

Pilgrimage Tourism Potential of Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT: The article mainly analyzes information about the potential of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan. We know that Uzbekistan has a very ancient and rich history. Many foreign and domestic guests come not only to see historical and cultural monuments, but also to visit places rich in ancient history and monuments. Therefore, in recent years, our country has also done several things in the development of pilgrimage tourism. Because there are ancient shrines in several touristic cities of Uzbekistan, which have been attracting many visitors for several years. Therefore, in the following article, we discussed the potential of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan.

KEYWORD: touristic resources, pilgrimage, ziarat, income, economy, types of tourism, marketing.

Introduction

Modern tourism includes pilgrimage travel in its entirety. Muslims make up more than 1.5 billion people worldwide. We are all aware that our economy would benefit if half of these Muslims visited the homes of Imam Bukhari, who gathered reliable hadiths and produced the second authoritative source of Islam. In our nation, the infrastructure needed to accommodate this many pilgrims have not yet been established. The importance of visiting a certain province or city's religious, historical, and cultural landmarks cannot be overstated.

Last decades, tourism is today one of the driving forces behind global development is not an exaggeration. Experts claim that tourism is now the most lucrative sector of the economy in the twenty-first century. Because of this, one of the 17 primary objectives of the UN's 2030 sustainable development program lists tourism. Modern tourism can take many different forms, including gastronomy tourism, sports tourism, medical tourism, and other forms. With these current directions, the idea of "pilgrimage tourism," which is the oldest and most traditional form of tourism, has received emphasis [1].

The efforts made in this direction in our nation, which attracts tourists with its distinct culture and traditions, beautiful nature, and beautiful corners, are the tourism industry and are gaining importance in the further development of its infrastructure. Along with ancient monuments, holy shrines, historical, and cultural monuments.

This is clearly demonstrated by the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) study on the "Economic Results of the Travel and Tourism Industry," which lists our country as one of the top five nations with a developing tourism industry.

In fact, tourism has a great impact not only on economic development and the increase of the gross domestic product, but also on ensuring the employment of the population, increasing the standard and quality of life,

and increasing the welfare and development of the country. According to experts' calculations, every 30 tourists will stimulate the creation of one new job in the country's tourism sector, and two in related systems.

Like other religions, Islam and its Sufi strain have a number of holy sites on the territory of Uzbekistan. UNESCO has designated the most priceless structures as World Heritage Sites. One of these is the city of Bukhara, known in the Islamic world as Bukhara-Sharif, which translates to Blessed Bukhara. Samarkand is home to numerous priceless landmarks. Amir Temur's hometown is Shahrisabz. Of course, these cities have a long and interesting history, and they have [29].

Literature review

The directions and function of religious tourism were discussed by scientists. The writers examine the characteristics of pilgrims who practice different religions' locations. "Religious hubs and holy locations are of particular relevance in attracting pilgrims and religious tourists," the article's writers assert. The holding of numerous holidays, religious events, and festivals that take place at specific periods of the year may be the reason people visit these locations. It is determined that modern travel (and religious travel is not an exception) is directly related to the need to provide tourists with a variety of services, the most important of which are: food, transportation, and paperwork. The definitions of religious tourism and types of religious trips are also taken into consideration. The authors also draw the conclusion that the secret to effectively promoting and popularizing this tourist destination may lie in awareness, knowledge, and utilization of tourist incentives in travel for religious purposes. [2].

It is suggested to categorize pilgrimage tourism using a broad understanding of the word "pilgrimage." By the latter, the authors don't just mean a pilgrimage for religious reasons, but also the journey of non-believers who are admirers of any sights, which can include both natural and man-made as well as cultural and historical artefacts, as well as any celebrities. The presence of a great desire, craving to visit any object, place, idol, etc., is the key characteristic that distinguishes pilgrimage tourism from other types of travel. The proposed classification of pilgrimage tourism can therefore, in the authors' opinion, be used to study this direction in tourism, identify target audiences, design promotional materials, etc. for distinct categories of tourists-pilgrims [3].

Many people who identify as followers of one religion or another mix components from various faiths in their modern religious awareness, which can take on a syncretic or even hybrid form. The exterior ritualistic aspect of cult behaviors is frequently given more weight than the study of dogma, intellectual thought, and social behavior based on the professed religious principles. As a result, pilgrimages to holy places are becoming more and more common. These pilgrimages are motivated by a variety of goals, including spiritual enlightenment, the resolution of personal issues or the healing of illnesses, assistance in determining one's own course in life, and generally exploring new horizons and broadening one's horizons [4].

Senin V. S. Religious tourism has three forms: pilgrimage, sightseeing tours on religious topics and specialized tours, which combine pilgrims and sightseers [5].

Zhitenev S.Yu. Religious tourism is one of the most dynamically developing and promising areas of tourism in recent years. The main goal of religious tourism, as defined by the participants of the conference, is "the desire to involve people belonging to different faiths in dialogue and interaction, in mitigating the tension that arises on religious and social grounds in society [7].

Babkin A.V. Pilgrimage tourism is a set of trips of representatives of various faiths for pilgrimage purposes. Pilgrimage is the desire of believers to bow to holy places. [8]

Hristov T. Religious tourism is people who travel outside the traditional environment for a period of not more than a year to visit holy places and centers of religions" [6].

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Results and discussion

In recent years, several works related to pilgrimage tourism have been carried out in our republic. Because it is known from history that there are a lot of scholars in our country and they have been active in historical cultural objects that have reached us for more than several centuries. Taking this into account, several forums, symposiums and other major events related to pilgrimage tourism are being implemented.

