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The Role of Tourist Receiving Structures in Developing Rural Tourism and Agro-turism. “ȚURLAȘ” Pension, Sălișteea de Sus

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In conformity to OMT 20\1995, ‘The tourist pensions are tourist structures which have no more than 20 places (beds); the activity is carried on in the citizens' houses or in separate buildings which ensure in special arranged spaces the accommodation for the tourists, and the conditions for the meal preparation.

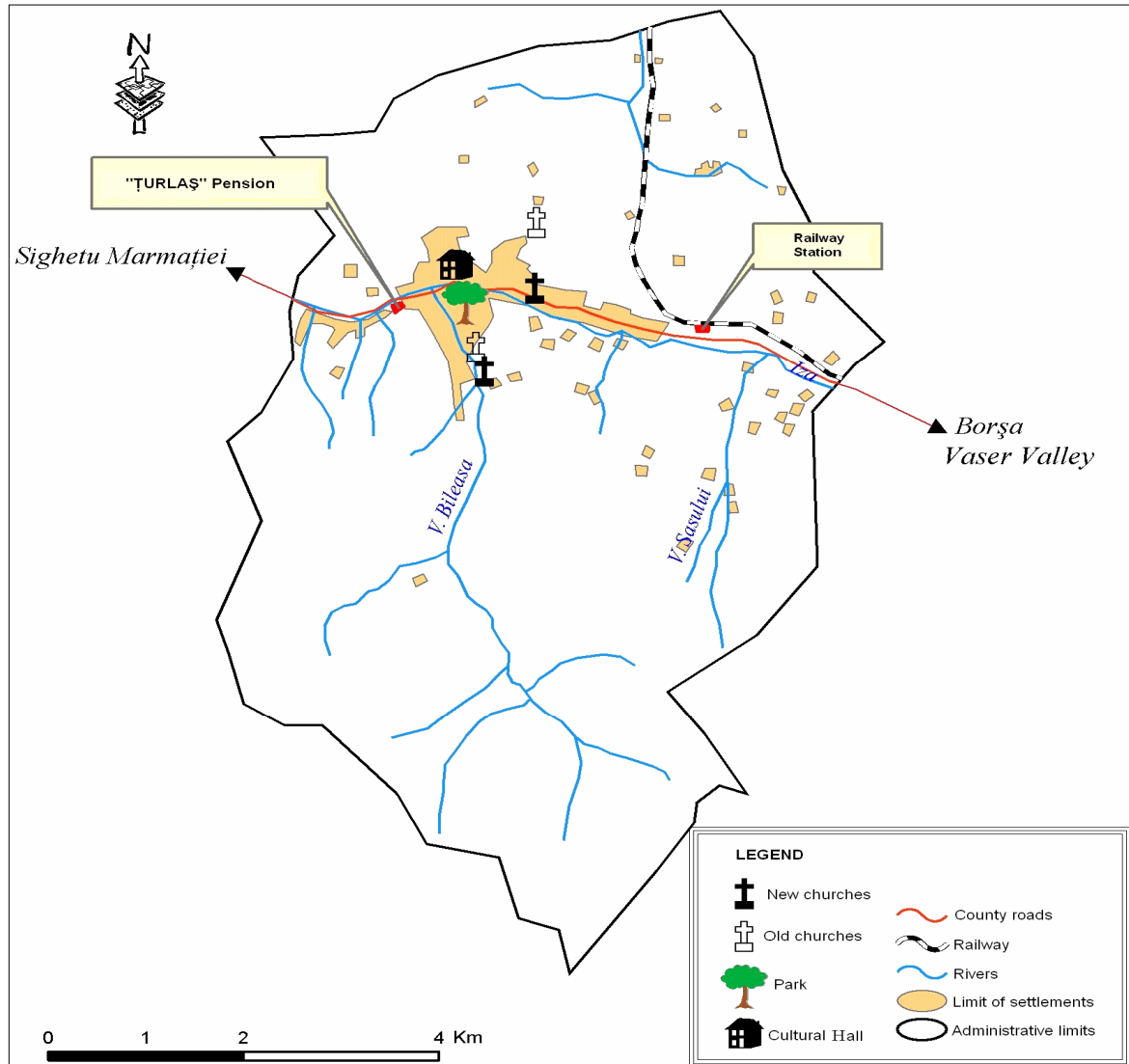


Figure 1. Geographical position of “ȚURLAȘ” Pension.

“ȚURLAȘ” Pension is located in Sălișteea de Sus, Maramureș county, settlement which was declared a town in 2004. Sălișteea de Sus is situated in a valley, called Iza Valley, between Săcel and Dragomirești.

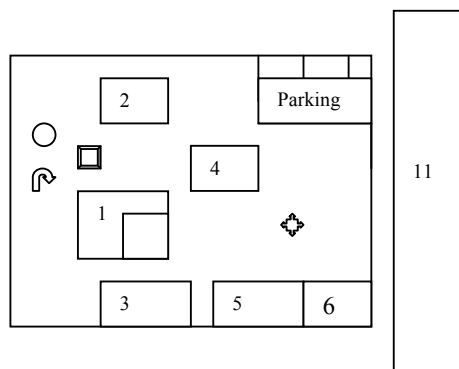


Figure 2. Sketch of “Țurlaș” Pension: 1. The house built in 2001; 2. The house built in 2004; 3, 4. The owner’s houses 5. A small shop; 6. The garage; 7. The fountain; 8. The shower; 9. A special place for serving the meal; 10. The grill; 11. The main road.

