

## THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF ILIJAS MUNICIPALITY AS THE BASIS FOR THE INCLUSION IN REGIONAL TOURIST FLOWS

### **Senada Nezirović**

Dr., assistant professor  
Department of Geography  
Faculty of Science  
Zmaja od Bosne 33-35,  
71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
e-mail: senadanezirovic@yahoo.com

### **Belma Avdić**

Student of master studies  
Department of Geography  
Faculty of Science  
Zmaja od Bosne 33-35,  
71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
e-mail: belma-avdic@outlook.com

### **Muniba Orić**

Student of master studies  
Department of Geography  
Faculty of Science  
Zmaja od Bosne 33-35,  
71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
e-mail: muniba\_oric@hotmail.com

UDK: 911.5:379.85

COBISS: 1.02

### **Abstract**

#### **The cultural-historical heritage of Ilijas municipality as the basis for the inclusion in regional tourist flows**

Many cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Ilijas, are missing the opportunity to earn tourism income, precisely because they do not have the planned promotion of their cultural and historical heritage. Cultural and historical monuments get a real social and tourist value only when involved in tourist movements and when they become accessible to tourists who plan to travel because of them. In this way, cultural and historical monuments exist not only as a source and object of knowledge but also as an indicator of the cultural level of the population and the country as a whole. The subject of this study is the possibility of incorporating the cultural and historical heritage, primarily the Medieval City of Dubrovnik and the necropolis of the tombstones of Kuposici, into regional tourist flows with the aim of economic strengthening of the municipality of Ilijas through the tourism development and improvement of promotion of tourist resources and services of the mentioned municipality. The aim of this paper is to analyze the cultural tourist resources of the municipality of Ilijas and their delimitation in the development of tourism of the mentioned municipality. In the delimitation of tourism resources, geographic tourist and economic concepts of valorisation are used, based on which the dominant tourist resources are separated.

### **Key words**

Ilijas municipality, cultural and historical heritage, tourism  
*Uredništvo je članek prejelo 9.12.2018*

## **1. Introduction**

According to the study of the long-term development of tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all the cultural and historical monuments in this country are divided into several groups, comprising: old towns (fortresses), urban units, rural units, churches and monasteries, mosques and dervish lodges, public profane architecture and residential architecture. (Tourism Development Strategy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2008-2028). In its long history, parts of the Ilijas municipality had a significant spiritual and educational-cultural dominance in the wider area surrounding the municipality of Ilijas. Several Roman antiquities were found in Ilijas, and at the cemeteries near the mosques there were several, quite old, tombstone monuments. In the early Middle Ages, on the banks of the Bosna River and the plains of Vogoscica, Ljubina, Misoca and Stavnja, the parish of Vogosca or Vidogosca was formed. At the beginning of the 19th century in Sarajevo subdistrict were twenty Muslim religious communities, including the ones from the area of Ilijas, the Muslim religious communities: Sudici, Crna Rijeka, Srednje, Cifluk, Rakova Noga and the villages Luka and Zeravica. (Anđelić 1971) The original existence of Ilijasis related to the village of Luka, precisely the part between Gornja and Donja Luka, on both sides of the Misoca River. Some necropolises are also proclaimed as national monuments, such as the one in Kuposici, in which the tombstone of Duke Batic stands out, a former Bosnian nobleman, a land baron, and according to some a feudal who possessed great estates, and then the necropolis of tombstone in Cevljanovici, Vrutci, Solakovici, Han Karaula, Stupe and many other locations. (Anđelić, 1963) One of the significant cultural and historical monuments pointing to the economic activity of the inhabitants and the exploitation of the natural and mineral resources of this area is the medieval Bosnian old city of Dubrovnik, which was also in 2003 by the State Commission / Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments BiH (Official Gazette of BiH No. 4/03, 33/03, 31/06, 99/06 and 53/11), declared a national monument of culture and is under the protection of the state (<http://old.kons.gov.ba>).

## **2. Research methodology**

The paper presents the theoretical and practical research of cultural and tourist development potentials in the municipality of Ilijas, the possibility of their use in the development of tourism industry and the linkage to regional tourism flows. Research methodology required field and cabinet work. In collecting data, a significant contribution was given by associations and informal groups from Sarajevo and Ilijas which are engaged in research and protection of the natural and historical heritage of the municipality of Ilijas and the Coordination Council for the promotion, protection and reconstruction of the Medieval City of Dubrovnik. Field surveys, apart from identifying space, include direct conversations with representatives of tourism organizations responsible for promoting tourism resources and developing tourism. In addition to professional literature, planning documents, maps and sketches of terrain were used in the work, which were handled by contemporary geographic methods. The analysis is supplemented by data from strategic documents in which the guidelines for economic development of this area are given.

