



## The Importance of Pilgrimage in Tourism

**Kosimov Jakhongir**

*Teacher of KarSU*

**Fayzullayeva Oysha**

*Student of KarSU*

### Abstract

Pilgrimage tourism is essentially the process of visiting pilgrimage sites. These are primarily religious destinations, and can even be said to have formed a very early version of tourism. Typically, pilgrimages are long journeys taken over days, weeks or even months for religious purposes. They are a whole journey, one that people of faith take in order to strengthen their relationship with their religion. However, pilgrimage tourism can include visits to specific churches or mosques or other religious landmarks in the city you might be visiting on holiday. It doesn't have to be a long-drawn-out journey (a typical pilgrimage), it can be a quick visit that forms part of any other kind of tourism.

**Keywords:** Tourism, Prayers, Transportation, Special Tours, Muslim countries.

### Introduction

When talking about the importance of pilgrimage tourism, we can split this in two. How important is pilgrimage tourism for the destination, and how important is pilgrimage tourism for the pilgrims themselves?

Traditional pilgrimages are important to many people. They are linked to almost all religions across the globe; people travel to certain destinations to experience religious enlightenment. The journey itself, often long and sometimes difficult, is a chance to reflect. Whether taken alone or in a group, a pilgrimage is something that helps people in some way. This might be something people choose to do after a loss: being alone with your grief as you journey to somewhere spiritual can be a great way to healing. Or, you might just want to change your life in some way. The chance for reflection and being alone with your thoughts for days at a time might help you make a tough decision that you've been pondering on for a while. If you're trying to decide whether to take a new job, for example, or whether to stay in your relationship and so on. Big life decisions are often made during pilgrimages!

Pilgrimages can be a way to deepen your relationship with your religion too. It is a way of showing how dedicated you are to your faith, certainly, and it is a chance to learn more about the religion itself. Pilgrimages tend to echo the footsteps of prominent figures from different religions, or they end at somewhere that is very significant.



Another reason why pilgrimages are so important to so many people is that it can be a chance to ask for forgiveness of, or seek a favour from, the deity you worship. Because the destination tends to be such a holy place, many people believe that praying here means there is a higher chance of your prayer being answered.

**The main part:** Pilgrimage tourism is all about going somewhere. There are many destinations that are popular with pilgrims, as they hold such significance for different religions. As with any type of tourism, pilgrimage tourism has a huge economic impact. Some pilgrimage destinations and locations rely entirely on this kind of tourism for their income. This, in turn, is passed on to the surrounding areas. B&Bs get bookings, restaurants see more foot traffic, local shops gain customers. Jobs are created: for tour guides, for people making handmade souvenirs, for photographers and so much more.

Pilgrimage Tourism has emerged as an instrument for employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development. Pilgrimage Tourism promotes international understanding and gives support to local handicrafts and cultural activities. It is an important segment of the country's economy, especially in terms of its contribution towards foreign exchange earnings, generation of additional income and creation of employment opportunities. The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the year 2000 were estimated at about Rs. 14,408 crores with an estimated direct employment of about 15 million, which is about 2.4% of the total labor force of the country. Pilgrimage Tourism is the third largest foreign exchange earner for India. The International tourist traffic in the country is estimated to be 2.64 million during the year 2000. However, according to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), India's share in world tourism arrivals is only 0.38%, accounting for 0.62% of the world tourist receipts. This indicates that much of the tourist potential is yet to be tapped. With rapid advances in Science & Technology, tourism has acquired the status of an industry in all industrialized countries. The high influx of foreign tourist traffic has accelerated demand for certain economic production and distribution activities. Pilgrimage Tourism has emerged as an industry next in importance only to Information Technology industry in the Services sector. By 2012, the contribution of pilgrimage Tourism to the world economy will be doubled. The economic liberalization in India and consequent foreign investment opportunities, development of tourist facilities including expansion in air-line services, etc. provide an impetus for a spurt in tourist arrivals as in South Asian regions. Domestic pilgrimage tourism plays a vital role in achieving the national objectives of promoting social and cultural cohesion and national integration. Its contribution to generation of employment is very high. With the increase in income levels and emergence of a powerful middle class, the potential for domestic pilgrimage tourism has grown substantially during the last few years. Realising the importance of pilgrimage tourism, the Government of Tamil Nadu has accorded high priority to pilgrimage tourism promotion and has taken initiatives to improve/ create infrastructure in tourism potential centres and geared to encourage private sector investment in this regard.

Religious tourism is a certain type of tourism, which is aimed at getting acquainted with the monuments of religious culture. A tourist traveling for religious purposes is a person who travels outside the usual environment for a period of at least a year to visit religious centers.



