

“Current State and Prospects of Dark Tourism Flows Organization in Ukraine“

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Abstract

The development of scientific foundations of dark tourism by Ukrainian scientists is only at its start. The paper analyzes the scientific and practical significance of grief tourism for the formation of the entire tourism industry of Ukraine. The main destinations of disaster tourism in Ukraine, including world famous Ukrainian Chornobyl', are described. Also, much attention is paid to the description of the thanatourism objects in Lviv, since Lviv is the most visited by foreign tourists from the neighboring countries and the world.

The development strategy of grief tourism in Ukraine has several important features that the article focuses on: popularization of such a type of tourism by developing new tourist routes that include such sites, and also by conducting administrative events concerning the revival, renewal, protection, conservation and popularization of such objects.

Catastrophe tourism will be developing only when some mental stereotypes of the population concerning the dark tourism objects as negative ones are overcome, and the opinion about such objects as the ones that are important to honour the memory about the killed is formed. One of the reasons why this type of tourism is underdeveloped is that the population is poorly informed about the existence and conditions of such places.

The findings of the study help to create the development strategy of thanatourism in Ukraine in the context of the European integration processes, and grief tourism gives the possibility to establish social and cultural relations with the EU member states.

Keywords: cemetery tourism; dark tourism; disaster tourism sites; grief tourism; thanatourism

Paper Type: Scientific study

Introduction

Among the studies of Ukrainian tourism researchers dark tourism remains a “white spot,” an almost non-researched sphere. This can not be considered as adequate to the requirements of the tourism market because Ukraine has a high resource potential for the development of this type of tourism, and an increase in tourist flows to attend the objects of dark tourism is observed. Chernobyl today is the leader in the international rankings of the most interesting places associated with death and disaster.

Experts in tourism research note that the main problem that arose with the arrival of this kind of tourism is an issue of ethics and morality, as there is a conflict between the commercial interest of the tourism organizers and interests and memory of those affected by the events. Malcolm Foley and John Lennon emphasize that the guides in these areas face a dilemma: they must tell all the truth, and at the same time show respect for the memory of the victims. It is not always possible during tours that may be organized more as an entertaining event rather than an event to honor the victims, and the use of such sites for commercial and promotional purposes may distort the purposes of the trips.

Methods and methodology of the research

To reach the aim of the article, that is to describe and analyze the current state and prospects of dark tourism flows organization in Ukraine, the scientific methods of the system of geographic sciences are widely used: observation with a descriptive element, historical, comparative, cartographic, analytical and statistical, field investigation, systematic. In turn, social nature of tourism determines the use of the techniques formed in other social sciences, for instance, sociological sciences, etc.

Descriptive method is used alongside with the statistics and figures of the marketing research by the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) of Lviv. Also is used the method of statistical evaluation (definition of functions of different dark tourism based on the observation results), and the method of statistical testing of the hypothesis of steady growth of interest in the dark tourism objects in Ukraine.

The paper presents a cartographic scheme projection of the suggested itinerary for tourists around the dark tourism sites in Lviv developed by the authors as a visual aid to support the idea of the necessity of dark tourism development in Ukraine.

Lack of information about the dark tourism development and motives of tourism travel of both Ukrainian citizens and

foreign tourists made the authors turn to the analysis of sociological surveys and questionnaires that were conducted by the TIC of Lviv with the help of the students of the Tourism Department, Geography Faculty, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. The results of the research underlie the necessity of the dark tourism development in Ukraine and its main types.

Place of dark tourism among the known tourism types

Dark tourism has ancient historic roots. Since the time the travelers started visiting the places connected with death and destruction, the term “dark tourism” has gradually come into use. Dark tourism means visiting cemeteries and burials, places of catastrophes (ecological or technogenic), disasters and mass death of people.

The term “dark” or “grief tourism” came into a wide use in 2000 after the book “Dark Tourism - the attraction of death and disaster” by two professors from Scotland Malcolm Foley and John Lennon was published. (Lennon J., 2000).

It is important to underline that the problems and prospects of the dark tourism development in Ukraine are still practically not studied. In general some particular aspects of the dark tourism development are covered in separate publications but these are rather fragmented researches. For instance, Taras Zastavetsky, an Associate Professor of the Tourism Department of Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatyuk National Pedagogical University, in his research paper partly highlighted the main dark tourism categories prevailing among Ukrainian researchers (Заставецький Т., 2011). At the same time there is in fact no profound complex research in the dark tourism development, and this type of tourism has many peculiarities and specific features. That is why, its development in Ukraine and the ways of making it more attractive both on the national and international levels are of special interest and importance at the current stage of the development and establishing of the tourism industry of the country.

