



ECOTURISTIC IN UZBEKISTAN AND ITS ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes and describes ecotourism landscapes and their territorial features, the importance of various historical monuments and objects created by nature in tourism.

KEYWORDS: *historical, architecture, religious, natural monuments and their importance in tourism.*

DISCUSSION

A new turning point in the history of our country is characterized by the content and essence of radical reforms in all areas, as well as the definition of future priorities of socio-economic development. Therefore, the development and further development of tourism sector, effective use of existing opportunities, improvement of tourism and mechanisms to ensure its sustainable operation, the creation of a system of "National Tourism Model of Uzbekistan" set the ultimate goal of the tourism of the country. Accelerated development of tourism in Uzbekistan, more complete and effective use of existing tourism opportunities, regional organization and development of cultural and historical tourism, ecotourism, educational, ethnographic, gastronomic, sports, health (recreational tourism), business, rural and agritourism, children, adolescents and youth tourism, family tourism are becoming priority for the industry today. Therefore, the draft decree of the President of Uzbekistan "On the action strategy for further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was discussed. A clear example of this is the fact that the document addresses the issue of effective development of the tourism sector in the five priority plans for the development of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 (2) Therefore, the Decree of the President "On

measures to ensure the accelerated development of the tourism industry" directly envisages bringing the industry to a new stage of complex development (1). However, it is no secret that its share in the economy is low due to insufficient use of tourism opportunities in the regions. Moreover, the concept of gradual development of tourism in the perspective programs of socio-economic development of districts is not fully developed. It is possible to turn it into an important part of the economy only through a comprehensive study of tourism at the level of small regions.

It is known that there are more than 7,000 historical and architectural monuments in our country. However, a promising model for the development of national and international tourism in the regions has not been created. In the territory of Samarkand region, there are 1105 archeological, 60270 architectural, 37 attractions, 18 monumental, 21 memorial, a total of 1851 objects of material and spiritual heritage (3). The effective use of existing facilities for tourism purposes is not satisfying. These facilities do not serve for tourism activities due to the lack of infrastructure, lack of attention to the industry and other reasons. Many natural monuments are considered to be forage, cattle grazing for use in farm activities and neglected. In particular, there is a cave



inhabited by people in the Middle Stone Age, located in Bulbulzorsoy on the northern slope of Mount Qoratepa, which is a unique monument of nature. The existence of primitive people in the Middle Stone Age in the cave was first identified by Professor of the Department of Archeology of SamSU D.N. Lev. That is why this cave in the Omonkuton river is called Lev cave. Today, the environment of the cave is enclosed by fences that are inaccessible to people, and has been turned into pasture and agricultural land. This place attracts tourists with its mountain air, beauty of nature, archeological finds and the ancient way (Takhtikoracha). Extensive use of unique natural monuments in tourism is very effective. Man is in constant contact with nature, and all the time its mysteries attract him like a magnet. This is probably why it is natural for man to be always interested in the study of events and processes that take place in nature. At a time when the relationship between nature and society is becoming more serious, the most effective way to use it wisely is to develop the tourism industry. Therefore, unique monuments are widely used in European countries for tourism purposes. The term "unique monuments of nature" was also first introduced to science in the XIX century by the famous German traveler, geographer and naturalist Alexander Humboldt.

In Central Asia A.A. Brodsky compiled a list of natural monuments in 1923. It included various objects such as waterfalls, lakes, forests, individual rare trees, rocks, bird nests and other natural objects and monuments (5). The magazine of Nature Conservation, published in 1948, describes the sources included in the category of natural monuments, for example centuries-old forests, inter-desert forests, desert zones, caves, geologically stripped areas, waterfalls, rocks, ravines, lakes and forest parks.

It should be noted that not all objects created by nature are unique monuments of nature. The eruption of rocks and cuttings that have been discovered during geological epochs and that have been exposed to the effects of internal and external natural forces or man-made engineering activities, fossils of ancient plants and animals, traces, scenic waterfalls, caves and their magnificent structures, lakes, rivers and other natural monuments are considered as unique monuments of nature.

One of the important features of unique natural monuments is that they have scientific and geological historical significance. In addition to natural factors (geomorphological, archaeological), a number of other factors are involved in the formation of many natural monuments. These factors are closely related to each other. For example, important geological, geomorphological and archeological monuments in Uzbekistan and other regions are examples of this. The limestone rocks near the

village of Khojakent in Tashkent region are also geological and geomorphological monuments, where the workshops of our ancient ancestors and the paintings on the walls of the cave are preserved. Another example of such a group of monuments is the Zarautsoy cave, formed in the limestone of the Kohitang ridge in southern Uzbekistan, depicting a number of animals, insects and game scenes painted by primitive people 20-30 thousand years ago (with natural paint).