Religious tourism has a long history. The first recorded information about travels with cult purposes dates back to the period of antiquity. The inhabitants of ancient Greece and Rome revered the gods and gathered in sanctuaries and temples. The most significant was the temple in Delphi, where travelers came to learn the prophecy of the priestess-soothsayer Pythia.

The crisis of traditional religions, the fascination of Western society with Eastern cults, religious fundamentalism, primarily in Islam, the original "religious renaissance" in Russia, all this has changed the attitude towards religious tourism at the present time. Religious tourism is divided into 2 types: pilgrimage tourism and religious tourism of excursion and educational orientation. The organization of tourist trips within their framework contains important features. The very concept of pilgrimage tourism - trips of believers to religious shrines - is denied by most of those involved in its organization: for them, "pilgrimage" and "tourism" have different meanings.

Another type of religious tourism is excursion and educational tours, where religious objects are considered as cultural monuments, part of the cultural and historical heritage of a particular people.

Tourists get acquainted with religious buildings, museums and exhibitions, attend church services, participate in religious events (processions, meditations, etc.). A number of restrictions have been introduced for tourists: a certain type of clothing for sightseers, restrictions for representatives of other religious denominations, etc. Also, tourists on sightseeing and educational trips widely use the existing infrastructure (accommodated in hotels, eat in cafes and restaurants, etc.). Excursion and educational trips are short-term, they do not coincide with religious holidays, people of different ages participate in them.

Another type of tourism activity is scientific tourism of religious themes. This area includes trips of culturologists, ethnographers, religious scholars, historians, archaeologists, undertaken for research purposes. Scientists are interested in religious objects, sacred texts, traditions and legends. In order to study them, special expeditions are often organized. Scientists visit not only world religious centers (Vatican, Jerusalem, Mecca), but also the lands of now non-existent religions (ancient Egyptian, ancient Greek, ancient Roman, etc.)

The most popular destination among Christians at present is the holy land of Israel, where Jesus Christ was born and suffered on the cross. A large number of Christian pilgrims come to Israel at Christmas and Easter to visit the main shrines: the sacred Mount Sinai, Nazareth, Bethlehem (Church of the Nativity), Jerusalem - the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, the Monastery of the Sisters of Zion, the Franciscan Chapel, Golgotha, Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Another major center of Christian pilgrimage is the Vatican, the main shrine of which is St. Peter's Cathedral, built in 1506 in honor of the Apostle Peter and painted by Raphael and Michelangelo. During excavations of the dungeons of the cathedral, a tomb was found, where, according to believers, the relics of the immaculate great martyr rest. The tomb of the apostle is of particular importance for Christians. According to legend, touching the tombstone with any object, he will acquire the miraculous power of a talisman [2, 3]. Also, if you touch the right foot of Peter,



you can get the remission of all sins. In the center of the cathedral, under a large bronze canopy, is the altar of St. Peter, where 95 candles are burning.

Thus, pilgrimage is the way of believers to holy places for worship. The main purpose of the pilgrimage is to perform a religious rite, worship a holy place, relics; spiritual perfection; receiving grace, spiritual and physical healing. The main difference between pilgrimages and religious excursion tours lies in their purpose. Religious tourism is part of the modern tourism industry. Cathedrals and mosques, holy places and spiritual centers are the objects that are of the greatest interest to tourists at the present time. Increasingly, religious trips have begun to be undertaken, but the very process of movement and residence of tourists in a "wild" way still creates certain restrictions for this type of tourism.

The term "religious tourism" is often used as a synonym for the word "pilgrimage". Speaking about pilgrimage and religious tourism, it is necessary to determine the terminology and features of their use in tourism and church practice.

The very concept of pilgrimage tourism - trips of believers to religious shrines - is denied by very many of those who organize it: for them, "pilgrimage" and "tourism" are different concepts, sometimes even mutually exclusive. Therefore, a term of similar content is often used - religious tourism. The term "pilgrimage" is currently used in all religions, denominations and cults. And although the word itself appeared only at the time of the Crusades, pilgrimage - as a form of specifically motivated travel - has a very long history. According to ethnographic and written sources, the practice of the ancient Greeks and ancient Romans to travel to distant temples to worship deities is known, the practice of the ancient Germans to travel for the purpose of pilgrimage to sacred groves.

"Religious tourism is activities related to the provision of services and satisfaction of the needs of tourists traveling to holy places and religious centers outside their usual environment." The tourist terminological dictionary bypasses this term, but defines the concept of pilgrimage, which is closely associated with religious tourism and can be considered as one of its main types: pilgrimage is the journey of believers to worship holy places ... named after the custom of ancient Christians to bring a palm branch from Palestine.

