

---

**NATURAL CONDITIONS AS POTENTIAL TOURISM VALUES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO**

---

**Bedri Millaku**

University “Hadji Zeka”, Peja, Kosovo, bedri.millaku@unhz.eu

**Adem Dreshaj**

University “Hadji Zeka”, Peja, Kosovo, adem.dreshaj@unhz.eu

**Afrim Selimaj**

University “Hadji Zeka”, Peja, Kosovo, afrim.selimaj@unhz.eu

**Abstract:** The Republic of Kosovo has the center position in the Balkan Peninsula, which is perched on important tourist routes. Its surface is 10908km<sup>2</sup>. We are presenting geologic features of different and varied ages with various interesting forms for visitors. With relief it is quite heterogeneous with different forms. There are quite favorable climatic conditions for tourist activities in all seasons of the year. Stream water streams and number of mountain and artificial lakes. It has a mosaic of pedological composition and different biogeography conditions. All are potential values for the development of the tourist economy, especially for the development of stationary tourism, weekend, transit, hunting and fishing tourism as well as numerous activities for recreation and recreation, including many forms of tourism. In this area are present attractive attractions worth visiting. In no country in the region compared to their areas, there are no more concentrated potential values than in the Republic of Kosovo. Thanks to these values, the Republic of Kosovo is an attractive place for tourism. Their utilization provides important basis for the development of tourism and income generation as well as for the development of the local economy.

**Keywords:** Tourism, natural conditions, potential values, forms of tourism, tourism development, local economy.

**INTRODUCTION**

Tourism development principles in the Republic of Kosovo are based on the values of tourist potentials. Tourist potentials with their natural value provide the basis for the tourist offer development. The conditions of use and their exploitation will give their effects to the development of tourism. The Republic of Kosovo can be a tourist site and oriented towards tourism development. The growth of investments should be in harmony with the development of the economy in general. Natural conditions are the ones that create attractive tourist values that can be part of the tourist offer. The utilization of tourist potentials, respectively the functionality of natural conditions, is the basis for the development of tourism offerings and economic development, which will result in the rise of the social brut and social income of the country. Natural tourism potentials, if used and included in the range of utilization of tourist attractions, the country will be in the function of utilizing the attractions that will yield results in raising the quality tourist offer. In this way the country will be oriented towards the function of tourism development. The purpose of the work is to include the potential natural values for the development of the tourist activity in order to get started with the countries of the region with which projects on tourism development should be done and the fictionalization of the potential natural values for this area which the country has.

**NATURAL CONDITIONS AS POTENTIAL TOURIST VALUES**

There are many natural conditions that have a special role and importance in the development of a successful tourist product. If these natural values are used in a continuous way, one can talk about a developed tourism. So the development of tourism also depends on the natural conditions which are the potential values that occupy the desired place in the development of tourism. In the past, we have listed some of the natural values that give their effect on the development of tourism.

**Geographical position** - The Republic of Kosovo, if compared to the region, is advantageous in comparison with other countries in the region, corridors passing through it, including roads and railways, and Kosovo's airspace link Europe to Asia, the Balkans and Western Europe. Kosovo has a network of functional international routes, which is considered as an important link for the region's development and wider. With the use of the Thessaloniki-Skopje, Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana highway, which is of strategic importance? Kosovo is an important center on the Balkan Peninsula, which enables the connection of Western Europe to Asia and the Far East. The opening of the Dures - Pristina corridor opens new perspectives and will also be an opportunity to accelerate the economic development and tourism links of the country.

**Geomorphology of the terrain and its values** - The Republic of Kosovo is a territory with high geomorphological values. All represent important values in completing the tourist offer. Attractive (attractive) relief in Kosovo is a tourist potential which includes forms of special interest to be visited by visitors. In the relief there are all forms of high mountains as tourist motifs that lead to the beautiful landscape with deep gorges like Rugova Gorge, Bistrica of Deçan, Cave of Gadime and Radavc. So with a variety of reliefs. In general, Kosovo's reliance on average responds to the absolute altitude of 810 meters. Over half of Kosovo's territory covers an area of over 700 meters which belongs to the mountainous parts, which are singled out with their attraction for the development of different forms of Tourism.

**Topography of terrain in resort use** - The assessment of tourist potentials on the skiing paths in the Sharr Mountains and in the Nemuna Mountains presents great tourist value. Including the ground exposure. Only in the mountains of Nemuna the skiing of the skiing paths is 61450 m which means that for the moment can be skied 61450 skiers who fulfilled the conditions for construction of a winter tourist center. In the mountains of Sharr is built ski center in Brezovica.

Other countries such as Boga, Belegu and Koapaonik Mountains are very big potentials for the development of winter tourism but also for summer and picnic as well as many other forms of tourism.

**Climatic conditions** - These are the factors that are important for the development of summer and winter tourism. Average winter temperatures in January and February range from 0°C to -1.4°C and -0.6°C until summer temperatures reach up to 20°C. Kosovo is characterized by climatic features where autumn is warmer than spring, which ranges from 0.6°C to 1.1°C in October compared with April, where temperatures are low.

*Table 1: The average temperature in the seasons of the year in the cities of Kosovo.*

	Summer	Autumn	Wintry	Spring
Prishtina	19.8	11.1	0.2	9.5
Mitrovica	20	11	0.6	9.8
Ferizaj	22	12.8	0.1	11.5
Gjilani	19.9	11.3	0.6	9.9
Peja	20.9	12.2	1.1	10.9
Prizreni	22	12.8	1.9	11.5
Gjakova	20.6	11.6	0.9	10.5

From the table it can be analyzed that the climatic conditions, the average annual temperatures in the highest cities of Kosovo are in the fall season compared to the spring season. While the highest summer average temperature does not exceed 22°C, while the average winter does not reach the lowest temperature at 0.1°C. The above-mentioned temperatures have been taken for the cities of Kosovo. On the other hand, the climatic conditions in the mountainous areas are very favorable for the development of summer and winter tourism, which have sufficient quality enough snow to slide and its duration, especially during the winter season until the spring season.

