

TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: *The following article is about how the tourism of Uzbekistan developed through the years after independence. Today it is visible that millions of tourists visit Uzbekistan to get to know its nation, culture, history and cuisine. A big variety of international conferences and competitions are being held in our country. What is more, big international companies with perfect investment future are being involved to invest in Uzbek start-ups, which means that we also see trading tourism and its progress.*

Key words: *tourism, Uzbekistan, culture, visit, development, history, buildings, cuisine, bazaar, tourists, local people, colorful traditions*

After independence, Uzbekistan started developing in many spheres, and tourism is not an exception. Before 2000s Uzbekistan was not as popular as now, but today every corner of the world is aware about sunshine country with its colorful ornaments. Uzbekistan is a clear evidence of the unique historical, cultural, and spiritual life of the Central Asian peoples that have lived in the region. The Statistical Internet Survey conducted between May 7 and August 27, 2008, found that the majority of those surveyed (39%) visit Uzbekistan due to their fascination with its architectural and historical sites. The next-largest group (24%) visited Uzbekistan to observe its culture, way of life, and customs. Tourist activities in Uzbekistan range from outdoor activities, such as rock-climbing, to exploration of its rich archeological and religious history. The World Tourism Organization's Silk Road Office was opened in 2004 in Samarkand. This office was commissioned to coordinate the efforts of international organizations and national tourism offices of countries located on the Silk Road. Uzbekistan is a member of The Region Initiative (TRI), which is an umbrella organization for tourism-related entities across three regions. TRI functions as a link between three regions----South Asia, Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe which is also by Armenia, Bangladesh, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Ukraine.

Most travel involves entering and leaving Uzbekistan through Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. The city is serviced by an international airport, a domestic airport, two Vokzals (railway stations), and numerous bus stations. Experienced travelers try to avoid Tashkent International airport. Tashkent is serviced by Uzbekistan airways, Korean Air, airBaltic, Asiana Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Transaero, Aeroflot, Czech airlines, Iran air, air Astana, S7 airlines seven more airports of

Uzbekistan have international status. Those airports are Samarkand, Bukhara Urgench Namangan Airport, Andizhan Airport, Fergana Airport and Nukus Airport. Besides local flights and some regular international flights, almost exclusively to Russia along with occasional tourist charters to Samarkand, Bukhara, Nukus and Urgench. The tickets for domestic flights can be reserved or purchased outside of the country at Uzbekistan Airways offices or agencies or via a number of online websites. Uzbekistan Airways transported more than 1.7 million passengers in 2005.

The most fascinating places for both local and international tourists are the mountains where people can go climbing the rocks, do skiing and snowboarding and organize picnics in spring and summer times. People choose Uzbek mountains for its safety and conveniences created for them. Whenever you go to mountains, it is possible to find affordable and comfortable hotels, parking areas and delicious food. Besides, there is a health improving mountain zone in Zaamin where people can be treated with special procedures such as salt breathing, bath-taking with eucalyptus and air-breathing with fir-trees' aromas.

It is not a secret that millions of people come to visit ancient cities such as Khiva, Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent. We know the history that Uzbekistan played a vital role in the development of trading on Great Silk Road. Nowadays great ancient buildings are kept in Uzbekistan which attract tourists from all over the world.

Starting with Khiva, it is located in the Khorezm oasis inside the great Karakum Desert. While the Khorezm khanate was famous in the 4th century B.C. the actual date of origin of Khiva is lost in the mists of time. Some archaeologists believe it was founded about the same time as the birth of Christ, and was named after the ancient well of Kvivak, said to have been discovered by Shem, the Son of Noah. In the 10th century, the region was home to great philosophers, including Abu Ali Bin Sina (Avicenna) and was the center of a major agricultural civilization, whose armies routed the Roman legions of Marcus Crassus. Its power derived from sitting astride the great caravan routes from east to west, and in the 16th century, it became the capital of the Khorezm state. That state thrived until being decimated by the Mongols. Samarkand is the picturesque city with outstanding Registan, Shah-I zinda and Observatory of Mirzo Ulugbek. Samarkand was founded at the same time as Babylon, Memphis, Athens, and Rome – almost 2500 years ago. It has been called the “Pearl of the Muslim World,” “Eden of Ancient East,” and “Rome of the East.” Samarkand has been conquered many times – by Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Tamerlane, for instance. Tamerlane made it his capital and named it the “Center of the Universe.” Here was a mix of those from Iran, India, Persia, and Mongolia, and being the central part of the Silk Road, was additionally influenced by China, the Middle East, and Europe. Samarkand saw its glory at the height of trade on the Silk Road, beginning in the 2nd century and lasting until the 16th century. Every 4 years “Sharq Taronalari” International music festival is held in this amazing city, so the city is well-prepared for many tourists. Bukhara was founded 2300 years ago, so it is full of historical places. It

is also called museum city, because wherever you go, you come across ancient times. And Tashkent is the capital city so you can never miss it. City is divided into 2 parts, however. There are a lot of places for amusement for children and adults. Moreover, it is a perfect city for business and intellectual development.

Coming to Tashkent it is a must-visit to go to Uzbek bazaars, where you can buy all your needs. The most popular one is Chorsu which has a long history. There are goods starting from basic needs goods to electronics, clothes and food. Food market is famous for its delicious national cuisine. So, Uzbek bazaar take deep place in the hearts of tourists.

Nowadays the president of Uzbekistan pays a colossal attention to tourism development. New high buildings are being built, now touristic places on nature are being prepared for both local and international visitors. The most importantly, all the actions are directed to improve comfortability level and to put it on the top ranks of international ranking systems of tourism.

Conclusion: today tourism in Uzbekistan is much more developed than in the past, so it is developing more to attract more tourist all over the world. For this, we are constructing new buildings, reconstructing old ones and create more opportunities and conveniences for both local and international visitors.

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