

**FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF LEGAL SUPPORT FOR TOURISM
IN UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract. The present article provides a comprehensive analysis of the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of tourism. The study is based on an examination of national regulatory and legal documents, as well as on scientific views and recommendations of foreign researchers, which made it possible to identify the main trends and distinctive features of legal regulation in the country's tourism sector.

In the course of the analysis, the key directions of state policy in the field of tourism were systematized. The priority areas include the development of tourism as a strategically important sector of the national economy; ensuring citizens' right to rest and freedom of movement; the rational use and preservation of tourism resources; the improvement of the regulatory and legal framework; and the creation of favorable conditions for the active development of domestic tourism.

Particular attention is given to the necessity of legal regulation of issues related to the organization of social tourism, the stimulation of investment activity, and the establishment of an attractive investment climate in the tourism industry. Furthermore, the article discusses prospects for expanding public-private partnerships and creating equal competitive conditions for all participants in the tourism services market.

Keywords: tourism, tourism potential, government, cultural heritage, legal regulation, legislative system.

**ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ ПРАВОВОГО ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЯ
ТУРИЗМА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ**

Аннотация. В представленной статье проведён всесторонний анализ современного законодательства Республики Узбекистан в сфере туризма. Исследование основано на изучении национальных нормативно-правовых документов, а также научных взглядов и рекомендаций зарубежных исследователей, что позволило определить основные тенденции и особенности правового регулирования туристической отрасли в стране.

В ходе анализа произведена систематизация ключевых направлений государственной политики в области туризма. К приоритетным из них относятся: развитие туризма как стратегически значимого сектора национальной экономики; обеспечение гражданам права на отдых и свободу передвижения; рациональное использование и сохранение туристических ресурсов; совершенствование нормативно-правовой базы; формирование благоприятных условий для активного развития внутреннего туризма.

Отдельное внимание уделено необходимости правового регулирования вопросов, связанных с организацией социального туризма, стимулированием инвестиционной активности и созданием привлекательного инвестиционного климата в туристической отрасли. Кроме того, в статье рассматриваются перспективы расширения государственно-частного партнёрства и формирования равных условий конкуренции для всех участников рынка туристических услуг.

Ключевые слова: туризм, туристический потенциал, правительство, культурное наследие, правовое регулирование, законодательная система.

Introduction. The development and improvement of economic relations in modern society necessitate the active participation of the state in regulating the key areas of socio-economic progress. The Republic of Uzbekistan, possessing significant potential, regards

tourism as one of the strategically important sectors of the national economy that contributes to strengthening economic stability, increasing budget revenues, and creating new employment opportunities. In the modern context, tourism functions not only as an economic but also as a socio-cultural phenomenon, playing a crucial role in reinforcing international relations and shaping a positive image of the country on the global stage.

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Tourism,” the main forms of tourism activity include international and domestic tourism. International tourism is divided into inbound, which encompasses travel by foreign citizens within Uzbekistan, and outbound, referring to trips of Uzbek citizens abroad. Domestic tourism involves travel by citizens residing permanently within the territory of the republic throughout the country. As repeatedly emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the development of tourism is one of the most promising directions capable of generating substantial revenue for the national economy and ensuring its sustainable growth.

Uzbekistan possesses a unique tourism potential, with more than 7.3 thousand sites of cultural heritage, many of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition to its rich historical and cultural legacy, the country benefits from favorable natural and climatic conditions and a diversity of landscapes, which provide broad opportunities for the development of various types of tourism — cultural, educational, ecological, extreme, and ethnographic. The effective use of these advantages requires sound state policy aimed at the rational management of resources and the formation of a sustainable tourism infrastructure.

International experience demonstrates that the successful development of tourism is possible only through active state participation in forecasting, coordination, and control processes. Countries that have become global tourism centers have established comprehensive management systems for the industry based on state strategic planning, investment support, and partnership development between public authorities and the private sector. In this context, Uzbekistan’s state policy in the field of tourism is oriented toward building a competitive, economically efficient, and socially significant tourism industry.