## **3. Basic geographical information of the municipality of Ilijas**

The area of the municipality of Ilijas is located in the central part of the macro-region of Central Bosnia, in the area of the Sarajevo-Zenica valley, in its southeastern part.

In administrative-political terms, the municipality of Ilijas belongs to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is part of the Canton of Sarajevo. The area of the municipality of Ilijas covers an area of 309 km<sup>2</sup> and includes 14 local communities with 85 settlements. (Development Strategy Based on Respect for Human Rights, Municipality of Ilijas 2007-2012)

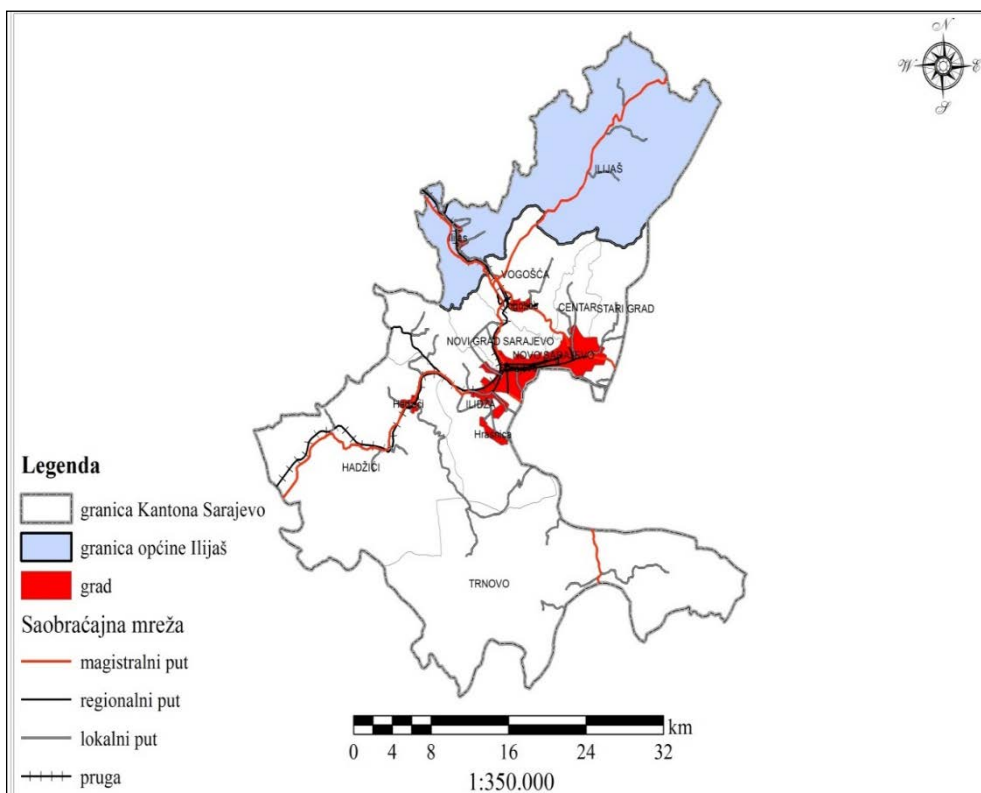


Fig. 1. The location of the Ilijas municipality in the Canton of Sarajevo.

Source: The authors made the map by source.

Most names of these settlements were given after their geographical and biogeographical characteristics, so in the main the origin of the name Ilijas is not known, and by the affiliations of the villagers the settlement was named after its heritage. Today, the center of the municipality of Ilijas is the town of the same name, located on the river terrace along the river Bosna. In the city center is the main business and trade zone where all the state functions of the city, banks, cultural and sport facilities, as well as the largest number of restaurants and shops are located. The economic development of the municipality of Ilijas has been influenced by many natural and social factors.

As one of the important factors for the development of the municipality Ilijas is geographic position. Through the municipality cross important roads that connect North Bosnia and the Mediterranean region. The municipality of Ilijas has a variety of natural resources such as cultivable land, mineral resources, high quality forests,

especially coniferous forests, water and landscapes that have an extraordinary tourist attraction.