It is quite difficult to classify dark tourism as there is no clear generally accepted classification of tourism so far. There is an explanation to this point – it is impossible to identify pure forms and types of tourism. Tourism can be classified by different indicators, but the key factor in classification belongs to the aim of travel. There can be several aspects why dark tourism overlaps different tourism types.

Dark tourism can be classified as research tourism that is a new profitable sphere of tourism activities built on the psychological interest of people in the unknown or new – space, deep seas and oceans, Antarctica, particular abnormal phenomena, etc.

Also dark tourism can be classified as extreme tourism as it has a direct connection to the threat to life of people. In the tourism business the providing of high comfort and safety levels are very important, that is why the development of such extreme tourism types as deep-sea diving or space travel first of all is related to the necessity of settling the issue of optimal factor combination of the acceptable safety level and the possibility to feel oneself a pioneer in the given type of travel. This is the

reason why there are few specialized professional organizations dealing with the provision of similar kind of services.

Visits to burial places can be classified as religious tourism or pilgrim tourism because the faith of many religions obliges the believers to visit the graves of their fellow believers.

At the same time dark tourism possesses nostalgic travel motives when modern generations visit the places of mass death of the ancestors, as, for instance, the Jew concentration camps or the Holocaust places. Thus, dark tourism can be described as a new tourism trend that overlaps nostalgic, religious, extreme and research types of tourism. (Fig.1)

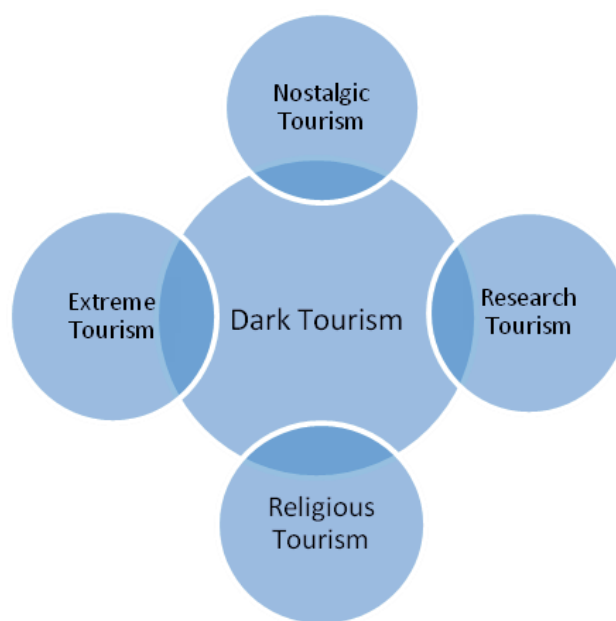


Figure 1. Place of dark tourism among the known tourism types

Source: own development of the authors

Basic categories of dark tourism in Ukraine

Grief or dark tourism in Ukraine is represented by four traditional areas:

1. Disaster tourism — natural and anthropogenic. Among the extreme tourists the most popular is so-called “toxic tours” — trips to the ecological disasters sites. The idea of creating “nuclear” History itineraries belongs to the “Greenpeace” organization which tries in such an unusual way to draw the public attention to environmental issues in the country. In Ukraine this type of tourism is represented by the Chernobyl disaster and the Sknyliv tragedy.
2. Ghost tourism or mystical tourism. Some people have a special attraction to the supernatural things, and choose places where some paranormal activity has been noticed. Ukraine has the potential to take a strong position among the already known at present mystical places located in Dublin (Ireland), Florida (USA), Brisbane (Australia) and Quebec (Canada), and the UK.
3. Thanatourism offers the travelers to visit tragic history places scattered around the world. Concentration camps and prisons are among these places. Ukraine comes se-

cond to Poland in the number of Jews who died in concentration camps. In the Lviv ghetto during the war more than 250 thousand people were killed. The Lviv prisons Brygidky and at Lontsky Street were notable for specific political mission and kinds of torture that political prisoners were subjected to.

4. Cemetery or necropolis tourism. Cemetery tours are a fairly common worldwide service. Preserved burial places of prominent politicians, clergy, academics, writers, composers, musicians, artists, engineers, doctors and just interesting people at historic cemeteries in the cities of the world in a multifaceted ways reflect national culture and history of the states. Visiting cemeteries reminds that none of us is eternal, and that there is not much time provided for each of us to do good things. In many countries of the world cemeteries are considered to be as important sites as museums and other cultural objects. Lviv is not behind other countries in terms of cemetery tourism development. Tours of the Lychakivsky cemetery are enjoying growing demand among visitors. Unfortunately, Ukraine has all kinds of dark tourism is the most visited places associated with the disaster at Chernobyl, as well as sites of mass killings of Jews. (Бордун О., Деркач У., 2014).

