

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE RURAL MOUNTAIN AREA OF CLUJ COUNTY (ROMANIA)

Bianca Sorina Răcășan

PhD student

Faculty of Geography, Department of Human Geography and Tourism,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

bianca_racasan@yahoo.com

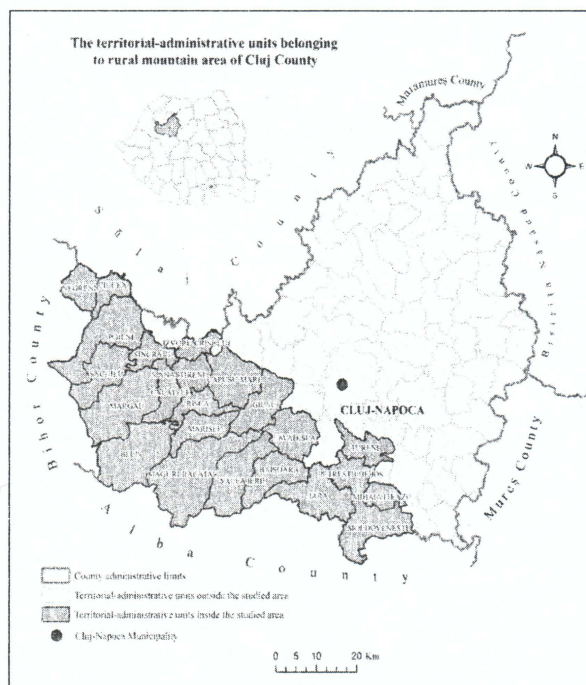
Abstract: The mountain sector belonging to Cluj county, situated in its western part, occupies one third of the county's total surface area (6.650 km²). Relatively short distances from the studied territory to Cluj-Napoca Municipality, the second most important city in the national hierarchy after Bucharest (gathering approximately 350.000 inhabitants), and still unmodified traditional economy related to the rural mountain area which furthermore happens to be equipped with accessible communication network, have represented catalytic agents of the tourism infrastructure development. Diversification and varying degrees of modernization describe nearly all tourist receiving structures which form the four examined components of the tourism sector. The purpose of this paper consists of highlighting the features of the tourism infrastructure pertaining to the rural mountain area of Cluj county, where both the accommodation sector and the entertainment one seem to distinguish themselves by the predominance of guesthouses, followed by farmhouses in the former case, and by the development of winter sports infrastructure, especially skiing, for the latter case.

Key words: tourism infrastructure, tourist receiving structure, rural mountain area, Cluj county, Romania

INTRODUCTION

Located in the northwestern half of Romania, in the Someșul Mic River Basin, at the contact area of three types of landforms, Apuseni Mountain, Someșan Plateau and Transilvaniei Plain, Cluj County covers an area of 6.650 km², the equivalent of 2,8% of the country's total surface (Buta et al., 1980). The mountain area belonging to Cluj County corresponds to the northeastern part of Apuseni Mountains and it integrates altogether Gilău Mountains, the greater part of Muntele Mare and Vlădeasa Mountains, the northern part of Trascău Mountains, a narrow section of the northern Bătrâna Mountains (Bihor Mountains) and the southeastern and southwestern terminal components of Plopiș and Meseș Mountains (Pop, 2007). All these landforms cover one third of the county's total surface or from another perspective, the inland of 23 *communes* (the term used for naming the rural territorial-administrative units) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The territorial-administrative units belonging to the rural mountain area of Cluj county



The study focuses on providing a relevant contribution in order to bring into prominence the rural mountain area of Cluj county by highlighting the specific tourism infrastructure elements. The purpose of the radiography of tourism's technical-material base is to demonstrate that tourist facilities and services are developed enough to sustain the expansion of profitable tourism. By inventorizing, analyzing and presenting the most important aspects related to the accommodation sector, food and beverage services, transportation, recreation and entertainment sector, this article offers a good general overview of the variety of services and activities which can be unfolded in the rural mountain area.

THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

As a whole, the tourism infrastructure contains the totality of elements human-made and purpose-built in order to exploit and valorize the tourist potential and to satisfy the existing tourism demand (Coccean, 2007). The infrastructure comprises a wide range of constructions, from simple to complex forms, known as tourist receiving structures, an umbrella term used for types of accommodation, catering, entertainment, special transportation, balneary treatment and special events for tourists along with the supplementary services involved (Miff, 2005). Taking into consideration both the theoretical perspectives and the present situation of the

tourism infrastructure in the examined territory, below we will focus on reviewing the most relevant quantitative and qualitative aspects which define the current status of the technical-material base of the rural mountain area in Cluj County.

Regarding the methodology which mediated this research, the used methods which stand out in relief are the cartographic ones, the statistical methods and the descriptive ones among other methods such as: observational, comparative, analysis and synthetic methods.

