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THE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF GEORGIA
IN THE LIGHT OF POLISH RESEARCH METHODS

All the Caucasian republics and particularly Georgia are regarded as regions of great interest to tourists. This opinion based on literature and oral reports of the tourists is confirmed by most people but partly denied by some other people. This variety of views is a result both of subjective impressions of each particular tourist and result of different meanings of the term „tourist attractiveness“. To avoid any misunderstanding I should like to say that in my opinion the term „tourist attractiveness“ comprises three elements. These elements are: natural environment, cultural centres and tourist facilities including easy access and developed transport. Only the full realization of all these elements enables the tourist to satisfy his needs and leads to positive opinions concerning the tourist attractions of a town or region. Such a definition of tourist attractions is, however, rather vague and general because it does not make clear what full realization of these elements really means.

So we have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to introduce objective methods of evaluating the above-mentioned three elements i.e. natural environment, cultural centres and tourist facilities. The purpose of this paper is to assess the attractions of Georgia taking into account the methods which are used in Poland. That is a criterion to what extent the methods elaborated in the conditions of our country could be universal. The specific character of Georgia and the difficulties in collecting reliable materials make the author apply certain simplifications which have not changed, however, the general assumptions of the adopted methods. The choice of Georgia as a testing-ground is explained by two reasons:

- 1) the generally recognized attractiveness of this country,

2) the fact that the author knows the country which helped him a lot with the interpretation of the results.

We have used the methods of point assessment. The method consists in assigning a suitable number of points to respective regions and has been used in Poland with various modifications for nearly 50 years. S. Leszczycki¹ was the first to use the method for evaluating the „natural merits” of the Podhale region. The author made use of a scale ranging from 0 to 10 points and applied it to classification of all localities. The author's research was designed to investigate the possibilities of tourist and health resort development. The classification was based on ten selected features of geographical environment. M. I. Mileska² also made use of the method when she evaluated the tourist attractiveness of Polish geographical environment. She adopted a five point scale with values ranging from 0 to 4 points. Her classification included: geographical relief, surface waters and forests. Since the authoress wanted to bring out exceptional natural merits, which often appear in small regions, she supplemented her basic classification by a few additional features. She gave one additional point to regions with:

- a) mountain peaks and glacier pot-holes,
- b) picturesque valleys and ravines,
- c) fine sea-side beaches,
- d) special climatic conditions.

The method of point assessment was also used for the evaluation of non-natural tourist merits. It was used among others by A. Bogucka³ when she selected tourist regions in the mountainous part of the former Cracow voivodship. The method was also used many times by J. Warszzyńska⁴ who evaluated special, rest and sightseeing merits. She was mainly concerned with medium scale research; hence the basic area was a place within its administrative limits (a village, settlement, town, city). Warszzyńska used the results of point assessment for working out the ultimate indicator of attractiveness which was expressed by

¹ S. Leszczycki, *Ruch letniskowy na Podhalu*, „Pamiętnik Polskiego Towarzystwa Balneologicznego” 1933, vol. 12, idem, *Badania nad ruchem letniskowym na Podhalu*, „Przegląd Zdrojowisk, Kąpielisk i Przewodnik Turystyczny” 1936, ann. 25, No 3; idem, *Podhale jako region uzdrowiskowy (Rozważania z geografii turystyki)*, „Biuletyn Komitetu Studiów Ligi Popularyzacji Turystyki” 1937, vol. 1.

² M. I. Mileska, *Regiony turystyczne Polski. Stan obecny i potencjalne warunki rozwoju*, Pr. Geogr. PAN 1963, No 43.

³ A. Bogucka, *Badanie obszarów rekreacyjnych ziem karpackich woj. krakowskiego pod kątem ich wykorzystania dla różnych form wypoczynku*, „Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich” 1971, fasc. 9.

⁴ J. Warszzyńska, *Waloryzacja miejscowości z punktu widzenia atrakcyjności turystycznej (zarys metody)*, Zesz. Nauk. UJ, Pr. Geogr. 1971, fasc. 27.

a relation of a sum of real points to the maximum value. The indicator is within the range 0—1 (the nearer it is to 1, the greater the tourist attractiveness). In some other paper J. Warszyńska⁵ has made an appraisal of point assessment method, pointing out its merits and shortcomings.

According to her the merits are as follows:

- a) a possibility of quantitative presentation of qualitative features,
- b) a possibility of making comparisons between the studied regions,
- c) a possibility of applying the method to studies of varying exactitude; the latter depends on the amount of correct information and the right choice of details,
- d) the wide scope of its application. It can among others make use of figures, indices, quantitative and qualitative criteria, etc.

