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HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHORNOHORA MASSIF OF UKRAINIAN CARPATHIANS

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Abstract

The paper highlights and analyzes the main stages of tourist development of the Chornohora massif of the Ukrainian Carpathians since the middle of the 19th century up to this day. It also describes the first tourist shelters created within the boundaries of Chornohora and the tourist associations that contributed to the appearance of the first tourist infrastructure.

Key words: Chornohora, alpine meadow, tourist shelters, history of tourism.

Introduction. The history of studying the development of tourism on the mountainous territories of Ukraine has always been of interest to researchers, since Hutsulshchyna has long been a distinctive and isolated mountainous land with its unique traditions and culture. Nevertheless, poor infrastructure, low level of servicing led to the fact that the tourist development of the Chornohora territory was quite slow.

The historical peculiarities of tourist infrastructure are relatively shortly analyzed in Ukrainian literature. Thus, the main sources of information about the location of tourist sites in the second half of 19–beginning of 20 centuries are in the descriptions of the unique nature of Chornohora, folklore and ethnographic studies of these territories, tourists' memoirs of those times, local newspapers, tourist brochures and booklets, issued by tourist societies that used to organize shelters on the territory of Chornohora.

History of research The studies of the tourist infrastructure were conducted by such scientists as Klapchuk V. [5, 6], Nesteruk Yu. [13], Rozhko I. [9], Pandyak I. [11].

Having analyzed the available sources, it is possible to clearly distinguish three stages of the development of tourist infrastructure within the limits of the Chornohora massif and the Ukrainian Carpathians in general:

Stage 1– the emergence and establishment of recreational infrastructure. This period covers the time when Chornohora gradually became a part of the possessions of Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. However, this period can be called the best in terms of the development of mountain tourist infrastructure, thought-out tourism development strategy, popularization of tourism and encouragement of a careful attitude to nature.

Stage 2– Soviet. It covers the period when the territory of the Chornohora massif was a part of Soviet Union until the independence of Ukraine.

Stage 3 - Modern. It is characterized by the development of recreation and tourism management as well as the restoration of former shelters in the mountain valleys.

Results of work. The history of the organization of camping trips within the limits of the Chornohora massif begins from the middle of the 19th century. The first record of a camping trip dates back to 1858, when M. Romanovsky described his trip to Chornohora from Kosmach. Owing to various tourist communities such as the Polish Tatra Society (PTS), the Czechoslovak Tourist Club (CTC) etc, the tourism in the outskirts of Chornohora is becoming more and more popular. In the 1870s, the organized tours were conducted by PTS, which had its branch offices in Kolomyia and Stanislav. Various organizations and tourist clubs primarily directed tourists to Chornohora, which at that time was a little known tourist region. For the development of tourism, recreation, promotion of spending vacations in the mountains and familiarization with the culture of Hutsul region, tourist shelters were built, tourist routes were marked, tourist guides were issued, and the railway was built [6].

Famous figures and writers also engaged in the popularization of Hutsulshyna. After visiting this region, they often devoted poems or other works to it. Among the Ukrainian writers, one should mention such personalities as Hnat Khotkevych, Nataliya Kobrynska,

Sydir Vorobkevych, Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky, Yuri Fedkovych and, of course, Ivan Franko, who often loved to rest in Kryvorivnya, and in 1883, created the "Circle for the setting up trips in our region", which contributed to the development of tourism in Chornohora environs [1].

In Western Europe, the tourism to Chornohora started after a book "A Girl in the Carpathians" by an English writer Menie Muriel Dowie had been published. She had been traveling alone on horseback across Hutsulshchyna for ten weeks, getting acquainted with the culture of the region, and in 1891, after returning to her homeland she published the book [15].

In 1878, the Chornohora branch of the Tatra Society built the first tourist shelter in the natural landmark Hadgyna and named it after Yan Hryhorovych, a well-deserved figure in the tourist sphere, and two years later, with the help of Henry Hoffbauer and Kostyantyn Sivytsky, the first tourist route to this shelter was marked. Later, in 1881, in the natural landmark Zaroslyak, another shelter was built, but because of the not-so-convenient location at that time, the shelter lasted for 11 years and went bankrupt. After the building was transferred to the Chornohora branch of the PTS, a Vorokhta-Kukul-Kozmyeska-Zaroslyak tourist route was marked to the shelter, which increased the number of tourists wishing to stay in this place. Later, the building was renovated and expanded and an access road along the Prut river was laid.

In 1882, in the eastern part of the Chornohora ridge, a new shelter was built, namely under Pip-Ivan Chornohirsky mountain. However, despite the fact that it was on the route used for climbing Pip-Ivan Chornohirsky from the village of Shybene, still it was not very popular among tourists and it was in miserable condition for a long time. In 1910, the shelter was repaired, but with during the World War I, it was destructed severely and its further fate is unknown.

