

EXPLORING THE TOURIST RESOURCES OF BANAT REGION AND IDENTIFYING TYPES OF TOURISM IN ORDER TO DEVELOP NEW TOURIST PRODUCTS

Cosmina-Simona TOADER
Loredana VĂDUVA
Ionuț Mircea PETROMAN

***Abstract:** Banat is the place where people of different ethnicities, denominations and cultures have coexisted over time, and this has left a strong mark on the organization of space and the socio-economic development of the region, of people who are welcoming, gentle, open mind, diligent, gastronomy and even vocabulary.*

From tourist point of view, Banat has an invaluable natural and anthropic heritage. The practiced tourism is concentrated mainly around the urban communities, being practiced mainly business tourism, cultural tourism, leisure and recreation tourism, spa tourism, but also rural tourism, itinerant tourism, ecumenical tourism, event tourism, hunting tourism, and even cycling tourism.

In the present article authors explore the touristic resources in order to identify suitable types of tourism for Banat Region, which can be starting points for development of new tourist products.

***Keywords:** Banat Region, potential, resources, tourism*

INTRODUCTION

A historical province located between the Danube, the Tisza, Mureș and the Carpathians, Banat is a territory that has been subjected to many trials over time. Inhabited in ancient times by the Dacians, in the Middle Ages there was a Romanian-Slavic state formation, then passed into the Kingdom of Hungary (10th-11th centuries), the Ottoman Empire (mid-16th century - early 18th century) and the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918, Banat is currently divided between 3 countries: Romania (18,966 km²), Serbia (9,276 km²) and Hungary (284 km²). The Romanian part of Banat includes the counties of Timiș and Caraș-Severin, Arad (territory south of the river Mureș), Mehedinți (Orșova area) and Hunedoara (several communes). (Feneșan 2014, Feneșan 2017)

Although since 1919, with the entry of Romanian troops and the establishment of the Romanian administration, Banat no longer exists as a separate political entity, it continues to be considered a historical and cultural region. Banat is considered one of the most diverse regions in Romania. A simple look at Banat highlights what makes it stand out from other regions, namely multiculturalism.

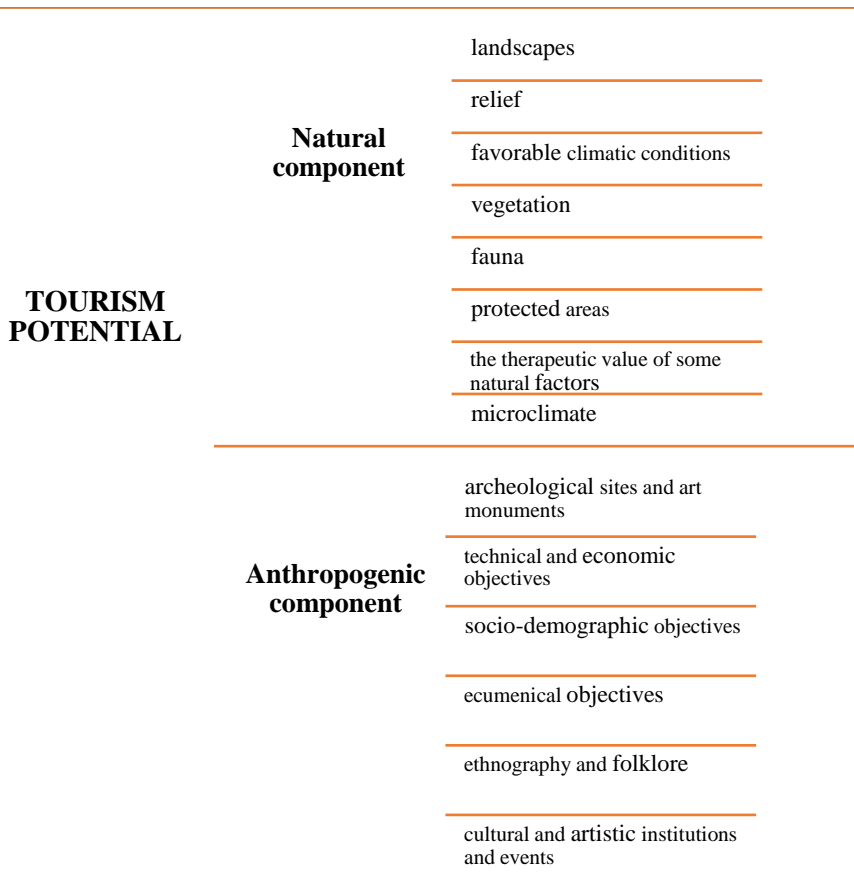


Figure 1. The components of tourism potential

The tourist potential is represented by the set of natural and anthropic components that enjoy both scientific and practical recognition, and can be seen as possibilities for tourism capitalization as it has tourist functionality. The tourist potential plays a key role in the development and diversification of tourism activities. The tourist resources, together with the tourist infrastructure make up the tourist potential, this being an important component of the tourist offer. It is necessary that the tourist potential be

approached through the prism of the two components of the tourist resources: the natural component and the anthropic component.

