

## TOURIST FACILITY PROPOSALS IN THE VILLAGE OF BREB IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN THE AREA

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**Abstract:** *The name of the village comes from Breb, a water animal (the European beaver), which lived in Breboia, the river that crosses the village. To get to know the village as well as possible and to make the most of the beauty of the area, tourists can venture on a bicycle tour; if they want a more relaxing experience, they can call on a professional guide who can lead tourists on the trails in the area through which they can expand their love for nature and specific architecture, also depending on the season, they can choose wagon or sleigh rides. In order to have a complete experience, tourists will not just overlook the area dedicated to spending time with their loved ones, but in this sense the specially arranged places will be able to offer the opportunity for a picnic in nature but also to hold water competitions.*

**Key words:** *tourists, facility proposals, bred, development*

### INTRODUCTION

The tourist arrangement can be, from a structural point of view: [2,5,8,9]

- complex, when it aims to create a tourist resort;
- simple, when its purpose is only to set up objectives for visiting (tourist access roads, quays, historical monuments, caves, etc.).

When it is not incompatible due to pollution sources in an area, tourism usually coexists with other economic branches in that area (rural tourism with agriculture, urban tourism with industry, wine tourism with viticulture, etc.). [1,6] That's why tourism planning is part of the process of planning, organizing and arranging the respective area and valuing its resources.[3,7,10]

The village of Breb is a developed settlement in the Mara-Cosău area, with a hilly relief and natural resources with sulfur springs, documented in the second half of the 14th century. The town had the status of a climatic resort until 1918, when three springs were exploited, with baths for the establishment and for internal cleaning.

The settlement had numerous names from the time of its documentary attestation until 1720 - Hódpatakfalwa, Villa olachalis Hatpatokfalvaž Hodpataky, Hothpathaka, Hothpathak, Hothpathakał Hathpathok, Breeb - the current name Breb or Bréb being found since 1851.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Hungarian names that would translate as Beaver Valley Village (Hódpatakfalwa) or Beaver Valley (Hodpataky) were used in documents. Derived from Old Slavic, "breb" ("bebră") means rodent/ beaver.

Given the favorable natural setting in which the settlement is located, a derivation of the anthroponym is unlikely, being suggestive of an association with "the large number of beavers that lived in the area in the past". [11]

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

For the realization of this scientific work we carried out both bibliographical and field studies. We visited the village of Breb, and after this visit we realized that there are opportunities for development and that following proposals for tourist facilities can increase the number of tourists in the area and thus develop tourism and the community.

### RESEARCH RESULTS

In order to propose tourist development in the village of Breb, we will first present the natural and anthropic potentials of the area analyzed by us.

The relief is varied, being predominantly mountainous (40%) and hilly (30%), the flat regions being summarized in the minor riverbeds of the main rivers and the interfluves that separate them (20%), and comprise most of the built-up area.

The Igriș Mountains are represented by the Pleșca Massif, the Tătaru Plateau, the Pietrei Abrupt, and the Gutâiului foothills, occupying an extensive area (25%) within the village. Gutâi Mountains occupy an area of only 80 km<sup>2</sup> between Gutin pass (987 meters) and Neteda pass (1039 meters). They are composed of a high volcanic body, smaller volcanic massifs and flat plateaus situated at about 1000 meters altitude. [12]

There are three Nature Sites in the surrounding area and on the administrative territory. These are:

Gutâi Mountains declared as a protected natural area. They cover an area of just 80 km<sup>2</sup> between Gutin Pass (987 meters) and Neteda Pass (1039 meters). They are composed of a high volcanic body, smaller volcanic buttes and flat plateaus located at an altitude of about 1000 meters.

The western end of the site is bordered by the Firiza stream valley, to the north by the agricultural lands in the vicinity of Săpânța, to the northeast by Sighetu-Marmației, to the east by Mara and Desești, and in the extreme south by Căvnic. It comprises mainly forested areas and important areas of meadows. [13]

**Igriș** is located in the central-northern part of Maramureș county, near the national road DN 18 and is characterized by high biological diversity, varied and ecologically stable habitats: forests, meadows, pastures and meadows, marshes, cliffs.

