

SELECTED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF ROZTOCZE REGION

Iwona DUDA^{B,D}, Agata RZESZUTKO-POLAK^{1(E,F)}

1. Wydział Wychowania Fizycznego, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski

Key words:

- Roztocze,
- tourist attractions,
- national parks.

Abstract:

Tourist assets (or resources) can be defined as a complex of geological and geomorphological elements which are the subject of interest of the tourist. Roztocze region has traditionally been considered an area of high value tourism and sightseeing, but its level of tourism development is varied and in many places low.

An important advantage of the Roztocze region are living nature. Roztocze region has a very rich and diverse plants. This is due to the location of the area on the border between the province and physico geobotanic of Central and South-Eastern Europe, as well as the proximity of mountain regions.

Tourist assets (or resources) can be defined as a complex of geological and geomorphological elements which are the subject of interest of the tourist¹. According to T.Lijewski, B. Mikułowski and J. Wyrzykowski the notion tourist assets should be understood as specific features and elements of the natural environment and manifestations of human activity which are the subject of interest of tourists. The features of assets has such natural environment that is attractive from the tourist viewpoint².

There are two types of tourist assets: the natural assets, strictly dependent on the conditions of the natural environment and anthropogenic assets, including the elements of material and spiritual culture of humans (monuments, folklore, places of national worship and contemporary achievements of the society)³.

Tourist assets constitute everything that is in the scope of the direct interest of the tourist and in most cases decide on the choice of the place of spending leisure. There are several divisions of the tourist assets:

1. Regarding the origin we have the assets of natural environment and the assets of the anthropogenic environment.

2. Regarding the way of using the assets (the motive of making tourist activities) we can single out recreational assets, landscape assets and specialist assets.

3. Due to the nature (dimension) of an asset we have the site assets and event assets⁴.

The Roztocze is traditionally acknowledged as a terrain of high tourist-landscape assets. Still, its level of tourist development is diverse and in many places low.

An important asset of Roztocze is living nature. Roztocze possesses extremely rich and varied vegetation. This is due to the location of this area on the border between the physico-geographical and geobotanical provinces of central and south-eastern Europe, and also due to

¹J. Warszyńska, A. Jackowski: *Podstawy geografii turystyki*, PWN, Warszawa, 1978, p. 330.

²A. Panasiuk: *Ekonomika Turystyki*, PWN, Warszawa 2006, p. 111–112.

³P. Zmyślony: *Partnerstwo i przywództwo w regionie turystycznym*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Ekonomicznej, Poznań 2008, p. 37

⁴J. Kaczmarek: *Produkt turystyczny. Pomysł. Organizacja. Zarządzanie*, Polskie Wydawnictwo Ekonomiczne, Warszawa 2005, p. 52–53.

the proximity of mountain regions. Moreover, influential is also the diversity of habitats, that is the geological structure, the landform features and the moistness of the soil. Many species reach in Roztocze their range limit (e.g. fir, beech, European larch) or the boundary of the gregarious occurrence range (sycamore, broadleaf linden, common elm). In the flora, next to the central-European species there are mountain plants, represented by herbaceous plants and trees (fir, beech, sycamore), northern, south-eastern and Atlantic⁵.

Forests covering the large part of Roztocze preserved a relatively natural character. In the forest communities dominate Carpathian beech trees, pine woods and mixed forests. Among them appears the complex of mixed fir forest which is often endemic for the highland region in Central Poland (Wyżyna Środkowopolska)⁶. Diversity of plant communities occurring in the Roztocze region is well illustrated by the protected communities in nature reserves. Protected are among others beech forests of the Carpathian type (Beech Forest in Narol/Las Bukowy pod Narolem), pine-spruce-fir forests growing on the slopes of valleys and breeding forests at their bottom (Devil's Field by the Tanwia/Czartowe Pole nad Tanwią), broadleaved forests with fir (Jalinka), swamp and moist forests, and complexes of peatbog and water vegetation (Springs of Tanwia, Nowiny/Źródła Tanwi, Nowiny), as well as the vegetation of wet riverside meadows (Devil's Field/Czartowe Pole) and also the dry, xerothermic grasslands with clusters of junipers (Sołokija). In these reserves there are many species of rare and protected plants.



