

SKI CENTERS (RESORTS) IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Abstract: Macedonia is a predominantly mountainous country with great potential for development of mountain tourism. Important objects for performing mountain tourism in the Republic of Macedonia are the seven ski centers (resorts).

The primary goal of this study is to analyze the existing ski centers in Macedonia and the opportunities for better development of mountain tourism in the country. The analysis is based on a qualitative method of research, mainly through the exploration of secondary sources of information and personal conversations with officials and professionals who are deeply involved in ski tourism. The findings point to the problems facing the current network of 7 ski resorts. We are initiating the need to build a position among the creators of designing and developing studies that will thoroughly explore the practical importance of ski centers as an important component of mountain tourism and tourism in general in the Republic of Macedonia.

Keywords: mountain, tourism, ski resorts, tourists, Macedonia.

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Introduction

Morphometrically, the characteristics of the geomorphology in the Republic of Macedonia are mountain-hilly-valley. Most of the territory covers the mountains with an area of 11044 km² or 43%, followed by the hills with 9769 km² or 38%, while the plains account for 4900 km² or 19%. According to the data, the Republic of Macedonia is a mountainous country with a share of 81%, and an average altitude of 829 meters.

The mountains in the Republic of Macedonia according to the height are divided into: high (with over 2000 m), medium (from 1000 to 2000 m) and low (below 1000 m), and according to the age of occurrence on old and young mountains.

The number of high mountains of over 2000 meters is 14, of which over 2500 meters are five mountains..

- 5 are over 2500 m or with a distinctly high mountain relief (Mokra Planina, Korab, Deshad with Krčin, Nidze with Kozjak, Baba with Pelister and Shar Planina);

- 9 high mountains 2000 to 2500 meters (bistro Stogovo; Jablanica and Galicica; Dobra Voda, Suva Gora; Ilinska, Plakenska with Bigla; Kozuf; Belasica and Osogovski Mountains)

On the high mountains there are 221 peaks with a height of over 2000 meters.

On the basis of detailed scientific studies, it has been determined that in the high mountains in the Republic of Macedonia there can be a total of 34 winter-sports centers with total deviation (height difference) on the ski tracks of 115 km. With the application of international standards for the use of ski trails (one meter ski can be skied on one meter), the maximum capacity of all 30 winter and winter

sports centers is about 115.000 skiers who can ski at the same time. If we add to this the number of non-skiers, one per skier, then there is a figure of 230.000 tourists who are staying at the same time.

The only mountain in our country where the largest number of winter sports and mountain centers can be formed is Shar Planina. There are conditions on this mountain to build 8 ski resorts. The total length of all ski trails on Shar Planina is 48 km.

In second place according to mountain possibilities for development of mountain sports is Pelister Mountain, on this mountain can be built 5 winter-sports centers, with total length of ski tracks of 22 km.

The other planned winter skiing centers are located on Bistra, Galichica, Osogovo Mountains, Kozuf, Nidze, Stogovo, Jablanica, Jakupica, Deshad, Korab, Suva Gora, Plachkovitsa, Busheva, Belasica and others.

Of all of these, today there are 7 winter and winter sports ski centers (or ski resorts): Shar Planina, Ski Center "Popova Shapka" at 1700 meters; Bistra Ski Center "Zare Lazarevski" - Mavrovo 1255 m .; on the Baba Mountain with Pelister, Ski Centert "Kopanki" 1420 meters above sea level. and the second location "Pelister-Strezevo" - "Ski lift" 1300 m. on the Busheva Mountain "Ski Center Stanich" in Krushevo; on Kozuf "Ski - Kozuf"; and the Osogovo Mountains Ski Center "Ponikva" at 1560 m.

These ski centers are mostly used in the winter period and attract a significant number of domestic and foreign tourists. Some of the ski resorts in recent years are facing major problems and gradually lose their meaning.

In Macedonia there are good conditions for building such and similar objects that would be aimed at promoting mountain tourism.

Methodology

According to the geomorphology Macedonia has a suitable place for development of ski tourism, having in mind that the seven ski resorts are insufficient for real treatment of this type of tourism.

