



## ***The reality of mountain sports and its relationship to the development of sports tourism in Algeria***

واقع الرياضة الجبلية و علاقتها بتطوير السياحة الرياضية في الجزائر

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### ***Abstract:***

*This study aims to know the reality of mountain sports and its role in improving sports tourism in Algeria Today, Algeria is considered an actual tourist destination with its great potential that has not been comprehensively exploited These riches are possessed by the mountains that are covered in them, as well as the various forests, the heights of the various mountain ranges, and a large coastal strip. It also owns the largest desert in the world, and through these multiple resources it can become a major destination for various fields of tourism (coastal tourism, desert tourism, mountain sports). It can provide comprehensive tourism from various major tourism magazines in the Mediterranean Mountain sports are considered a new type, as the traditional types of mountain sports have been replaced by adapting hiking or mountain climbing. Today it enjoys increasing popularity in a variety of forms, as a leisure activity for wide sectors of the population Mountain sports contribute to the development and promotion of sports tourism*

***Key words:*** *Mountain sports - sports tourism - sports.*

## الملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى معرفة واقع الرياضة الجبلية و دورها في تحسين السياحة الرياضية في الجزائر، بحيث تعتبر الجزائر اليوم مقصد سياحيا فعليا بإمكانياتها الكبرى التي لم تستغل بشكل شامل، وهذه الثروات التي تمتلكها من خلال الجبال التي تكتسبها الجبال وكذلك الغابات المتنوعة ومرتفعات السلاسل الجبلية المختلفة و شريط ساحلي كبير، وكذلك امتلاكها لصحراء هي الأكبر في العالم، و من خلال هذه الثروات المتعددة يمكن لها أن تصبح وجهة رئيسية لمختلف مجالات السياحة (سياحة ساحلية، سياحة صحراوية، الرياضة الجبلية)، بإمكانها توفير سياحة شاملة من مختلف المجالات السياحية الكبرى في البحر الأبيض المتوسط،

و تعتبر الرياضات الجبلية نوع جديد بحيث تم استبدال الأنواع التقليدية للرياضات الجبلية عن طريق تكييف رياضة المشي لمسافات طويلة أو تسلق الجبال، وهي تتمتع اليوم بشعبية متزايدة في مجموعة متنوعة من الأشكال، كنشاط ترفيهي لقطاعات واسعة من السكان، حيث تساهم الرياضة الجبلية في تطوير و ترويج السياحة الرياضية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الرياضة الجبلية - السياحة الرياضية - الرياضة.

## **Introduction**

Most modern mountain sports have seen a new quality in recent years. A departure from traditional forms of mountain sports has been achieved by adapting hiking or mountaineering to the demands and expectations of modern leisure culture. Today, it enjoys increasing popularity in a variety of forms, as a leisure activity for wide sectors of the population, as mountain sports contribute to the development and Promoting sports tourism.

The sports industry and the organization of major sporting events are job creation, therefore sports tourism is a special journey outside the usual environment of passive or active participation in mountain sports where sports are the main motivation for travel and where the tourism element can enhance the overall experience. Sports tourism is a new form of Tourism which would directly contribute to the economic prosperity of the country, and as a result of these sporting activities, the tendency of people to leave their homes to travel to other parts of the country or region where these sports are taking place has increased tremendously, which has led to increased travel in the region (Radwan Barjam, 2018, p. 5).

The latter is one of the most prominent types of tourism that flourishes in many countries around the world, and this tourism can provide a great source of support for the local economy, increase the number of tourists, enhance economic returns, make better use of spaces, and develop the infrastructure of countries. It also leads to Gaining a lot of cultural experiences about other peoples and societies in the world, but it also entails some negatives, including the influence of local culture, marginalization of the local community at times, and loss of comfort. There is no doubt that sports, environmental, and tourism ambitions intersect positively in mountainous areas. Which combines all of this, in addition to the moderate weather, which constitutes an opportunity to create investment projects, which in turn contribute to increasing the level of public health, and opportunities for

community participation in sustainable economic initiatives ..(Ahmed Abdel Fattah, 2013, p. 56).

