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Importance of Pilgrimage in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: In this article, we will focus on the description of pilgrimage tourism, its essence, and how important it is today. Also, in the course of the development of national tourism in Uzbekistan, it is said to study the conceptual factors of the development of tourism, reveal the laws of its development, and determine the future prospects of tourism development.

Keywords: Pilgrimage tourism, religious shrine, shrine, mausoleum, development of internal and external tourism, cultural-educational tourism, tourism information.

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism - travel (trip); one of the types of active recreation. Tourism is defined as the travel of an individual from the place of permanent residence to the destination (country) for health, educational, professional or other purposes for not less than 24 hours and not more than 365 days. [1]

The history of tourism dates back to the beginning of the 19th century. First, organized tourism from England to France was established (1815). The English priest Thomas Cook, who is considered the founder of tourism, organized the first railway tour in 1843. After that, he established his own tour company and in 1866 the first tour groups were sent to the United States. In the East, Ibn Battuta, an Arab traveler, started his journey at the age of 21 and traveled almost all the countries of East and North Africa on foot. The first tourist trips in Movarounnahr became active during the period of Amir Temur and Timurids. Amir Temur was in constant contact with the French king Charles VI and the English king Henry IV. His ambassador came to Paris in 1403. Spanish Clavijo's book "The Life and Activities of Temur the Great" describes social life in Movarounnahr and tourists' desire for Temur's state. Nowadays, tourism has become popular in many countries of the world. Usually, Tourism is organized through tourism organizations along tourism routes. There are many types and forms of tourism (domestic, international, amateur tourism, organized tourism, local travel, long-distance travel, educational tourism, mountain climbing, water tourism, motor tourism, hiking tourism, sports tourism, etc.). The national company "Uzbekturizm" (founded on July 27, 1992) leads the field of tourism in Uzbekistan. The main task of the company is to develop tourism infrastructure, build modern tourist complexes by

[1] Бабкин А.В. Специальные виды туризма. Ростов-на-Дону: Феникс, 2008. - 252 с December, 2022 Multidisciplinary Scientific Journal 545

attracting foreign investment, develop new tourist destinations, expand the range of services, etc. The national company "Uzbekturizm" has developed the following tourist routes depending on the type of travel: classic route (Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent; Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Shahrisabz, Tashkent). This direction is connected with the visit to the oldest monuments and other historical and cultural monuments; ecological tourism direction (Chimyon, Charvok recreation and treatment center, Zomin reserve, reserves in Bukhara region). This direction is connected with visits to specially protected natural areas and places that are ecologically friendly and useful for tourists; the direction of archaeological tourism (along the territory of Karakalpakstan, Surkhandarya, Samarkand). This route is the longest in Uzbekistan. aims to get acquainted with the finds and places where archaeological excavations are being conducted; the direction of extreme tourism (through Chimyan, Fergana Valley, Arol Bay, Bukhara, Navoi regions); linear tourism direction (Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Tashkent) is related to visiting historical religious monuments in our country.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism" was adopted (August 20, 1999) in order to legally regulate relations in the field of tourism, develop the market of tourist services, as well as protect the rights and legal interests of tourists and subjects of tourist activity. At the same time, the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the state program for the development of tourism in Uzbekistan until 2005" (April 15, 1999) became an important factor in the development of the industry. "Association of Private Tourism Organizations" was established in Tashkent in 1998 by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in order to improve tourism organizations and activate the service market of small and medium-sized tourist enterprises, as well as to attract foreign investment to the tourism sector. It works closely with more than 300 tourist enterprises. There is a tourist base "Kumushkon" and a camping complex "Sanzar" in Uzbekistan, which are organizations of the national company "Uzbektourism". At the same time, there are Chorvoq, Chimyon, Beldersoy recreation centers and about a hundred private hotels. The number of hotels in Uzbekistan that can accommodate and serve many tourists is growing. In 1993, Uzbekistan became a member of the World Tourism Organization (WTO; established in 1975), which unites more than 120 countries. Also, Uzbekistan is a member of the presidium of the European Commission of the WTO. It is planned to open a representative office of the World Tourism Organization in Samarkand region within the framework of the "Great Silk Road" project of 2004. "The Great Silk Road" international tourist advertising information on the field of tourism in Uzbekistan. (since 1994), "Business Guide" JUR (in Russian and English) and other public publications are published. In April 2021, a presentation of Uzbekistan's pilgrimage tourism potential was held in Dagestan.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Regarding pilgrimage tourism, Uzbek Islamic scholar B.M. Bobojonov said that the most common type of pilgrimage sites in Central Asia are "holy shrines". The study of historical objects of Surkhandarya regions from the point of view of architecture is prominent in the research of scientist I.Azimov. A. Mamanazarov, B. Sattorov, Poslavskaya. O., S. Jorayeva also elaborated on the history of pilgrimage tourism about the pilgrimage sites and shrines of Sufism figures. When studying the issue of shrines in the territory of Uzbekistan, it is also important to research the status and level of personification (saint, pir, said, khoja) of the person associated with the name of the shrine. In the researches of T. Dadabayev and E. Karimov, there are opinions on various aspects of the pilgrimage issue. For example, in the article co-authored by D. Abramson and E. Karimov, the importance of pilgrimage in the life of Central Asian peoples and the attitude towards it in different periods is analyzed. Have you ever thought about modern life and the role of man in it? Try to stop yourself from chasing time, even for a moment. Take a break and think. What did the inner image of man look like? Can a modern person be called happy and what can make him happy? Someone devotes his whole life to finding answers to such philosophical questions, others, unfortunately, cannot find the answers to these questions, and some go on a

