

SUMMARY

Nature and recreation sites in Plungė environs /PLUNGE

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Plungė District distinguishes from other districts of Lithuania for its natural resources potential of tourism and recreation development. The tourism is one of the most perspective business activities in the district. The tourism products of Plungė District – historical, cultural heritage, nature, environment and its offered entertainment and amenity. The main components of tourism industry, which attract tourists to come here, are sport and leisure entertainments, camps, staying overnight in nature and natural rural environment, national cuisine, fresh and ecological products, pleasant means of communication (on foot, by bicycle, boat, scull, horse, etc.). Architectural, historical, natural and art monuments, which are plentiful in Plungė District, also are attractive for tourists. A fair part of Plungė District is included in state protective areas (Žemaitija National Park) with cognitive tourism being a priority.

Tourism resources of Plungė District consist of:

- Natural resources;
- Cultural resources;
- Tourism infrastructure.

Large meaning for recreation has lakes and rivers. They are very attractive objects for holidaymakers. There are aplenty of various species of fish, which attract amateur professional fishermen. There is the possibility to equip a centre of water amusement and sports in Plungė.

Water tourism of Plungė District contains:

- the Plungė Sea;
- the Babrungas River (especially in Vandentiekio street);
- the Medingėnai Dam (gravel pit);
- the Lake Norvilai.

In the forests of the region under consideration trees of various species are growing, but coniferous woods (pine, spruce) predominate. Deciduous trees – oak, birch, quaking aspen and nut trees are rather common as well. There are plenty of recreational forests in the mentioned territory. The most important function of them is to meet recreational needs and to make conditions for rest.

The most popular of all forms of recreation in the nature is relaxation in the forests, where family holidaymaking for groups of 3–5 persons dominate. One visit to a forest on the average lasts for about 4.2 hours. However, holidaymakers like not all the forests, especially those lacking good conditions for maximum meeting recreational needs and minimum affecting natural processes in the ecosystems.

The recreational activity includes also trips, traveling by boat, bicycling, traveling by automobile, mushrooming and berrying. The conception of recreational

usage takes priority in the formation of the system of such tourism forms as motor, bicycle, pedestrian and water tourism. There are both the most desirable components for the holidaymakers in the analyzed territory – forest and water. So, a large flow of holidaymakers in summer is quite understandable.

The perspective direction of recreational usage is to enlarge cognitive attendance of the territory, and to seek that season of attendance be as long as possible and continued not only during the summer. Therefore, the biggest attention in planning the recreational infrastructure must be paid to the protection of the natural cultural resources and to the development of the territorial system of the tourism.