Geographical extension in Ukraine

In Ukraine all types of grief tourism are available. Most visited places are connected with the disaster in Chernobyl and those of mass Jews murder.

Chernobyl disaster. Chernobyl disaster as a rule evokes the thoughts about death, destruction, cancer, significant economic loss and other negative things.

Chernobyl disaster, an environmental technological catastrophe, caused by the destruction of the 4th energy unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP) situated in Ukraine (at that time Ukrainian SSR) happened in 1986, April 26. The destruction was of an explosive character; the reactor was completely ruined, and a great amount of radioactive substances were emitted into the environment. The disaster is considered to be the biggest in all nuclear power history in terms of both the number of the dead and injured people, and economic loss.

The Chernobyl NPP is situated near the town of Prypiat, 18 km away from the town of Chernobyl, 16 km away from the Belarus' border, and 110 km from Kyiv.

As the disaster result about 5 million hectares of agricultural land were put to waste, the 30 km Exclusion Zone was created around the plant, hundreds of small settlements were destroyed and buried by means of the heavy machinery.

"Greenpeace" and the international organization "Doctors against the nuclear war" claim that in the result of the catastrophe tens of thousands disaster fighters died, in Europe 10,000 cases of congenital abnormalities in newborns were recorded as well as 10,000 cases of thyroid cancer and 50,000 more to come. According to figures of the Union "Chernobyl" organization from among 600,000 disaster fighters 10% died and 165,000 became disabled.

To visit the Chernobyl Zone, to see with own eyes the abandoned villages and the town of Prypiat and also the "Sarcophagus" over the destroyed fourth reactor has become possible for any adult. This Zone is guarded, and surrounded with a barbed wire fence. The only thing one needs to get there is permission. The Zone and its objects are potentially attractive for certain type of tourists. This can be explained first of all by the existence of really unique and world famous sites there such as the object "Ukryttia" ("Shelter"), the towns of Prypiat and Chernobyl.

One can see a lot in the very Zone, and from the point of view of non-conventional tourism it is very interesting because there is a possibility to see the unique sites. First of all it is the town of Prypiat – the town of a regional significance, founded 4 February 1970 on the bank of the river Prypiat, abandoned 27 April 1986 because of the Chernobyl disaster. All the citizens were evacuated. For several years after the disaster the scientists were seeking the possibilities to bring the citizens back, and only in 1989 they understood it was impossible. The most popular sites for the excursions in the town are the hotel, the palace of culture, the swimming pool, the Ferris wheel, schools and nursery schools, the berth, and the police station. The famous Ferris wheel never worked because it was to be launched 1 May 1986.

Despite the legal ban for the civilian population to live in the Zone, yet a significant number of people returned to their homes after the evacuation in 1986.

One of the most unique places of the Chernobyl Zone (in terms of radiation factors) where one can see how radiation affects living organisms is the "Red forest." This area lies not far from the Chernobyl NPP (approximately 1–2 km to the west), and its ten thousands hectares of forest underwent significant radioactive contamination.

There is a national "Chernobyl" museum in Kyiv where one can learn about the catastrophe details, look through the belongings of the disaster liquidators, historical photos, documentaries about Chernobyl. The museum is situated near the metro station "Kontraktova ploshcha" at Provulok Horevy (Horevy Lane), 1. The current exposition includes about 7,000 exhibits – declassified documents, maps, photos, items of the Ukrainian Polissya folk culture.

Here one can see the unique video materials about the catastrophe and its outcomes, an active three-phase diorama "Chernobyl NPP before, at the time of, and after the disaster", a working model of the Chernobyl power-generating unit of the plant, that extend beyond the chronological and thematic limits of the museum, increase the authenticity of the existing exposition. In Kyiv, there is also a monument to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster with the inscription "To the dead, and the alive and the unborn."

26 April 1996 to the 10th anniversary of the accident at the initiative of the Fire department #4 of Chernobyl at the entrance to the city there was unveiled a monument to the fire-fighters that at the cost of their own lives extinguished the fire after the accident.

The sites mentioned above are the major ones in terms of the tourist attractiveness. Every year the number of visitors to the

Zone grew up. In 2004 there were not even 1,000 visitors, but the next year there were more than twice more people who visited Chernobyl. The years 2006–2009 showed steady growth in the number of those wishing to get to the Zone, so, in 2010 the government decided to grant the access to it for everyone (by that time the access had been limited); that year demonstrated the record high number of visits – 13,000 people. (Tab. 1) But already in June 2011 the access to the Zone was closed again. For scientists, experts, journalists, international control and monitoring it was accessible, but the visits regulations and rules having become more demanding and strict.