The purpose of the article is to reveal the tourist resources and suitable types of tourism for Banat Region in order to develop future tourist products.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To study the tourism potential of Banat Region through its touristic resources and identifying the suitable types of tourism, the following steps have been made:

- studying the bibliographic sources regarding the concepts of tourist potential, natural and anthropic tourist resources, forms of tourism;
- delimitation of the study area;
- access to various bibliographic resources in order to identify the natural and anthropic tourist resources in the area under study;
- processing and interpreting information obtained by accessing bibliographic resources;
- drawing the conclusions.

The authors used observation as a research method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Banat region has a significant tourist potential which is marked by the diversity of tourist resources. The existence of the tourist heritage on the entire territory of Banat is closely linked to the natural environment and the anthropic heritage.

In terms of relief, as an element of tourist potential, Banat has various landforms (mountains 65.4%, depressions 16.5%, hills 10.8% and plains 7.3%). There is a succession in steps, from the low plain (river meadows), the high plain (Vingăi Plain, Buziaș Plain, Gătăii and Fizeș Plain, Hodoni Plains, Duboz, Tormac, Jamu Mare, Arad and Sânnicolau Mare), to Deal Lugojuului, Lăpușului, Făgetului Depression, Lipovei Hills, Pogăniș Hills, Dognecei, Oraviței and Carașului Depression) and mountains (Țarcu Mountains, Cerna Mountains, Poiana Ruscă Mountains and Banat Mountains with Semenice, Anina, Dognecei divisions, Almăj and Locvei).¹

The importance of the relief is supported by its landscape value and by the multiple possibilities of practicing tourism.

¹ Discover Timis. <https://discovertimis.com/>

The caves are also points of tourist interest, most of them being close to the marked tourist routes, roads or some localities (Românești, Pietroasa (Blue Cave), Nelu Balaș, Gaura Turcului, Poiana Gropii, Comarnic, Cârșă, Liliecilor, Water Cave, Buhui, Ponor Uscată Cave, Miloi II, Gaura Porcariului, Gaura cu Musca, Ponicoava, Hoților). As for their arrangement for tourist purposes, only some have minimal tourist facilities (Comarnic Cave, Hoților Cave).

Also worth mentioning are the two extinct volcanoes in Lucareț and Gătaia.

The relief can be constituted both in the form of an independent tourist attraction and as a support for other elements of tourist potential. The relief favors the practice of hiking, mountaineering, rest, recreation, cycling and speotourism.

Hydrography has a considerable contribution to increasing the tourist attractiveness by the presence of rivers (Bega, Timiș, Mureș, Cerna, Bârzava, Bistra, Nera, Gârliște etc.), lakes (Surduc, Ochiul Beiului, Lacul Dracului, Buhui, Prisaca, Poiana Mărului, Gozna, Trei Ape, Secu, Vârtoape, Dănilă, Lacul cu Nuferi), swamps (Satchinez, Murani), Danube river and mineral waters (Buziaș, Lipova, Calina Springs, Ursoanea Spring, Ivanda) and thermal waters (Timișoara, Călacea, Sînmihaiu German, Sânnicolau Mare, Lovrin, Jimbolia, Giarmata).

The waterfalls have a special contribution to increase the tourist attractiveness, and from this point of view Banat, especially Caraș-Severin County, is exemplary. The most famous waterfalls in Caraș-Severin County are: Bigăr Waterfall, Beușnita Waterfall, La Văioaga Waterfall, Mocerîș Waterfall, Șușara Waterfall, Cârșă Waterfall, Vânturătoarea Waterfall, Piatra Moale Waterfall, Șucu Waterfall, Roset Waterfall, Valea Mare Waterfall, Prigor Waterfall.² In Timiș County there are Cornet and Șopot waterfalls, which even if they are not well known for the waterfalls in Caraș-Severin County, are extremely beautiful.³ Although it takes some physical effort to reach some waterfalls, all the waterfalls prove to be delightful, managing to fully reward the eyes of tourists tired of the road.

Hydrography stimulates the practice of hiking, adventure tourism, weekend tourism, fishing, heliomarine, water sports or spa.

Vegetation, represented by forestry, meadows, trees, is a tourist attraction in itself. In this sense, we can mention the dendrological parks (Bazoș Dendrological Park, Buziaș Dendrological Park, Zăvoi

² Peșteri și avene turistice în Caraș-Severin. <http://turism.cjcs.ro/ro/pesteri-si-avene-turistice-in-caras-severin.php>

³ Discover Timis. <https://discovertimis.com/>

Dendrological Park, Sacu Dendrological Park, Oravița Dendrological Park, Soceni Ezeriș Dendrological Park, etc.) and protected areas, which may be of common interest. Natura 2000 and international interest.

