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Geotouristic Aspects of the Albanian Alps: A Presentation of AATT (Albanian Alps Top Tours)

KUJTIM ONUZI*)

2 Abbildungen

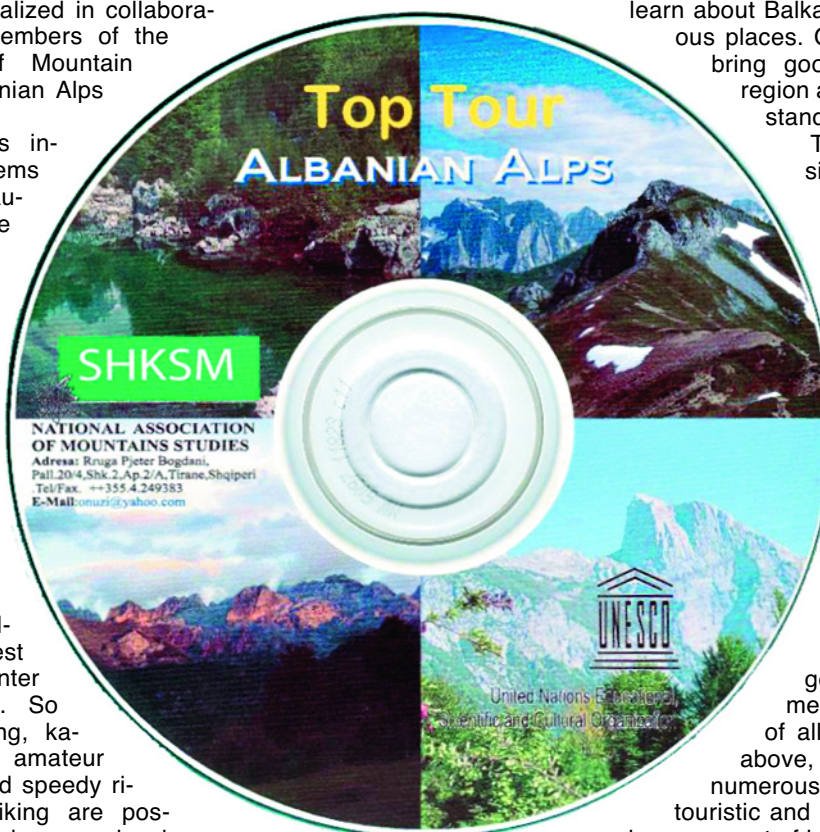
For a long time, since 1970, I have been continuously attracted by the fantastic mountainous landscape of the Albanian Alps. I also saw the Alps of Switzerland, France, Austria, Germany and Italy and these experiences evoked my ideas of realizing a mountain guide for our Alps. The guide is realized in collaboration with different members of the National Society of Mountain Studies and the Albanian Alps Society.

The Albanian Alps include some ecosystems with rare natural beauties. Wonderful Alpine mountainous landscapes with a diversified flora that developed mainly on carbonate rocks, typical cataracts, water resources seaming rivers, streams or natural superficial springs are responsible for the existence of these ecosystems. The mountains with their contrasting landscapes provide best possibilities for winter and summer sports. So climbing, skiing, riding, kayaking, canyoning, amateur fishing in canyons and speedy rivers and mountainbiking are possible. High elevations above sea level create a fresh but very healthy climate. Because of its distance from industrial centers the Alpine environment can be protected more successfully than other parts of our country. So the Albanian Alps make up a wonderful region for geo-touristic mountainous development.

