



The Role of Tourism in the Surkhandarya Oasis

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Abstract

During the Soviet era, the republic's economy did not benefit much from the center's tourism ties with foreign countries and the associated funding. As a result, tourism in the country has not risen to the level of world standards and has lagged behind for many years. Because tourism services in many countries account for 15-35% of GDP. In order to improve the tourism business after the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, by the decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 27, 1992, the national company "Uzbektourism" was established. It has been reorganized in the country on the basis of a number of state and public organizations and associations in this field.

Keywords: "Shodlik"; "Sayyohat"; "Chorsu"; Jarkurgan District; Uzbekturkurilish; Sangardak Waterfalls; Foreign Tourism; Samarkand; Bukhara; Khiva

Introduction

The national company is forming the legal and economic basis of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan and building a tourism system that meets international standards. Modern tourist complexes are being built with the help of foreign investments. Attention is paid to the restoration of historical architectural monuments, their promotion. The national company "Uzbektourism" includes regional organizations - regional divisions, as well as joint ventures "Hotel-Uzbekistan", "Shodlik", "Sayyohat", "Chorsu" foreign economic production complexes, "Uzintur", "Uzmaxsustur" joint-stock companies "Uzbekturkurilish" Foreign economic production association.

In 1993, the Republic of Uzbekistan became a full member of the World Tourism Organization in Bali (Indonesia). Representative offices of the Uzbektourism national company have opened in Frankfurt, Moscow (Russia) and London (UK).[10] Speaking about the importance of tourism today, Islam Karimov said, "Foreign tourism is becoming a leading sector of the economy, an important source of foreign exchange earnings. Therefore, it is necessary to continue the construction of comfortable hotels, campsites, the formation of a developed tourism infrastructure, the improvement of tourist destinations. Special attention should be paid to the restoration of national-historical and cultural monuments. This is important not only for attracting foreign tourists, but also for restoring national values and educating the younger generation." [11]

In 1995, the national company “Uzbektourism” served more than 458.4 thousand people, including more than 92,000 foreign tourists. The national company has 22 hotels, 8 tourist bases, 2 campsites and one recreation area. In 1995, the main tourist centers in the Republic of Uzbekistan were Tashkent (2344 seats), Samarkand region (1021 seats), Bukhara region (1029 seats), Urgench-Khiva (653 seats).

The Main Findings and Results

The city of Termez has joined them since 1995. In 1996, more than two thousand foreign tourists were served in Termez, in 1997 - 3.3 thousand people, and 1.7 thousand tourists from Uzbekistan. Profits from tourist services amounted to 16,830,000 soums (7,778,000 soums more than in 1996) or 185.9%. [12] For the first time in Jarkurgan district of Surkhandarya region, the only private private tourism company “Minor” (founded in 1990). In 2002 alone, 765 of our compatriots traveled to Samarkand, Bukhara, Turkestan and Khiva, famous for their historical and architectural monuments, through the Private Tourism Company (PTC).

More than twenty tourists from the United States, Japan, Taiwan, France, Germany and Israel, who visited our region, were pleased with the company’s services. In 2002, more than 1,800 schoolchildren and children were given trips to the sights, historical and cultural monuments, and picturesque places. It is noteworthy that the company offers seven different tourist destinations in the region.

These are: “Journey to the third cradle of world civilization - the depths of millions of years” (Zarautsoy, Teshiktash caves), “On the roads of the Roman conquest” (complications of the invasion of Alexander the Great - the ruins, monuments of that time), “Ancient Termez-Buddhist center and religion” (Fayoztepa, Qoratepa and Dalvarzintepa), “Center for Islamic Architectural Monuments”, “Discover the Great Silk Road with us in Central Asia”, “Ancient and Eternal Young City on the Coast of Jaihun” and others.

They had the opportunity to compare the past and present cultural image of the city of Termez. In the direction of “Discover for yourself the pearl of the East”, the beauty of the Surkhandarya oasis was taken to the natural wonders of the present-day tranquil, heavenly corners - the sacred spring Omonkhana, millennial plane trees, natural refrigerator, Sangardak waterfalls.

