
Prospects for Post-Pandemic Development in the Tourist Areas of Uzbekistan

Yuldashev Feruz Isroilugli

PhD researcher, Bukhara state university, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article analyzes the situation of tourism in Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan, before the COVID-19 pandemic and the prospects for further development. Trends for achieving the next 5 years 'purposes have been discussed.

Keywords: Pandemic, economy, tourism, tourist area, tourism industry, international visit, GDP.

Introduction. Due to the constant economic changes and the constant impact of unexpected global factors, the world economy is growing as a complex of strategic sectors that are more difficult to predict in the future. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the root cause of the ongoing global economic crisis in the tourism sector, which has become a major and integral part of the service sector in the 21st century, by 58-78% decline, was expected, and the number of planned visits to many tourist areas had dropped to 80-90%¹. Although there have been unprecedented losses due to the pandemic in the sector, the tourism industry is showing a recovery trend and the efforts of tourists to make international visits are gradually gaining traction.

Therefore, it is known that a number of reforms are being carried out in Central Asia, especially in the economy of Uzbekistan, as a tourist region with high potential, to improve the tourism sector, which has declined by 92%² due to the pandemic. Along with attracting foreign tourists to our country, a number of programs have been developed to encourage domestic tourism, and comprehensive measures to develop the tourist culture of our citizens are being gradually implemented. As the President noted during his visit to Bostanlik district: "Our main goal is, first of all, to ensure the rule of law in the field of tourism, to create airy, cheap, safe and comfortable conditions for our people for 12 months, taking into account the interests of the people. Our citizens from all over Uzbekistan should come to such places as Bostanlik to have a rest, and the projects implemented here should be an example for other regions as well³".

The main part. Forbes, one of the most popular media outlets in the world, has included Uzbekistan in its list of the 50 best destinations for 2022 tourist trips⁴. The main reason for this is the excellent infrastructure of Uzbekistan, which allows you to easily travel from the capital Tashkent to the main points of the Great Silk Road, in particular, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. Between the three of these tourist areas, the transport system is well-established and high-speed train services have been organized at the level of need. Each city on the route

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_on_tourism

² "Raqobatbardosh turistik hudud vaklasterlarnishakllantirish yo'llari" – Monografiya, F.I.Yuldashev – 2022-y.

³ Prezidentimiz Sh.M.Mirziyoyevning 14.08.2020

dagi Bo'stonliqtumanidaturizminfratuzilmasinirivojlantirish bo'yichaloyihalarbilantanihishibchiqish jarayonidaginutqlaridan <http://president.uz/uz/lists/view/3774>

⁴ <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/travel-rewards/50-best-destinations-to-spend-your-points-in-2022/>

(except Tashkent) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the old town of Khiva, Ichan Qala, is the first Uzbek city to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. Many ornate ancient madrassas in Bukhara, the Bukhara Ark and trade domes are usually in the constant focus of tourists for souvenirs. The tourist areas of Samarkand are also noted by tourists as a destination that is planned to be visited by foreign tourists at least once again, especially the ancient Registan Square, which continues to attract foreigners with its mysteries and charm.

From this point of view, it should be noted that Uzbekistan is a country with high cultural and historical potential and the country's economy has sufficient potential to increase the share of tourism in GDP. The sharp increase in the number of foreign visitors visiting the country in 2018-2019 compared to previous years means that the economy has great potential for tourism-based development.

Using the data in this chart, it can be said that the highest figure for the period 2014-2020 is in 2019, and this value is 3.6 times higher than in 2014. Respectively, the turnover of tourism products and services also increased by an average of 3.6 times compared to 2014. The pandemic situation in 2020 led to a sharp decline to 78% of this figure, which has the character of continuous growth, and this figure is 1.23 times lower than in 2014.

