

## The Balneary Park and The Archaeological Park - thematic parks in Turda city.

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### Abstract

*Ever since its beginnings as a settlement this area has benefited from valuable resources which have developed local industries of national and international importance. The most important one was the salt mine, which started the exploitation in a very early period, contributing greatly to the establishment of the settlement as a city that is self-sustaining through this type of mining activity. The city was dependent on its main activity, and the culmination periods and the decline ones have left their marks in the urban structure. Another relevant feature regarding the structure of the city is represented by the archaeological park. The insufficiency of the archaeological research and the overlapping of this area over the historical center have generated some inaccessible spaces both for archaeologists and tourists. The archaeological reservation is very wide and has a great potential to be exploited, perhaps in connection with the tourism movement generated by the Salt Mine - the modern brand of the city. How can be capitalized the balneary and the archaeological potential of Turda city? Which could be the possible scenarios for developing the tourism by linking these two particular areas? The very common measures in terms of development strategies for this areas characterized by a high tourism potential, as is the case of Turda city, refers primarily to a widest accessibility and a more diversified tourism offer. An efficient management of tourism leads towards new routes, or even towards the rehabilitation of other forms of tourism, as is the case of the balneary and the archaeological one.*

### Rezumat

*Încă de la începuturile sale ca așezare, zona a beneficiat de resurse valoroase cu care a făcut schimburi comerciale și care au dezvoltat industrii locale de importanță națională și nu în ultimul rând internațională. Cele mai importante exploatări au fost cele din mina de sare, exploatări care au început într-o perioadă foarte timpurie și care au contribuit din plin la constituirea așezării ca oraș care se autosușține prin această activitate de tip extractiv. Orașul a fost dependent de activitatea sa principală, extragerea sării, iar apogeul și perioadele de declin ale acestei activități și-au lăsat de fiecare dată amprenta în structura sa urbană. O altă trăsătură importantă ce privește structura orașului este reprezentată de parcul arheologic. Insuficiența cercetărilor arheologice și suprapunerea acestui areal peste centrul istoric al orașului au generat o serie de spații inaccesibile atât pentru arheologi cât și pentru turiști. Rezervația arheologică este foarte largă și are un mare potențial de a fi valorificată, poate chiar în legătură cu mișcările turistice generate de mina de sare – considerată a fi brandul modern al orașului. Cum poate fi valorificat potențialul balneoclimateric*

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*și arheologic al orașului Turda? Care ar fi posibilele scenarii de dezvoltare a turismului încercând o conectare a celor două areale foarte particulare? Măsurile cele mai frecvente care se discută în ceea ce privește strategiile de dezvoltare a zonelor cu potențial turistic ridicat, așa cum e și cazul orașului Turda, se referă în primul rând la asigurarea unei accesibilități cât mai largi și a unei oferte turistice cât mai diversificată. O bună gestionare a turismului conduce înspre acoperirea necesității mai multor trasee turistice, sau chiar înspre reabilitarea altor forme de turism, cum e și cazul turismului balneoclimateric și a celui arheologic.*

**Keywords:** branding, tourism movement, Balneary Park, Archaeological Park, spaces of identity

## 1. Thematic parks in Turda city

Through this study, we propose a brief incursion on the balneary and cultural tourism issues, considering the possibilities to resuscitate the two parks, the balneary one and the archaeological one. The title of park is motivated primarily by the importance of these areas in the city and in the vicinity. The Balneary Park comprises two large areas, the Mine Saltings and the Roman Tableland; also the history associated with the salt industry lies very much in the past, being the engine that generated the economic evolution of the settlement. Besides the salt industry, the park has developed over time a balneotherapeutic function, which brings it at national level. The Archaeological Park contains many remains from several historical periods, but the thing that concerns us is strictly related to the Roman archaeological sites. I considered that the archaeological remains are sufficient in this case, in order to be able to discuss about an archaeological park. Within the city, the built background of other historical layers like the medieval and nineteenth century ones, are much more valued; other historical periods have hardly left any mark on the city structure, as in the situation of the Dacian period. Basically, we further assume that these two parks, once valued, have the potential to stimulate each other, and thus have the chance to survive in today's economic context, a context that heavily rely on diverse tourism offer. Although they are different in every aspect, I chose to discuss both of them, because once capitalized, they could even compete for the city brand, and, I call them parks, because of their importance and impact on the city and the surroundings.