J. Warszyńska has also mentioned some disadvantages of the above-mentioned methods:

- a) lack of an uniform system of criteria and values. That makes comparisons of various studies undertaken by various authors impossible,
- b) subjective approach and errors in choosing and defining criteria,
- c) the effect of class divisions on the extent of the error (the greater the stratification the smaller the error),
- d) incorrect assessment of marginal values in particular class divisions.

It was found, however, that the merits of the method are greater than the disadvantages and, therefore, the method should bring good results in the particular case of Georgia's tourist attractiveness.

Assessing tourist attractiveness of Georgia, the author represents the opinion that they are a sum of three components: natural environment, cultural environment and the tourist base. The author has adopted a five point scale (0—4); he has also made use of additional points. Tourist merits of natural environment will be determined by three main criteria: the relief, surface waters and the woods⁶, and additional criteria which are specific to the studied area.

1. The Geographical Relief.

The division of Georgia into landscape units as presented on the map of Georgian landscapes (scale 1 : 600 000) which was prepared by an academician F. F. Davitaj and Assistant-Professors A. F. Aslanikashvili and M. F. Sakhokia in Moscow in 1970 has been taken as the basis of the estimation of Georgia's tourist attractions in respect to surface configuration. This map shows 94 landscape types which are combined

⁵ Idem, *Ocena zasobów środowiska naturalnego dla potrzeb turystyki (Na przykładzie woj. krakowskiego)*, Zesz. Nauk. UJ, Pr. Geogr. 1974, fasc. 36.

⁶ Mileska, *op. cit.*; Warszyńska, *Ocena zasobów środowiska...*

into five groups for the sake of tourist evaluation. These groups have been allotted the following number of points:

Landscape of Alp and Sub Alp character nival and subnival landscapes	— 4 points.
Steppes and mountain woods	— 3 points.
Hilly tectonic foreland	— 2 points.
Landscapes of hills and plateaus	— 1 point.
Landscapes of plains	— 0 points.

2. Surface waters.

The investigations conducted in all the republic (about 70 000 square kilometers) cannot determine at present the immediate usefulness of waters for recreation purposes. The assessment is designed to assess surface waters mainly in respect of their landscape merits (with the exception of the sea). The following groups have been established:

Black sea coast (beaches)	— 4 points.
A large waters reservoir (lake) or a large river and a lake	— 3 points.
A considerable density of river network (more than one river in the research unit)	— 2 points.
One river in the research unit	— 1 point.
Dry areas with rivers and still waters	— 0 points.

3. The Woods.

The percentage of forests and woods to the vegetation has also been accepted as an indicator of tourist attractiveness. It is a very simple measure. Neither the age nor the tree species are taken into account, but this measure is the only acceptable measure. The percentage of the woods has been calculated taking as a basis a research unit (a square area of 900 km²).

The woods occupying 75% of the research unit	obtain 4 points.
The woods occupying 50—75% of the investigated area	obtain 3 points.
The woods occupying 25—50% of the investigated area	obtain 2 points.
The woods occupying less than 25% of the investigated area	obtain 1 point.
Lack of distinct woods	obtain 0 points.

Taking into account the specific character of the region and its considerable variety, additional points have been introduced to bring into relief Georgia's numerous attractions.

One additional point has been allotted to districts with the following features:

4. An over 100 day continuous snow cover.
5. Natural reservations, national parks and botanical gardens.
6. Caves and grottoes which are made available to the tourists.
7. Good open air swimming conditions (temperature over 18°C) for over 120 days a year.

The maximum figure obtained for the natural environment can thus reach 16 points.

The assessment of cultural environment includes three elements which have been defined by a two-grade scale because of the point character of the occurrence and because of classification difficulties. If the studied region could boast a cultural monument or a group of generally recognized cultural monuments it received one point; if there were no such monuments the region did not obtain any point.

Classification and distribution of the monuments were evaluated on the basis of appropriate maps in the *Atlas of the Georgian Socialist Republic*⁷.

The points were awarded for the occurrence of:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 8. Historical or architectural monuments | — 1 point. |
| 9. Historical or archeological reservations | — 1 point. |
| 10. Historical or ethnographical museums
(including Skansen museums) | — 1 point. |

The estimation of cultural environment can provide 3 points to the general balance of tourist attractiveness. This is a low figure but we must take into consideration that such monuments become a tourist attraction when they are accompanied by suitable infrastructure or when they are in or near towns which are ready to welcome tourists.

The third element of tourist attractiveness is a tourist base which in practice determines the access to natural and cultural merits of every region.

The following features of a tourist base in Georgia have been accepted for its evaluation:

11. Tourist Accomodation and Camping Sites (number of places).

This is the basic indicator of a tourist base which largely determines the access to natural and cultural attractions. The material illustrating this element of tourist base comes from various sources, the most important of which were the *Atlas of the Georgian...* and the collected papers edited by F. F. Davitaj⁸.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Towns and resorts with over 300 places in
tourist bases and bivouacs | — 4 points. |
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⁷ *Atlas of the Georgian Socialist Republic*, Tbilisi-Moskwa 1964.

