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Comparison of the Tourist Attractiveness of Mountain Ranges in the Sudetes (Poland) for Hiking

Porównanie atrakcyjności turystycznej pasm górskich w Sudetach dla wędrówek pieszych

Artur Chełminiak
Katarzyna Podhorodecka
Department of Regional and Political Geography
Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies
University of Warsaw
ORCID 0000-0003-3075-7453

Abstract: This article analyzes and compares the tourist attractiveness of the Sudetes mountain ranges in Poland specifically for hiking tourism. The study aims to identify which of the Sudetes mountain ranges is the most suitable for hiking. The territorial scope of the analyzed area included only the mountain ranges of the Sudetes located in Poland. The analysis uses the latest available data from internet sources regarding natural tourist values and infrastructure. The article aims to provide a detailed analysis of the concept of tourist attractiveness for mountain hiking and to identify its measures. Tourist attractiveness was evaluated using the point bonitation method, which assigns weights to numerical data representing specific measures of hiking attractiveness. The results provide a hierarchical ranking of the Sudetes ranges based on their tourist attractiveness for hiking enthusiasts[1].

Key words: tourist attractiveness, hiking tourism, mountain tourism, Polish mountain ranges, Sudetes, tourist values, tourist infrastructure

Abstrakt: W artykule przeanalizowano i porównano atrakcyjność turystyczną pasm górskich Sudetów w Polsce, szczególnie w kontekście turystyki pieszej. Celem badania było określenie, które z pasm górskich Sudetów jest najbardziej odpowiednie do uprawiania turystyki pieszej. Zakres terytorialny analizowanego obszaru obejmował wyłącznie pasma górskie Sudetów położone w Polsce. W analizie wykorzystano najnowsze dostępne dane ze źródeł internetowych dotyczące walorów przyrodniczych i infrastruktury turystycznej. Celem artykułu była szczegółowa analiza pojęcia atrakcyjności turystycznej dla turystyki pieszej w górach. Atrakcyjność turystyczna została oceniona przy użyciu metody bonitacji punktowej, która przypisuje wagi danym liczbowym reprezentującym poszczególne miary atrakcyjności pieszej. Wyniki przedstawiają hierarchiczny ranking pasm Sudetów na podstawie ich atrakcyjności turystycznej dla osób uprawiających turystykę pieszą.

Słowa kluczowe: atrakcyjność turystyczna, turystyka piesza, turystyka górska, pasma górskie Polski, Sudety, walory turystyczne, infrastruktura turystyczna

Introduction

Hiking tourism in Poland dates back to the 19th century, gaining popularity in the Tatra Mountains. By the early 20th century, enthusiasts explored the Eastern Beskidy, and the length of designated trails exceeded 1,000 km before World War I and 2,000 km by 1939. By this time, the first mountain shelters in Poland were built (Gudowski, 1997). After the loss of access to the Eastern Beskidy, the Sudetes became a popular alternative. However, strict border regulations initially restricted access, and the region's development focused on mass tourism rather than specialized hiking infrastructure. Mountain shelters were converted into holiday homes by the authorities (Staffa, 2001). Today, the Sudetes offer a diverse range of hiking options,

[1] The article presents the research results of the bachelor's thesis that was defended in September 2023 at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies of the University of Warsaw by Artur Chełminiak.

characterized by varying levels of trail development and access to accommodation.

Aims, the methods and the territorial scope

The study aims to identify the most suitable Sudetes mountain range for hiking and explore whether the elevation of the highest peaks correlates with their attractiveness to hikers.

The analysis focuses on 14 mountain ranges (mesoregions) within the Polish Sudetes, excluding sections in the Czech Republic. These include: Bystrzyckie Mountains, Izerskie Mountains, Kaczawskie Mountains, Kamienne Mountains, Opawskie Mountains, Orlickie Mountains, Sowie Mountains, Stołowe Mountains, Wałbrzyskie Mountains, Złote Mountains, Karkonosze, Śnieżnik Massif, Rudawy Janowickie. The scope of the discussed work included only the ranges of the Sudetes. The reason for this decision is the adoption of the methodology used in the study by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (2010), devoted to the preferences of mountain hiking tourists, and based on survey, which was carried out specifically in the area of the Sudetes in Poland.

Sources used in the article

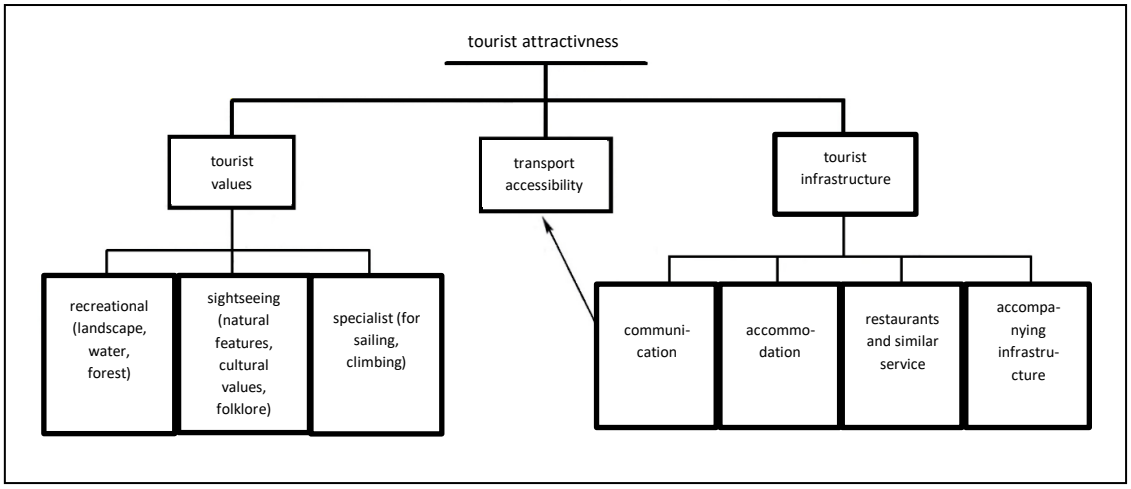
This article uses various sources of information: scientific publications, popular science books, scientific articles, websites. The scientific books discussed mainly include literature devoted to the concept of tourist attractiveness. Based on the publications of W. Kurek (2007), T. Lijewski, B. Mikułowski, J. Wyrzykowski, Lijewski, Mikułowski, Wyrzykowski (2002), J. Warszyńska, A. Jackowski (1979) and O. Rogalewski (1979), a definition of universal tourist attractiveness and its components was established. In addition to the study by W. Kurek (2004), scientific articles were included. The study by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010) showed to the preferences of hiking tourists in the Sudetes. A large part of the tourist attractiveness measures mentioned in their study were used in the work as components, when carrying out the point valuation method. In turn, the test results were used to determine the weights assigned to the ingredients during valuation. The more a given value was appreciated by tourists, the more importance it was given when calculating the value of the tourist attractiveness index in terms of mountain hiking. It should be noted that despite serving as the central node of the Spatial Information Infrastructure in Poland (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl), Geoportal sometimes offered incomplete data, or even no data at all for some measurers. For these reasons, it was necessary to use another website – www.mapy.cz. It is a Czech internet portal providing web maps, which, unlike other global mapping services, is distinguished by having a tourist map layer with a worldwide reach. It offers the function of searching for objects by keywords and categories (www.mapy.cz). Of course, downloading data files from the Geoportal, visualizing them in the QGIS geoinformation program, and then filtering them is a much faster process. However, deficiencies in the data offered by the above-mentioned service left us with no other choice than to use Czech maps. When using them, the speed of the data acquisition procedure was limited by the inability to visualize the tourist map layers in the QGIS program. As a result, the option of filtering objects through the layer containing the boundaries of individual mountain ranges (mesoregions) was unavailable and the entire process had to be performed manually. Due to incomplete OpenStreetMap data on the total length of hiking trails (e.g. they did not include the Main Sudetes Trail named after Mieczysław Orłowicz), the website mapy.cz (www.mapy.cz) also had to be used to count the length of missing trail sections.

