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### NATURAL POTENTIAL VALUE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION OF THE ALBANIAN ALPS

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#### **Abstract**

Tourism potentials are important because their use provides opportunities for tourism development, primarily to invest in tourism infrastructure in order to increase the tourism offer. Republic of Kosovo has many potential tourist including those with natural motifs which if utilized, would really create a solid basis for tourism development. Tourism development affects the setting of gross social product from which realized revenue for the country. If used as part of tourist offer, will affect the establishment of economic development.

Key words: tourism potential, tourist offer, natural motifs, the Albanian Alps, gross product, economic evelopment.

### Entry

Tourist region of Albanian Alps is important for space tourism. In this case involves the part which lies in the territory of Kosovo. In this region are included the municipalities of Pec, Djakovica, Istok, Decani, Klina and Orahovac Malisheva.

Natural features make this region very attractive. Beautiful nature and attractive landscape features, climate and high mountain continental, with waters rich with flora and fauna quite attractive, are high value potential for tourism development.

Geomorphological features such as mountains, gorges, canyons, caves and the lower part of Dukagjini evaluated the attractiveness scale up the development of tourism. We could have separated entirely favorable natural conditions for developing winter tourism, the mountain climbing and other forms of tourism. Terrains with appropriate conditions are important potentials for development of winter tourism, especially winter sports. Potential capacity of the ski trails are 65,396 feet which means just as the skier in an hour. Attractive to visitors as a phenomenon in this region are involved: Rugova Gorge, Source of the White Drin, Mirusha canyon of waterfalls, caves and Radavc, Banja Peja and attractive parts of rocky peaks. Albanian Alps Space tourism represents attractive value. Multiple potentials will allow drawing attention to the development of tourism and its types, including: mountain tourism, sports and recreational tourism, health tourism, rural tourism, ecotourism, tourism, hunting and fishing, cultural tourism, tourism of Congress, winter tourism and other forms of tourism. Potential of this very space are numerous high value for tourism investment and development activities as important to the local economy.

# **General Features**

The region includes the northwest part of the Republic of Kosovo, the area of 2340 km2, in which 515,000 residents live. High mountains, blessings of water, thermal waters, and other attractions are reasons to visit. Key Facilities: Peja, Gjakova, Istok, Decani, Klina, Malisheva, Orahovac and Junik. The region is connected with other parts of Kosovo. Such position creates favorable conditions for tourism development with neighboring countries, Albania and Montenegro. We have included space part of the Albanian Alps, which separated the top Gjeravcia high as 2656 meters.

Albanian Alps according to specifications and natural features are attractive zone. Natural conditions are high value potential for tourism development. This whole geomorphologic assessed value which include mountains. gorges, canyons, caves and other forms of their attractive features. Are quite evident morphological conditions for the development of winter sports and mountaineering. With their values we have entirely distinct part of River, Red Stone, Mountain Belegu. In this case are included other forms such as Rugova Gorge, Source of the White Drin, Mirusha Waterfall, Cave Radavc, source of the river to Istok, Banja Peja, many other tourist value. This region possesses a number of lakes such as Lake Radoniçit, Moknes Lake, Lake Ligenatit, Gjeravica lakes, great lake. In the region are known to some thermal springs. Banja Peja, in the village of Istok has high healing properties of various diseases, but is also an attractive tourist spot. Even other sources such as thermo-source in Studenica, mineral water source in Decan are important potential. Biodiversity in this part represents significant value which has 750 kinds of plants, of which 18 are indigenous and 100 others are prevalent only in the Balkan Peninsula. The region presents a potential for space tourism. High quality space which creates great opportunities for tourism development. High Potential create conditions for attracting investments. As important urban center of the region is the biggest center Peja. Even centers like Djakovica, Decani, Orahovac, Klina, Istok are about this tourist area. This is likely to be used entirely for the organization of the overall tourist offer, in the summer season, summer tourism and development during the winter to develop winter tourism. Great heights over 1000 meters above sea level provide ideal conditions for summer mountain tourism development and the winter. With the dog that his great area has created the conditions for creating some tourist areas such as Decani and Pec areas which are, potential centers Rusolisë mountain, Kurvales, Mountain Belegu starting Mokna Hajla and north up the Gjeravica in the South. The entirety of the region became part in mountain tourism potential natural areas that provide conditions for the formation of genuine tourist offerings. Physiognomy Albanian Alps mountain ranges in natural areas with potential tourist mountain which provide conditions for the completion of tourism offer which will be in favor of the requirements of tourists from the country and international. On the basis of specifications and features natural, especially on the basis of the relief features. diversity of flora and fauna, rich water resources, the attractions of the landscape and environmental values attractive, Albanian Alps massif attractive values in the region.

