

History of Tourism Development in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article examines the stages and history of development of the tourism industry in Uzbekistan. Tourism statistics were also analyzed and the factors contributing to the development of tourism in Uzbekistan were studied.

Keywords: tourism, travel, Great Silk Road, tourism industry, local tourist, foreign tourist, tour operators, travel agents.

Introduction

Tourism as a trip consists of the content and forms of activities such as recreation, leisure, sightseeing, sight seeing, study of historical and cultural monuments. First of all, the most complex and glorious goals, such as the expansion of spiritual and enlightenment knowledge and the development of physical maturity, are realized. The history of the origin and development of travel is closely linked to the ancient social work and life culture of all people on earth. In the days when people invented the weapon of labor, invented firefighting, hunted wild animals, fought in the process of fighting wild animals, hiking in the mountains, crossing fast-flowing waters, grazing, resting in beautiful landscapes had to perform complex life activities such as getting up, spending the night, lying in wait for a few days. The existence of travel in Uzbekistan and its environs, its development over time, the enrichment of their content and forms are directly related to the Great Silk Road.

Uzbekistan as a major Central Asian Silk Road tourism destination has a great opportunity of deployment in the sector of hospitality and tourism. On this basis, country's potential touristic resources, like greenhouses, reservoirs and relevant ones could be one of the vital sources in the way of sustainable development that has faced exponential growth globally. This article presents the author's attempt to form the theoretical basis of domestic tourism, as it is vital both in theoretical and practical ways. Analysis of the current state of the conceptual apparatus of the tourism industry, based on which the conclusions and proposals formulated by the creation of categorical apparatus of tourism. Moreover, tourism competitiveness of destinations will investigate speculatively through the case of Uzbekistan.[10]

71	ISSN 2576-5973 (online), Published by "Global Research Network LLC" under Volume:5 Issue: 4 in April-2022 https://www.grnjournals.us/index.php/AJEBM
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The International Ecological and Tourism Organization of Uzbekistan has been holding new international tourism conferences and exhibitions in Tashkent every year since 1995, revealing new aspects in the history of tourism development.

Forms and types of tourism expanded significantly during the former Soviet era. Important work was carried out, such as excursions to historical and cultural cities, excavations of mountains, deserts and the ruins of ancient cities. Most importantly, many trips were made to improve the health of the population, especially working and student youth, to study nature and historical and cultural monuments. One of the main tasks in this direction is the training of tourism personnel (instructors, guides, coaches, etc.) During the years of the former Soviet Union, Samarkand (Registan Square, Amir Temur Mausoleum, Shahizinda Ensemble, Bibikhanim Madrassah, Khoja Ahror Vali Madrassah, etc.), architectural buildings, historical museums, modern buildings in Bukhara, Khiva, Urgench, Tashkent became tourist destinations.

Methods

A number of popular scientific books and teaching aids on the formation and development of tourism have been created in our country. Among them are programs and manuals prepared by specialists R.Abdumalikov, T.Kh.Kholdarov and others. The role of such talented specialists in the history of tourism of the republic as IG Kholmurodov, VI Kucheryavikh (Samarkand), V. Ratsek, AV Kolbinsev (Tashkent) is noteworthy. The development of tourism in Uzbekistan has been based on the above guidelines. Nowadays, in accordance with the requirements of the time, a lot of attention is paid to the organization of excursions to historical cities. Along the way, high experience has been gained in receiving tourists from major cities and abroad in cities such as Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and providing them with cultural services. In the history of the development of tourism in the country, Samarkand has its own peculiarities of travel organizers. It is worthwhile to get acquainted with some information of R.Abdumalikov and T.Kh.Kholdarov.

As the oldest city, Samarkand is world famous for its rich historical monuments. For this reason, Alexander the Great, who came here in 327 BC for the purpose of invasion, was engaged in looting, but in 1865-1870, the Russian invaders, and in the former Soviet Union, the leaders of the center were amazed to see the city and its towers. In general, Samarkand is famous for its ancient architecture and historical and cultural monuments. For this reason, excursions and hiking tourism organized in educational institutions, industrial enterprises in the past are worthy of attention in terms of content and essence. In the pre-World War II period (1930s-1940s), students' hiking trips were mainly to Okhalik (20-25 km south of the city), Amankotan (40 km south) and Choponota (on the banks of the Zarafshan River). 6–8 km to the west). Their goal was to study the environment, exercise, and make herbariums out of plants. In the early post-war period (1950s-1960s) it was customary to travel in groups (students) to Ohalik, Mironkol, Choponota, Omonkoton and other places of interest. The Amankoton Cave (discovered in 1946) was especially attractive to workers and students. Because the bones of people who lived 40,000 years ago were found in this cave, and its history has caused a great deal of controversy.

In 1951, the establishment of the Pedagogical School of Physical Education on the basis of the Pedagogical School (director Yu.Yu. Yusupov headed for many years) was a great event. According to the curriculum of the university, tourism is taught as a special subject. It was headed by a geography teacher Ibrahim Gaybullayevich Kholmurodov. During his more than 50 years of service at the university, Kholmurodov has been active in training many experienced travelers and training thousands of specialists. It should be noted that R.Abdumalikov (1951-1955) and T.Kh.Kholdarov

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(1965-1968) were the first students of I. G. Kholmurodov. Changes in tourism are one of the strategic directions of the national economy, which can ensure the rapid development of the regions.