Accordingly, tourism in the world was also affected by the development of various modern sports, and it became necessary to find mechanisms and ways to attract tourists to visit these attractive areas.

### **1- Theoretical background:**

#### **A- definition of tourism**

In its first meaning, the word tourism means travel and temporary residence outside the original place of residence. In the past, people traveled for various purposes, including learning about the world and studying foreign languages.

#### **B-Types of tourism**

The tourism sector should be analyzed as an element of development, especially in some regions. In this context, it has a multi-form nature. Current tourism is characterized by its many types and forms, and it can be divided into several types:

##### **1- According to the nationalities of tourists:**

Tourism is divided into two main types:

A - Foreign (international) tourism, which is carried out by foreign citizens within the borders of another country. In all cases, international borders are chosen and a hard foreign currency is exchanged during the tourism period.

B - Domestic tourism: It is carried out by citizens of a specific country within the borders of their country and local currency is spent there. (Harwat, 2012).

##### **2- Tourism in the world**

The great development witnessed today by the tourism industry in the following years, as this sector occupies third place in the ranking of the main sectors of trade after the mechanical sector (cars) and fuels, and it continues to grow at a rate (1.3) times faster than the total global product, and the tourism industry employs (250) million people through job opportunities generated by a very broad activity, extending from tour operators to transportation companies, through accommodation

and restaurants, and the manufacture of entertainment equipment, traditional industry, and sports tourism. However, this wealth and this development, according to the World Tourism Organization, is concentrated in a number Limited number of countries.

According to forecasts by the World Tourism Organization, by the year 2020, the number of tourist arrivals in the world will reach (1,561) million, and the corresponding expenditures will exceed (2,000) billion euros. These numbers represent an annual growth rate ranging between (4.1) and (6.7) in 100, which is a much higher rate. (Radwan Barjam, 2018)

A - Tourism is divided according to its goal into several sections:

**1- Medical tourism :**

In this type of tourism lies the need for physical and psychological treatment and other diseases among citizens. It is practiced with the aim of complete recovery or alleviation of aches and pains. It is divided into several types according to the natural methods used in treatment.

**2- Recreational tourism:**

In it lies the need for the necessary rest to restore the psychological and physical strength of the individual, noting that every person searches for diversity in his life and escapes and is liberated from the daily routine of work. Effective rest is sometimes represented by changing the place of residence, and the goal of this type of tourism is to preserve the health of the individual.

**2- Sports tourism:**

**2- 1- Sports tourism:**

It is represented by travel and accommodation to participate in events and sports matches. This type includes all types of well-known sports, while negative sports tourism represents travel and accommodation in order to watch sports matches and celebrations. Sports tourism in general constitutes a means of developing tourism exchange for young people. Talking about sports tourism has become only recent, and this is for several reasons. Considerations.

What is paid by television broadcasting stations, especially those that buy the right to broadcast live sports matches, is received by the Olympic Committee, which has turned into a commercial company in the truest sense of the word and seems to have moved on this path in the spirit of the era and the globalization prevailing in it. Until then, the purely sporting factors were It plays even a side role in making major decisions in the International Committee, such as making room for non-professionals to participate in the Olympic Games, which is considered an encouragement to countries that cannot financially support mass sports to a level that makes them able to reach the level of high achievements, which is What explains the limited distribution of medals to athletes from a few dozen wealthy countries that are keen to support certain types of sports, and are also keen to host sports tournaments, and have become a source of huge profits? Sports is a major future economic sector that can contribute significantly to the economic prosperity of these countries. The European Commission, through the European Commission, has included sports since 1994 in its White Paper on the labor market “as a major source for providing work and achieving economic growth. This does not mean only those who work directly in the various sports sectors, but also includes supporting other economic sectors, spending hundreds of millions” in Each Western country separately purchases various goods and merchandise bearing sports symbols and badges, such as the five rings, a symbol of sports tournaments. A certain percentage of the proceeds from the sale goes to whoever has the license to use these symbols, starting with small sports clubs and ending with the International Olympic Committee.

