

# CULTURAL TOURISM CONSIDERED FROM THE ANGLE OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

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## **Abstract**

*Historical monuments represent remarkable cultural-historical testimonies from the architectural, urbanistic, archeological, historical, tourist, artistic, ethnographic, religious, social, scientific and technical point of view. These real estate objectives have been inventoried and selected (through a classification procedure), and they were granted the regime of historical monument, being recorded on the List of Historical Monuments (LMI), and thus receiving the needed protection. Thus, at national level, all objectives that have a special architectural importance and a special historical significance were included in this list, which comprises monuments protected by law throughout the country and is a basic tool for the protection of cultural heritage in Romania.*

**Keywords:** *statistical analysis, historical monuments, cultural tourism*

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The list including all the historical monuments on the Romanian territory was drawn by the National Institute of Heritage<sup>1</sup> (based on a number of record sheets); the list has undergone several changes over the years<sup>2</sup>. The list is updated every 5 years. The most recent list dates from 2015. Compared to the 2010 list, by the 2015 one 49 monuments were declassified and 644 monuments were classified (appertaining to archeology, architecture, public forums, memorial and funerary monuments).

We have to mention that the analysis contained in this article will take into account the number of historical monuments in the latest list available (which contains information from the year 2015). We will conduct this analysis in order to have an image of the territorial distribution / spreading of the heritage represented by the historical monuments, at national level, using the data from the above-mentioned list, in order to make a statistic of historical monuments according to the counties and development regions.

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<sup>1</sup> It is a public institution of culture of national importance, whose activity concerns the field of protection, restoration, research and promotion of cultural heritage, being subordinated to the Ministry of Culture.

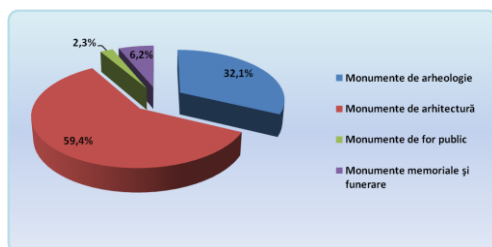
<sup>2</sup> Chronologically, the first list was elaborated in 1991, yet it was not published in the Official Gazette. The first publication of the list of historical monuments was done in 2004.

In this way, the statistical quantification of the number of historical monuments will be the basis for knowing the heritage **density** for the national territory (which some authors also call "tourist attraction potential"), which we will calculate as the ratio between the number of historical monuments and the area of the counties and the development regions.

At a first analysis, the data synthesized in the last LMI (for the year 2015) showed that the national cultural heritage consists of a **total of 30,147 historical monuments** of international (UNESCO), national and local importance. Out of the total of 30,147 historical monuments existing in our country, 4,046 were registered in the **site** category and 1,797 in the category of **ensembles**. At the same time, out of the total number of historical monuments, 31 are recorded in the **UNESCO World Heritage List**, most of them being located in Suceava (8) and Maramureș (8) counties, and the others in Hunedoara (5), Alba (2), Brașov counties (2), Mureș (2), Sibiu (2), Harghita (1) and Vâlcea (1).

From the point of view of their typology, as can be seen from the chart below, the most numerous are the **architectural** monuments (59.4% of the total) and the **archeological** monuments (32.1%), followed at a great distance by the **memorial** and **funerary** monuments (6.2%) and **public forum** monuments (2.3%).

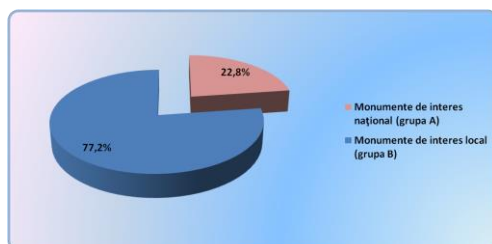
*Numerical situation of the types/categories of historical monuments in Romania – year 2015*



**Source:** Calculations made by the authors, based on data from the List of Historical Monuments, available at <https://patrimoniul.ro/monumente-istorice/lista-monumentelor-istorice>

Nation-wide, the dominant category is that of rank B (local importance) monuments. Thus, 23,276 objectives (77.2% of the total) belong to the **value group B (monuments of local interest)**, and 6,871 objectives (22.8% of the total) are included in the **value group A (monuments of national interest)**.