The main directions of Uzbekistan’s state policy in the tourism sector include the development of tourism as a strategic branch of the economy, ensuring citizens’ rights to rest and freedom of movement, the rational use and preservation of tourism resources, the improvement of the regulatory framework, and the creation of conditions necessary for the active development of domestic tourism. Special attention is given to the organization of social tourism aimed at involving children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low-income groups in tourism processes. Another priority area is attracting investments and creating a favorable investment climate, developing public–private partnerships, and ensuring equal competitive conditions in the tourism services market.

Systematic and purposeful state influence on the tourism sector is regarded as a key factor in sustainable economic growth and improved quality of life. Effective tourism management contributes not only to increased income and employment but also to the strengthening of cultural identity, regional development, and the stimulation of small and medium-sized enterprises. In this sense, tourism serves as an indicator of the degree of state involvement in the economy, reflecting the level of coordination between various sectors and the effectiveness of socio-economic policy implementation.

The authorized state body responsible for leadership and coordination in the tourism field is the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Tourism Development. Its functions include the implementation of a unified state policy, participation in the development and execution of state and regional programs, monitoring their implementation, formulating proposals to improve the visa regime and tourism legislation, and promoting the creation and certification of new tourist routes. Owing to the Committee’s activities, significant progress has been achieved in recent years: tourism infrastructure has been modernized, service quality has improved, and measures have been taken to ensure tourist safety and public order.

As a result of the ongoing measures, Uzbekistan is gradually transforming into one of the centers of international tourism, combining the cultural heritage of the ancient East with the modern capabilities of a hospitable state. The reforms undertaken to develop the tourism industry demonstrate the state's systematic approach to forming a sustainable tourism economy model, emphasizing innovation, investment attractiveness, and the preservation of the country's historical and cultural values.

According to the safety rating for tourists published by the French analytical portal *Insurly*, Uzbekistan ranked 46th globally and first among CIS countries, indicating a high level of safety and favorable conditions for travelers. Furthermore, various international publications have recognized Uzbekistan as one of the most attractive tourist destinations for 2020. In the previous year, 6.74 million foreign tourists visited the country, which represents a 125% increase compared to 2018 (5.346 million). The export of tourism services also showed positive dynamics: in 2019, it amounted to 1.313 billion USD, compared to 1.041 billion in 2018, marking a 26% growth.

In his address, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan emphasized the strategic importance of tourism for the national economy, noting: "We have set ourselves the goal of attracting up to 12 million foreign tourists annually. Therefore, the attention of the Government and local authorities should focus on improving tourism infrastructure, increasing the number of hotels, developing transport networks, and enhancing the quality of services provided" [5]. This direction of state policy reflects a comprehensive approach to industry development and the creation of conditions for sustainable growth and international competitiveness.

Tourist safety, as a key element of attractiveness, is also confirmed by the results of the *Global Law and Order* Index published by *Gallup* in November 2019. According to this study, Uzbekistan ranked fourth in the world, alongside Turkmenistan and Switzerland, while Singapore took first place, Tajikistan second, and Afghanistan last among 142 countries. Uzbekistan's high rating reflects public trust in law enforcement agencies and a stable socio-political environment, both of which are crucial for the sustainable development of the tourism industry.

Tourism in Uzbekistan is viewed as a complex and multifaceted system located at the intersection of various spheres of state governance — economic, legal, social, and environmental. It represents an object of comprehensive administrative and legal regulation, closely linked with such categories as national security, legal regulation, international cooperation, and environmental protection. The legal framework of tourism activities is defined by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism" and a substantial body of subordinate and strategic documents.

The regulatory and legal base of tourism consists of thirteen Presidential Decrees, fourteen Presidential Resolutions, forty-five Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, seven Resolutions of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, and numerous other legal acts regulating organizational, economic, and legal aspects of tourism. Collectively, these documents form the administrative and legal institution of tourism, defining its place in the national legal system and the state's legal policy.

This institution serves as an essential component of Uzbekistan's legal system, ensuring the interconnection between tourism legislation, national security, and international mechanisms for the protection of tourists. It plays a crucial role in creating conditions for effective market functioning, improving governance quality, developing infrastructure, and safeguarding the rights and legitimate interests of citizens and business entities engaged in tourism.

Thus, tourism can be regarded as an administrative and legal phenomenon integrating elements of state management, legal regulation, and socio-economic development aimed at forming a modern, competitive, and sustainable tourism system in Uzbekistan.