pilgrimage. And this is not just a journey, it is an opportunity to realize yourself, a hope for spiritual purification, a wish for the fulfillment of prayers and desires, a path leading to faith. Pilgrimage is to turn to the Almighty God through the past saints, to calm the mind and soul, to realize the truth of holiness, to go through the path of solitude and purification. In Central Asia, it is called Ziyarat, which means visiting holy places. Uzbekistan has always been a center of intersection of many cultures and civilizations, where different religions have been propagated, therefore unique monuments related to Islam, Buddhism and Christianity have been preserved. In the territory of Uzbekistan, there are many holy places related to Islamic culture and its Sufi stream, like other religions. The most valuable monuments are recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Among them is the city of Bukhara, which is called Bukharai-Sharif, which means Blessed Bukhara in the Islamic world. The city of Samarkand has many priceless monuments. Shahrisabz, the hometown of Amir Temur. Of course, these cities have an ancient and rich history and have undergone serious changes throughout their life. The idea of mortality and eternity is associated with these cities. There is an incident in the biographies of Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet preaches. He had a heavenly horse, and he ascended to heaven on that horse. First he will visit Jerusalem and then Mecca. Looking towards Makkah, he sees the sun's rays illuminating the whole world. Then he sees only two points on the surface of the earth, these rays rose from the bottom to the top. These lights were Bukhara and Samarkand.

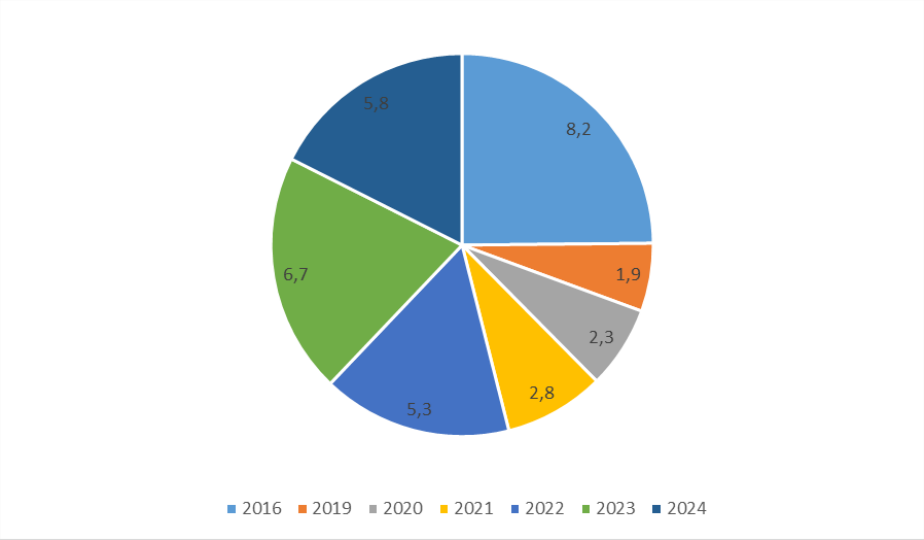

Diagram №1.The number of foreign tourists to Uzbekistan, mil per[i]