Clusters of junipers, Sołokija, Spring 2011

Due to the unique natural assets were created the Roztocze National Park, natural landscape parks, the Natura 2000 area, natural reserves as well as natural monuments. National parks and landscape parks in the Roztocze terrain include:

1. The Roztocze National Park/Roztoczański Park Narodowy,
2. The Krasnobrod Landscape Park/ Krasnobrodzki Park Krajobrazowy,
3. Janów Forests Landscape Park / Park Krajobrazowy Lasy Janowskie,
4. the Solska Wilderness Landscape Park/ Park Krajobrazowy Puszczy Solskiej,
5. the Southern Roztocze Landscape Park/ Południworoztoczański Park Krajobrazowy,
6. the Szczepieszyn Landscape Park/ Szczepieszynski Park Krajobrazowy.

On the Ukrainian side:

- the Yavorivski National Nature Park / Jaworowski Narodowy Park Przyrodniczy
- the Roztochya National Nature Reserve/ Park Przyrodniczy "Rezerwat Roztocze"

⁵ T. Wilgat: *Roztoczański Park Narodowy*, Lublin 1985, p. 18–23 .

⁶ Ibid.

- the Ravskiy Landscape Park/ Regionalny Park Krajobrazowy Roztocze Rawskie
- the “Znesinnya” Regional Landscape Park/ Regionalny Park Krajobrazowy Zniesienie.

The areas of Natura 2000⁷ are Special Protection Areas for Birds: Solska Forest and Sołokija Valley, Special Areas of Conservation: Debry, Hubale, Kały, The Central Roztocze, Sztolnie (Drifts) in Senderki, Saint Roch (Święty Roch), Zarośle, Horyniec⁸.

The direct components of tourism development in the Roztocze area are tourist trails – hiking, biking and educational trails. The network of tourist trails is relatively dense and constructed to reveal the most interesting sightseeing places of the region. One of the routes of an ecotourist nature is the educational trail “Sztolnie in Senderki” (Drifts in Senderki)⁹.

The natural - educational trails established in the Solska Wilderness Landscape Park are one of the examples of the above mentioned paths. The geological sights of the Park are the fault ledges (small waterfalls) called “noisy cascades” (szumy, szypoty) which are particularly visible in the channels of the river Tanew¹⁰. The most valuable parts of nature in the Park are under higher forms of protection in three reserves “Devil’s Field” (“Czartowe Pole”), “By the River Tanwia” (“Nad Tanwią”) as well as “Beech Forest” (“Bukowy Las”)¹¹

The area of the Southern Roztocze Landscape Park is one of the regions most abundant in river springs in the central-eastern Poland. Apart from Tanwia River here have their beginning Łówcza, Rata, Brusienka, Świdnica, Sołtowa. In this area the Sołkija Nature Reserve is found with its unique position of hundreds of juniper¹².

A special form of nature protection and at the same time a tourist attraction are geoparks. The natural environment of tourist assets constitutes potential for the development of tourist economy. Adapting the elements of the inanimate nature for performing the tourist function lies in the field of geotourism¹³.

Geoparks¹⁴ are areas of outstanding geological heritage, which are used for actions aiming at the development of geotourism based on geological sites, such as rock outcrops and rock structures, the location of the fossil fauna and flora as well as the landforms. On the territory of geoparks, the cultural heritage and local traditions are also promoted, including economic traditions associated with the use of local minerals. The basis of the economy on the areas of geoparks is the use of natural assets and resources of the area in accordance with the principles of sustainable socio-economic and cultural development of the region. In this re-

