Tourism for wheelchair users

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Introduction

It is not a secret that currently tourism is rapidly gaining popularity. There are many different types of tourism, for people with different preferences and income levels. Tourism is a global phenomenon, economic and socio-cultural. It aims to meeting human needs in the cultural, physical, cognitive and spiritual development.

Its main tasks are due to specific functions: social and cultural, primarily.

The theme of my research was the social tourism for wheelchair users. It is worth noting that there are many types of disabilities, but my main focus will be given to people with a disability to move without a wheelchair, i.e. people who for various reasons cannot walk.

In Russia, this segment of the tourist market called "tourism for people with disabilities", abroad use the terms - "Tourism for All", "available tourism", "inclusive tourism", "barrier-free tourism".

Aim and objectives of the project

The aim of the project is to analyze the situation in Russia with tourism for wheelchair users. Consider a separate subject of Russia namely the Arkhangelsk region for the possibility of providing travel services for wheelchair users.

The objectives are to:

Gathering information about the services of travel agencies that are applicable to persons with disabilities, learning of social projects and organizations working in the field of care of people with disabilities.

Learn from the experiences of people who being with disabilities visited some tourist destinations.

Studying infrastructure of attractions and tourist places of the Arkhangelsk region for whether they can be used by people with disabilities.

Trying to compile a list of tourist destinations and routes for wheelchair users, as the search for alternative opportunities to participate in tourism activities (virtual tourism, event tourism).

Methodology and data

Inclusive tourism - is tourism, accessible to all, regardless of permanent or temporary disabilities.

Accessible tourism is hard to call mass even abroad. One reason for the low demand experts calls the inevitable fear and discomfort due to limited mobility.

Begin the analysis of this type of tourism is necessary definite number of wheelchair users, for the collection of such information will need to look at the statistics of the region, and the various associations of persons with disabilities in Russia as a whole, and in individual subjects.

From the outset can say that in itself this kind of tourism has not great demand because it is more expensive than the usual, and a group of potential customers is relatively small. In this case, tourism will be based on individual tourism and tourism in small groups, and accordingly all the costs of the tourist route or activity are also divided into a small number of tourists.

Tourism can be inbound and outbound. In my project, I have decided to consider tourism within the Russian Federation, and in a particular region - Arkhangelsk region.

If we consider the situation in Russia as a whole, the most favorable cities are Moscow and St. Petersburg, and some people set St. Petersburg higher level of adaptability to the tourism for disabilities people. Recently worthy place occupied the city of Sochi, after the Olympics and Paralympics games.

"The city has been equipped for the needs of people with disabilities in all categories, but especially for those in wheelchairs, because it is ordinary for them to walk around the city turns into a real problem. Everything turned, so much so that the head of the International Paralympic Committee, Sir Philip Craven, himself, by the way, a wheelchair, called the Paralympic Games in Sochi, the best in history. This praise is worth a lot, because previously the head of the International Paralympic Committee is very critical remarks about the disability policy in Russia"

Also, special attention should be paid to transport, conventional buses are not satisfied. Here need specially equipped with ramps, belts and anchorages. Problem is that there is no ready-made buses, need to take a bus and remodel it, and the cost of modernization often exceeds the cost of the bus.

With regard to railways operates technology, according to which the travel documents of passengers with reduced capability of independent travel is carried out in specialized coupe at presence in a train of wagons for the transport of wheelchair users.

Cost of travel in a specialized coupe is similar to the cost of travel in the compartment carriages. The difference in the cost of travel for the disabled and the accompanying absent.

Currently, the Russian Railways runs more than 100 wagons with special coupe designed for the disabled - wheelchair. The cars of this type are included in the formulations of branded trains. Entrance in such a wagon is equipped with a lift, with which a passenger without leaving the wheelchair can get inside as a high platform and with low. Double compartments, designed for the disabled and the accompanying, wider than the standard. Sleeping berth transformed into any convenient passenger position.

If the problem is solved with transport, it is always the problem of maintenance. Very often it can be family members or volunteers. It is also possible with a social worker.

Tourism for wheelchair users - it seems to be all the same: travel - hotel - food - outings, but still many times more difficult. The whole chain should be available for the person in a wheelchair. Therefore, before each round each proposed location for the trip must be examined for the presence of ramps, specially equipped toilets, elevators and other things.

Another problem with hotels. Only in some hotels there are places for people with disabilities, and this is usually only a few rooms.

In Russia, many ill-conceived availability. Many hotels, museums, transportation and try to make available, but do not know the standards.

Relatively the Arkhangelsk region at the moment we can confidently say that this region is not the leaders between other subjects in the most adapted for tourists disabled. Of course, this is largely due to the fact that the Arkhangelsk region has many natural and distant attractions that far from the main infrastructure.

At the moment, I do a great job with collection of information on a variety of attractions and destinations of the Arkhangelsk region for participation of people with disabilities.

As many tourist attractions are difficult, it would be appropriate to organize the event tourism, such as rural festival, or a project in the city. The main thing in this case, to create the most comfortable conditions for tourists.

The modern world does not stand still and we can confidently say that we live in a world of information and information technology. Now a traveler cannot leave the country to visit in Paris, look at Big Ben or visit the Red Square. Now these virtual trips are possible for Internet users in the form of interactive 3D panoramas famous landmarks and historic sites.

It is worth noting that there are now a lot of projects that involve the creation of virtual reality systems are able to make a journey is really exciting. An example would be a virtual reality helmet used by the user to "travel". It is a special monitor, creating an overview that is familiar to our view, that is, 180 ° to 115 °.

This can be a great alternative way to tourist travel for people with disabilities. Although it is no substitute for a genuine feeling that gives tourism, to which we are accustomed.

Results

Nevertheless, I believe that the development of tourism for people with disabilities can be financially justified. If you ask any wheelchair where he is resting, the answer is almost always - in the sanatorium. Not because he likes, but because there is no alternative. Disability is a social phenomenon, and each state according to their level of development priorities and opportunities creates social and economic policies for people with disabilities.

Article 7 of Chapter 1 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation stipulates that the Russian Federation - a social state whose policy is aimed at creating conditions for a dignified life and free development rights.

Targeting on the persons with disabilities, tour operators are able to serve a large and growing market which became more and more, at the same time fulfilling the requirements of the law. Russia needs tourism for people with disabilities, it will be necessary social phenomenon, a form of rehabilitation and integration of disabled people into society.

We must remember that «Traveling - the right of everyone».

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