



LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL TOURISM TERRITORIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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ANNOTATION

This article discusses the ecotourism situation, opportunities, conditions and development of 16 rural tourist areas throughout the country, as well as each region.

KEYWORDS: *table salt, mud salt, soda, tugai, rocks, desert, steppe, foothills, sea and river roads, heat, customs, border control services.*

During our research, we developed a map of rural tourism areas. According to the map, we have divided the territory of the whole country into 16 rural tourism zones. Each rural tourism area can also be considered as a rural tourism zone. These include Ustyurt, Aral and Aral Sea, Amudarya, Kyzylkum, Nurata, Zarafshan, Aydarkul, Syrdarya, Chirchik, Ahangaron, Fergana, Turkestan, Kashkadarya, Gissar, Surkhandarya ecotourism regions.

Each region differs in terms of its ecotourism status, opportunities, conditions and development prospects. For example, in the Ustyurt rural tourism area, it is a plateau in northwestern Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan, with a total area of 200,000 km². These places are famous for the world's largest and only 60-150-meter steep rocky cliffs, a very large-1000 km saline Borsakelmas salt mine with healing properties. The vegetation cover is sparse, with a layer of common salt and muddy salt reaching 16-27.5 m. The newly built Kungrad soda plant works at the expense of these salts.

The "Ustyurt space" from the Neolithic period is also unique. It contains natural objects inhabited by about 60 ancient people. Among them is the Tempa site, which has both historical and ecotouristic significance, where the Khorezm archeological expedition found ancient labor and hunting weapons.

In the Aral and Aral Sea rural tourism area, tourist routes simultaneously cover both the dry and affected areas of the Aral Sea. Tours can be done not only on trekking (on foot) or on camels and horses, but also by plane and helicopter.

In the territory of Amudarya rural tourism. There are tugai forests on the banks of the Amudarya, which is a very interesting unique landscape for ecotours. On the right bank of the Lower Amudarya, the Badaytuqay Nature Reserve has been established to protect birds and animals in the tugai landscape. The Khorezm order was established for the conservation of ornithofauna. In addition, in the western part of the Kyzylkum, on the right bank of the Amu Darya, in the Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian twisted rock openings, eco-tours can be organized to the 485-meter-high Sultan Uvays Mountains. Khorezm, one of the oldest cities of Uzbekistan, is located in the Amudarya region, and its architectural monuments are one of the centers of historical tourism. The species can be integrated with historical species.

Nurata fascinates people in the rural tourism area with its magnificent natural landscapes, historical architectural monuments. Founded in 1975 and covering an area of 17.8 thousand hectares, there is the Nurata Mountain Walnut Fruit Reserve. Many routes to this reserve have been organized by tour firms. Located on the southern slope of the Aktog,



such natural monuments as "Sangijumon" and "Koriz remnants" are huge objects of rural tourism.

Near the centuries-old shrine "Chashma Bulak" there is a mosque "Chilustun", a madrasa, the mausoleum and castle of Abul Hasan Nuri. On the southern slope of the Karatag ridge, on the rocks of the Sarmish Gorge, there are plates and paintings depicting the life and culture of our generations.

In the Southern Nurata Range, 110 m long, 1060 m high, 163 m wide, the area is a karst cave. In the Nurata Range, 130 m long, 1100 m high, 70 m high, Khonaihudo Karst Cave can be developed. In addition, the Raboti Malik Caravanserai, built in the 11th century and standing until the beginning of the 18th century, was also a tourist stop and a place for traders to trade. Next to Raboti Malik is a cultural monument with a thousand-year history. A 12 m deep cistern kept cold and clean water all summer.

In the territory of Zarafshan rural tourism there is a tugai landscape on the banks of the Zarafshan river, "Zarafshan reserve" organized for the protection of flora and fauna. The sandy desert landscape, located in the Shofrikon forestry area of Bukhara region, where plants and animals and historical monuments (ruins of the city of Vardanza) are protected by the state. "Vardanza Nature Reserve", "Tudakol Flora and Fauna Enrichment Order", "Jayron-Eco-Center" located in Karavulbozor farm, "Dengizkol Reserve" for breeding birds adapted to water and swamps, Omonkoton and Temurlang karst caves in Zarafshan mountain ranges, Zirabu "Guntak Cave" and others are noteworthy.

In the rural tourism area of Turkestan, the species can be organized into specially protected areas. Because in this region on the northern slope of the Turkestan ridge there is a "Zaamin State Reserve", founded in 1959, with an absolute height of 1760-3500 m, a total area of 21735, and a unique and recreational "Park of Zaamin" with an area of 24110.

Kashkadarya rural tourism area consists of desert, steppe, foothills and mountainous areas. In this region, in summer and spring, it is possible to organize tourist tours to the deserts and steppes, and in all seasons to the foothills and mountainous areas. In the territory of Kashkadarya rural tourism there is a single "Book State Geological Reserve", established in 1992, "Mubarek Reserve", established in 1992, "Sechenkol Reserve", established in 1992, with an area of 3938 hectares.

In the Surkhandarya rural tourism area, in the Kuhitang mountainous area, there is the "Surkhan State Reserve", established in 1987, aimed at protecting 800 species of plants and 290 birds and more than 20 species of animals on an area of 53.7 thousand hectares. Surkhandarya region is one of the

peculiarities of the Republic, where the dry subtropical climate zone dominates. That is why there is an opportunity to organize ecotours in many months of the year.¹

From the above, it is clear that Uzbekistan has sufficient conditions and opportunities for the development of rural tourism. Rural tourism can be carried out in all seasons and combined with historical, religious tourism.

The tourist potential of the Khumson-Aktash zone, close to the city of Tashkent, is characterized by low prices for tour products and great potential of the region. The average number of visits to Homson reaches 10,000 people per season, and can reach at least 120,000 people, including one-day visits to the Homson-Aktash zone.

Humson is rarely mentioned in the field of international tourism. Foreign tourists come here only during their visits to Tashkent (their share is only 2%, the stay is up to 2 days). This means that international advertising is not yet fully established. At the same time, there are local tour operators interested in the Khumson-Aktash tourist zone. For example, Asia rast, ecosan tour, elena tour, AST, Ark-Asia companies are among them.

Recommended tourist destinations in the Khumson-Aktash zone:

- Horseback riding routes in the mountains;
- Hiking routes in the mountains;
- folklore and gastronomy;
- recreation in nature, organizing trips to rural areas;
- fishing, collection of medicinal plants.

The most convenient times for the above routes are:

- trekking-late April-June and mid-September-October;
- mountaineering-May-September;
- water travel - May-July;
- Horseback riding - July and September-October;
- Excursion-May-October;
- paragliding and hang gliding-May-October;
- alpine skiing and snowboarding - late January-March.

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¹ Based on data from the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan