

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the topic of trekking as a form of sustainable tourism. The cross-border area of Czech Šumava National Park and German Bavarian Forest National Park is the studied area. First the essential terms and concepts are introduced – trekking, sustainable tourism and cross-border area of Šumava Mountains. These theoretical chapters are followed by a description of the research methodology and then the rest of the thesis is already focused on the research itself, the aim of which is to answer these four research questions:

- Can trekking be considered a sustainable form of tourism?
- How has the meaning, conception and coverage changed in the national parks Šumava and Bavarian Forest?
- Who are the ones who do trekking? What is their motivation?
- How important is trekking in the management of the Šumava region? How it is perceived by the actors involved in the administration of this area?

The path leads to finding the desired answers mainly through literature searches, interviews with tourists who have completed the Šumava crossing, with the mayors of Šumava municipalities and with a representative of the Šumava National Administration. I also draw on my own experience with trekking gained during two Šumava crossings when creating this thesis.

Using the above-mentioned methods of research, I came to the conclusion that trekking can be regarded as a form of sustainable tourism. In the monitored area, however, trekking is only a marginal segment of tourism and the municipalities in Šumava do not pay special attention to it. The reason is simple – the small municipalities have only limited operating capacity which barely covers the basic agenda necessary for the functioning of the municipality.

KEY WORDS:

Trekking, Sustainable Tourism, Šumava National Park, Bavarian Forest National Park

