

THE IMPACT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ON ENHANCING REGIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY

Yuldasheva Gulmira Azatovna

Lecturer of the Department of Accounting and Finance, Fergana State University

Abstract: This article scientifically analyzes the role and importance of tourism infrastructure in ensuring the sustainable economic development of regions. The study examines the impact of key structural components of tourism infrastructure—such as transport, hotel management, services, information and communication systems, and recreational facilities—on regional economic development. Furthermore, it substantiates the role of tourism infrastructure development in increasing tourist flows, creating new jobs, attracting investments, and strengthening the economic potential of regions. The research results highlight that the comprehensive development of tourism infrastructure is a crucial factor in ensuring sustainable economic growth in regions, improving the population's living standards, and reducing interregional socio-economic disparities.

Keywords: tourism infrastructure, regional development, sustainable economic development, tourism economics, tourism services, transport infrastructure, hotel management, investments, regional economic growth, tourism potential.

Introduction

In the context of modern economic development, the level of infrastructure development is one of the most critical factors directly influencing the economic progress of regions. Today, tourism has become one of the leading sectors of the national economy in many countries, playing a vital role in ensuring sustainable development. Particularly, the development of tourism holds great significance in enhancing human capital, increasing the employment rate of the population, creating new jobs, boosting tax revenues to the state budget, and attracting investment flows. At the same time, the tourism sector significantly contributes to the socio-economic development of regions by preserving cultural, historical, and natural heritage sites and integrating them into economic circulation.

In this process, tourism infrastructure possesses major strategic importance and emerges as one of the core pillars of regional development. Tourism infrastructure is a complex system that encompasses the transport system, hotel management, catering and services, information and communication systems, and recreational facilities. It is precisely the level of development, modernity, and balanced regional distribution of infrastructure that determines the volume of tourist flows, the quality of services, and the overall economic efficiency of tourism activities.

In Uzbekistan, the development of tourism is also viewed as one of the priority directions of state economic policy. In particular, the Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to the Oliy Majlis in 2021 specifically emphasized the necessity of continuing reforms for the consistent development of the tourism sector. Specifically, great attention was directed toward developing pilgrimage tourism and domestic tourism. It was also designated to allocate 1 trillion soums from the state budget to improve land plots, water supply, and road infrastructure surrounding tourism facilities. This demonstrates that developing tourism infrastructure is considered a strategic direction in the country's economy.

Such approaches necessitate a deep scientific-methodological analysis of the following elements of tourism infrastructure and their functions, as well as the formulation of proposals and recommendations for their further improvement. These include:

- Accommodation facilities (hotels, guest houses, recreation zones),

- Transport and communication networks (roads, airports, mobile communications, and internet services),

- Catering, entertainment, wellness, and cultural service facilities,

- Information and digital infrastructure (online booking, interactive tourism maps, etc.).

Therefore, analyzing the integration of tourism infrastructure into the regional economy and the prospects of ensuring regional sustainable growth through it is one of the urgent tasks of today's scientific and practical research.

Literature Review

The tourism market and its infrastructure, their content, functions, as well as the main subjects of the tourism industry, development principles, regulatory mechanisms, and practical aspects of state policy in this field have been scientifically studied by many local and foreign scholars. Specifically, scientific research conducted by Zorin I.V., Kvartalnov V.A., Pardaev M.Q., Birjakov M.B., Beklaryan L.A., Pshennikov A.S., Morozov M.A., Tukhliyev I.S., Hayitboev R., Safarov B.Sh., and Tursunova G.R. focused on the following issues:

- The socio-economic nature of the tourism market;
- Its main components and functions;
- The role of tourism industry entities (hotel and restaurant management);
- The economic, organizational, and legal foundations of regulating the tourism market;
- Emerging problems in the sector and their solutions.

Furthermore, scholars such as Jukova M.A., Alimova M.T., Mamatqulov X.M., Arxipova V.F., and Devisov A.S. covered the following areas in their scientific works:

- Methods for evaluating the efficiency of services in the tourism sector;
- Tourism production infrastructure;
- State policy in tourism and its primary directions;
- The functional role of travel agencies and operators in tourism;
- State measures to support regional tourism infrastructure.

