

THE TOURISTICAL POTENTIAL, LANDSCAPING AND ADVERTISING POSSIBILITIES OF BĂILE TINCA SPA

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Abstract: The document presents the natural and anthropic potential as well as the possibilities for landscaping and advertising the Băile Tinca Spa. It contains weather observations from the weather station of Holod from 1972 to 2002, hydrological data on the debits of the rivers and the physical - chemical characteristics of the mineral and thermal waters existing in the resort. Likewise there were inventoried the anthropic touristic objectives given by archeological, historical, architectural, and natural monuments, there were identified the resorts endowments for recreation and spa, it was determined the touristic traffic in the resort and a questionnaire was made regarding the health level of the various tourists arrived for treatment in Băile Tinca Spa. As a result of the study it was found that the Băile Tinca Spa benefits from a remarkable natural and anthropic potential, from a modern ground of accommodation and treatment, which offer a range of quality services, proof being the fact that the treatments made in the resort had amazing results. The touristic flux of about 1000 tourists/year could raise by doing some landscaping projects and by advertising the resort by means of media.

Keywords: touristical potential, landscaping, advertising, Băile Tinca Spa

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1. The geographic position and the history of the Băile Tinca Spa

Băile Tinca Spa is located on the right bank of the Crișul Negru, 40 km from Oradea and 25 from Salonta in a hill area covered with forests in 35%, with hardwood species like: Carpathian deer, Roe deer, wild boar, deer, hare, pheasant, mallard etc. The resort has a permanent character and it is situated in the Crișuri Plain at the height of 130 m in a natural environment given by a garden with more than 10 ha of old trees and by the Crișul

Negru's meadow, populated with specific vegetation, beyond which the unpolluted water is rich in fish.

Băile Tinca Spa is located in the southern part of Bihor county in the homonymous common (fig. 1) at the intersection of the $46^{\circ}47'$ parallel North latitude with the $21^{\circ}56'$ meridian, longitude East, the first traces of habitation dating back to the Neolithic, and by written mention back to 1338.

The access in the resort can be made in 2 different ways, by following the route (Oradea-Tinca-Arad; Salonta-Tinca-Beiuș) or by train (Oradea-Vașcău) (fig. 2), the distance of 40 km from Oradea can be done in 35 minutes by car, in 50 minutes by bus and in 95 minutes by train. The connection with Oradea is assured by three routes of bus every day, and the one with Salonta by a daily bus route.

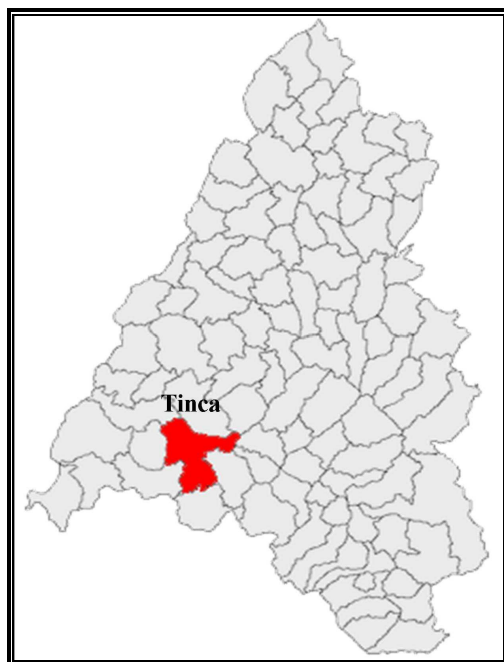


Figure 1. The geographic position of Tinca in Bihor county.

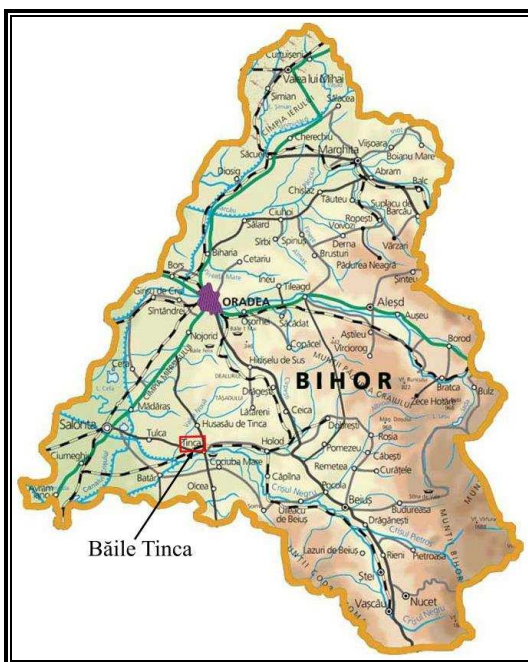


Figure 2. The placement of Băile Tinca Spa forefront the transportation possibilities in Bihor county.

Regarding the history of the Băile Tinca Spa, it should be mentioned the fact that the first improvements of the treatment ground date back to 1815. Later, in the year 1895, the facilities were improved and extended, the material base holding up to 70 housing possibilities, a food complex, treatment base equipped with medical devices, medical assistance assured by trained doctors.

In the year 1984 a hotel was built, the housing space being extended with additional 70 parts, but the resort activity was still seasonal. Even if the number of places was of only 140, the number of tourists was one of over 1500 annually, great number of which being forced to find housing somewhere near the resort. Likewise, in the year 1983 were built 9 chalets with 58 spots which were used only during summer by the tourists during their holidays or at the end of the week.

In the year 1994 a new hotel was given to use with a capacity of 155 places, so in the present the Băile Tinca Spa disposes of 230 accommodations with ratings of 2 and 3 stars.

2. TOURISTIC AND NATURAL POTENTIAL OF BĂILE TINCA SPA

2.1. Topographical touristic potential

Băile Tinca Spa is located in the Crișuri Plain at 130m altitude, being delimited in north by bigger heights which reach up to 166 m (two banks of the Crișul Negru easily fragmented), as well as 155 m in south on the banks of the Crișul Negru, the resort is topographically framed in the category of plains.

2.2. Climatic touristic potential

Under climatic conformation, the resort benefits from a temperate-continental climate with oceanic influences. In the town there is no weather station, this being the reason for which we used data from the Holod station for pointing out the climatic potential.