Literature discussion about tourist attractiveness and Sudetes Mountains

The concept of tourist attractiveness is broad and complex. Both a large area, such as a continent, and a specific place with a relatively smaller area, such as a city square, may be attractive to tourists. Contrary to appearances, tourist attractiveness does not depend only on factors that can be considered objectively, such as socio-cultural conditions and the state of the natural environment. The psychological aspect, including individual preferences and personal experiences, plays a significant role in shaping the subjective perception of a given space by tourists (Kurek, 2007). According to W. Kurek (2007) in order to be able to assess tourist attractiveness in a universal sense, it should be considered in terms of those components that objectively attract the attention of all tourists. He defined the term tourist attractiveness itself with the following words: 'tourist

attractiveness can be understood as a property of an area or town resulting from a set of natural or non-natural features that arouse interest and attract tourists' (Kurek 2007). Both W. Kurek (2007), O. Rogalewski (1979), as well as J. Warszyńska and A. Jackowski (1979) claimed that tourist attractiveness must integrate components that determine the development of tourist activity in a given space and satisfy the needs of people participating in tourist movement. The components that determine tourist attractiveness include: tourist values, transport accessibility and tourist infrastructure. Figure 2 shows components of tourist attractiveness according to O. Rogalewski (1979).

Fig. 2. Diagram showing the elements of tourism attractiveness according to O. Rogalewski (1979)



Source: own elaboration on the basis of: Warszyńska, Jackowski (1979).

The first element of tourist attractiveness are tourist values, which are defined as 'specific features and elements of the natural environment and manifestations of human activity that are the subject of tourists' interests' (Lijewski, Mikułowski, Wyrzykowski, 2002). Due to the different motives for undertaking tourism and the ways of using tourist values, the latter include: recreational values, sightseeing values, and specialized values.

Tourist recreational values are strictly dependent on the conditions of the natural environment. Their aim is to regenerate the physical and mental strength of tourist participants. Examples of this type of values include: landscape values, conditions for active recreation and clean air. Sightseeing tourist values include natural features as well as elements of material and spiritual culture. These values are the subject of human cognitive interests. Examples of such values are: national parks, natural and anthropogenic monuments and folklore. In turn, specialized tourist values include all features of the natural environment that enable practicing various forms of qualified tourism, e.g. sailing, fishing, mountaineering, horse riding, etc. (Warszyńska, Jackowski, 1979; Lijewski, Mikułowski, Wyrzykowski, 2002). Looking from a different perspective W. Kurek (2007) proposes a different criterion for dividing tourist attractions. He decided to divide them according to their origin, distinguishing their natural and anthropogenic values. He defined all elements of the natural environment that are of interest to tourists as natural values. They can be distinguished for both mass and specialized tourism. Although most of them include values not transformed by humans (valleys, caves, etc.), natural values also include objects created by human intervention, such as nature museums, zoos, etc. In turn, anthropogenic values are characterized by their origin existing solely as a result of human activity. These include, among others: monuments, art museums, centers of folk tradition and places of national memory.

Returning to the model of components of tourist attractiveness according to O. Rogalewski (1979). Zagospodarowanie turystyczne, WSiP, Warszawa (Rogalewski, 1979), the second mentioned element of tourist attractiveness is transport accessibility. This concept means 'the possibility of reaching the destination by means of transport, i.e.

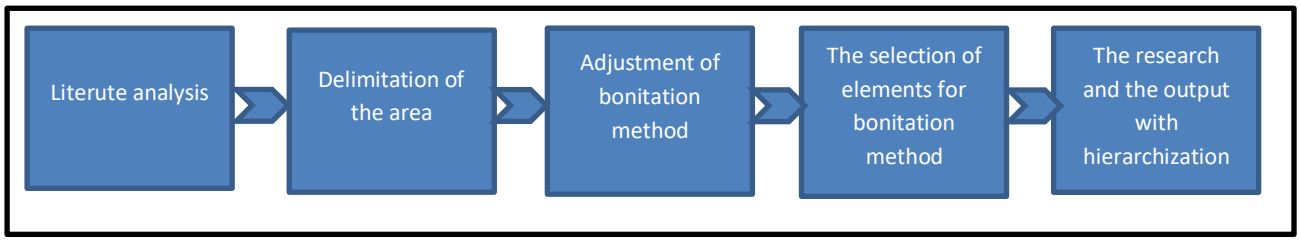
the existing network of transport connections between the tourist's permanent place of residence and the purpose of his trip, as well as a system of transport connections, tourist trails and ski lifts, enabling the tourist to make trips within the selected tourist region to specific places' (Lijewski, Mikułowski, Wyrzykowski, 2002). The third and final element of tourist attractiveness is tourist infrastructure. This concept is understood as 'a set of facilities and devices that constitute the equipment of a specific area, trail or town, enabling the satisfaction of the needs of tourism movement (Warszyńska, Jackowski, 1979). The components of the overall tourist infrastructure include the following types of infrastructure (base): communication base, accommodation base, food base and accompanying base.

