

# Place of Hunting Tourism in the Structure of Modern Tourism Types

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## Abstract

From an economic and social point of view, hunting tourism has two sub-categories: resident hunting and tourism hunting (for the travellers who travel long distances to participate in hunting). Tourism hunting covers six types of tourism: subsistence indigenous hunting, traditional hunting, commercial hunting, recreational-sport hunting, integrated hunting, and optimum level game maintenance hunting. Hunting tourists should be classified into three distinct categories: large game hunting tourists (for whom what matters is adventure and trophies), small game hunting tourists (interested in the hunting experience), and experienced hunting tourists (characterised by the use of frontal charge guns or arrow shooting). Hunting tourism can be considered a sub-category of nature tourism because it contributes to the preservation of area biodiversity, of cultural tourism as educational, cultural activity, and of sustainable tourism in protected areas (ecotourism) whose hunting tourism sub-category is trophy hunting.

**Keywords:** tourism, hunting tourism, forms.

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## 1. Introduction

The values of game and, implicitly, the economic, social and ecological impact of hunting tourism are represented by the game seen as a both consumable and non-consumable resource [1-6].

From an economic point of view, game is:

- A food source:
- Mammals: deer, roebuck, wild boar, elk;
- Birds: pheasant, partridge, quail, duck, goose, woodcock, lark;
- a source of income from the sale of trophies: deer, roebuck, wild boar, bear, wolf, and marten;
- a source of income from hunting tourism;
- a source of income from the sale of by-products: skins, handicraft.

The social value of game resides in:

- the source of protein for poor, isolated communities;
- direct jobs for the population (administrators, hunting organisers, beaters, forest rangers);

- indirect jobs (local guides, employees in accommodation tourist units, in food services, in entertainment).

The ecological value of game is given by the optimum balance of species in a certain area and by the relationship between existing species and their natural predators (bear, wolf, marten, fox, jackal, enot) [7,8].

Game seen as a non-consumable resource is important from different points of view [9-11]:

- Economically:
  - A tourism resource for hunting tourists, hunters and etiologists;
  - A contribution to the development of local tourism brands;
  - A contribution to the development of trade with handicraft, hunting items, symbolic wooden animals, pottery, plush;
- Socially:
  - A rediscovery of local traditions and rituals (wolf's day);
  - A historical symbolism of certain places;
- Ecologically:

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- A publicity for the protection of threatened flora and fauna (mountain cock);
- A description of mountain, sylvo-pastoral ecosystems.

## 2. Material and Method

In order to point out the role of hunting tourism as a modern form of tourism in the game biodiversity, we analysed six types of hunting tourism aiming at developing a type of management able to reduce the negative effects of this recreational and cultural activity on wild habitat in trophy hunting and small game hunting.

## 3. Results and Discussion

**Hunting tourism** developed together with imperial expansion: adventurers left Europe and developed the fashion of trophies as a proof of the places visited and of the more or less strange animals encountered on their way.

Nowadays, trophies have been largely replaced by photos due to the activity of animal protection organisations. Some authors claim that hunting tourism represents 8% of the total number of sites dedicated to tourism.

**Hunting tourism** is only a sub-category of **nature tourism** and it has, in its turn, another sub-category, **trophy hunting** (Figure 1).

As such, like any other form of tourism, **hunting tourism** also supposes one or several of the following:

- Travel to and from a certain destination;
- The presence of an industry of tourism services (guides, game farms, etc.);

- Exchange of money for services provides;
- Stay overnight at the destination that can last, in this case, up to several months);
- An industry of services (other than tourist services);
- Forms of activities for leisure time and recreation.

The practice of hunting tourism supposes a certain attitude toward the hunting costume:

- Purchasing the costume;
- Periodically maintaining the costume;
- Periodically replacing the costume.

From a socio-economic point of view, we can distinguish two sub-categories of hunting:

- **Resident hunting**, i.e. hunters from their own country, most frequently in the area where they live and where they have hunting rights; they are characterised by:

- Strong socio-cultural links with the hunting grounds;
- Strong motivation of applying all the knowledge regarding local conditions and traditions of conservation and management of game species and their habitats;
- Emphasis on physical recreation, consumption, traditions and hunting management;

- **Non-resident hunting**, i.e. **hunting tourists** that sometimes travel to long distances to hunt; they are characterised by:

- A high degree of familiarisation with the hunting destination and with the species they hunt;
- Socio-cultural links with the hunting grounds inversely proportional as intensity with the distance to the hunting tourism destination;
- Emphasis on adventure and souvenirs (trophies).



Figure 1. Place of hunting tourism

Some authors claim there are six forms of hunting and, implicitly, six types of hunting tourism:

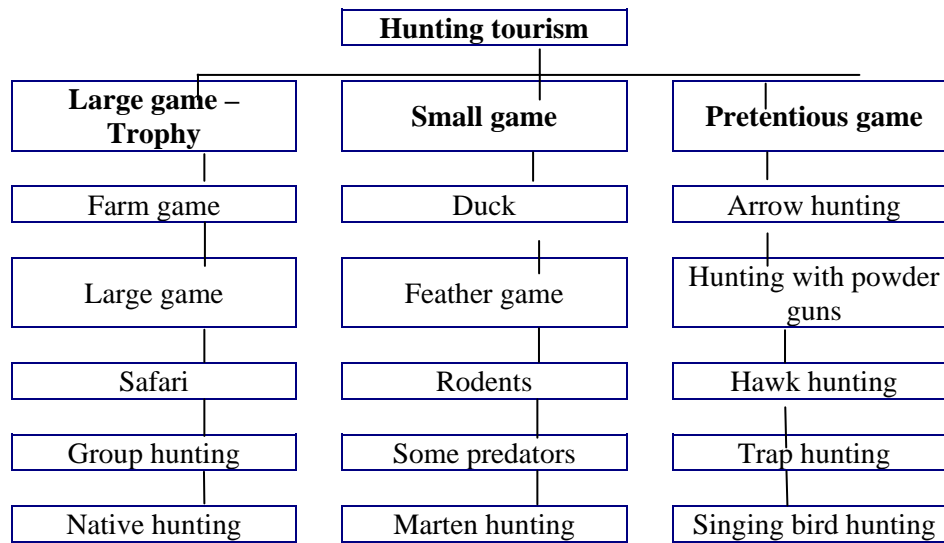


Figure 2. Types of hunting tourism

We believe that **hunting tourists** can be grouped into three distinct groups:

- Large game hunters (for whom what matters is adventure, potential danger and precious trophies);
- Small game hunters (interested in the hunting experience and in the public display of hunting skills);
- Experienced hunters (noticeable for the use of certain forms of hunting, frontal charge guns).

#### 4. Conclusions

Hunting tourism, a sub-category of nature tourism or of cultural tourism, can be considered, in its turn, a sub-category of trophy hunting. As a modern form of tourism, hunting tourism supposes a travel to and from a destination, the presence of a hunting industry, the development of special services; it is also a form of leisure in the middle of nature.

Hunting tourists can be grouped into large game hunting tourists, small game creative hunting tourists, and experienced hunting tourists that use traditional arms. The practice of these activities results in unbalances at habitat level by the reduction of the number of genitors; this is why we need to turn some areas into parks and to implement a management that contributes to the conservation of species and the preservation of

optimum animal numbers and re-directing from hunting proper to wildlife watching in their natural habitat.

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