

Determination of Camp Routes in the Scope of Rural Tourism; Model of Eskişehir

Aybike CEYLANLAR Cemile ECE* Efnan EZENEL
Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Tourism Faculty, Eskişehir

*Corresponding Author:
E-mail: cemilece5@gmail.com

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the camping areas in terms of rural tourism and to provide camp routes and by this means to increase the rural tourism potential of the province of Eskişehir and develop the volume of Eskişehir's tourism. Eskişehir is a touristic destination with its historical and cultural richness as one of the oldest settlement areas of Anatolia. Eskişehir is one of the most popular cities in Turkey today with its touristic possibilities and transportation opportunities in terms of urbanism concept. It is a touristic destination that can utilise its tourism potential in the rural areas besides being at the forefront with its city tourism. Eskişehir has the potential of rural tourism due to its location and climate. The flat plain of Eskişehir is suitable for both camping and long walking activities. In the scope of research, there will be a tendency to create possibilities of increasing the tourism income and employment in the region by creating safe and accessible camping routes in Eskişehir. For data collection, qualitative research method was used with semi-structured interview. Within the scope of this research, a group of travel agency managers, non-governmental organizations and municipalities were interviewed.

Keywords: Rural tourism, Camp routes, Camping, Eskişehir

INTRODUCTION

The industrial revolution of urbanization affects the human psychology. Psychological, sociological and economical problems arising from urbanization have overwhelmed people. Tourism has changed in its understanding in time. This alteration reveals new types of alternative tourism. Rural tourism and camping tourism are among these alternative tourism types. Rural tourism has become so important that people move away from the rapid urban environment and go to the nature have increased their interest and investments in these types of tourism [1]. Both national and international studies have increased the tendency to return to rural areas. Provision of rural development and prevention of migration, increase of agriculture and protection of nature have gained importance.

RURAL TOURISM

Rural tourism has recently attracted attention among other types of tourism. The natural and ecological life that rural development generally aims for is a source of supply to consumers. It has abolished the limitation of rural areas only as agricultural areas and has enabled the spread of tourism income in this region. Rural tourism, which plays an impressive role in the migration from country to town, also increased the welfare level of the people of the region and provided the social, economic and psychological development of the people of the region. Thus rural tourism and regions have been able to earn income other than agriculture [2].

Rural tourism has been revitalized by people's routine and urban life. The increasing importance of returning to the natural has increased the investments in these areas. Rural tourism has gained value for both the local population and the country's economy within the changing tourism demand. Being in harmony with nature emerges as a kind of tourism that is used to attract consumers to these areas in order to benefit from the cultural, natural and mystical atmosphere of the region [3].

Camping

Camping is a type of tourism that eating, drinking and transportation needs of people provided by themselves or intermediary firms in nature [4]. Camping tourism has been favored by young people and NGOs in recent years. Camping tourism which we also feel presence in our country day by day is very popular especially in America and Europe and has a product qualification that many organizations including local governments have invested in.

Camping tourism is a kind of tourism that is usually done as a result of an activity or to perform an activity. It can be considered as a type of accommodation that a person has made for the purpose of housing or rest. For example, it is a settlement formed as a resting and returning route which is close to the main climbing center for the group that will climb. Especially the areas close to the villages are preferred. Thus, the need for security, transport and water is easily met. It also has an impact on rural development as well. The area where the camp is set up should be placed on a flat surface in safe areas and places and it should be preferred where landslides can be protected from natural disasters like avalanche. It should be avoided from the places where the wind canalizes [5].

The Impact of Rural Tourism and Camp Tourism on Rural Development

Factors such as rural development, depletion of agricultural activities, decrease in animal husbandry, increase in urban migrants are all of the investment activities required for the revival of socio-economic activities of the local people living in rural areas [6]. Rural development may reduce the immigration to the cities while facilitating the contribution of local people to the country's economy. In this context, local and national governments encourage the institutions and organizations to invest in the regions by determining the types of tourism that can be done in rural areas.

Activities and investments made in the rural area can be developed with the contribution of local people. In this context, it is extremely important for the development of the

rural tourism and camping tourism region which operates near the rural centers. The activities carried out in areas close to the settlement center enable local people to earn income from tourism and to have the opportunity to meet with different cultures.

Rural tourism and camping tourism that take part in the nature tourism protect the natural and historical texture in the region. These types of tourism that have contribution to both economy and society have developed recently and have become an attraction for developing and developed countries. They are among tourism types that are highlighted in order to reduce the seasonality of tourism with the continuation of tourism income year-round.

METHOD of RESEARCH

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the camping tourism within the scope of rural tourism and to determine a route that can be formed as an example at the end of this evaluation. In this direction, the study comes in two stages. In the first stage, the literature search on the subject was made. In the second phase, semi-structured questions were prepared by adopting qualitative research method. The questions were asked for three group three travel agency managers, two municipalities and two non-governmental organizations. Evaluations were made in line with the answers.