Today, in order to increase competitiveness in the international tourism market, one of the main tasks is to further develop the strategic sector of our national economy - tourism. Favorable economic and organizational-legal conditions are being created in our country for rapid development of the industry. Comprehensive work is being carried out on the more effective use of the huge tourism potential of the regions, the cluster-based development of the economic sectors adjacent to it, and the development of the national tourism brand. At the same time, in order to increase competitiveness in the international market, completely new directions are being established in this field in our country. In particular, the mechanisms of granting the status of "Tourism Neighborhood", "Tourism Village" and "Tourism Garden" to the citizens' gatherings with high tourism potential of the republic and their support were introduced. The system of paying turnover tax and social tax at the rate of 1 percent, and property, land, and water taxes at only 1 percent of the calculated amount was introduced for entrepreneurs in the neighborhoods where the "Tourism Village" was established. These areas were included in the "Abod Kyshlo" and "Abod Mahalla" programs, asphalt was laid on their roads, lighting was installed, and water and electricity supply were improved. For the first time in Uzbekistan, the "Tourism Village" was established in the village of Konigil, Samarkand district, with 52 crafts and recreation centers.

More than 200 local residents were employed here. There are more than 15 establishments such as national restaurants, bakeries, chest shops, jewelry and handicrafts. 20 family home hotels receive tourists. These are not all. In 2022, Sentob tourism village in Nurota district of Navoi region, Ertoshsoy and Ovjazsoy villages in Ohangaron district of Tashkent region were given the status of tourism villages. As a result of the establishment of 90 family guest houses and 20 types of services in these areas, about 400 local residents were provided with employment. For example, the Sentob tourism village employed about 200 unemployed residents, including women. They provide services in 20 family guest houses, 3 hostels, 15 restaurants, craft workshops and stalls. More than 30 different tourist services have been launched in the innovative tourist cluster "Bukhara Desert Oasis&Spa" in "Marziya" MFY, Romitan district, Bukhara region. It has a 700-seat "Shotyor Emira" restaurant, a 3,000-seat "Caravan Saray" area for outdoor recreation, a 35,000-seat "Varaxho" restaurant, off-road travel tourism, an agro farm on an area of 30 hectares. - eco-gardens and innovative greenhouses were established. The services of hot water, iodine and mud treatment, and efficient use of sunlight have been launched in the "Spa" health center, a modern pool, a water basin. Necessary conditions have been created in the field of hunting tourism. In the 4.5-hectare fish pond, tourists can catch their own fish and cook and eat there all year round.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Pilgrimage tourism is currently a widespread tourism industry. Pilgrimage tourism is essentially the process of visiting places of pilgrimage. Pilgrimages are usually long journeys of days, weeks or even months for religious purposes. They are places where people of faith go to strengthen their relationship with their religion, encompassing an entire journey. Pilgrimage tourism may include visits to mosques and churches or other religious places of interest in a destination city or region is a type. Pilgrimage tourism is a set of pilgrimage trips by representatives of different religions. Traditionally, it refers to trips with a religious purpose, but it can also refer to a secular trip that has special significance for the pilgrim. The importance of pilgrimage tourism can be justified by two factors: how important pilgrimage tourism is to the pilgrimage site. How important is pilgrimage tourism for pilgrims? Pilgrimage is also an opportunity for many people to receive spiritual nourishment during difficult times. People travel to certain destinations to experience religious enlightenment. The journey, often long and sometimes difficult, is an opportunity for people to reflect. Pilgrimages can be a way to deepen relationships with religion. It's definitely a way to show how committed you are to the faith, and it's also an opportunity to learn more about the religion itself. As a form of travel, pilgrimage gives people the opportunity to visit holy places. A traveler traveling for religious purposes is a person who goes outside the country of permanent residence for a period not exceeding six months to visit holy places and religious centers. Religious tourism should be understood as activities related to providing services and meeting the needs of travelers who travel to holy places and religious centers outside their usual environment. Religious tourism is divided into two main types: - pilgrimage tourism; - excursion and educational religious tourism.[2]

