

RURAL TOURISM IN BIHOR COUNTY

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Abstract

Rural tourism is no longer a novelty. A significant number of the world's inhabitants are increasingly enjoying country holidays, both through users (tourists) and providers (pension owners). Tourist activity in the village world has proven to be profitable to the detriment of mass or "industrial" tourism.

The village of Bihor, in general, and the one with a tourist vocation, in particular, represent a unique tourist product for both the national and the world market. On the other hand, the tourist village of Bihor can contribute to the discovery of our country as a possible tourist destination, creating interest in Romania as a place that offers a wide range of experiences, quality vacations and even business opportunities.

Key words: rural tourism, cultural heritage, tourist resources

INTRODUCTION

The village is a socio-economic community, made up of a conglomerate of individual peasant households, agricultural work and a certain cultural, moral and spiritual life.

The competition between towns and villages in Bihor County is to the detriment of the latter, which is why the villages of Bihor try to become attractions for a civilized and decent life, often at the risk of losing their identity and values.

On the territory of Bihor county, the rural environment represents the oldest and best known type of human settlement. Over time, the rural area has undergone many transformations that still have effects on the development of the rural community. As an example, we can mention the existence of the socialist system that had negative effects on the rural population that is still felt today. The changes after 1989 have not brought a balance to the development of rural society, which is why they are still looking for a path whose end is prosperity and future.

The rural settlements in Bihor County are well cohesive and include 91 communes and 430 villages, distributed among all relief units. It is necessary to specify that not all the villages in the county meet the qualities to be able to enter the tourist circuit.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In Bihor county there are many villages where the population has values such as: hospitality, purity of soul, wealth, simplicity, values that are sacredly preserved by the elderly population and young people who grew up in traditional families.

In addition to these values, the most important elements in the rural community are *land, faith, and family*.

In the practice of rural tourism in Bihor County, an important role belongs to the agrotourism areas, which are characterized by a special cultural heritage represented by the folk costume, traditional architecture, specific customs and traditions, ceramics, etc. Two large areas in the county meet these conditions - Beiuș Depression and Vad-Borod Depression, to which are added the rural localities in the mountain area, which due to the distance from the urban environment have managed to protect their existing cultural heritage.

The ethnographic area of Țara Beiușului is one of the “treasures” of the inhabitants of Bihor County.

Unfortunately, with the passage of time, these important ethnographic resources begin to disappear, to be lost. Despite all this alteration of customs, there isn't practically locality in Țara Beiușului where the visitor doesn't find in a smaller or greater proportion traditions and customs, witnesses of the spiritual culture of the inhabitants.

Better known localities in this area are: Criștioru de Jos, Pietroasa, Budureasa, Roșia, Căbești etc.

This area is distinguished by: handpainting of the Easter egg and semantronrhythmat Rieni, Budureasa; lighting solar fires for the living and for the dead: Săliște de Vașcău (Criștioru de Jos commune); the feast of the bloodthirsty (St. George) in Chișcău.

The main craft centers are:

- in the field of pottery: Leheceni-Beiuș, Săliște de Vașcău, Criștioru de Jos, for red pottery;
- in the field of interior textiles, Chișcău, Pietroasa, Remetea-Beiuș stand out;
- wooden dowry boxes: Budureasa;

In the Vad-Borod depression, rural tourism is achieved by capitalizing on the natural environment, the accommodation offer and the tourist services provided by the rural community.

Rural tourism offers tourists the opportunity to spend their leisure and vacations in a diverse way in family households, as well as the opportunity to consume fresh food obtained in natural conditions.

The main localities in this area are: Aușeu, Borod, Bratca, Șuncuiuș, Vadu Crișului, etc.

The cultural heritage of the depression is represented by the country celebration Târgul de la Vama Sării from Vadu Crișului; pottery at Vadu Crișului (white ceramics), the field of interior textiles at Bratca, Borod - on Crișul Repede.

Rural localities in the mountain area are more favored in the sense that rural tourism is based not only on unaltered customs and traditions but also on a picturesque relief.

They are important for tourism through the following elements: landscape, aesthetic and recreational value, climatic value, support of tourist activities, cognitive value, in general, in the case of components designated as scientific reservations and natural monuments, etc.

In this category we can include the following localities: Bratca, Budureasa, Bulz, Remetea, Vârciorog.

Despite the existence of a rich heritage, rural tourism in Bihor County is difficult to capitalize on to its full potential.

A questionnaire on this topic is eloquent. The respondents come from the urban environment, respectively from Oradea, Salonta, Beiuș, Aleșd. Out of 120 respondents, aged between 18 and 50, 100 answered that they wouldn't practice rural tourism not only in the county but throughout the country. Summarizing the answers, they referred to:

- the fact that they come from a rural area that they know and as a result are not interested in spending a vacation / holiday in a rural area (70 people);

- they have parents in the rural area they visit, but they want to spend the holiday in tourist resorts in the mountain or coastal area (15 people);

- they want an external vacation (10 people);

- they don't want to stay in the countryside for more than 3-4 hours because they don't find it interesting (5 people).

The remaining 20 interviewees replied that they didn't know or are still thinking.

However, the rural tourism in the county has the possibility that through a serious and constant policy to find those opportunities that will put it in value on the internal tourism market but especially the external one.

We are convinced that over time the tastes of potential tourists will change.

CONCLUSION

In the rural area, an economic activity complementary to agriculture called rural tourism has appeared.

Many tourists are reluctant to spend a holiday in the countryside, although here we can find a natural environment characterized by value and landscape variety to which is added an important cultural, historical and ethnographic heritage. On the other hand, the rural localities through the less degraded environment, through the tourist resources they have, can represent a discharge space of the big tourist agglomerations.

Spending a holiday in rural areas can also be financially attractive because rural tourism is also aimed at people with average and modest incomes. In Romania, tourists with above average incomes practice agrotourism and rural tourism on the occasion of the two major religious holidays of the year (Christmas and Easter) because the Romanian rural environment is the keeper of ancestral traditions and customs.

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