Table 1. Chernobyl Zone visitors statistics

Year	Time of the year	Number of visitors
2004	Throughout the year	about 870 people
2005	Throughout the year	2,000
2006	Throughout the year	5,000
2007	1st half	1557
2008	Throughout the year	5,500
2009	January — November	6,900
2010	January — August	5,000
	Throughout the year	about 8,000
2011	January – June	about 3,000
	23 June — 1 December	Prohibition in action

Source: National Tourism Agency “Chernobylinterinform”, 2004–2011 (In 2013 “Chernobylinterinform” agency was liquidated and now its functions are performed by Chernobyl specialized centre.)

Yavoriv military training range. Yavoriv training range of the Ukrainian Ground Forces is an International peace and defense centre situated in the central part of Ukrainian Roztochia. It covers 39 thousand hectares, and is one of the biggest in Europe.

The history or the range foundation is very sad and tragic. In 1940 the forced deportation of the population started and lasted for almost 10 years. Military and public authorities of the USSR and Germany destroyed and wiped off the face of the earth 170 villages, 125 thousand villagers were forcefully moved, 20 churches devastated and ruined – such was the price of one of the biggest in Europe military training ranges.

On the territory of the range there are the ruins of an old church. On the walls one can see the bullet marks by which the domestic arms history can be learnt. 50 years in a row there were heard bursts of machine-gun fires instead of the church bells – the St. Mykhailo church served as a target for tank shooting. (Bordun, O., Komar, R., 2007)

The church used to be a majestic temple of the Big Vyshen'ka village. But in 1940 when the range construction started it and other churches became the target for shooting drills. All in all in the region 20 churches were destroyed, 125 thousand villagers were deported, 170 villages and hamlets were completely destroyed. In the ruins of the St. Mykhailo church the native citizens pray for the souls of the dead fellows who were force-

fully moved out, including missing patriots-heroes who in this region gave their lives for free independent Ukraine.

Entrance to the territory of the training centre at the times when there is no training and firing drills is through the headquarters. The visitors can see the barracks, a boiler room, a dining room, quite a big underground shelter, as well as the sawmill and the Nedelin dugout.

Statistics of the tourist visits of the range is not available at present since starting from the summer 2014 the site has been used for training drill of the military who will go to participate in the antiterrorist operation in the east of Ukraine.

Sites of tragedies in Lviv

Brygidky Prison. Brygidky is the oldest active prison in Lviv situated at 24 Horodots'ka Street, in the former ancient roman-catholic convent of the women's Order of St. Brygida. The convent was established in 1614 on the initiative and funds of Anna Fastovska and Hanna Poradovska for the girls from the noble families. In the courtyard there was built a church-chapel of St. Apostle Petro with the altar in the Baroque style. A bit modified building of the church still exists nowadays.

In 1784 on the initiative of the Austrian authorities, that replaced in Halychyna (Galicia) the Polish administration and conducted the policy of secularization, the convent was closed, and its building was turned into the prison. In June-July 1941, at the beginning of the war with Germany when the Red Army was retreating, in Brygidky, as well as in other prisons of Lviv, mass shootings of political prisoners by NKVD were taking place. By the end of 1980-s death sentences were carried into effect there.

Until now the prison has been functioning as a separate pre-trial prison unit in Lviv region. According to the plans of the Lviv regional authorities the unit will be reformed and the building that has served as a prison for a hundred years will open its doors to the visitors as a new thanatourism destination in Lviv, and will start its development as a new dark tourism flow in the city.

Lviv Ghetto. 6 November 1941 by order of Major General of Police District SS “Galicia” Fritz Katzman Jewish ghetto was formed in Lviv. It was the largest in the Soviet Union and lasted from November 1941 to June 1943. On the European scale the larger ones were only in Warsaw and Łódź.

The Ghetto was created in the poorest district of Lviv and covered the Zamarstyniv and Kleparova areas that were separated on the south by the railway embankment, on the east by Zamarstyniska Street, on the west by Warshawska Street, and on the north by the bank of the river Poltva. (Umsiedlung der Juden, 1941)

Organization of the special Jewish district was ordered by the district governor Hans Frank on November 8, 1941. From November, 16 till December, 14, 1941 the occupation authorities moved more than 136,000 Jews to the ghetto. The Ukrainians and Poles who lived on that territory had to move out to other city districts by December 14.

By the end of 1941 most of the Jewish population of Lviv and the nearby localities was concentrated in the ghetto. The occupa-

tion authorities set a new deadline – by February, 28, 1942 – because the original relocation was not finished on time.

In general during the occupation period about 138,700 Jews were held in the Lviv ghetto. It was surrounded by the fence and barbed wire and in such a way isolated from the city.