The communication base is created by a network of appropriate infrastructure that ensures communication accessibility of a specific place, which is a tourist destination. As a result, this database makes it easier for tourist participants to move within the boundaries of a given place. The examples of elements of the communication base are railway lines, bus stops, tourist trails and ski lifts. Accommodation is considered by many to be a decisive element of tourist development. It includes a set of facilities that allow tourists to stay overnight outside their permanent place of residence. Accommodation includes, among others: hotels, agritourism accommodation, shelters and camping sites. The food and restaurant infrastructure includes all facilities that offer tourists meals and supply them food (e.g. restaurants, bars, cafes, grocery stores). The last component of tourist infrastructure is the accompanying base, which guarantees tourists access to sports and recreational facilities enabling them to practice certain forms of recreation (e.g. skiing). This base also includes complexes of local technical and social infrastructure, the presence of which influences the proper organization of tourist movement in a given area (Warszyńska, Jackowski 1979; Kurek 2007).

The Sudetes are the most important mountain tourist region in Poland, next to the Carpathians. Their attractiveness results, among other things, from the very diverse relief of the area, manifested by a great wealth of rock formations and waterfalls. Additionally, hikers are attracted by good tourist development. Thanks to earlier tourist traditions in the Sudetes, a large number of mountain shelters were established there and a dense network of tourist routes exists [8]. The Polish part of the discussed mountain chain lies mainly within the borders of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship, but a small fragment of the mountains is located in the southwestern part of the Opole Voivodeship. Tourist movement in the Sudetes is focused primarily on two areas: the mountain ranges surrounding the Jeleniogórska Valley (Karkonosze, Izerskie Mountains, Rudawy Janowickie and Kaczawskie Mountains) and the mountains surrounding the Kłodzko Valley. Moreover, in the analyzed mountain chain there are smaller tourist areas, such as: the area around Wałbrzych in the central part of the Sudetes (Kamienne Mountains, Wałbrzyskie Mountains and Sowie Mountains) and the Opawskie Mountains in the southwestern part of the Opole Voivodeship [8].

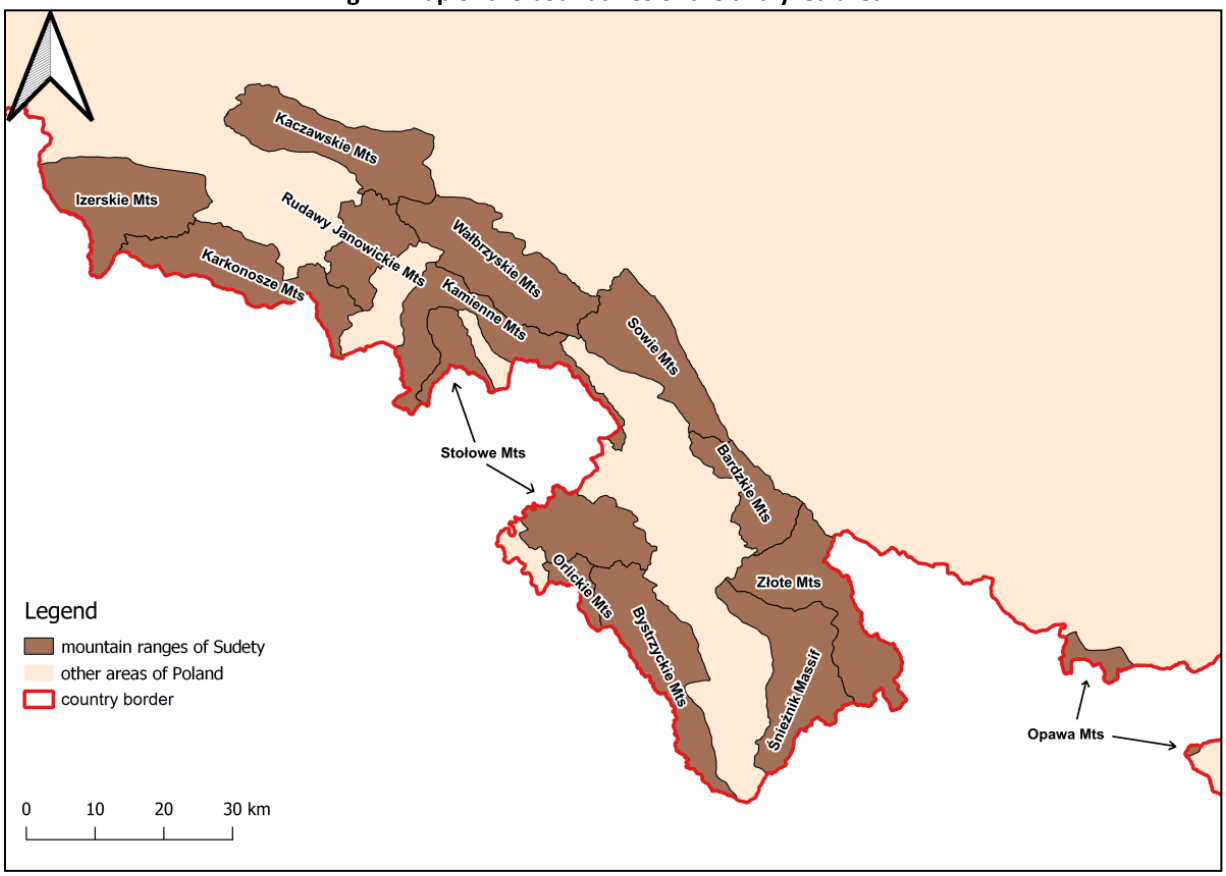
As the boundaries of mountain ranges, the work adopts the boundaries of mesoregions taken from the physical-geographic regionalization of Poland from 2018 made by 26 geographers by J. Solon, based on the regionalization of J. Kondracki from 1994 (Richling, Solon, Macias, Balon, Borzyszkowski, Kistowski, 2021). The analysis of tourist attractiveness was made by many researchers by using bonitation method: S. Żakowska and K. Podhorodecka for Łódź province (Żakowska, Podhorodecka, 2018) and for Asian countries by A. Drabarek (2011) and P. Tertelis (2012).

Fig. 1. The research procedure



Particularly important in the case of this work, which requires accurate data when locating tourist attractiveness measures, is that the new division mainly involves the precise definition of the boundaries of mesoregions. The latest spatial data, computer-analyzed, was used to determine the boundaries of mesoregions in GIS systems. Detailed topographic, hydrographic, geological and botanical maps were also used (Richling, Solon, Macias, Balon, Borzyszkowski, Kistowski, 2021). Figure 2 shows a map of the analyzed area.

Fig. 2. Map of the boundaries of the analyzed area



Source: own study based on data obtained from internet sources (www.mapy.cz, www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl; www.geoforum.pl).

As this work was carried out in 2023, its time scope in the context of natural tourist values and tourist trails includes the latest possible data for this year, obtained from constantly updated online sources (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, www.mapy.cz). In turn, data on tourist accommodation infrastructure, which in the case of this work are mountain shelters, were obtained from 2019. The

reason for this is the lack of data from later years, caused by the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic in Poland in 2020-2022, which made it impossible to carry out detailed shelter research.

