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**DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOTEL AND TOURIST COMPLEX
IN THE MORAVIAN KARST DURING THE CZECHOSLOVAK PERIOD (1918 – 1938)**

Abstract. The Purpose. In the article, the authors considered the development of the hotel and tourist complex and hospitality infrastructure in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period, which at that time was represented by hotels, tourist hostels, private guest houses and restaurants. Also, the authors of the study analysed the influence of the construction of the hospitality infrastructure of the Moravian Karst on the development of the all-Czechoslovak tourist movement in 1918 – 1938, determined the historical conditions and factors that influenced the development of the hotel-tourist complex during this period. **The Research Methodology.** During the scientific research on the development of the hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period (1918 – 1938), the authors of the publication applied the following general scientific methods, in

particular: analysis, synthesis, systematicity, generalization, historicism. It should be noted that during the research, the authors preferred historical methods: historical descriptive method (historical genetic, historical comparative, historical synthetic), historical diachronic, empirical analysis method. Literary sources, architectural plans, investment documents, tourist advertising materials, statistical data on attendance, profitability and other economic indicators of the hotel-tourist complex of the Moravian Karst were analysed with the help of the mentioned methods. **The Scientific Novelty.** The research opens up an opportunity to fill historical gaps related to the development of tourism and the hotel tourist complex in the region of the Moravian Karst during the period between 1918 and 1938. The specified period is key to understanding tourism and economic transformations after World War I in Czechoslovakia. Also, for the first time in the Ukrainian historiography, the article focuses on the analysis of hospitality and tourism infrastructure formation process in the Moravian Karst during the interwar period. **The Conclusions.** It has been proven that the period between 1918 and 1938 was important for tourism in the Moravian Karst region. Since Czechoslovakia gained independence after the war, the specified period was marked by the transformation of the hotel and tourist complex under the influence of new socio-cultural and political realities. At that time, there was an expansion of the tourist infrastructure, in particular, an increase in the number of hotels and restaurants. This shows the growing interest in the region as a tourist centre. Also, the development of the hotel and tourist complex was connected with the popularity of objects such as the Macocha abyss and the Punkevní caves – which attracted tourists and contributed to the development of the hospitality infrastructure of the Moravian Karst. Finally, the authors proved that tourism in the Moravian Karst turned out to be an important factor for the local economy, especially in the context of supporting the hotel and tourist business and attracting investments.

Key words: hotel-tourist complex, hospitality infrastructure, Moravian Karst, Punkevní caves, Macocha abyss, Baltsarka cave, Kateryzhynska cave, Slopsko-Shoshuv caves, Úpustek cave, hospitality, tourism, hotel establishments.

РОЗВИТОК ГОТЕЛЬНО-ТУРИСТИЧНОГО КОМПЛЕКСУ НА МОРАВСЬКОМУ КАРСТІ У ЧЕХОСЛОВАЦЬКИЙ ПЕРІОД (1918 – 1938)

Анотація. Мета. У статті авторами розглянуто розвиток готельно-туристичного комплексу та інфраструктури гостинності на Моравському карсті у чехословацький період, яка була представлена на той час готелями, туристичними гуртожитками, приватними гостинними дворами та ресторанами. Також автори дослідження проаналізували вплив розбудови інфраструктури гостинності Моравського карсту на розвиток загально-чехословацького туристичного руху протягом 1918 – 1938 рр., визначили історичні умови і фактори, що вплинули на розвиток готельно-туристичного комплексу у цьому періоді. **Методологія дослідження.** Під час здійснення наукового дослідження щодо розвитку готельно-туристичного комплексу на Моравському карсті у чехословацький період (1918 – 1938), автори публікації застосували такі загальнонаукові методи, зокрема: аналізу, синтезу, системності, узагальнення, історизму. Відзначимо, що під час здійснення дослідження автори віддали перевагу історичним методам: історико-описовому (історико-генетичному, історико-порівняльному, історико-синтетичному), історико-діахронному, методу емпіричному аналізу. За допомогою зазначених методів було проаналізовано літературні джерела, архітектурні плани, документи щодо інвестицій, туристичних рекламних матеріалів, статистичні дані щодо відвідуваності, присутності та інших економічних показників готельно-туристичного комплексу Моравського карсту. **Наукова новизна.** Дослідження відкриває можливість заповнити історичні прогалини, які пов'язані з розвитком туризму та готельно-туристичного комплексу в регіоні Моравського карсту протягом періоду між 1918 і 1938 рр. Зазначений період є ключовим для розуміння туристичних та економічних трансформацій після Першої світової війни у Чехословаччині. Також у статті вперше в українській історіографії розглянуто процес розбудови інфраструктури гостинності та туризму на Моравському карсті у міжвоєнний період. **Висновки.** Доведено, що період між 1918 і 1938 рр. був важливим для туризму в регіоні Моравського карсту. Оскільки Чехословаччина здобула незалежність після війни, зазначений період відзначався трансформацією готельно-туристичного комплексу під впливом нових соціокультурних та політичних реалій. У цей час

