



Research of Religious and Cultural Factors Affecting the Development of Tourism in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: *Uzbekistan has all the necessary resources for the development of a modern tourism industry. The location of the country on the Great Silk Road, favorable natural and climatic conditions and historical and cultural development of both domestic and international tourism at the same time creates a high potential for This article examines the prospects of further development of tourism to holy places in Uzbekistan, while studying the experience of developed Muslim countries in the world. At the same time, it also researches the factors that arouse enthusiasm for travel among pilgrims.*

Keywords: *Religious tourism, world religions, religious center, religious culture, factors of religious tourism, holy places, Tashkent, religious tombs, religious ceremonies, pilgrimage tourism cluster.*

Religious tourism is one of the oldest branches of tourism, and since ancient times, people have had a strong desire to travel to places where their religions have developed. Religious tourism is a set of tourism activities arising from spiritual search. Also, religious tourism refers to the representatives of certain religions who visit places considered sacred for them. For example, for Muslims in Mecca and Medina, the Golden Temple is for Sikhs, and for Christians, Jerusalem and Bethlehem are "religion centers". World religions (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism) and local religions (Sikhism, Shintoism, Taoism, etc.) are highly developed in certain countries, and we call such countries by the term "Religious Center". Also, in these countries, the amount of income from the religious sector of tourism is very high. The analysis shows that perception, learning and belief factors for tourists' desire to travel in the world together influence the decision of tourists to choose the religion of travel. Faith is the most important factor among them, because Muslims go on religious trips to Muslim countries more often. As well as representatives of other religions. Tourism and religion can also influence the behavior of tourists; for example, religion is an important factor in choosing a destination, the advantages of the tourist product and the opportunities and facilities related to religion. Religious-cultural tourism has two main sub-types: Pilgrimage, traveling for religious or spiritual purposes, and seeking to see religious monuments and artifacts and religious sites of interest. According to the research conducted by the religious centers, the places of pilgrimage that provide the tourist consumption behavior of the pilgrims and the ease of use of the goods and services there are also the main factors that motivate the development of religious tourism. Listening to different lectures in temples, churches or mosques, participating in seminars and similar activities that emphasize religiousness and culture in tourist places so that tourists can get a lot of spiritual nourishment along with the trip. is a great opportunity. In general, religious tourism can be understood as a movement of people based on knowledge related to religious practice or culture related to pilgrimage.

Representatives of various religions can be found in Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, Uzbekistan can be called a Muslim country because 80 percent of its population believes in Islam. It is not difficult to learn from the ancient monuments that this religion has existed in our country since ancient times. The sources of ancient Islamic architecture have been attracting many tourists.

Holy places are places that believers consider sacred and worship. These are cities, mausoleums, fountains, trees, hills, caves, etc., which are considered to be connected with the names of prophets, sheikhs, saints, and have become places of pilgrimage. Examples of this are the burial places of Imam Bukhari (Samarkand region), Bahauddin Naqshband (Bukhara city), Zangi ata (Tashkent region), Ahmed Yassavi (Turkestan city) and others. In Islam, Mecca and Medina, and in Shia, as well as the cities of Karbala and Najaf, are considered holy places and are visited. For Hindus, the Ganges River, for Jews, for Christians, the city of Jerusalem is considered sacred.

There are many holy places in Uzbekistan. Among them there are well-known cultural monuments and shrines that are not known to many. Studying them and introducing them to the world requires a lot of scientific research. Today, in our country, there are 25 tourist services from Tashkent region, 67 from Samarkand region, 88 from Fergana region, 7 from Khorezm region, 62 from Navoi region, 13 from Surkhandarya region, 15 from Tashkent city, 5 from Syrdarya region, The list includes 28 holy places and shrines from Namangan region, 60 from Kashkadarya region, 98 from Jizzakh region, 53 from the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 29 from Bukhara region, 94 from Andijan region. Of course, this list will continue to grow.



Figure 1. Zangiota holy shrine complex in Tashkent region.