In 1884, with the assistance of Leopold Weigel, the direction signs along the route Krasnyi Lug - Hoverla - Danzigh - Spytshi - Pip-Ivan - Shibenyi – Zelene appear on the Chornohora ridge.[2].

One more shelter, which served as the first stop for the tourists travelling from Vorokhta, was built in the Zavoyelya countryside [5].

However, the Chornohora massif attracted not only tourists from the surrounding territories. A great variety of rare species of plants and animals caused great interest among scientists. Thus, in 1899, on the initiative of the leadership of the State Botanical and Field Station, which was functioning in the village of Dublyany near Lviv on Pozhyzhevskaya Valley,

a station for scientific studies was founded. In addition to botanical and agronomic research, meteorological studies were carried out during the warm seasons: air temperature, cloudiness, wind direction and speed were measured, soil temperature, intensity of evaporation, insolation, atmospheric pressure and other indicators were fixed. [13].

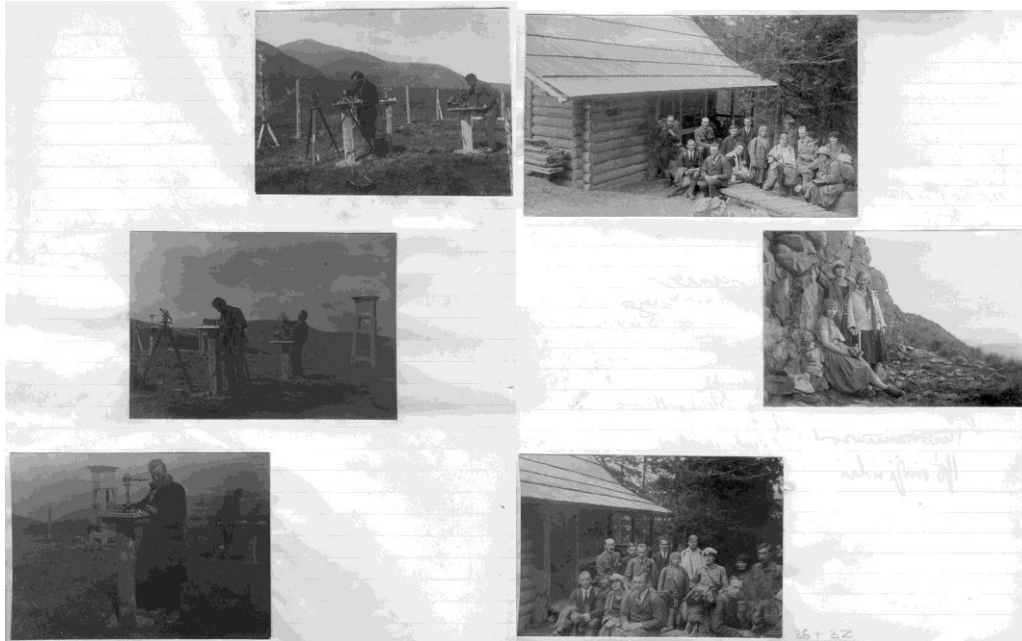


Fig.1 The memorable book of the "Pozhyzhevskia" station [13]

Due to active military actions of the World War I on the territory of Chornohora, most of the shelters were destroyed, and tourism in the Hutsul region collapsed. Only after the end of the war, old shelters started being restored and the new ones were being built.

Thus, in 1923-1927 the shelter in Zaroslyak was restored, it became the largest shelter in the Carpathians and was designed for 120 beds for overnight stay (later the number of beds increased to 150), it had the best facilities— a shower, electric lighting, a telephone communication, commodious terrace. The accommodation was provided on a fee basis— three and a half zloty for the first day and three zloty for the following days (in the winter, there was an additional payment of 30 grosze for heating), the members of the Tatra society were provided a 50% discount. The shelter was burned during the World War II.

A new shelter named after Tadeusz Kaspšycki was built on the Tatar (Yablonitsky) Pass in 1932. It was a two-storeyed wooden house that could accommodate 50 people, there was a reception room, a dining room and a kitchen for self-catering, rooms for tourists, and later in the shelter building, a post office was opened.

In 1934, on the slopes of Kostrych mountain, with the financing of a tourist association for the construction of tourist scout shelters, a modern shelter was constructed, which could

accommodate up to 80 people and was equipped with water supply, electricity and telephone communication, as well as a rescue service.

A similar shelter was erected on Maryshevska mountain in 1935. This object was built at the expense of the Carpathian Society of Skiers. Thus, during 1935 the main construction works took place, and in 1936 the shelter received the first tourists, but the official opening and consecration was in 1937. This building was designed for simultaneous reception up to 57 tourists. It had toilets, showers, laundry, own bakery, and telephone connection with the village of Vorokhta. When Soviet troops came in 1939, the shelter administration was arrested and the property was stolen by local residents. Subsequently the house on Maryshevska was renovated several times but the fire in 2007 led to the final loss of this unique building.

