

THERMAL SPRINGS AS A POTENTIAL FOR RECREATION AND TREATMENT IN SLOVAKIA

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Abstract

Slovakia, with its small area (49 000 km²) has a lot of mineral and thermal springs. Some of them were already known in the 16-th century. The first official list of mineral and thermal springs is from the time of Austria-Hungarian Monarchy, which was changed by Maria Teresia in 1963. Intentional spa complex building is dated to 18-th century. From the 19-th century is known positive influence of climatically conditions and patient treatment together with water procedures. Rich physical and chemical water variety and their spreading at the Slovak territory are conditioned by appropriate geological and tectonically structure. The oldest spas in Slovakia are Bardejov, Bojnice, Piešťany, Sklené, Turčianske and Trenčianske Teplice. Nowadays there are more than 1200 registrated springs. Which includes 17 thermal swimming pools in Southern part of Slovakia, 10 in Middle part, 11 in Northern part; 22 thermal spas and more than 7 Aquaparks (Liptovský Mikuláš, Poprad, Senec, Galanta, Turčianske Teplice, Bešeňová,...). There are 17 healing spas (Piešťany, Sliač, Dudince, Bardejov), 35 public recreational swimming baths (Štúrovo, Liptovský Ján, Vyšné Ruzbachy).

Spas and their surroundings are important places, which present historical, urban-architectonical and landscape development and influences during ages. Surrounding of the spas were often redesign not only for treatment purposes, but also for other recreational utilization. These spaces were and still they are used for short-term recreation.

Poster will describe current situation, historical development, spreading of thermal springs in Slovakia and their role for recreational purposes as well as tourism development.

Key Words

thermal springs, spa, recreation, Slovakia

Key References

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