In particular, Mamatqulov X.M., Morozov M.A., and Norchayev A.N., in their research, analyzed the importance of tourism infrastructure in the fields of economics and management, the structural elements of infrastructure and their development levels, as well as the mechanisms for forming and improving regional tourism infrastructure. These studies have served to study the tourism sector in a comprehensive manner, providing an important theoretical and practical source for developing a scientifically grounded tourism infrastructure development strategy today.

During the research, innovative changes and modern requirements related to the field were taken into account when highlighting the developmental characteristics and directions of tourism infrastructure. Additionally, tourism infrastructure was thoroughly studied from a methodological perspective as an integrated system. Specifically, dialectical and systemic approaches, comparative analysis, statistical methods, as well as data grouping and analytical classification methods were widely used to determine the structural elements of regional tourism infrastructure and their functions. An approach aimed at identifying development trends of infrastructure components and defining their promising directions was substantiated during the study.

Tourism infrastructure combines general infrastructure and special infrastructure elements within its structure. General infrastructure includes infrastructure elements required not only for tourism but also for the functioning of other sectors and industries (Figure 1). These include roads and railways, electricity supply, housing and communal services, drinking water supply systems, and financial institutions (banks, insurance companies). Although these systems are not directly specialized in tourism, they serve as general infrastructural resources necessary for tourism activities. Without these resources, developing tourism activities would be virtually impossible.

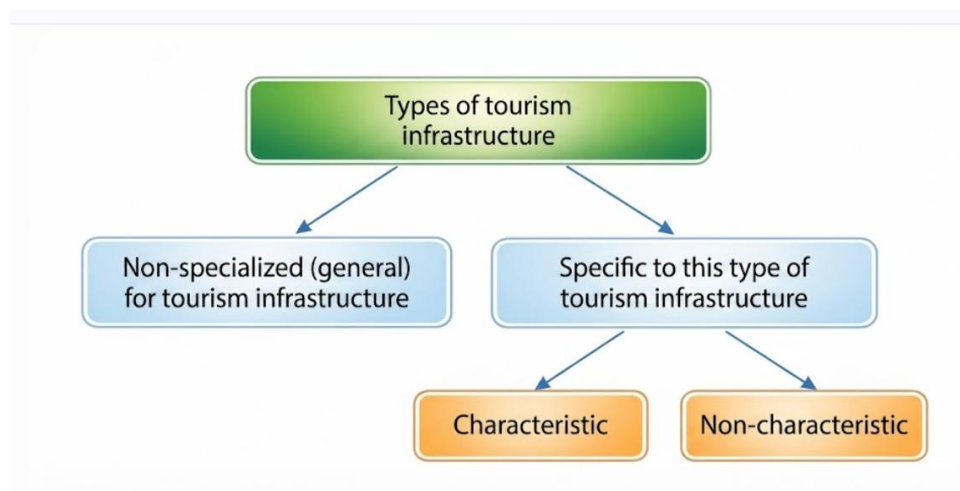


Figure 1. Structure of Tourism Infrastructure by Types

It is worth noting that in recent years, a clear trend of specialized units emerging within the general infrastructure elements specifically designed to serve the tourism sector has been observed. For instance, within the institutional infrastructure, examples include tourism legislation, specialized departments established in insurance companies serving tourist activities, as well as the large-scale development of international and national tourism exhibitions.

Special infrastructure comprises objects and services directly aimed at satisfying the needs of tourism activities. These consist of the following: Man-made infrastructure: transport vehicles, hotels, hostels, cultural centers, museums, entertainment complexes, and others; Natural infrastructure: seas, rivers, lakes, forests, mountains, and other natural destinations.

