

## THE HISTORY OF PILGRIMAGE TOURISM AND ITS ROLE IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

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### Abstract:

Pilgrimage tourism is currently a widespread tourism industry. Pilgrimage tourism is essentially the process of visiting places of pilgrimage. Pilgrimages are usually long journeys of days, weeks or even months for religious purposes. In this article, we will dwell on the description of pilgrimage tourism, its essence, and how important it is today.

**Keywords:** pilgrimage tourism, religious shrine, mausoleum, shrine.

### Introduction

Pilgrimage tourism is a set of pilgrimage trips by representatives of different religions. Traditionally, it refers to trips with a religious purpose, but it can also refer to a secular trip that has special significance for the pilgrim. The importance of pilgrimage tourism can be justified according to two features: how important pilgrimage tourism is for a place of pilgrimage. How important is pilgrimage tourism for pilgrims? Pilgrimage is also an opportunity for many people to receive spiritual nourishment during difficult times. People travel to certain destinations to experience religious enlightenment. The journey, often long and sometimes difficult, is an opportunity for people to reflect. Pilgrimages can be a way to deepen relationships with religion. It's definitely a way to show how committed you are to the faith, and it's also an opportunity to learn more about the religion itself. As a form of travel, pilgrimage allows people to visit holy places. A traveler traveling for religious purposes is a person who goes outside the country of permanent residence for a period of not more than six months to visit holy places and religious centers. Religious tourism should be understood as activities related to providing services and meeting the needs of travelers who travel to holy places and religious centers outside their usual environment.

Religious tourism is divided into two main types:

- pilgrimage tourism;
- excursion and educational religious tourism

Currently, more than 200 million people around the world go on religious trips to various shrines and places considered holy for them, for the purpose of pilgrimage. If we look at the statistics, 150 million Christians, 45 million Muslims, 40 million Buddhists and Shintoists, and 30 million Hindus travel for the purpose of religious pilgrimage.



Zoning is used to study the vast and diverse geography of pilgrimage sites. There are several macro areas of pilgrimage in the world:

- Christian Europe; North America, which occupies a strong place with Christianity and other plural religions;
- Latin America connected with Christianity and traditional religions;
- North Africa, which adopted Islam;
- West and East Africa where Islam is dominant and there are separate Christianity and traditional religions;
- East Asia where Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism are widespread;
- Central Asia, where Islam is widespread;
- Western Asia is a region where Islam and Christianity are widespread;
- South Asia is a region where Judaism and Buddhism are widespread. There are also Christianity, Jainism, Sikhism and Islam.

Pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan. About pilgrimage tourism, Uzbek Islamic scholar B.M. Bobojonov said that the most common type of pilgrimage sites in Central Asia are "holy shrines". The study of historical objects of Surkhandarya regions from the point of view of architecture is prominent in the research of scientist I.Azimov. A. Mamanazarov, B. Sattorov, Poslavskaya. O., S. Jorayeva also elaborated on the history of pilgrimage tourism about the pilgrimage sites and shrines of Sufism figures. When studying the issue of shrines in the territory of Uzbekistan, it is also important to research the status and level of personification (saint, pir, said, khoja) of the person associated with the name of the shrine. In the researches of T. Dadabayev and E. Karimov, there are opinions on various aspects of the pilgrimage issue. For example, in the article co-authored by D. Abramson and E. Karimov, the significance of the pilgrimage in the life of the peoples of Central Asia and the attitude towards it in different periods is analyzed..

Indeed, Uzbekistan is distinguished by the wealth of tourist resources. In Uzbekistan, there are enough places for religious tourism, that is, places for visiting sacred places. In particular, in Central Asia, as well as in Uzbekistan, there are many shrines and places of pilgrimage where saints lived and were buried.

The burial places and graves of many saints are being restored and brought back to their original state. Among them, the mausoleums of saints and imams such as Bahoviddin Naqshbandi, Gijduvani, Imam al-Bukhari, Mahtumi Azam, Shahizinda, Motirudi, Hakim al-Tirmizi, Zangiota are incomparable, beautiful places of pilgrimage and spiritual inspiration for Muslims. converted. Especially, turning the complex of Imam Al-Bukhari into an important place of pilgrimage is of international importance. Because this shrine is the most important place of worship in the Muslim world after the cities of Mecca and Medina. Therefore, the creation of favorable conditions for visiting, that is, the formation of infrastructure, is considered an important issue today. The main task here is to make it possible for citizens of foreign countries to visit without too much difficulty. During the years of independence, the state paid great attention to religious places. Due to the serious attention paid to the restoration, beautification, and repair of the places where our great ancestors settled, the places of pilgrimage attract 1.5 billion Muslims. Currently, since we have taken the development of pilgrimage tourism as our main goal, first of all, it is necessary to pay serious attention to the regional organization and development of religious tourism in our country. In particular, we need to develop attractive infrastructures in order to attract pilgrims from the



countries of South-East Asia and West Asia. For this purpose, we believe that it is appropriate to identify and generalize the places of pilgrimage considered sacred by people in each region, district, and village, to create religious tourist cards of the republic and region, to create the necessary conditions for pilgrims, and to study transportation possibilities.

There is no doubt that religious places of pilgrimage will become a source of great income at the expense of a small amount of money. There are dozens and hundreds of religious shrines from all regions of our country. We only know the places where our figures who served the Islamic world and rose to the level of saints settled forever, only at the local level, that is, at the district or regional level. Consequently, such sacred shrines can be turned into religious shrines of national and international level. At the same time, it will be ensured to establish a directional road transport system leading to major pilgrimage sites in the territory of the republic, and to establish transport routes for the residents of the area to make organized trips to other areas. In addition, steps will be taken to include cultural heritage objects related to Islamic culture and history located in our country in the list of Islamic cultural heritage of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Widespread development of domestic and foreign tourism, modernization of the tourism sector in the republic, sustainable development of the sector, development of touristic, household and communication-information infrastructures in areas considered tourism centers, special attention to providing services to local and foreign guests in accordance with international standards. It is important to note that the implementation of the specified measures in this regard, the development of the tourism industry in our country, will first of all strengthen the position of Uzbekistan in the world community, open new opportunities and reliable cooperation for foreign investors, the stability of the country's macroeconomic indicators, is a factor in the improvement of indicators such as income, employment and entrepreneurship of the population, and causes further improvement of the service sector.

### Summary

Nowadays, the development of pilgrimage tourism, which is considered a rapidly growing tourism sector, is a good opportunity for countries with high potential in this field. From the above-mentioned points and examples, it can be concluded that it is necessary to develop important policies and strategies for the sustainable development of pilgrimage tourism, which should be followed by every member of the country, including foreign countries. In addition, it is important to create infrastructure that can attract foreign tourists. Both government and local agencies need to be coordinated to achieve sustainable development.

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