

# The Importance Of Ensuring The Stability Of The Flow Of Tourists In The Country's Economy During A Pandemic

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**Abstract:** *This article highlights tourism during the pandemic. In particular, despite the difficult times, there was talk of measures to improve the economy through tourism. It describes the conditions created for the arrival of tourists to Uzbekistan, as well as the sanitary requirements during their visit. You can also learn about the current focus on domestic tourism and pilgrimage tourism in order to further develop tourism, the work being done in the country, the tasks to be performed.*

**Keywords** – pandemic, tourism, tourist, tour-agency, checkpoint, stateless person, coronavirus, green zones, quarantine, property and land, hotels, tour operators.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During a pandemic, for all citizens of Uzbekistan, as well as for citizens of foreign states inside the country, a mask regime is maintained with mandatory observance of social distance and a restriction on holding events of no more than 30 people.

From October 1, 2020, Uzbekistan opened its borders to all countries of the world with the establishment of a special procedure for crossing the state border for all types of transport (air, rail and road).

Due to the difficult epidemiological situation in a number of countries, there are currently restrictions on international flights between Uzbekistan and eight countries - Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Australia, the Netherlands and South Africa until March 1, 2021.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Citizens of the above 8 countries and stateless persons permanently residing in these states, as well as citizens of third countries who have visited these states within the last 14 days, are prohibited from entering Uzbekistan during the period of the restriction. Citizens of Uzbekistan and stateless persons who have been in the last 14 days. 14 days in these countries and entering Uzbekistan through third countries are subject to 14-day quarantine in a quarantine center or hotel.

All persons arriving from foreign countries, including citizens of Uzbekistan, must have a medical certificate with a negative result of a PCR test for COVID-19, conducted within the last 72 hours before crossing the border.

By the decision of the Republican Special Commission, foreign countries are divided into three zones: “red, yellow and green”, depending on the epidemiological situation and the level of spread of coronavirus infection in each country.

Thus, persons arriving in Uzbekistan from the “red and yellow zones” must present a medical certificate with a negative result of a PCR test for COVID-19, carried out in

the last 72 hours, and spend 2 weeks (14 days) in quarantine at their own expense, with filling in and by signing a special document "Commitment" upon entering Uzbekistan. In the absence of a negative PCR test for coronavirus, persons not allowed to enter the territory of Uzbekistan.

If symptoms of the disease (fever, cough, sneezing, etc.) are detected while passing the border checkpoint on the territory of Uzbekistan, arrivals can take a PCR test for coronavirus at their own expense and wait for the results in waiting rooms specially allocated for these purposes at the airports and train stations of the republic. When persons enter through the border land checkpoints of Uzbekistan, a medical certificate with a negative PCR test result, carried out 72 hours before entry, is required. In the absence of it, persons entering the territory of Uzbekistan through land border points are offered the opportunity to undergo express tests or PCR tests, and are also sent to a 14-day quarantine.

If a virus is detected at all checkpoints across the borders of Uzbekistan, foreign citizens, at their own request, are sent back or hospitalized in ambulances in specially designated vehicles, for subsequent placement in hotels or other accommodation facilities at their own expense for isolation and compliance quarantine for a period of 14 days. If the arriving person refuses to pay for the test, entry into the country is prohibited.

During the quarantine period, persons of a foreign state have the right to leave back to their own or to another third country, observing the quarantine rules.

Tourists who arrived through travel agencies of Uzbekistan (regardless of the number) are met by tour operators at the border and, accompanied by them, enter the territory of Uzbekistan after the tour operators present a voucher with information about the agreement between the travel company and tourists to the border and customs services. Tour operators are also given the opportunity to pre-pay for medical services for the delivery of PCR tests for COVID 19 by tourists at the borders of Uzbekistan. (Tourist voucher is a document that establishes the right of a tourist

to the services included in the tour, and confirms the fact of payment).

Citizens arriving from the "green zones" enter the territory of Uzbekistan without any quarantine restrictions, but at the same time, Must have a medical certificate before crossing borders with a negative PCR test for COVID-19 carried out within the last 72 hours. Arrivals pass, take express tests for the presence or absence of COVID-19, and also undergo an initial examination to identify symptoms if a coronavirus is suspected (fever, cough, sneeze, etc.). In case of detection of coronavirus infection among citizens arriving from the "green" zones, the same rules apply as for citizens arriving from the "red and yellow" zones.