⁸ *Gruzja*, ed. F. F. D a w i t a j, Warszawa 1972.

Resorts with 200—300 places	— 3 points.
Resorts with 100—200 places	— 2 points.
Resorts with less than 100 places	— 1 point.
Resorts without any tourist base and without bivouacs	— 0 points.

12. Health resorts.

In Georgia there are a lot of health resorts of various importance. Taking the health resort classification in the *Atlas of the Georgian...*⁹ as a basis they have received the following number of points:

Health resorts of all Union importance	— 4 points.
Health resorts with importance limited to one republic	— 3 points.
Health resorts of local importance	— 2 points.
Curative resorts	— 1 point.
Other places without the necessary equipment	— 0 points.

13. Sanatoria and Rest-Homes.

Curative and health properties of many localities and districts in Georgia have been properly utilized. There are numerous sanatoria and rest-homes here. The classification of localities takes into account the number of health and rest-homes.

Over 10 health or rest-homes	— 4 points.
6—10 health or rest-homes	— 3 points.
2—5 health or rest-homes	— 2 points.
1 health or rest-homes	— 1 point.
No health or rest-home	— 0 points.

14. Accessibility.

Roads giving access are the last element of touristic base in Georgia. It is a decisive factor which practically enables visitors to enjoy the tourist attractions of the country. Accessibility is essential in any area but in a mountainous country it is an indispensable condition. The accessibility of Georgia was defined taking the density of hard surface roads and the railroad network as a basis. It results from the statistical *Yearbook of Georgia*¹⁰ and the R. J. Kverenchikhiladze's work¹¹ that the average density of communication network in Georgia is 30 kilometers per 100 square kilometers.

Georgia's accessibility has been assessed by means of the following classifications:

⁹ *Atlas of the Georgian...*

¹⁰ *Narodnoje Khozajstvo Gruzinskoj SSR v 1977 g. Statisticheskij Ezhegodnik*, Tbilisi 1979.

¹¹ R. I. Kverenchikhiladze, *Geograficheskiye problemy transporta Gruzii*, Tbilisi 1976.

Over 30 km/100 km ²	— 4 points.
15 km/100 km ² — 30 km/100 km ²	— 3 points.
7,5 km/100 km ² — 15 km/100 km ²	— 2 points.
7,5 km/100 km ²	— 1 point.
No railway-lines and no hard-surface roads	— 0 points.

Thus the estimation of a tourist base can at most provide 16 points and the all-over assessment of tourist attractions can give 35 points (Table 1).

The assessment of tourist attractions of Georgia was made on the basis of mechanically defined areas. The map of Georgia (scale 1 : 600 000) was covered with 6 cm squares (equivalent of 30 km). The result was 108 squares (each with an area of 900 km²) which were evaluated in respect of 14 characteristics.

The last stage of assessment of tourist attractions in Georgia is the establishment of tourist attractiveness which presents the results in relative values which is more convenient for comparative purposes. We obtain this coefficient by dividing the real sum of points on each square by the theoretical maximum figure which in this classification is equal to 35. The value of coefficient of tourist attractiveness ranges from 0 to 1.1 meaning the maximum theoretical degree of tourist attractiveness and 0 meaning the uselessness of the region for tourist purposes.

In Georgia the coefficient ranges from 0 to 0.8 with squares of 0.3 value (43 squares) and 0.2 value (20 squares) being the most common. There are only three squares with 0 coefficient and nine squares with 0.1 coefficient.

To bring out the most attractive tourist regions of Georgia into relief three classes of coefficients have been adopted. By their means we can distinguish:

Regions of particular tourist attractiveness	— 0.7	and more
Regions of very great tourist attractiveness	— 0.6	
Regions of great tourist attractiveness	— 0.5	

The three above-mentioned coefficients occur in 19 squares out of 108 basic squares which testifies to great tourist attractiveness of Georgia.

The above-mentioned tourist coefficient is composed of three groups of tourist attractiveness. In Georgia the most important are: natural environment and the tourist base. Cultural environment is of much lesser significance. Out of 108 basic squares 12 squares, have the values of over 0.7 which means exceptional attractiveness. The highest coefficient of natural attractiveness 0.9 occurs in one square on the Black Sea