Thus, on the one hand, different maps were used, physical and administrative ones, both favourable to delimitating the studied rural mountain area, whose final configuration integrates 23 territorial-administrative units due to the total or partial covering mountain sector. On the other hand, towards the manipulated statistical data, the Regional Development and Public Administration Ministry and Cluj County Council were the main information sources used for this research, along with tourism official websites.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

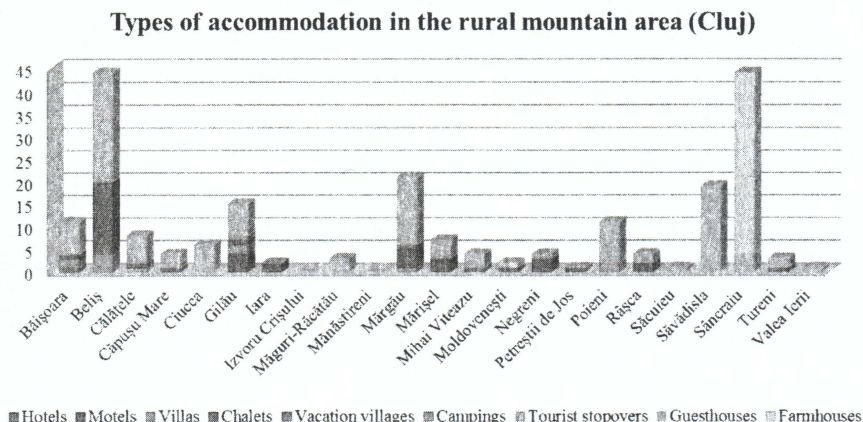
Accommodation sector

Indispensable to the material and technical base of tourism, the accommodation sector represents the main component of the tourism infrastructure and a fundamental pillar of the tourism phenomenon. The force of this argument consists of both the total number of accommodation units available for tourists and the typology of these units which are directly influenced by the features of each accommodation type (Glăvan, 2000).

Most of the tourist receiving structures with accommodation functions which exist in Romania, can also be found within the studied territory. These concern chalets, villas, motels and hotels, considered to be primary types of accommodation and also guesthouses (representative of rural tourism), farmhouses (representative of agritourism), campings, tourist stopovers and vacation villages, tributary to secondary types of accommodation (Ciangă, 2007).

Irrespective of the particularities of each type of tourist receiving structure, the examination of the accommodation infrastructure implied data processing based on the statistical information available within the identified sources (Regional Development and Public Administration Ministry, Cluj County Council, www.turistinfo.ro, www.infopensiuni.ro, www.lapensiuni.ro). According to the facts at our disposal, the accommodation sector of the rural mountain area belonging to Cluj county integrates 3,547 accommodation places, divided into 215 units, located within the territory of 21 communes out of the 23 analysed, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Types of accommodation in the rural mountain area of Cluj County (2013)



At the first sight, it can be easily noticed that both Beliș and Sâncraiu possess the greatest number of accommodation units, 44 exactly, followed, by far, by Mărgău (21 units), Săvădisla (19 units) and Gilău (15 units). At the opposite pole, Izvorul Crișului and Mănăstireni seem to lack any tourist receiving structures with accommodation functions.

With respect to the typological diversity, Gilău imposes itself within the studied area by having five different types of accommodation represented by motels, villas, guesthouses, a chalet and one camping. In contrast with this territorial-administrative units, seven other communes put themselves on the map by hosting units pertaining to a single accommodation type: only guesthouses in Ciucea, Măguri-Răcățau, Săcuieu, Săvădisla, Valea Ierii, and only chalets in Iara and Petreștii de Jos.

Figure 3. Number of accommodation units in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)

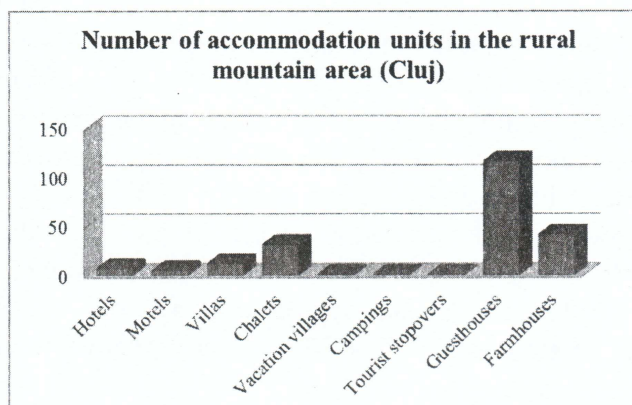
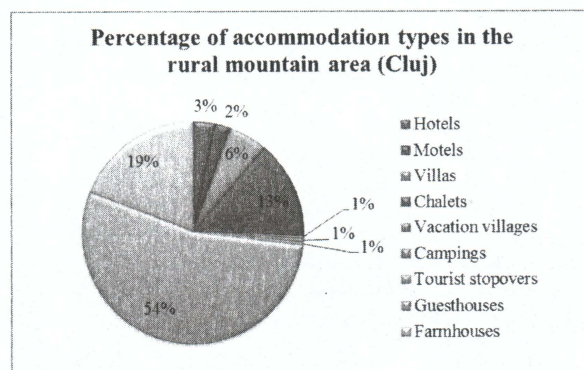