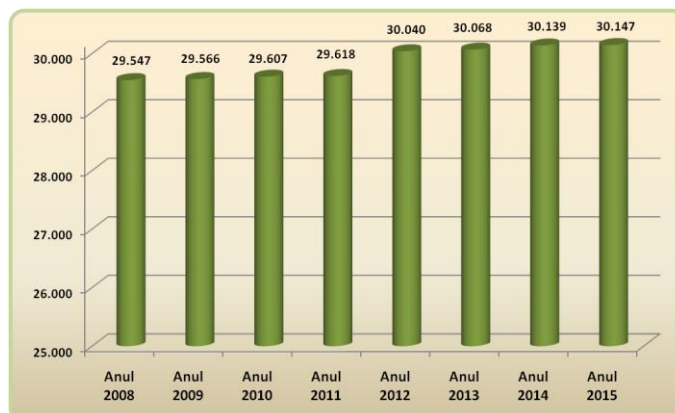
*Numerical situation of the historical monuments in Romania, by value groups – in 2015*



**Source:** Calculations made by the authors, based on data from the List of Historical Monuments, available at <https://patrimoniul.ro/monumente-istorice/lista-monumentelor-istorice>

Regarding the **quantitative evolution of historical monuments in the period 2008–2015**, the data of the Public Policy Unit within the Ministry of Culture, published in the annexes to the "Strategy for culture and national heritage 2016–2022", showed that, at national level, their number increased by 2,03%, namely from 29,547 in 2008 to 30,147 in 2015.

*Numerical evolution of the historical monuments in Romania  
in the period 2008–2015*



Source: processing data in *The Strategy for culture and national heritage 2016–2022*

For a **more detailed analysis**, and at the same time to get an overall picture of the **territorial distribution of Romanian cultural heritage** composed of historical monuments, from studying the existing information in the List completed in 2015, we could see that historical monuments were distributed as follows:

✓ **Distribution of historical monuments by counties:**

- **in keeping with the total number of historical monuments**, most are located in the country's capital, Bucharest (2,651 monuments, which represents 8.8% of the total). The city of Bucharest is followed, in the hierarchy of the counties having more than 1,000 objectives recorded in the LMI, by the following: Cluj (1,791 monuments, 5.9% of the total), Iași (1,634 monuments, 5.4% of the total), Dâmbovița (1,237 monuments, 4.1% of the total), Prahova (1,073 monuments, 3.6% of the total), Sibiu (1,053 monuments, 3.5% of the total), Argeș (1,022 monuments, 3.4% of the total) and Mureș (1,018 monuments, 3.3% of the total). At the opposite pole, the fewest historical monuments (less than 1% of the total) are found in the counties of Călărași (285 monuments), Galați (263 monuments), Ialomița (227 monuments) and Brăila (172 monuments);
- **in keeping with the value group** in which they were included, the largest number of **category A** historical monuments are in the counties of Argeș (523 monuments, 7.6% of the total), Mureș (514 monuments, 7.5% of the total), Sibiu (403 monuments, 5.9% of the total), Cluj (369 monuments, 5.4% of the total), Bucharest and Ilfov (on aggregate 361 monuments, 5.2% of the total) and Brașov (335 monuments, 4.8% of the total). Less than 1% of

category A monuments are located in the counties of Dolj, Gorj, Teleorman, Olt, Ialomița, Bihor, Satu Mare, Giurgiu, Galați, Botoșani, Călărași and Brăila (county with only 4). The largest number of **category B** historical monuments are in Bucharest and Ilfov (on aggregate 3,020 monuments, 13% of the total), Iași (1,499 monuments, 6.4% of the total), Cluj (1,422 monuments, 6.1% of total), and the fewest (less than 1% of the total) in the counties of Timiș (228 monuments), Galați (220 monuments), Ialomița (170 monuments) and Brăila (168 monuments);

