

# Revival of Pilgrimage Tourism at the Crossroads of the Great Silk Road

## (By the Example of the Tashkent Oasis)

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**Abstract:** In the article, the author analyzed the possibilities of pilgrimage tourism in the Tashkent region, and the topic was highlighted on the example of one of the places of pilgrimage centers in the Machit Ali region, located in the Parkent district.

**Key words:** Tashkent oasis, Great Silk Road, tourism, people, country, pilgrimage tourism, ecotourism, UNESCO, prophet.

Uzbekistan is one of the Central Asian countries with a relatively large tourism potential, a high level of competition and the potential for further development of tourism. Today in Uzbekistan, much attention is paid to the cardinal renewal of the country's tourism potential, the implementation of a unified state policy in the formation of tourism infrastructure, the popularization of the rich historical and cultural heritage of our people, ensuring safe tourism in our country, bringing national tourism products to the population. There are more than 7,300 cultural heritage sites in the country, 209 of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The historical material and spiritual heritage, customs and traditions, rituals and holidays of the Uzbek people were formed and improved in the process of historical development, passed down from ancestors to the present day, and the Great Silk Road was an important factor in intercultural communication.

The Tashkent oasis is known throughout the world not only for its high economic and political status, but also for the great scientists, saints and shrines who were born and raised on this land. Along with trade, cultural and scientific exchanges, pilgrimage ceremonies were held along the Great Silk Road. In particular, caravan traders visited the shrines before and after the long journey. One of the shrines located on such a trade route is located in the village of Kumushkon in the Parkent district of the Tashkent region, where famous silver mines were located in the 9th-11th centuries. Therefore, this corner of the Parkent district is one of the historical and natural zones of the Tashkent oasis. The place of pilgrimage Masjid Ali is named after Hazrat Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.v.). It is known that the descendants of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), glorified by the Muslim community as "Ahl al-Bayt", are the successors of the "sayyids" after the Noble Messenger.

In 2010, the shrine was rebuilt on the basis of oriental architecture. A mosque with a blue dome, a mausoleum, a minaret, a corridor leading to the shrine, a kitchen for pilgrims, a birdhouse for sacrifices and rest rooms were built, turning into a unique shrine. The mosque at the Ali-Khram mosque is the highest mosque in Uzbekistan.

Despite the fact that pilgrimage tourism is one of the new destinations in our country, mainly for Muslim travelers, the services offered in this direction are also attractive to non-Muslim travelers due to their moderate price, safety, cleanliness, convenience for family travel.

In the long-term plan for the development of pilgrimage tourism in the Tashkent region, it is advisable to put into practice:

- To further increase the tourism potential, it is necessary to develop virtual tourism programs in 3D format for all tourist sites in the country. Thanks to the program, tourists will have the opportunity to get acquainted with historical monuments and receive information about the object they want to visit.
- Increasing the number of investment projects in the field of tourism in the Tashkent region;
- Increasing the flow of tourists through regional cooperation.

- It is necessary to develop and implement programs to support small and medium-sized businesses in the tourism sector;
- Enrichment of the direction of pilgrimage tourism with additional directions, linking with ecotourism, gastronomic tourism, agrotourism, shopping and others.

In conclusion, the Tashkent region is a region with great potential for the development of not only pilgrimage tourism, but also ecotourism, sports tourism, and medical tourism. The Great Silk Road project will promote the development of tourism in the region, provide employment, increase foreign exchange earnings, increase GDP and increase the country's export potential, ensure the stability of foreign exchange earnings and foreign trade balance.

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