The first method employed in this study is a literature review. A review of many books on tourism was necessary to define the very definition of tourist attractiveness and identify its individual components. In turn, the scientific article by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010) was used to distinguish tourist attractiveness measures relevant for mountain hiking tourism, needed later in the study. Another source of information used in this work is the 6th Ranking of Mountain Shelters, which was published by tourist magazine 'n.p.m.'. The ranking turned out to be a well-thought study, preceded by a thorough analysis. Because of a solid methodology, ranking results (the number of points awarded to given shelters by the authors) were included in the final analysis. Precisely, these values were taken into account in the comparative analysis when assigning points for the category regarding shelters, which are an important element of mountain tourist infrastructure.

Also, in the work there was carried out a cartographic analysis using data downloaded from the websites of mapy.geoportal.gov.pl (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl) and geoforum.pl (www.geoforum.pl), as well as web maps provided by the websites of mapy.cz and openstreetmap.org. QGIS geoinformation software was used for visualizing, filtering and counting data obtained from the above-mentioned websites (except for www.mapy.cz). To clarify this information, cartographic analysis was necessary in this work to determine the exact number of objects in individual mountain ranges that are included in the selected measures of tourist attractiveness.

This article also uses the point bonitation method. This is a frequently used technique in geography research. The advantages of this method are its simplicity and the ability to be used to assess almost all phenomena, including those that change qualitatively. It also allows for quantitative comparison of different qualitative variables. The method is subjective, but in many cases it is the only one to assess the tourist attractiveness of given areas. In this work, the point bonitation valuation has been started by making a valorization. According to the survey conducted by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (2010), some values are more important to tourists than others. Therefore, each measure of tourist attractiveness was assigned a different weight. This is the most debated aspect of the point valuation method, as the results largely depend on the adopted values. In order to make the analysis more reliable, instead of relying on intuition and being guided only by subjective opinion, auxiliary materials were used when assigning weights. These were the results of examining the preferences of mountain hikers in a survey conducted in various parts of the Sudetes in Poland. The weights assigned to individual values depended strictly on the respondents' opinions. When calculating the value of the tourist attractiveness index for mountain hiking, greater weight was given to the values that were more valued by the surveyed hikers. After valorization, the numbers of objects located in individual mountain ranges, which were included in the selected measures of tourist attractiveness, were summed up. These numbers were then converted into percentages by dividing them by the highest values of the given metrics among all mountain ranges. Next, the obtained percentages were multiplied by the weights determined in the indexation process. Finally, all values of the obtained coefficients in individual mountain ranges were summed up. The result was that each mountain range received a certain number of points. On its basis, it was possible to analyze statistical data, using the rank method to identify the most attractive mountain ranges for hiking.

Tourist attractiveness of a universal and relative nature from the point of view of mountain hiking

The tourist attractiveness of a given area is not always measured in a universal way. It can also be studied in relative terms. In such a situation, the tourist attractiveness of a given space is considered from the point of view of specific forms of tourism [7]. In the article, the analyzed form of relative tourist attractiveness is specifically tourist attractiveness from the point of view of mountain hiking. When it comes to hiking, the most attractive areas for hiking are mountainous ones. Hiking in the mountains allows you to explore diverse landscapes, natural features and view panoramas from the peaks. In the Polish mountains, due to weather conditions, the

main (summer) hiking season lasts from May to September (Kurek, 2004), however, more demanding mountain trips in the winter season are still a great attraction for some tourists due to the unique appearance of the snow-capped peaks. The main elements of tourist infrastructure for mountain hiking are: a network of marked tourist trails, which forms the foundation of the transport network, and tourist shelters, which constitute the accommodation and food or restaurant base (Kurek, 2004).

Mountain tourist trails have been designated in such a way that people walking along them can experience special tourist values. To a large extent, the trails lead along mountain ridges to peaks, from which there are vast panoramas (Kurek 2007), considered by many to be the most appealing tourist attractions of the mountains due to the unique opportunity to admire such a large part of the landscape. In addition to places with special scenic values, frequent destinations of mountain trails are surface water features, such as rivers, lakes and waterfalls, as well as the most interesting natural features, such as rock formations. These values are popular among tourists due to their picturesque character, which enhances the already impressive mountain landscapes. Sometimes it happens that a rock formation also becomes a viewpoint. Such places are exceptionally appreciated by hiking tourists.

Tourist shelters are a key element of tourist infrastructure for people who want to go to the mountains for longer than one-day trips. In addition to accommodation, they often offer food and shelter even for people who have not previously made a reservation in a given place. They are often located in places with high scenic values or in their close vicinity). Tourist shelters vary in terms of conditions, size, and the food and accommodation they offer. Some of them have only a small number of sleeping places and basic survival equipment to provide temporary shelter to tourists, while others may even resemble city hotels in terms of standards and size (Kurek 2004).

According to W. Kurek (2004) non-natural sightseeing values are also important in mountain hiking tourism, but they were not taken into account in this study or in the analysis and final assessment of individual mountain ranges in terms of tourist attractiveness for hiking. According to a study conducted among tourists (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010), the most important factors when embarking on mountain hikes include: scenic values, natural attractions, diversified relief, mountain climate, surface waters, a network of hiking trails and shelters. In turn, the elements that, according to the survey respondents, have the least influence on their mountain hikes include: mountain folklore, cultural monuments, tourist lifts and the possibility of access to the mountain area. This proves that mountain hikers are primarily attracted to natural values and the necessary elements of mountain tourist infrastructure, i.e. tourist trails and shelters, where they can eat, sleep and rest after the hike. The survey also shows that mountain hikers are not interested in elements of the culture and traditions of the local population, which means that they do not attach importance to non-natural sightseeing values (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010).

Selection of tourist attractiveness measures included in the analysis

To summarize the considerations regarding relative tourist attractiveness from the point of view of mountain hiking, the analysis included the following measures of this form of tourist attractiveness: scenic values (number of places with special scenic values), natural features (number of rock formations and waterfalls), trail network (total length hiking trails), shelters (number and quality of tourist shelters), surface waters (number of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and springs).

The choice of measures was primarily based on the opinion of people hiking in mountain ranges in the Sudetes area. The fundamental difference between tourists' opinions and W. Kurek's is their perspective on the importance of non-natural values. Contrary to W. Kurek's views, according to hikers, these values do not play a significant role [3], which translates into the author's failure to take them into account as measures in the analysis. Mountain hikers are most often not interested in non-natural sightseeing values, such as historic churches in the towns through which the trails run. As a result of the narrow thematic scope of the work, taking into account only the mountain ranges located in the Sudetes in Poland, a large part of the potential components of tourist attractiveness was rejected. The reason for this is the fact that they occur in these areas in extremely small numbers (e.g. caves that are widely liked among tourists and are considered

natural features and are open to the public; apart from the Tatra Mountains, which are not included in the work, they only appear in the Polish mountains in isolated cases) (Roszkiewicz, 2011), or they do not exist at all (e.g. glaciers, which are also very popular, but not found in the areas discussed).

