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TPOLOGY OF RECREATIONAL-TOURISM RESOURCES AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE TOURIST OFFER

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Abstract:

Tourism or the hospitality industry is among those economic activities that apart from realizing direct economic profits, it directly or indirectly impacts on the development of many other industries. Tourism through the tourist movements has a major impact on the geographical space, this effect is manifested on all the elements that make up the space, and these effects can be economic, social, public and environmental. Tourism consists of two basic components: Tourist movement and consumption, tourist movement is a basic spatial element while tourism consumption is the basic element of the tourism industry expressing the economic impact of tourism. Tourist movement necessarily initiate tourism consumption. In this context the question arises: what initiates tourist movement? The answer is: recreational-tourism resources are the main initiators for tourist travel and a very important tourist motive which animates the tourist movement. If the recreational-tourist resources are characterized by greater attractiveness better ambient and greater curiosity value, etc. this will initiate more massive tourist movement and greater tourist consumption. Therefore the necessity of defining, explaining, analyzing, and sharing recreational - tourism resources will be the key factors and subjects of analysis in this paper.

Key words: tourism, recreational resources, tourism resources, recreation need.

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INTRODUCTION

To be able to make systematization, division, analysis and determination of tourism concepts, including recreational and tourist resources, I think that it is necessary at the beginning to define and determine the term tourism and define tourism as a

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phenomenon, as it is a basic starting axiom which imposes other terms related to tourism, as is the case with the term recreational-tourism resources.

Early as in the 1942, K.Krapf and V.Hunziker, in Zurich gave one of the first definitions for tourism, which is universal and it is as follows: "the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, insofar as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected with any earning activity" (Hrabovski-Tomic 2008). The objective of this definition is to be allowed and be adopted by the International Association of Travel Experts (AIEST).

This definition is too general, so it cannot get to the notion of the recreational and the tourist resources by defining tourism, so I think that a much more acceptable definition comes from professor Panov N. and is as follows "tourism is a set of relations and phenomena related to movement and consumption outside the place of residence, in order to meet the recreational and cultural needs" (Panov 2006). In this definition, according to the understanding of tourism professor Panov defines the recreational needs of tourists as one of the main motivations for travel. This is confirmed with the official definition of tourism by the World Tourism Organization published in 1994, which states: "Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, recreation, business, and other purposes." WTO.

THE ROLE OF RECREATION IN TOURISM

The importance and the role of recreation as an integral part of tourism are especially emphasized by S. Williams, who says: "in the approach of studying tourism, we must realize that the relation or connection between rest or leisure, recreation and tourism is much closer and more intimate ... "(Williams 2009).

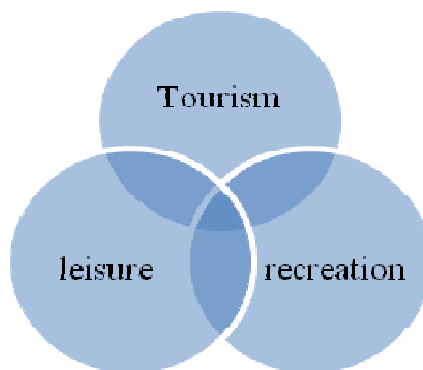


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the relationship between leisure, recreation and tourism by S. Williams.

The same author considers recreation as a very important part in defining the different types of tourism, so in his typology of tourism, among other types of tourism, he separates recreational tourism as a special form of tourism.