In the absence of compatible statistical and other data individually for ski centers, the primary goal of this study is to determine the real situation in the existing 7 ski resorts and the opportunities for better development of mountain tourism in the country.

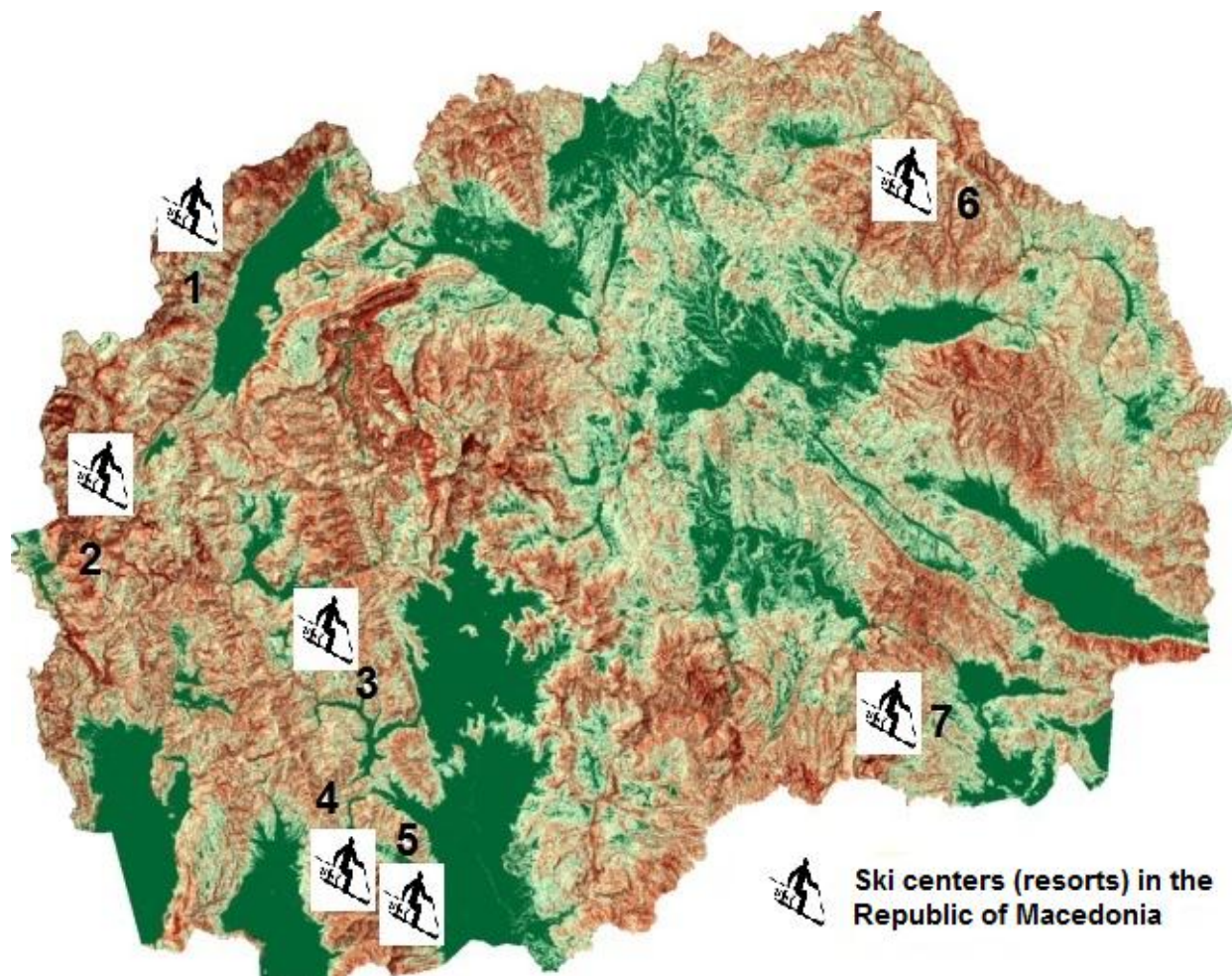
The real situation with the ski centers is determined on the basis of personal contacts and direct use of the services. Quantitative observations from literature and other documents related to skiing and tourism in Macedonia. Also, the analysis is based on a qualitative method of research, mainly through the exploration of secondary sources of information and personal conversations with officials and professionals who are deeply involved in ski tourism. The findings point to the problems facing the current network of seven ski resorts.