The western plain is subject to oceanic influence as well as continental when speaking climatically, this being the reason why the temperate continental climate is with a shade warmer and moister than in the other plains of the country with warm summers and mild winters.

Air temperature

The annual average of the temperature between 1972-2002 was 10.3°C. January average was -9°C, and the one of the month July was 20.5°C (fig. 3). The median temperature of the same month can register big variations from year to year. For example, the average temperature in the month of January was -6.1°C in 1985 and 3.6° 1988, and in the months of February, the temperatures were as follows: -7.1°C in 1985; 5.3°C in 1977 and of 1.9°C in 1979.

As deviations with appreciable values can be mentioned the absolute maximum value of the temperature in the 30th of August 1992, which was 37.8°C and the absolute minimum value of 24.6°C in January 1987.

Generally, we can establish that the evolution of the annual temperature presents a parity with the value of solar radiation. During the winter there cannot be felt strong frosts because of the marine air penetration from the western part and because of the shelter from the cold air from the East and North East. The average temperature of this season is 0.3°C. The summer is lacking excessive heat (19.7°C) in the resort thanks to the influence of the forests surrounding it. The mild winters and the excess less summers give a median amplitude of 22-23°C, moderate value, in comparison with the ones registered in the southern or eastern part of he country.

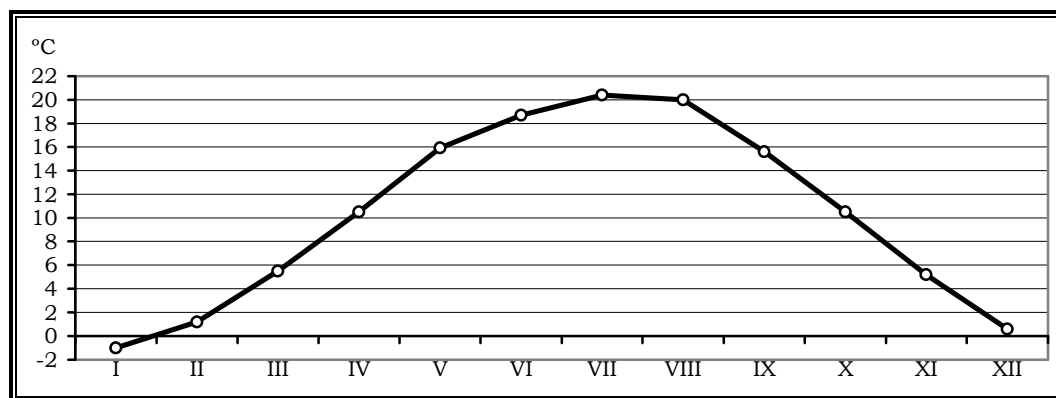


Figure 3. The monthly average of temperature at Holod weather station.

Air humidity

On of the characteristic parameters of air humidity is the relative humidity, which depends on the air temperature and represents the ratio between air vapor tension and maximum tension.

Between 1979-1986, the relative humidity of the air (%) had an annual average, at Holod very close to Băile Tinca Spa, of 81% with the lowest values in the months of April, May and June (75%), as well as the highest in December (90%) and January (89%) (fig.4). Monthly median relative humidity at the Holod weather station.

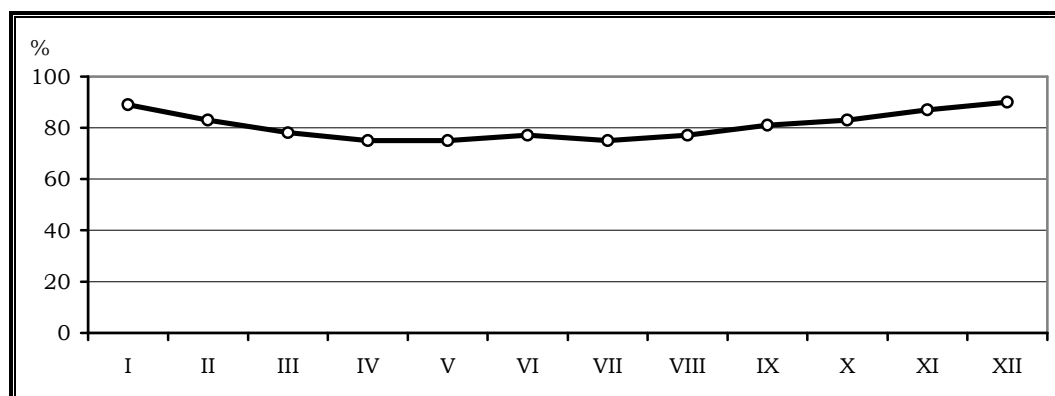


Figure 4. The monthly average of relative humidity at Holod weather station.

Nebulosity

The amount of clouds on the sky depends on the altitude, topography, the positioning related to the predominant waves of air circulation. The days that are considered are the ones with clear sky when the nebulosity is between 0 and 2 tenths, and the ones with covered sky when the nebulosity is between 8 and 10 tenths. The annual average of the nebulosity is that of 6, 1 tenths. The period with the lowest nebulosity is found in the months of July - October, the minimum being in the month of August with 7, 5 tenths, due to the intensifying effects of the cyclones from the Mediterranean Sea which bring multilayer clouds (fig.5).

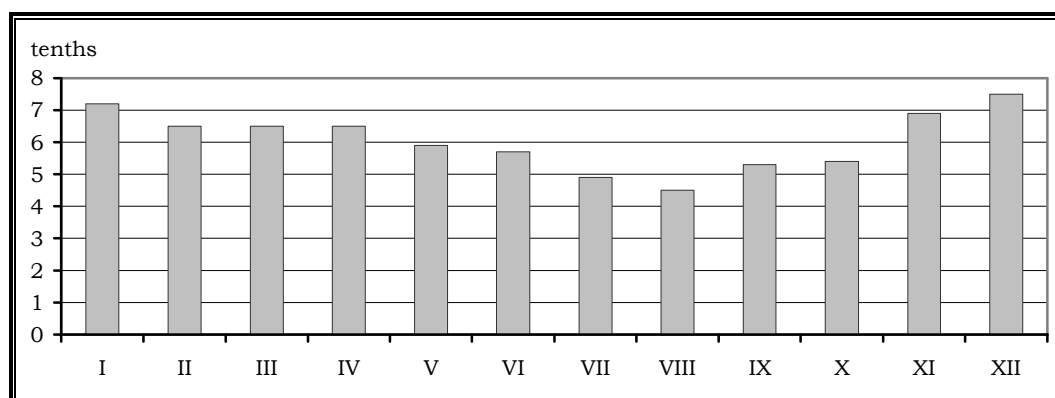


Figure 5. The monthly average nebulosity at Holod weather station.

