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EXERCISES IN TRAVEL WRITING AND LITERARY TOURISM

A TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIMENT

JASNA POTOČNIK TOPLER
EDITOR



University of Maribor

Faculty of Tourism

Exercises in Travel Writing and Literary Tourism

A Teaching and Learning Experiment

Editor

Jasna Potočnik Topler

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For publisher prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič,
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Foreword

JASNA POTOČNIK TOPLER

Dear reader,

This book, entitled »*Exercises in Travel Writing and Literary Tourism*« – *A Teaching and Learning Experiment*, emerged as a part of the *English lessons* project at the Faculty of Tourism in Brežice, University of Maribor, in which a specific approach was used to teaching English in Tourism. In the course, we experimented with Travel Writing, which was comprised of teaching in the classroom, research work in libraries and at home, field work, a lot of discussion, participation and evaluation, motivation to be curious, creative and innovative. Besides the very basic theory of Tourism discourse, the students were acquainted with the methods of Travel Writing based on the book »*Methods for Travel Writers*« by Dr. Charles Mansfield from the University of Plymouth, who is one of the world's leading experts on Literary Tourism and a very good colleague of mine. Currently, we are working on another project on Travel Writing.

This collection comprises the knowledge, thoughts, ideas, experiences and memories of many authors, all of whom study and/or work in Tourism. In it you will find nine very different texts in nine chapters by Laura Lupše, Maja Možic, Nuša Cesar, Boštjan Misja, Žiga Zdovc, Marina Majerič, Martina Senekovič, Boštjan Koželj and Matija Krizman. Their texts are not only a collection of Travel Writing and Literary

Tourism texts, but valuable potential resources for social media contents. This is, of course, only the first part of the answer to the essential question: Why Travel Writing?

The second part of the answer lies in the fact that travelling, without a doubt, can shape students' writing, and writing can shape students' travelling.

If travelling is an activity that probably all travellers would define in a similar way, the reasons for travelling and the feelings that are aroused are certainly far more complex. This is where we should probably search for reasons that the genre of Travel Writing has had a rich history, and is still gaining in popularity, also as a part of Tourism research and, more specifically, Tourism discourse research.

When we discuss Travel Writing, we discuss discourse and its many functions; also, discourse as a marketing tool, and as a means with a huge impact on Tourism, encouraging tourists from around the world to travel to specific destinations shown or mentioned in Travel Writing texts. Thus, Travel Writings are significant for the positioning of destinations. In the classroom, on the other hand, Travel Writing is significant in encouraging curiosity, research, creativity, innovation, reflection and overall self-development.

This monograph is a valuable result of the project work with the students employing writing didactic methods and skills, but, what is even more precious and rewarding, is the interesting and rugged path that led towards achieving this goal.

Enjoy reading!

LITERARY TOURISM IN CELJE: EXPLORING THE FAMOUS WRITER ALMA MAXIMILIANA KARLIN AND HER TRACKS IN CELJE

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Abstract Literary Tourism is a part of Cultural Tourism, and relates to the concepts of Heritage and Cultural Tourism. Expert and scientific articles outside Slovenia can provide case studies that show the importance of Literary Tourism. The following paper draft is talking about Literary and Cultural Tourism and their connection. We are also representing the famous writer Alma Maximiliana Karlin, who was born in Celje and spent the last years of her life back in Celje. Alma Maximiliana Karlin was a famous world traveller, poet and collector. She was born in 1889 in Celje and died in 1950, also in Celje. When she was thirteen years old Karlin went through hard orthopaedic operations and began to overcome her pain with the study of languages. For the purpose of this draft paper we visited Celje, which was Alma's birthplace, and an exhibition of Alma Maximiliana Karlin which talks about her life and travelling around the world. The exhibition is located in Celje Regional Museum.

Keywords:

literary
tourism,
Celje,
Alma
Maximiliana
Karlin,
memorial
house,
statue,
tourism.

Introduction

Literary Tourism has a number of dimensions, as the definition above suggests. Tourists enjoy visiting birthplaces, burial sites, museums, literary trails and other sites associated with authors or literary creations. William Wordsworth's cottage, Thomas Hardy's birthplace and Shakespeare's tomb are all popular visitor destinations in the UK. Tourists also enjoy attractions with more generic literary associations, such as Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, or the guided literary pub tours of Edinburgh.

The purpose of this writing is to study, define and understand the term Literary Tourism, and its connection to Celje and its famous writer, Alma Maximiliana Karlin. The first part describes Literary and Cultural Tourism. The second part describes the literary figure Alma Maximiliana Karlin and her memorial tracks in Celje. The last part of the paper describes our personal travel experience to Celje and our visit to the Alma Maximiliana exhibition.

Literary and cultural tourism

Literary Tourism is part of Cultural Tourism and relates to the concepts of Heritage and Cultural tourism. In professional and scientific publications published outside Slovenia, case studies point to the importance of Literary Tourism as market gaps and, above all, address the presence and pervasiveness of Literary Tourism in the world.

To understand Literary Tourism better we must first understand the concept of Heritage and the definition of Cultural Tourism (Spevan, 2015, p. 95).

Hazler () provided a definition of heritage: "In the broadest sense, heritage is everything that has happened in the past that we have experienced, seen, done, built and designed. Heritage is not only castles, churches, houses and haystacks, it is also Slovene minorities, religion, music, customs and habits, artistic expression, knowledge and the whole spiritual world that has kept us recognisable in a large family of European nations and nationalities".

The Cultural Tourism Development Strategy defines Cultural Tourism in Slovenia: Cultural Tourism is connected with the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and their contemporary phenomena forms, with traditions, with former and still living creators; Cultural Tourism is included in the broadest sense of the word and is also the culture of being and behaviour of all the people in the tourist area as part of his journey. It also includes (on the site of the visited area) a cultural landscape, as well as food supply, books, the state of education, the educational structure of the population - even political ones of the regime in the country - in short, it is a colourful conglomerate of everything that arouses in the visitor an image of a visited place as a reflection of a place of its own specific, perhaps even unique, past and present culture (Cultural Tourism Development Strategy, 2009).

The main topics of Cultural Tourism are education, history and archeology, architecture and art, natural sights, and beauties and religion.

Literary Tourism is a subcategory of Cultural Tourism that deals with the study of places that are connected with literary works and with the lives of literary creators. Literary Tourism has developed as a kind of religious pilgrimage, but today, we can talk about several types of Literary Tourism (Jurinčič, 2016, p. 248).

Who was Alma Maximiliana Karlin?

She was born in the Styrian town of Celje (now part of Slovenia) in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as the daughter of Jakob Karlin, a major in the Austro-Hungarian Army, and Vilibalda Miheljak, a teacher. Her father died when she was eight years old. After completing her secondary education in Graz, she travelled to London, where she studied languages. She learned English, French, Latin, Italian, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Russian, and Spanish. In later years, she also studied Persian, Chinese, and Japanese. She also spent six months in Paris, where she attended various languages courses at the Sorbonne (Celje regional museum, b.d.).

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Karlin had to move to Sweden and Norway, since she was considered an unwanted person in the United Kingdom for being an Austrian-Hungarian citizen. It was in Scandinavia that she met the Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf, who was so impressed by Karlin and her writing that she proposed her for a Nobel Prize (Celje regional museum, b.d.).

In 1919, she returned home, to Celje, then already part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Almost immediately she started raising money for another journey. To this purpose, she opened a language school in Celje, where she taught up to ten hours a day, while her spare time was spent in painting and writing. On 24 November, 1919, she took off again, this time on a nine-year-long journey around the world. She visited South and North America, the Pacific Islands, Australia, and various Asian countries. In January, 1928, at the request of her dying mother, Alma Karlin returned home, herself exhausted by physical illness and deep depression. She never travelled again. She devoted most of her time to writing. Around 1934, she started developing a keen interest in the study of Theosophy. In the later years, especially during World War II, she became close to Roman Catholicism (Celje regional museum, b.d.).

According to the data collected so far, the complete works of Alma Maximiliana Karlin comprises twenty-four published books, more than forty prose works of novels, stripes, articles, poems (preserved in a manuscript), notes and drawings. She has written in German and also some articles in English for English speakers (Celje regional museum, b.d.).

The house where Alma Maximiliana Karlin spent the last years of her life

Alma's house stands above Pečovnik, on the left bank of the Savinja River, right on the footpath to Grmada and Celje hut, which is so much loved by hikers. Conservation consultant and Ethnologist Bozena Hostnik estimates that, in terms of appearance, it was probably built in the late 19th century, but, based on its construction and design in the Franciscan Cadastre of 1825, it is likely to have been erected earlier. It was built as a top-notch stone cottage on a slope where vineyards used to be. The shaded northern part was built of interlocking willow and mud, and the two-story roof was covered by a beaver. On the east side, a smaller wooden log house was originally erected next to the house, which was later demolished.

According to Hostnikova, the house is a remarkable historical landmark and memory of the famous woman. From the point of view of the conservation profession, interior painting above the windows and paintings in imitation are extremely valuable. The paintings were made by Gammelín some time in the 1960s (Celje regional museum, b.d.).

The house where Alma Maximiliana Karlin was born

Another track is where Alma's birthplace stood. It's on Ljubljana Road at the city walls. The house was demolished during World War II, in late 1945. Today, we see a commemorative plaque on this place, which reads: "In the house that stood in this city, along the city walls, was born Alma Karlin, a world traveller and writer, 1889 – 1950.

Alma Maximiliana Karlin Exhibition

Alma M. Karlin's exhibition, located in the city centre, is an extensive ethnographic collection of things (booklets, postcards, souvenirs, clothing, rocks, insects, nuts ...) that Alma Karlin sent and finally brought back from her trips. The exhibition is on display at the Celje Regional Museum.

Travel experience

Alma, as a girl, was considered different in her environment and was not accepted, and so it was for the rest of her life, and decades after her death. She was the victim of misunderstandings, rumours, envy, the inexperience of researchers, and fear, as recent research shows; those who tried to portray her as insane and diminish the importance of her work were, at the same time, controlling her and observing her life. Serious scientific research and the background to many of the constructs associated with it have crucially contributed to the crystallisation of this remarkable, world-class woman, this stunning human destiny that inspires and challenges a growing circle of people.

The exhibition of Alma Maximiliana Karlin in the Celje Regional Museum

The exhibition and the journey and life review begin in 1919 with the last night in Genoa before leaving for Peru, where it then began its journey. She observed the everyday life of the people living there, and realised that the next day everyone would continue their routine life, with a distant horizon waiting for her.

This is followed by a chronological overview of the trip, which also symbolises the globe at the centre of the showroom, which shows the places she visited. The introduction of each of the important points on the journey is accompanied by a brief description, a photograph, and some of the items in the rich travel collection. In addition to the content on the billboards, you can also watch a documentary about her and browse through her works and works about her.

Among them we can see a mysterious statue, which she obtained in 1920 in Peru. As she wrote in the travelogue, one of her students gave her "an old Inca treasure, the devil as he called it, which his wife feared." Alma named him Malik, and three years later, when she arrived in China, she learned what the statue represented. In Beijing, she met Dr. Ferdinand Lessing, German linguist, Ethnologist and Sinologist; in a travelogue she says, "I have to mention that my idol Dr. Lessing, a well-known German Archaeologist who was in China at the time, recognized Li Tieguai in a sculpture made of tallow." She learned that Li Tieguai, like the correct spelling of his name, represented one of the eight Daoist immortals. She had been carrying the statue for six years, from Peru to Java. She arrived in Jakarta in September 1926 and experienced a "complete collapse"; exhausted from malaria. She relied on journalistic fees and letters of recommendation, which did not happen. She sent the sculpture home and attributed special powers to him. He inspired her to write, and became the central character of the novel *Der Götze (Malik)*, after which her friend handed it over to the Celje Municipal Museum, and it was discovered accidentally during an inventory of the Asian Collection after more than 50 years of being stored in a wooden crate in a depot. where it was ranked for unknown reasons.



Figure 1: Exhibition of Alma Maximiliana Karlin

Source: Lupše, December 2019

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VISITING AUSTRIAN SALZBURG

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Abstract The article talks about my own travel experience, which happened last year in the winter holidays in advent time. My boyfriend and I visited Salzburg with a Tourist Agency for the first time. It was a one-day trip by bus. It was a pleasant experience. We had a great time there regardless of the low temperature. We saw many sights and interesting points and learnt something new about Salzburg. We got to experience the city in the night-time and the Christmas market happening as well. What we noticed about this trip is that Salzburg was not so decorated in advent time when comparing it with Vienna, which was our previous trip. We found out through the whole time that there was enormous crowd of people present. Because of the crowd we had to supply our own food and drinks, because restaurants were all full. We had to keep an eye on our personal items as well. Despite this, I would recommend Salzburg because of soaking up the Christmas atmosphere and experiencing the city's energy.