From this perspective, tourism infrastructure is a complex of all serving systems, facilities, and resources necessary for organizing and effectively conducting tourism activities. Tourism resources are recognized as sources that attract tourists' attention and shape their desire to travel. They provide economic, ecological, historical, cultural, and social motivations. The tourism sector is a socio-economically complex and multifaceted phenomenon, requiring special infrastructure components to implement various forms of tourism (pilgrimage, ecological, wellness, extreme, etc.). Therefore, diversifying tourism infrastructure based on modern requirements is of paramount importance.

The direct connection between entrepreneurship activities and tourism infrastructure is essential for effectively organizing and studying business in this sector. The structure of tourism infrastructure varies significantly depending on the direction and forms of tourism activities and influences the implementation of various business models. Hence, forming an appropriate infrastructure for each type of tourism requires a distinct approach.

Tourism infrastructure is classified into two main forms:

1. General Infrastructure – includes infrastructure elements that serve all types of tourism but are not specifically created for a single type of tourism. This includes transport vehicles (trains, buses, etc.), accommodation facilities (hotels, motels, private sector offers), and public catering outlets.
2. Special Infrastructure – includes specific facilities and services necessary to implement a certain form of tourism. For example, for ski tourism: ski slopes, ski lifts, rental ski equipment, and safety gear.

Additionally, there is the concept of *characteristic infrastructure*, which refers to infrastructure elements designed to create the core values and unique aspects of a tourism product. From a marketing perspective, this type of infrastructure makes the tourism offering competitive

by creating special or additional services tailored to tourists' needs. For example, in gastronomic tourism – restaurants specializing in national cuisine; in ethnographic tourism – institutions including folk handicraft centers and traditional entertainment programs. For instance, while developing ski tourism, it is advisable to simultaneously create corresponding additional infrastructure, such as water parks and swimming pools. The existence of such additional infrastructure, which is not directly related to skiing but is present in the area, creates new types of attractive motivations for tourists. This type of infrastructure serves as a concurrent, auxiliary form of infrastructure that adds value to the tourism product.

The regional tourism services market has unique characteristics and is divided into two main directions based on the type of consumers using the services: domestic tourists and international tourists.

Domestic tourists – citizens residing permanently within the country traveling within their own state's territory.

International tourists are divided into two categories:

Inbound tourists – foreign guests coming to the country and using tourism services.

Outbound tourists – citizens of the country traveling abroad for tourism purposes.

In the process of utilizing tourism services, expenses are incurred during two different periods: before the trip and during the trip. This expense analysis is an important factor in marketing, financial planning, and adapting service offerings.

The tourism services market is determined not only by the balance of supply and demand but also by the activities of institutional structures managing the service delivery process. These structures include national and regional state authorities, non-governmental public organizations, and private sector representatives. From this perspective, the *tourism services market infrastructure* is an organizational-economic system of intermediary institutions and organizations ensuring that tourism products and services reach consumers, and it performs the functions of forming, regulating, and managing the tourism market.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, several national-level state management bodies and public organizations operate to effectively manage and develop the tourism services market infrastructure. These structures play an important role in shaping tourism policy, controlling service quality, training personnel, and strengthening the organizational and economic foundations of the infrastructure.

National-level state management structures: The State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan – the primary authorized body for shaping and implementing tourism policy in the country, defining strategic directions in the tourism services market.

- The Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan – participates in supporting types of tourism related to sports and mass physical activity, including the development of sports tourism.

- The Ministry of Justice and the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan – regulate the entry process of foreign tourists, performing visa and customs control.

- The Center for Certification of Tourism Services SUE – deals with developing new state standards and improving existing ones aimed at ensuring the safety and quality of tourism services.

- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan – provides advice, assistance, and project support for developing tourism entrepreneurship, including resort-recreational and hotel management.

- State educational institutions – carry out activities for training, advanced training, and retraining of personnel specialized in the tourism sector.

National-level public organizations: * The Social Tourism Association – a non-governmental non-profit organization aiming to ensure equal participation of all segments of citizens in tourism,

focused on providing appropriate tourism services for children, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The association also cooperates with foreign organizations in developing inclusive tourism.

National-level private structures: * Training and consulting centers in the tourism field;

- Firms conducting voluntary certification and licensing of tourism enterprises.

