

## **GEOGRAPHIC TAXONOMY IN TOURISM - Contribution to the methodology of tourism research**

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*The participation of geography in the study and understanding of tourism as an economic activity is remarkable. The development of tourism and its branches is almost unimaginable without the knowledge of geographic parameters and determinants which, among other things, define its taxonomy. Identification of any tourist movements are named by the predominant geographic elements.*

*For example, from the group of relief elements are defined different tourist branches such as: mountain, speleology, mountain climbing and other tourism. In addition, relief affects indirectly on the development of other tourist branches such as, for example, the winter or summer form of tourism.*

*The other geographic sciences have an irreplaceable basis in tourism taxonomy. It is impossible to imagine the development of winter tourism without snowfalls, which are the subject of meteorology and climatology, and again, they are from the geographic science system. The same applies to the development of summer tourism, which is closely linked with the waters of the sea and the land, which are the subject of oceanology and land hydrology; also from the system of geographic sciences. All these and other sciences together form a network system for determination of tourism taxonomy.*

**Key words:** *taxonomy, tourism, geographic identification, geographical elements, geographic sciences, tourist resort, tourist center, tourist node, tourist belt, tourist region*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The nomination of the tourism branches in domain of its divisions is based on the participation of the prevailing identification elements that identify the types of tourism trade. They represent the totality of the elements in the sphere of tourism, and which can also be displayed on a geographical map. This map differs from the geographic map in the content of the proposed tourist routes and tourism infrastructures. In addition, it represents the territorial organization of area aimed for tourism development.

The scheme of the territorial organization of tourism, apart from the specific elements of the tourist trade and the routes of tourist travelings, also shows the geographical features

of the tourist territory that define the taxonomic systems. They contain tourist spots, centers, zones, regions, i.e., deduces the tourist territory to indicative accents, reveals and dissolves the tourist image of their reciprocity according to the hierarchical structure.

In addition, the tourism territorial taxonomy in geographic science has not been systematically elaborated. It is therefore necessary to give the possible variants of the hierarchical classification of development of the territorial tourism from the least local to the largest regional scale.

In the basics of territorial classification, apart from the peculiarities of its geographical concept, it is necessary to include the present tourism processes. Taking into account the length of visitors' stay in a given place and paying attention to the configuration of the given route and its tourist complexity, it is possible to assume the process of forming a tourist destination.

## DIVISION OF GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORY CONSIDERING THE TOURIST IDENTIFICATION ELEMENTS

Classifying of a geographic territory by a content of attributive tourist identifications starts from simple to complex contents. Touristically attractive attractions are the one that attracts the attention of visitors due to the authenticity, rarity, uniqueness and accessibility of a particular geographic area. They can be independent or group. Considering this, the geographic area can be differentiated into taxonomic units with a prefix of tourism.

Whereas, the paper treats the most common concept of the geographic area, that contains tourism motives of interest for tourism development. These are: tourist spot, tourist site, tourist resort, tourist center, tourist zone, tourist belt, tourist hub, and tourist region and tourist destination.

### **Tourist spot**

Tourist spot is the smallest spatial unit and consider the area of a particular object or building complex with supporting facilities, lookout etc. Tourist spots are marked by special markings along the walking or hiking trails and have a purpose of stopping tourists on their transit route to the final destination. The purpose of tourist spots is to stop the tourists in order to show attractive tourist motives and respite on the journey. Each tourist spot has its own recreational and respite facilities, along with the basic offers that characterizes that area. Tourist spots can sometimes be the main bearers of the future tourist development of a given region.

### **Tourist site**

The tourist site is treated as a part of the territorial unit. The tourist site has been presented with a specific tourist identification element i.e. a specific tourist motive and a spatial functional individuality. Those are objects of tourist interest, such as sedimentary waterfalls: Kravice on Trebižat, Martin Brod and Štrbački buk on Una, Plivski on Pliva in Jajce, etc.