- most **archeological monuments** are located in the counties of Iași (828 monuments, 8.5% of the total), in Bucharest and Ilfov (on aggregate 753 monuments, 7.8% of the total) and Cluj (691 monuments, 7.1% of total), and the fewest in the counties of Timiș (57 monuments) and Brăila (42 monuments);
- most **architectural monuments** are located in Bucharest and Ilfov (on aggregate 2,241 monuments, 12.5% of the total), followed by Sibiu (840 monuments, 4.7% of the total), Brașov (784 monuments, 4.3% of the total) and Argeș (765 monuments, 4.3% of the total), and the fewest in Tulcea (93 monuments, 0.5% of the total) and Brăila (79 monuments, 0.4% of the total)
- most **public forum monuments** are located in Bucharest and Ilfov (on aggregate 132 monuments, 19.2% of the total), Iași (54 monuments, 7.8% of the total) and Constanța (43 monuments, 6.2% of the total), and the fewest (less than 10 monuments each) in Brăila, Mehedinți, Hunedoara, Brașov, Covasna, Bacău, Teleorman, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Harghita, Buzău, Ialomița and Tulcea. We notice that the counties of Vaslui and Călărași have no public forum monuments.
- most **memorial and funerary monuments** are located in Cluj (437 monuments, 23.2% of the total), Bucharest and Ilfov (on aggregate 255 monuments, 13.5% of the total) and Iași (163 monuments, 8.7%), and the fewest (less than 1% of the total) in the counties of Arad, Harghita, Constanța, Hunedoara, Alba, Bacău, Ialomița, Caraș-Severin, Covasna, Botoșani, Tulcea, Bistrița-Năsăud, Satu Mare, Galați, Sălaj and Teleorman

✓ **Distribution of historical monuments by development regions:**

- **in accordance with the total number of historical monuments**, most of them are located in the Center region (5,079 monuments, 16.8% of the total), closely followed by the South (Muntenia/Wallachia) region (4,776 monuments, 15.8% of the total), the North-West region (4,480 monuments, 14.8% of the total), the North-East region (4,003 monuments, 13.3%), Bucharest-Ilfov region (3,381 monuments, 11.2% of the total), South-West (Oltenia) region 3,322 monuments, 11.1% of the total), the South-East region (2,999 monuments, 10% of the total) and the West region (2,107 monuments, 7% of the total);
- **in accordance with the value group** in which they were classified, the highest number of **category A** historical monuments are located in the Center region (1,950 monuments, 28.4% of the total) and in the South (Muntenia/Wallachia) region (1,293 monuments, 18, 8% of the total), and the fewest in the

Bucharest-Ilfov region (361 monuments, 5.2% of the total). The largest number of **category B** historical monuments are located in the South (Muntenia/Wallachia) region (3,483 monuments, 15% of the total), North-West region (3,482 monuments, 15% of the total), North-East region (3,361 monuments, 14.4% of the total), and the fewest in the West region (1,535 monuments, 6.6% of the total);

- the most numerous **archeological monuments** are located in the North-West region (1,796 monuments, 18.5% of the total), the South-East region (1,724 monuments, 17.8% of the total) and the North-East region (1,638 monuments, 17% of the total), and the fewest in the South-West Oltenia region (700 monuments, 7.2% of the total) and the West region (640 monuments, 6.6% of the total);
- the most numerous **architectural monuments** are located in the Central region (3,709 monuments, 20.7% of the total) and the South (Muntenia/Wallachia) region (3,034 monuments, 17% of the total), and the fewest in the South-East region (988 monuments, 5 , 5% of the total);
- the most numerous **public forum monuments** are found in the regions of Bucharest-Ilfov (132 monuments, 19.2% of the total), North-East (99 monuments, 14.4% of the total) and South-East (95 monuments, 13 , 8% of the total), and the fewest are in the North-West, South (Muntenia) and Center regions (9.6% of each);
- most **memorials and funerary monuments** are located in the North-West region (499 monuments, 26.5% of the total) and South (Muntenia) region (375 monuments, 20% of the total), and the fewest in the West region (65 monuments, 3.4% of the total).