Table 1

Assessment of Tourist Attractiveness

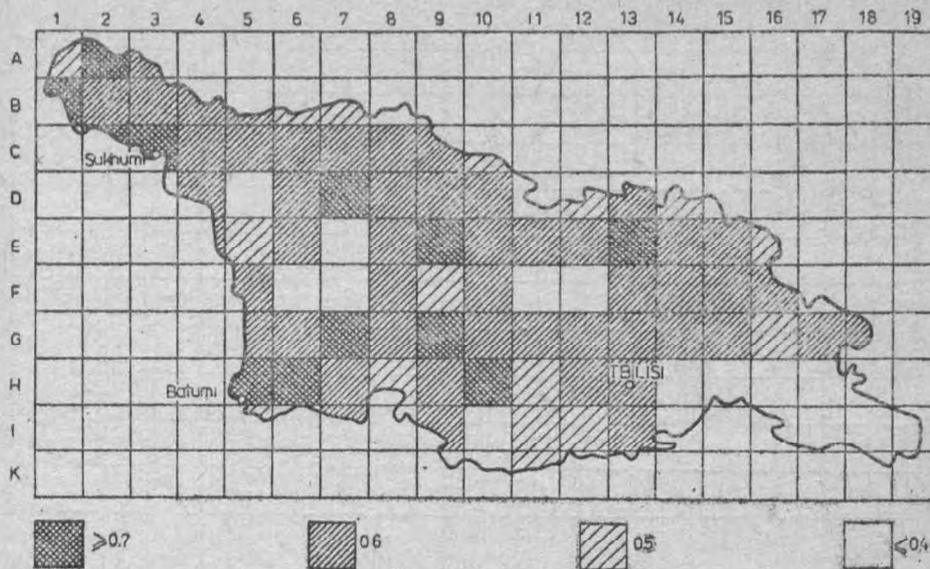
Elements of tourist attractiveness	Number of points				
	0	1	2	3	4
Natural Environment	0	1	2	3	4
1. Surface configuration (relief)	0	1	2	3	4
2. Surface waters	0	1	2	3	4
3. Proportion of woods	0	1	2	3	4
Additional elements					
4. Snow cover	0	—	—	—	1
5. Natural reservations, national parks, botanical gardens	0	—	—	—	1
6. Caves and grottes	0	—	—	—	1
7. Duration of sea-bathing period	0	—	—	—	1
Cultural Environment					
8. Historical or architectural monuments	0	—	—	—	1
9. Historical or archeological reservations	0	—	—	—	1
10. Historical or ethnographical museums	0	—	—	—	1
Tourist Base					
11. Tourist accomodation and bivouacs	0	1	2	3	4
12. Health resorts	0	1	2	3	4
13. Sanatorium and rest-homes	0	1	2	3	4
14. Accessibility	0	1	2	3	4
Maximum number of points	—	—	—	—	35

coast near Batumi. The regions with great attractiveness of natural environment with 0.6 coefficient occupy 51 squares that is nearly a half of Georgian territory. 0.5 coefficient which is characteristic of regions with great tourist attractiveness occurs in 16 squares.

The regions with great, very great or exceptional tourist attractiveness occupy 79 squares that is nearly 73% of the area. It is a very high value which testifies to the extraordinary natural attractiveness. Except for eastern Georgian bordering on Azerbaijan the whole remaining country can be attractive for the tourists because of its natural environment. The spatial distribution of the attractiveness coefficient is shown on table 1.

The highest values of tourist base coefficient (0.7 and more) occur in six squares mainly along the Black Sea coast. The regions (even with 0.8—0.9 values) have a very good accomodation base in various health-resorts, sanatorium, rest-homes. They are also easily accessible due to good roads and railway lines.

The tourist base coefficients of 0.6 and 0.5 occur altogether in six squares. That means that good, very good or exceptional tourist base

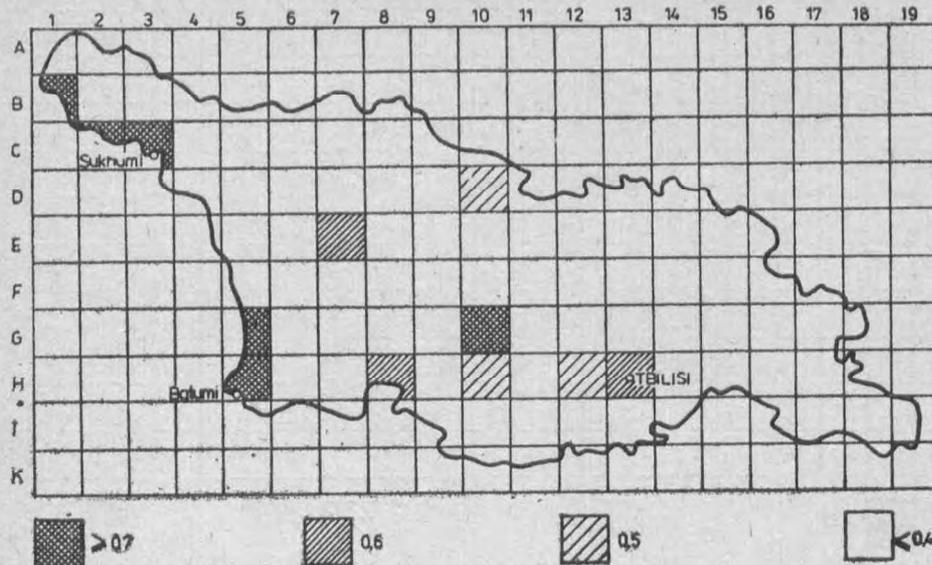


Ryc. 1. Coefficient of tourist attractiveness of Georgia geographical environment
 0.7 and more — particular tourist attractiveness, 0.6 — very great tourist attractiveness, 0.5 — great tourist attractiveness, 0.4 and less — small tourist attractiveness or without any