**Fig. 1. The Djevojačka cave near Kladanj is not only a speleological site but also a tourist location of pilgrimage**

near Stolac, the remains of the rustic villa Mogorjelo near Čapljina, the remains of fortresses in Daorson, Ošanići etc.

Accordingly, the tourist site represents a smaller territorial unit that, by the prevailing objects of tourist interest, tourist display and tourist infrastructure, attracts the attention of a smaller number of inquisitive tourists or excursionist. Tourist sites do not have to be accessible by transport vehicles, so they can be reached only by walking, which can take up to 2 hours. The touristic visits to tourist sites should end in one day due to lack of tourist infrastructure for longer stays. Considering that visits to tourist sites is made by walking on marked routes, it implies the development of rural tourism in settlements located on a given routes. Regarding, the settlements are shown as stationary tourist spots and provide the necessary residence conditions for visitors on a given tourist route.

Touristic movements in a certain tourist locations are defined as event or occasional tourism. It influences the development of the rural tourism and the developing of a new tourist villages. This enhances and modernizes the tourist infrastructure of old villages and lifestyles, which enhances the tourist offer and attracts more visitors to the given tourist location.

Touristic sites are developing manifestation tourism, organized on certain occasions such as religious meetings, pilgrimages of smaller scale, held on a particular day and most often based on legends. More recently, the same are followed by other contents where participates the tourist-based sales, based on offer, trade of goods and consumption.

### **Tourist resort**

The tourist resort is a territorial unit with tourist contents that are made of a number of key tourist objects that are visited and manifesting an eventful stay for tourists with the opportunity to engage in various activities related to basic tourism resources. That could be the historical cities. The tourist resorts in Bosnia and Herzegovina are represented by a numerous smaller places, which we will not list at this occasion.

For example, the city of Jajce is an ideal example according to historical elements or Počitelj according to its oriental culture and the development of civilization events. The



**Fig. 2. Medieval fortified town Ostrožac with the homonymous substructure where the hotel is located, which is a tourist site and potentially a tourist place for the development of transit tourism**

presentations, tourist signs and tourist accommodation facilities will be bypassed on any tourist corridor. As an example of an unused tourist resort is the old town of Ostrožac with the tower in the valley of Una near Cazin. It is famous because of the fort from the older iron age with a medieval tower dated in 1286. when the settlement is mentioned as a town of



**Fig. 3. Aquaterm in Olovo is tourist site of health-recreational tourism**

powerful dukes of Babonić Blagajski. During the Ottoman Empire since 1578. the Ostrožac was the center of Ostrožac captaincy. The Ostrožac has a prehistoric fortress, medieval fortified town, Ottoman fortress and Habsburg castle.

spa resorts where the health tourism is performed. Spa resorts are adapted places whose water is used for various health and rehabilitation purposes. Ecological destinations are places that, because of the rarities or diversity, enjoy a special treatment of the highest protection level.

A tourist resort don't need to be in a function of transit tourism only, it can be a tourist destination too. A tourist destination is a place that serves a specific tourist orientation purposes; Touristic-recreational or ecological. In the first case, it is about tourist resorts that are the ultimate destination of tourist travelings for health and recreational needs. These are the primarily the

They are spatially planed and specially adapted with an adequate regime of anthropogenic activity and limited tourist movement. Very often ecological tourist destinations are places for smaller groups of tourists with specialized usage, especially those from the

scientific spheres of interest. Some tourist geographers, the tourist destinations, within the concept of a tourist resort, identify with a tourist destination considering the length of tourist staying in relation to the transit character. The tourist destination is a wider tourist concept, which will be discussed later.

### Tourist center

The tourist center is formed within the framework of basic or primary tourist motives and encompasses several tourist sites. It represents a larger city with numerous tourist contents or specialized tourist and recreational objects of world importance, which touristically develops thanks to a multitude of diversified natural and social tourist elements. The world's tourist centers include old big cities such as Edinburgh, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Prague, Moscow, Paris, London and others. These include the urban sites that have reputation as a world tourist centers only at times of events such as film festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Hollywood, Pula, Sarajevo etc. The world manifestations can have a periodic character as those at the time of a summer or winter Olympic Games. In this way, the existing tourism or newly established centers become the center of the world based on certain tourist motives.