## 2. The Balneary Park and the increase in tourism

### 2.1 The balneary character of the town. Short history.

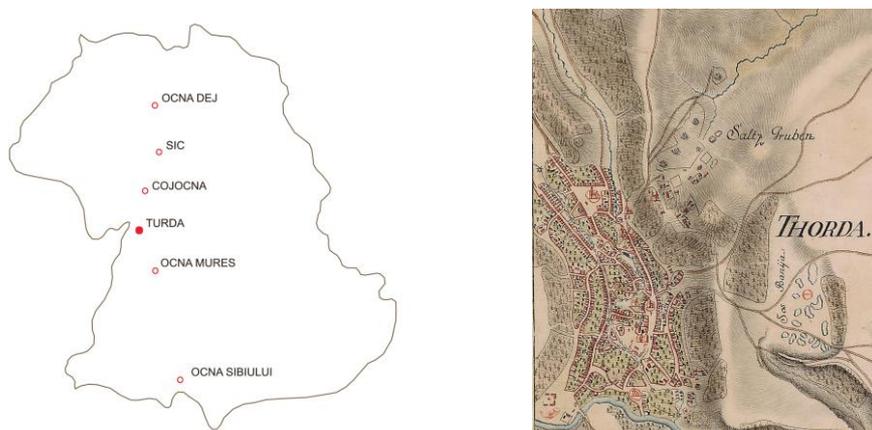


Figure 1,2. The westward salty alignment and the Josephine Map of Transylvania with the two salty areas.

The Salt deposits in the Transylvanian Plateau constitute a western alignment (Fig. 1), developed considerably from North to South, and a second small eastern alignment. Turda is part of the western alignment of the Transylvanian Plateau, and also the following deposits, listed in order, from north to south: Dej, Sic, Cojocna, Turda, Ocna Mures and Sibiu Ocna [1]. Turda is part from this alignment because of a health resort founded in the first half of the nineteenth century; the first landscaped resort was the Roman Lake, which is the present swimming pool of the town. Since then, the history of this project has been quite mixed, meaning that there was a continuous variation of the periods in which the resort has expanded and functioned effectively and periods when the resort was neglected or closed. [1]

### ***2.1.1 The economic role of the exploitation and export of salt during the roman domination.***

Inside the city, the salt deposit is located in the North-East. The particular characteristics of the deposit are related to the arrangement of the salt near the surface [2]. The salt mining in Dacia had a fundamental economic role in the formation and growth of Potaissa settlement; the systematic exploitation of the deposit began by surface mining works and, later, by underground mining works during the Roman occupation. Even before the romans constructed their camp, the formation of the first human communities was a process conditioned by the presence of favorable resources, of which the most important at the time was salt. According to some archaeological theory, the selection of the camp site was determined by the need to exploit these salt deposits [2]. These exploitations were conducted to the surface; once the site became impossible to exploit, the place was abandoned due to the accumulation of water and the difficult process of mining. The Roman Lake, the actual swimming pool of the city, is supposed to be an example of this kind of exploitation. Other traces, this time of Roman underground exploitations, were found in the Salted Valley, on the north-western side. After the Aurelian retreat, until eleventh century, there is no evidence that the salt extraction continued. It is assumed that the locals would have continued the salt exploitation [2]. Thus, the first Roman mining's can be located in the Salted Baths area. The rhythm of development and decline of salt production influenced the development of the settlement established here, this salt mine in Turda being the most important one in Transylvania. The historical conditions have positively impacted the operating activity, which was flourishing once with the establishment of Habsburg power from the late eighteenth century [3]. The downfall in the mining rhythm began with the competitive conflict with Ocna Mures. It has taken several measures for modernization and equipment of the mine, but the productivity was gradually diminished, thus, for the first time, the question of ceasing the mine activity was raised [3]. After the First World-War the mine went into state property, but a few years later the mine was closed again due to the steady decline in the operating activities [3].

### ***2.1.2 Some considerations about the urban evolution of the settlement.***

The cities near the salt mines of the entire European continent have benefited from the exploitation and trade of salt, their urban development being achieved in some situations in an accelerated manner. Turda city was formed by the progressive joining of villages and smaller neighbouring settlements that flourished because of exploitation of salt resource.

