



International Educators Conference

Hosted online from Toronto, Canada

Website: econfséries.com

7th November, 2025

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF THE TOURISM SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Author: Mavjuda Muminova

Lecturer, Termiz State University of Economics and Service

E-mail: mavjudamuminova10@gmail.com

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-4888-9341>

Abstract

This paper analyzes the formation and development stages of the tourism sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan within the framework of national economic reforms and globalization processes. It highlights the key stages of the industry's evolution - from the establishment of its legal foundations in the early years of independence to its transformation into a strategic sector of the national economy. The study focuses on institutional reforms, diversification of tourism products, and integration of Uzbekistan into the global tourism market. It also emphasizes the development of modern tourism types such as ecological, pilgrimage, and gastronomic tourism, as well as their socio-economic significance for sustainable growth.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, tourism development, economic growth, infrastructure, modernization, sustainable tourism, reforms, globalization.

Introduction

Tourism has become one of the leading sectors contributing to Uzbekistan's economic diversification and international recognition. Following independence in 1991, the government declared tourism a priority area for economic growth and cultural diplomacy. The "Law on Tourism" (1992) laid the foundation for state regulation, while the country's unique cultural and natural heritage offered significant potential for global tourism integration.



International Educators Conference

Hosted online from Toronto, Canada

Website: econfseries.com

7th November, 2025

Development Stages of the Tourism Sector in Uzbekistan

Stage	Years	Key Characteristics	Main Outcomes
I. Foundational Stage	1991–2000	Creation of legal and institutional frameworks for tourism; establishment of state agencies	Adoption of the <i>Law on Tourism</i> (1992); early infrastructure and heritage site restoration
II. Institutional Development	2000–2016	Formation of a tourism economy; private sector participation; infrastructure expansion	Growth of private travel agencies; inclusion of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva in UNESCO list
III. Strategic Reform Stage	2016–2023	Visa liberalization; international branding; investment attraction	Launch of “ <i>Uzbekistan – Surprisingly Yours</i> ” brand; 2.5× increase in foreign visitors
IV. Digitalization and Diversification	2023–Present	Focus on sustainable, digital, and specialized tourism types	Development of eco-, medical-, and gastronomic tourism; introduction of e-services and smart infrastructure

Tourist Flow Growth (2017–2023)

Year	Number of Foreign Tourists (million)
2017	2.7
2018	5.3
2019	6.7
2020	1.5 (<i>decline due to pandemic</i>)
2021	1.9
2022	3.7
2023	6.2

The table demonstrates a significant upward trend in inbound tourism after 2017, interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, followed by a strong recovery in subsequent years. This confirms the effectiveness of Uzbekistan’s tourism policy and resilience of the sector in the face of global challenges.



International Educators Conference

Hosted online from Toronto, Canada

Website: econferences.com

7th November, 2025

Conclusion

The evolution of Uzbekistan's tourism sector illustrates the successful implementation of comprehensive state policies and institutional reforms. The country's commitment to developing sustainable and diversified tourism ensures its growing role in the global tourism market. Continued investment in digital infrastructure, green initiatives, and regional branding will further strengthen Uzbekistan's image as the "Heart of the Silk Road" and a dynamic tourism hub in Central Asia.

References

1. UNWTO (2024). *Tourism and Economic Transformation in Central Asia*. Madrid: World Tourism Organization.
2. State Committee for Tourism Development of Uzbekistan. *Tourism Statistics Report 2017–2023*. Tashkent, 2024.
3. "Law on Tourism," Republic of Uzbekistan, August 20, 1992.
4. Presidential Decree No. PQ-4861, "On Measures for the Accelerated Development of Tourism," December 5, 2020.
5. *Uzbekistan–2030 Strategy*, Strategic Reforms Agency, Tashkent, 2023.