

PROSPECTS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN ANDIJON REGION

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Abstract

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the theoretical foundations, current status, existing opportunities, and challenges to be addressed for tourism development in Andijan region. Additionally, in the context of global trends in modern tourism, strategic measures necessary to transform Andijan into a competitive tourist zone are proposed. At the end of the article, the author offers specific suggestions and recommendations.

Keywords: tourism, Andijan region, cultural heritage, infrastructure, ecotourism, economic development, domestic tourism, innovative technologies.

Introduction

Today, tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the global economy. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the number of tourists worldwide exceeded 1.3 billion in 2023. The Government of Uzbekistan is implementing wide-ranging measures to make tourism a priority sector of the national economy. In this process, developing tourism in regions, especially Andijan, based on its unique natural, historical, and cultural resources, is a pressing issue. Region boasts rich historical heritage, great scholars, ancient crafts, beautiful natural landscapes, and hospitable people, all offering significant potential for tourism. However, these opportunities are not yet fully utilized. This article scientifically analyzes these issues.

Main Part

Analysis of Tourism Resources in Andijan Region. Tourism resources in Andijan can be divided into the following groups:

Natural resources: Khanabad mountainous areas, Oltinko'l water reservoir, ecotourism sites in Bo'z district.

Ecotourism in Bo'z District

Geographical Location and Natural Landscape. Bo'z district is located approximately 500 meters above sea level, consisting mainly of plains of the eastern Fergana Valley, with unique sand dunes and swampy deserts. This natural landscape offers attractive weather conditions for ecotourists. **Tourism Potential of Shahrikhonsoy Canal.** The Shahrikhonsoy canal runs through Bo'z for 5.5 km. There are 114 recreational plots, with 20 currently operational. Projects are based on mass eco- and agro-tourism concepts. Recreation areas are harmoniously integrated with nature and include hydrolocations, plantations, container houses, yurts, and picnic zones. **Forest Fund Area in Bo'ston District.** The Forestry Department leases 6.5 hectares to the public. Family guesthouses, walking trails, and natural bathing sites are planned here, providing tourists with an ecologically clean environment for rest. **Eco-Agro Tourism and Current Status.** Existing eco-agro tourism projects in the district promote national cuisine, crafts, practical gardens, and organic farming, providing local residents with income and tourists with authentic local experiences. **Historical and Cultural Heritage:** Z.M. Bobur Museum, Jome Mosque, Old City architecture.

Cultural and Craft Traditions: Atlas and adras weaving, copper work, wood carving, pottery, knife making.

Direction	Recommendations
Ecological monitoring	Establish flora and fauna monitoring involving botanists and ecological specialists
Sustainable management	Introduce responsible management and leasing systems in cooperation with Forestry Department and local authorities
Renewable technologies	Implement solar panels and simple waste filtration systems
Education and promotion	Create excursion routes and ecological education centers for ecotourists
Marketing strategy	Active eco-marketing on Andijan tourism portal and social media, strengthen international cooperation
Infrastructure	Develop roads and sufficient transport to railways; modernize water, sewage, and electricity networks

Ecotourism in Khanabad City

Geographical and Climatic Potential. Khanabad is located in the eastern part of Andijan region on the banks of the Qoradaryo River, approximately 850



meters above sea level. Known as the "Switzerland of Uzbekistan," it features clean air and a climate suitable for health improvement.

Health and Ecotourism Facilities

Khanabad health resort specializes in treating cardiovascular, respiratory, and nervous system diseases and is equipped with modern equipment.

Fozilmon ota pilgrimage site offers conditions for tourists and pilgrims to rest.

Artificial lake project in Kampirovot neighborhood covers 66 hectares including family guesthouses and entertainment venues.

Bicycle rental (XONOBOD BAYK) operates with 100 bicycles introduced by Elegant Innovation LLC as part of eco-friendly initiatives.

20 modern sanitation and hygiene points have been commissioned.

Official Forum and International Attention

The 1st International Ecotourism Forum ("Khanabad wellness resort") was held in October 2022 in Khanabad, discussing ecotourism potentials internationally.

Experts and scholars from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and other countries participated, positively evaluating Khanabad's clean air, nature, and tourism infrastructure.

Statistical Opportunities and Development Plans

Currently, the city has about 11 tourist sites, 3 recreation parks, 5 sports facilities, and thousands of summer houses.

Planned projects include mineral water production, a 50-room hotel, and a water park.

By 2025, plans include 3 Life hotels, 9 family guesthouses, 4 hostels, and 3,000 tourist beds.

