

## **The Potential of Tourism Resources and Opportunities for Development of Tourist Services in Uzbekistan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

the article highlights the potential of tourism resources and development of tourist services in Uzbekistan, the potential of tourism knowledge, including historical periods, and the ways of their development, in addition to recreational opportunities. Also, the possibility of international tourism not only to introduce Uzbekistan to the world with the potential of rich natural resources, but also to help restore the forgotten historical basis of the country.

**KEYWORDS:** tourism, international tourism, recreational, tourist station, tourism, foreign citizens, historical.

Uzbekistan is an important object for successful tourist activity. Regional and foreign experts have highly evaluated the tourist potential of Uzbekistan and included it in the first place in the Central Asian region and among the 20 countries with the highest tourist potential. Recreational opportunities of the republic are rich and diverse due to natural and climatic conditions, flora and fauna, mineral resources. It includes forest farms, national parks, nature reserves, recreation areas, tourist health complexes, mineral and balneological sources, tourist bases and children's excursion-tourist stations, developing tourism and the main source of income of the state budget. may be the basis for having sources.

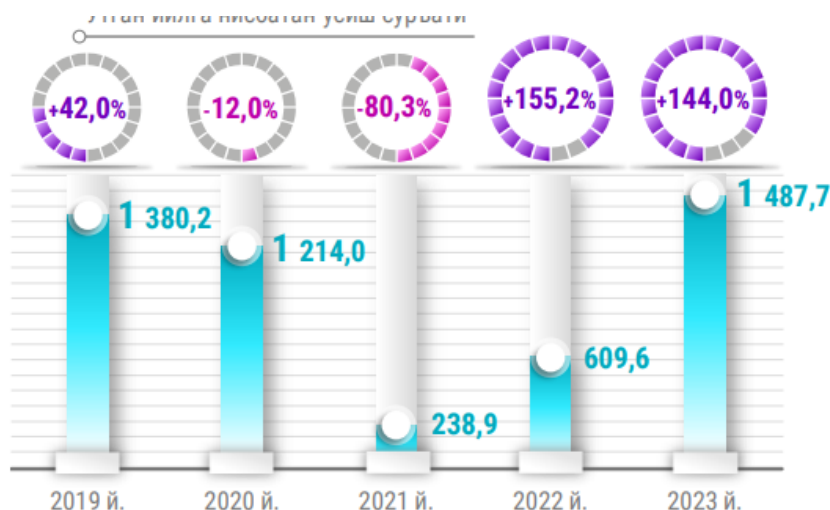
As one of the important areas of recreation, the tourism industry is becoming one of the most promising and priority sectors of the republic's economy.

### **Research methodology.**

At the making of this article, the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on tourism development, the statement of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the statement of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers, the official statistics of the Ministry of Tourism, systematic approach, observation, generalization, comparative analysis, synthesis were used.

### **Analysis and results**

As can be seen from Figure 1, the evolution of institutional changes in the field of tourism has given rise to major changes. The number of tourists coming to Uzbekistan has increased by 3-4 times in a short period of time, excluding the pandemic period. The arrival of nearly 7 million tourists in 2019 shows that the tourism reforms are effective and on the right track.



The number of foreign citizens who came to the Republic of Uzbekistan in January-March 2023 totaled 1487.7 thousand people. Compared to 2022, their number has increased by 2.4 times. In the first quarter of 2023, the number of tourists arriving by air transport was 198.3 thousand people (13.3%), those who arrived by railway - 21.8 thousand people (1.5%), those who arrived by road transport - 6.5 thousand people (0.4 %) formed. The largest number of tourists, i.e. 1,261,100 (84.8%) came on foot.

The number of foreign citizens who came to Uzbekistan in January-March 2023, who specified the purpose of their trip as study, was 3.3 thousand. per person (0.2% of total arrivals), commercial arrivals - 9.7 thousand people (0.6%), for treatment - 17.5 thousand people (1.2%), for a business trip - 27.0 thousand people (1.8%), for free time and rest - It corresponded to 108.1 thousand people (7.3%). And to the goals of most trips 1,322,100 people (88.9%) were identified as extermination of relatives.

Business trips increased to 97.1% compared to 2022 of the corresponding period. Trips made to visit relatives increased to 2.5 times, trips for study purposes by 2.8 times, trips for leisure and recreation by 2.9 times, and trips for commercial purposes by 3.3 times. On the other hand, medical trips decreased to 4.9%.

The number of foreign tourists who came to Uzbekistan in 2017-2022 increased almost 2 times. In 2017 the number of tourists were 2.7 million therefore in 2022 this indicator reached to 5.2 a million people.

In 2022, tourists mainly visited Uzbekistan Kazakhstan (1551.1 thousand people, in 2017 1783.8 thousand people), Tajikistan (1447.8 thousand people, 5.5 times more than in 2017) and Kyrgyzstan (1356.9 thousand people, as of 2017 compared to 3.6 times more).

