



Main Ways of Development of the Tourism Potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Ulashev Khubbim Askarovich

Ph.D. D., Assoc. Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, The Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract: *This article provides an overview of the tourist region, the stages of tourism development in Uzbekistan.*

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The development of the tourism sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2025 is aimed at transforming tourism into a strategic sector of the national economy and achieving its target indicators by diversifying and improving the quality of tourist services, improving tourism infrastructure, including by attracting foreign investment, conducting effective advertising and marketing work.

The main stages of development of the tourism sector:

2019-2020 - institutional reforms to create a solid legislative framework for tourism development, modernize infrastructure and promote the country's tourism brand;

2021-2025 - increasing the share of the tourism industry in the country's economy by developing the necessary infrastructure and successfully promoting the tourism potential of the republic on world markets;

in the long term, tourism in Uzbekistan will not be limited to achievements in the national economy and can enter the regional and world markets of tourist services.

Great attention is paid to the development of tourism in the country. In particular, in order to create conveniences for foreign tourists, visa and registration processes have been drastically simplified. The procedure for temporary registration of foreign citizens on the territory of the republic has been simplified, which has been completely transferred to the electronic format E-mehmon. This system provides accommodation facilities, hospitals, travel companies, guest houses and private apartment owners with the right to register foreign citizens. Individuals traveling around the country can do this via the Internet and mobile applications.

Along with traditional, cultural and historical tourism, such new types of tourism as pilgrimage, ecological, cognitive, ethnographic, gastronomic, sports, health-improving, rural, industrial, business and other types of tourism are successfully developing.

The tourism potential of Uzbekistan is already well known abroad. This is largely facilitated by public diplomacy and effective advertising using modern technologies.

The attention of potential foreign tourists is attracted by cultural events held in the country, which introduce the history and traditions of the Uzbek people, with its original culture, crafts and art.

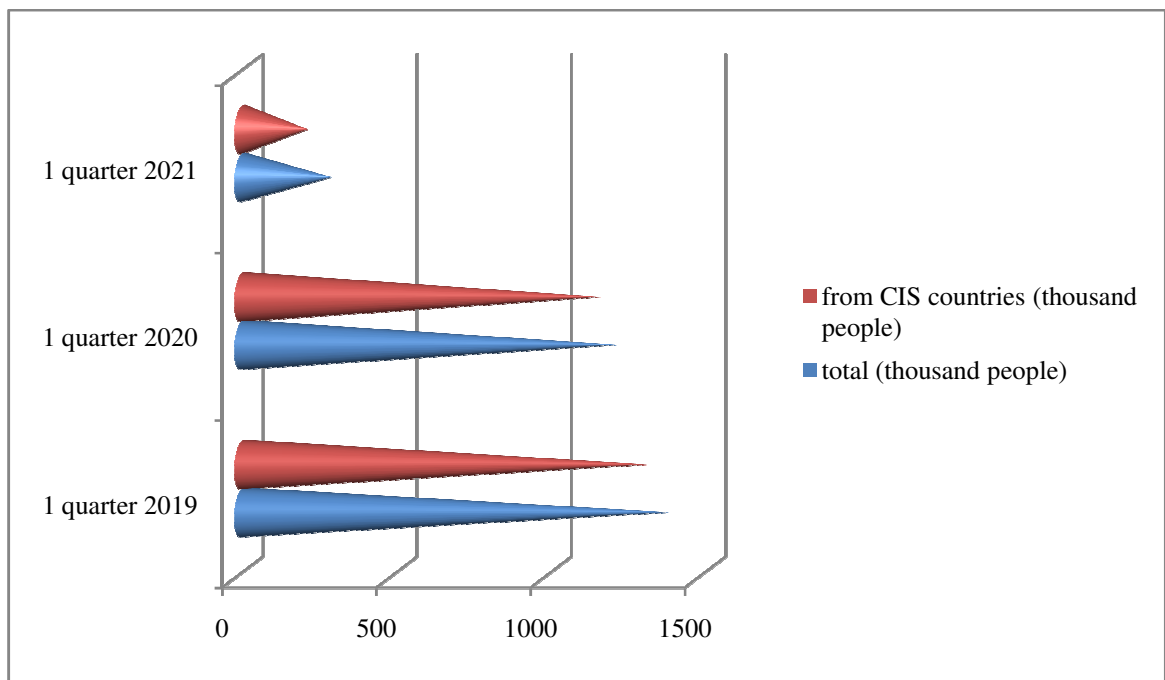
In recent years, new types of travel have been actively introduced in Uzbekistan, including ecological tourism. The presence in the republic of reserves, national parks, nurseries, wildlife sanctuaries, natural monuments, a biosphere reserve turns ecotourism into a very promising direction.

