

POSSIBILITIES FOR THE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY-BREAK VARIANTS FROM TIMISOARA AND OTHER CITIES IN TIMIS COUNTY

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Abstract. This scientific paper aims at identifying as a tourism resource the West and Northwest part of Romania, having as a major point of interest the Maramures area, in order to propose a touristic route, which by its implementation will expand and improve the tourist horizon in the vicinity of Timis county.

Key words: tourism, city break, Maramures, improvement

INTRODUCTION

If we are talking about tourist destinations [4,5,6,7,12,13,14,15], we can mention that they know as many forms of tourism as there are, so we can exemplify through the following forms:

- areas identified separately and promoted as places to visit where the tourism product is coordinated by one or more identifiable authorities or organizations;
- coastal areas that attract tourists come mainly to enjoy sea and sea-related activities;
- rural areas that attract tourists who come to enjoy mainly rural areas and activities related to agrotourism. In this type of tourist destination, agrotourism provides small-scale tourist facilities, especially accommodation, agro-technological farms or equivalent rural properties, offering the experience of life in country side;
- urban areas that attract tourists who come to enjoy mainly the anthropogenic resources mainly in small and large cities and related activities.

Tourists, regardless of their type, are attracted by one or more characteristic features of the tourist destination: natural and built attractions, accommodation, climate, visitation costs and living standards, local culture including food and drink, events and entertainment, business or business facilities, transport and communications links, or even the landscape.

Weekend tourism is a form of tourism that is highly appreciated by the inhabitants of Timisoara as a form of fun and relaxation. The number of people looking for this type of service is rising and the allocated budget also increases. The route proposed in this paper includes places considered as emblematic for Romania and also tourist attractions entered in the Book of Records. Maramures area is considered by many famous tourism publications such as Trip Advisor, Lonely Planet or National Geographic Traveler as a top tourist destination. This proposed route is unrivaled because is combining cultural and ecumenical tourism, but also through the presence of gloomy tourism, as it will visit places associated with suffering, thus being a complex touristic route. [1,2,3,8,9,10,11]

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In order to compose this work, we conducted a study to identify the most interesting tourist objectives, we made a daily visit program and grouped the objectives according to the tourist context.

Was calculated the cost of transport, accommodation, visiting and of course the total cost of these. Were also made maps to highlight the route, some photographs and of course were mentioned the main details about the importance of the objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

With regard to a potential weekend vacation or a city-break variant for residents of Timisoara or nearby, we have proposed a 3-day route that includes the most important tourist attractions as well as the most representative units of accommodation and dining in the area.

Day 1

08:00 Departure from Timisoara to Oradea

10:30 Arrival in center Oradea (visiting historical center and Oradea Fortress)

The historical center of Oradea is an ensemble of monuments, some belonging to the Art Nouveau architectural style. As a result of the restoration that took place, the downtown buildings became part of the European network of Art Nouveau cities, alongside Barcelona or Budapest.

Another attraction is Oradea Fortress, located 10 minutes away from the historical center and is one of the few citadels that is still in use today

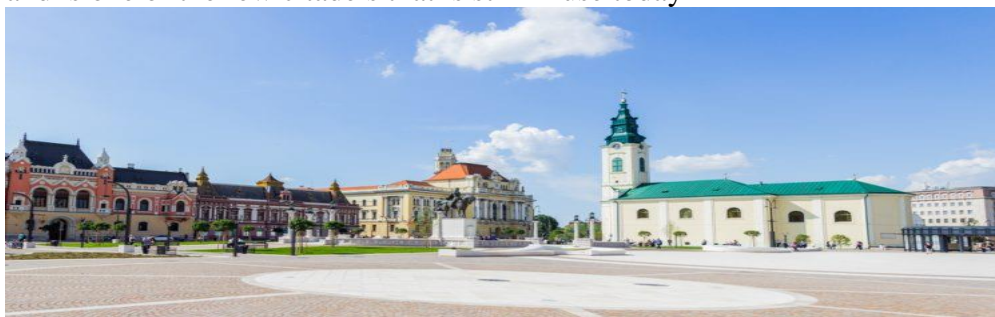


Figure 1. Historical Center of Oradea city

12:15 Lunch, location "Butoiul de aur"

"Butoiul de aur" restaurant is located inside a historic building, dating back to 1890. The interior atmosphere is elegant and the menu contains traditional dishes, as a way to the traditional meals that will be served in the upcoming days.

