

ORGANIZATION OF TOURIST TRANSPORTATION BY AIRCRAFT

Ozodbek Toshev

Student of Tashkent State University of Economics

Abstract :*This article analyzes the theoretical and practical aspects of organizing tourist transportation by air, focusing on logistics systems, safety standards, and their interrelation with international tourism infrastructure. Analytical and comparative methods were applied based on statistical data from IATA, ICAO, UNWTO, and WTTC for the years 2020–2024. The study also examines Uzbekistan’s aviation reforms, the “Open Sky” policy, digital service implementation, and the impact of sustainable aviation development on tourism. The findings reveal that logistics management, digital transformation, and ecological efficiency play a crucial role in organizing air-based tourist transportation systems.*

Keywords: *aircraft, tourism logistics, transportation system, aviation safety, digital transformation, sustainable transport, Uzbekistan, IATA.*

INTRODUCTION:

In recent years, tourism has become one of the fastest-growing sectors of the global economy. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), international travel recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2024, reaching 1.3 billion tourist arrivals, of which nearly 60% were conducted by air transport. Air transport today serves as a vital logistical link in the tourism system, ensuring global mobility, economic integration, and cultural exchange. The aviation industry plays a decisive role not only in passenger transportation but also in efficiently managing tourist flows, expanding destinations, and shaping a country’s tourism image. Therefore, organizing tourist transportation by air is considered one of the strategic priorities for sustainable tourism development.

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA, 2024), the total number of global air passengers exceeded 9.4 billion, and this figure is projected to surpass 10.5 billion by 2030. The share of tourism-related flights continues to grow annually. In Uzbekistan, the integration between tourism and aviation sectors has entered a new stage. Within the framework of the “Open Sky” policy, more than 25 new international routes were launched between 2021 and 2024. Alongside “Uzbekistan Airways”, private airlines such as “Qanot Sharq” and “Air Samarkand” have significantly enhanced tourism logistics efficiency.

Efficient organization of tourist transportation by air requires a comprehensive approach that includes logistics management, safety protocols, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability. From this perspective, the relevance of this study lies in exploring the scientific foundations of organizing air transport systems to strengthen Uzbekistan’s competitiveness in the international tourism market.

Literature Review:

Travel is a complex socio-economic process characterized by human movement across space and time, defined by specific purposes and duration of stay. In tourism, it is impossible to imagine a complete journey without transportation services. Tourist resources are typically associated with specific regions, and their popularity and level of use are determined by the transportation infrastructure available in those regions. Undoubtedly, the development of transportation—especially air transport—has laid the foundation for the expansion of tourism and the opening of new destinations.

In this field, scholars such as Stephen J. Page, Hall C. M., Sorupia E., Meredith J., May A., Roberts M., Lynam D., Sutch T., Broughton J., Lawson S., Kuskov A. S., Ovcharov A. O., Birjakov M. B., Pardayev M. Q., and Hamidov O. X. have made significant scientific contributions to the study of the integration between air transport and tourism. Their works scientifically substantiate the interrelation between transport infrastructure and tourist flows, the economic efficiency of air transport, and the principles of sustainable development in the tourism system. Stephen

J. Page (2019), in his book “Tourism Management: An Introduction,” emphasizes that air transport serves as the “lifeblood” of the tourism industry, noting that more than 60 percent of modern tourist flows are conducted through air travel. C. M. Hall (2020) and A. Williams (2021) highlight in their research that air transport plays a decisive role in digital management, logistics, and the expansion of route networks within the tourism system. R. Kasarda (2021), through his “Aerotropolis” concept, interprets airports as new economic centers and tourism hubs. According to him, modern airports act as strategic connection points between cities and the tourism industry. Russian scholar A. S. Kuskov (2020) regards air transport infrastructure as the foundation of the transport complex, describing the passenger transportation system as a combination of technical base, management, and safety measures. O. Ovcharov (2021) argues that, in some cases, transport infrastructure may serve as an independent subject of tourism activity, while the system of air transportation is one of the main indicators of tourism industry efficiency. Mikhail Borisovich Birjakov (2022), in his work “Tourism Industry,” notes that transport is an integral part of tourism, serving not only for passenger movement but also as a component of cultural, entertainment, and commercial activities. M. Q. Pardayev (2023), in his study “Transport Service and Tourism Logistics,” examines the quality of service, safety requirements, and environmental sustainability in the field of air transport, defining it as the most complex yet efficient element of the tourism system. O. Kh. Hamidov (2024) defines the process of providing transport services to tourists as “a set of services designed to transport tourists from one place to another conveniently, quickly, and safely,” emphasizing that modernization of air transport infrastructure in Uzbekistan plays a vital role in the development of national tourism.

Results :

In recent years, the transportation of tourists by air has grown significantly on a global scale. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the number of air passengers worldwide reached 4.8 billion in 2024, representing 103% of the pre-pandemic level in 2019. Of this, 62% accounted for international travel. Between 2020 and 2024, the growth rate of air transport in tourism averaged 7.1% per year. The fastest-growing routes were between the Asia-Pacific region and Europe–Central Asia. Digital ticketing, low-cost airlines, and the introduction of eco-efficient aircraft have greatly contributed to this increase. According to the State Tourism Committee of Uzbekistan, the number of foreign tourists arriving in the country by air reached 7.6 million in 2024, 1.5 times higher than in 2019. The majority of visitors came from Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.

