



CONTENT AND ESSENCE OF THE CONCEPT OF PILGRIMAGE TOURISM

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Annotation

This article examines the importance and necessity of pilgrimage tourism, which is one of the traditional areas of tourism in Uzbekistan. In order to identify the specific features of pilgrimage tourism and determine the prospects for its development, the essence of the term "pilgrimage" as a tourist object was analyzed in detail.

Keywords: pilgrimage tourism, halal tourism, objects of pilgrimage tourism, religious tourism in Uzbekistan.

Introduction

Pilgrimage tourism, which is one of the traditional directions of tourism, is now of great importance. In his Address to the Oliy Majlis in 2020, President Mirziyoyev stressed the need to accelerate the development of pilgrimage tourism, noting that there are more than 8,200 cultural heritage sites in the country, of which only 500 are included in tourist routes.

Samarkand region, where we live, is very rich in tourist opportunities, where it is possible to develop pilgrimage tourism, and thus make an effective contribution to the state treasury. Because there are currently 1851 objects of material and cultural heritage in the region, among which the number of places that can be visited is a certain part.

The State Program for the implementation of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 in the "Year of Science, Enlightenment and Digital Economy" sets the task "To increase the number of cultural heritage and architectural sites in the areas where the development of pilgrimage and traditional tourism is possible to 800 and thereby improve their condition".





In order to successfully fulfill this strategic task, it is more important than ever to develop an action plan to develop the pilgrimage tourism in our country, to improve the well-being or fitness of the shrines of interest to foreign and local pilgrims.

On February 9, 2021, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev No. PD-6165 “On measures to further develop domestic and pilgrimage tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan” was adopted.

According to him, the following important tasks were given: to create the position of “Deputy Chairman for the development of pilgrimage tourism” within the number of current deputies of the Chairman of the State Committee for Tourism Development; Establishment of a “Coordination Council for the Development of Pilgrimage Tourism” in order to promote the pilgrimage tourism and provide scientifically based information about the objects of pilgrimage; From the 2021/2022 academic year to create a system of training in the master’s specialties “pilgrimage tourism” at the International University of Tourism “Silk Road”, Tashkent State University of Economics, Bukhara and Termez State Universities; In order to widely promote the invaluable heritage of our great scholars, especially Imam Bukhari, in Indonesian, Bengali, Malay, Turkish, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Pashto and other foreign languages, “Imam Bukhari” pilgrimage satellite TV channel, organization and development of correspondents; To develop and submit to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval the concept of restoration and beautification of the tombs of 8 great scholars, the transformation of the memorial complex of Imam Moturidi into a center of pilgrimage, the “Road Map” for its implementation; Creation of a thematic alley in Samarkand, reflecting the religion of Islam, the heritage of existing religions in the region and the objects of material cultural heritage; Submit proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on the concept of construction and development of an innovative museum in Bukhara, which provides information about the history of Islam and famous people in the Muslim world.

In order to identify the specific features of pilgrimage tourism and determine the prospects for its development, it is necessary to understand the essence and nature of the term “pilgrimage” as an object of tourism. There are various definitions of this term in the literature, and its features have not yet been elucidated. We define and describe this term in terms of pilgrimage tourism in terms of its contribution to the formation of a perfect person in our country and the use of opportunities for diversification.

“Pilgrimage” is derived from the Arabic word (زيارة), which means “to see”, “to go (come) to see”. In Muslims, “pilgrimage” is the visitation of prophets, religious holy places.





Pilgrimage is the tourist base of Islam. It can be divided into a religious pilgrimage based on divine values and a secular pilgrimage based on universal values.

Religious pilgrimage is further divided into the religious beliefs of Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity. If religious pilgrimage means worship of religious sacred objects and places, secular pilgrimage finds expression in the worship and reverence of natural and vital objects and holy places.

Secular pilgrimage is a type of travel that is closely related to the upbringing of the perfect man. Trips of young people under the motto "The homeland is as sacred as a shrine", a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument "Sorrowful Mother" on the holiday "Memory and Honor", "Memory of Martyrs" dedicated to the victims of the repression in Tashkent, the visit to Samarkand and the tombs of our great ancestor Amir Temur are, in our opinion, among the brightest examples of secular pilgrimage in Uzbekistan.

Pilgrimage tourism can be understood as the travel of representatives of different religions to the holy places of their religion to fulfill the purpose of pilgrimage. The more sacred, clean, comfortable and comfortable the holy places are, the more the flow of pilgrims can increase and thereby achieve great success.

