

## **Ecotourism in Uzbekistan**

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**Abstract:** This article presents the problems in the development of tourism and directions for improving their efficiency, as well as future solutions, taking into account the environmental situation in Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** Ecotourism, Environment, Resources, Nature, Landscape, Recreation

Eco-tourism - one of the modern forms of human activity, popular all over the world, developing kind of tourism at Interesting eco-regional areas of our Planet, one of which is Uzbekistan, located in the heart of Central Asia.

Ecotourism in Uzbekistan is growing field which enables visitors experience the beauty of nature. Uzbekistan is sunny country with diversity of climatic conditions, warm winter, hot summer, sun-filled and blooming spring, bracing and blustery autumn. The seasons come with perfect weather conditions. If you are nature-lover our country is perfect place where you can enjoy the tranquil mountains, wildlife adventures, landscapes with diversity of flowers.

One of the issues recognized by the world community is to achieve sustainable development of all sectors of the economy locally, regionally and globally, in particular, eco-tourism, which is one of the leading sectors in the service sector.

The main factors that show the attractiveness of Uzbekistan are its exotic nature, rich landscape, diversity of flora and fauna. Samarkand, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Jizzakh, Fergana and Tashkent regions are rich in monuments and serve as key centers for the development of mass ecotourism. This shows that the ecotourism potential of Uzbekistan, especially ecotourism resources, is a great opportunity for the development of the industry. One of the most lucrative and profitable sectors of the economy is tourism, and from 2019 to the present, tourism has also suffered the most from the coronavirus pandemic that has shaken the world. With the development of measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic for the coming periods, the importance of developing adventure, ecological, rural tourism is high.

Uzbekistan is also one of the leading countries in Central Asia in terms of tourism potential, and among the top 10-15 countries in the world. There are more than four thousand architectural, historical and natural monuments of different periods in the territory of the republic. One of the main factors distinguishing the attractiveness of the tourist area is the exotic nature of Uzbekistan, rich landscape, diversity of flora and fauna. The climatic conditions of Uzbekistan play an important role in the development of recreation and ecotourism. Today, protected natural areas are a major link in eco-tourism.

Today, the global nature of the ecological crisis worries humanity. At the root of the world's growing environmental problems is the declining power of nature's self-renewal, the depletion of its resources, and the pollution and poisoning of the environment. In this regard, it is very important to raise the ecological culture of the population, to treat the environment wisely, to preserve the blessings of nature for future generations. After all, environmental education is important in ensuring the connection between nature and society and maintaining natural stability. Experience shows that it is

impossible to develop ecotourism in the country without the formation of ecological knowledge in people. First of all, it is necessary to raise awareness that ecotourism is beneficial not only to the economy but also to the local population, as well as that ecotourism is the most sensible way to preserve nature.

There are also several mountains, mountain ranges of the Tien Shan and Pamir in Uzbekistan and between mountains there are plains and valleys. The mountain Kamchik that connects Tashkent oasis and the Fergana Valley is one of the most famous one while the mountain Tahtakaracha crossed by the road between Samarkand and Shakhrisabz. The wildlife in mountains is also diverse where many types of animals are common including foxes, porcupines, wolf, bear and others.

Today, one of the severe environmental disasters is shrinking of Aral Sea which is located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, so visiting Uzbekistan you will have a chance to witness this disaster yourself.

The lake was the fourth largest lake in the world. It was the main source of water for many places. However, as the lake dried up, communities and fisheries collapsed since they were dependent on the Aral Sea. The increasingly salty water became polluted and people had to use fertilizer and pesticides, agricultural chemicals were used. The salty dust blew off the lakebed and settled onto fields, degrading the soil.

Nature of Central Asia is beautiful, but fragile and vulnerable. Many types of animals of Uzbekistan are included into the Red Book.

In nature reserves of Uzbekistan are living rare animals of our planet: Bukhara deer hangul (the khan's flower), snow leopard, white-clawed Tien Shan bear, mountain goats and horned gazelles! You will have the opportunity to visit specially protected natural territories of Uzbekistan and see them with your own eyes. World of nature unthinkable without plants the essential components of each ecosystem.

Not only the wild flora of different areas, but also cultural landscapes gardens are interesting and very useful for Uzbekistan - is fruit orchards and vineyards that give generous harvests, urban decorative landscaped parks and gardens of Uzbekistan. For fans of history and archeology Uzbekistan gives a lot of opportunities.

Uzbek culture is included in the list of World cultural heritage of UNESCO, because there are monuments of ancient, medieval and unique modern culture. Treasures of the museum collections of Uzbekistan compete with collections of famous museums in the world. But "the pearl of pearls" are architecture treasures of the ancient cities of Uzbekistan, each of which has its own unique epithet, image, and silhouette.

Tashkent - the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the ancient and modern city at the same time! With a long history of 2200 years. Architectural ensembles, museums and art galleries, gardens and parks, luxurious oriental bazaars, ancient architectural monuments and wonderful fountains - all this is Tashkent!