We will analyze the development prospects of religious and cultural tourism on the example of Tashkent, which is one of the oldest religiously developed points of Uzbekistan. Tashkent region is distinguished not only by its convenient geographical location, cultural monuments, and holy places. Here there are historical sites such as "Shoabumulalik ota", "Sheikh Umar Vali Baghistani", "Zangi ota", "Iyk ota", "Gumbaz Baba" mausoleum, "Kaynargumbaz" cistern, "Shahrukhiya" city, which are the great places of the region. speaks of its past, old and rich culture. Great opportunities have been created for Muslims in the "Iyk Ota" complex in Tashkent. In particular, a prayer hall, a library were built in the complex, and all conditions were created for pilgrims. The mausoleum attracts attention as it combines past and present creativity. The courtyards are spacious and comfortable. The prayer hall is spacious and bright. In short, this place has become a modern tourist destination for pilgrims and foreign guests. There are 828 objects of material cultural heritage in the territory of Tashkent region, of which 588 are archeology, 7 are architecture, 74 are monumental monuments, 159 are attractions. Also, 223 of them are local and 605 of them are of republican significance. The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2021 "On measures to further develop domestic and pilgrimage tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan", the Cabinet of Ministers' decree dated February 24, 2021 "On the development of domestic and pilgrimage tourism" The decision "On additional measures" was important for the development of historical monuments in Tashkent region, as well as in all regions of our country, and for creating favorable conditions for local and foreign tourists. In 2021, large-scale construction works were carried out in the shrine of "Saint

Shamirqori" located in Aqqorgan district, "Buzruk Buva" mausoleum and "Temirtaki ota" complex in Bekobod district. Mausoleums and porches were built. The territory of shrines has been beautified. At the same time, repair and restoration works and construction of mausoleums are going on in the shrines of "Sheikh Umar Vali Bogistany" in Bostonliq district and "Zarkent ata" in Parkent district. In the region, special attention is paid not only to the restoration and repair of existing historical monuments, but also to the search for new archaeological monuments. In 2020, as a result of research and research, the cultural heritage objects "Patir Tepa" in Parkent district and "Marjontepa" in Ohangaron district were identified. Archaeological and cultural heritage objects such as "Shohrukhiya", "Qanga", "Sardoba", "Ohangaron", "Korikhona" and "Zangiota" complex in Tashkent region have been submitted as candidates for UNESCO World Heritage. The cultural heritage department of the Tashkent region put forward the idea of establishing a pilgrimage tourism cluster for the first time in our country. The project of establishing this tourism cluster in 2022-2023 in the area of "Shoabdumalik Ota" located in Ohangaron district was drawn up. As part of the project, an "open-air" museum, an indoor museum, an information center providing information to tourists about cultural heritage objects in the region in three languages and with sign language translation, a craftsman branch, a gallery of artists and craftsmen, a photo studio, and a number of tourist services such as book stalls. display objects are created. With the establishment of the pilgrimage tourism cluster, a comprehensive database of all existing archaeological monuments in the region will be formed. Local and foreign tourists who come here will be informed about the historical monuments located in the Tashkent region, and will serve to create a general idea for them. This shrine is considered a place of special importance not only for Uzbekistan, Central Asia, but also for the entire Islamic world. Zangiota is described in historical books, and this great man was a religious and spiritual mentor to many scholars. In general, today Tashkent region is known as the Islamic-cultural capital of Uzbekistan and Central Asia. This makes it possible to increase the tourist potential of Tashkent region.

Modern religious tourism is becoming one of the main segments of tourism business. The main goal of religious tourism is to develop human spirituality and culture, in which a person can cooperate or exchange experience with the place where he lives, his people, culture and religion. This type of tourism is able to play an important role in the common goals of society and help to establish human relations between people of all cultures and religions. In the global development of religious tourism, the current religious situation, as well as research in the field of tourism, play an important role. It is impossible to study any religious field without understanding the religion itself and its influence on the political and social system of any country. Therefore, it is permissible to study the influence of religion and tourism on economic and social development around the world. Today, it is aimed at managers, leaders, planners and other professionals in the field of hospitality industry on topics that include religious tourism in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and several other regions; public officials; religious leaders; training researchers, academicians and students working in the fields of tourism management, business management, information and communication sciences, administrative sciences and management, education, social and political sciences. If these experiences are applied in the conditions of Uzbekistan, it is clear that religious and cultural tourism will develop in the future.

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