**Fig. 4. Kitzbühel, a tourist place in the Tyrolean Alps with only 10,000 inhabitants. At the time of the famed downhill, the number of residents is tenfold.**

exclusive accompanying tourist infrastructure, as well as the highly expressed tourist functions for rest and recreation.

Tourist centers can also be large agglomerations in whose neighborhoods are existing high-quality historical monuments as well as natural environments of polyvalent tourist content. In such frameworks the urban agglomeration has complete tourist contents throughout the year. Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of those cities. Its urban morphology from east to west is a sequence from the oldest oriental to contemporary urban architecture. Oriental architecture can be seen in the oldest urban core that enables individuals and groups of tourists to get acquainted with the development of civilizational flows that have been imprinted in urban ensembles since the foundation of the first Sarajevo center until today.

Since Sarajevo is surrounded by mountain morphostructures with a very high altitude and morphosculpture diversity, and all in the landschaft belt of moderate hot and humid

The tourist centers include the religious centers, which have a lasting value and are more significant at times of pilgrimage, such as trips to the Mecca, Vatican, Jerusalem etc. Tourism centers may also be the ones that develop seasonal tourist traffic, mostly during the summer or winter season. So, Honolulu and Copacabana are the centers of bathing tourism, and Madonna di Campiglio, Kitzbühel, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Chamonix and many other centers of winter tourism. Tourists can stay for several days in tourist centers. They have all the

climates modification that bring abundant of snowfall and long snowy winter, make it possible to develop winter tourism of a very high quality. It is evidenced by the organization of the XIV Winter Olympics in 1984. In this way, Sarajevo is treated as a tourist center and center of development of urban and winter tourism.

### **Tourist zone**

The tourist zone represents a tourist profile - a belt of a large geographical region or a whole country. Within the tourist zone, there is almost no nonturistic content. It is a tourist recreational area with a high interregional and international significance. The tourist zone has a multitude of tourist contents for various aspects of tourist visit.



**Fig. 5. Una valley with Unac. The Una valley is a border river with unique calcareous sinter cascades. It belongs to the tourist cross border zone.**

large rivers in Bosnia and Hercegovina, which are the core of the rafting and fishing tourism development.

### **Tourist belt**

The tourist belt represents a large territorial unit that does not know any administrative boundaries and refers to cross-border territories with identical or quite similar physical-geographic unique elements that are complementing in recognizable tourist contents. These are very large territorial units that have a tourist location visible on smaller scale world maps.

The tourist belt has a global and recognizable meaning that encompasses the territory of many geographic regions and states. Within the same physical-geographical features include the Alps, the Mediterranean coasts, the Sierra Nevada ridge in California, the Danube valley, etc. The tourist belt can also be defined by the leading and unique typological identification element such as calcareous sinter in this type of rivers. A typical

A very illustrative example of the concept of the tourist zones are the Spanish beaches called *sumado*, which translated into Bosnian means *Costa*, such as: *Costa Brava*, *Costa del Sol* and others. Similarly to the Spanish zones, on the Croatian side of the Adriatic Sea are developed *rivieras* such is *Dubrovačka*, *Makarska*, *Splitska*, *Šibenska*, *Zadarska* and other *rivieras*.

In the mountain morphostructure of the Dinarides of Bosnia and Hercegovina, there are the numerous mountain routes as development profiles of mountain and alpinist tourism. The same could be said for the talwegs of

example of the tourist belt, of the lesser extent is the calcareous sinter valley of the Korana in Croatia and the Una river with the calcareous sinter cascades in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The tourist zone represents a geographical striped area that possesses the unique tourist motives. The tourist striped territory represents an elongated tourist area, which is also a tourist route. So the Una valley from Martin Brod to Bosanska Krupa, apart from being a tourist zone, is a tourist rafting route, hiking or transit tourism route. A seaside shoreline can be included in the tourist belt, especially if it is rugged.