спостерігалось розширення туристичної інфраструктури, зокрема збільшувалася кількість готелів і ресторанів. Це свідчить про зростання інтересу до регіону як туристичного центру. Також розвиток готельно-туристичного комплексу був пов'язаний з популярністю об'єктів, таких як прітва Мацоха (Masocha) і Пункевні печери (Punkevní jeskyně), які приваблювали туристів та сприяли розвитку інфраструктури гостинності Моравського карсту. Насамкінець авторами доведено, що туризм на Моравському карсті виявився важливим фактором для місцевої економіки, особливо в контексті підтримки готельно-туристичного бізнесу і залучення інвестицій.

Ключові слова: готельно-туристичний комплекс, інфраструктура гостинності, Моравський карст, Пункевні печери, прітва Мацоха, печера Бальцарка, Катержинська печера, Слоупсько-шошувські печери, Печера Випустек, гостинність, туризм, готельні заклади.

The Problem Statement. The article focuses on the historical analysis of the hotel and tourist complex development in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period (1918 – 1938). The chronological framework of the study (1918 – 1938) was chosen for the scientific analysis of the development of the hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst due to important political and social changes that occurred in Czechoslovakia after World War I. In 1918, the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia was a turning point for the development of hospitality infrastructure, industry and tourism. The newly formed state needed economic development and stability, which included supporting tourist attractions such as the Moravian Karst. Tourism became an important part of the region's development strategy, as it contributed to attracting foreign currency and creating jobs.

The period of 1918 – 1938 is characterized by a significant modernization of the tourist infrastructure in the Moravian Karst, including the discovery of caves, the development of transport routes, and the growth of the hotel business. Owing to the support from the state and private entrepreneurs, in the Moravian Karst tourism became popular among tourists both from Czechoslovakia and abroad.

The upper chronological limit (1938) is due to political events, in particular the Munich Agreement, which changed the situation in Czechoslovakia radically. After the annexation of the Sudetenland and the start of World War II, economic and political instability led to the decline of tourism industry. In Europe growing tensions and conflicts negatively affected tourist flows and opportunities for further development of infrastructure, in particular hotel and tourist facilities. Many of the efforts that were aimed at developing the hotel and tourist complex in the 1920s and 1930s came to naught due to political upheavals, making the year of 1938 a logical conclusion of this period.

In our opinion, the study of hotel and tourist complex development of the specified region in a historical context is important from several points of view:

- studying the history of development of hotel and tourism sectors in the Moravian Karst allows us to understand how they influenced the economy of the newly formed Czechoslovakia during the interwar period;
- development of hotel and tourist infrastructure makes it possible to understand how these economic sectors influenced cultural aspects of the region, including preservation and promotion of historical sites of Moravia, traditions, cultural diversity, and interaction among different cultural communities of Czechoslovakia;
- analysis of the history of hotel and tourist infrastructure development provides an opportunity to study changes in the architectural landscape and urbanization of the region. This includes the analysis of changes in local planning, infrastructure development and impact on the urban environment;

– historical research allows us to determine how the development of hotel and tourist complex affected ecosystems, recreation areas, and other natural objects of the Moravian Karst;

– the study of historical experience is also relevant for Ukraine, since its territory has a significant number of natural objects that are intensively used in tourism and hospitality today.

Thus, understanding the history of hotel and tourist complex development in the Moravian Karst in 1918 – 1938 can serve as important information for making decisions regarding further development of tourism and hospitality, ensuring sustainable use of resources and preservation of cultural heritage, both in the modern Czech Republic and in Ukraine, which today has received the status of candidate for EU membership (Hushtan & Korsak, 2024, pp. 78–84).

The Review of Recent Research and Publications. The review of recent publications shows that there are no domestic studies on the development of hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period (1918 – 1938). Among few publications related to the study of Czechoslovak tourism, the studies by Transcarpathian scholars should be highlighted. The specified researches focus on the historical process of forming tourist attractiveness of the Transcarpathian region (Korsak, 2017), the development of tourism in Transcarpathia in 1918 – 1938 (Hoca, 2017), tourism development trends in Subcarpathian Rus' (Furtiy, 2017), analysis of the tourism potential of Bohemia during the First Republic (Furtiy, 2020), research into the historical “phenomenon” of the Czechoslovak hospitality and tourism (Korsak & Hodia, 2023), as well as the current development of the Czech Republic tourism industry in the context of cooperation with Ukraine (Korsak, Ilnytskyi & Hodia, 2018; Korsak, Ilnytskyi & Sichka, 2019). We believe that the trend of studying Czechoslovak tourism during the period of 1918 – 1938 by Transcarpathian scholars is due to the historical past of Transcarpathia as part of the Czechoslovak Republic. Taking into consideration the above mentioned, the basis of the research is the Czech sources.

The Purpose of the Article: to do a comprehensive research on the process of development of the hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period (1918 – 1938). To achieve the goal, the authors singled out the following main **objectives**:

– to analyse the historical prerequisites and principles of the development of the hotel and tourist infrastructure of the specified region;

– to do the research on the interaction between the hospitality sector and tourism in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period, as the development of hotel and tourism infrastructure influenced the economic development of Moravia and the country as a whole;

– to analyse scientific sources on this issue;

– to draw well-founded conclusions regarding the conducted scientific research.

The Results of the Research. The Moravian Karst is a karst region in the Czech Republic, in the southeastern part of the country (a historical name – Moravia). This is one of the largest karst massifs in Europe, 25 km long and 2–6 km wide. Today, the Moravian Karst is a popular Czech tourist attraction and landmark, formed by about 1,100 caves, of which five are open to tourists: Punkevní Caves (Punkevní jeskyně), a system of caves through which, along an underground river, the path to the bottom of the Macocha Abyss runs, Balcarka Cave (Jeskyně Balcarka), which is rich in stalactites, Kateřinská jeskyně, rich in stalagmites Sloupsko-šošůvské jeskyně with underground chasms and huge tunnels and caves, Výпустek Cave (Jeskyně Výпустek), which is formed mainly from fossils. Therefore, the development of hotel and tourist infrastructure in the region over the past hundred years is associated with the popularity of the tourism and interest in the above mentioned natural objects.

The first official mention of the natural monument dates back to 1575, and the oldest written account of Výпустek Cave dates back to 1608, located in the central part of the Moravian Karst (Musil, 2010, pp. 9–19; Štelcl, 1985, pp. 38–39; Absolon, 1970, pp. 25–29).

It should be noted that organized tourism in the Moravian Karst emerged in the second half of the 19th century, when nature trips became part of general education and were therefore promoted by teachers, doctors, and among the Moravian intelligentsia. Travellers and tourists visited this region for outdoor activities, cave exploration, mountaineering, and other adventure recreation. Therefore, it is natural that over the years, and especially in the interwar years, the hotel and tourist infrastructure in the Moravian Karst increased for the convenience of travellers, including: hotels, restaurants and other service facilities (Absolon, 1912, p. 191).

In 1918 – 1938, the development of hotel and tourist infrastructure in the Moravian Karst was determined by numerous historical, cultural and natural factors, among which we should highlight the following ones:

1. The uniqueness of the natural landscape. This is due to the fact that the Moravian Karst is famous for its karst formations, huge caves and gorges, and this, in turn, made it attractive for local history tourism among different segments of the Czechoslovak population;

2. The Moravian Karst region during the Czechoslovak period drew tourists' interest and intensified scientific archaeological research that could point at the ancient history of humanity in this region. In particular, some of the archaeological sites in the Moravian Karst include the Hallstatt burials in the cave Býčí skála, Early Stone Age human settlements, bone, stone and iron objects, as well as many Pleistocene animal bones in the Balcarka Cave (Jeskyň Balcarka).

3. Cultural events, historical monuments of the region, and travel traditions also became an attractive factor for the development of a hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst.

After the end of World War I and the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, the question arose about the exploitation of the caves in the following years (Břoušek, 2005, p. 45; Kolář, 2003, pp. 97–98).