The relief consisting of alternating slopes with varied exposures, dome-shaped plateau ridges, waterfalls, oligotrophic and eutrophic swamps, as well as the richness of original habitats and species, create a remarkable beauty of the landscape. The site represents a natural area framed in the north-western alpine bioregion of the Gutâi - Igriș Mountains (a mountain group belonging to the Maramureș and Bucovina Carpathians, part of the Oriental Carpathian chain) and the continental one of the Baia Mare Depression. It includes the nature reserves of Cheile Tatarului, Poiana Brazilor Swamp, Iezerul Mare Swamp and Tăul lui Dumitru. [13]

Creasta Cocoșului Reserve is the main element of abiotic conservation interest found in the territory of the site, a valuable geological monument both for its unique appearance and for its volcanogenetic processes, being constituted by the youngest extrusive rocks of this mountainous area (about 9.0 Ma). The site is the main protected natural area of the ecotourism destination Eco Maramureș (Mara-Cosău Creasta Cocoșului) - the first ecotourism destination in the country, designated by the National Tourism Authority in 2014.

The Creasta Cocoșului is a more bizarre landform, a sharp, crenellated hill, ca. 200 m long, with fissured, saw-like walls and a difference in level of 40 meters (west), 80 meters (east) and 150 meters (north). 3 km E-E-E and 1-2 km N-S, between the peaks of Sectura and Gutâiul Mic (Apostolii). It is considered to be a large-scale lava dome volcanic structure or a twinning of volcanic products put in place by central-type apparatus (Sectura, Gutâiul Doamnei, Gutâiul Mare). In both geological interpretations, the Creasta Cocoșului represents a remnant of lava flow located at the plateau level, but affected by differential erosion on the flanks, an erosion marker.

Creasta Cocoșului Protected Area, by the complex of geological, botanical, faunistic factors, represents one of the most spectacular territories in Maramureș County. This area encompasses the rocky spur covered by short vegetation of subalpine scrubland, but also the neighboring areas occupied by the buffer forest, built by beech forests, as well as the meadows that occupy the hills on the outskirts.

Also, in the protected area, there are stabilized bogs with a characteristic flora as significant and ecologically important habitats. The largest share is occupied by the subalpine scrublands of the subalpine cloudberry and blackberry bush, which are classified in the habitat category of the South-East Carpathian cloudberry bush. Compared to the usual situations, they occur at somewhat lower altitudes, not exceeding 1100-1300 meters.

The slopes are steeply to moderately sloping with acidic siliceous rock substrates. The two *Vaccinium* species, accompanied by grasses, are the edifying species.

Remnants of these plant formations of maximum ecological value can still be seen on the slope facing Căvnic. Unfortunately, the edifying species, *Pinus mugo*, is present only in the charred trunks, several decades old. Mixed species include *Alnus viridis*, *Juniperus sibirica*, etc. The beech forests below the ridge do not occupy significant areas, constituting only a relatively disjunct strip in comparison to the beech forests of the Gutâi Mountains. It is well connected, with a herbaceous layer under which a regenerative layer of saplings of different ages is developed. Being a meadow on a skeletal, moderately acidic soil, the herb layer is quite modest in terms of connectivity and consists of acidophilic species.

In the vicinity of the Rooster's Ridge, included in the protected area are also grassland habitats, meadows of *Nardus stricta*, *Festuca rubra* and *Agrostis capillaris*. These are typical meadows with a relatively diverse floristic composition, in a good state of conservation. Special attention should be paid to the thickets within the protected area. The Chendroaiei Tăul Chendroaiei, located at the very base of the ridge, as well as the Hoteni Tăul. They are edified by sphagnum and have a floristic composition very typical of these plant formations.[13]

In the following we also present protected natural areas of local interest:

Lake Morarenilor. This protected natural area is also known as Tăul Brebului and is located in the north-central part of Maramureș County, in the north of the Gutâi Mountains, on the south-western territory of the village of Breb, close to the national road DN18. Located under the Cocoșului Ridge at an altitude of 882 m, the reserve covers an area of 20 ha. The lake, which is at the beginning of the sfagnetelor formation, is a rare habitat in Romania, preserved in almost natural conditions. The area bordering the lake is formed by a complex plant association, specific to the intersections of habitats - plain, hill, mountain - with black alder, white alder and mountain alder. Wetland plants such as pond pond pondweed, dewberry (carnivorous), water clover, bramble, bramble, moss have found favorable conditions for their development here.