occurs in twelve squares which cover about 11% of the area. A comparison of Georgian regions with attractive natural environment with those which are characterized by good tourist base indicates the existing disproportions. Not all the regions with great attractiveness of natural environment have a suitable tourist base which practically makes their „exploitation“ difficult or impossible. That finds expression among others in the regions of the High Caucasus which can boast exceptional merits of natural environment even on an international scale but which mostly have a rather poor tourist base (Ryc. 2). The merits of natural environment largely determine the tourist attractiveness of the country which is also reflected in the general coefficient pointing to regions with different degrees of tourist attractiveness (Ryc. 3).

A. AREAS WITH, EXCEPTIONAL TOURIST ATTRACTIVENESS

They occur in three regions of Georgia, two of them are connected with the Black Sea Coast (parts of Abhazia and Adjaria) and the third one is connected with western Kartha (Trialetsk mountains).

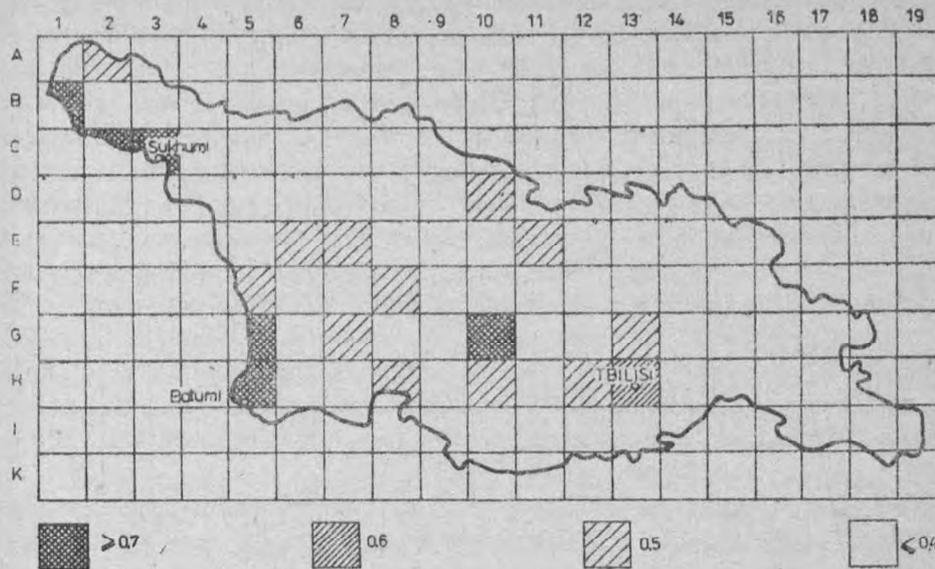


Ryc. 2. Coefficient of tourist base of Georgia

0.7 and more — particularly great tourist base, 0.6 — very great tourist base, 0.5 — great tourist base, 0.4 and less — small tourist base or without any

A₁. The largest area of exceptional tourist attractiveness in Georgia extends along the Black Sea from Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia in the northern-western direction. The area includes the coastline lowland and the slopes and valleys of Kodorski, Bzypski and Gagra mountains. That area is characterized by exceptionally attractive natural environment which happily combines the warm sea with over 200 meters high mountains. This landscape contrast also applies to climatic conditions which range from subtropical climate near the sea to mountainous climate only a few kilometers away. The average yearly temperature in Gagra is 15°C. This is also confirmed by subtropical vegetation (palm-trees, citrus fruits) along the coast and the vegetation in the mountains which is characteristic of various altitudes including subalpine forests and dwarf mountain pines. Climatic conditions made it possible to establish magnificent botanical garden in Sukhumi. It was established in the nineteen forties on the initiative of Vladislav Bagranovski¹². A few kilometers north west of Sukhumi in the locality Novy Aton is a

¹² G. i A. Miłoszowie, *Kaukaz*, Warszawa 1979.



