

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOWER ZARAFSHAN: PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS**

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The development of tourism activities as a necessary element of the country's economic development has been considered since the first years of independence. By Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 27, 1992 No. UP-447, the National Company "Uzbektourism" was established to implement the state policy in the field of tourism (1).

In May 1993, with the participation of ministers of trade and transport from 8 countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the Brussels Declaration was adopted in Brussels, which laid the foundation for the creation of a transport corridor from Europe through the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Caspian sea with access to the countries of Central Asia. The continuation of the launched large-scale project was the opening of a trade route between Central Asia and Iran (2).

The Government of Uzbekistan has repeatedly considered the issues of widely attracting foreign tourists, and for this purpose, in order to attract tourists to the rich heritage of the Uzbek people and restore international tourism along the Great Silk Road, by Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 2, 1995 No. UP-1162, a draft national program "Meros" was proposed on the restoration of archaeological, historical and cultural monuments in the ancient cities of the Great Silk Road. Special open economic zones for international tourism began to be created in the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Tashkent.

In the Bukhara region, 829 objects of material and cultural heritage were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List - these are the ancient settlements of Paikent, Varakhsha and Vardonze, the complexes of Chor-Bakr and Akhauddin Nakshbandi, the minaret in Vobkent and the mausoleum of Chashmay Ayub and others (3). In the Navoi region, 437 objects of material cultural heritage were taken under state protection, of which 340 are archeological monuments, 70 are architectural monuments, and 22 are monumental art (4).

By order of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the basis of the abolished national company "Uzbektourism", the State Committee for the Development of Tourism was established, which was entrusted with the

tasks of mandatory certification of tour operator and hotel services, including the establishment of a classification of hotels and motels of various organizational and legal forms, licensing of tour operator activities and others. Since April 1, 2017, the procedure for obtaining visas has been simplified for tourists from 15 states. The introduction of electronic visas and the "green corridor" customs control system for foreign tourists simplified the procedure for arrival, departure, movement within the country.

However, for the wide attraction of foreign tourists, not only the services provided for foreigners, but also the state of the air and water basins have an important place. The ecological state of the Bukhara and Navoi regions, where strategically important mining, chemical, oil refining, gas production enterprises are located, have a negative impact on the environment. Emissions of phenols and oil products into the water resources of the region exceed the MPC by 2-3 times, especially high content of oil products in the soil is observed in the area of Mubarek settlement and on the territory of Karaulbazar station. In the production processes of the Navoi region, 898.528 thousand tons of harmful substances are produced (5).

But despite the fact that there are common problems for the regions, significant work has been done in recent years to attract tourists to the studied areas. In the city of Bukhara, in five historical areas, through an open competition among investors, attracting domestic and foreign architects, new hotels, restaurants, and retail shops are being built. In 2022, the number of tourists to the Bukhara region amounted to 3.5 million, including 2.9 million domestic tourists and 550 thousand foreign tourists (6). It was planned not only to equip the centers of the regions, but also to create conditions for the development of gastronomic, pilgrimage, ecotourism. For this, the territories around the lake "Agutma" of the Shafirkan district, the "Visit Center", the ecological center "Jeyran" were selected. Conditions for hunting, beach and sports tourism began to be created on Lake Korakir.

A summer recreation area was built on the territory of the Tudakul reservoir of the Kyzyltepa district on an area of eight hectares. Major construction work was carried out on the site of the historical complex Chashma of the Nurata region to the Langar-Khatyrchinsky complex, at the Sarmyshsay tract of the Navbakhor region. To create living conditions in the foothills, desert areas, cottage houses were built, which became popular among domestic and foreign tourists.

### LITERATURE:

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