

The Role of Natural Geographic Factors in the Formation of Cultural and Historical Recreational–Tourism Sites in Tashkent Region

Sharipov Shavkat

Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan, Faculty of Geography and Geoinformation Systems, Doctor of geographical sciences (DSc), Associate Professor, Tashkent. e-mail: sh.sharipov@nuu.uz, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6602-3414>, e-mail: sh.sharipov@nuu.uz

Azimova Dilshoda

Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan, Faculty of Geography and Geoinformation Systems, PhD Candidate, <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5758-8582>, e-mail: dilshodaxonazimova879@gmail.com

Abstract: This article examines the role of natural geographic factors in the formation of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites in the Tashkent region. The study analyzes the influence of relief, climate, water resources, and landscape diversity on the development and spatial distribution of tourism and recreational objects. The Tashkent region is characterized by diverse natural conditions, including mountainous and foothill landscapes, river valleys, and favorable climatic features, which create significant opportunities for tourism development. Many cultural and historical sites in the region have been formed and developed in close connection with natural geographic conditions. The research is based on geographical analysis, comparative methods, and the study of natural and tourism resources of the region. The results show that natural geographic factors play an important role in shaping the location and development of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites. In particular, mountainous landscapes, river systems, and favorable climatic conditions contribute to the formation of attractive tourism destinations. The findings highlight the importance of rational use and conservation of natural geographic resources to enhance the tourism potential of the Tashkent region.

[Sharipov Shavkat. **The Role of Natural Geographic Factors in the Formation of Cultural and Historical Recreational–Tourism Sites in Tashkent Region.** *Nat Sci* 2026,24(3):25-28]. ISSN 1545-0740 (print); ISSN 2375-7167 (online). <http://www.sciencepub.net/nature> 04. doi:[10.7537/marsnsj240326.04](https://doi.org/10.7537/marsnsj240326.04)

Key words: natural geographic factors; recreational tourism; cultural and historical sites; tourism resources; Tashkent region; landscape; tourism development.

Introduction

Tourism has become one of the most rapidly developing sectors of the global economy and plays an important role in the socio-economic development of many regions. The effective use of natural and cultural resources is considered a key factor in the development of sustainable tourism. In this regard, the study of natural geographic conditions and their influence on the formation of tourism resources has gained increasing scientific importance in geographical research. Natural geographic factors such as relief, climate, water resources, and landscape diversity significantly influence the formation and development of recreational and tourism sites.

The Tashkent region, located in the northeastern part of Uzbekistan, possesses diverse natural geographic conditions that create favorable opportunities for tourism development. The territory of the region includes mountainous areas, foothill zones, river valleys, and plains, which contribute to the formation of unique landscapes and natural recreational resources. These natural conditions have historically influenced the settlement patterns of the population and the formation of cultural and historical

sites. Many cultural monuments, historical settlements, and recreational areas have developed in close connection with natural geographic features.

In addition, the region's favorable climatic conditions, scenic mountainous landscapes, and water resources play an important role in attracting tourists and developing recreational tourism. The presence of natural attractions combined with historical and cultural heritage enhances the tourism potential of the region. Therefore, the analysis of natural geographic factors that contribute to the formation of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites is an important task for geographical and tourism studies.

The main purpose of this research is to analyze the role of natural geographic factors in the formation and development of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites in the Tashkent region. The study focuses on identifying the influence of relief, climate, hydrological conditions, and landscape characteristics on the spatial distribution and development of tourism objects. Understanding these relationships will contribute to the effective use of natural resources and the sustainable development of tourism in the region.

Literature Review

The role of natural geographic factors in the development of tourism and recreational resources has been widely studied in geographical and tourism research. Many scholars emphasize that natural landscapes, climate conditions, and water resources play a key role in the formation and spatial distribution of tourism destinations. According to research in tourism geography, the attractiveness of a region for tourism activities is largely determined by the diversity of its natural environment and the availability of cultural and historical heritage.

A number of international studies highlight the close relationship between natural geographic conditions and tourism development. Researchers note that mountainous landscapes, river valleys, and favorable climatic conditions create important prerequisites for recreational tourism. These natural features often determine the location of historical settlements and cultural monuments, which later become significant tourism attractions. Therefore, the interaction between natural and cultural factors is considered one of the main drivers in the formation of tourism resources.

In Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan, the development of tourism resources has also been analyzed in relation to natural geographic conditions. Several studies have examined the tourism

potential of mountainous regions, protected natural areas, and historical cities. Scholars point out that Uzbekistan has significant opportunities for the development of recreational tourism due to its diverse landscapes, favorable climate, and rich cultural and historical heritage.

Particular attention has been given to the study of cultural and historical tourism resources and their relationship with the natural environment. It has been noted that many historical monuments and settlements were formed in areas with favorable natural conditions such as river valleys, fertile lands, and strategically important geographic locations. These natural advantages contributed to the emergence and development of cultural landscapes, which today serve as important tourism destinations.

