

Case 4: Rowmania Ecotourism Center



Who?

REC is a social enterprise initiated by the Romanian Ecotourism Association (AER) and Ivan Patzachin Association. It offers touristic experiences in Danube Delta centered on “canotca” rentals (onto several itineraries ranging to from 2-3 hours to an entire day and guided tours). “Canotca” is a new rowing boat model born from the traditional Danube Delta craftsmanship, designed by the famous international sportsman Ivan Patzaichin. The economic activity is developed around these services.

What?

REC's aim has been:

- To get certification of local guest houses and marketing traditional products.
- To encourage the social enterprise as part of a national “slow tourism” initiative
- To develop local communities economy that will use ecotourism as an economic vector

Why?

Explore the hidden wonders of the Danube Delta at the slow pace of paddling a traditional boat, to discover the unique, unspoiled habitat and the rich cultural heritage of Europe's largest wetlands. Hidden water pathways, sand dunes, abundant birdlife, traditional singing and local gastronomy - all surrounded by the world's largest compact reedbed expanses within UNESCO's Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

How?

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Located in the heart of the Danube Delta, Criș an village, stretching along both sides of the Sulina channel, was founded in the late 19th century during major works on the river were carried out by the European Commission. Surrounded by reed beds, overflowed by spiralling flocks of pelicans, inhabited by Romanians, ethnic Ukrainian, and Russian *Old Believers* Criș an is one of the ideal places for exploring and understanding the Danube Delta. Welcoming houses, many of them still preserving the Ukrainian and Lipovan architectural style, traditional food based on fish, the cool of the evening breeze carrying along local legends and music will be the perfect setting for those interested in exploring the the rich natural and culutral heritage.

Where?

Based in Criș an, in the heart of the Danube Delta, the Rowmania Ecotourism Center offers day trips or multi-day paddling tour packages or tours tailored to your convenience and schedule, guided or self-guided, with our assistance in choosing the best route, transport, accommodation or eating arrangements.

Conclusion

A day of exploration and discovery along the channels and lakes around Criș an village, surrounded by water-lilies, noisy colonies of terns and gulls, weeping willows, pelicans, herons and cormorants will make your day.

Web Links: <http://www.danube.travel/main-menu/explore/Rowmania-Ecotourism-Center---Crișan.l-271.270.html>

Supporting Photos:

