

LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF TOURISM SAFETY IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Avlayev Botirali Xoliqulovich

Researcher at Karshi State Technical University

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 10th April, 2026 Accepted: 8th May 2026	This article provides a historical and legal analysis of the legal foundations for ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The study examines the formation of the tourism sector and the system of regulatory and legal documents aimed at protecting the life, health, property, and legitimate interests of tourists. The article considers the concept of tourism safety not only as the physical protection of tourists but also as a comprehensive system that includes the quality of tourist services, transport and infrastructure safety, prevention of emergency situations, provision of information, and the establishment of legal guarantees for tourists.

Keywords: tourism, tourism safety, legal foundations, tourist rights, regulatory and legal documents, tourist services, safety system, state policy, Uzbekistan.

INTRODUCTION. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan paid special attention to the development of the tourism sector through the effective utilization of its historical and cultural heritage, rich traditions, and natural resources. Historical monuments, pilgrimage sites, and natural tourist destinations located in ancient cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Shahrissabz have become important factors in strengthening Uzbekistan's position in the international tourism market.

However, along with the growing economic and social significance of tourism, ensuring the safety of tourists has also become one of the key priorities. This is because, in the modern tourism system, the trust of tourists in a country is primarily determined by the protection of their life and health, the compliance of provided services with safety requirements, and the guarantee of their legal rights and interests.

MAIN PART. Tourism safety is currently considered one of the fundamental principles of international tourism policy. The recommendations of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) also recognize safety as an important condition for sustainable tourism development, placing responsibility on states to protect the rights of tourists and create a secure environment [1].

From the early years of independence, Uzbekistan began the process of legal regulation of relations in the tourism sector. Initially, tourism activities were regulated within the framework of general legislation related to entrepreneurship, consumer protection, and civil law relations. However, the further development of tourism as an independent sector required the establishment of specialized legal mechanisms.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," adopted in 1999, became one of the important legal documents that established the foundations of the tourism sector in the country. Through this law, the

rights of tourists, the responsibilities of tourism entities, the procedure for providing services, and the main directions related to safety issues were defined.

At the next stage, as a result of reforms implemented in the tourism sector, the new edition of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism" was adopted on July 18, 2019. This law regulated legal relations in the tourism sector in accordance with international standards and strengthened the issue of ensuring tourist safety as a separate legal principle. The law includes provisions related to protecting the life, health, and safety of tourists, complying with safety requirements in the provision of tourism services, and defining the responsibilities of tourism organizations [2].

While addressing the development of the tourism sector, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the necessity of effectively utilizing the country's tourism potential, developing modern infrastructure, and creating favorable conditions for tourists [3]. This approach contributed to identifying tourism safety as one of the priority areas of state policy.

The concept of tourism safety has a broad meaning and includes not only the physical protection of tourists but also their right to receive information, sanitary and hygienic conditions, safety of transport services, insurance protection, and the opportunity to receive assistance in emergency situations. Therefore, ensuring tourism safety is a complex system that requires cooperation between state bodies, tourism organizations, and service consumers.

The relevance of this research lies in the fact that, at a time when the tourism sector in Uzbekistan is developing rapidly, the scientific analysis of the legal foundations for ensuring tourist safety, generalization of existing experience, and identification of future development directions are of significant importance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. This study employed historical-legal analysis, systematic analysis, comparative-legal analysis, and the study of regulatory and legal documents to examine the legal foundations of tourism safety in Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The main objective of the research is to identify the stages of formation of the legal system aimed at ensuring tourism safety, reveal the essence of existing legal mechanisms, and evaluate their practical significance.

Through the historical-legal approach, the process of development of legal relations in the tourism sector after Uzbekistan gained independence was analyzed. In this regard, the initial legal documents regulating the tourism sector since the 1990s, subsequent reforms, and the process of formation of modern tourism policy were studied.

The source base of the research consisted of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," presidential decrees, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, scientific literature related to the tourism sector, and recommendations of international organizations. In particular, the Law "On Tourism" adopted in 2019 was used as one of the main sources for studying the modern legal foundations of tourism safety.

Through the comparative-legal analysis method, legal norms related to tourism safety in Uzbekistan were compared with international tourism standards. This approach made it possible to analyze issues related to the protection of tourists' rights, the provision of safe services, and the determination of responsibilities of tourism entities within the legislation of Uzbekistan.

Based on the systematic approach, tourism safety was assessed not merely as a set of legal norms, but as a comprehensive system encompassing the interaction between state bodies, tourism organizations, local administrative authorities, and tourists.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. During the years of independence, the legal foundations of tourism safety in Uzbekistan were formed gradually and systematically. Initially, the tourism sector was regulated within the framework of general entrepreneurial and civil-law relations during the transition to a market economy. However, with the increasing economic and social importance of tourism, specialized legal mechanisms were subsequently developed.