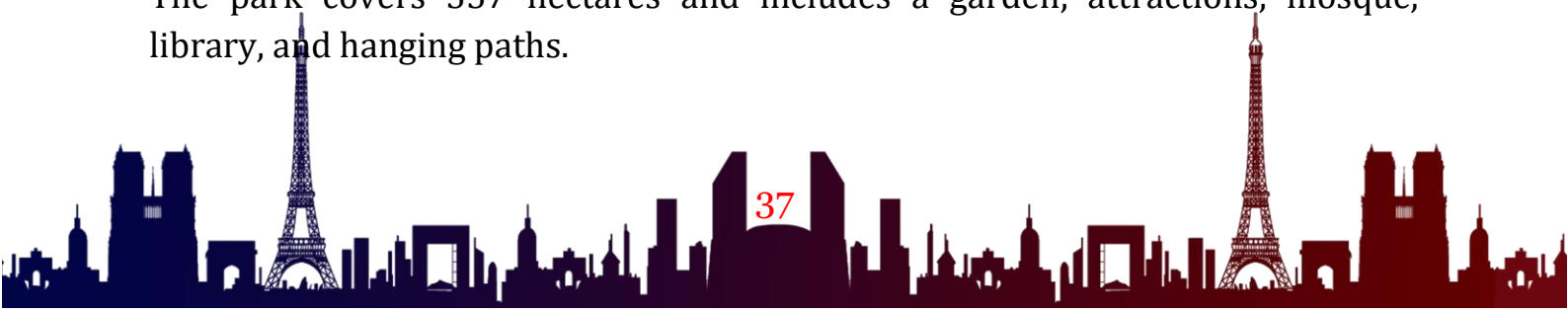
There are 23 different health springs in the city, each with unique natural properties.

Historical and Cultural Heritage

Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur Museum and Bog'ishamol Park

Located on the Bog'ishamol hill where Bobur rested, the museum was opened in 1990 in a building that was originally a madrasa rebuilt in the late 18th century.

The exterior features wide stairs, a central blue dome, and oriental mosaics. The park covers 357 hectares and includes a garden, attractions, mosque, library, and hanging paths.



The museum holds Bobur's manuscripts, diplomatic letters, gifts, miniatures, and works by his daughter Gulbadanbegim. Tours use interactive kiosks and audio guides.

A symbolic mausoleum on the hill contains soil from Agra and Kabul pilgrimage sites.

Andijan Jome Mosque Complex

Built between 1883–1890, the complex includes a mosque, madrasa, and minaret. The madrasa is 123 meters long, U-shaped, decorated with wood lattice and oriental ornaments. The mosque has a rectangular courtyard with iwans on three sides. The minaret is 32 meters tall, the tallest in the Fergana Valley. The buildings were restored in 1971–1974 and 1999–2000; a new expanded complex accommodating 15,000 people was added in 2018. The complex also houses the Andijan Literature and Art Museum.

Old City Architecture: Devonaboy Mosque

Built in 1899 by merchant Devonaboy, restored in 2018, currently accommodates about 5,000 worshippers.

It is one of the central landmarks in the Old City, located five minutes on foot from the Jome complex and Old Bazaar.

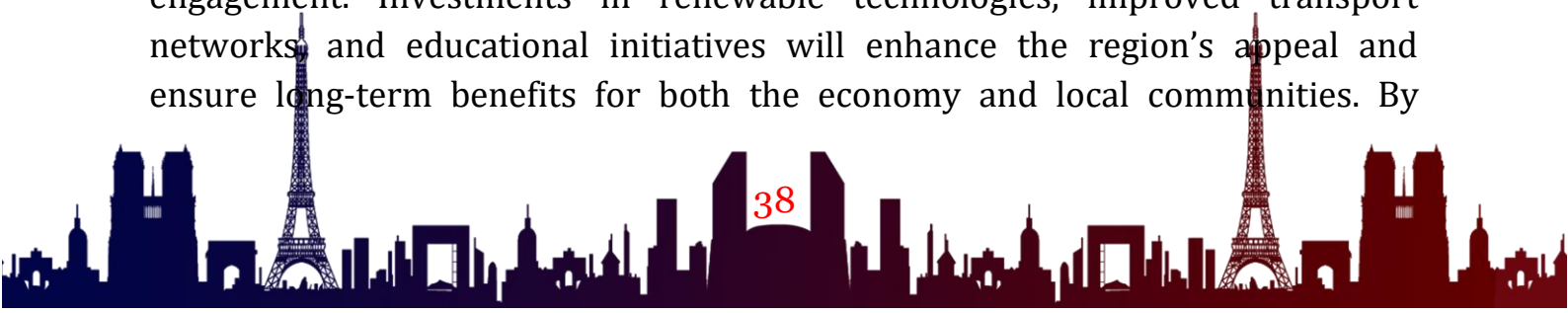
The mosque complex includes a library and computer room available to tourists.

Devonaboy Mosque represents the inseparable part of Andijon's historical and cultural heritage, blending traditional architecture with modern elements.

Its current appearance was constructed between 2005–2011 by renowned masters. Renovations were led by chief imam Muhammad Sodiq Qori with support from Muslim charitable donations.

Conclusion

The Andijon region holds vast untapped potential to become a significant tourist destination in Uzbekistan. Its rich combination of natural beauty, historical monuments, vibrant cultural traditions, and growing infrastructure create a strong foundation for tourism development. Ecotourism projects in Bo'z and Xonobod, along with historical sites like the Z.M. Bobur Museum and Jome Mosque, offer diverse attractions for both domestic and international visitors. However, fully realizing this potential requires coordinated efforts in ecological sustainability, infrastructure modernization, marketing, and community engagement. Investments in renewable technologies, improved transport networks, and educational initiatives will enhance the region's appeal and ensure long-term benefits for both the economy and local communities. By



embracing innovation while preserving cultural heritage and natural resources, Andijon can emerge as a model for sustainable and inclusive tourism development in Central Asia.

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