

JINA-SOURCE OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND TRADITIONS

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Abstract: Jina commune is located in the central part of Romania, in the south of Transylvania, and administratively belongs to Sibiu county. Jina is a blessed commune, where people are hardworking and hospitable. Jina is a commune where the local public administration is receptive to investments and projects, which lead to the sustainable development of the locality. The commune is a real mold for hiking in the Cindrel mountains. In addition to the wonderful landscape of the commune and the tourist attractions that can be visited and admired, Jina commune preserves traditions inherited from the ancestors. We thus open a window for you to come and know the beauty of this commune and to discover the values of the community and the history of these lands.

Key words: Jina, tourist attractions, protected area, traditions

INTRODUCTION

Peregrinating towards the peaks of the Carpathians, your eye will be delighted by a wonderful sight. Those who visited these places were fascinated by this village, by its beauty and the authenticity that has been preserved from the ancestors.

Within the county, the commune occupies the entire southwestern part of it, the western border of the commune being at the same time the border between Sibiu and Alba counties, and the southern border the border between Sibiu and Vâlcea counties. The year of the documentary attestation of the commune of Jina is 1396 [9,11].



Figure 1. Jina Commune (satellite view)

Source: Authors' processing after <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Jina> [17]

In terms of extent, Jina has an area of 32,980 hectares, approximately the area of Bucharest and the hearth of the village is located at an altitude of 900-988 m, being among the highest localities in Romania, and some points of the border reach 2200 m.

The population of analyzed commune in 1992 was 4361 inhabitants. With the passage of time, the population of the commune constantly decreased. In 2008, 4146 people lived in the commune. In 2018, the number of inhabitants was 3755, and in 2022 it reached 3599 [10,12].

The hearth of the village is located on 7 hills like Rome: Diuidiu (Cucuruz), Curmătura, Hodeșul, Cimitiluru, Muntele, Ulica Mare and Guruietul [11].

Here is a brief description of how to get to this commune using the three main roads mentioned:

The main road. This road starts from DN1 and passes through the city of Săliște and the towns of Galeș, Tilșca, Rod, Poiana Sibiului and Jina. The length of this road is about 25 kilometers and it is identified as DJ-106 E [1].

The second way. This second road also starts from DN1, near Miercurea Sibiului, and passes through the localities of Dobârca, Poiana Sibiului and Jina. The length of this road is approximately 20 kilometers [4].

The third access road. This access road connects the localities of Jina and Șugag through the locality of Dobra. From Șugag, you can reach Sebeș (38 km) or you can go up the mountains to Tău (15 km), Oașa (30 km), Obârșă Lotrului, Brezoi-Vâlcea, Novaci-Gorj, Petroșani-Hunedoara [10].

The nearest cities to this locality are: Sibiu, located approximately 49 kilometers away, Sebeș, 38-41 kilometers away, Săliște, 24 kilometers away and Miercurea Sibiului, 20 kilometers away [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the writing of this paper we used a series of study methods. Among the methods used in this paper work, the authors consulted the specialized literature, various scientific papers in the field and studied data of interest for this paper.

The best way to know and analyze an area or a commune is to visit it. This fact helped us a lot to identify the most interesting attractions in the commune. In addition to the anthropogenic tourist attractions identified in the commune, we also discovered a series of tourist attractions declared natural monuments of great beauty.

Among the methods used, we mention the method related to observation, an important method used for this work. The local authorities were very open to introduce us to the commune which, in addition to the present beauties, is also an area full of traditions and customs. Thus we were able to realize and centralize the situation, we analyzed it and in the end we managed to draw a series of conclusions [2,5,6].

RESEARCH RESULTS

Jina commune is located in the ethno-folkloric area called Mărginimea Sibiului. Due to its generous surface and its location on seven hills, Jina is one of the most picturesque mountain communities in the country. Here the horizon opens so wide that you can see the Transylvanian Plateau and the Apuseni Mountains, all the way to Cheile Turzii[9].

Thanks to the modernization of the DJ 106 E "Transalpina Drumul Regelui" road, which connects Săliște Sibiului and Novacii Gorjuului, passing through the commune of Jina, it helped to develop tourism in the area, building units that offer accommodation services [13].

