

Green tourism in Ukraine

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Introduction. Green tourism, a form of ecotourism, is low-impact tourism which protects the environment and culture of an area. It is considered that green tourism offers the best of both worlds, protecting the ecology of an area while keeping local schools and businesses thriving. It has become the most popular among young and active part of the population, students, looking for new places and economical resting, as well for older people willing to recover physical strength in a natural way. Currently, green tourism in Ukraine provides tremendous opportunities for recreation.

Mountain slopes and valleys of the *Carpathians and Transcarpathia* are paramount in green tourism. This natural area attracts pilgrims from all over Europe throughout a year. In winter, there are comfortable ski resorts. In autumn large number of berries and mushrooms ripen here. In spring and summer this place is simply awashed with flowers. There is no wonder a real tulip valley and a huge amount of natural ponds are present here that allows fishing and boating.

Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in Thranscarpatia is one of the biggest and most interesting reserve areas of Ukraine. On this territory there is the largest territory of beech forests in Europe. About 90% of the territory is occupied by primeval beech, fir, spruce, pine, ash, alder forests. More than 64 plant species and 72 animal species are listed in the Red Book. The virgin nature reserve attracts more than 100,000 visitors a year from around the world who enjoy all forms of wildlife.

In addition to mentioned above areas green tourism in Ukraine is widely developed in *Poltava* and *Kherson*. Foreign tourists who want to witness the historic battle sites mostly come here.

Biosphere Reserve “Askania Nova” in Kherson region is the environmental research institution of international importance, which is included into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. In 2008, it became one of the winners of a nationwide campaign “7 Natural Wonders of Ukraine”. The uniqueness of the reserve is that it is the only steppe area in Europe, which was never touched by a plow. In addition, there is a large number of rare plants and unique objects. For lovers of ecotourism biosphere reserve Askaniya Nova would be a great place to relax.

Shatsky National Park in Volyn region is a great place for lovers of ecotourism. In the park there are beautiful Shatsky lakes, which include more than 30 lakes (one of them is Svitjaz), rich animal kingdom, and about 80% of the plants that are listed in the Red Book. Relax, feel the taste of nature and feel their strength of mind is quite real, as the park is equipped with nature trails and great hiking trails.

Conclusion. Tourism in Ukraine causes a lot of damage to the environment. Ecotourism aims to minimize the unfavorable affects of hotels, trails, and other infrastructure by using either recycled materials or plentifully available local building materials, renewable sources of energy, recycling and safe removal of waste and garbage, and environmentally and culturally sensitive architectural design. Minimization of impact also requires that the numbers and mode of behaviour of tourists should be regulated to ensure limited damage to the ecosystems in Ukrainian national parks and nature reserves.

References:

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