Unique landscapes found in nature under the influence of water, wind and sun attract people. These natural monuments do not fail to amaze tourists. Consequently, the magnificent paintings kept in art museums are viewed with pleasure, as the skill of the artists who created them will undoubtedly serve to accelerate the flow of ecotourism. In fact, nature itself is a "powerful artist." Among its long geological years are mountain peaks, beautiful valleys, deep ravines, huge waterfalls, caves, rocks, hot springs and more. These include mountain peaks, beautiful valleys, deep ravines, huge waterfalls, caves, rocks, hot springs appeared during its long geological years.

Watching these unique gifts of nature has always attracted ecotourists. For example, there are 6 waterfalls in a river flowing through a cave in the Balkans, and 8 waterfalls in 3 rivers flowing through a mammoth cave in North America. The height of the waterfall formed by the river inside the cave Bkije in France is more than 30 m. However, such magnificent caves are common in our country. In particular, the caves of the Kirktav plateau on the Chaklikalon mountain in the Zarafshan ridge, the Amir Temur caves on the southern slope of the Qoratepa mountain are of great importance in the development of "spelotourism", a special type of tourism in our country.

There are thousands of miraculous and amazing places in the regions of our country. But they are not used for international tourism purposes. For example, wind-blown stone gates and mushroom-shaped rocks have emerged in the Giarfeh Valley of Egypt, in Saxony, Switzerland. In the Colorado Valley of North America, a variety of rock formations have sprung up in what is known as the Garden of the Gods, the strangest of which are the vibrating rocks. Tandil stone in Argentina, which moves under the influence of winds, is one of the busiest places for tourists. The Sangijumon Stone located on the southern slope of Mount Nurata does not lag behind them with its strangeness. The Zaamin Mountain-Forest State Reserve is located in a picturesque place where Turkestan and Morguzar mountains meet. In the reserve, in all seasons, summer and winter, pine trees grow, which stand out from the surrounding area with their lush greenery. It is as if nature has bestowed all its beauty here. As you walk along the lonely path between the pine



forests, you will see a magnificent landscape, that is, natural monuments known among the people as "Forty girls fortress", "Brides carrying baskets", "Groom stone", "Forty beauties". The area where these natural monuments are formed is called the Guralash and Zaamin massifs (2000-3200 m above sea level) and is located in the valleys of the Zaamin and Sangzor rivers. On the right bank of the Kyzyl-Turgay River, at an altitude of 300-700 m above its core, and one of the rare monuments of nature, the "Forty girls Fortress" (3-4 hectares) occupies a special place in this area. To the south-east of the castle, the image of a girl stands as a sculpture made by a skilled sculptor (height 12 m, waist diameter 1 m, diameter of the skirt touching the ground about 2 m) (6).

Another unique natural monument of Morguzar Mountain is called "Groom stone". It is located in the lower reaches of the Guralash River, at an altitude of 1000-1900 m above sea level. Here, low and medium altitude mountains, hills, wide river valleys and beautiful oases combine to form a beautiful landscape. There are wide (200-800 m) terraces in the valleys. According to its geological structure, the area is mainly composed of Quaternary soft porous and distant rocks. Along with sand and gravel in the river cores, there are rocks formed as a result of rain and floods. However, hard rock (limestone, dolomites, marble) are not widespread. "Groom stone" has a columnar shape and is located on the second terrace of the right bank of the Guralash river, 4-5 km east of the village of Karashakshak. Its height and diameter are about 10 meters. The climate of the area where "Groom stone" is located is mild, the annual rainfall is 400-500 mm, the average annual temperature is 10-11 degrees.

Mount Koytash in the North Nurata mountain range of Jizzakh region (the highest point is Tengizlitov, 1905 m) is also one of the legendary places in Uzbekistan. A closer look at the pile of rocks here reminds me of a flock of sheep grazing.

Rare rocks can also be included in the list of natural monuments. In the territory of Khojakent village of Tashkent region, on the left bank of the Chirchik river, a beautiful view of the rock can be seen from afar. The rock is composed of limestone of the Coal Age (about 290-350 million years ago) and has risen to the surface as a result of new tectonic movements. As a result of the development of karst processes, more than 20 caves of different sizes have appeared here. The settlement of primitive people who lived in the Stone Age was found in one of the caves. On the walls of this cave are carved paintings by them.

Another unique rock with a beautiful view is the rock at the "Temur Gate" in the middle reaches of the Sangzor River in the Jizzakh region. It was also formed from limestone during the Coal Age. The

amazing and mysterious view of the rock is such that it attracts the attention of every traveler passing by.

According to A. Hoshimov, "Temur's Gate" has long been known. According to the ancient Greek scholar Arrian, Alexander the Great marched towards Tanais (Syrdarya) after conquering the Marokand, the capital of Sogdiana. During this march, more than 30,000 of Alexander's troops passed through this gate, because this gate was very convenient to go east (6).