An active tourist activity of the former Club of Czech tourists (Klub českých turistů), which was renamed after 1918 into the Czechoslovak Tourists Club, contributed to the growth of the number of visitors to the Moravian Karst. At this time, shortcomings were identified in the provision of services to tourists – the lack of accommodation for travellers and the insufficient number of quality roads that would connect the Blansko station with attractive tourist destinations in the Moravian Karst. The Road “Pustý – žleb”, i.e. from Blansko to Sloup, was completed in 1920 (Balák, 1999, p. 93).

At this time, efforts to nationalize the Moravian Karst Cave also intensified. The nationalization was justified on the grounds that it was a matter of public interest, concerning the preservation of natural beauty and generation of income from tourism. At the time of the creation of the First Republic, the caves “Punkevní” and “Kateřinská” were under the management of the prince's Franz Salm cave companies, who was a representative of the Austrian-Moravian noble family of Salm-Reifferscheid-Krautheim, known for its possessions and family influence in Central Europe. Prince F. Salm played a significant role in the development of tourism in Moravia, in particular in the research and management of the caves of the Moravian Karst. At the time of the establishment of the First Czechoslovak Republic, his companies were engaged in the development and exploitation of caves, including the aforementioned Punkevní and Kateržynska Caves, headed by the technical director, a prominent Czech speleologist, archaeologist and scientist, Karel Absolon. The

latter was involved in the research and mapping of underground cave systems in the region. Owing to his work, the Moravian Karst became an important tourist and scientific location. In turn, part of the Macocha belonged to The Czech Tourist Club Klub českých turistů, the other one – to the Austrian Tourist Club (Rakouského turistického klubu) and the village of Wilemovice (Kolář, 2003, pp. 97–98; Absolon, 1932, pp. 25–34).

Prince F. Salm and Professor K. Absolon opposed the proposal to nationalize the caves. Thus, the bill on the nationalization of the Moravian Karst was removed from the agenda of government negotiations (Pakr, 1977, p. 22).

However, K. Absolon proposed establishing a special company that would transfer the right to manage the entire territory of the Moravian Karst, in which both existing landowners and representatives of state institutions would be represented. At the beginning of 1922, a preparatory committee was created to establish a new company – “Moravský kras – provoz a výzkum jeskyň”, which began operating in 1925. As a subject of economic activity, in its charter the company stated the following principles of its activities:

1. To exploit and use caves rationally;
2. To develop caves to increase tourist activity: installation of all types of communications, creation and operation of facilities for the accommodation and comfort of visitors to the Moravian Karst and other cave areas, such as hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, cafes, hostels, canteens, etc.;
3. Organization of all types of entertainment and sports events, organization of national folk festivals, etc.;
4. To conduct systematic scientific research to further explore the underground cave labyrinth of the Moravian Karst;
5. Advertising and popularization of the Moravian Karst in the country and abroad (Absolon, 1970, pp. 119–128; Kolář, 2003, pp. 97–98).

It should be noted that during the existence of the company's preparatory committee, attendance and, at the same time, income from the exploitation of the caves increased. In particular, the number of visitors to the caves of the Moravian Karst in 1922 was 216,047 people. Thus, the company set goals for the next period to expand rail and bus connections, as well as the organization of hotel services in the area (Balák, 2003, pp. 146–147).

Punkevní jeskyně was in first place in terms of the number of visitors among the caves of the Moravian Karst. In the 1920s, the cave's popularity among tourists increased owing to a visit by the President of the Czechoslovak Republic Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, who visited it on September 17, 1921 (the dome of the cave was named in his honour) (Štelcl, 1985, p. 46; Boček, 1928, p. 100; Balák, 2003, pp. 165–169).

At the entrance to the cave, a pier was set up for boats that sailed with visitors through the water domes to the Masaryk Cave. Each of the four boats had twelve seats for visitors and one or two rowers. The Masaryk Dome was considered the most beautiful cave in Europe (Absolon, 1932, pp. 90–94).

