

Pilgrimage Tourism in Uzbekistan; Problems and Solutions

by

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Abstract

The article analyzes the processes of development of visiting tourism in Uzbekistan, the factors affecting it and the conditions giving an idea of the problems related to this sphere and their solutions. Today, a lot of attention is paid to the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan. Tourist routes for pilgrimage tourism are being developed, the necessary infrastructure for providing services to tourists is being formed and attention is being paid to the issue of Personnel Training. The article provides information on the attitude towards different religions in the conditions of the policy of tolerance of religion in Uzbekistan and objects of pilgrimage tourism belonging to these religions. The article also discusses various problems and solutions related to this sphere.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, religious tourism, visiting tourism, tourist routes, holy shrines and monuments, small pilgrimage, small hajj, Islamic religion, Pilgrim visa.

Introduction:

Today, large-scale reforms are carried out in all spheres of public life in Uzbekistan, and the main goal of these reforms is an indicator of further development of the country's economy and improvement of the welfare of the Uzbek people. Tourism is important in the economic development and growth of Uzbekistan, and in the following years, along with other spheres of Tourism, great attention is paid to the development of pilgrimage tourism in the country.

At present, one of the promising sectors that will bring a high income to the national economy is National Tourism, says the president of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, – Uzbekistan is a state with great potential in the field of Tourism. There are more than 7 thousand 300 objects of cultural heritage in our country and most of them are included in the UNESCO list. At the same time, it is possible to open new tourist destinations, taking advantage of the unique nature of our country, the possibilities of beautiful recreation zones (Mirziyoyev, 2018, pp. 128-129).

With the active involvement of world brands in this sector, we should pay special attention to the development of tourism, environmental, educational, ethnographic, gastronomic, tourism and other sectors of this sector. In this regard, we should take into account that the application of public-private partnership relations opens wide opportunities for the development of the industry. It is necessary to develop and accelerate the program “Small Hajj”, which consists of visiting holy shrines and monuments in Samarkand, Bukhara, Tashkent. It is also necessary to fully launch large-scale opportunities in the field of internal tourism (Mirziyoyev, 2018, pp. 128-129).

Literature review:

The contribution of the scholars of Uzbekistan to the prosperity of the Islamic religion and science, their scientific and spiritual heritage, their role in the formation of the Islamic civilization of the Central Asian territory, the rich history and hospitality of the people will be the basis for the development of visiting tourism in the country. Famous pilgrims like Ismailniyniy, Tsar Bakr, Chashmai Ayub, Shahizinda, Ruhabad, Imam Al-Bukhari, Bahouddin Naqshband, Guri Amir, Khoja Ahrur, Pahlavon Mahmud, Hazrati Imam, Zangi father, Sultan Saadat, Hakim at-Termiziy are proof this opinion. There are some world-famous places of pilgrimage and pilgrimage in the country, the visit of which is equated with the small pilgrimage of Islam. In particular, the visit to the grave of Qusam ibn Abbas in Samarkand in Central Asia is equated with the visit of the Kaaba (Khashimov, 2001, p. 34). Mobile applications on holy shrines and pilgrims have been developed in Uzbekistan for the purpose of creating convenience for pilgrims.

Specific proposals for the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan are being developed, and attention is being paid to the issue of informing the world community about the possibilities of visiting tourism of the Republic. Great attention is paid to the development of a new tourism brand in Uzbekistan, creation of all necessary conditions for visitors, improvement of existing tourist routes taking into account the requirements of visitors.

The number of tourists coming from Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia, Iran, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries has increased in the direction of visiting Uzbekistan. In May 2019, in Samarkand an international scientific and practical conference was held on the theme “renaissance of pilgrimage tourism in the Great Silk Road resort.”

The religious shrines themselves are not enough for pilgrimage tourism. In order to attract tourists, promotional work should be well established such as a favorable visa regime, conditions for the performance of worship activities at the airport, hotels etc.

In Bukhara, there are the churchyard of Tsar Bakr, prayer hall, Sayfiddin Baharzi, Kalon, Magogi Attari, piri dastgir, Khoja Ismat machites, as well as many holy places of pilgrimage and shrines. Imam Al-Bukhari shrine, and shrines of “seven pirs” before going on pilgrimage and pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. These are Abduhalik Ghijduvani, called the world Master among the people, Khoja Muhammed Orif Ar revgari called “Khoja Orif Mohitabon”; Khoja Mahmud fig fag’nawi, Khoja Ali Romitani, whose name among the people is “Khoja Azizon,” Haja Muhammad Father Samasiy, Said Mir Gulal, and Khazrat Bahouddin Naqshbandiy, known among the people as “the Great Khoja,” “the Sultan of Saints”.

In the IX-XII and XIV-XV centuries of the Eastern awakening period, Islamic sciences were developed in several directions on the territory of Uzbekistan in the manner of scientific wisdom, based on the knowledge of the word, the knowledge of narration, the knowledge of Monotheism, the knowledge of the faith, the knowledge of man with the help of the world.

