



STATISTICAL INSIGHTS AND POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *This article is discussed about the international and domestic tourism growth, as proven by the various pieces of material and cultural heritage, natural and climatic conditions, unique national cuisine, and unrivaled hospitality of the Uzbeks that attract visitors. The objective of this study is to assess the development of international tourism in Uzbekistan. In recent years in Uzbekistan, along with traditional forms of travel, ecotourism, geotourism, agritourism, medical tourism and gastronomic tourism have also developed. Uzbekistan places particular emphasis on the modernization of the tourism industry, the development and improvement of the regulatory framework for the sustainable development of the industry, and the organization of tourist services in accordance with international standards.*

Key words: *The national tourism, the main role of decisions, opportunities of tourism, Tourism Statistics, essential numbers of tourism.*

Introduction

The average annual growth rate of foreign visitors to 2016 over the past five years was 8%. In 2017, this figure is 32.7% more than in 2016. For eleven months of 2018, the number of foreign tourists exceeded the figures for the same period in 2017 by almost 2 times. The preferences and expectations of tourists were studied by questioning. The results of the survey show that tourists come to Uzbekistan, having sufficient information, a certain motivation and with purposeful aspiration. Visitors showed high interest in historical tourist tours and visits to museums, galleries, excursions, cultural events, visits to the countryside, walking / hiking, shopping and ecotourism. The majority of tourists are satisfied with the general quality of the standards of accommodation facilities, tourist products, transport services, food and overall quality of service, and also feel safe during the trip. Most tourists intend to visit Uzbekistan again within 5 years. Currently, tourism is one of the leading sectors of the global economy. Therefore, Uzbekistan places particular emphasis on the modernization of the tourism industry, the development and improvement of the




regulatory framework for the sustainable development of the industry, and the organization of tourist services in accordance with international standards.

During the years of independence, significant actions were implemented in Uzbekistan in terms of the development of this sphere with the preservation and enhancement of the historical and cultural heritage of the people, the revival of national traditions and customs, restoration and arrangement of the country's attractions. From the first years of independence, Uzbekistan has been actively increasing cooperation with international organizations, and regularly comes up with initiatives to deepen cooperation in the field of tourism. The current trend of the tourism industry confirms the need to study the prerequisites, system analysis of the dynamics of tourism development, identifying preferences and expectations of tourists, timely correction and modernization of the system of measures, taking into account the existing realities and prospects, which served as the basis for this study Materials and method.

In Uzbekistan, the gastronomic direction of tourism is also gaining popularity, the development of which allowed to make pilaf and other national dishes a recognizable brand of the country. Government policy is aimed at developing tourism, so that this area in the future should become one of the drivers for accelerating the integrated development of regions and their infrastructure, helping to solve such important socioeconomic tasks as creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs, ensuring diversification and accelerated development of regions increasing incomes, the level and quality of life of the population, increasing the volume of foreign exchange earnings, improving the image and investment attractiveness of the country. Significant role in ensuring the accelerated development of the tourism sector of Uzbekistan, the formation and maintenance of the country's image on the world market are played by major events regularly held in the country.

One of the most important annual events is the Tashkent International Tourism Fair "Tourism on the Silk Road." Today it is the largest forum in Central Asia where industry professionals meet, negotiate in various formats, including business-to-business, the Hosted Buyers program is being implemented for buyers of the national tourist product, and conferences are being held on topical issues of the development of the tourism industry in Uzbekistan and the world generally. Representatives of our country also regularly participate in international fairs and exhibitions held abroad in order to present the tourist potential of the republic. Participation in them allows you to stay abreast of the latest trends in the global tourism market, enter into business contracts, and develop cooperation with foreign partners.





The state policy in this direction is aimed at the development of tourism, so that this area in the future should become one of the drivers for the accelerated integrated development of the regions and their infrastructure, to contribute to the solution of such important socio-economic tasks as the creation of hundreds of thousands of new jobs, ensuring diversification and accelerated regional development, increasing incomes, the level and quality of life of the population, increasing the volume of foreign exchange earnings, improving the image and investment attractiveness STI country.

