

TOURISTIC MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN RURAL AREA OF SOUTHERN DOBROGEA

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Abstract: *Situated between the Danube and the Black Sea Coast, Southern Dobrogea is a region full of nature and history. This area is a multicultural geographic space with many cultural attractions and traditions that can be used for rural tourism. The forms of cultural tourism that can be developed within this area are the following: cultural-ethnographical tourism, cultural-historical tourism, cultural-religious tourism and cultural-scientific tourism. These forms of tourism can be developed individually or combined with other types, by organizing thematic routes. The valuation of these cultural resources is an opportunity for the sustainable tourism development in rural area of Southern Dobrogea, but also an alternative to the classic seaside tourism from the Black Sea Coast, which, in fact, has a seasonal character.*

Key words: *culture, Dobrogea, rural, sustainability, tourism*

INTRODUCTION

Southern Dobrogea is a plateau unit from South-Eastern part of Romania and it is a territorial system well outlined with 45 rural administrative-territorial units. The geographical analysis of cultural heritage from Southern Dobrogea is essential in defining the type of local and regional development, which considers the socio-economic and cultural achievement, as rural tourism [1]. The rural cultural heritage includes cultural sites and ethnographic features (customs and traditions, handicrafts, local cuisine, traditional events) of local communities from study area. The management of cultural heritage is an efficient component for sustainability of rural tourism, as a socio-economic contribution for a good life quality of inhabitants of villages [3,7] from Southern Dobrogea. This study aims to reveal the cultural specific of Southern Dobrogea, through inventory of cultural resources, providing a solution for sustainable socio-economic development of local rural communities of this area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research methodology is represented by bibliographic and cartographic documentation, field research, to identify the distribution of cultural resources in rural administrative-territorial units from Southern Dobrogea. Analysis of territorial distribution of cultural resources, linking them with customs and traditions, their mapping will highlight possible touristic villages and cultural routes, as a solution of local development [1,2], for medium and long term in rural area of Southern Dobrogea.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The territory of Southern Dobrogea has been populated since ancient times, in rural area, currently living 200,000 inhabitants. Southern Dobrogea is a multicultural geographic space, full of nature and history, where in the rural environment together with Romanians (85.6%) living Turks and Tatars (5.3%), Russian-Lipovans (2.1%), Aromanians (0.6%), Roma (1.2%), other ethnics (5.2%) [5,8]. The multiculturalism of this area, as specific it is outlined of the main communities share in the ethnic structure of the administrative units [2,6] is shown in figure 1.