The duration of sunlight

In the area in which the resort is set, the duration of sunlight registers high values (2089 annual hours), if we take in consideration the fact that the maximum annual number is of about 2300 hours on the beach and the minimum is less than 1800 hours in the mountains. The maximum amount of sunshine is registered in the month of July as a result of anticyclone type, and the minimum in the month of December with only 55 hours, thanks to the multilayered clouds (fig. 6).

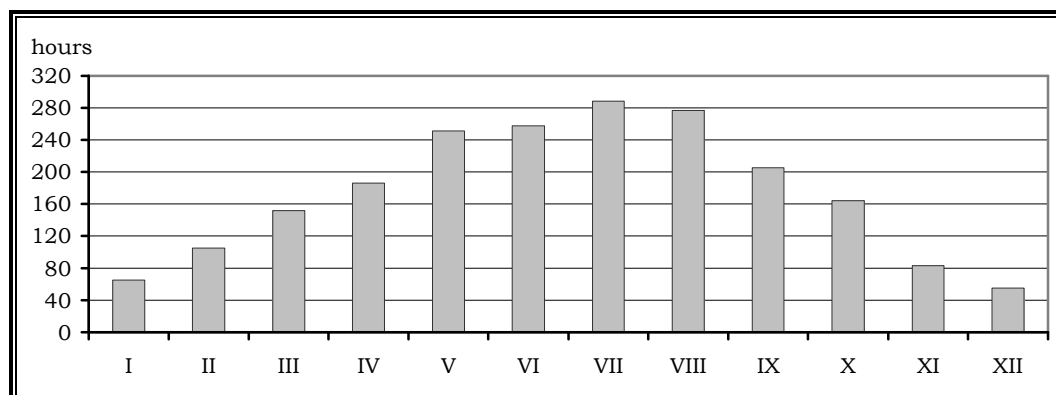


Figure 6. The monthly average of sunshine at Holod weather station.

Atmospheric rainfall

Rainfall regime is conditioned, on one hand by the location of the resort in the North Western part of the country, exposed to the invasion of wet air from Western Europe, and on the other hand by the shelter provided by the Carpathians in the east. Added to this it is also the presence near some hills and mountains which contribute to the increase of precipitation. A significant influence is given also by the forests near the resort.

The rainfall at Holod weather station has an average of 695 mm/year (fig.7).

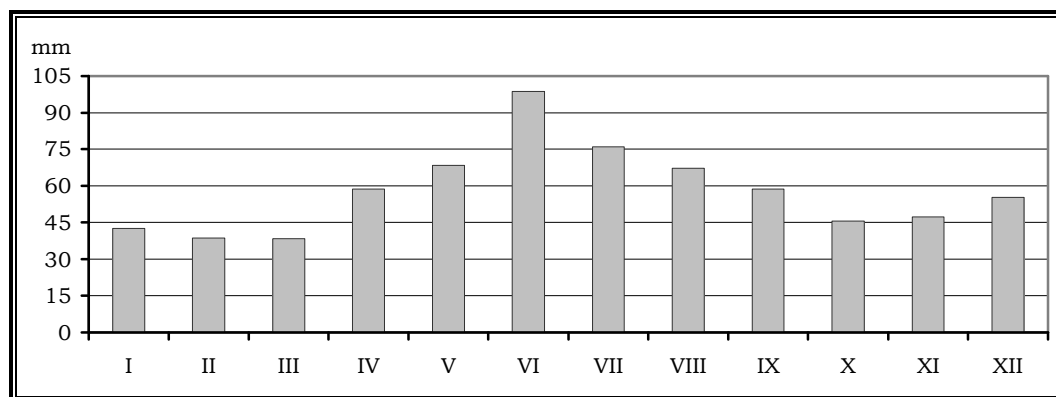


Figure 7. Monthly rainfall quantities at Holod weather station.

The annual regime of precipitation varies from the annual average, being recorded significant changes. The rainiest years have been 1970 and 2001 with 904 mm, respectively 883 mm, while the year 2000 was the driest with 378 mm.

Monthly quantities of rainfall vary from month to month. For example, in the year 1974 June's average was 217mm, and in September 1984 there were no precipitations. The median monthly values are present between 99 mm in June thanks to convective clouds and 36.3 mm in February when the anticyclone is present.

Precipitations materialized in snow start, in general, in November and last up until the beginning of April, with a maximum in February.

An important winter phenomenon, with application in tourism, is the snow layer, which is formed after the first snowfalls, when the ground decreases under 0°C. Annual average of snow-covered ground is of about 34, the phenomenon is being developed with disruptions, beginning with the month of November. The months of December and January register an average of 13, respectively 10 days. Beginning with the month of February the

numbers of the days with covered ground decreases (2 days), disappearing in April.

Wind regimen

This is determined by the activity of the important baric centers of the European territory and of different continents and is modified on ground level by local topographic elements. Over the year the south-western winds are dominant. The annual average of the speed of wind is 2,2 m/second (fig. 8).