Since the early days of the Nazi occupation of Lviv the Gestapo, the SS divisions and the police organized traps in the streets and conducted arrests. During the transporting of the Jews to the Ghetto in November 1941 5,000 elderly and sick people were selected and shot by the German police near the railway bridge (so called “bridge” action).

Liquidation of the Lviv Ghetto lasted till June, 16, 1943. At the last stage the remaining prisoners organized an armed uprising, killing and injuring several policemen. As a result the Nazis massacred the Jews. After the Ghetto had been liquidated the last 4,000 prisoners were taken to the Yaniv concentration camp and afterwards killed in the tract of Pyaskym and other 3,000 committed a suicide. After this the Nazis proclaimed Lviv free from Jews (Judenfrei).

During two years of the German occupation in the Lviv Ghetto and Yaniv concentration camp more than 250,000 people died. The sites of mass Jew killings also were in Kryvchitsky forest, Lysynychi forest (Lysynychi is the village near Lviv), the camp outskirts in the Yaniv Street and the territory of the camp itself.

In 1992 Lviv Jews put up a monument to the heroes and victims of the Lviv Ghetto (sculptor Luisa Shtrenshtein). (see itinerary scheme)

The statistics of visits to the Ghetto territory where Jews lived during the WWII is not collected due to the absence of the official central institution that would record the tourist visits to the territory of the tragic events in the history of the Jewish people. But there is a functioning web-site “Lviv Ghetto – territory of terror” that demonstrates the growing interest of the site visitors to the materials published there.

Prison at Lontskoho Street. This is a former prison in Lviv that was used in the 20th century as a political prison by the Polish, Soviet and Nazi authorities. From 2009 it is a national Memorial Museum dedicated to Victims of Occupational Regimes.

In 1889–1890s in the intersection of the Leon Sapaha (now Stepan Bandera) Street and the Copernicus Street by the project of the architect Yu. Janowsky was erected a building of the Austro-Hungarian gendarmerie in Neo-Renaissance style. The building of the very prison was built in 1918–1920-s when the city belonged to Poland.

In the prison building there was situated the Fourth Department of the Main State Police commandant’s Office whose duties involved the fight with “anti-state” organisations such as the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Communist Part of the Western Ukraine. Unofficially the prison specialized in political prisoners. In 1935 the building was transformed into the police investigation department, and the prison started to be used as a pre-trial prison. At the time of the Lviv trial in 1936 there were held Stepan Bandera, Yaroslav Stets’ko, Mykola Lebid’ and others.

In 1939–1941 during the First Soviet occupation in the building there was a Prison #1 that could hold 1500 people, and

the next main building was occupied by the regional NKVD. After the Third Reich attack at the Soviet Union in June 1941, the NKVD workers executed about a thousand prisoners (according to the testimony of the Head of the Department of the NKVD prison in Lviv region lieutenant Lerman, 924 persons).

In 1941–1944 the building was used as a pre-trial prison of the Gestapo. The prison court-yard was laid with the plaques from the old Jew cemetery. For a long time a famous Polish scientist Kazimierz Bartel was a prisoner there.

National museum-memorial “Prison at Lontskoho” welcomed its first visitors in June 2009. The year of 2011 showed dramatic rise in the number of visits, and the next years presented the continuing rise: 2010 – 8800 visitors; 2011 – 15733 (80 % growth); 2012 – 17000 (8 % growth); 2013 – 17000; 2014 – 18542 (9 % growth). The beginning of 2015 shows the same tendency – during New Year and Christmas holidays (1–13 January) the museum was visited by 300 tourists already.

The museum visitors can be divided into the following categories:

- Relatives of those who were imprisoned or died in prisons or concentration camps; individual visitors or tourist groups from abroad (USA, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Georgia, Germany, Sweden, Estonia, Belgium, France, Japan, Korea);
- Groups of students of higher educational establishments and colleges;
- School and gymnasium students;
- Representatives of clergy, parish and public organizations.

The museum is visited by tourist groups from all regions of Ukraine. (The statistics was kindly given by the information department of the museum.)

Prison #2 at Zamarstynivska Street. The prison is a former monastery complex formed around the Armenian Church of St. Chross. The first mention of the complex dates back to 1590. In 1784 the monastery was closed and the building turned into a hospital, and later into the barracks and prison known under the name of Zamarstynivska.

In 1939 when the first Soviets came to the western Ukrainian lands the Soviet authorities turned the building into the political prison. At the end of June 1941 it was used as a torture place. Retreating in front of the Germans, the NKVD were afraid that the prisoners would join the enemy side and executed all the imprisoned inmates. The victims were shot to death in the prison basements and buried in the prison’s courtyard and in the basement of the right wing of the building. In July 1941 as a part of anti-Soviet propaganda the German authorities opened the prisons for the relatives of the victims, and in the yard of prison #2 there was a requiem conducted after the dead.