Natura 2000 sites are represented by the special avifauna protection areas (SPAs) and the sites of community importance (SCI) which are included in the ecological Natura 2000 network in Romania.^{4,5} The following areas are included in the Banat Region: Hunedoara Timișană, Lunca Mureșului Inferior, Satchinez Swamp (Arad County), Pojoga Forest (Hunedoara County), Țarcu Mountains, Rusca Montană-Țarcu-Retezat Corridor, Lipovei-Poiana Ruscă Plateau, Caraș River, Nera River between Bozovici and Mocerîș, Timiș River between Rusca and Prisaca, Teregovei Gorges and Bozovici Depression (Caraș-Severin County), The meadow of the Lower Mureș, Timișului Meadow, Satchinez Marshes, Becicherecu Mic, Comloșu Mare, Pădurea Dumbrava, Paniova Forest, Cenad Sward, Ciacova Sward, Jebel Sward, Pesac Sward, the salts from Foieni-Grăniceri, the salts from Dinaș, Valley from Sânandrei, Lovrin, Șemița Forest (Timis County).⁶

Protected areas of national interest in Banat include:

- *scientific reserves, national parks* (Domogled-Cernei Valley, Semenic-Carașului Keys, Nerei Keys-Beușnița);

- *natural monuments* (Petrolea Hill Cuptoare, Fossil site of Apadia, Fossil site of in Delinești, Fossil site in Ezeriș, Fossil site in Globu Craiovei, Fossil site in Petroșnița, Fossil site in Soceni, Fossil site in Târnova, Fossil site in Tyrol, Fossil site in Valeapai, Zorlențu Mare, Râpa Neagră, Comarnic Cave, Popovăț Cave, Banat Sphinx, Greața Valley);

- *natural reservations* (Arad County: Prundu Mare, Sinesie Cave, Șoimuș Lake, Caraș-Severin County: Divici-Pojejena, Dăncioanea, Cărăula Hill, Wetland Ostrov-Moldova Veche, Wetland Calinovăț Island wetland, Zervești daffodil meadow, Ezerișel forest, Domogled reservation, Banat Sphinx, Greața Valley, Groposu, Nera Pond - Danube, Bârzavița, Buhui - Mărghitaș, Carașului Keys, Globului Keys, Gârliștei Keys, Rudăriei Keys, Nerei Keys - Beușnița, Șușarei Keys, Coronini - Bedina, Cuptor - Brădișoru de Jos, Petrolea Hill Cuptoare, Ducin, Iardașița, Iauna - Craiova, Bigăr Spring, Carașului Springs, Nerei Springs, Lisovacea, Ogașul Slătinic, Râpa

⁴ Lista rezervațiilor naturale din România.

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_rezerva%C8%9Bilor_naturale_din_Rom%C3%A2nia

⁵ Tabel situri natura 2000 Caras-Severin.

http://apmcs-old.anpm.ro/tabel_situri_natura_2000_caras_severin-7966

⁶ Lista ariilor protejate din România declarate monumente ale naturii.

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_ariilor_protejate_din_Rom%C3%A2nia_declarate_monumente_ale_naturii

cu lăstuni from Divici Valley, Râpa Neagră, Ravena Crouri, Ciclovei Valley Ilidia, Natural Reserve Baziaș, Natural Reserve Valea Mare, Rusca Montană, The fossiliferous place from Apadia, The fossiliferous place from Delinești, from Ezeriș, Globu Craiovei Fossil Site, Petroșnița Fossil Site, Târnova Fossil Site, Tirol Fossil Site, Valeapai Fossil Site, Zorlențu Mare Fossil Site, Soceni Fossil Site, Pleșu Forest, Bârzoni Cave, Buhui Cave, Comarnic Cave, Exploratorii '85 Cave, Water Cave from Polevii Valley, Popovăț Cave, Răsuflătoarei Cave, Belareca, Timiș County: Pogănișului Meadow, The daffodil meadow Bătești, Movila Sisitak, Bazoș Arboretum, Bistra Forest, Cenad Forest, Igrîș Island, Cenad Big Island, Surduc Lake, Beba Veche Ornithological Reserve, Murani Swamps, Satchinez Swamps, Fossiliferous site Rădmănești, the salts from Dinaș, Mehedinți County: Cazanele Mari, Cazanele Mici, Svinița Fossil Site);

- *natural parks* (Porțile de Fier, Mureș Meadow).^{7,8}

The protected areas are of interest both from a scientific and aesthetic point of view, these being another element of tourist attractiveness.⁹

Vegetation is important for science tourism, itinerant tourism, leisure, recreation or leisure tourism.

Fauna, from tourist point of view, it has hunting, aesthetic and scientific value. The multitude of species can be observed (wild boar - *Sus scrofa*, wolf - *Canis lupus*, lynx - *Lynx*, Carpathian deer - *Cervus elaphus*, bear - *Ursus arctos*, black goat - *Rupicapra rupicapra*, otter - *Lutrinae*, peregrine falcon - *Falco peregrinus*, owl - *Strix uralensis*, woodpecker - *Dendrocopos major*, Carpathian scorpion - *Euscorpium carpathicus*, small eagle - *Clanga pomarina*, avat - *Aspius aspius*, wild cat - *Felis silvestris*, the white-tailed eagle - *Haliaeetus albicilla*, black stork - *Ciconia nigra*, turtle of Banat - *Testudo hermanni*, the horned viper - *Vipera ammodytes ammodytes*, Aesculapian snake - *Zamenis longissimus*), but also the existence of rare species (bison - *Bison bonasus*) and endangered species (bustard - *Otis tarda*).

