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DEVELOPMENT OF ECOTOURISM IN THE MOSCOW REGION

Развитие экологического туризма в Подмосковье

The aim of this article is to analyze the chances of the Moscow region to become one of the key locations for the development of ecotourism in Russia.

Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing areas in the tourism industry, attracting an increasing number of travelers seeking to combine recreation with care for nature and its preservation. The Moscow Region boasts a rich variety of natural landscapes creating ideal conditions for active recreation and educational tourism. There are several nature reserves, such as «Losiny Ostrov» and «Zavidovo», which offer unique opportunities to observe local flora and fauna. The tourist flow to the ecological centers of «Losiny Ostrov» [1] is growing every year; over the past 10 years, it has increased almost 10 times! This is largely due to the opening of new ecological routes. Popular routes include the Barefoot Trail in the Arboretum and the Deer Trail at the Elk Biostation. In 2022–2023, for the first time since the national park was established, water excursions on kayaks and electric rafts were opened, and a private all-season recreation area with glamping was equipped.

The forests of the Moscow region are home to many species of animals and plants, many of which are listed in the Red Book. This creates great potential for organizing eco-tours, nature trails and excursion programs aimed at preserving biodiversity and ecosystems. For example, the «Adventure Club» organization [2], which has been organizing hikes and travels since 2003, has a tourist program that includes visits to ecological trails, eco-technical farms, local history and natural history museums, as well as familiarization with local environmental issues.

In recent years, the Moscow region has seen active development of tourism infrastructure. New ecological routes, hotels and recreation centers focused on eco-friendly recreation have been opening. Local authorities and entrepreneurs understand the importance of attracting tourists and are starting to invest in the development of comfortable and safe infrastructure.

The programs for the formation of an ecotourism network include the creation of bicycle and walking routes, arrangement of observation platforms, installation of information stands and the development of interactive routes. Organizations with such programs are: Interpark, the Center for Ecological Travel and Local-ID. Financing is usually provided by the state or NGOs. These initiatives contribute not only to the development of tourism, but also to the increase in the level of environmental responsibility among local residents and tourists.

In the Moscow region, various programs for the development of ecotourism are actively implemented. One of them is the «EcoTourism» program [3], which is aimed at popularizing ecological routes and a responsible attitude to nature. Various festivals, exhibitions and events aimed at environmental education are also held.

In conclusion, the development of ecotourism in the Moscow region has great prospects. The unique natural resources of the region, the desire of government agencies and private businesses to improve the infrastructure create favorable conditions for attracting tourists. The main thing is to ensure a balance between the development of tourism and the preservation of ecosystems, which will allow the Moscow region not only to attract tourists, but also to preserve its natural resources for future generations.

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THE PROBLEM OF PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS AND WAYS TO ADDRESS IT

Проблема затяжных ситуаций, связанных с беженцами и пути ее решения

The aim of this research is to study international norms on this issue and to propose ways to improve the refugees' lives.

A refugee is a person who «owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political