

PRACE GEOGRAFICZNE, zeszyt 111

Instytut Geografii i Gospodarki Przestrzennej UJ
Kraków 2003

Introduction

The volume of *The Geographic Works* we are offering our readers is devoted to issues of tourist economy in a broad sense. To a certain extent it reflects the subjects of research of the Department of Tourism and Health Resort Management of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Economy of the Jagiellonian University.

Reviewing the contents of this volume, one can easily see the many significant aspects associated with tourism functions in the current period of socio-economic change in our country. Currently tourism is ranked among the most important areas of the world economy. In Poland, where barriers to its development were abolished in 1989, a dynamic growth of domestic and international tourism has been noted, as well as the investment in the development of tourism infrastructure. The results of the development of tourism (both positive and negative) are to be seen from many standpoints – environmental, social, economic and cultural. Due to its extraordinarily wide inter-relations with the natural environment and the entire sphere of social and economic life it is a subject of research in many fields of science

This volume contains articles concerning the aspects of tourism development that affect the natural environment and on social and economic life, and the issues connected with tourism management and the way it functions, at national, regional and local levels. Despite the diversity of subjects covered in this volume, one should be aware of the fact that it is but a small part of the significant issues which require scientific research and call for practical solutions.

Dr hab. Włodzimierz Kurek
Editor