**Hydrographic values** - Waters in Kosovo represent quite important values which, with their attributes, can be used for bathing, water sports development. Kosovo has a dense water network, which distinguishes Dukagjini, which, together with the surrounding mountains, is rich in numerous hydrographic objects such as glacial lakes, especially in the Sharr Mountains and Nemuna Mountains, with artificial lakes (Radonić, Batlava, Badovci and Gazivoda), there are also waterfalls such as that of Drini i Bardhë in Radavc and many others.

The attractive canyons of Mirusha which are separated with their attraction with 16 river lakes that relate to waterfall with each other. Special importance of hydrographic facilities is the thermal waters in Kosovo's baths, which include three thermal baths with thermal stations, which are important tourist attractions, most visited by visitors - patients within Kosovo. In the future with environmental regulation of infrastructure can be a factor of high value in the tourist offer because they can be visited 365 days a year compared to other tourist motives. Even the thermal waters of Kosovo and other countries that have a good promise of promise for the future that are valued with 55 sources with different values of mineral content and thermalism are great potential for tourism and patients .

**Flora and fauna-** It is a motif with special tourist values. In Kosovo there are several forest complexes rich in plant and wood formations that have an important role for tourism. Kosovo is rich in forests where 4972 km<sup>2</sup>, which means over 446000 hectares, which expressed in percentage, includes 46.5% of the total area of the territory. The forest is made up of the composition;

- Warming forests include 157515 hectares or 31.6%

- Forage and coniferous forests 9877 hectares or 5.9%
- Mixed forests 278918 hectares or 62.5%.

For conservation some types of plant and animal formations in the world laid down different laws by which some areas are proposed for national park or reserves. Only in Europe without the former community of independent states are some 350 national parks. Kosovo's mountains are rich in endemic plants and relics such as; Munika, Molika, Vlefnia, Frozicia Europea, Chestnut, Boronica etc.

The animal world presents special values with its attraction. The ecological environment in which animals are widespread represents an attractive natural environment for tourists. "Wild cattle and fauna of the waters represent the motives of the tourist and sport manifestation". There are many wild animals present in Kosovo; Capel, wild goat, wolf, brown bear, rabbit, fox, wild boar, deep-sea, wild dove etc. There are many species of fish in the waters. "Nature is beautiful and the use of its material base for the advancement of man in the physical, mental and spiritual state." It is very important to use nature in a rational way by man and to put it in function of the tourist offer.

## CONCLUSION

Tourism development and utilization of tourist potentials are of particular importance. Tourist potentials as physical-geographic values are concentrated across the country. Tourist values based on natural conditions are part of the tourist offer that can be accessed by tourism. These attractions are spread all over the country, which can represent geotagging values that serve tourism development. The attraction of the tourist policy varies in relation to these attractive values that are available to improve the tourist offer and the degree of attractiveness. Each value has created the basic conditions that the Republic of Kosovo provides for the development of many forms of tourism, such as winter, summer, transit, hunting and fishing tourism, seaside, congress and other forms of tourism. Natural conditions are the dominant element which gives importance to the development of tourist activities. In this way, the Republic of Kosovo will be a competitive country with other countries in the region as well as with the wider.

## LITERATURA

- [1] Pushka A. "Metodat kuantitative në Gjeografi", Prishtinë 1981.
- [2] Faulkner, B., & Russell, R. (2000). Turbulence, chaos and complexity in tourism systems: A research direction for the new millennium. In B. Faulkner, G. Moscardo and E. Laws, (Eds.), *Tourism in the 21st century: Lessons from experience* (pp. 328–349). L
- [3] Hall, C. M., Timothy, D. J., & Duval, D. T. (Eds.). (2003). *Safety and security in tourism: Relationships, management, and marketing*. New York: Haworth Hospitality Press.
- [4] E-International Scientific Research Journal London: The socio – Economic.
- [5] Gashi M. "Bazat e Turizmit" Universiteti i Kosovës, Prishtinë 1986
- [6] Gashi M. "Bazat e turizmit – Turizëm dhe Hotelieri" për shkollat të mesme, Prishtinë, 1987.
- [7] Gashi M. "Vlerat turistike në Kosovë" Plani regjional hapësiror i KSAK Prishtinë 1969.
- [8] Gashi M. "Uslovi i mogućnosti za razvoj turizma SAP Kosovo" Prishtinë 1977.
- [9] Gashi M. "Turizmi si fenomen shoqëror bashkohës", Časopis "Përparimi", br.5. Prishtinë 1963. god.
- [10] Gashi M. "Osnovni potencial turističkih vrednosti Kosova", ekspertiza izrađena za potrebe i rade regionalnog prostornog plana Kosova, Priština 1969.
- [11] Boyer M. "Le tourisme", Paris 1970.
- [12] Tourism and post-disciplinary enquiry. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 9(5), 293–319. the 21st century: *Lessons from experience* (pp. 328–349). L
- [13] Tooman, L.A. (1997), "Tourism and Development," *Journal of Travel Research*, Vol. 35, No. 4, 33-4
- [14] Rudolf B. "Tipologija tržišta", informator, Zagreb, 1968.
- [15] Marković S. i Z. "Ekonomika turizma", Zagreb, 1967.
- [16] Jovičić. Ž. "Osnovi turizma" Naučna knjiga, Beograd 1976.
- [17] Jovičić Ž. "Turistička Kretanja" Naučna Knjiga, Beograd 1966.
- [18] World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Statistics Department.

