

The Landscape of the White Drin is a Tourist Attraction in the Development of Local Tourism

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ABSTRACT

The natural landscape of White Drin, which is also a tourist attraction visited by many tourists, is also the tourist area of the source of White Drin with its waterfall, which is protected by law for its natural values. The waterfall, which is 30m long, is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Kosovo and a unique attraction in the municipality of Peja, which is visited by local and foreign tourists throughout the year. The source of the White Drin is one of the most important sources of Kosovo and one of the sources that supplies the city of Peja with the district with drinking water and is of high quality, it also has a beautiful landscape that is visited by many local visitors and international, there is also the Sleeping Beauty cave that has a special landscape and is attracted by many visiting tourists.

Keywords: natural, white drini, landscape.

INTRODUCTION

The source of White Drin as a tourist attraction is a special natural beauty and tourist attraction of the municipality of Peja and Kosovo, which is visited by many tourists, undoubtedly the «Waterfall of White Drin» and the «Sleeping Beauty», or the Cave of Radac, which is a visitor attraction. This is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Kosovo, which is visited by tourists throughout the year. The cave of Radac, or as it is called «Sleeping Beauty» is located near the source of the white Drin, about 11 kilometers from the city of Peja. The entrance to the cave is oriented from the north-east, which is located at an altitude of 578 meters above sea level. What is more important is that in Kosovo the climate is very favourable for tourists because four seasons are adjusted in accordance with official calendar and in rare cases the climate happens to be different, for instance, the winter season is snowy each year (Kuqi, 2018) The source of the White

Drin is one of the most important sources of Kosovo and one of the sources that supplies the city of Peja with the district with drinking water. Managing and protecting water quality requires rational use, not causing damage to natural ecosystems, which are necessary for our future generations (Dreshaj et al. 2022). It is important to note that «Peja beer», «Ice water» and «Spirit of Drini» are also produced with the water of this source, which are known for their high quality. This water originates at the foot of the Rusoli mountain, from the rock of the Radac cave at an altitude of 586 m. The source also creates the beautiful 30 m long Drini waterfall. Water management is of particular importance for the health of flora and fauna (Dreshaj et al. 2022). In the territory of Kosovo - White Drin winds for 122 km in the north-south direction. The reservoir also collects the waters of Lumbardhi of Peja, Erenik and Lumbardhi of Prizren. With a size of 4646 km², the Drin basin is the largest of the 4 water catchment basins of Kosovo. The access to the spring or «Drini White

Waterfall» can be done from two sides: where one side leads from the road of the hydropower plant or the «Drini Waterfall» restaurant to then follow the pedestrian path along the beauty of the White Drin River under the shade of the trees and the fresh air, which circulates through the canyon up to 400 m long, as well as the other approach in the direction of the restaurants «Trout e Drini», «Krye-drini», «Ujevara e Drini», «Anese Drini», «Vala e Drini» ” where you can drive up to the trailhead to continue hiking to the beautiful waterfall. Visits that the diaspora usually makes to their families in Kosovo are an important source of income for the Kosovo economy (Kuqi et al., 2021). In order for the source of the white oak to be a tourist attraction for local and foreign visitors, we must also take care of the environment. In general, the structure of a water source monitoring system includes the sequential implementation of the following stages: 1) Information acquisition – data mining; 2) Field measurements at the first level – mapping; 3) Field measurements at the second level – sampling; 4) Field measurements at the third level – monitoring (Ihor Klymchuk et al. 2022)

METHODOLOGY

With the research work we aim to achieve the efficient understanding and clarification, the importance of the landscapes of this area. So, the collection of data and facts (research and qualitative analysis, research based on primary data, effectiveness of communication, observation method and secondary data. Through the use of this method, it is intended to emphasize the importance of environmental protection and the development of tourism in the development of the local community. The method of direct observations in the field was used to get to know the landscapes of the Drin area in the area of the environment and the development of local tourism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The economic development of a country depends a lot on the natural resources that that country possesses, whether underground or above ground. In this aspect, the Municipality of Peja can be proud of the natural resources it possesses, because the “White Drin “massif also enables them. The road that connects Peja with