The Crăiască Forest is located in the central-northern part of Maramureș county in the north of the Gutâi Mountains, close to the national road DN1F, which connects the municipality of Zalău with the town of Carei and represents a wooded area, with a protective role for the gorun (*Quercus petraea*) and larch (*Larix decidua*) stands, which grow in association with species of pendunculate oak (*Quercus robur* with ages of approx. 140 years), lime (*Tilia*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*).[13]

The river network is collected by the Mara river.

The most important tributary of the Marei in the commune is the Breboia Valley. It is formed in the southern part of the territory by the confluence of several valleys draining the Gutâiului piedmont. On its upper course it is called the Măgurii Valley. It then receives on the left a cluster of torrential valleys that fragments the northern slope of Vf. Pietraru (808 m), and on the left, the Vâlceaua Vârtoapelor which drains the Dordiu Hill (643 m). On the territory of the village Breb it collects the Sunătoarea Valley and the Răchitele stream and flows into the Mara River at the western administrative boundary towards the commune of Desești.

The territory is also crossed by the Breboia River (or Breb River), a tributary of the Mara River, which runs through the territory of Breb village.[14]

Most of the lakes are concentrated in the outskirts of the village: Lake Bătrân, Lake Vrăjitoarei, Lakes Bogdan 1 and 2, Lake Gavril, Lake Tăul Fără Fund. The lake complex of Ocna Șugatag includes 8 lakes in collapsed hollows, more than 30 small lakes in dissolving sinkholes (Mihai, Vorsig, Pipiriga, White Lake, etc.), but there are also underground lakes in abandoned salt pans.

Lake Gavrilă (Gábori) is considered the largest anthroposaline mine lake in the country, formed in 1966, by the collapse of the mine, with an area of about 2.35 ha and a depth of about 30 meters, an average depth of 10.5 meters, it is also the source of salt water for the resort, but

also has a freshwater layer on the surface that allows the existence of a freshwater biocenosis in the lake, making possible the existence of fish.

Tăul Fără Fundul Lake is the deepest anthroposaline mine lake in Maramureș, with a depth of about 33 meters, a perimeter of 132 meters and a surface area of 1,035 square meters. It appears as a heavily clogged puddle, mostly covered by papyrus, with a series of marginal open-water meshes, often heavily eutrophicated.

The Old Salt Lake (Öregi tó) has a surface area of 6,226 square meters, an average depth of 6.13 m and a maximum depth of 15.7 m. Its surface water layer is sweetened, allowing a biocenosis characteristic of freshwater lakes.

The Salty Witches' Lake (Boszorkány tó) is situated in a hollow with steep slopes covered with dense tree vegetation.

The carbonated mineral springs of Breb have been known for over a hundred years (since 1866), carbonated waters, locally called "borcuturi". They are chlorosodic, bromide, bicarbonate and sulphurous underground waters, located in the mofetic aureole of the Oaş - Gutâi - Țibleș volcanic mountains, with proven therapeutic qualities.

In the period 1866-1918, in the south-western part of the village of Breb, three mineral springs were known: two of them were used for spa cures, and the third, called Olga spring, was bottled. The place of the springs is mentioned on the map published by the Military Topographical Directorate under the name "La Borcut".

The Olga spring discharged a sulphurous, bicarbonated, sulphurous, chlorinated, calcic, magnesian, sodic, carbonated water, with a total mineralization of 7.9 g/l, of which the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is 1.3 g/l, with a flow of 0.5 l/s. The spas recommended it for the treatment of gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary disorders, nutritional diseases and food allergies. Nowadays, the water of the Olga spring, known locally as "Borcut", is routinely used for drinking by the locals, with a rudimentary catchment and a signpost on the county road DJ 109F marking the path leading to it. [14]

Breb's cultural and historical sights are an integral part of the area's cultural and historical heritage. These landmarks are a source of inspiration and education for visitors, providing insight into local history and culture.

