

Mountain tourism in Germany shown on example in Saxony

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INTRODUCTION

In Ore Mountains was developing mining for thousand years. The area includes Saxony, but also Bohemia and Poland. For Europe in second half-century was characteristic mining closure, which in Saxony has affected as coal mines as non-ferrous metal mines. Temporariness was characterized by unemployment growth, nostalgia after tradition activity, which used to give people work and support them. On the other hand, ending of mining activities has opened the way to new activities connected with mines and mining – mining heritage, mining tourism, mountain tourism and geotourism.

ANALYSIS

Visiting mines in Saxony and its various status

Historical situation in Saxony area has conditioned giant potential for mountain tourism.

Mines dedicated to realization of mountain tourism in Germany are state of things in which they are being at the moment. Hence they are closed or they are enough safety and big for “massive tourism”. Or the state could be suitable for scientific observation, or they are accessible just in attendance of competent person or even are mines in full duty.

Mines law status is also various whereby respects main mentioned classification. See the table 1.

All mines, visitor mines and underground spaces regarding to Mining Law, within belong:

- all kind of underground spaces used for touristic purposes,
- abandoned mines, reopened for guided tours,
- natural caves used for touristic purposes,
- all underground mines and,
- Mines for winning certain minerals (mentioned in mining law).

It means almost all mines used for Mountain tourism (except open pits for aggregates), have to be operated regarding mining law.

All mines in the means of mining law have to do documentation of all activities (operating plan), which has to be authorized by mining authority.

Application of Mine law and responsibility for safety duty of mine defined in table 2. Responsible Person is always the Mine Operator, no matter if Tourism is organized by Mining Company or Visitor-Association. Regarding to the responsibility of the mine operator, tourism-staff is mostly organized by the mine operator it-self, or officially outsourced by contract (see table 3).

