most have accommodation. Tourists often choose hotels 4 ****, because here they find comfort and hotel services can meet the requirements of all customers⁷.

Table no. 3
The main services offered by hotels in Oradea

No.	Name (No stars)	Room service	Spa	Pool	Bar	Morning service	Parcking
1	Hotel Ramada****						
2	Hotel Cont. Forum ****						
3	Hotel Elit****					x	
4	Hotel Silver****					x	x
5	Hotel Atlantic****			x		x	
6	Hotel Maxim****	x				x	x
7	Hotel Eden***	x		x		x	
8	Hotel Transit***		x	x		x	x
9	Hotel Melody***		x	x		x	
10	Hotel Carnival***		x	x		x	x
11	Hotel Lyra***	x	x	x	x		
12	Hotel Nevis****	x	x	x			
13	Hotel Impero***		x	x			
14	Hotel Corola***			x		x	
15	Hotel Toscana****	x	x	x		x	
16	Hotel Class***			x	x	x	x
17	Hotel Terra**			x	x	x	

⁷ <http://www.mdrt.ro/comunicare>

18	Hotel Scorpion**	x	x	x	x	x	
----	------------------	---	---	---	---	---	--

From the table above we can see that between the services of hotels, depending on the number of stars is a very big difference. Hotels classified in category 4 **** but have a higher price through their services can meet all kinds of tourists. Moreover and 3 *** hotels generally provide services that tourists need during your stay. About 2 ** hotels can say that is limited to the strictly necessary servicing⁸.

Table no. 4

The main services offered by hostels in Oradea

No.	Name (No stars)	Room service	Spa	Pool	Bar	Morning service	Parcking
1	Pensiunea Ardealul***	x	x	x		x	x
2	Pensiunea Eclipse***	x				x	x
3	Pensiunea Hubert***		x	x		x	x
4	Pensiunea Casa Stoica***			x	x	x	
5	Pensiunea Casa Mignon***	x	x	x		x	
6	Pensiunea Phoenix***	x	x	x		x	x
7	Pensiunea Recydenci***	x	x	x	x	x	
8	Pensiunea Hanul Gobe***	x	x	x		x	
9	Pensiunea Varadia***	x	x	x		x	x
10	Pensiunea Junior***		x	x		x	
11	Pensiunea Jim***	x	x	x	x	x	
12	Pensiunea Daniel***		x	x		x	
13	Pensiunea Casa Bim***		x	x		x	x

⁸ <http://www.ministerulTurismului.ro>

14	Pensiunea Magic***	x	x	x		x	
----	--------------------	---	---	---	--	---	--

Regarding the structure of hostel services in Oradea, we see that between them there is very high deference. Most hostels are classified in category 3 *** ,their equipments and servicies trying to satisfy all tourists.

Area Felix and Baile 1 Mai has a total of 109 rural guesthouses representing 46.5% of all hostels throughout the county. Accommodation structures in this area are distributed as follows: 53 in Baile Felix, 18 in Sanmartin, 13 in Baile 1 Mai, 23 Haieiu, one in Heart and one in Rontau.

CONCLUSIONS

Tourist Area of Oradea is one of the most developed areas of the county. She is recognized nationally and internationally due to thermal water and debasing treatment. A disadvantage is sightseeing in need of repair, but have not entered the rehabilitation program (buildings of historical, architectural).

The area offers the possibility of practicing a large number of tourist activities. Being a land littered with history, cultural relicves are also genuine attraction for tourists. Among the cultural history lessons interspersed visitors are found Baroque Palace of Oradea, The Canons string of Oradea, Oradea Library, Palace of Justice in Oradea, Oradea City Hall, Endre Ady Memorial House in Oradea, Oradea Black Eagle Palace, Memorial House Iosif Vulcan memorial Museum, Greek Catholic Bishop Palace of Oradea, Cris and Museum of Oradea. Tourist area of Oradea is served by a large number of accommodation units covering the needs and demands of tourists.

REFERENCES

1. Anghelache, C. - *“România 2011 – Starea economică sub impactul crizei”*, Editura Economică, București, 2011
2. Camera de comerț și industrie Bihor, *Județul Bihor-Destinație turistică europeană, Oradea*, 2006
3. Fetcu (Stoica) și alții (2010) – „ *Evoluția serviciilor turistice în România*”, International Scientific Symposium, May 2010, ISBN 978-973-7631-71-8, pp. 24-31
4. Könyves Erika (coord.), *Plan de marketing și de comunicare*, studiu realizat de Camera de Comerț și Industrie a județului Hajdú-Bihar în cadrul proiectului intitulat: „Realizarea inovativă a unor pachete turistice comune în vederea dezvoltării turismului din județele Hajdú-Bihar și Bihor”, Debrecen-Oradea, 2011
5. <http://www.pagitur.ro/informatii/Bihor?t=county-5>, accesat la data de 01.06.2013

6. http://www.turismbihor.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=42, accesat la data de 24.04.2013

7. <http://www.ministerulurismului.ro> 12 ianuarie 2012

8 <http://www.mdr.ro/comunicare>, 21 ianuarie 2012