



Natural Conditions of the Jizzakh Region and Their Role in the Development of Ecological Tourism

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Abstract: This article explores the natural and climatic characteristics of the Jizzakh region and their pivotal role in fostering ecological tourism. The authors identify various promising forms of ecotourism within the area and highlight key attractions. Strengths and weaknesses in the establishment and growth of ecotourism are analysed, accompanied by recommendations for effective implementation. By delving into the environmental and geographical features of the region, this study provides insights into the potential of ecological tourism in Jizzakh. Additionally, it offers practical guidance for stakeholders and policymakers to harness the region's ecological resources sustainably, thereby promoting tourism while preserving the natural environment. Through this examination, the article contributes to the discourse on sustainable tourism development and underscores the importance of balancing economic opportunities with environmental conservation efforts.


1 INTRODUCTION

Ecotourism, recognised officially in 1990, entails exploring natural environments while upholding five fundamental principles. Firstly, it mandates that no harm should be inflicted upon the environment. Secondly, ecotourism centres on nature as its primary object of observation. Thirdly, it advocates for a rational approach towards natural elements. Additionally, it emphasises a respectful attitude towards local religious and cultural traditions. Finally, ecotourism aims to foster regional economic development. Understanding the pivotal role of natural conditions and resources in tourism development, this study delves into the Jizzakh region's natural and climatic characteristics. By comprehensively assessing these factors, the research aims to facilitate sustainable ecotourism development in the area. This endeavour aligns with prior studies emphasising the significance of nature's components in shaping tourism potential.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Various scholars, such as B.T. Kholmatov and G.R. Karaev (2016), and Ibragimova L.Z. et al., have explored the potential for ecotourism development. Additionally, Norchaeva A.N. and Rabbimova E.T.'s (2010) monograph extensively covers the zoning and ecotourism prospects in the Jizzakh region, encompassing the Nurata and Turkestan mountain ranges. However, these works lack a comprehensive analysis of the soil and climatic conditions' significance for ecotourism development in the Jizzakh region. Therefore, there remains a gap in understanding the complete picture of ecological tourism potential in the area. This research aims to address this gap by thoroughly examining the soil and climatic conditions of the Jizzakh region and their implications for ecotourism. Such an analysis is crucial for devising sustainable ecotourism strategies that harness the region's natural resources effectively while preserving its environmental integrity.

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3 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The climate plays a pivotal role in shaping tourism opportunities in any country. In the Jizzakh region, characterized by a sharply continental climate, the diversity of climatic conditions gives rise to various types and directions of ecotourism. The region experiences significant temperature variations throughout the year, with January temperatures ranging from -1°C to -40°C and July temperatures reaching an average of $+28^{\circ}\text{C}$. Precipitation levels vary, with the south receiving 400-500 mm annually and the north around 250-300 mm. Additionally, the region boasts abundant rivers such as the Sangzor and Zaminsu, along with numerous smaller streams.

The relief of the Jizzakh region, ranging from plains to mountain ranges, contributes to the development of diverse forms of tourism. Vertical belts of vegetation, including steppe, adir, mountains, and meadows, thrive across the region. The southern area is dominated by the Turkestan mountain ranges, while the western part features the Nurata system. Conversely, the northern and northwestern parts

consist of plains, namely Mirzachul and Kizilkum. Furthermore, the region is home to several protected areas, including national parks, nature reserves, and ornithological reserves, along with numerous natural and historical landmarks.

The Jizzakh region's varied climate, influenced by its diverse relief, encompasses dryness, high temperatures, and sharp continental conditions. According to meteorological data, the region experiences significant fluctuations in temperature, with an annual range of $26-30^{\circ}\text{C}$. The flatness of the northern and western areas exposes them to cold, dry air masses from the Arctic and Siberia, as well as humid masses from the Atlantic Ocean. This geographical positioning results in stark differences in summer and winter temperatures, with the frost-free period lasting 210-220 days in Jizzakh. Summers are characterized by dry, scorching heat, with temperatures often reaching $44-45^{\circ}\text{C}$.