The research combines current ski centers in order to try to conceptualize it with future planned ski centers as a system that can be covered for the promotion of ski tourism in the country. In addition to official documents and some isolated positive examples of small attachments, no academic studies on this issue have been conducted so far. Therefore, this research initiates the practical importance of ski centers important for mountain tourism in the Republic of Macedonia.

Results

There is almost no mountain that is not mentioned as a potential winter sports and ski center, and besides the 7 existing mountain centers, there are still ten mountains in circulation (preliminary study, feasibility, technical project, etc.). Thus, it turns out that in Macedonia there should be as many as 10-15 skiing or winter-sports tourist centers.

It is considered that this will be in function of the rapid development of winter tourism in our country, which would lead to overall socio-economic development in those areas, as well as the state as a whole.



Map 1. Geographical distribution of ski centers (resorts) in the Republic of Macedonia

1. Ski Center (resort) "Popova Shapka"

Winter and recreation center in the northwestern part of Macedonia, named after the eponymous peak (1780 m) on Shar Planina, located in the immediate vicinity of 18 km distance from the city of Tetovo (road that is regularly held), and from Skopje 53 km. It is characterized by a large number of sunny days throughout the year and snowing from November to May. The Popova Shapka watch is open to the nearby mountains Jakupica and Solunska Glava (2540 m), and at the foot of the Polog Valley. Popova Shapka is one of the oldest and largest ski centers in Macedonia, which dates back to 1947 and is spread on the slopes of Shar Planina.

It is located at 1800 m asl. is characterized by a large number of sunny days and a snow cover suitable for quality skiing, from late November to April month. The ski center has several cable cars (2 - two-seater) and five ski lifts with a total length of 11 km and with a capacity of up to 8000 skiers per hour. The center can also be reached with a gondola of 7 km (it has not been operational since 2001 due to damage during the war activities). The total length of the ski slopes is about 20 km with a total ski area of over 57 hectares, while the ski area of the whole site extends over an area of over 35 km².

The ski center has three paths according to FIS criteria, which is held annually by the international "Sharplanin Cup in slalom and giant slalom". The attractiveness of the center is reflected in the great possibilities for free-riding (spacious terrains for lovers of extreme and advanced skiing) and coaching around the untouched wild landscapes and landscapes that are located on both sides of the mountain. The ski center has 5 ski lifts, 2 two-seater cranes with a total length of 11 km, with a height difference of 1600 to 2400 m. The center has the possibility of night skiing, but does not have snow cannons.

Accommodation facilities: Hotel "Skardues", Hotel "Snow Patrol Lodge", hotel "Konak na Noli", Konak Hotel, hotel "Slavia", hotel "Snow Patrol Lodge", hotel "Teteks", hotel "Arena Popova Shapka ", Apartments" Casa Leone ", Apartment" D House "and other private accommodation.

2. Ski Center (resort) "Zare Lazarevski" - Mavrovo,

It is located in the western part of Macedonia on Mount Bistra, at the foot of the mountainous karst field Mavrovo, today the same name as the artificial lake. The ski center "Zare Lazarevski" - Mavrovo (1240 m above sea level) from the capital Skopje is 80 km or more than an hour's drive.

The start of the skiing story in Mavrovo dates back to 1959 when a ski resort starts to be built. Five years later the construction of the accommodation facility "Ski School", which is now a hotel, began. The beginnings of the ski center Mavrovo were from 1964 when the first ski runs were built under one-seat and two-seater cable cars.

The ski season runs from early December to early April. Eleven ski lifts with a total length of 10 km, three cable cars in length of 5.7 km. Over an hour can be skiing over 11 thousand people. Skiing possible from 1255 to 1860 meters. Total length of ski runs under the cable cars about 5 km, Snowboard path length of 900 meters. The slopes are with FIS certificates for slalom and giant slalom, lighted and sounded for night skiing from 19 to 22 hours. Cafe bars (sheepfolds) along the ski slopes of Bistra Mountain.

