

CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE TOURISTIC POTENTIAL OF CRIȘUL PIETROS HYDRORGAPHIC BASIN

Florian BENȚE

University of Oradea, Department of Geography, Tourism and Territorial Planning,
1 University str., 410087 Oradea, Romania, e-mail: benteflorian@yahoo.com

Corneliu BENȚE

University of Oradea, Faculty of Economics Science,
1 University str., 410087 Oradea, Romania, e-mail: cbente@uoradea.com

Abstract: Representing one of the most important tributaries of the Crișul Negru, of the Crișul Pietros activates hidrografic basin in the central-western Bihor Mountains, the geological substrate consists of Mezozoic limestones. As a result, the upper basin meet a variety of forms belonging exo-endokarst. On the one hand the specificity, content and value, is natural tourist resources, tourist attraction and on the other hand, suitable for visitation, and as raw material they can be recovered directly intense travel.

Key words: karst terrain, cave, glacie, tourism infrastructure

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The Crișul Pietros River is one of the most important tributaries of the Crișul Negru. Having the sources in the Bihor Mountains, due to sharp slopes leakage from its upper sectors of its higher degree covered with vegetation, of its petrography waterproof substrate, and especially, due to the amount of rainfall Significant (annual average between 800 mm in Beiuș Depression and 1400 mm in mountains), the water intake in Crișul Negru is very significant.

To highlight the tourism potential of the hydrographic basin of the Crișul Pietros River is essential to remark, in the first time, its superior current – its tributary Galbena (which forming a beautiful and wild gorges) which collecting water from the Padiș karst plateau. The karst plateau occupies a special place in Bihor Massif through its many exo and endokarst forms that it gives a scientific and touristic importance. Many occurrence of Padiș karst plateau, like the Fortress of Ponor, the Cave of the Living Fire, the karst Lost world plateau, etc. like another forms which meet along other tributaries courses of the Pietros River, like Boghii Stones, Bulzului Stone etc, these are declared “natural monuments” or are protected areas.

Also notable is the anthropic potential. The Beiuș Depression area is populated from ancient times, so that in the settlements from this area are preserved many customs and data, which establishes today in the ethnographic elements with impressive tourist valences.

The analyzed region lies in the south-eastern part of the Bihor district in the Beiuș Depression, in the base of Apuseni Mountains. The West of the Apuseni Mountains is characterized by the presence of mountain ridges which are detached from the orographic Bihor node which implies a number of low regions with hilly terrain. Following the sinking of an area in the Apuseni Mountains these lower regions functioned as areas of sedimentation, with creeks

Gorges of Galbena (Cheile Galbenei) If the Wind Cave, the most developed natural cavity from our country, it is a real milestone, for the Apuseni Mountains endokarst, the Galbena Gorge have the same destiny, regarding the morphological narrowing from this mountain region: to crown, as it should, with the grandeur and majesty required, the effort of rivers to cross rocky barriers. No other gorge can compare with the Unique building of Galbena (due to the dimensions without precedent of the deepening, density and scale forms).

Izbucul Galbenei is the most picturesque area of the perimeter of Galbena Gorges, declared, consequently, natural monuments. Izbucul Galbenei is the underground river resurgence from The Fortress of Ponor Cave, actually part of the river flow which cross the closed Basin Padiș – The Fortress of Ponor. Izbucul is an eye water, about 7 m in diameter, located on the base of a wall. On downstream the water waterfall flows, penetrating between the vertical walls.

Meadow Flowers (Poiana Florilor) lies on steep slopes that descend below the Yellow Stone till Yellow Valley, Meadow Flowers consists of a group of glades like islands in the beech forest. Meadow Flowers is a paradise in the summer months, when hundreds species of flowers floods, the sunny slopes, coloring them live. The grassland are particularly rich in this area, mowing is done twice in the summer. Meadow charm remains still the same, whether it is large or mowing grass, mown hay fragrance spreading a good taste for tourists.

The Lost World (Lumea Pierdută). So called because of its wilderness past, Lost World is a karst plateau forests, bordered by the Izbucul Ursului river, Valea Seacă and southern ridge of Gârdișoara Peak. Hydrographical, here appear two valleys: Bear Source Valley and Dry River. These valleys having the springs close and joining in the downstream, delineates an isolated plateau of the region around.

