Tourism potential of the Mykolaiv region and prospects to use it


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Abstract. The article reflects the theoretical foundations of the research on the tourism potential of the Mykolaiv region of Ukraine. It has been established that this issue is not sufficiently disclosed in foreign and domestic literature. Eight main types of preserved objects of the studied region are identified. The existing objects of the historical and cultural heritage of the Mykolaiv region within districts (in particular, archaeological, historical, architectural, natural, and sacred) are characterized, and a map of their locations is developed. The density of tourism objects in the administrative districts of the region is calculated. It has been established that the highest density of all types of tourism objects is in the Mykolaiv district. Historical, sacred, and natural objects prevail in the Pervomaisk district, archaeological, natural and Cossack heritage – in the Voznesensk district, natural, architectural and archaeological objects – in Bashtanka district. Tourist routes are developed by objects of the archaeological and Cossack heritage of the region, and a corresponding map is created. It was revealed that the Mykolaiv region has a number of strengths in the development of tourism potential: rich archaeological heritage (in particular, «Olbia» and other ancient settlements, hillforts and sites, island – an archaeological monument Berezan); preserved Cossack necropolises; large heritage of ethnic minorities (German, Polish, Jewish, Czech, Turkish and Karaites); monuments of shipbuilding and fleet, lighthouses; the largest zoo in Ukraine; rich natural potential, in particular, canyons (Aktovskyi, Arbuzynskyi, Mygiya rapids); museums (missile forces, shipbuilding and fleet); etc. However, there are some problems (abandoned state of cultural heritage objects, lack of popularization, illegal archaeological excavations, etc.) and threats (war) to the development of tourism potential of the Mykolaiv region.

Keywords: tourism, ethnic minorities, Cossack heritage, archaeological objects, tourist routes

Туристичний потенціал Миколаївської області та перспективи його використання

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Анотація. У статті висвітлено теоретичні основи дослідження туристичного потенціалу Миколаївської області України. З’ясовано, що дана проблематика недостатньо розкрита в зарубіжній і вітчизняній літературі. Виокремлено вісім основних типів збережених об’єктів досліджуваного регіону. Охарактеризовано існуючі об’єкти історико-культурної спадщини Миколаївської області в розрізі районів (зокрема, археологічні, історичні, архітектурні, природні та сакральні), а також розроблено картосхему їх розміщення. Обчислена густота туристичних об’єктів в адміністративних районах області. Встановлено, що найбільша щільність всіх типів туристичних об’єктів спостерігається в Миколаївському районі. Досліджено, що у Перемиському районі переважають історичні, сакральні і природні об’єкти, у Бузньському – археологічні, природні та козацька спадщина, у Баштанському – природні, архітектурні та археологічні. Розроблено туристичні маршрути об’єктами археологічної та козацької спадщини області, створено відповідну картосхему. Виявлено, що Миколаївська область має ряд сильних сторін у розвитку туристичного потенціалу: багата археологічна спадщина (зокрема, «Ольвія» та інші давні поселення, городища та стоянки, острів – археологічна пам’ятка (Березань)); збережені козацькі некрополі; чимала спадщина етнічних меншин (німецької, польської, єврейської, чеської, турецької, караїмської); пам’ятки суднобудування і флоту, мавки; найбільший зоопарк в Україні; багатий природний потенціал, зокрема, каньйони (Актівський, Арбузинський, Мигійські пороги); музеї (ракетних військ, суднобудування і флоту), тощо. Проте є певні проблеми (абandoned state of cultural heritage objects, lack of popularization, illegal archaeological excavations, etc.) та загрози (війна) розвитку туристичного потенціалу Миколаївської області.

Ключові слова: туристизм, етнічні меншини, козацька спадщина, археологічні об’єкти, туристичні маршрути
Introduction

The research of the region’s tourism potential in order to enhance its use to improve the socio-economic situation of the territory at the expense of income from tourism is an extremely urgent task. Tourism ensures the rational use and preservation of all types of tourism resources in a certain territory, has a positive impact on the development of society, and also plays an important role in the economy of the country and its regions (Ohienenko, 2020).