Residents of the Sukh district and the border points of Shakhimardan, Chongar, Toshtepa, when moving within the republic, do not need to be tested for coronavirus, which also applies to citizens of Kyrgyzstan entering through these border points. When Uzbek citizens return to Uzbekistan from Kyrgyzstan through land and road checkpoints, they must present the results of a PCR test for coronavirus, which are valid for 72 hours from the time of the test. From the Uzbekistan side, land and road checkpoints with neighboring border countries such as Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan are open for entry into Uzbekistan according to the above rules.

Citizens departing from Uzbekistan, when leaving the country, must comply with the quarantine rules of the host countries.

As a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in foreign countries in the Republic of Uzbekistan, along with other sectors of our economy, the tourism industry has suffered unprecedented damage. Nevertheless, the tourism industry in our country is developing year by year. At the same time, we recognize and express our gratitude for a number of decrees and decisions of the President in the field of tourism, the benefits, privileges, high attention.

In 2020, large-scale work has been carried out in the field of tourism in Bukhara region. In order to further develop the tourism sector in the region, 55 projects worth 189.8 billion soums have been implemented. As a result, 342 jobs were created. Of the 35 accommodation facilities, 13 are modern hotels, 5 hostels and 17 family guest houses. As a result of negotiations with local investors, the 300-bed Sahid Zarafshan Hotel in Bukhara, which has been closed for more than a decade, has been modernized.

The number of tourists visiting in 2020 reached 249,927. At the same time, the number of local tourists was 236,602 and the number of foreign tourists was 13,325.

In order to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic and support the tourism sector, to date, a total of 89 hotels and transport service enterprises have extended loan payments worth 24.3 billion soums. At the same time, 78 business entities were provided with tax benefits of 1,222.8

million soums on property and land taxes for hotels and tour operators. A total of 27 tourism entities in Bukhara region 1 billion 645 mln. soums, including 1 billion 604 million soums to 24 hotels and 41 million soums to 3 tour operators.

In addition, touch screens have been installed at the Etti Pir shrines, as well as at the Mir Arab Madrasah, which provides information about the tourist potential of Bukhara region.

So far this year, 6 tourist companies have been launched, 6 modern buses and 28 minibuses have been delivered. The number of accompanying translators is 232, and the number of tourism information centers has been increased to 25 (7 new).

In order to revive tourism, from December 15, 2020 to January 15, 2021 in the region announced an internal "Tourism Month". As a result, 78,424 people from cities and districts, as well as from other regions of the country 20,340 people, a total of 98,764 tourists visited.

In order to develop domestic and foreign tourism, the innovative tourism cluster "Bukhara Desert Oasis & Spa" was established in Romitan district on the territory of the ancient monument Borontepa.

Also, in order to develop beach tourism, Bukhara Diamond Silk Company has established a 15-hectare Silk Road Ressort & Spa swimming pool on the basis of the Tudakul Reservoir in Kagan district, and is currently working to establish other tourism services in the area. On December 10-11 this year, Bukhara hosted the "I International Youth Tourism Forum", which was attended by about 100 people from the regions and 40 foreign (via online Zoom) delegates (France, Singapore, Russia, Moldova, Germany, Nigeria) attended. Within the framework of the forum, tourism ambassadors of Bukhara region were appointed and presented with embassy certificates and badges.

Also on October 2-4, 2020 in Bukhara The II International Motorcycle Festival has been organized. To this event about 80 local and foreign motorcyclists from the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Latvia (who remained in Uzbekistan due to the pandemic) visited.

At the same time, the production of videos in a new direction called "Faces of tourism" about the representatives of the industry, who have been working in the field of tourism for many years. For example, "Mamurov Maqsud (carpenter)", "Ulugbek Kasimov (carpet weaver)", "Master of miniature craftsman Husenov Aziz" and "The story of the founder of the Bukhara national house in the field of tourism".

In Bukhara region in 2021-2022, local and foreign entrepreneurs have implemented 61 projects worth 714.2 billion soums, as a result of which we have begun work on the creation of 1,172 new jobs.

The number of hotels in the region increased to 451, the number of travel agencies planned to put into operation 129 vehicles, 290 tourist services, 6 tourist information centers, 50 information navigation indicators, 20 wi-fi zones and 60 sanitary-hygienic points.