In addition to tourist organizations, other organizations also engaged in the development of tourism and winter sports. For example, with the efforts of the association of military settlers (*Centralny Związek Osadników Wojskowych*) on the northern slope of Kukul Mountain in 1939, a modern shelter was constructed [Fig. 2]. The building appears as the center of skiing and summer tourism. The building could simultaneously accommodate up to 100 people in two-, four- and eight-roomed apartments. It was a two-storeyed building, with a dining room, a kitchen, showers, toilets, and a ski room on the ground floor. On the second floor there were women's toilets and living rooms. Unfortunately, the shelter lasted for 8 months only and was destroyed during the World War II.



Fig. 2. Shelter at the foot of Kukul mountain

In 1936, on Pip-Ivan Chornohirsky mountain, "the construction of the century". An engineer, the general of Rzecz Pospolita, Leon Berbetsky, on behalf of the Main Air Defense Command of the Republic of Poland, initiates the construction of the observatory on Pip-Ivan mountain. At the same time the University of Warsaw was proposed to contribute to the building of the astronomical observatory. The construction lasted for two years and ended with the opening of the observatory on July 29, 1938. However, such an important object did not function long. With the outbreak of the World War II, all the personnel were ordered to leave the observatory, some of the documentation and appliances were destroyed and the building itself was demolished.

The last shelter built in Chornohora before the World War II was the shelter near Smotrych. The building began in 1932, the shelter opened in 1934, but the settlement of the shelter was finally completed only in 1939. The construction was carried out at the expense of the Ski Section of the Academic Sports Union from Warsaw. The house could accommodate up to 50 people at the same time, it had cold and warm water supply [5]

The active construction of tourist infrastructure facilities contributed to the well-developed system of tourist shelters in the 1930s within the bounds of Chornohora. Also during this period there was already a sufficient number of marked tourist routes in the environs of Chornohora, all of them began from Vorokhta. The most popular was the route, which was marked in red on the maps of that time, and it lay from Vorokhta to Hoverla, through Kychera mount. - Kukul mount. - Foreshchanka landm. - Zaroslyak landm. The route had three branches: yellow, from Zaroslyak to the sources of the Prut River, blue from Zaroslyak to the Nesamovyte lake, and green from Zaroslyak on Velyka Kozmeska mountain. Another route from Vorokhta, yellow, lay in the valley of the Prut River, and in the natural landmark of Foreshchanka, it converged with the red route that came down from Kukul. On the yellow route, there was also a blue branch in the vicinity of the natural landmark of Ozirny, which led on Kostrych mountain. But the most important tourist event of that time was the marking of the Eastern Carpathian part of the Main Carpathian Path, which was performed in 1925-35. The Path passed through the former territory of Poland – it began with the Sudeten, on the border between Poland and the Czech Republic, and ended on the present border of Ukraine with Romania. The Eastern Carpathian part of the Path consisted of 8 sections – 3 sections were located in the present Lviv region, and 5 others in Ivano-Frankivsk region, where most of the sections of the Path passed through Gorgany and only a part of the eighth section - through Chornohora mountain range. However, such a number of marked roads, was still insufficient for tourism demand of that time; a large part of shelters was

located not far from the Path and therefore tens of kilometers of side and connecting roads led to them [2].

The history of tourist development on the Transcarpathian part of the Chornohora massif is quite complicated and interesting. Historical events have led to the fact that this territory was under the authority of various states. Thus, by 1918 this territory was a part of Austria-Hungary. During that period, the Hungarian Carpathian Association – a public organization of tourist destination – was caring for tourist shelters in Transcarpathia. It focused its efforts on equipping shelters, preparing guides, etc. Since 1918, these territories were a part of Czechoslovakia. The Hungarian Carpathian Association was dissolved, and its property was confiscated. In the 1920's, the organization restored its work under the name "Carpathian Club" ("Karpathen verein") and managed to return some tourist facilities through lawsuits. It conducted its activity autonomously, being in constant confrontation with the Club of Czechoslovak tourists [12].

During the 20's and 30's of the 20th century, active recreation areas in the Transcarpathian region reach its special heyday (hiking, skiing), including cultural and cognitive excursions. Infrastructure provision was instrumental in intensifying tourism flows in the mountainous regions of Transcarpathia, in particular, in Chornohora. The leading role in this process was played by the Club of Czechoslovak Tourists (CCHST) – a public organization that was engaged in marking tourist routes, their information and methodological support, the development and maintenance of tourist shelters, arrangement of territories and sightseeing objects, popularization of tourism, promotion of active recreation, etc.

