

Principles of Establishing Tourist and Recreational Areas in the Mountainous Regions of Uzbekistan (Case of Surkhandarya Region)

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Abstract: The article highlights the principles of establishing tourist and recreational areas in the mountainous regions of Uzbekistan, with a particular focus on Surkhandarya region. It analyzes natural and geographical factors, historical and cultural heritage, infrastructure development, ecological sustainability, local community involvement, and the use of innovative technologies. The study substantiates that the mountainous areas of Surkhandarya region possess significant potential for the development of new directions in tourism.

Keywords: tourism, recreational area, Surkhandarya region, mountainous areas, ecotourism, principles.

Introduction

Uzbekistan is one of the countries with a rich tourism potential, and its mountainous regions hold particular significance. In particular, Boysun, Denov, Sariosiyo, and Sherobod districts of Surkhandarya region are famous for their tourism and recreational opportunities. This article analyzes the principles of establishing tourist and recreational areas in the mountainous regions of Surkhandarya.

Main Body

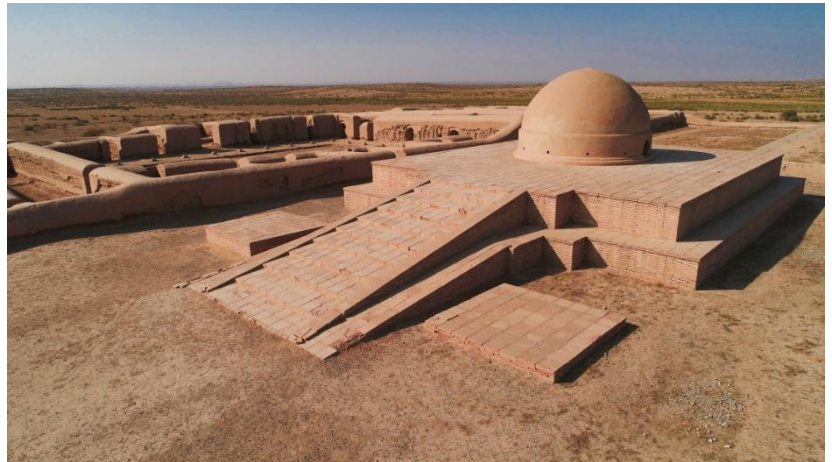
The Surkhandarya region, located in the southern part of Uzbekistan, possesses rich tourism and recreational resources that can serve as a foundation for sustainable regional development. Its geographical location, diverse landscapes, cultural heritage, and historical monuments provide a favorable basis for the formation of multifunctional tourist-recreational areas.

The **natural landscapes** of the Boysun Mountains, the Gissar Range,



Darband Gorge, Machay Cave, and the petroglyphs of Zarautsoy offer unique opportunities for ecological and adventure tourism. These sites are not only attractive for their scenic beauty but also represent significant scientific and historical value.

The **cultural-historical heritage** of Termez city and its surroundings, including Dalvarzintepa, Fayoztepa, Kampirtepa, and the Mausoleum of Hakim Termizi, strengthen the region's position as a center of cultural tourism. Furthermore, the **intangible cultural heritage** of Boysun folklore, recognized by UNESCO, contributes to the development of ethnographic and cultural tourism.



The **climatic features** of the mountainous areas, characterized by cool summers and mild winters, allow for tourism activities throughout the year. This creates favorable conditions for both recreational tourism in summer and winter sports tourism.

Principles of Organizing Tourism and Recreational Areas in Mountainous Regions

The effective development of tourism in the mountainous territories of Surkhandarya requires adherence to fundamental principles that ensure both economic benefits and ecological balance:

1. **Territorial Integrity and Complexity.** Tourism infrastructure should be developed as a single system, encompassing transport facilities, accommodation, recreational zones, and protected natural areas.
2. **Sustainability.** Tourism activities must be designed in harmony with the fragile mountain ecosystems, prioritizing environmental protection, rational use of resources, and waste management.
3. **Diversification.** Different forms of tourism—ecological, cultural, health, extreme, agro- and ethno-tourism—should be developed simultaneously to attract a wide range of tourists.
4. **Community Participation.** The involvement of local communities is essential for successful tourism development. Their participation ensures job creation, preservation of traditional crafts, and promotion of local cuisine and folklore.
5. **Innovative Infrastructure.** The introduction of modern hotels, digital services (online booking systems, mobile applications), information centers, and advanced logistics systems is a prerequisite for increasing competitiveness at the international level.

Priority Directions for Infrastructure Development

In the context of Surkhandarya region, several strategic directions can be emphasized:



Eco-tourism development. Establishment of ecological trails and eco-parks in the Boysun Mountains and the Gissar Nature Reserve, combined with the promotion of “green tourism” initiatives.

Cultural and historical tourism. International promotion of Termez archaeological sites and the organization of cultural heritage routes that highlight the history of the Kushan Empire and Islamic civilization.

Adventure and sports tourism. Development of trekking, mountaineering, paragliding, mountain biking, and skiing facilities in suitable mountainous areas.

Agro- and ethno-tourism. Introduction of rural tourism programs in Boysun and Denov districts, showcasing local traditions, festivals, crafts, and cuisine.

Transport and communication. Modernization of road networks to mountain villages, expansion of services at Termez International Airport, and improvement of regional transport accessibility.

International cooperation. Establishment of cross-border tourism projects with Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and other neighboring countries to integrate Surkhandarya into the broader Central Asian tourism market.

Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Despite its high potential, the tourism sector in Surkhandarya faces several challenges:

Infrastructure limitations. The shortage of modern hotels, quality service facilities, and accessible transport networks hinders tourism growth.

Proposed solution: Mobilizing investment through public-private partnerships and developing specialized tourism clusters.

Environmental vulnerability. Mountain ecosystems are sensitive to mass tourism, leading to deforestation, waste pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Proposed solution: Strengthening environmental monitoring, enforcing eco-friendly tourism regulations, and adopting waste recycling technologies.

Low international visibility. The region is not yet fully recognized as a global tourist destination.

Proposed solution: Branding Surkhandarya through digital marketing campaigns, participation in international exhibitions, and collaboration with global tour

Conclusion

The mountainous regions of Surkhandarya possess great potential for establishing tourist and recreational areas. By preserving natural and cultural heritage while simultaneously developing modern infrastructure and implementing innovative technologies, these areas can be transformed into international tourism centers.

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