Cross-country trail "Calm valley" 7.5 km long or use the 30 km long track on which the Moorish commemorative tournament (free style) is held. The center hosts international competitions in alpine, Nordic and snowboard skiing. Also: "Mavrovo Memorial", international competition in Nordic skiing; Humanitarian amateur giant; "Snowy city"; European Cup in Snowboard; national and international competitions in slalom and giant slalom; "World Day of the Snow" and others.

Accommodation: hotel "Radika" Leunovo, hotel "Bistra" Mavrovo, hotel "Alpina" Mavrovo, hotel "Sern", hotel "Inn", hotel "Lodz", hotel "Sport", hotel "Makpetrol", hotel "TCC Plaza" , hotel "Fershped" Mavrovo, motel "Delfina", hotel "Kalin" Lazaropole, ski house "Gorica", hostel "Mavrovo", two mountaineering houses ("Tajmiste" and "Zelezna Reka") and private accommodation in ethno, weekend houses.

3. Ski Center (resort) "Stanich", Krushevo

Krushevo is a city in the western part of the Republic of Macedonia. Ethno city of the former Krushevo republic. A typical mountain town, with an average altitude of 1,350 meters. In the vicinity of the city there is the famous monument Makedonium and the memorial house of the music legend Tose Proevski whose birthplace is this wonderful city of Krushevo. Thanks to its height, Krushevo is one of the Macedonian winter destinations, but certainly, in addition to this, Krushevo has been visited throughout the year due to its rich history, architecture and beautiful nature. Surrounded by the massifs of Bushova Mountain, with its pleasant scenery, Krusevo offers wonderful skiing conditions from December to early March.

Ski slopes are located on the site "Stanič" right next to the city itself at an altitude of 1400 meters. Suitable for skiers as well as skiers beginners. The ski slopes are 1.2 km long for Nordic skiing and biathlon 4.5 km, and the cable car, the two-seater starts from the center of the city. Ski slopes are equipped with ski lifts: two-seater cabin with capacity 700 persons / hour, ski lift anchor 700 persons / hour; a single ski lift with a capacity of 600 persons / hour.

Accommodation in the city of Krushevo: hotel "Montana Palace", apartment "Vince", "Villa Gora", "Ethno Villa", "Casa La Cola", "Villa La Cola", "Villa Mazar", "Villa Bear", "Villa Pavia", "Villa Papa", "Villa Toshe" and other private accommodation.

4. Ski Center (resort) "Kopanki"

Pelister National Park is located in the southwestern part of the Republic of Macedonia and covers an area of 17,150 hectares. It was proclaimed in 1948 as the first protected natural treasure in Macedonia. It is characterized by a number of peaks and elevations higher than 2000 meters, which are separated by deep valleys among themselves. The highest peak is Pelister (2601 m). From the

relief forms of Pelister the most striking are the so-called. stone rivers. They are inclined to the relief filled with blocks of walls with different composition.

The fact that the Hotel "Molika" is a mountain facility and the winter tourist season depends on the weather conditions for about 4 months, special attention is paid to the development of winter mountain tourism.

Hotel "Molika" and the Ski Center "Kopanki" are located in the southwestern part of the Republic of Macedonia, located in the area of the National Park "Pelister" on the locality "Begova Cesma" at an altitude of 1420-1900 meters, placed in the splendor of beautiful molika noise.

The connection of the hotel and ski facilities is a modern asphalt road, 12 km long to the city of Bitola and the international road between Bitola and Ohrid, while the distance to the airport in Ohrid is 70 km and 170 km to the Skopje airport which, on the other hand, is insignificant distance lovers in a healthy ecological environment, clean air, peace and quiet away from urban areas throughout the year, and especially for white sports lovers and skiers who can enjoy during the winter months on the terrain of Winter center "Kopanki" which is adjacent to the hotel Molika only 100 meters away from the hotel.

The complete infrastructure of the cable car, the ski slope, and the ski lift are located next to the Molika hotel at an initial altitude of 1420 meters where the cable car is beginning, which ends at the 1610 meters of the location of the burned Kopanki mountaineering home, starting from there on the mountain elevator to an altitude of 1800 meters.