In Germany, for example, the volume of consumer agreement to purchase items bearing the symbols of their beloved sports amounts to 600 million marks annually.

### **2-2- Desert sports tourism:**

Algeria is considered one of the largest leading countries in the field of tourism, similar to the European countries, through its possession of a

large desert frontage. It is the largest desert in the world covering an area of 80% of the area of the Algerian state, consisting of sand dunes, the large western side, the large eastern erg (and plateaus). The rocky Tassili Mountains and the stony plains are interspersed with the fertile oasis areas, and in the south-east we find the Hoggar mountain range, which contains the highest peak in Algeria, which is the Tahat Peak, with a height of about (2918) meters, so that this diversity allows for the practice of many sports that... It is characterized by an adventurous nature, such as rallies (mechanical sports) such as the Paris, Algiers, and Dakar Rally, touring, hiking, walking, camel riding, and bicycles (in addition to sand skiing). On the other hand, the vastness of the desert and the sand dunes provide opportunities To develop sports tourism in the country.

### **2-3- Coastal sports tourism:**

The coastal strip of Algeria is approximately 1,600 kilometers long, and is characterized by stunning natural scenery and the beauty of its location. From this standpoint, the Republic of Algeria is improving sea tourist resorts, for example, the Tipaza and Zeralda boats and the Sidi Faraj boat. There are also other sites on the sea beaches on most of the Algerian coasts from east to west, and these beaches are considered attractive to many tourists, so that most tourists practice water sports such as swimming, fishing in the sea, water skiing, volleyball and beach volley... ..etc

### **3- Mountain sports**

The state of Algeria has many mountain ranges. To the north, we find the Djurdjura, Al-Wancheris, and Aures mountains, and to the south we find the Hoggar and Tassili ranges, which allows mountain sports to play an important role in the tourism sector, and through practicing different sports, such as Mountain climbing in the highlands of Djerjra, Aures, and Al-Houqar, the latter will provide many wonderful opportunities to practice this type of mountain sports, and as for skiing, it can be practiced in the winter at the Tikjda and Sharia peaks in the Atlas in the state of Blida. It can also be practiced in the winter.

Practicing hiking in many mountain parks. This type of tourism is considered sporting in nature, and here it can constitute an important support for development, especially for young people interested in mountain sports of all kinds.



### **3-1- Mountain sports:**

It is considered one of several types of sports that take place in the hills and mountains. All of these sports require special equipment, carry a higher level of risk, and require specialized training before they can be carried out safely. Since mountain athletes deliberately enter terrain that is not easily accessible Where there are greater risks, such as bad weather, mudflows, rock fractures, and ice fractures, special measures must be taken to mitigate these risks, generally known as risk management. Mountain sports include the following

- Mountaineering.
- Snowboarding, mountain skiing and its freedom
- Walking, especially hills
- Mountain biking
- Trips
- Canyoning

Regular skiing on spikes is not usually considered a mountain sport, because the use of prepared slopes and the corresponding legal



standards reduce the risks to a minimum, so that the skier or snowboarder does not have to take into account any significant risks. (Wikipedia, 2023)



### **3-2- Mountain climbing:**

It is one of the most enjoyable sports and hobbies in the world. It appeals to nature lovers and enthusiasts of dangerous adventures. This sport depends on determination and persistence in reaching the end of the path. It also teaches the climber to control the emotions that he experiences while climbing and overcome fear. It also develops concentration, increases physical fitness, and enables control. Balancing the body, and it is worth noting that it does not require superior physical ability, but rather flexibility in the body, courage, determination, and not being afraid of heights.