the neighboring country, that of Montenegro, namely with Rozhaja, passes through canyon of Radac, which offers rare tourist attractions. Passing through this Gorge, it is impossible not to stop and enjoy the beautiful natural places, either created by nature itself, or even by the investments made for the purpose of tourist development. The hotel facilities built along the course of the River, already known, « White Drin », (always preserving the natural beauty), offers comfortable spaces for visitors who go to visit and enjoy the natural monuments that are well-known, not only in Kosovo. It is impossible to cross this Gorge without stopping to see the «Drin Waterfall», the «Sleeping Beauty», or the Radac Cave, which is becoming a real attraction for visitors. The cave is 2.1 kilometers long, however, visitors can visit the corridor about 300 meters long. The cave inside has three galleries, (entrance gallery, central gallery and bathtub gallery). The cave is decorated with stalagmites and stalactites composed of marble and limestone and inside it there are also small lakes. In the Republic of Kosovo, in the month of May 2022, compared to the month of May 2021, the number of local visitors increased by 50.0%, while their overnight stays increased by 44.7%. In the month of May 2022, compared to the month of May 2021, the number of external visitors increased by 53.1%, while the number of their overnight stays increased by 58.8% (Table 1 and Fig. 1)(ASK 2022). Gastronomy sector or HoReCa, which is the abbreviation of «Hotel, Restaurants and Catering», have suffered heavy losses due to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID19 (Kuqi et al., 2021). The government policies have in its strategy a clean environment and better utilization of natural resources. (MINT 2022) (Table 1 and 2).

It is impossible to visit the city of Peja and not stop to see the «Waterfall of White Drin « and the Cave of Radavci «Sleeping Beauty». It is inevitable to take photos of the views of the flow of this River, or even not to walk the tourist trails built exclusively for citizens, to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful natural landscapes. At Waterfall of White Drin, in addition to the scenery of this rare natural beauty, there was also the hospitality of those who took care of the visitors and accompanied the visitors inside the «Sleeping Beauty» cave, giving sufficient explanations and information. In this area, tourism is focused on the creation of independent accommodations with sleeping and breakfast, where visitors (Fig.

Table 1. The number of visitors and their stays by region

Designation	Total			Local			External		
	V	V	Index	V	V	Index	V	V	Index
			<u>V 2022</u>			<u>V 2022</u>			<u>V 2022</u>
	2021	2022	V 2021	2021	2022	V 2021	2021	2022	V 2021
	Visitor								
The Republic of Kosovo	21.352	32.444	151,9	8.030	12.042	150,0	13.322	20.402	153,1
Gjakovë	288	396	137	104	61	59	184	335	182
Gjilan	705	1.044	148	372	781	210	333	263	79
Mitrovicë	2.139	2.440	114	441	1.239	281	1.698	1.201	71
Pejë	3.622	2.532	70	1.829	1.329	73	1.793	1.203	67
Prizren	6.453	6.588	102	2.718	2.866	105	3.735	3.722	100
Prishtinë	6.903	15.223	221	1.797	2.612	145	5.106	12.611	247
Ferizaj	1.242	4.221	340	770	3.154	410	472	1.067	226
	Nightstands								
The Republic of Kosovo	32.624	50.247	154,0	11.145	16.129	144,7	21.479	34.118	158,8
Gjakovë	646	611	95	166	110	67	480	501	104
Gjilan	830	1.191	143	402	814	202	428	376	88
Mitrovicë	2.199	2.497	114	438	1.279	292	1.761	1.219	69
Pejë	9.229	4.595	50	3.956	2.422	61	5.273	2.173	41
Prizren	7.190	9.357	130	2.920	3.775	129	4.270	5.582	131
Prishtinë	10.616	24.358	229	2.346	4.210	179	8.271	20.148	244
Ferizaj	1.913	7.639	399	918	3.519	383	995	4.119	414