The tourism potential of the territory includes natural, cultural, historical, socio-economic, and other prerequisites for a certain territory. Each potential territory for tourism development has its characteristics, differences in tourism resources, infrastructure, economic development, the mentality of the population, demographic and migration processes (Alekseeiev, Trusova, 2014). The presence of tourism resources in the region contributes to the development of tourism (Yagyaeva, 2021).

Mykolaiv region has significant tourism potential, in particular, well-known resorts: Koblevo, Ochakiv, Lugove, Rybakivka, Morske, Pokrovka, and Kinburn Spit. In addition, the region has one of the largest number of archaeological monuments in Ukraine – more than 4,000 (mounds, burial grounds, settlements, hillforts). Among them are monuments of world significance – Olbia, Berezan, Anetivka, Dykyi Sad, and others.

However, the region still has unused tourism resources, in particular archaeological objects and the Cossack heritage, research and promotion of which are necessary conditions for the development of tourism in the region. Promising areas of the tourism industry in the region are also ecological, rural and green tourism (Niemets, 2018).

The cultural heritage of each country is connected with the history of ethnic communities that lived or live on its territory. World practice shows that special measures are necessary to preserve the identity of the historical and cultural heritage of national minorities (Lykharch, 2008). There is a significant increase in ethnic consciousness, the preservation and development of cultural traditions (Kitchuk, Shevchuk, 2020). In particular, Y. Kotliar studied the development of national minorities in the southern part of Ukraine, where about 50 nationalities lived (Kotliar, 2010). In 1926, 69.6% of Ukrainians lived in the territory of the Mykolaiv region, and among national minorities, Russians accounted for 12.8%, Moldavians – 2.1%, Belarusians – 1.5%, Bulgarians – 0.7%, Jews – 7.5%, Germans – 4.1%.

National minorities created their historical and cultural heritage, mainly German and Jewish. However, they are mostly abandoned, little known, need to be preserved and promoted.

The development of tourism in the Mykolaiv region is uneven. Mostly, it is concentrated in coastal and urban areas. It is necessary to use the recreational potential of the villages, where unique tourism resources have been preserved (Honcharenko, Zhezhukha, Tverdovska, 2015). Among the problematic issues of the tourism industry development in the Mykolaiv region, there are, in particular, the unsatisfactory state of monuments of historical and architectural heritage that can be involved in the field of tourism, the destruction of archaeological monuments, etc. (Oboznà, Merlianov, Havrylova, 2018).

Assessment of the potential of the regions and the possibility of its implementation is a necessary condition for planning the development of the country’s tourism activities (Kovalchuk, Furman, Humenyuk, Kucher, 2020). Also, the assessment of the tourism development potential is the basis for the sustainable development of regional tourism (Chen, Y., 2021).

The purpose of the article is to research the tourism resource potential of the Mykolaiv region (oblast). Tasks: to analyze tourism objects within districts of the Mykolaiv region (except for the objects of the Soviet time); to reflect these objects cartographically and study their condition; to determine the types of tourism objects; to suggest tourist routes; to highlight problems and prospects of the tourism potential development of the region.

Materials and methods

The research is based on the analysis of literary sources. The works of domestic and foreign scientists on tourism potential, in particular, of the Mykolaiv region are analyzed. The following methods were used in the research process: analysis and synthesis (to study the geography of tourism objects of the Mykolaiv region by its types in the district and the region as a whole); cartographic (for a visual representation of the geography of tourism objects in the Mykolaiv region, as well as the proposed tourist routes); typological (to highlight the types of preserves objects); analytical and problematic (to identify problems in the development of tourism potential in Mykolaiv region); generalization and systematization (to determine the strengths and prospects for the development of tourism potential in the region).
Research results and analysis

Tourism objects of the Bashtanka district

Within the Bashtanka district, we have identified all types of preserved objects (Fig. 1), which are valuable from the point of view of tourism. More of these objects are of natural origin and can be used for ecological tourism, in particular, two regional landscape parks, two protected natural areas, 20 local reserves, a natural monument of national importance (Stepok), 11 natural monuments of local importance and one park-monument of landscape gardening art.

