

PROSPECTS OF PILGRIMAGE TOURISM IN KASHKADARYA REGION

Rahmonov Malik

University of Information Technologies and Management,

2nd year master's degree

Abstract: This article discusses the current state and potential of pilgrimage tourism in the Kashkadarya oasis, the importance of studying and applying the experience of many countries of the world in developing the industry, and the importance of international cooperation in the development of the industry by developed countries of the world in creating appropriate infrastructure in the industry at the level of world standards, increasing the flow of tourists and developing the tourism industry. A number of ideas and considerations are presented.

Keywords: World Tourism Organization, Great Silk Road, oasis, regional tourism, pilgrimage tourism, tourist services, scientific research, tourist sites, cultural heritage, tourism infrastructure.

In the process of transforming tourism into a strategic sector of the economy in Uzbekistan, great attention is being paid to the development of pilgrimage tourism as a promising form of it.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at the 25th session of the “General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization”, said: The holding of a major event in the world tourism industry - the session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in Samarkand - is a major historical event for the Central Asian region.

The fact that the anniversary meeting of the organization is being held in the ancient city of Samarkand, the jewel of the "Great Silk Road", a major tourist destination in Uzbekistan, has a deeply symbolic meaning. This unique city, located at the crossroads of world civilizations, has been a true center of trade, science and culture for centuries, connecting the East and the West, and is also a peer of the famous Rome. This eternal land, the capital of great kingdoms, a land where great scholars and thinkers, and dear saints flourished, will always give us pride.

Noting that Samarkand, which has gained fame as the "glory of the earth" and made a huge contribution to the development of the two great renaissances of the East, is today becoming one of the modern tourist centers of the world, they expressed the following proposals to further expand cooperation between the member countries of the organization and deepen our ties in all aspects within the framework of the "Pilgrimage Tourism" program, which aims to increase the number of visitors three times more than the current number, and for this noble purpose, expand the geography of sacred pilgrimage sites and create a single map of them:

– the most pressing problem of global tourism is ensuring a guaranteed security system for tourists;

– adoption of an international Action Program for the development of “green” tourism in the era of increasing climate change;

– In order to further strengthen the conditions for tourists with disabilities and develop inclusive tourism infrastructure, we, within our organization, declare 2025 the "World Year of Inclusive Tourism" and adopt a special declaration;

– Establish a Council of Historic Cities for Tourism under the World Tourism Organization;

– Establishing a special international award for the organization for its contribution to the development of the Silk Road brand.

In order to successfully fulfill these strategic tasks, it is an urgent issue to search for and implement modern approaches to the development of pilgrimage tourism in order to effectively use the rich pilgrimage tourism potential of our country in the interests of the people and sharply increase the flow of pilgrims to holy places. Pilgrimage tourism is one of the sectors that is gaining its place in the world economy today. No matter which city or place of interest in our country you go to, you will definitely come across tourists. A characteristic feature is that most of them are foreign tourists. Pilgrimage tourism is becoming a broad sector of economic processes.

Pilgrimage tourism- is a type of religious tourism, which is the sum of trips made by representatives of different religions for the purpose of pilgrimage, and pilgrimage is the worship of people at holy places.

"Ziyarat" - (Arabic زيارة ziyara) is derived from the word "to watch", "to go (come) to see". In Muslims, "ziyara" is a visit to religious holy places associated with the prophets.

In recent years, such types of tourism as pilgrimage tourism, mountain tourism, gastronomic tourism, cultural and educational tourism, ecological tourism, business tourism, geotourism have been developing significantly. There are many mausoleums of scholars recognized in the Islamic world and holy places in the Kashkadarya region. Tourism facilities and holy places located in the Kashkadarya region are attracting the attention of tourists today. In addition to ancient monuments, holy places of pilgrimage, historical and cultural monuments, the efforts being made in the direction of pilgrimage tourism in our region, which captivates tourists with its unique culture and traditions, beautiful nature and fertile lands, are of great importance in further developing the tourism industry and infrastructure.

In recent years, the development of the tourism sector has had a positive impact on the employment rate. In addition to separate mechanisms of regional policy, in many countries, mechanisms for developing regional target programs, supporting border regions, creating special economic zones and clusters are widely used. In developed European countries, the development and implementation of strategies and target programs is very widely used as a mechanism for supporting the development of the region (tourism).

Uzbekistan has some experience in developing targeted state programs at the level of various regions, as well as regional tourism market development. In particular, the development of annual and medium-term development forecasts and state programs for regions (industries) has been widely implemented. For example, state programs for the development of the tourism sector are being implemented in Tashkent, Khorezm and Kashkadarya regions for five years. In 2023, a number of practical works were carried out in Kashkadarya region to increase the potential of pilgrimage tourism, including the collection of electronic copies of the works of Nasaf scholars stored in libraries and archive funds of our country and foreign countries in cooperation with the Abu Muin Nasafy Scientific Center under Karshi State University. Also, favorable conditions were created for tourists to visit the Abu Muin Nasafy shrine.