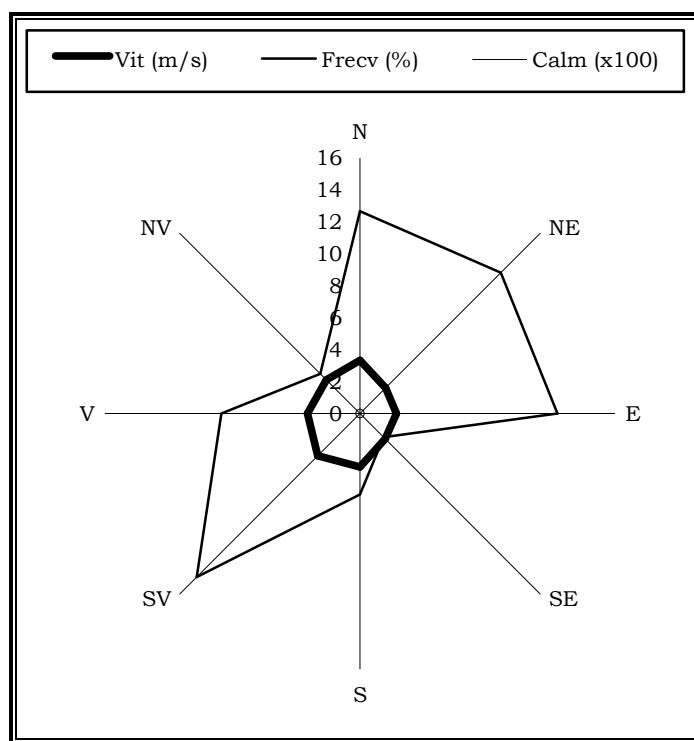


Figure 8. The wind at Holod Weather Station.

The action of the wind is dominant especially during winter, when the cyclone activity is increasing its power over the Mediterranean Sea, and in Eastern Europe the anticyclone regimen is stronger. Western winds are generated, mostly by the Azores Anticyclone which acts in great measure in the warm season. At these is added the activity of the local wind, *austral*, which arrives warm and dry in the west of the country.

In general, wind regimen has an intense activity in the spring and a reduced one in the autumn and winter (the calm has a maximum frequency of 38% in January).

Meteorological elements, alongside the hydrological ones, represent the main natural components which have determined the appearance and the existence of the resort of Tinca over the years. Climatic elements' influence upon human body was studied through bioclimatic light, which underline the favorable influence of the climate for the human body.

There were calculated *skin stress* indices and *pulmonary ones*.

For identifying the frequency of the months with *hypotonic* character, *hypertonic* or *relaxed*, there were utilized observation data regarding air temperature and wind speed at 13 o'clock.

Summer months, June, July and August have a hypotonic character, the winter and the transitional ones (December, January, February, November and March) are

hypertonic, and the relaxed character is met in spring (April-May) and autumn (September-October) (fig. 9).

Pulmonary stress is evidenced by the water steams.

According to Holod indices, at Băile Tinca Spa the dry months are predominant, stress which is found in the winter months, as well as at the beginning of spring (March) and at the end of the autumn (November).

Summer months are characterized by a *hydratation* pulmonary stress, the *relaxing* period of the year being the autumn ones (October-November) and spring (April-May). (fig. 10).

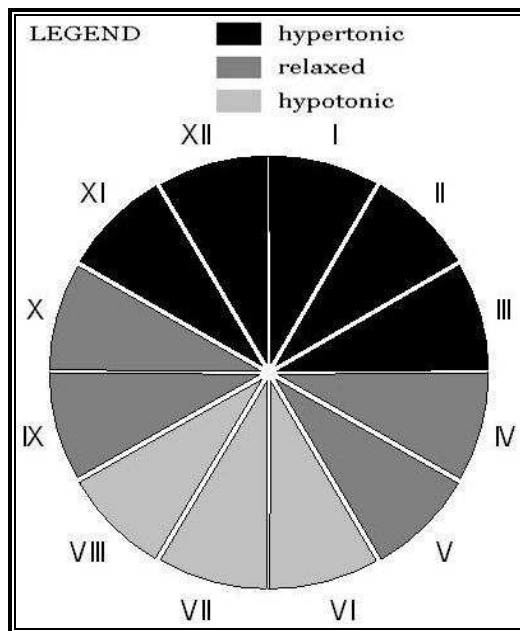


Figure 9. Skin climate stress at 13 o'clock at Holod weather station.

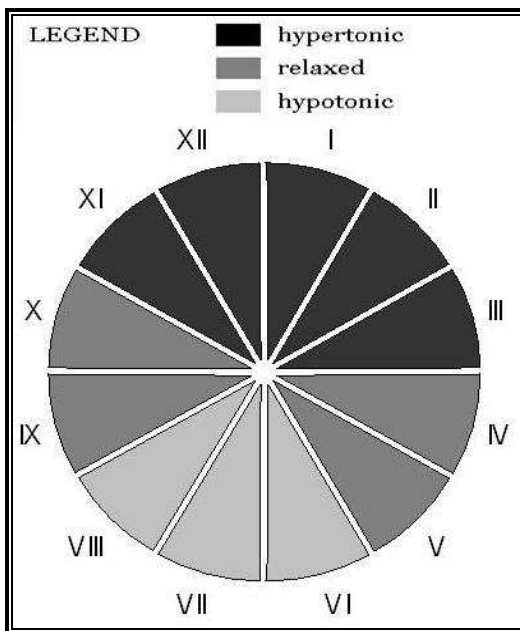


Figure 10. Pulmonary climate stress at 13 o'clock at Holod weather station.

2.3 Hydrological touristic potential

Băile Tinca Spa benefits from a significant hydrological touristic potential given by the mineral springs rich in calcium, magnesium, sodium, carbon, hypotonic with mineralization between 3096 and 7927 mg/l, extracted through the 6 probes, the application of which will be presented at topic 4 and by the rivers which drain the resort and surroundings, respectively Crișul Negru with more secondary watercourses, from which the most important is the Crișul Mort, left in the past century when a new riverbed was constructed (the current one). Today this channel is closed in the superior area and receives water from the upper courses from Tinca and from the lower ones especially during floods.

Crișul Negru flow raises two times a year, in spring with a bigger intensity and in autumn with a smaller one. The maximum water volume is reached in the months of February, March and April, representing 45% from the total volume.

The most important tributaries of Crișul Negru on the territory of Tinca are Pusta Valley which passes through Râpa village, The New Valley which passes through Gurbediu village, both right tributaries of the Crișul Negru, and on the left receives Rătășelu which drains Belfir and Girișu Negru villages.

These courses have a varied flow, their waters raising a lot during rainy seasons or disappear in dry ones.