Figure 4. Percentage of accommodation types in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)

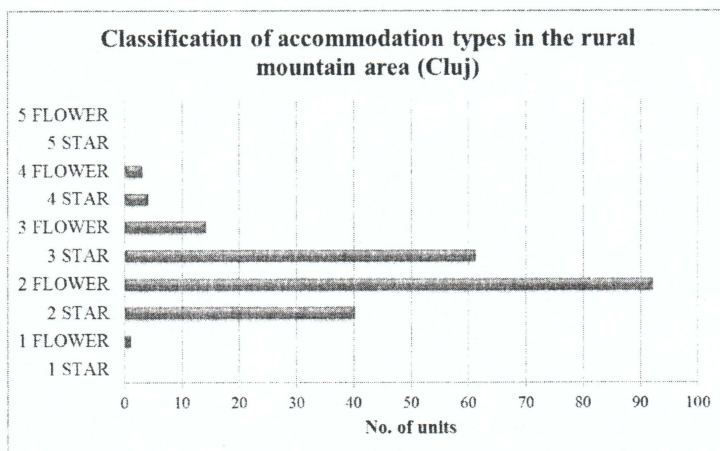


As to the number of units which corresponds to a certain accommodation type (Figure 3), one can observe the predominance of guesthouses which distinguish themselves not only by percentage, 54% out of the total number of tourism structures with accommodation functions, but also by their presence within the inland of 18 communes. These are followed by farmhouses and chalets, which happen to outperform the other existing accommodation types, even though their number does not go beyond 70 units or 32% out of the total structures (Figure 4).

Compared to the previous situation, it can be seen that three types of accommodation detain only 1% of the total number of tourist receiving structures, due to the single presence of each unit in the examined territory: one vacation village (Mărgău), one camping (Gilău) and one tourist stopover (Căpușu Mare).

The tourist receiving structures with accommodation functions are classified within one to five symbol systems, stars or flowers (the latter is available for guesthouses and farmhouses), which indicate quality standards, comfort level and provision of facilities and services (Beaver, 2005). Related to the studied area, the matter of comfort categories reveals the following facts (Figure 5): while two-flower rated structures are the most numerous, covering over 90 units or, in other words, 43% out of total accommodation sector, five-symbol category along with one-star rated one have no representation in the mountain sector. However, it is obvious that three-star and two-star classified structures whose number is over 100 units, meaning 28% and 19% of total accommodation infrastructure, are the most widespread comfort categories, whereas three-flower, four-star and four-flower and one-flower rated units only manage to mark 6%, 2% and 1% out of total tourist receiving structures. By analysing the accommodation sector what also emerges is an inverse proportionality relationship between the comfort level and the number of accommodation units, which is being justified in accordance with the overlapping features of the mountain sector and the quasi-dominance of the rural area in Cluj.

Figure 5. **Classification of accommodation types in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)**



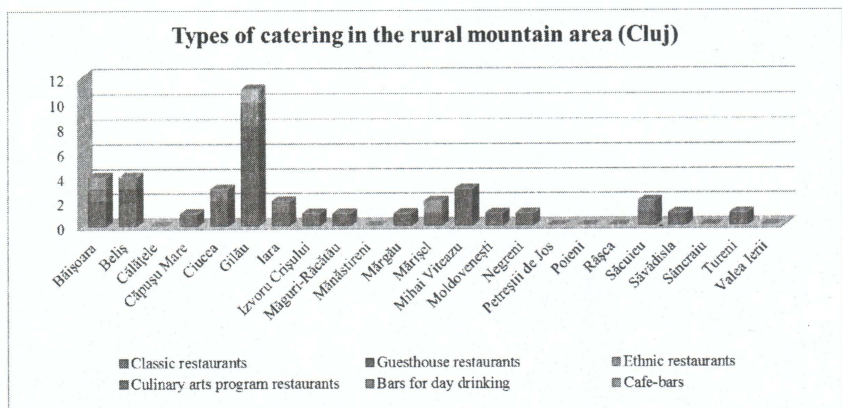
Catering sector

If we were to consider that all the tourist receiving structures with accommodation functions also provide food and beverage services, we could submit that the previous statistical information and the observations related to dimension and classification are perfectly valid. But we should not ignore that there are certain types of constructions whose projection and execution regard specific services associated with the catering sector. These are the units that we are about to focus our attention on next, but not before we clarify the nature of the following data. It must be specified that the data sources which were taken into account in order to analyze the accommodation infrastructure are no longer valid for the catering sector because out of all the identified sources only one makes mention of this type of units, the official website of the Regional Development and Public Administration Ministry. Therefore we insist upon the fact that the following statistical information has a purely illustrative nature and it represents a small amount of the total existing catering units.

