

## The Main Indicators of Tourism in Uzbekistan Before the Pandemic

**Shodiev Sanjar Ruzikulovich**

Assoc. Professor of Navoi State Pedagogical Institute Geography and economics department

**Yarashev Jahongir**

Master of Navoi State Pedagogical Institute Geography and economics department

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**Annotation:** The epidemiological turmoil observed in recent years around the world has had a significant impact on all areas of human activity, including tourism around the world. According to statistics from the World Tourism Organization, tourism in the world in 2020 clearly showed a decrease of 74% compared to the previous year. The organization analyzed tourism indicators in 2021 and announced its forecasts for when tourism will return to its pre-pandemic status. This article focuses on the pre-pandemic indicators of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the growth rate of annual tourist visits, the cost of exported tourist services, the purpose of tourists' visits to our country, which region and which countries attract the most tourists. , were informed about the number of hotels served by them and their distribution by regions. The main directions of tourism in the country and their development were discussed.

**Key words:** Hotel, pilgrimage tourism, pandemic, sanatorium, ecotourism, tourists, historical monuments.

Uzbekistan has long been located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, with a high level of development of science, trade and handicrafts in the Middle Ages. Our country is one of the countries in the world with a rich historical and cultural heritage. In 4 museum cities of our country, which have a rich history, 209 of our historical heritage are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Tourists are especially interested in the historical monuments located in Khiva "Ichan-Kala", "Ark" in Bukhara, the historical centre of Shakhrisabz, "Amir Temur" in Samarkand, "Bibikhanum" mausoleum, "Registan Square". attracts more. Therefore, our country has the opportunity to attract more than 700,000 tourists to pilgrimage tourism every year.<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, there have been a lot of tourists visiting our country in the field of ecotourism, which is developing in the world, but despite the large number of natural resources that promote ecotourism in our country, these resources are not used to attract tourists.<sup>2</sup> Decree on the development of tourism in our country dated February 3, 2018, No PF-5326 "On additional organizational measures to create favourable conditions for the development of tourism potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan", Resolution No. PQ-3514 of February 7, 2018 "On measures to ensure the accelerated development of domestic tourism", No. PF-5611 of January 5, 2019 "On the acceleration of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan" It is planned to increase the flow of tourists to the country by 11 million, including about 2 million from abroad.

It is true that the epidemiological situation observed in the world in recent years has had a serious impact on all sectors of the economy, as well as on the tourism industry around the world. According to the UNWTO, due to the epidemiological situation around the world and the restrictions imposed on tourists, the number of international tourist visits in 2020, to be more precise, to 1 billion people, decreased by 74%. Revenues from tourism exports fell to \$ 1.3 billion. The worst-hit region was the Asia-Pacific region, which received 300 million fewer tourists in

<sup>1</sup> Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis 29.12.2020

<sup>2</sup> Kalonov, B. H., & Latipov, N. F. (2021). Characteristics Of Geographical Location Of The Population Of Navoi Region. *International Journal of Progressive Sciences and Technologies*, 25(2), 477-479.

2020 than in the previous year, down 84 per cent from a year earlier. %, in Europe by 70%, and in the Americas by 69%.

According to the UN World Health Organization (WHO), the crisis could lead to the loss of 100-120 million jobs in the tourism sector. UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said that according to experts, international tourism will not return to the status quo in 2019 before 2023. While 45% of experts believe that international tourism will return in 2024, 43% say it will be restored in 2023. "Currently, we are seeing a small recovery in tourism in Southern Europe, Central America and the Caribbean," said Zurab Pololikashvili.<sup>3</sup>

In order to implement the proposals made by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in his address to the Oliy Majlis on December 28, 2018, as well as on January 5, 2019 PF-5611 In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the concept of tourism development in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2025 has been developed and the tasks set out in it are being gradually continued.

Our country has always attracted foreign tourists with its rich historical and cultural heritage, ancient traditions and customs, beautiful nature, majestic mountains, clear waters, fresh air, hospitality, sweet candied fruits and vegetables. attracts. Exports of tourism services doubled between 2010 and 2017 alone, reaching \$ 546.9 million in 2017 and \$ 1,041 million in 2018.

According to the results of 2018, 5,346,219 tourists visited our country, of which 5,020,392 were from CIS countries, 325,827 were from abroad and 1,041 million US dollars worth of tourism services were exported to them. In 2019, out of 6,748,512 tourists who came to our country, 6,260,110 were from CIS countries and 488,402 were from foreign countries. A total of \$ 1,313 million worth of tourism services were exported to them, of which \$ 966,559 million came from CIS countries. to citizens, \$ 346,472 million to tourists from far abroad. The number of tourists visiting our country in 2019 will be 25% higher than in 2018, and exports of tourism services will be 26% higher than in 2018.