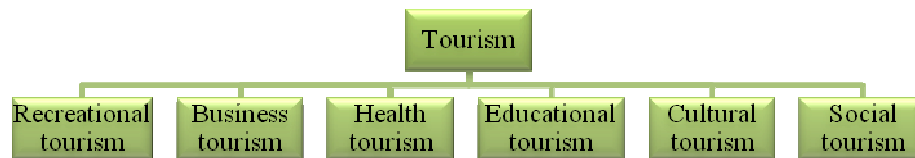


Figure 2. Type's tourism typology according to S. Williams

Recreation as a term appears in the definition in the backpacker tourism which is a major participant in the tourist movement. Definition of the term tourist in sense can be wider and narrower depending on the context in which it is used. Therefore in the broadest sense of the term "a tourist is any person who visits places and spends a certain amount of money, regardless of the purpose of his visit" while the opposite definition of a tourist in the narrow sense of the term is as follows: "a tourist in the true sense of the word is considered a person who visits a place and spends a certain amount of money, but it is closely related with satisfying the recreational and cultural needs."

Depending on the type of tourists, recreation can be a primary or secondary activity, during their travel and downtime. Charles R. Goeldner and J. R. Brent Richie (2009), give a classification according to the basic objective of the tourists, according to the primary and secondary activities of tourists. According to these authors, the primary purpose of the trip may be: business, visiting relatives and friends, and other private affairs and of course pleasure, enjoyment and recreation. According to this division with tourists who travel for pleasure, recreation is the primary tourist activity, while with tourists traveling for business, recreation occurs as a secondary tourist activity.

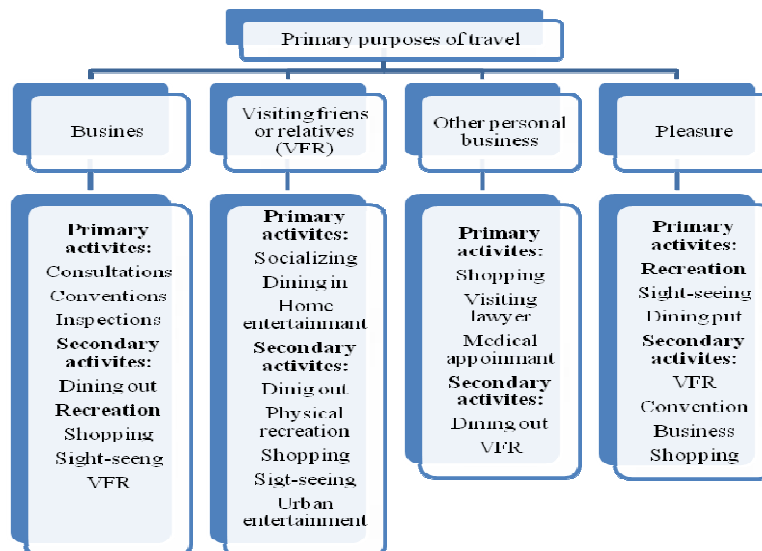


Figure 3. Separating tourists according to the purpose of their journey and activities (Goeldner and Richie 2009)-Classification of travelers

From this definition and understanding of the concept of tourism and tourist it is more than clear that recreation is a very important component of some forms of tourism, and the basic component of the tourist movement and tourism as an economic and social activity. If this is so, then it can be concluded that the recreation has the role of motivating travel and that is a very important tourist resource.

TYPOLGY OF RECREATIONAL AND TOURIST RESOURCES

According Lazik (2007) "Tourism resources are called tourist attractive phenomena and objects in nature and society which are essential for inducing tourists" Prof. M. Maksin-Michik gives a similar definition, according to which "The term tourism resources include attractive and cultural resources and goods, that is, elements in the spatial system that have a stimulating effect on the tourism movement by satisfying a wide range of tourist needs and creating a tourism product."

In order for the phenomena, the objects and elements to be travel resource, they must contain at least one attractive attribute, i.e. to have an attractive property that allows satisfying any travel need. Attractive properties or attributes of tourism resources can be: recreational, tempting the curiosity, prominent and esthetic. Recreational tourism resource attribute is an attribute of the resource, through certain properties affect the physiological function of the tourists. According to the effect of attractiveness tourism resources are divided as recreational and cultural, while according to the genesis they are natural and anthropogenic. Tourist resources depending on the attractive properties can be divided into: complex, independent and complementary.

