

**Monuments of Buddhism in the territory of Uzbekistan and the objective need for their use in tourism**

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**Abstract**

The article shows Buddhist monuments on the territory of Uzbekistan and the objective need for the development of tourism on their basis.

**Keywords:** Tourism, tourist potential, peoples of the world, representatives of different religions, types of pilgrimage, Buddhism, tourist monuments, tourist flows, archaeological finds.



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## I. Introduction

Tourism is one of the most lucrative industries in the world today, and its share in the economy is growing. That is why many countries are developing the tourism industry. In particular, special attention is paid to the development of this sector in our country.

Uzbekistan has a rich tourist potential and all the opportunities for tourism development, due to which various measures, decrees, and decrees of the President are being developed and implemented in our country for the development of tourism. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoev dated February 3, 2018 "On additional organizational measures to create favorable conditions for the development of tourism potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan" PF-5326, February 6, 2018 "On favorable organizational conditions for the development of tourism potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan" Resolutions No. PP-3509 "On additional organizational measures to create conditions" and No. PP-3510 "On measures to further improve the activities of the State Property Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the development of tourism", February 7, 2018 "On measures to accelerate the development of domestic tourism" These include Resolution No. PQ-3514 of January 5, 2019, Decree PF-5611 "On additional measures for the accelerated development of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan."

Hundreds of historical monuments, mountains, steppes and deserts, beautiful and unique nature, spiritual and ethnic heritage of our peoples, which are universally recognized in our country, attract people living in different parts of the world. Therefore, the study of the development of tourism in the regions of the country, the study of their problems and shortcomings, the identification of priorities for development, and the improvement of socio-economic mechanisms of tourism development are among the urgent tasks today.

The definition of tourism as one of the priorities of the country requires special attention to the problems and prospects of tourism development in the regions of the country. Today, some programs aimed at developing tourism in the country are planned to be implemented, more than 10 sectoral strategies are being developed. A strategic approach to the development of tourism in the regions is being implemented regularly and is becoming one of the main areas of the country's economy, becoming the most important area for socio-economic development of the regions.

It should be noted that today in our country we have enough potential tourist resources that allow us to develop certain types of tourism and specific areas of tourism. One of the main directions of the concept of tourism development in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2021-2025 is "... to take comprehensive measures to reduce the impact of seasonal factors through the diversification of tourism products and services for different segments of the tourism market." It

should be noted that the development of these measures should take into account one of the most promising areas of tourism - pilgrimage tourism.

Our country has a rich potential of pilgrimage tourist resources, which allows organizing types of pilgrimage for people of different religions living in different parts of the world. The use of tourist monuments in our country, which attracts representatives of the religion of Buddhism, is one of the most promising areas of pilgrimage tourism. Given that Buddhism is currently the main religion in countries such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Tibet, Bhutan, and Japan, it is important to develop proposals to increase the flow of tourists from these countries. This requires the identification of priorities for increasing tourism potential based on scientific analysis of the social status, infrastructure, and economic potential of the areas where traces of Buddhist historical monuments are located.

Buddhism is the oldest of the three world religions. The Buddhist world covers many countries of South, Southeast, and East Asia, as well as several regions of Russia. There are many Buddhist temples in Western Europe. According to some scholars, there are more than 325 million followers of Buddhism in the world. This figure does not take into account believers who simultaneously follow Buddhism and other confessions. According to other statistics, there are about 500 million Buddhists in the modern world, of which about 320 million live in Asia, about 1.5 million in America, 1.6 million in Europe, and about 38,000 in Africa. Japan - 72 million, Thailand - 52 million, Myanmar - 37 million, Vietnam - 35 million, China - 34 million, Sri Lanka - 12 million, Korea - 12 million, Cambodia - 7 million, India - 82 million, Laos - 2, 4 million, Nepal - 1.3 million, Malaysia - 3 million.

It is known that for thousands of years the Great Silk Road has served not only to ensure the movement of goods, but also to bring together the cultures, customs, and traditions of peoples. For thousands of years, Central Asia has undergone important ethnic processes, active interaction of cultures, large-scale trade operations, diplomatic agreements, and military alliances. The peoples of this region have served to ensure the spread of literacy and world religions, many cultural and technical achievements. Therefore, since ancient times in Central Asia, different civilizations - Buddhism, Judaism, Muslims, Christians, and other ancient peoples have been neighbors, complementing and enriching each other.

Speaking about the heritage of Buddhism in the regions of Uzbekistan, according to archeological finds in the south of the country, during the Kushan period, the center of Buddhism and Buddhist culture was Termez. Many Buddhist monuments have been preserved throughout the region. Most of the ancient monuments of Uzbekistan are located in the Surkhandarya region. The most important are Khalchayan, Dalvarzintepa, Ayritam, Qiziltepa, Bandikhon, Kampirtepa and others. The first settlements also appeared here: in the river valleys of the Boysun ridge, among the mountain forests, various species of wild animals lived, yielding an abundant harvest of wild fruits.

The ancient Termez settlement has preserved unique Buddhist monuments. These include several Buddhist monasteries, including the Qoratepa Cave Temple Complex and the Fayaztepa Monastery. These include mausoleums, studies for the preservation of Buddhist monuments, and are decorated with paintings and statues of Buddha and Kushan rulers. One of the rare finds of

these places is the terracotta statue of the Buddha, which dates from the first half of the 2nd century AD. The relief image of the Buddha in the Trinity from Fayaztep, as well as the image of the Buddha-Mazda on the wall in one of the Qoratepa cave temples, maybe the closest resemblance to this image. The heads of the prince of Kushan and the warrior belong to the valuable objects of the Buddhist period found in the territory of Surkhandarya.

Due to this concentration of Buddhist monuments, this unique region has become a place of pilgrimage for Buddhist monks. Archaeological excavations are being carried out here today, as these ancient ruins are still rich in many historical discoveries.

According to the statistical package of the Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Tourism in Uzbekistan", today there are more than 149 types of tourist routes in the country. This list was developed based on observations of tourist trips carried out by the subjects of tourist activity in the Republic of Uzbekistan, conducted by the State Unitary Enterprise "Tourism Training and Consulting Center" under the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan. When studying the use of the tourist potential of the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the tourist routes operating on this list, we can see that our current tourist routes are developed in a traditional, declarative way, not covering all regions of the country. However, all regions of the country have their tourist attractions and sufficient opportunities.

## **II. Conclusions**

According to the analysis of tourist routes developed in the regions of the country, today the coverage of the Surkhandarya region, which has the potential to develop all types of tourism, including Buddhism, is only 16.11%.

Based on the above, it is advisable to carry out the following work:

- Given that Buddhism is the main religion of Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Tibet, Bhutan, and Japan, develop measures to attract pilgrims to our country;
- In-depth scientific and practical study of Buddhist monuments in our country, to determine their tourist attractions;
- Study of foreign experience in the development of tourism based on Buddhist monuments and the establishment of measures for their use in Uzbekistan;
- creation of opportunities for the use of Buddhist monuments in tourism, improvement of tourist infrastructure. These include road repairs, increasing the range and quality of services, and et.

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