

Development Prospects of Pilgrimage Tourism in the Tourism Industry of Uzbekistan

Xudoyarov Anvar Aidjanovich¹

Abstract

In this article, Uzbekistan's infrastructure and tourism industry are currently growing as a result of the country's distinctive culture and customs, stunning scenery and charming nooks, as well as its historic, cultural, and ancient sites. It is clear from the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) assessment of the sector's economic impact that Uzbekistan is among the top five countries with the fastest-growing travel and tourism sectors.

Keywords: *tourism, pilgrimage tourism, tourism industry, infrastructure, religious rituals, and festivals.*

¹ Associate Professor of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Ph.D.

The infrastructure and tourism sector of Uzbekistan, which draws tourists with its distinct culture and customs, gorgeous landscape and picturesque corners, as well as historic and cultural landmarks and ancient monuments, are currently expanding. This is evident in the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) evaluation of the economic impact of the travel and tourism sector, which lists Uzbekistan as one of the top five nations with the fastest-growing travel and tourism sectors.

It would be suitable to host numerous holiday activities, religious rituals, and festivals to promote visitors' visits to these locations. People who want to learn about various religions and civilizations are also interested in these activities, in addition to those who are religious. Motivational factors are so important and highly practical in pilgrimage travel. Understanding, being aware of, and utilizing tourist motivations for religious travel may ensure success in promoting this tourism niche.

The 5 main directions of the action strategy clearly describe the tasks connected to boosting the level of growth of our republic to a new high level in all current sectors and industries, radically renewing it, and fast developing the economy.

The service industry currently dominates the economies of developed nations. One of the areas of the Uzbek economy that is expanding quickly is the service industry, often known as the tertiary sector.

As of January 1, 2019, out of 323,500 operating organizations and enterprises, about 213,000 are operating in the service sector. More than 153,000 service organizations and enterprises are small business entities. As of January 1, 2019, their share was 72.2% ¹

Businesses and organizations engaged in trade (33.3%) make up a significant portion of those functioning in the service sector as of January 1, 2019. The expansion of businesses and organizations offering lodging and catering services has been affected by the development of reciprocal collaboration with near and far foreign nations as well as in the tourism industry.

They held a 9.3% share. In the total number of businesses and organizations in the service sector, transportation and storage operations accounted for 6.2% of all businesses and organizations. 3.3% of businesses and organizations were involved in information-related activities and communication service provision.

The share of enterprises and organizations providing services in the field of healthcare and social services was 3.2%. As of January 1, 2018, 191,200 enterprises and organizations were operating in the service sector. The largest part of them is trade services (33.0%), accommodation and catering services (9.0%), transportation and storage.

(6.3%), information and communication (3.3%), healthcare and social services (3.1%).²

The amount of market services offered between January and December 2018 was 146,836.3

¹ Information of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://stat.uz/uploads/docs/Khizmatlar-uz-12-2017.pdf>

² Information of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://stat.uz/uploads/docs/Khizmatlar-uz-12-2017.pdf>

billion, according to preliminary figures. was on par with soums. The growth rate was 108.4% when compared to the same period the previous year. In the structure of the defined market services, the shares of transport services (29.5%), trade services (26.9%), financial services (14.4%), and communication and information services (6.6%) are dominating.

When compared to the previous year, the amount of market services offered from January to December 2018 was 28.2 trillion. soums. The volume of services is 14.1 trillion more than it was in the first eleven months of this year (January-November 2018). expanded to soums. Compared to the previous period of this year, transport services (3.9 trillion soums), trade services (3.6 trillion soums), financial services (2.3 trillion soums) and the increase in the volume of services such as communication and information (0.9 trillion soums) is one of the main factors. Compared to January-December 2017, transport services cost 7.3 trillion. soums, trade services - 7.4 trillion. soums, financial services - 6.2 trillion. soums, communication and information services - 1.5 trillion. soums.³

Effective operation of transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan is important for modernization, transition to innovative development paths and creation of conditions for sustainable growth of the national economy. In the structure of transport services, the leading place is occupied by services provided in road transport (49.4%). In January-December 2018, the share of pipeline transportation services was 17.2%. Services provided by railway transport occupy 13.6% of the total volume of transport services.⁴

The population's standard of living must be raised, effective employment must be guaranteed, and the economy must be developed sustainably in order for the service sector to fully thrive.

The tourist service market and demand are impacted by a number of things. Like the demand for other goods and services, the demand for tourism is influenced by the affluence of the populace and their travel habits.

Tourism as a sector of the economy is stable in two circumstances, namely when citizens have enough free time and money to support themselves. Therefore, it is essential to execute strategies to enhance the population's income and free time in order to create a strong demand for tourism. The population's trend toward more leisure time is the primary objective factor driving up tourism demand.

The relevance of tourism won't increase much until some of the population's requirements are met. The socio-demographic and psychological characteristics of consumers, which have been more prevalent in Uzbekistan in recent years, can be taken into consideration while analyzing the tourism service market.

The primary considerations in this case are the population's geographic distribution, income level, level of education, kind of work, and membership in a certain race, gender, age, or way of

³ Information of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://stat.uz/uploads/docs/Khizmatlar-uz-12-2017.pdf>

⁴ Information of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://stat.uz/uploads/docs/Khizmatlar-uz-12-2017.pdf>

life. Population makeup: More than a hundred different nations and peoples are represented in Uzbekistan, which is a multiethnic nation.

Uzbeks make up the majority of the population, and they are getting bigger all the time. Due to the stark disparity in birth rates between the native population and the European population, the weight of the European population is declining. Future projections indicate that the republic's population will increase quickly.⁵

Currently, the shift in population structure determines how tourism will develop in the future. This makes it obvious that Uzbekistan has every reason for the development of tourism, particularly pilgrimage tourism.

Through the growth of the tourist sector in our nation, thousands of employment will be created, and most significantly, the tourism sector will become the main sector of our economy, increasing the economic potential of the state.

References

1. Appendix 1 to Decree No. PF-5611 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 5, 2019. The concept of tourism development in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2019-2025.
2. Tuxliyev N. Jiyonov O'. Turizmning rivojlanish milliy modellari. Darslik. – T.: «Ilm-Ziyo-Zakovat» nashriyoti, 2021. – 234 b.
3. Xudoyarov A.A. “Turizm va mexmonxona industriyasi asoslari” O‘quv qo‘llanma. “SOMPLEX PRINT” nashriyoti. T.2020
4. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666518221000206>
5. <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-covid-19>

⁵ Information of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://stat.uz/uploads/docs/Khizmatlar-uz-12-2017.pdf>