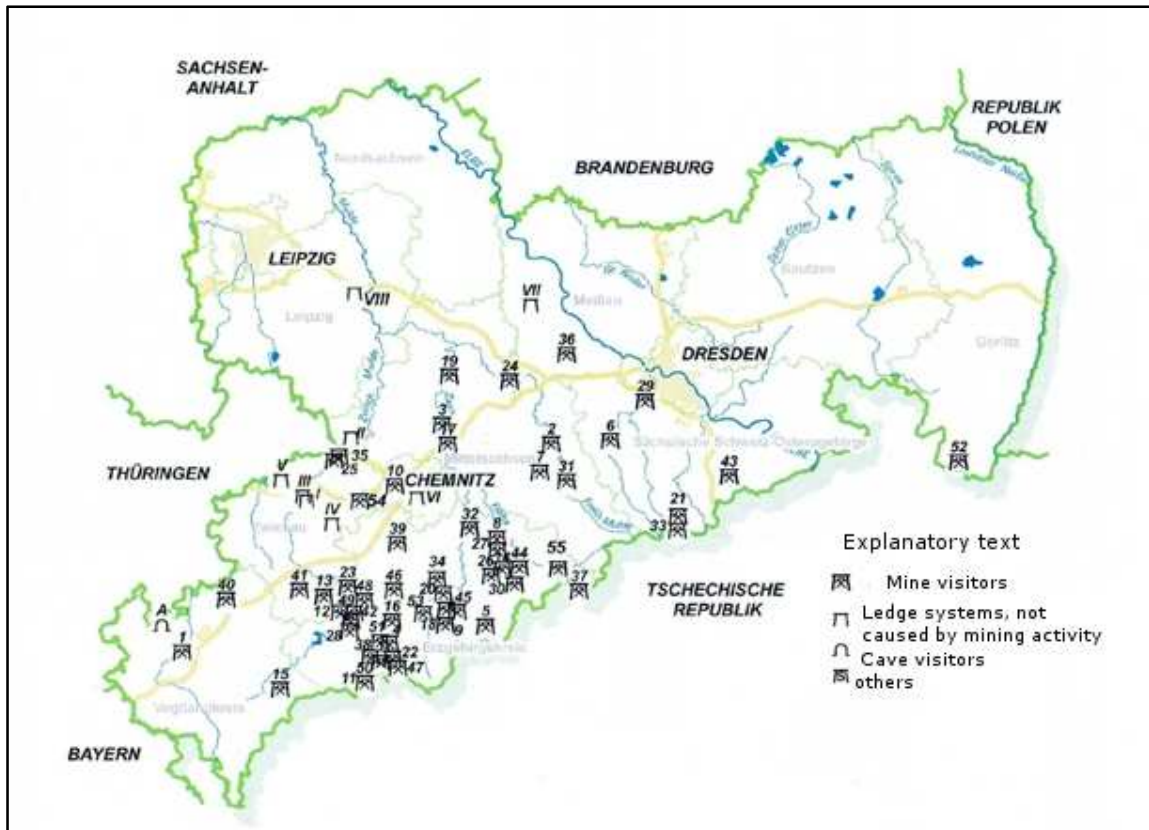


Fig. 1 Numbers of visitor mines and other related objects in Saxony [1]

Table 1 Various law status of German visiting mines[1]

Type of Mine	Intention
Visitors Mines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mining Museum, Exhibition - Being-Underground-Adventure - Touristic Activities Underground
Research Mines with guided Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstration of Research - PR for Research Institute - Using as Visitors Mine
Mine in Operation with guided Tours and sportive Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PR for Mining Operation - Access to Geological Activities - Touristic / Sportive Activities

Table 2 Application of Mine law and responsibility for safety duty according to purpose of mine plant[1]

	Visitors Mines	Research Mines	Mine in Operation	
Applicable Law	Mining Law			Industrial Law and Regulations
Additional Law	Regulations for Public Events			
Main Purpose	Tourism	Mining Research	Mining	Mining
Responsibility for Safety of Tourists	Visitor-Association	Research Institute	Mining Company	Mining Company

Table 3 Responsibility for safety of visitors [1]

	Visitors Mines	Research Mines	Mine in Operation
Responsibility for Safety of Tourists	Visitor-Association	Research Institute	Mining Company
Access and Location in Mine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main Access - whole Mine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main Access - special Routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extra Access - selected points - mostly closed part of the mine
Tourism Guides	- Association-Staff (Casual Worker, Volunteers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized by Research-Institute (Staff trained by Mine) - Organized by Mine Tour Company (Tourism Guides) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized by Mining-Operation (Staff / retired workers trained by Mine) - Organized by Mine Tour Company (Tourism Guides)

Operating Plan for Visitors Mines and Caves

Operating Plan for Visitors Mines and Caves must include:

- general information (owner, operator, number of visitors, opening time, duration of tours),
- brief description of responsible people,
- organization of visits (number and education of guides, program and routes of guided tours)
- mining operating information (maps, accesses, geotechnical safety, ventilation, lightening, electric system),
- Safety (fire prevention, first aid, emergency management) and controlling (documentation of test: mine support, equipment, electric system).

CONCLUSION

Mining tourism is the part of tourism where the visitor is offered to see and get to know: mining technologies, factors clarifying raw material extractions, its processing, business activities leading to the output, the former technical devices and facilities, the importance of significant historical personalities and families who importantly influenced mining operations, events that forever changed the entire region by establishing new technologies, etc. All the above mentioned is supposed to be retold in the language that is absolutely understandable, interesting and engaging [2].

Mining tourism is in Germany very popular. In contrast to statement in Slovak republic where it has giant perspectives, but the realization is now just in the area of Banská Štiavnica city.

Organization and realization of mountain tourism in Germany is as follows:

- in Visitors Mines is very common
- in Research Mines is Specialty (belonging to individual conditions)
- in Mining Operations (mostly organized by outsourced company)
 - Common way: establishing Tourism Association and defining a border between „Mining Operation” and „Visitors Mine“
 - Organized by PR-Office of Mining Operation.

Reasons why People are doing Mountain tourism:

- Interest in mining tradition
- Interest in technique / machinery
- Interest in operation of modern mining operations
- Illegal underground visitors (adventurer)
- Interest in special situations (doing normal activities underground, e.g. concert, dinner)
- Sports (climbing, motocross, mountain biking, ...)
- Recreation (swimming, sunbath, ...)
- Interest in Geology / Mineralogy
- Interest in Ecology / Biology (special flora and fauna in mine and reclamation area)
- Activities at big areas (tank driving, paintball, cross golf, ...)

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