Within the rural mountain area belonging to Cluj County, one can identify 7 different types of units which provide food and beverage services out of the 24 categories which can legally work in Romania, whose distribution in the territory can be observed in Figure 6.

It is worthwhile to remark that Gilău prides itself on having the most well-developed catering sector out of all 23 territorial-administrative units, quantitatively and typologically speaking. It integrates a total number of 11 catering structures and 4 different categories of tourist receiving structures with public catering functions, such as: classic restaurants, bars for day drinking, a culinary arts program restaurant and a snack bar.

Figure 6. Types of catering in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)



Next in line after Gilău, two pairs of communes, distinguish themselves from the others by sharing similar values: Băișoara and Beliș (4 units), as well as Ciucea and Mihai Viteazu (3 units). The last stages in the hierarchy of territorial-administrative units equipped with structures which provide food and beverage services are occupied by those which possess a single catering unit, either a classic restaurant or a guesthouse restaurant (Căpușu Mare, Izvoru Crișului, Măguri-Răcătau, Mărgău, Moldovenești, Negreni, Săvădisla and Tureni) and finally by communes where the information source does not mention any kind of structure (Călățele, Mănăstireni, Petrești de Jos, Poieni, Râșca, Sâncraiu and Valea Ierii).

Figure 7. Number of catering units in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)

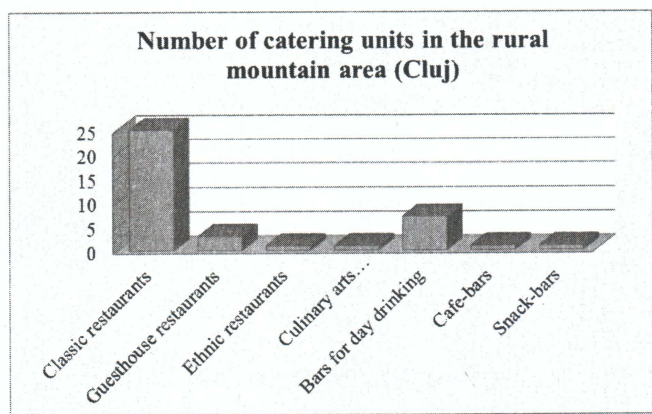
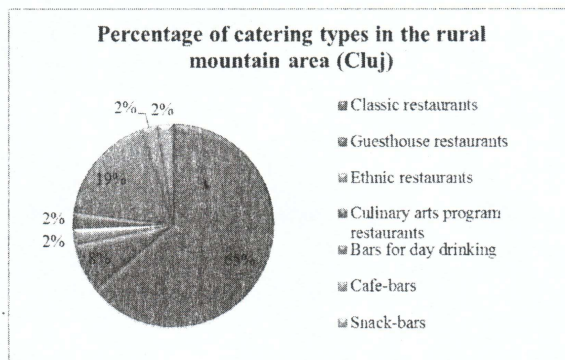


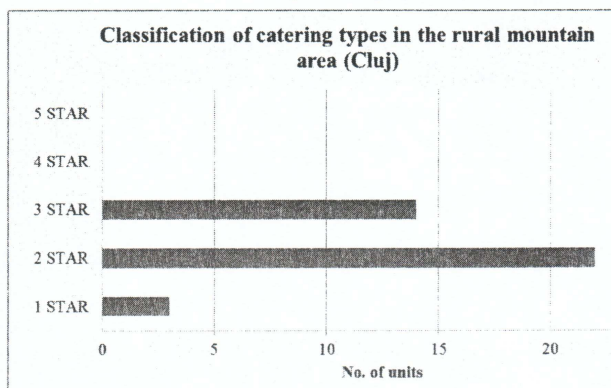
Figure 8. Percentage of catering types in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)



Concerning the percentage of catering types which define the food and beverage services sector associated with the rural mountain area in Cluj County, the prevalence of classic restaurants is more than noticeable, registering 65% out of the total structures. These are followed by bars for day drinking and guesthouse restaurants which conjunctly sum up 25% out of the catering sector, whereas the four left-over categories (ethnic restaurant, culinary arts restaurant, cafe-bar, snack bar) claim only 2% of the tourist receiving structures with public catering functions.

Similar criteria, based on quality and comfort level along with facilities and services provided were taken into consideration when the catering units were classified within the same five-star system. The area's physical, geographical and economical features determined the absence of 4- and 5-star rated structures and generated a smaller representation of 1-star classified ones (only 8%). Out of the two remaining comfort categories, which clearly dominate food and beverage services, two-star rated one, representing 56% of the catering infrastructure, outperforms the one which integrates three-star units, the equivalent of 36% out of total.

Figure 9. Classification of catering types in the rural mountain area of Cluj county (2013)



Transportation sector

With regard to transportation sector, Cluj County and default rural mountain area include both land and air transportation routes, the latter due to the presence of the international airport located in Cluj-Napoca, which ensures the arrival of tourists within the examined territory.