Crișul Negru and its tributaries benefit from important fishing resources which can be capitalized in touristic purposes: sport fishing, building of fish specific hostels etc.

2.4 Biogeographical touristic potential

The 12,829 ha of deciduous forests on the territory of Tinca in which the tree of which the average thickness is 24 cm in diameter predominates along with the swampy area which occupies a surface of 5 ha inside the forest near the resort, on the Topile Valley, represent along with the fauna species of these woods the principal elements which define the biogeographical touristic potential of the resort. The deciduous forests in which the oak dominates (*Quercus robur*) constitute “the lungs” of the resort, they are the ones who purify and refresh the air and ensure a mild climate favorable for hiking. Likewise, the range of species which populate these woods: the hart (*Capreolus capreolus*), the buck (*Cervus elaphus*), the tusker (*Sus scrofa*), pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), the eider (*Anas sp.*) etc. constitute important resources for haggard tourism, the animals being hunt for meat and as trophies, but the local authorities could form a little zoo in which tourists could visit them, filling their free time and enrich their knowledge about the plants and animals in this habitat.

3. The anthropic touristic potential of Băile Tinca Spa

From the point of view concerning the anthropic touristic potential, the position of Tinca commune in the territory is significant. Even as far as centuries ago, Tinca commune became a centre of attraction and influence for the surrounding towns. Commercial roads have favored and generated utterly important relations as economical and cultural reports, contributing to the development of the town into an important centre of production and merchandise exchange, becoming in 1855 a plain fair. The interior of the houses has evolved under multiple aspects under the influences of social and economic factors, as well as contacts with neighbour cultures.

The same features also define the local traditional costumes. In the valley of the Crișul Negru the current costumes still keep many of the ancient aspects of the old ones, but the changes occurred in the last years as a consequence of technical progress along with difficulties concerning accessibility of the local population to the required fabric.

The local traditional art appears as a synthesis and as a result of interferences with neighbour cultures, making a presence through a distinct note of local originality, but while fitting the same pure local conceptual entities, requiring to be valued with respect for the hard work of the ancestors and towards the benefit of future generations.

The Tinca commune and the Crișul Negru area still benefit from an enriched ethnographic environment that can be selected and captured in the Tinca Museum throughout acquisitions, donations and transfer like: old ceramic, tools, fishing tools, furniture, traditional costumes, decorative creations. The Tinca C.A.P. forgery is remarkable through its whole inventory of tools with a worker's signature that has drawn the attention of scientists in ethnography for the enrichment of the Romanian Ethnographic Atlas.

The range of peasant furniture is varied in the commune as well as in the outlying villages: benches, barns, dowry, table, chairs etc.

The ethnographic corner of the Tinca school presents a collection of traditional costumes and is to be enriched with new acquisitions. Another ethnographic corner can be found in the possession of the Orthodox Church and consists of a great variety of antiques. The park of the Orthodox Church houses an old wooden church moved from the village of Sohodol and old sculptured crucifix.

The anthropic touristical potential of the balnear resort Tinca is due to archeological, historical, architectural and natural monuments, religious buildings along with the Natural Science Museum.

In the category of archeological touristical resources we find red ceramic fragments with technical elements of a retentive Celtic feature, dating from the second century A.D., discovered in the Avram Iancu Street between the houses numbered 80 and 100, during dome works of restoration. Also, east of Băile Tinca Spa, on the bank of Crișul Negru, at the slum of the wine-growing sector, a house of the free Dacians from the Roman Era and the Post-Roman Era, was investigated and a handmade ceramic along with the grey or yellow one made at the wheel, with a lot of elements of provincial Roman feature, most likely borrowed from the Roman Dacia.

The historical monuments consist of: the Church with the Patron Saint St. Nicholas (fig. 11) built before 1752, former property of the Sohodol village in the Cărbăbești commune, Bihor county, moved and restored in the year 1980.

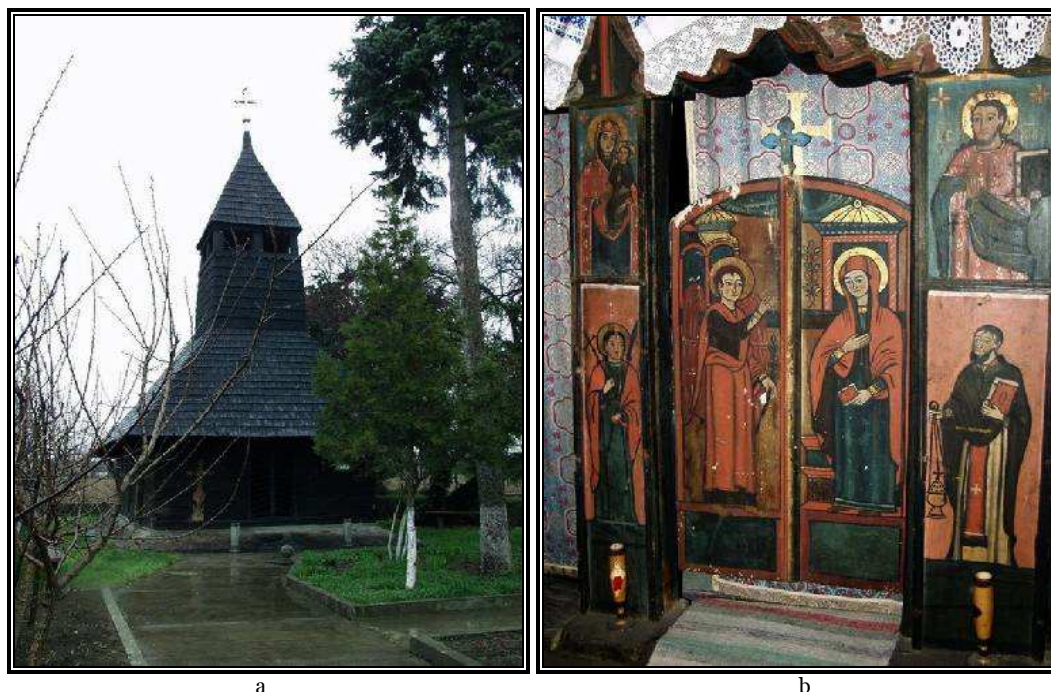


Figure 11. The wooden church with the Patron Saint Nicholas:
a) exterior architecture; b) the church's rood screen
(photo: Ovidiu Gaceu).