#### ***Saxodonia Citadel***

As mentioned above, the peculiarities of historical and urban evolution of Turda city and its surroundings are closely related to the annexation during the entire medieval period of the small villages and settlements established near the medieval core, Turda Veche. Gradually, these settlements were joined to form fortresses. Among them, we can mention Saxodonia Citadel, which was formed in the twelfth century on the site of the former Roman fort. Here, in the early years of the century, German and Austrian miners were colonized. The documents attesting the presence of these families in the territory of the city were destroyed during the Tatar invasion in 1241. [4]

### *The Miners quarter*

The Miners District is marked on the Josefine map (Fig. 2) in close proximity of the Roman Plateau, and it was founded mainly from the salt cutters; they were mostly freemen locals, but, besides them, there were colonized miners from Germany and Slovakia, for their technical work and to improve productivity. [5]

### *New Turda settlement*

In the system of small townships and villages, two nearby sites were highlighted as being important: Old Turda and New Turda. Old Turda was overlaid on the old Roman civilian settlement, in the historical center. The New Turda District was formed, initially, as a village of miners in the vicinity of the salt mine; the settlement formed around the fifteenth century. At first, the two sites did not have equal rights and obligations, the miners of New Turda being marginalized; they did not receive a proper administrative authority and those sent by the management of the settlement were even the salt-chamber officials. The Old Turda people had the status and recognition as "citizens", they had rights and obligations obtained for a long time. At the beginning of the sixteenth century it was already mentioned in the medieval documents New Turda settlement. Its name was linked to the salt mines, which is a district of the city founded by salt cutters. [6]

Turda Salt mining was a process that extended over several centuries; as a result, the city was constantly supervised and administered by the Hungarian royalty and Austro-Hungarian imperial house. Orban Balazs mentions in his paper [7] that in 1601, the year of killing Michael the Brave on Turda plain, New Turda urban core was almost entirely destroyed due to fires and battles that took place here. In 1614 it was conducted the first repopulation of New Turda neighbourhood, thanks to a great interest in what concerned the continuous extraction of salt, but these intentions of repopulation did not have the desired effect because the district was almost completely destroyed. Gabriel Bethlen repopulated the neighbourhood with its own footmen, these receiving rights of nobility from the performance of military service. Thus, for the first time, the idea of splitting the two main central neighbourhoods of the city was born, the salt cutters being in conflict with citizens throughout the city. [6]

## ***2.2 Balneary Tourism vs Cultural Tourism.***

The tourism of health care is a generic form of tourism that brings together the tourism branch of treatment, wellness tourism or recreational and medical tourism. In the case of Turda salted baths, we find all three forms of tourism, but in a different proportion. Leisure and treatment tourism are the basis for the growing demand in this sector, and medical tourism stands the last. The treatment tourism is a specific form of seasonal tourism practiced by people moving into specialized resorts, balneary resorts in the case of Turda city, to prevent, cure or reduce the effects of some diseases. Tourism treatment in the case of Turda salt baths is based on the positive effects of natural factors such as the positive effect of baths in water with high salinity, the balneotherapy, and mud baths effect, the climatic therapy. The second form of tourism, the recreational tourism, is situated on the border between treatment and leisure; this is the most specific type of health care tourism among the three mentioned above. With a lower frequency today, but with a great potential in the city of Turda, we can speak of a form of medical tourism. In many other European cities, the main purpose of the balneary treatment trip is accompanied by other motivations as well as visiting some tourist attractions in the medical destination. In Turda city, the balneotherapeutic potential can be doubled by the potential of cultural tourism; the city is rich in historical and archaeological material, but due to economic and management difficulties is not properly exploited, and it is not running at its maximum potential. The cultural tourism brings together all trips whose purpose is the satisfaction

of human needs for diversity, educating and raising the cultural level individually for obtaining and extending the knowledge and experiences [8]. The main factors in the development of cultural tourism are increasing revenues and increase education and civilization. In Turda, this type of tourism may result in visiting the archaeological heritage and historical buildings, the two museums, the Museum of History in the city center and the Salt Museum located into the salt mine, the historical monuments and memorials. Another area of manifestation of this type of tourism is the participation in cultural events: performances, festivals, cultural exhibitions. Another manifestation can be the technical and industrial tourism which consists of visiting some industrial buildings with architectural value or industrial platform in the southern city. On the other hand, this form of tourism shows some disadvantages. The cultural tourism is often addressed and practiced by a small and advised public, which, from the start, reduces the number of potential tourists; also, this form of travel is more expensive than other forms of tourism.