The ski center "Kopanki" is officially put into operation on 04. 11. 1975 on the occasion of the liberation of the city of Bitola, with the commissioning of the cable car from the locality "Begova Cesma" to the locality "Kopanki". It has the following accommodation capacities: "Hotel Molika - Kopanki", "Hotel Šumski Feneri", Hotel "Ris", hotel "Sator", as well as mountaineering homes "Kopanki" (burned in 2013) , and "Dimitar Ilievski-Murato" on the Big Lake.

5. Ski Center (resort) "Strezhevo", Nizhopole

The ski center "Strezhevo" is located in the slopes of Baba Mountain, located above the village of Nizhopole at an altitude of 1300 m above sea level. up to 1610 m. and with the city of Bitola it is connected with an asphalt road with a length of 15 km. The beginnings of the ski center date back to 1984. The ski season starts from the beginning of December and lasts until the end of March. Ski Center "Strezhevo" has three ski lifts, anchor type, with a total length of 2150 meters, a capacity of 3000 passengers per hour, and a total length of ski runs of about 5,5 km. The center has a sheep and a night skiing opportunity.

Accommodation: Luxury villa "Paio", Villa "Damaya", in the village. Nizho Pole, Villa "Dihovo" and Villa "Ilinden" in the village Dihovo and mountaineering house "Neolica" on the mountain Baba.

6. Ski Center (resort) "Ponikva"

Ponikva - a tourist center and a weekend settlement of the Osogovo Mountains in eastern Macedonia. It is about 20 km north of Kocani, at an altitude of 1560 meters in a region with dense beech forest and diverse vegetation. Ponikva takes a particularly important place in the development of tourism and the general development of Osogovo.

The ski center is small but well equipped. It covers three tracks (two of which are active) and two ski lifts type anchor (one with a length of 300 meters and a capacity of 500 skiers per hour, and a second with a length of 700 meters and 1500 skiers per hour). Both trails are equipped with nighttime ski lights and 6 artificial snow cannons. Every year the famous "Osogovo Slalom" is held at Ponikva.

The center has two motels and restaurants, one resorts, weekend houses for private accommodation, sports and recreation grounds, service and services for ski equipment. Winter days in Osogovo are associated with thick layers of snow every year, which in the highest parts is retained from December to April.

Accommodation: motel "Osogovski Biser", motel "Osogovski Konak", resort of the Ministry of the Interior, motel "Mice", motel "Izgrej" and other villas and houses for accommodation.

7. Ski Center (resort) "Kozuf"

Kozuf Ski Resort is a mountain resort with a tourist offer all year round and is located on the slopes of Mount Kozuf. Ski center "Kozuf" dates from 2006 and is characterized by great attractiveness especially for fans of free-skiing and coaching. The center extends to 1550 - 2100 meters above sea level, immediately on the border with the Republic of Macedonia and Greece.

The two international airports in Thessaloniki and Skopje are only a hundred kilometers away from the Kozuf Ski Center. The center covers over 450 hectares of ski slopes suitable for all categories of skiers and snowboarders. The total length of the ski slopes is 14 km, as well as 20 km of untouched terrain suitable for free ride brothels and skiers, a free zone of 1500 ha.

The center has a system from one funicular - six-seater, two ski lifts to the peaks of over 2100 meters, K-92 and Green Shore and a system of ski tracks with a capacity of 20,000 skiers per hour. The ski center has ten water cannons + pumping station that supplies water from a small artificial reservoir "Markovo Lake". The complex of the tourist settlement of 6 houses, and has two restaurants one in the settlement - the center, and the other at the 2000 m. n. at the end station of the six-seater.

Accommodation: Ski Center "Kozuf" offers a choice of apartment complex of 16 rooms, then hotel "Villa Todorov", Villa Green House ". Nearby there are mountain huts "Gorni Disan", "Drachevitsa" and "Mrezhichko", all with limited accommodation conditions.

The new ski resort, Kozuf, faces a big problem and does not actively work. Access road is the only problem. However, once the snow falls, the slopes remain isolated - "Macedonia Road" does not maintain the access road.

In addition to the aforementioned 7 ski resorts, up to 20 years ago, the ski center "Suvo Pole" on the mountain Galichica also worked. This center was divided into two parts - one part is on the southeast slope towards the peak Lako Signogoj (1.984 m), and the other part on the opposite side, on the southwest slope to the top Tomorus (1.675 m).

