

BENEFITS OF TOURISTS RESTORED FORTRESS

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Abstract: *In the work entitled "Benefits of tourists restored fortress" we made a classification of medieval fortresses in Romania according to the degree of destruction reached them. After this classification, the fortresses are divided into three categories: ruins, restored citadels and restored citadels. The main aim of this work is to highlight the tourist benefits brought by the restoration of the medieval fortresses in order to conserve the historical environment of our country. To highlight these touristic benefits brought to restoration, we studied the Alba Carolina fortress in the city of Alba Iulia whose tourist importance significantly increased after the restoration.*

Key words: *fortresses, tourists, benefits*

INTRODUCTION

First and foremost, the present and the future are dependent on the past, the present being impossible without the past generations on which the younger generations develop. Knowledge of history helps us to define ourselves, the old fortresses of Romania still remain proof that we have a rich past. Visiting these monuments only serves to send us in the past and to appreciate the work of our ancestors. [1]

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In this paper, we have consulted the official list of the Romanian citadels and together with the studies already carried out on most monuments, and from our personal opinion, we have come to the conclusion that we can define three main categories of cities: the restored ones, those requiring restoration and the ruins. For the second part of this work, we have collected data about the Alba Iulia Fortress, one of the largest and most famous in Romania. We found out how important the restoration was and what impact it had on the tourism in the area.

RESEARCH RESULTS

As a result of the research, the conclusion points out that out of 38 fortresses studied, 15 are part of the ruins category. The following table lists the castles considered ruins and identification data about them. (Table 1) [4]

Table 1.

The list of fortress considered ruins

Name	Location	Year of construction
The Brassovia fortress	Brașov, Brașov	1434
Capidava	Capidava, Constanța	*
Colț Fortress	Suseni, Hunedoara	1359
Crăciuna Fortress	Câmpineanca, Vrancea	Century XV
Dăbâca Fortress	Dăbâca, Cluj	1214
Durostorum	Ostrov, Constanța	*
Giurgiu Fortress	Giurgiu, Giurgiu	Century XIV
Rapsonne Citadel "	Praid, Harghita	1110
The New Castle of the Roman	Gâdiniți, Neamț	1466
The city of Siria	Șiria, Arad	Century XIII
Șcheia Citadel	Șcheia, Suceava	Century XIV
The Royal Court of Târgoviște	Târgoviște, Dâmbovița	Century XVII
Turda-Veche Fortress	Turda, Cluj	1608
Unguras Fortress	Unguraș, Cluj	1269

Ciceu Fortress	Ciceu-Mihăiești, Bistrița-Năsăud	Century XIII
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With an equal number as the fortresses in the category of ruins are also those of the category to be restored. The table below presents these fortresses, with the hope that in the near future they will be restored to avoid reaching their stage of ruin.(Table 2). [4]

Table 2.

List of fortress that require restoration

Name	Location	Year of construction
The Aiud fortress	Aiud, Alba	Century XIV
Bistrita Fortress	Bistrița, Bistrița-Năsăud	Century XIII
Bologa Fortress	Bologa, Cluj	Century XIV
Fortress of Călnic	Călnic, Alba	*
Cluj Castle	Cluj-Napoca, Cluj	1525
Fagaras Fortress	Făgăraș, Brașov	1310
The Citadel of the Graves in Gârbova	Gârbova, Alba	Century XIII
The Poenari Citadel	Căpățânenii Pământeni, Argeș	*
Rupea Fortress	Rupea, Brașov	1324
Sighisoara Citadel	Sighișoara, Mureș	Century XII
Soimos Castle	Șoimoș, Arad	Century XIII
Citizenship on the Guard	Brașov, Brașov	1524
The medieval fortress Târgu Mureș	Târgu Mureș, Mureș	1652
Trascau Fortress	Colțești, Alba	1296
Ziridava	Cladova, Arad	*

The following graph expresses the level of funds that need to be allocated, the level of touristic importance, the accessibility and importance of fortress that need restoration. (Chart 1)

