



## Importance of Development of Ecological Tourism in Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** *This article presents thoughts and opinions about the importance and benefits of developing ecological tourism in Uzbekistan.*

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When thinking about the organization of travel to the embrace of nature, the term "ecotourism" is often mentioned. In fact, ecotourism is, on the one hand, a rapidly growing branch of the tourist market, and on the other hand, it is a system based on the positive impact of man on nature. In addition, it is an integral part of the tourism infrastructure and is not only an idea, but also a specific type of general tourism. Its impact on the environment can be different (negative, neutral and positive). "Ecotourism" is widely used in the modern management of protected areas and natural parks. The reason for the rapid growth of this type of tourism on a global scale is not only the deterioration of the environment, but also the fact that popular places for recreation - mountain resorts, warm sea shores, plains and forests - are becoming more and more popular. It is also the fact that it is being used.

Today, in scientific and popular literature, as well as in the mass media, there are many views aimed at revealing the role and importance of ecotourism. At this point, "What is the importance of developing ecotourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan?" the question arises. There are several reasons for this:

First, according to the information of international organizations and institutions, most types of tourism are increasing by an average of 5% per year, while ecotourism is increasing by an average of 20-30% per year. The scientific experience and conclusions of many experts and researchers show that, despite the fact that ecotourism is a new and young direction of tourism, its popularity is 2-3 times faster than other tourist directions;

Secondly, a base of certain achievements and experiences has been formed in Uzbekistan in such types of tourism as historical tourism, religious tourism, cultural tourism;

Thirdly, at the moment, there are about 800 tour operator companies, about 600 hotels, more than 30 protected areas (reserves, national parks, rare natural monuments, etc.), 60 forests jalikali, is operating. There are also more than 400 unique monuments of nature in Uzbekistan.

The term "Ecotourism" is often replaced by other terms such as "natural tourism", "sustainable tourism", "green tourism", "responsible tourism" and "philanthropic tourism". Although some elements are the same, they are not actually synonymous with each other, and one does not replace

the other. Ecotourism is a type of natural tourism. It can include some parts of natural tourism, for example, adventure tourism - horseback riding or sailing. The following definition of ecotourism is more often used: "Ecotourism" is natural tourism, which includes the creation and understanding of the natural environment. Its management is carried out in such a way that the activity is ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable. Ecotourism, like other types of tourism, should be ecologically sustainable, provide pleasure to tourists and bring income to local residents.

Ecotourism has gained increasing attention in recent years as a form of tourism that prioritizes sustainability, responsible travel and environmental protection. Unlike traditional forms of tourism, which often have a negative impact on the environment and local communities, ecotourism aims to create positive outcomes for both travelers and destinations. Ecotourism is "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, promotes the well-being of local people, and includes interpretation and education" (International Ecotourism Society). This article explores the importance and benefits of developing ecotourism as a means of promoting sustainable travel, environmental protection, and economic development. In order to understand the importance and benefits of ecotourism development, this article examines various sources of information, including academic studies, reports and case studies. The resources cover topics such as the economic benefits of ecotourism, best practices in sustainable tourism, and the impact of ecotourism on local communities and the environment. The data are synthesized and presented in the following sections.

**The goal of ecotourism development is as follows:**

- to demonstrate the ecotourism potential, natural potential and resources of Uzbekistan in the world tourist service market;
- to encourage scientific research aimed at more effective use of ecotourism resources and opportunities of regions, especially nature, geosystems;
- increasing the importance and share of ecotourism in the development of tourism;
- Fundamental improvement of the quality of ecotourism services in tourism activities introduced in Uzbekistan and rapid increase in the volume of ecotourism services;
- creation of scientific, innovative and methodological developments aimed at the development of ecotourism in the future;

Increasing the role of ecotourism in the formation of a positive image of Uzbekistan in the field of tourism, etc.

Uzbekistan is very rich in ecotourism resources and opportunities. Eco-tours conducted by tour operators on such routes as "Tashkent-Chorvaq-Tashkent", "Tashkent-Bildirsoy-Chimyon-Tashkent", "Tashkent-Zomin-Tashkent", "Tashkent-Aydarkol-Tashkent", camel rides in desert areas walk is receiving great attention and recognition not only from Uzbekistan, but also from tourists from all over the world. According to the analysis, tour operator companies providing ecotourism services mainly operate within the Chimyon-Chorvoq recreation zone. However, Uzbekistan's Hisar, Bobotog, Kohitangtog (Surkhandarya), Chakchar (Kashkadarya), Nurota (Navoi-Jizzakh), Zarafshan (Samarkand), Turkestan (Jizzakh), Oloy (Fergana), Kurama, Chotkal (Namangan) mountains, residual mountains in the Kyzylkum desert, Kyzylkum desert, dry bottom of the Aral Sea and salty lakes, Ustyurt plateau, Borsa kelmas salt marsh, Mingbulok bog, Aydarko Organization of complex and thematic eco-tours along the banks of Dengizkol, Amudarya and Syrdarya, Muruntov quarry and unique monuments of nature has not been fully implemented. Speleotourism (cave tourism) has great potential in Uzbekistan, which is rich in unique charm and unrepeatable landscapes. At the moment, there are more than 500 caves in Uzbekistan, and according to information, eco-tours are not organized in any of them due to insufficient tourist infrastructure. In the deserts and plains of Uzbekistan, there are great opportunities to organize a

camel ride aimed at viewing the deserts, dunes, forests, shorkhok, barrens, wells, as well as the grasses that show the way of life of local shepherds.

In recent years, a number of scientific researches aimed at revealing the scientific and methodological foundations of ecotourism have been conducted in Uzbekistan, candidate and master's dissertations have been defended, and scientific and educational literature has been published. Theoretical aspects of ecotourism and local studies were studied in the traditional mentor-student system. However, the analyzes in this regard show the importance of training bachelor personnel who are familiar with nature and geosystems, who can lead a group in nature and in extreme conditions of nature, who have the qualification to provide first aid if necessary. The reason is that types of tourism such as historical tourism, religious tourism, medical tourism, cultural tourism are mainly conducted in urban areas, where there are sufficient tourist infrastructure and service facilities, while ecotours are mainly conducted in nature and geosystems, most ecotours are characterized by extremeness.

According to it, we conducted a survey among our compatriots on the importance of ecotourism

	Frequency	percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative interest
Too bad	13	12.30	12.0	12.0
Not bad	44	41.50	42.0	54.0
good	46	43.40	43.0	97.0
Very good	3	2.80	3.0	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

In summary, ecotourism can greatly benefit local communities, promote environmental protection, and provide unique experiences for travelers. At the same time, it is necessary to adopt best practices and involve local communities in the development and management of ecotourism projects to ensure that ecotourism remains sustainable and responsible. The procedures for creating recreational zones in Uzbekistan will be simplified, and ecotourism will be further developed. The bill "On amendments and additions to certain legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan" considered by the deputies at the next plenary session of the lower house of the parliament refers to this. This document envisages changes and additions to the Land Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the laws "On Forests" and "On Protected Natural Areas". It is necessary for the effective and rational use of the land of the fund, the legal regulation of the leasing of land plots by the State Forestry Committee to legal entities and individuals on the basis of investment contracts or public-private partnerships. It was emphasized that the procedures for placing bee families (hives) and farms in forest fund plots should be simplified. This can be achieved only by making changes to the relevant legislation. As a result of the adoption of this draft Law, the effectiveness of the State Forestry Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan will be ensured.

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