Samarkand - the city of the great Timur! In 2007, was noted the 2750th anniversary! According to legend, when laying the citadel of Bukhara, 2,500 years ago, were guided by celestial constellation of the Great Bear.

Khiva emerged as a city in the desert, near the well, where took water thirsty caravans. "Khi-vah!" - Shouted the people, hence the name of Khiva! All ancient cities arose along the river beds.

Uzbekistan also has lakes: icy mountain, salted oxbow, and man-made, created by people. There is even the sea in the desert!

Ecological culture is unthinkable without respect for national traditions - arts and crafts (ceramics, carpets, Suzanne, woodcarving and ganch), national holidays (Nowruz), old customs, folk ceremonies, cuisine (plov, samsa, halva). But there are also intangible treasures of spiritual culture of

the people! The wisdom of Eastern thinkers, philosophers, poets shines through the mist of centuries

Uzbekistan - the land where over the centuries passed preachers of all world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam).

Uzbekistan - ecologically and climatically favorable region for the promotion of health, recreational ecotourism - one more attractive facet of eco travel in Uzbekistan!

It should be noted that the development of ecotourism is not in demand in our country, which is very rich in ecotourism resources. One of the main obstacles to this is the lack of adequate conditions for the protection of hundreds and thousands of rare animals in Central Asia, as well as the population living near national parks and reserves. also neglect. In addition, the Republic of Uzbekistan is seriously damaging natural parks and reserves in the process of ruthless destruction of animals and plants listed in the Red Book. In order to solve such problems, in order to create new national parks that can meet world standards, first of all, the potential indicators, goals, organizational and legal, environmental education and socio-economic services of ecotourism in Uzbekistan. The system of factors for the development of the industry should be carefully developed.

In this regard, the State Committee for Nature Protection has developed a "Concept for the development of ecotourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan and its longterm plans." It outlines organizational and legal aspects, ecological education and socioeconomic issues for the gradual development of ecotourism in the country. The goal of ecotourism is to use nature wisely in tourism to ensure the ecological security and sustainable development of present and future generations. Therefore, it is important to determine the role and importance of ecotourism in the economic development of the country, analyze the development parameters and apply it to tourism in the country, organize the market of ecotourism and develop its prospects. There are many pressing issues in the industry. Measures to improve the organization of ecotourism and its market, its place in general tourism, to determine the competitiveness of national tourism products in the international tourism market and to increase exports of tourism products in line with modern requirements. The study and development of scientific and practical directions in improving the management of ecotourism will contribute to the development of the industry.

. For example, we consider the development of ecotourism in the case of the Gissar State Reserve in Yakkabag district of Kashkadarya region and the world-famous Amir Temur Cave. At the initiative of the Yakkabag district administration, members of the State Ecological Committee and the Ecological Party, construction is about to begin. The reserve is located in the Gissar mountain range. It was established in 1975 and belongs to the Red Water Department. The area is 80986 km<sup>2</sup>. It includes the protection of many endangered species of animals and plants. Foreign tourist visits to the first reserve increased rapidly in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Such tourist trips were carried out under the leadership of the famous Uzbek geographer Salohiddinov Asadbek. The main reason for tourist visits is a trip to the cave of Amir Temur. It is the longest cave in Central Asia, 870 meters long from west to east and 2750 meters above sea level. The width of the cave is 7-10, in some places more than 100 meters. There are sketches of the tactical methods of the great commander, the remains of the stable are preserved naturally. At the end of the cave there is a lake 5-6 meters deep. Mount Boburchi, located 8-10 km from the cave, also attracts everyone with its historical charm. This mountain is one of the highest mountain ranges in Yakkabog. The mountain is inextricably linked with the name of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, the grandson of Amir Temur (son of Umarshaikh Mirza). Because the sequence of his battles is Samarkand - Shahrisabz - Yakkabag - Surkhandarya - Afghanistan - India. Even today, the state territories listed on this route are called "Baburchi Mountain". Many stone fortresses were built far from the cave. Some of them have survived. Over the centuries, it has been transformed into a rural area

"Ecotourism promotes small scale tourism development. Ecotourism products minimize the impacts on flora and fauna and protect the environment while providing positive experiences for both

visitors and hosts.

Currently, the National System of Protected Natural Areas includes 8 nature reserves, 2 natural and 1 national parks, 1 biosphere reserve, 7 natural monuments, 3 natural nurseries, 12 nature reserves, more than 25 water protection zones, coastal strips and groundwater formation zone, 72 forestries and 5 forest state forest hunting farms. The system of protected natural areas covers 3.5% of steppe ecosystems, about 3% of peaceful forests and 14% of mountain ecosystems.

In recent years, a number of practical steps for the development of tourism in Uzbekistan have been developed and implemented by presidential and government decrees, but the coronavirus pandemic, which has brought hard times to the tourism industry and its participants around the world, has also affected Uzbekistan. It did not miss the secret. This, of course, has led to a decline in the flow of tourists and a decline in the income of representatives of the service category operating in the area (hotels, restaurants, resorts, etc.)

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