



## HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN

*Ruziyev Sobir*

*Associate Professor, Department of Tourism and Hotel Management Faculty Economy and Tourism  
Bukhara State University*

*Ravshanova Zuhro*

*Master student, Department of Tourism and Hotel Management Faculty Economy and Tourism  
Bukhara State University*

**Annotation:** This article analyzes the history of the study of religious tourism in Uzbekistan, including the research conducted by scientists in our country, the results of scientific work, views and conclusions. Proposals have been made to take full advantage of the country's potential in the field of religious tourism.

**Keywords:** religious tourism, scholars, pilgrims, hotels, tourists, shrines, ethnography, transportation, marketing.

After the independence of our country, a lot of attention was paid to the study of religious tourism in our country. It should be noted that in the former Soviet Union, any religious process was ignored. At that time, it was not even known where the tomb of our great Islamic scholar, Imam Bukhari, was. In addition, the tombs of scholars such as Imam Termezi and Moturidi were destroyed and bricks were used for their walls.

Thanks to independence, the first President Islam Karimov repaired many shrines in Uzbekistan, such as Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi and Hakim Termizi, Bahauddin Naqshband, Sufi Alloyar, Al Motrudi, King Bakir Muhammad Zahid, Zangi ota in Samarkand region. The scope of research by geographers seeking religious addresses has also expanded.

Regarding religious and pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan, Professor AA Kayumov says that 10-12 years ago the flow of tourists was associated with the rich and colorful recreational resources of Uzbekistan, but in recent years it has been associated with the development of pilgrimage tourism.

Scientific researches on religious tourism in our country are carried out by B.Navroz-Zoda, Ahmadaliev Yu.I., S.Abdullaev, N.Abdulohatov, S.Djuraeva, Z.Abidova, G.RPardaev, O.Khakimov, F.K.Komilova and R.S. Conducted by Samatov, VN Fedorko and others. In particular, the research of Doctor of Economics, Professor Bakhtiyor Navruz-Zoda has deeply studied the development of religious tourism in Uzbekistan. In particular, the scientist conducted research on the main purposes of pilgrimage in Uzbekistan, tourism, including marketing methods, geography, demographics, behavior, psychological characteristics of pilgrims, the needs of the group of pilgrims. He has also developed research on the use of hotel, restaurant, transportation and guide services during pilgrimage trips.

➤ The scientist notes that the more convenient the infrastructure for pilgrims in our country, the more tourists visit. In particular, in his opinion, most hotels in the country are built in the European style and they are not specialized for visitors. In our country, hotels should consist of two parts: the outer courtyard (for men) and the inner courtyard (for women). There are also many restaurants

and cafes in the country, but guests cannot be absolutely sure that they are eating food certified with an honest label.

- Navruz-Zoda also noted the need to create a catalog of shrines in Uzbekistan. The best way to develop tourism is to include colorful photos of the holy places in this catalog, to give clear explanations about them, to provide such catalogs to the visiting pilgrims, to promote the shrines in foreign countries. At the same time, it is advisable to establish travel agencies specializing in religious tourism. Tourism companies in our country mainly specialize in cultural and urban tourism. They do not take into account the specifics of religious pilgrimage. He suggested that the number of visitors should increase significantly if we launch marketing services for religious tourism in our country.
- An article on religious and pilgrimage tourism was first published in the March 27, 2006 issue of the Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Uzbekistan, one of the major scientific journals for Uzbek geographers. In studying geography as much as possible, it is important to pay attention to the following:
  - Geographical location of shrines and their evaluation;
  - History of the establishment of shrines (in terms of social, economic, system of the time);
  - Natural geographical conditions of shrines, their differences and advantages from the surrounding areas;
  - Distribution of places of pilgrimage by regions, their causes;
  - Practical significance of shrines in attracting tourists;
  - creation of a map (map scheme) of shrines and publication of booklets about them;
  - It is necessary to determine whether the emergence of shrines is associated with socio-economic and political processes.

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Associate Professor S. Abdullaev has published a number of scientific works on the theoretical and practical issues of pilgrimage tourism and sacred geography. According to the scientist, religious tourism is the most ancient type of tourism. His definition of religious tourism is: "Travel is a journey made by religious travelers to visit places of worship outside the ordinary environment for educational and enlightenment purposes." It also cites two types of religious tourism: pilgrimage and excursion-enlightenment.

Pilgrimage tourism includes all types of tourist services related to religion, various mystics, and inexplicable events and traditions.