The independence and integrity of Uzbekistan's tourism sector are determined by a combination of internal and external systemic relationships that ensure its functioning and development.

Internal relations are based on national legislation regulating tourism activities within Uzbekistan and its administrative-territorial entities, representing the interrelation of all elements of the administrative-legal system aimed at implementing state tourism policy and protecting the rights of citizens and economic actors.

External systemic relations are shaped by international factors, including integration processes, treaties, agreements, and tourism standards. Together, these internal and external connections ensure the stability, integrity, and dynamic development of Uzbekistan's tourism system as part of the global tourism space.

Issues of administrative and legal regulation of tourism are widely reflected in the works of foreign researchers, enabling comparative analysis and the formulation of strategies to improve national legislation. For instance, L. E. Kalinina emphasizes that state tourism policy represents the activity of public authorities and organizations aimed at defining the forms, objectives, and content of tourism activity. This approach reflects the comprehensive nature of state tourism management, combining legal, organizational, and economic components.

E. L. Pisarevsky, in his research on the administrative and legal nature of tourism, concludes that the norms regulating tourism relations should be regarded as mandatory behavioral rules established by the state to govern social (tourism-related) relations associated with temporary travel beyond one's permanent residence for recreational, cultural, professional, business, sports, religious, and other purposes without engaging in labor activity in the host country. These norms encompass both the organization of tourism activities and the interaction of participants within them, confirming the universal nature of administrative and legal regulation in tourism.

Analyzing theoretical and normative foundations allows the conclusion that administrative and legal regulation of tourism constitutes one of the key types of sectoral legal regulation aimed at systematizing social relations within this sphere. It is implemented through the application of administrative-legal norms and instruments, as well as through the activities of specially authorized state bodies responsible for control, coordination, and development of the tourism industry.

The content of administrative and legal regulation in tourism includes the establishment of mandatory rules of conduct for all participants, the determination of their legal status, rights, obligations, and responsibilities, and the creation of legal mechanisms for interaction between state bodies and tourism market entities. The effectiveness of this regulation depends on the consistency of the legal framework, the sophistication of administrative procedures, and the ability of the state to maintain a balance between tourism business development and the protection of public interests.

Ultimately, the administrative and legal regulation of tourism in Uzbekistan can be viewed as an integrated process combining law-making, law enforcement, and public administration elements. This process aims to ensure sustainable tourism development, enhance competitiveness, and integrate the national tourism system into the international legal framework.

The effectiveness of administrative and legal regulation in the tourism sector largely depends on the quality of governance by public authorities vested with relevant powers. The methods and tools of state administration serve as key instruments for implementing tourism legislation, ensuring its efficiency and effectiveness. The timeliness and objectivity of administrative interventions directly determine the functionality of the regulatory mechanism, as well as the level of legal order and stability within the industry.

An especially important component of the administrative and legal system is the state's supervisory activity. Oversight of tourism legislation compliance is carried out through legal mechanisms such as licensing, certification, and classification of tourism entities. These procedures ensure uniform quality standards for tourism services, increase consumer trust, and strengthen the competitiveness of the domestic tourism market. The state's control function also aims to prevent legal violations, promote legal culture among tourism participants, and encourage fair business practices within the industry.

Another crucial element of the administrative and legal mechanism is the application of enforcement measures provided by tourism and administrative legislation. The implementation of administrative sanctions ensures compliance with legal requirements and protects the rights of citizens, tourism organizations, and the state. Such measures include administrative penalties, restrictions on activities, temporary suspension of licenses, and other actions aimed at restoring legal order and preventing violations in the tourism sector.

Conclusion. The analysis of the above-mentioned directions demonstrates that administrative and legal regulation of tourism represents a complex, systematically organized activity that includes legislative, managerial, supervisory, and law enforcement components. The need for an in-depth analysis of this system arises from practical objectives related to improving legislation, developing effective by-laws, clarifying the competencies and structure of state tourism management bodies, and optimizing their administrative methods and procedures. The current stage of socio-economic development requires the state to adopt more flexible and scientifically grounded management solutions aimed at enhancing regulatory efficiency, ensuring procedural transparency, strengthening legality, and developing a sustainable tourism infrastructure that meets international standards.

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