### 2.3 The Balneary Park composition.

The balneary park consists of a salt mine and antroposalted lakes. The antroposalted lakes are divided into two well defined areas: the Roman Lakes and the Mine Lakes. The Roman Lakes<sup>1</sup> formed in Salt Valley area (Fig. 3), on the old sites of the salt mine which was exploited since the twelfth century. Their generic name is not relevant because they are not part of the Roman exploitation in the area, but from the early twelfth century one, and more, this territory is located outside the mine area. The Mine lakes<sup>2</sup> are located on the eastern side of the Salt Valley (Fig. 4). The position of these lakes indicates the area where the exploitation of the salt massif began, the earliest one being constituted by the exploitation of mines in the eastern part of the massif and the new one in the western massif consisting of the salt massif [3]. As appears from those described above, the resort has a great scientific and touristic potential, which is supported by many lakes with different spa properties, and by the rehabilitation and mine refunctionalizing. Salt Valley area's tourist profile has been enhanced by the redevelopment of two of the salt lakes and flora, through preserving this area, and by revitalization and rehabilitation of the whole site, comprising an area of 12 hectares. Turda's salt mine is ranked among the 53 European caves and salt mines which have speleotherapeutic properties<sup>3</sup> and leisure facilities. [3]

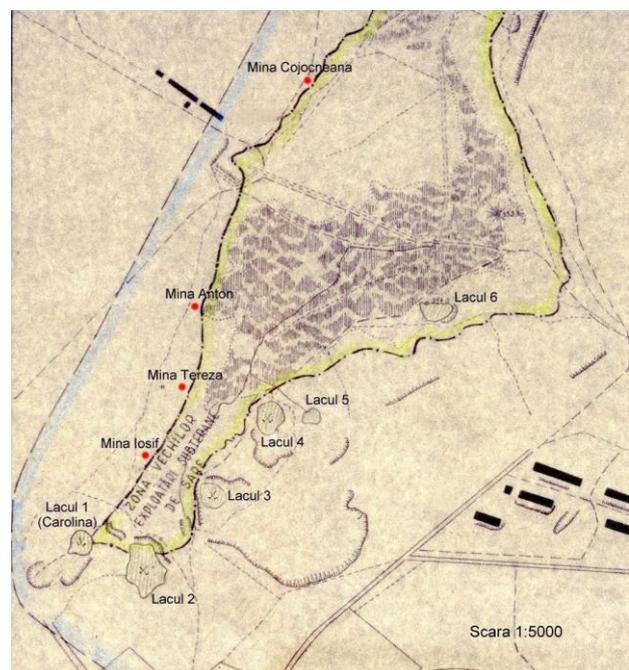
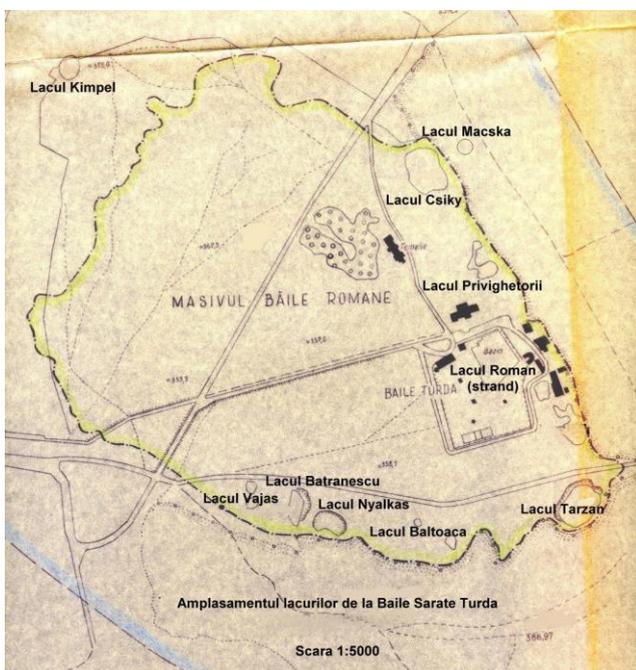


Figure 3, 4. The Roman Lakes (the Salted Baths) and the Mine Lakes (the antroposalted lakes).

In the last decade, the mine became a landmark searched for its spa facilities. The balneary base aroused once it was discovered that its climate has numerous benefits for those suffering from lung diseases. This discovery was made in 1989<sup>4</sup>, because the salt mine in Ocna Mures was much damaged during floods in 1975; so it was necessary to move the treatment area in another location and conduct studies whose positive outcome turned the mine into a balneary resort and an important landmark. In 1991 the hotel and the completion of the treatment area became a priority project. The completion of the hotel project required at least three treatment procedures in the treatment base. Following the completion of the interior design project, the mine became an emblem of the city, being the most modern and accessible tourist destination of its kind in Transylvania. In 2000 it was declared a natural reservation of national interest together with the Salted Valley [2].