The monument of Fallen Heroes in the Second World War (fig. 12) is formed of a crucified obelisk and 26 graves, aligned in 3 rows in front of the Orthodox Church in the town of Tinca.

In the category of architectural monuments it is listed the Roman-Catholic Church (fig. 13), built in the year 1800, the church has the type of a hall with one vessel covered with a semicircular arch and finished towards the sunrise with a trapezoidal apsis. Next to the apsis, on the southern side there is a rectangular vestry and on the western one rises the tower with the baroque helmet.

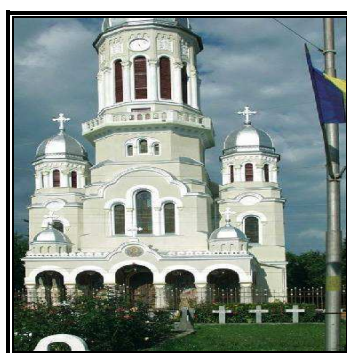
Among the religious buildings lies the Orthodox Church of Tinca (fig. 14) built in the period between 927 – 1939 and painted in tempera style. The Church's rood screen is made out of wood of golden linden tree, after the model of the one in the Abbey of Arnota, in Byzantine style, the mural picture of the rood screen being made by Virgil Simionescu from Lugoj, and his sculpture was made by Ioan Fey from Oradea.



Figure 12. The Monument of Fallen Heroes in the Second World War in the area of Tinca (photo: O. Gaceu).



Figure 13. The Roman-Catholic Church of Tinca (photo: O. Gaceu).



a



b



c

Figure 14. Aspects of the Orthodox Church of Tinca: a) exterior view; b) the golden rood screen made from wood of linden tree; c) interior picture of the church made in tempera (photo: O. Gaceu).

The anthropic touristical potential of Băile Tinca Spa is made whole by the *Museum of Natural Sciences* situated at no. 55 on Avram Iancu Street in the town, owning fauna and flora collections specific to Crișul Negru Valley. The most wanted artifacts by tourists are: *the complete mammoth jaw (Mamuthus primigenius)* discovered in the year 1932, 8 meters deep with the occasion of digging the chamber for the turbine motor next to the resort, and the fragment of mammoth tooth discovered in the year 1964 in the river bed of Crișul Negru.

4. The touristic infrastructure of Băile Tinca Spa

The infrastructure of a tourist town consists of the accommodation, nourishment, entertainment and diet base.



Figure 15. The Parc Hotel from Băile Tinca Spa: a) exterior aspect; b) reception; c) the interior decoration of rooms; e), f) the decoration of sanitary groups (photo: Ovidiu Gaceu).

The accommodation and nourishment base of Băile Tinca Spa is made of a hotel and a food complex. The Parc Hotel (fig. 15) is formed of 2 bodies: body A with 60 rooms of 2 stars, and body B with 36 rooms, 9 of them being of 2 stars and 27 of 3 starts, each having its own sanitary group, a television and a refrigerator.



Figure 16. The Springs 1 (a) and 4 (b) used for treating different afflictions in Băile Tinca Spa (photo: Ovidiu Gaceu).

For the proper development of the touristic activities, the resort benefits from a *food complex* consisting of a canteen of 140 seats and fitted with qualified personnel for the preparation of the menu.

The endowments for entertainment and diet refer to the basis for treatment and the procedures and treatments applied.

Băile Tinca Spa has developed due to the mineral and thermomineral waters with a varied chemical composition, having a rich content of active substances necessary for the organism to keep the metabolism in balance, helped by a gentle climate and the location of the resort in picturesque scenery, with clean air. These balnear factors recommend the resort for the treatment of a large specter of afflictions:

- diseases of the digestive tract and annexed glands, gastro-duodenal ulcer, chronic gastritis, colitis and enterocolitis;
- hepatic – biliary afflictions;
- afflictions of the locomotor apparatus, articular and degenerative rheumatism;
- diseases of the urogenital apparatus (kidney stones, urinary lithiasis) gynecological diseases (cystitis, salpingitis, metro-salpingitis), primary and secondary infertility;
- metabolically related diseases (diabetes, gout);
- diseases of the nervous system (asthenic neurosis).

These afflictions are treated in the resort, which benefits from its own base for treatment with physiotherapy offices, endowed with the latest generation machines imported from the Netherlands, the treatment being applied by a doctor and 6 medical cadres with experience.

The water used in therapy comes from the spring 1 and 4.

The water from the *first spring* (fig. 16a) is mineral, sodium bicarbonate, slightly chlorosodic, hypotonic and hypothermal. It is recommended in the internal diet in *afflictions of the digestive tract* (enterocolitis, gastro-enterocolitis, colitis), *chronic inflammatory afflictions of the urinary system, urinary lithiasis*.

The chemical composition of this water is: chlorine (0.07 mg/l), sulfates (620 mg/l), bicarbonate (2220 mg/l), sodium (897.2 mg/l), potassium (45.4 mg/l), calcium (50 mg/l).

The fourth spring (fig. 16b) contains an alkaline sparkling mineral, of the type Vichy-Gelestins with a pleasant taste and crystalline colour. It is recommended in gastro-intestinal afflictions, hepatic-biliary ones, acid urinary lithiasis and has a complex chemical composition: chlorine (246.2 mg/l), bromine (0.2 mg/l), iodine (0.37 mg/l), nitrates (0.62 mg/l), sulfates (0.4 mg/l), bicarbonates (3507 mg/l), sodium (1114.6 mg/l), potassium (57.8 mg/l), lithium (0.55 mg/l), magnesium (62 mg/l), iron (2.5 mg/l), amidogen (4.8 mg/l), carbon dioxide (1720 mg/l) and a mineralogy of 6974.44 mg/l).