Results

The analysis showed positive dynamics of key indicators in the industry. In particular, between 2016 and 2019, there was a significant increase in the number of international tourists visiting Uzbekistan. For comparison, in 2016, the country was visited by 2 million foreign tourists, while in 2019 their number increased 3.3 times to 6.7 million. In 2018, the number of foreign tourists increased by 98% compared to 2017, and the number of enterprises and organizations engaged in tourism activities increased by 131%. Significantly, the increase in the number of tourists varies from region to region. For example, the number of visitors from Central Asian countries increased by an average of 22-25% per year, while the annual growth among citizens of distant foreign countries was 50%. At the same time, the results of domestic tourism were positive. Compared to 2016, the number of local tourists in 2019 almost doubled to 14.7 million. The impact of the pandemic on tourism. According to the World Tourism and Tourism Council, the direct and indirect contribution of tourism to world GDP in 2019 was \$ 8.9 trillion (10.9 percent of world GDP). Every tenth person in the world has worked in the field of tourism. It should be noted that due to the restrictions imposed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and the consequences of the global crisis, the tourism industry has suffered huge losses. In particular, the number of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan in 2020 will decrease by 96% to 1.5 million. fell to the ground. The volume of tourist services provided amounted to 261 mln. dollars. In particular, the starting point of the pandemic in 2019 is the total volume of tourist services provided to 1.5 billion. Exports reached 1.3 billion US dollars, accounting for 38.2 percent of total services exports. In order to reduce the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the participants of the tourism industry of Uzbekistan have received a number of benefits and privileges. And so:

- the established tax rate on income of tour operators, travel agents and accommodation facilities has been reduced by 50%;
- Tour operators, travel agents and accommodation facilities are exempt from land tax and property tax from legal entities;
- The social tax rate is set at 1%;
- the calculation and payment of tourist fees for tour operators, travel agents, as well as accommodation facilities has been suspended;
- interest expenses of tourist organizations on partial loans from commercial banks for the construction of accommodation facilities were partially reimbursed;
- The costs of updating, reconstruction and strengthening the material and technical base for the classification or modernization of hotels were partially covered. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 28, 2020 "On urgent measures to support the tourism sector to reduce the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic" from June 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021 It is planned to subsidize accommodation facilities in the amount of 10% of the cost of accommodation services (hotel services). In total, the President noted in a video conference that 1750 entities were provided with benefits in the amount of about 60 billionsoums in property taxes, land and social taxes.

Discussion

In order to meet the demand caused by the sharp increase in the number of tourists, the government has taken comprehensive measures to increase the number of accommodation.

First, 22 types of redundancy requirements regulating the activities of hostels belonging to the type of affordable accommodation were abolished. In particular, the procedure for mandatory certification of hotel services provided by hostels has been abolished, and the practice of operating from a single register of guest houses and hostels has been introduced. Second, in order to increase the number of small hotels in the country, 8 types of pilot projects of up to 50 small hotels based on the experience of Turkey and South Korea were provided to entrepreneurs free of charge. It is estimated that the total cost of the distributed projects is \$ 60 billion. more than UZS. Third, in order to attract more foreign investment in tourism, a number of incentives have been introduced for the construction of hotels on the basis of public-private partnerships. According to him, 30 million rubles will be allocated from the state budget for each room of 3-star hotels and 40 million rubles for 4-star hotels. UZS compensation has been set. At the same time, the practice of partially reimbursing the royalties of hotels that attract world-famous hotel brands has been introduced. According to him, each room in a 3-star hotel will cost \$ 200, and in a 4-star hotel - \$ 400. As a result, the number of placement tools has increased dramatically. In particular, between 2016 and 2020, their number increased from 750 to 1,308, and the number of available seats increased from 34,000 to 62,000. Also, during 2018-2020, the number of guest houses increased 13 times to 1,386. The work done in Uzbekistan to turn tourism into one of the strategic sectors of the economy has been reflected in various rankings and nominations.

Conclusion

In particular, in recent years, Uzbekistan has been recognized by The Guardian as the best tourist destination in the world, the fastest growing country in the eyes of Wanderlust, the best developing tourist destination according to the grandvoyage. In addition, the UN World Tourism Organization ranked Uzbekistan 4th in the list of fastest growing countries in the field of tourism.

However, there are many problems in the industry that need to be addressed. The high cost of transport compared to neighboring countries, the lack of diversification of air routes, as well as the low quality of road, sanitary and information infrastructure facilities, and the acute shortage of guide and tour services are detrimental to Uzbekistan's tourist attractiveness. factors. A quick and high-quality solution to the existing problems will play an important role in "treating" Uzbekistan's tourism potential in the post-pandemic period. In short, there is a need to transform the tourism industry in Uzbekistan through innovation and digitalization. As an untapped opportunity, it is necessary to develop market segments such as emerging agro and ethno tourism. The world practice of tourism development shows that in order to turn this industry into a high-income sector, it is necessary to unite and strengthen the efforts of all participants in the public and private sectors. In doing so, the role of government is to coordinate and plan tourism development policies at the international, governmental and private sector levels.

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