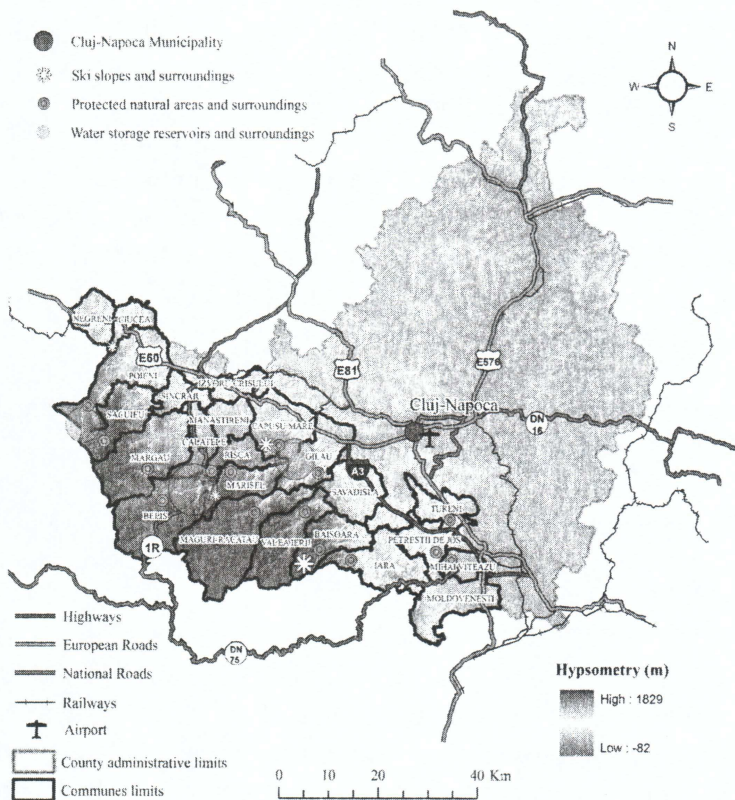
Characterized by different degrees of modernisation, the *road network* belonging to the mountain sector consists of paved and unpaved roads. Thus, there are several types of roads which can be identified: dirt roads, the stone paved ones and roads covered with either asphalt or concrete. Depending on the development phase and the access provided to services, utilities and tourist resources, some roads are more important than others. This is the case with:

- *European roads*: crossing west to east and north to south the studied area, and facilitating relations with both Western Europe, Ukraine and the eastern, central and southern parts of Romania (E60, E81);
- *national roads and the highway*: connecting the examined territory to nearby counties (A3 – Transilvania Highway; DN1; DN1R; DN75);
- *county roads*: linking towns and cities within Cluj County or bordered counties (DJ191D; DJ108A; DJ764B; DJ108K; DJ763; DJ103N; DJ103L; DJ103V; DJ107R; DJ108I; DJ103G; DJ103H; DJ103J; DJ103K; DJ107J; DJ107L; DJ107M; DJ107N; DJ107P; DJ107S; DJ107T; DJ108C);
- *communal roads*: following the course of the small tributaries of Someș, Arieș and Crișul Repede Rivers and connecting the villages located in their vicinity; unfortunately this type of roads tremble in the balance and the same thing happens with some tourist roads whose rehabilitation would definitely increase the number of visitors within the tourist areas (Turda – Turzii Gorge; Răchițele – Ic Ponor; Răchițele – White Stones).

Concerning the *railway network* in Cluj County, it is worth mentioning that out of the nine railway lines, two are crossing the county and one of them, *Magistrala 300*, passes through the rural mountain area. Other significant detail is that the first railway, built within the county's territory, was opened in 1870, from Oradea to Cluj and used to facilitate the connection between both Wien and Budapest and Cluj whereas three years later, another link was established, the one between Cluj and Războieni, through Câmpia Turzii.

With reference to *air transportation* system, Cluj County makes itself conspicuous by the presence of International Airport Cluj-Napoca, located approximately 50 km from the rural mountain area. Its affiliation to the national and international air network ensures access to the tourism attractions within the studied territory not only for domestic tourists (Târgu Mureș, București, Timișoara) but also for inbound tourists (Vienna, Munich, Brussels, Rome, Bologna, Madrid, Valencia etc.).

Figure 10. **Transportation network and tourist areas within the rural mountain area of Cluj County**



Recreation and entertainment sector

The significance of this component pertaining to the material and technical tourism base consists of its heterogeneous structure which integrates a wide range of means and facilities able to satisfy the tourists needs and expectations. To this effect, different amenities can be identified, like those related to cable transport, sports and leisure which along with the rest of activities that do not require a fully-equipped environment, generate specific forms of tourism. Combined with the territory's peculiarities, these forms of tourism which can be practiced in the examined area involve: hiking, trekking, recreation, winter sports, scientific tourism, mountaineering and speleotourism, fishing and hunting, sailing and boating, adventure sports, etc. (Glăvan, 2000).