Keywords:

advent,
trip,
holidays,
winter,
Salzburg.



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Introduction

Holidays in December: Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve were not so long ago, so let's talk about past winter holidays. Let me introduce you to my tourist experience that happened during this time. I'm going to introduce you to an Advent trip to the city of Mozart - Salzburg in Austria.

My boyfriend and I again had the idea of visiting some places in advent time like we had done for the previous three years. This was our second advent trip, and we decided to go with an agency. We travelled to Vienna in December 2018 and it was a pleasant experience. Therefore, our next trip would also be in Austria, and this time we chose Salzburg. Neither of us has ever been there, and we expected it would be historical, cultural and decorated like the capital. We decided to travel with an agency because it's better to travel with an organised group. Usually, everything is already arranged, so travellers have no worries about driving and thinking about tickets, famous spots and how to satisfy their basic needs. That's why we booked a trip with the Tourist Agency Supra Travel.

On Saturday, 7. 12. 2019, it was the time for the start. We woke up early in the morning, about 3 a.m., then got dressed in warm clothes and got ready. I did not forget necessary equipment for this winter weather: A hat, scarf and some gloves, even a spare pair of socks in case they were going to be needed. Later, it turned out that they were useful, because I already had to put them on inside the bus. The previous day we bought some sandwiches, something to drink and a few sweets as well, because we knew it was going to be a long day with a lot of walking.

At about four o'clock we travelled by car from Sevnica to Celje, where the departure place was. The ride was smooth, with almost no traffic because of the early hour. The meeting point in Celje was in front of the sport's hall Zlatorog. The instructions were to be there ten minutes before leaving, that meant 4.50 a.m. When we arrived at the right time at Zlatorog hall, we realised that our bus was not going to be the only one that day. There were probably about four buses waiting in the line. They were for different travel agencies, each travelling to different cities for advent time. There was a crowd of people waiting for groups to form together. I noticed one group which were carrying suitcases, obviously they were going for a two-day trip with a night stay. I could not catch the exact location of their travel. I

decided I would go the next December for a two-day trip to have the opportunity to explore more of the city and to have a rest between see sightings compared to the one-day trip.

Nonetheless, we waited there in front of the Zlatorog Hall until the time was right, until our bus arrived, and our representative of the Tourist Agency appeared. Luckily it wasn't so cold while we were standing there. When the representative came, we stepped forward. He checked us on the passenger list, and we were able to sit in the bus wherever we wanted, because there was no sitting order. We chose a place somewhere in the middle. When we boarded the bus we noticed that there were already a few passengers sitting, because the bus had had a stop in Ljubljana. I liked that the bus was still half empty. I hoped that it would be like that all the way to Salzburg, that the trip was not completely sold out. It was nicely quiet. Well, we undressed and put some of the food and drink in the locker above our heads. The representative seated the last passenger, then greeted us by microphone. Next, he introduced himself and the two bus drivers. The older one was already sitting by the steering wheel, preparing to start the ride. Because of the long ride and the number of kilometres expected to be made, there had to be two drivers to take turns.

We left on time and joined the motorway.. We stopped in Slovenska Bistrica and Maribor, to pick up passengers and for a toilet break. In Maribor we stopped in front of the railway station, and there came most of the passengers, so the bus became completely full with every seat taken. The group contained passengers of all ages; some teenagers, students, some older, middle aged, and families as well. When we left Maribor, we joined the motorway again, and after a short time we crossed the border and arrived in Austria.

During the ride through Austria we took two shorter stops for toilet breaks and snacks. Each time in the shops and restaurants there were crowds of people waiting in queues. While we were driving and moving closer to the destination, the guide told us about our plan for the day, what we were going to see, and some important facts and interesting things about Austria in general. He explained some history of Salzburg and some features as well, for example, typical food, famous personalities who had lived in Salzburg... I like the fact that the guide focused on the important things that were worth mentioning, and that he wasn't too long or too boring during his talk. He told us some jokes and funny anecdotes.

After few hours, we finally arrived in Salzburg, directly into the city centre. We had to step off the bus, and started walking for the whole day. It was quite cold outside while we were walking, and it even started raining for a while. Luckily, I had taken my folding umbrella with me. Next on our programme of sightseeing were all the important sights of Salzburg. At the start of the line was our guide, who was our representative of the agency who led us around the town. He showed us all the spots and said a few things about each of them, so important and well known historical and cultural sights, that were worth mentioning. I will highlight here some of the sights that we had seen in about three hours. From the Square of Mozart where his monument stands, the Baroque minster, the Mirabell park, Festival House, the birth house of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the famous composer – we only saw its exterior. For a look inside it would cost us 10 euros per person.

After that, we looked at the decorated heart of the old town with many mansions and palaces. We had the option to visit the Salzburg Fortress Festung as well, which is the symbol of Salzburg. From there you can have a perfect view of the city. Tourists can enjoy a ride with the cable railway to the top of the hill. My boyfriend and I did not go up there, we preferred to explore the streets and the Advent Fair. We documented all the beautiful sights and events by taking loads of pictures, and videos as well. If one wanted, he/she had always the option to leave the group and organised sightseeing. One could discover the town on their own. Another option was to visit a small village, Oberndorf, with guidance. It is located near Salzburg, and it is famous for the birth of the song well known at Christmas time, Silent night. The chapel of the Silent night stands on the place where the song was versed for the first time.

After the organised sightseeing, we had a free afternoon till the evening to spend it however we wanted to, maybe for an individual tour, to get something to eat, or doing some shopping. We stopped by one of the Fairs, near the church, and we were told to be there in the evening at 7 pm. At first, we thought we had plenty of time, however, that was not so. We started looking around. First, we needed some coffee and some place to go inside to warm ourselves up. Many cafés were so full, it was quite hard to find a free space. We later found one, took a seat, and ordered cappuccinos and the famous Sahar cakes. There was a special offer in this café, a special discount if you ordered coffee and the Sahar cake together. The cake was delicious, but it could not even compare with the texture and the taste of those cakes

made in Slovenia. After that, we walked around the town again, on streets with many different small shops and storefronts, where they sell from different brands of clothes to jewellery, to restaurants and many more cafes. While walking, I noticed the city itself has a lack of lights and decoration compared to Vienna or Zagreb. There was also a large crowd of people, and it was sometimes difficult to get through the crowd. It would be hard facing that every day.

After walking around, at about 3 p.m., we decided it was time to have some lunch. Finding an empty place was quite a hard task, and we searched many restaurants. It happened that we checked in many restaurants for free seats in vain because everything was so full. In some places we could not even get pizza, and in some we would wait too long to order. So, we ended up at the first place. They had a rope placed inside, where you had to wait for a free seat to appear. After some waiting, we at last found a space for two. After that, we continued with walking around the city. We went to the edge of the city, near a bridge over the river, and we crossed it to have a look on the modern part of Salzburg. We didn't want to go too far in this direction, and we quickly figured it out that there it was a peaceful side of the city, with no stands and Christmas markets. So empty, compared to the other side, so we rather retraced our steps.

Later in the afternoon, after it was already getting dark, we took a walk around some Christmas market areas. There were many stands, decorated with lights and Christmas trees, and an unbelievable crowd of people around each of them, it was hard to imagine. Many different items were being sold there, from souvenirs to pieces of clothing like hats, scarves and gloves, from drinks like mulled wine, punch and beer, and typical Austrian dishes like sausages, some liquid foods like goulash, stew, to some contemporary food like hot dogs and hamburgers. There were many kinds of sweets: Marshmallows with chocolate and coconut, lollipops, different kinds of chocolate candies, different kinds of fruit pieces, placed on sticks and covered by white or milk chocolate... The place was loud, with people rushing around and the scent of all those dishes... Of course, I had to taste one of the desserts at the market. I chose banana and strawberry pieces on a stick, covered by milk chocolate. Later, we decided to taste the mulled wine. When you bought it, you had to pay 3 euros caution money for the cup. You had the option to return the cup later or take it with you. We decided to take them home. The taste of wine was strong, too strong for my taste.

After that, my boyfriend decided to visit one of the small shops that was on the street. There was a big supply of different souvenirs, from cups to keychains, and from hats and t-shirts to magnets, and all of those items had pictures and prints of Salzburg and its sights. He bought one of the magnets. I did not buy anything there, because I already have loads of souvenirs at home from different trips and destinations.

Soon, the time for leaving arrived, so we headed to the meeting place. We left at 7 p.m. and the ride was smooth, with only one stop after two hours. We all were tired and sleepy, so the bus was quiet. The guide gave us crosswords about trips to motivate us for another trip with them. To finish we answered a questionnaire about the satisfaction with this trip and their service. He told us about their next destinations and possibilities. We were delighted and gave him a big round of applause.

We arrived in Celje at midnight, And we still had to travel to Sevnica by car. We were tired, sleepy, however, satisfied with our trip to see something new away from our homeland and familiar things, and, of course, with a nice touch of history and culture.

A TRIP TO OPATIJA

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Abstract In the assignment we focused on the Croatian destination Opatija. We visited Opatija at the end of September and the trip was wonderful. We would like to show you the journey through our eyes, and also stimulate your interest in visiting this destination. If you want a break from reality and do not want to drive too far, Opatija is the right destination for you. If you like to go for a walk, enjoy the environment of pampering, you will get everything in one place. It may seem like a more expensive destination at first sight, but we will show you tricks on how you can afford Opatija at a very low price and enjoy the luxury. We hope this destination will pique your interest and make it into your wish list to visit.

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Introduction

The object of our research is to present a destination. Why we visited it, whether we liked it or not, and if we would recommend it to others.

The subject of our research is the Croatian city Opatija, and we know it also as Croatian Nice, because it is so prestigious like Nice in France. So, if you do not want to spend that much money and Nice is too far away from you, Opatija is a good choice for you.

Opatija is a city that definitely deserves the name Queen of the Adriatic. Many guests fall in love with it every day, as it offers a lot of beauty, relaxed moments and fun. Opatija lies at the foot of the Učka Plateau, and is a good 30 minutes from the Slovenian-Croatian border. The city is not only worth a visit during the summer months, but you will also enjoy the cold winter months (Nadlani.si, 16. 07. 2018).

We will give our opinion of whether we were excited about the trip or whether we would recommend it. We booked the trip through Ena na dan, which is a great site where you can get more affordable trips. It is worth mentioning that, although we paid less for the trip, the staff would not have treated us differently, less kindly or otherwise, and we were given an extra room with a balcony which was not included in the offer.

Opatija

We chose a three-day trip to Opatija as the subject of the research.

Opatija is a charming seaside town with a rich history and culture, making it an oasis of many beautiful sites, monuments and idyllic villas. It is also often called the Adriatic Nice, as it is a city that is breathtaking with tourism. This is where Croatian tourism was actually born. In 1844, the Kvarner Hotel was built, which is considered to be the originator of the tourist tradition in this city. As early as 1900, the tourist reputation of Opatija reached far beyond Europe. The first tourist wave took place between 1890 and 1914, after which it was interrupted by the First World War. Opatija has also hosted many princes and kings, and is, nowadays, a popular

destination for businessmen and celebrities alike. Opatija offers many reputed and first-class hotels, beautiful parks, numerous Wellness Centres and friendly staff who will pamper you with gourmet treats and excellent wine (Nadlani.si, 16. 07. 2018).



Figure 1: Opatija

Source: Cesar, January 2020.

Course of the journey

We went on a three-day trip from Maribor to Opatija. We travelled by car, and the journey took a good 3 hours, with two stops. We did not organise the trip by ourselves, but we did book online through the website Ena na dan, where you buy a coupon and then make an agreement with the agency by e-mail on which term is right for you. We chose the last weekend in September from Saturday through Monday. We have to mention that the trip was very favourable, because of the offers we received. We stayed at the Grand Hotel Palace 4 *, which was simply wonderful. The interior of the hotel is simply beautiful. Breakfast, dinner and the use of Wellness and Fitness were included in this offer. Breakfast and dinner were self-service, but there were so many options. For lunch, however, we visited pubs in the city that we had learned about previously. One day we got pasta, and the next day

pizza. In the evening, however, we took a look at the city as we enjoyed the pool at the hotel during the day. The place is beautiful and offers a lot of sights.