In addition, geotourism, medical tourism, as well as mountaineering and rafting have developed in Uzbekistan. Recreation areas and comfortable infrastructure facilities are being built in the regions. For example, in the sports and recreation centers "Chimgan", "Beldersay" and "Charvak", located in the Tashkent region, the necessary conditions have been created for practicing alpine skiing and other winter sports. Mountain trails of various types have been built here, ranging from 300 to 3 thousand meters. Vacationers can climb the cable car using a special lift. Gastronomic tourism is also gaining popularity in Uzbekistan, the development of which made it possible to make pilaf and other national dishes a recognizable brand of the country.

In January-March 2021, the number of foreign citizens who visited the Republic of Uzbekistan for tourism amounted to 238.8 thousand people. In January-March of the previous year, this indicator was recorded at the level of 1 214.0 thousand people. Compared to the same period last year, the number of foreign persons who entered Uzbekistan decreased by 5.1 times. Along with this, the number of citizens of Uzbekistan who left the republic for the purpose of tourism in January-March 2021 totaled 301.9 thousand people, in January-March last year, the same figure was 1 435.3 thousand people. Compared to the same period last year, the number of citizens who left for foreign countries decreased by 4.8 times.

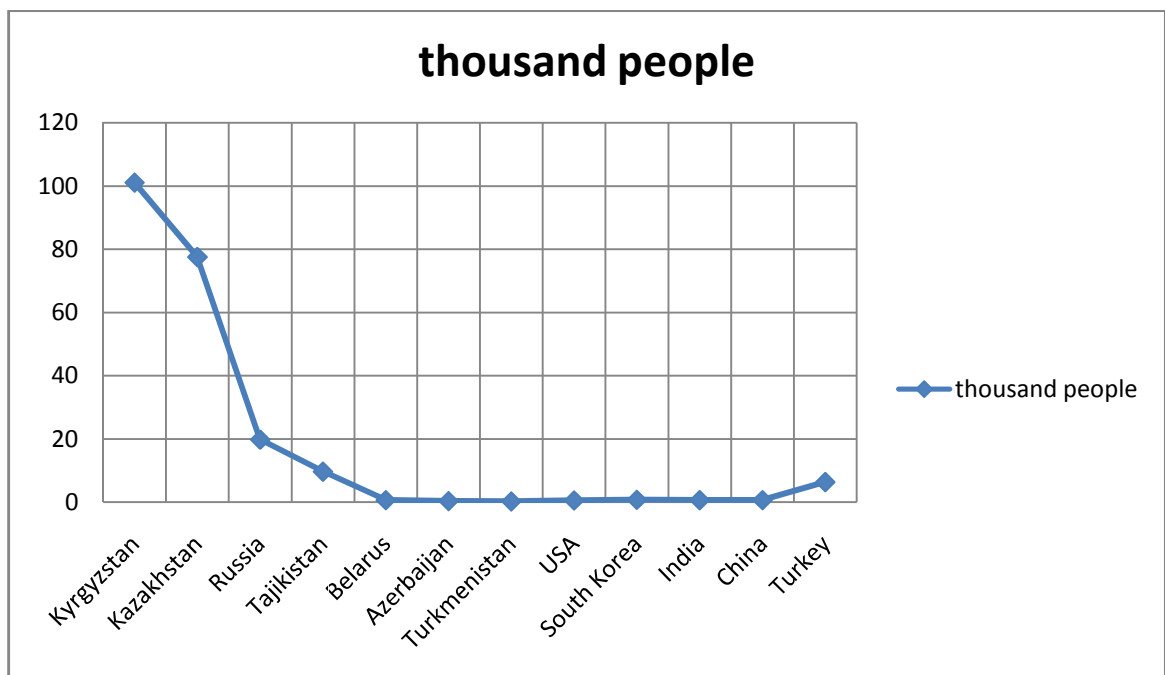
In January-March 2021, foreign citizens who arrived in the Republic of Uzbekistan from the CIS countries amounted to 210.8 thousand people, which reached 88.3% of their total number, from other countries - 28.0 thousand people (11.7 % of their total). The dynamics of the number of foreign citizens arriving in Uzbekistan demonstrates their decrease in the period from January-March 2019 to January-March 2021 - by 1,141.4 thousand people. The number of foreigners arriving from the CIS over the past three years has decreased by 6.2 times, from other countries - by 2.5 times.