Although climbing is considered an individual effort, it is preferable to practice it in a group. All necessary tools and equipment must be prepared, such as :

Climbing tools: Ropes, which are one of the most important tools and are made of nylon that is resistant to heat, light and cold and are characterized by flexibility and strength to bear the weight of the climber - Anchor rings or a rope clip made of a metal alloy to connect the climber to the rope - A rope guide, which is a nut to fix the rope between the rocks and a special hammer - A compass - first aid kit.

Climbing shoes: It must be durable, comfortable for the foot and flexible, and there must be a piece of leather at the top to protect the ankles.

Head helmet: used to protect the head from stones falling on the head and to protect the climber in the event of a fall.

Clothing: It is preferable to wear comfortable sports clothes, sports gloves, and a headlamp to improve vision. (Attia, 2012, p. 67)

### **3-3- Hiking:**

In our current era, this sport is considered a sport that relies on walking on mountains for long distances on a journey that calls for deep contemplation inspired by the surrounding environment and nature, in addition to participating in a group adventure and challenge. The teams walk on rocky roads and climb rugged slides. These trips also reinforce the concepts of conservation. On the environment and love, one of its most important foundations is not throwing waste or harming the environment.

Hiking relies on important safety rules that must be taken into consideration, which are:

Good preparation: It is preferable to choose socks and sports shoes suitable for walking, such as light, sturdy shoes that provide support for the feet and socks that keep the feet as dry as possible. It is recommended to wear comfortable clothes, and carry a light backpack for personal belongings, a water bottle, snacks, a flashlight, and simple first aid.

It is preferable to practice hiking in a group in order to avoid any danger, in addition to benefiting from the experiences of the group members during the trip (Al-Bahrani, 2019) .



### **3-4- Mountain sports tourism:**

We find that many mountain schools offer various mountain sports as guided tours, which enable beginners to try various supervised activities. The leaders of these tours know the potential risks on their tour routes and accompany the group. Some of these tours target specific groups, such as mountain crossings aimed at beginners or intermediates. Or elderly or single people, these tours have adapted to the changes in tourists' travel behavior that have been observed in recent years. For example, studies conducted by the University of Bern have concluded that travelers expect more individual and flexible travel deals. They mainly look for deals that provide diverse and intense experiences.

### **3-5- Mountain sports and their preservation:**

As mountain sports usually take place in relatively inhospitable areas, it is important that participants ensure that their activities are undertaken in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way, and for this reason, various mountain and alpine clubs have prepared guidelines, these say, for example, that plants may be photographed but not selected.

In addition to these measures, the Alpine countries and the European Union have agreed on a pan-Alpine policy framework programme. Also known as the Alpine Convention, the agreement also covers, in addition to conservation, planning, sustainable development, mountain agriculture, rural conservation, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport (Wikipedia, 2023).



#### **4- Suggestions and recommendations:**

- Develop a coherent policy regarding the organization of international sporting events, especially desert and mountain sports, in order to contribute to international influence and target new markets.
- Logistical and technical support to sports federations in organizing international events, especially mountain sports and mechanical sports.
- Facilitating the promotion and marketing of sporting events and events of tourism interest.
- Working to implement the proposed plan through the Ministry of Sports and Tourism and sports federations in Algeria.
- Working to exploit the natural and geographical components in order to improve sports tourism. – Interest in hosting local and international tournaments and events related to sports tourism.

#### **5- Conclusion**

Sports tourism has become a vital economic activity, and this must be relied upon in order to support the tourism sector in Algeria in general and sports tourism in particular. By relying on this aspect, it is possible to attract tourists and raise the level of tourist demand, and then increase and contribute to the tourism aspect in The national economy by bringing interest, and also enables the creation of job opportunities and reducing unemployment among Algerian youth. Likewise, we cannot achieve these goals except through a strategy that is clear and depends on careful planning and implementation of these strategies for all the competent authorities in the country.

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