### 3.1. The Medieval City of Dubrovnik

The Old Medieval City of Dubrovnik is a ruined city at the foot of the mountain Nabožić dating back to the 13th century. It is located 17 kilometers of airliner from Sarajevo, and 10 kilometers along the river Misoca from Ilijas. Fr. Ivan Franjo Jukic was the first among the historians to find the place where Dubrovnik was located, and wrote: "Dubrovnik - the ruined city is under the mountain of Nabožić at the mouth of the Zenik stream into the river Misoca, three hours from Vares, on its way to Sarajevo. In addition to Ivan Franjo Jukic, numerous scientists and researchers wrote about Dubrovnik. Dr Luka Dokovic described Dubrovnik in his work "Mining and Metal Smelting in BiH" as follows: "In the square between Sarajevo, Vares, Olovo and Visoko lies a completely destroyed Dubrovnik, an old colony of Dubrovnik dealing with mining of silver and iron". In 1924, Milenko Filipovic made a detailed description and characteristics of the site estimating that the remains of the buildings that formed the fortification with the towers and protective walls are a part of the trading settlement under the City at the Varos site. (Filipovic 1924) Doko Mazalic, during his study researches, visited the site in 1937, who said that the necropolis of tombstone in Kuposici is "the most beautiful monument of the Middle Ages" (Mazalic 1940).

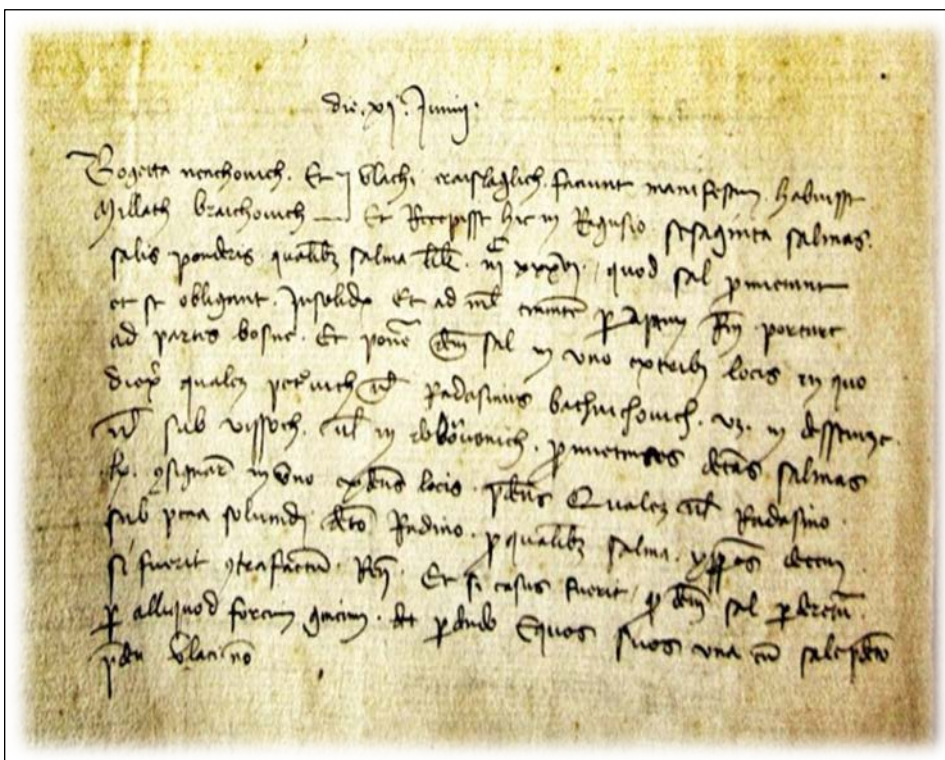


Fig. 2: A document which mentions Dubrovnik from 1404.  
Source: <http://stanak.org/bs/vijest.php?id=36>.



