Management of pilgrimage's in Lithuania. Current challenges

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What is religious tourism?

- Pilgrimage
- Religious tourism
- Tourism

or

- Cultural tourism
- Heritage tourism
- Religious tourism
Relationship between religious tourism and pilgrimage

Pilgrimage (valuistic journey) related with the expression of values and identity, satisfying of spiritual needs, spiritual motivation.

Pilgrimage differs from religious tourism, which is considered to be an intermediate form between religious pilgrimage and secular tourism.

Religious tourism is differing from pilgrimage and comprises more cultural and holiday-making dimensions. Religious tourists visit religious objects and sacred places mostly for cultural and cognitive motives.

Religious tourists could have interest to learn religious history of the region, to understand particular rites and traditions, to educate co-travellers about their religious beliefs, or to find authentic experiences.
Main motives of religious pilgrimage, per cent

- Religious duty: 22%
- To get indulgence, to atone sins: 32%
- Psychological comfort: 31%
- Spiritual quest and renewal: 58%
- Expressing gratitude to Jesus or Virgin Mary: 56%
- Asking for God’s grace, health: 58%
- Penance: 43%
- Spending leisure time, curiosity: 14%
- Preparation for death: 6%
- Financial benefit: 1%
- Accompanying friends, relatives: 6%
- Other: 5%
Classification of journeys

- Recreational and cognitive journeys
  (religious pilgrimage, journeys of sport fans etc.)
- Valuistic journeys
  (business trips, travelling for medical treatment, visiting of friends and family, conferences etc.)
- Necessity and instrumental journeys
   (business trips, travelling for medical treatment, visiting of friends and family, conferences etc.)
Conception of valuistic journeys

Valuistic journeys = traditional religious and modern secular *pilgrimage*

Such journeys seek to express attitudes to values and outline the guidelines for the identity of their participants
Conception of valuistic journey (pilgrimage)

Important features of the valuistic journey:

- clearly expressed geographical destination of the journey, which embodies a certain value;
- valuistic motives of the journey, internal attitudes impelling to carry out the journey;
- strongly expressed link between the journey and the identity of the traveller where the journey is an expression of personal identity or search for this identity;
- specific behaviour during the journey and at the destination point characterised by typical rites or models of behaviour.
Journeys of Lithuanian residents at least once per year from their inhabited locality, per cent

- Religious pilgrimage in Lithuania: 9%
- Religious pilgrimage abroad: 2%
- Tourist (cognitive) journeys in Lithuania: 21%
- Tourist (cognitive) journeys abroad: 16%
- Resort in Lithuania (Palanga, Neringa, Druskininkai etc.): 35%
- Resort abroad: 7%
- Homestead in the village (own or rural tourism): 31%
- Concert (to other town in Lithuania, abroad): 19%
- Sport fan journey (to other town in Lithuania, abroad): 4%
- Leisure time near lake, river in Lithuania: 45%
- Leisure time in the garden-plot: 31%
- No possibilities for travelling: 19%
- Other leisure time possibilities: 4%
Classification types of Lithuanian Pilgrimage Places

- **Origin**
  - Natural places (springs);
  - Cultural places (Churches);

- **Object of adoration**
  - Virgin Mary,
  - Christ,
  - Saints,
  - Spiritual authority;

- **Circumstances of origin**
  - Natural-historical (cemeteries, tombs)
  - Miraculous (apparition places, miraculous images and relics).
Catholic pilgrimage places in Lithuania

- **Diocese of Telšiai**
  - Samogitian Calvary
  - Beržoras Calvary
  - Šiauliai
  - Telšiai

- **Diocese of Šiauliai**
  - Hill of Crosses
  - Šiauliai Cathedral
  - Tytuvėnai Church
  - Shrine of Šiluva

- **Diocese of Panevėžys**
  - Panevėžys
  - Krekenava Shrine
  - Skaistgirys

- **Arcdiocese of Kaunas**
  - Vepriai Calvary
  - Kaunas Cathedral
  - Šiauliai Cathedral
  - Kaunas Pažaislis Monastery

- **Diocese of Kaišiadorys**
  - Kaišiadorys
  - Vepriai Calvary
  - Kaunas Cathedral
  - Šiauliai Cathedral

- **Diocese of Vilnius**
  - Vilnius Cathedral
  - Vilnius Calvary
  - Trakai Church
  - Divine Mercy Shrine

Legend:
- Centres of Dioceses
- Lithuanian Calvaries
- Places of religious pilgrimage
- Object of the John Paul II pilgrimage route
Established in August 2007

16 main Catholic pilgrimage places of Lithuania including the Hill of Crosses were joined:

1. Vilnius Cathedral Basilica. Chapel of St Casimir
2. Gate of Dawn Chapel and St Teresa’s Church (Vilnius)
3. Vilnius Calvary
4. Trakai Church of the Visitation
5. Kaunas Cathedral Basilica
6. Christ’s Resurrection Church in Kaunas
7. Pažaislis Church and Monastery
8. Shrine of Šiluva
9. Tytuvėnai Church and Monastery
10. Šiauliai Cathedral
11. Hill of Crosses
12. Samogitian Calvary Shrine
13. Marijampolė Basilica and Chapel in Lūginė
14. Pivašiūnai Church of the Assumption
15. Divine Mercy Shrine in Vilnius
16. Krekenava Shrine
Places of the Pilgrim Route of Pope John Paul II
Places of Virgin Mary in Lithuania

• There are 11 most important apparition places of Virgin Mary in Lithuania;
• The most important is apparition place in Šiluva (from 1608);
• There are more than 100 miraculous images and more than 30 miraculous sculptures of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lithuania;
• More than 30 Grottos of Lourdes were built in Lithuania
Miraculous images
Hill of Crosses
Management of pilgrim journeys in Lithuania

*Inward pilgrimages*
- Catholic Church (Dioceses, youth centers of the dioceses, pilgrim centers)
- NGO (Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims, etc.);
- Local parishes and various communities.

*Outward pilgrimages*
- Various communities;
- Tourism enterprises

*Religious tourism projects*
- State Tourism department;
- NGO (Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims, etc.).
- Catholic Church (Dioceses, youth centers of the dioceses, pilgrim centers).
The Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims was established in 2004. The aims of the organization are:

- to consolidate Christian pilgrims in Lithuania,
- to take care of the natural and cultural heritage of the sacred site in Lithuania,
- to organize pilgrim journeys.

The Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims organizes various projects associated with pilgrimage and sacred places of Lithuania and publishes various publications.
Main projects of the Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims

- Bienniel contest-exhibition of wood carvers works “Saints and pilgrims”;
Pilgrim routes

CENTERS OF COUNTIES

SITES OF PILGRIM ROUTES

- Vilnius – Pivašiūnai
- Kaunas – Šiluva
- Hill of crosses – Šiluva
- Kražiai – Žemaicių Kalvarija
- Palanga – Žemaicių Kalvarija
- Panevėžys – Vepriai
- Sintautai – Shrine of crosses
Main projects of the Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims

www.pilgrimai.lt
Thank you for your attention

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