The center is located in the area of Suvo Pole, at a base height of 1480 m, and the highest end point is 2150 m. To re-activate this center, a renovation project is planned that includes the installation of 8 new ski lifts and a funicular, as well as new ski paths with a length of 12 km, as well as new tracks, especially for free-skiing and snowboarding. It is planned that the center will have three ski lifts and one two-seater ski lift. Today, this complex is not yet operational.

In a similar position is the tourist and recreational ski center Golak (1400 m.), Located on the eponymous middle high mountain Golak (peak Chavka 1538 m.) Between the Delcevo valley in the east and Kochani Valley in the west, with a meridian stretching direction. In this center until a few years ago there was a children's resort with conditions for skiing, mountaineering and mountaineering cycling.

Spatial plans have been made for the elaboration of other ski resorts as well: ski center "Carev Vrv" (2056) on the Osogovo Mountains, ski center "Golina" (1900 m above sea level) above the village of Vevchani on the mountain Jablanica ski resort "Galichica" (1580 meters) above the village of Peshtani, ski center "Vodno" (1056 meters) above Skopje, ski center "Bel Kamen" (1700 meters) on the mountain Plachkovica, ski center "Berovo" (1000 m) , on the Maleshevski Mountains, and ski center "Smolare" (1100 meters) on the mountain Belasitsa.

For starters with the construction of these ski centers, large funds are needed that the Republic of Macedonia does not have, so it is desirable to find ways for granting concessions to private investors and similar.

Discussion

State statistics publish annual data on tourist visits by types of tourist spots. This division includes: Lake places, Skopje, mountain places, bathing places and other places. The most visited tourist spots in the Republic of Macedonia are the lake, then the city of Skopje, and the other places

(all of the cities are thought of without Ohrid, Struga, Resen - Prespa and Dojran). The fourth place is mountainous and at the end of the last fifth meat are the bathing places.

The term mountainous tourist destinations include ski centers, mountaineering homes, resorts, villas, holiday homes and other facilities that issue guest rooms - tourists. Macedonian statistics do not publish data on tourist visits for each ski center separately. In the short run, in Table 1, 2 and Figure 1, statistical data on tourist attendance at mountainous locations are shown.

Table 1. Percentage participation of the type of tourists in the mountainous places in the total tourist visit, from 2006 to 2015

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total tourists	499473 (100%)	536212 (100%)	605320 (100%)	587770 (100%)	586241 (100%)	647568 (100%)	663633 (100%)	701794 (100%)	735650 (100%)	816076 (100%)
Domestic	297116 (100%)	306132 (100%)	350363 (100%)	328566 (100%)	324545 (100%)	320097 (100%)	312274 (100%)	302114 (100%)	310336 (100%)	330537 (100%)
Foreign	202357 (100%)	230080 (100%)	254957 (100%)	259204 (100%)	261696 (100%)	327471 (100%)	351359 (100%)	399680 (100%)	425314 (100%)	485530 (100%)
From that mountainous place	40089 (8,0%)	33215 (6,2%)	43165 (7,1%)	52484 (8,9%)	71457 (12,2%)	71309 (11,0%)	68809 (10,3%)	68745 (9,8%)	64707 (8,8%)	62335 (7,6%)
Domestic	32394 (10,9%)	26501 (8,6%)	35665 (10,2%)	40130 (12,2%)	58170 (17,9%)	58100 (18,1%)	55076 (17,6%)	52615 (17,4%)	47330 (15,5%)	49716 (15,0%)
Foreign	7695 (3,8%)	6714 (2,9%)	7500 (2,9%)	12354 (4,7%)	13287 (5,1%)	13209 (4,0%)	13733 (3,9%)	16130 (4,0%)	16732 (3,9%)	17833 (3,7%)
Total nights	1917395 (100%)	2019712 (100%)	2235520 (100%)	2101606 (100%)	2020217 (100%)	2173034 (100%)	2151692 (100%)	2157175 (100%)	2195883 (100%)	2394205 (100%)
Domestic	1474550 (100%)	1501624 (100%)	1648073 (100%)	1517810 (100%)	1461185 (100%)	1417868 (100%)	1339946 (100%)	1275800 (100%)	1273370 (100%)	1357822 (100%)
Foreign	442845 (100%)	518088 (100%)	587447 (100%)	583796 (100%)	559032 (100%)	559032 (100%)	811746 (100%)	881375 (100%)	922513 (100%)	1036383 (100%)
From that mountainous place	110337 (5,7%)	83806 (4,1%)	110012 (4,9%)	120891 (5,7%)	160336 (7,9%)	161382 (7,4%)	144293 (6,7%)	144125 (6,7%)	135518 (6,2%)	136436 (5,7%)
Domestic	89200 (6,0%)	71148 (4,7%)	94063 (5,7%)	97275 (6,4%)	131786 (9,0%)	129937 (9,2%)	110865 (8,3%)	105301 (8,2%)	95877 (7,5%)	97831 (7,2%)
Foreign	21137 (4,8%)	12658 (2,4%)	15949 (2,7%)	23616 (4,0%)	28550 (5,1%)	31445 (5,6%)	33428 (4,1%)	38824 (4,4%)	39641 (4,3%)	38605 (3,7%)