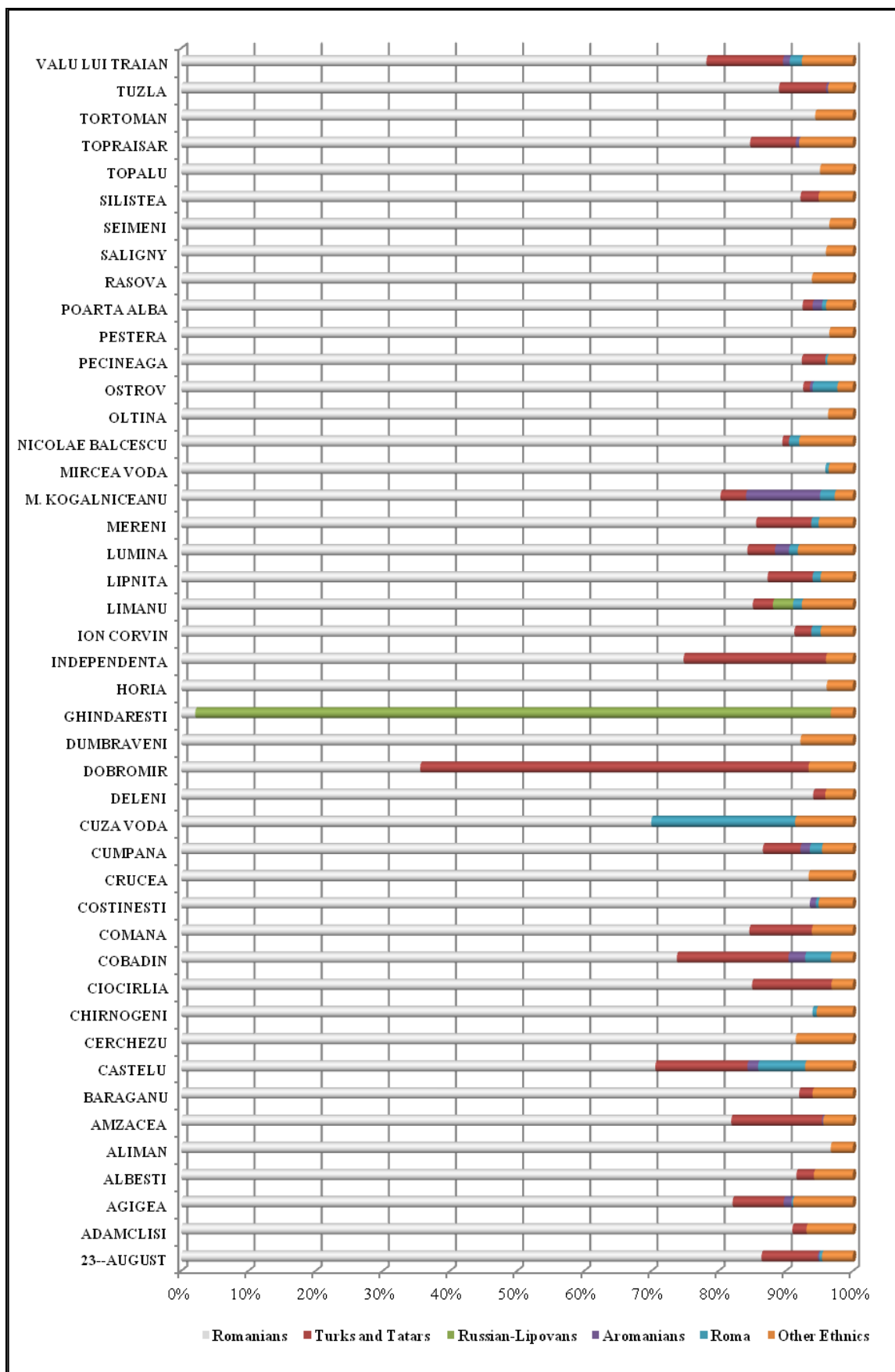


Figure 1. The ethnic structure of rural population from Southern Dobrogea
 Source: processed data, INSSE 2016 [8]

According to ethnic and confessional criteria, morpho-structural differences and physiognomy can identify villages belonging to majority ethnic community in the settlement, with various aspects of specific ethnic daily life [6], which customizes them:

- Villages where *Turks* and *Tatars* well represented: Dobromir, Independența, Cobadin, Castelu, Valu lui Traian, Comana, 23 August, Agigea, Tuzla, Topraisar, Lipnița.
- *Aromanian* village, the most representative being Mihail Kogălniceanu.
- *Russian-Lipovan* village: Ghindărești with a majority of population about 95%, Limanu.

In most villages from Southern Dobrogea, Romanians have a percentage of 90%, the rest being represented by other ethnics [2,5].

Also, Southern Dobrogea has a diversified *cultural heritage*: monasteries, historical traces, museums, traditional folk art, villages with Dobrogea's specific. In figure 2 are mapped cultural sights from rural area, which transform Southern Dobrogea into an *open air museum* [4].

