



## THE ROLE OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the prospects for the development of tourism in the tangible cultural heritage monuments of Uzbekistan. The author provides information on the achievements of the tourism sector in the tangible cultural heritage objects, scientific sources, archaeological and ethnographic data, decisions and orders issued by our government, the level of development of the tourism sector in historical monuments, and the attention paid to the tourism sector.

**Keywords:** Infrastructure, tourism, region, tourists, foreign tourist arrivals, tourist services, pilgrimage site, export, heritage, restoration, measures.

### INTRODUCTION

At a time when the tourism industry is growing rapidly, the tourism industry has become an important catalyst for the development of the economies of many countries and a source of income. Tourism allows not only to use recreational resources, but also to effectively use its socio-cultural potential in preserving tangible cultural heritage. The importance of this is that, firstly, it allows preserving the monuments of tangible cultural heritage, although it requires relatively large funds, secondly, it becomes an effective means of modernizing the tourism infrastructure, and thirdly, it creates opportunities for creating new jobs in the tourism economy of the country.

In the reforms underway in our country, a number of projects are being implemented to develop domestic tourism, pilgrimage and tourist tourism, and improve the condition of tourism facilities and infrastructure facilities, based on the Minutes of the meeting No. 97 of December 9, 2020, held under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Decree No. PF-6165 of February 9, 2021 "On measures for the further development of domestic and pilgrimage tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan", and Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-5048 of April 2, 2021 "On additional measures for the implementation of the "Prosperous Village" and "Prosperous Mahalla" programs, and Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 100 of February 24, 2021 "On additional measures for the development of domestic and pilgrimage tourism".



The article examines the work carried out in the process of developing the tourism industry at archaeological sites, along with preserving historical monuments, and provides conclusions and suggestions.

## MAIN SECTION

Since 1993, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Uzbekistan has provided statistical data on tourism ranking fourth in world exports of goods and services and third in terms of revenue. According to the World Tourism and Travel Council (WTTC), Uzbekistan ranks 150th among the countries in the world in terms of tourist arrivals. Today, there are more than 180 international tourist destinations in our country, 140 of which are related to historical and cultural heritage sites. According to the results of the study, in 2011-2015, the volume of tourism services provided in Uzbekistan amounted to 109%, while foreign visits increased by 96.8% [12]. Although Uzbekistan is on the verge of strengthening its position in world tourism, we still cannot speak with certainty about the growth process. Based on the information received, efforts are being made in the Republic to form tourism based on its own national model, drawing on the experience of countries with developed international tourism. We understand that this model is intended to be implemented taking into account the mentality of the Uzbek people and the requirements that meet world standards.

In the development of tourism, in the summer of 2018, the world-famous American magazine "Lonely Planet" published a "Rating of the most popular places to travel in Asia". Uzbekistan was included in this rating for the first time, taking second place after South Korea. On another page of the magazine, experts from the Canadian travel company "G Adventures" announced the 10 most popular tourist destinations in 2019, in which they reported that Japan took first place in the top ten, and Uzbekistan took second place. In addition, the influential British newspaper "The Telegraph" wrote that Uzbekistan took first place in the list of "10 countries to visit in 2019". When studying the information disseminated by foreign media about tourism in Uzbekistan, it was found that the historical monuments of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Shakhrisabz were mainly promoted as advertisements [13]. In order to increase the potential of tourism in our country and create favorable and safe conditions for its development, our government, in accordance with the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 23, 2017, approved the Concept of Effectively Ensuring Safe Tourism in the Bukhara, Samarkand, Khorezm, and Kashkadarya regions, which have a high tourist flow, from January 1, 2018 [16]. Based on these statistical data, in the development of tourism in Uzbekistan, archaeological monuments do not play a decisive role in the system of historical and cultural territories, but are an integral part of the historical and cultural complex. We can safely say that they attract tourists with their uniqueness, embodying the national mentality and values of the Uzbek people.