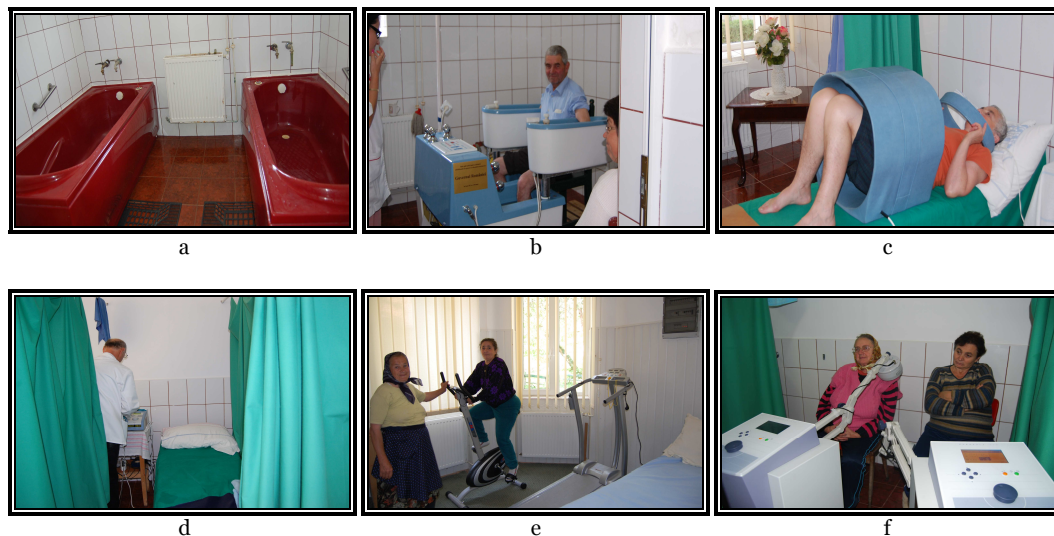


Figure 17. Aspects from the treatment basis of Băile Tinca Spa: a) thermo-mineral waters; b) galvanic waters; c) electric currents; d) magneto-diaflux; e) medical gymnastics; f) ultrasounds (photo: Ovidiu Gaceu, Georgiana Lupas).

Concerning the used procedures and treatments in the balnear resort of Tinca, there are cured: *rheumatism afflictions, hip diseases, polyarthrititis, infertility*, making use of the procedures:

- *thermo-mineral baths* (fig. 18a) – used for treating rheumatism afflictions, digestive diseases, nutrition disorders, neurosis, outlying nervous system disorders based on the thermal waves (38°C) with a high concentration of mineral salts (6974 mg/l) and carbon dioxide (1720 mg/l);
- *galvanic baths* (fig. 18b) - have a sedative, hypotensor, vasodilatation effect at the level of superior and inferior limbs;
- *electrical currents* (fig. 17c) – used for treating rheumatism afflictions from the back and the lumbar areas, have a no pain effect, provoke a local dilatation of the blood vessels and block and partially annihilate the nervous impulse, this type of treatment is done through 10 sessions;
- *electrical power* also used for treating rheumatism during 8 sessions and have a no pain effect and block the pain impulse;
- *iodized galvanizations* – used for the same purpose as the electrical power;
- *Trabert currents*- used for electrostimulations;
- *ultrasounds* (fig. 17f) – produced by a machine with piezoelectric crystal that transforms the electrical current in mechanical vibrations that penetrate the tegument with a depth of 1-2 cm;
- *magneto-diaflux* (fig. 17d) – is an electromagnetic field produced by two solenoid coils applied in the lumbar and cervical area and have a general effect on

the nervous system;

- *massage* - a general and partial (cervical, lumbar and reflexogen) massage is done for restoring the general articular mobility or for a specific segment;
- *medical gymnastics* (fig. 17e) – for restoring the general mobility of the organism;
- *paraffin wrapping* – a with relaxing effect and through the thermo-therapeutic effect determinates a local dilatation of the blood vessels, raising the blood flow.

5. The Tourist circulation in Băile Tinca Spa

The beneficial effects of mineral and thermo-mineral waters used, through the external diet for treating rheumatism, activating the peripheral blood flow, as well as through the internal diet: digestive tract disorders and annexed glands, gastro-duodenal ulcer, chronic gastritis, colitis and enterocolitis; hepatic-biliary afflictions, locomotor apparatus afflictions, degenerative and articular rheumatism, urogenital system diseases, gynecological diseases, primary and secondary infertility, metabolism related disorders, nerous system disorders, make this resort enjoy more and more a growing number of tourists from all across the country, therefore inn the year 2001 an number of over 2200 people benefited from the treatment in this spa.

The society offers services of balnear treatment, accommodation and meals for the retired people who used to work for the state and in agriculture, war veterans, politically deported ones, wage earners on contract base with the National Pension Bureau, sportive associations and economical unities.

In the year 2004, 2000 treatment coupons were allocated by the CNPAS, and for the year 2009 there have been 1100 coupons allocated.

Tourists that come here for treatment are usually from Bihor county, but also from the surrounding counties Arad and Sălaj.

The efficient management of the society is assured by two managers of tourism, other leaders with superior studies specific to a certain activity, and from a legal point of view we are looking ay a society based on shares with integral private capital, having both Romanian and American shareholders.

Table 1. Prices for S.C. Turism Crisul S.A. Tinca in 2009

1. ACCOMODATION	RON	EURO	USD
-HOTEL PARC BODY B			
Two- bed room	110,00	26	34
Double room in a single regime	95,00	22	29
-HOTEL PARC BODY A			
Two-bed room	95,00	22	29
Double room in a single regime	80,00	20	24
2. MEALS			
Breakfast	12,50	3	4
Lunch	22,00	5	7
Dinner	13,50	3	4
Total per day	48,00	11	15
3. TREATMENTS			
Baths in mineral water	8,00	2	2,50
Paraffin Wrappings	6,00	1,50	2
Electrical Power	6,00	1,50	2
Iodization, galvanization	6,00	1,50	2
Short waves	6,00	1,50	2
Magneto-diaflux	6,00	1,50	2
Ultrasounds	6,00	1,50	2
Vaginal Irrigations	6,00	1,50	2
Total Massage	14,00	3	4

Currency: 1 euro = 4.25 RON 1 dollar = 3.25 RON Source: S.C. Tourism Crisul S.A. Tinca

The planned prices by the S.C. TOURISM CRISUL S.A. TINCA for the year of 2009 are as follows: a two-bed room costs between 95 and 110 RON, the equivalent in euro being 22 euros, respectively 26 euros. For a double room in a single regime a tourist will pay between 80 and 95 RON, the equivalent in euro being 20-22 euros.