Natural sights/monuments. On the vast territory of Jina commune there are some tourist attractions declared monuments of nature such as:

The spurs from the Jine coast. The spurs from the Jina Coast are a natural monument with geological and landscape value. They are located in Sibiu county, on the administrative territory of Jina commune [7].

They were declared a protected area of national interest in 2000, covering an area of 2 ha. The spurs of the Jina Coast are made up of several isolated and prominent rocks, made of crystalline shale. In altitude, they extend between 700 and 900 m, being located on the slope of the "Coasta Jinei" hill. The area is mostly covered with beech forests. To visit the Pintenii from Costa Jinei, from Dobra you climb the steep slopes of the Lihoi River.

The spurs of the Jina Coast are one of the most important tourist attractions in Marginimea Sibiului, an objective you should not miss if you are nearby [3,8].



Figure 2. The spurs from the Jina coast

Source: https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comuna_Jina,_Sibiu [10]

The rocks from Grumaji. La Grumaji (monument of nature), is a protected area of national interest corresponding to IUCN category III (mixed nature reserve), located in Sibiu County, on the administrative territory of Jina commune. The natural reserve with an area of 2 ha, is located on the right bank of the Sebeș River, 200 m upstream from Masa Jidovului and represents a group of prominent rocks made of crystalline shale, surrounded by forest vegetation consisting of beech forests, in association with pine species. The reserve is of geological, floristic and landscape interest [15].

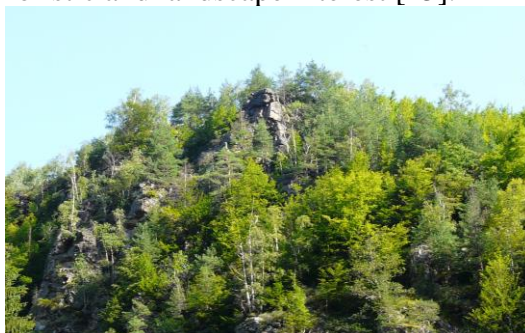


Figure 3. The rocks from Grumaji

Source: <https://romanianturism.com/2013/11/04/la-grumaji/> [15]

The Jidovului Table. The Jidovului Table is one of the most interesting natural monuments in Transylvania, located on the right bank of the Sebeș River, in close proximity to the national road DN 67C – Transalpina [12].

The Jidovului Table is also known as the Uriașului Table and is part of the Valea Frumoasei site, as it is also called Valea Sebeșului - a geological and landscape reserve declared a protected area. The isolated rock, made of crystalline shale, is located about 10 kilometers south of Șugag, on the right bank of the Sebeș River, on the edge of DN 67C – Transalpina, downstream of the Tău – Bistra reservoir. Like a table, the rock rises about 5 meters above the steep wall on the bank of the Sebeș River, more than 100 meters above the waterline [9].

The Jidovului Table is an isolated rock, made of crystalline shale, which forms a platform (geological formation protruding towards the valley) that resembles a table. The Jidovului/Uriașului Table is a protected area of national interest corresponding to IUCN category III (geological and landscape nature reserve), located in the southwest of Transylvania, on the western border of Sibiu county with the southeastern one of the county Alba, on the administrative territories of Jina, Sibiu and Șugag communes, Alba (Tău Bistra village), on the right bank of the Sebeș River, in close proximity to the national road (DN 67C) Transalpina.[12]



Figure 4. The Jidovului Table

Source: Authors' processing after <https://alba24.ro/video-rezervatia-masa-jidovului-filmata-cu-drona-cum-arata-unul-dintre-cele-mai-frumoase-monumente-naturale-din-alba-716248.html> [14]

Other sights worth visiting. The "Casa Morariu" pastoral museum was inaugurated in 2006 and is unique in the country. As you reach the center of Jina commune, a tourist sign invites you to visit the Museum. Next to the historical monument church, the road will take you through the narrow streets of the locality to the house where the museum is open. It is a simple house of homely people, but which houses a very special museum in its yard. The "Casa Morariu" pastoral museum houses many old tools, objects, pictures, pieces of folk wear that were used over the years by our ancestors [16].