Figure 2: Grand Hotel Palace

Source: Cesar, January 2020.



Figure 3: Grand Hotel Palace

Source: Cesar, January 2020.

One of the main sights worth seeing is the Lungo Mare, a 12 km long promenade between Voloski, Opatija, Ičići, Iko and Lovran from 1885, and finally built in 1991. History became an integral part of Opatija. Manufactory, a shop in the centre of Opatija where you can buy all the local souvenirs, marmalades, drinks. Vinoteque Barolo, a Wine shop where you can find top quality wines from local producers. Slatina beach, the most famous beach in Opatija, is located next to the famous street, and offers all the activities and amenities to tourists. Casino Rosalia, with its state-of-the-art slot machines, gives the casino a breath of fun for all. The girl with the

seagull, the statue is the work of the sculptor Zvonko Car from 1956, and is today a recognisable symbol of Opatija (Wikipotnik, b. d.).

Conclusion

The three days passed too quickly, but it was a wonderful trip that will remain in our memory. A short break from reality. We have to mention that Opatija is a wonderful place in Croatia, which we would recommend everyone to see. Even though we were there only three days, we thought that was enough, as we were there at a time when the sea was cooling and, unfortunately, no longer suitable for swimming, and we saw everything we wanted to in these three days. We think three days is enough for this destination. Our trip is suitable for couples, friends and families. The advantage of Opatija is that it is not far from Slovenia, so it is suitable for a short weekend break from everything, to clear thoughts and to restore the motivation to work. We can only say good things, how friendly the staff were, the wonderful room, the pool, not to mention the variety of food. As far as the price goes, you would classify the trip to the middle rank, and breakfast and dinner are included, so it is up to you how much you want to spend on it. If you are looking for a location for a quick break, we definitely recommend Opatija, which will not disappoint you.

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A STUDENT CAN ALSO BE A TOURIST: I STUDIED IN VILNIUS

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Abstract Studying abroad is considered by many to be an adventure. Going somewhere as a student, without a care in the world, sounds exciting. Most of times students choose more “exotic” destinations, but I chose Vilnius in Lithuania. Vilnius may sound boring, but as I found out, it has more than meets the eye. Beautiful landscape, history, architecture, food and drink, and it has character. Vilnius, and perhaps all of the Baltic states, are hidden gems. These are the places where history is combined with myths and religion. When you travel, you always find something new and unexpected. I learned to love these places, and also returned a couple of times. I am also happy to call the people I met and studied with, friends. Students should study abroad and maybe experience a different life. The experience is something that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

Keywords:

Vilnius,
study,
travel,
food,
drink,
experience.



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Why did i go to Vilnius?

If you are a foreign student, are you a tourist? I still remember leaving Slovenia and going to a foreign country to finish my exams in the study of Tourism. Surely my purpose of travelling was academic, but I travelled and got to know the wonderful country of Lithuania and other Baltic countries. So, besides being a student, I was also a tourist.

It was my last year of studying in the coastal city of Portorož when me and my two friends decided to go and study abroad and experience something new. After talks and negotiations, we decided to go to Lithuania and its main city Vilnius. Everybody questioned this decision, and they were right, because Lithuania is not a primary destination for Erasmus students. We decided to go solely on the basis of a few searches on the internet, where we found out that the prices are low and the girls are beautiful.

So, on the first of September, only two of us got on a plane and went to Lithuania. The third colleague decided not to go. For me, it was a difficult and challenging trip, because, just 5 days before, I lost my wallet at the shopping centre, and with it all of my credit cards. Luckily I still had my passport.

It has been a while since I last visited these countries, but I still remember the first time I arrived. It was night, and we were greeted by two of the Lithuanian students, who are now friends. We boarded the bus and went to the student's home at Giedraciu street 81. Our room was not prepared and the first night we slept on the mattresses.

Our student dorm was small and there were just foreign students. My roommates were from Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Turkey, Finland. We were all students of Tourism. We had a great time and we still talk from time to time.

Our street had a great "strategic" position. It was near the shopping centre, gym, Siemens arena, which is the biggest sport hall in Lithuania, and Kalvariju turgus – the main market in Vilnius.

Exploring Vilnius

Vilnius is the capital of the country of Lithuania, where it is also its largest city with a population of 570,806. It is also a city of great history of almost 700 years, which is shown in the buildings. The centre contains many historical buildings, which are connected with marvellous pebbly streets. Walking and exploring the city is easy, but be sure to buy some kind of guide. I bought the Vilnius in your pocket guide, which is a new and interesting way to explore the city with the information gained by the locals.

The first few weeks of exploring were dedicated to getting around the area. First I walked a lot, since I did not use any means of public transport, but once you get used to the public transport, getting around is easy.

So what to visit in Vilnius? The centre is very historic and full of monumental buildings. First we went to the National Museum of Lithuania. It was a school trip the day after we arrived. According to Vilnius Tourism Office, The National Museum of Lithuania is the largest depository of Lithuanian historical cultural heritage in the country. It is the oldest museum in Lithuania, dating back to 1855, when the Museum of Antiquities was established in Vilnius. Authentic exhibits help to recall the history of Lithuania and its national culture and customs.

The authentic displays of the Museum represent the history of Lithuania, and present traditional Lithuanian culture, and customs. The Old Arsenal is situated nearby. There is a funicular from the closed courtyard of this Museum to Gediminas Hill. A majestic monument to King Mindaugas stands next to the Museum. Mindaugas is the first, and the last, Lithuanian King. He was crowned in 1253. Mindaugas united Lithuania's lands into a State and won international recognition of Lithuania. The whole presentation was very interesting, especially for me, since my hobby is reading historical books. Our next stop was, of course, the Gediminas tower of the upper castle. Besides being a Fort filled with historical information, it is also a nice place for a walk, and offers a nice view of the entire city of Vilnius. But, before walking you have to try and use the railway system, which takes you to the tower. The attraction was opened in 2003, and it is a nice way to enjoy the view over Vilnius and the river Neris. Worth visiting is also the central Basilica Square with the tower

and the Cathedral of St. Stanislav and St. Vladislav. Walking and admiring the old building on the Gediminas street also leaves you speechless if you like history.

Vilnius was occupied during World war 2 and all of their Jewish population was eradicated. There are many places where you can learn more about the tragic story during the great war. I visited the Big ghetto, where 29,000 Jews were living from 1941 to 1943. A large part of the history are also various cemeteries and statues. The best part of the tour I took was visiting the Museum of Genocide Victims. It is situated in the former KGB headquarters building. The building is filled with all of the information and artefacts of the great war. The best part of the experience is when they take you to the basement and you see part of the old Jewish prison, where more than 1,000 people were murdered.

The food and drink

First, I have to say that Lithuanian food is very different from Slovenian. While we like our food a little saltier, the Lithuanians prefer their food sweet. I never back down from a challenge of trying food and drink when I am abroad. You have to try local food and drink, it's a way of exploring.

Šaltibarščiai, or cold beetroot soup, is something not of the ordinary. The name speaks for itself. Although as some people don't want to eat it after hearing the name, I found it enjoyable. The next local cuisine I tried was Cepelinai. The name is simple, with the food being shaped like the zepelin. They are basically potato – meat dumplings, covered with nice gravy. I ate the zepelinai only once, and they were not totally fresh. It is best to eat them when they are made and smoking hot. Lithuanians like their meat, which is usually served next to some potato dish, and, of course, sweet salad. But, being there in the winter you get the idea why you have to eat a food that is a little heavier – it is cold and the body needs it.

The one thing I liked, and still make it at home, is Kepta Duona. Fried bread infused with garlic and dipped in a cheese and sour cream sauce. It goes together perfectly with friends and beer, and Lithuanians love their beer. Local pubs are filled with many varieties of local beers. I preferred Svytoris baltas. It is a wheat beer with a bit of citrus taste, and for additional taste they add a piece of lemon in the drink. Pair this with the fried bread and you have a nice evening with your friends.

Lithuania was once a part of the Soviet Union and, until now, it has had an estimated 5% of Russian population. Vodka is still very popular and, according to the reviews, quite good. The locals like to drink it together with a soft drink like orange juice, and also with tomato juice, which I found strange.

There are, of course, also non-alcoholic drinks. Kvass and Gira are classic cold drinks meant to be drunk in the winter months. They are made from rye bread, and their taste is enhanced by adding various fruits.

Night life

All big cities are filled with night life and Vilnius is no exception. The centre of the city is filled with bars and dance clubs. You can choose for an easy going dinner in a local bar, trying their food and local drinks, or going to dance at a club. I am not a person who likes to dance, but we nevertheless visited many different clubs. The proximity of the Siemens Arena was also a huge plus during my stay in Vilnius. I am a fan of any kind of sports, so we visited basketball games played by the Vilnius team. Lithuania is a basketball country, and not visiting a game between Kaunas and Vilnius would be a shame. The Siemens Arena also hosts a lot of concerts and events. My favourite event was a dance spectacle Sensation White, which is hosted by many DJs, and all of the participants have to be dressed in white.

Visiting other sights and countries

During my 4,5 months of staying in Vilnius I often chose to visit some other sight in Lithuania and neighbouring countries. Sure, Vilnius is big and worth exploring, but going to other places is a must when you are a foreign student.

Usually it was me and my roommates boarding either a bus or train and going somewhere for the whole weekend. I come from a spa town and visiting spas has always interested me. That is why we visited Druskininkai. It is a spa town filled with small hotels and spas. The nature there is really nice with rivers, hills, forests. The area is perfect for relaxation and hiking. The architecture of the city reminded me of Rogaška Slatina, and, by tasting their water, you can find some resemblance to Donat.

When you're in Vilnius visiting Trakai is a must. It is a place little more than 25 km from Vilnius, and it is the only historical national park in Europe. The historical city and the lake resort is a town built on islands surrounded by lakes. The main attraction besides the lakes is the famous Trakai castle. Trakai was once the capital of the country, and it is said that it is the cradle of Lithuanian statehood. People called Karamies live in Trakai. They are of Turkish decent and still speak the language. My roommate was Turkish, and she led us to a restaurant in Trakai. I ate the best traditional kebab in my life in Trakai.

My favourite place is called a hill of crosses. It is a very monumental place, and a major site for Catholics in Lithuania. It is a hill where people leave the catholic crosses, crucifixes and statues. The estimated number of crosses is more than 100,000. Later in life I returned to this site with my girlfriend, now wife, and a couple of my friends. We were backpacking through the Baltic States and I just had to visit the hill of crosses again. We took a photo and sent it to Mladina magazine. In the next issue we were on the cover of Mladina magazine.

Last thoughts about Lithuania

My rather unorthodox way of choosing my Erasmus studying destination proved to be right. I am glad I visited Lithuania and Vilnius and learned something new. I live in a little town, and also studied in a little city, so living in a big city for me was quite hard in the beginning. Once I learned how to use the transport system and accepted my way of life in Lithuania it was easy. Vilnius, and perhaps all of the Baltic States, are a hidden gem. These are the places where history is combined with myths and religion. Due to their hard history of occupation, people tend to be cold at first, but once you get to know the locals you see they are quite nice. Local cuisine is surely not perfect, especially for a Slovenian, but there are things you like and thing you learn to like. Lithuania only has a population of 2,8 million and it is twice the size of Slovenia, so there are a lot of hidden places I still have to visit, and a traveller has to take a lot of time to experience the whole of Lithuania. Natural wonders like Trakai lakes, water from Druskininkai park in the city of Vilnius make you feel comfortable and feel the urge to explore even more. After I finished my studies I returned to Lithuania two more times. Lithuania offers you more than you expect and you feel like you never finished exploring. As for my studies, of course I finished all of the classes.

FAIRYTALE CELJE 2019

THROUGH THE EYES OF A VISITOR

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Abstract This paper deals with the traditional annual holiday event held in Celje called Fairytale Celje and how the visitor or guest experiences the event Fairytale Celje. Fairytale Celje begins with the festive lighting of the city's holiday lights, which takes place on the last day of November, and ends with the New Year's Eve party on the last day of the year. In the festivities of the old town of Celje visitors can find many different events, concerts, celebrations and various offers of local culinary delights and themed products. The creators of Fairytale Celje and the Municipality of Celje, as the main organising force behind the event, ensure that the traditional annual event is always varied, and that there is something new each year for younger and older visitors alike. For this paper we visited the event in 2019, but also because we were interested to find out if the experience of Fairytale Celje is truly »magical«. We started our Fairytale Celje 2019 experience at Krekov Square and experienced Fairytale Celje through the eyes of a visitor, we believe that the event captures the essence and purpose of Christmas tradition and festivities.