Bashtanka district has many attractive architectural objects. Most of them are in the city of Bashtanka (Pro zberezhennia pamiatok mistsevoho znachen - nia...): the buildings of zemstvo schools, built in the second half of the 19th century, the zemstvo hospital (1912), the first office of the Bashtanska MTS, the zemstvo volost government, the house of culture (1936), and also stone fence-mur of the old cemetery, built in the second half of the 19th century. In the city of Novyi Bug, we discovered an architectural monument of local importance – the house of the Novyi Bug gymnasium. In several villages of the district, attractive architectural objects are also distinguished, in particular, the building of the Novopolta Jewish Agricultural School of 1902 in the village of Andriyivka as an example of the pseudo-Romanesque style, built in modernized forms of eclecticism (Profesii-no-tekhniche uchylyshche №42); the building of the railway station of the Yavkine station in the village of Dobre (In addition, the Jewish agricultural colony of Dobra was one of the largest Jewish colonies in the Kherson province), built in the second half of the 19th century; a church in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the village of Yavkyne, built at the expense of parishioners in 1900 (according to other sources, 1896); Archangelo-Mykhalivskyi Nunnery of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (1904) in the village of Pelagiivka.

Archaeological objects that occupy a significant place in the Bashtanka district are represented by: a Late Paleolithic settlement in the vicinity of the village of Svitlytske; mounds with burials of the Neolithic, Bronze and Scythian times in the villages of Sofiyivka, Antonivka, Pryvilne, Rozanivka, Skobeleve, Khrystoforivka; burial mound (3rd millennium BC – 1st millennium) in the village of Kostiantynivka; a Mesolithic site (9th – 7th millennium BC) in the village of Lukyanivka; the archaeological settlement of Novorozanivka-2, which is a settlement of the Neolithic Bug-Dniester culture, also Novorozanivka mound, located near the village and one of the three found hillforts of the Chernyakhiv culture, as well as a burial ground near the village of Oleksandrivka (an altar at the Oleksandrivka burial ground testifies that one of the Chernyakhiv culture in the Black Sea region there was a Hellenized population).

The Bashtanka district has a fairly diverse heritage of national minorities: Jewish – a synagogue in the village of Berezneguvate (1910) and several rebuilt shops, a school and an abandoned cemetery in the village of Plushchivka (until 1945 – Efyngr, a former Jewish agricultural colony, prototype of glorious kibbutz) (Investytsiinyi passport…); German – building of the former German kirha in the village

Fig. 1. Types of preserved tourism objects in the Mykolaiv region (developed by the authors)
of Vynogradivka (the former German colony of New Danzig), as well as the Lutheran kirha, a cemetery in an abandoned state and the residential building of a servant of the Lutheran kirha (late 19th century) in the village of Shlyakhove (Neu-Karlsruhe); Polish – the current Chapel of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, built by the Poles in the village of Kyselivka.

The objects of the sacred heritage of the district are the functioning temples, built in the 19th century. in the villages of Vasylivka, Galaganivka (Church of St. Nicholas (summer), 1888), Dobre, Ingulka, Maryivka, Novosevastopol (Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 1895), the city of Snigurivka.

There are many museums on the territory of the Bashtanka district: the Bashtanka Museum of Local Lore, the Berezneguvate District Folk Museum of Local History, the Kazanka Historical Museum, the Museum of the History of the Village of Katerynivka, the Novyi Bug Historical Museum, the Snigurivka Museum of Local History, as well as the Museum of History and Art and the room in honor of M. Arkas in the village of Khrystoroforivka.

In terms of history, interesting objects are the old well in the village of Maksymivka and the Memorial Complex «Virchyna Balka» in the city of Novyi Bug, as well as the ancient Cossack cemeteries in the village of Ingulka and the city of Novyi Bug.

Tourism objects of the Voznesensk district

The architectural objects of tourism attraction in the Voznesensk district include the royal rotunda in the city of Voznesensk – a spherical gazebo with eight columns (a monument of national importance); the current administration office of the Voznesensk forestry (the structure was built in 1837) in the city of Voznesensk; the estate of the noble family of Erdestry (the structure was built in 1837) in the city of Voznesensk, the city of Snigurivka.

