

Şeitin - a millenary Romanian settlement

i. Aspects of local geography

Lying in the West of Romania, Şeitin village is situated 45 km far from Arad city and 13 km far from the borders of Hungary.

There are various means of transport towards and within the village due to its close location by an important motorway and its railway branch. The continental climate with oceanic influences cause mild winters and long and warm summers here, in Şeitin.

Şeitin village enjoys the vicinity of Mureş river, which flows in the south of the village. With its permanent and big enough flow, rich in fish, with fertile meadows, good means of transport and powerful energetic force, Mureş river keeps up with the people living in this places, putting its wealth and potential to serve the villages around it.

Being in the geographical area of the Meadow Mureş, fauna and flora of the Şeitin is varied. We find here a rich vegetation, formed by different species of oak, locust trees and plant field. Of the animals living in these places can be mentioned the rabbit, the fox, the pheasant, the deer, the wild pig and other species.

II. Milestones in time-history file of the place

Şeitin village, an ancient Romanian settlement, has a rich historical tradition accumulated since ancient times.

a) Old age

The oldest trace of human cohabitation has been discovered in the village border at the place called "Tăietura". This is dated from the Neolithic era.

The first mention about Şeitin village dates from September 1138. The name of the document is "Villa Sahtu."

b) The IV-IX centuries

Since the IVth century the number of barbaric incursions grew, nomadic cultures committing itself not only in wars of plunder, but also in peaceful exchanges with the locals.

c) Medieval age

Over time, the place was owned by several noble. For example, in the Xth century it is part of Corvineşti areas, for the next half century to enter the property of Queen Isabella and John Sigismund, king of Hungary.

In the year 1596, the settlement was burned by the Turks. Due to this fact it has not been occupied for 30 years.

However, in 1624, in a letter, Gabriel Betheln, prince of Transylvania, noted that, the village began to slowly recover from the ruins.

After the victory of Austria over the Turks, in 1697, in the village was set order guards, who disappears while setting a new border between the two powers, this time on the Danube.

d) Modern age

The modern age brings new changes in the territory of our country. It is the period of Romanian revolutions, of the independence war and of the Great Union. Şeitin villagers have lived all these events being not only witnesses but also active participants. For example, at the Assembly from Alba Iulia, in 1918, took part 12 Şeitin residents.

Interesting to note is the favorable emigration current toward U.S.A. It appeared in the early 20th century due to the desire of people to earn as much as they can to improve their way of life. They did not establish in the country, but returned to Şeitin, where they invested their wealth earned abroad.

The entrance of our country in the Second World War, in the summer of 1941, caused disturbances and failures in economic and social life. Since the first months of the war a large number of children of the village fell in battle.

e) The communist period

After completion of the Second World War, the local community was involved in the profound structural transformation, which had broad implications and consequences on the lives of the inhabitants over a period of half a century. The constructions of new company were made here, as throughout the country, under the logo of the formal social renovation, guided by new models, strategy and policy development called "socialism".

In this context, on 25 July 1950, in Şeitin was build the first collective farm household. In the year 1960 the collective farm household included the whole village.

f) Contemporary history

The year 1989 brings the beginning of a new era. There were taken new measures to ensure a good economic climate and free participation of the people to elections.

d) Nowadays

Nowadays, Şeitin village is marked by the development of local economy.

Local management is taking into consideration the upgrade of local infrastructure.

Other objectives are:

- the investment into a new and modern school building
- the cooperation between local units entrepreneurs and foreign investors
- the economic integration into the European Union

III. Cultural and spiritual life

Cultural and spiritual life of the village Şeitin is the product of specific interaction of the environment in which its inhabitants live.

a) Education

The first school was established in 1770 by the regiment of guards standing on the river Mureş. Since 1922 in Şeitin was set up the Students "House of Culture Şeitin" and Cultural Society of Students from Şeitin." They worked until 1948.

An important component of school life has been the educational and extracurricular work in diverse forms, such as scientific circles or sports competitions.

Currently the school has a general number of 300 pupils and around 30 members of academic staff.

b) Faith, church and religious life

In the village are two churches, an Orthodox one and a Greek-Catholic Church. They were built 100 years one of another.

Thus, the Orthodox Church began to be built in 1789 and finished after 10 years. The church is called, "St. Gregory the God bearer."

The Greek-Catholic Church is named, "Conceiving of Saint Ana "and is built in Gothic style.

Along with the Orthodox and Greek Catholics, in the parish are living, in peace and harmony, members of other confessions.

c) Other institutions from the community

The city hall has a modern building equipped with a conference room, bureaus and other specific locations. There are working around 20 employers watching over the good interest of the village.

The police headquarter is situated near the town hall and there are 2 policemen always at the duty. The relationship between the local community and the police is efficient, working together for assuring a calm and peaceful climate.

The existence of rather numerous local communities created the need for local institutions such as Local Council, Bank, Post Office, Dispensary, or other such legal frameworks necessary for a good collaboration at the local level.