Keywords:

Celje,
christmas,
festivities,
event,
experience.

Introduction

Fairytale Celje is an annual winter and holiday event that attracts both locals, visitors from near and far and tourists. The Fairytale Celje event takes place in the centre of Celje and has a history of more than 15 years, covers several different events that take place throughout December, culminating in the second half of December, when the Christmas celebrations begin. So what is the experience that the holiday of Celje offers to visitors? Is the offer suitable for different visitors? How much time does the visitor spend to attend the event? Do you feel like you're in a fairy tale after the viewing? We will try to answer all these questions and more through our field observations and analysis of promotional and other materials. Another reason that we decided to write about this topic is that we have always been fascinated with this kind of event, because they promote the local environment, contain some very good ideas and concepts, and offer an escape from everyday life for children and adults alike.

Overview of Fairytale Celje

Fairytale Celje (Celje.info, 2019) begins with the festive lighting of the city's holiday lights, which takes place on 30 November in the Main square and also starts the traditional Christmas – New Year Fair. The interactive music programme starts in the evening, which provides the visitors of the event with a pleasant holiday atmosphere, live music and entertainment for children and adults alike. On the opening day of the event visitors will also have the chance to buy festive gifts, food, drinks and other merchandise for a discount. The festive events continue with Miklavževanje for children, which is held on 5 December at Krekov Square in the centre of Celje. The event offers entertainment programmes for children, streets will be riddled with fantasy characters, street performers, singers, etc. There will also be many different entertainment programmes, aimed at diverse target audiences to enhance the holiday season and the experience of Fairytale Celje for all visitors. Different light elements will be installed in different locations of the event and the city of Celje as photo corners, which will offer the visitors a chance to perpetuate their visit to Celje with their festive photographs. The main event or attraction for children is Fairy Land, which opens its doors on 13 December in the Main Square of Celje, and finishes with a New Year's Eve party for children on 31 December.

During the Fairy Land, visiting children will be entertained by dancing fairies, who will be joined by other characters, like Santa Claus. Fairytale Celje also includes performances of the city's young performers. Celje's young talents will be presented on the city streets and the balconies of the old houses of the city centre. At Main and Krekov Squares there will be smaller and bigger musical performances from known bands to local performers. In the street of the Metropol City Cinema, children will be able to have fun in a small amusement park. Visitors will also be able to take part in the thematic Scavenger Hunt game named »Zvezdni princ« or explore the holiday festivities of the streets of Celje with a local tour guide. Fairytale Celje will conclude its events and festivities with the New Years' Eve celebration at Krekov Square on 31 December.

Visitor offer of Fairytale Celje 2019

The event of Fairytale Celje offers (Zloženska Pravljичno Celje 2019):

The Holiday Fair: One of the main attractions of Fairytale Celje. It starts with the lighting of the festive Christmas lights, and includes rich and diverse holiday shops, stands, live music, ambiance, etc. in the 3 main streets (Main Square, Stane Street and Prešeren Street) of the old city centre of Celje.

Concerts: Over the month-long events of Fairytale Celje, visitors will be able to attend over 10 outdoor concerts (Tabu, Vlado Kreslin, Eroika, Nipke, etc.) at the Main and Krekov Squares of the old city centre.

Events: Besides the big outdoor concerts, visitors will be able to see and engage in many different holiday-themed events: Shows for kids and adults, tourist tours, carriage rides, music events, entertainment programmes, fireworks, light shows, culinary events, dance performances, etc.

Cuisine: Visitors of Fairytale Celje can taste traditional Slovenian and Christmas themed cuisine at the Pišek Bar stand, which is located in the Main Square and during the event the Evropa Hotel offers special holiday-themed cuisine tied in with the story of Fairytale Celje.

Experiences: Fairytale Celje offers many different experiences for all groups of visitors. The most notable is the interactive game called »Zvezdni Princ«, which is a holiday-themed treasure hunt, where 2-5 players explore the locations of Fairytale Celje to find clues, which lead to a treasure that contains practical rewards and the Middle Age themed Virtual Reality experience »Spremeni tok zgodovine«, where the players can emulate the battles and intrigue of the famous Counts of Celje.

Our Fairytale Celje Experience



Figure 3: Photo corner at Prešeren Street
Source: Žiga Zdovc



Figure 4: Culinary master of Pišek Bar at work
Source: Žiga Zdovc

We arrived in Celje by train, then crossed from the train station to Krekov Square, which is one of the entry points to Fairytale Celje. First, we took a look at the festive offer of the Evropa Hotel, and decided to try the Christmas waffles with hot chocolate and cinnamon. Then we headed to Prešeren Street, where we saw a lot of children and their parents waiting in front of the photo corner, waiting for the opportunity to take pictures together. We continued our journey towards Zvezda, which is known to the people of Celje as the junction of the old city centre, and represents the focal point of the Fairytale Celje. When we arrived at Zvezda, we noticed Christmas decorations donated by the High School of Horticulture and Visual Arts Celje, and a large stand with balloons, sugar foam, and popcorn. We stopped for a moment and enjoyed the festive panorama of the focal point of Fairytale Celje. Before deciding where to go, the taste of mulled wine and home-

made sausages tempted us, which was coming from the stand of Pišek Bar, a renowned local provider of culinary delights. So we continued our journey towards the Main Square and stopped at the queue before the Pišek Bar. We had noticed that, due to the queue and passers-by, a crowd had started to form, as the narrow streets of Celje do not allow a large mass of people to move about quickly. We waited a good amount of time before we could order food and drinks. We ordered a homemade hotdog and a glass of red mulled wine. We then settled into the outdoor, and, of course, heated dining space on the other side of the street, and consumed our holiday delicacies. We think it was worth the wait, as the hot dog and mulled wine were delicious. After we waited for a couple of minutes for the food and drink to settle, we continued our journey towards the Main Square, where the biggest attraction for children, the Fairy Land, is located. Halfway through we were surprised by a carriage that drove past, then about 50 metres in front of us, we saw a large sign, indicating the entrance to the Fairy Land and more stands, offering local honey, holiday and tourist souvenirs, etc. Before entering the magical Fairy Land, we also noticed a stand with an extended range of hot holiday-themed beverages and a stand named Sladki Toni, where visitors could enjoy sweet holiday delights. Given that the candy stand was close to the Fairy Land, we assume that the owner made a lot of money. Then we finally entered the Fairy Land, when, from the left side, a group of children riding ponies swooped in, of course, accompanied by their parents. The Fairy Land was surrounded by Christmas trees, holiday-themed sculptures, artwork and the main stage, where performances for visitors were taking place. We arrived at the right time, as there was quite the crowd, which meant that there was probably a live entertainment going on. As we made our way through the crowd, we saw the performers dressed as Elves, entertaining children with Christmas songs and dancing. After a short viewing of their performance, we headed back to the focal point of Fairytale Celje, to see the rest of the event. On the way to the focal point of the event there is also the Tourist Information Centre, which was decorated on the outside and inside with Christmas decorations, and there was another photo point, where, of course, there was a large crowd of people waiting for the opportunity to take a photograph. When we reached the location of Zvezda, we once again looked at the festive panorama of the junction of Fairytale Celje, and continued our tour along Prešeren Street towards the Museum of Contemporary History, where the anniversary exhibition of the 20-year long history and development of Fairytale Celje was held. After watching the exhibition, we headed

back towards the centre of Fairytale Celje, to see the rest of the festive offer located on Prešeren Street.



Figure 5: Entrance to the magical Fairy Land

Source: Žiga Zdovc

When we arrived back at Zvezda, we turned towards Stane Street, where we stopped at the 2 biggest stalls and made an obligatory "must" purchase of traditional holiday fruit, nuts, and homemade Christmas candy. After making our purchases, we continued down the street to see the rest of the festive offer of Fairytale Celje, Christmas lights and the decorative artwork. We ended our tour at the Square in front of the Metropol City Cinema, where there were a small amusement park and a fast-food stand. We tried our luck and skill at the stand with shooting targets, but, of course, we lost. Finally, we headed to the bar inside the Metropol City Cinema, where we ordered another mulled wine and watched the happenings in the amusement park. To avoid the growing crowd which started to gather in Fairytale Celje, we headed back towards the railway station along the side paths, where we ended our experience of Fairytale Celje.

Conclusion

Fairytale Celje is a winter-holiday event with a 20-year tradition, covering many different cultural, musical, entertainment and holiday events. We found out that Fairytale Celje is suitable for all visitors, the programme of events includes events and entertainment programmes for children and adults alike. We can point out that Fairy Land, which offers an original and authentic entertainment programme for children and the cooperative game Zvezdni Princ, interestingly, shows the essence of the city of Celje. The organisers of the event managed to capture the festive and Christmas spirit that transformed the city centre into a fairy tale during this period. Of course, this would not be possible without good cooperation. We found many local vendors and sellers at the event stands, the offer of food and drinks was also taken care of by the locals, and the festive - holiday ambience was taken care of by the School for Horticulture and Visual arts Celje and numerous local beautification and cultural associations. We attended the event for about an hour, but if there is a live concert going on, or if you visit the event with children or the entire family, the whole visit could take a lot longer. We have to mention that admission to the Fairytale Celje is free, only the main experiences of the event require an entry fee. The success of the event is also proven by the increasing attendance each year and the 20-year tradition of the event, where the organisers succeeded with the idea and desire to create an authentic experience and capture the essence of the Christmas holiday spirit.

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LITERARY TOURISM IN KRŠKO: EXPLORING THE FAMOUS SCHOLAR JANEZ VAJKARD VALVASOR AND HIS HOUSE IN KRŠKO

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Abstract Literary Tourism is one of the global tourism types on the market, which has its different patterns. This paper is based on secondary data and information about Literary Tourism, and it examines the city of Krško and the role of its most famous literary figure, the great scholar Janez Vajkard Valvasor (1641 - 1693). Krško is a town situated in eastern Slovenia, most recognisable because of its Nuclear Power Plant, literary places and figures such as Janez Vajkard Valvasor, Josipina Hočevar and Vladimir Štoviček. The paper explores Literary Tourism, its connection to Krško, and Janez Vajkard Valvasor as an important literary figure who lived and died in this area. The paper concludes with a discussion based on a personal travel experience through the literary places of the city of Krško.

Keywords:

tourism,
literary
tourism,
Krško,
Janez
Vajkard
Valvasor,
walking
tour.



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Introduction

Because of pandemic tourism of the present day, political, economic, social and cultural aspects of people's lives are influenced multinationally. Literary Tourism is described as one of the global tourism types on the market, which has its unique different patterns. In literature, we often come across the term tourism development. "Tourism development is commonly described as a mix which helps to create new jobs, provide people with better income and develop the local infrastructure". In reality it is an outcome of motivations, which are connected to the recognition and interest of artists and literary figures who are known for their work. Because many countries have defined tours or travels to famous places, or places named after literary figures, and also to support well known artists connected with their past life, literary career, birth and burial places, but, most importantly, to increase the tourists' interests to visit their countries. A good example of Literary Tourism in the Tourism industry can be the Kafka touristic tour, which includes travelling to Prague, which encourages tourists to visit the cafes and squares, where the famous author lived, passed and reposed (Bidaki & Hosseini, 2014).

The purpose of this paper is to examine, define and understand the term Literary Tourism and its connection to the city of Krško and its famous scholar Janez Vajkard Valvasor. The first Section of the paper describes the literature on Literary Tourism and its connection to Krško. The second Section provides an overview of the literary figure, specifically Janez Vajkard Valvasor and the last months/years of his life in the city of Krško. The third Section describes the scholar's house in Krško, which provided information and data for discussions and descriptions for our tour. Finally, the fourth Section describes our personal travel experience to the city of Krško, the museum and the scholar's house (today the Mencinger house), where we discussed and talked about our feelings, experience and the whole picture of the walking tour.