Tourism has many social, economic, cultural and intellectual benefits. For example, traveling causes people to use their thoughts and feelings more strongly, to compare, to think about diversity. The meaning-content dynamics of life lead to more questions and answers. It is in this context that one of the great medieval travelers, Lubenau Reinhold, said in the early 17th century that man would be more religious with travel, and better aware of the bounties and blessings of God.

This means that tourism, like other industries, is closely related to religion. The main sources of Islam The presence of concepts related to travel in the Qur'an and hadiths shows the close connection of Islam with tourism.

The concepts of "سَيْرُوا", "ابْنُ سَبِيلٍ", "إِذَا ضَرَبْتُمْ", "سَائِحُونَ", "سَفَر", "رِحْلَةٌ" in the Qur'an are concepts that can be associated with tourism. A tourism event is a direct travel-related activity. However, the trips recommended by religion are meaningful trips that are made for a purpose, not for leisure or entertainment. However, tourist trips do not always take place in this sense.

The Qur'an constantly warns people to look at the universe, history and the legacy left by history as an example. Not only does it leave you with a clue, but it also encourages people to travel so that they can set an example of what they left behind from the life that their ancestors experienced as human beings.

In the history of Islam, Muslims have traveled in general - especially Hajj, Umrah, for the sake of knowledge, language learning, trade, and for these purposes. In addition





to the journeys that Islam wants to take in order to travel, to be educated, to learn, and to know the divine power, there are also journeys that are directly covered by worship. Hajj and Umrah are the most vivid examples of this. It is enjoined in the Qur'an that believers who are in good health and have economic strength should perform Hajj at least once in their lifetime, and it is constantly recommended that they perform Umrah. Hajj and Umrah are the liveliest and largest religious tourism organizational work to be witnessed in the Islamic world. Hajj and Umrah, which have always maintained their relevance among Muslims in the history of Islam, are religious tourism with social, economic and political aspects as well as worship.

Uzbekistan is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of sacred sites. During the years of independence, the study and beautification of the places where the great people, who played an invaluable role in the development of Islam, have settled forever, was carried out. These addresses, in turn, have been turned into places that people visit. Such places are sacred not only for the people of Uzbekistan, but also for the entire Islamic world. At present, Samarkand region has 1,851 objects of material and cultural heritage, while in Bukhara region their number is 829. Among these objects, the most sacred places that can be visited are the majority. In particular, among the facilities located in Bukhara region alone, there are 105 mosques and 14 mausoleums, which have a high potential for the development of pilgrimage tourism. Over the past four years, these factors have served as a basis for the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan, bringing it to the world stage. However, there are still issues that need to be addressed, and their analysis may provide some suggestions and recommendations in this regard. Therefore, it is important to scientifically analyze the work done in this area and their results.

Since 2017, Uzbekistan has begun systematic work on the development of pilgrimage tourism, a separate branch of tourism, and its introduction to the world. In particular, on August 16, 2017, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On priority measures for the development of tourism in 2018-2019" was announced. This resolution approved a program of priority measures for the development of tourism in 2018-2019, aimed at facilitating travel to Uzbekistan, the development of tourism infrastructure and the creation of new tourism facilities.

In addition, on the basis of this decision within a month to form a list of countries whose citizens are offered visa facilitation from January 1, 2018 and countries whose citizens are offered special pilgrimage tourism programs, as well as to attract tourists from Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries. intensification of work on the organization of the necessary promotional activities, logistics, including the organization of charter flights and other tasks.





In addition, a new state standard has been developed by the State Unitary Enterprise “Center for Certification of Tourist Services” of the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the convenience of visitors to our country. On the basis of this document, the standard on tourist services, accommodation facilities, general requirements came into force on January 1, 2018. According to the new rules, at least one-tenth of the total number of rooms in each hotel must be equipped with a Koran, a place of worship and at least 30% of the qibla sign.

During this period, work has been done to simplify the visa regime for tourists visiting Uzbekistan. To this end, on February 3, 2018, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On additional organizational measures to create favorable conditions for the development of tourism potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan” was published. According to him, a visa-free regime has been introduced for citizens of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey, South Korea, Japan and Israel. A simplified visa regime has also been introduced for citizens of 39 countries. Tajiks have joined the ranks of visa-free foreigners in March 2019, and French in October.