“ȚURLAȘ” Pension started its activity in 2001. At first, the pension had one house (1) with only two rooms, and this means four places. The house is made of wood in a traditional way and it is separated from the owner’s house.

In 2002, the pension introduced another five places within the same house (1), a room with three places at ground-floor, and a room with two places in

one side of the house.

In 2004, the pension built another house (2) made of wood - also in a traditional way, with a room of three places, one with two places and a bathroom. Now, the pension has fourteen places (fourteen beds).

The pension has central heating; it also has well-equipped bathrooms.

The tourists will have the possibility to relax thanks to the large space, as it is a quiet place. They can read, sunbathe, in summer, or they can have a grill in a special place.

In 2001, as it was the pension’s first year, the activity was reduced because of the small number of rooms and because of the lack of publicity. Therefore, in January, the pension registered a number of 10 tourists, for February and in March the same situation was registered.

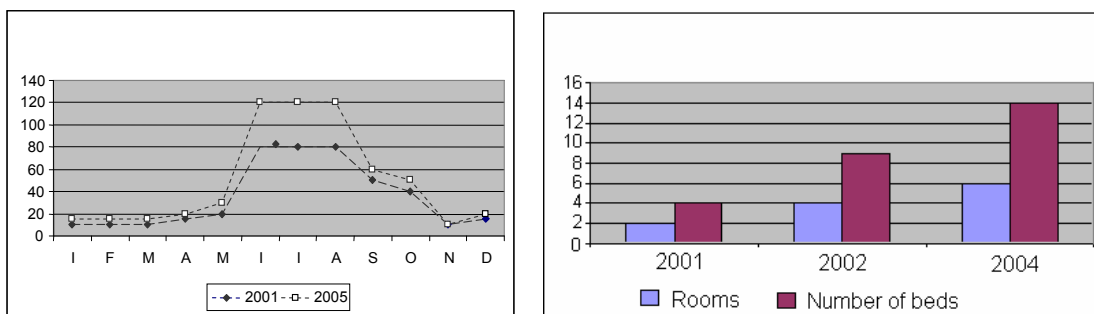


Figure 3. Evolution of the number of tourists, rooms and beds in “ȚURLAȘ” Pension.

For April, there were 15 tourists; in May - 20 tourists; in June, July and in August - 120 tourists; in September - 50 tourists; in October - 40 tourists; in November - 10 tourists and in December - 15 tourists. In 2005, the situation was: in January, February and March - 15 tourists; in April - 20 tourists; in May - 40 tourists; in June, July and August - 220 tourists; in October - 50 tourists; in November - 10 tourists; in December - 20 tourists.

So, in 2001 and in 2005, the largest number of tourists is characteristic for the summer season and it is reduced in winter because of the lack of services for winter sports. The tourists are coming from all over the country, especially from the large cities. Most of the tourists are coming from Bucharest, Argeș, Vâlcea etc. The tourists are coming also from abroad: France, Germany, Hungary etc. The pension has 2 “daisies”¹. The tradition in Maramureș is to be found in the traditional meals the pension serves, but also it is to be found in the arrangements made inside and outside the houses. The pension collaborates with Vasertour Agency from Vișeu de Sus, with Mara International Agency from Baia Mare and with Antrec. You can find more information on the site: www.agrotur.ro

The tourist will live unforgettable moments offered by the traditional meals and the settings which reflect the local community. The landscape is a charming one, the area is unpolluted, and the prices are acceptable.

¹ An “instrument” used by the National Agency for Rural, Ecological and Cultural Tourism (ANTREC) to classify tourist rural pensions.

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The tourists can visit some of the most important objectives: there are two very old churches in Săliște de Sus made of wood and two churches recently built.

A very important thing is that these objectives are very close to the pension.

The tourists can also visit Borșa Spa, Vaser Valley, Bârsana Monastery, a centre where the ceramics is processed, in Săcel locality, "Merry Cemetery" in Săpanța.

The pension has some disadvantages: the small number of places and the small number of pensions in Săliște de Sus determines a reduce circulation in this city, Săliște de Sus.

The main activities of the pensions are: in winter, the tourists can visit the surroundings with a sleigh, but also with a wagon when the weather permits.

The tourists can take part in folk shows, they can stroll along the fields, they can pick medicinal plants, mushrooms and they can go fishing. They can see how earthenware pots are made, they can witness sculptures in wood being made by masters from Săliște de Sus. Tourists can also learn how to prepare our traditional food.

The tourists can participate to some sort of cultural programs which take place during the year: weddings, baptisms, winter customs, pilgrimage, etc.

85% of the tourists practice the tourism for recreation, individually or in small groups, and those who prefer to stay longer than 3 days are those who came from the area, for business or transit.

Near to the pension, a restaurant could be built, but also the increasing number of places is to be taken into consideration.

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