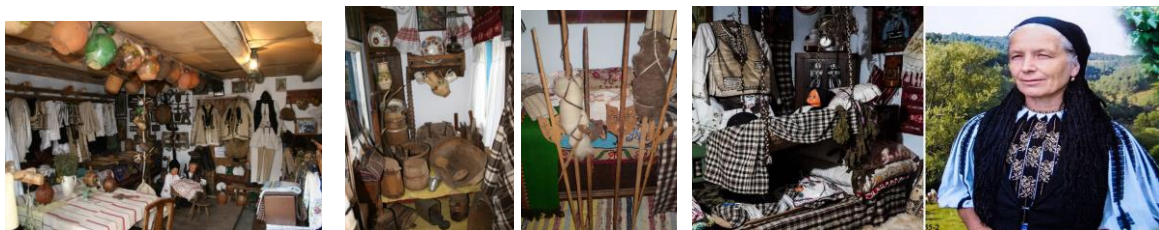


Figure 5. "Casa Morariu" Pastoral Museum

Source: The personal archive of the authors

The nunnery monastery from Măgura. The monastery is located on the valley of the Șugaglui stream, 13.5 km from Jina and 6.5 km above the village of Dobra. The monastery began to function in 1992. A prayer corner and picturesque expanse of communion with God, with people and with nature. Manufacture of monastic natural products, from carefully chosen and collected ingredients, processed with love and prayer, out of respect for beauty and for God's creation [14].



Figure 6. The nunnery monastery from Măgura

Source: Authors' processing after <https://alba24.ro/video-rezervatia-masa-jidovului-filmata-cu-drona-cum-arata-unul-dintre-cele-mai-frumoase-monumente-naturale-din-alba-716248.html> [14]

Over the years, there have been several Orthodox churches in Jina.

The old wall church with the patron saint "Buna Vestire", was declared a historical monument in 1968, has the shape of a ship and was built of stone and brick on the site of the old wooden church, in the years 1795-1796, inaugurated in 1801 after the decree to Emperor Joseph II in 1791, which stipulated the Romanians' right to build stone churches. The entire fresco painting was finished in 1801, and today the bell from 1776, a number of 6 large wooden icons, 6 painted and inscribed wooden crosses are still preserved. From the existing documents it is known that there was another wooden church in Jina, in the place called "Valea Secii". Today on this place there is a troit, where religious processions are held on January 6-on the "Baptism of the Lord" holiday [9,11].

The current church, dedicated to "Buna Vestire", was built in 1795. The expenses were borne by the faithful, along with which the 1st border regiment, based in Orlat, contributed 1040 florins. Jina was a border commune, although all the inhabitants were of the Orthodox religion, a forbidden religion for a border commune. The church is built of stone and brick, covered with tiles, and the tower is covered with tin. It is not known the craftsman who built it, nor the bishop who consecrated it, because in 1795-1801, when it was put into use, the episcopal seat in Transylvania was vacant [12].



Figure 7. The old wall church with the patron saint "Buna Vestire"

Source: Authors' processing after <https://alba24.ro/video-rezervatia-masa-jidovului-filmata-cu-drona-cum-arata-unul-dintre-cele-mai-frumoase-monumente-naturale-din-alba-716248.html> [14]

The New Church— in 1935, an official delegation, headed by King Carol II accompanied by Prime Minister Gheorghe Tătăărăscu, passed through Jina on the occasion of the inauguration of the "King's Road". The priest together with numerous believers welcomed them in the center of the commune. The delegation asked for explanations about the ruins of the church, and as a result, numerous donations were made for the construction of another church. In 1937, the building of the new church began and it was finished in 1939. It is of a size rarely found in villages, which is why it is called the "Cathedral of the mountains". It is dedicated to Saints Michael and Gabriel, like the church in Târg. In 1991, in the courtyard of the new church, a group of stones were built, which include: the monument to the heroes of the Second World War; a massive stone table and a niche for the icon and candle (in the enclosure wall) [11,14].



Figure 8. The New Church

Source: The personal archive of the authors

The church from Băieși – considering that the population in the Băieși neighborhood has always grown, the long distance to Jina, in 2012 it was decided to establish the Jina III Parish in this neighborhood. In 2003, a premises for the church was set up in the building in the courtyard of the old school in Băieși; in 2014, the land behind it was bought, on March 29, 2015, the place was consecrated for the construction of a new church, which was finished in 2017. This church is patronized by "Saint Hierarch Nicolae and Saint Andrei Șaguna" [11].



