

## THE INFLUENCE OF ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS OF KARAKALPAKSTAN ON TOURIST INTEREST

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**Abstract:** *This article is devoted to studying the impact of architectural monuments located in the Republic of Karakalpakstan on tourist attention and regional tourism development. Among the studied sites, particular importance is attached to the Ishan Qorǵan Complex, the Janbasqala Monument, the Keshirmes Baba Mausoleum, the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum, and the Shilpiq structure as significant historical and architectural landmarks. The article analyzes their historical background, architectural features, and the aspects that make them attractive to both domestic and foreign tourists.*

**Keywords:** *Karakalpakstan, historical monument, architectural heritage, cultural heritage, tourism development, tourist attraction, regional tourism, architectural monuments, historical sites, heritage preservation, cultural tourism, archaeological monuments, tourist interest, historical architecture, Uzbekistan tourism.*

## ҚОРАҚАЛПОҒИСТОНДАГИ МЕЪМОРИЙ ЁДГОРЛИКЛАРНИНГ ТУРИСТЛАР ҚИЗИҚИШИГА ТАЪСИРИ

**Аннотация:** *Ушбу мақола Қорақалпоғистон Республикаси ҳудудида жойлашган меъморий ёдгорликларнинг туристлар диққатига ва минтақавий туризм ривожига таъсирини ўрганишга бағишланган. Тадқиқ этилган объектлар орасида Iyshan Qorǵan мажмуаси, Janbasqala ёдгорлиги, Keshirmes Baba мақбараси, Mazlumkhan Sulu мақбараси ва Shilpiq иншооти муҳим тарихий ва меъморий обидалар сифатида алоҳида ўрин тутади. Мақолада уларнинг тарихи, меъморий хусусиятлари ҳамда маҳаллий ва хорижий туристлар учун жозибадор жиҳатлари таҳлил қилинган.*

**Калит сўзлар:** *Қорақалпоғистон, тарихий ёдгорлик, меъморий мерос, маданий мерос, туризм ривож, туристик жозибадорлик, минтақавий туризм, меъморий ёдгорликлар, тарихий объектлар, меросни сақлаш, маданий туризм, археологик ёдгорликлар, туристик қизиқиши, тарихий меъморчилик, Ўзбекистон туризми.*

## ВЛИЯНИЕ АРХИТЕКТУРНЫХ ПАМЯТНИКОВ КАРАКАЛПАКСТАНА НА ТУРИСТИЧЕСКИЙ ИНТЕРЕС

**Аннотация:** *Данная статья посвящена изучению влияния архитектурных памятников, расположенных на территории Республики Каракалпакстан, на туристический интерес и развитие регионального туризма. Среди исследованных объектов особое значение имеют комплекс Ишан-Корган, памятник Жанбаскала, мавзолей Кеширмес Баба, мавзолей Мазлумхан Сулу и сооружение Шылпык как значимые историко-архитектурные памятники. В статье анализируются их*

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*историческое происхождение, архитектурные особенности и факторы, привлекающие как отечественных, так и иностранных туристов.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Каракалпакстан, исторический памятник, архитектурное наследие, культурное наследие, развитие туризма, туристическая привлекательность, региональный туризм, архитектурные памятники, исторические объекты, сохранение наследия, культурный туризм, археологические памятники, туристический интерес, историческая архитектура, туризм Узбекистана.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Karakalpakstan is a region rich in history and cultural heritage, and its architectural monuments hold great significance not only for academic research but also for tourism development. The tourism sector is one of the key branches of the national economy, and historical and cultural heritage sites serve as primary attractions for visitors.

Historical monuments in Karakalpakstan, such as the Ishan Qorqan Complex, the Janbasqala Monument, the Keshirmes Baba Mausoleum, the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum, and the Shilpiq structure, play an essential role in attracting both local and international tourists while preserving their historical value and architectural authenticity. This article provides an expanded analysis of these sites, focusing on their history, architectural characteristics, and their influence on tourism development.

The main objective of the study is to determine how appealing the historical monuments of Karakalpakstan are for tourists and researchers, and to develop practical recommendations for enhancing tourism development in the region.



## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

In conducting this research, the primary aim was to provide a scholarly analysis of the historical, cultural, and tourism significance of architectural monuments located in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Since the issue requires a comprehensive approach, the study

draws upon sources from history, architecture, cultural studies, and tourism economics, as well as electronic information resources.

In analyzing the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum, particular attention was given to the scholarly article by O.Sh. Kadirniyazov and M.Sh. Kadirniyazov titled “МАЗЛУМХАН-СУЛУ – УНИКАЛЬНЫЙ ПАМЯТНИК ХОРЕЗМА ЭПОХИ ЗОЛОТОЙ ОРДЫ” This work examines the architectural structure of the mausoleum, its construction period, decorative elements, epigraphic inscriptions, and numismatic findings from a scientific perspective. Based on the evidence presented by the authors, the monument’s place within the architectural traditions of Khorezm during the Golden Horde period and its distinctive stylistic features are highlighted. The conclusions of this research provided an important theoretical foundation for evaluating the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum not only as a historical site but also as a potentially attractive tourist destination.

Information regarding other historical monuments in Karakalpakstan, including the Iyshan Qorǵan Complex, the Janbasqala Monument, the Keshirmes Baba Mausoleum, and Shylpyk, was primarily obtained from various online sources and academic websites. Through these resources, data concerning the monuments’ historical periods, locations, architectural characteristics, archaeological research findings, and cultural significance were systematized. The information gathered from online sources was critically analyzed, compared, and reinterpreted within the framework of the research topic.