Other mentioned measures, such as the varied terrain or the mountain climate, highly valued by hikers (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010), were unfortunately not included in the author's analysis due to the considerable difficulty in measuring and comparing such values. Still other potential components, such as river gorges, were not taken into account due to the lack of data that would allow determining their number in individual mountain ranges. It is also worth noting that for objects classified as natural values to be included in the analysis, they must be located in close proximity to tourist trails so that the visitor can actually experience them. If an interesting rock formation is located in a protected area, away from designated tourist trails and is therefore not visible to the human eye, it has no value for a potential tourist.

There are some uncertainties in the measures of tourist attractiveness for mountain hiking established in the survey by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (2010). According to P. Zarzycki (2003), 'Contemporary mountain hiking in Poland and its conditions' from 2003, the authors of the questionnaire propose taking into account specific natural values of hiking tourism, which include, among others, 'features of nature' and 'surface waters'. In the survey, they were presented as separate options for which the respondent could vote in the context of their importance in terms of practicing the discussed form of activity. However, later in the introduction, the authors write: 'There are numerous natural features here (in the mountains) (waterfalls, unusual rock formations, caves, river gorges)'.'It follows that waterfalls are included in the 'natural features' measure, even though theoretically they also fall into the 'surface waters' category. They could certainly be considered natural features, but the inclusion of two types of values, in which elements of one of them may also belong to the other, may confuse the recipient, because the authors of the survey did not decide to explain at all what elements make up the 'surface water' category.

Into account were taken the natural features, which include only rock formations and waterfalls, and surface waters, which include lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and water springs. Caves and river gorges, which, according to J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (2010), are considered natural features, were not included in the 'natural features' measure due to the problems mentioned above. In turn, waterfalls, as the only elements of surface waters, were included as natural curiosities, due to the greatest difference (feature) compared to other forms of water, caused by the effective flow of water over a very short distance, with an exceptionally large difference in height. However, the main reason for such a decision is the fact that J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (2010) concluded in their study that waterfalls are among natural features. As a result, due to the lower importance of surface waters, this would artificially lower the value of tourist attractiveness of mountain ranges rich in waterfalls, which are highly valued by many hikers (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010). For example, the Wilczka Waterfall which is a popular natural attraction in the Śnieżnik Massif, is one of the most recognizable tourist attraction in the Polish Sudetes.

The penultimate of the measures taken into account by the author of the work - the number and quality of tourist shelters - may also be considered a somewhat controversial issue. While the number of shelters is easy to understand, their quality is quite questionable to be stated due to the difficult measurement of factors influencing it. The term 'shelter quality' is also quite relative, taking into account the varying needs and preferences of mountain tourists. However, the Mountain Tourism Magazine 'n.p.m.' helps to resolve this issue. Starting in 2009, over the course of a decade, it has prepared a total of 6 editions of the ranking of mountain shelters in Poland. This ranking was updated every two years, and in addition to the order of shelters in the table, the rating system also changed. Its final version from 2019 was prepared in a quite thoughtful way as a scientific study, using the point valuation method (Rokita 2019).

The last, 6th Ranking of Mountain Shelters 'n.p.m.' ['above sea level'], was prepared from May 31, 2018 to June 10, 2019. Then, each shelter located in the Polish mountains was rated by testers based on two anonymous visits. Employed by 'n.p.m.' magazine testers visited shelters, the list of which was prepared based on the list of facilities posted on the PTTK website in May 2018. All facilities that did not offer accommodation were not included (Rokita 2019,

which is an important attribute of a shelter according to a large number of mountain hiking tourists [3]. The mystery client method was used for paying attention to various issues. After each visit, testers had to take a survey, which included 22 questions divided into four groups.

The first group included 5 questions relating to food. The following items were assessed: the buffet offer, the possibility of preparing and eating your own meals, the availability of the buffet, the availability of the kitchen, and the possibility of obtaining boiling water. The second group also had 5 questions, but in this case they concerned accommodation. The following items were assessed: room equipment, cleanliness of the rooms, temperature in the rooms, and availability of the shelter at night. The third group included 5 questions about sanitary conditions. The following were taken into account: the number of toilets, the number of washbasins, the number of showers, cleanliness in bathrooms, bathroom equipment, access to hot water, and the possibility of drying clothes and shoes. The last, fourth group consisted of 7 questions and was of a supplementary nature, therefore its weight in the final comparative analysis was noticeably lower. These questions included difficult-to-find elements, such as: politeness of the staff, ease of communication, availability of the dining room as a common room, keeping quiet at night, availability of information materials on site, and the offer of discounts for overnight stays (Rokita, 2019). VI Ranking. To summarize the method of assessing the quality of mountain shelters of the 'n.p.m.' magazine, each facility had a chance to obtain the maximum number of 100 points. The assessment scale was closed and consisted of a classification in four categories divided into several subcategories. All subcategories and their evaluation result from the regulations of PTTK shelters, adopted by the management of this organization in 2003. Using the point bonitation method, each of the first three criteria (food, accommodation and sanitary conditions) was assigned the same number of points (28 each), while when the fourth supplementary criterion was awarded only 16 points (Rokita 2019).

To better illustrate the process, let's take two measures of tourist attractiveness as an example. Scenic values received an average of 4.41 points in the survey, and surface waters received only 3.35. When calculating the value of the tourist attractiveness index in terms of mountain hiking, the points scored by a given range in the 'number of places with special scenic values' category were multiplied by a weight of 4.41, and the points scored in the 'number of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and water springs' – by weight 3.35. However, multiplying

A method for comparing the tourist attractiveness of mountain ranges in terms of hiking

The method used for comparing the tourist attractiveness of mountain ranges in terms of hiking was point bonitation. In the discussed work, the valuation process has been begun with valorization. According to the survey conducted by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki. (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010), some tourist values are more important to hikers than the other ones. Therefore, to each of the tourist attractiveness' measures a different weight was assigned. In order to make the analysis more reliable, instead of purely relying on intuition and being guided only by subjective opinion, auxiliary materials were used when assigning weights. These were the results of examining the preferences of mountain hikers in a survey conducted in various parts of the Sudetes in Poland. The weights assigned to given values depended strictly on the respondents' opinions. In a survey by J. Grobelny, W. Wiesner and P. Zarzycki (2010) recipients could assign a specific number of points to individual measures. The lowest possible value was 1 point (not important in the context of mountain hiking) and the highest was 5 points (the most important in the context of mountain hiking). The value of the arithmetic mean of all points awarded to a given value was directly taken into account in the method of comparing mountain ranges. When valorizing selected measures, they received specially assigned weights, which were corresponding to the point values they received in the survey (visualization of weights in table no. 1).