#### ***2.4 Particularities in approaching the balneary structures. Turda salt mine.***

The balneary tourism is a major factor in the Romanian tourism industry. It is well known that almost a third of thermal and mineral waters in Europe are concentrated in Romania, and their beneficial health effects have been attested for centuries [10]. The balneary tourism involves both the recovery process in spa resorts and touristic activities. The health tourism has not only valences of medical support, prevention and recovery, but also a major economic potential, in Romania's case is, perhaps, the most important economic area [11]. The economic aspect emerges both from the specific activity of tourism, generating capital, and to a much less visible and quantifiable level, as significant generator of local economy. In Cluj County, the balneary resorts are of local interest, meaning that they resolve specific requirements of the population in the neighboring administrative units. Regionally, we encounter them less in top choices for tourists. The balneary resorts were formed and developed within the county depending on the geographical nature of the sites. The salted lakes located on the Romanian Plateau and in the Salt Valley resulted from the collapses of ancient salt mines mentioned above. The shape and depth of the lakes are closely related to the way of exploiting the salt deposit. Similar lakes are also found within the following counties: Cojocna, Sic, Ocna Dej. In Turda, The Romanian plateau area contains the Roman Lake and Tarzan Lake, the actual swimming pool of the city. The Salt Baths resort is situated about 2 km from the southeast city center direction. In the interwar period, the local government made the first improvements of the balneary resort, and in the second half of the twentieth century, these activities continued, and the resort later became a permanent treatment base. After 1990, as in many resorts in the country, the balneary complex went through a time of decline, but since the year 2001 the rehabilitation and restoration of the entire complex has begun, the resort receiving a permanent character. [9]

#### ***2.5 Development scenarios regarding the Balneary Park.***

Following the analysis made on the two areas listed above, the Roman Plateau and the Salted Valley, one can identify a number of strengths and directions of development in terms of spa and tourism development of the city. There will be shown below a number of issues and measures inherent in the development of balneotherapeutic tourism, and not only, addressed through the prism of common shares and settlements as in the case of many European resorts.

##### ***2.5.1 The human potential of Turda city and its university extension.***

The project of establishing a Balneary University in Turda has begun in 2011, and was born as a result of the tourist boom in the city while promoting the mine, and after the First National Conference of Speleotherapy. As a result of discussions the idea to establish in Turda the first University of its kind in the country was born. The first phase of the project involved the assertion of a Scientific Park that promotes Speleotherapy, and that represents the engine of the first university establishment in the country. To conduct scientific activities, the university was going to

benefit from the mine resort, the therapeutic waters of the two natural areas. Therefore, it urged for a study on the benefits of the balneary microclimate that lead to the gaining of Balneary Health Resort title. Such a measure would support the city's balneary image and might even create a brand for the city.

### ***2.5.2 The potentiality of the urban structures.***

The most commonly discussed measures, in terms of development strategies for areas with high tourism potential, as in the case of Turda city, refer, primarily, to ensure the widest possible accessibility and very diverse travel offers. Tourism development strategies propose several strategic axes generally aimed at increasing the accessibility and improving the existing tourism offer, increasing quality of services and not least improving the brand of the destination. In the case of Turda city we can appreciate that a special attention to tourism infrastructure would benefit in a very short time. The recently accelerated growth of tourist's number has made more evident the lack of management and reception facilities. The measures could address the transport companies and the Tourism information centres, very few in numbers. In this way, it could be covered a very diverse range of attractions and it could even be resolved the gap between the intensity of visitation of the mine and the attitude of ignoring the Roman Archaeological site. The Archeological Reserve, unlike the balneary one, is barely promoted and the accessibility on sites is impeded by the lack of clear routes. All these weaknesses could become attractions in a very short time. Also, a reconsideration of tourism areas in the city could provide more diversified activities locally, which would strengthen the city's touristic character. In Turda, the patrimonial potential could be very significant in the local tourism offer, by proposing complementary routes aiming archaeological remains in the city and in the surrounding areas, like the ancient Roman urbanism, the medieval fortifications etc. Turda is already a touristic destination with a very well defined brand in terms of the salt mine and the salted lakes in the vicinity thereof.

### ***2.5.3 Potential and touristic offer through sustainable development.***

The touristic potential of Turda city is both natural and anthropogenic. The natural potential consists of the Balneary Park and its proximity to natural areas of national interest. The anthropogenic potential instead, is as diverse and consistent; the only weak point is its poor promotion. The natural tourism resources are very numerous and comprises the salt mine, the salted lakes, the lakes of the Roman Plateau, Turda Gorges Natural Reserve, etc. All these form the tourism assets of the city, and are the elements that shape the cultural, the patrimonial potential and the balneary one.

