

## Tourism as an Instrument of the Economic Development of Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region

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The article focuses on the evaluation of tourism in the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region in terms of the possibilities of its economic development. Based on selected economic indicators (such as GDP per capita, unemployment rate), we analyze the position of the territory in the regional structure of Slovakia and describe factors that determine the development of the region (location, absence of large cities, poor transport infrastructure). According to valorization of the natural and anthropogenic assumptions we value the potential of the territory in the context of the possibilities of tourism development in it. Valorization was carried out in relation to the main recreational activities, where the aggregate value of the potential expresses precisely the possibilities of developing recreational activities in the studied territory. On the basis of selected statistical indicators related to tourism we evaluate the current state of tourism development in the region and we compare it with other regions of Slovakia. These approaches are complemented by a historical-geographic analysis of the development conditions of the territory, which completes the picture of the possibilities and limits of the development of tourism in the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region.

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