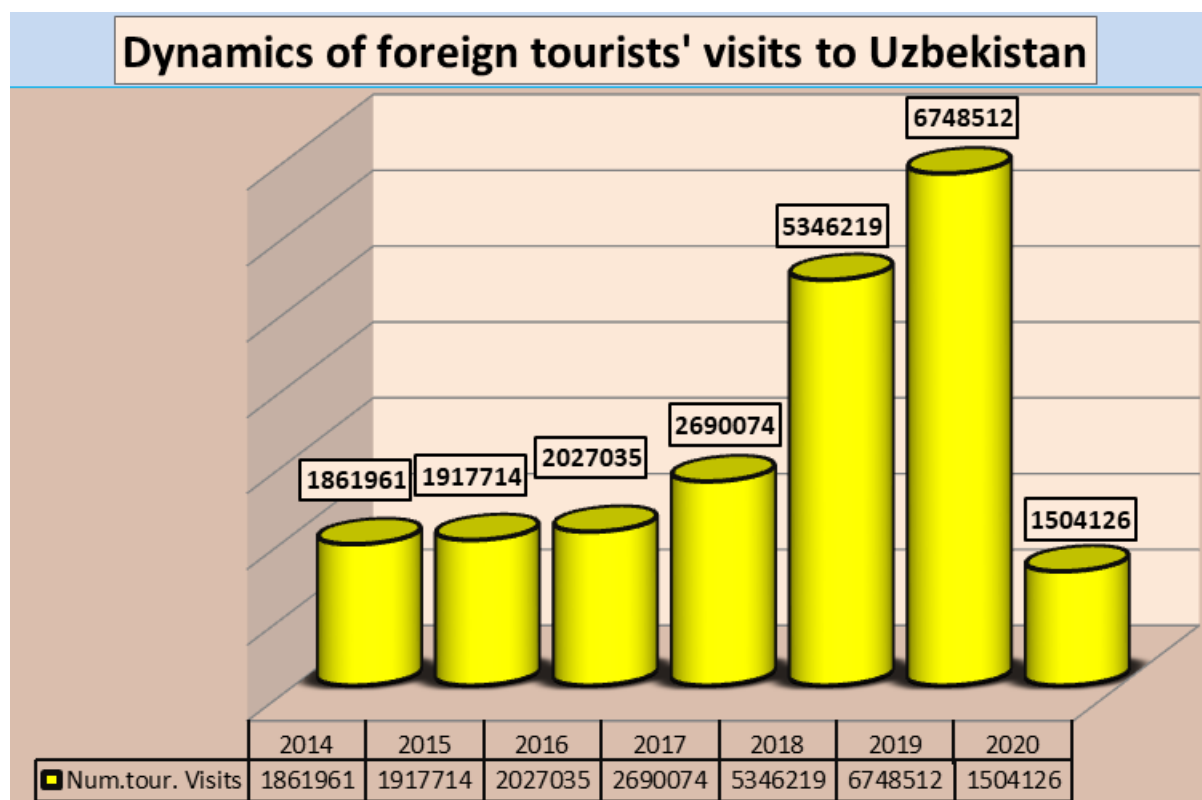


Figure 1. Dynamics of changes in tourism in Uzbekistan in 2014-2020⁵.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Number PF-60 dated January 28, 2022, the number of foreign tourists is expected to increase to 2.7 million this year and 9 million by the end of 2026⁶. Analyzing the implementation of this goal taking into account last year's tourist attraction, it is possible to gradually achieve the visit of 9 million foreign tourists identified in the development strategy of New Uzbekistan through the following prospective results. In January-September 2021, the number of tourists visiting

⁵ Prepared by the author on the basis of Stat.uz.

⁶ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

Uzbekistan reached 1.2 million, and by the end of the year this figure reached 1.88 million⁷. 2.7 million tourists a year are expected to visit. To gradually attract 2.7 million to 9 million tourists from 2022 to 2026, it is required to reach 44% yearly increase, as shown in Figure 2.

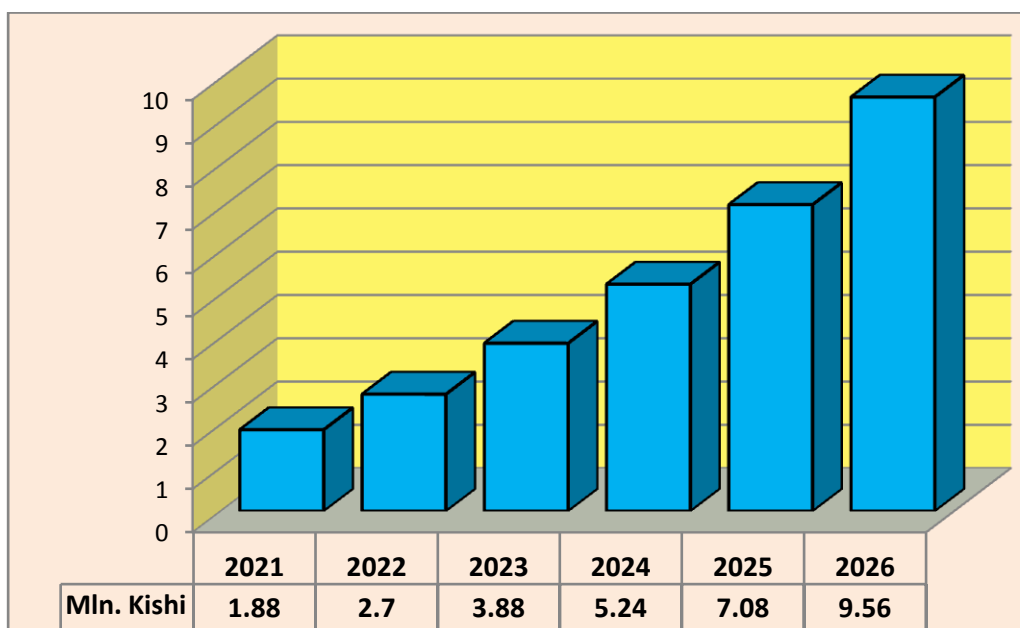


Figure 2⁸. An approximate diagram of the gradual increase in the flow of foreign tourists to 9 million people, based on the Presidential Decree on the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

This chart is based on approximate estimates, with an average annual growth rate of 44% in the tourism sector, and if expected level of annual growth is achieved, by 2026, 9.56 million tourist visits can be registered.