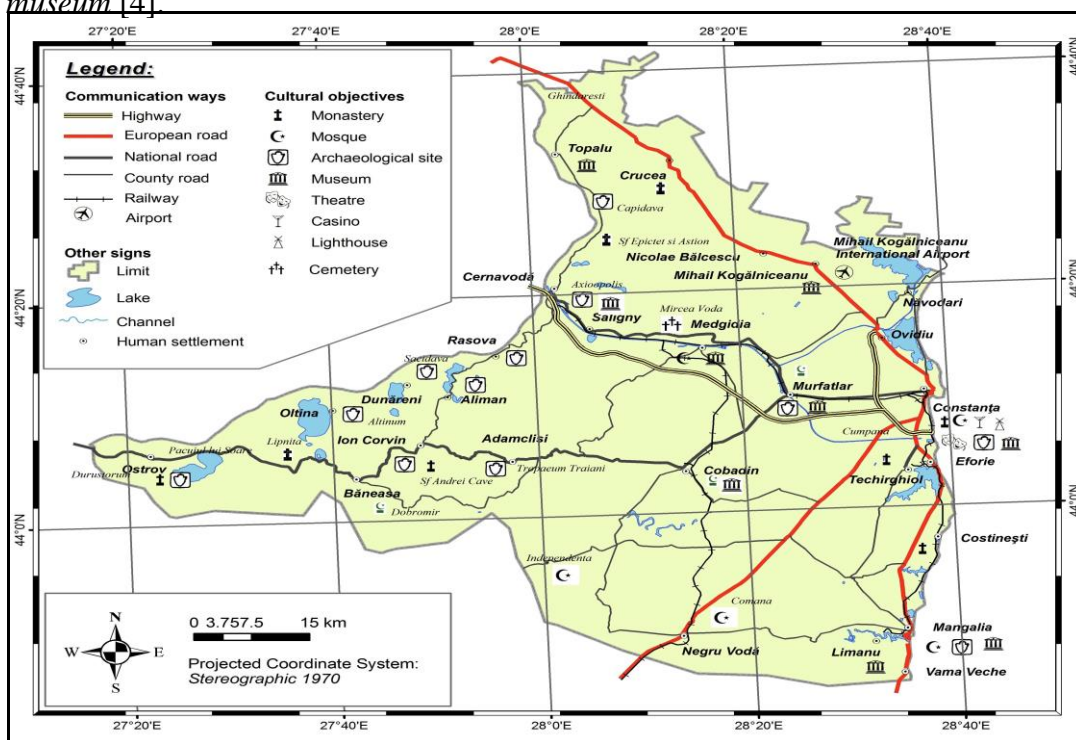


Figure 2. Southern Dobrogea. Cultural Heritage

Source: own figure

The touristic resources with cultural value are represented of:

- *Archaeological sights*: *Durustorum Fortress*, *Pacuiul lui Soare* (Ostrov), *Altinum Fortress* (Oltina), *Sacidava Fortress* (Dunareni), *Capidava Fortress* (Topalu), *traces of some old human settlements* (Ion Corvin, Aliman, Rasova), along Danube, *Painted Tomb of Hinog Hill* (Cochirleni), *Cave complex in chalk* (Murfatlar);
- *Monuments and historical sights*: *Tropaem Traiani Monument* (Adamclisi), *International Honorary Cemetery Mircea cel Batran* and *Monument of The 1st World War* (Mircea Vodă), *Straja Monument*, on the right bank of Danube-Black Sea Canal, higher than 50 m;
- *Museum collections*: *History Museum* (Adamclisi), *Dinu and Sevasta Vintilă Art Museum* (Topalu), *Gheorghe Celea Aromanian community Museum* (Mihail Kogălniceanu), *Tatar's Museum* (Cobadin), *Eng. Anghel Saligny Museum*

collection (Saligny), *Wine Museum* (Murfatlar), *Domeniile Ostrov Wine Museum* (Ostrov);

- *Religious sights* belonging to different confessions, with elements of attractiveness through the significance of Holydays, the age of settlements and architectural style: *Sf. Apostol Andrei Cave* (Ion Corvin), *Dervent Monastery* (Ostrov), *Sf. Elena de la Mare Monastery* (Costinesti), *Sf. Ioan Botezatorul Monastery* (Lipnita), *Izvorul Tamaduirii Monastery* (Crucea), *Inaltarea Domnului Monastery* (Mircea Voda), *Sf. Teotim Monastery* (Murfatlar), *Sf. Epictet si Astion Monastery* (Capidava), *Sf. Filip Monastery* (Adamclisi), *Strunga Hermitage* (Oltina), *Sf. Gherman Hermitage* (Baneasa), *Adormirea Maicii Domnului Catholic Church* (Oituz), *Sf. Anton Catholic Church* (Mihail Kogalniceanu), *Russian-Lipovans Church* (Ghindaresti, Limanu, 2 Mai), mosques in villages with Turkish and Tatar communities (Murfatlar, Valu lui Traian, Castelu, Pestera, Cumpana, Lumina, Comana, Cobadin, Independenta, Dobromir);
- *Ethnographic centers* (crafts, tissues, folk costumes): Ostrov, Canlia, Cochirleni, Rasova, Topalu, Ciocarlia, Limanu, Cumpana, Dumbraveni, Independenta;
- *Local traditional events* during the year: *Inter-ethnic Feast of Culinary Art* (Cumpana), *Feast of Acacia Flower* (Pestera), *Sheep out to pasture* (Valu lui Traian), *Kures - Tatar fighting* (Murfatlar), *Harvest Day* (autumn, in every village), *Villages Holidays, customs and manners of winter or spring Holidays*, Celebrations of Turks, Tatar, Russian-Lipovan and Aromanian communities, and other local events.
- *Other sights: Mihai Eminescu Fountain* (*Sf. Andrei Monastery*, Ion Corvin), *Stone Fountain* from XIXth Century (Oltina), *Turkish Fountain* (Independența).