There are many other holy places and shrines for the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan. In the Surkhandarya region, there are Khakim at-Termizi Ensemble, the Tomb of Sultan Saadat, the Tomb of Abu Muhammad at-Termizi, the Forty-girl Fortress, the monument of Fayoztepe, Buddhist temple, Zartepa, Dalvarzintepa, the Old Termez, the monuments of Buddhism such as Karatepa, the Oqsaroy. In the Kashkadarya region there are Dorutilovat Ensemble, Shamsiddin Potter’s Tomb, Dome Sayidon, Kuk Dome Machiti, Dorussaodat Ensemble, Imam Ismail al-Bukhari, Mahdumi O’zam, Horn-Zinda Ensemble. In Samarkand region, there are Abu Mansur Muhammad ibn Muhammad Tomb, Imam Burkhaniddin Marginani Tomb, Khaji Abdu Darun Tomb, Khazrati Khizr machiti, Nuriddin Basir Tomb, Burkhaniddin Sagarjiy (Ruhabad) Tomb, Shepherd’s father Tomb, Khoja Akhrur grave, Daniel Prophet (Holy

Daniil) Tomb. Religious pilgrims places in Bukhara region are Kalon Machiti, Somoni Shrine, Bolokhovuz Machiti, Magoki Attori Machiti, Habib Khavuz Ansanbli, Nadir Devon Begi Honaqasi, Namazgah Machiti, Chashmai Ayub Shrine, Fayzabad Khan, Khaji Zaynuddin Machit-Khanaqasi, Khazrati Bahouddin Nakshbandi Shrine, Abdukhalik Gijduvani Shrine. Religious monuments of Khorezm Region are Said Alovuddin Mausoleum, Juma Machiti, Pahlavon Mahmud Mausoleum, Mukhtar Vali Mausoleum and others (Eraliev et al., 2017. p. 76].

Places of pilgrimage are of great importance as sacred places, which embody the national values of each nation, and in Jizzakh region there are holy places of Sa'd ibn Abu Waqqas, Parpi Baba, Khujamushkent Baba, Rod Baba, teenage father, Said Mir Khalilullah Baba, Khujabagbun Baba, jondahar Baba, blue eldest father, Khujai Sarab Baba, Khoja Shahimardon Sherdor, Sayyid Burkhiddin Kılıç, Khoja Kahhor Vali, Chukhmozor father, Sayfin father, Archamozor father, Chubby father, PARPi Mom, Tiger father, Ladder father, Locksmith father, Changovul grandfather, Fortychilton, Crustacean, Sand father, Grandfather, Beshbulak father. Pilgrims places like Hadrat Zaynulobidin are national-cultural monuments of the Uzbek people as rare examples of folk architecture (Eraliev et al., 2017. p. 39].

The center of Islamic civilization of Uzbekistan, the International Islamic Academy, the Mir Arab High School, the international research centers of Imam Bukhari and Imam Termizi serve to study and promote the rich scientific and historical heritage of Uzbekistan. In order to develop visiting tourism in Uzbekistan, to increase its attractiveness, it is necessary to draw up a tourist map of the holy shrines in Uzbekistan, to create favorable conditions for visitors, to conduct propaganda work well, to improve the service of the transport system, and to pay attention to the issue of preparation of gid-translators.

Decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan “on measures to ensure the rapid development of the tourism sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan” dated December 2, 2016, as well as consistent efforts to develop the tourism sector in Uzbekistan, the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan also made a worthy contribution to the development of visiting tourism. It serves to create suitable conditions for visitors, development of routes of visiting tourism and agreements. Great attention is paid to the development of visiting tourism in Uzbekistan. The role and importance of shrines and pilgrims in the development of tourism has increased, such as Imam al-Bukhari, Shahizinda, Khoja Ahrori Vali, Mahdumi Uzham, Abu Mansur Moturidi, Khoja Iskhak Vali, Khoja Doniyal, Sheikh Burkhoniddin Sagarjiy, Khoja Abdu Darun and Khoja Abdu Berun. A lot of attention is paid to the issues of the formation of appropriate infrastructure for the improvement, restoration and repair of these places.

At the same time, there are problems that are hindering the development of tourism in Uzbekistan. Such problems are caused by the fact that the roads leading to certain places of pilgrimage are being repaired. There are problems in the supply of gas and water also. The fact that the pilgrims are fully integrated with modern information and communication technologies, shortcomings in the provision of electronic systems and interactive services are the most important tasks that must be performed. Not only does one part of the pilgrims have their own website page, Wi-Fi area and traffic signs leading to the facilities and a video surveillance system, will also be necessary to carry out a number of works in this area. In the Republic, there are many orthodox, Catholic and protestant churches, temples of Judaism, Buddhism offering opportunities to use these temples as objects of pilgrimage tourism.

Conclusion:

The development of tourism is also important in terms of ensuring peace and stability in Uzbekistan, beautification of certain regions and employment of its population. Today, representatives of religion other than Islam carry out their trips to Uzbekistan within the framework of visiting tourism. In the south of Uzbekistan, in the Surkhandarya region, there are such monuments as Fayoztepa, Karatepa, Ayritom, Dalvarzintera, which are associated with the Buddhist religion, and now tourists from Japan, Korea, China are paying great attention to the monuments and temples of Buddhism located here. At the same time, there are holy shrines in Uzbekistan, such as Khazz David and Khaz Daniel pilgrims, who are revered in religions other than Islam, and these pilgrims contribute to the maintenance of peace and tolerance of the nation in Uzbekistan. In Samarkand, along with the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches operating in the present time, there are written sources and historical items indicating that the religion of Qam, Shamanism, Fire worship, Christianity, and Islam and various other religions operate side by side on the basis of tolerance. The first Christian metropolis in Samarkand was founded in the 6th century and Christians played an important role in trade-economic and cultural relations between Sogdiana and Byzantium.

At the same time, citizens of many countries of the world use the territory of Uzbekistan as transit during their travels to other countries. Therefore, today it is of urgent importance to pay attention to the issues of further improvement of necessary infrastructure in the field of visiting tourism in Uzbekistan, attention to the promotion of existing facilities, further improvement of the service system, and creative use of the achievements of Information Technologies.

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