In 2023, the region organized the "Ethno and modern fashion week", festivals such as "Chanqovuz and sibizga" with the participation of representatives of the Turkic peoples, "Iraqi embroidery", "Jewelry fair".

By 2024, it is planned to repair a 12 km section of the road leading to the "Khazrati Sultan" shrine in the Kitab district, a 10 km section of the road leading to the "Langar Ota" mosque in the Chiraqchi district, and a 1 km section of the road leading to the "Langar Ota"

shrine in the Kamashi district. In addition, a 3 km section of the road leading to the “Khazrati Bashir” shrine in the Kitab district was asphalted. 2.8 km of internal roads in the area of the mahalla where the “Khoja Ilm koni” shrine is located in the Kitab district were currently repaired.

The “Naqshbandi Pirlari” tourism ring is being developed along the “Samarkand-Kitob-Denov-Oltinsoy-Termez” route, and extensive promotional work is being carried out to attract regular tourists to this ring.

Lighting systems have been repaired at the “Historical Square of the City of Shahrisabz”, “Hazrati Bashir” in the Kitab district, “Muhammad Vakhshivori”, “Khoja Ilmkoni”, “Khojai Jarroh” in the city of Karshi, and a total of 28 other cultural heritage sites on the national list.

Due to the implementation of a number of practical works and measures to develop pilgrimage tourism in the Kashkadarya region, the above 15 pilgrimage sites are the most visited by tourists. It should be noted that although there are more than 200 pilgrimage sites in the region, attracting tourists to other pilgrimage sites in the region is fraught with problems such as the lack of a database of pilgrimage tourism sites, the low level of pilgrimage tourism infrastructure, the lack of scientific research on individuals and objects, and their location in remote areas.

Another important aspect of the region's influx of foreign tourists is the increase in the number of family guest houses in the regions. This will create convenient opportunities for foreign and local tourists visiting the region.

Currently, 47 hotels, 2,433 guest houses, and 39 hostels serve tourists in Kashkadarya. They are capable of receiving more than five thousand tourists per day.

As a result of the implementation of the measures specified in several Government resolutions, the development of the pilgrimage tourism sector in the region will, in turn, strengthen the position of Kashkadarya region in the Republic, as well as the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the world, contribute to the implementation of the country's macroeconomic indicators, improve population incomes, employment, and entrepreneurial activity.

About the Abu Muin Nasafiy Shrine in Karshi District, one of the notable pilgrimage sites of the Kashkadarya region:

The “Directorate for the Management and Improvement of the Abu Muin Nasafiy Complex” was established in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 117 dated March 3, 2021 and the Resolution of the regional governor No. 53-4-0-Q/21 dated March 26, 2021. It should be noted that the “Abu Mu'in Nasafiy Complex” is the most visited pilgrimage site in the district by tourists from all over the Republic and abroad. The main reason for this is that, as known from scholarly historical sources, he is considered a scholar who further developed the teachings of his teacher, Imam Abu Mansur Maturidi, and made an invaluable contribution to its spread throughout the countries of the East.

The total area of the complex is 21 ha., and the actual usable area is 4.2 ha. Abu Mu'in Nasafi was born in 1027 in the city of Nasaf. In his works, the scholar correctly interpreted the essence of Islam and gave reasonable refutations of the erroneous views of various sects and groups in the faith that had deep roots in Transoxiana in the Middle Ages. Today, his manuscripts are kept in the libraries of Dubai, Baghdad, Cairo, Iraq, Pakistan and Alexandria. The work "Bahr ul-kalom fi ilm al-kalom" was published in 1886 in Baghdad and in 908 in Cairo. Meanwhile, several commentaries have been written on it over the centuries.

Today, one of the most reliable manuscripts is kept in the library of Alexandria, Egypt. It was copied in Bukhara by a scribe named Muhammad ibn Hasan ibn al-Husayn in 1269 AD. There are three new copies of the work in the libraries of the Dar al-Qutub al-Misriya in Cairo and the famous al-Azhar University. Based on these copies, researchers from the French Scientific Institute for the Study of the Arabic Language published this large work (over a thousand pages) in Damascus in two volumes in 1990 and 1993. The scholar died in 1114 at the age of 87 and was buried in a mausoleum on the territory of the current shrine in the village of Qovchin, Karshi district, Kashkadarya region.

The Abu-Muin Nasafi shrine contains a manuscript of the Holy Quran written on Chinese silk paper. The length of this Holy Quran is 60 cm and the width is 41 cm. A 1 meter 60 cm high tablet was made for this Holy Quran by a master named Zarif in his time. The year 1266 according to the Hijri calendar (1851 according to the Gregorian calendar) is written on the tablet. 12 lines of poetry in Persian are engraved on the tablet.

Currently, this Holy Quran is one of the most unique exhibits in the shrine museum and attracts the attention of foreign tourists.

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