

## DEVELOPMENT OF PILGRIMAGE TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND ITS METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

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**Abstract:** *The article talks about the focus on tourism in the years of independence, extensive tourism reform, raising our nationalism and promoting national tourism.*

**Key words:** *"Great Silk Road", The Institute of Archeology, "UNESCO", historical monuments, "Uzbekturizm", "National tourism".*

### INTRODUCTION

Today, large-scale reforms are being carried out in all spheres of social life in Uzbekistan, and the main goal of these reforms is to further develop the country's economy and increase the welfare of the Uzbek people. Tourism plays an important role in the economic development and growth of Uzbekistan, and in recent years, along with other areas of tourism, great attention has been paid to the development of pilgrimage tourism in the country. Nowadays, there is an increased interest in the study of worship and shrines in the world, because holy places have become an integral part of people's daily life.

Currently, one of the promising sectors that bring high income to the national economy is National Tourism, said the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, - Uzbekistan is a country with great potential in the field of tourism. There are more than 7,300 objects of cultural heritage in our country, and most of them are included in the UNESCO list. At the same time, it is possible to open new tourist destinations using the unique nature of our country, beautiful recreation areas (MIRZIYOYEV, 2018). In the years of Independence, as it is today, great importance was attached to tourism, studying tourism, and revitalizing it.

As the first President of our country, I.A. Karimov, said: "Tourism, in simple words, means to understand the world, to understand the world, and at the same time to go to the world stage. Our cities like Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva have a history of 2500-3000 years. This is a great spiritual wealth. It can be turned into material wealth through tourism development:

Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in developed countries are characterized by high annual growth rates of 10-24% of the total export volume.

The decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on tourism in recent years and the decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers are aimed at expanding and strengthening international relations, integrating into the international tourist market, promoting the cultural, historical and spiritual heritage of Uzbekistan to the world community and tourists. includes activities aimed at bringing the quality of service to the level of world standards. These legal documents envisage solutions to a number of problems with many measures for the development of the tourism sector and its infrastructure in the republic. It is necessary to increase the role of the state in creating the conditions that ensure the competitiveness of the

tourism sector, to introduce the advanced experience, methods and tools of tourism development gathered in the world practice into our national economy.

At present, it is important to develop theoretical, methodological and practical approaches to solve the problems of sustainable development of national tourism in our republic, to form the market of tourist products, to improve the economic methods of regulating the activities of this sector and the organizational structures of its management, and to improve the economic mechanism of tourism development.

During the years of independence, there were many places of pilgrimage, tourist areas and historical monuments in the territory of Uzbekistan. The goal was to introduce our historical cities to the world, and first of all, we needed ways to develop them. And several methods were used in this.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Most of the national tourist enterprises operating in the tourism market have joint activities of tour operators and travel agencies. Tour operators are enterprises directly involved in the production of tourist services. The services of these enterprises provide services for the organization of travel and recreation of tourists by signing agreements with tourist companies, but also with hotel, restaurant and transport owners.

In 1990, the idea of exploring the "Great Silk Road" through space appeared. The initiative was taken by the National Space Research Center of France under the leadership of UNESCO.

The Academy of Geographical Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan raised a number of ideas. Together with French scientists, this academy developed a plan to create the "Great Silk Road" atlas. The Institute of Archeology presented a number of projects. Tourism companies of foreign countries have expressed great interest in the cultural centers of the ancient mountains. For this reason, the Soviet Cultural Foundation proposed a long-term program called "The Great Silk Road". It was noted as a task of unifying international relations as a cultural and historical heritage. In cooperation with the academies of sciences of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, a planned scientific adventure (expedition) along the most important places of the "Silk Road" has begun. UNESCO has developed an international program for the comprehensive study of the Silk Road. Greece, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Mongolia, Yemen, Portugal, Sri Lanka and the countries of the former USSR were co-authors. In this way, it is envisaged to travel through historical cities, interesting settlements not only with modern vehicles (plane, train, car, etc.), but also with camels, horses, donkeys, like ancient tourists and passengers. On the other hand, the issues of repairing roads and historical monuments were made the main task.

During the years of independence, the process of forming a national model of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan was planned. According to this model, the tourism market developed in the country affects the social, political and economic situation of the country like any other market. It is an important tool for developing cooperation between countries and determining levels of investment and capital flow. It is known that in countries with a developed market economy, mainly private and commercial companies provide services to tourists. However, under any circumstances, tourism can develop only if the state creates an

optimal economic and legal environment. If the state does not deal with the issues of professional training, protection of the natural and cultural environment, information and advertising work and simplification of formalities, then tourism will not reach the expected level of development. It is important to develop methodological and practical approaches related to the development of tourism by the state, the formation of the market of tourist services, the reformation of economic regulation methods and tools, the improvement of the organizational management systems of tourism, the increase of its export potential and, most importantly, the attraction of foreign investments is enough.