Source: SSO, Tourism 2006-2010; Tourism 2011-2015. Calculated by the author of the NVD

Table 2. Percentage participation of the type of tourists in the mountainous places in the total tourist visit, from 2006 to 2015

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total tourists	499473 (100%)	536212 (100%)	605320 (100%)	587770 (100%)	586241 (100%)	647568 (100%)	663633 (100%)	701794 (100%)	735650 (100%)	816076 (100%)
Domestic	297116 (59,5%)	306132 (57,1%)	350363 (57,9%)	328566 (55,9%)	324545 (55,3%)	320097 (49,4%)	312274 (47,0%)	302114 (45,6%)	310336 (42,2%)	330537 (40,5%)
Foreign	202357 (40,5%)	230080 (42,9%)	254957 (42,1%)	259204 (44,1%)	261696 (44,7%)	327471 (50,6%)	351359 (53,0%)	399680 (54,4%)	425314 (57,8%)	485530 (59,5%)
From that mountainous place	40089 (100%)	33215 (100%)	43165 (100%)	52484 (100%)	71457 (100%)	71309 (100%)	68809 (100%)	68745 (100%)	64707 (100%)	62335 (100%)
Domestic	32394 (80,8%)	26501 (79,8%)	35665 (82,6%)	40130 (76,5%)	58170 (81,4%)	58100 (81,5%)	55076 (80,0%)	52615 (76,5%)	47330 (73,1%)	49716 (79,7%)
Foreign	7695 (19,2%)	6714 (20,2%)	7500 (17,4%)	12354 (23,5%)	13287 (18,6%)	13209 (18,5%)	13733 (20,0%)	16130 (23,5%)	16732 (26,9%)	17833 (20,3%)
Total nights	1917395 (100%)	2019712 (100%)	2235520 (100%)	2101606 (100%)	2020217 (100%)	2173034 (100%)	2151692 (100%)	2157175 (100%)	2195883 (100%)	2394205 (100%)
Domestic	1474550 (76,9%)	1501624 (74,4%)	1648073 (73,7%)	1517810 (72,2%)	1461185 (72,3%)	1417868 (74,3%)	1339946 (62,3%)	1275800 (59,2%)	1273370 (58,0%)	1357822 (56,7%)
Foreign	442845 (23,1%)	518088 (25,6%)	587447 (26,3%)	583796 (27,8%)	559032 (27,7%)	559032 (25,7%)	811746 (37,7%)	881375 (40,8%)	922513 (42,0%)	1036383 (43,3%)
From that mountainous	110337 (100%)	83806 (100%)	110012 (100%)	120891 (100%)	160336 (100%)	161382 (100%)	144293 (100%)	144125 (100%)	135518 (100%)	136436 (100%)

place										
Domestic	89200 (80,8%)	71148 (84,9%)	94063 (85,5%)	97275 (80,5%)	131786 (82,2%)	129937 (80,5%)	110865 (76,8%)	105301 (73,0%)	95877 (70,7%)	97831 (71,7%)
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Source: SSO, Tourism 2006-2010; Tourism 2011-2015. Calculated by the author of the NVD

