

ROMANIAN TOURISM AND THE PRESENCE OF TOURIST INNS IN URBAN DESTINATIONS

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Abstract

This paper is the third of a series of studies dedicated to the problem of tourist inns on Romania's tourism market. The first one was dedicated to the identification of the tourist inns that currently function on the national tourism market. The second paper highlighted the potential of tourist inns as rural accommodation facilities. Their authenticity was also discussed. The relevance of this research is closely linked to the fact that in the early 1990's tourist inns were excluded from the list of lodging facilities, ceasing to be officially ranked, they were forced to reorient towards other types of units or, even worse, to function in the shadow economy. Moreover, the absence of inns on the market and the incoherent development of some types of lodgings in Romania, have also led to the fact that Romanians tend to be confused and sometimes seem not to differentiate one type of accommodation unit from other ones.

From a methodological perspective, the paper relies on both official data (collected and processed based on the List of Accommodation Facilities elaborated by the National Authority for Tourism) and on the information available on specialized websites (e.g. Booking.com). Thorough analyses have been run in order to identify all structures pretending to be inns, to further categorize and discuss them according to various criteria.

The main purpose of our research is to determine the extent to which these lodgings can contribute to the authenticity of the Romanian tourism, especially on that of urban destinations. In fact, this paper contributes to the creation of a framework for deeper research regarding both the supply and demand for tourist inns on the Romanian market. Further, the studies dedicated to tourist inns are going to be continued with investigations regarding both the entrepreneurial and management perspective, respectively the demand side.

Keywords

Tourist inns; officially ranked lodging facilities; differentiation of accommodation units; online presence of urban tourist inns; Romanian tourism.

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