Turda city's current tourist profile is the balneary and recreational ones, which is closely tied to the mine. Analyzing the demand of visiting the mine one can see that it is growing; thus, it can provide answers and solutions regarding the management of the destination, the decision to broaden the tourist offer, etc. The salt mine is visited by people of almost all ages, so it is difficult to establish a profile of the visitor in this regard. Turda was and still remained a major road junction, which is reflected today in the way of visiting the mine. A large number of tourists are people who, for various reasons, transit the city, stop here and visit the mine. Therefore, the main reason for visiting the mine is leisure and not therapy; thus, the tourist profile of the city remains at leisure, and this could provide the basis for the development of balneary tourism.

Unlocking the balneary potential of the city can be achieved today only through the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development is a very vast and debated concept, and it is hard to define, therefore, I did not chose to clarify the term in this way, but, I will emphasize several issues relevant to the balneary park situation. The first important aspect involved by framing in the parameters of sustainable development is the environmental protection, in this particular situation,

the best possible conservation of the lakes and the salt mine in the proximity. It is already known that salt mine is one of the best preserved mines in Romania and Europe. A better understanding of the benefits realized from the balneary and leisure tourism, can lead us to establish new directions for targeting tourism towards untapped destinations; in this situation, the recreational tourism can be considered also the strong point of the city and its weakness, the growing demand for visiting the salt mine often involves a request of complementary tourist routes, such as the archaeological site, the problem which has not yet a solution. Here we can mention as a weakness the failure to satisfy the tourists needs to take advantage of complementary routes. Another important aspect is related to the growth and to the economic management of leisure tourism created by the mine. A good tourism management once again leads us towards the need for covering more pedestrian trails, rehabilitation of other forms of tourism, which have functioned here, such as the balneary one.

### **3. The Archaeological Park as a place of ghosts**

The touristic attraction is defined by Vanhove [12] as any element or combination of elements, natural or anthropic, which can motivate a touristic trip. The touristic potential of a destination is closely linked to its attractiveness; it consists of all the attractions of the territory concerned, which have not yet been landscaped for tourism. According to the definition, the tourism potential can be divided into: natural potential represented by the natural attractions, climate, hydrographical and anthropogenic potential represented by elements of heritage, urban structures, cultural events, etc. [13]

#### ***3.1 The archaeological character of the city. Short history.***

The tourism development potential of Turda city should be discussed through a detailed analysis of the particularities regarding the historical evolution of the settlement, the urban constitution and the trends of this process over time in the context of direct influences of neighboring settlements. Through this chapter shall be discussed the most important historical and political events that influenced the development of the settlement, from its status as a pre-Roman place and Romanian settlement, fortress, town and up to what will become much later, the county seat.

##### ***3.1.1 The pre-urban structure from the Daco-Romanian period.***

Turda is archaeologically certified as Dierna since the pre-Roman period. It is not known the exact position of the Dacian fortress, but, after some archaeological findings, a more precise area where it is presumed to be the core of the settlement could be determined. After the Roman conquest, the settlement is mentioned under the name of Potaissa. The result of archaeological discoveries deduced that the core of the Dacian and Roman settlements were not the same, but according to other archaeological testimonies were very close. According to the Roman military urbanism principles, the immediate neighboring settlement of the vicus fulfilled the necessary features to build a roman castrum. These features required the existence of a large plateau located higher than the Roman road, to defend it and for good visibility and accessibility. [15]

##### ***3.1.2 The urbanization and the Roman urban characteristics.***

The Roman culture was imposed in the territory by a military organization made up mostly of military camps, limes and Roman roads. The Roman period in Dacia is certified between the years 106-271 AD, and coincides with the period of intense urbanization undertaken by the Roman Empire. After the Roman conquest, the villages in Dacia do not disrupt their existing as settlements, as it has happened in the case of other large fortified settlements. Some of these villages, according to the military and strategically importance of the settlement, evolved to civil Roman settlements

[14]. The first historic records about the military and civilian settlement in the Roman territory of Turda city dates from the year 1574, from the journal of a French traveller Pierre Lescalopier. The fortress of the Fifth Macedonian Legion is the most important archaeological monument of the city. The Roman settlement near the fort has grown over time due to the wealth of the surroundings. The development was also favored by the imperial traffic artery connecting Apulum with Napoca. The soldiers have played an important role in the development of the settlement and also in the city life. These economic ties have increased along with the establishment of the Romanian civilians in the city, who followed the legion soldiers here. The Roman field covers an area of approximately 12 square kilometers and the archaeological material is abundant. [14]