13:15 Departure to Carei

14:45 Arrival at Karolyi Castle, Carei

A recently restored architectural jewel, Karoly Castle in Carei is considered a true "Peles of Transylvania". Dating back to the 15th century, the castle is full of history.

Around it there is a rich dendrological park, with over 200 species of exotic and autochthonous trees and shrubs



Figure 2. Karolyi Castle from Carei

16:00 Departure from Carei to Sighetu Marmatiei

- 15 minutes pause allowed somewhere along the way

18:40 Arrival in Sighetul Marmatiei, accommodation in Hotel "Gradina Morii" ***

Hotel "Gradina Morii" is located at the foot of a hill, on the Iza river bank. Built in the interbelic period, the place still preserves the air of that time. The hotel enjoys the highest appreciation of guests in the area.



Figure 3. Hotel "Gradina Morii"

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Free program, intication – a walk in "Gradina Morii" Park

21:30 Camp fire in the hotel garden, relaxation in the hotel lounge

Day 2

08-09 Breakfast

09:05 Departure to Maramures Village Museum

09:20 Visiting the Museum

A museum complex with ethnological dominance, where can be seen wooden houses from different periods beginning with the 15th century, as well as a wooden church, specific to the area.



Figure 4. View from Village Museum , Sighetu Marmatiei

11:00 Departure to Breb (*traditional Maramures village*)

11:40 Arrival in Breb

Visiting traditional households, with wooden carved gates, and popular craftsmen.

Breb Village is located at the foot of the Gutai volcanic mountains. It is a picturesque, well-preserved place, which attracted the attention of the British Royal House, and later Prince Charles made a visit to this place and after that a Royal foundation bought some properties here.

13:10 Departure to Budesti

13:20 Visit of the wooden church "Saint Nicholas", Budesti

The wooden church in Budesti-Josani, dates back to 1643 and is considered a magnificent building for its time. It is currently part of the UNESCO heritage.

13:45 Departure to Ocna Sugatag

14:00 Lunch at guest house "Popasul din deal" * * *, Ocna Sugatag

15:00 Departure to the village of Barsana

15:30 Visit at Barsana Monastery

The Orthodox Monastic Complex is composed of wooden constructions such as the entrance gate, the belfry tower, the church itself, the summer altar, the monks' churches, the chapel and last but not least the workshop of the artists.



Figure 5. Barsana Monastery

16:35 Departure to the Mara`s trout

17:20 Visit to the trout

Mara's trout is a great place, both as a settlement at the foot of the mountains and as a construction. The restaurant is built of wood, the terrace is above the trench, an artificial waterfall is the background sound and the traditional food served here is highly appreciated by the large number of guests.

18:00 Dinner

19:00 Departure to "Gradina Morii" Hotel

20:00 Arrival at "Gradina Morii", free program

Day 3

08-09 Breakfast

09:00 Departure to the center of Sighetu Marmatiei

Walk in the center of the city, view the most representative buildings and tourist attractions, the pedestrian alley

09:30 Visit to the Memorial of the Victims of Communism and Resistance

This museum is a former prison where those who opposed the communist regime were imprisoned. Each cell is transformed into a museum room and shelters a thematic or chronological detail of the prisoner's life or detention conditions. In 1998, the Council of Europe placed this Memorial Museum near two other places of greatest importance for the preservation of the continent's memory, the Aushchwitz Memorial and the Normandy Peace Memorial. This year the Memorial Museum became part of the European Heritage Label list.



Figure 6. Ensemble of statues in the prison yard, representing "The corps of sacrifices"

11:05 Departure to Eli Wiesel Memorial House

11:15 Visit the Memorial House

Eli Wiesel is the one who in 1986 received the Nobel Peace Prize. The house in which he was born and raised is now transformed into a memorial house, which conveys the atmosphere of the era in which he has grown up and also the specificity of the Jewish community.

The rooms include aspects of the cultural and social relationships that it has had, as well as important historical aspects of the interbelic period, with particular reference to the deportation of the Jews from Maramures.



