

ANTHROPOGENIC TOURIST MOTIVES IN OHRID, STRUGA, DEBAR AND RESEN

Zija ZIMERI¹, Metush SULEJMANI² and Arta ZIMERI³

SUMMARY

The Western Border characterized with 86 villages and the city of Debar. Close to the border are the cities Struga, Resen and Ohrid, who also have a major impact on tourism development and tourism offer. At the same time they possess important historical monuments and rich cultural heritage, the capacity for accommodation, hotels, restaurants.

Key words: tourism, western Macedonia, anthropogenic motives, Debar, Struga, Ohrid, Resen.

1. URBAN ENVIRONMENTS AS TOURIST MOTIVES

1.1. Debar

Debar is a city in the western part of the Republic of Macedonia, near the border with Albania, is surrounded by high and beautiful mountains as Desati, Stogovo, Jablanica. Debar is one of the most attractive tourist regions in Macedonia, It is rich with natural beauty and rare things that relate to a range of specific cultural, that include a large and important macedonian cultural treasure. Debar is a prehistoric settlement. However the first articles where Debar is mentioned by name Deborus, it is Ptolemaeus map in the middle of the II century, the subsequent notes for its existence derived from the time of Basil II, in the map is labeled as a settlement inside the diocese of Bitola. Also in the travel notes of Felix Petancik 1905, is encountered with name dibri, while in the XIX century, are found detailed information for its structure, regulation and function as a city. Debar is one of the most

¹ **Ass.Prof.Dr. Zija ZIMERI**, zija.zimeri@unite.edu.mk, zija.zimeri@hotmail.com
State University of Tetova; Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences.
Cel: +389 70 398600, www.unite.edu.mk

² **Assoc.Prof.Dr. Metush SULEJMANI**, metush.sulejmani@unite.edu.mk
State University of Tetova, www.unite.edu.mk

³ **Ing.Dip. Arta ZIMERI**, e-mail: arta.zimeri@gmail.com, Shkup.

attractive spaces and one of most researched by ethnologists and art historians. The reason for these are the known villages Galicnik, Lazarpole, Tresonče, Selce, Gari and other villages where the rich national folklore has reached to contain its original beauty and its wealth in form, ritual symbolic expression and the representation of the world, preserved as ethnological pearl. The wonderful sides of Debar are also the Macedonian creators and builders, as well as the famous schools of washing and wood carvings, parts of which fall into the first range of achievements in the field of art. As a particularly valuable feature of this region is the famous Monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski-spiritual center religious and cultural, which with its wonderful mystery completes the unique beauty in this space.

1.2. Ohrid

Ohrid is one of the most attractive, cultural and tourist center in the Republic of Macedonia. Ohrid or Lihnida (old name of the city) is 2,400 years old, a place in which is developed the ancient civilization, a town that contains cultural and ecclesiastical history of Macedonia. Ohrid also has been the capital city of the empire Samuil. Today Ohrid presents great spiritual, cultural and tourist center in Macedonia. This city together with the famous lake is one of the largest biological reserves in Europe. are under UNESCO protection since 1980. Ohrid with its thirty churches is the right place for each visitor if they wish to feel the Renaissance period. The city and its tectonic lake are surrounded by mountains whose peaks are higher than 200 meters. In the lake there is a rich world of flora and fauna and the most popular are: Ohrid trout (white and black) and eel. The Ohrid lake has a surface of 358 square meters, with depths up to 288 meters and extension reaches up to 21.5 meters. The town is filled with ancient temples and early Christian basilicas, frescoes and precious icons that are real inspiration for artists who come from anywhere and at any meeting with these interesting works they feel elevated and refined.

Ohrid also represents true archaeological treasures, the old parts of the town are decorated with the houses that are built with old architecture also the shops made of stone and amongst them are intertwined narrow streets, when you are walking there you can hear Ohrid troubadour songs, at the moment you will hear the echo of the lake and at the same time the sound of church bells. This harmony of sounds remind us the past and the present that can only be experienced here in the beautiful Ohrid. However Ohrid is known in the world through several international events such as the festival "Ohrid Summer" and "The Balkan Folklore Festival" near Ohrid.



Fig.1. St. Naum, is located close to the cross border with the republic of Albania

1.3. Struga

Struga as a settlement is also presented in the antiquities period. The result of this settlement is the Via Egnatia road which joins the settlements and towns in the Republic of Albania, especially from Durres, through Struga and Ohrid to Bitola and Solun further to the east. Struga today is an attractive tourist city, where the Black Drin river is divided into two parts and gives unique view, In the ancient period was known with a name Enhalon (jagula). This city causes admiration with its old architecture and the live traces of the old tradition and culture. Struga is the birthplace of the best presenters of macedonian culture and national rebirth in the 19th century. The Church of St. Bogordica, the Monastery in Kalish with its wonderful biblical scenes, and the cave Church St Atanas are just some of the places, that it worth to be visited in Struga and in its vicinity.