Tourism Statistics in Uzbekistan

The age range of tourists visiting Uzbekistan is 31–55 years old. In 2023 6,6 million tourists from foreign countries visited Uzbekistan. In particular, a total of 4,364.8 thousand tourists arrived from neighboring countries last year, which is 283% more than in 2022. That includes increasing the number of foreign tourists to 15 million, more than double the 6.6 million visitors to the country in 2023. During this period, the country climbed 16 positions (+7.8%) and now ranks 78th out of 119 countries in the tourism and travel sector development ranking. Central Asian nation steeped in history, is a charming location known for its captivating architecture, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. The number of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan almost tripled from 1.88 million in 2021 to 5.2 million in 2022 but has not yet returned to 2019's pre-pandemic level of 6.75 million. An estimated 1.4 billion international tourists (overnight visitors) were recorded around the world in 2024, an increase of 11% over 2023, or 140 million more. Due to its lucrative location and the ephemeral influences of diverse dynasties, Uzbekistan's past is rich, its people eclectic. My journey, as most now do, started in the capital, Tashkent, a city that betrays little of its history, the romance of its past buried beneath the boulevards of Soviet socialism.

Historical square showcasing majestic tile-clad madrasas and vibrant architecture, with a viewing platform for panoramic city vistas and an atmospheric light and sound show at dusk. Historic mausoleums showcasing Islamic architecture with intricate tilework and colorful designs. Uzbekistan is safe, with an extremely low rate of violent crime. Law enforcement officers patrol the streets regularly and stand prepared to help and support tourists as needed. Also in Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva you will find English speaking Tourist Police ready to assist guests of this sunny land. With the global pandemic officially behind us, the tourism industry has begun its journey towards recovery from what might have been its biggest ever challenge. 2024 is poised to be a significant year for tourism in Uzbekistan, as Khiva has been chosen as tourism capital of the Islamic world.





In 2023 Samarkand was elected as capital city of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the venue for the 25th anniversary session of the UNWTO General Assembly. Given the continuing trend for global travel post-pandemic, it seems that tourists to Uzbekistan in 2024 could continue to grow. In this article we look at some of the most important tourism statistics for Uzbekistan.

Number of Tourists to Uzbekistan

A total of 6.6 million tourists visited Uzbekistan in 2023, just short of the anticipated number of 7 million. This made it Uzbekistan's second biggest year ever, just 100,000 less than its peak of 6.7 million in 2019.

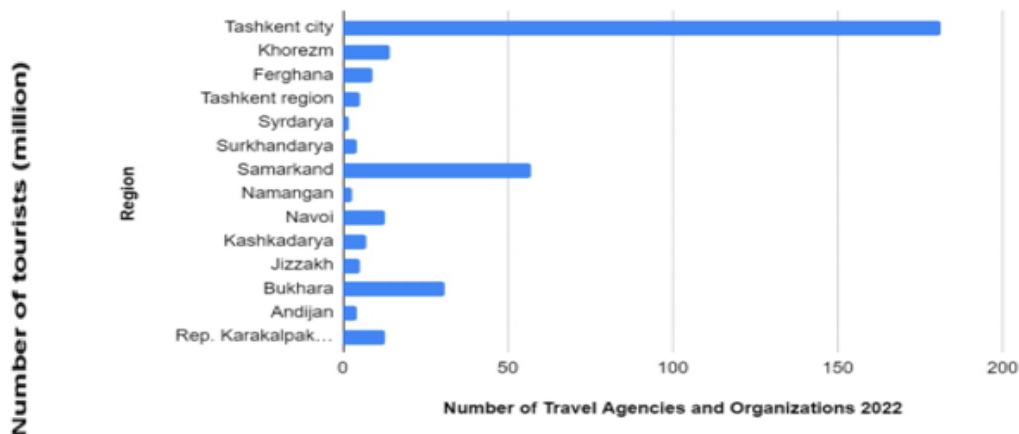
O'zbekistonda 2023-yilgi turizm ko'rsatkichlari tahlili