Picture 1- Foreign citizens who entered Uzbekistan for tourist purposes (thousand people)



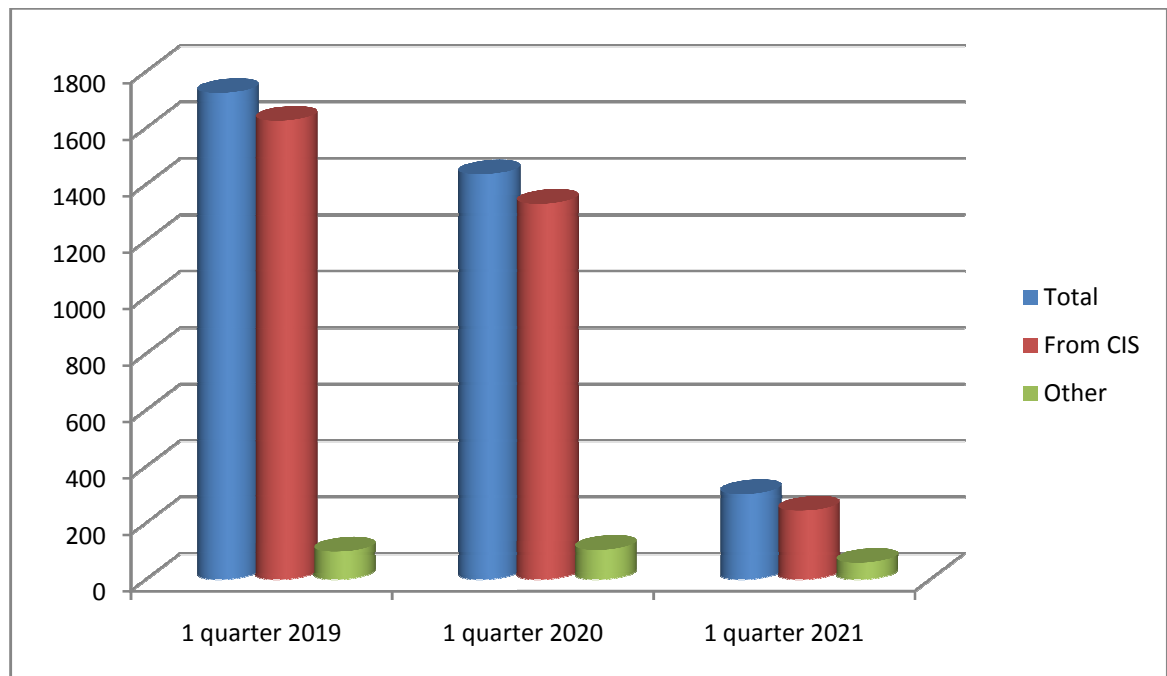
The largest flow of foreign citizens to our republic was noted from the following countries: Kyrgyzstan - 101.0 thousand people (42.3% of the total number of all arrivals), Kazakhstan - 77.5 thousand people (32.4%), Russia - 19.8 thousand people (8.3%), Tajikistan - 9.7 thousand people (4.0%), Belarus - 0.7 thousand people (0.3%), Azerbaijan - 0.4 thousand people (0.2%) and Turkmenistan - 0.3 thousand people (0.1%). The main contingent of Kyrgyz citizens came to Uzbekistan to visit relatives - 97.7%, for treatment - 1.2%. 91.4% of citizens of Kazakhstan also came to visit their relatives, 2.9% - for the purpose of rest and leisure. 38.4% of South Korean citizens came for rest and leisure, 17.8% - for business purposes.

Picture 2 - The number of foreign citizens who arrived in the Republic of Uzbekistan (in January-March 2021)



The number of Uzbek citizens who left the republic in January-March 2021 for the CIS countries reached 243.2 thousand people, which amounted to 80.6% of their total number, in other countries - 58.7 thousand people (19.4 % of their total).

