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## Introduction

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

## INTRODUCTION

The significance of tourism in the modern world is continuously increasing, mainly due to the changes in the preferred style of living of the developed societies. The transformations promoting a healthy and pro-ecological style of living result both in the changes in ways of spending free time (spending free time actively instead of passive leisure) and an increase of expectations concerning the quality of the natural environment in a tourism region. Simultaneously, tourism activities have become a standard element of a style of living and happen several times a year. The tourism development is still progressing despite many changes in global economy (frequently negatively, it seems, affecting tourism); a fact which confirms tourism's great significance for the functioning of both societies and modern economy. Yet another issue is the relation between tourism and the natural and cultural environment of tourism reception areas whose sustainable nature makes tourism develop further. The complexity of tourism and its interdisciplinary nature are the reasons behind the steady rise in the research interest of various fields of science, especially economic sciences, in problems of tourism. Such a rise is owed to an increasing impact of the tourism sector on the level and nature of the economic development, both on the local and regional as well as global levels.

The series "Economic Problems of Tourism" issued within *The Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego* (*The Scientific Journal of the University of Szczecin*) is a platform for exchanging scholarly views and presenting research findings and achievements of scientists for whom tourism, especially in terms of economy, is the main subject of scientific interest. However, multiplicity and diversity of aspects of human tourism activity, its reasons and effects make it remain a field of interest of the researchers representing diversified fields of science, including economy, law, geography, or physical culture.

The series "Economic Problems of Tourism" within *The Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego* (*The Scientific Journal of the University of Szczecin*) present the research findings and achievements of scientists from Polish and foreign academic centres. The current issue of the journal presents tourism in terms of the three areas: theoretical aspects; functioning of the tourism service market; and regional problems of tourism development.

*Beata Meyer*