Now on the territory of the prison there is one of the subunits of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine – Lviv Law School.

The site is marked with the memorial sign (see scheme of the “Memory tour in Lviv”). The creation of the memorial museum is in plans here. Once the museum is created, it will become possible to record the number of visitors to the site and conduct the research of the development of this dark tourism flow.

Massacre of Lviv Professors. A few days after the German-Soviet war started Lviv was occupied by the Wehrmacht troops. Before leaving the city, the NKVD killed several thousands of political prisoners who were held in Lviv prisons.

The Gestapo arrested the Lviv professors at night of July 4, 1941, most were from the Lviv University by Jan Kazimierz (now Ivan Franko University), and also their family members and the persons who at the time of the arrest visited them in their apartments.

At first the arrested were kept in the University buildings and later taken to be executed. All in all 28 academics were arrested that night. The only one who survived was professor Franciszek Groër.

The Nazi robbed the academics' apartments and destroyed or moved out valuable scientific materials.

In October 1943 in the activities of concealing traces of Nazi crimes the bodies of the executed were exhumed, moved to Kryvchytsky Forest and burned together with hundreds of other bodies.

As pointed out by the Polish historian Zygmund Albert, the housing of the shot was occupied by the high rank officials of the Gestapo and Ukrainian police.

From July 2011 in Lviv in the "Students" park there was opened a monument to the Polish professors that were executed by the Nazi on the Vuletski hills in 1941. The inauguration of the monument was devoted to the 70th anniversary of that event.

Sknyliv. Sknyliv air show disaster is an incident that occurred during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Ukrainian Air Force's 14 Air Corps at the Sknyliv airfield near Lviv July, 27, 2002. In the result of the crash of the fighter Su-27UB into the crowd of spectators 78 people were killed (including 28 children) and about 250 people injured. By the number of victims this disaster is considered to be the deadliest air show accident in history.

10 people were brought to justice for the tragedy, including the pilots and those responsible for the show organization. They were found guilty of causing the accident due to negligence and failure to follow the plan of the flight. July, 29, 2002 was announced the day of mourning in Ukraine by the Decree of the President of Ukraine.

In 2003 at the entrance to the airfield (Aviatsiina Street) a Chapel of all Saints of the Ukrainian people was built. The money had been raised all over the world. The project author was Ihor Podoliak, interior design by Markiyan and Yurii Mys'kiv. At the Chapel there are 77 stones symbolizing the number of the victims. The chapel was consecrated by the priests of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, and Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate. Annually on this day ecumenical services take place. In July 2007 an icon of St. Mykolay (Nicolas) was placed there under the protective shroud of whose all dead in the air-show tragedy are represented.

This thanatourism object is visited mainly by Ukrainians, the relatives and acquaintances of those who died in the tragic event.

Lychakiv cemetery. State Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve "Lychakiv Cemetery" is a memorial cemetery in Lviv. In 86 fields of a total area of 40 hectares more than 300 thousand graves (including more than 2,000 crypts) can be found here, and about 500 sculptures and reliefs are installed on the graves. The oldest gravestones are located in the fields 6,7,9,14 (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. The earliest plan of the Lychakiv cemetery (1924).

Note: Its original name in Polish is *Plan cmentarza Lyczakowskiego* (English – Plan of Lychakiv cemetery); Scale: 1:1440; Size: 78x66 cm; Publisher: Technical Department, Lviv;

Source: NB LNU after Ivan Franko, 1601 IV.