Currently, more than 200 million people around the world go on religious trips to various shrines and places considered holy for them, for the purpose of pilgrimage. Looking at statistics, 150 million Christians, 45 million Muslims, 40 million Buddhists and Shintoists, 30 million Hindus travel on religious pilgrimage. By the Middle Ages, religious pilgrimage acquired a special mass character in the form of the Crusades. It was held under the banner of fighting against Muslims, under the slogan of liberating Christian holy places from them. Pilgrimage movements became more active in the 15th - 16th centuries. Most of those who go to the Holy Land (Jerusalem) mask

[2] Александров А.Ю. Международный туризм. Уч.пособие для вузов.- М.: Аспект Пресс, 2000

their goals and interests with a religious pilgrimage. Zoning is used to explore the vast and varied geography of pilgrimage sites.

There are several macro areas of pilgrimage in the world

1	Christian Europe; North America, which has a strong presence in Christianity and other plural religions
2	Latin America connected with Christianity and traditional religions
3	North Africa, which adopted Islam
4	West and East Africa where Islam is dominant and there are separate Christianity and traditional religions
5	East Asia, where Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism are widespread
6	Central Asia, where Islam is widespread
7	Western Asia is a region where Islam, Christianity, and Judaism are widely spread
9	South Asia is a region where Judaism and Buddhism are widespread. There are also Christianity, Jainism, Sikhism and Islam

Each macro-region is known primarily for its world centers of pilgrimage. They receive international flows of believers and are often combined with the functions of administrative, industrial, cultural and touristic centers of religious specialization. In addition, the macro-regions have religious places of national and local importance. The city of Jerusalem is one of the largest religious centers in the world. Jerusalem is also a holy center for believers of three religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. During the years of independence, the state paid great attention to religious places. Due to the fact that our great ancestors paid serious attention to the restoration, improvement, and repair of the places where they settled, the places of pilgrimage attract 1.5 billion Muslims. Currently, since we have taken the development of pilgrimage tourism as our main goal, first of all, it is necessary to pay serious attention to the territorial organization and development of religious tourism in our country. In particular, we need to develop attractive infrastructures in order to attract pilgrims from the countries of South-East Asia and West Asia. For this purpose, we believe that it is appropriate to identify and generalize the places of pilgrimage considered sacred by the people of each region, district, and village, to create religious tourist cards of the republic and region, to create the necessary conditions for pilgrims, and to study transportation possibilities. There is no doubt that religious shrines can become a source of great income with little investment. There are dozens and hundreds of religious shrines from all regions of our country. We only know the abodes where our figures who have served the Islamic world and who have risen to the level of saints have settled down forever, only at the local level, that is, at the district or regional level. Consequently, such holy shrines can be turned into religious shrines of national and international level. At the same time, the establishment of a directional road transport system leading to major pilgrimage sites in the territory of the republic, and provision of transport routes for the residents of the area to make organized trips to other areas. In addition, the Islamic culture located in our country and cultural heritage objects related to history will be included in the list of Islamic cultural heritage of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Widespread development of internal and external tourism, modernization of the tourism sector in the republic, sustainable development of the sector, development of touristic, household and communication-information infrastructures in areas considered tourism centers, special attention to providing services to local and foreign guests in accordance with international standards It is important to note that the implementation of the specified measures in this regard, the development of the tourism industry in our country will primarily strengthen the position of Uzbekistan in the world community, open new opportunities and reliable cooperation for foreign investors, the stability of the country's macroeconomic indicators, it is a factor in the improvement

of indicators such as incomes, employment and entrepreneurship of the population, and causes the further improvement of the service sector.[3]

CONCLUSION

The development of pilgrimage tourism, which is considered a rapidly growing tourism industry, is a good opportunity for countries with high potential in this field. From the above-mentioned points and examples, it can be concluded that it is necessary to develop important policies and strategies for the sustainable development of pilgrimage tourism, which should be followed by every member of the country, including foreign countries. In addition, it is important to create infrastructure that can attract foreign tourists. Both government and local agencies need to be coordinated to achieve sustainable development.

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[i] Created by the author himself

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