Regional-level state organizations: * Regional government authorities (khokimyats);

- Regional departments of the State Committee for Tourism Development;
- Bodies ensuring the commonality of local population, tourism enterprises, and interests;
- Regional educational institutions for training personnel in the tourism field.

Regional-level private structures: * Associations and unions coordinating efforts for tourism development and financing tourism growth;

- Private educational institutions: institutions for teaching, training, retraining, and advanced training of personnel in the tourism field.

Focusing on the content and nature of the tourism market, it performs intermediary (realizing the interests of market subjects), stimulating, economic, information, control, and regulation functions based on its developmental characteristics.

The development of infrastructure is linked to the general law of business efficiency: the higher its level of development, the more effective the entrepreneurial activity will be. Creating a developed infrastructure is a necessary prerequisite for the development of small and private entrepreneurship, and its formation efficiency directly depends on the efficiency of this infrastructure.

Infrastructure directly affects the social situation in a country or a specific region. The higher the development level of infrastructure, the higher the economic development of the country or region, the living standards of the population, and the social status will be. Conversely, the lower the development level of infrastructure, the slower the production develops or the higher the costs incurred, which leads to a decrease in the population's living standards.

The development of infrastructure requires serious financial injections and cannot be achieved without the participation of the state and state organizations. For example, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 5, 2019, No. PF-5611 "On additional measures for the rapid development of tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan" approved the Concept for the Development of the Tourism Sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019–2025. This concept is aimed at increasing the efficiency of reforms being carried out to create favorable economic conditions and factors in our republic, defining priority goals and tasks for the rapid development of the tourism sector, increasing its role and share in the economy, diversifying services, improving their quality, and enhancing tourism infrastructure. This demonstrates that the state and its authorized organizations are the main subjects implementing reforms in developing the sector. Furthermore, measures for the comprehensive development of the tourism sector and its infrastructure are defined within the framework of tourism development programs at the national and regional levels.

Table 1

Socio-economic indicators of Uzbekistan's tourism sector in 2020–2024

Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of foreign tourists (thousand people)	1,500	1,880	5,200	6,600	8,200

Number of domestic tourists (thousand people)	2,500	5,200	7,300	9,100	11,000
Number of hotels	933	1,025	1,215	1,400	1,650
Number of certified guides	1,100	1,500	1,800	2,000	2,300
Number of travel agencies	321	415	510	580	650
Jobs in the tourism sector (thousands)	170	200	225	250	280

As can be seen in Table 1, due to the pandemic in 2020, the number of foreign tourists decreased sharply, amounting to only 1.5 million people. In subsequent years, especially starting from 2022, a gradual growth was observed. In 2024, the number of foreign tourists reached 8.2 million people, increasing 5.5 times compared to 2020. This indicates the growing integration of Uzbekistan with the international tourism market.

- **Number of domestic tourists:** A positive dynamics is also observed in domestic tourism. The number of domestic tourists, which was 2.5 million in 2020, reached 11 million people in 2024, representing a fourfold increase. This change confirms the growing demand of the population for travel and the improvement of service quality.

- **Number of hotels:** While there were 933 hotels in 2020, this figure reached 1,650 by 2024, which means an increase of 77%. This indicates that the capacity to accommodate tourists is increasing from year to year.

- **Number of certified guides:** The number of guides, which was 1,100 in 2020, reached 2,300 by 2024. This doubled indicator signifies the expansion of guide services, improvement of service quality, and a commitment to working effectively with tourists.

- **Number of travel agencies:** The number of travel agencies increased from 321 in 2020 to 650 in 2024. This twofold growth demonstrates the activity of the private sector and the service market.

- **Jobs in the tourism sector:** The number of people employed in the tourism sector was 170 thousand in 2020, and by 2024 it reached 280 thousand. This signifies an approximate 65% increase in jobs and indicates the growing role of the tourism sector in the economy.