Methodology and literature review

This paper is based mostly on secondary data and information about Literary Tourism, the city of Krško and its literary figure Janez Vajkard Valvasor. It analyses how the city of Krško is connected to Literary Tourism, and the role of the famous scholar Janez Vajkard Valvasor. In addition to our research of secondary online data,

brochures, professional and scientific literature, we combined it with fieldwork (a walking tour with a local Tour Guide) in the house of Valvasor (today the Mencinger house), and the local city museum of Krško, but first we have to explain the term Literary Tourism. The term Literary Tourism is analysed by examining the existing literature. Further on, we examined the city of Krško and its connection to Literary Tourism, the scholar Janez Vajkar Valvasor and his house in Krško. Once these themes were explored, we discussed and compared our walking tour and presented our field experience.

What is literary tourism and its connection to Krško?

Literary Tourism is a subcategory of Cultural Tourism that examines the study of places that are connected with literary works and the lives of literary figures. It has developed as a religious pilgrimage, but today we can talk about several types of Literary Tourism. Literary tourist places are divided as places connected to literary works or narratives which are related to the lives of the authors. Literary Tourism is also divided between visits to monuments, graves, home towns, literary landscapes and fantasy lands (Jurinčič, 2016, p. 248). Smith, Macleod and Hart Robertson (2010, p. 108) describe Literary Tourism as a Tourism activity, motivated by interest in a literary destination, heritage, literary setting, creation, or in an author. Literary tourists love to visit burial sites, museums, birthplaces, literary trails and other sites connected with authors or their creations. According to Bidaki and Hosseini (2014), Literary Tourism is very popular nowadays, especially places with a long precedence and cultural background. Based on the researches and studies of our trip advisor, the first global literary tourism destination is London, followed by New York, Paris, San Francisco, Rome and also Italy. At least one well known writer lived in all of the before mentioned large cities, which are happy not only because they have presented their famous literary figures, but also because they gained a reputation and economic benefits.

Even in Slovenia we come across Literary Tourism, which is developing, but data related to scholarly research is still underdeveloped. In Slovenia many homes of known poets and writers are becoming popular tourism attractions, because every region of Slovenia has its own famous literary site, place or figure (Topler, 2016, p. 131). Even in the city of Krško, we come across Literary Tourism. Krško is a town situated in eastern Slovenia, most recognisable because of its Nuclear Power Plant.

According to the Tourist Information Centre Krško (w. d.), there were some important personalities moving around the Krško area, such as the famous scholar Janez Vajkard Valvasor, philanthropist and businesswoman Josipina Hočvar, and the academic sculptor and medalist Vladimir Štoviček.

Who was Janez Vajkard Valvasor and how is he connected to Krško?

Janez Vajkard Valvasor (1641 - 1693) was a Carniolan Baron, histogrammer, geographer, naturalist, technician and collector, who lived in the Austrian province of Carniola (Kranjska, part of Slovenia today). He was a soldier and a commander, but also he was a great patriot and, by conviction, a Carniolan. He published many books and papers; his greatest work was the *Glory of the Duchy of Carniola*, or in the slovene language *Slava Vojvodine Kranjske* (Lajovic, 1993, p. 89). After a successful research but financially unsuccessful period of his life, Janez Vajkard Valvasor chose Krško as his place of residence, the city where his wife's relatives owned land. Krško was less lovely than Ljubljana, but still a good starting point for travelling west or east and further work (Černelič Krošelj, 2014). He was the twelfth of seventeen children and he was baptised in the church of Saint Nikolai on May 28. With his remaining money, he bought a townhouse in Krško, where he spent the last months of his life (Kamniško-komendski biografski leksikon, w. d.). Janez Vajkard (Johann Weichard, in german) was born in May 1641 in Ljubljana, and he died in September or October of 1693 in Krško (Kumprej, 2017). The date of his death and place still remain open, but the most solid findings are connected to the house in Krško (Boris, 2014).

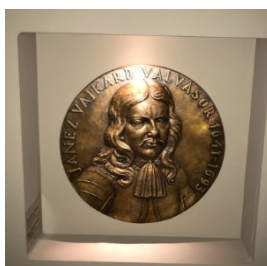


Figure 1: Janez Vajkard Valvasor (1641 – 1693)

Source: Majerič, January 2020.

The house where Valvasor spent his last months/years of life – the true and false house of Valvasor in Krško:

The Valvasor House stands on the edge of Krško along the Sevnica – Krško road. The house is 162 metres above sea level, followed by the Trška gora hill, and on the left bank of the Sava river is the village Sremič. To the north – west of the building is the late – baroque church of Saint Ghost (Sv. Duh), and in the south – west stands the baroque house where the lawyer Janez Mencinger lived. Today, the house is a part of the Valvasor complex, including the Jarnovič and Kaplanova houses. The complex has undergone a major renovation, during which the Valvasor house was renovated and returned to its original glory. The Valvasor complex now includes the Tourist Information Centre, the office of the regional unit of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the office of the Public Fund for Cultural Activities, the youth centre and the city cafe. The upper floors were used for the collection dedicated to the work of sculptor and medalist Vladimir Štoviček and the Iconotheca Valvasoriana (Iconotheca Valvasoriana). In it, they also attempted to present Valvasor's life with his personal objects (Lukić, 2010). For many years the people of Krško were convinced that Janez Vajkard Valvasor lived in the Valvasor house, but that was not true. Doctor Golec (2013) made a new discovery, and proved that the information was false, since Valvasor lived in the southern part of the later double Mencinger house.

The Mencinger house is one of the most important and oldest built houses in the town of Krško. It is named after the writer, lawyer and politician Janez Mencinger. Today, the house has the title Cesta krških žrtev 2, and inside it had two united houses which were named Krško 37 and 38 around 1930. Research on the life and inhabitants of the house is still active, but we know more about the inhabitants of the southern part of the house. During the research and finding of the true home of Valvasor in Krško, they added the house Krško 37 to the home of the famous scholar. After the death of Janez Vajkard Valvasor in 1693, his wife and relatives still lived there. The old widow sold the house in 1706, to Janez Krstnik Kamnikar (Černelič Krošelj and Železnik, 2013).



Figure 2: The Mencinger house (Mencingerjeva hiša)

Source: Majerič, January 2020.

Travel experience to Valvasor house and Mencinger house (real/false house) and the conclusion:

In the last part of this paper we decided to combine secondary data with a personal field – travel experience of the city of Krško and the mentioned real and false houses of the famous literary figure Janez Vajkard Valvasor. At the start, we decided to visit the first mentioned Valvasor house, where we experienced the life, work, hobbies and death of the famous scholar, with the help of a local Tour Guide. At the beginning, we had a dialogue with the positive Tour Guide about Literary Tourism in Krško and Janez Vajkard Valvasor. After a successful and pleasant discussion, she led us into the so-called Valvasor house. There, we entered into the Valvasor room, which included an office or cabinet of the scholar, a table and a place to read, a book closet, where all his books, maps, charts and other objects were stored, a showcase with his book collection, a table with copper engravings of Valvasor, and

a dressing room equipped with the fashion designs in the era that Valvasor lived in. Valvasor was a person who wanted to know everything. The Tour Guide also presented to us his most known and important work, a book with the title 'The glory of the Duchy of Carniola (Slava Vojvodine Kranjske). During the examination of the translated famous Valvasor book (a replica), we had to wear white gloves, which were brought to us by the Tour Guide. Later, we tried on some clothes, a wide lower part of a dress and a corset, which was worn by women in his time. The Tour Guide provided us with plenty of useful information and data during our tour in the Valvasor house. Her voice was calm and her appearance was positive, she also talked very comfortably with a lot of excitement, to attract our attention. We continued our walking tour to the souvenir shop, which disappointed us, because there were no items connected to Valvasor. We expected some magnets, pencils, mugs or anything similar, but instead we took some of the brochures and leaflet materials. We thought that our walking tour had come to an end, but it had not, since we went across the street to the Mencinger house, the real home of the famous scholar. The house had parts of building materials from the time of Valvasor (eg. the foundations of the house), and many researches were made about the real last home of Valvasor. We found out that, according to Dr. Golec, the Mencinger house represents the last home of Valvasor and his ancestors. The Tour Guide showed us the other parts of the house which, today, are galleries representing many different time periods. During the tour we noticed a cafe (Valvasor cafe), which had, unfortunately, according to the Tour Guide's information, been closed for the last two months.

To conclude our walking tour experience, we believe that Krško has a lot of potential in Literary Tourism. Krško has an interesting past full of important literary figures, graves, places, cultural heritage sites and other literary attractions. Literary Tourism will not only help to promote the destination, but also help by promoting authors, figures, writers, their works and influence on local Tour Guides and their knowledge about Literary Tourism in Krško.

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A DISPLAY OF AUTHENTIC LITERARY TOURISM IN MARIBOR: THE CASE OF THE POET AND GENERAL RUDOLF MAISTER

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Abstract Literary Tourism is one of the fastest growing forms of Tourism, so we investigated it in relation to authenticity. In the theoretical part, we conducted a literature review, where we were introduced to Literary Tourism and authenticity, in connection with the city of Maribor, and poet and General Rudolf Maister. Considering that Maister's birthplace and place of creation is not Maribor, we determined how Literary Tourism could be authentic there, so we established a literary route for monuments and objects named after him. We also took part in the research, and found that it is characterised by an approach of existential authenticity, since each person in the group experienced it on an individual level in their own way.

Keywords:

literary
tourism,
authenticity,
trails,
Rudolf
Maister,
Maribor.

Introduction

Literary Tourism

We talk about Literary Tourism when authors or their literature become so popular that people feel a connection to places associated with them (home, town, home or grave), or to the heroes represented in their literature. Visiting such places allows literary enthusiasts to interact with authors, and who admire them by seeing or touching objects or memories that are tied to the authors (Hoppen, Brown, & Fyall, 2013, p. 37). Throughout history, Tourism and literature have been linked closely. The first literary-inspired visits were linked to the earliest forms of travel, such as the Grand Tour. A key event in organised Literary Tourism was David Garrick's Stratford Jubilee in 1769 (MacLeod, Shelley and Morrison, 2018, p. 389). Literary Tourism, however, comes not only from literary works, but also from the perspective of getting to know the author's life. In this way, readers become pilgrims, as they visit their hometown, and see a place that inspired a poem or book, or pay homage to a public monument (Agarwal and Shaw, 2017, p. 17).

Literary Tourism is linked closely to location (Jurinčić, 2016, p. 249). Literature defines two main types of literary places: Places in real life – related to writers' lives (for example, places of birth, selected places of residence, graves) and imaginary places related to written works (Hoppen et al., 2013, p. 41). Today it is possible to visit many places that are related to Literary Tourism. Often, literature related sites have been used to promote destinations, such as Shakespeare's Stratford, the Brontës' Yorkshire, Hardy's Wessex, Wordsworth's Lake District, Scott-land or Dickens' London (Hoppen et al., 2013, p. 37). Visitors, when visiting places of literary value, evoke memories that relate to the author or literary work, and to the circumstances in which they acted as readers or listeners. Emotions and imagination play an important role in recognising literary places, since the visitor does not look at the place objectively, but from the point of view of interpretation. Without interpretation, a tourist-literary destination would lose much of its value (Jurinčić, 2016, p. 251).

Authenticity in Literary Tourism

Ever since the concept of authenticity was popularised, its usefulness has also been questioned. It is considered that objects and society can only be authentic if they have been created without the help of modern materials and have not been modified. Authenticity as a term also has many variations used in the literature. Cohen (1988) describes this as a word used to describe something real and which has become a socially constructed concept where the criteria for authenticity are subjective and different for each individual. Therefore, it varies with tourists and their perspectives (Agarwal and Shaw, 2017, p. 169, 170).

Wang (1999, p. 352–360) identified 3 approaches to authenticity, namely:

An objective approach can be defined in cases where the source of an artifact is undoubtedly determined, which means that the object possesses some individuality and uniqueness, an essence that is lost when we try to replicate the object. This is confused when we try to put the objective definition of authenticity in another context, for example, as a measure of the authenticity of a culture.

The constructive approach works on the constructivist art, which upgrades objectivity so that it does not give importance to the object being viewed by the tourist, but to the construction around the object.

Existential authenticity is an experience experienced by the individual at the individual level. This can also be linked to the fact that what people say is authentic is also authentic. This authenticity moves away from the object of viewing, and is located within the tourist him/herself and during interactions with other people.

Rudolf Maister, a poet and General

After the end of World War I (after the collapse of »Avstro–Ogrska«), Rudolf Maister played a major role in Styria and Carinthia in the shaping the new borders and State of the SHS (the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs). His life was connected with books, and, therefore, with literature, poetry and also artistic creation. His birthplace was Kamnik, where visitors of the museum can read, listen

to recitals and tunes from the poetry collections of »Poezije« and »Kitica mojih« (Medobčinski muzej Kamnik, 2020).