Ryc. 3. Complex coefficient of tourist attractiveness of Georgia

0.7 and more — regions of particular tourist attractiveness, 0.6 — regions of very great tourist attractiveness, 0.5 — regions of great tourist attractiveness, 0.4 and less — regions of small tourist attractiveness or without any

large, karstic grotto which is called „Iberian“¹³. This grotto is magnificent and it is beautifully equipped. This one of the greatest natural attractions of the Caucasus region was made available to the tourists in the nineteen seventies.

The cultural environment of the Sukhumi district is mainly represented by traces and remains from the periods of Greek and Roman colonizations. Numerous wars and invasions did not leave, however, too many cultural monuments and the recovered objects (partly found at the bottom of the Black Sea) were collected in the state Museum of Abkhazia in Sukhumi¹⁴.

Climatic conditions of this region are similar to those in the French Riviera (landscape is even more interesting) had an effect on the development of tourist accommodation. Going from Sukhumi, which is a well-known sea-side resort, to the north-west along the coast we meet numerous health-resorts and sea-side resorts. One of them is Novy Aton with the largest Abkhazian sanatorium (which is situated in a monumen-

¹³ Z. K. Tintilozov, *Karstovyje pleshchery Gruzji (Morfologicheskij analiz)*, Tbilisi 1976.

¹⁴ W. Pachulia, *Abchazja — Kraj turizma*, Suchumi 1975.

tal monastery) and a church built by Orthodox monks who were expelled from Greece at the end of the nineteenth century. Then we reach Gudauta and Pitsunda. The latter was constructed after the Second World War. The health resort Gagra which is well known all over the world, is situated at the sea-side at the foot of Gagra mountains not far from the republic's frontier. Gagra health-resort came into being at the end of 19-th century and now it is being extended. The whole area is connected with the rest of the country by a railway line and a dense net-work of roads. Apart from the main road running along the coast of special interest is the so-called Sukhumi War Road which connects Sukhumi with Tsherkesk over the Kluhorsk Pass (2781 m a.s.l.). The road runs along the picturesque valley of the Kodori river. There is an air-port in Sukhumi which among others ensures a direct connection with Moscow. The region is particularly attractive which is reflected in great international tourist traffic:

A₂. The second selected Georgian area with particular tourist attractiveness — the coast of Adjara — occupies a slightly smaller territory. The area includes a narrow strip of coast low-land from Kubuleti up to the Turkish border as well as the slopes of Meshetsk and Shawshetsk mountains. The differences of the altitude between the coast and the near-by mountain ranges reach here also about 2000 meters which has an effect on considerable climatic diversification. Whereas in Batumi and Kobuleti the mean temperature of January is +5, +6°C so at the altitude of 1800 meters the duration of snow cover is about 6 months. The climate of the Adjarian coast is characterized by a very high humidity and the rainfall (over 2500 mm a year) is the highest in the USSR. This humidity is a certain handicap in a more intensified utilization of the region for curative purposes.

The bathing season in Batumi lasts about 150 days a year; it begins at the beginning of June (water temperature 21.5°C) and ends in October (18°C)¹⁵. The high temperature of the air as well as exceptional humidity are conducive to the growth of subtropical vegetation. This area is full of tea shrubs, citrus-fruits, ether-bearing plants, decorative plants. The mountains are covered with dense beech and hornbeam trees which at higher altitudes are replaced by pine- and fir trees.

Nine kilometers from Batumi on the coast there is a botanical garden; it was founded by A. N. Krasnov in 1912. At present it is the garden with the richest variety of plants in the whole Soviet Union¹⁶. The Adjar region of particular tourist attractiveness is rich in health-resorts. Going by train or by car from Kutaisi we pass first the health-

¹⁵ D. H. Komakhidze, *Batumi. Planirovka i zastrojka goroda*, Tbilisi 1968.

¹⁶ Batumskij *Botanicheskij Sad. Putievoditel*, Tbilisi 1970.

-resort Kobuleti. Kobuleti is situated at the border of two natural geographical regions: the Kolkhid Lowland and the Small Caucasus Mountains. Kobuleti can boast magnificent sandy beaches which stretch for about 15 kilometers. South of Kobuleti we meet a tiny holiday resort Cichisdziri which is situated among citrus groves.

There are numerous health-resorts and rest homes between Cichisdziri and the largest town of the region — Batumi. The best known of them are Zelenyj Mys and Machindzhauri. These health-resorts are pushed into the narrow coast plain which is broken by the steep Green Cape at the slopes of which we find the above-mentioned Batumi Botanical Garden.

Batumi, the capital of the Autonomous Adjar Republic is situated at the mouth of the Tsheroh river which formed here a delta on which the town has been built. Batumi is being visited by numerous tourists and holiday-makers who admire here the magnificent seaside boulevard with the open-work summer theatre. There are here also hotels, boarding houses and an aquarium. Near Batumi on the Ciskhari Mountain (1300 m a. s. l.) there is also a sanatorium and a ski-centre. Adjara is connected with the remaining part of Georgia by a railway line and by roads. There are also an air-port and a large sea passenger port in Batumi. The above region because of its unique merits of natural environment belongs to particularly attractive regions in the Soviet Union.