Flora is another motivation for tourism, and in this sense it is worth mentioning some of the many species that are found mainly in protected areas: Turkish hazel - *Corylus colurna*, Mahaleb cherry - *Prunus mahaleb*, liliac - *Syringa vulgaris*, smoke tree - *Cotinus coggygria*, yew - *Taxus*

⁷ Hartă Parcurile Naționale și Naturale din Caraș-Severin. <http://turism.cjcs.ro/ro/harta-parcurile-naționale-si-naturale-din-caras-severin.php>

⁸ Parcuri naționale și naturale administrate de regia națională a pădurilor ROMSILVA. <http://www.rosilva.ro/files/content/bucuresti/Arii-Protejate-28feb.pdf>

⁹ Arii naturale protejate – prezentare generală.

http://www.rosilva.ro/articole/prezentare_generala__p_184.htm

baccata, fritillary - *Fritillaria meleagris*, over 30 species of orchids (Nerei Keys-Beușnița), the black pine of Banat - *Pinus nigra*, bear ear - *Primula auricula ssp. serratifolia*, the Turkish hazel - *Corylus colurna* (Domogled National Park – Cernei Valley), spring pheasant's eye - *Adonis vernalis* (Mureșului Meadow), the Cazane tulip - *Tulipa hungarica*, the Cazane bells - *Campanula crassipes*, the rock iris - *Iris sintenisii*, the Banat peony – *Paeonia officinalis ssp. Banatica*, thick-haired mountain pasqueflower - *Pulsatilla Montana* (Natural Park Porțile de Fier).

Both flora and fauna contribute to the practice of science tourism and ecotourism. (Rusu et al 2020)

Microclimate, as an element of tourist potential, determines the tourist attractiveness to a high extent. On the territory of Banat there are small areas that have particular atmospheric conditions, these places having a therapeutic effect on physical and mental health. For example, at Poiana Mărului in Caraș-Severin County, there is a special air quality due to ozone, negative ionization, natural aerosols and atmospheric purity. Also, Buziaș Spa Resort has a specific and extremely favorable microclimate, in this place registering high concentrations of negative aerons (between 800-1270 / cm³ air). Băile Herculane resort also enjoys the action of negative aerionization (between 2000-2500 negative ions / cm³ / s). (Zaharia 2019)

The microclimate supports the practice of spa tourism, recreational tourism, cycling tourism, and hiking.

The anthropic component of the tourist potential brings together elements created by man over time that currently have a recreational function. Due to their characteristics, anthropogenic resources have gradually become of tourist interest, as people have shown a desire to know themselves better, but also to know the achievements of humanity from ancient times to the present. (Akhmedenov and Sdykov 2021, Chandel and Sharma 2020, Teodorescu et al 2018, Vegheș 2018)

The anthropic tourist potential of Banat is marked by elements of culture and history, art and civilization, technical-economic elements and socio-demographic elements.

- *Archaeological sights and art monuments* found on the territory of Banat are important mainly for the history, culture and civilization of the Romanian people. Archaeological sites and art monuments in Banat are of great variety, they belong to different historical periods and support the practice of cultural-scientific tourism. (Moț and Petroman 2014, Grecea 2015) According to the list of historical monuments in Romania, in Timiș County there are 337 monuments, and in Caraș-Severin County 824

monuments.¹⁰ The category of monuments includes archeological monuments, architectural monuments, public monuments, memorials and funerary monuments, historical monuments, architectural ensembles and archeological sites. Only a few of these will be mentioned below. (Baiski 2015a, Toader et al 2013)

Dave, fortresses and fortifications: The prehistoric fortification from Cornești-Iarcuri, Iarcuri Opațița, Divici, Drencova, The fortifications of the Timisoara Fortress (Vauban style), Carașova, Sf. Ladislau Stronghold Coronini, Buza Turcului Stronghold Bocșa, Jdioara Stronghold, Făget Stronghold, Mehadia Stronghold, Morisena Stronghold, The fortified settlement of Herneacova, Ciacova Manor etc.¹¹

Castles, palaces, historic buildings: Huniade Castle Timișoara, Baroque Palace Timișoara, Dechan Palace Timișoara, Dicasterial Palace, Mercy Palace Timișoara, Banloc Castle, Count Mercy's House, Prince Eugene of Savoy's House, Guild Tree House, Atlantis House, Fire Station and from Iosefin District.^{12,13}

Mansions: Antonia Mansion (Folea), Laszlo Gorove Mansion (Gătaia), Ambrozy de Seden Mansion (Herneacova), Manaszy Mansion (Hodoni), Ottilik Mansion (Izvin), Gyertynaffy Mansion (Giera), Liptay Mansion (Lovrin), Wimpffen Mansion), Csekonics Mansion (Jimbolia), Herrglotz Mansion (Herendești), Andrașiu Mansion (Pișchia), Globusitzky Mansion (Sculia), Vârghici Mansion (Sinersig), Nikolici Mansion (Rudna), Ambroszy Mansion (Remetea Mare), Nako Mansion (Sânnicolau Mare), Satchinez Mansion, Damaszkín Mansion (Beregsău Mic), Bogda Mansion, Manase Mansion (Clopodia), Count of Mercy Mansion (Carani), Uzbasic Mansion (Dinner), Petala Mansion (Clopodia), Mocioni Mansion (Foeni), San Marco Mansion (Comloșu Mare), Duka Mansion (Cadăr), Mocsony Bulci Mansion.¹⁴

