

## THREE MYSTERIES AND A MIRACLE IN THREE DAYS

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**Abstract:** *The multitude and variety of natural and anthropogenic tourist resources has led to the development of several types and forms of tourism.*

*The weekend tourism is growing more appreciated by active persons, being influenced by the free time, income level, performance of transportation means, urban area pollution, daily stress and knowledge desire.*

*People have always been attracted by novelty and mystery. In Romania, there are such places and sites, some of them being located in the Ardeal region.*

*This paper presents a tourist product that makes accessible certain tourist sights that, by their nature represent real mysteries and miracles capable of becoming attraction poles for the weekend tourist.*

**Keywords:** *tourism, tourist sight, tourist product*

### Introduction

The raw material of the tourist production is formed of the tourist resources. These „are components of the natural and anthropogenic environment that, by their qualities and specificity, are recognized, registered and valorised through tourism, insofar as they are not subject to a full protection regime.”

We mention here the natural resources: the relief, climate, hydrographical network, flora and fauna. The historic vestiges, the religious settlements and the cultural-artistic heritage are anthropogenic tourist resources.

Different forms of tourism have developed according to the diversity of tourist resources, people’s free time, income and motivations. Thus, taking into consideration the mobility degree of tourist we distinguish the following types of tourism:

- sojourn, with variable duration (long sojourn - over 30 days, medium sojourn - under 30 days, and short sojourn - maximum 7 days);
- circulation or itinerary that supposes a continuous journey on a pre-established route and short-term stops;
- transit (tourists cross an area or a country on their way to the chosen destination).

According to the period in which it takes place, tourism can be:

- weekend (maximum 2 days and a half);
- vacation.

The weekend tourism has developed in the past years, being appreciated by the population living in the quite busy cities. In this case, the destinations are diversified, both in the urban area and in the rural area.

A tourist destination that has sights wrapped in mystery or are accompanied by some legend awakens the interest of many tourists. Mysteries and miracles, more or less true, have become incredible attractions or generators of activities.

### **3 mysteries and a miracle in the Ardeal region**

The weekend tourism means an excursion outside the residential area for the tourist's own pleasure, at the end of the week, and the recommended distance is 120 km if they drive.

The mystery is still unravelled, unknown, inexplicable and enigmatic, while the miracle is an unusual remarkable phenomenon, which is attributed to divinity. Both the mystery and the miracle are like magnets to a great number of the earth's population.

There are sights in the Ardeal region that can be easily included in the mysteries, but also in the miracles group.

#### **The „Trovanți” on Dealul Feleacului**

South of Cluj Napoca lays Dealul Feleacului, a hill formed of crystalline schist covered with different sedimentary formations. The maximum altitude is reached in Măgura Sălciei Peak, at 825m. Dealul Feleacului and the neighbouring areas (Cluj Napoca – Turda route) hide within their forests and valleys a mysterious and spectacular phenomenon: the „trovanți”. They have a sandstone structure and a rougher texture than that of the layer they develop in and have a spontaneous growing tendency from the centre to the outside with a deposit rate that can reach 4-5 cm in 1200 years. There are cases when their growth is much accelerated, reaching values of cm within a year. The term „trovant” first appeared in Gheorghe Murgoci's paper „The Tertiary in Oltenia” in 1907, and is specific to the Romanian geological literature. They are nodular, spheroidal, oval, disk-shaped, cylindrical or dendritic mineral aggregates with a massive, concentric or plane (layered) structure and with variable sizes from a few millimetres to a few centimetres. The „trovanți” are also known as the „growing stones” or the „living stones”, being considered mysteries of the mineral world.



Photo 1, 2, 3 the „Trovanți” on Dealul Feleacului  
Source: photo D.I. Cleșiu, S., R.

## The Museum of Gold in Brad

Brad is located in Hunedoara County, in the Brad Depression, at 278m altitude, near Deva (36 km). The Museum of Gold that gathers a real collection of nature miracles (mine flowers) can be considered a miracle of the town. The museum was established in 1896 at the initiative of German-born geologist Schummacher. There are 2970 samples in its 8 rooms, 4 rooms hosting only exhibits made of native gold. The most famous samples of native gold are the:

- golden lizards;
- flamenco dancer;
- fern;
- Eminescu's quill pen;
- Romania's map;
- canon;
- puppy;
- salamander;
- polar bear;
- cobra.



Photo 4 The golden lizards  
Source: photo Sava, Cipriana, 2013



Photo 5 Native gold samples (Eminescu's Quill Pen and Fern)  
Source: photo Sava, Cipriana, 2013

The Roman Steps are located outside Ruda Brad (GPS coordinates 46<sup>o</sup>5'35" N, 22<sup>o</sup>50'37" E) and are listed as a national historic monument. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries the miners dug up a 180m deep underground gallery at the end of which the steps were built during the Roman occupation. Being the sole horizontal entrance into a mine we can consider it a mystery.



Photo 6, 7 The Roman Steps  
Source: photo D.I. Cleşiu, S., R.

The **12 Apostles Church** from Ruda Brad was built in 1930 from stone (andesite) and brick (derrick) on the place of a former wooden church. An artefact kept inside, a bolt, was part of the same batch as the ones used for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The mysteries here are the energy surrounding the tower (dome) in certain days, the high level of energy around the church, and the fact that the cross on the tower does not touch the dome of the belfry, being an energy hub.



Photo 8, 9 The 12 Apostles Church  
 Source: photo D.I. Cleșiu, S., R.

**The tourist product**

The weekend tourism is usually carried out within about 120 km away from the tourists’ main residence. As technologies and transportation means have developed, distance became a secondary issue.

A tourist product encompasses all goods and services offered for sale to tourists by a specialised company, and its drawing up must be clear and based on the current realities and trends.

The tourist resources presented above can be included in a weekend itinerary tourist product.

Such an example could have Timisoara as a departure place.

Table 1 “3 mysteries and a miracle” tourist product - stages

Day	Route	Distance (km)	Estimated travel time	Activity
Day 1	Timișoara – Cluj Napoca - departure Friday afternoon;	315	3h 55min	- accommodation; - visiting the central area
Day 2	Cluj Napoca – Feleacu commune - departure in the morning after breakfast Feleacu commune - Cluj Napoca Cluj Napoca - Brad - departure in the afternoon	7 7 163	15 min 15min 2h 51min	- leaving the commune and going down the Căpriorii Valley in order to admire the „trovanti” - lunch - accommodation

Day 3	Brad - after breakfast				- visit at the Museum of Gold;
	Brad – Ruda Brad	7,5	10 min		- visit of the 12 Apostles Church;
	Ruda Brad - Timișoara	166	2h 22 min		- visit of the Roman Steps; - end of the route

There are other tourist sights on the route, but they have been omitted since they are not in this category – miracles and/or mysteries, and the allotted time is limited.

### Conclusions

The tourist activity is based on the existence, diversity and uniqueness of both natural and anthropogenic resources. In time, tourism has developed continuously and attracted a greater number of the population. Its development was possible due to the actions of several influence factors and people’s curiosity and adventure spirit. An important role to this end was played by the transportation means and their performances, which has led to the „closeness of tourist destinations”. Nowadays, the free days at the end of the weekend make perfect occasions for tourism.

Tourists’ motivations are diversified and sometimes surprising. Mysteries and miracles have always attracted numerous tourists, and creating a tourist product with such elements is always viable.

The tourist resources presented in this paper are special and deserve to be valorised through different tourist products. The proposed tourist product is a short, itinerary one without including other resources in the area both natural and anthropogenic, but it may cater for people’s wishes to discover mysteries and miracles.

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