

## **The Systematization of the Tourist Routes**

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**Abstract:** *Baiului Mountains, bounded by Prahova and Doftana Valley, are very accessible. One of the problems Baiului Mountains face in terms of hiking and tourism development is the lack of markings. The content represents field research and illustrates the approval of a tourist route, very important for hikers, and not only. This study aims to analyze the touristic potential of Baiului Mountains even though Baiului Mountains have problems with the development of tourism because of the lack of investments.*

**Keywords:** *Baiului Mountains, development, tourism, trails, landmarks, problems, Prahova Valley.*

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### **1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

The Baiu Mountains belong to the Curvature Carpathians and are situated on its westernmost point. The northern boundary is given largely by the Azuga Valley, separating the Baiu Mountains from the Clabucetelor Predealului peaks then passing North of Mount Tigai, at an average altitude of 1350 m. Doftanei Valley separates the Baiu and Grohotis Mountains, the southern limit being given by Florei Valley, while in the west by Prahova Corridor.

#### **1.1. Why Baiului Mountains?**

- They are located near to Prahova Valley
- This Valley is the most visited area in Romania
- Baiului Mountains are overshadowed by Bucegi Mountains
- There are many unmarked trails

### **2. METHODOLOGY**

The data used for this study and maps are: topographic map 1: 25 000 (1981), touristic map of Baiului Mountains („Munții Noștri”, M. Ielenisc 1984), touristic map of Baiului, Pietra Mare and Postăvaru Mountains (Schubert&Franzke, 2015), touristic map Bucegi and Gârbova (R. Țițeica et al, 1930-1940)

For collection and validation of data were crossed more trails like: Azuga Valley, Piciorul Câinelui and some interested points like: Red Lake, Forest Nursery.

For the collections of data it was used a GPS Garmin 62s and the photos used in this study were taken on the routes from Baiului Mountains.

For the maps, it was used the software ArcGis 10.2 and CorelDraw X6

### **3. THE STATUS OF THE ROUTES**

The Baiului Mountains, being surrounded by Prahova Valley and Doftana Valley, are considered to be very accessible. However, they are not well kept.

1. One of the problems that Baiului Mountains have when comes to the development of the trails and tourism is the lack of marks. One cannot talk about an organized tourism when there are no clear indications that the climber can follow. Unfortunately, while climbing, very often I had to walk through the fog on the main way and not finding any marked metal pillars made my study even more difficult on my way back. By the Government decision No 77 from January 23, 2003, Section 1 (Development, assimilation and maintenance of the mountains touristic trails), Appendix 3 it is

mentioned that “in the alpine spaces and the large meadows the markings will be made on pillars from metal tubes; the pillars will be first painted with protection primer then with black and white paint in alternating 30 centimeters stripes. In the low part they will be confectioned with claws for fastening them into the cement base, then in the ground; in the higher part it will be made with a paddle for marking signs. In the places that are especially circulated and exposed to the fog, the mark that will show the near alpine refuge or the cabin will be doubled by an audio or visual warning system that can be enabled electrically or mechanically; for the cabins, the cabin keeper will make this system work”. In the Baiului Mountains one cannot really talk about cabins but there are numerous sheepfolds that can substitute them and make good reference points for tourists. We can say that the Baiului Mountains is a savage unit where no one invested to promote the hikes, when mentioning the development of the trails, and those who dare to venture must have a compass, map, gps as the forest footpaths can mislead the tourist very easily and cause him to take the wrong trail.



2. Another disadvantage of the Baiului Mountains is the lack of information points about the trails, education about the risks on the mountains (rock falls, torrential rains, massive falls of snow, avalanches, thunderstorms, hailstone, fog and so on). An advantage would be the setup of informative touristic panels on the trails with the Baiului Mountains and for what they are representative. If they don't know the area very well, the tourists can easily pass by the Daffodil Meadow because it is nowhere mentioned about this reservation, not even on the tourist's map, including the Baiu Mare Peak (the highest point in the southern subunit), there is no mark or pillar that would have written on it its name or height. It can be confounded with any of the peaks of the main southern ridge, moreover, this important point in Baiului Mountains can actually be omitted and neglected as it is also a belvedere point.



3. The Baiului Mountains can represent the “textbook of the geomorphological processes of erosion”, like washing in the surface, ravines, solifluctions, landslides, rocks disintegration into site and even avalanches. Having in mind that geography is studied on the field, this is a proper area for students to understand the formation and evolution of these geomorphological processes. Subject trails can be made in order to see ridges, valley, mountain feet and even elements from our traditions such as shepherding the sheep, sheepfolds and their impact upon the field. An acceptable fact is that the Baiului Mountains are very accessible, being found in the proximity of large urban centers as, Bucharest, Brasov, Ploiesti. They are accessible highly due to the modern communication methods that cross the valleys, allowing the fast access to most of the starting points.