A₃. The third particularly attractive region occupies a relatively small area in Lower Kartli, the centre of which is formed by the most famous Georgian health resort — Bordzhomi. The region is characterized by an extremely varied relief: here three mountain chains are combined: Meschetskye, Trialetskye and Lihskeye Mountains forming a knot which cuts through the valley of the Kura river. These mountains are covered with beautiful conifers; in the ravine caused by the above-mentioned cut there occur carbonaceous-sodium mineral waters. The fame of health-resort Bordzhomi is based on these waters; the waters cure alimentary canal and bilious diseases. In the health resort there are: a large park, which was already founded in the 19-th century, numerous sanatorium and rest-homes. There are also: a physio-therapeutic establishment and two-bottling plants of the famous mineral water „Bordzhomi“.

The health-resort is surrounded by a lot of climatic centres (e.g. Tsakveri) which are connected with Bordzhomi by a narrow gauge railway. The whole region is known and visited by many tourists and patients both from the Soviet Union and other countries.

B. THE REGIONS OF PARTICULAR TOURIST ATTRACTIVENESS

The assessment of tourist attractiveness of Georgia shows only one region where the coefficient of attractiveness is 0,6. This is the city of Tbilisi and its environs. The region is well known for its tourist base and its cultural monuments. In this particular case the natural environment is of secondary importance. Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia and its largest city which indirectly determines its tourist base. There are many hotels, motels and tourist houses in the city.

The city is an important communication centre. Its airport ensures quick connection with all Soviet republics. Tbilisi is also a well-known centre of Georgian culture. Here are situated largest historical and archeological museums, one magnificent ethnographical Skansen museum as well as numerous monuments of architecture such as: Shuris-Tsikhe Fortress, Metekhi Temple, Anchiskhatsk Church, Sioni Cathedral and others. Tbilisi with its very old history is also worth seeing because of its antique town planning¹⁷. The geographical location of the city in the Kura gorge and considerable differences in altitude within the administrative borders of the city points also to the merits of natural environment. The latter has been recently greatly enriched by the construction of an artificial water reservoir which is commonly called the Tbilisi sea. The city region as a region of very great tourist attractiveness is often and readily visited by foreign tourists.

C. REGIONS OF GREAT TOURISTS ATTRACTIVENESS

The territories with 0.5 coefficient are regarded as regions of great tourist attractiveness. They occur in 6 places scattered all over Georgia.

C₁. The environs of Rica Lake. The region includes a part of the Bzypy river and its tributary Latshupse cutting through the Gagra Mountain Chain. It is a dam lake which was formed by damming the river Latshupse. The location of the lake and the landscape are major tourist attractions in this part of the Caucasus. Here is a natural reservation covering an area of 159 km² where special protection is accorded to the lake, vegetation with Kolkhid type mountainous forests, pastures and mineral water sources.

C₂. The upper part of the Rioni river. The region includes the slopes of the Great Caucasus near the Mamison Pass. The attractiveness is due to natural environment with its high mountain character (landscape, climate, vegetation) and carbonaceous-calcium springs. Two health-

¹⁷ W. Dzhaoshvili, *Tbilisi. Ekonomiko-geograficheskij ocherk*, Tbilisi 1971.

-resorts: Shovi and Utsera with sanatoria, rest-homes and hospitals are situated here. The village Utsera is famous for its ferrous and carbonaceous waters. There is a bottling plant there.

C₃. The Ymeretysk Upland region. The characteristic feature of this region is the existence of numerous balneological and climatic resorts. The most famous of them are: Chaltubo, Sairme, Zvare, Nunisi. There occur here warm mineral waters (up to 32—35°C, Chaltubo) and mineral waters for treatment of kidney and urinary diseases (Sairme). In the region the merits of the natural environment are supplemented by good tourist and recreation bases; in some cases the hotels and rest-homes add to the beauty of the environment. The Upland borders on the town of Poti with a similar coefficient of attractiveness. Poti is the largest town of the Colchid. It was founded by the Greeks in antiquity as the colony Fazis. At present it is a great port with a developing industry. The discovered remains of the ancient splendour have been collected in the local museum.

C₄. The region Akhaltsykhé — Vardzya. It owes its tourist attractiveness both to natural environment and its cultural monuments. The fame of the health resort Abastumani is based on ample mineral waters in the valley of Oeche river and on excellent climatic conditions. Pulmonary, skin and women's diseases are treated here. The town monastery Vardzya, one of the most famous monuments of Georgian material culture is situated on left bank of the steep valley of the Kura river. It is not far from Akhaltsykhé. The cloister was founded in the 12-th century; it was hollowed out in a soft tuff rock. It is a monument of the highest order, but its condition requires continuous preservation which largely limits tourist visits¹⁸.

