

# RODNA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The **Rodna Mountains National Park** (Romanian: Parcul National Muntii Rodnei) is a protected area (national park category II IUCN) situated in Romania, in the administrative territory of counties Bistrita-Nasaud, Maramures, and Suceava.



## DESCRIPTION

The Rodna Mountains National Park with an area of 465.99 km<sup>2</sup> (179.92 sq mi) was declared natural protected area by the Law Number 5 of March 6, 2000 (published in Monitorul Oficial Number 152 of April 12, 2000) and represents a mountainous area (ridges, mountain peaks, cirques, crevasses, caves, moraines, springs, valleys, forests, and pastures) that shelters a large variety of flora and fauna species, some protected by law.

**Natural reserves** included in the park:

- Bistrita-Nasaud County
  - Poiana cu narcise de pe Masivul Saca, 5 ha (12 acres)
  - Ineu-Lala, 2,568 ha (6,350 acres)
  - Izvoarele Mihaiesei, 50 ha (120 acres)
- Maramures County
  - Izvorul Batrana, 0.5 ha (1.2 acres)
  - Pietrosu Mare, scientific reservation 3,300 ha (8,200 acres)
  - Piatra Rea, scientific reservation 409 ha (1,010 acres)
- Suceava County
  - Bila-Lala, 325.1 ha (803 acres)



## GEOGRAPHY

The Rodna Mountains have one of the longest continuous ridges in Romania, with over 50 km (31 mi) from west to east and a width of over 25 km (16 mi). The massif covers an area of about 1,300 km<sup>2</sup> (500 sq mi). The highest points are Pietrosul Rodnei at 2,303 m, Ineu Peak at 2,279 m (7,477 ft), Ineuț Peak at 2,202 m (7,224 ft), Gârgalău Peak at 2,159 m (7,083 ft), and Omu Peak at 2,010 m (6,590 ft).

The mountains are most suited for hiking in summer and skiing in winter, and are especially famous for having snow late into the summer months (skiing is possible well into June, sometimes even July). While the ridge itself poses no difficulties, the challenge is the massive length of it, and the absence of drinkable water (except for a few puddles that are usually dry). A complete hike along the main Rodnei ridge takes between 3 and 5 days, depending on the weather and the endurance of the hiker.

The massif has some caves, notable among them being Izvorul Tour parlor, the deepest cave in Romania, reaching about 479 m (1,572 ft) beneath the surface and Igheabul lui Zalion, 242 m (794 ft) deep.

## ACCESS

The most used access points to the mountain are:

- Setref Pass, by car or train, from the Dealu Stefanitei train station.
- Borsa city, by car or bus; from the center of the city there is a path to the Iezer weather station and lake.
- Borsa ski resort, by car or bus; access is made from the top of the ski slope, directly to the main ridge at "Saua Gargalau".
- Prislop Pass, by car; from the pass there is a marked path that meets the one from the top of the ski slope, also leading to "Saua Gargalau".
- Rodna Veche village, by train or car; from the village there are two marked paths leading to the main ridge, one of them going directly to the Ineu Peak.



## ACCOMMODATION



There are a few resorts at the base of the mountain, notably Borta ski resort, with a few hotels and many privately run guesthouses, and also the new "Valea Blaznei" resort, completed in 2007, near the village Sant. It contains two notable places to stay, "Cabana Vio" at

1,100 m (6 km from Sant village), and a bit higher, "Cabana Diana" at 1,240 m, which is a mountain refuge. Up on the ridge there is no accommodation whatsoever, so tourists should bring tents.

## NATURE RESERVE

---

The entire Rodna Mountain is included in the Rodna National Park and Biosphere Reserve. This is a 567 km<sup>2</sup> (219 sq mi) reservation in the Eastern Carpathians with brown bears, lynx, gray wolves, black capercaillies, and eagles.