Not only did Maister work in Kamnik, but he left important traces in Maribor, where he is buried. At the end of World War I, the Maribor City Council declared the annexation of Maribor to the Republic of German Austria. General Maister did not agree with this, so he set up a Slovenian army consisting of 4,000 soldiers and 200 officers. On the night of November 23, 1918, they then disarmed a green guard of »Maribor Germans« and liberated Maribor. This day was, in 2005, proclaimed as the Maister's Day, which is celebrated by the Slovenes in memory of this event (Maribor24.si, 2019).

Poetry had been an important thing in Maister's life since he was a young man. When he was in 5th grade, he published his poems in the »Ljubljanska večernica«. Later on, his poems were published in the »Ljubljanski zvon« and »Slovenski narod«. He was also a member of »Zadruga«, bringing together writers of the modern era such as Ivan Cankar, Dragotin Kette, Josip Murn Aleksandrov and Oton Župančič. He dedicated to his fiancé Marica Sterger in 1904, the poetry collection of »Poezije« and, in 1929, his collection "Kitica mojih" was published (M.K., 29. 3. 2014).

Being the birthplace of Rudolf Maister in Kamnik and the place he lived, we wondered if we could create a trail in Maribor that would be in the way of Literary Tourism and be authentic. We were also interested in what form of authenticity, according to Wang, could be defined as the path of Literary Tourism that we had founded and also pursued.

Methodology

We began our research by first finding points on the Tourism Maribor–Pohorje website that would make sense as a literary route, which we later named "*Following the footsteps of the poet and General Rudolf Maister in Maribor*". We decided to include the outskirts of the City park with the Monument dedicated to the fighters for the northern border, the General Maister Square with the Monument of Rudolf Maister, a tour of the city centre with the vehicle "Maister" and a pub »Pri Maistru« near Slomšek Square. Later, with a group of four people, we went after the designed trail. For information about the sights, we used the »Visit Maribor« mobile app, which is

a free tourist guide to the old town of Maribor. The app contains photo descriptions and a tourist map.

We took the formed trail on December 16, 2019 at 11 a.m., at City Park on Maistrova Street, where the Monument to fighters for the northern border is located (Figure 1). The Monument to fighters for the northern border was erected in 1958, and is the work of the Slovenian sculptor Drago Tršar. The monument is a relief with a group of men with weapons, with Rudolf Maister in the middle. On the back of the monument is the following inscription: »*Borcem za severno mejo, 1918, 1919, ob 40-letnici osvoboditve Maribora 1958*« (Statues Vanderkrogt, b. d.).



Figure 1: The monument to fighters for the northern border

Source: Senekovič, 16. 12. 2019

We continued our trail to General Rudolf Maister Square. General Maister's Square is marked by a fountain, a monument to General Rudolf Maister (Figure 2), and a monument to Anton Tomšič and the 1. Gymnasium Maribor. Near the square are located Maribor Castle and the Municipality of Maribor.

First, we walked around the square and felt the beat of the gymnasium and the pre-holiday atmosphere from Freedom Square, where the stands were set up. The air smelled of mulled wine and tea.

The monument to General Rudolf Maister was erected in 1987, and the square was renamed 6 years later to Rudolf Maister Square. There is a linden tree by the monument, which was planted when Slovenia declared its independence in 1991, and a bottle with a document describing the event is buried in the ground (Google Play, 2020).



Figure 2: The monument to General Rudolf Maister

Source: Senekovič, 16. 12. 2019

Later, we called the driver of the urban vehicle "Maister" (Figure 3), who picked us up at Castle Square and took us through the city streets of Maribor, past sights such as the castle, Leon Štukelj Square, Gosposka Street, Main Square with a plague column, Slomšek Square, where a church and statue dedicated to Anton Martin Slomšek and the Slovenian National Theatre Maribor are. The Maister electric mini-vehicle drives through the pedestrian area in the centre of Maribor and accommodates 6 passengers at a time. It is also interesting that the transportation is free of charge and it drives around the old town. The driver was very friendly, and he shared with us information we did not find on the app. We have never seen any city centre with this kind of vehicle with friends, so this experience was truly special and unique.



Figure 3: Electrical vehicle "Maister"

Source: Senekovič, 16. 12. 2019

The driver dropped us off at Slomšek Square, from where we headed to the "Pri Mastru" pub, where we ended up enjoying a pleasant discovery of the city centre. The Maister Brewery (under the style of Maister Brewery from Kamnik), as shared by the waiter who served us, with the opening in 2019, linked Maribor and Kamnik. There are 8 types of beer available in the pub (Figure 4), in different glass sizes. The interior of the bar has a rustic style and was never empty during our visit. People talked about everyday things with a glass of beer, at that time the talks were about jobs and the coming holidays.



Figure 4: List of beers at pub "Pri Mastru"

Source: Senekovič, 16. 12. 2019

Results and discussion

At the beginning we wondered if we could create such a trail that would be based on Literary Tourism and leave an authentic experience. We have introduced 3 forms of authentication:

Objectivity approach: Authenticity is a property of an object and can be determined objectively.

Constructivism approach: Authenticity is relative, so it is the result of negotiating views and interests; tradition is also invention.

Existential authenticity: Authenticity is the property of the observer – the tourist and his experiences, where he can be "himself".

The results show that we can create a literary tourist route that is interesting, not because the author would live and create there, but because he left important traces there. We made the trip and checked if it was also interesting in personal experience and not just on paper. We have also found that, as students of Tourism, we can design an attractive literary path with several important elements (sights, pubs, vehicles). After passing the impressions, my friends and I realised that we had experienced an existential form of authenticity.

We rejected the objective form of authenticity because we nevertheless believe that this form would be appropriate for the birthplace of General Maister himself, since the birthplace with the museum is located there, and we only looked at monuments and objects named after Maister (a Monument to fallen fighters for the northern border, General Maister Square, Maister vehicle and pub »Pri Maistru«).

We have also overlooked the constructive form of authenticity, since we believe that we see objects or locations as they are, so there is no construction around them that distracts from the objects themselves.

We found out that we have experienced an existential form of authenticity, as each of us has experienced it in our own way. This experience was also authentic to us, as we always felt that we were following in the footsteps of General Maister and his stories. We also interacted with other people, such as the driver of the Maister vehicle and the waiter at the Pri Maistru pub, who talked about Maribor, Maister and the pub.

In the framework of the article we have found that, in the development of Literary Tourism, several aspects have to be taken into account, in our case authenticity. Everyone can experience authenticity differently. When designing the trail, we identified three aspects of authenticity, and asked whether the literary trail along the Maister in Maribor was objective, constructive or existential in terms of authenticity, and found that, from our point of view, it was existential, since each gained his own impressions and experience.

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PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO DO CRAZY STUFF

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Abstract Everybody has some time to spare during their days. No one is so occupied that he/she cannot take time for their health. Especially in this coronavirus time, some understand how important our health is, others stay oblivious of this fact. I realised that health is important years ago when I didn't feel fine with myself and also with my time management. I needed a change in my life. So I began running. The first few steps were hard, then as the time flew by, I enjoyed it more and more. In this essay, I will explain how it all began, and how I invested my free time into running.

Keywords:

running,
health,
time
management,
daily
routine.



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Introduction

The first hard part of this task is to find an interesting topic to write about. I have done a lot of things in my life, some of them interesting, some of them not. I realised that a lot of time has passed since my last task that was at least similar to this one - to write something with a lot of words. I am a person who doesn't talk a lot. I prefer the quality of speech over quantity, so the second hard task is to talk about the chosen topic with really a lot of words. But what needs to be done must be done, so let me do it.

It was some years ago when I was sitting on the balcony looking down on the street. People were walking their dogs, some of them still lazy because of deprived sleep due to New Year's celebrating. I had begun with my inner speech, thinking about which unusual thing I could do this year. I was thirty and something at that time. I did o't have a family at that time, and was living alone with my two sphynx cats. My usual daily routine was boring. Wake up in the morning, taking care of personal hygiene, going 11 floors down with the elevator, going to the parking spot, sitting in the car and driving to my job. Then the 20 and some minutes drive to work. Sometimes even more, when the traffic was busy. When I got there I always parked my car on the same spot, then going to the office and pretending to be a good employee for the next eight and some hours. After the job again back home, feeding myself, feeding the cats and work again. Unlock the computer, think and finalise some nuances for my work for the next day, then sleep, and the next day the same routine again. Day by day, always the same. Getting nothing out of my life, just those two days when the hardly anticipated weekend had come.

So I said to myself, something needs to be done here. You are getting locked inside daily routines, do something that you have wished to do for a long time. New year, new opportunities, new decisions. I always liked nature in all times, so I figured out, maybe this is something to do...going out enjoying the snow, make something for myself, something that will make me feel better. In previous years, I had put on some additional weight, so this drove me to decide that I would begin to run. I put on my sneakers and dressed warmly and went outside. So where to go now? The decision was to go and run a circle with a length of 20 kilometres. I began running, really slowly, step by step; after an hour I was still progressing, and the winter didn't bother me. Approximately 5 kilometres from home I stopped, I couldn't run anymore. I

was thinking of a great job, but I still needed to come home. I was not very close yet, still a long way to home. I was very thirsty and very tired. Somehow I managed to get home. I went to the kitchen took a glass of water, sat in the chair and thought how unprepared I was at the age of thirty. The next day when I woke up I was feeling like not one, but more bad things had happened to me the day before. There was not a single muscle that didn't hurt. The whole day was very painful. When the night came again I again dressed warmly, put on my sneakers, turned on the repeat mode, and again went to yesterday's circle. It took me 40 minutes more to complete it. For the next fourteen days I was more or less thinking what is wrong with me, why can I do things with more sense, why don't I do it as all the others do. First, they walk, then they run three kilometres, maybe five to prepare the body.

Somewhere in my mind I did know that I liked running a lot, but I needed time to prepare my body and enjoy it. So I did it as regular runners do, I surfed the web, searched for information on how to do it properly. I found an article where the training seemed fine and decided to train by that programme. I was training without any purpose, without some goal to do a half marathon or marathon, the goal was just to get fit. I was feeling better and better each day that went by. In September that year, there was this radio broadcast where some runners advertised an event that would happen soon. The event was a 75 kilometres run from Celje to Logarska Dolina. There were also 17, 33 and 42 kilometres available, but for me, the only thing was to complete 75k. I filled in the application and went there on the start line. It was Saturday at 6 am when we started in Celje. I was looking at all these guys and girls. Everybody waiting to go. I wasn't scared, I was willing to do it. The only possibility for me was to get to Logarska Dolina. There was night, day, rain and sunshine metaphorically and actually during the run. After ten hours I was at the Finish line, feeling euphoric and happy, also grateful that I did it without any real trouble. There were some runners in really bad shape on the finish line, doctors helped them. I was glad I was not one of those athletes.

In the next few weeks my mind was occupied with thinking about the completed task, and also playing with the thought what more can be done in the future. I found a race in Hungary, a four-day event at which the runners will complete at average 53 kilometres per day. Ok crazy man, do it the said voice in my head. The winter was here again, short days, long nights. I was dedicated to this goal in March the next year. Day by day I went out and ran. I was running everywhere, roads, forests, hills,

a stadium, everywhere. After almost 15 months of running, I went to Hungary. At that time I also was not scared. Some ultramarathoners there were well known to me, people I read about, people who were dedicated to running, to a healthy life. I thought, oh my god what am I doing here, again me and my unreasonable decisions. But what is here is here.

The first day was fine, also the second one. Because I ran around 20 kilometres a day at my training these two 50 and some kilometres per day wasn't so hard. But the third-day reality shined in its whole light. I woke up the third day and I was like those guys from Logarska. Bad, my muscles hurt, my mind had stopped believing I would make it through the third day. I went to the start, and a lot of runners were already missing. The start guy announced lets go..and we began. After the twenty-first kilometre, I was exhausted. My friend who went there with me said to me the smartest thing would be for you to stop now. You are on your limits. Look at your body, listen to yourself. He was right, I was beaten by the race, completely. I was obliged to quit the race. There were some mixed emotions. On the one hand, I was happy that I almost came to the final stages of the race, but, on the other hand, I was depressed at being a quitter, but, as my friend told me, it was not the mind that made me stop, it was my body. We went back home and after a few days, I was back on the track determined that next year I would go back and finish what I had started.