### ***3.1.3 Potaissa Roman city. Topographical aspects.***

The city plan is shaped in the second half of the II<sup>nd</sup> century AD and in the first half of the III<sup>rd</sup> century AD, with its transformation from the status of vicus on the municipium and colony statuses. The Roman civilian settlement that revolved around the fort was expanded inside the core of Old Turda and New Turda neighborhoods, toward Arieş meadow, here occupying large spaces. The core of the archaeological settlement is mentioned as being situated near the bridge built by the Romans over Arieş River. The bridge was imposed by the imperial Roman road, connecting Apulum to Napoca. The settlement was established according to the Roman urban principles. Thus, *cardo maximus* function was fulfilled by the Roman road that ran through the center of the settlement, and the *decumano maximus* route was accomplished by Arieş River. The Roman legion had a significant role in building the city and to create a close link between the military and civilian life. The collapse of Rome led to the collapse of the entire urban system created by it. Therefore, Potaissa citadel was demolished, the fort was dismantled continuously until late middle Ages. [17]

### ***3.1.4 The Roman imperial road.***

Roman roads were documentary attested since antiquity. The main document is Tabula Peutingeriana map, which was one of the most detailed maps of the Roman era. The map shows the main roads of the Empire, marks the most important cities, among which is mentioned Potaissa. The Roman roads were built to cross faster the Empire territories, being built as much as possible in a straight line, depending on how the topography permitted. These characteristics of Roman roads led, on the one hand, to the growth of settlements in the Empire, but still they have relieved the numerous invasions in its period of decay. The Roman roads are documentary certified in medieval times, which are recognized as "rocky road" or "dry road"; most major roads in the middle Ages were from soil, so, the other roads built on a stone foundation can only be Roman roads, these being the only paved during that time [18, p. 55]. In the case of Turda city, it has not been found the exact route of the Roman road, it is known just that he crossed the Arieş River in the south, and in the northward side it advance by Napoca, and was located on the left side of the Racilor stream. The archaeological research has been restricted in this case because the road route overlaps Old Turda district core, the current historical center of Turda.

## ***3.2 The situation of the archaeological sites in and around the city.***

### ***3.2.1 The reserve of the Archaeological Park.***

The archaeological park of the city consists in numerous sites, dating from the Roman period; we can mention, in order of importance, the following: the Roman fort, the civilian settlement, the Roman road and the Roman necropolis. Basically, the archaeological reserve covers the entire territory occupied by the Roman camp, both the exposed areas and the undiscovered ones, which occupy an area of approximately 25 hectares. The fort is primarily a scientific landmark, the only

military camp in Romania which was partially uncovered and subjected to numerous archeological studies (Fig. 5). A consistent part of the archaeological reserve is the large area of approx. 16 hectares, located on the western side of the fort, which contains numerous artifacts that are still incompletely investigated. Moreover, the archaeological remains are scattered in some unreachable areas, in the western half of the historical center and in the southern industrial zone. The archaeological areas are hardly landscaped, as it can be seen in the pictures, and the few existing facilities are absolutely random. [19]

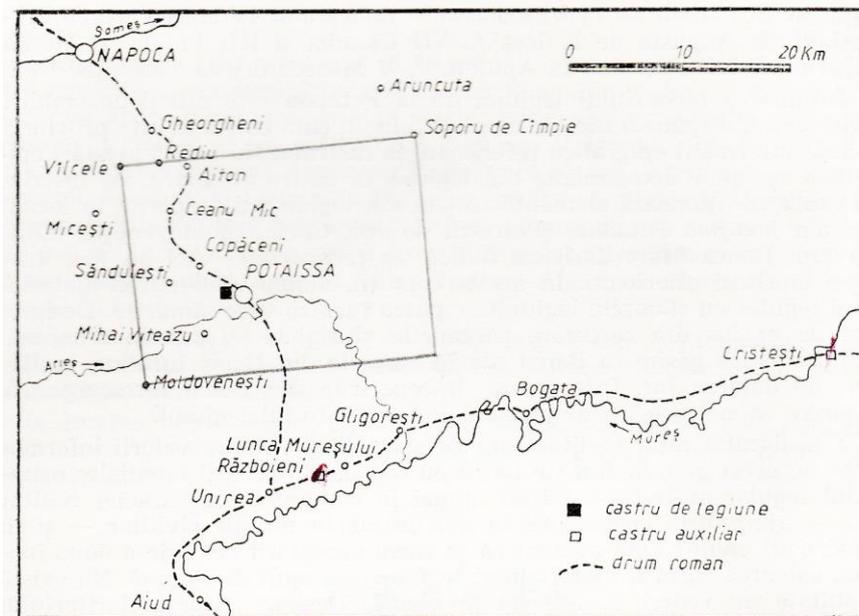


Figure 5. The component of the archaeological reservation in Turda surroundings.

