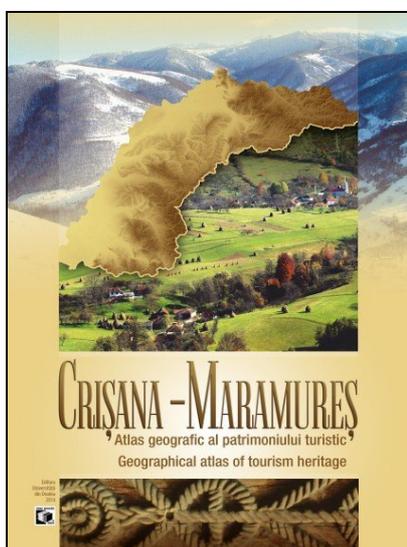


BOOK REVIEW

Crișana Maramureș: Geographical atlas of tourism heritage



ILIEȘ, Alexandru, coord. (2014), *Crișana-Maramureș: Geographical atlas of tourism heritage/Crișana - Maramureș: Atlas geografic al patrimoniului turistic*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, ISBN: 978-606-10-1298-5, 302 pages.

This is an outstanding book published in 2014 by a group of researchers coordinated by Ilieș Alexandru from the Department of Geography, Tourism and Territorial Planning of University of Oradea. It is a complex geographical atlas of tourism heritage of an important Romanian region: Crișana-Maramureș. The atlas prefaced by Pompei Cocean (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca), Vasile Efros (Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava), Ioan Ianoș (University of Bucharest), Corneliu Iașu (Al. I. Cuza University of Iași), Rodica Petrea (University of Oradea) and Nicolae Popa (West University of Timișoara),

includes, in a complex scientific approach, all the features of tourism heritage from this part of Romania. Based on significant work, with field-trip analysis, ethnographic observation, mapping and realistic interpretation, this bilingual atlas (edited both in Romanian and in English) comprises all relevant cultural heritages from the Crișana-Maramureș region. The work is in line with the present demands of local and regional identities promotion in a world of globalization, when local cultural features seem to be pushed out beyond the current cultural internationalization. The book is structured in two main parts. The first concerns the geographical and historical landmarks, while the second focuses on the tourist resources. Regarding geographical landmarks, this section portrays the main historical terms of reference and the lands as specific regions in Romania with their own cultural identity grounded on different layers of time. The peculiarities of territorial-administrative organisation and European reconstruction issues are approached in line with the contemporary political, economic and cultural systems of Romania. This topic continues with an analysis of the natural background elements and with the issues of geo-diversity, related to natural protected areas. Finally, this part ends with the demographic potential of the region, also framing Bihor's villages and the Romanian cultural hearths. The second part, more extensive, is oriented on the analysis and presentation of the major tourist resort.

The content of this section refers to the following issues: the hierarchy of administrative-territorial units according to the value of tourist resources, the value of tourist development potential, the constructed heritage with cultural value of national interest, the accommodation infrastructure and the craftsmen's trade and regional cultural workshops.

The second part analyses in depth contemporary rustic costumes, presented based on their regional and local belonging and the most important cultural events with potential touristic interest in the Crişana-Maramureş region. The next separate chapters are dedicated to the wooden and masonry churches. Furthermore, the authors paid particular attention to the ethnographic museums of the region, with the museums of Sighetul Marmăţiei, Baia Mare and Negreşti Oaş being only a few examples in this regard. The living human treasures and the resorts and touristic settlements are largely described in order to complete the cultural approach of the tourism potential of the region. Sport infrastructures and sport activities are well illustrated in the atlas, as is the tourist animation considered a real opportunity for better valorization of local and regional popular heritage. The final section of the atlas overviews the University of Oradea as the cultural, educational and scientific hearth of this region. The book provides outstanding and meaningful insights into the regional cultural potential of this unique Romanian region. Additionally, the well-written and accurate style of the text is accompanied by hundreds of figures, pictures, tables and spectacular maps processed through GIS methods.

To conclude, this atlas represents a valuable work of a geographer's team but is not limited only to a geographical approach. Consequently, the inter- and cross-disciplinary approach remains the main characteristic of the book, providing a unique opportunity to discover more aspects about the cultural heritage of this region for those interested in Romanian culture and, particularly, by the traditional features of the Crişana-Maramureş region.

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