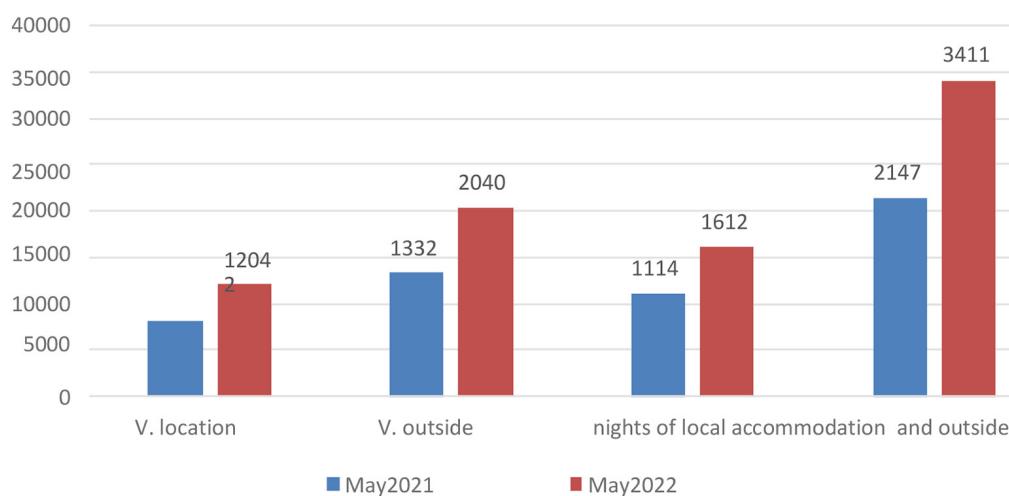


Fig. 1. Number of visitors and their stays for the periods 2021 and 2022

2) will have the opportunity to be in contact with the residents, with the lifestyle of the community and with the local cuisine (Hasanaj, 2022). During the weekend, the number of tourists increases continuously. The landscape offered by this waterfall attracts visitors from different parts of the world. The whole organization and social functioning are a special presentation of the mountain community (Lajqi et al, 2022).

Near the “White Drin” waterfall and the Radac Cave called «Sleeping Beauty» (Fig. 4), in addition to very nice restaurants, there are also fresh local trees for sale from the local community, which affect the living standard of the local community (Fig. 3). Water is very important for health and socio-economic development of a country (Çadraku et al., 2016) (Fig. 5). The resorts at source White Drin are at a high level in



Fig. 2. Visitors to the source of White Drin



Fig. 3. Local fruits from Radavc village

providing tourist services and high quality. There you can find all kinds of food from traditional to modern food. The cave of Radac is located near the “White Drin” waterfall. It lies in the north-eastern part of the Rugova Mountains ranges. The cave is deepened in rocks, which make up the top of Rusolia with an altitude of 2381 m above

sea level, between which lies the field of “Drin i Bardhë”. With its morphological properties, it is arranged with several branches and galleries, halls, corridors and canals. The formation of the cave is related to the hydrological evolution of the western part of the limestone karst of the peak of Rusolia. The subterranean flow formed larger



Fig. 4. Radac Cave «Sleeping Beauty»



Fig. 5. Presenting Drini Waterfall Resort

channels, which were built in pre-Levantine time, the larger cave channels were created in the time of the lower lakes when the second gallery of the cave was formed. Enriched with decorations from

any cave in the rocks of this territory, the cave of Radac with its numerous connections of underground channels, easy galleries for walking, microclimatic conditions and properties, presents

Table 2. The research carried out at the Source of the White Drin and the Cave of the Sleeping Beauty

No.	Question	Excellent	Very good	Sufficiente	Poorly
1	Do you think the number of visitors has increased because of marketing?	90	25	5	0
2	Think that tourism will help the economic development of the area?	98	12	10	0
3	Do you prefer to stay enjoying the natural beauty?	88	15	10	7
4	Do you want to have foreign investments for the development of tourism in this area?	110	10	0	0
5	How satisfied are you with the development of the area?	70	25	14	11
6	How satisfied are you with the information centers for this area?	77	18	8	17
7	Do you visit this tourist attraction more than twice a year?	73	20	7	20
8	Are you satisfied with the investments made in this area?	60	27	13	20
9	Have you visited the cave "Bukuroshja e Fejtur"?	92	8	12	8
10	Do you want to visit this tourist attraction again?	102	10	5	3

a very attractive tourist object. Now this cave is open for visits throughout the year (municipality of Peja, 2018). The Republic of Kosovo has valuable potential values which are beneficial for the development of the tourism product (Millaku, 2021) The natural beauty and tourist attraction of the municipality of Peja is always the "Radaci Cave". Based on the many economic activities that the Republic of Kosovo has, in this whole, we have presented the impact of tourism in those parts that affect economic development and society in general (Millaku et al., 2021). Table 2 shows the research carried out at the Source of the White Drin and the Cave of the Sleeping Beauty.

CONCLUSION

These two beauties of natural heritage are found in the northeastern part of the Albanian Alps. Radavci Cave is a typical spring cave. Its formation is related to the erosion and chemical work of the underground waters of "White Drin". The situation, based on the continuous monitoring of the situation on the ground in the Nature Monument "Source White Drin" and Radavci Cave, it has been established that there have been numerous interventions of the anthropogenic factor in this monument. The interventions have mainly been carried out in the source of "White Drin" around Waterfall, which consist of the construction of paths for visitors, stairs, the placement of kiosks. In this tourist place, in addition to private investments that have built tourist resorts, there is a need for the Government of the country to pay special attention to investment in

infrastructure. There is a possibility to create new trails for mountaineering.

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