Batic as well, who was wrapped in a cloak of expensive canvas. The grave of Vukava, the wife of Duke Batic, is the most decorated. Next to the two big tombstones is a small one. It is assumed that a child was buried there. (Beslagić 1971) The most important information about Batic Mirković comes from his tombstone where it was written: „Va ime oca I sina I svet(o)ga d(u)ha amin. Se lezi knez Batic na svoe Zeml(j)I na plemenitoj milostju B(o)ziom I slavnoğa (gospodina) kral(j)a Tvrtka knez bosanski. Na visokom se pobolih n adubokome me d(a)n doide. Si bilig postavi gospoja vukava s moim I dobrim. I zivu mi virno sluzase I mrtvu mi posluzi.“ (Hörmann 1891) In the necropolis in Kuposici was found a skeleton with a brocade cloak made of heavy silk threaded with threads of gold and silver which is assumed to belonged to Mirko Radojević, father of Bosnian Duke Batic, who was the Duke of the Bosnian King Tvrtko I.

This is a rare case that one such cloak has been preserved for a period of time of over 600 years and what makes it an extremely valuable find. The cloak is made of silver, fibers having a core of silk or cotton, depending on the period from which it dates. There are spirally woven lamellas of gold or gold alloys around it. Gold as a noble material keeps the fabric, and it is assumed that it is probably a bigger percentage of gold. However, the fabric is rather soft and damaged, as it is still about 600 years old. Another curiosity is that the person was buried without a head, meaning he was killed in a fight, so his body was sent here without a head, or he lost his head by punishment (<http://www.ilijas.ba/>).



Fig. 4: Stecak Kneza Batica.  
Source: Authors, 2017.



Tab. 1: Necropolises of tombstones in the territory of the municipality of Ilijas.

Locality	Status of monuments	The number of tombstones by necropolises and basic types
Necropolis of tombstones in Srednje	National monument	15 tombstones of which 9 are in the form of a ridge/gable and 6 in the form of a chest. Tombstones are laid in rows, treated and without decoration
Necropolis of tombstones in Donji Ivančići	National monument	13 tombstones (10 in the form of a ridge/gable, 2 in the form of a crate and 1 in the form of a slab).
Necropolis of tombstones of Luka	National monument	79 tombstones (45 slabs, 28 chests, 6 ridges/gables and 1 stele). Three tombstones (slab number 49, ridge/gable number 62 and chest number 73) are decorated; decorative motifs: a crescent moon and an apple. The tombstones processing is good, but some specimens are damaged and sunk into the ground.
Necropolis of tombstones at Ozren	National monument	The National Monument consists of a necropolis with tombstones and the upright monolithic stones (nišani) at the locality Travnjak (seven tombstones and five upright monolithic stones) and a necropolis with tombstones at the locality of Bandijera (27 tombstones).
Necropolis of tombstones of Bijambare	National monument	39 tombstones of which 32 are in the form of a ridge/gable and 7 in the form of a chest, moved from the locality of Mramorje from Donji Čevljanovići to the locality Dolovi in the protected landscape of Bijambare.

Source: <http://old.kons.gov.ba>.

### 3.3. Evaluation of the Dubrovnik Medieval City and the Necropolis of the Tombstones Kopošići according to Mc.Kercher B. and du Cros H. (2000)

By applying the process of tourism valorization of anthropogenic potential by Hillary do Cross and the obtained total evaluation results shown in tables numbers 16 and 17, it can be concluded that the Medieval City of Dubrovnik, in the domain of market attractiveness of goods and factors of importance in designing a tourist product, has got a total rating of 27 which means that it has a mediocre value and attractiveness for tourist visits. When it comes to sector II, the management of cultural property is also evaluated average mark (22 in total). Although it has a large educational function, it is still not recognized as attractive for tourist visits. At this site, scientific, archaeological and historical research is usually carried out. The necropolis of tombstones of Kopošići in the domain I - tourism sector received a rating of 24 which means it has a medium tourist value.

When it comes to sector II, the necropolis is sensitive, ie it has a low cultural value, although being a unique example of its type it is not tourism-valued, there is no good traffic link with other localities in this area and the wider territory, and the promotion of this cultural and historical monument is very small, which certainly influences its attractiveness.

## 4. Delimitation of anthropogenic tourist resources of the municipality of Ilijas in a tourist offer

The municipality of Ilijas has some of the potential for the development of cultural and historical tourism. However, none of the above mentioned forms in any segment have been organized nor attractive accommodation and content capacities for major tourist visits have been created. Recently, individual attempts have been made by a few entrepreneurs in this area who come up with creative projects that are only partially affirmed today and require expert, material-technical, infrastructure and organizational assistance. A very big "brake" for the more significant development of

tourism in the area of the municipality is certainly the lack of sufficient accommodation capacity for tourists, then a lack of interconnection offer to other cities in the region, inadequate road infrastructure, but also the lack of information about the number of overnight stays, which is not the case only with this city but also with the entire tourist sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All the presented data actually show how minor tourist significance is in the area of Ilijas municipality.