⁷ Natura 2000 is a policy of setting up in the EU countries a common network of nature protected areas. It is established under two EU directives: Birds Directive and Habitat Directive. The aim of the programme is preservation of particular types of natural habitats and species which are considered valuable and endangered in Europe. Poland obliged to designate on its territory the network of Natura 2000 in the Treaty of Athens on 16 April 2003 which constituted the legal basis for entering the European Union for Poland and nine other countries. The EU regulations essential for creating the Natura 2000 network have been implemented into the Polish law with the publication of the Environmental Protection Act of April 2004 ([Act of Laws of 2004 No 92, item. 880](#), as amended, http://www.gdos.gov.pl/Articles/view/2887/About_the_network)

⁸ <http://www.natura2000.lubelskie.pl>

⁹ W. Wójcikowski, L. Paczyński: *Roztocze. Przewodnik - Senderki* – a village that together with Potok was the centre of processing millstones and brewer stones during the second half of the 18th century, this processing was led by miners that have been settled there, Warszawa 1977, p. 166.

¹⁰ S. Bańcarz: *Roztoczańskie Parki Krajobrazowe*, Przemyśl, 2003, p. 7.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 7.

¹² Ibid, p. 9.

¹³ A. Majecka, M. Wiśniewska: *Geoparki jako nowe narzędzie rozwoju turystyki. Idea promowania georóżnorodności, aktualne problemy i wyzwania*, Łódź, 2011, p. 3.

¹⁴ The idea of creating the Geoparks originated in the 90s and was formulated by the Division of Earth Science UNESCO. In 1998 UNESCO started a programme of creating a Global Network of National Geoparks, which is to include over 500 Geoparks. 77 geoparks UNESCO have been created by the end of 2011.

gard the vital role of the geopark is to promote and stimulate the economic and cultural development of the local community¹⁵.

In Poland, the status of the Polish National Geopark received: Łuk Mużakowa, Góra Św. Anny, Karkonosze National Park together with its buffer zone. Currently the Geopark "Kamienny Las na Roztoczu" is making attempts to gain the status of the National Geopark. "Kamienny Las na Roztoczu" was prepared by the team of scientists led by professor Marek Krąpiec of University of Science and Technology (Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza) in Kraków. The prospective geotourist assets, namely the existing assets that are possible for the use after appropriate adjustment, should be identified with the geological heritage of the particular area, understood as riches of rocks, structures and phenomena occurring in the Earth's crust which enable to reconstruct the Earth's history.



Location of the Geopark „Stone Forest in Roztocze / Kamienny Las na Roztoczu" against the topographic map.

Source: M.Krąpiec: *Geopark Kamienny Las na roztoczu*, Kraków 2011, s. 4.

The direct geotourist interest in the area of Geopark constitute the geological sites. The most important Geopark's geological sites of European importance include profiles and geological exposures of the Miocene deposits: Huta Różaniecka, Lipowiec, Pardysówka, Żelebsko. The fundamental importance for the paleonto-ecological study of the Holocene has the peat bog Hamernia near Józefów. From the viewpoint of the geomorphological studies, the most representative geosites include the monadnock hills: Góra Marchwianego and Kamienna Góra near Teresopol, whereas the most unique are the complexes of cascades and rock thresholds in the groundbreaking sections of the river channels of Tanwia in Rebizanty and the gorge of Sopot in the reserve "Devil's Field" (Czartowe Pole). Rock systems Piekiełko near Stanisławów and Płaczący Kamień on Świstakowa Góra are representative for Roztocze. The most unique sites of Geopark include the places of occurrence of fragments of petrified wood which is the fundamental reason for establishing the Geopark¹⁶.

¹⁵M. Krąpiec: *Geopark Kamienny Las Na Roztoczu. Koncepcja Geoochrony wraz z wykonaniem dokumentacji i badań naukowych niezbędnych dla funkcjonowania tej formy ochrony*, Kraków 2011, p. 1.

¹⁶Ibid, p. 220–221.

Amongst the sites of geological and cultural heritage, the most important and crucial on a continental scale should be included the historical underground mines of raw materials for millstones' production in Potok Senderki.

Such heritage constitute also the tombstones of the Jewish cemetery in Józefów.