Figure 7. Interior look of the "Eli Wiesel" memorial house

12:00 Traditional lunch at "Casa Iurca de Calinesti"

12:50 Departure to the Cemetery of the Poor

13:10 Visiting the Cemetery

This place is an extension of the Memorial, here being buried without a burial service or even an identification cross. In their memory a map of Romania was made from coniferous trees, having an altar in the Sighet area. It was also built a "Scale of Life" where visitors can climb a bell for those buried here. The Scale is also a good post to observe the surrounding area or even Ukraine, which is 70 meters away from place. The architectural ensemble from here has been declared a monument of national interest.



Figure 8. View of the map of the fir trees and the surrounding panorama from the top of the "Scale of Life"

13:40 Departure to Sapanta

14:00 Visit the Merry Cemetery

The name of the cemetery comes from the uniqueness of the crosses here. These, besides the usual details written on a cross, contain a bas-relief representing a scene in the life of the deceased or even the scene of his death, if the death was accidental, but also a poem related to the life of the person who was buried. Most are in a satirical note and because of that was given the name of Merry Cemetery.

The poems are written in person I, as if the message written there is the one who left would have wanted to leave for the offspring.

Being an unique place in the world, the Merry Cemetery of Sapanta is part of the UNESCO heritage.



Figure 9. Crosses from the Merry Cemetery

15:10 Departure to the Sapanta-Peri Monastery

15:20 Visit to the Monastery

The Sapanta-Peri Monastery is one of the most representative worship places for the area. Being the world's tallest wooden church, 78 meters tall, the building entered the Book of Records. The place dates back to 1391, from the time of Dragos, the founder of Maramures.

The building retains the old stone skeleton, some interior elements, but the site has also been restored.

The Peri Monastery was founded in 1997 by the desire to reinvent the tradition of the old "St.Arhanghel Mihail" Monastery in Maramures, that monastery being located today in the territory of Ukraine. The tower of the church is visible from a distance of more than 5 km.



Figure 10. View of the Monastery Sapanta-Peri and the dendrological park near it

15:50 Departure to Timisoara
 18:20 - 18:30 Break in Valea lui Mihai (SM)
 20:00 - 20:30 Dinner, Madaras (BH), restaurant "Millenium", restaurant that entered the Book of Records for serving the world's largest goblet
 22:35 Arrival in Timisoara

	COST OF THE TRIP	TOTAL
ACCOMMODATION	1 DOUBLE ROOM= 260 RON > 130 RON/PERS. 130 RON x 2 NIGHTS > 260 RON	260 RON
FOOD AND DRINK	LUNCH DAY 1 ± 25 RON DINNER DAY 1 ± 30 RON LUNCH DAY 2 ± 25 RON DINNER DAY 2 ± 40 RON LUNCH DAY 3 ± 30 RON DINNER DAY 3 ± 20 RON	170 RON
TAXES AND ENTRANCE TICKETS	ORADEA MUZEUM ENTRANCE TICKET > 5 RON ORADEA PARKING > 8 LEI VILLAGE MUSEUM ENTRANCE TICKET > 15 RON BARSANA MONASTERY (1 TICKET=1 CANDLE) > 1 RON MEMORIAL ENTRANCE TICKET > 6 RON ELI WIESEL MEMORIAL HOUSE TICKET > 4 RON PARKING IN CENTER OF THE CITY SIGHET > 12 RON MERRY CEMETERY ENTRANCE TICKET > 4 RON	55 RON
TRANSPORT	*IT DEPENDS ON THE VEHICLE THAT IS USED FOR THE TRIP, BUT THE AVERAGE COST IS 200 RON	200 RON
	TOTAL	685 RON

CONCLUSIONS

Residents of the largest cities are looking for this kind of short-term tours, complex as a tourist offer and affordable. This touristic route offers a possible option for these requirements.

The proposed area for visiting, is an internationally recognized area as a tourist destination, interesting through the beauty of the landscape as well as through the specific artistic and architectural style.

The fortress of Oradea, the castle in Carei, the museums and the memorial houses proposed in the route are tourist attractions that belong mostly to the UNESCO heritage, their museum content being a particular one. This route is therefore a suitable variant of tourism.

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