In addition, a number of measures have been taken to develop honest tourism in our country. In particular, in 2018, in the ranking of "Honest Tourism" by Crescent Rating in 2017 (Uzbekistan in the ranking in 2017 was 28. Of these, “safe travel” - 100 out of 84 points, “freedom of access to the church” - 80, “eating opportunities and guarantees”- 70, “visa”- 50, “airport facilities”- 48.3, “family vacation”- 44.4, “living conditions”- 33.2, “opportunities for Muslims”- 25, “tourist arrivals”- 21.2, “communication capabilities”- 19) focused on improving low-rated, less developed areas. In particular, the State Committee for Tourism Development in cooperation with Crescent Rating has developed proposals and recommendations for the development of pilgrimage tourism in our country. Based on these recommendations, the necessary conditions for praying at international airports have been created.

At the same time, the Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan has set up a department for the development of pilgrimage tourism. Preparation of analytical documents on issues related to the development of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan, the creation of favorable economic and organizational and legal conditions for the accelerated development of tourism as a strategic sector of the economy, more complete and effective than the huge tourism potential of the regions. The main tasks of this department are to provide appropriate proposals for use. In addition, the State Committee for Tourism Development has developed maps for the development of pilgrimage tourism in Tashkent, visits to 15 registered religious institutions. A map of halal restaurants, national cuisines, restaurants, family





destinations for Indonesian and Malaysian travel agencies and guests has been prepared. Also, for the first time in our country, the “Halal” standard required for the field of pilgrimage tourism has been introduced.

The Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex in Payarik district of Samarkand region, one of the most important objects of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan, also continued to fulfill the tasks set by the Presidential Decree dated March 27, 2017 “On measures to establish the Imam Bukhari International Research Center under the Cabinet of Ministers”. In particular, 5.8 hectares of land adjacent to the complex were opened, 3 two-storey residential buildings were built and commissioned in front of the research center and the center. As a result of these and other measures taken, significant progress has been made in this direction. In particular, in the first 10 months of 2017, the number of tourists visiting our country amounted to 2.2 million people, while in the same period in 2018 - 4.4 million tourists. During the year, 5 million. 346 thousand 219 people.

Measures to develop pilgrimage tourism in our country were continued in 2019. In particular, from January 5 this year, a pilgrimage visa for up to 2 months was introduced for foreign citizens visiting to study the cultural, historical and religious heritage and traditions of Uzbekistan. At the same time, scientific conferences were held, which are important in the development of pilgrimage tourism and its introduction to the world community. In particular, on February 21-23, 2019 in Bukhara on the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev was held the First International Forum on Pilgrimage Tourism in order to enhance the country’s position in the international arena of pilgrimage tourism. Within the framework of the forum, a solemn ceremony dedicated to the signing of the Bukhara Declaration on the recognition of Uzbekistan as one of the centers of pilgrimage was held. In addition, an international scientific conference on "Renaissance of pilgrimage tourism at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road" with the participation of leading Chinese, Russia, France, Italy, South Korea, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan scientists and tourism experts was held in Samarkand on 24-25 May this year.

These and other factors, in turn, have led to a significant expansion in the number of Muslim tourists. In particular, we can clearly see this when comparing the November 2019 figures with the 2018 figures. In particular, in November 2018, 287 tourists from Pakistan alone visited, while in the same period of 2019, the number of tourists reached 424, an increase of 47.7%. In the case of Saudi Arabia, we can see an even larger number. In particular, in November 2018 it was 36 people, and in the same period of 2019 it was 124 people.





Work in this direction has continued recently. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 9, 2021 “On measures to further develop domestic and pilgrimage tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan” was adopted. It includes diversification of tourism products and services aimed at different segments of the tourism market, further enhancing their competitiveness, creating an acceptable and favorable domestic and international tourist tourism environment, expanding transport routes, improving the quality of transport services, promoting tourism products, as well as tasks aimed at strengthening the image of the country as a safe destination for travel and leisure.

In conclusion, we can say that since 2016, the tourism sector in Uzbekistan has been declared one of the most important sectors of the economy. For this reason, work has been done to develop tourism and one of its important directions, pilgrimage tourism, and bring it to the world stage. Relevant Decrees and Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been published in this regard. On this basis, appropriate measures have been taken. In addition, various events, scientific seminars and conferences were organized to develop pilgrimage tourism and study foreign experience. Cooperation has been established with foreign companies in this regard. This, in turn, has led to a significant increase in the number of pilgrims coming to Uzbekistan, in particular, to visit the holy places of our country.

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