



# The Place And Importance Of Pilgrimage Tourism In The Tourism Industry

**Jakhongirov Kamoliddin  
Asomiddin ugli**

Intern teacher of the department of islamic economy and finance,  
pilgrimage tourism,  
International islamic academy of Uzbekistan,  
e-mail: [kamoliddin6564@gmail.com](mailto:kamoliddin6564@gmail.com)  
Tel. mobile: (97) 765-65

## ABSTRACT

The article describes the description of pilgrimage tourism and its essence. Also, statistical analyzes and forecasts are presented about the importance of pilgrimage tourism in the tourism industry today. In the conclusion, the role and importance of pilgrimage tourism in the quality of tourism in Uzbekistan is discussed.

## Keywords:

Tourism industry, transport and communication, mosque, church, tourist, religious attitude, "Halal", forecast, world market, infrastructure, intercity traveler, atmosphere, middle class, religious tourism, bidet, "Vision" program, sustainable tourism

The tourism industry is one of the main factors that serve the fastest development of the economy, it leads to the development of transport, food, hotels, trade, crafts, construction and other types of services. In addition, it serves to modernize the appearance of the country, to develop the hotel and restaurant industry, and to form connections between sectors such as transport and communication systems.

The global development of tourism brings the countries of the world closer together and is considered the most reliable and the strongest system for the activation of their mutual relations. The development of tourism has a positive effect on almost all sectors and leads to the dynamic growth of the country's economy. Also, the investment made in the field pays off in a short period of time, the opportunities of tourism companies expand, and the possibility of high profits serves to increase the volume of investments

attracted to the field. Therefore, many countries and businessmen pay great attention to the development of tourism.

Pilgrimage tourism is essentially the process of visiting places of pilgrimage. Pilgrimages are usually long journeys of days, weeks or even months for religious purposes. They are places where people of faith go to strengthen their relationship with their religion, encompassing a whole journey. Pilgrimage tourism may include visits to mosques and churches or other religious sites in a destination city or region. Pilgrimage tourism is a type of tourism that fully or strongly motivates tourists to achieve religious attitudes and customs.

Pilgrimage tourism, which is one of the traditional directions of tourism, is now gaining great importance. In particular, the rapid increase in the number of Muslim peoples and the constant growth of their incomes serve the rapid development of halal tourism. Therefore,

special attention is being paid to the organization of travel routes in accordance with Islamic Sharia, not only in Muslim countries, but also in a number of developed tourism countries of the world. In Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, and Malaysia, extensive reforms are being implemented to popularize halal tourism. Also, in the United States, Germany, England, France, Spain and other countries, tours that meet the standards of halal tourism are rapidly developing.

There are many types and forms of tourism, and pilgrimage tourism is one of the oldest and traditional tourist destinations. Muslims are the world's fastest-growing religious group, with an expanding middle class with high purchasing power. Also, there are common shared values among Muslims, which are much stronger than those of other communities that satisfy their needs. During 2018, the number of Muslim tourists worldwide reached 140 million, and their expenses amounted to 177 billion. dollar was equal to 274 billion in 2023. dollar was predicted to be. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this prediction did not come true. Experts say that the countries that benefit the most from Muslim tourists belong to the Middle East region. According to the Pew Research Center, by 2060, 3 billion people will identify themselves as Muslims, which is one in three people on earth. According to the results of the study called Global Economic Impact Of Muslim Tourism And Future Growth Projection: 2017-2020 economic level is estimated to increase from 32 percent to 70 percent.

The largest share in the field of Muslim tourism belongs to Asian countries. In 2019, their total expenditure amounted to more than 25 billion dollars. Muslims from Indonesia, China and Malaysia accounted for the most active tourists. Their expenses accounted for 17 percent of the total volume of expenses in the field of tourism among Muslim countries.

80 percent of Muslim tourism in the world market corresponds to 19 countries. This covers not only Muslim regions, but also a number of countries with developed tourism.

In 2019, due to Muslim tourism, the share of tourism in the GDP of these countries is 148 billion. dollars, and the employment of the population in this field was 4.7 million people. According to forecasts, this indicator will grow to 183 billion in 2020, and 5.6 million people will be involved in the halal tourism industry, and 300 thousand people will be employed in the field of Muslim tourism in the United States, and the total income of this industry will be 43 billion US dollars. was expected to be established. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this prediction did not come true.