As we know, conservation and restoration work was carried out on such monuments as the Kyrgyz Fortress, the Kokildor Ata Khanaqah, and the Sultan-Saodat Complex in the Surkhan Oasis in 2001, the Isa at-Termizi Mausoleum in 2000-2002, the Al-Hakim at-Termizi Complex in 2001-2006-2010, the Fayoztepa Buddhist Monastery in 2004-2006, the Kampirtepa Monument in 2008, the Sufi Alloyor



Shrine in 2010, the Zul-Kifl Mausoleum in 2011-2012, and the Old Termez Fortress in 2012 [11]. Although many tangible cultural heritage sites in the republic are included in the UNESCO list, some of them require special protection. In particular, the Surkhan Oasis accounts for the majority of archaeological sites. It requires a multifaceted scientific imagination and work to convey the past history of Surkhandarya, which has made a worthy contribution to the history of world civilization, to the next generation. However, the biggest problem is that archaeological sites in this region, which have a historical and cultural value and a centuries-old history, are being damaged by the external environment, namely, precipitation, wind, salinity, groundwater rise, earthquakes, the negative impact of vehicle traffic due to the proximity of busy roads, and others.

In the development of tourism infrastructure in Surkhandarya, the active use of mobile applications in creating a virtual tourist destination, and programs created using new innovative technologies for independently organizing individual or group trips play an important role. In particular, it is advisable to use the most popular programs, such as Autodesk TinkerCAD, DesignSpark Mechanical, SketchUp, FreeCAD, AutoCAD, ZBrush, Blender, Cinema 4D, Autodesk Maya, 3ds Max, which are among the TOP 10 for creating 3D models of tourism resources.

During 2020-2022, the Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan created a "Roadmap" of 19 tangible cultural heritage sites in the republic based on the innovative project F3-202001208 "Creation of 3D models of the conditions of Buddhist monuments in the territories of our republic". This project was created by the Surkhandarya regional department of the "Buddhism in Uzbekistan" application - 3D model of Buddhist monuments in Uzbekistan. Through this application, the user will receive information about the Fayoztepa, Zurmala, Kampirtepa, Qoratepa, Chingiztepa, Dalvarzintepa, Airitom, Kholchayon, Chordingak, Zartepa, Kuyovkurgan monuments built in the 1st-4th centuries AD and the 5th-7th early medieval centuries, the Kuva Buddhist monument of the Fergana region dating back to the early medieval centuries, and a total of 13 objects of Buddhist denominations located in Tashkent [11]. Taking into account the above information, it is important to solve the problems such as the scattered location of archaeological monuments in the regions of the region, the long and uneven roads leading to them, the lack of short roads connecting the monuments, the capital repair of existing roads, and the lack of infrastructure in pilgrimage sites. We consider it a solution.

The ancient history of the Surkhan oasis is of great interest to foreign scholars, including American archaeologist Karlovsky who proposed calling the Sopolli culture the "Oks civilization" [17], while Professor Maurruzio Tosi of the University of Bologna proposed calling this culture the "Turanian civilization" [18].

Joint archaeological expeditions of paleontologists in cooperation with foreign archaeologists have achieved good results. Currently, more than ten joint expeditions in Uzbekistan, including the Uzbek-French expedition in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeological Research of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, are exploring the facets of ancient monuments still unknown to science, such as the Uzbek-French expedition in the archaeological monuments of Afriosiyob, Koktepa, and Old Termez, the Uzbek-German expedition in Zharkotan, the Uzbek-Japanese expedition



in the cities of Koratepa and Dalvarzintepa of Surkhandarya, the Uzbek-Russian expedition in the Poikend, Bukhara, Samarkand, and Tashkent regions, the Uzbek-Australian expedition in Karakalpakstan, the Uzbek-American Kesh expedition in the Kitab and Shakhrisabz districts, and the Uzbek-Polish expedition in Kyzylkum [19].

In 2017, the Tokharistan archaeological expedition studied the outer walls, defense system, and coins of the Kampirtepa monument [20]. In 2018, the Termez archaeological expedition of the Institute of Art History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with the University of Barcelona in Spain, studied the technology of medieval pottery in Termez. As a result of the excavations of this expedition, the architecture of the monuments of Northern Bactria [21], the ceramic complex, stone finds, and the social life of the population were studied.

