

## **Summary of the thesis**

**Agnieszka Huzarska, MA**

### **Cultural tourism in the Rzeszow Region in the period of 1945–1989. Historical and anthropological studies**

#### **Key words:**

cultural tourism, Rzeszow Region, Polish People's Republic, cultural heritage, tourist attractions, history.

The main purpose of the thesis entitled *Cultural tourism in the Rzeszow Region in the period of 1945–1989. Historical and anthropological studies* was to discuss the development of cultural tourism in the Rzeszow Region within the period the Polish People's Republic.

Cultural tourism is generally defined as movements of people who essentially have cultural motivations such as cultural heritage, visits to sites and monuments, study tours, performing arts and cultural tours, folklore or art, and pilgrimages, travel to festivals and other cultural events, travel to study nature and other travels focused on different aspects of culture. The definition is often expanded to encompass the participation of visitors in cultural activities whether those activities are the primary goal of their travel or not.

The author decided to carry out this kind of research as there was not any scientific work discussing such a topic. For this reason, the author aimed at presenting cultural tourism in the Rzeszow Region in the period of 1945–1989 including traditions, past reality and the attempt to construct a narrative text about it, putting the analysis of cultural changes at the heart of the narration. Furthermore, the writer discussed different cultural aspects, which were indisputable for tourism, and destinations regarded as cultural heritage of the region with reference to kinds of cultural tourism. Although many authors discussed some important aspects of the subject, none of them undertook the task of giving a consolidated approach.

Another reason for choosing the subject was the writer's deep interest in the whole Rzeszow Region, the cultural heritage in the region and culture in general. Moreover, the specific period of the Polish People's Republic when the political system had an enormous impact on tourism.

Archival materials and other documents with different data concerning the topic were of prior importance while conducting the research. At the same time the writer used source literature to complement the narration.

The thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I presents the traditions of tourism in Poland and in the region, focusing on the aspects connected with cultural tourism. Geographic characteristics of the region are presented in chapter II. The next chapters focus on different kinds of cultural tourism in the Rzeszow Region in the period of 1945-1989 and show elaborately particular types within each category, bearing in mind their definitions. Chapter III deals with cultural heritage, museum tourism, literary tourism and event tourism. Educational role of cultural tourism is the main idea of Chapter IV. Chapter V, which makes the biggest part of the thesis, discusses social impacts of cultural tourism. This chapter covers many different kinds of cultural tourism: city and rural tourism, visiting natural attractions, ethnic tourism, religious tourism and pilgrimages, culinary and hobby trips, trips to military and industrial sites, living history and event tourism and also regional tourism.

In the period of 1945–1989 there was a great number of sites which the author matched to the right categories of cultural tourism. The region had and still has a great touristic potential because of its unique places.

In conclusion, the thesis extensively touches on different aspects of cultural tourism in the Rzeszow Region in the period of 1945–1989. It is supplemented by the alphabetical lists of personal names and geographical names, the list of photographers included in the thesis and the list of abbreviations.