In the Voznesensk district, the burial places of the Bug Cossacks have been preserved – stone crosses located in the city of Voznesensk, the village of Bilousivka, the village of Doroshivka (Ukraina Inkohnita).

Voznesensk district is also rich in various natural objects, in particular, near the village of Kalynivka in 1996 natural reserve «Yelanets Steppe» was created; in the village of Aktove – a unique natural complex «Aktove Canyon»; in the village of Kryva Pustosh – a geological natural monument of local significance «Kryva Pustosh», and in the village of Petropavlivka – «Ledges of granites» and the reserved tract «Khomutets». In the town of Novosilka there is a landscape reserve «Balka Gluboka». The natural attractions of the city of Voznesensk are the reserved tract «Maryin gai», the geological landmark of nature «Dzerelo», the park of Sich Glory (Pryrodno-zapovidnyi fond Mykolaivskoi oblasti…).

Tourism objects of the Mykolaiv district

Mykolaiv district has the largest number of historical and cultural monuments of national significance among other districts. There are 44 monuments of national importance in the Mykolaiv oblast, 31 of which (or 70%) are in the Mykolaiv district.
The architectural monuments of national importance of the district include: in the city of Mykolaiv – a complex of buildings of the Maritime Department (includes gates and stone walls, two Staroflot barracks and the Oleksandr Men’s Gymnasium, built in the 19th century), the Officers’ Assembly (1820), the house of the Chief Commander of Black Sea Fleet (1794), Saint-Mykilskii Cathedral Church (1817), Mykolaiv Astronomical Observatory (1821); in the city of Ochakiv – Nicholas Church (1794). The Shukhovska water tower (1906), the oldest building in Ukraine of the yacht club (1888), the management building of the Mykolaiv Shipbuilding Plant (1951), and many other buildings are also interesting for tourists in Mykolaiv (Perelik pamiatok natsionalnoho znachennia, roztashovanikh u Mykolaivskii oblasti).

Archaeological heritage of the Mykolaiv district is also rich. In Mykolaiv, it includes the settlement and necropolis «Didova Khata 1» (ancient days, 4th – 3rd centuries BC), «The Roman military camp «Didova Khata» (a fortification for the protection of the Olbian state), the tract «Siversiv Mayak» (there are 2 light-houses over 150 years old), the settlement – a hillfort on the territory of the Mykolaiv Shipbuilding Plant. A valuable archaeological attraction is an ancient city of Olbia near the village of Parutyne (a Greek colony founded in the 6th century BC), which has the status of the National Historical and Archaeological Reserve «Olvia». The remains of an ancient residential quarter, a necropolis, a stele with the coat of arms of Olbia, and a museum have been preserved here. In addition, there are hillforts on the island of Berezan (the ancient Greek settlement of Borysfenida, founded in the 7th century BC, was found here), in the villages of Dmytrivka, Kozyrka, Matiyasove, Kimivka. They are valuable by the archaeological finds of the remains of defensive structures, residential buildings, burials, household items, etc.

The main museums of the Mykolaiv district are the Shipbuilding and Fleet Museum, the Museum of the Underground and Partisan Movement, the Mykolaiv Oblast Art Museum named after V.V. Vereschagin (in the city of Mykolaiv), Ochakiv military-historical museum named after O. V. Suvorov, Ochakiv museum of marine painting named after R.G. Sudkovskyi.

Mykolaiv has a rich sacral heritage. Among the ancient objects built by the first half of the 20th century are the Church of St. Panteleimon, the Church of St. Joseph, the Church of St. Peter and Paul, the Church of All Saints, the Cathedral of the Kasperivska Icon of the Mother of God, the Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph, the Church of Mykhailo Tverskyi, the Church of Olexandr Nevskyi, the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, St. Nicholas Cathedral Church (Khramy Mykolaivshchyny).