In 2018, the Uzbek-Chinese archaeological expedition conducted research at the Old Termez monument [22], the Uzbek-Chinese paleobotanical expedition, and the Zharkotan joint archaeological expedition [23]. Based on the information obtained, the research confirmed that as a result of the joint archaeological expeditions, Japanese archaeologist Kyudo Kato introduced the Dalvarzintepa, Fayoztepa, and Qoratepa archaeological monuments of the Surkhandarya region to the world.

To date, 8,210 immovable objects of tangible cultural heritage have been taken under state protection, of which 4,748 are archaeological objects. As a result of the work carried out, cadastral documents have been issued for 7,829 of the 8,210 immovable objects of tangible cultural heritage in the field of protected historical and cultural territories, and 98 percent of the objects have been included in the unified system of state cadastres. The boundaries of the protected areas of 7 museum-reserves in our country, including the state museum-reserves "Bukhara", "Samarkand", "Ichan Kala", "Sarmishsoy", "Shakhrisabz", "Termez" and "Kokand", have been approved. The Aksikent complex can serve as a good example of including tangible cultural heritage objects in tourist routes and promoting them among tourists [24]. Conditions have been created there for tourists to move around without damaging the object, and archaeologists to work indoors.

In 2022, the Agency of Cultural Heritage spoke about the work carried out on the basis of destination-programs in the development of the infrastructure of tourism objects in order to carry out works related to the conservation of material cultural heritage objects.

- In conclusion, the historical monuments of the Surkhandarya region in southern Uzbekistan have always attracted the attention of historians and tourists. In recent years, a unique tourism brand of tourism has been created in each region of our country.

- The cultural and spiritual heritage created by our ancestors is a universal human value that has made a great contribution to the development of world culture, the development of international tourism in the republic, the restoration and conservation of historical and cultural monuments that are the main objects of tourism and their use in the tourism sector, the creation of new programs to demonstrate the spiritual, cultural and scientific potential of the Uzbek people to the whole world, the place of our nation in world civilization, and the places of pilgrimage left by our ancestors in our country have not yet been fully studied and a final scientific conclusion has not been reached. This issue is of great importance for historians as an object of extensive research.



- Other scientists have also covered the rational use of tangible cultural heritage monuments and the development of pilgrimage tourism in their scientific research and expressed their opinions. After independence, restoration and conservation work was carried out at a number of archaeological sites in the Surkhan oasis. In this regard, it was possible to partially preserve the tangible cultural heritage monuments. Archaeological monuments such as Teshiktash, Machai (Boisun), Zarautsoy, Jarkotan, Jondavlattepa (Sherabad), Sopollitepa, Kampirtepa (Muzrabot), Dalvarzintepa (Shorchi), Kholchayon (Denov), Qoratepa, Fayoztepa, Zurmala, Airitom and the Kuhna Termez complex (Termez), which have attracted the attention of world scientists, are currently serving as tourist attractions.
- According to the researcher's data analysis, some regions are not achieving positive results in attracting tourists in the field of tourism in terms of using tangible cultural heritage objects, and many architectural monuments have not been scientifically studied and a final conclusion has not been drawn up, a map of their location has not been drawn up, tourist routes to some historical and cultural monuments have not been opened to attract tourists, and a tourism infrastructure that meets international standards has not been created in the territories of historical and cultural objects.
- Digitization of tangible cultural heritage objects, amendments to the national register, and maintenance of a single electronic database of tangible cultural heritage objects can be carried out with the participation of the general public, scientists and specialists. At the same time, attracting foreign and domestic grant funds to these processes will give good results.
- Of course, work related to the preservation of tangible cultural heritage objects will not be possible without financial support. In recent years, the amount of funds allocated by our state to this area has been increasing year by year. Many problems in the field would be solved if local governments would contribute to this process.
- In general, a project of the state program on the effective use of more than 8,000 cultural heritage objects in our country has been developed. A working group was formed, the state of cultural heritage objects in the regions was studied and a list of cultural heritage objects was divided into three categories (accident, under repair and satisfactory condition) [25].

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