RESULTS

Eskişehir is a city that is very popular in terms of its historical and natural richness by being concerned as city tourism. Sightseeing and historical places in and around the center of the city attract the attention of local tourists. City tourism in Eskişehir does not mobilize tourism in rural areas. Indeed, the fact that there are natural life and many alternative tourist attractions in the district and in the villages around the city. Three questions were asked in the negotiations held in this context and the routes to contribute to the rural development of Eskişehir were tried to be determined. Groups are coded as travel agencies A, B and C, municipalities X, Y and non-governmental organizations 1 and 2.

First question that asked if it is needed rural tourism and camping tourism in Eskişehir which are kind of alternative tourism. The answers given to the question are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Does Eskişehir need rural tourism and camp tourism, which are alternative tourism types?

	ANSWERS
A	Yes. Eskişehir is known as city tourism with front plan. This is also the tour program.
B	Absolutely it does.
C	Rural development is very popular today. Eskişehir also has different types of tourism from this point of view.
X	Rural tourism is very popular topic nowadays and it certainly needs
Y	Eskisehir is a popular city and the younger generation now gives priority to nature tourism.
1	The activities to be carried out in the countryside in terms of the nature clubs we are as well have great importance.
2	It is important for the promotion of the region that Eskişehir has many alternative tourist attractions.

Eskişehir which is popular for its city tourism needs some alternative tourism types such as rural and camping tourism when the answers have been examined. The development of rural areas and spreading of tourism to different areas will provide the increase tourism income. But what is important here is whether the investment in these areas is sufficient. Are the investments made in tourism activities in rural areas relevant to this issue adequate? The answers of the question shown as follow in Table 2.

Table 2. Investment in tourism activities in rural areas in Eskişehir province is sufficient?

	ANSWERS
A	There are groups about this issue created by the municipalities. However, it is important that travel agents contribute to the works in this context.
B	The necessary studies is being done on this subject. But there is no idea about its competence
C	It is inadequate.
X	There are city councils and projects are run in rural areas.
Y	Rural development is emphasized in 2023 tourism strategies. We carry out necessary studies in this area as well.
1	Studies about rural development are insufficient.
2	We are experiencing water and toilet problems in camping areas. Awareness is not enough about rural development.

When the answers about this question are examined, it is observed that there is a certain investment plan. However, these investments are not considered adequate for non-governmental organizations. In the third question it was asked about where the camping areas and the camp routes that are the main goals of the research can be set up more comfortably. The answers shown in table 3.

Table 3. Where can camps be built in Eskisehir and where are the places close to settlements?

	ANSWERS
A	Mihalçıklı,Çifteler, Musaözü
B	Akçeşme, Çatacık Forest, Çifteler, Frig Valley
C	Musaözü, Çatacık Forest, Karakayalar Climbing center
X	İnönü, Karakayalar
Y	Karaören, Akçeşme
1	Karaören, Çifteler, Çatacık Forest, Hasırca, İnönü
2	İnönü, Karaören, Çatacık Forest,Hasırca, Akçeşme

In the light of these answers, a list was created for camp routes. Listed in table 4.

Table 4. Camp centers and sample camping route in the province of Eskişehir.

Name of Camp Routes	Distance from Center of Eskişehir	Features
İnönü	37km	It is a district rich in alternative tourism types. The area which offers cave tourism, camping tourism, thermal tourism, etc., is also located in the center of the camp, where historic areas and THK's glider trainings are given. The location of the region is extremely important in terms of very close camping areas to the settlement and rural development.
Karaören Göleti	76km	Pond of Karaören is close to Phrygian Valley located between Kümbet and Büyükyayla villages. Necessary equipment provided in order to the needs of the toilet and water by the near pond of DSI.
Akçeşme	55km	The campsite near Yazılıkaya village is a place that can become an important point especially for long walking groups. This area provides the necessary equipments in order to meet your toilet and water needs.
Karakayalar	72km	Karakayalar is an important center for rock climbing. The climbing area near Kaymaz village is also important in ecological sense [7].
Musaözü	23km	The camp site near Musaözü provides an opportunity for birds watching to people who stay here. It is also held festivals and celebrations here. The area has water and toilet.
Yenisofça Köyü	28km	The area in the west of Eskişehir is near the village. The center, which is important for rural development, is a suitable center for cycling and walking tours.
Çatacık Ormanı	93km	There are some restaurants in the area within the boundaries of Mihaliççık district. There are deers in the wooded area and people who do camping can come face to face with deers.
Çifteler	65km	There are many recreational areas near the Sakarya River. It is an ideal area for camping and hiking.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Eskişehir which is at the forefront with city tourism needs rural and camping tourism which are kinds of alternative tourism in order to provide rural development and promote the region. It is aimed to reveal the alternative tourism centers of Eskişehir in this research. Data regarding the information collected has been presented in this study. It is thought that the results obtained might be useful for municipalities and tourism organizations. It is assumed to help further studies as an example study. The global importance of alternative tourism types has been understood in recent year in Turkey. This study has qualification of pre-study as a master plan that can be formed for presenting of both Eskişehir and Turkey.

When the data are analyzed, it is necessary for the people of the region to be educated about tourism in order to create project-supported competitions for making necessary investments in the regions. The two major universities need to do the necessary work in the university.

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