Supposing all these tourist activities which unfold in the rural mountain sector could be related to some areas of maximum attractiveness capable of activating the tourist motivation to such an extent that by choosing one destination over another, one could enjoy different valences of the same tourist experience. At this rate, at least three types of tourist areas take shape: water storage reservoirs and

surroundings, ski slopes and environs, protected natural areas and vicinity (Figure 10). According to expectations, each category is represented by a relevant exponent whose features are considered to be an example for the other constituents of the same class; this is the case with Beliș-Fântânele Resort, Băișoara Ski Resort and Apuseni Nature Park.

Thus, when it comes to *water storage reservoirs and surroundings*, Beliș-Fântânele Resort offers a rough guide to existing conditions for both spending time away from home in the most agreeable way and experiencing various forms of tourism. These include not only sailing and boating, water skiing, swimming and fishing in Fântânele Lake, but also hiking and trekking along with winter sports in the vicinity of the reservoir. Furthermore, the benefits of climate conditions represent supplementary motivation within the process of destination decision making and Beliș-Fântânele Resort along with its climate therapeutic effects is recommended for the treatment of anemia, insomnia, asthenia, tiredness and fatigue.

The recreation and entertainment sector of this tourist area and resort stands out by incorporating a wide range of infrastructure elements such as: tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, natural sledding and skiing slopes, a natural ice skating rink which can be used in the wintertime and not to forget the possibilities of sailing and boating (by boat, motorboat or hydrobike), even diving. Within the same resort, tourists can also find an equipment rental center along with ski instructors, summer terraces, campsites and special places without restrictions regarding campfire use. Other recreational facilities include the existence of equestrian equipment, thing which favours the practicability of horse-drawn carriage and horse-drawn sleigh rides, on the one hand or the activities related to rural tourism such as sheep pen stopover and traditional product tasting, on the other hand.

Table 1. **Water storage reservoirs in rural mountain area of Cluj County**

Crt. No.	Water storage reservoirs	Commune	Hydrographic basin	Surface (hectares)	Volume (mil. m³)
1.	Fântânele	Râ ^o ca, Beli ^o	Some ^o ul Cald	884 ha	250 mil. m ³
2.	Tarnița	Gilău	Some ^o ul Cald	215 ha	77 mil. m ³
3.	Some ^o ul Cald	Gilău	Some ^o ul Cald	85 ha	7,5 mil. m ³
4.	Gilău	Gilău	Some ^o ul Mic	70 ha	4,2 mil. m ³
5.	Drăgan/Florioi	Poieni	Valea Drăganului	290 ha	127 mil. m ³

Source: adapted from PATR, 2004

Undoubtedly, Beliș-Fântânele Resort could be a best practice model for the other water storage reservoirs, especially for those which form the hydropower system Fântânele – Tarnița – Someșu Cald – Gilău (Table 1), not only in terms of location and tourist potential features but also in terms of tourism infrastructure and entertainment facilities. Thus, at least the same amount of specified activities could be developed within the above-mentioned artificial lakes and their surroundings. Comparing the attractiveness of this types of tourist areas, Tarnița lake and its environs appear to be better adapted to the existing tourism demand and the proof consists of the total number of secondary residences and accommodation types (mostly guesthouses and chalets) whose constructions were generated not only by the existing natural resources but also due to the possibilities of unfolding certain activities such as: sailing and boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, jet skiing and the other outdoor activities which do not need investments (hiking, trekking, camping, biking, sightseeing).

Regarding the tourist areas which distinguish themselves through the presence of *ski slopes and environs*, Mount Băișorii Resort is, by far, the most popular ski resort in Cluj County, where travelers and outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy all sort of winter sports.

The natural features of this area along with its location, at 1200–1400 m altitude, at the foot of Muntele Mare massive, on the eastern side starting from Buscat Peak (1676 m) have led to the expansion of both different forms of tourism and holiday homes in parallel with the resort's development which started at the beginning of the 70's. Nowadays the resort disposes of five ski slopes (Big slope, Special slope, Buscat 1, Buscat 2 and Buscat 3) which ensure good conditions of experiencing winter sports, generally from December to March and even mid-May, as long as the ski season lasts.

The characteristics of five slopes which form the ski area of Băișoara Resort (Table 2), made them extremely accessible not only to beginners and intermediates due to the low difficulty level of Buscat 1 slope and three existing easy slopes, but also to advanced and expert skiers who can opt for the special slope's difficulty. The variation of length (300 – 1300 m), width (25 – 100 m), average slope (8,4 – 32%) and level difference (200 – 300 m) have all deeply influenced the means of cable transport (three lifts of Buscat are the first Doppelmayr installation in Apuseni Mountains) along with their daily capacity, the support capacity of the slopes (600 to 1500 skiers/day) and the most practiced sports.