Based on a simple calculation formula, by summing up the total number of historical monuments and then dividing it to the area of the counties and development regions of Romania, their **tourist attractiveness/heritage density** can be determined. Thus, the attractiveness is given by the level of concentration of the cultural assets in the territory, which can encourage the emergence of income-generating activities and jobs.

*Density of historical monuments (heritage density) – by counties*

| No. | County                   | Area<br>(1,000<br>sqkm) | No. of<br>historical<br>monuments | Heritage density |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Municipaliy of Bucharest | 0.24                    | 2,651                             | 11,045.8         |
| 2.  | Ilfov                    | 1.564                   | 730                               | 466.8            |
| 3.  | Dâmbovița                | 4.056                   | 1,237                             | 305.0            |
| 4.  | Iași                     | 5.477                   | 1,634                             | 298.3            |
| 5.  | Cluj                     | 6.672                   | 1,791                             | 268.4            |
| 6.  | Prahova                  | 4.715                   | 1,073                             | 227.6            |
| 7.  | Sibiu                    | 5.432                   | 1,053                             | 193.9            |
| 8.  | Brașov                   | 5.361                   | 986                               | 183.9            |

| No. | County          | Area<br>(1,000<br>sqkm) | No. of<br>historical<br>monuments | Heritage density |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 9.  | Covasna         | 3.707                   | 594                               | 160.2            |
| 10. | Giurgiu         | 3.544                   | 540                               | 152.4            |
| 11. | Mureș           | 6.705                   | 1,018                             | 151.8            |
| 12. | Argeș           | 6.822                   | 1,022                             | 149.8            |
| 13. | Bistrița-Năsăud | 5.358                   | 768                               | 143.3            |
| 14. | Buzău           | 6.101                   | 869                               | 142.4            |
| 15. | Sălaj           | 3.867                   | 546                               | 141.2            |
| 16. | Olt             | 5.503                   | 758                               | 137.7            |
| 17. | Vâlcea          | 5.764                   | 791                               | 137.2            |
| 18. | Mehedinți       | 4.942                   | 570                               | 115.3            |
| 19. | Harghita        | 6.637                   | 742                               | 111.8            |
| 20. | Alba            | 6.25                    | 686                               | 109.8            |
| 21. | Botoșani        | 4.987                   | 510                               | 102.3            |
| 22. | Constanța       | 7.104                   | 694                               | 97.7             |
| 23. | Caraș-Severin   | 8.532                   | 832                               | 97.5             |
| 24. | Maramureș       | 6.303                   | 610                               | 96.8             |
| 25. | Dolj            | 7.425                   | 700                               | 94.3             |
| 26. | Neamț           | 5.897                   | 537                               | 91.1             |
| 27. | Gorj            | 5.572                   | 503                               | 90.3             |
| 28. | Vrancea         | 4.854                   | 427                               | 88.0             |
| 29. | Vaslui          | 5.317                   | 438                               | 82.4             |
| 30. | Hunedoara       | 7.072                   | 518                               | 73.2             |
| 31. | Satu Mare       | 4.42                    | 310                               | 70.1             |
| 32. | Teleorman       | 5.788                   | 392                               | 67.7             |
| 33. | Tulcea          | 8.484                   | 574                               | 67.7             |
| 34. | Suceava         | 8.553                   | 518                               | 60.6             |
| 35. | Bihor           | 7,539                   | 455                               | 60,4             |
| 36. | Galați          | 4,465                   | 263                               | 58,9             |
| 37. | Călărași        | 5,087                   | 285                               | 56,0             |
| 38. | Bacău           | 6,622                   | 366                               | 55,3             |
| 39. | Arad            | 7,746                   | 417                               | 53,8             |
| 40. | Ialomița        | 4,455                   | 227                               | 51,0             |
| 41. | Timiș           | 8,692                   | 340                               | 39,1             |
| 42. | Brăila          | 4,766                   | 172                               | 36,1             |

**Source:** Calculations made by the authors, based on data from the List of Historical Monuments (2015) as well as INS data – Regional economic and social landmarks (2019 - for county areas)