Breb Monastery is one of the most important cultural and historical sights in the area. Founded in the 15th century, the monastery was an important center of culture and spirituality in the region. Today the monastery is a place of pilgrimage and a symbol of faith and spirituality. Inside the monastery, visitors can admire an impressive collection of icons and religious art. The monastery also houses a museum presenting the history and culture of the area.

The Orthodox Church in Breb is another important cultural and historical landmark in the area. Built in the 18th century, the church is an example of the religious architecture of that period. Inside the church, visitors can admire a collection of icons and religious art. The church also houses a museum presenting the history and culture of the area.

The Breb Village Museum is an important cultural and historical landmark in the area. The museum presents the history and culture of the area with a collection of objects and exhibits illustrating local life and traditions. In the museum, visitors can admire a collection of objects and exhibits presenting the history and culture of the area. The museum also hosts cultural events and activities. [15]

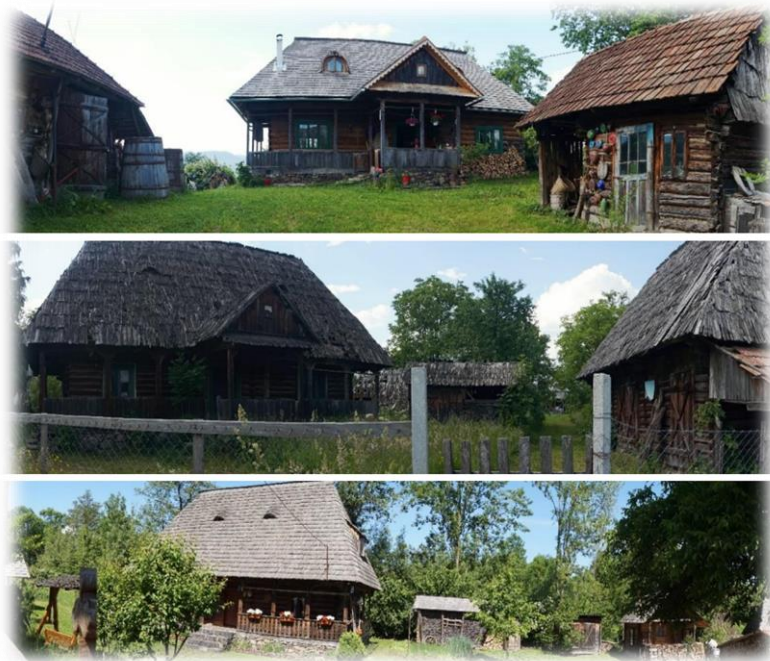
#### *Tourist development proposal*

In order to preserve the charm and authenticity of the area, we come with the proposal to open an agrotouristic guesthouse called Valea Castorilor (Beavers Valley) where the specific architecture of the area is preserved through the 10 traditional Maramureșen cottages. In the following we will present the traditional identity elements that gave birth to the idea of a tourist development.

Wood. The tradition of wood is well-known in the region, the people of Maramureș have always been "faithful" to wood, working it in various forms and for various purposes: from plates

and other tools needed in the household, to the house itself, fences, outbuildings and even churches. The use of wood as the basic material for the creation of everything needed in every aspect of life makes Maramureș a special place, where the man-made landscape blends into the natural one, with wooden houses being picturesque elements of the traditional landscape and symbols of the 'Land of Wood', as the Maramureș region is still called. The omnipresence of wood reflects the close relationship consolidated over centuries between the people of Maramureș and wood, and the region's wooden architecture is a defining and imperative characteristic of the region.

The walls that are part of the traditional architecture of the Maramureș region are made of wood, more precisely of carved or round wooden beams, joined at the corners. There are no exterior finishes, as the materials used to make the traditional house are natural, but inside the walls are sealed with plaster based on clay.