#### 4. Homologation of the touristic trails

- **SECTION1.** Arrangement, homologation and maintenance of the mountain touristic trails
- **ART. 27:** The mountain touristic trail must be subject to the following requirements:
  - a) Be of interest and make connection between two or more landmarks;
  - b) Be accessible during summer and winter, but the slopes and tops that are exposed to blizzards or powerful streams of air will be avoided. In special altitudes or off roads the mountain touristic trail will be recommended only during summertime;
  - c) To avoid the areas that are favorable to snow avalanches, landslides or massive stone falls;

- d) To not need too many arrangements – bridges, handrails, steps – and to allow the improvement of the footpath – enlarging, covering the broken parts – with minimum costs;
- e) To not cross large areas of screes or swamps

*Example of touristic trail homologation*

Trail no	
Mountain massif	Baiului Mountains
Trail type	One that connects the Trifoiului Cabin (1150m) to the main ridge through the forest road
Mark	Blue triangle
Description of trail	<p>The trail connects the main ridge marked with red strip with the forest road that takes to Azuga by the Trifoiului Cabin. From this cabin the tourist can draw water being the main starting point where he can lodge.</p> <p>Through this trail, the tourists can easily get to the main ridge that leads to the highest peak of Baiului Mountains, Neamtu Top 1923m. The slope is slightly inclined which makes it a very accessible trail throughout the year.</p> <p>The first part of the trail is an easy climb on a forest road for about an hour, after which it comes out to an alpine hole. One needs to be aware that it is actually a direct passage towards a grow house allowed to develop naturally. The pine trees have come to a maturity that they compile a curtain that surrounds the main road that lead to the ridge. It is a very pleasant walk as the footpath is large and blooming and the pines on the sides create the feeling of protection. After entering the grow house, on the left side there is an “oasis” of light marked by a peat bog. Once you passed the grow house you will meet a footpath through a small forest that gives our traveler the savage feeling as it is apparently hidden and inviting to adventure.</p> <p>Along the trail the tourist can meet bears, mountain roosters and daffodils, clover, patience, violets, crocuses and so on.</p>
Length in km	5 kilometers (3 miles)
Level difference	700 m
Time of traverse	2h30min
GPS coordinates (lat/long)	N 45.483959, E 25.642832
Accessible during summer/winter/permanently	permanently
Equipment	medium
Number of marks	70
Number of arrow signs	10
Trail status	good
Mark status	doesn't exist
Necessary works to do be done	Cleaning the forest road of the fallen trees as they make the trail difficult.
Shelters throughout the trail	Trifoiul cabin
Shelters and their capacity/status	Trifoiul villa hosts 24 people. It is recently renovated, has its own restaurant.
Difficulty	medium
Trail importance	Trail that connects the forest road – Azuga Valley – that starts from Azuga – to the main ridge of Baiului Mountains in a short time and accessible manner.
Access in the area	Forest road from Azuga
Year of trail homologation	

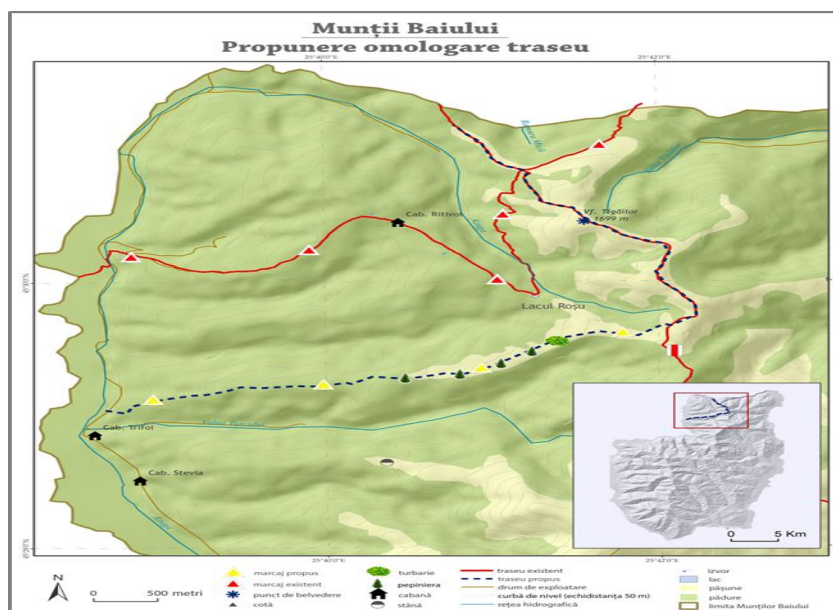


Fig. Approved by Mountain Rescue

Fig. Approved by the County Council of Prahova

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