



NEW TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN UZBEKISTAN

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***Annotation:** By now, tourism has become one of the leading sectors of the global economy. In this regard, Uzbekistan pays special attention to 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 services for foreign guests in accordance with international standards. During the years of independence, our country made a significant breakthrough in this area, coupled with the preservation and enhancement of the historical and cultural heritage of the people, the revival of national traditions and customs, the restoration and improvement of the republic's attractions.*

***Keywords:** scientific tourism, infrastructure, facilities*

Starting next year, new types of tourism are planned to be introduced in Uzbekistan: industrial, geological, scientific, military and public administration. Domestic and foreign tourists will be able to visit industrial facilities, mines, laboratories, military units and government institutions.

It is planned to introduce new types of tourism in Uzbekistan from the beginning of 2025, according to a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated September 18. The objectives are to create additional opportunities for domestic and foreign tourists.

According to the document, among the new types of tourism will be:

Industrial tourism, which involves familiarization with production processes;

Geological tourism, which includes observing technological processes at gold, ore and other mineral resources, mines and inactive geological sites, including rock

explosions from a safe distance, conversations with specialists and guided tours of mountain terrain;

Scientific tourism, which provides an opportunity to get acquainted with the achievements of science and technology through visits to research institutes of the Academy of Sciences, laboratories, observatories and planetariums;

Military tourism, which provides visits to places related to military history and activities, monuments, participation in events and familiarization with the life of military personnel, as well as providing tourists with paid services in bench shooting and firearms shooting (based on the sports complex of the Ministry of Defense in Kibray, Tashkent region);

Public-management tourism, which includes visits to sites related to the political life of the country, the history and activities of government agencies and organizations, including government buildings and structures.

Separate ministries will be responsible for each type of tourism.: The Ministry of Economic Finance and the Ministry of Investments is responsible for industrial tourism, the Ministry of Geology is responsible for geological tourism, the Ministry of Higher Education is responsible for scientific tourism, the Ministry of Defense is responsible for military tourism, and the Ministry of Justice is responsible for public administration tourism.

Starting from October 1, 2025, the interactive portal "Tourist map", working in different languages, and its application will be launched in a test mode at Samarkand Airport. The service will contain maps of the main areas visited, information about airports, railway and bus stations, historical, cultural and entertainment places, catering establishments, as well as routes to them. Using the portal, it will be possible to create a route based on the interests and duration of the trip, and download it to your phone via a QR code. There will be a free Wi-Fi network next to the devices running the Tourist map. After testing, the government will consider the issue of introducing devices on which the portal is available in other regions of the country with a high tourist flow. During the piloting of the Tourist map project, free tourist

SIM cards valid for one month will be offered to tourists at airports, railway stations and border checkpoints.

Moreover, in recognition of the republic's special place in the global tourism industry, the UNWTO Regional Office for the Coordination of tourism development on the Silk Road was opened in Samarkand in 2004. It should be noted that such an office exists only in two countries — in Japan and Uzbekistan. Its main function is to identify directions in the development of not only regional, but also international tourism. The presence of over 7,000 objects of tangible cultural heritage from different eras and civilizations, including the historical centers of Bukhara, Khiva, Samarkand and Shakhrisabz included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, testifies to the capabilities of our country. The world-famous historical monuments, modern cities, the unique nature of Uzbekistan, the unique national cuisine, as well as the unsurpassed hospitality of our people attract travel enthusiasts. Through the efforts of the republic's leadership, the tourist infrastructure has been raised to a fairly high level in recent years. In particular, 1,176 tourist organizations, including 621 tour operators, and 555 hotel facilities, are successfully operating in the country. The extensive hotel chain with more than 25,000 beds meets modern international standards. Over the years of independence, thanks to truly large-scale construction and reconstruction of infrastructure facilities in Uzbekistan, 11 airports have received the status of international harbors. Modern comfortable planes of the National Airline Uzbekistan Airways, consisting of Boeing and Airbus airliners, operate regular flights to more than 40 cities in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and America. In 2016, the country's civil aviation fleet will be replenished with two state-of-the-art "dream liners" - the Boeing Dreamliner.

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With its rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage, Uzbekistan has every chance of becoming one of the key players in the global tourism market. In recent years, the Government of the Republic has been actively working on the development of the tourism industry, realizing its significant role for the national economy. Since 2017, Uzbekistan has adopted more than 30 resolutions and acts of the President and Government aimed at supporting various aspects of tourism. These documents cover a wide range of issues, from improving infrastructure and creating tourism clusters to liberalizing visa policy and attracting foreign investment in the industry. The Strategy "Uzbekistan – 2030" also provides for the fulfillment of a number of key tasks aimed at creating broad conditions for the development of foreign and domestic tourism, including attracting even more foreign tourists to the country. One of the main goals is to increase the number of foreign tourists who are

willing to travel around our country for a longer time and spend more. For this purpose, tasks have been set to improve infrastructure, including involving foreign business circles, liberalize the visa regime, improve the quality of services, increase the variety of travel products and create attractive tourist routes. First of all, modern tourist accommodation facilities are being created. There are currently more than 5,250 accommodation facilities in Uzbekistan with a total number of beds of more than 155 thousand. Boutique hotels, hostels, and family guest houses are also being launched, the total number of which has reached more than 3,200 units. all over the country.

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