Figure 9. The church from Băieși

Source: The personal archive of the authors

Customs and traditions. Many years before the establishment of the cultural home, there were different forms of cultural and artistic activities, with the aim of maintaining local traditions such as: the chairs, the village choir, the village choir, the whistlers team, etc., traditions that are still preserved today [16].



Figure 10. The whistlers team

Source: The personal archive of the authors

Next we will present the most important Jina traditions:

"**Poruncile**" which represents a way of connection between the management of the commune and the inhabitants, a kind of small local advertising that is said on Sundays in the center of the commune [12].



Figure 11. "Poruncile"

Source: The personal archive of the authors

"**Recruții**" which represent young people who were going to go to the army, they dress in folk costumes the day after Easter every year, they go to the center of the commune shouting and shouting accompanied by music [9].



Figure 12. "Recruții"

Source: The personal archive of the authors

"**Obiceiul Junilor**" a special custom expected by the whole village and which represents the formation of groups of boys every year for Christmas caroling and the organization of youth holiday parties [9].



Figure 13. Christmas traditions

Source: The personal archive of the authors

"**Mătăuzul**" it is a children's custom that is done at the beginning of the Easter fast on two Sundays: the Little Matăuz and the Big Matăuz. Children gathered dry wood on several hills near the village with which they light fires to announce the beginning of fasting [10].



Figure 14. Tradition of beginning the fast

Source: The personal archive of the authors

Folk festival "Sus pe muntele din Jina". Folkloric festival that reminds of the old traditions of the shepherds of Margin. Being one of the oldest festivals organized in the border villages, it aims to preserve and capitalize on the traditions and customs, songs and games of the jinars and their way of life. The festival brings together artistic groups with pastoral traditions from several areas of the country [12].



Figure 15. The folk festival

Source: Authors' processing after <https://alba24.ro/video-rezervatia-masa-jidovului-filmata-cu-drona-cum-arata-unul-dintre-cele-mai-frumose-monumente-naturale-din-alba-716248.html> [14]

Other important events are: the Pilgrimage to the Old Church of "Bunavestire" takes place on March 25th every year, and the Pilgrimage to the New Church of "Saints Archangels Michael and Gabriel", another important event in Jina commune takes place on the 8 November every year [10].

CONCLUSIONS

The studied commune has a great development potential. In addition to natural resources and tourist potential, the commune also has potential for economic development.

As it appears from the study, the village has a favorable geographical position, with access from three directions.

On the accommodation side, Jina offers a wide range of accommodation options, a large number of traditional accommodation structures, which offer tourists or visitors the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the people of the area and the local traditions.

A strong point of the commune is the ski area, but unfortunately it is closed to the public. The Jina slope was inaugurated in 2013, with funds from EU projects and funds from the town hall.

Due to the high temperatures and the lack of snow, the maintenance of the slope is very expensive, and without tourists, the business is not profitable at all. It takes a lot of effort to maintain a slope, which involves quite a lot of expenses.

If the ski section would work, it would help a large number of people to benefit from jobs, stability and thus they would no longer have to leave the commune.

The observation and analysis of the area played an important role in the writing of this work. Due to the tourist attractions declared natural monuments, the area slowly became of interest to the visitors of the village and not only to tourists.

Some minuses of the commune studied include the lack of promotion of this commune. The promotion would be very beneficial for the commune only by using social networks, which are considered the most effective. Another weak point of the commune would be the long distance from the nearby towns, the lack of a pharmacy in the commune, and the health center needs modernization and equipment.

As threats in the analyzed commune, we can mention depopulation, the migration of young people to the city, landslides and the lack of jobs for qualified young people.

The studied commune also has development opportunities that would help stop the departure of qualified young people in various fields of activity. The local administration being very receptive, active, available for any effort regarding the development of the community, should apply to various financing programs from the EU, not only on the tourism side but also on the agriculture and animal husbandry side.

The museum, unique in Romania, was a plus for attracting tourists and visitors to the area. The churches and the monastery in the area were included in tourist routes for those people who practice ecumenical tourism.

The commune is admirable because it still preserves many traditions and customs from the ancestors and they have preserved the authentic specifics of the area. We appreciate that the national port, the local cuisine, the old objects are still part of the life of the commune.

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