Struga has a good traffic connection with Ohrid on the east through highway then through the same road that leads to Resen and Bitola associated with them and with other cities and areas in the Republic of Macedonia. Struga possesses beautiful sandy beaches, multiple hotels restaurants, shops and bars for visitors and tourists. Struga is recognized in the world through international manifestation “Poetry nights of Struga” that is held every year

during the summer (in August) where are presented the best poets from around the world.



Fig .2. Struga, a city of international manifestation , the nights of poetry

2. THE CULTURE HERITAGE LIKE TOURIST OFFER

In the northern part of the lake is the Castle of Samoil at 800 meters height, where is the old town of Ohrid and it is considered as one of the oldest cities in the Balkan. Ohrid presents a museum city with monumental cultural heritage and by law is called the Jerusalem of the Balkan. The ancient name of Ohrid is Lihnidos. The town of Ohrid represents the first university town and is known by the writings of St. Kliment and Metodi. St. Clement and St. Naum were the founders of “Ohrid Literary School” it has been a highly developed educational center and one of the first education in Europe. Some of cultural and historical monuments in Ohrid that attract attention are :

- St. Sofia Church (11th century) is one of the most popular monuments of medievalism in Macedonia
- St. Bogordica Peribleptos Church (13th century) is located in the same complex as well as the gallery of icons.
- St. Jovan Kaneo Church (13th century) has a wonderful view towards the lake.
- St. Naum Monastery (10th century) built on a steep cliff above the lake, 30 kilometers from the city, where St. Naum has lived, worked and buried.

All these churches have valuable frescoes, rare examples of medieval art that are the subject of study of many international known historians in the medieval period. In the space around Lake Prespa there are many cultural and historical monuments, of which some have been studied, but also there are many other that have need for Archaeological researches.

One of the most important historical and cultural monuments are:

- St. George Churches in Kurbinovo(12th century)
- St. Ilija in Gernçari (13th century)
- St. Peter in the big island town (14th century) and the Monastery St. Bogordica in Slimica (17th century).



Fig .3. St. George Monastery in the village Rajcic –Debar

The remains from the period of the Roman Empire in the form of Roman villas and cemeteries have been discovered in Pretoria , then the remains of the Roman necropolis with two layers of graves, water reservoir and early Christian churches (4-5 century) as well as the remains by basilicas of the fifth century in village Pokrvenik. By the 11th century there are a remains from the Konstantinos kale castle , near Oteshevo, while the St. Georgi Church above Kurbinovo is known since the 12th century. In Prespa with high composition of Byzantine frescoes paintings from the period of Komenos, 1191 years old, while the restoration of life description was completed in 1959. The most popular compositions are "Bllagovestenie", "St. Arhieri", "Hristov Vozneseniot", "The assumption of Bogordica" "Entry into Jerusalem", "Archangel".

From the 14th and 15 century a large number of churches are with origin from Prespa. Between the most important old churches from 14th and 15th

century are: "St. Sava" in Pretor with the popular icon the head of St. Jovan Krstitel, from the 17th century, that is preserved in the museum's collection in Resen, then the church "St. Peter" in the ait Big city in south in which are placed Important compositions "Siege of Constantinople "etc. In the 14th century Kesar Novak has built the church St. Bogordica in the ait Small city, in Brajcino was built the church "St. Petka", while in Tuminec (Small Prespa) the Monastery Church St. Marena. Also in this century cave churches were built in rocky areas to the southwest beside the lake of big Prespa. In the village Navici is located the cave church St Atanas, in the west there are two churches St. Spas, then St. Peter while in its midst is the cave church St. Archangel. In Peninsula Makarija in village Shulin in small Prespa in rocks that rise to the top and hanging over the lake, is the cave church of St. Blagovestenie , where because of difficult access are used wood ladder to enter in the church.



Fig .4. The Monastery St. John Bigorski Rostuva-Mavrovo

In the east close to monastery ,are widely distributed the sources of the Black Drin. Where is a very awesome view of clear and cold water, small islands that are rich with lush vegetation St. Naum has chosen this quiet desert for emplancement the place where he has developed his sacred mission that has served for human enlightenment. The monastery church which built Naum had three leaf clover shape with veranda waiting room and it was very similar with the church of Saint Kliment. Naum Tomb was built in the southeastern part of the narthex, in the same place as Klement's

tomb in Ohrid. During the first phase of renovation in church has taken the shape of a cross in a rectangular space, without cubes etc.

3. ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY

In western border area, especially in the region of Ohrid and Prespa there are many hotels for tourist accommodation. The hotel complex Ineks-Drin is consistet of hotels, Beogrd, Eurohotel and the campings from first category. The main goal of this company is to conduct activities for food supplies and trading. The complex is located along the shore of the Ohrid Lake at the exit of the river Drin in the town Struga. Hotel Cascade is of category A and provides capacity for 420 beds, with 600 Assistant and has 3 restaurants, nightclub, casino, bowling, pool ,meeting hall for 250 visitors, tennis field and private beach. The hotel is modernized with summer pool also bowling club, according to European standards. Swedish table service for breakfast, dinner that is a characteristic of this hotel. They prepared about 20 types of salads , while the staff is trained according to the European standards and conditionally they have to speak one or more foreign languages. The hotel Beograd of B category has a capacity for 100 beds, possesses national restaurant ,canteens, cafes and mini casino.

The development of this complex is oriented towards modernization and reconstruction of objects. The content infrastructure and accommodation, such as apartments on auto-camp AS. The Ineks-Drin are mutual company in total privatization phase by buying the stucks of all employees. To intensify tourism is needed to create additional branches of the hospitality and tourism, to improve the transport postal services ,the infrastructure, environmental protection, development of rural tourism. The ancient city Ohrid is one of the most beautiful cities in Macedonia, pearl of ancient architecture , with important cultural and historical monuments. Ohrid is museum city , a city of hotels and restaurants, with characteristic architecture, and tourist center with modern hotels, shops etc. Tourists can choose accommodation in the hotels that are built on the east and west coast in lake Prespa. Oteseva is tourist settlement on the west coast with old tradition. The accommodation in hotels are of B category, high capacity. Hotel "Europe" is one of the best in Prespa, Other hotels like "Yugoslavia" with 20 beds" Kozara "with 75 beds" Pelican "and" Skopje "with 108 beds. Campings camps with 250 units and 15 villas, while in the west of Galicica is the ski center with with an altitude of 1450-2140 meters, telpher with two seats with a length of 1100 meters and ski lifts that will enable a very good winter vacation.



Fig .5.Hotel Evropa in Otesevo

Pretor is a tourist place with accommodation capacity for the employees of many firms from Macedonia, but there is also a beautiful hotel of category B, Pretor hotel with 150 beds. The tourist place Krani that is located on the eastern coast of lake Prespa near the mountain Pelister, possesses beautiful beaches, with large green space for staying in camp and special part for tents, 42 villas and 32 bungalow, oven, terrace restaurant, cafeteria, shops, toys for children, with own clinical, with modern discotheques that are most visited. Sportswear- recreational fields for basketball, handball, volleyball, mini golf, etc. In Resna is also another hotel of B category hotel “Kitka”, and Hotel “Evropa ”in Otesevo Owns 240 beds. The hotel has banquet hall, night clubs, sweet-shop, discotheque, billiards hall, bowling club, for all sports fields and beautiful beach.



Fig.6.Beach resort in Pretor .

4. CONCLUSION

This paper contributes to the Movements, valorization, dynamics, flows of foreign and local tourists that constitute an offer, the request and mediatory factor of a tourist industry. Residential societies (locative) with educational values, with one culture, language and religion affect in the change and in the development of society, also the advancement of social processes of a modern society that can be compared with WTO:-World Trade Organization, and this economic discipline today has conquered the world and has taken a jerk and there are no barriers that can stop it.

All things built by human hands belong to anthropogenic motives!!!

REFERENCES

- 1.Z. Zimeri, Turistickata valorizacija na granicnite premini na Republika Makedonija (magisterski trud), Skopje, 2008.
- 2.Budinski.M(1998):Burimet natyrore si një ndër përcaktuesit kryesorë në përcaktimin e regjionit optimal për zhvillimin e turizmit. Mbledhja e punimeve në takimin shkencor ndërkombëtar "Perspektivat dhe përmisimet e planifikimit dhe rregullimit të hapsirës" Ohër: Ministria e Zhvillimit Urban, Ndërtimi dhe Mbrojtjes së Mjedisit
- 3.Gerasimovski.D.(2002).Zhvillimi i karakteristikave bashkohore të turizmit në Republikën e Maqedonisë. punim. Shkup.FSHMN.fq.64
- 4.Godfrey.K.Clarke.J.(2000)The tourism Development Handbook,Cassell, London.joint transport Committee European community-R.Macedonia, sixs meeting, Ministry of transport and communication Brussels,12 maz 2004.
- 5.Godfrey.K.Clarke.J.(2000)The tourism Development Handbook,Cassell, London.joint transport Committee European community-R.Macedonia, sixs meeting, Ministry of transport and communication Brussels,12 may 2004
- 6.Panov.N.(1996)Zhvillimi i turizmit në R.Maqedonisë.Përmbledhje e punimeve nga kongresi i parë i gjeografëve nga Republika e Maqedonis, mbajtur në Ohër nga 26-28.10.1995.
- 7.Zikov.M(2001) Regjionet turistike në R.Maqedonis., Përmbledhje vjetore,lib 35-36,Univerziteti Shën Kili dhe Metodi, Instituti për gjeografi,Shkup.
- 8.Wourld tourism organization.E-bussines for tourism,WTO, Madrid,2001