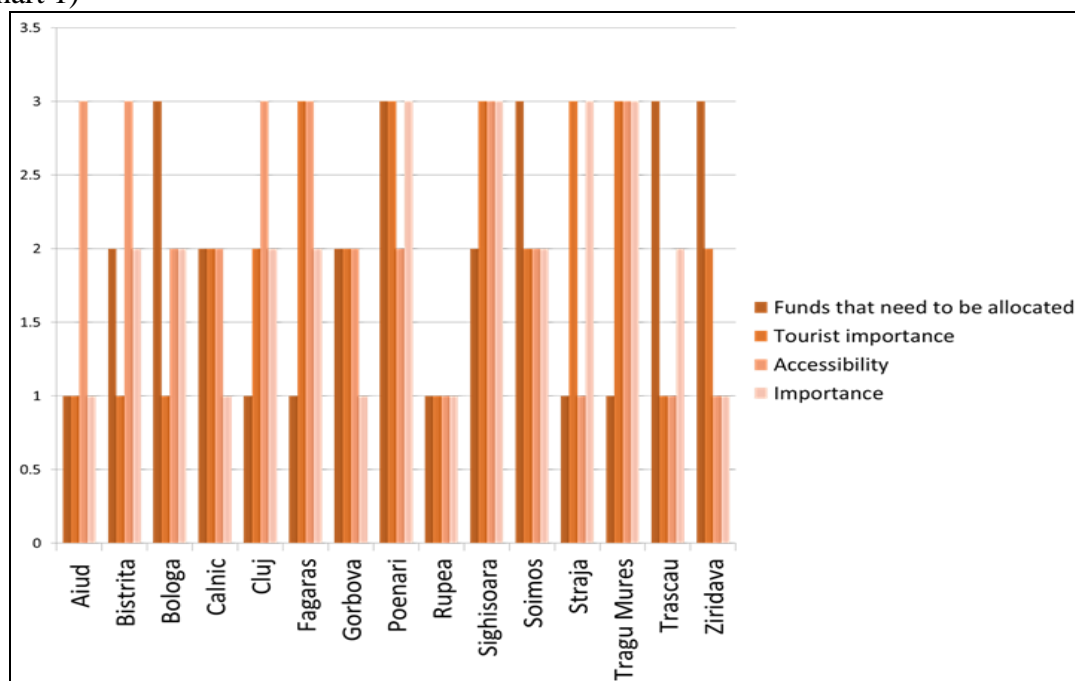


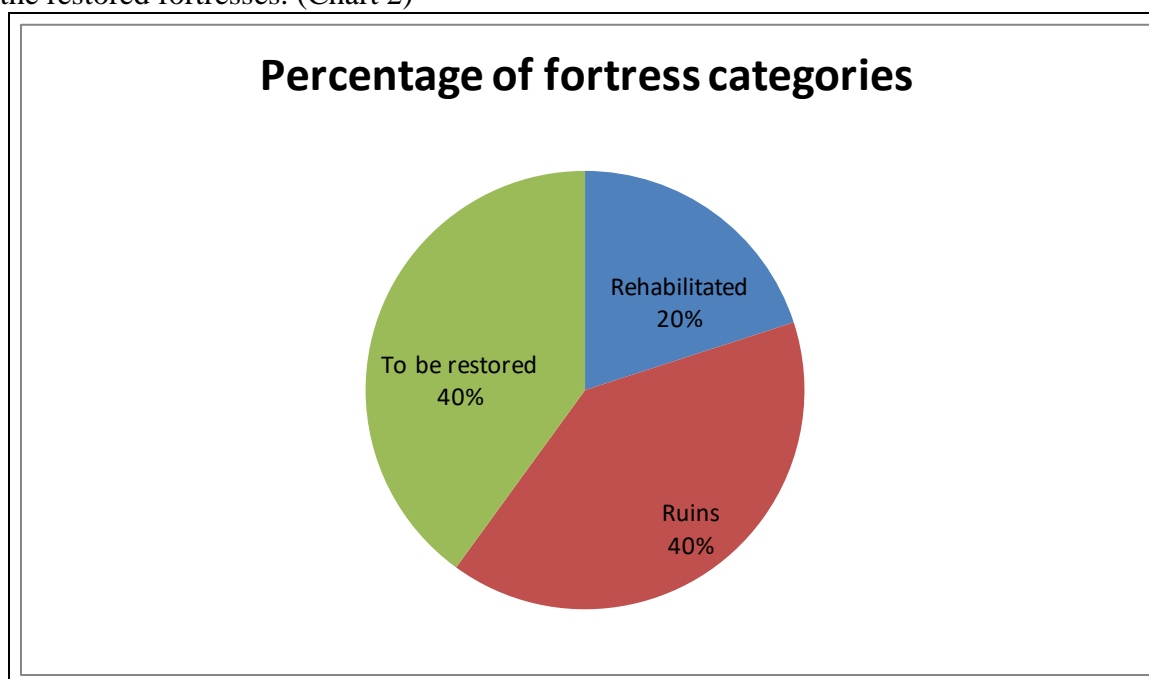
Figure 1. Assessing the fortress after the four categories

Unfortunately, the number of restored citadels in Romania is rather small given the total. In the table below are presented the eight cities already restored. (Table 3) [4]