Currently, the forecast of experts Muslims are expected to make up 25% of the world's population by 2030 and become the fastest growing religious community in the world. In the markets of some Muslim countries, a materially prosperous middle class is forming due to the growth of purchasing power and the increase in the number of new buyers. As a result, the share of Muslim tourists in international tourism will increase.

The majority of Muslim tourists travel to countries where the majority of the population is Muslim, including 60% of them to Asia (including the Middle East). In turn, Germany is one of the most popular destinations in Europe for Muslim travelers.

In the direction of their travel, first of all, intercity travel is followed by leisure and business travel. 10% of all trips are made for religious purposes or pilgrimage.

Although the number of Muslim travelers is growing at a high rate, the average percentage of female travelers has not increased. Muslim travelers are quite young, with 75% between the ages of 25 and 44. Most of them are people with higher education.

Activities of Muslim travelers: Visiting cities or making purchases during trips, paying more attention to attractions and museums.

Halal tourism is important for Muslim travelers in pilgrimage tourism. About this, Fazal Bahardin, manager of CrescentRating, "the world's leading expert on halal tourism - "The difference of Muslims is in the common values, which are stronger than those of other communities, regardless of their nationality. The concept of halal refers to everything that

conforms to traditional Islamic laws. In the tourism sector, it is necessary to meet certain faith-based needs, such as preparing food according to halal rules, adjusting meal times during Ramadan, opening mosques, providing separate swimming pools for men and women, and offering entertainment programs for Muslims. "It is understood to do."

Hajj and Umrah are the most important pilgrimages of Muslims. About eight million people from about two hundred countries visit Saudi Arabia every year to perform these two pilgrimages. Foreigners in these pilgrimages make up more than eighty percent of all pilgrims. Due to high demand, there is a quota for each country and a five-year moratorium on pilgrims. Saudi Arabia plans to increase the number of pilgrims to thirty million as part of the "Vision 2030" program.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest exporter of fossil fuels, and the country has a large infrastructure, all the necessary amenities for visitors, and modern technology. The country is using all modern technologies to implement the Vision 2030 program and provide high-level services to Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. The goal is to increase the number of Umrah pilgrims to 30 million by 2030, and to increase the number of Hajj pilgrims to five million by 2030.

Every year Mastercard & Crescentrating publishes reports on "Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI)" on tourist destinations with favorable conditions for Muslims. According to the results of 2019, Malaysia was recognized as the best tourist destination for Muslim tourists for the ninth time. In recent years, Indonesia has improved its performance on this index and is equal to Malaysia. The next places are occupied by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE.

International intercity travel is one of the fastest growing tourism destinations, and its share of the total tourism market has quadrupled between 2007 and 2017. In 2017 alone, 190 mln. the tourist organized a cross-

city trip. Most travelers on this tourist route travel to the cities of developed countries.

Tourists spend more money during intercity travel than in other tourist destinations. The average daily cost of one tourist during this trip is 170 euros. Also, 70% of travelers use air transport and hotel services during their intercity trip. This type of travel differs from other tourist destinations in that it requires a high-level tourist infrastructure. Therefore, most travelers (60% of intercity travelers) prefer the European continent.

Intercity travelers are mainly young and middle-aged people, as well as high-income, intelligent people. The main directions of his activity: visiting places of interest, sightseeing, enjoying the atmosphere in the city, shopping, good food and drink are among them. In recent years, this type of travel has been developing in Asia, the Pacific Ocean, and South America. Growth in Asia is particularly driven by Chinese, Korean and Japanese intercity tour operators.

Travel by Europeans to cities more than doubled between 2007 and 2017, while in North America out-of-town travel tripled over the past decade. This situation can be explained by the different lifestyles in the regions.

Another such high-growth tourism segment is halal tourism. Muslims are the world's fastest-growing religious group, and the middle class, with its high purchasing power, is expanding. Also, there are common shared values among Muslims, which are much stronger than those of other communities that satisfy their needs.

Pilgrimage tourism, which is one of the traditional directions of tourism, is now gaining great importance. In particular, the rapid increase in the number of Muslim peoples and the constant growth of their incomes serve the rapid development of halal tourism. In the East, "pilgrimage" means "visiting holy places" and includes religious tourism in the direction of sightseeing and education.

2000	25 mln.
2010	98 mln.
2018	140 mln.
2026	230 mln.

## Growth of Muslim beaches in 2000-2026, mln. person

In 2018, 150 million Muslims traveled around the world. According to the Mastercard-Crescent Rating Digital Muslim Travel Report 2018, Muslim travelers are projected to spend \$360 billion on their travels by 2026.