The role of pilgrimage tourism in regional development concepts depends on a number of factors, which can be classified according to history and nature, as well as the human factor. The existence of many years of spiritual traditions is an important factor in the development of pilgrimage tourism. Unlike mass tourism, the main socio-economic advantage of pilgrimage tourism for the region is not the direct benefit, but the socio-psychological and pedagogical synergy of sacred programs for the people living in the region.

The expansion of irrigated lands in the mountainous regions of Uzbekistan from the IX-X centuries and the resulting changes, the most common way to correct the distortions is the deification of the territories. In particular, since then, the attention to the sacred sites in the Fergana Valley has increased dramatically. As the differences between the ethnocultural areas of the valley flow down from the top of the river basin, an ethno-ecological zone and corresponding "sacred sites" are formed.

So, we can say that the ethno-ecological region and the pilgrimage-religious tourism region are formed in accordance with each other. In order to preserve the riches of nature, scientists divide the sacred sites in the Shokhimardonsoy basin into 4 districts: Shohimardon, Vodil, Margilan and Yazyavan.

1. Shohimardon district; In the upper reaches of the river, agriculture is underdeveloped, mainly in horticulture, animal husbandry, and pilgrimage tourism. There are more than 250 "shrines". This is mainly due to the degree of impact of the components of nature. For example, Chashma, Satkak, Arsif fish, pigeons, birds, algae.
2. Vodil district; religious scholars may encounter shrines called tora, sayyid, sayyidin. In particular, it is similar to Haji ota and Chinar ota.
3. Margilan district; These include shrines in the villages of Khankiz, Chimgan, Arsif, Faizabad, Yormozor, Satkak, Naiman.
4. Yazyovan district; inaccessible to river water, occupies the most remote parts of springs and basins, the part closest to the surface. There are many lonely trees around the springs. Pilgrimages such as Yakkatut, Qayragach, Mingchinor are among them.

Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor N. Abdulhatov defended his dissertation on "The role of pilgrimage in the lifestyle of the people of the Fergana Valley" and defended it in 2008. Scientific works of S. Djuraeva on "History of sacred places and shrines in Surkhandarya". their role in the religious and spiritual life of the population "(2009), Z. Obidova "Pilgrimages and shrines of the Khorezm oasis" (2018).

In our country, we can see the work of several scholars on the classification of religious tourism by characteristics. The works and articles of candidates of sciences and foreign journals (scopus content) were considered in the reviewed works.

The work being done in Uzbekistan to date on religious factors and the interests of entrepreneurship can be divided into two historical-spiritual and economic-social directions:

1. Historical and spiritual direction, which studies the goals and interests, spiritual and cultural needs of the pilgrim. We find them in the works of historians and ethnographers. We can meet Bakhtiyor Navruz-Zoda and Zebiniso Navruz-Zoda in the development of targeted marketing of religious tourism in Uzbekistan.
2. Economic and social orientation; opportunities for additional income and employment. F.K.Komilova and R.S.Samatovich, B.Navruzzoda and Z.Navruzzoda, N.Ibragimov, A.Rahmanov, VN. We can see it in the scientific work of Fedorko and others.

In this regard, FK Kamilova and RS Samatovich considered that in segmenting the market by geographical indications, it is necessary to take into account the same or similar preferences determined by the residence of consumers in a particular area. He stressed the need to consider the whole country as a geographical segment, groups of countries with some historical, political, national or religious unity.

In addition, the number of Russian Orthodox churches in the Republic is 38. It also serves as a basis for considering the architecture of the churches, the art of the painters, the charm as a monument of cultural heritage. Alexander Nevsky Church is one of them. These religious monuments can serve as religious, pilgrimage, historical and cultural tourist facilities in the countries of the region, including foreign tourists with a large number of Russian and other Orthodox believers.

In our country, foreign tourists are mainly offered cultural and acquaintance types. They feature historical, architectural, religious monuments and shrines, and showcase the lifestyle and culture of the local people.

The role of religious tourism in the organization of pilgrimage tourism for the representatives of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism and Islam is highly valued in Uzbekistan. However, today our country is not able to take full advantage of tourism, especially in religious tourism. It is important to create the following conditions for the development of this industry:

- Introduce online systems or national systems that provide extensive access to key services, such as hotels, restaurants, airlines and train tickets;

- creation of food conditions for pilgrims in accordance with honest standards;
- creating opportunities for sacrifice;
- Establishment of camps near the shrines, taking into account the fact that pilgrims travel in private or rented vehicles, as well as the implementation of parking management plans.

The implementation of the above measures and the solution of the above conditions will ensure the attractiveness of our country for independent visitors from 76 visa-free countries, and thus the competitiveness of Uzbekistan in the field of tourism.