However, the general weakness of the material and technical base of tourism in the region in the 20's and 30's of the 20th century did not contribute to the active development of hiking tourism. The most popular were one- and two-day hiking trips to the mountains with ascents to the nearest peaks. However, most routes, except a few main ones, were not marked, there was a constant problem of training and retraining of instructors, guides, and translators.

It should be noted that at the beginning of the development of active tourism in Chornohora, a network of shelters was located in such a way that it was possible to get from one to another within one day, depending on the route chosen, which were marked. Also, tourist organizations and clubs, in addition to promoting healthy recreation, took care of nature conservancy. The corresponding literature was published and thematic conferences, reports, meetings aimed at environmental education were organized [5].

In 1945, after the World War II, Transcarpathia finally became a part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Thus, the Chornohora massif was united in one state. However,

Soviet authorities did not pay much attention to the development of tourist infrastructure of mountain regions, unlike the time when these lands were in ward of Poland and Czechoslovakia. Mountain shelters, built before 1936, were completely destroyed during the World War II [10].

A "Second Life" was granted to the shelter in Zaroslyak. In 1959, a sports base of the Olympic reserve Zaroslyak was built there and it was actively used for training athletes. Also, the tourist shelter continued its functioning in the natural landmark of "Kozmeshchyk".

In 1963, there were plans to restore the observatory on Pip-Ivan mountain. At the request of the USSR State Security Committee, a comprehensive project was prepared that envisaged not only the restoration but also the expansion of the object. So, there had to be a separate boiler room for heating the house, a vegetable storage to support the scientists' activity throughout the year, a water supply network and a helicopter platform. However, the project did not succeed.

In 1968, the territory of the Chornohora massif became a part of the newly created Carpathian Reserve (since 1993 the Transcarpathian part has belonged to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, and Ivano-Frankivsk part of Chornohora– to the Carpathian National Park since 1980). The entry of these territories into the natural reserve fund led to the regulation of the recreational sphere within the array for the conservation of rare species of animals and plants.

Since the declaration of Ukraine's independence, the tourist sector has undergone various stages of development, which was closely connected with the economic situation in the country. In the 1990s, there was a significant decrease in tourism activity, there was a sharp decrease in the number of tourists from Ukraine as well as from the countries of the former USSR (Russia, the Baltic States, Belarus), however, the share of self-organized tourist groups from Eastern European countries (mainly from Poland and the Czech Republic) increased.

During the last period there is an increase in the number of people who need active recreation in the Ukrainian Carpathians. The main reasons for the growth of demand for recreation in the Carpathian region was the increase in cash incomes among the population, the cancellation of visas for European citizens (it contributed to a relatively large proportion of foreigners among holidaymakers), the political situation in the country (many holidaymakers turned to rest from the mountainous Crimea to the Carpathians). Also, in recent years a tendency has been observed that a large number of labor migrants, while being abroad, have accumulated enough money and experience to do their own business, therefore,

many new kolybas (Carpathian-style restaurants), private hotels, restaurants, etc. appear every year. Improving the infrastructure, mainly transport (major repairs of the roadway, increasing the number of options for railways) made it a convenient and popular "weekend" holiday [4].

Conclusions. In general, we can claim that the development of tourist infrastructure on the territory of the Chornohora massif began in the middle of the 19th century from the construction of a tourist shelter in the natural landmark of Hadgyna and a number of shelters in various parts of Chornohora. However, the construction of shelters was not chaotic. The shelters formed a clear network, they were rather close to each other, which was convenient in case of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances. It also enabled tourists to organize walking tours in Chornohora without tents or need to make a fire for cooking (namely, with the organization of camps in Chornohora at the present stage, there arise such problems such as trampling, felling of wood and garbage accumulation). The shelters of those times were equipped with water supply, electricity, had their own boilers, toilets and showers, and often also had telephone connection with the nearest settlements for unforeseen events. Nowadays, there is no such shelter not only in Chornohora, but also on the territory of the Ukrainian Carpathians.

Also, it should be noted that more than a hundred years ago, Polish and Czechoslovak sports associations paid a lot of attention to environmental issues. Before entering the route, each group was informed that walking is allowed on a clearly marked route only, a large number of leaflets and newspapers was issued, which reported, in particular, about obligatory careful attitude to nature in the mountains. For example, one of the Hungarian tourist associations, which operated in the early 20th century, was called "Friends of Nature".

In our opinion, for restoring and improving the infrastructure at present time, it is necessary to use Polish and Czechoslovak experience, taking into account the studies of modern scholars. Indeed, before the World War II the Ukrainian Carpathians and, in particular, Chornohora had a clear strategy for tourist development in the region. There were first attempts to organize private hotels and kolybas, tours to the mountains. The authorities stimulated the development of infrastructure and attracting of the population to the tourist services sector because both Polish Republic and Czechoslovakia clearly understood that tourism itself could become the main stimulus for the economic development of this region.

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