



THE TOURISTIC ACTIVITIES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RADAUTI DEPRESSION

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SYNOPSIS

Radauti Depression is a unique Romanian landscape and represents a true pearl of Bucovina, offering to the tourist wild nature and traditional customs. An attraction spot is given by a protected zone called “Ochiuri” (Puddle), a special place for birds’ lovers and also an appropriate place for growing of *Fritillaria meleagris*. Another natural interesting spots are also the dendrological park where exist beautiful exemplars of *Pinus strobus*, *Liliodendron tulipifera*, *Quercus robur* or Hardic natural reserve, sheltering a significant number of stags and deers. We can see today that people still guard folk’s customs through architecture, decorated eggs like integral part of Easter Holidays, through folk costumes, ceramics, wools or carpets, but also a delicious cooking, an incredible hospitality and a large amount of traditional cultural activities.

INTRODUCTION

Bucovina means all those wonderful monasteries scattered in the Carpatian’s Depressions almost like medieval jewels. The monasteries of Bucovina are well known for their unique exterior frescoes.

For this reason they have been assumed on the list of UNESCO in 1973. Also, in 1975 the monasteries have received a prize “The gold apple”, the highest decoration of International Association of Tourism Journalists.

The Radauti Depression is a unique Romanian landscape not through the mountains amplexness, the fields’ clearness or the beauty of other Romanian establishments but through the fact that the Depression itself is a pearl of Bucovina, offering to the tourist wild nature and traditional customs. The Romanian historian N. Iorga wrote about this region: “All over Romanian landscape, there is no other place relatively that small like this one, which can offer so much beauty and wealth of past memories”.

In Bucovina region, you are still amazed of the topical analysis made by the Romanian writer Liviu Rebreanu: "In other nations, the peasantry could have had or had, a second role, almost vanished away; for us it means the source of pure and eternal Romanian soul. For us, the only permanent reality, incorruptible, was and remained the peasant [...] The peasant never calls himself a peasant[...] however, the peasant call other peasants, simply, people[...] the peasant remained a Romanian even under barbarians; instead the townfolks became Turks with the Turks, Greeks with Phanariots, Germans with Austrians before becoming one hundred per cent Romanians." (Rebreanu, *Lauda taranului roman*, in English, *Praise to the Romanian peasant*).

When you enter this place you have the feeling that you are in another world which belongs to a prior time distinguished by the beauty of countryside, especially if you strike against the beauty of the kindness sensed at the countryside, in places like Bilca, Vicovu de Sus or Marginea villages. In these modern times you can still feel the patriarchal touch.

Our study had a strong objective in presenting the diversity of the elements offered to every single visitor by this holly place outlined by natural, cultural or religious objectives in Radauti Depression.

The arguments for establishing and introducing a sustainable model of arranging the territory surface are represented by a practical tacklement of the human influence upon the natural components, the settlement of the most propitious directions in evolution.

METHODS

We used local encyclopaedias, monographical works, scientific magazines, bibliographic references and informations taken from the internet. The region has been studied in all sorts of researches. The territory of Radauti Depression was kneaded by so many historical levels which provided great interest for archaeologists.

Mircea Ignat, in his study called *The tumular necropoles from Radauti area*, resumes the investigations in some necropoles, performing a vast amount of research in 25 tumulus from Volovat, Horodnicul de Jos and Cajvana villages. Meanwhile, an important number of local intellectuals showed great interest in discovering their birthplace' history, without overlooking the document about the tumular necropoles, like that one in Bilca region (Muntean, 2002) or that one from Dornești (Rezus, 2003).

Until now the informations about touristic activities weren't so well developed, but the most appropriate way to write about bucovinians and their habits is to be one of them and to live among them. This is the reason for which, in this study, we turned the best account of our own experience.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Bucovina, the *sustainable* or *ecological tourism* does not represent a simple wish or a reached purpose. It is just a vivid reality. Bucovina is the place where, on God's demand and for the people's endeavour, have come together the cultural and ancient habits, the various and authentic nature. We can take into account the quality of natural landscape and of the great amount of touristic objectives of a religious structure.

1. The natural objectives

Radauti Depression has a relief of small grassland and along Suceava's river, a specific river meadow - willows, poplars, alder tree, bulrush (*Scirpus sp.*), pepper mint, horse tail and, on the mountain summits, grows a deciduous and mixed forest.

The natural valence of Radauti Depression it does not stand up at the highest cultural and touristic belongings, still, a large amount of development possibilities stopped in the process of capitalization, turning the best account as points of availability, very alluring for the tourism industry. An example for this kind of attractions is the protected area called *Ochiuri* (Eyes) which represents an important element for birdlovers and, also, a suitable site for the protected species *Fritillaria meleagris*. We can also find this plant species in the extension of the village of Fratautii Noi, where it has come to life a flower lovers association. The majority is set up by students in primary school.