For a meal a tourist spends a total of 48 RON per day, out of which the breakfast alone costs only 12.50 RON, the lunch 22 RON and the dinner 13.50 RON. The equivalent of this in euro is appreciatively 11 euros per day.

The prices for the treatment varied between 6 RON for the most, respectively: paraffin wrappings, electrical power, galvanizations, iodization, short waves, magneto-diaflux, ultrasounds and vaginal irrigations; 8 RON for the baths in mineral water and 14 RON for the general massage. In euro these prices are comprised between 1.50 euros and 3 euros for a procedure. After the recommendations made by the general doctor and the consultation done at the treatment base in the resort, the types of procedures, as well as the number of sessions that the patient must follow are settled.

6. Questionnaire concerning the health of tourists that came in Băile Tinca Spa for treatment

Following the treatment done on a pattern of 10 people, in Băile Tinca Spa, the following have been ascertained:

- the ills treated were improved by 40%-90%, patients getting 1 or 2 treatments per year;
- the best improvement by 90% was recorded at the patients suffering from infertility, polyarthritis, and the slightest improvement by 40% was in the case of chronic rheumatism and spondylitis, the rest of afflictions (lombosciatica, hip disease, spondylitis, secondary infertility) being improved in a percentage between 60% and 90% (table 2).

Table 2. The results of treatments done on a number of 10 people in the treatment base of Băile Tinca Spa

Nr. crt.	Name	Age	Disease	Type of treatment	Number of treatments/year	Results
1.	A.P.	70	SPONDYLITIS	Electric currents, Mineral baths, Short waves	2 /year	Improvement by 50 %
2.	N.B.	60	LOMBOSCIATICA	Electrical power, Magneto-diaflux, Mineral baths	1 /year	Improvement by 80%
3.	S.C.	35	INFERTILITY	Vaginal Irrigations, Paraffin, Mineral Baths	2 /year	Affirmative results in a percentage of 90%
4.	F.V.	50	POLYARTHRITIS	Magneto-diaflux, Galvanic and mineral baths, Massage	2 /year	Improvement by 90%
5.	N.C.	45	HIP DISEASE	Massage, Paraffin, Short waves	1 /year	Improvement by 75%
6.	B.P.	65	CHRONIC RHEUMATISM	Mineral baths, Ultrasounds, Paraffin	2 /year	Improvement by 50%
7.	N.F.	45	SPONDYLITIS	Electric currents, Mineral baths, Short waves, Electrical power	2 /year	Improvement by 70%
8.	B.M.	40	SECONDARY INFERTILITY	Vaginal Irrigations, Paraffin, Mineral baths	2 /year	Affirmative results in a percentage of 80%
9.	M.C.	60	HIP DISEASE	Massage, Paraffin, Short waves	1 /year	Improvement by 60%
10.	C.G.	75	CHRONIC RHEUMATISM	Mineral baths, Ultrasounds, Paraffin, Electrical power	2 /year	Improvement by 40%

Source: S.C. Tourism Crisul S.A. Tinca.

The analyzed people in the questionnaire have used the water in the spa in internal diet as well as in external one, which combined with the specific treatments lead to the improvement of patient diseases in a percentage of over 50 %, the degree of improvement varying based on the patient's age, but also on the gravity of the disease.

7. Landscaping and promoting of Băile Tinca Spa

Băile Tinca Spa is not very known, poorly promoted and in need of some improvements here and there. That is the reason upon which the following suggestions are made:

- renovation and modernization of spaces destined for accommodation and public nourishment;
- the change of the nourishment based regime from canteen to restaurant;
- the promotion and introduction of some traditional culinary preparations for the restaurant;
- building a field designed for practicing sports: tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball in the surroundings of the hotel;
- landscaping the existing park with a fence, maintenance of the green spaces, landscaping the alleys and old benches, building a play ground for children: sand boxes, swings, rocking chairs etc.;
- building a space destined for fun: club or disco, one being necessary because of the lack of one in the resort;
- modernization of the nine cottages in the villages for lease opportunities;
- arrangement of a lake with boats;
- improvement of the service quality through the promotion of young, receptive, specialized and adapted to the modern requests of the tourists staff, hiring some tour guides, arranging some form of transportation for the tourists to certain important tourist objectives located at longer distances: The Bear's Cave etc.;
- construction of some strategies by the hotel administration to ensure tourist growth throughout the year by organizing some special events, festivals, housing some national meetings and demonstrations.

8. General conclusions

1. The resort benefits from a remarkable natural and anthropic tourist potential, emphasized by the curative thermal mineral waters used for treating numerous afflictions (rheumatism, spondylosis, lombosciatică, rheumatoid, coxarthrosis, infertility, diseases of the digestive system), the shelter climate, the forestry vegetation that purifies and refreshes the air, varied and rich fauna that encourages hunting tourism, historical, natural and archeological monuments etc.

2. The resort benefits from an accommodation base and modern treatment, well endowed, the services offered are diverse and assured by a proper staff, ensuring a loyal customer who comes here periodically with a treatment and prophylactic purpose as well as with the intention of relaxing and spending the holidays.

3. Treatments performed in the resort have remarkable results.

4. The tourist flow in the resort is around 1000 tourists per year although the possibilities of the spa are much greater. Therefore, at a legislative level, the idea through which the Minister of Tourism, through the balnear tourism societies, will allow them the right to offer accommodation services as well as treatment ones; at the time being the Minister of Health and Family refuses to allow doctors to practice their job as employees of balnear tourism societies. This coordination in the medical activity creates a bureaucratic procedure that leads to a cost rise with app. 40 %, rise leading to the dramatic fall in the frequency of tourists that come on their own. In 2008 their number was a poor 30 in Băile Tinca Spa.

5. For the increase of tourist flow some landscaping and promotion works through the mass media are required.

6. The problems of the development of the touristic balnear services in the future must firstly aim at the international tourism that brings currency balances commerce.



Figure 18. The Park in Băile Tinca Spa.

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