Memorials and funerals: Holy Trinity Monument Timișoara, Wolf Statue Timișoara, St. Mary and St. John Nepomuk Monument Timișoara, The Austrian military monument, dedicated to the events of 1848-1849, the Mausoleum of the Mocioni Foeni Family, the Statue of St. Florian from

¹⁰ Lista monumentelor istorice din România. www.monumente-istorice.ro

¹¹ Obiective turistice din Timișoara și Banat (broșură), Primăria Municipiului Timișoara, Infocentru turistic Timișoara

¹² Conace și castele din Banat și județul Timiș (broșură), Asociația pentru Promovarea și Dezvoltarea Turismului Timiș

¹³ Heritage of Timisoara. <https://heritageoftimisoara.ro/>

¹⁴ Conace și castele din Banat și județul Timiș (broșură), Asociația pentru Promovarea și Dezvoltarea Turismului Timiș

Jimbolia, the Tomb of Joachim Miloaia, Commemorative Cross for the first religious service of German settlers, arrived in 1773 in Anina etc.¹⁵

▪ The ecumenical objectives that are found in Banat are numerous, there are almost no settlements within the radius of which there is no religious building or monument. The religious objectives on the territory of Banat allow the practice of ecumenical tourism and cultural tourism. Their architectural styles are those specific to religious architecture (Byzantine style, Baroque style and Gothic style).

Cathedrals and churches: Metropolitan Orthodox Cathedral Timișoara, Catholic Dome, Serbian Orthodox Church, Piarist Church Timișoara, Evangelical Church Timișoara, St. Catherine of Timișoara Roman Catholic Church, St. Joseph's Greek Catholic Church, Cathedral of the Resurrection of the Lord in Caransebeș, Orthodox Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin in Resita.

Synagogues: Timișoara Cetate Synagogue (1865), Timișoara Fabric Synagogue (1889), Timișoara Iosefin Synagogue (1895), Lugoj Synagogue (1843), Buziaș Synagogue, Caransebeș Synagogue (1894), Reșița Synagogue (1907).¹⁶ (Sas 2012)

Churches historical monuments: Carani Roman Catholic Church (1788), Ciacova Serbian Orthodox Church (1768), Dudeștii Noi Roman Catholic Church (1750), Dudeștii Vechi Roman Catholic Church (1804), Giarmata Roman Catholic Church (1773), Romanian Orthodox Church Giroc (1759), Lipova Romanian Orthodox Church (1797), Orțișoara Roman Catholic Church (1786), Periam Roman Catholic Church (1750), Sânnicolau Mare Orthodox Church (1787), Serbian Orthodox Church in Gelu village (1746), Roman Church -Vinga Catholic Church (1892), Caransebeș Roman Catholic Church (1725), Oravița Orthodox Church (1784), Oravița Roman Catholic Church (1777), Orșova Roman Catholic Church (1972), Teremia Mare Roman Catholic Church (1871).¹⁷

Orthodox monasteries: Piatra Scrisă Hermitage (Armeniș), Călugăra Monastery, Cebza Monastery, Fârdea Monastery, Săraca Monastery, Șag Monastery, Morisena Monastery, Partoș Monastery, Hodoș-Bodrog Monastery, St. Ana Orșova, Almăj Putna Monastery, Poiana Mărului

¹⁵ Lista monumentelor istorice din România. www.monumente-istorice.ro

¹⁶ Timișoara. Harta și atracțiile turistice, Primăria Municipiului Timișoara, Centrul de Informare Turistică

¹⁷ Obiective turistice din Timișoara și Banat (broșură), Primăria Municipiului Timișoara, Infocentru turistic Timișoara

Hermitage, Bezdin Monastery, Cusici Monastery, Biled Sf. Gheorghe Monastery, Sf. Sava Baziaș Monastery, Zlatica Monastery.¹⁸

Wooden churches: Topla - 1750 (Banat Village Museum Timișoara), St. Dimitrie - 1774 (Timișoara), Bătești - sec. XVIII, Bulza - 1820, Căpăt - sec. XVIII, Cebza - 1758, Coșevița - 1776, Crivina de Sus - 1676, Crivobara - 1780, Curtea - 1794, Dobrești - 1832, Dubești - sec. XVII, Dragomirești - 1754, Groși - 1741, Ezeriș - sec. XVIII, Homojdia - 1782-1804, Jupânești - sec. XVIII, Margina - 1734, Nemeșești - 1798, Pietroasa - 1779, Poieni - 1791, Povergina - 1782-1783, Românești - sec. XVIII, Zolt - sec. XVIII.¹⁹

▪ *Ethnography and folklore of Banat Region* are characterized by originality, richness and variety and represent an important component of the anthropic tourist heritage. Thus, folk architecture, folk technique, artistic creations, folk costumes, customs, traditions, fairs and festivals and villages with folk traditions favor the practice of cultural tourism, event tourism, itinerant tourism and gastronomic tourism.