Ko'rsatkich	Qiyamat	Izoh (Tahlil)
2023-yilda sayyohlar soni	6,6 million	Kutilgan 7 million ko'rsatkichdan 0,4 million kam; rejaning 94,3% i bajarildi.
Kutilgan ko'rsatkich (2023)	7 million	Hukumat tomonidan belgilangan maqsad ko'rsatkich.
Eng yuqori natija (2019)	6,7 million	Pandemiya oldi davrida O'zbekiston tarixidagi eng katta sayyohlar soni.
2023-yil va 2019-yil farqi	-100,000	Atigi 100 mingga kam, bu 1.5% pasayishni anglatadi.
2023-yilning umumiy natijasi	Ikkinchi eng yuqori natija tarixda	Pandemiyadan so'ng tiklanish jarayoni davom etayotganiga qaramay, yaxshi natija.

The number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan took a huge dip between 2019 and 2022 as the global pandemic put a halt to international tourism. From a height of 6,748,500 international tourists in 2019, the number of international travelers to Uzbekistan dropped as low as 1,504,100 just one year later in 2020. In 2023 the projected number of tourists stands at an all time high of 7 million. As of July 2023, 3.7 million foreign citizens had entered Uzbekistan for tourism purposes. The number of US tourists to Uzbekistan stands at 13,965 from January to August 2023. In 2022, Samarkand's top tourist attraction the Registan was visited by over 1 million visitors. The tourism sector of Uzbekistan seems to be in the process of recuperation following the global pandemic and the associated decline in revenue.



Number of Travel Agencies by Region



Number of travel agencies in Uzbekistan

The industry saw a revenue of around 679.00 million US dollars in 2021. Tourism revenue as a percentage of GDP was 0.98% in 2021. It reached its highest in 2019 at 2.79%. Tourism revenue peaked in 2019 at \$1.679 billion. Tourism revenue in Uzbekistan dropped by 74% in 2020 as COVID halted global tourism. Revenue bounced back to \$679 million in 2021 – up 72% from the previous year.

Uzbekistan tourism revenue as a percentage of GDP was 0.98% in 2021. Despite poor growth in the hotel industry, the number of travel agencies in Uzbekistan rose dramatically and every region in Uzbekistan increased its number of tour agencies.

There are 348 tourist agencies based in Uzbekistan with the majority being located in Tashkent. In 2023, Uzbekistan stands at the threshold of a remarkable tourism resurgence, symbolizing a rebound from the pandemic's grip. Samarkand's prestigious role as the capital for the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and host of the 25th UNWTO General Assembly session marks a pivotal moment.

The nation anticipates a historic influx of 7 million tourists, a stark contrast to the challenges faced during the pandemic when international arrivals plunged from 6.7 million in 2019 to 1.5 million in 2020. Fast forward to 2023, where optimism reigns, with 3.7 million foreign visitors already exploring Uzbekistan, including 13,965 from the United States. Neighboring nations like Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan played a pivotal role in boosting tourism in 2022, with Russian tourists surging by 200%. Germany also emerged as a significant contributor from the EU. While hotel statistics displayed regional variations, some areas, including Tashkent City and Tashkent Region, experienced growth. Despite these fluctuations, Uzbekistan's commitment to tourism infrastructure is evident, with a rise in travel agencies across all regions, particularly in Tashkent. With these encouraging trends, Uzbekistan is primed for a prominent presence on the global tourism map in 2023 and beyond.

Country	Number of Tourists to Uzbekistan in 2022
Kazakhstan	1,551,100
Tajikistan	1,447,800
Kyrgyzstan	1,356,900
Russia	567,700
Turkey	75,600
South Korea	19,900
Germany	17,700
India	16,800
USA	13,100
France	11,000
Great Britain	10,500
Azerbaijan	10,400
Italy	8,800
Spain	6,300

Year	Tourism Revenue In Uzbekistan (million USD)	GDP (billion USD)	Tourism Revenue as a % of total GDP
2022	Data not made available	80.39	N/A
2021	679	69.6	0.98%
2020	395	60.22	0.66%
2019	1,679	60.28	2.79%
2018	1,314	52.87	2.49%
2017	835	62.08	1.35%
2016	579	86.14	0.67%
2015	688	86.2	0.80%
2014	660	80.85	0.82%





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