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GEOGRAPHICAL ZONING OF TOURIST AREAS

Abstract: the article is devoted to the issues of zoning and division of territories into tourist areas. It analyzes mainly tourist areas of the world, and provides criteria for geographical tourist zoning of territories.

Keywords: geographical tourism, geographical tourist zone, geographical tourist region, geographical tourist cluster, district, zoning.

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ГЕОГРАФИЧЕСКОЕ ЗОНИРОВАНИЕ ТУРИСТИЧЕСКИХ РАЙОНОВ

Аннотация: статья посвящена вопросам районирования и разделения территорий на туристические районы. В ней анализируются в основном туристические районы мира и приведены критерии географического туристического районирования территорий.

Ключевые слова: географический туризм, географическая туристическая зона, географический туристический регион, географический туристический кластер, район, районирование.

GEOGRAPHICAL ZONING OF TOURIST AREAS

One of the research processes in geographical science is the zoning of territories for various purposes. Zoning allows for the assessment of the state of particular regions, the development and recommendation of appropriate practical measures for their improvement, and forecasting of future prospects. Zoning can take various forms, including natural geographic, economic geographic, geomorphological, geobotanical, zoogeographical, geological, and so on [1].

The word "region" in French means "area"—"place" or "territory." Zoning is the division and naming of a specific administrative or natural territory for various purposes, according to its specific characteristics, into taxonomic units. With zoning, a given administrative or natural territory will consist of areas according to taxonomic units, that is, based on systematized hierarchical ranks. Zoning encompasses two processes: development and formation, as well as the definition of these areas [2].

The division of a given territory into districts can be carried out at various scales and forms, based on the goals and objectives set by the researcher. It should be noted that the division into territorial tourist zones differs from tourist zoning [3], as zoning is divided into hierarchical parts, and these parts are strictly scaled.

Territorial units, which form the basis of geographical science, are widely used in tourism activities. However, experts, i.e., geographers engaged in tourism research, have uncovered the meaning of such geographical-tourist units as core (center), cluster, zone, and region [4]. These concepts are interpreted differently in different literary sources. The content of a number of similar concepts is described in detail in the five-language dictionary by V.M. Kotlyakov and A.I. Komarova [5].

There are various views on zoning or dividing regions into districts for tourism purposes; no consensus has yet been reached on this issue. Below, we will analyze several of these views.

A.G. Manakov, considering the potential for tourism development, identifies 10 tourist macro-regions of the world. These tourist macro-regions consist of 46 meso-regions [6].

The ideas of M.A. Ananyev, P.N. Zachinyaev, and N.S. Falkovich were partially used in the system of global tourist zones developed by Yu.D. Dimitrevsky. Outside the CIS countries, a total of 24 tourist and recreational zones have been identified, which are divided into 83 tourist macro-regions [7].

When developing tourism and recreational zoning, Yu. D. Dimitrevsky considered the region's recreational resources first and cultural and historical sites second. Zoning based on regional specifics when identifying tourist zones does not produce satisfactory results. Geographic tourism should create a tourism zoning system that is qualitatively different from traditional tourism and recreational zoning, taking into account the regions' tourism potential.

Geographic tourism zoning, or the division of territories into districts, should be conducted based on the following approaches:

An integrated approach requires a comprehensive study of the natural, environmental, economic, and social conditions of tourist regions. Geographic tourism requires a comprehensive approach to all types of tourism, not just a specific type of tourism in a region [8].

A systems approach involves examining the tourist zone as a whole and considering the complex of interconnected structures and elements (natural, environmental, social, and economic components) within it. Furthermore, when selecting the most stable, as well as primary and secondary elements in the system, their interrelationships with each other, as well as their interaction with the environment, should be considered [9].

The civilizational approach involves identifying and utilizing the unique features of the planned tourism destination in territorial planning, the geopolitical and historical role of the territory, national, regional, and local characteristics,

socio-cultural ties and historical continuity, and the historical and cultural heritage of the territory.

Furthermore, most countries implement their tourism policies through a visa system. This, firstly, creates various barriers and, secondly, impacts the flow of tourists. A striking example of the above factors can be seen in the countries of Central Asia. Specifically, if we consider the boundaries of the Fergana Valley, which includes the Andijan, Namangan, and Fergana regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, based on natural features, we see that in addition to the aforementioned regions, the Fergana Valley also includes the Sughd region of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Jalal-Obad and Batken regions of the Kyrgyz Republic. In this case, tourism development must be conducted within the boundaries of these administrative-political units.

To date, the territory of Uzbekistan has been zoned or divided into districts according to various fields of science and for various purposes [10]. In particular, significant work is being carried out in the field of tourism science. In particular, A.N. Nigmatov and his student N.T. Shomuratova (2011) divided ecotourism into [11], Sh.T. Yakubjanova (2012) - into 15 agrotourism regions [12]. In addition, if B.Kh. Kamolov (2018) divided the Namangan region into 4 ecotourism districts, then M.M. Makhmudov (2021) zoned tourism, dividing the territory of the Andijan region into 5 parts [13]. From this it is clear that scientific research conducted in the field of tourism in subsequent years is also carried out mainly within the framework of administrative units.

Based on the results of our analysis of the cited research, we propose dividing the territory of Uzbekistan into three hierarchies (levels) in terms of geographic tourism. These are a geographic tourism region, a geographic tourism zone, and a geographic tourism cluster. In this regard, it is appropriate to focus on the concepts of a geographic and tourist region, zone, and cluster.

A geographic tourism region is an area encompassing two or more tourist zones, taking into account the comprehensive characteristics of the natural, socioeconomic, and political indicators of the tourism services provided.

A geographic tourism zone is an area encompassing two or more tourist clusters, taking into account the characteristics of the natural, socioeconomic, and political indicators of the tourism services provided. In identifying geographic tourism zones, we focused on the following approaches: selecting a specific small tourist zone as a center and dividing the zones by altitude. An analysis of the work of scientists who have divided Uzbekistan's territory into districts or regions shows that the Fergana Valley can be divided into a single region (district) based on natural, socioeconomic, and political factors. With this in mind, we have also adopted the Fergana Valley as a separate geographical tourism zone.

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