The mountains found in the plains of Central Asia (Karatov, Nuratag, Qoratepa) rise from 500-600 meters to 1000-1200 meters, in the Tianshan Mountains from 2000-2500 meters to 4000 meters, in the Pamir Mountains from 4000-4600 meters. Local people call these uprisings "boxes", "surfaces", "platforms". Their surface is flat or slightly wavy, slopes are intersected mainly by valleys of ravine rivers, and a steep cliff rises from the bank.

It is a pity that in the mountainous conditions of Uzbekistan, which is densely and deeply intersected by rivers, there is such a flat surface, which is used only as pasture. In fact, these landscapes can be turned into a place that provides an interesting holiday for tourists. Also, several surfaces located on the south-eastern slopes of the Pskom ridge are called "large box", "small box". Such flat areas also exist in Jizzakh region. B.Bahritdinov and A.Saidov called them "Morguzar Supa". "Supa" is one of the most beautiful and peaceful places located in the north-eastern part of Morguzar mountain, in the territory of Zaamin mountain-forest reserve. Supa is much higher than the areas around it (2000-2500 m above sea level), the surface of which is almost flat, the eastern border of which is the Kashkasuv Basin, the western border of which is along the meridian of the Khatirchi Pass. The surface is intersected by many streams. The main wealth and beauty of Supa is its geographical location, climate, flora and fauna. The territory is inhabited by rare and endangered animals (mountain goat, mountain sheep, white clawed bear, many storks and birds of prey). Holiday homes and medical institutions have been established here.

In the northwestern part of the South Nurata Mountains in the Aktag Range (Samarkand and Navoi regions) there is a rock called "Sangijumon", which means "vibrating stone". The rock weighs about 225-235 tons, has a circumference of 19 m, a diameter of 9 m and a height of about 6 m. Vibrating rocks such as Sangijumon are known to be found in the middle of the Zarafshon ridge, but they are also found elsewhere on the globe (for example, near Buenos Aires, Argentina). Such places serve the development of ecotourism.

Stalactites, stalagmites, and stalagnates are found in most underground caves on Earth. Their size and age also vary. The stalagmites inside some underground towers in the Czech Republic are 0.5 m



in diameter and several meters high. their age was found to be more than 1250 years. The 18.9-meter-high and 4.9-meter-diameter stalagmite in the Carlsbad Underground in the United States is known to be 60,000 years old. This tower is 21 meters high and 5 meters in diameter, with a large stalagmite. The height of stalactites in the caves formed in the Margare Mountains on the border of Italy and France reaches 50-100 meters. There are more than 2,000 stalagmites in Katerlach Cave in Austria. In some underground towers, the air temperature is so low that the dripping water turns to ice without evaporating. M. Abdujabborov, a cave scientist from SamSU, found such an ice cave in the Zarafshan mountains and called it "Nuriddin" (3). Hazrati David Cave in the village of Aksay, located in the Ohalik mountain range, is used in local tourism as a favorite destination for thousands of pilgrims from all over the country. But the infrastructure here is not at the level of demand. Mihai Bulay, Professor of the Faculty of Geography and Geology, Alexandra Cuza University, Romania, and B. Meliev, Researcher of the Faculty of Geography and Ecology, SamSU, jointly studied the object and found that if used in the same way in the future, the ecosystem of the region may lose its attractiveness in the near future as a result of anthropogenic impact. To prevent this, it will be necessary to create transport accommodation, irregular food outlets and other infrastructure, taking into account the influx of domestic and foreign tourists.

The presence of ice caves in the hot climate of Central Asia is surprising. At an altitude of 2,500 meters above sea level, almost 1,000 meters below the snow line, another glacial underground tower in Central Asia is the Makshevav Cave, located in the upper reaches of the Zarafshan Valley in Tajikistan. The total length of this cave is 45 meters. Even in summer, snow and ice remain in the cave. It has a complex structure and consists of several corridors and halls. The floors and walls of the halls are covered with ice. According to M. Hoshimov, who inspected the cave, the main reason for the formation of ice here is that it is located above sea level. Indeed, the winter here lasts a long time, the main part of the precipitation falls in the form of snow, the air temperature inside the cave is always low. This is a unique microclimate that is convenient to the development of cave ecotourism (6).

In general, the use of such unique monuments of nature for tourism purposes is of great importance. In our opinion, in the future it will be necessary to organize geographical and tourist expeditions and develop tourist routes on the basis of a scientifically based plan for such unique objects. Since rare places of nature are usually located in a slightly remote area from humanity, we believe that it is necessary to establish ecotourism routes with a

scientific approach to their use and use them in international and domestic tourism.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in order to use the unique natural monuments for tourism, it is necessary to pay attention to the following issues:

- Development of scientific bases for the use of unique natural monuments in tourism in the development of the "National Model of Tourism in Uzbekistan";
- revision and grouping of the list of unique monuments in the regions, cadastre and inclusion of the most unique and attractive objects in ecotourism in tourist routes;
- conducting a tourist campaign in our country in the nomination "the most unique and antique natural monument";
- taking into account the study of tourism potential in rural areas in the development of long-term plans for socio-economic development of districts.

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