Numerous Cossack necropolises have been preserved in the Mykolaiv district since in this territory in the historical past there were settlements of Cossacks – stanytsyi. The best preserved necropolis in the village of Mykhailivka is a cemetery of the Bug Cossack stanytsya of Mykhailivka. There you can see the crypt «a Cossack stone grave», the burial place of Anton Kremenetskyi, a Zaporizhia Cossack, and many other interesting crosses. In addition, there are Cossack necropolises in the village of Troyitske, in the city of Nova Odesa (the Cossack necropolis of the stanytsya of Fedorivka, the stanytsya of Kasperivka), the Cossack necropolis of the stanytsya of Novopetrovska, Sebyne, Guryivka, Kostiantynivka, Matviyivka (Ukraina Inkhohnita).

Mykolaiv district, in particular the Kinburn Spit, is the birthplace of Tauride painting – an authentic technique of arts and crafts, which differs from other techniques by elements of a marine theme.

In the district, there are also monuments of ethnic minorities, in particular Jewish ones (in Mykolaiv, the Chabad-Lubavtch synagogue, the Old Synagogue, a mikvah); German (Lutheran Church or Nicholas Khirch (1852), Church of St. Peter and Paul in the village of Stepove, German Roman Catholic Church of St. Raphael (1896) in the village of Shyrokolaniivka, German Church of St. Anthony of Padua (1893) in the village Novoselivka, Church of St. George (built in 1900-1902) in the village of Krasnopilia. In addition, in Mykolaiv there is a kenesa (1847) – a religious building of the Karaites (Turkic people living in the Crimea), and in the village of Guryivka – an old Turkish well of the 19th century. Most of the ethnic heritage sites are dilapidated and in disrepair (Ukraina Inkhohnita).

The most famous objects of the natural reserve fund in the district are the natural reserve «Yelenets Steppe», the national natural park «Svyatoslav’ Biloberezhya», regional landscape parks «Kinburn Spits», Tyligulskyi, Mykolaiv Zoo and others (Pryrodnno-zapovidnyi fond Mykolaivskoi oblasti…).

Tourism objects of the Pervomaisk district

In Pervomaisk district, historical objects, including mills, are among the tourist attractions. The mill of the Skarzhynskyi in Myginya, the Sobanskyi in Kinetspl (1902, the only operating mill of the Pervomaisk district) has been preserved, Otaman Kalnyshevskyi in the city of Pervomaisk. Also of interest will be: Dobrovolskyi mill in Ivanivka, Shubovych in the village of Lviv, mills in Semenivka, Chausove
and Kamyana Balka (Ofitsiinyi sait Pervomaiskoi miskoi rady).

Pervomaisk district has many architecturally interesting objects. In Pervomaisk there is a city Palace of Culture (formerly the House of Soviets). In the village of Blagodatne an agricultural school – a palace built of rubble stone at the end of the century before last, has been preserved. Zemstvo Hospital in the village of Novokrasne is an architectural monument built in the second half of the 19th century. In the village of Voevodspke in 1897, a manor house was built – a monument of architecture of local importance. In the village of Novopavlivka there are architectural monuments of local importance: a hospital (1897) and a zemstvo school (late 19th – early 20th century).

Among the archaeological objects in the Pervomaisk district are settlements of the Neolithic, Mesolithic and Chernyakhiv culture in the city of Pervomaisk, settlements of the Chernyakhiv culture (3rd – 4th centuries BC) in the village of Grushivka and the settlement of the Neolithic, Kyiv Rus (5th – 3rd millennium BC, 9th – 12th centuries) between the villages of Grushivka and Mygiya, the remains of a settlement of the Trypillia culture of the Bronze Age (4th and 2nd millennium BC) and Chernyakhiv culture (2nd – 5th millennium BC), a burial mound – an archaeological monument (3rd millennium BC – 1st millennium) were discovered in the village of Kinetspil. In the village of Semenivka also are settlements and burials of the Neolithic era and 4 settlements of the Bronze Age, Roman coins of the 1st of the Neolithic era and 4 settlements of the Bronze Age (second half of the 2nd millennium BC) were discovered in the village of Kinetspil. In the village of Voevodskoe in 1897, a manor house was built – a monument of architecture of local importance. In the village of Novopavlivka there are architectural monuments of local importance: a hospital (1897) and a zemstvo school (late 19th – early 20th century).