Another natural objective is the dendrological park settled in the central part of Radauti city, where a large amount of secular trees live (*Fagus silvica atropurpurea*) and (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). In Codrii Voievodesei, in a special area called Horodnic, we can find *Pinus strobus* and in Cajvana village, lives a century old exemplar of oak (*Quercus robur*).

The Zoological Park extended on a large surface of 10 hectares, totalizes a large number of arrangements. It could mean an important issue for tourism, especially for foreigners but also for Romanian tourists. The authority should act eagerly by modernizing the cages for wild creatures. The natural Reservation of Hardic, extended on a 5 hectares surface, is placed on an area situated nearly Radauti, which shelters a large number of *Cervus elaphus*.

2. The cultural objectives

One of the main chances of Radauti Depression is its placement on the touristic circuit of the monasteries of Bucovina: the principal route Suceava – Sucevita - Vatra Moldovitei - Campulung Moldovenesc - Gura Humorului crosses directly through our Depression.

Certainly, an eloquently figure of Bucovina is Stefan the Greatest, sur-named, the defender of Christianity. Probably he did not want to cast a shadow, through placing one of his memorial monasteries on this land, upon a monument placed here by his ancestor Bogdan - The Ruler, who built the Bogdana monastery. This monastery is the first stoned monastery in Romania, placed in the town of Radauti.

2.1. Monasteries

The all monasteries of Bucovina are situated in the surroundings of Radauti city. The Radauti Depression has the opportunity to stand in the way of tourists, on account of its placement. Practically, the tourists must cross the depression in order to visit the monasteries of Putna, Sucevita, Moldovita or Vorone, with very impressive external walls paintings.

2.2. Traditional activities

Nearest Radauti is situated the Marginea village, recognized for the endlessness of ancient occupation from immemorial times "Black ceramics of Marginea".

The process of making black ceramics is a centurial skill which dates from the Neolithic times. It was discovered in the culture called Horodistea - Foltesti, well known from the Dacian times. In the succession of centuries, when the peasants were ploughing during the spring or autumn, they discovered pieces of ceramics made long time ago by their ancestors, symbolizing the pine tree or the waving lines of the mountains.

The black ceramics of Marginea represents a living testimony of people's cleverness, deftness and the artistical sense of beauty, which remained undeteriorated. The black ceramic is made through the same technique as smother burnings and decorated with a river stone. This method represents an undoubtable argument about the antiquity and continuity of the people on this territory. Having the raw materials, the clayey soil from the western part of the village, near the forest, the potters managed to permanently carry on their activity.

Nowadays, an essential spot in the producing and selling of the potteries belongs to the "Black ceramics workshop" of Marginea. Many of the Marginea's potters work in small workshops making different ceramic objective, which are used for personal purposes. Some of these are: potts, jugs, pitchers, vases, dishes, plates. It is appreciated that there are more than 1000 models of different shapes. An element of innovation and modernism mixed with tradition is the making of a special kind of plates having the figures of Romanian Rulers and monasteries painted on them.

The furriery workshops have a large spreadind determined by the fact that folk costumes are omnipresent. The Radauti Depression being a very cold area, these costumes are worn on special ocassions: sheepskin coats, waistcoat. During the winter time, the people's clothes are protected by a thick long coat.

In Bucovina, we can talk about a passion for the tradition, because the people are keeping with pride, in some regions, their folk costumes with black and red ornaments that represent a time focus of Romanian civilization (Bilca, Vicovu de Jos, Vicovu de Sus, Marginea villages), the houses architecture, the described eggs in colors specific for the Easter period (Marginea village and Radauti city), the handcrafts sewings and different wool things, the impressive traditions for the Easter and Christmas holidays.

This fact is brought to front through the Etnographic and Folcklor Museum in Radauti city, the oldest this kind institution in Moldova area (1934). Sheltering about

1000 museal exponents in 11 halls, the museum present proves of the historically continuity of the Romanian people on this territory, traditional technics' evolution, artistic creativity and ingenuity of the people. At the entrance the visitor makes acquaintance with the most important touristic and museal related objectives of the area, as well as with the main centers of folk techniques. The next two rooms are dedicated to the pottery occupation, represented by the exhibits from Marginea, Radauti, Paltinoasa and Dolhesti, by the potter's wheels, furnaces used in the process of burning the pots and different panels that are illustrating different fases of this activity. The fourth room presents all the stages in the processing of the vegetal fibers of flax and hems and the fifth one is dedicated to the technology of processing the wool. Room number eight presents shirts and ribbons with hand made sewing from which, one catches the eye: a women's shirt from Radauti, made around the middle of the nineteenth century. Finally, in the largest room are being exhibited a series of folk technical installations. There is also in the museum the workshop of the famous potter Colibaba, an emblem of the Radauti city.