Another crucial asset of Geopark is the cultural and historical heritage of the Roztocze region. Its basic feature, similarly to the natural heritage, is its diversity. It is expressed in the traces of three cultures and historical traditions coexisting here since the Second World War: Polish, Ukrainian (Ruthenians) and Jewish. The remains are numerous monuments originating mainly from the 18th and 19th century, most of all Uniate orthodox churches (monasteries) or their ruins, associated with them cemeteries, Roman-Catholic churches, synagogues and Jewish cemeteries. These buildings, especially the stone products in the Jewish cemeteries (kirkuty) and numerous crosses and stone chapels situated in this area are simultaneously a testimony of the past exploitation.



Orthodox Church. St. Nicholas in Tomaszów Lubelski city, source: from the collection of A. Rzeszutko-Polak

That is why many of the cemeteries and some of the church buildings or their ruins have been inventoried as geosites.¹⁷

Geotourism is young, dynamically developing branch of qualified tourism. Its growth results in a number of different initiatives taken by both the scientific community as well as entities from the tourism industry, involving the creation of a network of geosites, in order to promote and protect the geodiversity of its own regions. A region that is, due to its natural and cultural assets, likely to be promoted owing to geotourism is Roztocze. It is a “live lab” for scientists, and at the same time a very attractive area for tourists.

From 1621 to officially recognize the presence of the Jewish community in Tomaszów. The first Jewish cemetery restoration work Tomaszów started in the first half of the 90s of the twentieth century. In 1992 erected ohel, in which the disc was inserted with Hebrew inscriptions. Created for Reconstruction and Preservation Society of the Jewish Cemetery in Tomaszów Lublin, headquartered in Israel. Since then, the cemetery was not only a symbol of

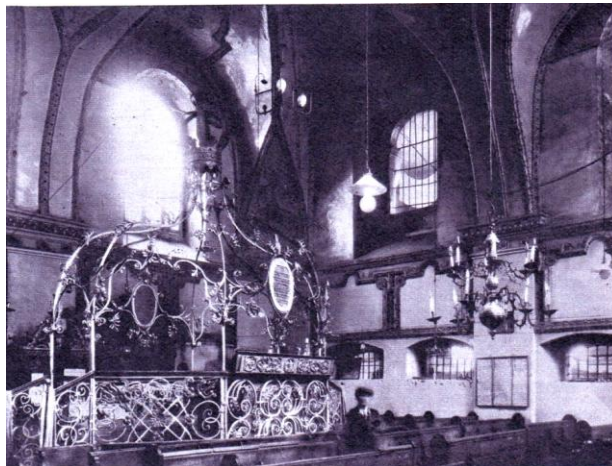
¹⁷ Ibid, p.223.

memory, but most of all an allegory of fraternity and understanding between Israel and Poland¹⁸.



Kirkut in Tomaszów Lubelski city, 2004, source: "Zamojski Quarterly Cultural ", No. 1, 2007, p 84.

Another example of multiculturalism Roztocze is a synagogue in Zamosc. It is the presence of Jews in Zamosc and their important social position dates back to nearly 400 years¹⁹. Established in 1588, The synagogue was a Jewish temple rites, and in the years in office of Chancellor Jan Zamoyski was a place of practicing medical practices of the Jews from the Levant²⁰.



Former interior of the synagogue, source: "The Tourist", No. 4, 1960, p 12

Roztocze, in all its installment, may offer potential visitors a wealth of natural and cultural. They allow for experience, not only in terms of aesthetics, but above all spiritual. Tangible history, passing through another turbulent history of the country can move on a remarkable journey sentimental. Equally important is the cognitive aspect as a determinant of all tourist trips in the Roztocze region.

¹⁸ Z. Paszt: *Kultura materialna ludności żydowskiej na Zamojszczyźnie po II wojnie światowej (2)*, „Zamojski Kwartalnik Kulturalny”, nr 1, Zamość 2007, s. 84–85.

¹⁹ M. Fornal: *Bożnica staromiejska w Zamościu*, „Zamojski Kwartalnik Kulturalny”, nr 1–2, Zamość 2005, s. 143–150.

²⁰ M. Zdrojewska: *Bożnica w Zamościu*, „Turysta”, nr 4, 1960 r., s. 12.