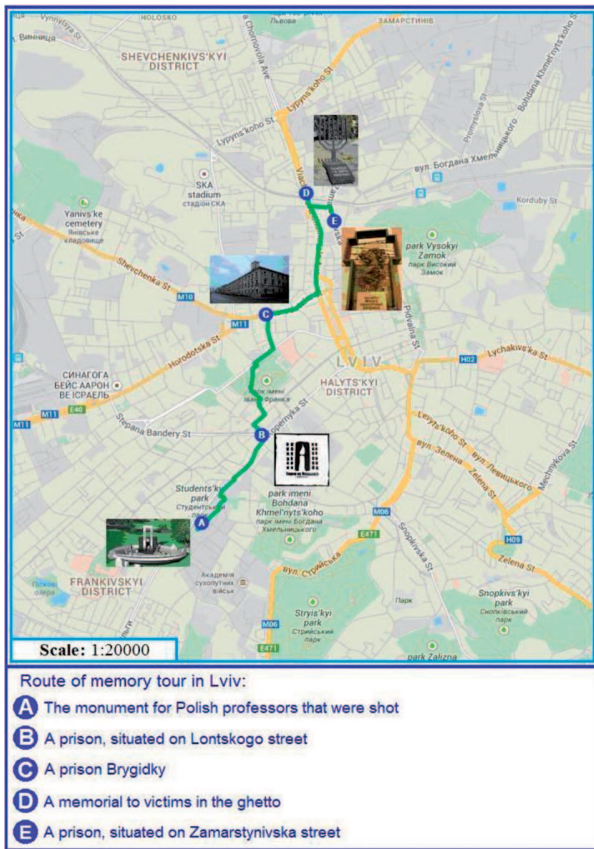
Most of the visitors to the reserve come from within Ukraine which shows the growth of the domestic tourism; but also there is an increase in the number of tourists from Belarus' and other neighbouring countries. In 2012 there were 140,000 tourists, and in 2013 more than 180,000 visitors – the numbers grew up by 30%, and it is for the first time that the museum observes such a significant grow in the number of tourists in the last years. As a result the profits of the museum increased by 60%, and the profit from the sales of printed production that is realised in the museum increased by about 190%.

“Tour of Memory in Lviv”

Having analyzed the potentials of Lviv multifunctional tourist hub for the development of dark tourism around the catastrophe sites, the authors have developed our own itinerary scheme that includes the sites of the social catastrophes in Lviv – “Tour of Memory in Lviv”:

Monument to the Polish professors that were executed by the Nazi – Prison at Lontskoho Street – Brygidky Prison – Memorial to the Ghetto Victims – Prison at Zamarstyniv'ska Street.

Itinerary scheme of “Tour of Memory in Lviv”



Tour description:

9:30–The tourist group meets at the main railway terminal in Lviv. Each member of the group is met by the representative of the tour firm.

10:00–A walk to the monument to the Polish professors executed by shooting to death by the Nazi – walking up to the “Students” park, visiting and seeing the place and at the memorable sign.

10:40–A bus drive to the National Memorial Museum “Prison at Lontskoho.” The main focus of the museum is on the most terrifying pages of the history of the prison – the mass shootings in the late June 1941.

11:40–A bus drive to the Brygidky Prison – an observing tour of the building and the memorial plaque on its wall.

12:20–A bus drive to the Ghetto Victims Memorial. In 1992 the Jews of Lviv put up the monument to the heroes and victims of the Ghetto.

13:00–A bus drive to the prison # 2. It is the former monastery. The access onto the territory of the prison is limited. In front of the entrance there is a monument to the victims of the repressions.

13:40–A drive to the city centre. Dinner. A walk around the city centre. Focus on the wars and tragedies. Listening to the speech on dead Ukrainians, Poles and Jews.

17:00–The end of the tour. Leisure time.

The approximate tour cost is 70 UAH per person.

Statistics on visits to Lviv

Hotel market of Lviv has been developing dynamically in the last 5 years. The growth is determined by the general development of the market of the tourism services of the city of Lviv. According to the official statistics of Main Department of Statistics in the Lviv region, Lviv region has been in the 4th position in Ukraine after Crimea, Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk in terms of number of tourists hosted in the last 5 years. At the same time some figures from different statistic sources do not coincide which is determined by, firstly, using different methods of tourists flows recording, secondly, portion of “black market” turnover in the tourism industry (the portion may make up to between 40–60%). According to the official information Lviv hotels in the past 2 years have hosted over 260,000 visitors each year, but tourism experts believe that in reality the hotels host more than 500,000 guests. The positive factor in the market of the hotel services is annual (2009 is an exception due to the economic crises) growth in the number of guests. (Fig. 3)

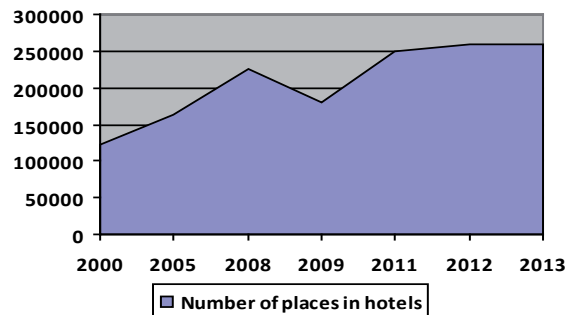


Figure 3. Number of guests at the hotels in Lviv, 2000–2013

Source: Statistics annual of the Lviv region, 2013, p. 239

Hotel market of Lviv has a great potential. For instance, in 2013 room occupancy in the hotels of the city at a time reached about 6,000 beds. General occupancy of the hotel fund in a year is 2,160,000 beds, while the official figures present accommodation for only 261,455 people (tab. 2).