Despite the existence of numerous studies on tourism development and natural geographic conditions, the specific role of natural factors in the formation of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites in the Tashkent region remains insufficiently studied. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the influence of natural geographic conditions on the development and spatial distribution of tourism objects in this region is necessary. Such research contributes to a better understanding of the tourism potential of the Tashkent region and provides a scientific basis for the sustainable development of tourism.

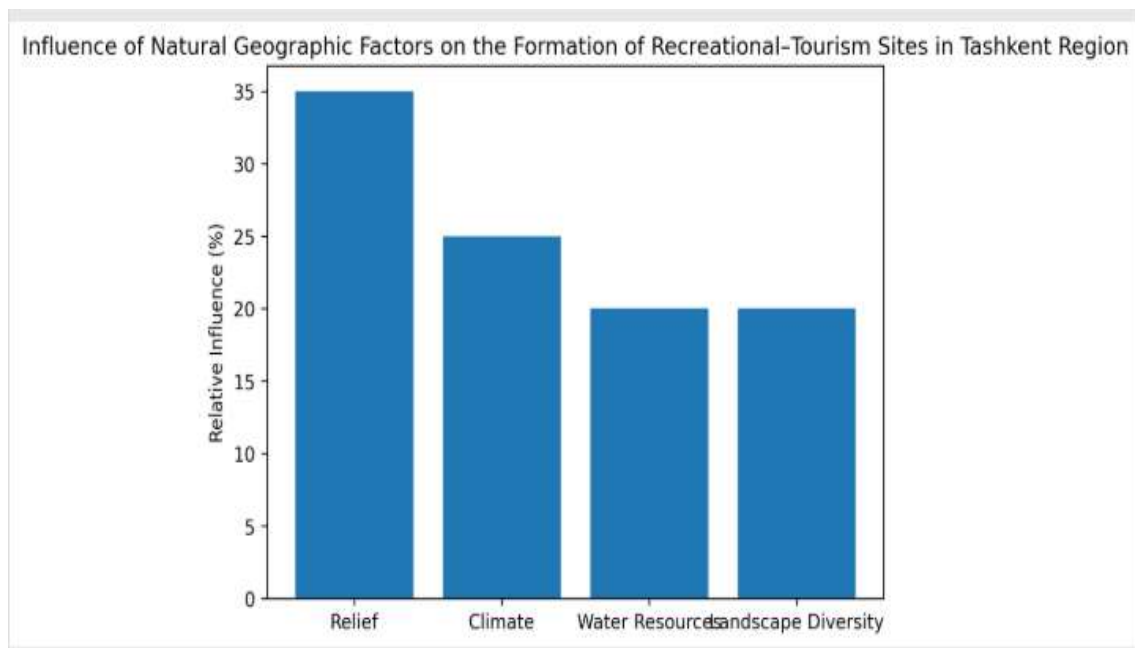


Fig.1 Influence of Natural Geographic Factors on Tourism Site Formation in Tashkent Region

Results and Discussion

The analysis of the natural geographic conditions of the Tashkent region shows that the formation of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites is closely related to the characteristics of the natural environment. The interaction between natural landscapes, climatic conditions, water resources, and historical development has created favorable conditions for the emergence of numerous tourism destinations in the region.

One of the most important natural geographic factors influencing the formation of tourism sites in the Tashkent region is relief. The region is characterized by a diverse relief structure that includes mountainous areas, foothill zones, and plains. The mountainous parts of the region, which are part of the western branches of the Tien Shan mountain system, create unique natural landscapes that attract tourists and support the development of recreational tourism. These areas offer scenic landscapes, clean air, and natural ecosystems that are highly suitable for tourism and recreational activities.

Relief has also played a significant role in the historical development of settlements and cultural monuments. Historically, many settlements were formed in foothill areas and river valleys where natural conditions were more favorable for agriculture, water supply, and transportation. As a result, many cultural and historical monuments are located in these areas, which today serve as important tourism attractions. The spatial distribution of such sites shows a strong correlation with favorable natural geographic conditions.

Another important factor influencing tourism development in the region is climate. The Tashkent region is characterized by a moderately continental climate with hot summers and relatively mild winters. Such climatic conditions allow tourism and recreational activities to be conducted during most of the year. The comfortable weather conditions, especially in mountainous and foothill areas, attract both domestic and international tourists.

In addition, seasonal climate variations also influence tourism patterns in the region. During the summer months, mountainous areas become popular destinations for recreation due to cooler temperatures and fresh mountain air. In contrast, foothill and valley areas are suitable for cultural and historical tourism activities throughout the year. Therefore, climate plays an important role not only in shaping tourism resources but also in determining the seasonal dynamics of tourism flows.