Regarding the handicraft production and handicrafts, the craft of pottery in the village of Jupânești stands out. The village of Jupânești is known for its clay vessels necessary for household use, but also for the beautification of households. The practice of pottery in this area of Banat is due to the existence of raw materials, unfavourable conditions for large-scale agriculture, but also to the existence of a market. The dishes have some peculiarities: the paste is fine and has a reddish hue being rich in iron oxides, the geometric decoration is made only with the colour red. The chromatic of the glazed vessels is characterized by warm shades (yellow, brown, green, grey-beige).

Along with pottery, it is necessary to mention other crafts known as the bearers of Banat traditions: the creation of folk costumes, the processing of animal skins, the fur, the weaving, the torso, the wood carving, the painting on glass.

Visited by several thousand tourists every year, the water mills of Eftimie Murgu impress with the way they were built, they fit perfectly into the landscape of the area. If in the past there were about 300 mills in the whole Almaș Depression, now there are only 22. Water mills with a sieve on the Rudăriei Valley seem to be part of a huge and old museum of technology. The Eftimie Murgu Mill Complex is unique in Europe and is a

¹⁸ Mănăstiri. <https://mitropolia-banatului.ro/manastiri/>

¹⁹ Obiective turistice din Timișoara și Banat (broșură), Primăria Municipiului Timișoara, Infocentru turistic Timișoara

UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Caraș-Severin County you can also visit the set of mills from Gârliște Village.

Within the Banat Village Museum it can be admire authentic wooden, stone and earth constructions from all over Banat (peasants' houses, craftsmen's houses, mills, school, town hall, and church), heritage pieces, furniture pieces, objects of use housewife etc. All the constructions found at the Banat Village Museum represent a testimony of the traditional Romanian popular civilization and of the ethnic groups from the province that have lived in harmony over time.²⁰

It is also worth mentioning the 19 ethnic minorities due to which Banat is recognized as a multi-ethnic and multicultural space: Germans, Hungarians, Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Croats (Crasovans), Ukraine, Bulgarians, Jews, Roma, Italians, Greeks, Russian-Lipovans, Turks, Tatars, Poles, Chinese, Armenians, Csangos, and likened to a small Europe. Minorities established in different places in Banat have formed communities in localities such as Altringen, Charlottenburg, Sandra, Gottlob, Sânnicolau Mare, Jimbolia, Lenauheim, Reșita, Carașova, Lupac, Eibenthal, Ravensca, Gârnic, Remetea Mare, Gârâna, etc.

As for the traditional port of Banat, it is diverse and represents a way of displaying creative abilities, wealth, social status and status in the community. At present, there is no map of the ethnographic delimitation for the popular port of Banat, but several ethnographic subzones are identified (exp. Timișoara, Lugoj, Buziaș, Făget, Ciacova-Deta, Sânnicolau Mare, Lipova, Almăjului Valley, Bistrei Valley, Caransebeș, Reșita). The differences between the ethnographic subareas are given by chromatics, ornaments, and garments and represent identity landmarks of some communities. Usually, the women's suit consisted of spăcel (blouse), poale (skirt), cotrântă (clothing item), opreg (clothing item), brâu (belt), pieptar (chest), obiele (pieces of cloth for wrapping the legs), opinci (traditional shoes), head ornaments (ceapsa, concii), ornaments worn around the neck (salbe), and the men's suit consisted of a shirt, trousers, belt, chest, clăbăț (fur hat), opinci (traditional shoes).²¹ (Pinter et al 2006)

The folk costume from Banat can be admired in the museums that have ethnography and folklore sections, but also in the exhibitions where the collections of folk art of the houses of culture or of the collectors of the peasant costume are exhibited.

²⁰ Muzeul Satului Bănățean. <https://muzeulsatuluiibanatean.ro/>

²¹ Relații ale designului cu orizontul etnografic. Elemente din Banat. http://www.orizonturiculturale.ro/ro_studii_Iosif-Mihailo-1.html

Customs, folk traditions, fairs, festivals: Hearts Festival, Timișoara, Prayer, Timișoara, Folk Crafts Fair, Jupânești Pottery Fair, “Nedeea Românilor” from Valea lui Liman, Festival of Păturatei pe Crumpi Ciacova, Paprikas Festival from Buziaș, Lada cu zester (Dowry chest), Hercules International Folklore Festival from Băile Herculane. The customs, traditions, folklore and folk costume of Banat or of the minorities from Banat are cultivated and promoted through vocal groups and folk ensembles (“Banatul” Folk Ensemble from Timișoara, “Doina Timișului” Folklore Ensemble from Timișoara, Sânzieni Bănățene Folklore Ensemble, ”Ghiocelul” Ensemble from Giroc, ”Izvorașul” Ensemble from Buziaș, ”Lugojana” Folk Ensemble, ”Reșițeană” Ensemble, Bocșana Folk Ensemble, ”Cununa Timișului” Ensemble from Ghiroda, ”Dubășii” from Brănești, Banater Rosmarein, St. Sava Ensemble, “Balgărce” Ensemble from Vinga etc.).