Table 2. Accommodation of visitors to Lviv in 2012–2013

	Number of beds		Number of persons accommodated		Number of foreign visitors accommodated	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Total	6016	5963	263120	261455	79828	80316
Hotels	4678	4706	235955	325544	77193	77585
Motels	38	30	2222	277	367	19
Other accommodation types	687	664	20066	22965	2268	2711
Specialized institutions (resorts, etc.)	613	563	4877	2669	---	---

Source: Statistics annual of the Lviv city, 2013. Main Department of Statistics in the Lviv region, Lviv–2014, p.109.

Foreign visitors made up to 53% of all the consumers of the hotel services in Lviv. On average one guest stayed in the hotel 2,5 days (general occupancy reached about 925 persons per day, foreign visitors staying in the hotels on average 1,9 days, Ukrainian guests – 2,7 days.)

Foreign tourists usually came to stay for a short period (3–4 days) in the central hotels of Lviv. More than 1 of foreign guests (26%) were from Poland, 13% from Russia, 11% from Germany, 9% from Belarus, 6% from the USA, 5% from the Great Britain. (Fig. 4)

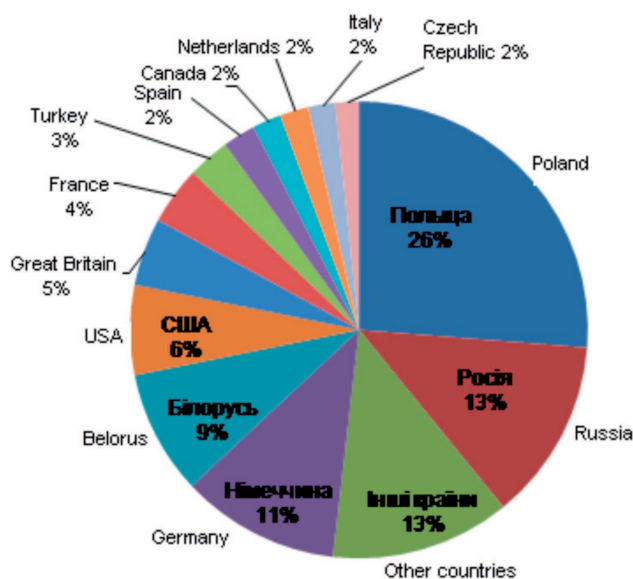


Figure 4. Structure of foreign tourists flow to Lviv in 2013.

Source: TIC of Lviv

According to the official figures the hotel occupancy is rather low (about 20%). At the same time the market operators believe that the real average hotel occupancy makes up 40–60%, difference depends on the service level and the size of the hotel. The higher the hotel's level, the higher is its occupancy (for instance, the occupancy of expensive hotels in the city centre such as Leopold, Panorama, Grand-hotel, Cytadel-Inn, make up 60–70%, while the cheaper hotels such as Sonata, Tourist, Hetman, reach 30% occupancy).

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Conclusions

The article is dedicated to new, interesting and very actual topic. Dark tourism is developing dynamically in Ukraine which is proved by the results of the research conducted by the authors.

1. The authors defined the place of dark tourism among other known types of tourism and consider this type of tourism as a new tourism trend that overlaps nostalgic, religious, extreme and research types of tourism.
2. Research methods used in the article are described: observation with a descriptive element, historical, comparative, cartographic, analytical and statistical, field investigation, systematic, as well as the techniques formed in other social sciences, for instance, sociological sciences, etc.
3. Since this type of tourism is only at its initial stage of development in Ukraine the list of the recent publications on thanatourism research in the country is limited.
4. Despite the slowdown of the general tourism activity in Lviv due to the unstable situation in the east of Ukraine, dark tourism flows demonstrate their steady growth. The authors collected and analyzed statistics on the existing dark tourism flows researched in the article (Lychakiv cemetery, Chernobyl Zone, prison at Lontskoho). Prospective destinations of dark tourism are highlighted; these demonstrate their potential and in the future will lead to formation of the new dark tourism flows (Brygidky prison, Lviv Ghetto, Prison #2 at Zamarstynivska Street). Two objects of memorial tourism mentioned in the article are important dark tourism destinations (Sknyliv, Site of the Massacre of Lviv Professors) but are not subject to detailed scientific description because there are no records on the number of visitors to these places, and are not foreseen to be collected as such.
5. Having analyzed the both current existing and prospective dark tourism flows in Ukraine the authors present a new itinerary scheme to visit the dark tourism sites in Lviv which reveal the potential for the development of this type of tourism.
6. The aim of the research is reached, namely: the theoretical foundation of the dark tourism is created, new methods of the research is formed by means of which the current state and prospects of dark tourism flows organization in Ukraine are studied.

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