



中国传媒大学  
COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY OF CHINA



Institute for a Community  
with Shared Future  
人类命运共同体研究院



## Exploring Uzbekistan



By Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director,  
Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared  
Future, jointly established with Communication  
University of China (CUC), Beijing, China

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Uzbekistan is aiming to attract nearly 10 million foreign and local tourists annually until 2025. The country has 8.4 thousand cultural heritage sites and 122 museums, which contribute a lot for attracting tourists. The Government of Uzbekistan has made commendable progress in preserving its Silk Road heritage, particularly in the regions of Karakalpakstan, Andijan, Kashkadarya, Jizzakh, Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, and Tashkent. The cities of Samarkand, Khiva, and Bukhara, located at the heart of ancient Silk trade route,



are the main cultural hubs of East-West civilization. These cities boast ancient palaces, mausoleums, and minarets. Uzbekistan's tourism sector is rapidly growing and holds significant importance in economic terms. The visionary leadership of Uzbekistan actively welcomes tourists, promotes tourism development, and allows foreigners access to the country's rich cultural and historical heritage.

### **International Tourism**

Uzbekistan's commitment for strengthening its tourism sector and showcasing its rich cultural heritage and natural wonders to a global audience, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has abolished visa requirements for citizens from more than 90 countries to enhance tourism. In 2023, Uzbekistan will implement measures to obtain the status of the city of

Shakhrisabz as the "ECO Tourism Capital for 2024". Additionally, Samarkand will make history by hosting the 25th General Assembly of the UNWTO, a significant event aimed at promoting Uzbekistan as a tourism hub for international tourists. As part of this initiative, the resolution includes plans for



the preparation and widespread distribution of photo and video materials showcasing the lifestyle of the Uzbek people, the International Tourist Center "Silk Road Samarkand," cultural heritage sites, tourism infrastructure, and ecotourism offerings.

Moreover, promotional materials highlighting "Samarkand: The Tourist Gate of New Uzbekistan" will be created to further attract travellers from around the world.

### Most Attractive Places

In Uzbekistan, numerous regions boast unique



landscapes and historical attractions, captivating for both domestic and international

visitors. These diverse areas attract a diverse range of tourists. As a result, the tourism industry is thriving, and the country's reputation as a desirable travel destination continues to grow

**Karakalpakstan** is known as the Cross of Civilizations, with a mix of cultures and civilizations. Its strategic location along the Silk Road facilitated the blending of Turkic, Persian, and Central Asian influences. Visitors can



explore the Karakalpak State Museum of Art, which showcases ancient artefacts and traditional crafts and exemplifies the region's cultural crossroads.

**Samarkand**, often called the jewel of the Silk Road, is a city that embodies the connection between East and West civilizations. It is home to awe-inspiring architectural marvels such as the Registan



Square, the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, and the Shah-i-Zinda complex. Samarkand showcases

a blend of Persian, Islamic, and Central Asian architectural styles. This grand city, the Pearl of the East, became more beautiful when Tamerlan took power. Samarkand is on the UNESCO World Heritage List with all its priceless architecture and historical treasures.

**Jizzakh**, located in central Uzbekistan, offers a more laid-back atmosphere compared to some other tourist hotspots. This region is characterized by beautiful



landscapes, traditional villages, and historical sites like the Sharaf Rashidov Memorial Museum, providing insight into the region's rich heritage.

The **Tian Shan** Mountains add a touch of natural beauty to Uzbekistan. With snow-capped peaks, lush valleys, and serene lakes, this mountain range is a paradise for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. **Bukhara**, one of the oldest cities in Central Asia, is renowned as a centre of Islamic civilization. Its well-preserved historical monuments, such as the Kalon Minaret, Po-i-Kalyan Complex, and Ark of Bukhara, showcase Islamic architectural brilliance and cultural heritage.

**Surkhandarya** houses ancient sites like Termez, a city with a history dating back to the 2nd century BC. The region is known for its archaeological treasures and religious monuments, like the Al-



Hakim at-Termezi mausoleum. **Andijan**, the birthplace of Babur, holds significant historical importance for South and Central Asians. The Babur Museum and other heritage sites in the region provide insights.

**The Fergana Valley**, encompassing parts of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, is a fertile region known for its agricultural significance. With picturesque landscapes, bustling bazaars, and traditional crafts, the valley offers a glimpse into local life and culture.



### **New Initiatives of the Uzbek Government**

The transformation of tourism into a strategic sector of the economy is a priority task of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan (2022–2026). The reform in the tourism sector started in 2016 as a crucial part of the country's wide-ranging transformations. It aligns with the priority goals of the country's socio-economic development and aims to



foster economic growth, positioning Uzbekistan as an attractive global tourism centre and a unique destination in the world. Recently, Uzbekistan has achieved positive results in the implementation of its tourism development strategy, thanks to effective decisions made and implemented at various levels. These decisions involve the adoption of development strategies, concepts, road maps, the improvement of the regulatory framework, comprehensive programs, and priority measures. Additionally, the creation of effective mechanisms and institutions helps achieve the intended goals.

Furthermore, the government has allocated approximately \$17.8 million for tourism development from 2024 to 2025, demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the tourism sector's growth and potential.

Uzbekistan's tourism sector has witnessed remarkable development, transforming it into an international tourist destination. Uzbekistan has made a lot of efforts to preserve its historical and cultural heritage, create attractive tourist destinations, and promote itself on the international stage, which have yielded impressive results.

The country has successfully attracted a growing number of tourists from around the world, contributing significantly to economic growth and connectivity and positioning itself as a captivating destination for all.