



The Significance of Pilgrimage Tourism at a New Stage of Development of Uzbekistan

Z.H. Adilov

T.F.N., Professor

A. U. Muxammadjonov

Magistrant, FarPI

X. I. Po'latov

Magistrant

Abstract: *In Uzbekistan, since 2016, tourism has been declared one of the most important sectors of the country's economy. During these years, along with all areas of tourism, extensive work has been done to develop pilgrimage tourism. As a result, the number of tourists visiting our country has increased significantly. This article is devoted to the development of pilgrimage tourism and its results in building the "third renaissance" in Uzbekistan.*

Keywords: *great figures, pilgrimage tourism, tourism infrastructure, sacred sites, visa facilitation, "Halal Tourism", "Crescent Rating" organization.*

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Introduction. Uzbekistan is one of the countries of the world rich in holy places. During the years of independence, studies were carried out on the places where the great ancestors settled forever, who played an incomparable place in the development of Islam, and they were landscaped. These addresses, in turn, have become places of pilgrimage. Such places are considered sacred not only for the inhabitants of Uzbekistan, but also for the entire Islamic world.

Main Part. Currently, there are 1851 objects of material and cultural heritage in the Samarkand region [1], and in the Bukhara region their number is 829 [2], Among these objects there are many holy places that you can visit. In particular, among the objects located only in the Bukhara region, there are 105 mosques and 14 mausoleums, and these objects have a high potential for the development of pilgrimage tourism. These factors have served as the basis for the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan and its promotion to the world level over the past six years. However, despite this, there are issues in this regard awaiting resolution, and their analysis may make it possible to make some suggestions and recommendations in this regard. For this reason, scientific analysis of the work carried out in this area and their results is important.

Since 2017, systematic work has begun in Uzbekistan to develop pilgrimage tourism as a special area of tourism and its introduction to the world. In particular, on August 16, 2017, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On priority measures for the development of the tourism sector for 2018-2019" was announced. This decision approved the first Program of

Measures for the Development of the Tourism Industry for 2018-2019, aimed at facilitating travel to Uzbekistan, developing tourism infrastructure and creating new tourist facilities[3].

Based on this decision, a list of countries is compiled within a month, whose citizens are invited to simplify the procedure for obtaining a visa from January 1, 2018, as well as a list of countries whose citizens are offered special pilgrimage tourism programs, as well as to intensify work to attract tourists from Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries to the holy places of Uzbekistan in the direction of pilgrimage tourism, in this regard, the necessary promotional activities, logistics, including the organization of charter flights, and other tasks have been identified[4].

In addition, in order to ensure the comfort of pilgrims visiting our country, the State Unitary Enterprise of the State Committee for the Development of Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Tourist Services Certification Center" has developed a new state standard. Based on this document, from January 1, 2018, the standard for tourist services, accommodation facilities and general requirements came into force. According to the new rules, at least one tenth of the total number of rooms in each hotel must have the Holy Quran, a place for prayer, and at least 30 percent of the rooms must have a Qibla indicator [5].

In addition, a number of events have been held in our country to develop halal tourism. For example, in 2018, in the Halal Tourism rating compiled by the Crescent Rating organization in 2017 (Uzbekistan ranked 28th in the rating compiled in 2017), "safe travel" - 84 points out of 100, "freedom of worship" - 80, "food and guarantees" - 70, "visa" - 50, "airport" - 48.3, "family vacation" - 44.4, "living conditions" - 33.2, "opportunities for Muslims" - 25, "tourist arrival" - 21.2, "communicative opportunities" - 19, the assessment is at a lower level, attention is paid to the improvement of less developed areas. In particular, proposals and recommendations for the development of pilgrimage tourism in our country were developed by the State Committee for Development tourism together with the organization "Crescent-Rating". Based on these recommendations, the necessary conditions were created for performing prayers at international airports [6].

At the same time, the Department for the Development of Pilgrimage Tourism began to work as part of the Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main tasks of this department are the preparation of analytical documents on issues related to the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan, the creation of favorable economic, organizational and legal conditions for the rapid development of tourism as a strategic sector of the country's economy, to present relevant proposals for the full and effective use of the huge tourism potential of the regions, defined as [7]. Development of pilgrimage tourism in Tashkent, visiting cards for 15 registered religious institutions were developed by the State Committee for Tourism Development. A map of halal food places, national cuisines, restaurants, family visiting places for Indonesian and Malaysian travel agencies and visitors has been prepared. Also, for the first time in our country, the Halal standard was introduced, which is necessary for the sphere of pilgrimage tourism.

These and other factors, in turn, have led to a significant increase in the number of Muslim tourists. In particular, we see this clearly when comparing November 2019 figures with 2018 figures. In particular, in November 2018, 287 tourists from the country of Pakistan visited, while for the same period in 2019 the number of tourists was 424, and the growth rate was 47.7 percent. For Saudi Arabia, we may see an even higher number. In particular, in November 2018 there were 36 of them, and by the same period in 2019 - 124 people [8].

Recently, work in this direction has been continued. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 9, 2021 "On measures for the further development of domestic and pilgrimage tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted. It includes the diversification of tourism products and services aimed at different segments of the tourism market,

further increasing their competitiveness, creating an acceptable and comfortable environment for domestic and international pilgrimage tourism, expanding transport routes, improving the quality of transport services, and widely promoting the tourism product. , as well as travel and recreation of our country. The tasks aimed at strengthening its image as a safe destination are defined [9].

Conclusion. As a conclusion, we can say that since 2016, the tourism sector in Uzbekistan has been declared one of the important sectors of the country's economy. For this reason, efforts have been made to develop tourism and pilgrimage tourism, which is one of its important areas, and bring it to the world level. In this regard, the relevant Decrees and Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were announced. Based on this, appropriate measures were taken. In order to develop pilgrimage tourism and study foreign experience, various events, scientific seminars and conferences were also organized. In this regard, cooperation relations have been established with companies from foreign countries. This, in turn, led to a significant increase in the number of pilgrims arriving in Uzbekistan, in particular, to visit the holy places of our country.

LIST OF USED LINKS

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