As can be seen, the data presented in the table above reflect the fact that, at national level, there is an obvious imbalance between the patrimonial density of the capital city and the 41 counties of the country. There are areas with significant heritage densities, such as

Ilfov, Dâmbovița, Iași, Cluj, Prahova, Sibiu and Brașov counties (which are important centers of interest in terms of historical monuments), but also areas with low heritage densities, such as the counties of Arad, Ialomița, Timiș and Brăila. The variety and spread of historical monuments throughout Romania (even if they are uneven) is still an advantage in encouraging the coming of tourists in the country, both in urban and rural areas.

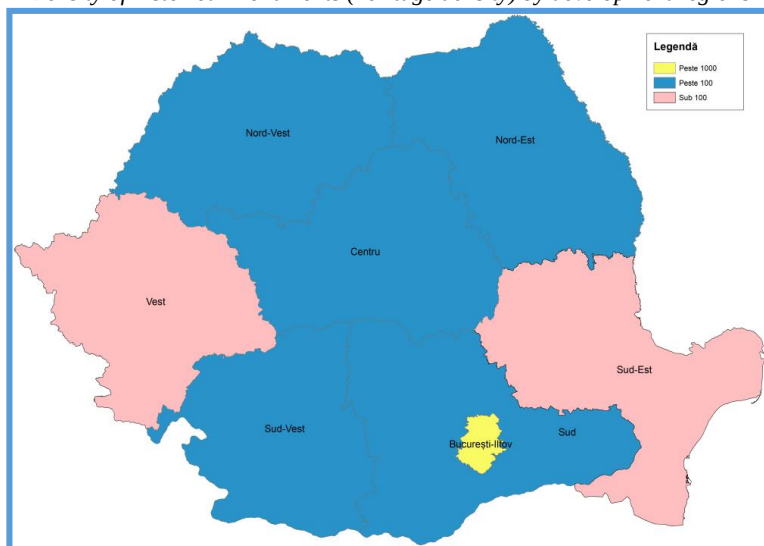
The situation is the same when one analyses the development regions, where again the Bucharest-Ilfov area is on the first place in terms of concentration of historical monuments. In the table and the map below we present data and information likely to illustrate the distribution of historical monuments according to the surface of the development regions.

*Density of historical monuments (heritage density) – by development regions*

| No. | Development region   | Area (1,000 sqkm) | No. historical monuments | Heritage density |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Bucharest – Ilfov    | 1.804             | 3,381                    | 1,874.2          |
| 2.  | Centre               | 34.092            | 5,079                    | 149.0            |
| 3.  | South – Muntenia     | 34.467            | 4,776                    | 138.6            |
| 4.  | North-West           | 34.159            | 4,480                    | 131.2            |
| 5.  | South-West – Oltenia | 29.206            | 3,322                    | 113.7            |
| 6.  | North-East           | 36.853            | 4,003                    | 108.6            |
| 7.  | South-East           | 35.774            | 2,999                    | 83.8             |
| 8.  | West                 | 32.042            | 2,107                    | 65.8             |

**Source:** Calculations performed by the authors, based on data from the List of Historical Monuments (2015) as well as INS data – Regional economic and social landmarks (2019 – for the areas of the development regions)

*Density of historical monuments (heritage density) by development regions*



**Source:** Map made by the authors, based on data from the List of Historical Monuments (2015) as well as INS data – Regional economic and social landmarks (2019 – for the area of development regions)

The national cultural heritage represents a significant tourist resource, essentially due to the particularities and the interest that it displays, but also due to the continuous growth of the tourism conducted for cultural purposes. At the same time, it is a fundamental resource for sustainable development, but at the same time it is a fairly large financial resource consumer, since many of its components require conservation actions. In addition, due to mismanagement and lack of funds, it has deteriorated. Therefore, putting to ever better use the material national cultural heritage presupposes, on the one hand, conserving and preserving it well and, on the other hand, its proper arrangement and rehabilitation, so that it can fulfill its cultural, social and educational task.