### 3.2.2 Problems and solutions for integrating archaeological sites in the touristic circuit.

The Roman fort is part of the architectural and cultural heritage of Cluj County, being enrolled in the List of Historical Monuments [20], and, from 2010 is part of the National Heritage of Romania<sup>5</sup>. Potaissa fort was the largest camp legion from Dacia (Fig. 6); there are several projects of reconstruction and landscaping of this archaeological site, so that it becomes a tourist attraction of the city and its surroundings. Among the urban development projects proposed in the city's development strategy, one can also find the restoration project and the touristic promotion of this camp, project whose prioritization period has expired, this being proposed for the years 2014-2015. This project following and upgrading the infrastructure that provides a car and pedestrian with the fort is almost nonexistent today. [21]

Among the present dysfunctions in the archaeological site, we notice the lack of pedestrian connections with the center, the lack of an organized route and the absence of an information center. Other malfunctions are generally related to the poor preservation of the remains, the interventions in architecture and urban planning that allowed the extension of surrounding neighborhoods to the fort limit; of these, the most intrusive are the water tanks and the houses located on the Roman street. Also, in the unexposed archaeological areas, the farming activities still remain a possible threatening. Regarding the access points, certain areas such as the streets adjacent to the fort, Painter Theodor Aman Street, Roman fortress Street, Ioan I. Rusu Street, would require pedestrian accommodations. Another integration solution for these areas in a public circuit imposes the reconsideration of the city boundaries in the western side. [19]



Figure 6. The archaeological site of the Fifth Macedonian Legion Fort.

Another solution for integrating the archaeological areas in the touristic circuit is linked to the necessity of reconsidering the limits from the western part of the city, namely the built existent area; a large area situated on Fortress Hill plateau was included in the built existent area for this purpose, and it was annexed to the History Museums. The other area not included into the town limits has not undergone an extensive archaeological research, thus, this made it difficult to include it into the inner limits of the city, not knowing exactly what vestiges accommodates. It also considered that what is located outside town is already protected by measures that come with this status. [19]

#### 4. Conclusions

This topic has proved to be very extensive and I haven't been able to discuss but a small part of it. Many issues remain to be discussed and analyzed, mostly the ones that concerns the measures to make the significant places in the city to be really touristic attractions. The two parks, one natural and one anthropogenic, have the potential to become symbols of the city, with impact on the city and its surroundings. I called them parks because both are rich in important resources. The Balneary Park covers large areas with specific vegetation and includes numerous salted lakes, all of these having a great potential to be capitalized by landscape measures. The second, represented by the Roman fort and the entire archaeological area, is also an important one, despite the fact that large parts of it are stacked under central houses or are still undiscovered, in the farming field. In both cases, these areas can develop expanded networks, at regional level, both on the balneary and the archaeologically field, the tourism being the element that generates local economy and can make them self-sustaining.

#### 5. Notes

1. The Roman Lakes: the bottomless Lake, Kimpel Lake, the Roman Lake, Privighetorii Lake, Csiky Lake.

2. The salt mine lakes: Carolina Lake, Durgau Lake, the sweet Lake, the salt mine Lake, the round Lake and the sulphurous Lake.
3. Speleotherapy represents a new method of treating asthma.
4. Turda salt mine microclimatic study in order to recover its therapeutic properties. IMFBRM - Bucharest 1989.
5. Code LMI CJ-I-s-A-07208.

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Credits: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Josephinische\\_Landaufnahme\\_pg110.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Josephinische_Landaufnahme_pg110.jpg).

**Figure 3.** The Roman Lakes (the Salted Baths).

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**Figure 5.** The component of the archaeological reservation in Turda surroundings. Credits: Barbulescu, M. *Din istoria militară a Daciei Romane. Legiunea a V-a Macedonica și castrul de la Potaissa*. Editura Dacia, Cluj-napoca, 1987, p. 50.

**Figure 6.** The archaeological site of the Fifth Macedonian Legion Fort. Credits: Author.