The touristic management of rural cultural heritage from Southern Dobrogea requires the following actions:

- *Organizing of Touristic Information Centers*: there are in Cernavoda, Murfatlar, Baneasa, but lacking in villages as Adamclisi, Ostrov, Topalu;
- *Signaling cultural sights* on main road, and crossing of roads;
- *Restoration and rehabilitations* of some cultural sights with risk of degradation;
- *Arranging the accommodations, meals and leisure spaces* under specific conditions, specific resources, with principles of tourism planning and development standard indicators;
- *Promoting cultural routes* for tourists from resort seaside, and other categories of tourists (religious tourism, historical and scientific tourism).

In order with efficiency and valorization of cultural heritage for rural tourism can be proposed following cultural-touristic routes:

1. *Historical-Cultural Routes*:

1.1. Constanta - Murfatlar (*Cave complex in chalk*) - Adamclisi (*Tropaeum Traiani Monument, History Museum*) - Ion Corvin (*historical traces*) - Oltina (*Altinum Fortress*) - Ostrov (*Durustorum and Pacuiul lui Soare Fortresses*);

1.2. Topalu (*Capidava Fortress*) - Cernavoda (*Axiopolis Fortress*) - Cochirleni (*Painted Tomb of Hinog Hill*) - Rasova (*historical traces*) - Dunareni (*Sacidava Fortress*) - Ion Corvin (*historical traces*);

2. *Religious-Cultural Routes*:

2.1. Constanta - Mihail Kogalniceanu (*Sf. Anton Catholic Church*) - Crucea (*Izvorul Tamaduirii Monastery*) - Ghindaresti (*Lipovan Church*);

2.2. Crucea - Topalu (*Sf. Epictet si Astion Monastery*) - Cernavoda - Ion Corvin (*Sf. Apostol Andrei Cave*);

- 2.3. Ostrov (*Derwent Monastery*) - Lipnita (*Sf. Ioan Botezatorul Monastery*) - Adamclisi (*Sf. Filip Monastery*) - Cobadin - Murfatlar (*Sf. Teotim Monastery*);
- 2.4. Mangalia - Costinesti (*Sf. Elena de la Mare Monastery*) - Constanta - Murfatlar - Saligny (*Înălțarea Domnului Monastery*) - Cernavoda;
3. *Ethnographic-Cultural Routes*:
- 3.1. Mangalia - Cumpana (*multiethnic customs*) - Constanta - Mihail Kogalniceanu (*Aromanian customs*) - Ghindaresti (*Lipovan customs*);
- 3.2. Constanta - Murfatlar (*enotourism, local cuisine*) - Cobadin (*Aromanian customs, Turk and Tatar customs*) - Ion Corvin (*beekeeping customs*) - Ostrov (*local cuisine, fishing, enotourism*);
- 3.3. Constanța - Murfatlar (*enotourism, local cuisine*) - Cernavodă (*enotourism*) - Rasova (*fishing, local cuisine, enotourism*) - Baneasa (*Turk and Tatar customs*) - Oltina (*fishing, local cuisine*);
4. *Polyvalent Cultural Circuit*:
- 4.1. Cernavoda - Ion Corvin (*religious tourism, ethnographic tourism*) - Adamclisi (*historical tourism*) - Cobadin (*ethnographic tourism*) - Murfatlar (*historical tourism, religious tourism, ethnographic tourism*) - Saligny (*historical tourism, scientific tourism*) - Cernavoda;
- 4.2. Ostrov (*religious tourism, historical tourism, ethnographic tourism*) - Ion Corvin - Rasova (*ethnographic tourism*) - Cernavoda – Saligny (*historical tourism, scientific tourism*) - Murfatlar (*religious tourism, historical tourism, ethnographic tourism*) - Adamclisi (*historical tourism*) - Ion Corvin (*religious tourism, ethnographic tourism*) - Ostrov;
- 4.3. Mangalia - Constanta - Murfatlar (*historical tourism, religious tourism, ethnographic tourism*) - Cernavoda - Topalu (*ethnographic tourism, historical tourism, religious tourism*) - Crucea (*religious tourism*) - Constanta - Mangalia.