In 2019, the majority of tourists visiting our country came to see relatives 5,520,719, 1,043,929 to visit the ancient cities of the country covered with historical monuments, as well as the beautiful slopes, mountains and slopes. 55,490 tourists came for treatment in our sanatoriums with healing waters, 53,874 for commercial purposes, 53,117 for service, and the remaining 21,383 studied in our country. visited to learn. In 2019, compared to 2016, the number of visitors to the trip increased by almost 6 times, and the number of visitors to relatives increased by 3 times. (Table 1)

**Table 1.** Number of tourists visiting the Republic of Uzbekistan. In 2016-2019

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
All	2 027 035	2 690 074	5 346 219	6 748 512
In terms of service	149 708	159 944	56 515	53 117
Study	6 261	6 912	14 633	21 383
Tourism	175 534	203 695	458 119	1 043 929
Visiting relatives	1 651 208	2 272 346	4 713 479	5 520 719
Treatment	27 149	28 075	52 527	55 490
Business	17 175	18 472	50 946	53 874

In 2019, the largest number of tourists to Uzbekistan in the CIS countries - from the Republic of Kazakhstan - 2 261 094, from the Republic of Tajikistan - 1 473 684, from the Kyrgyz Republic - 1 454 907, from the Republic of

<sup>3</sup> UNWTO Reports 2021

Turkmenistan - 57 4795, from the Russian Federation - 455,470 tourists came from Turkey, 63,569 from Turkey, 54,293 from China, 35,524 from the Republic of Korea, 27,898 from India and 27,625 from Germany.

Compared to 2016, in 2019, 4 times more tourists visited our country than Russia and Israel, 4.5 times more than Germany, Belarus, China, France, 6 times more than Italy, 8 times more than Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Japan, 14 times more than Turkmenistan and 15 times more than the United States. (Table 2)

**Table 2.** The number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan from some countries in 2016-2019.

Years	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>The total number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan</b>	2 027 035	2 690 074	5 346 219	6 748 512
<b>From CIS countries</b>	1 872 585	2 508 792	5 020 392	6 260 110
Kazakhstan	1 384 220	1 752 238	2 293 077	2 261 094
Kyrgyzistan	168 128	366 053	1 055 688	1 454 907
Tadjikistan	169 067	206 667	1 095 505	1 473 684
Russia	106 958	129 963	371 529	455 470
Turkmenistan	39 422	46 621	169 922	5747 95
Belorussia	1 629	2 721	5 609	7 411
Azerbaijan	2 466	3 760	10 465	12 367
Ukraina	662	727	11 718	14 041
<b>From far abroad countries</b>	154 450	181 282	325 827	488 402
Afghanistan	19 255	23 321	44 220	62 580
Germany	5 914	7 207	18 094	27 625
Israel	3 246	3 800	9 779	13 615
Italy	3 068	4 776	13 843	20 356
China	11 790	15 087	32 444	54 293
USA	1 095	1 324	11 133	17 106
France	4 706	5 577	13 579	20 390
Japan	2 986	4 039	17 052	24 944

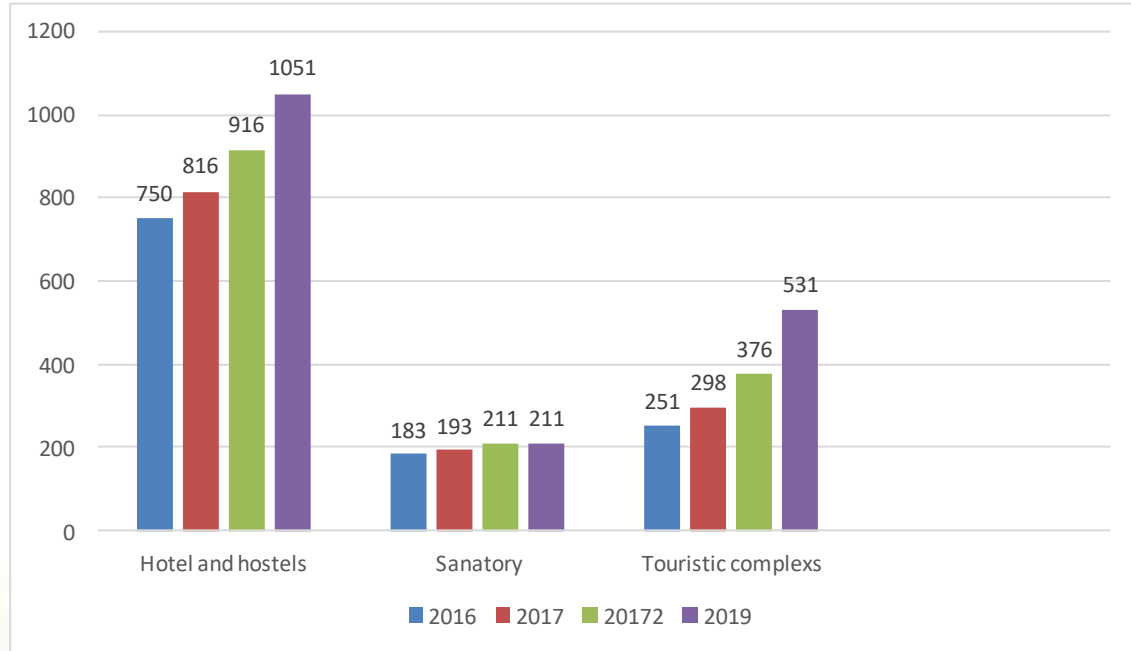
During a press conference organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Uzbekistan on 5 November 2021, it was reported that for 9 months of this year, more than 3 million 700 thousand Uzbeks have systematically implemented domestic tourism in cooperation with local authorities, ministries, departments and organizations. . During these 9 months, 1,135,621 foreign tourists visited our country, more than 954,000 of them came to visit their relatives, more than 106,000 came for leisure and exported tourism services worth \$ 273 million. According to the analysis, the largest number of tourists came from Western Europe, America and the CIS, while the number of tourists from Japan, India and China was expected to reach 1.7 million by the end of the year. In March, the country received an average of 85,000 foreign tourists a month, while in August-September this figure reached 190,000.<sup>4</sup>