Table 1. Weights given by hiking tourists to tourist attractiveness components

Tourist attractiveness components	The arithmetic mean of points given
scenic values	4,41
natural curiosities	4,16
tourist trails	3,57
tourists shelters	3,37
surface waters	3,35

Source: own elaboration on the basis of the survey (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010).

points by weights was one of the later stages of the point valuation method.

Then, these numbers were converted into fractions by dividing them by the highest values of given tourist values among all mountain ranges, so that certain reference points could be adopted when adding the values assigned to various measures

After the initial valorization, the numbers of values of objects located in individual mountain ranges, which were included in the selected tourist attractiveness measures, were summed up. After that, the numbers corresponding to the quality factor of tourist shelters were added up (visualization of calculation results in table no. 2).

Table 2. Data of the numerical values of selected tourist attractiveness measures

Mountain range	The number of places with special scenic values	The number of rock formations and waterfalls	The total length of hiking trails (in km)	The number of tourists shelters	The average quality of tourist shelters (in points)	The number of lakes, rivers, etc.
Góry Bardzkie	4	0	121,37	0	0	7
Góry Bystrzyckie	12	4	252,02	2	66,0	47
Góry Izerskie	27	25	373,47	1	44,7	32
Góry Kaczawskie	13	7	194,24	0	0	18
Góry Kamienne	42	16	293,89	1	75,5	27
Góry Opawskie	7	5	95,79	1	70,4	15
Góry Orlickie	6	0	89,19	1	54,5	10
Góry Sowie	29	22	464,50	1	66,8	49
Góry Stołowe	43	107	412,69	2	76,6	53
Góry Wałbrzyskie	41	19	420,11	0	0	19
Góry Złote	18	21	279,62	0	0	49
Karkonosze	56	71	414,57	7	63,8	68
Masyw Śnieżnika	20	7	311,31	1	54,9	36
Rudawy Janowickie	21	49	196,49	1	50,5	15

Source: own study based on data obtained from: www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, openstreetmap.org; www.mapy.cz; www.geoforum.pl; Rokita (2019).

It should be noted that the coefficients for the number of mountain shelters were additionally multiplied by a weight of 0.75, and the average quality of shelters - by a weight of 0.25. Then, they were added together to obtain the value of one measure relating to all tourist shelters (visualization of calculation results in table number 3).

Table 3. The values of the coefficient corresponding to the measure "number and quality of tourist shelters"

Mountain range	The values of the coefficient
Góry Bardzkie	0
Góry Bystrzyckie	1,45
Góry Izerskie	0,85
Góry Kaczawskie	0
Góry Kamienne	1,19
Góry Opawskie	1,14
Góry Orlickie	0,96
Góry Sowie	1,10
Góry Stołowe	1,56
Góry Wałbrzyskie	0
Góry Złote	0
Karkonosze	3,23
Masyw Śnieżnika	0,97
Rudawy Janowickie	0,92

Source: own study based on the "6th Tourist Shelters Ranking" (Rokita 2019).

Finally, the resulting values of the coefficients of all values in individual mountain ranges were summed up. As a result of these activities, each range of the Sudetes chain received a specific number of points (table number 4).

When taking into account the quality of tourist shelters, it was necessary to first draw an average by adding the values of the quality coefficient of mountain shelters from all shelters in a given range, and then dividing it by the total number of shelters in this area. Since the 'number and quality of tourist shelters' was adopted as one measure, additional weights had to be used - one the for number and the other for the (average) quality. Otherwise, this measure would be counted twice. Therefore, in order to make the value of the weights of the two parts of this measure equal to 1 (and not 2), it was decided to assign a weight of 0.75 to the number of shelters and a weight of 0.25 to the average quality of shelters. The reason for not assigning equal weights here are both subjective opinions of the author of the work and his mountain tourists friends, who would definitely prefer a larger number of worse-rated shelters to a smaller number, but better rated ones. This applies especially to multi-day hikes on larger mountain ranges, where only the fact that a shelter exists in a given place makes it possible to carry out the entire trip. Returning to the previous stage of the study, the coefficients (percentages) obtained in fractions were multiplied by the weights for individual measures determined in the indexation process.

Table 4. The sum of the values of the coefficients of tourist attractiveness measures

Mountain range	The sum of the values of the coefficients
Góry Bardzkie	1,59
Góry Bystrzyckie	6,80
Góry Izerskie	8,40
Góry Kaczawskie	3,68
Góry Kamienne	8,71
Góry Opawskie	3,36
Góry Orlickie	2,61
Góry Sowie	10,22
Góry Stołowe	14,89
Góry Wałbrzyskie	8,13
Góry Złote	6,80
Karkonosze	16,94
Masyw Śnieżnika	6,98
Rudawy Janowickie	6,72

Source: own study based on data obtained from online sources (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, openstreetmap.org; www.mapy.cz; www.geoforum.pl).

For each of the five tourist attractiveness measures included in the study, a mountain range could receive a maximum of 100% of the number of points from the value assigned to the weight of a given measure. So, assuming that the given mountain range was the best among the other ones in all five categories, you should sum up all the values corresponding to the weights (4.41; 4.16; 3.57; 3.37; 3.35) and multiply them by 100%. This means that the highest possible number of points that could be obtained by one mountain range could have been 18.86. However, to make reading the results easier, this number, as well as the final index values of all analyzed mountain ranges, was multiplied by 1.06. As a result, the highest possible number of points will be 20. Most importantly, when comparing, the proportions between the results will remain the same. It is much easier to evaluate a given value when the reference point is an integer, preferably divisible by 10. Thanks to these small changes in the values of the obtained numbers, an easy to understand, yet still accurate ranking of the most suitable mountain ranges for hiking can be created.

Results of research on tourist attractiveness of selected mountain ranges

Before proceeding to the analysis of the value of the final tourist attractiveness index in terms of mountain hiking, its components should first be presented. More precisely, we are talking about the results achieved by individual mountain ranges, in the

context of the numbers achieved by individual natural values. Starting with the category the most appreciated by Sudeten tourists, namely places with special scenic values (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki 2010), the largest number of them was recorded in the Karkonosze Mountains, as many as 56 (table number 5). Among the other mountain ranges of the Sudetes, good results were also achieved by the Stołowe Mountains (43 viewpoints), the Kamienne Mountains (42 viewpoints) and the Wałbrzyskie Mountains (41 viewpoints), which are in second, third and fourth place in terms of the discussed criterion. The four ranges mentioned so far are the only ones in the Sudetes that have exceeded the threshold of 30 places with special scenic values. Sowie Mountains, which ranks fifth, offers only 29 such locations. The least attractive mountain ranges in terms of the selected criterion turned out to be the Bardzkie Mountains, Orlickie Mountains and Opawskie Mountains, which as the worst three have consecutively four, six and seven places with special scenic values. These three mountain ranges are the only ones among the Sudetes that have not exceeded the barrier of ten such places.

