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UZBEKISTAN IS PEARL OF THE EAST

Tourism is one of the youngest business areas in Uzbekistan, however its rapid development outpaces many other directions. Uzbekistan, with its unique sites of old architecture, ancient civilization, and magnificent nature areas, also strives to become one of the largest tourist countries.

In 1993, our country became a member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), since 2004 the UNWTO Support Office, which coordinates the development of tourism on the transcontinental highway, has been operating in the heart of the Silk Road, in Samarkand.

Over a short period of time, the country has carried out a large-scale work in the field of modernization of the tourism industry, improved transport and hotel infrastructure of the country, developed and updated the regulatory base in the sphere of tourism for the sustainable development of the industry. Currently the new version of draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On tourism” has been developed, as well as 34 regulatory acts, 26 of which have already been approved and entered into force.

In order to level the quality of the tourism services to the international requirements and ensure safety of tourists, two new state standards on tourism terminology and safety requirements for hotel business have been developed and registered on the basis of the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

At the same time, our country became a member of the International technical committee “Tourism and services provided in the field” of the International Organization for Standardization.

The Call Center of the State Committee for Tourism, which works day-and-night, was opened on December 4, 2017 in order to receive timely and reliable information regarding all matters of tourism and processing of inquiries from tourism entities and tourists.

Within the framework of tourism potential development in the regions and its effective use, several tourism development programs are being implemented in Khorezm and Bukhara regions, approved by the relevant resolutions of the Head of State, as well as programs in Samarkand, Qashqadaryo, Surxondaryo, Jizzakh and Fergana regions, approved by the resolutions and protocols of the Cabinet of Ministers.



Самарканд – друге за величиною, після Ташкента, місто в Узбекистані. Найбільше за значенням у центральній частині Шовкового шляху

Samakand is the second largest city in Uzbekistan after Tashkent. It has the biggest value in the central part of the Silk Road

In particular, within the framework of programs in Bukhara and Samarkand, works on creation of tourist zones “Old Bukhara” and “Samarkand City” have been made, in addition more than 450 projects have been implemented, including the restoration and conservation of 50 objects of cultural heritage, the construction and reconstruction of more than 50 hotels, and the creation of more than 100 public catering facilities.

In order to develop the agrarian and ecological tourism in the regions, encourage and prepare for the provision of services regarding the accommodation of tourists in rural areas the Committee provided more than 100 hotel buildings in accordance with the established requirements and prepared to provide tourism services in Bustanlyk, Parkent, Ahangaran and Angren districts of Tashkent region.

The following measures have also been implemented in order to simplify and level the procedure for issuing of entry visas and registration of foreign citizens to the international standards:

a) under Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated January 1, 2018, a double corridor system was introduced at international airports of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and from January 1, 2021, this system will come into force at automobile and railway crossing points at the customs border of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

b) the possibility of temporary electronic registration of foreign citizens, who travel outside the residential places for a period not exceeding 10 days, accompanied by a tour guide and/or instructor guide was provided;

c) single-entry tourist visa for individual foreign tourists for a period of 30 days was introduced, and visa registration fee was reduced by one third (from 60 to 40 USA dollars), the minimum number of tourists in a group for visa application was reduced by half (from 10 to 5);

d) according to Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

– from February 10, 2018, a 30-day visa-free regime was introduced for citizens of Israel, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey and Japan after entering the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

– a simplified registration of tourist visas was established for 39 countries of the European Union, some East Asian countries and Middle East countries namely India, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

– from July 1, 2018, it is planned to introduce an electronic visa issuance system for citizens of foreign countries.

As a result of the above-mentioned works, the number of tourists that had visited the country by 2017 increased by 32.7% as compared to the previous year and amounted to 2,690,000 people. They learnt about more than seven thousand objects of cultural heritage, monuments of history, ancient architecture and culture, including the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Shakhrisabz, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Exports of tourist services increased by 18.3% as compared to 2016 and amounted to 1 billion 581 million dollars.

Not only world-renowned Uzbek hospitality, unique ancient and modern architecture attracts foreign tourists to Uzbekistan, but also peace and stability in our country, an atmosphere of mutual respect and harmony.

The recreational resources available in the country allow developing all types of tourism, and welcome guests all year round. Uzbekistan is capable to offer a wide range of services for those who prefer both cultural and recreational activities, as well as for extreme tourists.

Today, business, ecological, medical and health, folklore, ethnographic, historical and architectural, religious and other types of tourism are widely developed in the country.

Unique monuments of ancient architecture, the richness and diversity of nature, the age-old traditions of craftsmanship, wise customs and folk holidays are concentrated in the historical cities of Samarkand, Khiva, Bukhara, Shakhrisabz, Tashkent.

The development of ecotourism is another important direction. Visiting centres with the appropriate infrastructure are created in a number of nature reserves. With the support of UNESCO's representative office in Uzbekistan, a

project on inclusion of the Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve into the UNESCO World Heritage List is being implemented. This will attract the attention of the world community and provide the opportunity to use the great potential of this beautiful protected area.

Uzbekistan is a great place for randonneurs. Mountains and deserts run together creating a challenge, which many cyclists and extreme tourists consider a compulsory point in their adventure map.

Biking in Uzbekistan is full of exoticism, legends and eastern hospitality. Cyclists have advantages provided by patrol service on the roads.

Naturally, such tours are combined with the historical trip along the Great Silk Road to the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva.

In the area of tourist exchange of Uzbek-Ukrainian relations there is permanent search for new forms of cooperation, monitoring of previously signed agreements in the field of tourism. Now Ukraine ranks among 10 leading tourist partners of our country. There are several reasons for it.

Today, Uzbekistan is a connecting link between Europe and Southeast Asia. Many Ukrainian travel companies develop routes with a stopover in Uzbekistan to explore its attractions, and then travel to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea.

In the cognitive plan it should be noted that the main features of the Uzbek family are hospitality and traditionally respectful attitude towards the elderly. The Uzbek people usually live in big families, consisting of several generations, so the preference is given to large houses.

Tea ceremony holds a significant place in everyday life, as an element of hospitality. Tea brewing and pouring it in cups of guests are the exclusive prerogative of the owner. There is a tradition to accept the invitation for lunch or dinner and come on time. When one goes to visit, it is desirable to bring some souvenirs or sweets for the owner's children. Men usually shake their hands when greeting.

With women and people sitting in the distance it is accepted to greet by putting the right hand to the heart and bowing slightly the head. During a handshake it is common to ask about health, work and family.

In the countryside when guest arrives, women usually do not sit down at the one table with the men in order not to interfere with their conversation. It is not accepted to admire the beauty of women and pay attention to them. At the entrance to the living room shoes are removed. It is necessary to occupy the place indicated by the owner. Moreover, the more it is distant from the entrance, the more honourable it is considered.

We invite every Ukrainian to visit our sunny Uzbekistan!