

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological education is one of the main objectives of the Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park (ARMNP). This activity targets and involves local communities, tourists, and generally, all stakeholders, in order to promote greater appreciation of the park's natural and cultural values.

From 2005, the ARMNP organise every year ecological camps for students from local schools. The purpose of these camps is to awaken and develop students' interest in, and love for the park, to instill in them respect for nature and local traditions, to offer an organised framework within which students can express their knowledge, talents and creativity in support of biodiversity conservation and to encourage their support of the park and its administration.








Blazna Valley Camp



Iza Spring Camp

TOURIST INFORMATION

Main hiking routes in Rodnei Mountains:

1.  MAIN RIDGE: Șetref Pass (817 m) - Capul Muntelui - Pietrii Pass (1196 m) - Bătrâna Peak (1710 m) - Bătrâna Meadow - below Gropilor Peak (2063 m) - below Buhăescu Mare peak - below Cormaia Peak (2033 m) - Repede Peak (2074 m) - Galațului (2048 m) - Galațului Saddle - Gărgălăului Saddle - below Gărgălăului Peak (2158 m) - Tarnița lui Putredu - Ineu Peak (2279 m) - Șaua cu Lac - Ineuț Peak - Prelucile Gajei - Rotunda Pass.
2.  Rebrîșoara - Rebra - Parva - Gușet Valley - Tarnița la Cruce.
 Borșa(center) - Meteorological Station - Iezer - Pietrosu Peak (2303 m) - below Rebra Peak (2221 m) - Tarnița la Cruce, in Maramureș County.
3.  Anieș - Anieșului Valley - Gărgălăului Saddle - below Știol Peak (1611 m) - Borșa tourist complex.
 Anieș - Gărgălău Saddle, in Bistrița-Năsăud County.
4.  Rodna - Vinului Valley - Curățel Saddle - Saddle with Lake - below Ineu Peak (connection to route 1) in Bistrița-Năsăud County.
5.  Sanț town - Blaznei Valley Camp - Cobășel Peak (1835 m) - Roșu Peak (2113 m) - Ineuț Peak (connection to route 1), in Bistrița-Năsăud County.

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**RODNA MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK
BIOSPHERE RESERVE**





Main ridge

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT PROTECTED AREAS

The natural capital of Romania includes the physical-geographical environment and fauna and flora components and structures, and represents the life-support of our society. The conservation and sustainable use of this capital are considered a major public interest objective and hold a priority position within the national strategy for sustainable development.

Apart from the general laws protecting the environment (applicable in the entire country), this strategy outlines special measures to delimitate and protect certain areas of outstanding interest for nature conservation. According to the current legislation (the Government's Emergency Ordinance no.57/2007), a **natural protected area** is 'a legally established land, water and/or underground area that is under special regulations for its protection and conservation and that presents species of plants and wild animals, biogeographical, landscape, geological, paleontological, speleological or other elements and formations of outstanding ecological, scientific or cultural value.'

The National Forest Administration ROMSILVA manages 12 national parks (Domogled-Valea Cernei, Retezat, Cheile Nerei-Beuşniţa, Munţii Rodnei, Cheile Bicazului-Hăşmaş, Călimani, Cozia, Piatra Craiului, Semenic-Cheile Caraşului, Munţii Măcinului, Buila-Vânturariţa, Defileul Jiului) and 10 nature parks (Porţile de Fier, Apuseni, Bucegi, Grădiştea Muncelului-Cioclovina, Balta Mică a Brăilei, Vânători-Neamţ, Munţii Maramureşului, Putna-Vrancea, Lunca Mureşului, Comana).

The national parks correspond to IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Category II: 'protected area managed mainly for ecosystem conservation and recreation', while the nature parks correspond to IUCN Category V: 'protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation'.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS OF THE RODNA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The Rodna Mountains National Park is located in the northern part of the Eastern Carpathians and boasts the two highest peaks from this mountain range: Pietrosu Peak - 2303 m, Ineu Peak - 2279 m.

From an administrative point of view, the park spans the counties of Maramureş and Bistriţa-Năsăud, and three forest administration county offices: Bistriţa, Baia Mare and Suceava.

The Rodna Mountains consist mainly of crystalline layers. From the entire Eastern Carpathian chain, the Rodna Mountains have preserved the best traces of Quaternary glaciers. The glacier landscape is well developed on the northern slope where some glacier circuses can be found (Pietrosu, Buhăiescu, Negoescu). Glacier lakes, perched just beneath the mountain ridge at an altitude between 1800 - 1950 m, represent another specific landscape feature of the Rodna Mountains. The most important ones are: Iezer, Tăurile Buhăiescului, Lala Mare, Lala Mică, Ştiol.

On the southern slopes, the presence of limestone bedrock facilitated the development of a karst landscape, with some remarkable caves: Izvorul Albastru al Izei, Cobăşel, Baia lui Schneider.

The diversity of fauna and flora species found here is very high, with more than 3300 species identified so far. The flora is very rich, in excess of 1100 species of flowering plants being described of which many are endemic species and glacier relics. *Silene nivalis* (Opaitul Munţilor Rodnei) is an endemic plant for The Rodna Mountains.

Invertebrates are also very well represented, and numerous endemic species are present. Some of the more representative vertebrates found in the park are: chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), and alpine marmot (*Marmota marmota*).

Marmota marmota (alpine marmot)



Rupicapra rupicapra (chamois)



Tetrao tetrix (black grouse)



Lynx lynx (lynx)



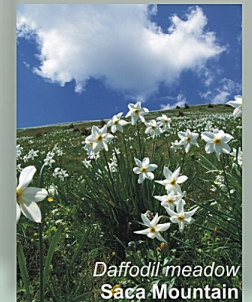
Silene nivalis
(Opaitul Munţilor Rodnei)



Buhăiescu Lake



Lala Mare Lake



Daffodil meadow
Saca Mountain

ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE RODNA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK AREA

Those interested have the possibility to hike on certain mountain routes accompanied by specialized guides, authorised by National Authority for Tourism.

In this way, tourists have the opportunity to observe the variety of flora with rare or endemic species (*Silene nivalis*), and to enjoy the lake and mountain landscape, the glacier circuses and the unique wildlife elements.

If winter sports are the challenge that you are looking for, the Rodna Mountains offer opportunities to practice them on the ski slopes in Borsa and Blazna Valley.

You could also visit the park on horse-back. The Park Administration offer 10 special tourism programmes, of which 2 are equestrian tourism programmes for a day-trips and 8 take between 1 and 3 days hiking accompanied by specialised guides. Tourists can admire the beauty of the Daffodil Meadow, Horses Waterfall, Ştiol Lake, Lala Lake, Pietrosu, Ineu, Ineuţ and Roşu Peaks.

The recommended period for these programmes is May - September.