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The objects of the Cossack cultural heritage of the Pervomaisk district include orlykivskyi sconce – the former Cossack fortification-fortress «Orlyk», built in the 17th century on the slopes of Synyukha (city of Pervomaisk); steppe mounds in the village of Mygiya – the burial place of the Cossacks, the hillfort – the fortification (defensive structures) of the Cossacks, the preserved ramparts of the village of Kamyana Balka. The village of Novokrasne and Krymka were founded by the Cossacks.

There are many museums on the territory of the Pervomaisk district: the Strategic Missile Forces Museum (a branch of the Central Museum of the Armed Forces of Ukraine) is the only museum in the world where you can look at rocket engines, the R-12 medium-range ballistic missile; local history museum in Pervomaisk; local history museum of the village of Mala Mechetnya; Kuriachi Lozy Museum of Local Lore; Kryve Ozero Museum of History and Local Lore; Vradiyivka Museum of History and Local Lore.

Pervomaisk district has a rich sacral heritage. The functioning churches of the Pervomaisk district: the Church of the Intercession (1805) and its bell tower (1839), which are considered an example of temple architecture in the style of classicism, the Holy Assumption Church (1812) in the village of Novokrasne, Church of the Nativity of the Virgin (1841) in the village of Krymka, Church of the Nativity of the Virgin (1899) in the village of Grushivka, Church of St. Archangel Michael (1867-1877) in the village of Kumari, Church of the Intercession of the Holy Mother of God (1840) in the village of Lysa Gora, Church of the Holy Trinity (1876) in the village of Kuriachi Lozy, Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (1824) in the village of Kryve Ozero, Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (early 20th century) in the village of Novopavlivka, the chapel of the Great Martyr Demetrius (1824) in the village Kinetspil (Mykolaivska oblasna biblioteka dlia Yunatstva).

In this district there are also sights of ethnic minorities: Jewish – in the city of Pervomaisk – the building of the children’s and youth center, built at the expense of the philanthropist Teresa Margolis, as a building for a female Jewish school and two gymnasium buildings, a lot of Jewish buildings and restructured synagogue (currently Jewish community center is located there); Polish – Church of St. Ludwig (1807-1819) and Czech – Bethlehem Chapel in the village of Bohemka (the first Czech evangelical church in independent Ukraine, the village itself was founded by the descendants of Czech emigrants) (Ofitsiinyi sait Vradivskoi selishchoi rady).

The following natural objects are located in the Pervomaisk district: the National Natural Park «Bug Gard», the reserved tracts of Kuriachi Lozy, Livoberezhzhia, the Skarzhynskyi Summer Farm; reserves of local importance: Bayrak, Voevodskoy, Kamyana Balka, Mishchanska Balka, Novoselivka, Oleksandrivska Dacha, Ostriv Dovgii, Pivdenobuzkyi, Pidgirnyi; natural monuments of local importance: a source in the village of Chausove, Lukaniivka Protychanska (high) rock, Turetskyi stil; parks – sights of gardening and park art: park named after. Petrovskyi and Youth Park in the city of Pervomaisk (Pryrodno-zapovidnyi fond Mykolaivskoi oblasti...).
Attractive is the Radon Lake in Mygiya, which was formed on the site of a granite quarry, the water of which contains a high content of radon. The Mygiya Rapids is a narrow rocky canyon on the Southern Bug River. The canyon is the largest in the steppe Ukraine and is part of the NNP «Bug Grad» (Ukraina Inkohnita).

Arbuzynskyi Canyon was formed in rocks of volcanic origin due to water erosion of flows from the Southern Bug River and nearby watercourses. The soil here almost never freezes, which contributed to the formation of a unique ecosystem with many rare animals and plants. Behind the Arbuzynskyi canyon there is a large granite quarry, one of the attractions of which is the White Rocks – white weathered outcrops of rock (kaolin), shaped like the relief of Cappadocia.