In summary, the tourism industry, which is considered to be one of the most affected industries, is expected to recover the most quickly and efficiently. Therefore, tourism research and development has the potential not only to restore the tourism industry, but also to organize it more efficiently.

References

1. Khamidov, O. K. (2020). Foreign countries' experience in developing tourism potential and significance of clusters in Uzbekistan. *Scientific reports of Bukhara State University*, 4(2), 281-284.
2. Abdullayevna, Q. Z., Anvarovich, Q. A., & Muxtorovna, N. D. Theoretical foundations of enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy. *Gwalior management academy*, 87, 54.
3. Nizamov, A. B., & Gafurova, S. K. (2020). Assessment of factors influencing the quality of education in higher educational institutions. *ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, 10(6), 1784-1796.
4. Hakimovna, U. M., & Muhammedrisaevna, T. M. S. (2022). Audit and Marketing Audit in Small Business and Private Entrepreneurship: The Order and Process of Inspection. *Journal of Ethics and Diversity in International Communication*, 2(3), 84-88.

⁷ <https://stat.uz/uz/rasmiy-statistika/social-protection-2>

⁸ Author's work based on researches.

5. Furqatovna, O. N., Niyozovna, N. I., & Nutfulloyevna, A. H. (2022). Approaches Aimed At Ensuring a High Quality of Education in the Training of Economists. *Journal of Ethics and Diversity in International Communication*, 2(3), 78-83.
6. Halimova, N. J., & Ismatillayeva, S. S. (2021, November). The Perspectives of Development Children Tourism in Uzbekistan. In *International Conference On Multidisciplinary Research And Innovative Technologies* (Vol. 2, pp. 184-188).
7. Agzamov, A. T., Rakhmatullaeva, F. M., & Giyazova, N. B. (2021, June). Marketing strategy for the competitiveness of modern enterprises. In *E-Conference Globe* (pp. 1-3).
8. Rakhmatullayeva, F. M., Boboyeva, G. G., & Kudratov, A. D. (2021). Essence of Structural Shifts in Regional Economic Systems. *International Journal of Development and Public Policy*, 1(5), 128-130.
9. Umarovna, T. M. (2021). A three-step strategy to develop the industrial economy in China through entrepreneurship and innovation. *Research Jet Journal of Analysis and Inventions*, 2(06), 152-156.
10. Turobova, H. R., & Kodirov, A. A. (2016). The role of small businesses to improve the export potential. *Academy*, (12), 21-23.
11. Bakhodirovna, U. A., & Ilkhomovna, Z. M. (2021). Tourist potential of the Bukhara region. *Research jet journal of analysis and Inventions*, 2(04), 243-246.
12. Navruz-zoda, Z. (2020). Evaluation of Holy Places of the Regions for the Development of Pilgrimage Tourism. *Indonesian Journal of Law and Economics Review*, 6, 10-21070.
13. Narzieva, D. M., & Kudratov, A. D. (2021). the importance of digitalization of the economy and priorities in Uzbekistan. *World Economics and Finance Bulletin*, 2(2), 9-13.
14. Furqatovna, O. N., Niyozovna, N. I., & Nutfulloyevna, A. H. (2022). Approaches Aimed At Ensuring a High Quality of Education in the Training of Economists. *Journal of Ethics and Diversity in International Communication*, 2(3), 78-83.
15. Yavmutov, D. S., & Rakhimov, O. H. (2021). Pilgrimage Tourism and Its Prospects In Uzbekistan. *Economics*, (1), 29-31.
16. Narzullayeva, G. S., & Sh, O. S. (2021). Theoretical aspects of assessment of marketing communications. *International Engineering Journal For Research & Development*, 6, 3-3.
17. Khalimova, N. J. (2022). Uzbekistan Hospitality Training Programs and its Problems. *Journal of Ethics and Diversity in International Communication*, 2(3), 57-66.
18. Qayimova, Z. A., & Aminova, N. B. (2021, October). Modern Interest Rate Policy of Commercial Banks. In "online-conferences" platform (pp. 259-263).
19. Abdullayeva, H. (2021). Japanese Experience in Increasing the Efficiency of Tourist Territories in Uzbekistan. *центр научных публикаций (buxdu. uz)*, 7(7).
20. Abdulloev, A. J., Tairova, M. M., & Aminova, N. B. Environmentally friendly and sustainable supply chain management in the platform economy.
21. Muminov, K. I., & Abdullaeva, H. (2020). The effect of coronavirus pandemic to Uzbekistan tourism. *South Asian Journal of Marketing & Management Research*, 10(11), 36-42.