Area Boghii Stones (Pietrele Boghii) with the majestic peak Boghii Stone of 1436 m, is a major tourist attraction given by the vast landscape that provides the western area of Bihor Mountains and Beiuș Depression. Impressive steep leave the impression from plane of contemplation in the Boga Valley with vacation homes clustered toward Bulzului Stone.

The Bârsa Pit (Groapa de la Bârsa) is a closed basin during the endoreic Padiș Depression – The Fortress of Ponor, but unlike previous has no underground drainage to Izbucul Galbenei. Bârsa lies in the South of Băileasa and in the West of the Fortress Valley (Valea Cetăților), being limited to the west of a ridge which is separating from Yellow Valley (Sector Jgheabului Gorges) and to the south slope of Galbenei Stone. Called the Bârsa Depression this area is one of the most savage from Apuseni Mountains, with a humid climate that favored the development of a dense herbaceous vegetation, marsh looking.

Glacier of the Living Fire (Ghețarul Focul Viu). The cave opens at an altitude of 1165 m, on the ridge that separates on the south Bârsa Pit and Yellow Valley Basin. The main landmark is the Galbenei Stone rocks towards the cave entrance is only 550 m to the north-east. The cave opens to a based on a limestone wall in a low input, followed by a strong downhill gallery to Hall. A wooden staircase, aging weather and uncertain about, get enables overcoming the most difficult part. The Hall, measuring 68 m long and 46 m wide holds a block of ice fossil, probably the same age with the Scărișoara Glacier.

The Church of the Moț Peak (Vârful Biserica Moțului). Reserve with an area of 300 ha, declared natural monument, the peak has a height of 1456 m. Padiș chalet area is dominated by The Church of the Mot Peak, a particular point of view, with broad perspectives on the entire plateau, the forested slope of Măgura Vânăță Mountain and “the wall” Cârligate – Piatra Arsă.

Southern slope of the Church Moț Peak is slow, but, offering broad views on Călineasa Peak, Scărișoara Plateau, The Lost World Plateau and Biharia Massif (Cucurbăta Mare Peak – 1848 m).

The Fânațe Cave (Peștera de la Fânațe). Among the natural cavities in Bihor Mountains, long known, due to location on the outskirts of the mountain and the easy access, include the Fânațe Cave. It opens on the right side to Sodolul Plopului (the tributary of Bulz), at an altitude of 560 m. The total length of galleries is about 450 meters, of which about 300 make up the lower floor.

The *Crisul Pietros* River hydrographic basin is a rich area in terms of tourism, on both the national and the European.

Stands for a few special features:

- springs in this area of karst landscape, the Padis Plateau lies at an altitude of 1200 m (with the maximum altitude 1466m, The Church of the Mot Peak). Here is remarkable the karst phenomena: exokarst, endokarst phenomena value, famous potholes over 100 m deep, ice caves (focul Viu), gorge, waterfalls, springs – the tributary characteristic of the Pietros Cris (Crisului Pietros), Yellow (galbena) especially;

- the existence in this area to many points of a special attraction, that due to the landscape valence, and attributes vegetation and fauna have been proposed to conservation by declaring them as natural monuments and natural reserves;

- the existence of a climate of shelter (specific caves);

the occurrence of protected plants: bubble of mountain (bulbuci de munte), *Trollius europaeus*, Species *Geantiana Orchideaceae*, forest lily (Crinul de padure) *Lilium martagon*, sword (*Gladiolus imbricatus*), dew of heaven (*Drosera rotundifolia*);

- the Crisul Pietros basin is densely populated, its during crossing the territory of three common: Pietroasa, Buntești and Drăgănești;

- area examined also has the attractive resources anthropic origin, most significant being the nature of ethnographic (Ports and Customs). Stands existence of wooden churches, like those of Brădet and Stâncești (Buntești Village);

- although it is a region with a great tourism potential the infrastructure is underdeveloped providing accommodation only a few bases, the most notably being Padiș Cottage, Boga holiday village and Hotel Maranata (Drăgănești).

Aims of preserving and maintaining the interest valence of the entire Padis Criș basin.

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