Table 5. The number of places with special scenic values in individual mountain ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The number of places with special scenic values
Góry Bardzkie	4
Góry Bystrzyckie	12
Góry Izerskie	27
Góry Kaczawskie	13
Góry Kamienne	42
Góry Opawskie	7
Góry Orlickie	6
Góry Sowie	29
Góry Stołowe	43
Góry Wałbrzyskie	41
Góry Złote	18
Karkonosze	56
Masyw Śnieżnika	20
Rudawy Janowickie	21

Source: own study based on data obtained from online sources (openstreetmap.org; www.mapy.cz; www.geoforum.pl).

Analyzing the second measure in terms of the importance given by tourists (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010), one can easily notice the dominance of one range, which is the Stołowe Mountains, rich in as many as 107 rock formations and waterfalls (table 6). The Karkonosze Mountains, which are in second place in this category, have 71 such natural attractions, while Rudawy Janowickie, which closes the podium, offers 49 of them. The vastness of the mentioned numbers emphasizes the fact that, next in terms of the highest number of mentioned objects, are the Izerskie Mountains, with only 25 of them. The least attractive mountain ranges of the Sudetes in terms of the discussed criterion are definitely the Bardzkie Mountains and the Orlickie Mountains. In both of these ranges, there is not a single rock formation or waterfall along the marked tourist trails. Mountain ranges such as the Bystrzyckie Mountains, the Opawskie Mountains, the Kaczawskie Mountains and the Śnieżnik Massif also offer little in terms of these particular natural attractions. None of them has more than 7 rock formations and waterfalls.

Table 6. The number of rock formations and waterfalls included in individual mountain ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The number of rock formations and waterfalls
Góry Bardzkie	0
Góry Bystrzyckie	4
Góry Izerskie	25
Góry Kaczawskie	7
Góry Kamienne	16
Góry Opawskie	5
Góry Orlickie	0
Góry Sowie	22
Góry Stołowe	107
Góry Wałbrzyskie	19
Góry Złote	21
Karkonosze	71
Masyw Śnieżnika	7
Rudawy Janowickie	49

Source: own study based on data obtained from internet sources (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, www.openstreetmap.org, www.mapy.cz www.geoforum.pl).

The next measure of tourist attractiveness is the total length of hiking trails (Grobelny, Wiesner, Zarzycki, 2010). In this respect, Sowie Mountains turned out to be the best, with as many as 464.5 km of marked routes (table 7). The Karkonosze Mountains and the Stołowe Mountains were also among the leaders, with 414.57 and 412.69 kilometers respectively. At the bottom of the ranking were the Orlickie Mountains (89.19 kilometers of hiking trails) and the Opawskie Mountains (95.79 kilometers). They turned out to be the only ranges of the Sudetes that do not exceed 100 km of marked routes.

Table 7. The total length of hiking trails (in kilometers) in individual mountain ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The length of hiking trails (in km)
Góry Bardzkie	121,37
Góry Bystrzyckie	252,02
Góry Izerskie	373,47
Góry Kaczawskie	194,24
Góry Kamienne	293,89
Góry Opawskie	95,79
Góry Orlickie	89,19
Góry Sowie	464,50
Góry Stołowe	412,69
Góry Wałbrzyskie	420,11
Góry Złote	279,62
Karkonosze	414,57
Masyw Śnieżnika	311,31
Rudawy Janowickie	196,49

Source: own study based on data obtained from internet sources (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl; www.mapy.cz; www.geoforum.pl).

Analyzing the number of tourist shelters, one mountain range definitely stands out in the Sudetes. These are the Karkonosze Mountains, which offer as many as 7 such facilities (Table 8). For comparison, each of the ex aequo second-place ranges in this category (Stołowe Mountains and Bystrzyckie Mountains) has only two shelters. There are as many as four mountain ranges in the Sudetes, in which there is not a single shelter. These are: the Bardzkie Mountains, the Kaczawskie Mountains, the Wałbrzyskie Mountains and the Złote Mountains.

Table 8. The number of tourist shelters in individual mountain ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The number of tourist shelters
Góry Bardzkie	0
Góry Bystrzyckie	2
Góry Izerskie	1
Góry Kaczawskie	0
Góry Kamienne	1
Góry Opawskie	1
Góry Orlickie	1
Góry Sowie	1
Góry Stołowe	2
Góry Wałbrzyskie	0
Góry Złote	0
Karkonosze	7
Masyw Śnieżnika	1
Rudawy Janowickie	1

Source: own study based on data obtained from online sources: (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, openstreetmap.org; www.mapy.cz; www.geoforum.pl).

Taking into account not the number, but the quality of tourist shelters, the Stołowe Mountains have the best reputation, whose shelters received an average of 76.6 points in the Sixth Mountain Shelters Ranking. Facilities in the areas of Kamienne Mountains (75.5) and Opawskie Mountains (70.4) also achieved an average score above 70 points. No points were awarded for the quality of shelters to mountain ranges in which the above-mentioned tourist infrastructure facilities are not located (Bardzkie Mountains, Kaczawskie Mountains, Wałbrzyskie Mountains, Złote Mountains).

Table 9. The average quality of tourist shelters (in points) in individual mountain ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The average quality of tourist shelters (in points)
Góry Bardzkie	0
Góry Bystrzyckie	66,0
Góry Izerskie	44,7
Góry Kaczawskie	0
Góry Kamienne	75,5
Góry Opawskie	70,4
Góry Orlickie	54,5
Góry Sowie	66,8
Góry Stołowe	76,6
Góry Wałbrzyskie	0
Góry Złote	0
Karkonosze	63,8
Masyw Śnieżnika	54,9
Rudawy Janowickie	50,5

Source: own study based on data obtained from online sources (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, openstreetmap.org; www.mapy.cz; www.geoforum.pl).

The last measure considered in the study of hiking tourism attractiveness is surface waters. The largest number of objects in this category were located along tourist trails in the Karkonosze Mountains, as many as 68 (Table 10). The following mountain ranges also stand out in this respect: Stołowe Mountains (53), Sowie Mountains (49), Złote Mountains (49) and Bystrzyckie Mountains (47). The mountain ranges that have the least to offer in this respect are definitely Bardzkie Mountains and Orlickie Mountains. They have consecutively 7 and 10 objects in the category of surface waters located along local hiking trails.

