



**THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF NUROTA DISTRICT OF NAVOI
REGION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract: *This article discusses the role and importance of the Nurota district of Navoi region in the development of tourism in Uzbekistan. Special attention is paid to the historical and cultural heritage of Nurota, one of the ancient and sacred sites of the country, as well as to the current state and prospects of tourism development in the region. The study analyzes the potential of historical monuments, sacred pilgrimage sites, and natural resources as tourism assets, particularly the "Chashma" complex and its healing spring water.*

Keywords: *Nur-Ata, Alexander the Great, Second Kaaba, healing water, Nurbulog, Konimex, Russian invasions, Panjvaqta Jome Mosque, Chashma spring.*

At the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, tourism occupied an important place in the global economy. The increase in the material well-being of the world's population led to a growing demand for recreation and travel. As a result, the need to manage tourist flows by enhancing tourism attractiveness emerged in every country. In all regions of the world, including Uzbekistan, meeting tourists' information and advertising needs, improving existing infrastructure, and ensuring tourist safety have become strategic priorities.

Uzbekistan still has untapped opportunities, and the use of tangible and intangible cultural heritage objects as tourism resources has created competition among regions, which has begun to yield positive results in tourism development. Each region and district of the country has a long and rich history. One such area is the Nurota district of Navoi region.

Nurota district borders Tomdi district to the north, Konimex district and Bukhara region to the west, Jizzakh region to the east, and Navoiy, Khatirchi districts and Samarkand region to the south. Like many other districts of Uzbekistan, Nurota has a deep historical background. Before the territories of Central Asian states were conquered by the Russian Empire, the present-day Nurota district was part of the Bukhara Emirate.

The word "Nurota" translates as "sacred source." It is one of the most important pilgrimage water sites in Central Asia and is considered one of the most sacred and frequently visited places by Muslims in the region. Thousands of tourists from around the world visit this complex every year. The complex was built in the 16th century and includes the Friday Mosque, a medieval bathhouse, a mausoleum, the Panj well, and the ancient





Panjvaqta Mosque. The Panjvaqta Mosque is the oldest building in the complex and was constructed in the first half of the 16th century.

The interior of the mosques features traditional wood carving and other decorative elements characteristic of Central Asian and Persian architecture. The dome of the Friday Mosque has a diameter of 16 meters. The bathhouse of the complex was rebuilt at the beginning of the 20th century by Bukhara craftsmen on the site of an older bathhouse.

The “Chashma” historical and architectural complex is famous for its healing spring water. According to legend, springs began to emerge in ancient times in the territory of Nurota district, and due to the light radiating from the water, the place was named “Nurota,” meaning “God granted light.” The area, often referred to by locals as the “Second Kaaba,” attracts numerous pilgrims and tourists every year.

One remarkable feature of the Chashma spring is that its water temperature remains constant at 19.5°C throughout the year. Fish swimming in the spring are considered sacred and are not permitted to be consumed. The spring water is believed to cure many illnesses, as it contains a wide range of beneficial minerals. Visitors from different parts of the world come to drink the water and enjoy the unique historical landscape.

Currently, two hotels and an amphitheater for cultural and entertainment events have been built for tourists at the Chashma complex. According to local legends, Russian soldiers who ignored warnings and consumed the sacred fish died as a result. It is believed that the unique natural location and the chemical composition of the water played a role in this phenomenon.

Scientific studies indicate that the water contains phosphorus, which gives the water and fish a shimmering appearance, as well as gold, iodine, bromine, and silver compounds. These elements are believed to help treat gastrointestinal diseases, goiter, nervous system disorders, and preserve the purity of the water.

The Chashma complex includes the Chilustun Jome Mosque, the spring (Chashma), the Panjob (Five Fingers) well, the Panjvaqta Mosque (Great Dome), the mausoleum of Sheikh Abul Hasan Nuri, and the Nur Fortress. According to local beliefs, a meteorite fell at this site approximately 40,000 years ago, emitting light for one hundred days and forming a crater that gave rise to the sacred spring. The name “Nurota” is believed to be associated with this event.

The ruins of the ancient Nur Fortress are located near the sacred spring. Historical sources state that its ancient name was “Nuri Bukhara,” meaning “The Light of Bukhara.” The fortress was built several centuries before Christ and was later expanded during the campaigns of Alexander the Great. The fortress walls extended up to 22 kilometers.

The Chilustun Mosque was originally built in the 9th century and reconstructed in the 16th century during the reign of Amir Temur. The mosque is notable for its sun clock located under a dome with cylindrical windows. The Panjvaqta Mosque, built between 1570 and 1582 by order of Bukhara ruler Abdullah Khan II, features a large domed structure with wooden columns made of mulberry and elm, resting on marble foundations.





In conclusion, Nurota district is one of the regions that currently attracts tourists from all over the world. Personal observation of the area, its architectural monuments, and the healing spring confirms that Nurota is truly worthy of visiting. The growing interest in this region contributes significantly to the development of tourism in Uzbekistan and increases tourist inflows to the country.

Tourism is one of the sectors that brings substantial economic benefits to the nation. Therefore, under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, numerous decrees and resolutions aimed at developing tourism have been adopted and implemented. In particular, the resolution on the comprehensive development of Nurota district of Navoi region for 2019–2021 led to the reconstruction of the “Chashma” architectural and historical complex.

Additionally, from this year onward, the “One More Day of Travel in Uzbekistan” program is being implemented. Within this framework, “Republic Tourism Rings” connecting interregional tourism destinations and “Regional Tourism Rings” connecting districts and cities will be established. The Tourism Committee will maintain a unified register of tourist route

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