In recent years, in addition to halal dining and places to pray, two new major needs have emerged for Muslim travelers. These are: environments without ablution rooms and prayer rooms.

Halal food is the most important service a Muslim traveler uses while traveling. Because guarantees of halal food products are important among Muslim travelers. The presence of halal grocery stores is favorable to Muslims and reduces suspicion and helps to identify halal products correctly and easily.

Namaz is the most important prayer in Islam, and it is the second of the five pillars of Islam. Therefore, the existence of prayer rooms oriented towards the Qibla is very important for Muslim travel.

For Muslims, water plays an important role in purification. This requires the use of water in the toilet. Accordingly, places without access to water create inconvenience for Muslim travelers. Creating such comfort is now becoming more difficult with the widespread use of hand showers, bidets, and Japanese-style toilets.

In addition, provision of the following three needs for Muslim beaches has been found to affect the growth of tourist flow. These are: social reasons, Ramadan services and local people's experience of Muslim tourists.

**Social reasons** The main condition of the Islamic faith is social justice. Social causes include improving local livelihoods, environmental protection, and environmentally friendly tourism practices. Because of their faith and commitment to cleanliness, Muslims feel a sense of social responsibility during their travels.

Although Muslims are less likely to travel during Ramadan, many are looking to spend this time away from home, especially when it falls on school holidays. In addition, Muslims are getting more and more holidays on two

holidays. During this period, in order to attract Muslim travelers, it is necessary to organize services for the month of fasting.

Local people's experience of the needs of Muslim travelers creates a range of opportunities during travel. This can include visiting Islamic heritage sites, interacting with local Muslim communities at a local mosque, or consulting a Muslim travel guide for the country.

Much attention is being paid to pilgrimage tourism in Uzbekistan. Also, this type of tourism is a sustainable type of tourism in our country. According to statistics, the number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan from distant foreign countries is increasing year by year. In particular, in 2018, 325,000 tourists from distant foreign countries visited, and 35% of them, i.e. 115,000, are Muslim tourists. In 2020, a total of 83,000 tourists from foreign countries visited our country, of which the number of Muslim tourists was 49,787 (59%).

Due to the 2019 COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism industry in Uzbekistan has also been disrupted. Airports stopped receiving aircraft. Most of the employees who provide services in the tourism sector have lost their jobs.

However, even in the conditions of the pandemic, some effective work was done to restore tourism in our country, in particular, to establish domestic tourism and develop pilgrimage tourism. In particular, on May 28, 2020, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-6002 "On urgent measures to support the tourism sector to reduce the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic", Decision No. 433 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 10, 2020 "On measures to create favorable conditions for the restoration and development of the tourism industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan".

Also, as of March 15, 2021, a visa-free regime was implemented for 90 foreign countries. From July 15, 2018, the system of issuing electronic entry visas was launched, and citizens of 57 countries had the opportunity to use this system.

Today, Uzbekistan has the potential and opportunities to develop almost all types of tourism. In particular, there are sufficient opportunities for the development of pilgrimage tourism, and Uzbekistan is located in the heart of the Great Silk Road. This is why trade has developed in our country since ancient times

is one of the main reasons. Uzbekistan is a country rich in historical and cultural monuments.

In addition, implementation of halal standards in restaurants and cafes is being carried out in Uzbekistan, temples for Muslims have been allocated at international airports and railway stations. The national airline "Uzbekistan Airlines" launched a flight between Tashkent and Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) for visiting the main shrines of Muslims. With its rich cultural and historical heritage, Uzbekistan has great potential for developing halal tourism and entering the Islamic tourism market, and it is the home of Imam Al-Bukhari, Bahauddin Naqshbandi and many other famous scholars in the Islamic world. Currently, the magnificent monuments of ancient architecture and manuscripts are preserved in the country, increasing the country's tourism potential, attracting many tourists from Muslim countries and providing an opportunity to develop pilgrimage tourism.

In conclusion, we can say that pilgrimage tourism is a promising direction in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan with its rich cultural and spiritual heritage, architectural and visual arts, historical monuments, and Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari, Muhammad Musa Khorezmi, Abu Nasr Farabi, Ahmad al-Farghani, Many famous and great ancestors of ours, such as Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Abu Rayhan Beruni, Ahmad Yasavi, Abu Isa al-Tirmizi, Mirza Ulughbek, Bahauddin Naqshband, Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, Babur, attracted world scientists and tourists. has been attracting. This means great potential. Taking into account that the majority of tourists are elderly, we can say that the development of pilgrimage tourism in our country is a promising direction.

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