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Faculty of Economics and Management

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Abstract of Diploma Thesis

Economics of National Parks in the United States of America

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Summary:

This thesis studies the system of US National Parks tourism's and its impact on the economics of the state and evaluates the ability of tourism to provide a sustainable solution for economic development. Diploma thesis is divided into theoretical and practical parts. The theoretical part of the thesis is based on the literature review and introduces the basic information about the National Parks in the world and in the United States of America, their system and methodology of research national park activity. The second practical part focuses on the application of methods and analysis, such as cost benefit analysis, situation analysis and implementation of travel cost method in order to evaluate the economic effectiveness of national parks as a tourism destination.

Key words:

national parks, recreation, sustainable, tourism economics, travel-cost method, cost-benefit analysis

Objectives and methodology:

The aim of this work is the analysis of economic efficiency of tourism and recreational activities of the objects of the national parks system of the United States.

The following problems are formulated and solved to achieve this aim:

- to research the theoretical basis for the development of tourist infrastructure;
- to define tourism destination, tourism infrastructure and their place in economic development;
- to research national parks as tourism destinations in different countries;
- to form methodology of research of national parks activity;
- to give a general characteristic of development of national parks as tourism destination in the United States of America;
- to research meaning of national parks in tourist infrastructure of United States of America;
- to study cost-benefit and situation analysis of national parks activity;
- to analyze the economic effectiveness of national parks as a tourism destination.

The objects of research are the development trends in the world of international tourism destination.

The subjects of research are theoretical-methodological and applied methods of development of national parks system as tourism destination.

The methodological and theoretical basis of the thesis has made a synthesis of the results of fundamental and applied research in the field of tourism, modern theory and methods of management of the national parks as tourism destination. The thesis used such general methods of scientific knowledge, both historical and comparative, and special research methods, as particular abstract-logical, statistical and economic, monographic, analysis and synthesis, comparisons, benchmarking, travel cost method and other methods of economic research of economic-mathematical method, the analytical and logical generalizations.

Practical significance of the obtained results is in the fact that the scientific provisions, conclusions and recommendations of the research can be used to improve the efficiency of national parks activity and its impact for economy of USA.

Theoretical part:

The theoretical part of diploma thesis which is based on the literature overview represents the basic knowledge about tourism, its destination and its infrastructure. This part introduces the national parks of the United States in comparison with national park from different states, their system and their environmental conservation place.

Methodology of research of national parks activity introduces a set of specific techniques, approaches, methods, activities aimed at obtaining new scientific results, achieving goals and aims of the diploma thesis, such as comparative research, travel -cost method, quantitative and qualitative research.

Practical part:

The practical part focuses on the application of various methods and analyses . To examine the national economic benefits of the park system e and measure economic growth in the regions around parks the cost-benefit analysis was implemented. SWOT analysis demonstrates internal

and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieve special objectives for national park activity. It is also considered to be appropriate to examine the economic performance based on a single visitor for the ten largest of national parks by economic contributions using the travel cost analysis.

All analyses point to the same conclusion, the United States National Park System is an asset of tremendous economic value at the national, regional, and local level.

Conclusion:

The main aim of research was to learn more about the activities of the national parks in the United States of America and all over the world, study the economic foundation of national parks on the territory of protected areas, to explore their system and the role in tourism development in order to evaluate their influence on the economics of the country. As the thesis refers to such different topics as economics, environment, sustainability, tourism, leisure and recreation activities, the author was completely involved and interested during the process of the diploma thesis writing.

The most challenging part of this thesis was the data collection and conduction of different types of analyses, especially the travel-cost analysis, which used regression analysis to estimate the economic benefits from recreational uses. The detail analysis on national parks activities gave the author opportunity to understand the current situation in the development of recreational tourism and the strengths and weaknesses of the national parks as recreational zones.

The author can summarize, that she is satisfied with the results of conducted research as all the aims were achieved , all the problems were solved and the useful information from different branches of science were obtained. The results of this study can be used for further researches in frames of tourism economics industry, as well as used for people who interested in the economics on National parks of the United States of America.

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