8th WORLD CONGRESS ON SNOW AND MOUNTAIN TOURISM

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A New Mountain Destination - Keys to Success, the Case of Tajikistan

Presented by
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Dushanbe, Tajikistan

31 March 2014
A brief overview of Tajikistan

**Fast Facts**

Population: 6,813,000  
Capital: Dushanbe: 554,000  
Religion: Sunni and Shiite Muslim  
Currency: Somoni  
Life Expectancy: 68  
Literacy Percent: 99  
Government Type: Republic.  


Branches: Executive-Chief of State: President Emomali RAHMON since November 6, 1994
A brief overview of Tajikistan

Geography

Tajikistan is a landlocked country, located in the South-East Central Asia, with a land area of 143,100 km².

Tajikistan is bordered to the north by Kyrgyzstan (border length 630 km), to the east by China (430 km), to the south by Afghanistan (1,030 km), and to the north and west by Uzbekistan (910 km).

Mountainous, Tajikistan is a country with 72 peaks above 6000 m.

It is land-locked terrain bordering China, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The most accessible sea ports are located in Karachi (Pakistan), Bandar Abbas (Iran), Poti (Georgia), and Riga (Latvia).

Earthquakes are frequent because Tajikistan is situated on an active seismic belt that extends throughout the entire South-Eastern section of Central Asia.

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Prospects of Tajikistan Tourism Industry

A. Tourism Development for 2010 – 2014, suggests key directions, priorities, objectives and mechanism of realization of the government policy.

B. It simplified the entry visa process for foreign tourists.

C. Unnecessary administrative barriers have been eliminated to improve the experiences of visitors to our country.

D. Tour Operators and the Representatives of tourism participated in ITB Berlin, WTM London, travel fairs in Tokyo & Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

E. Focused and improved marketing strategies & quality promotional materials, attracting international tourists to Tajikistan.
Prospects of Tajikistan Tourism Industry

- Expanded standards & legislation for international cooperation in the tourism development.
- On going support from Governmental to increase tourists’ arrivals.
- Increase attractiveness of the national tourism product and to enter into the global market of tourism services.
- Enhancing the competitive tourism industry, which can be one of the main profitable sectors of the state economy, will be created.
- The State Committee for Youth Affairs, Sports and Tourism works with partner organizations such as Representative of European Union in Tajikistan, the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (part of the Aga Khan Foundation), Welthungerhilfe, the European Centre for Eco and Agro Tourism and many others in developing a sustainable tourism industry in Tajikistan.
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Tajikistan a Mountain Country
- Pamir-Alay
- Rushan Range
- Shakhdara Range
- Trans-Alay Range
- Yazgulem Range
- Alay Mountains
- Fann Mountains
- Gissar Range
- Zeravshan Range
- Concord Peak
- Somoni Peak
- Tian Shan
a) **Tajikistan** is a mountainous country.
b) **The ancient Silk Road** passed through it.
c) 93% of Tajikistan is surrounded by **mountains**, the highest mountain systems of Central Asia: Tien-Shan and **the Pamirs**.
d) **The Pamir high mountains** situated in the heart of Central Asia.
e) **High plateau of Eastern Parmirs** is at an average altitude of 4000 meters.
f) **Highest peaks topping 7000 meter** (Peak Sumoni 7495 m).
Highlights of Tajik Tourism
natural and cultural attractions

- Dushanbe City
- Khatloun Region
- Panjikent and Wadi Zarafshan
- Khojand
- Nurek Dam

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Highlights of Tajik Tourism
natural and cultural attractions

- Ayni
- Qurghan Teppa
- Khorog
- Pamirs
- Hissar and Many More

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“Feel the Friendship”

- Tajik Government and Tourism Industry working and appealing for tourist friendly nation
- Tajikistan is aiming to build a nation of peace and international security.
- Tajik are very kind-hearted, friendly & revere their customs and traditions.
- Tajiks are family oriented.

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Developing High Mountain Areas in Tajikistan

- Historically, all over the world mountain areas have been attracting people – pilgrims, ascetics, naturalists, explorers, and, in recent years, mountaineers, trekkers and cultural tourists from near and far-off. Features that attract tourists are the pure, original nature, natural monuments and the healthy climate.

- Tajikistan has around 100 stunning peaks, many over 5,000m, and renowned alpine lakes.

- Famed among nature lovers and mountaineers, these mountains nonetheless see very few visitors, and their natural beauty and cultural treasures have remained virtually unchanged to this day.
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Developing High Mountain Areas in Tajikistan

- Mountain regions have much in common, their sustainable development is specific to each region and even to different sites within a region.
- Sustainable future of mountain environments and populations in Central Asia.
- The creation of a mountain countries group under the auspices of the United Nations
- The exchange of external debt for an equivalent investment in sustainable Development.
- Providing assistance at the community level, and subnational governments can use their power to determine their communities' future.

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Developing high mountain areas
Strategies for developing and promoting the country

- Village tourist guides
- Sustainable use specialists
- Technical assistance
- District Committee (DCC) Meetings
- Conservancy cluster forums
- Monitoring
- Awareness & education
- Miscellaneous

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Impacts of climate change on mountain tourism

- Melting Snow and Glaciers
- Landslide
- Floods
- Desertification
- Deforestation and the harm to biodiversity
- Warmer summer
- Droughts
- Increase in disease outbreaks
Strengthening education for sustainable tourism

- Preserve Cultural Diversity
- Promote Institutional Cooperation
- Tourism Development
  - Ecotourism
  - Mountain Tourism
  - Cultural Tourism
- Positioning Silk Road linking numerous tourism destinations

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The following modes of international tourism in the country are considered priority.
- Rock climbing
- Mountain sports
- Ecotourism, rafting, paragliding, skiing, hunting tourism
- Historical, educational and ethnographic tourism, spa treatment and rest.
Status of Investments

- Tajikistan as a country in transition experiences
- Acute shortage of investment capital
- Effective use of natural and human resources available to ensure sustainable growth
- Improve living standards of the population
- Tajikistan has improved investment climate to attract foreign investments in economic growth
Status of Investments

- Support small and medium enterprises
- VAT and income tax rates were reduced
- “Single Window” principle introduced for registration of legal entities and businesses
- Similar system to process export, import and transit procedures being introduced
- New tax code adopted to ensure compliance with the international best practice
- Customs legislation is under improvement
Obstacles & Difficulties to develop tourism

- Private-Public-Partnerships
- Policies and Proper implementation
- Infrastructure
- Security
- Single Window Clearance
- Development & Creating circuits
- Land Locked
- Communication Isolation

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1. Development of quality tourism products and cater to both, high end and budget tourists

- Promote community-based tourism
- Thinking ahead and planning for the long-term international tourism brand for Tajikistan.

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## Tourist Arrivals in Tajikistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Foreign Arrivals</th>
<th>No of Tourists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>345 000</td>
<td>245 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>320 000</td>
<td>208 000</td>
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Thank You