Tourism in independent Uzbekistan (1991-2018) In order to achieve the independence and great future prospects of Uzbekistan, serious attention is paid to improving the health of the population, educating the physical and spiritual well-being of schoolchildren, students, workers and intellectuals. is being given. It will be necessary to show some evidence about the important activities carried out on this path, namely:

- The processes of dealing with recreation, sports and tourism mentioned in the Constitution of Uzbekistan are expanding;

Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism" (1999) "On Physical Education and Sports" (2000, new edition) and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (UzRVM) on Physical Education and Sports in the Republic decisions aimed at the development of sports (1993, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2002, etc.) and decisions on the training of tourism specialists (1999) are important as they focus on improving tourism;

The development of special tests "Alpomish" and "Barchinoy", in which the criterion (normative) requirements for excursions for people of all ages (from 6 years old) and categories (19990 and their implementation in practice (2000-2009)) are related to tourism. is attention;

- The public education system and a number of non-governmental agencies and organizations have a worthy place in the formation of children's tourist stations (institutions) in the formation of study of the country, familiarization with nature, scientific research (expedition);

Establishment of the Uzbektourism National Company (1995), establishment of tourism faculty at the Tashkent State Institute of Culture (later Tashkent State University of Economics) (1999) and establishment of tourism colleges in historical and cultural cities, their operation based on the requirements of the current era contributes greatly to the development of tourism in the country and international tourism;

All this was a comprehensive promotion of our nationality and national tourism. And these reforms are bearing fruit. At the same time, the study of tourism is carried out step by step.

The foundation of tourism infrastructure in Uzbekistan was laid from the time of the former Soviet Union. However, the problem of redistribution of income from this sector was usually solved by the center. In 1985-89, the volume of domestic and regional tourism in Uzbekistan was 1.4-1.6 million. per person, while the number of foreign tourists was only 130-180 thousand people. By this time, that is, in 1985, there were 1.5 million people in Turkey. 7 million in 1992. 11 million in 2003. foreign tourists visited around. In 1981, Hungary received

14.2 mln. received tourists, by 1991 this amount reached 19.1 million. In 1992, the tourism sector of Uzbekistan offered only 27 types of services to foreign tourists, and in 2008, more than 50 types of services. In countries such as Turkey, Italy and Spain, this figure is 250-400. After the independence of our country, the development of tourism became a priority issue with the direct initiatives of the President. In general, the development of tourism infrastructure in the Republic of Uzbekistan can be divided into five stages.

The first stage (includes 1992). This stage is characterized by the initial formation of national tourism in our republic. At this stage, the "Uzbekturizm" National Company, considered the leader in tourism infrastructure, was founded.

The second stage (1993-1995 - years). A national development model of tourism was developed. This stage is related to the development of new tourist destinations, improvement of services, expansion of the material and technical base of tourism, improvement of the organizational system of management and other similar tasks, together with the increase in the volume of tourist services. created a number of problems that could not be solved only within the framework of the national company "Uzbekturizm". In order to directly communicate with tour operators, the company has offices in countries such as Germany (Frankfurt-Main), England (London), USA (New York), United Arab Emirates (Sharjah) and Russia (Moscow). opened its representative offices.

The third stage (1995-1997 - years). The process of privatization in the field of tourist services has begun. At the beginning of 1996, about 90% of the total amount of tourist objects in the system of the national company "Uzbekturizm" was removed from the state.

The fourth stage (includes 1998). At this stage, an opportunity was created to increase the export potential, to ensure a stable flow of currency, tourists, and investments. The formation of national tourism at the level of world standards in the republic, the restructuring of the service infrastructure indirectly related to tourism, in particular, the border, customs and airport services that welcome tourists from abroad, have begun.

The fifth stage (periods after May 1999). At this stage, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Program for the Development of Tourism" not only formed a political basis for strengthening the position of national and international tourism in the country, but also gave an opportunity to strengthen its economic foundations. On the basis of this regulatory document, additional tax benefits were granted to tourist enterprises. In addition, the position of tourism consultant was introduced in the diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan in foreign countries. In August of this year, the Parliament of the country adopted the Law "On Tourism", and as a result, the legal basis for the operation of the tourism sector was further improved.

At the same time, in order to further improve the national tourism sector, on April 18, 2006, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The decision "On measures to accelerate the development of the service sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2006-2010" was adopted. Based on this, the further development of tourism, which is one of the service sectors in Uzbekistan, and the training of qualified personnel for this sector and their preparation so that they know the national idea and our heritage thoroughly, remain one of the important factors.

### SUMMARY

At this point, I can say that in the years of Independence and in recent years, the tourism industry has carried out and is increasing the wide-scale work on promoting the tourism potential of Uzbekistan at the world level. Representatives of the tourism industry are taking measures to improve the quality of service to domestic and foreign tourists, first of all, active work is being done to improve the tourism infrastructure in the regions of our country, at the same time, "National tourism" and its development many reforms have been made and all of them are paying off.

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