With the project "Revitalization of the historic area Old Town Dubrovnik - Eastern Tower" it is planned to start the revitalization of the historic area Old Town Dubrovnik through works on consolidation, restoration and conservation of stone masonry structures of individual segments, creation of safe conditions for visitors, creation of predispositions for economically viable use of complexes, the allocation of purpose to individual complex spaces, the creation of conditions for educational presentation as well as the development of complexes of significant tourist potential towards a tourist destination.

Tab. 2: SWOT analysis.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rich cultural and historical heritage and natural beauty</li> <li>-Geographic position (proximity to the capital and proximity to emissive markets)</li> <li>-Tour tourists to visit the medieval city of Dubrovnik and the necropolises of tombstones in Kopošići, which by the percentage of decorated tombstones and representation of ornaments is the first in the region</li> <li>- Friendly and welcoming approach to the domicile population</li> <li>-The ability to visit throughout the year with adequate road infrastructure that facilitates accessibility to localities</li> <li>-The possibility to develop different types of tourism (sport-recreational, adventure, mountain biking, excursion tourism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of accommodation capacities</li> <li>-Lack of tourist signaling in the city itself</li> <li>- Lack of gastronomic offer</li> <li>- Lack of marketing activities, brochures and information materials</li> <li>- Lack of tourist guides</li> <li>- Undeveloped road infrastructure to the localities themselves</li> <li>- Undeveloped tourism products</li> <li>- Bad offer of accompanying content</li> </ul>
Occasions	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Growing interest in selective forms of tourism, especially for cultural tourism and heritage tourism</li> <li>- Differentiation and improvement of authentic tourist offer</li> <li>- Use of modern forms of communication with tourism market (Internet)</li> <li>- Improving the life of the local population</li> <li>-Growing educational level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strengthening of competitive tourist destinations</li> <li>-Legislation</li> <li>- Misunderstanding by competent institutions</li> <li>-Additional destruction of cultural-historical resources</li> <li>- Lack of interest by the local population in tourism development</li> <li>-Emigration of the local population from the municipality of Ilijas</li> </ul>

Source : Authors, 2018.

In order to achieve greater tourist attendance and public interest in this site, it is necessary first to carry out all the necessary archaeological researches, to restore the most important objects of the Dubrovnik colony in Bosnia, to build adequate road infrastructure, to mark the area and to connect the offer with other cities in the environment , to be able to organize one-day excursions to tour not only Dubrovnik, but also the late antique Basilica of Crkvina at Breza, and certainly visit the mining town of Vares, which has many attractive motifs that are unused in the tourist sense. In the tourist development of the municipality of Ilijas it is necessary to emphasize and exploit the existing advantages, especially the cultural and historical heritage



(Medieval City of Dubrovnik and the necropolis of tombstones, the most famous of which is in Koposici) and natural advantages and to enhance cultural events and manifestations in the municipality itself.

It should be emphasized that the landscape is one of the most important elements of the tourist offer. It is also necessary to minimize or try to eliminate weaknesses such as lack of accommodation capacity (by stimulation of local population in room and apartment offerings), lack of gastronomic offer, lack of informative materials, brochures, etc. It is also necessary to renovate and protect certain facilities that are in poor condition, arrange the road infrastructure that leads to the city of Dubrovnik and the necropolises with tombstones and to improve the offer of accompanying contents etc.

Threats should be noted (possibility of further destruction of cultural and historical heritage, dissatisfaction of the local population, etc.) but also seize the opportunity from the environment, first of all interest in cultural tourism of heritage, protection and restoration of heritage, education growth, enrichment of tourist offer, the growing quality of life of the local population, etc. The development of tourism must not undermine the harmony of socioeconomic living conditions in the towns and the cultural identity of the city must be preserved.

## **5. Conclusion**

Through this research, we tried to illustrate the factual situation, robustness and position of the medieval city of Dubrovnik as a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has long been forgotten by public authorities but also unknown to the general public. The locality of the city of Dubrovnik and the necropolis of tombstones in Kopošići are extremely important cultural and historical monuments dating back to the period of medieval Bosnia and as such are curious, attractive, intriguing and rare. However, in order to make a larger touristic visit and to include a specific area in the national as well as the regional flows, it is necessary to invest much more material investment, strength and will, which is not the case with the mentioned localities. Although they are here to defy time and space, to tell an untold story and a legend about their emergence, to be a school example for future generations of the political and administrative organization of mediaeval Bosnia, they are not sufficiently valued but only identified, and a lot of investment is really needed in order that these localities come to life and become an integral part of tourist offer not only of Ilijas but also of the surrounding area.