The tourism resources that have or contain recreational attributes are called recreational and tourist resources. The basic and general division of tourism resources is applicable both for recreational and touristic resources and according to it; they may be divided according to genesis, attractiveness, and the attractive properties as well as according to the geographical area in which they are located.

According to the genesis recreational-tourism resources are divided into:

- Natural recreational-tourism resources
- Anthropogenic recreational and tourist resources

Natural recreational and tourist resources are created by nature and they as such exist in geographical spaces independent of tourist demand and need. They are confirmed as recreational and tourist resources by the use of the tourists to satisfy their recreational needs. (Example: mountainous areas are independent of the needs and desires of the people, but at the moment when they are used by recreational tourists, they become natural recreational and tourist resources).

Anthropogenic recreational and tourist resources are created by man. The main objective for their use is tourist recreation and they are usually specially created for recreation. These resources can be built strictly for leisure tourists (example: within a hotel complex, resorts, nearby resorts, etc.), But they also can be built as recreational facilities or areas in a populated area and they can be used by the tourists which are there and they can be used by the tourism industry (example: sports fields which can be used by the locals and tourists during their stay).

According to the attractive feature recreational and tourist resources can be:

- Recreational and tourist resources solely for recreation
- Recreational and tourist resources with cultural affiliations.

The first such tourism resources are the ones that meet only recreational component, i.e. they satisfy exclusively the needs of the tourists (example: breathing, stimulating blood circulation, metabolism, etc.). The latter except for the recreational purpose have a cultural component, i.e. despite the physiological need they satisfy some psychological needs of the tourists (ex: emotions, aesthetics, association, imagination, etc.). In this division we can mention such tourism resources which have cultural characteristics but also have recreational impacts (ex: the long walks in consideration with the cultural landmarks in a metropolis, these also contain a recreational component, i.e. they satisfy the recreational needs of the tourists).

According to the attractive properties recreational-tourism resources can be divided into:

- Complex recreational and tourist resource
- Individual recreational-tourism resource and
- Complementary recreational and tourist resource.

The complex recreational and tourist resource has the greatest impact and offers the most opportunities for different types of recreations, a different structure of tourists throughout the year (ex: mountains a such resource, offering the opportunity for a number of recreations: hiking, walking, mountain biking, rock climbing, paragliding, winter sports, etc.). Second, independent recreational and tourist resource is such that they have the ability to independently attract leisure tourists who especially come for that kind of recreation and those resources are (ex: golf courses, aqua-parks, recreational facilities, etc.). Complementary recreational-tourism resources are with the least attractive properties, and they are such that they do not have the power alone to attract tourists, but their evaluation is they complement and unite tourists in a tourist area (ex: sports and recreational facilities in a tourist resorts are not the underlying motive for the arrival, but they complement the tourist offer and tourists can use these facilities for recreation).

According to the geographical space the tourist resources can be divided into two basic groups:

- Urban recreation-tourism resources and
- Rural recreational and tourist resources.

This division of recreational-tourism resources is the simplest and it is made according to the place where they are, therefore urban recreational and tourist resources are those that are located in an urban or urban areas, while the latter are recreational and tourist resources which are located in rural areas, i.e. outside the cities.

When it comes to recreational-tourism resources and their division, then you should keep in mind that they appear in the space as a combination (mix) of existing divisions. This means that none of the recreational and tourist resource can be divided only by one criterion, because in that case the separation would not be complete. (Example: if you want to analyze Kocanska River in the city of Kocani in Eastern Macedonia, we can say that it is a recreational and tourist resource that is natural with a recreational landmark and a complementary capacity for urban recreational and tourist resource).