## References

1. Navruz-Zoda, Bakhtiyor and Navruz-Zoda, Zebiniso (2016) "The Destination Marketing Development of Religious Tourism in Uzbekistan," International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage: Vol. 4: Iss. 7
2. Абдулахатов Н. Фарғона водийси аҳолиси турмуш тарзида зиёратнинг ўрни. Тарих фанлари номзоди илмий даражасини олиш учун ёзилган диссертация автореферати. - Т., 2008.
3. Федорко В.Н. География Русской православной церкви в странах Средней Азии // Ўзбекистон география жамияти ахбороти 50-жилд. Тошкент, 2017.
4. Navruz-Zoda Bakhtiyor, Ibragimov Nutfillo, Rakhmanov Akmal The Destination Marketing Tools For "Seven Sufi Saints Of Noble Bukhara" Pilgrimage Cluster // Conference: International Religious Tourism And Pilgrimage Conference. 2017/06/27
5. Bakhtiyor Negmatovich Navruz-Zoda, Nutfillo Ibragimov, Akmal Rakhmanov Perspectives on the Improvement of Uzbekistan as a Destination for Multi-Confessional Self-Organised Pilgrims // International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage. 2018. №Volume 7.
6. Абдуллаев С.И., Жанкабилов И.Х., Назаров М.Г Сакрал география - янги интеграл илмий йўналиш// Ўзбекистон география жамияти ахбороти 49-жилд. Тошкент, 2017.
7. Асадов, Ф. Ш., & Аминова, Н. Б. (2020). Transportation system in tourism logistics. *Наука, техника и образование*, (6), 68-70.
8. Muhammedrisaevna, T. M., Shukrullaevich, A. F., & Bakhridinovna, A. N. (2021). The importance of logistics in the sphere of transportation and tourist services. *Наука и образование сегодня*, (5 (64)), 16-18.
9. Abdullayev S.I., Murtazayev B.Ch. Ziyorat turizmi va sakral geografiyaning vazifalari // ЎЗБЕКИСТОН ГЕОГРАФИЯ ЖАМИЯТИ X СЪЕЗДИ МАТЕРИАЛЛАРИ (Тошкент шаҳри, 2019 йил 6-7 декабрь. 22-24б.
10. Ғ.Р.Пардаев, О.Ҳакимовлар томонидан Зиёратгоҳ жойлар географиясини ўрганиш масаласи // Ўзбекистон география жамияти ахбороти 27-жилд. Тошкент, 2006.
11. Rakhmatullaeva, F. M., & Aminova, N. B. (2022). Methodological Approaches to the Development of Ecological Tourism Logistics. *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INNOVATION IN NONFORMAL EDUCATION*, 2(1), 207-211.
12. Аҳмадалиев Ю.И. Ер ресурсларидан фойдаланиш геоэкологияси. – Т.: Фанва технологиялар, 2014. – 340 б.
13. Аҳмадалиев Ю.И., Исмоилов О. Экологик ва зиёрат туризми объектларини диний-ҳуқуқий муҳофаза қилиш усуллари // Ўзбекистонда туризм ва рекреацияни ривожлантиришнинг географик муаммолари ва имкониятлари Халқаро илмий-амалий конференция материаллари Чирчиқ шаҳри, 2019 йил 31-34б.

14. Исматов Д.А. Проблемы и перспективы социально-экономического развития моногородов Узбекистана // Perspectives of world science and education. Abstracts of V International Scientific and Practical Conference Osaka, Japan 29-31 January 2020. С. 405-408.
15. Olimovich, D. I., Samatovich, R. S., Farmanovna, E. A., Khabibulayevna, K. S., & Saymurodovich, N. Z. (2020). The economic impact of innovations in tourism and hospitality. *Journal of Critical Reviews*, 7(9), 258-262.
16. Olimovich, D. I., Khabibovna, K. M., & Samadovich, R. S. (2020). Improving tourist season in Bukhara region. *Вестник науки и образования*, (1-2 (79)).
17. Samatovich, R. S. (2021). Importance of Marketing in Tourism and Hotel Industry. *International Journal of Business, Technology and Organizational Behavior (IJBTOB)*, 1(2), 79-84.
18. Khafizov, A. O., & Ruziev, S. S. (2021). Importance of Forecasting In Tourism And Hospitality Business. *The American Journal of Management and Economics Innovations*, 3(05), 95-99.
19. Ruziev, S. S., Tadjibayev, M. B., & Fayziyeva, S. K. (2022). Importance of Excursion Service in Tourism Industry. *Spanish Journal of Innovation and Integrity*, 6, 170-176.