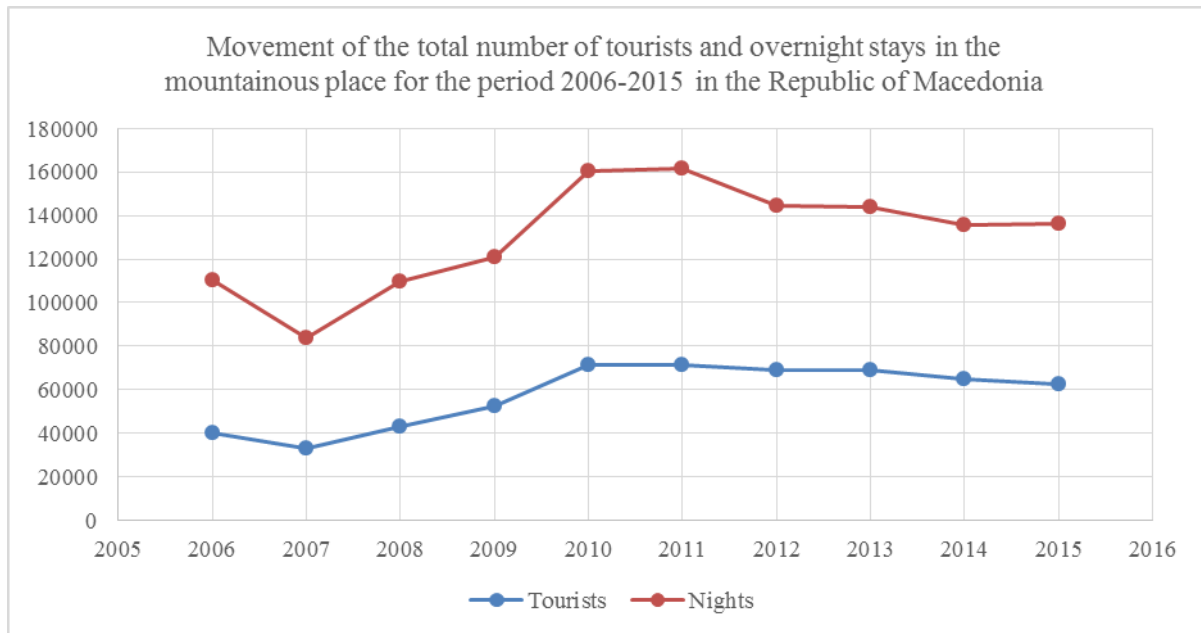


Figure 1. Movement of the total number of tourists and overnight stays in the mountainous place for the period 2006-2015 in the Republic of Macedonia

From both tables, we draw the following general analysis. The share of tourists in the mountainous places in the total number of tourists for the period 2006-2015 ranged from 33215 or 6.2% to 71457 or 12.2%, and for nights from 83806 or 4.1% to 160336 or 7.9%. According to the type of tourists and overnight stays, the share of domestic tourists is dominant, while for foreign tourists and overnight stays, there is a slight increase.

We estimate that 80% of the visits to the mountain areas belong to the seven ski resorts. The most frequently visited ski centers are Mavrovo and Popova Sapka, followed by Krusevo, Pelister ("Kopanki" and "Strezhevo"), Ponikva and Kozuf.

Conclusion

According to the above, we can conclude that the Republic of Macedonia has a choice of winter centers and great potential for ski tourism. It is characteristic that all these ski resorts are located in high landscapes and are good for mountain and ski tourism. Ski centers, Popova Shapka, Mavrovo, Krusevo, Pelister, Ponikva and Kozuf have beautiful, picturesque terrains suitable for winter sports that can attract a lot of tourists.

From the survey we concluded that all ski resorts need restoration and modernization with new ski infrastructure, then building reception facilities, as well as renewal and continuous maintenance of the road network to them.

For all this, it is necessary to engage the state of the local community and all carriers in ski sport and tourism in general. Large financial resources are needed, as well as the provision of certain parts or whole ski centers under the concession of private investors from Macedonia and abroad.

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