Table 2. Ski slopes in Mount Băișorii Resort (Băișoara), Cluj county

	BĂIȘOARA SLOPE (big slope)	SPECIAL BĂIȘOARA SLOPE	BUSCAT 1 SLOPE	BUSCAT 2 SLOPE	BUSCAT 3 SLOPE
<i>Features</i>					
<i>Difficulty</i>	Easy	Difficult	Very easy	Easy	Easy
<i>Length</i>	1200 m	300 m	1300 m	900 m	800 m
<i>Departure altitude</i>	1500 m	1450 m	1677 m	1677 m	1677 m
<i>Arrival altitude</i>	1300 m	1150 m	1470 m	1470 m	1470 m
<i>Average slope</i>	17 %	32 %	8,4 %	12,5 %	13,8 %
<i>Level difference</i>	200 m	300 m	207 m	207 m	207 m
<i>Average width</i>	60 m	100 m	35 m	25 m	25 m
<i>Surface</i>	7,2 ha	3 ha	2,6 ha	2,25 ha	2 ha
<i>Air lift – lift</i>					
<i>Type of installation</i>	1 lift towing devices mono- post	1 biopost lift with hooks tenured	1 fixed lift vehicle 2 seats	1 fixed lift vehicle 2 seats	1 fixed lift vehicle 2 seats
<i>Transport capacity pers./hour</i>	600	600	1400	1400	1400
<i>Length</i>	1000 m	300 m	2500 m	2500 m	2500 m
<i>Daily capacity</i>					
<i>Optimal daily capacity</i>	1000	600	1400	1400	1400
<i>Maximal daily capacity</i>	1000	650	1500	1500	1500
<i>Other</i>					
<i>Snow guns</i>	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
<i>Nocturne</i>	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
<i>Slope status</i>					
	Approved by Ministry of Tourism, according to the certificate of approval no. 63/15.05.2006.	Unapproved slope. Nonfunctional technical and legal reasons.	Approved by Ministry of Tourism, according to the certificate of approval no. 126/02.11.2010.	Approved by Ministry of Tourism, according to the certificate of approval no. 127/02.11.2010	Approved by Ministry of Tourism, according to the certificate of approval no. 128/02.11.2010

Source: adapted from www.romaniaturistica.ro

Therefore within the resort, alpine skiing is frequently encountered, which is why numerous related competition events are held in Băișoara. Other winter sports which are widely played on snow include snowboarding, ski touring, cross-country skiing and sledding whose beginnings were favoured by both the components of the natural environment and the constitution of the entertainment sector. This one integrates an important infrastructure element, namely a rental center that provides all the essential outdoor recreation and sports equipment such as: complete ski equipment, sledges, snow boards, bicycles, ATVs etc.

Beside all this, there is a large section of activities concerning the mountain area which do not depend on winter season and they are worth mentioning: sightseeing, hiking and trekking in Mount Băișorii Resort and the surrounding area for instance,

mountain biking or paragliding, mountaineering and even speleotourism, but to a lesser extent.

Last in sequence but not least in importance, the natural features, mostly the climatic ones, make Băișoara a great destination for rest and relaxation due to its location, considered to be the second best in Europe in terms of ozone layer quality.

Table 3. Ski slopes within the rural mountain area of Cluj county (except Băișoara)

Territorial-administrative unit in Cluj County	CIUCEA	MĂRIȘEL	CĂPUȘU MARE	CĂPUȘU MARE
Slope's name	CODRII VLĂȘINULUI SLOPE	MĂRIȘEL SLOPE	GEMENI SLOPE	NEAGRĂ SLOPE
Features				
Difficulty	Easy	Difficult	Medium	Difficult
Length	980 m	780 m	750 m	400 m
Departure altitude	720 m	1202 m	915 m	915 m
Arrival altitude	540 m	1067 m	800 m	800 m
Average slope	16 %	32 %	23 %	32 %
Level difference	180 m	135 m	115 m	115 m
Average width	40 m	45 m	35 m	30 m
Surface	3,92 ha	3,5 ha	2,62 ha	1,2 ha
Air lift – lift				
Type of installation	1 lift towing devices mono-post	1 biopost lift with hooks tenured	1 lift towing devices mono-post	1 lift towing devices mono-post
Transport capacity pers./hour	450	400	500	500
Length	720 m	700 m	340 m	340 m
Daily capacity				
Optimal daily capacity	500	350	500	500
Maximal daily capacity	550	400	550	550
Other				
Snow guns	YES	NO	NO	NO
Nocturne	YES	NO	NO	NO
Slope status				
	Approved by Ministry of Tourism, according to the certificate of approval no. 46/22.11.2005.	Unapproved slope.	Unapproved slope.	Unapproved slope.

Source: adapted from www.romaniaturistica.ro

Official websites featuring specialized information regarding ski slopes give evidence of other slopes existence in the rural mountain area belonging to Cluj County, more specifically in Ciucea, Mărișel and Căpușu Mare (Table 3). Even though three out of four ski slopes have not received approval certificates yet, all these slopes do not lack the required features in order to attract ski lovers at different levels (easy, medium and difficult) as shown in Table 3. Furthermore, as it can be seen from Table 2, all these slopes, characterized by different lengths (400 to 980 m), widths (30 to 40 m) and surfaces (1,2 up to 3,92 ha) dispose of cable transport installations which ensure a daily capacity up to 500 persons/hour.