During the literature review, special attention was paid not only to the historical descriptions of the monuments but also to their role within the modern tourism system.

While academic sources extensively describe their architectural value, historical chronology, and cultural importance, the issues of tourist attractiveness and economic impact have been comparatively underexplored. Therefore, this study reinterprets existing knowledge from the perspective of tourism and regional economic development.

Methodologically, the research was conducted using a comprehensive approach. First, the historical-source analysis method was applied to examine the origin, stages of development, and architectural features of each monument. Through comparative analysis, similarities and differences between monuments belonging to various historical periods were identified, allowing for an assessment of their relative levels of tourist attractiveness.

In addition, qualitative analysis was used to evaluate the cultural and spiritual value of the monuments, their role in pilgrimage tourism, and their importance in the collective consciousness of the local population. Elements of quantitative analysis were also applied in examining available statistical data, visitor numbers, and information related to tourism infrastructure development. Together, these approaches made it possible to provide a general assessment of the economic impact of the monuments.

The case study method also played a significant role in the research. In particular, the examples of the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum and the Keshirmes Baba Mausoleum were analyzed to demonstrate how a historical monument can simultaneously perform religious, cultural, and tourist functions. This approach helped to reveal the multidimensional importance of architectural heritage sites.

Overall, the selected literature and methodological approaches enabled a scientifically grounded examination of the influence of architectural monuments in Karakalpakstan on tourist interest. Through critical analysis of sources, reinterpretation from a tourism and economic development perspective, and the application of comprehensive research methods, the study substantiates not only the cultural significance of these monuments but also their strategic role in the contemporary tourism system.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research findings indicate that the architectural monuments of the Republic of Karakalpakstan significantly influence tourist interest and serve as strategic resources for tourism development.

First, monuments with religious and pilgrimage functions were identified as key factors ensuring a stable flow of visitors. The Ishan Qorǵan Complex and the Keshirmes Baba Mausoleum attract not only local residents but also pilgrims and tourists from other regions. These sites are visited throughout the year, which contributes to the stability of the regional tourism system.

Second, archaeological sites and ancient settlement remains, such as the Janbasqala Monument and Shylpyk, demonstrate strong potential for scientific and educational tourism. These monuments are particularly attractive to history enthusiasts, researchers, and students. Although they may not function as mass pilgrimage destinations, they contribute significantly to the diversification of tourism types in the region.

The analysis of the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum revealed that artistic and aesthetic architectural value directly affects tourist attractiveness. Its multi-chambered layout, domed structures, decorative elements, and associated historical legends make it appealing not only for pilgrimage tourism but also for cultural and heritage tourism. This demonstrates that visual and artistic features are crucial components in enhancing tourist interest.

The study also showed that the attractiveness of monuments depends not only on their historical value but also on infrastructure and information support. Insufficient development of roads, signage, guided tour services, and visitor facilities can limit the full realization of a site's tourism potential. Therefore, tourism development is closely linked to effective management and infrastructure planning.

From an economic perspective, the service sector developing around heritage sites contributes to local employment. Small retail outlets, handicraft sales, and guiding services often emerge near pilgrimage and historical sites, illustrating the multiplier effect of tourism. One monument can stimulate several related economic activities.

Furthermore, the research highlights the social and cultural impact of architectural monuments. Increased tourist interest fosters greater awareness among the local population regarding the preservation and promotion of their cultural heritage. Thus, tourism produces not only economic but also socio-cultural benefits.

However, several challenges were identified, including insufficient restoration efforts at certain sites, limited use of modern information technologies, and inadequate international promotion. These issues indicate the need for a scientifically grounded tourism strategy aimed at sustainable development.

In general, the results confirm that architectural monuments in Karakalpakstan are fundamental factors in shaping tourist interest. Their historical depth, architectural uniqueness, and cultural meaning provide a solid foundation for tourism development, though the realization of this potential depends on infrastructure improvement, continued research, and effective management mechanisms.



## CONCLUSION

The conducted research demonstrates that the architectural monuments of the Republic of Karakalpakstan play a crucial role in shaping and stimulating tourist interest. Rich in historical, architectural, and cultural value, these sites represent not only the heritage of the past but also strategic assets within the modern tourism system.

Monuments of religious and pilgrimage significance, such as the Ishan Qorǵan Complex and the Keshirmes Baba Mausoleum, ensure a stable flow of visitors. Archaeological sites and ancient settlements, including the Janbasqala Monument and Shylpyk, create opportunities for the development of scientific, educational, and cultural tourism. Architecturally refined sites such as the Mazlumkhan Sulu Mausoleum contribute significantly to heritage and cultural tourism expansion.

The research confirms that tourist attractiveness depends not only on historical value but also on infrastructure quality, information accessibility, restoration standards, and marketing strategies. When these elements are harmoniously developed, sustainable tourism growth in Karakalpakstan becomes achievable.

Economically, architectural monuments contribute to job creation, small and medium-sized business development, and the expansion of the service sector. Tourism-generated income can support infrastructure improvement, social development, and heritage preservation, demonstrating its multiplier economic effect.

From a cultural perspective, these monuments strengthen national identity, preserve historical memory, and enhance intergenerational cultural continuity. Growing tourist interest increases local responsibility for heritage conservation and encourages respect for cultural values.

Overall, the architectural monuments of Karakalpakstan possess significant potential for tourism development. Through scientific research, preservation efforts, modern tourism technologies, and expanded international cooperation, the region can strengthen its position as an important regional and international tourism destination.

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