Water resources also represent an important natural factor contributing to the formation of recreational tourism sites. The presence of rivers, reservoirs, and mountain streams significantly increases the attractiveness of the region for tourism and recreation. Water bodies create favorable conditions for recreational activities such as *отдых* near water, eco-tourism, and nature-based tourism.

Many recreational areas in the Tashkent region are located near rivers and reservoirs, where natural landscapes and water resources combine to form attractive tourism environments. These areas provide opportunities for relaxation, outdoor recreation, and environmental tourism. Furthermore, water resources historically supported the development of settlements and economic activities, which contributed to the emergence of cultural and historical sites in these locations.

Another significant factor influencing tourism development is landscape diversity. The Tashkent region is characterized by a wide variety of natural landscapes, including mountain ecosystems, foothill plains, river valleys, and steppe areas. This diversity creates unique natural environments that attract tourists and support different forms of tourism development.

The combination of natural landscapes with cultural and historical heritage significantly increases the tourism potential of the region. Many tourism destinations in the Tashkent region represent cultural landscapes where natural and historical elements are closely interconnected. Such areas are particularly valuable for recreational tourism, as they offer opportunities to experience both natural beauty and historical heritage simultaneously.

The analysis of natural geographic factors shows that relief and landscape characteristics play the most significant role in the spatial distribution of tourism sites. Climatic conditions and water resources also contribute substantially to the attractiveness and development of tourism destinations. These factors interact with each other and collectively shape the tourism potential of the region.

In general, the results of the study demonstrate that the formation of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites in the Tashkent region is strongly influenced by natural geographic conditions. Understanding these relationships is essential for the effective planning and sustainable development of tourism. Proper management and conservation of natural landscapes are necessary to maintain the ecological balance of the region while enhancing its tourism potential.

Conclusion

The conducted research demonstrates that natural geographic factors play a fundamental role in the formation and spatial distribution of cultural and historical recreational tourism sites in the Tashkent region. The geographical position of the region, along with its diverse natural environment, creates favorable conditions for the development of tourism and recreational activities. The analysis shows that natural geographic components such as relief, climate, water resources, and landscape diversity significantly influence both the emergence and development of tourism destinations.

Among the analyzed factors, relief appears to be one of the most influential elements in shaping tourism resources. The mountainous and foothill areas of the Tashkent region form unique natural landscapes that attract tourists and create favorable conditions for recreational tourism. These landscapes not only provide scenic natural beauty but also historically influenced the formation of settlements, trade routes, and cultural monuments. As a result, many cultural and historical tourism sites are located in areas with advantageous natural geographic conditions. Climatic conditions also play an important role in the development of tourism in the region. The moderately continental climate of the Tashkent region, characterized by warm summers and relatively mild winters, allows tourism activities to be conducted during most of the year. Such favorable climatic conditions increase the recreational attractiveness of natural landscapes and cultural heritage sites.

Water resources are another key factor contributing to the formation of recreational tourism areas. Rivers, reservoirs, and mountain streams enhance the natural attractiveness of the region and create opportunities for various types of tourism activities. The presence of water bodies increases the recreational value of landscapes and supports the development of nature-based tourism.

Furthermore, the diversity of natural landscapes significantly strengthens the tourism potential of the region. The combination of mountainous territories, foothill zones, valleys, and plains creates a unique natural environment that attracts visitors and supports the development of different forms of tourism, including recreational, ecological, and cultural tourism.

Overall, the interaction between natural geographic factors and cultural-historical heritage forms the basis for the development of tourism in the Tashkent region. Therefore, the rational use, protection, and sustainable management of natural resources are essential for maintaining the tourism potential of the region. Future tourism development strategies should focus on preserving natural landscapes, improving tourism infrastructure, and promoting sustainable tourism practices to ensure long-term economic and environmental benefits.

References:

1. Stephen Williams (2009). *Tourism Geography: A New Synthesis*. London: Routledge.
2. Colin Michael Hall & Stephen Page (2014). *The Geography of Tourism and Recreation: Environment, Place and Space*. London: Routledge.
3. Richard W. Butler (2011). *Tourism Area Life Cycle*. Oxford: Goodfellow Publishers.
4. Chris Cooper, John Fletcher, Alan Fyall, David Gilbert & Stephen Wanhill (2008). *Tourism: Principles and Practice*. Harlow: Pearson Education.
5. Alastair M. Morrison (2013). *Marketing and Managing Tourism Destinations*. London: Routledge.
6. United Nations World Tourism Organization (2018). *Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals*. Madrid: UNWTO.
7. United Nations World Tourism Organization (2020). *International Tourism Highlights*. Madrid: UNWTO.
8. World Tourism Organization (2017). *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Madrid.
9. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2019). *World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme*.
10. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021). *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. Cambridge University Press.