

WINTER CENTRES OF TOURISM IN SLOVAKIA

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Abstract

The aspiration for good skiing in ski centers always tempts more people. Skiing is as a sport activity that has a long time tradition in Slovakia. Skies and their production in Slovakia have started during World War I. The quality and lengths of ski slopes in Slovakia do not reach the values which the alpine countries have, however with its density, transportation facilities, an artificial snowing, as well as an offer of basic and supplemental services they are playing important role in Eastern Europe region. The ski season starts mostly from the end of November and lasts till last week of March. Skiers can find the best conditions in the Low Fatra (Mala Fatra), High Fatra, (Velka Fatra), West Tatras (Zapadne Tatry) and the Low Tatras Mountains (Nizke Tatry).

In Slovakia there are presently 20 winter ski centres with international importance, 40 of national and regional interest and more than 250 minor centres which have mostly the character of suburban recreation. In the present in Slovakia there is in operation almost 50 cable cars and 950 ski-lifts. The categorization of ski centers for years 2006 – 2009 has classed the majority of the centres in five categories. For its creation there was a base created by four general chapters containing 25 criteria with an various evaluation in a complex questionnaire.

The aim of the article is to analyse the present status of ski centers determined by their number of, their device and classification in individual categories. The influence of winter recreational activities at landscape is mostly observable in nearness of protected territories. The conflicts of landscape utilization are coming up mostly by identification of area and the borders of national parks and existing degrees of protection.

Development of the tourism may bring considerable financial resources, solve also the social and economic questions of the people living in the mountains and foothills where the protection of nature does not allow the development of heavy industry.

Key Words

winter ski resorts, downhill skiing, skiing areas,

Key References

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