Table. 10. The number of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and springs included in the study of individual mountain ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The number of lakes, ponds, rivers, etc.
Góry Bardzkie	7
Góry Bystrzyckie	47
Góry Izerskie	32
Góry Kaczawskie	18
Góry Kamienne	27
Góry Opawskie	15
Góry Orlickie	10
Góry Sowie	49
Góry Stołowe	53
Góry Wałbrzyskie	19
Góry Złote	49
Karkonosze	68
Masyw Śnieżnika	36
Rudawy Janowickie	15

Source: own study based on data obtained from internet sources (www.mapy.geoportal.gov.pl, www.openstreetmap.org; www.mapy.cz www.geoforum.pl).

The analysis of the value of the final tourist attractiveness index in terms of mountain hiking indicates that among the Sudetes there are two mountain ranges that stand out above the rest. These are the Karkonosze Mountains (first place in terms of the index value) and the Stołowe Mountains (second place). These ranges scored consecutively 17.95 points and 15.79 points out of 20 (Table 11). The third place was taken by Sowie Mountains (10.83 points), which was the last range to break the 10-point barrier. The least attractive mountain ranges of the Sudetes according to the index are: the Bardzkie Mountains (1.69 points), the Orlickie Mountains (2.77 points), the Opawskie Mountains (3.56 points) and the Kaczawskie Mountains (3.90 points). The index values among the remaining Sudetes' mountain ranges reaches between 7 and 10 points.

Table. 11. Values of the final tourist attractiveness index for mountain hiking in individual ranges of the Sudetes

Mountain range	The values of the tourist attractiveness index in terms of hiking
Góry Bardzkie	1,69
Góry Bystrzyckie	7,21
Góry Izerskie	8,90
Góry Kaczawskie	3,90
Góry Kamienne	9,23
Góry Opawskie	3,56
Góry Orlickie	2,77
Góry Sowie	10,83
Góry Stołowe	15,79
Góry Wałbrzyskie	8,62
Góry Złote	7,20
Karkonosze	17,95
Masyw Śnieżnika	7,40
Rudawy Janowickie	7,13

Source: own study.

Summary and Conclusions

Hiking tourism is an important type of social tourism, especially with the groups with low budget – young people or elderly people (Muszyńska, 2023). Subtype of hiking in high mountains on secured routes is a specific form of 'hard' adventure tourism (Čech, Javorská, 2023).

Summarizing the analysis, the aim of it was to answer the question: "which mountain ranges of the Sudetes in Poland are the most suitable for hiking?". To answer this, The Karkonosze Mountains rank as the most attractive range, scoring 17.95 out of 20 points. Key factors include the highest number of scenic viewpoints, the most tourist shelters, and the greatest surface water resources. The Stołowe Mountains follow, scoring 15.79 points, excelling in natural features with over 100 different rock formations. The Sowie Mountains rank third (10.83 points) due to their dense trail network (450+ km) and balanced performance across other categories. Ranges with the lowest overall scores include: Bardzkie Mountains (1.69 points). Orlickie Mountains (2.77 points). Opawskie Mountains (3.56 points).

The findings also challenge the stereotype that higher mountain ranges are inherently more attractive for hiking. The Stołowe and Sowie Mountains, despite lower altitudes, outperform higher ranges like the Śnieżnik Massif. This suggests that factors such as infrastructure and natural features play a more significant role than elevation alone. In conclusion of the study, the Sudetes offer diverse opportunities for hiking, but the Karkonosze and Stołowe Mountains stand out due to their scenic and natural values, coupled with well-developed infrastructure. The findings emphasize the importance of prioritizing hiker preferences in tourism development

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Cavaliada Tour jako impreza sportowa, turystyczna i masowa

Cavaliada Tour as a sports, tourist and mass event

mgr inż. Daria Osowska - Szkoła Główna Turystyki i Hotelarstwa Vistula, wydział Turystyki i Rekreacji

Abstract: In modern times, we are choosing a healthy lifestyle with greater awareness. Sport is an integral part of our everyday life. More and more people are trying their hand at various disciplines, such as equestrianism. With the appropriate qualifications and authorizations, we can compete in regional, national and international competitions. The aim of this article is to present selected organizational, legal and sports and tourism aspects of the "Cavaliada Tour" event, as well as to assess the importance of the event and its impact on the sports environment and the tourism sector. The publication presents issues related to the coordination of the most important equestrian mass event taking place in Poland. The scale of the event makes it popular not only in our country, but also among enthusiasts from other continents.

Keywords

Cavaliada, event, tourism, horse, sport

Abstrakt: We współczesnych czasach z większą świadomością wybieramy zdrowy styl życia. Sport jest nieodłączną częścią naszej codzienności. Coraz więcej osób próbuje swoich sił w różnych dyscyplinach, takich jak np. jeździectwo. Posiadając odpowiednie kwalifikacje oraz uprawnienia możemy rywalizować między sobą w zawodach regionalnych, ogólnopolskich oraz międzynarodowych. Celem niniejszego artykułu jest przedstawienie wybranych aspektów organizacyjno-prawnych oraz sportowo-turystycznych eventu[2] „Cavaliada Tour", a także ocena rangi wydarzenia oraz jego wpływu na środowisko sportowe oraz sektor turystyki. W publikacji przybliżono kwestie związane z koordynacją najważniejszej jeździeckiej imprezy masowej odbywającego się w Polsce. Skala wydarzenia sprawia, że cieszy się ono popularnością nie tylko w naszym kraju, ale także wśród pasjonatów pochodzących z innych kontynentów.

Słowa kluczowe

Cavaliada, event, turystyka, koń, sport

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Wstęp

Wydarzenia sportowe, zwłaszcza te o randze międzynarodowej, mogą być samodzielną atrakcją turystyczną (produktem turystycznym, który jest podstawą dla tworzenia oferty turystycznej w obszarze turystycznym (Panasiuk, 2015, s. 189), a także elementem atrakcyjności turystycznej danego obszaru, czyli elementem składowym produktu turystycznego – obszaru (Kaczmarek, Stasiak, Włodarczyk, 2005, s. 75-76).

Turystyka sportowa należy do dynamicznie rozwijających się rodzajów podróżowania, zwłaszcza w formie wyjazdów, których celem jest kibicowanie podczas wydarzeń sportowych (Malchrowicz-Mośko, Poczta, 2018, s. 121). Cykl imprez jakim jest Cavaliada Tour pokazuje zasięg jeździectwa oraz jego wpływ nie tylko na sportowców, ale także na kibiców (a nawet tzw. telekibiców), społeczności lokalne i turystyczne destynacje. Na Cavaliadzie możemy spotkać tzw. „kibiców-turystów", którzy wspierają zawodników podążając za nimi nawet na inny kontynent. Dla sektora turystyki kibic sportowy jest

[2] Słowa „event" oraz „wydarzenie" będą używane w publikacji zamiennie.