It should be noted that seasonality played an important role in the number of tourists visiting the caves of the Moravian Karst. In particular, adverse weather in the form of heavy rains led to an increase in the water level in Punkevní cave. In 1929 the problem was solved by building an artificial tunnel to lower the water level. At the beginning of the 1930s the decline in cave attendance can also be explained by the outbreak of the World Economic Crisis. In 1927, the cave was visited by 103,423 people, and in 1928, a record number of tourists visited the cave – 210,567 people, and in 1929 – 88,687 people. In 1930 after the

completion of renovation work in the cave, this figure increased slightly compared to the previous year and amounted to 109,088 people. In the following years, there was a tendency to reduce the number of tourists: In 1931 – 88,665 people, and in 1932 – 82,545 people, which was the lowest figure in the last 5 years. The above-mentioned structure of the cave's attendance during the period under analysis is shown in Figure 1 (Pakr, 1977, pp. 22–23. Pakr, 1979, pp. 137–138; Štelcl, 1979, p. 92).

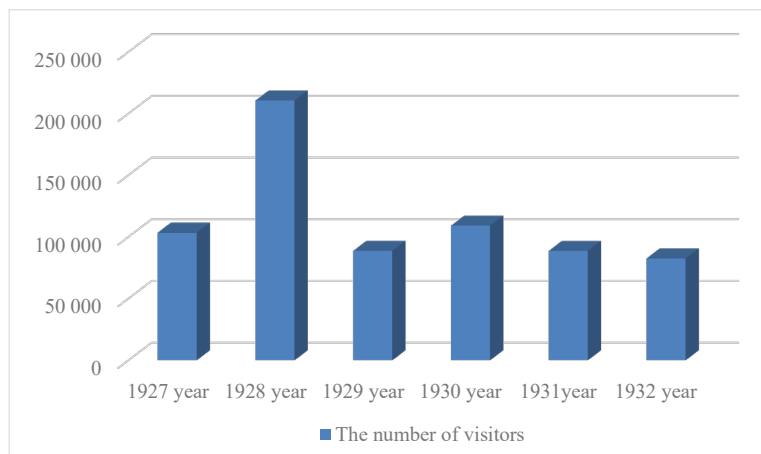


Fig. 1. State of attendance of Punkevní Cave in 1927 – 1932

To increase the number of visitors to the Sloupsko-šošůvská Caves (jeskyní) whose attendance decreased after the opening of the Macocha Abyss for inspection and popularization of the Punkevní Cave (Punkevní jeskyně) the company “Ostrovské společnost” purchased a sightseeing bus, which in May of 1926 began providing sightseeing tours from the water mill in Blansko – “Skalního mlýna” (Skalního mlýna, 1353 p.) to all accessible caves and to the tourist shelter KČST in the Macocha Abyss. Thus, as of 1926, two bus lines operated – a regular one between Blansko and Sloup and an irregular one between Blansko and Macocha, which served tourists. The following year, the Moravian Karst company handed over the excursion bus to the State Road Transport Administration so that transport to the caves could be evenly organized according to the transportation schedule (Polák, 1995, p. 71).

In 1922, the Moravian Karst company began considering the construction of a large hotel (Nečas, 1988, p. 11). In particular, it was decided that the hotel would be created by expanding the original inn in Skalní mlýn, and thus it would become the starting point of the excursion route to visit the Punkevní and Kateřinska Caves. The reconstruction of the existing inn and the addition of other buildings began in 1928 and was completed in March of 1929 (Balák, 2003, p. 114).

In the hotel there were eighteen rooms with sixty beds and there were also hostels for 300 people. Near the hotel there was a shop with postcards, guidebooks, souvenirs, as well as an information service, garages and a gas station. There was a bus line next to the hotel. The above mentioned services are depicted on the back cover of the 1932 guide by K. Absolon (Absolon, 1932, p. 128). In turn, catering services were provided at the Skalní Mlýn tavern (Balák, 2003, pp. 116–117).

The promotion of tourism and hospitality in the region took place through cultural and festive events. In particular, the most significant was “Exhibition of contemporary culture in Brně” (Výstavy soudobé kultury v Brně), which took place from May to October 1928. The exhibition recommended visiting the Moravian Karst, which, among other things, attracted attention with the paintings of the Punkevní Caves, which were included in the pavilion “Člověk a jeho rod”. Mainly due to the exhibition, the number of visitors to the caves increased significantly in 1928, which was almost twice as much as the previous year (1927 – 190,055 people, 1928 – 352,827 people) (Pakr, 1979, p. 138).