▪ *Cultural-artistic institutions and events* are those that reflect the cultural-artistic life, spirituality, art and culture of the inhabitants of Banat. In this sense, it is necessary to mention the most important objectives of this type that complete the cultural network of Banat (cultural institutions, museums, memorial houses, cultural events, organizations and foundations), objectives that determine the practice of cultural tourism and event tourism.

Buildings of cultural institutions: Timișoara Romanian Opera, Timișoara National Theatre, German State Theatre, Csiki Gergely Hungarian Theatre, Merlin Timișoara Children's and Youth Theatre, Banatul Philharmonic, Mihai Eminescu Oravița Theatre, ”George Suru” Caransebeș House of Culture.

Museums: Banat Museum from Timișoara, Art Museum from Timișoara, Memorial of the 1989 Revolution, Museum of Public Transport, Museum of Banat Village, Reșița Museum of Outdoor Steam Locomotives, Băile Herculane City Museum, Buziaș Spa Museum, Caransebeș County Museum of Ethnography, Caransebeș Border Regiment Museum, Deta City Museum, Fire Museum from Jimbolia, Sever Bocu Press Museum from Jimbolia, Railway Museum from Jimbolia, History Museum from Lipova, Museum of History, Ethnography and Art from Lugoj, Constantin Gruescu Museum of Mineralogy from Ocna de Fier, Montanist Pharmacy History Museum from Oravița, Museum of Ethnography from Oravița, Oravița Imperial Mint Museum, Museum of the School of Arts and Crafts from Prigor, Banat Mountain Museum from Reșița, City Museum from Sânnicolau Mare, Timișoara Metropolitan Cathedral Museum, Sintești Village Museum, Bănia Village Museum, Communist Consumer Museum.

Memorial houses: Nikolaus Lenau Memorial House from Lenauheim, Adam Muller Gutenbrunn Memorial House, Karl Diel Memorial House

from Jimbolia, Petre Stoica Memorial House from Jimbolia, Stefan Jager Memorial House from Jimbolia.

Art galleries: Helios Art Gallery Timișoara, Calpe Gallery Timișoara, Pygmalion Gallery Timișoara, Jecza Gallery Timișoara, Popa's Gallery Timișoara, Mansarda Gallery, Pro Arte Gallery Lugoj, "Corneliu Baba" Art Gallery Caransebeș, etc.

Organizations and foundations: Romanian Writers' Union - Timișoara Branch, Romanian Artists Union - Timișoara Branch, Timișoara Intercultural Institute, Interart Triade Timișoara Foundation, Orizont Magazine Timișoara, Artmedia Foundation, Timișoara, Romanian-German Cultural Foundation "Petre Stoica" Jimbolia.

Cultural and artistic events: "Ceau Cinema!" Festival, Sacred Music Days, Timisoara Opera and Operetta Festival, Timisoara International Music Festival, Timișoara Euroregional Theatre Festival, organized by the Hungarian Theatre "Csiky Gergely", Jazz TM Festival, EUFONIA Festival, Plai Festival, Hungarian Culture Days, Enescu-Bartok Music Days, EUROTHALIA, Serbian Culture Days, Bega Boulevard Timișoara Festival, Buziaș Fanfare Festival, Românești Cave Concert.

▪ *Socio-demographic objectives* are considered attractions due to their specific architecture or due to the values of art, culture and civilization that they have, and from this point of view Banat proves to be extremely rich. The socio-demographic objectives in Banat support the practice of cultural tourism, itinerant tourism and recreational tourism.

In Timișoara it can mention the 3 historical districts of Timișoara (Cetate, Fabric, Iosefin-Elisabetin), recognized due to the architectural ensembles and historical monuments, Unirii Square, Serbian Episcopate, Liberty Square, Victory Square, Theresia Bastion, The fortress dam, Military Casino, The Old Town Hall, Neptun Palace, Szekely Widow's Palace, Stefania Palace, the Peacock House, the Owl House, the Reformed Church, the Catholic Church from Bălcescu Square are just a few of them.²² (Vighi and Marineasa 2010)

The city of Lugoj attracts the attention of tourists with many tourist attractions that reflect the rich history of the city: Muschong Palace, Lugoj Prefecture, Great Union Monument, Bejan Palace, Parvy-Haberehrn Palace, People's Palace, Reformed Church, Reformed Episcopate Palace, Old Theatre, Greek Catholic Church, Roman Catholic Church (former Minority Church), Slaughterhouse and Post Office Inn.²³ (Baiski 2015b)

²² Timișoara, Primăria Municipiului Timișoara, Centrul de Informare Turistică

²³ Lugoj. <https://lugoj.webnode.ro/>

The city of Caransebeș is also part of the list of cities with architectural monuments, with a series of tourist attractions (Revolution Square Ensemble, Urban Ensemble "General Ioan Dragalina Square", Old City Hall, Korongy Palace, Caransebeș Court, Diocesan House, Urban Ensembles " Mihai Viteazul Street I and II ", City House, Hydroelectric plant etc.).²⁴

Also, the rural settlements also offer a specific architecture, but they are especially appreciated for the natural conditions they can offer to those interested in spending their holidays (vegetation, tranquillity, fresh air, landscapes). (Adamov et al 2017, Petroman and Petroman 2013)

- *Technical and economic objectives* is in the form of tourist attractions that determine the practice of various forms of tourism (adventure tourism, itinerant tourism, leisure tourism, recreational tourism, cycling, hiking, etc.).