### **Tourist node**

The tourist nodes are independent territorial points in the tourist area regardless of the tourist taxonomy ranking. These are the tourist nodes (crossroads) where the tourist potentials of a given territorial entities are networked. Tourist nodes are tourist intersections and also the starting point for tourist travel on a given tourist area. These are the key elements of tourist traffic regardless of a tourist branch. Tourist nodes can be polyvalent in tourist offerings and are often named for important tourist destinations for a large touristic complex. Tourist nodes are also the carriers of tourist development and tourist planning. These are imissions and emissions points for various aspects of tourist movements. Thus, for example, Mostar is an imission tourist node for a tourist residence and is also an emission tourist node for the religious tourism in western Herzegovina and the summer tourism in Neum. Sarajevo represents a large tourist node, which, in addition to numerous tourist social-geographic motives, emissions tourists during the winter months in the winter Olympic centers, in particular Bjelašnica, Igman and Jahorina.

### **Tourist region**

The tourist region is a predominant geographical unit with an original, well preserved and protected environment and adaptations according to a strictly defined spatial plan where the anthropogenic objects are incorporated. By the physiognomy and purpose, the tourist regions are contrasted with urban settlements, especially industrial and oriented forward the developed tourist course. Many of those landscapes cannot be matched with tourist regions, whose explanation is derived from the definition of the geographic region.

The tourist region is a spatial entity in which tourism is a dominant or unifying function, and the geographical feature is basically the consequence of that function (Vasović, M. 1982). Defining the tourist regions, it is important that they belong to regional geography, which implements the principles of homogeneous and heterogeneous regionalization. Applying the general principles of geographical regionalization of a homogeneous tourist region are those where tourism is a core activity and the main source of income for most of the domicile population. This implies that tourism is a basic economic activity in which the following activities are harmonized: traffic, trade, agriculture, science, construction, landscaping, etc. The heterogeneous tourist region implies economic activity supplemented by other economic branches except the tourism that is dominating, and in a small or a large percentage, participates in the formation of the existing population income (Radović, M. 1988).

From the above mentioned considerations, it is concluded that most countries in the world, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, are easier to separate heterogeneous than homogeneous tourist regions, because they are more dominant. True, there were tourist

regionalization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even in doctoral theses, which are very debatable, since they did not follow some definitions of the tourist region. It sounds axiomatically that we can not a priori proclaim any territorial entity as a touristic region, filled with numerous attributive tourist elements, although spatially coincided with numerous natural and anthropogenic elements of a great tourist value. Such a region cannot be labeled as a tourist region either when its attractiveness is at the beginning of the tourism evaluation until it become a framework for tourist economy.

The concept of tourism development in some countries, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is facing a no concept investments in tourist objects and without the spatial, physiognomic and functional definition of the tourist region as the carrier of tourist economy. Carriers of this kind of development are various associations, such as tourist alliances, which are not profiled as governmental strategically developed tourism organizations.

It is a significant fact that the size of the territory declared as a tourist region does not depend on the development and organization of the overall socio-economic life, but on the spatial continuity of motives, functions and elements of sectoral development within the regional economic structure. Therefore, the size of tourist regions may differ from economic, spatial planning and similar types of regions" (Nikolić, S. 1984). When discussing the issue of tourist regions, it is of no importance the type of tourist movement, whether it is a mountain, spa, city or lake tourist region, which are characteristic for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The recognizable tourist regions of special functions are built for decades, and it is desirable to have a rising tourist economy which contributes to the establishment of complementarity, merging and interferences of touristically valued natural and monumental values with objects of material tourism security, where the tourist-catering facilities, roads, sports grounds, promenades, etc. are included.

Within detaching of tourist regions, the strict principles of geographical regionalization must be respected. It is important to note that geographic principles are complemented by tourism, although the principles of such detaching had not been well elaborated. Thus, in the tourist regions allocation process, whether homogeneous or heterogeneous, there is no criterion for tourist differentiation of regions. Sometimes it starts from the typological, and secondly from the complex regionalism.