Thus, the highest concentration of tourism objects is observed in the Mykolaiv district, in particular in the cities of Mykolaiv, Ochakiv, Nova Odesa. In second place – Pervomaisk district. In other districts, the cities of Voznesensk, Bashtanka, and Novyi Bug have the best-preserved tourism objects (Fig. 2). In the Mykolaiv district there are all types of preserved tourism objects: historical, archaeological, architectural, natural, objects of Cossack heritage and ethnic minorities. Historical, sacred and natural objects prevail in Pervomaisk district, archaeological, natural and Cossack heritage – in Voznesensk district, natural, architectural, archaeological – in Bashtanka district.

New tourist routes

The Mykolaiv region has one of the richest archaeological heritage in Ukraine (in 2021, 4,490 archaeological monuments were registered in the Mykolaiv region), but it is in an unsatisfactory state, and not sufficiently popularized. In addition, the burial places of the Bug Cossack army, who lived here in the second half of the 18th – early 19th centuries, have been preserved in the region. Ancient Ukrainian cemeteries with stone crosses were constantly destroyed by the Soviet authorities, and during the time of independent Ukraine they were not given due attention. Therefore, in order to attract public attention to these objects, as well as to intensify tourism activities in the region, we offer three tourist routes with objects of archaeological and Cossack heritage (Fig. 3).

The first route by objects of archaeological heritage: Mykolaiv (settlement and necropolis «Didova Khata 1», «The Roman military camp «Didova Khata», tract «Siversiv Mayak», settlement – a hillfort on the territory of the Mykolaiv Shipbuilding Plant) – Kimivka (settlement and burial mound) – Matiyasove

Fig. 2. The geography of tourism objects of the Mykolaiv region (developed by the authors)
Problems and prospects of tourism potential development of the Mykolaiv region

We highlight the following problems in the development of the tourism potential of the Mykolaiv region: the abandoned state of many cultural heritage objects; imperfection of the list of monuments of local importance; illegal archaeological excavations; underdeveloped tourism infrastructure; weak promotion of the region’s tourism potential (known mainly for its seaside resorts); etc. As a result of Russian military aggression against Ukraine, new threats to the development of the region’s tourism potential have arisen, in particular, mining of coastal zones, damage and/or destruction of cultural heritage objects, especially in the city of Mykolaiv (the building of naval officers, the building of the former private theater «Monte», the building of the former Mariyinska Gymnasium, etc.). In the village of Guryivka, the Turkish well is partially destroyed (Zafiksovani voienni zlochyny).

Considering these problems and threats, we propose: local authorities – improve their approach to the protection of cultural heritage objects, by creating lists of objects damaged or destroyed during the war, as well as online guides; the Department for Culture and Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Mykolaiv region – to revise the list of monuments of local im-

Fig. 3. Tourist routes by objects of archaeological and Cossack heritage (developed by the authors)
portance (many objects relating to the Soviet times); tourism companies and organizations – to develop new tourist routes and improve tourism infrastructure, to participate in grant projects, national and international exhibitions, fairs and attract foreign investors.

Conclusions

Mykolaiv region has a rich tourism potential. There are all types of preserved tourism objects: historical, archaeological, architectural, natural, Cossack heritage, and heritage of ethnic minorities. The largest number of such objects is located in the cities of Mykolaiv, Ochakiv, Nova Odesa, Pervomaisk, Voznesensk, Bashtanka and Novyi Bug.

The strengths of the region’s tourism potential are rich archaeological heritage (in particular, «Olbia» and other ancient settlements, hillforts and sites, island – an archaeological monument Berezan); preserved Cossack necropolises; large heritage of ethnic minorities (German, Polish, Jewish, Czech and Turkish); monuments of shipbuilding and fleet, lighthouses; the largest zoo in Ukraine; rich natural potential, in particular, canyons (Aktovskyi, Arbuzynskyi, Mygyiya rapids); museums (missile forces, shipbuilding and fleet); etc. However, there are some problems (abandoned state of cultural heritage objects, lack of popularization, illegal archaeological excavations, etc.) and threats (war) to the development of tourism potential of the Mykolaiv region. All the above-mentioned tourism objects are in danger of being damaged or completely destroyed because of the war. But we believe that after the war the rich archaeological and Cossack heritage of the Mykolaiv region, preserved, effectively promoted and included in the tourist routes, will contribute to solving these problems and sustainable development of tourism in the region.

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