In October 1994, an international meeting of the World Tourism Organization on the development of the Silk Road project was held in Tashkent and Samarkand. The Republic of Uzbekistan was designated as the center of this ancient route. The “Uzbektourism” National Company has developed routes along the historical sites of the “Great Silk Road”. Unexplored architectural and archeological monuments have been identified. On June 2, 1995, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a Decree “On measures to increase the participation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the reconstruction of the “Great Silk Road” and the development of international tourism in the country.”

In accordance with this decree, a very important direction of international tourism - the restoration of the Great Silk Road, the attraction of foreign tourists, as well as the creation of a modern tourism industry in the country. The cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Tashkent on the Great Silk Road have been tasked to establish special open economic zones for international tourism, and important measures have been identified in this regard.

In particular, in Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Tashkent, certain benefits have been provided to foreign investors establishing joint ventures in the field of tourism. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 27, 1999 “On the preparation and holding of the celebration of the 2500th anniversary of the city of Termez” was another important innovation in this area. The resolution instructed the “Uzbektourism” national company to take measures to develop foreign

and domestic tourism infrastructure, improve tourist services, and introduce foreign tourists to the historical and cultural heritage of our country, especially the Surkhandarya oasis.

In a short period of time, the sights of the Surkhandarya oasis, the mausoleums of Al Hakim at-Termizi, Sultan Saodat, Qirqiz and Kokildor ota were reconstructed and turned into prosperous places. In particular, 14 million soums worth of repair and restoration works were carried out at the Sultan Saodat architectural complex, 10.82 million soums worth of research and design works at the “Uzbektamirshunoslik” Institute, and 13.03 million soums worth of scientific repairs by the state enterprise “Qadriyat”.

In order to attract tourists to the ancient and modern city of Termez, in 2005 a modern three-star hotel “Meridian Hotel” was opened with all the amenities. This hotel has become a worthy gift to the residents and guests of our city for the 14th anniversary of our independence. The 6-storey, 84-bed hotel, built in collaboration with Turkish builders, has comfortable dormitories, a reception and conference hall, a restaurant and treatment and prevention complexes.⁷ In particular, hotels in the direction of private hotels have appeared in almost all our cities and are already attracting the attention of foreign tourists. “Akmal Kholis”⁸ and Termez private hotels and other hotels in “Termez” are also among the most popular destinations for foreign tourists.

As a result of the creation of such opportunities for tourists, the number of tourists visiting our region in 2013 exceeded 34,000 people, an increase of 10-15% compared to previous years. Of these, 6,000 were foreigners and 2,000 were citizens of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 2013, 2.5 billion soums worth of tourism services were provided in the oasis. In particular, the regional treasury received foreign currency in the amount of 320 thousand US dollars due to tourism.

The Concept of Tourism Development in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2025, adopted on January 5, 2019 on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev “On additional measures for the accelerated development of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan” Special attention was paid to the development of transport logistics, expansion of domestic and foreign routes, improving the quality of transport services. In order to increase the tourist potential of the country, to create favorable and safe conditions for them, in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on November 23, 2017 in Bukhara, Samarkand, Khorezm and Kashkadarya regions with high flow of tourists from January 1, 2018.

It was decided that this department will take measures to meet, ensure the safety and monitoring of visiting delegations from foreign states and international organizations. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On additional measures for the introduction of an effective system of public safety in transport and tourism”, the Department of Safe Tourism was introduced in March 2019 in Tashkent, Tashkent region and Surkhandarya regions.

In 2020, 31.9 thousand tourists visited Surkhandarya region. 6.8 thousand tourists were foreign and 25.1 thousand were local tourists. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, has had a negative impact on tourism services in 2020. By the end of 2020, 56 hotels with 2374 beds, 101 family guest houses with 886 beds, 14 tourist class buses, 6 minibuses and 2 electric cars, 38 tour operators, 5 guide-interpreters, 101 tourist demonstration facilities will be opened in the region. amusement parks, museums, theaters, eco-centers and artisan workshops. There are more than 561 cultural heritage monuments in the region, covering the period from the Paleolithic to the twentieth century. Of these, 444 are archeological, 36 are architectural and sacred sites, and 39 are monumental and art monuments. 42 of them are attractions.

Conclusion

From the above data, it is clear that tourism is confidently entering the economy of our region and becoming a leading industry, creating the basis for many of our compatriots to have permanent jobs.

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