

THE TYPOLOGY OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISM DESTINATIONS

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Abstract. Tourism destinations know as many forms of tourism as there are, many syntagms related to tourism-tourist destinations, impact on tourism, sustainable tourism, cultural tourism, suggest the use of geographic methods in tourism analysis. Tourists are attracted by one or more characteristic features of the tourist destination, natural and built attractions, accommodation, climate, cost of visitation and living standards, local culture, events and entertainment, facilities for business development, transport and communications links. For these reasons, tourism can be classified according to the type of destination visited, and from a geographic point of view, the most important distinction is between international tourism and domestic tourism.

Key words: tourism, tourist destinations, typology.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism destinations, regardless of tourist, natural or anthropogenic resources, know as many forms as there are types of tourism [1,2,4,9,10,14], the European Commission defining the following forms of destinations:

- separately identified and promoted as a tourist destination where the tourist product is coordinated by one or more identifiable authorities or organizations;
- coastal areas that attract tourists looking for seaside activities;
- rural areas that attract tourists who are interested in activities connected with agritourist farm, animal, horticultural or business. Within rural areas as tourist destinations, the forms of niche tourism, agritourism, tourism at the farm, at countryside, the village must provide tourist facilities, especially accommodation, agro-technological farms or in rural equivalent properties, offering the life experience at the country;
- urban areas that attract tourists who come to enjoy primarily by the natural and anthropic resources, mainly in small and large cities, some European capitals of culture in Europe, for example, and by the related activities promoted through cultural actions.

Many syntagms referring to tourism of any kind depending on the "tourist destination", "the impact on tourism", "the sustainable tourism", "the cultural tourism" - suggests for the analysis of tourism in a certain destination, the use of geographical methods because tourists are attracted of one or more of the following characteristic features of the destination: [7,8,15,16,17,18]

- the natural attractions;
- the anthropic or built attractions;
- the type of accommodation;
- the climate from the area;
- the cost of visiting the location
- the living standards;
- the local culture;
- the events;
- the leisure/recreation;
- the facilities for educational, cultural activities;
- the business facilities;

- the transport possibilities;
- the communications networks;
- the landscape.

The popularity and attractiveness of tourism destinations is affected by the following elements[3,5,6,11,12,13]:

- the accessibility in the tourist area;
- the cost of visiting the destination;
- the availability of sightseeing attractions;
- the tourist facilities provided by tourism managers;
- the disturbing factors of tourism, social, political and economic activities;
- the destination image;
- the means of promotion;
- the intensity of promotion
- the destination management.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Because the tourist destination includes the geographical area where there is at least one cluster of tourism resources within this scientific approach, in order to reduce their decline through the development of classical tourism, we analyzed some distinct elements according to the typology of the destinations in order to increase their attractiveness depending on the suitability for certain forms of tourism and to preserve the healthy environment and the sustainable development of the areas.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Tourists based on their type, elite, explorers, eccentric who visit a particular destination to practice a particular form of tourism, that can influence positively or negatively the areas by practicing classical tourism can be divided into the following categories:

- tourists passionate about history,
- tourists passionate of literature;
- tourists passionate of the arts;
- cultural tourists;
- genealogy tourists, eager to find roots;
- religious pilgrims;
- environmental tourists attracted by the landscape and the beauty of their places and are divided into ecotourists and camps;
- recreational travelers;
- adventure seekers;
- amusement tourists;
- tourists shopping;
- sensual travelers;
- status searchers;
- interpersonal travelers.

Tourist categories by tourist destination	
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tourists shopping	
status searchers	
sensual travelers	
interpersonal travelers	

Figure 1. Tourist categories by tourist destination

Specialists from tourism distinguish a variable number of elements that make their destinations attractive and adaptable to the practice of some forms of tourism and which have a positive or negative influence on the natural environment. Three or four elements are taken into account as follows:

- three elements:

a). basic elements:

- the natural and built patrimony;
 - architecture;
 - natural conditions;
 - climate;
 - geographical location.

b). natural peripheral elements:

- surroundings;
- the ambience of the place;
- the local population.

c). peripheral elements created:

- infrastructure;
- transport facilities;
- accommodation, food, leisure;
- commercial and administrative services.

- four elements:

- a). points of attraction;
- b). tourist and commercial facilities and services;
- c). infrastructure;
- d). the image created in time.

Choosing a tourist destination is often made depending on the availability of the means of transport and their implications for sustainability:

- the quality of the journey;
- the convenience of traveling to the destination;
- the cost of the trip;
- price ratio of the destination;
- the duration of the journey;
- tourist services available during the journey;
- travel safety;
- the security of the journey.

Changing the attitude of the population we believe that it can be done by implementing measures at destinations to preserve a healthy environment and sustainable development of the area through:

1. re-evaluation and analysis of existing tourist destinations:

a) classical:

- cities with rich cultural heritage;
- mountain resorts;
- seaside resorts;
- parks.

b) natural:

- landscapes;
- parks and fauna and flora reserves.

c). business:

- cities with potential;
- communes and villages with business potential.

d). short visits:

- cities with tourist vocation with patrimony objectives;
- traditional villages with fishery, pastoral, agricultural, hunting, horticultural business specific;
- local parks, rare plants, variegated tulip;
- secular forests, lilac forests;
- reservations.

2. developing new destinations that to apply environmental friendly principles:

- development of modern forms of ecological tourism, hunting, farm tourism;
- reducing negative effects on wildlife by practicing hunting and virtual fishing;
- observation of hunting animals in the natural area without the trophy collection;
- making souvenirs to faithfully imitate the species of animals and plants present at destinations;
- encouraging the development of organic farming and archaic forms of processing.

3. increasing the offer at promotional prices:

- recreational and fun activities at the farm;
- practicing forms of niche tourism;
- stimulation of craft activities;
- the development of archaic processing centers of agro-technical and horticultural products.

4. reorienting tourism flows.

5. stimulating the use of alternative energy sources:

- Aeolian energy;
- Wave energy;

6. diversification of educational and entertaining cultural activities.

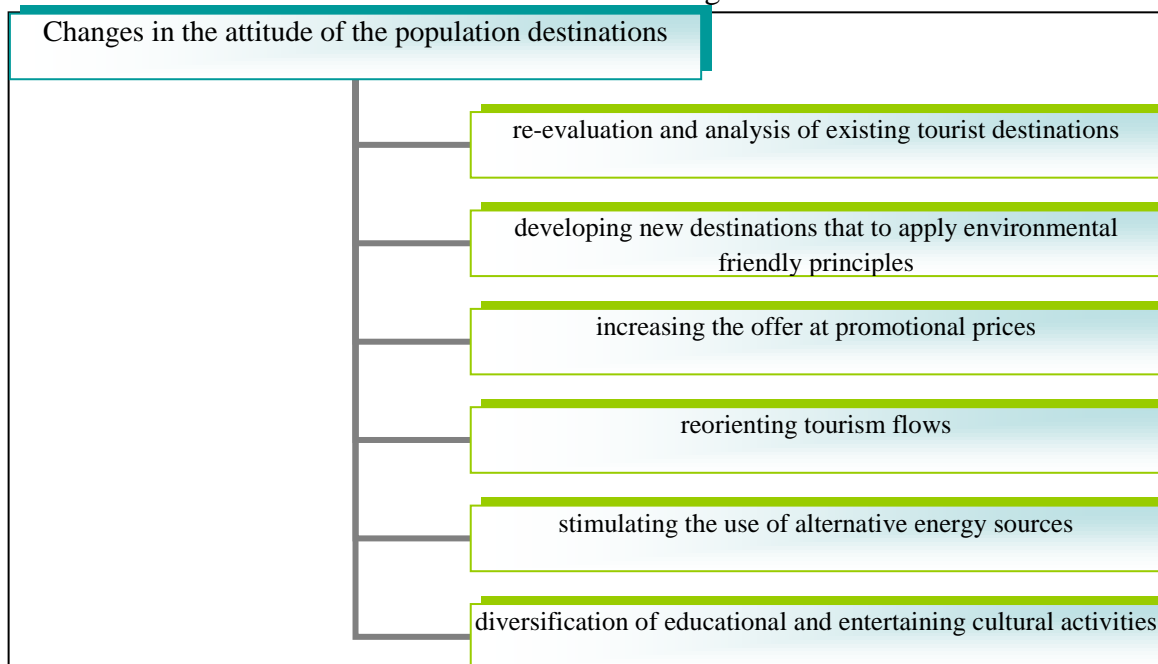


Figure 2. Changes in the attitude of the population regarding tourist destinations

The decline of some destinations can produce in areas where classical tourism has experienced a special development in the past and has affected those destinations a tradition. These destinations are characterized by one or more trends:

- Decreasing the defining elements for the quality of the destination;
- Reduction of competitive success;
- Difficulties in practicing sustainable tourism.

Because the classification of tourist destinations is difficult because one and the same tourist destination can be classified in one or more categories, we consider that the destinations can be classified under the conditions of developing new forms of niche tourism, as follows:

1. Heritage and cultural destinations:
 - a) cultural capitals - cities;
 - b) large and small European capitals of cultures;
 - c) cultural sites.
2. Destinations built for tourism purposes:
 - a). thematic parks;
 - b). resorts;
 - c). holiday villages;
 - d). camps.
3. Large cities for business:
 - a). business centers;
 - b). exhibitions;
 - c) . hotels.
4. Large cities for conferences:
 - a). conference centers;
 - b). hotels.

5. Small cities for conferences and business;
 - a). business centers;
 - b). conference centers;
 - c). large hotels.
6. Large and small cities recognized as destinations for art galleries, cathedrals, works, theaters, parks, memorial houses:
 - a). capital;
 - b). cities.
7. Coastal areas:
 - a). coastal resorts;
 - b). picturesque coasts;
 - c). islands;
 - d). stand-alone areas, shores, coasts, rivers.
8. Rural areas:
 - a). green areas;
 - b). ski areas with ski facilities;
 - c). areas with facilities for equestrian sports;
 - d). parks with hunting facilities;
 - e). deltaic, steppe, mountain hills reservations.

CONCLUSIONS

Many areas are considered as tourist destinations due to their natural, social, historical, religious and linguistic peculiarities that make them notorious through their promotion and development for those who want to practice tourism. Because the tourist destinations are true, indifferent to the nature of the natural or anthropic resources, today know as many forms of tourism as there are, so their classification becomes difficult due to the fact that a destination falls within one or more categories of destinations. The main categories of destinations being heritage and cultural ones, those specially built to meet the needs of tourists, cities and cultural capitals for practicing conference, business and business tourism, coastal areas and, last but not least, rural ones. Changing the attitude of the population regarding destinations can only be done by implementing measures for the sustainable development of areas and preserving a healthy environment. These measures require re-exploration and analysis of destinations, the development of new destinations by reorienting the flow of tourists, stimulating supply and using alternative energy resources.

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