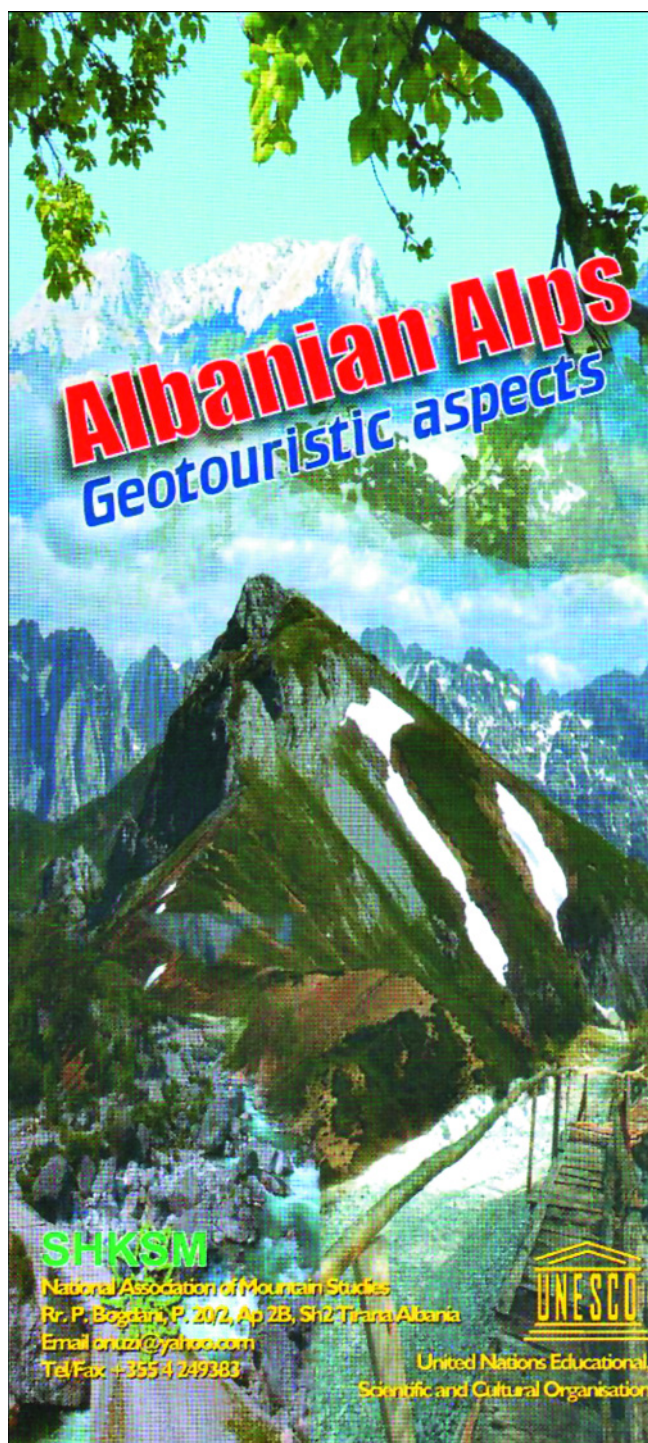
There are good possibilities to bring active tourists to the Albanian Alps. Mountainous touristic activity in this region of Albania will be a wonderful opportunity for tourists who want to explore a wonderful landscape, find an interesting region from a geographic point of view and will learn about Balkan legends and mysterious places. On the other side it will bring good advantage into the region and to its people, so the standard of life will increase.

The Albanian Alps are situated between the two big cities of Shkodra and Bajram Curri which serve as waiting points and entrances to the Alpine beauties. Some small villages offer accommodation for tourists: Tamara, Lepusha, Vukel, Vermoshi, Boga, Thehti, Valbona, Rragami. In the last years, the Albanian Alps have been the object of geoscientific, folkloristic, historical, geotouristic and environmental studies. As a result of all the factors mentioned above, the Albanian Alps offer numerous possibilities for both touristic and economic progress and improvement of infrastructure.

The development of the region, the every day improvement of state structure and growing environmental conscience of policy makers and local communities will create premises for protection and development of ecosystems in the most beautiful parts of our country.



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This is connected with sustainable developments and improvements of life for people who until now did not have the opportunities for a fairly normal life, due to bad administration, political management and lack of publicity in national and international tourism. Stimulation and development of the natural resources of the Albanian Alps, protecting strictly the environment, based on analogies to European regions development, will comprise a solid base for the inhabitants of these zones. For this reason we are presenting this new potential for developing the Alpine regions.

We are presenting the Albanian Alps in the regions of Shkodres – Bajram Currit – Vermoshit – Koplikut.

The National Association of Mountainous Studies, in collaboration with Alps Association as well as different local and international Institutions and Organisms and supported from UNESCO are realizing the geo-touristic guide of the Albanian Alps which consists of:

- 1) Top Tour of the Albanian Alps (GeoTour CD)
- 2) GeoTour map of the Albanian Alps
- 3) Explanatory text for the GeoTour map of the Albanian Alps

The Albanian Alps TopTours (AATT) are GPS-supported; the following regions are described:()

- Tour 1: Fshati i Paqes (Ura e Bunes) – Mali Tarabosh – Mali Sukes – Zogaj – Shiroke – Bashkimi Lumit Buna – Drin – Kalaja e Shkodres
- Tour 2: Fshati i Paqes(Ura e Bunes) – Shkoder – Koplik – Hoti – Rrapsh – Tamare – Selce – Lepushe – Vermosh
- Tour 3: Fshati i Paqes (Ura e Bunes) – Shkoder – Koplik – Hoti – Rrapsh – Tamare – Vukel – Nikç
- Tour 4: Fshati i Paqes (Ura e Bunes) – Shkoder – Koplik – Boge – Qafa e Thores – Theth
- Tour 5: Fshati i Paqes (Ura e Bunes) – Shkoder – Koplik – Boge – Qafa e Thores – Theth – Nderlysaj – Breg Lumi – Kiri – Ura e Mesit
- Tour 6: Fshati i Paqes (Ura e Bunes) – Shkoder – Koplik – Razem
- Tour 7: Koman (Vendi Tragetit) – Liqeni i Komanit – Fierze (Vendi Tragetit) – B. Curri
- Tour 8: B. Curri – Margegaj – Kanioni i Valbones – Kelcyre – Dragobi – Mbaskollate – Valbone – Rragam – Qafa e Valbones – Thethi

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