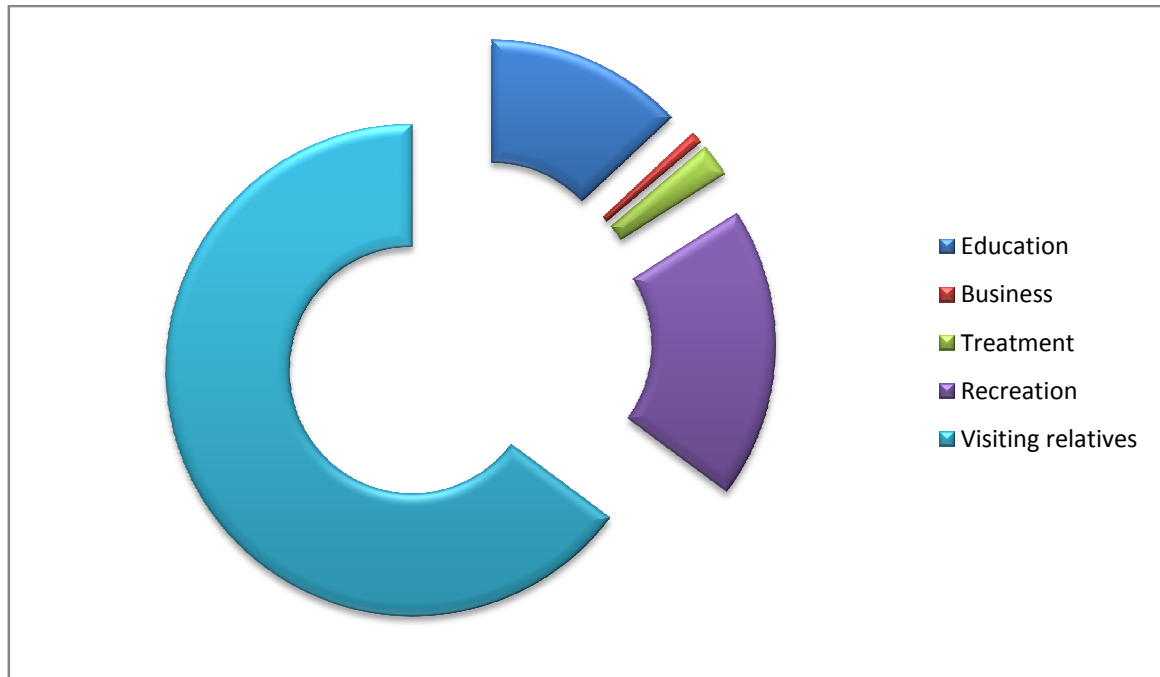
Picture 3 -Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who left its borders for tourism purposes (thousand people)



The flow of our citizens abroad decreased from 8,437.8 thousand people in January-March 2019 to 2001.5 thousand people in the same period in 2021.

The largest outflow of people to foreign countries was noted in Kyrgyzstan - 52.2% (157.5 thousand people), Kazakhstan - 12.2% (36.8 thousand people), Tajikistan - 12.1% (36.4 thousand people). people), Turkey - 8.7% (26.4 thousand people), to the United Arab Emirates - 6.7% (20.2 thousand people), Russia - 3.1% (9.4 thousand people) , Egypt - 2.3% (7.0 thousand people), Belarus - 0.7% (2.1 thousand people), Maldives - 0.5% (1.4 thousand people), South Korea - 0 , 4% (1.2 thousand people) and India - 0.4% (1.2 thousand people).

Picture 4 – The ratio of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who went abroad by purpose of travel (in January-March 2021, thousand people)



The bulk of the citizens of Uzbekistan who left the country from January to March 2021 pursued the goal of visiting relatives outside the state - 195.6 thousand, the rest went to rest and usefully spend time (leisure) - 57.9 thousand, went to study - 39.4 thousand, to be treated - 6.6 thousand and on a work-related basis - 2.4 thousand. The largest number of citizens who left Uzbekistan indicated visiting relatives as their goal - 64.8%, the smallest - rest and leisure - 19.2%, study - 13.0%, treatment - 2.2%, business trips - 0, eight %.

After analyzing the data on the distribution of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan by age who left in January-March 2021, it can be concluded that the bulk of them were persons aged 31-55 years - 46.4%, 19-30 years old - 34.9 %, 56 years and older - 11.1%, 0-18 years old - 7.6%. For the purpose of recreation and leisure, 55.5% of citizens of Uzbekistan aged 31-55 left to study, 79.4% of persons aged 19-30 left to study, 69.7% of persons aged 31-55 left for official purposes. relatives - 49.6% at the age of 31-55 years and for treatment - 54.6% at the age of 31-55 years.

The current growth dynamics of the tourism industry confirms the need to modernize the personnel training system for it, taking into account the existing realities and prospects. The creation of a number of educational institutions for the training of qualified specialists in this area was facilitated by the Decree of the President of the country "On the training of qualified personnel for the tourism sector in Uzbekistan" of June 30, 1999 and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On measures to further support and development of the tourism sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan" October 10, 2012.

Based on the target tasks and priorities in the field of tourism in the short term, it is planned to implement measures in the following main areas:

improvement of the regulatory framework in the field of tourism activities, implementation of international norms and standards aimed at creating favorable conditions for the development of the tourism industry, including:

development of tourism infrastructure and related infrastructure in all regions of the republic, taking into account the needs and requests of tourists;

development of transport logistics, expansion of external and internal routes, improving the quality of transport services;

taking comprehensive measures to reduce the influence of the seasonal factor by diversifying the tourism product and services focused on various segments of the tourism market in order to ensure the systematization of tourist routes, the development of new tourist programs, and the development of "MICE tourism";

the development of domestic tourism, which stimulates the activity of the subjects of tourist activity, focused on meeting the needs for tourist services within the republic;

promotion of the tourist product of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the domestic and foreign tourist markets, strengthening the country's image as safe for travel and recreation;

improving the system of training highly qualified specialists, retraining and advanced training of workers providing services in the field of tourism.

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