The most foreign tourists, to be precise 89.1% came to visit their relatives to Uzbekistan. Most of them Kazakhstan (31.8%), Kyrgyzstan (29.2%) and Citizens of Tajikistan (27.9%).

For relaxation and recreation Most foreign citizens come to Uzbekistan from Russia (37.6%), Kazakhstan (11.2%) and came from Turkey (6.3%).

As information: 91 countries of the world citizens can visit Uzbekistan without the procedure. Compare to other countries such as Kazakhstan 26, Turkiye 41, Georgia 56 country citizens can visit without visa.

Tourists coming to Uzbekistan in 2022 3.4 million people compared to 2021 there was a lot and the increase was more than 2.8 times. As a result, tourism services exports increased significantly. In 2017 export of tourism services 546.9 million USD in 2022 the indicator increased by 2.9 times to 1610.5 million amounted to US dollar.

Export of services in 2017-2022 total export of tourism services share increased 1.8 times. If in 2017 this indicator was 22.1%, in 2022, it reached to 40.7%.

Reforms in tourism the effect is that the potential of the industry is large testifies. Uzbekistan at the world level tourism to increase tourism attractiveness new directions such as ethnic and environmental tourism development, as well as a variety of our country Organization of thematic festivals in their regions proposed.

As we know, in addition to recreational opportunities, the potential of touristic knowledge, including historical periods, is also of great importance. Total recreational, intellectual potential, unique national and cultural monuments of our republic are important not only for politicians and businessmen, but also for all strata of the population with a broad outlook.

Uzbekistan, in the realization of the goals of globalization through regionalism, in the wide use of international tourism opportunities, is not only a young independent country in front of the world, but also a rich heir and now many historical monuments and a historical crossroad for many centuries, more than 2000 years old history. appears as the successor of the region.

These ancient regions served as a political-historical turning point for many centuries and are now a region where historical monuments from past times are located.

The existence of 2 famous historical and cultural regions of Sogdiyona and Bactria in this area, as well as show that the construction of many fortresses and cities during the intensive colonization of Central Asia by the Seljuks.

In addition, it testifies to the beginning of a new era in the history of Central Asia with the emergence of the Greco-Bactrian state from the middle of the 3rd century BC and the unification of powerful tribes into 5 large groups at the beginning of the 2nd century. The unification took place under the influence of the Kushan kingdom. It took the Kushan kingdom to the Indian subcontinent and was included in history among the great powers such as the Roman Empire, Prafia, and China.

Even now, the spiritual, historical, cultural and architectural heritage left from the time of Amur Temur is huge and incomparable.

Historical figures, such as philosophers and religious leaders, who acquired mainly religious and political literature, were born and they remained forever in the history of the city, country, and civilization. It was from this place that a large caravan passed, and there was a rapid and wide exchange of goods, scientific knowledge, cultures, and handicrafts.

International tourism not only introduces Uzbekistan to the world with its rich natural resource potential, but also helps to restore the forgotten historical basis of the country, and because the ancient cities of Uzbekistan were flourishing culturally, craft and trade centers, and a number of researchers from the west and attracts travelers. These places are considered to be the masterpiece of the "Golden Heritage" of the republic and they can serve as one of the most popular objects of tourist activity.

Independent Uzbekistan, located in the heart of the Central Asian region, can also act as a connecting link between the independent countries of this region. Today, all conditions have been created to turn the republic into a regional center of international tourism and to implement large investment projects at the transnational level as well as in the territory. The republic has a useful geostrategic position in Central Asia. From ancient times, trade routes such as the famous "Silk Road" passed through the lands of present-day Uzbekistan, foreign relations grew rapidly, and mutual enrichment took place as a result of different cultures. During the 18th century (until the 16th century AD) from the Chinese city of Slan through Uzgan (now Uzgan) in those times. To the Ferghana Valley, known as Davan or Davan Khanate, Shosh (Tashkent oasis), Usturashan (territorial part of Syrdarya and Jizzakh regions), Sugdiyona country (through the cities of Samarkand and Bukhara), the city of Amul (modern Chorju) and from there countries such as Iran and

Mesopotamia trade caravans reached the Mediterranean Sea through New cities with many Caravanserais were built along the "Great Silk Road", watering canals, craft centers, scientific and spiritual centers (madrasas, libraries, harems and magnificent palaces) were built<sup>1</sup>.

The "Great Silk Road" had a great influence on the development of the ancient cities located between it and the international trade and cultural relations.

