

## RESOURCES OF RELIEF IN THE POIANA RUSCA MOUNTAINS THEIR ROLE IN THE PRACTICE OF TOURISTIC ACTIVITIES

**Elena CIOROGARIU**

Theological School „Logos”, 10A, Transilvania st. 300456 Timișoara, Romania  
e-mail pusa\_ciorogariu@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** The relief along with the other categories of natural resources plays a very important role in the practice of touristic activities. Being the essential support for the geospheres, the relief becomes a fundamental resource, in our case in the spatial distribution of the touristic resources and activities. The aim of this study is to emphasize the touristic resources offered by the relief of the Poiana Rusca mountains, resources analysed from the point of view of their role in the development of the touristic activities in this area.

**Key words:** tourisme, resources, les montagnes Poiana Ruscă, relief

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1. Introduction

The geological complexity, the modeling of the external factors as well as the internal ones has led to a variety of forms of relief, which attract through their uniqueness, specificity and matchless attributes (Panait Ludmila, 1974, pag 179).

The touristic attraction must be regarded from several points of view according to their value, quality, spatial distribution and accessibility (Ilieș, M., Ilieș, Gabriela, 2001, pag. 179). Besides all these, an important role is played by the promotion of the resources locally and regional.

### 2. Resources of relief in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains

The relief represents the major element in the structure of the touristic potential of any territory being the material background for the touristic activities.

The identification criteria for the touristic potential of the relief refers to the structure and complexity of its valent components, to those features that individualize the elements of the natural background making them attractive for tourism.

These criteria refers to:

- the spatial arrangement of the relief steps;
  - the complexity degree of the relief units and relief types (glacial volcanic, karst, wind);
  - the presence of the special forms of relief and the general aspect of relief microforms (helview points, steepes, rocky regions, tops, canionns, caves);
  - the accesibility degree
  - the type of concentration or dispersal of relief forms in the territory;
- (Simon, Cîndea, 2006);

Based on these criteria I have sought to highlight the main touristic resources following the ecological structure, the petrographic complexity and the result of the internal and external modelling materialized in emphasizing the forms of relief with touristic value.

The Poiana Ruscă Massif belongs to one single tectonic unit – The Getic canvas – built of two subunits different by age and degree of metamorphism. The epimetamorphic sub-unit occupies the Northern half of the massif and the mezometamorphic one situated in the Southern part, interferes towards North with the epimetamorphic formations, all along a directional East-West dislocation (Cinciș-Vadu Dobrii-Ruşchița-Crivina). In the epimetamorphic subunit, the cristaline slates form, in whole, the Arăniș Poieni anticlinal, oriented East-West (Ilinca N., 1994, pag 34).

Due to the lower altitudes (Padeș peak 1374 m), the Poiana Ruscă mountains belong to the touristic potential group of medium to low mountain ranges (Simon, Căndea, 2006).

The relief formed of rocks belonging to the crystalline of the Getic canvas, with additions of limestone strips, sometimes metamorphosed (marble), represents a real spring of touristic resources. The most representative resources are the Padeș and Rusca peaks (belonging to the Getic crystalline), Cerna Hunedorian, figures similar to the Sphinx, nearby settlements like Nădrag and Crivina, the marble quarries from Alun and Ruschița, the Românești cave.

In table no. 1, are presented the massif's main peaks, mostly attractive for the practice of hiking.

Table 1. The highest peaks in Poiana Ruscă Mountains

Peaks	Height (m)
Padeș	1374
Rusca	1355
Lotrului	1266
Boului	1243
Mesiuta	1238
Cioaca Strigoanei	1217
Aredei	1215

In relation to each type of relief shaped in different types of rocks it is proposed the following clasfication (table 2).

Table 2. The main types of relief with touristic valences

Tpes of relief	Location
Rocky steeps	Valea Runcului, Valea Sohodolului, Valea Begheiului, Valea Sașei, Valea Zlatului
Volcanic relief	Dealurile Cozia, Poliatca, Cetății, Nocet, Pietroasa
Limestone relief	Cheile Cernei, Cheile Runcu, Cheile Valerița, Cheile Sohodol, Cheile Begaheiului, Cheile Lăpugului
Fossil storage	Cârjiți, Roșcani, Lăpugiu de Sus
Erosion witnesses	Tomești, Crivina, Nădrag

The volcanic relief is present in the Hills of Poliatca, Cetății, Cozia, Nocet, Moțar, Pietroasa, under the shape of same special knolls.