At the same time, in order to provide additional services to tourists, in the "Turki Jandiy", "Jalal Ikromiy" farms of Bukhara, in the village "Shirin" of Vobkent district, on the basis of "Kurgan" and "Chorsu" mahallas of Gijduvan district "Tourism mahalla" and "Tourism village" and 50 tourist stations by the end of 2021. In addition, 2 universal stops will be established along the A-380 and M-37 international highways passing through the Bukhara region of the Uzbekistan Tourism Highway.

In 2021, practical work is underway to establish a gastronomic street on B. Naqshband Street in Bukhara.

From 2021, the International Festival of Architecture will be held in Bukhara every two years. Practical work is underway to create separate lanes for cyclists on B. Naqshband and M. Ambar streets in Bukhara. Also, land plots for the organization of "Health Corridors" in the districts and cities of the region were selected and submitted to the regional administration.

In order to support businesses operating in the field of tourism during the pandemic, in 2021 a number of benefits were introduced by our government to continue the preferences. In order to further support businesses in the industry, from January 1, 2021 to the end of the year, tour operators, travel agents and accommodation facilities will be financed from the Extrabudgetary Tourism Support Fund:

- Startup projects in the field of tourism and innovative business ideas, including information programs and services aimed primarily at creating convenience for tourists, will be partially subsidized in the amount of 1.5 billion soums.

- From June 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021, it is planned to provide additional assistance in the development and promotion of new tourism products by allocating grants of 5 million soums for guides and 10 million soums for tour operators.

- From June 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 will be subsidized at a rate of 10% of the cost of hotel services.

- Renovation, reconstruction and strengthening of the material and technical base of the hotel for the next 3 years will cost 5 million soums for each room of a 3-star hotel and 10 million soums for each room of a 4-star hotel, provided that the category is maintained for the next 3 years. soums, 15 million soums for each room of a 5-star hotel;

- Investors will be provided with subsidies in the amount of 1 billion soums for the construction of passenger and new roads with the appropriate level of safety, their commissioning by December 31, 2023 and a length of at least 500 meters on each side. This will cover part of the

investor's costs for the first 50 projects for the construction and equipping of new passenger roads;

- part of the cost of business entities for the construction of accommodation facilities with prefabricated structures on the standard projects of the State Committee for Tourism Development and the Ministry of Construction in accordance with the relevant standards in tourist areas and rural areas until the number of accommodation facilities of this type reaches 50 thousand or 31 December 2023 up to 5 million soums per place. Today, the model projects are being considered by the Ministry of Construction for export, and we will soon provide our entrepreneurs with model projects.

The following will be subsidized at the expense of the State Fund for Entrepreneurship Support:

- the share of interest expenses on previously issued loans to tourism entities for the construction of accommodation facilities for the period from June 1, 2020 to January 1, 2022, exceeding the basic rate of the Central Bank, but not more than 10 percent;

- In order to comply with the new sanitary and hygienic requirements, the part of interest expenses on loans to tourism entities in excess of the basic rate of the Central Bank, but not more than 10 percentage points.

Entrepreneurs, tour operators, travel agents and accommodation managers, as well as guide-interpreters, we ask you to take advantage of these benefits. I would ask you to write down the department's hotlines for the exact use of benefits.

### 3.CONCLUSION.

At the same time, given the current situation of the pandemic, it is necessary not only to develop topical tourist destinations, but also to create safe conditions for the functioning of both internal and external tourism. For this purpose, the Uzbekistan project has been developed in Uzbekistan. Safe travel guaranteed ("Uzbekistan. Safe travel guaranteed"). The project is a new system of sanitary and epidemiological safety for tourists based on world standards. Certification of tourism facilities and related infrastructure, tourism services based on new sanitary and hygienic requirements will be mandatory for:

1. all state border posts;
2. air, railway and bus stations;
3. objects of material cultural heritage, museums, theaters, etc.

At the same time, the State Committee for Tourism, together with the Ministry of Health, will form and will supplement the "register of safe objects", on the basis of which tour operators will form tourist routes. Certification of business entities (catering services, accommodation facilities, transport services, etc.) is voluntary.

An important part of this project will be the organization of training and professional development of personnel of tour operators, tourism facilities and related infrastructure. A working group will also be organized with the participation of public organizations for the widespread monitoring of compliance with sanitary and hygienic requirements for safe services.

In our opinion, it is necessary to develop such market segments as rural and nature tourism, the potential of which is just beginning to unfold. The activity of the domestic tourism industry and comprehensive support from the state will contribute to the expansion of sustainable domestic tourism in Uzbekistan, despite the arising and still forthcoming difficulties in the restoration of the entire industry as a whole.

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