Religious tourism is divided into two main types:

- pilgrimage tourism;
- religious tourism of excursion and educational orientation.

In some cases, specialized tours are distinguished, in which pilgrims and sightseers are combined. Specialized tours are designed for at least three days with visits to religious shrines and architectural monuments of the past. Sometimes permission (blessing) is needed to organize such tours.



Religious tourism and its varieties are represented by various forms (Appendix 1). Due to the fall of the Iron Curtain and the opening of borders, many of our compatriots rushed abroad. These trips had no single purpose. Some of these trips were made to countries of interest to a religious person. For example, to the Holy Land, to Greece, to Egypt. Focusing on the awakening of religious consciousness in Russia, travel agencies began to actively use the unfamiliar word pilgrimage in relation to their tours to attract customers. In this connection, it became necessary to define the desired concept.

The pilgrimage pilgrimage is a journey or journey to holy places with well-defined cult purposes. Pilgrimage in one form or another is accepted in almost all religions and pagan cults. At present, pilgrims widely use the services of the tourism industry, special travel companies are being created to organize such tours. Pilgrimage tours, in contrast to religious-educational or cultural-historical ones, carry a certain belief in the meaning of the ritual, and not just educational goals. The entertainment section of the program has been significantly reduced, although health and educational recreation as such is allowed.

The meaning of pilgrimage is to worship holy places. This worship is of a religious nature and is associated with the performance of divine services and prayers at revered shrines. Any other visit to holy places that is not connected with religious worship, strictly speaking, is not related to the canonical pilgrimage.

#### References:

1. Suyunovich, T. I., & Erkin, G. (2022). Possibilities to increase the multiplicative efficiency of tourism through digital technologies in new uzbekistan. *Web of Scientist: International Scientific Research Journal*, 3(8), 74-80.
2. Abdukhamidov, A. S., & Makhmudova, A. P. (2022). Creating a 3d model of buddhist monuments and developing their interactive maps. *Builders Of The Future*, 2(02), 23-30.
3. Abdukhamidov, A. S., Makhmudova, A. P., & Mukhammadiev, N. (2022). Directions for the development of tourist routes of buddhist monuments and the formation of attractive tourist products. *Builders Of The Future*, 2(02), 146-153.
4. Abdukhamidov, A. S., Makhmudova, A. P., & Mukhammadiev, N. (2022). Ways to develop attractive tourist routes to buddhist monuments. *Builders Of The Future*, 2(02), 154-160.
5. Abdukhamidov, A. S., & Makhmudova, A. P. (2022). Prospects for the development of recreational tourism in Uzbekistan. *Builders Of The Future*, 2(02), 31-38.
6. ШУКУРОВ, У., & КАДИРОВ, А. РОЛЬ И МЕСТО ПРОМЫШЛЕННОГО КОМПЛЕКСА КАШКАДАРЬИНСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ В ЭКОНОМИКЕ РЕСПУБЛИКИ УЗБЕКИСТАН. *ЭКОНОМИКА*, (6), 364-369.
7. Шукуров, У. (2022). ҚАШҚАДАРЁ ВИЛОЯТИ ИҚТИСОДИЁТИДА САНОАТ КОМПЛЕКСИНИНГ ҲИССАСИ. *Экономика и образование*, 23(4), 256-262.
8. Erkaeva, G. P., & Shukurov, U. S. (2022). EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN INCREASING THE INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE REGIONS. *Gospodarka i Innowacje.*, 24, 234-238.



9. Mekhruza, V., Abdurahmon, A., Farrukhjon, K., Lazizjon, I., Rohel, G., & Manzurakhon, A. (2022). Marketing Strategies and Business Analysis in the Case of Lamborghini Company. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BUSINESS DIPLOMACY AND ECONOMY*, 1(5), 1-8.
10. GaybullaFayzullaevich, K., BaxtiyorSayfullaevich, B., SheraliBakhtiyorovich, X., & LutfulloKhalimovich, K. (2021). The Impact Of Labor Motivation Management On Labor Productivity In Small Business Enterprises. *Int. J. of Aquatic Science*, 12(3), 1-5.
11. Abdurakhmanova, G., Kuchkarov, G., Avdeichikova, E., Alexakhina, N., Korzhueva, L., Nikulina, E., ... & Ivanova, E. *ECONOMIC SCIENCES*.
12. Gaybulla, K., & Makhbuba, M. (2022). THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL ECONOMY. *Web of Scientist: International Scientific Research Journal*, 3(12), 684-689.
13. Gaybulla, K., Bekhruz, B., & Olim, N. (2022). THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RESOURCES. *Web of Scientist: International Scientific Research Journal*, 3(12), 677-683.