Thus, not only skiing and sledding can be practiced in these areas but also the rest of the forms of tourism along with the outdoor activities that were mentioned and associated with Băișoara Ski Resort, and all the more so because these slopes and their environs are well endowed with tourist attractions.

As for the third traceable category of tourist areas which can generate the desire to travel and visit them in order to benefit from the valences of this kind of experience, the *protected natural areas and vicinity* are the concerned ones. In the mountain sector of Cluj County and the 23 related territorial-administrative units there are over 30 protected natural areas, 9 of national interest and 26 of regional and local interest, situated within the territory of 15 communes (Table 4).

Table 4. Protected natural areas within the rural mountain area of Cluj county

Crt. No.	Communes	Protected natural areas
1.	Băișoara	Băișorii Mountain
2.	Beliș	Big Peat Bog from Izbuc, Apuseni Nature Park, Fintinele Storage
3.	Căpușu Mare	Păniceni Gorge, Căpușului Valley
4.	Gilău	Corabia Quarry, Tarnița Storage, Gilău Storage, Someșul Cald Storage, Someșului Rece Valley
5.	Iara	Borzești Gorge, Ocolișelului Gorge, Surduc Defile, Arieșului Defile
6.	Măguri Răcătău	Căpățanii's Peat Bogs, Dumitresei Gorge, Răcătăului Defile, Someșul Rece Defile, Someșului Rece Spring and Răcătăului Valley
7.	Mărgău	Apuseni Nature Park, Big Cave from Firei Valley, Ponorului Stone Cave, Vârfurașu Cave, Stanciului Valley Gorge and Răchițele Waterfall, White Stones - Vlădeasa
8.	Mărișel	Răcătăului Defile, Someșul Cald Defile, Someșului Rece Valley
9.	Mihai Viteazu	Turzii Gorge, Hășdatelor Defile
10.	Petrești de Jos	Turzii Gorge
11.	Poieni	Drăgan Storage, Vișagului Meadow – Drăganului Valley
12.	Râșca	Fintinele Storage, Someșul Cald Defile, Someșului Rece Valley
13.	Săcuieu	Bănișorului Stone, Vlădeasa Mountain
14.	Tureni	Turenilor Gorge
15.	Valea Ierii	Bondureasa Storage, Șoimului Valley, Ierii Valley

Source: adapted from www.acorcluj.ro

As in the other two cases, where a suitable example was selected to represent the whole category, the protected natural areas section has its own exponent, the Apuseni Nature Park, in order to expose the tourist activities which can unfold without interfering with the legal provisions regarding the protection and the conservation of the environment. Located in the northwestern central part of Apuseni Mountains, in the southern part of Bihor Mountains and the northern side of Vlădeasa Massive, the park covers a surface area of 75,784 hectares, occupying varying percentages of the territory of three counties (28% – Alba, 32% – Bihor and 40% – Cluj).

Due to its large size, the park integrates a wide range of tourist resources that sustain numerous outdoor activities such as: hiking and trekking on marked trails, sightseeing, cycling and mountain biking on roads or forest routes, ski touring

on most tourist routes except the closed ones during the cold winter months, speleotourism, whitewater canyoning, rafting and kayaking, equestrian tourism, rural and cultural tourism.

All these forms of tourism, which the Apuseni Nature Park's administration makes reference to, are recommended to visitors and are being highlighted on tourist information panels located within the park so that the tourists pay their respects to them. Through analogy one could extrapolate these various activities to the other protected natural areas in the studied territory and adapt them so that they would satisfy the needs of tourism demand.

CONCLUSION

The rural mountain area belonging to Cluj County has a quite developed tourism infrastructure which distinguishes itself through diversity and different stages of development regarding the matters pertaining to accommodation sector (dimension, typology and comfort level) along with the entertainment sector and the related forms of tourism. The latter component of infrastructure refers to both outdoor activities which do not require investments and those that cannot be performed unless there is an equipped and organized environment (e.g. rental centers for sports equipment; ski slopes for skiing, sledding, snowboarding; water surfaces for sailing, boating, canyoning, rafting and kayaking etc.).

By highlighting the most important aspects of the tourism infrastructure related to the examined territory, one can consider that this paper has accomplished its goal, providing a general framework of the current situation of the technical-material base of tourism.

The quasi-dominance of the rural area reflects well not only on the characteristics of the existing tourist receiving structures whose comfort level tends to be a quite reduced one, but also on the lower quality of access roads, a problem that affects the whole country. By correlating these aspects and the median income level of the population, it is understandable why some infrastructure elements are less represented in the territory, even though the most important tourists sender remains Cluj-Napoca, the second city in the national hierarchy after Romania's capital in terms of population (approximately 350.000 inhabitants).

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