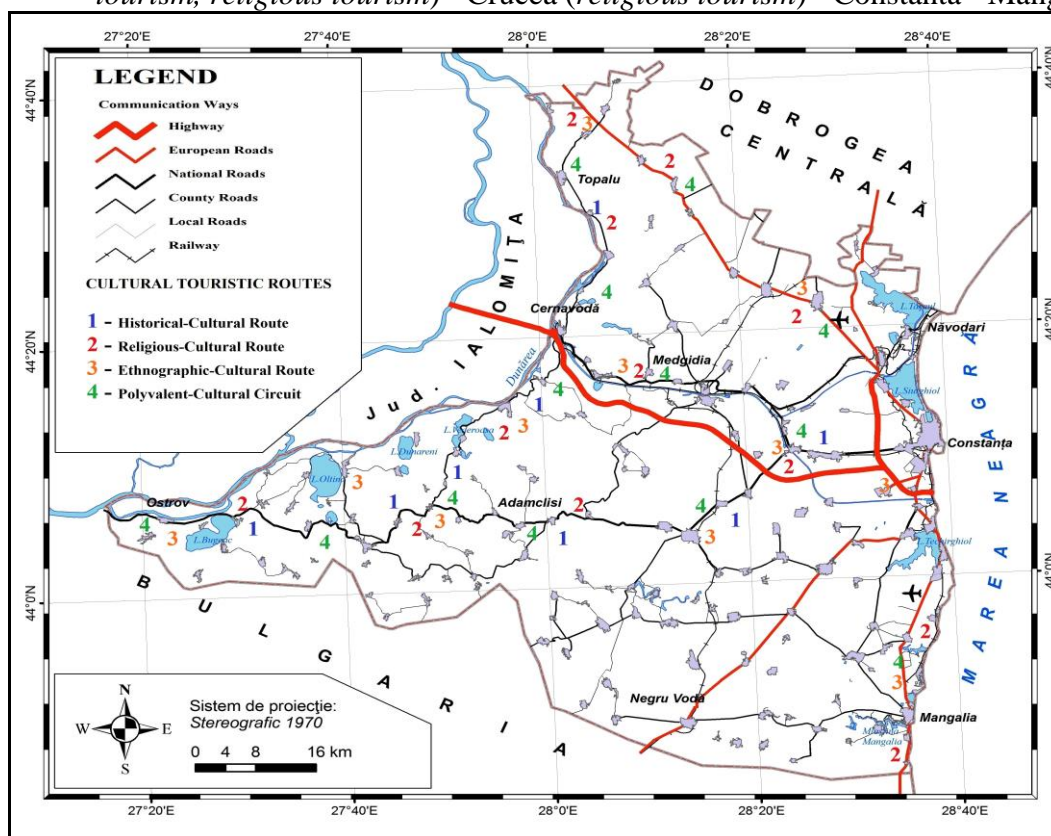


Figure 3. Cultural Touristic Routes from Southern Dobrogea

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Figure 3 shows the proposal of touristic routes which promote cultural resources of villages from Southern Dobrogea.

CONCLUSIONS

There are villages in Southern Dobrogea with many cultural resources that may highlight the local touristic potential, but the complex strategies are needed to promote the cultural heritage.

In Southern Dobrogea, the cultural tourism should also be valued for its educational role, and its forms can be developed individually or combined with other types.

Cultural tourism could become a valuable alternative to the classic seashore tourism, which is the dominant form of tourism in Southern Dobrogea, but is seasonal.

The efficient management of cultural heritage from Southern Dobrogea will cause some touristic villages, by integrating them into proposed cultural touristic routes, can be a solution for sustainable socio-economic development of this area.

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