So this was the end of arch. I trained through the next month. Then September came and again and there was this 75k race from Celje to Logarska. I participated again. There, on the start, I met a lot of my friends. During all these races I meet a lot of interesting people, we talked a lot before, after and during these races. There were people from all occupations, some of them with families, others without. When we discussed what is the reason that we run, there were almost as many reasons as there were runners. When my friends that didn't run asked me why don't I do regular marathons or something more reasonable, I always answered that I do it because I can. Explaining to someone who never did anything extreme why someone does it is even harder than making the extreme event. Usually, there is no reasonable explanation. I have read that endorphins in our brains are produced at a higher level, and that it is possibly very similar to taking drugs. So, this is probably the reason why people do this unreasonable thing.

I was feeling better in my life, I did something besides going to work and back again. My mind was getting clearer, and through days I went easier because of my running. There were thousands of kilometres on that time for each year that went by. I have read books about running, watched movies about running, searching for the next race where I would go, searching for new roads for my running. At weekends I went to the train station, waited for the train, and with my backpack and goodwill travelled to Most na Soči. In my back pack there were always 3 litres of water, chocolate, a fresh shirt, 2 bananas and a phone. Each weekend when I came to Most na Soči, the procedure was always the same. I ate a banana and begin putting one foot in front of the other, all the way through the hills back to my home town Kranj. Usually, it took me 7 hours to get back home. The distance on this road was 75 kilometres, so I was better prepared. When, for example, I did my first Logarska there was the same distance, but there was 2300 less altitude, and altogether it took me 3 hours more to complete.

On YouTube I found out about this race in Greece that has a tradition of 30 plus years. Every year on the last Friday in September runners go from Athens to Sparta, a total distance of 247 kilometres, with a time limit of 36 hours. Hm...what about this one? But there was still this unresolved 4 day Hungarian race in the back of my mind. I read through the demands that the Greek organisers had for the racers. Everyone should be checked by doctors – ok that's easy, another thing was that every participant should finish a 24h race before applying to race, or instead of finishing a 24hr race, one should participate (and finish) at least one race that is longer than 200 kilometres. One of these things should happen at least in the same year for a runner to get on the list of participants. I found a perfect solution. There was this one day race in Hungary that covered 212 kilometres, and it was mostly on the same course as the one I didn't finish. Things were getting serious and I decided to go to Athens.

So I read more seriously about these long distances and what one needs to be aware of. Mostly people who did this kind of races said that everything begins in the mind. One must be prepared mentally, the body is limited to around 150 kilometres, after that the mind is in charge. I knew that my body was prepared for the advertised length, I had run more than thirteen thousand kilometres by that time, so there were only these two things, keep on with the training and prepare the mind. The race was in June this year. I had an additional three months to prepare mentally and organise

logistics. I asked my friend who was with me when the failed Hungarian race happened to go with me there again. After I told him that it is just a one-day event not a distributed one, he looked at me like I was crazy. But he knew, I saw, that I was in better shape than I was back then. He said sure, I will go, and he said – you will do it. There was not a single doubt in my mind, that I would go there and do it. I needed to do it if I ever wanted to go to the Sparthatlon.

So, in June, we went there to this Ultrabalathon race of 212 kilometres. There were two other Slovenes there besides me, a guy from Ljubljana and a woman from Celje who finished that race, and there were 3 more Slovenes who didn't make it. The race was around the Balaton lake. There were more than two hundred runners at the beginning of the race. There were 42 time zones, at which everyone should be at a specific time. If someone was not at the time zone at a specific time the runner was disqualified. The race itself was great. Hungarians who live around the lake know the event, and during the early morning and the day, there were a lot of people cheering there by the road. Time flies by when there are people by the road, the mind gets occupied easily. When there are so many people the fatigue comes into focus much later than it would if there would be just empty road and the runner. My friend was driving with the car from time zone to time zone, preparing me food and drinks, and also giving me a message if I needed it. He was telling me how much ahead of time I was and he made plans for future points, told me where I would need to be more mindful and where the road would get nicer for me. He did help me a lot with his pieces of advice.

The night of that race was a little harder, because there were no people by the road, although there were some pubs that we passed by, people having a good time at Saturday evening, and we runners having our good time our way. There was also deprivation of light, because we ran through areas with no public lighting. The hardest part of the race for me was when I came to 183 kilometres. The girl who was there on the checkpoint said to me that I still had 10 hours to finish the race. I was feeling really bad, but I did know that I still had less than a marathon till the end and a lot of time. I took my time there on that point, ate, drank and rested, and after an hour's rest, I went further. It was just the head for the next six hours, but I came to the finish line. I had managed the time limit. In the next six hours, there were others who came to the finish line.

MY TRIP TO MONGOLIA

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Abstract This article discusses my trip to Mongolian capital Ulaanbataar and its surroundings. The first part is mainly about Ulaanbataar and its blend of communist regime remnants and new influences of globalization, clash of traditions and trends, and about the offer of food and drinks in the city. This section also touches the Mongolian way of life, prevalently tied to the city conditions. The second part deals with hiking to Bogd Khaan Mountain. This environment without too many people brought an opportunity to get to know some of them on a personal level and to learn more about Mongolian customs and traditions. This is emphasized in the third part where the main weekend getaways for people of Ulaanbataar are described along with the first-hand experience of the people, food and traditional way of life in the steppes.

Keywords:
Mongolia,
Ulaanbataar,
steppe,
mountains,
customs,
ger.



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Mongolia on my mind

As a student, I used to work in a company that dealt with leasing and finances. The job was low paid, and the salary was just enough to cover my rent and groceries. I was not on a friendly base even with my own money, so other people's finances were not in my palette of interests. That said, there was no real future for me in that company. The only bright spot in that surroundings were conversations with my friend during lunch breaks. She also was not happy with her job, so we were always looking for a way to escape, even if it was just in our minds. We usually dreamt of traveling to all kinds of places. We even dared do make plans, although we could not afford it. The picture of riding a horse through the vast Mongolian plains was one of my favorites. I imagined an endless sense of freedom, just as endless was Mongolian steppe in my head. In reality, I was without money, without free time, I didn't know how to ride a horse and, in the end, had no idea how uncomfortable Mongolian horse saddles were.

Several years later, I had been without work for a month, when my neighbor came to me and asked if I want to go work with him. To Mongolia! He said I should think about it and decide in a few days, but my mind was immediately roaming through the Mongolian steppes. I knew that I was to go there to work and free time was questionable, nevertheless, I immediately agreed.

Who is this Red Hero?

The six-hour flight from Moscow to Ulaanbaatar was, unfortunately, a night one so I could not see almost anything of Siberia, but while we were landing the sun was rising and shone a light on mostly bare mountains surrounding Ulaanbaatar. Two-thirds of Mongolia are covered in steppes (Sanders, Harris and Lattimore, 2019), dry and grassy plains. Ulaanbaatar is situated in one such plain between the Khentii Mountains in the north and Bogd Khan Uul in the south. The average height of the city is around 1300 meters above the sea level, which is not surprising as the whole Mongolia is a large plateau with heights between 1000 and 1500 meters (Climate – Mongolia, n.d.). This fact along with a great distance from the sea, are the major factors contributing to the harsh climate with large daily and yearly amplitudes in temperatures, which is typical of Mongolia. As I stepped outside of the airport,

which is of course named after Genghis Khan, I could feel this. The air was cold, but, although it was early morning, the mountainous sun was already very strong. The trip to the city brought up a first cultural shock. Not only I was sitting in a taxi with two Austrians and one German I had never met before, but the driving wheel was on the right side and in Mongolia, they also drive on the right side. It did not make much sense. I found later that it is a common thing there, as Mongolians mostly import used electric cars from Japan where they do drive on the left side of the road. I had read about chaotic traffic in Ulaanbataar and how people there usually do not care about traffic lights and lack a basic driving culture. I found out it was true to an extent and you must be somewhat more cautious, but it was not so extreme as people said it was. Another non-normal thing was we could smoke in the taxi, but that was some good news for us smokers after 13 hours in planes and airports and made this last part of the trip a little bit more bearable. Also, there were some interesting things along the way, like geoglyphs made from stones on the hill slopes presumably celebrating Mongolian history and mysterious heaps of stones alongside the road. I was to find later what these were.

Ulaanbataar means Red Hero in Mongolian. The city was named so in 1924. after the People's Revolution supported by Russians and became the capital of the newly established People's Republic of Mongolia which lasted until 1992 (Clemmons (Ed.), 2018). Ulaanbataar kept its name and remained the capital of Mongolia after the change of the political system. Now it is the main Mongolian industrial center (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019). The city center is characterized by broad avenues, large squares, modern high rises and western franchise restaurants like Burger King and Pizza Hut. These are clear examples of modern development and globalization processes. On the other hand, there are obvious remnants of the previous system. Most of the apartment buildings in the city center were made in the communist era, before the 1990's, and from the outside, they seem neglected (Figure 1). It is also the case with infrastructure, like sidewalks and roads, which is in a rather bad condition.



Figure 1: Ulaanbataar city center

Source: Personal archive, 2018

Ulaanbataar is the largest Mongolian city with around one million people (Sanders, Harris and Lattimore, 2019). To put this number into perspective, this is one-third of the whole population of Mongolia. Opportunities in the city along with years of industrialization and insecurity of rural life were causing constant abandonment of rural habitats and traditional agriculture and migrations to urban centers (Sanders, Harris and Lattimore, 2019). Accommodation demands in this urban centers, especially in Ulaanbataar, exceed the accommodation capacity so there is a large number of people who live in traditional nomadic homes, called gers, within slum-like settlements, which often lack any kind of infrastructure (Sanders, Harris and Lattimore, 2019). These settlements are prevalent in the outskirts of the Ulaanbataar, but what surprised me they can also be found almost in the city center, just a block from the main city avenue crammed with luxury shops. I must admit I was not so brave to enter in one of these alone, because I heard the westerners are not very welcomed. This is understood because a lack of basic living conditions in the urban setting, with a lack of jobs and money, potentiates deviant behaviors like alcoholism and criminal activity. Although I had just one negative experience with a drunk man who aggressively tried to get drinking money from me, the large number of similar-looking men in the city was a clear hint of the social problems the city is facing.

The traditional Mongolian beverage is airag, fermented mare's milk, which was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2019 (UNESCO, n.d.). I was told that, although it has a content of alcohol around 3 percent, airag is also drunk by children. I assume this is the case in rural areas, where drinking water is scarce. Observing the situation in pubs and on the store shelves I came to the conclusion that, despite the traditional connection to airag, the beverages of choice for Mongolians are vodka and beer. Mongolian beers are not really worth mentioning, except maybe Chinggis beer, which was just mediocre and not so dull as others. Although tap water is generally safe to drink, active coal was my best friend.

The stores are filled with western products, especially from the German retail chain Edeka, which surprised me a lot. Exception from this is dairy and meat products, which is understandable because harsh Mongolian climate does not support agriculture except livestock herding. According to Sanders, Harris and Lattimore (2019), livestock herding makes around four-fifths of the value of agricultural production. Mongolian diet is naturally based on this foundation with influences of other Asian cuisines, especially Chinese. In general, Mongolian cuisine could be described as rich with meat and dairy and vegetable in traces. I tried some of the street food dishes like Shashlik or lamb on skewers or Khuushuur, which is lamb filled fried dumpling. There were also some dishes for which I did not know their name nor content due to the language barrier. My favorite dish there was Tsuivan, noodles with beef and vegetables (Figure 2). Except for Mongolian restaurants, there were other choices we could pick, like Chinese, Japanese and, our favorite, Turkish. Nevertheless, I had a feeling that the smell of mutton is omnipresent. On the streets, in the stores and even in the hospital where we worked.



Figure 2: Mongolian dish Tsuivan

Source: Personal archive, 2018

As I already said, Ulaanbataar kept its name from the communist times, but to me, it was not much of a hero. Its derelict infrastructure and cold and unkempt architecture made this city unattractive. I would like to say it was interesting, but the most interesting thing there was trying new food and buying unknown things in the shops. It did not inspire me to explore it, instead, I wanted to get out of it.

