

LAUKU CEĻOTĀJS

NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR TOURISTS

Tips and practical advice for product development

Like any human activity, tourism impacts natural processes. The impact can be negative and positive. At first, tourism has developed parallel to nature protection. Tourism and protected nature areas are closely related in the modern world. There are two main patterns of this interaction.

Sometimes, an area, representing nature values or a separate nature object is designated a protection status. After that, visitors discover that the particular places are worth seeing. Today, many tourists are sort of collectors: they collect nature parks or other protected areas, visiting new places in every trip.

In other cases, a site first becomes a popular tourist destination and afterwards becomes under protection so that future generations can enjoy the place and its natural values in hopefully same condition. Besides, the favourite tourist attraction has to be protected against, e.g., forest cut down, construction of power stations or other industrial objects, and often – from too many visitors and negative tourism impacts. Growing numbers of population live in cities. And growing numbers of the population are willing to relax in pristine nature.

Many research works have been devoted to tourism and nature interaction. Also in Latvia, in recent years, more attention has been given to this issue. This paper presents summarised experience of other countries illustrated by examples from Latvia.

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