In order to attract more tourists to Uzbekistan, the number of countries requiring visas from foreigners has increased from 9 to 86, and an electronic visa system has been introduced for 53 countries. Work is underway to increase the number and quality of hotels and similar accommodation facilities that provide quality services to tourists (Table 3).

<sup>4</sup> Information Service of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports 2021



**Figure 1.** The total number of public accommodation facilities in Uzbekistan in 2016-2019



There are a total of 1,785 hotels and similar accommodation facilities in the country. In 2019, they received a total of 3,116,001 tourists. Of these, 2,193,394 were accommodated in hotels, 528,308 in sanatoriums, 394,299 in resorts and tourist bases.

Of course, it is no secret that tourists come to our country, first of all, to talk about our rich history and to see the historical monuments built by our ancestors, so there are many hotels that provide quality services to tourists visiting our historical cities. It would be wrong to say that this is a modern requirement. There are a total of 1,051 (2019) hotels in the country, of which 306,482 tourists are from CIS countries and 787,749 from foreign countries. In recent years, in order to improve the tourism infrastructure in our country, several hotels have been launched in cooperation with famous foreign hotels. Among them are Hilton Hotels & Resorts, Hyatt Regency Tashkent and Little city Hotel Tashkent Palace.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 3.** Key indicators of Uzbekistan in terms of accommodation in hotels and similar facilities in the regions in 2019.

Administrative unit of the Republic of Uzbekistan.	Living room and similar accommodation facilities.	Visitors	Citizens of Uzbekistan	CIS citizens	Long-distance foreign nationals.
Republic of Karakalpak	28	43 749	28 505	2 811	12 433
Andijan	22	53 393	41 454	5 967	5 972
Bukhara	173	220 580	65 568	30 196	124 816
Jizzakh	40	38 990	35 630	1 685	1 675
Kashkadarya	62	83 759	74 271	4 423	5 065

<sup>5</sup> Урокова, Д. Б., & Толипов, М. У. У. (2020). Факторы, влияющие на развитие туризма в Узбекистане. *Достижения науки и образования*, (3 (57)).

Navoi	35	53 085	42 489	4 546	6 050
Namangan	27	56 296	44 330	5 128	6 838
Samarkand	146	268 367	85 819	41 898	140 650
Surkhendarya	26	30 570	17 542	1 876	11 152
Syrdarya	15	19 813	17 516	1 365	932
Tashkent	96	107 470	85 674	13 923	7 873
Fergana	92	72 118	47 714	4 951	19 453
Khorezm	73	154 653	67 832	9 660	77 161
Tashkent city	216	990 551	444 819	178 053	367 679
<b>Total</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>2 193 394</b>	<b>1 099 163</b>	<b>306 482</b>	<b>787 749</b>

As we can see from the table above, the largest number of foreign tourists is in Samarkand, Bukhara, Khorezm and the capital Tashkent. Therefore, the construction of modern hotels in these cities is carried out on a large scale.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan has the potential to receive a huge influx of tourists and is home to 7.4 thousand cultural heritage sites located in ancient cities of the country, 209 of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, caves of natural landscapes that promote ecotourism. healing springs, national parks and reserves, the presence of cool airy mountain slopes, the abundance and diversity of lakes. In addition, the country has great potential in such areas as ethnic tourism, sports tourism, agrotourism, medical tourism, gastronomic tourism, which attracts foreign tourists.

We are required to export high-quality tourism services to tourists visiting our country. First of all, we need to create a comfortable environment for tourists at home, prepare mature tour guides, increase the number of cheap and high-quality hotels, strengthen the promotion of attractive tourism resources in our country, adapt transport logistics to modern world requirements. we need to reconstruct. If we fulfil the tasks set before us, we will definitely bring huge benefits to our economy.

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