The relief moulded on limestones and crystalline corresponds to the wide plates from the Easter part of the Poiana Ruscă Massif. The presence of a little damaged relief in comparison to the one developed on crystalline dolomite, it has the rockz slopes, steeps with karstic aspect: the Valleys of Runcului, Sohodolului, Begheiului, Sașei, Zlatului.

The limestones relief distinguishes through large subunits, with convex aspect, limited by abrupt slopes and rised with 250-300 metres above the valleys river bed. In

this background, the valleys appear personalized with gorges with canyon aspect, on short sectors: Cerna Valley (between Haşdău and Lunca Cernii), Runcu, Valerița, Sohodol, Bega, Zlatul și Lăpușul (Ilinca N., 1994, pag. 29).

In the detailed petrographical morphology there are also included endokarst shapes, the small and middle caves being the characteristic caves. They have a local importance and are known as fossil caves, grouped in the Bega basin, Lăpușiu, Dobra, and Runcu-Sohodol. Better known are the caves from Florian rock, Fetti Roks, Românești (Tomești commune), The Cross Cave (Roșcani Commune).

**Case study. The Românești cave and its touristic importance.** Among the existing caves in the superior basin of the Bega River, the cave of Românești is the biggest and the most interesting. It is situated in the south-east of Românești village (Tomești commune, Timiș district) on the left side, well afforested of Pustina Valley, 2.2 km upstream to the confluence of this brook with Bega Poieni. It is dugged up in the Northern slope of Filip hill, called Dosu Peșterii (back of the cave), 370 m height. From Românești village there are 2 ways of access: one of them, the Fărășești Road, which follows the course of Bega Poieni brook until the interference with Pustina valley, then, on this valley until the nearby of the limestone quarry (4 km), from where it is climbed abruptly on the left side following on the abrupt slope pathway until the entrance. The other route is the one which follows the village road along the old wooden church (one hour walking).

The large opening of the Bats hall, has made the cave of Românești to combine many of the specific conditions of performance halls, among which the acoustic caves are of great importance. Initiated by C. Lupu, the cultural-artistic movements unfolded in this cave enjoys a large appreciation among the public.

In the autumn of 1984, România lived one of the most beautiful cultural events. The first symphonic concert in a cave from the inside of the Carpathians Mountains had pleasantly impressed the 600 participants which took part at the event. Speologists and guests entered surprised in to the hall lighted with candles, bulbs and electrical spotlights. After the resourding succes the concert has had, due to the endeavour of Mr. Dr. Lupu C., and to the timisorean cultural authorities, every year it is organized such a symphonic concert. România is one of the few countries which organizes speological symphonic concerts. In the 22 concerts held so far, there have been live unforgettable moments listening to works signed by: Mozart, Sostacovici, Marcello, Vivaldi and Enescu.

The concerts have been held by different bands like: Danish Rozal Philarmonic orchestra, Symphoniy Orchestra of Vienna, Brass Campaign of Rome, "Banatul" Philharmonic of Timișoara, State Philharmonic af Arad, Sabin Drăgoi Choir of Timișoara, State Philharmonic of Arad, Symphonic orchestra of the music University of Timișoara and other famous bands (Mărcușan, manuscript).

Table 3. The main caves in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains

<i>Caves</i>	<i>Location</i>
Peștera cu "apă"	Românești ( Timiș)
Peștera de la "Măgura"	Cârjiți ( Hznedoara)
Peștera "Coasta Firezului"	Dobra ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Valea Seacă"	Lăpușiu de Jos ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Marea"	Lelese ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Mică"	Lelese ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Cauce"	Lelese ( Hunedoara)
Peștera de la "Crăciuneasa"	Lelese ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Curată"	Peștișiu Mic ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Spurcată"	Peștișiu Mic ( Hunedoara)
Peștera "Piatra Feti"	Luncanii de Jos ( Timiș)
Peștera "Albastră"	Pietroasa ( Timiș)

### 3. The role of relief resources into the display of touristic activities

Through their aspect and the complexity of physical and geographical elements, the mountain areas can offer a large variety of touristic resources belonging to the natural background. The overlap of antropical elements on the support offered by nature give the tourists a wide range of landscapes with different degrees of attraction. The natural background is, in general, considered as the main shareholder in exchange touristic potential, it is often privileged as a determinant in touristic activities, especially in the mountain areas (Gases, 1991 citat de Muntele și Iațu, 2003).