Table 3.**List of rehabilitated fortress**

Name	Location	Year of construction
Alba Carolina Fortress	Alba Iulia, Alba	1738
Deva Fortress	Deva, Hunedoara	1269
Mikó Castle in Miercurea Ciuc	Miercurea Ciuc, Harghita	1631
Neamț Fortress	Târgu Neamț, Neamț	1395
Oradea Fortress	Oradea, Bihor	Century XI
Rasnov Fortress	Râșnov, Brașov	1335
The Citadel of Suceava Chair	Suceava, Suceava	Century XIV
Timisoara Fortress	Timișoara, Timiș	1765

By centralizing all the information, the percentage of each category generated the results of the chart below. The observations indicate that the first two categories are equal and the lowest percentage represents, unfortunately the most important category, namely the restored fortresses. (Chart 2)

**Figure 2. Percentage of fortress categories**

Alba Carolina, the symbol of the city, represents one of the most important and impressive restoration projects in our country, managing to put Alba Iulia on the map of the exceptional destinations. [2]

The fortress was brought back to life by extensive restoration activities consisting of park development and restoration of the components. All seven gates of the fortress were completely restored and the chalets and streets inside the fortress were given a modern look. The works were finalised in 2009 costing of about 50 million euros. Thanks to these changes, the number of tourists has increased 5 times, from about 2,000 tourists per month to 10,000 tourists per month. [2]

On the national tourist market, the city of Alba Iulia together with its fortress is an important part of the cultural heritage. It is a tourist destination known both in the country and abroad due to the anthropic resources as well as the relatively diversified structure of the touristic offer. Here, the touristic potential is repurchased throughout the year and the elements of the touristic offer are appreciated by the technical-material basis. Of the total

number of accommodation places, hotels hold 82.21% of the total, the rest being owned by pensions, villas and motels. (Chart 3) [2]

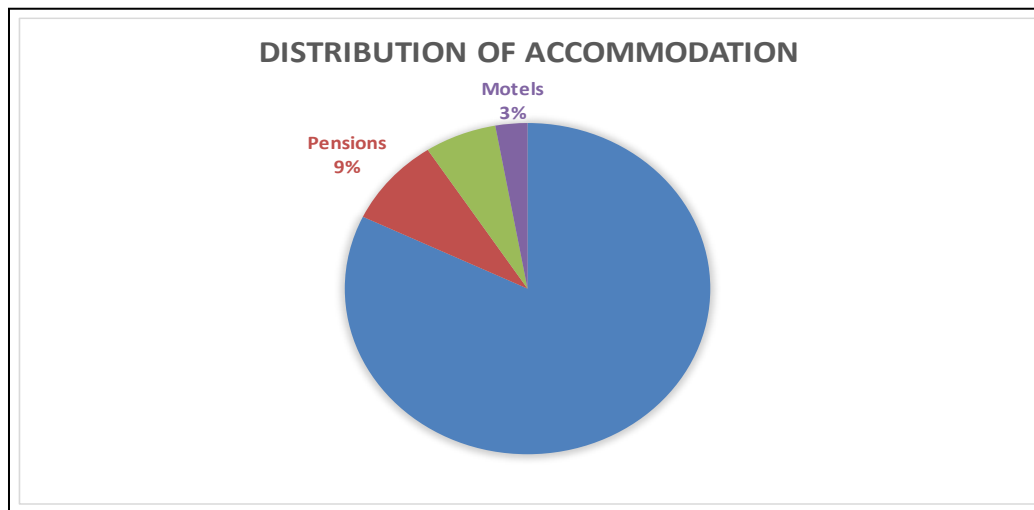


Figure 3. Distribution of accommodation

flows in the city indicates that the summer months record the highest flows and the lowest are observed in the winter months. Foreign tourists originate from Germany, Italy and Spain and their number is twice lower than that of the Romanian tourists. The average duration of stay in the area is of two days. [3]

The historic city of Alba Iulia has architectural and historical monuments of national and international importance and represents a tourist destination with cultural touristic potential. Tourists have the opportunity to experience and visit the following historical monuments of architecture and art: the Union Museum, the Bastion Fortress, the Obelisk "Horia, Closca and Crisan", the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Rectory Cathedral, the Prince Palace and others. [2]

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the observations clearly indicate that Romania has a very large number of cities, divided into three main categories: ruins, fortresses that require restoration and already restored fortresses. Unfortunately, the number of already restored fortresses is much lower compared to the previous two categories.

A restored fortress brings a surplus of city income by increasing the number of tourists and touristic trade in the area. Besides the investments in the city, those that offer accommodation, food and recreation should also contribute to the development of the area.

In Alba Iulia, there was a considerable growth of the tourist visits due to the restoration of the fortress. At the same time the entire city developed by offering accommodation in different ways but and also other sites to visit that could attract tourists.

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