The legal consolidation of tourism safety issues was primarily associated with the necessity to protect tourists' rights and improve the quality of tourism services. This is because the development of the tourism sector is determined not only by the growth of tourist flows but also by the level of safety and comfort provided to visitors in the country.

The new edition of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism" represented an important legal stage in this field. The law defined tourism safety as one of the priority areas of state policy. It established legal provisions related to protecting the life, health, and property of tourists, ensuring that tourism services comply with safety requirements, and increasing the responsibility of tourism service providers.

According to legal scholars, one of the main objectives of modern tourism law is to ensure a legal balance between tourists and service providers. This is because tourists, as citizens of other regions or countries, may often be in a weaker position compared to service providers in terms of information availability and opportunities [4].

The strengthening of state policy in ensuring tourism safety has also been reflected in presidential decrees and government resolutions. In particular, the Presidential Decree No. PF-4861 of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 2, 2016, defined tasks aimed at the rapid development of the tourism sector, the creation of modern infrastructure, and the establishment of favorable conditions for foreign tourists. This document contributed to the development of tourism as one of the strategic sectors of the national economy [5].

The reforms implemented in the tourism sector in subsequent years also strengthened the institutional foundations of safety. In particular, the improvement of the activities of authorized state bodies in the field of tourism, the introduction of service standards at tourist facilities, and the development of information systems for tourists have contributed to the creation of a safe tourism environment.

One of the important aspects of tourism safety is informing tourists about potential risks and hazards. In modern tourism practice, providing tourists with sufficient and reliable information is considered one of the main forms of protecting their rights. Therefore, tourism organizations are responsible not only for providing services but also for conducting explanatory activities related to safety measures.

In Uzbekistan, the issue of safety has become particularly important in the development of mountain, ecological, and pilgrimage tourism. This is because natural conditions, weather changes, transportation issues, and access to medical assistance in such tourism areas directly affect the safety of tourists.

The results of the study demonstrate that the legal foundations of tourism safety in Uzbekistan are developing in accordance with international experience. At the same time, the wider implementation of unified tourism safety standards in the regions, increasing the responsibility of service providers, and improving the legal awareness of tourists remain among the important tasks.

Similar to other regions of Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to safety issues in the development of tourism in Kashkadarya region. The region occupies an important place in the country's tourism potential due to its rich historical and cultural heritage, ancient cities, archaeological sites, and natural landscapes. In particular, the city of Shahrisabz, the Kitab Geological Reserve, the Hissar mountain ranges, pilgrimage sites, and centers of folk applied arts provide opportunities for the development of various types of tourism in the region.

Ensuring tourism safety in Kashkadarya region is primarily associated with the protection of historical sites, strengthening safety measures along tourist

routes, improving service quality, and preventing emergency situations. This is because the development of cultural, ecological, and pilgrimage tourism in the region requires consideration of various safety needs of tourists.

The recognition of the historical center of Shahrisabz as a cultural heritage site of international significance has further increased the importance of tourism safety and cultural heritage protection in the region. Preserving historical monuments, ensuring compliance with safety requirements during their use, and creating favorable conditions for tourists are among the important directions of state policy.

Ensuring tourism safety in Kashkadarya region requires effective cooperation between local government authorities, cultural heritage protection organizations, tourism entities, and law enforcement agencies. Such cooperation contributes to ensuring tourist safety, maintaining public order at tourist facilities, and improving the quality of tourism services.

The experience of regional tourism demonstrates that tourism safety cannot be limited only to the development of legal regulations. Its effectiveness also depends on how these regulations are implemented in practice, the responsibility of service providers, and the level of tourism awareness among the population.

CONCLUSION. In conclusion, during the years of independence, the legal foundations of tourism safety in Uzbekistan have been gradually formed and improved in accordance with modern requirements. While tourism-related relations were initially regulated through general legal norms, a specialized legislative system was later developed, and ensuring tourist safety became one of the priority directions of state policy.

The formation of a comprehensive legal framework, including the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," presidential decrees, and government resolutions, has created important conditions for developing a safe tourism environment. Today, tourism safety is regarded not only as the protection of tourists' physical well-being but also as a complex system that includes legal guarantees, service quality, infrastructure reliability, information support, and emergency preparedness.

Further improvement of tourism safety in Uzbekistan requires the wider implementation of international standards, the development of regional safety programs, the introduction of modern monitoring mechanisms at tourist facilities, and the enhancement of the legal and professional training of specialists working in the tourism sector. These measures will contribute to the sustainable development of tourism and strengthen Uzbekistan's position in the international tourism market.

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