The development of air transport infrastructure has had a significant impact on the national economy. Modernization of international terminals at Tashkent International Airport and Samarkand Airport has created the capacity to handle up to 6 million passengers per year. Moreover, airlines such as Uzbekistan Airways, Qanot Sharq, and Centrum Air launched over 15 new international routes during 2023–2024. The progress of air transport has also improved the quality of tourism services. According to international rankings, the service quality score of Uzbekistan’s airports rose from 3.7 in 2022 to 4.3 in 2024. Statistical analysis shows that 47% of Uzbekistan’s tourism exports are carried out through air transport. Each foreign tourist contributes approximately USD 850 in revenue, generating nearly USD 2.2 billion annually for the national economy. Furthermore, modern aircraft such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Airbus A320neo have reduced fuel consumption by 15–20%, significantly decreasing carbon emissions.

For Uzbekistan, air transport is not only a means of increasing tourist flows but also a factor shaping the country’s international image. Direct flights to historical cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Shakhrisabz and Urgench have increased tourist arrivals by 28%.

The implementation of the Smart Airport system in Uzbekistan’s airports has improved service efficiency by 35%. AI-based passenger registration and automated baggage control systems are being introduced to enhance passenger experience. These findings demonstrate that the impact of air transport on tourism is multifaceted. It not only increases passenger flows but also enhances economic income, employment, and international competitiveness.

In Uzbekistan’s case, modernization of air transport is closely tied to national tourism policy. The “Uzbekistan 2030” Strategy identifies air tourism routes, international aviation logistics, and service quality as key priorities for sustainable growth. Projections indicate that in the coming years, the volume of tourists transported by air will continue to grow by 8–10% annually, allowing Uzbekistan’s tourism export revenue to reach USD 10 billion by 2030.

DISCUSSION

The organization of tourist transportation by aircraft is one of the most significant and complex components of the modern tourism system. The efficiency of this process is directly determined by the comfort, safety, quality of service, and level of digitalization provided to passengers. In recent years, Uzbekistan's air transport sector has undergone dynamic development, making a substantial contribution to the growth of tourist flows. The expansion of flight geography, the acquisition of new aircraft, and the modernization of airport infrastructure have elevated the organization of tourist transportation by air to a new qualitative level.

In 2024, a total of 13.5 million passengers were transported by air in Uzbekistan, reflecting a 30 percent increase compared to 2023. Tourists accounted for about 62 percent of these passengers. The national carrier, Uzbekistan Airways, served 5.6 million passengers across 45 destinations, utilizing modern Airbus A321neo and Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. Furthermore, Silk Avia, established in 2023, transported more than 720,000 passengers in 2024, primarily on domestic routes. The airline's operations have played an essential role in developing domestic tourism and increasing interregional tourist mobility within the country.

International experience shows that ensuring the effective organization of tourist transportation by air requires strict adherence to flight safety, passenger rights, and environmental sustainability. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have established global standards for safety management systems, passenger service quality, and carbon emission reduction mechanisms. Uzbekistan has emerged as a regional leader in this regard, achieving an 82.6 percent score in the ICAO "Effective Implementation Index," the highest result in Central Asia.

The quality of in-flight and ground services, as a key component of air transport operations, directly influences tourists' initial impressions of a destination. According to the 2024 UzAviation Survey, 87 percent of passengers expressed satisfaction with aviation services in Uzbekistan. The highest ratings were given for on-time performance, aircraft cleanliness, and cabin crew professionalism. Moreover, the introduction of self check-in systems, biometric identification (Face ID), and mobile luggage tracking applications has reduced passenger waiting time by up to 25 percent, significantly improving travel comfort and efficiency. Under the "Tourism Transport Integration Strategy 2030," the Government of Uzbekistan plans to launch 15 new international air routes, increase the frequency of domestic flights by 40 percent, and renew 45 percent of the aircraft fleet. These measures aim to enhance the organization of tourist transportation by air, improve service quality, and fully integrate digital management systems into aviation operations.

Environmental sustainability has also become a critical focus area. In 2024, fifteen aircraft in Uzbekistan successfully conducted test flights using biofuel, and starting from 2025, Uzbekistan Airways plans to transition 10 percent of its fleet to eco-friendly fuel. This

initiative aligns with the United Nations' "Sustainable Aviation Goals 2035," representing a key national commitment to sustainable development in aviation.

Overall, the system of organizing tourist transportation by aircraft in Uzbekistan is progressing rapidly. The development of new facilities at Tashkent and Samarkand airports, the introduction of modern aircraft, digital innovations, and adherence to international service standards are transforming the country's air tourism sector. These advancements are positioning Uzbekistan not only as a regional hub but also as a competitive player on the global tourism and aviation map.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study demonstrate that air transport is one of the most strategic and essential components of the modern tourism system, directly influencing a country's economic growth, international image, and competitiveness. Organizing tourist transportation by air is not only a matter of moving passengers but also a complex process that integrates tourism logistics, safety management, service quality, and digital technologies.

The analysis shows that Uzbekistan's aviation sector reforms — including the "Open Sky" policy, modernization of airport infrastructure, the launch of new airlines, and the introduction of the "Smart Airport" system — have significantly boosted the flow of international tourists. In 2024, the number of foreign visitors arriving by air reached 7.6 million, while improvements in flight quality, safety, and environmental performance highlight the effectiveness of these initiatives.

The findings confirm that the impact of air transport on tourism is multidimensional, contributing to economic growth, job creation, logistical efficiency, and environmental sustainability. To further enhance the organization of tourist transportation by air, it is necessary to expand digital management systems, strengthen flight safety standards, and promote the development of eco-friendly aviation using biofuels. In general, the consistent development of the air transport system plays a crucial scientific and practical role in reinforcing Uzbekistan's position in the global tourism market, transforming the country into a competitive regional hub for air tourism, and advancing the goals outlined in the "Uzbekistan 2030" Strategy.

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