When it comes to the typological criterion, it is noticeable the lack of elaborated principles with respect to the type of tourism or tourist traffic, so that geographic area could be defined as a tourist region. In this case, every developed form of tourism would carry a prefix or suffix of a given tourist region, such as, for example, the bathing, mountain, winter tourism region etc. In the other case, the limit of tourist traffic needed for a declaration of the tourist region for some territory, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina is unknown.

The complex approach of allocating the tourist regions is based on a homogenous principle in which tourism economic traffic is valued as part of the overall economic development. This practically means that tourism is only one of the starting regional-geographic elements in regional differentiation. The touristic character of a region is seen in its overall development, where tourism is as important as it contributes to the economic prosperity of a given geographic region. It is just one link in the complex definition of the physiognomy of the geographic region. It has as much attention as it has a contribution in the economic development of the region. Accordingly, the tourist elements such is the attractiveness and uniqueness of tourist motives, traffic conditions, the level of tourist



motives development, equipment of tourist centers and sites, as well as the volume of tourist traffic in a region are only part of its total physiognomy. The deviation from this principle of geographical regionalization considering the overall economic development of the region, in which tourism is involved, is possible only if tourism is the leading branch in its overall economic development. Thus, in a geographical region with dominating valorized tourist motives in which tourism is a basic economic activity, can be nominated as a tourist, giving it a suffix of typological tourism activity; Region of bath, mountain summer, winter and similar tourism. Of course, this applies only to tourist sites, places, zones, or nodes, which has already been mentioned. Derived tourist regionalization is possible in the mentioned regional units, only if it's measured by accommodation capacities, number of employees in tourism and realized economic effects.

It is not enough only to number the tourist identification elements such as: relief, water, biogeographic, social-geographic etc. so that some geographic area would be declared as a tourist region without relevant indicators of their utilization and especially tourist traffic and tourism profit, relevant to the assessment of tourism development. There can't be, for example, "target to distinguish the tourism-geographic regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to point its importance in forming...in order to contribute the better future development of tourism and to provide better tourist services" (Bidžan, A. 2012). Similarly, the tourism does not have to be an engine for the development of underdeveloped areas/regions as there are no other branches of industry that use natural and social resources, unless there is planned approach in their rational use. As a classic example of the economic development, the author specify some places such as Fojnica, Kupres Međugorje and Trnovo, which obviously are not touristic regions nor bearers of the economic development of the regions.

Numerous tourist motives in geographic regions are the foundation for the development of this branch of industry, which in some cases may be leading but not definitive. They need to be brought into the function and enriched by the tourist infrastructure in order to be the objects for residence of the visiting tourists rather than temporary transit tourism spot. All this should be the basis for future tourism development strategies, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to make an existing geographic region a touristic one. With the new political-territorial division of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the geographical region as an operational geographic unit of homogenous character has been inaccurately replaced by cantons and entities. For this reason, the development of tourism is viewed as tourist destinations that are the part of the cantons.