Although not the most spectacular the relief resources in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, attract every year a large number of tourists, through their uniqueness in deserted areas (example the cave of Românești, Cinciș Lake, Surduc Lake). The importance of these resources should be emphasized through billboards, information in the tourist packages, and the drafting of tourist microstrategies development.

### 4. Steps leading the display of touristic activities

For an area to be recovered from the touristic point of view, as in any field, the planning process should unfold.

The process includes the following stages:

- Analysis of existing situation
- Setting objectives
- Development and implementation of the programme
- Monitoring and evaluation

(Olimpia, Ban, 2007, pag 25)

The analysis of the existent situation can be achieved by developing the SWOT analysis. Regarding the tourism resources related strictly to relief, they must be integrated in the conception called “the potential of natural background” and must be analyzed together with the other resources (climate, biogeographical, hydrographic). As continued, in the table form (no 3) I will present the componenets of analyses (strenghtes, weaknesses, opportunities and risks).

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the favorable natural background of tourist activities</li> <li>- practicing hiking especiallz on Padeș and Rusca Peaks</li> <li>- the practice of speotourism through the presence of numerous caves of scientific interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of high altitudes for practising winter sports</li> <li>- poor recovery of natural resources</li> <li>- the lack of lookmarks to the tourist interest areas (Ținutul Pădurenilor)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the development and promoting the speological tourism</li> <li>- spreading and revealing the value of existing natural landscpae</li> <li>- very good perspective to exploit the mountin areas by hiking, climbing, extrem sports, throughout the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- infrastructure utilites (water, sewerage, waste management) poorly developed in rural area</li> <li>- strong competition at destination level – external tourist destinationat similar prices and higher conditions</li> </ul>

### 5. Conclusions

Drawing attention upon a relative small number of relief resources belonging to the Poiana Ruscă mountain relief concludes the idea of including this mountain massif in the mountain category with middle tourist potential.

The combination between the natural elements and the antropic ones, represents the element which the unique touristic aspect of this massif.

Each hill has its legend, each cave has its story and all together lead to the display of touristic activities.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ardeleanu, V., Zăvoianu, I., (1979), *Județul Timiș*, Editura Academiei R.S.R., București;
- Ban, Olimpia, (2007), *Tehnici promoționale și specificul lor în turism*, Editura Economică, București, 383p;
- Cândea, Melinda, Simon, Tamara, (2006), *Potențialul turistic al României*, Editura Universitară, București;
- Iașu, C., Muntele, I., (2003), *Geografia turismului: concepte, metode și forme de manifestare spațio-temporală*, Editura Sedcom-Libris, Iași, 332 p;
- Ilieș, M., Ilieș, Gabriela, (2001), *Resursele de atractivitate turistică. Mod de abordare*, în *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, Geographia*, XLVI, 2 pag 179-182;
- Ilinca, N., (1994), *Masiv Poiana Ruscă*, Editura Vinea, București 141 pag;
- Ilieș, M., (2007), *Amenajare turistică*, Editura Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca 153 p;
- Krautner, G., (1984), *Poiana-Ruscă, ghid turistic*, Editura Sport-Turism, București, 154 p;
- Mărcușan, (1977), *Bazinul superior al râului Bega. Analiză geografico-economică*, manuscris;
- Negrea, Ș., (1984), *Peșteri din România*, Editura Sport-Turism, București;
- Panaite, Ludmila, (1974), *Metodologia cercetării economico-geografice*, Editura Centrului de Multiplicare al Universității din București, 312p.

Submitted: September 18, 2009

Accepted: November 07, 2009

Published online: November 30, 2009