After access to other parts of the Punkevní Caves was gained, a circular bus route was put into operation in 1926 by the Moravian Karst joint-stock company, between Rajec and Sloup. Visitors to the specified route were able to choose several excursion options, ending with a return to the hotel Břoušek. The generally accepted route for the excursion was from the entrance to the cave and back to the specified hotel. The route was accompanied by guides who took visitors through the caves and gave them explanations about the cave labyrinth. The entire tour route was about three kilometers long and the guided tour lasted about ninety minutes (Boček, 1928, p. 152).

In particular, the tour was conducted through a cave labyrinth Sloupsko-Šoszów Caves, which were characterized by long corridors without stalactites. The most attractive parts of the Sloupsko-Šoszów caves for visitors were the cave Eliščinajeskyně with rich decoration of stalactites. The culmination of the excursion was the Black Abyss (Absolon, 1932, pp. 14–15; Boček, 1928, pp. 156–174).

The Sloupsko-šoňvská caves visited by an average of about 15,000 people per year. Analysis of information on the attendance of the above-mentioned caves in the 1920s and early 1930s shows that attendance fluctuated significantly, especially during the years of the Great Depression: 1927 – 17,227 people, 1928 – 28,319 people, 1929 – 16,143 people, 1930 – 24,293 people, 1931 – 13,750 people, 1932 – 10,205 people, which is also graphically reflected in Figure 2 (Pakr, 1977, pp. 22–23; Štelcl, 1979, p. 92).

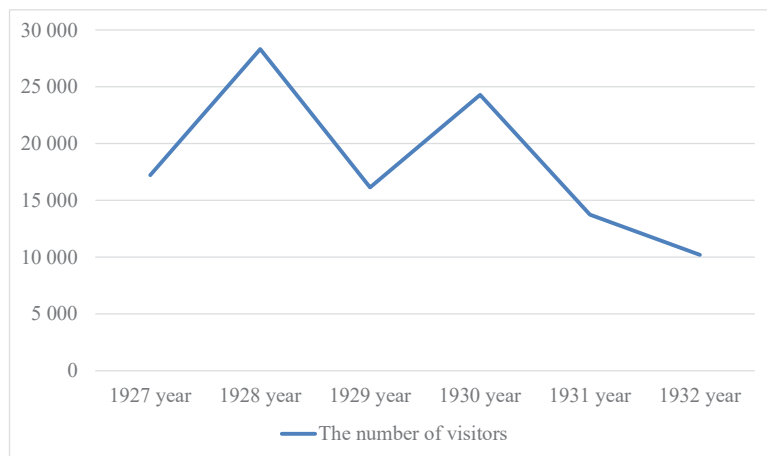


Fig. 2. Attendance at the Sloupsko-Šoszów Cave in 1927 – 1932

A guest cottage nearby was popular with tourists of the Sloupsko-Šoszów Cave – the aforementioned hotel of the same name owned by entrepreneur Josef Břoušek, which was

located directly at the entrance to the caves. However, the hotel's capacity was not enough for all the tourists. Therefore, in 1926 Josef Břzoušek decided to build an additional hostel that provided overnight accommodation during excursions (Pakr, 1977, pp. 22–23; Pakr, 1979, pp. 136–138).

It should be noted that in 1928 the caves were visited by the largest number of tourists (28,319 people), and accordingly the hotel, which was also due to the already mentioned exhibition in Brně. As a result of increasing profits from local tourism, J. Břzoušek's son built a much larger hotel in 1935, which was considered one of the best hotels in the Moravian Karst (Břzoušek, 2005, pp. 28–30).

In addition to the above mentioned hotel in Sloup, you could use the services of a tavern in the Skotak guest house in Sloup or in the Mikulasheka guest house in Shoshovka near the caves (Boček, 1928, p. 326).

The second most visited cave in the Moravian Karst was Kateřinská cave. The cave and the entire tour route were illuminated by electric lamps from the Moravian Karst joint-stock company. The tour of the cave lasted about half an hour. The ticket to the Kateřinská Cave was the cheapest for tourists from the publicly accessible caves in the northern part of the Moravian Karst – 1.5 Kč in 1930. For comparison, a ticket to the Macocha Abyss and the Sloupsko-Šošzów Caves cost as of 1930 – 23 Kč (Absolon, 1932, p. 128). The cave was visited by an average of over 40,000 visitors per year (Absolon, 1932, p. 110.; Pakr, 1977, pp. 22–23.; Pakr, 1979, pp. 137–138). Statistical data for the period under analysis are given in Table 1.