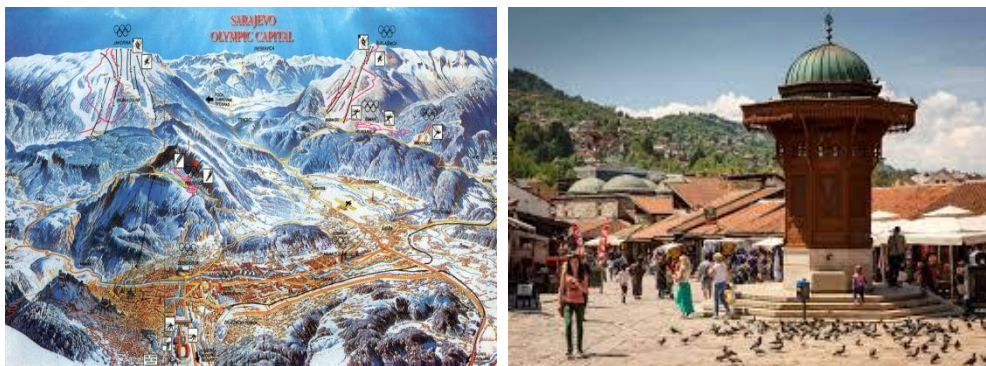
### **Tourist destination**

The word destination comes from the Latin word "destination", which translates as the destination, without any clear indication of the type of activity it refers to. Tourism science has accepted this Latin word and added the „tourist“to destination as a place of tourist residence. Accepting the concept of destination is not the same for different tourism aspects. Tourism dictionaries uses the concept of destination solely to treat the country, region, city and other areas visited by tourists. It is defined as an unusual spatial phenomenon with regard to the attractiveness of content, which includes its original nature, convenience, accessibility and adequate traffic infrastructure.

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) defines the tourist destination as a place visited during tourist travels and groups it into the major and motivational destinations.

Major destinations are often defined as distant and refer to those in which tourists spend most of their time during traveling, while motivating destinations are the main reason for visiting a particular place or place.

The main tourist destination broadly defines the global tourism traveling without the clear motivation of a tourist visit. In this context, the purpose of the trip could be France, which does not have to characterize the motive of the tourist traveling or the place of residence. In this framework, France would be a tourist destination of tourist travel. A tourist destination in the same country can be typified by a place where tourists spend the most of their time, so that place is actually a tourist destination. It is a motivating destination that is typologically determined. A tourist destination in this case, for example Paris, the Côte d'Azur or the Chamonix.



**Fig. 6. Sarajevo can rightly be declared as a tourist destination in Bosnia and Herzegovina, whether it is the major or the motivating one.**

When it comes to Bosnia and Herzegovina, it can be declared as a major tourist destination, while Sarajevo is, for example, a motivating one, for winter tourism on the Olympic mountains or during summer for various types of tourist visits where prevails a component of cultural tourism.

Therefore, both types of tourist destinations are an important link for the purpose of traveling and staying in it. Accordingly, the tourist destination is not defined by the number of visits. Thus, for example, the acquiring of numerous pilgrims in Međugorje does not define it as a tourist destination, but another category - a tourist excursion spot from the main tourist destination of Bosnia and Herzegovina or a motivating from Mostar. It is not uncommon that republic of Croatia, unfoundedly, claim Međugorje as a tourist spot of the Croatian tourism.

Recently, and given its political-geographical division, there are intentions to declare cantons as tourist destinations, which is certainly unfounded, to promote tourism as a strategic commitment in their development. Promotion of this kind is assigned to tourist communities that have from a non-governmental became the government sector.

## CONCLUSION

The scheme of the territorial organization of tourism, apart from the specific elements of the tourist activity and the route of tourist movements, also shows the geographical features of the tourist territory that defines the taxonomic systems. They include the tourist

spots, centers, zones, regions, i.e. deduces the tourist territory to indicational accents, reveals and disassemble the tourist image of their reciprocity according to the hierarchical structure. Tourism territorial taxonomy in geographic science has not yet been elaborated and has not been connected to the system. Therefore, it is necessary to propose the possible variants of the hierarchically classification of territorial tourism development from the least local to the largest regional scale.

Classifying of a geographic territory by the participation of attributive tourist identities starts from simple to complex contents. Tourist-attractive content is the one that attracts the attention of the visitors because of their authenticity, rarity, uniqueness and accessibility. They can be self-contained or in groups.

The paper treats the most common conceptual definitions of geographic area that contains tourism motives of interest for the tourism development. These are: tourist point, tourist location, tourist resort, tourist center, tourist zone, tourist belt, tourist node, tourist region and tourist destination.

The use of the enclosed names implies the construction of a proper geographic study methodology for the purpose of development goals in tourism. Such approach to geographical differentiation by methodology, which is inherent in geographic researches, will focus more on the more appropriate differentiation of tourist branches, which is mostly fictitious and the product of individual proposals. For this reason, it would be necessary to create taxonomy of tourist branches with geographic tourism taxonomies, which would be more operative for their more fundamental studies.

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