Table 2

Dynamics of investments in the tourism sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2014–2024

Year	Investment volume (billion soums)	Growth compared to base year (%)	Share in total investments (%)
2014	125	100%	0.35%
2015	140	112%	0.38%
2016	165	132%	0.41%
2017	190	152%	0.45%
2018	280	224%	0.50%
2019	460	368%	0.57%
2020	420	336%	0.52%

2021	510	408%	0.54%
2022	690	552%	0.60%
2023	850	680%	0.66%
2024	980	784%	0.72%

When analyzing Table 2, the volume of investments directed to the tourism sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan steadily increased during 2014–2024. In 2014, this indicator amounted to 125 billion soums, while by 2024 it reached 980 billion soums, which means a 784 percent growth compared to the base year.

1. **Growth of investment volume:** This increase is associated with modernizing tourism infrastructure, constructing new hotels, passenger transport infrastructure, and building entertainment and cultural facilities. At the same time, financial flows directed to tourism objects indicate the participation of not only domestic but also international investors.

2. **Share in total investments:** The share of the tourism sector in total investments rose from 0.35% in 2014 to 0.72% in 2024. The fact that this indicator more than doubled shows that the position of tourism in the national economy is strengthening.

3. **Macroeconomic significance:** Investments attracted to the tourism sector directly contribute to the multiplication of jobs, improvement of service quality, regional infrastructure development, and overall gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

4. **Development stages:** Although a temporary decline was observed in 2020 due to the pandemic (420 billion soums), investments rapidly increased in subsequent years due to economic recovery and active state policy.

Tourism infrastructure must be shaped in accordance with market requirements. It must be comprehensive, meaning it provides all-round support for the tourism business. The relative contribution of its creators can change drastically depending on the form of the business. However, at all stages of infrastructure creation, the main role can be played by a specific initiator—an active group of individuals supporting an influential person or entrepreneurial group.

In this regard, serious reductions in investment risks during infrastructure creation are resolved in parallel with only one condition: the creation of networks of various plans of formal and informal associations, societies, and clubs that form a union of people of a new social class with common goals and approaches to achieving them.

References

1. Buhalis, D., & Law, R. (2008). Progress in information technology and tourism management: 20 years on and 10 years after the Internet. *Tourism Management*, 29(4), 609–623.
2. Durovich, A. P. (2019). *Ekonomika i organizatsiya turizma*. Minsk: Novoye Znaniye.
3. Kvartalnov, V. A. (2020). Moskva: Finansy i Statistika.
4. Sharpley, R. (2006). Travel and tourism: Economic impact and policy implications. *Journal of Tourism Studies*, 17(2), 30–42.
5. Nasridinovna, T. O. (2025, April). The importance of effective marketing strategies in the development of tourism services. In *Conference of Modern Science & Pedagogy* (Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 119–124).
6. Nasridinovna, T. O. (2025). Turizm sanoatida raqobatbardoshlikni oshirish va strategik yondashuvlar. *Raqamli iqtisodiyot (Цифровая экономика)*, (10), 1405–1412.
7. Nasridinovna, T. O. (2026). Strategies for ensuring territorial economic growth through the development of tourism infrastructure. *Shokh library*, 1(1).
8. Nasridinovna, T. O. (2026). Competitiveness factors and effective management mechanisms of tourist business. *Shokh library*, 1(1).

9. Nasridinovna, T. O., & Shukurjon, G. O. (2025, April). Turizmning atrof-muhitga tasiri: muammolar va barqaror rivojlanish yo'nalishlari. In *Conference of Modern Science & Pedagogy* (Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 216–223).
10. Nasridinovna, T. O. (2026). Organizational and economic aspects of sustainable development of women's entrepreneurship. *Shokh library*, 1(1).
11. Leung, D., Law, R., van Hoof, H., & Buhalis, D. (2013). Social media in tourism and hospitality: A literature review. *Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing*, 30(1-2), 3–22.
12. Data from the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (www.stat.uz) for 2014–2024.
13. UNWTO. (2020). *Tourism and infrastructure: Sustainable development through investment*. Madrid: United Nations World Tourism Organization.