C₅. The Bakurioni Region. It includes a fragment of Tryolets'k Mountains with Bakurioni holiday centre. Bakurioni is the largest ski-centre in Georgia and one of the best in the Soviet Union. In Bakurioni they also treat lung- and respiratory system diseases. There are also sanatoria here (especially for children).

C₆. The region of Mtskheta and Manglisi. It includes the Tbilisi hinterland stretching in the northern and western direction. The greatest merits of this region are the remains of material culture and the tourist base. The most valuable monuments of Georgian culture are in the old capital Mtskheta. These are the old cathedral Sveti-Tskhoveli (where many Georgian kings and princes are buried) and the basilica Ivvari (which means St. Cross) coming from the end of the sixth century.

¹⁸ K. N. Melitauri, *Stroitel'stvo i arkhitektura Vardzi*, Tbilisi 1975.

The basilica is at the top of a steep mountain overlooking Mtskheta. Mtskheta is visited by numerous Soviet and foreign tourists.

Acores of kilometers west from Tbilisi, the children's sanatorium Manglisi is situated in the Trialetz Mountains. Not far from this locality is the place of historical battle of 1121 — the Didgorsk Field where the Georgians defeated the superior Turkish forces. The Boluisi basilica constructed in 462—477 is situated a dozen or so kilometers south of Manglisi.

The Georgian territories of great, very great or exceptional attractiveness cover about 18 per cent of the country's area. As we have already pointed out there are six main tourist regions in Georgia:

- I Abkhaz Region ($A_1 C_1$)
- II Adzkhar Region (A_2 and part of C_3 — Poti),
- III Imeretinsk Upland and Meshet Mountains ($C_3 C_4$),
- IV Bordzhomi-Bakurioni Region ($A_3 C_5$)
- V Tbilisi Region ($B_1 C_6$),
- VI High Caucasus Region (C_2 , the Georgian War Road, Svanetia).

These regions differ from one another in respect of natural environment and tourist base conditions but their common feature are tourist attractions.

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ATRAKCYJNOŚĆ TURYSTYCZNA GRUZJI W ŚWIETLE POLSKICH METOD BADAWCZYCH

Artykuł składa się z dwu części, metodycznej i empirycznej. W części pierwszej dokonano przeglądu metod stosowanych w Polsce dla oceny atrakcyjności turystycznej ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem metody bonitacji punktowej. Na podstawie przedstawionego dorobku polskich geografów turystyki zaproponowano zasady różnych walorów turystycznych (tabela 1). Punktacja ta obejmuje: środowisko naturalne, (rzeźba, woda, lasy, pokrywa śnieżna, rezerwaty przyrody, jaskinie i grotty oraz długość okresu kąpiel morskich), środowisko kulturowe (zabytki historyczno-architektoniczne, rezerwaty historyczno-archeologiczne, muzea historyczno-etnograficzne) oraz zagospodarowanie turystyczne (bazy turystyczne i biwaki, kurorty, sanatoria i domy wypoczynkowe, dostępność komunikacyjna). Maksymalna suma punktów przypisywana wszystkim walorom turystycznym według przyjętej punktacji może osiągnąć wielkość 35. Aby uwypuklić najbardziej atrakcyjne turystycznie regiony badanego obszaru wyznaczono współczynnik atrakcyjności, który waha się w przedziałach 0—1. Obszar badań, którym była cała Republika Gruzjińska podzielono siatką kwadratów o pow. 900 km²

(108 pól podstawowych) wyliczając dla każdego pola wartość współczynnika atrakcyjności turystycznej.

W części empirycznej analizując wartości współczynnika na obszarze Gruzji wyznaczono:

A. Obszary o szczególnej atrakcyjności turystycznej, która występuje w trzech regionach Gruzji: Abchazja, Adżaria oraz okolice Bordzomi (współczynnik atrakcyjności 0,7 i większy),

B. Obszary o bardzo dużej atrakcyjności turystycznej, które występują w okolicach stolicy kraju Tbilisi (współczynnik atrakcyjności 0,6),

C. Obszary o dużej atrakcyjności turystycznej, występują one w sześciu kompleksach przestrzennych rozrzuconych po całym terytorium Gruzji (okolice J. Rica, górne części doliny rzeki Rioni, wyżyna Imeretyjska, obszar Achalcyche-Wardzia, obszar Bakurioni, obszar Mchety i Manglisi (współczynnik atrakcyjności 0,5).

W konkluzji stwierdzono, że istnieją dysproporcje pomiędzy bardzo dużymi walorami przyrodniczymi a stopniem zagospodarowania turystycznego Gruzji.