For example, On February 21-23, 2019, the first international forum on pilgrimage tourism, one of the most important events of the year in the field of tourism, was held in Bukhara.

The purpose of the forum held at the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is to increase the tourism potential of the country and to achieve international recognition of Uzbekistan as one of the centers of pilgrimage tourism in the Islamic world.

Pilgrimage, that is, visiting holy places, includes two main directions: excursion-educational and religious tourism. One of the most valuable examples of the Holy Quran of the Islamic world - Hazrat Imam Complex, where the Holy Quran of Khalifa Usman is kept, the mausoleum of the great Islamic Imam Muhammad Al-Bukhari, the tombs of the followers of the Naqshbandiyya sect, and many other such religious centers. Thousands of tourists from different parts of the world visit Uzbekistan every year to visit and travel to such historical and holy places.

It should be noted that the government is implementing a number of measures to increase the attractiveness of Uzbekistan in the field of pilgrimage tourism. According to the President's decree No. 5611, from January 5 of this year, the Pilgrim visa, which is issued for up to 2 months to foreign citizens visiting to study the cultural-historical and religious-spiritual heritage and traditions of Uzbekistan, is valid.

The recognition of Uzbekistan as one of the centers of pilgrimage tourism in the world community gives impetus to the development of tourist infrastructure in the country and a significant increase in the flow of tourists. The first international forum on pilgrimage tourism to be held in Bukhara was attended by Malaysian Perlis State Mufti Mohd Asri bin Zain-ul Abeddin and the leadership of the Islamic Tourism Center, Institute of Halal Research and Management, Association of Malaysian Tourism Companies and Tour Operators [31].

Uzbekistan's "International Pilgrimage Tourism Week" has come to a close. Significant events occurred in four historical cities: Samarkand, Khiva, Bukhara, and Tashkent. Uzbekistan's historical cities hosted a pilgrimage tourist week. 76 Uzbekistan's "International Pilgrimage Tourism Week" has come to a close. Significant events occurred in four historical cities: Samarkand, Khiva, Bukhara, and Tashkent.

A diverse cultural and business program that included seminars, roundtable discussions, international exhibitions and conferences, gastronomic festivals, and trips to unique sites left an indelible impression on the week's guests and more than 50 top Islamic experts from across the world. Many events were held in Uzbekistan to promote pilgrimage tourism, including an exhibition of national costumes at the Tashkent National Costume Gallery, a conference on "Halal Tourism" at the International Islamic Academy, a roundtable discussion on "Islamic Economy," and a "Halal food" festival at "Navroz" amusement park.

The parchment scroll containing the prophet's genealogy comes from the 17th century. The exhibition "Modern Islamic Architecture" and the fair "Culture of book science in Movarounnahr" will be held in Samarkand's "Eternal City" complex in the "Youth Center." During Bukhara's Pilgrimage Week, no less than these events were planned. The "Islamic Heritage of Uzbekistan" conference was conducted on the first day of the week in the Bahauddin Naqshband complex in the Bukhara region, and international agreements were reached with significant Islamic groups. Within the conference, a one-of-a-kind exhibition dedicated

The opening of the "Al-Manar" center, which teaches Arabic and Islamic calligraphy, was one of the key events of Bukhara's pilgrimage tourist week. The "Mir Arab Madrasa Graduates" forum was conducted in

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Bukhara monocenter on November 3. Graduates of the historic madrasa, as well as foreign guests, attended the celebration. The "National Souvenir Fair" was held in Bukhara every day of the week. This fair, which takes place every November, has evolved into a major worldwide event. The 2022 International Pilgrimage Tourism Week Khiva, Uzbekistan's great historical city that was named the Turkic world's cultural capital in a scientific and practical meeting was held here on the final day of the festivities.

Representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Khorezm regional government members, the head of Singapore's Crescent Rating Company, Bahardin Mohamed Fazal, the head of the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Antiquities, Ekrem Aytar, and other well-known specialists attended the prestigious event.

For more information: There are about a thousand monuments of material cultural heritage in Uzbekistan. There are 1257 shrines, 1183 of which are Islamic, 57 are Christian, 9 are Buddhist, and 8 are Jewish monuments [32].

The three primary types of pilgrimage tourism are pilgrimage, religiously themed excursions, and specialized excursions that bring together pilgrims and visitors. Muslims make donations for development as well as pilgrimage to Islamic sites and sacred locations. This is referred to as a pilgrimage in our country, and it will surely enhance Muslims' desire to visit our nation. In the end, a pilgrimage is more than just a show: it is first and foremost an opportunity to experience the spirit of the great, to draw strength from the spiritual and spiritual environment, to comprehend the position and outlook of the great, to comprehend the oldest truth about existence and life, and to enliven the soul with this truth.

The following concerns, in our opinion, ought to be taken into consideration when developing the "small Haj" program, which entails visiting holy places and monuments in Uzbekistan, as well as when developing the tourism development component of the socioeconomic development of regions in 2019–2029:

- Creation of regional lists of objects with cultural heritage and maintenance of their ongoing updating;
- Creating electronic maps, passports, and cadastral records of historical sites and monuments in the regions in collaboration with the local government and related field workers to create the infrastructure leading to them;
- To create a database of unexplored historical sites and monuments in the regions and conduct research on them with the tour operator and other relevant experts;
- To organise practical lessons on becoming familiar with historical sites and monuments located in the regions;
- To take steps to include sacred sites and monuments located in the regions in touristic programmes, to widely promote the history of these ancient monuments and the traditional culture preserved there; [30]

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