## **References**

- Andelić, P., 1963: The old Bosnian parish of Vidogosca or Vogosca. The problem of ubication of middle-aged parishes of Central Bosnia. *Journal of the National Museum, Market, town and city in medieval Bosnia (Annex typology of settlements)*. *Journal of the National Museum, (A)*, n.s. sv. XVIII, Sarajevo, 179- 194.
- Beslagić S., 1971: Tombstones. Catalogue topographic overview. Veselin Maslesa. Sarajevo.
- Filipović S. M., 1924: Dubrovnik in Bosnia. *Journal of the National Museum, XXXVI*, Sarajevo, 101-104.

Kreševljaković H., 1953: Old Bosnian towns. Our antiques I, National Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and Natural Rarities, NR BH in Sarajevo, Sarajevo, 7-45.

Hörmann K., 1891: The tombstone of Duke Batić. Journal of the National Museum in Sarajevo II, Sarajevo, 391-395.

Mazalić D., 1939: Antiques around Sarajevo. Journal of the National Museum in Sarajevo LI, Sarajevo, sv. 1.

Tourism Development Strategy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2008-2028, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Sarajevo, 2008.

Development Strategy based on respect for Human Rights, Municipality of Ilijas, 2007-2012.

<http://old.kons.gov.ba>

<http://www.ilijas.ba/>

<http://stanak.org>

## **THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF ILIJAS MUNICIPALITY AS THE BASIS FOR THE INCLUSION IN REGIONAL TOURIST FLOWS**

### ***Summary***

The area of the municipality of Ilijas is located in the central part of the macro-region of Central Bosnia, in the area of the Sarajevo-Zenica valley, in its southeastern part. The cultural and historical heritage of Ilijas municipality are divided into several groups, comprising: old town (fortress), churches, mosques and tombstone monuments. Medieval City of Dubrovnik and some necropolises are proclaimed as national monuments, such as the one in Kuposici, in which the tombstone of Duke Batic stands out, and then the necropolis of tombstone in Donji Ivancici, Luka, Ozren, Bijambare and Srednje. The locality of the Medieval City of Dubrovnik and the necropolis of tombstones in Kuposici are extremely important cultural and historical monuments dating back to the period of medieval Bosnia and as such are curious, attractive, intriguing and rare. The tourist offer of Ilijas municipality at the moment is based on the development of recreational tourism (climbing, biking, etc.). However, the municipality of Ilijas has some of the potential for the development of cultural and historical tourism. By applying the process of tourism valorization of anthropogenic potential by Hillary do Cross, it can be concluded that the Medieval City of Dubrovnik, in the domain of market attractiveness of goods and factors of importance in designing a tourist product, has a mediocre value and attractiveness for tourist visits. The management of cultural property is also evaluated average mark (22 in total). Although it has a large educational function, it is still not recognized as attractive for tourist visits. The necropolis of tombstones of Kuposici in the domain I - tourism sector received a rating of 24 which means it has a medium tourist value. When it comes to sector II, the necropolis has a low cultural value, although being a unique example of its type it is not tourism-valued, there is no good traffic link with other localities in this area and the wider territory, and the promotion of this cultural and historical monument is very small. However, a very big "brake" for the more significant development of tourism in the area of the municipality is certainly the lack of sufficient accommodation capacity for tourists, then a lack of interconnection offer to other cities in the region, inadequate road infrastructure, but also the lack of information about the number of overnight stays, which is not the case only with this city but also with the entire tourist sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In order to make a larger touristic visit, and to include a specific area in the national as well as the regional flows, its necessary to invest much more material investment, minimize or try to eliminate weaknesses such as lack of accommodation capacity by stimulation of local population in apartment offerings. It is also necessary to renovate and protect certain facilities that are in poor condition, arrange the road infrastructure that leads to the Medieval City of Dubrovnik and the necropolises with tombstones, etc. Tourism in Ilijas municipality is comparative advantage and need a lot of material investments in order to achieve the competitive advantage.