Albanian Alps have multiple values as:

- -very favorable conditions for developing winter tourism and the mountain climbing
- Landscape appealing and attractive, including: Mountains. Canyons, gorges, caves and other forms.
- The capacity potential of the ski trails with 65,396 feet. Climatic conditions are varied. Continental and mountain climate are important potential for tourism development both seasonal. Climatic conditions allow the healing of various diseases especially large height above sea level in mountainous areas. There are areas for development of health tourism. Many natural beauties of climatic conditions but also complexes physical-geographical with extensive forests and meadows, hydrographic wealth, natural beauties, provide the basis for estimation of treatment centers, and recreational center for the preparation of athletes in the high altitude. In the mountains of this area is isolated animal world, quite sensational. Most common animals are: brown bear, wild boar, chamois, types of birds, which are quite attractive and the potential for development of hunting tourism. Also the potential in themselves represent the waters of rivers that are rich in fish that are good basis for development of fishing tourism. Albanian

Alps are ecologically clean environment and not urban. With great advantage, as peace and quiet, clean air, beautiful nature for recreation and entertainment. Natural values, especially those of environmental and landscape including decorative aesthetic values are important basis for development of tourist infrastructure. In the framework of tourism development, importance should be given to preserving the ecological system of the mountainous area. This area will be important to organize as a national park. Then the development of tourism should be done by sector and by area criteria. To develop tourism in this area should prepare joint plans with cross-border with Montenegro and Albania. Areas and tourist locations and places of tourist use primary and secondary, are classified according to the resources they have, conditions, and the aforementioned criteria. In the classification of localities and tourist centers. as the decisive factor was obtained from a particular value or, at least, three to four complementary tourist value. Within the Mountains "Nemuna", according to the riches and diversity of potential resources, can distinguish these

In this area, part mountain features some countries with potential for tourism development: As locations are: Rusolia, Kopraniku, Zhlebi, Mountain Belegu, Kurvala, Gjeravica, Maja Strellicit, Roshkodoli, Kozhnieri.

### Tourism potentials to increase tourist centers

Based on the favorable natural conditions of the Republic of Kosovo, especially the part of Albanian Alps possessing potential areas for setting up tourist centers. Studies by the OECD-ea (ACAU-Atelier d'Arahitecture Coperativ et d'Urbanizme, Geneva) on the natural conditions for tourism development opportunities in Kosovo have shown that there are sufficient grounds to establish 20 centers of winter-sports tourism. To reflect the situation is given table, showing the potential areas in the Albanian Alps.

The main centers of the mountains	Number of ski	The total capacity of centers
Peak Rusolisë	19.250	40.000
Peak of Kurvala	11.250	22.000
Mountain Belegu	7.550	15.000
Koprivnik	6.620	11.000
The Bird tables	5.150	10.000
Starac	4.150	8.000
Peak Strezoci	3.855	7.000
Hajla	3.780	7.000
Peak Leqinatit	2.760	5.000
Peak Mokna	2.030	4.000
Total:	65.393	129.000

Source: Department of Tourism-MTI, Pristina.

Based on results of inquiry, the average paths in the table is 880 feet. Albanian Alps are a good base for winter sports tourism. The fact indicates that the option of receiving the largest number of ski is desirable so that these areas be developed tourist infrastructure.

According to general estimates terrains occupy significant area for tourism development. On reflection of the situation is presented table:

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	Potential Areas	Main centers	of	The overall level of	% level of the		
		massive mountain		potential centers	Albanian Alps		
Alpet Shqiptare (Niveli		Rusolia		19,250	25,0		
	mesatar i shtigjeve 880	Kurvalla		11,250	14,0		
	m)	Stërnac		8,925	12,0		

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Bogdash	7,550	10,0
Mountain Belegu	4,750	6,5

In accordance with the table presented clarification where; By G. Gurmanit: average level meter is equal to a skier. Eg on top of Rusolia length capabilities are higher level, which means that within the ski terrain within a time can make ski 19.250 at once! In Kurvallë 11250 skier, in 8925 Stërnac skier, in Bogdash skier 7550, in Mountain Belegu 4750 skier.

As the potential value is Mirusha Canyon which is of the most interesting areas, although the distance separating the Albanian Alps, in the order that the zones have become part of the territory. Mirusha River at the bottom of his flow passes through a nozzle, which is known as the river canyon Mirusha. In this part of the canyon are 13 waterfalls and lakes that comprise the 12 most attractive part of the canyon. Mirusha Nature Park is located on both sides of the river Mirusha, since the beginning of the canyon to its confluence White Drin river. The area of protected area Mirusha Regional Park is 555.80.70 hectares, and lies in the territory of municipalities: Kline, Malisevo and Rahoves. Flora, vegetation and fauna - is rich in species and plant and animal communities. Much of the region belongs to the community of oak, which in fact is one of the most common forest communities in Kosovo. Construction of infrastructure

in this part shall affect the good development of tourist offer of the Republic of Kosovo.

### Conclusion

Albanian Alps tourist region is the space capital for tourism development (municipalities Pec, Decani, Istok, Klina, Gjakova and Orahovac, Junik). According to specifications and natural characteristics and the characteristics of relief, bio-geographical diversity of rich aguatic resources, landscape and environmental grounds, the Albanian Alps are great potential value to the property, frequency, diversity of forms of relief (mountains, gorges, canyons, caves, etc..) the specifics of them attractive. Morphological conditions for the development of winter sports, to mountaineering and cave tourism. Level and potential capacity of ski trails (65 396 m and as skiers per hour), with sufficient space and other associated conditions for the development of winter sport tourism. Natural attractions are the high values which give aesthetic space. Albanian Alps space potentials in the mood has its good basis for development of tourism and its forms: mountain tourism, health tourism, cultural tourism, sports tourism and recreation, rural tourism, ecotourism, tourism transit, Congress tourism, winter tourism, hunting and fishing, etc..

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