

FEATURES OF PILGRIMAGE TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: the article describes the features of pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan. Particularly, it is possible to attract a large flow of the visitors through the promotion of pilgrimage tourism because the ancient cities of Uzbekistan are recognized as the magnificent centers of the Islamic world. Throughout the centuries, this land has given mankind a galaxy of great scientists, philosophers, statesmen, and Islamic theologians, whose names are inscribed in gold letters in the history of mankind.

Keywords: pilgrimage tourism, recreation, cultural enrichment, spiritual maturity, cleansing, sacred places.

ОСОБЕННОСТИ ПАЛОМНИЧЕСКОГО ТУРИЗМА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ

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Аннотация: в статье описаны особенности паломнического туризма в Узбекистане. В частности, можно привлечь большой поток посетителей посредством продвижения паломнического туризма, потому что древние города Узбекистана признаны великолепными центрами исламского мира. На протяжении веков эта земля дала человечеству галактику великих ученых, философов, государственных деятелей и исламских богословов, чьи имена вписаны золотыми буквами в историю человечества.

Ключевые слова: паломнический туризм, отдых, культурное обогащение, духовная зрелость, очищение, священные места.

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In Uzbekistan the development pilgrimage tourism has grown to the level of state policy. Famous masters of Sufism in the Islamic world are Abu Ismail Muhammad ibn Isa At-Termizi, Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Ali at-Termizi; famous seven saint of Bukhara, mysticists are Khojai Jahon –Abdulhalik Gijduvani, Khoja Muhammad Arif Revagari, Mahmud Anjir Fagnavi, Khoja Ali Romitani, Muhammad Boboi Samosi, Sayid Mir Kulol, and Bakhoudin Nakshband.

Moreover there are 360 mosques and 80 madrassas in Bukhara, and the city is awarded the title of “Star of the Islamic World”. Bukhara is one of the seven holy cities among Mecca, Madina, Baghdad, Damascus, Jerusalem and Mazar-e-Sharif. Bukhara is the birthplace of Abdullah Muhammad ibn Isma'il al-Bukhari, better known as Imam al-Bukhari, a Muslim scholar, muhaddis and mufassir, “author of one of the canonical collections of Sunni traditions” “al-Jami al-Sahih” which is considered the most reliable collection after the Koran in the Islamic world and the founder, the teachings of Tariqat Bahouddin Naqshbandi are also known as Shahi Naqshbandi and Khojai Buzur, one of the spiritual fathers of Sufism, considered the founder of the Sufi order Naqshbandi.

It is said that Bahauddin Naqshband had a dream during a trip to Mecca. In it, the Prophet Ibrahim looked at him and said: "When I ascended to heaven and looked down, I saw only three" rays ": one from Mecca, the other from Medina and the third radiated from Saint Bukhara." That is, if holy rays fall from heaven to all Muslim cities, then only from Mecca, Medina and Bukhara do these holy rays rise to heaven. Therefore, we can confidently say that Bukhara is the third sacred place of pilgrimage in the Islamic world after Mecca and Medina. In conclusion, if all Muslims in the world make a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina during the month of Kurban Khait, they attain the Muslim title of Hajji (Arabic. حَاج - “pilgrim”) - the honorary title given to a Muslim who successfully completed the Hajj ceremony in Mecca, while visiting Bukhara and making a pilgrimage to the seven holy saints of Bukhara at any time of the year, we think that they will have the title of “Small Hajji”, - said professor Navruz-Zoda. That is why thousands of visitors come visit them constantly. So, development of pilgrimage tourism has become a crucial point in the promotion of the whole tourism sector.

Pilgrimage Tourism has emerged as an instrument for employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development. Pilgrimage Tourism promotes international understanding and gives support to local handicrafts and cultural activities. It is an important segment of the country's economy, especially in terms

of its contribution towards foreign exchange earnings, generation of additional income and creation of employment opportunities.

In this case pilgrimage tourism helps people to attain spiritual maturity as well as moral cleansing. These traditional opportunities have taken on a special resonance in an age in which modernity and rationalization appear to be limiting individual expression, denying the possibility of the miraculous, and transforming the world into a rationalized environment centered on economics.

In a nutshell, three main advantages of religious tourism are classified:

1. Religious tourism raises awareness of humanity's common heritage and provides resources for preservation.

2. It can contribute to local development as well as economical boost.

3. It reforms cultural understanding.

One thing is clear, during the critical period, for the period of tough competition, when various disagreements and misunderstandings arise, various diseases appear, and when people are seized by despair, pilgrimage tourism acts as a torch to save people from despair and its importance increases even more than other types of tourism.

Asia and the Pacific are blessed not only with religious sites but also because it forms the hub of pilgrim centers, religious festivals and other related cultural activities of a religious nature".

As it seems, in the region, and especially in our country, there is a huge potential in tourism, and it is becoming one of the strategic parts of the economy. Therefore, through the development of tourism, particularly with the development of pilgrimage tourism, we can achieve the following objectives:

The State Committee for Tourism Development of Uzbekistan registered the number of pilgrimage destinations that can receive visitors from all over the world. There are about 100 of these holy shrines that can be visited not only by Islam, but also by Christians, Buddhists, and Jewish believers. Most of the listed sites are in Khiva, Samarkand and Bukhara.

Table 1. Main tourism statistics in Uzbekistan

	2018	2019	% change
Number of visitors, millions	5,346	6,749	+ 26,2
Tourism earnings, billion USD	1,041	1,313	+ 26,1
Number of tour operators	465	1448	+ 211,4
Number of visa-free countries	18	86	+ 377,8
Total accommodation facilities	914	1188	+ 30
<i>Including: Hotels</i>	784	833	+ 6,3
<i>Hostels</i>	53	214	+ 303,8
<i>Others</i>	78	141	+80,8
Total number of beds	21074	26147	+ 24,1

Source: <https://strategy.uz/index.php?news=797>.

Uzbekistan is a unique country on whose territory the most ancient civilizations and cultures were born and developed and magnificent monuments of history and majestic examples of unique architecture were preserved. Among them are holy places that attract pilgrims from all over the world, including from Malaysia.

"The main purpose of promoting pilgrimage tourism is to promote the tourism potential and carry forward Uzbekistan as a center of Islamic civilization to the globe. Today, as the number of Muslims around the world grows, so does the interest in Islamic history and Islamic heritage becomes highly demanded. Muslims mostly from Europe and Southeast Asia are increasingly interested in pilgrimage tourism.

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