Table 1

Attendance status Kateřinská Cave in 1927 – 1932

№	Year	Number of visitors (people)
1.	1927	44 630
2.	1928	81 068
3.	1929	34 664
4.	1930	42 313
5.	1931	33 020
6.	1932	35 297

For tourists, it was appropriate to use the bus line, which was introduced in 1926 by the joint-stock company “Moravian Karst”. The line ran from the inn Skalní mlýn to the Kateřinská Cave, then to the tourist shelter near the Macocha abyss (Absolon, 1932, p. 9).

Regarding the hotel and tourist infrastructure, we note that in addition to the hotel “Břzoušek”, hotel “Skalní Mlýn”, at the beginning of the 1920s, a single tourist cottage operated near the Macocha Abyss, which burned down during a fire on December 15, 1927. Immediately after the fire, in February of 1928, the Czechoslovak Tourists Club (KČST) developed sketches for the construction of a new cottage. The new lodge was designed so that its restaurants and accommodations would accommodate the larger number of visitors who came to the Macocha Abyss. In November of 1928, the tourist cottage was inaugurated, as the so-called “Jubilejní chata”. In the the building there were eight rooms with a total of 15 beds, two hostels for 50 people, a large dining room with an area of over 110 m², behind which there was a closed porch with an area of 24 m². Construction costs reached over half a million Czechoslovak crowns (Nečas, 1988, p. 14; Štelcl, 2011, pp. 76–77).

Thus, “Jubilejní chata”, near the Macocha abyss, hotel “Břzoušek” near Sloupě, hotel “Skalní Mlýn”, as well as other inns and guest houses in particular, Skotákova hostince ve Sloupě and Mikulášková hostince v Šošůvce (Mikulášková hostince v Šošůvce) were built due to the development of tourism in the Moravian Karst.

The caves which were available for tourists were located in the central and southern parts of the Moravian Karst. Those were the caves: Býčí skále cave, Výпустek cave, Mariánské cave (Štancl, 1994, p. 18). However, due to renovation and mining work, these caves were visited by fewer tourists than the rest of the Moravian Karst caves. In particular, in 1928, when the attendance for the northern caves of the Moravian Karst was a record – 350,557 people, for the caves of the central and southern karst – 2,270 people (Pakr, 1979, p. 137).

For the hundreds of thousands of visitors who had been passing through the caves of the Moravian Karst every year since the 1920s, it was necessary to expand the offer of services and, above all, to increase catering and accommodation options in the Moravian Karst. The opportunity to meet the needs of such a large number of tourists concerned the town of Blansko, which, due to its location, became the starting point for trips to the Macocha Abyss and publicly accessible caves. Therefore, a large hotel was built there later. It is necessary to emphasize the importance of the local branch of the Czechoslovak Tourist Club (KČST) for the development of the hotel and tourist infrastructure in the city. The KČST branch in Blansko compensated for the lack of beds in local guesthouses and hotels by building tourist hostels. The hostels operated in different locations during different periods of time. At the end of the 1920s, the club organized several dormitories in Blansko, including the “Workers’ House”, in the local sanatorium, and the castle. In total, there were almost 250 beds. The fact that hostels were used relatively widely is evidenced by the number of overnight stays in 1921 – 2,336 people. In addition to hostels, the local authorities in Blansko and its surroundings also sponsored the operation of the so-called summer apartments, which were offered to those wishing to stay for a long time. In addition to arranging and maintaining dormitories, the KČST department in Blansko took care of the shelter, and later the “Jubilee Cottage” in Macocha, in which there was also the dormitory (Čech, 1905, p. 38.; Pilnáček, 1927, p. 328).

At the beginning of the 1930s, the economic crisis affected the development of tourism in the Moravian Karst significantly. At that time, the demand for accommodation and catering services decreased, so some local restaurateurs and hoteliers asked their landlords to reduce rents, as their incomes had decreased as a result of the crisis significantly. Taking the above mentioned into consideration, it is clear that the number of visitors to the Moravian Karst decreased significantly (Brychtová, 1978, p. 2).