As a result of the interaction of the Near and Middle East, a unique intercontinental culture was formed here. Famous architectural monuments and products made by masters were not only an economic indicator, but also a form of philosophy, as well as an effort to understand and study the world and the culture of other peoples. Uzbekistan, which has its roots of several thousand years, is now famous in the world and has a number of thinkers such as Ibn-Sina (Avicenna) Beruni, Navoi, Ulugbek, who made a significant contribution to the development of world science. is appearing as an introducer of ancient culture to the world community.

It is known from history that the main transport links in the arid region of Central Eurasia intersect in the territory of Uzbekistan. This will help Uzbekistan to build a Eurasian economic and cultural bridge as a foreign economic activity in one of these main directions and serve as a basis for the flow (movement) of various investments, technology, and cultural values.

Uzbekistan has a transport infrastructure, and in cooperation with the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization, it can access the main transport routes as well as the sea route. The republic can go to Iran, Turkey, Central Asian countries through highways and railways, and through Iran to the ports of the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

The scope of tourist resources includes a combination of natural components, socio-economic conditions, and cultural resources as conditions that satisfy human tourist needs. Special, (characteristic) features of tourist resources include:

Integrity, dynamic, capacity, appropriateness, usefulness, attractiveness. A number of specific areas are considered for the development of tourist farms with tourist resources as an object of tourism circulation and exploitation.

The tourism industry includes the use of natural resources, historical, cultural, architectural and other places of national interest.

The concept of recreational resources complements and expands the concept of "tourist resources"<sup>2</sup>. It includes natural components, socio-economic conditions and cultural assets. They are manifested as the health conditions of human needs.

Tourism resources can be divided into:

- ✓ natural tourism resources (value, locality, water resources, relief, caves, mineral and bolneological resources, flora and fauna, national parks, nature corners)
- ✓ recognized resources - cultural, historical, archaeological, ethnographic objects (museums, exhibitions, theaters, archaeological, historical changes)
- ✓ socio-economic conditions and resources (geographical condition of the territory, level of its social and economic development, modern and future organization of the regional economy, social infrastructure,

<sup>1</sup> A.N. Norchaev. International tourism. Lecture texts. TSUE 2005 85 p.

<sup>2</sup> A.N. Norchaev. International tourism. Lecture texts. TSUE 2008 43 p.

socio-demographic structure of the population, level of development of food resources and transport links).

Specialization and uniqueness of tourist resources should be emphasized.

The uniqueness of the tourist object is of particular importance on a global scale. Historical monuments and spiritual treasures of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva are famous in many countries of the world. According to the World Tourism Organization, the number of visitors to this city is 10 million. is enough for a person. These cities are directly related to the name of the great plagues, which have been famous since 2500 years ago.

Calculations show that even if every tourist leaves at least 100 dollars a day for services in the republic, without taking into account other expenses, the annual foreign currency inflow will be 5 billion. can amount to dollars.

Smart use of existing tourist resources in the complex of high level of service will increase the arrival of tourists to Uzbekistan. Depending on the length of time, it can be extended from 3-4 days to 7-8 days if the industry of providing additional services to guests and receiving food is developed.

Samarkand is one of the oldest cities in the world. This city is the same age as Babylon and Athens. The first impressions about Samarkand date back to the 4th century BC. At that time, Samarkand was known as Marakanda, it had huge walls protecting the city. The city has gained great importance in the historical, political, economic and cultural life of Central Asia.

The main thing is its geographical location. It is located in the fertile and cultivated lands of the Zarafshan region, on the "Great Silk Road" (the road leading from China to Byzantium).

Due to the fact that the region of Zarafshan coincided with the latitude and mountain range, these lands became a place for the population to gather, and became a center of trade, commerce and trade of powerful peoples. Thanks to the monuments of great people who lived in Samarkand, the museum served as a city now. First of all, there are Shahi Zinda mausoleum, Guramir mausoleum, Bibi Khanim mosque, Registan square. Ulugbek observatory and Sherdor madrasah also must be remembered. Foreign tourists are amazed by the high level of mastery and artistic talent of ancient great people.

Bukhara, like Samarkand, is rich in ancient architectural monuments. These monuments undoubtedly attract foreign tourists and have gained worldwide popularity. About 140 architectural monuments are preserved here. Famous poets of the last century, such as Firdavsi Rudaki, world-famous scientific encyclopedist Abu Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna) lived and worked in Bukhara.

Kalon Tower is one of the most famous architectural monuments built 900 years ago.

Ark Castle is located in the center of Bukhara. This castle is very old. Other monuments are also of great interest. These include Chor-Minor madrasa, Bolakhovuz mosque, Abdulazizkhan madrasa, Mir-arab madrasas.

The buildings and structures preserved in Khiva also attract foreign tourists. The most important monuments of the city are Ichankala and Dishon Castle. These are 2 parts of the city.

In our opinion, the main direction of prospective socio-economic development of the ancient cities of Uzbekistan is the intensive development and formation of tourism business infrastructure.

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