

## EQUESTRIAN TOURISM IN ROMANIA

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**Abstract:** Worldwide, equestrian tourism is experiencing a great development especially in the last two decades. Today, the horse is no longer a means of production in developed countries of the world, but a loyal partner for leisure escape from urban environment. Offer is varied equestrian tourism in developed countries from spending several hours in the company of horses during the week, from a weekend ride organized in a specific horse hotel at the edge of large cities and to leave 1-2 weeks in the company's own horse or rent one. In this context, equestrian tourism began to be practiced in Romania, representing a choice of more and more tourists.

**Key words:** horse, riding, sports recreation tourism, equestrian, nature

### INTRODUCTION

Recreational riding and equestrian tourism detaches equestrian sport disciplines through objective. This activity has the exclusive purpose of relaxation, recreation participants and not the development of sports performance. Many people, both children and adults riding attend short courses to learn the ABCs driving horse. Once mastered, it offers the possibility of executing some mild training of regular walks, depending on the possibility of each.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Activity sampling.** We analyzed the current situation of tourism equestrian centers in Romania, although there is still a database to provide information relevant to this area. Romania, although it is a country with a long tradition in sports with horses, does not have a concern yet to collect enough data generated equestrian tourism. Sources of data collection was limited, appealing to our own knowledge and some information provided by the practitioners of these activities.

**The tools of the trade.** We formed an own data base by collecting such data, interpreting them according to the current situation in Romania and according to the current situation internationally.

**The main objectives for this study are** related to the identification of equestrian tourism opportunities in Romania, by comparison with equestrian tourism opportunities in other countries.

### RESEARCH RESULTS

For several years now, horse lovers and nature in developed countries stormed studs and riding schools, noble sport putting embraced the little free time you have them. From here to equestrian tourism success was but a step. This concern is especially active in the rest of man versus horse sport which sets the target character competition in sport. Pleasure rides are old. If carried out only in a day can be a walk occasionally, if it takes several days or even a week walking gets equestrian tourism.

Both activities, both recreational riding and horse are developing special tourism especially in the last two or three decades. This is due to rediscover love for horses of modern man. The horse is no longer a means of production long ago developed countries of the world, and instead a loyal partner Leisure human, its escape of the city. It can be

said that the whole human-horse relationship is very strong and the number of followers of this type of tourism is growing year on year. Travel deals riding is varied in developed countries. From spending a few hours in the company of horses during the week, a weekend ride held in a specific hotel on the outskirts of large cities horse up to 1-2 weeks leave in the company's own horse or rent one. Besides travel offer applies to all levels of training equestrian tourism potential, regardless of age, gender or level of their culture. Good experience in organizing these types of tourism (which can be on horseback or wagon) have countries like Germany, Austria, Poland and Hungary (EDWARDS, 2001).

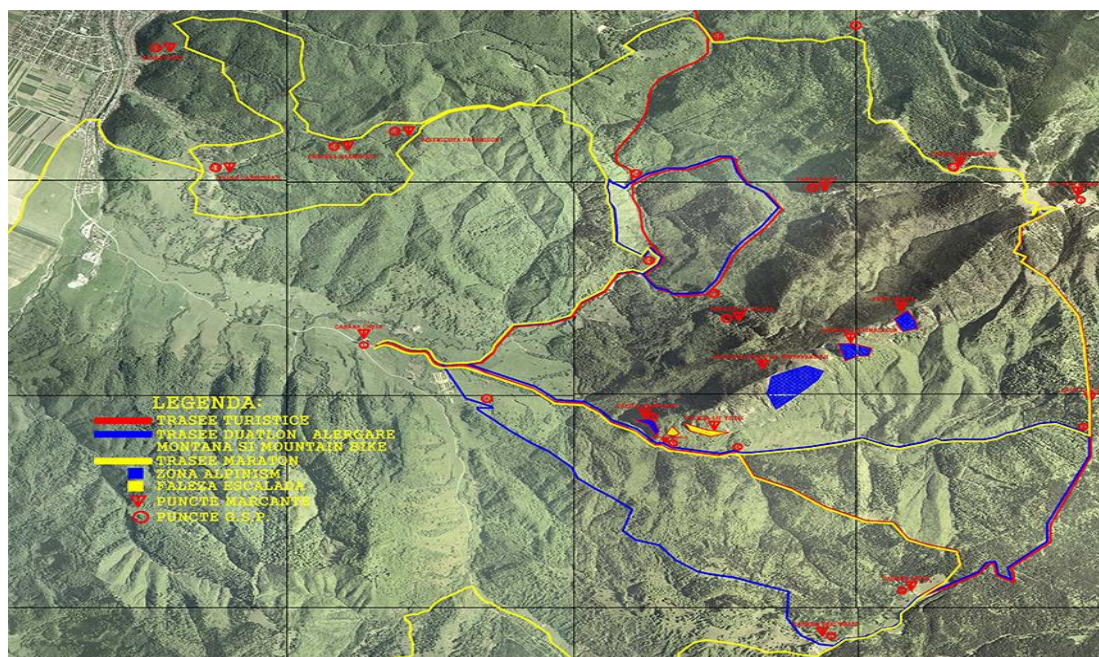
And in terms of our country have appeared in the last 10 years travel agents and equestrian clubs specializing in domestic and foreign visitors in order to provide a holiday dedicated in particular leisure in nature, around horses. It is expected the rapid development of this type of tourism in our country, taking into account on the one hand the natural beauties of Romania and the Romanian experience in the operation of the horses. Operation horses for pleasure in general and horse tourism in particular is an important source of income in the future Romanian breeders of horses. Current problems they face are the lack of advertising, in this respect, poor infrastructure and lodging that can provide tourists and prices that are offered such programs in Romania.