Since 1933, the Moravian Karst Joint Stock Company had faced financial difficulties due to the Great Depression of the 1930s, as well as the lack of significant investments in making the caves of the Moravian Karst more accessible. This led to the liquidation of the company in 1939. However, it should be noted that it existed until 1945 under the name “Joint Stock Company of the Moravian Karst in Liquidation” (Akciová společnost Moravského krasu v likvidaci). Later, in 1951, the Regional Municipal Enterprise “Moravian Karst” was established in the town of Blansko (Balák, 1999, p. 93). In general, we should note that by 1939, approximately 4,400,000 tourists visited the beauty spots in the Moravian Karst before the start of World War II, including tourists from Czechoslovakia and various countries in Europe and the world (Pakr, 1979, p. 138).

The Conclusions. It should be concluded that the period from 1918 to 1938 was characterized by the growth of tourism in the Moravian Karst, the expansion of the hotel

and restaurant business, and the emergence of financial difficulties that required strategic management and the search for financial solutions. The hotel and tourist complex “Jubilejní chata”, near the Macocha Abyss, the hotel “Břzoušek” near Sloupě, hotel “Skalní Mlýn”, as well as other inns and guest houses in particular, “Skotákova hostince ve Sloupě” and “Mikulášková hostince v Šošůvce” were built due to the development of tourism and hospitality in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period.

Thus, the following comprehensive conclusions can be formulated regarding the development of the hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period (1918 – 1938):

1. The period from 1918 to 1938 witnessed a significant expansion of access to caves in the Moravian Karst, which included the opening of new tourist routes and excursions and an increase in the number of caves available for tourists to visit.

2. During this period, the hotel and tourist infrastructure in the Moravian Karst developed actively. The construction of new hotels, restaurants and tourist cottages indicates a growing interest in the region and improved amenities for visitors.

3. The tourist organizations such as the “Club of Czechoslovak Tourists” (Klub československých turistů), played a key role in the study and preservation of the natural unique features of the Moravian Karst, in particular, cave formations and scenic sites, and also contributed to the development of a hotel and tourist complex in this region.

4. Economic problems, such as the high costs of maintaining the caves and the economic depression of the 1930s, led to financial difficulties in the Moravian Karst company (Moravský kras), which ultimately negatively affected the development of tourism and hospitality in the region.

5. The northern part of the Moravian Karst, in particular the Punkevní Caves and the Macocha Abyss, was identified as the main centre of tourist traffic, as evidenced by the high number of visitors to these sites.

6. Natural sites of the Moravian Karst, such as the “Býčí skála”, were distinguished not only by their tourist popularity, but also by their archaeological uniqueness, which gave them additional historical and cultural significance.

Prospects. Based on the research conducted on the development of the hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period (1918 – 1938), several promising areas for further research should be singled out:

1. The economic aspect, which consists of a detailed analysis of economic factors that influenced the development of the hotel and tourist complex of the Moravian Karst, i.e. compiling cost-benefit reports, studying marketing strategies and profitability of tourist infrastructure facilities.

2. The socio-cultural dimension involves considering the impact of tourism on the local population and cultural heritage, in particular: studying the interaction of tourists with the community, the role of tourism and hospitality in the preservation and promotion of the cultural and natural values of the Moravian Karst.

3. The researches on infrastructure and architectural aspects, which consist in analyzing the development of hotel and transport infrastructure in the Moravian Karst, studying the architectural features of hotels and other tourist service facilities during the period of 1918 – 1938.

4. Dissemination of tourist routes and excursions, i.e. studying the dynamics and popularity of tourist routes, in particular, those mentioned in the context of the Moravian Karst, and their impact on the development of tourism and the hotel and restaurant business in the region.

5. Analysis of the impact of tourism on ecosystems and the health of natural sites and development of sustainable development strategies to ensure the balanced use of the resources of the Moravian Karst.

6. Studying the role of state and public institutions in the development of tourism, as well as identifying the impact of political events on the hotel and tourism sector of Czechoslovakia in 1918 – 1938.

7. Comparison of the development of tourism and hospitality in the Moravian Karst during the Czechoslovak period with the current state of development of the hotel and tourism business in the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine.

8. The possibility of practical application of the acquired experience for the development of tourist facilities of the Transcarpathian region during the period of future post-war reconstruction. This includes the identification of similar and different trends, taking into account new challenges and opportunities.

We believe that these aspects can help broaden the understanding of the development of the hotel and tourist complex in the Moravian Karst in 1918 – 1938 and provide a deeper analysis of the interaction of tourism, economy, and culture in the historical context of the study of Czechoslovakia.

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