**Figure 1. Traditional houses from Maramures**

The high roof, with steep slopes, in four waters, covered with several layers of straw or draniță, without piercings (chimneys or dormers), with "eyelets" is one of the identifying features of the Maramureș area. The reason why the roofs have this shape is the large amount of rainfall, as the very high and sloping roof facilitates the rapid drainage of water, thus exposing it less to the pressure of the snow cover.



**Figure 2. The traditional roof of Maramures**

In addition to accommodation, the guesthouse will be able to offer various activities for all ages. To begin with, it offers the possibility to get to know the area better, so you can tour the village on the bicycles that are made available to tourists by the administrators of the guesthouse. The guidebook provided by the administrators of the guesthouse can guide tourists on the Green Route that connects 7 traditional villages (The Green Route connects 7 protected areas and 7 villages: Creasta Cocoşului Reserve, Crăiasca Forest, Lake Morărenilor, Hoteni Lake, Iezerul Mare Peat Bog, Cheile Tatarului; Poiana Brazilor Marshes. The 7 villages are representative for the culture of Maramure: Ocna Şugatag, Budeşti, Breb, Hoteni, Hărnicеşti, Deseşti and Mara). This route can be done by bike, cart or on foot.

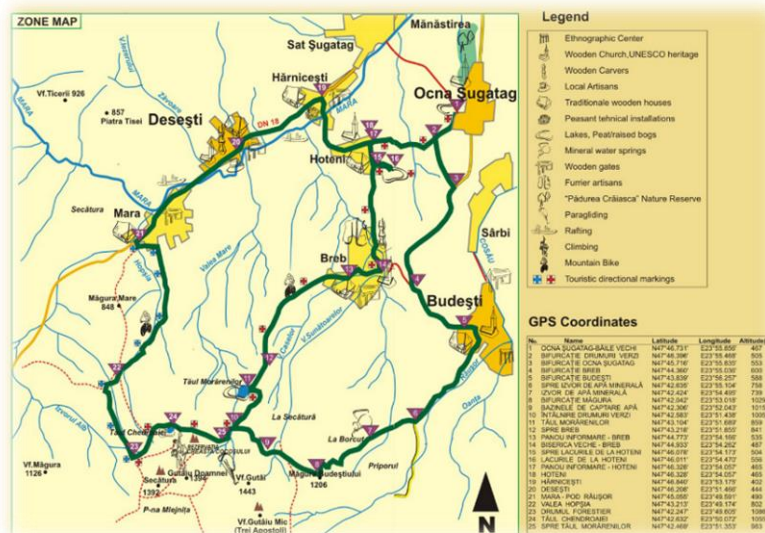


Figure 3. Green Route map

Source: <https://contentai.ro/descopera-frumusetile-naturale-si-culturale-din-breb/#3>

If you do not choose this route, there are a number of other tourist trails, where a guide will be at your disposal. These trails are:

From Breb to Tăul Morărenilor and back to Prince Charles' homes in Maramures.

Valea Cosăului: From Breb, to the wooden church and Tăurile Hoteni Historic Maramureş; From Breb to Tăul Morărenilor, with return via Prince Charles' houses Mara-Cosău area: In Breb, at the church of Saints Archangels Michael and Gavril and Tăurile Hoteni Cosăului Valley (Breb): Tăurile and Tinovul Hoteni.

If tourists are not keen on hiking, there are areas and activities for relaxation and recreation in the area. There is a picnic area in the lake area. Workshops for children can also be organized here. In these workshops children can paint, pot, weave, learn and discover traditional local dishes. In order to promote the handicrafts, sculptors from the village will come to teach the little ones the secrets and mysteries of this craft, thus trying to preserve and carry on the specificity of the area. To take advantage of all that nature has to offer, fishing and swimming competitions will also be organized, and boats or hydrobikes can be rented for tourists to enjoy the peace and quiet.

At the end of the stay all guests are invited to a bonfire, where the locals will regale them with fairy tales and legends of the place. There is also the option of attending an outdoor movie marathon.

### CONCLUSIONS

As a result of these proposed tourist facilities, we hope that the area will become better known as it has many unique natural resources as well as cultural and historical sights that are a source of inspiration and education for tourists. Through this we want to increase the number of tourists in the area and its development.

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