2.3. Sports

Radauti is also known for its harass, one of the oldest in the country, that was founded in the 1st of May 1792, after Bucovina's enclosurement by the Austrian Empire. At the beginning, this harass had 1400 horses – Moldavian, Russian and Turkish. In 1826 the first Gidran and Siglavy stallions were brought to Radauti. Now, the Radauti harass shelter 294 horses from which 56 are available for sale. These beautiful horses belong to Shagya Arab race with its eight lines: Dahoman, El-Sbaa, Gazal, Hadban, Koheilan, Mersuch, Shagya, Siglavy-Bagdady and also horses from the races Gidrau, Hutul, Semigreu Romanesc.

Annually, on the race course of Radauti's harass, there are organized horse costests with different events. Here is promoted the reproduction and improvement the quality of the horses from Bucovina, with important accomplishments including the famous "horse of Radauti" (cal de Radauti), awarded with gold medals at Tripoli in 1977, making it well known and appreciated all across the world.

2.4. Popular Festivals

There are many cultural manifestations, spread throughout the year, which help the tourist to accustom with the local customs, habits and folk costumes. In the region there are also organized many folk festivals and fairs usually related to the agricultural rituals. Life in Bucovina is marked by a series of events, holidays and festivals that take place annually preserving old traditions.

In May, in Marginea village, takes place in the "Black Ceramic Fair" that is made in the village, while in Milisauti village takes place the minority festival "Life together" dedicated to the ethnical minorities from Bucovina – Armenians and Ukrainians.

In June, there take place a series of festivals: in Straja, in the first half of the month, there is organised the "Wedding Customs Festival"; in Sadova, after the sheep are gathered at the sheepfold, the one that gives the most quantity of milk gets a

prize; in Horodnic, there is the “Silvestru Lungoci Folk Instruments Festival”, as well as the “Folk Dances Festival”.

In Radauti there is organized the potter’s fair named “The eye of the peacock” that coincides with the festival “Arcanul”, where there are many exhibits for sale that are being presented, belonging to the potters from Marginea, Radauti, Horezu, Baia Mare, Oboga, Glogova, Obarsa and Sibiu. At this festival, there are many well known folk music figures invited such as the popular artist Sofia Vicoveanca and folk groups like “Women Dances” from Bilca, “Luca Arbore” from Arbore, “The Flowers of Bucovina” from Radauti and others.

3. The agro-tourism

The agro-tourism, a complex and particular form of tourism has in its components both the touristic activities such as touristic circuits, accommodation, board and other supplementary services as well as economical aspects (meaning, agriculture itself).

This kind of service finds a great development in the villages of Bucovina. The rural area has an auspicious touristic potential. Not only the natural and historical monuments but also the valuable biodiversity plays an important part in the touristic interest.

Across the whole region, the authorities are taking measures in presenting the villages of Bucovina as a part of the internal or international circuits with the support of non-governmental organizations like “The National Association of Agro tourism”, “The Romanian Federation of Rural Development”, “ANTREC” and “Bucovina Association”.

Bucovina’s cuisine is remarkable, but the key of success is represented by the people’s hospitality. This hospitality is a feature of the Romanian people, amplified by the fact that tourists are being accommodated in the peasants’ households, which are furnished in the fabulous style of Bucovina, with valuable folk elements. Tourists have the opportunity to eat authentic meals such as pies like “poale in brau”, “Soup of Radauti with cream”, “creamy mushrooms” and other specialties. This is one of the reasons for which many tourist return to Bucovina, to have again a taste of it and, of course, to admire its beauties. The foreigners can watch and, in some cases, can help the peasants, if they are willing in the household work like: feeding the animals, milking the cows, etc. Tourists are very fascinated by the folk costumes and local customs meaning births, weddings and funerals. It’s really wonderful to see people proudly wearing their folk costumes in churches or on Sundays. Other things that make the tourists to come back in this area are the handcrafted objects like: painted icons, described eggs in colors, handmade wool objects, pottery, stone sculptures, sewing and many other things.

The ecotourism is that form of tourism that does not affect the environment. In the schools of this region, the youths are being educated about the environmental problems, about pollution and the degradation; thank to the people’s negligence with the organisation of trips, that take place during a weekend, collecting in this way, the rubbish.

The perspectives of the tourism in Bucovina were proposed in the Strategy of tourism development and promotion in Suceava County, based on the sustainable development principles.

This concept involves the guarantee of a secure balance between the economical development and the restoration of the natural environment. The final objective is to promote short term affair benefits and long term benefits for the whole society. Simultaneously, the authorities want to create a touristic brand, called Bucovina. This brand is to be promoted through one National Programme of Marketing and Promotion of Bucovina, which intends to highlight the natural and cultural belongings and develop a touristic industry with a minimum environment impact.

CONCLUSIONS

In Radauti Depression are being preserved untouched, many of the objectives and ethnographical, artistical and folk manifestations, local traditions (blessing new houses) and traditions of Easter, Christmas and New Year holidays.

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