Table 1. Tabular summary of the typology of recreational-tourism resources

Recreational and tourist resources			
Division of recreational and touristic resources by:		Type of recreational and tourist resource	Types of recreation (activities)
Genesis	Natural	Mountains Rivers Lakes Flora and Fauna	Hiking Walking Alpinism Skiing Driving in a sladge Mountain biking Paragliding Swimming Water sports Fishing Hunting etc.
	Anthropogenic Specially designed for tourism Intended generally for sports and recreation	Sports fields Sport halls Trim tracks Bicycle tracks Roller blade tracks Gyms Swimming pools Aqua parks Theme parks Golf courses Go-cart tracks Hippodromes Recreational areas etc.	Football Basketball Volleyball Badminton Tennis Jogging Cycling Roller balding Swimming Golf Horseback riding Paintball shooting Bungee jumping Fitness etc.
Attractive landmarks	Recreational landmark	Sport fields Swimming pools Fitness centers etc.	
	Cultural landmark	National parks Thematic parks etc.	
Attractive properties	complex	Mountains Recreational areas and facilities, etc.	
	Individual	Golf courses Aqua parks Go-cart tracks	
	Complementary	Public sport facilities Public swimming pool, etc.	
Geographical space	Urban Rural		

RECREATIONAL AND RESOURCES-ELEMENT OF THE TOURIST OFFER

According to this understanding, definition and division, I believe that recreational and tourist resources as content are an inseparable part of every tourist destination. When defining tourist destinations, Gunn (1988) defines them as "a complex variety of recreational and social content that is found in one place ...". This means that recreational-tourist resources are one of the key elements that make up the tourist destination. There are different interpretations and opinions when it comes to the key elements of a tourist destination and different authors offer various explanations. So according to Krippendorf (1987) the elements of the destination can be original and derivative, while recreational and tourist resources adopts in the derived elements. Similar to this division is Laws (1995), that the elements of the tourist destination are divided into primary and secondary, and according to the author recreational and tourist resources belong to the secondary elements. Jovicic (1999) gives a different division under which the items are divided into attractive, functional, material and organizational and in his view recreational resources are in the group of functional elements.

Recreational-tourism resources as an inseparable part or an integral element of the tourist destination have a role when choosing a destination by the tourists. Normally all recreational and tourist resources do not have the same impact, so some recreational and tourist resources are crucial when choosing a destination, while others have less impact, and are not crucial, but enrich the supply of the tourist destination. (Ex: when it comes to recreational tourism the recreational-tourist resources are crucial for the selection of the desired destination, and if it comes to business tourism it is not crucial but it can affect the choice of the destination). Recreational and touristic resources are excepted for the choice of tourist destination and they have a major impact on the satisfaction of the tourists during their stay (ex. congress tourism: maybe the recreational resources will not affect the choice of the destination when organizing a congress, but if they are there they will be used by the participants of the congress during their free time, it will certainly affect the increase in the tourists satisfaction).

CONCLUSION

Due to the importance of the recreational-tourism resources on: tourists, tourist movements, tourist destinations, tourist spending and especially on the tourist offer, and thus the development of tourism, it is extremely important to pay attention to them, in analyzing and assessing the resource potential for development of tourism. Depending on whatever form of tourism there should be a certain recreational and tourist resources, which will be a basis or additional incentive for tourist movement.

By definition the division and typology of the recreational-tourism resources, is more than clear that all recreational and tourist resources do not have the same meaning to enrich and complement the tourist offer. In the context of this understanding, it can be concluded that the analysis of recreational and touristic resources deserve special attention anthropogenic resources, because they are mostly created for leisure tourists and those who are not specially created for leisure tourists can be made for the purpose

of meeting the recreational needs of the tourists. In any case, tourist and recreational resources have great importance and are a major role in increasing tourism spending and the choice of destination, the pleasure of tourists and therefore the greatest impact to complete the tourist offer, and because they also represent one of the most important elements of the tourist offer.

Knowing the importance of recreational-tourism resources and the impact they have on the tourist destination and tourists on the one hand, and the state and the number of them in the space on the other hand, we can say it is particularly important on their typology and they can function better, faster and sustainable development of tourism in each tourist destination, which will be manifested by itself by satisfying tourist demand, increasing tourist movement and enriching the tourist offer.

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