In conclusion, the favourable climatic conditions of the Jizzakh region support the development of various forms of ecotourism. The region's diverse landscape and climate create opportunities for a wide range of tourist activities, as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: The possibilities of the types of tourism that can be developed in the region of Jizzakh

No.	Type of tourism	Tourist sites and addresses
1	Ecological tourism	Zaamin National Park, Zaamin Reserve, Nurata Reserve, Aydar-Arnasay Biosphere Reserve, 5 forestry enterprises, endemic and unique flora and fauna.
2	Agritourism	Beekeeping in the Zaamin region, melon growing in the Sh. Rashidov region, viticulture in the Farish region, livestock farming in the Gallaaral region
3	Ethnotourism	Folklore groups in Bakhmal, Zaamin and Farish regions, embroidery, carpet weaving, artisans, national customs and traditions
4	Sports and health tourism	Rest houses and sanatoriums in Zaamin, Bakhmal, Mirzachul and Yangiabad regions, springs and mineral waters, mud, mountain air. National games (kupkari, chillik, chavgon, etc.)
5	Scientific and historical tourism	Archaeological excavations of the region, Museums of Kh. Alimdhan and Zulfiya, Sharaf Rashidov, Museum of Nature and Natural History, etc.
6	Water tourism	Reservoirs of Jizzakh, Zaamin, Karaultepa and Aydar-Arnasay lake system
7	Gastro tourism	Jizzakh samsa and pilaf, Bakhmal tandoor, Zaamin honey and patyr, Gallaarala kurtaba, etc.
8	Pilgrimage tourism	Mausoleums, religious places of pilgrimage, mosques, etc.
9	Walking tourism	Hiking trails (routes) along the ridges of Nurata, Molguzar and Turkestan
10	Mountain tourism	Routes and rest houses in the Bakhmala and Zaamin mountains
11	Adventure tourism	Mountainous areas, reservoir and lakes
12	Speleotourism	Cave in the village Peshawar and other small grottoes
13	Auto and motorcycle tourism	Motor track in Navruz-bulak
14	Geotourism	Various deposits of the region, mines in Gallaaral, Forish, etc.
15	Travel on horseback	Travel on horseback and camels

These types of ecotourism can be carried out selectively or in combination. The main goal of ecotourism is to get acquainted with the cultural, historical, and natural features of the Jizzakh region.

The nature and traditional culture of the Jizzakh region provide great potential for the development of eco-tourism.

In recent years, several policy documents have been adopted on the organization and development of tourism in the Jizzakh region. At the same time, a comprehensive analysis of the state of tourism in the region revealed the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and negative aspects of this activity (Table 2).

Table 2: Strengths and weaknesses of tourism development in Jizzakh region

Strengths	Weak sides
1. Availability of routes for special types of tourism	1. Insufficient route development
2. State support for the development of special types of tourism	2. A database of objects and developed routes has not been created
	3. Insufficient provision of routes with appropriate components
Possibilities	
1. Availability of regulatory documents on the development of tourism in the region	1. Lack of proper infrastructure
2. Availability of government programs for tourism development	2. Relationship between routes and seasons and climate
	3. Lack of trained guides and guides along the routes and their lack of awareness

4 CONCLUSION

The Jizzakh region boasts immense tourism potential, particularly in the realm of eco-tourism, which remains a pertinent avenue for development. The region's wealth of natural, historical, and ethnographic sites presents ample opportunities for the creation of environmentally-conscious routes. However, harnessing this potential requires the implementation of both short- and long-term projects supported by economically viable business strategies. It's imperative to prioritize environmental sustainability, striving to minimize the impact on nature while simultaneously enhancing the local ecosystem.

To fully realize this potential, establishing a comprehensive ecotourism infrastructure is essential.

This includes the development of informational resources such as booklets, maps, and online platforms dedicated to environmental routes and programs. Moreover, investing in the training of skilled professionals, organizing educational seminars, and fostering partnerships between industry stakeholders are crucial steps towards sustainable ecotourism development. Despite the region's abundant resources, current conditions do not fully align with its potential, underscoring the need for concerted efforts in professional planning, management, and monitoring of ecotourism initiatives.

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