

## PILGRIMAGE TOURISM AND ITS PROSPECTS IN UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** *the fact that people of different religions, including Muslims, travel around the world for various purposes, performing religious prayers (hajj, umrah, etc.), seeking food, and other reasons in general, has led to the establishment of unique approaches and standards in tourism. This, in turn, led to the formation of a specific direction of tourism - pilgrimage tourism. At this point, tourism experts have expressed their views on how Muslims should travel for whatever reason without complying with their religious requirements, so that it is equally clear to all.*

**Keywords:** *pilgrimage tourism, Islamic tourism, religious tourism, halal tourism.*

## ПАЛОМНИЧЕСКИЙ ТУРИЗМ И ЕГО ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ

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**Аннотация:** *тот факт, что люди разных религий, в том числе мусульмане, путешествуют по миру с различными целями, совершают религиозные молитвы (хадж, умра и т.д.), ищут отели, и другие причины в целом, привели к созданию уникальных подходов и стандартов в туризме. Это, в свою очередь, привело к формированию особого направления туризма - паломнического туризма. На данный момент эксперты по туризму выразили свое мнение о том, как мусульманам следует путешествовать по какой-либо причине, не соблюдая свои религиозные требования, так что это одинаково ясно для всех.*

**Ключевые слова:** *паломнический туризм, исламский туризм, религиозный туризм, халяльный туризм.*

Say: "Travel through the earth and see how it created the creatures from the beginning ..."

(Surat al-Ankabut, 20)

Tourism, which is convenient for Muslims, is based on the personal needs of the followers of Islam, who travel in conditions that meet their religious requirements. Convenient tourism for Muslims is not just about traveling to religious places or Muslim countries for religious reasons.

Based on Islamic Sharia, offering tourist services to mostly Muslim travelers (such as halal hotels, halal resorts, halal restaurants, and halal travel) is called affordable tourism for Muslims.

Uzbekistan has entered the tenth directive on pilgrimage tourism among members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) according to the Global Muslim Travel Index 2019 (GMTI). This report was published on the basis of Singaporean company Crescent Rating and Mastercard. GMTI is based on such factors as climate, security, economy, religions, transport infrastructure and services in foreign countries. The list of the best directors, including Uzbekistan, entered Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Morocco, Iran, Bahrain, Malaysia, the UAE, Kazakhstan and Indonesia.

Take into the point that the promotion of Uzbekistan in the rating is based on the results of the State Committee Development of Tourism and the agency Crescent Rating International. For the last year, within the framework of cooperation, the agencies have repeatedly visited Uzbekistan with the aim of studying and analyzing the development of pilgrimage tourism in the country.

Uzbekistan is intensively opening up to the world and its famous religious places can become the basis of the tourism boom in the country. Such famous scientists of the Muslim world as Imam al-Bukhari, Imam at-Termizi, Imam al-Maturidi, Bahauddin Naqshbandi, al-Zamakhshari and others lived and worked on the territory of modern Uzbekistan. Their mausoleums will play an important role in the development of tourism in the country.

In addition, Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia. The country has a rich cultural and historical heritage. Today, the authorities are making certain efforts to open the country to the world, paying special attention to the tourism sector.

According to the forecasts of "Crescent Rating", by 2026 the number of pilgrim tourists will reach 230 million. Considering the centuries-old Islamic heritage of Uzbekistan, the development of pilgrim tourism has great prospects for the country.

However, Uzbekistan is not yet a benchmark in this area. In a survey by the Center for Business and Tourism Development conducted among those who visited Uzbekistan in 2017, only 2.2% answered that they would like to visit the country as a tourist pilgrim. At the same time, according to the Crescent Rating on the World Muslim Tourism Index for 2017, Uzbekistan ranked 29th, while Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were in higher places.

Since 2017, tourism has become a strategic sector of the national economy. The President signed a decree aimed at the active development of this industry. The main directions here are the introduction of halal certification, training of halal tourism guides and the construction of halal hotels.

Uzbekistan is actively developing bilateral relations with other states in the field of pilgrim tourism. For example, agreements on the organization of special pilgrimage tours in Uzbekistan were concluded with Pakistan and Turkey. Today, most of the tourists visiting Uzbekistan come from the CIS countries. Whereas close interaction of Uzbekistan with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in this area will contribute to: a) increase the flow of tourists from Muslim countries; b) expanding mutually beneficial trade and investment relations within the OIC.

Support for specialized tours of important Islamic shrines in Uzbekistan could increase the overall flow of tourists. The country has unique holy places, especially for Hanafi Muslims, including Sufis.

The long-term absence of a unified tourism policy and strategy in the country is considered an urgent problem that impedes the development of this sector. Now the government of Uzbekistan has clearly stated its intentions to develop the tourism sector. Under President Sh. Mirziyoyev, more than 50 legal norms were adopted in the field of tourism.

The role of the cult of saints in the shrines is invaluable in strengthening the qualities of diligence in the population. As the nobles worked tirelessly to reach the level of sainthood, the attitude of the people towards labor became imitative in the lives of the saints. These views are in line with the motto of Bahauddin Naqshband, "Dil ba yori, dast ba kor" ("The soul must be turned towards God and the hands should be in work"). In the public opinion regarding the holy shrines, purity is the main criterion, and such vile deeds as blasphemy, indifference to others, prostitution, and drunkenness are strongly condemned.

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