Hydropower facilities: Hydraulic power plant (1907 - 1910) on the Bega canal from Timișoara, Surduc accumulation Lake, Gozna Lake, Dognecea Lake, Buhui Lake, Văliug Lake, Secu Lake, Trei Ape Lake, Poiana Mărului Lake, Lugoj Iron Bridge (1899), the Dam and the House Dam from Coșteiu, a hydropower node of major importance that marked the regularization works of the Bega and Timiș river, being built in 1759.

Bega Canal is the first navigable canal built on the Romanian territory. The canal is 114 km long and stretches across Romania and Serbia. Currently, the canal is open for passenger traffic and tourist leisure in Romania.

Timisoara enjoys an impressive "collection" of historic bridges that connect its existence to the Bega Canal (Mihai Viteazu Bridge, Dacian Bridge, Decebal Bridge, Michelangelo Bridge, Mitropolit Șaguna Bridge, Traian Bridge, Stefan cel Mare Bridge, Heroes Bridge, Labor Bridge). Along with the 9 bridges over the Bega canal, 3 more walkways are built, and crossing the Bega canal can be a good opportunity to admire them.²⁵

Industrial constructions/monuments: Fabric and Iosefin Water Towers (1912 - 1914), Former Communal Slaughterhouse Timisoara (1905 - 1907), Oravița-Anina railway (1854, the first railway in Romania today), Timișoara Brewery, etc.

²⁴ Caransebeșul, unul dintre orașele cu cele mai multe monumente istorice din țară.
<https://arhiva.reper24.ro/caransebesul-unul-dintre-orasele-cu-cele-mai-multe-monumente-istorice-din-tara/>

²⁵ Istoria podurilor peste Bega din Timișoara, de la podetele peste mlaștinile din jur până la actualele construcții moderne. https://debanat.ro/2021/04/istoria-podurilor-pestebega-din-timisoara-de-la-podetele-pestemlastinile-din-jur-pana-la-actualele-construcii-moderne_329410.html

Transluncani is a 5.4 km long paved agricultural road that crosses a picturesque area in the Poiana Ruscăi Mountains. The road has recently become a tourist attraction and can be travelled by car or bicycle.

CONCLUSIONS

A region with a rich history, Banat must reveal its treasures to the tourist, make him return with pleasure and always discover something else.

Therefore, the anthropic tourist resources, as well as the natural tourist resources, give Banat a remarkable tourist potential for practicing different forms of tourism. A particularly important aspect to keep in mind is that each resource can lead to the practice of several forms of tourism, and this can ensure a sustainable development of tourism in Banat. The natural tourist resources found on the territory of Banat can support the practice of scientific tourism, itinerant tourism, leisure tourism, recreational tourism, spa tourism, hunting tourism, ecotourism, cycling tourism, speotourism and hiking. Anthropic tourism resources favors the practice of cultural tourism, event tourism, gastronomic tourism, ecumenical tourism, adventure tourism, itinerant tourism, leisure tourism, recreational tourism, cycling tourism, hiking, rural tourism, even dark tourism and Islamic tourism. (Cuculovic et al 2012, Petroman et al 2017, Sava 2013, Văduva et al 2018)

The multitude and variety of tourist resources and forms of tourism that can be practiced in the Banat Region can be starting points in the development of thematic tourism products and circuit tourism products. At present, many of the anthropic tourist resources are not included in the tourist circuit. In most cases, their absence from the tourist circuit is due to the advanced state of degradation and lack of involvement in order to support and develop forms of tourism suitable for these resources (e.g. recreational tourism, educational tourism).

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NOTES ON THE AUTHORS

Cosmina-Simona TOADER – Lecturer at Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine “King Michael I of Romania” from Timișoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, author of 2 works guides (*Managementul proiectelor. Aplicații. Studii de caz. Teste, Planificarea proiectelor...de la idee la proiect*), 1 course for students (*Managementul proiectului*), author and co-author of over 125 articles published in the volumes of national and international scientific events in the field of management, project management,

agricultural business management and tourism. She currently teaches Engineering and Project Management, Agricultural Business Management, Tourism Products.

E-mail: cosminatoader@usab-tm.ro

Loredana VĂDUVA – Lecturer at Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine “King Michael I of Romania” from Timișoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, author and co-author of over 150 articles published in the volumes of national and international scientific events in the field of food sustainability, cultural tourism, rural tourism, religious tourism. She currently teaches Catering, Management of catering, Alternative forms of tourism.

E-mail: loredana_heber@yahoo.com

Ionuț Mircea PETROMAN – Associate lecturer at Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine “King Michael I of Romania” from Timișoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism. He currently teaches Techniques and means of tourist leisure. His publishing activity sums 1 book (*Conservarea autenticității prin activități agroturistice*) and over 25 articles published in the volumes of national and international scientific events in the field of rural tourism, agritourism and cultural tourism.

E-mail: petromanionut@yahoo.com