In the hall of the Mountain King

Bogd Khaan Uul is the mountain situated to the south of Ulaanbataar. It was named after a Mongolian leader who declared independence from China in 1911. Unlike most of the mountains surrounding the city, this one is mostly covered in forests. The reason for this can be found in the early conservation of this area. The mountain was proclaimed sacred and hunting and logging activities were prohibited as early as the twelfth century. In 1778 it was officially taken into protection and in 1996 it was designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (UNESCO, 2019). I watched this green mountain every day from the seventh floor of the hospital building we were working at. I wanted to go there but there was not enough time on the weekdays and the weather was not too good also, so I had to wait.

When the day came, I went by myself, as none of my colleagues wanted to go. It was a good thing in the end because otherwise I probably would not have met so many people. I had to take the bus to the Zaisan district of Ulaanbataar, but I was having problems buying bus ticket due to the language barrier. A group of Mongolian students helped with this and we continued our journey to Zaisan together. They

took me to the Zaisan Monument, which was erected to celebrate the brotherhood between the Mongols and the Russians. Although this monument also dates back to the time of communism, unlike the city's cold architecture, it was an interesting sight. These students were studying in Ulan Ude in Russia, so some connection still exists. here we split up and I headed to the mountains.

As I was walking up the hill, I saw something in the distance that seemed like an animal. I immediately remembered the news I had read a few days before about a wolf descending into the city. When I got closer, I realized it was just some man collecting herbs (Figure 3). One of the few phrases I knew in Mongolian was how to say hello. So, I greeted the man. We somehow started talking in some kind of broken Russian. This nice man was telling me about this wild onion flowers he was picking, and he gave me to try it. It was refreshing with expectedly onion-like flavor. He also gave me some homemade Aaruul, which is dried curd. It tasted like that, milky and a bit sour, but rich in proteins. In exchange, I gave him Snickers. It was just a month that Croatia had won second place in the Football World Cup and I think this man knew more about the Croatian football team than me. We also exchanged phone numbers, which was somewhat weird to me, as we just met. I later found out it was not an unusual thing to do in Mongolia. It was very interesting talking to this man, but I had to go on.

Although I still had a thought or two about that wolf, walking by myself through the unknown was a great experience. I had time to reflect. Reaching the mountain peak and seeing Ulaanbataar from above I felt content with my decision to go hiking. I found another heap of stones. The students I had met before told me these were altars tied to traditional Mongolian folk religion. Although the Mongolians are prevalently Buddhists, they still mix in some of the old beliefs in their religious practices. The custom is to walk three times around this heap and put a stone on it in order to have a safe trip. I did so and started to descend from the mountain, as it was already late.

On the way down, I met three men sitting on the grass talking. I greeted and they kindly offered me a cup of vodka. That is, I had to drink three cups. I realized there is a lot of Mongolian customs connected with the number three. One of the men spoke English and we talked about the Nadaam. It is a large festival held every year where Mongolians compete in three disciplines: wrestling, archery and horse racing.

This man owned racing horses and one of his riders had won second place that year. Although these men were a nice company, I had to catch the last bus for the city.

I was drunk a little bit, but I ran as fast as I could because I did not want to walk all the way to the city. The bus was just about to leave, but I managed to catch it. Sitting on the bus, still a bit mellow, I felt fulfilled with all the experiences of that day.



Figure 3: Man collecting wild onion flowers

Source: Personal archive, 2018

Leaving the city one more time

Few days before our departure, another chance of going out of Ulaanbataar came up. Tsundi, our contact in the hospital, borrowed a four-wheel-drive van and took four of my colleagues and me to the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. It is situated around seventy kilometers from Ulaanbataar to the East. As we left the city behind our backs, the cruelty of Mongolian nature became obvious. There were a lot of free-roaming sheep, goats, yaks and horses on the hillsides and plains, but there was also a large number of decomposed remains of these animals by the road. Some of them were roadkill and some were just weak animals that died from harsh conditions.

On the way to the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, we stopped to ride camels, which, I must say, was a very comfortable experience. These Bactrian camels, unlike their Arabian cousins, have two humps and the space between them seemed like a natural and very pleasant saddle. Just a few kilometers away we had another stop at the oversized stainless-steel statue of Genghis Khan on his horse. The statue, with its base where the museum is located, is around 40 meters high (Levin, 2009). There was an elevator that took us to the top of the horse's head. The view of the steppe was undoubtedly extraordinary. A few kilometers from the monument there was a ger village, but Tsundi explained that this was not a real settlement but rather a tourist accommodation. Apparently, there was a booming market for that kind of experience, where tourists sleep in gers, while having almost the hotel-like comfort, with toilets, showers and other benefits.

Gorkhi-Terelj National Park is one of the most visited places in Mongolia due to its proximity to Ulaanbataar ("Gorkhi-Terelj national park", n.d.). As we arrived there, this became obvious. The popular places were filled with people, predominantly Mongolians, which was a sign of it being a weekend getaway place for many of the urban population. I was also surprised how the hotels were built at the time near the main attractions of the Park. It then occurred to me how there was a similar situation in Croatia at the Plitvice Lakes National Park. We visited some of the main attraction in the Park like curious rock formations, that were fun to climb, and a Buddhist monastery in the hills. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to climb some of the surrounding peaks.

We were supposed to visit Tsundi's brother and his family in the steppe and that was a long drive. First, we drove on the road, but when we reached the outskirts of the town called Zuunmod, the roads disappeared. We headed south over the great grassy plain. The severe lack of any kind of tree made this scenery somehow surreal. It seemed like someone put a gentle green blanket over a relief and occasional ger or horse herd were like children's toys on it (Figure 4). What surprised me was that steppe smelled nice, somewhat spicy. There was another surprise that followed: Tsundi was not sure exactly where his brother lived. Eventually, we found him and his family.



Figure 4: The mongolian steppe

Source: Personal archive, 2018

We arrived at hill where this family lived in a ger surrounded just by a horse herd, some sheep and goats. There were four of them: Tsundi's brother, his pregnant wife and two adorable little children. There was no car, just a motorcycle. We were welcomed into the ger. In the middle, stood a stove, a large bowl with boiling content on it. We were informed that the fuel for the stove was dried horse excrement that children and women usually gather. On the floor, there was some meat drying. I found out which kind of meat it was when I saw a goat's head in another part of the ger. There were one bed, a table and two colorfully decorated dressers, with a little shrine and a solar-powered TV on one of them. There was also a barrel filled with airag, that was served to us on the welcome. It tasted like sour milk with a little bit of sharpness, just like you would expect from fermented mare's milk to taste. As it was custom, every one of us was supposed to drink three cups of it. The diner followed, which was the meat of the aforementioned goat, boiled in water, without any kind of vegetable. After all this, I felt unrest in my intestines and headed to the fresh air to calm the situation or find the solution. The problem was there was no place to hide and I was asking myself how do they do this here. My question got answered not to long after this when the pregnant wife came outside, took a few meters of distance and just squatted. And it occurred to me how normal that was. I do not know how these people really live. I saw just a small glimpse of their lives and it was in that unnatural situation when we were guests at their home. Are they poor? Do they live a good life? How could something like this be measured? I did

not get answers to these questions, but I saw smiles on these people's faces. Mine also returned when a few shots of vodka calmed my stomach down.

After the diner, we finally rode horses with our host. It was not a ride into the sunset through the vastness of the steppe. Just a few circles in the proximity of the ger. At least it was during sunset. Mongolian horses were rather small, and the wooden saddle was extremely uncomfortable, so I would have quit very fast anyway. All in all, it was a great conclusion to that great day.

Somewhat cliché conclusion

Few days after our trip to the steppe, we departed from Mongolia. I am glad I took the opportunity to go there, although my free time was largely determined by the working schedule. I believe I used that time the best I could. Nevertheless, I would like to there again. There is much more to discover about it and its people.

All these experiences made me think about some aspects of my life in a different way. I also gained new perspectives, which, I believe, gave me an opportunity to approach other people and their lives in a less judging way and with a more open mind. Nevertheless, I would like to go to Mongolia again. I feel like there is much more to discover about myself too.

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EXERCISES IN TRAVEL WRITING AND LITERARY TOURISM – A TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIMENT

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Abstract The book entitled »*Exercises in Travel Writing and Literary Tourism – A Teaching and Learning Experiment*« emerged as a result of experimental project work in teaching English during the subject English in Tourism – Higher Level 1 at the Faculty of Tourism in Brežice, University of Maribor. This approach included teaching in the classroom, research in libraries and at home, and field work. The collection brings nine very different texts on Travel Writing and Literary Tourism by Master's students of Tourism, who were free in choosing the topic of the texts, their styles and the titles. The field of Travel Writing is significant, not only as its own discourse, a tourism trend and a tool of branding and embedding attractions and/or destinations, but also as a tool of teaching and learning a foreign language, which, along with upgrading specific language knowledge, encourages curiosity, research, creativity, reflection and self-development.

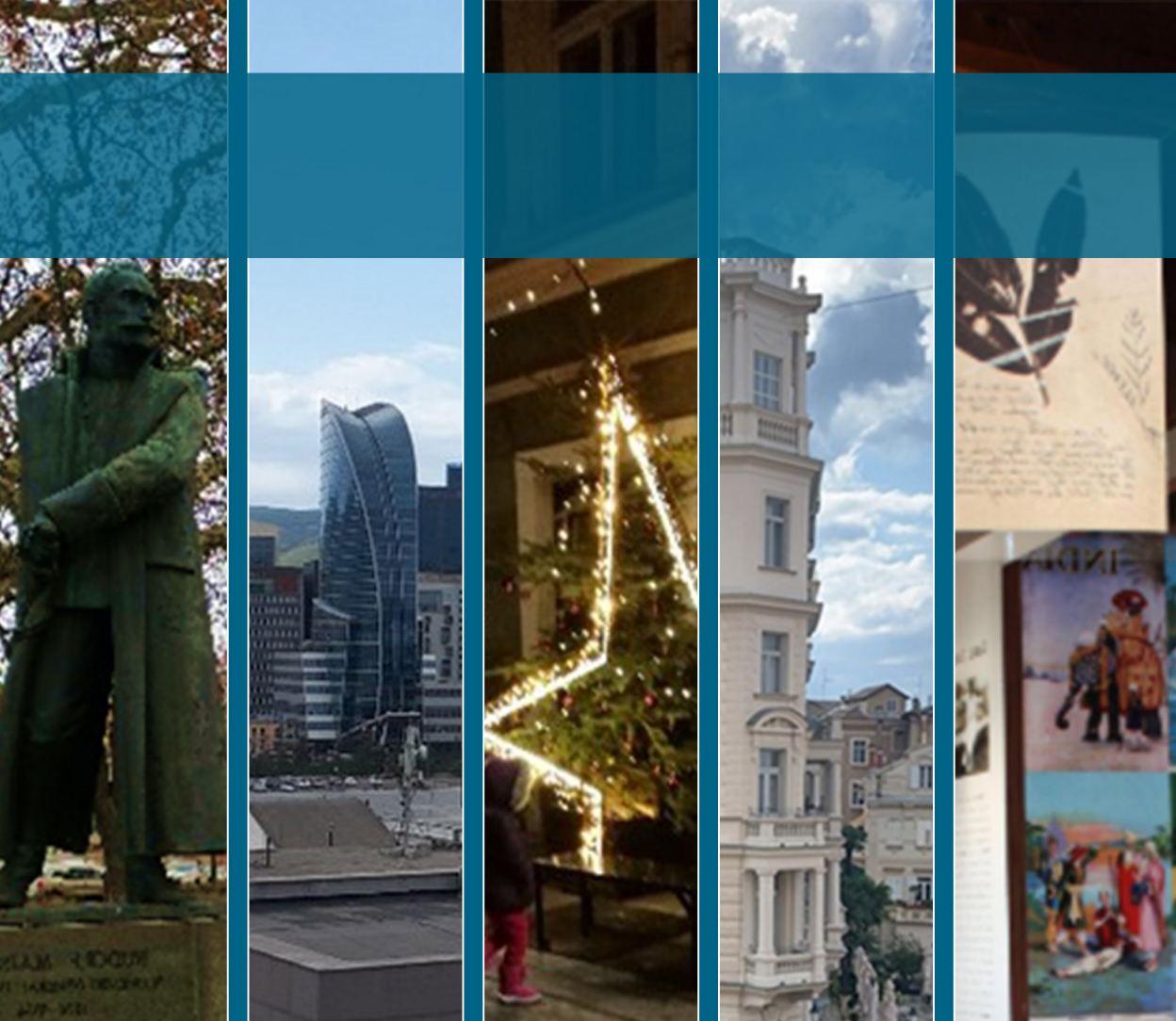
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