Here are some of the best destinations for fans of this kind of tourism in the world:

- Jordan - Petra to discover the city and the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea;
- Morocco - walking through the desert or on the sea;
- Mongolia - for those who want to pomesca the footsteps of Genghis Khan;
- Patagonia - to discover the Argentine Pampas;
- U.S. - like a cowboy.

In Europe can choose:

- Ireland – the island shores;
- France - the country with the most riding schools;
- Hungary - to discover plains.



**Fig 1** Tourist map includes trails that are practiced in equestrian tourism in Romania



**Fig 1. Equestrian tourism in Stud Izvin, Timis, Romania**

Even if Romania does not know the spread of equestrian tourism in developed countries, our country can be proud of some selected herds that even halt foreign tourists eager for fun and relaxation. Most of them offer riding courses, rent horses for rides or offer equestrian shows.

Here are the studs of Romania where, formally, equestrian tourism can be practiced both horse and with the carriage:

- Stud Izvin, Timis
- Stud from Balc, Bihor
- Stud Bontida, Cluj Napoca
- Stud Beclea, Bistrita Nasaud
- Stud Sambata de Jos, Brasov
- Stud Covasna, Covasna
- Stud and Stud Cislau Rusetu, Buzau County
- Stud Mangalia, Constanta
- Stud Dor Marunt and Stud Jegalia, Calarasi county
- Stud Slatina, Olt
- Stud Lucina and Stud Radauti, Suceava

Offer equestrian tourism of Romania include various programs:

- for experienced riders;
- for casual riders;
- for children and beginners.

Experienced riders, adventurous can tackle the traveling routes that cover long distances and require safe overnight shelter, tent or outdoors. o benefit from the warmth and comfort of a local hostels can be arranged in star trails, which offer the opportunity to visit different targets in a few days holiday. Equestrian enthusiasts but with little time or little experience in riding can choose leisure travel, short programs of less than one day. Both children and those who have not yet tried this activity, there is the possibility of a riding program initiation.

Following research we found that actors involved in equestrian tourism objectives are to develop, organize and promote equestrian tourism and recreational horsemanship, setting goals and priorities, supporting their implementation based on international standards of operation, the contribution by various means to cultivate interest in horse and activities related to it. Training are indispensable basis to achieve these objectives. The theoretical and practical skills needed to practice horse riding, plus knowledge of horsemanship specific outdoor guide, the natural and cultural environment in which the circuit. This means the ability to adapt to different situations such as fixing a horseshoe weakened or lost orientation varied terrain repair a harness, map reading and compass use correct or rescuing both horses and riders.

## CONCLUSIONS

Besides knowledge and skills specific hippology outdoor horse riding in Romania it is necessary to track the quality of facilities, services and the environment of activities, compliance and safety rules and accident prevention and effective use of means of implementation, communication and promotion.

The economic dimension of tourism and recreational horse riding is a consequence of the development of these activities. It's about generating new spaces activities and occupations and jobs. By developing equestrian tourism endangered some trades can be rehabilitated: farrier, harness and equipment specific, tailored service accommodation, feeding, various troubleshooting. Entertainment horses by equestrian tourism activity represents a new perspective for rural tourism in Romania.

Cultural aspects of equestrian tourism itineraries means finding instructive to combine harmoniously with the natural scenic tourist targets, local traditions as different activities specific entertainer.

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