



## WAYS TO DEVELOP MODERN ECOTOURISM IN THE ZAAMIN BASIN

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### ANNOTATION

A comprehensive study of the nature of the Zomisuv Basin has developed practical recommendations for the development of modern ecotourism.

**Keywords** - Zaamin water basin, Zaamin national nature park, modern ecotourism, ecological trail, route, Ettikechuv, Miq fortress, tourist village.

Undoubtedly, one of the first centers of international mountain tourism development in Uzbekistan is the Zaamin mountain and the Zaaminsuv basin. Many years of research in Zaamin show that there is great potential for the development of all types of mountain tourism. The main factors in the development of international mountain tourism in the region - extremely favorable mountain climate, thick spruce forests covering the slopes, subalpine and alpine meadows, dry climate and fresh air, phytoncide volatile compounds that clean the air from various diseases, long-term favorable temperature conditions and the abundance of sunny days, optimal relative humidity for the organism, and many other climatic factors can be enumerated.

According to experts, the Zaamin mountain and its tributaries, the Zaminsuv Basin, are almost identical in climate to the Mediterranean. That is why here, large addresses of climate treatment and recreation are built. As a clear example, the construction of the "Zaamin Mothers' and Children's Sanatorium" in this area is not accidental.

Zaamin Sanatorium is rich in ultraviolet sunlight and has a pleasant mountain air, specializing in the treatment of respiratory diseases. Zaamin sanatorium is a 600-bed medical facility. It is worth noting that the Zaamin sanatorium is busy with vacationers and patients throughout the year. In recent years, the sanatorium is visited not only by local but also by many foreign tourists.

Due to the large number of vacationers in the spring and summer (approximately 6,000 people rest at the same time), the Zaamin sanatorium is not able to fully meet the needs of vacationers. For this reason, below the Zaamin sanatorium, a number of comfortable resorts have been built. Examples of such resorts are "Uriklisay", "Zilola", "Bukhara Sharif" and "Plato".

The area around the treatment facilities is covered with thick pine forests. The spruce tree kills germs in the air by releasing phytocides. That is why the mountain air is clean. In this treatment facility, asthma is also treated naturally.

On the northern slope of the Turkestan ridge, chalov and betaga plants are widespread. Chalov and betaga plants are the main food of animals. For this reason, horse breeding is well developed in this region. The locals make koumiss from horse milk. The milk of horse is the best natural ointment for the treatment of diseases of the stomach and intestines. The koumiss prepared here can be used for therapeutic purposes. Treatment on the basis of koumiss from the CIS countries is very well established in the Republic of Bashkortostan of the Russian

Federation. If the natural method of treatment through koumiss was introduced in the future in the sanatorium of Zaamin, it would create additional facilities for vacationers and patients.

The Zominsuv River is formed by the melting of snow and ice in the Shovkarmountain, Zaminmountain and Molguzar mountains of the Turkestan ridge, as well as the confluence of many springs. The Zominsuv Basin is located on the northern slope of the Turkestan ridge at an altitude of 550 m to 4300 m above sea level, differs sharply from the surrounding mountainous areas in its unique natural conditions and has a clear natural boundary. This area of the Turkestan ridge has its own characteristics and is covered with a variety of forests and meadows with a mild climate and sparkling vegetation. From low, medium and high mountains to snowy peaks (Shovkarmountain-4030 m) is characterized by a wide variety of exotic landscapes. That is why there is a huge potential for the development of all types of ecotourism. A large part of this area belongs to the Zaamin National Nature Park.

Zaamin National Park was established in 1976 in the Zaamin Basin as the first national park in Central Asia. The area of the Zaamin National Park is 23,894 hectares, mainly protected by mountain spruces, as well as plant and animal species listed in the “ Red Book of Uzbekistan”. The National Park is located on the northern slope of the Turkestan ridge, its western boundary crosses the watershed of the Goralash and Boykongur rivers. This watershed also covers the borders of Zaamin and Bakhmal districts. The northern border runs parallel to the confluence of the Zominsuv and Ettikechuv rivers, the village of Duoba, the eastern border runs along the state border of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and the southern border runs along the watershed of the Turkestan ridge.

Zaamin is a 45 km long asphalt highway that runs through the entire territory of the National Park, connecting Zaamin and Bakhmal districts. The scientific base of the Central Asian Forestry Institute is located on the shores of the Kolsoy National Park. At this base, the Forestry Research Institute has been conducting scientific observations and experiments since 1929.

Zaamin National Park is located at an altitude of 1000 - 4030 meters above sea level. Along with the unique and typical landscapes, the integrity of the ecosystems of spruce forests, the abundance of natural complexes in this area that are rare, even completely unchanged by man, was the main reason for the creation of the national park. The developed mountain tourism here has been called Zaamin International Park for some time because it attracts not only the population of Uzbekistan, but also foreign fans of mountain tourism. Now its name is firmly established and it is called "Zaamin National Nature Park".

Modern national parks are organized in the form of tourism, which is primarily protected and secondly intended for recreation in nature. In the early days, that is, 150-200 years ago, people tried to relax in nature and come as tourists. Therefore, the recreational direction of nature use, the risk of damage to uniquely attractive plots was almost non-existent. As a result, the remarkable sights and facilities have been removed from the sphere of human production and preserved in the status of a national park. Currently, protected areas are a very complex organizational structure.

There are several villages in the Zominsuv basin area. In the northern part of the national nature park there are the villages of Ettikechuv, Korangisay, Togterak, Uriklisay, in the southern part of the villages of Kashkasuv and Qizilmazor. Also, when you enter the territory of Zaamin National Nature Park, you will come across such beautiful rivers as Archamozor, Ayiklisay, Yongaksay and Olmasoy. Tourists who come here can also meet the mountain terrain covered with thick spruce trees, proud mountain peaks, waterfalls, caves (there are more than 20 caves), rare plants and many species of animals, which are wonderful unique phenomena of nature. The

eroded human-shaped rock formations (Forty Maidens) and the super-exotic karst processes not uncommon in the world's rare arid regions attract tourists.

In addition to nature conservation and protection, great attention is paid to the development of international ecotourism in the Zaamin National Nature Park. The administration of the National Nature Park has developed six ecological trail routes for the movement of tourists in the park area.

Route 1. This route travels from Uriklisay to Mirzoulen Pass. During the trip, only the top of the mountain is hiked. Mountain animals include bears, wild boars, rabbits, and various birds.

Route 2. From Zaamin-Bakhtal highway it is possible to travel only by car. When you reach the gorge of Chortangi, you can see steep cliffs and various birds of prey. Black storks, partridges and other birds of prey are common here.

Route 3. From Uriklisay to Takali peak, tourists will be able to walk only on foot, and for a short time they will have a day off from the resorts.

Route 4. It starts from Osmanlisay village. The route goes straight to Angrensoy and then to Ayrikisay. In these places you can see wild boar, bear, wolf, fox and mountain goat, mainly from animals.

Route 5. It starts from Uriklisay and continues to Irgaylisay. This route is mainly accompanied by natural landscapes where you can meet high cliffs, various landscapes and bears, lynx, various birds. The trip is on foot only.

Route 6. It starts from the village of Ettikechuv and walks along the river. When you go to the upper reaches of the river, you can see the old castle "Miq", which has been preserved for centuries. Among the animals, jays, foxes, wolves and wild boars are common and are familiar with the characteristics of various caves.

The distance between the National Park and the district center of Zaamin is 49 km. The distance between the nearest railway station Dashtobod to Zaamin National Park is 62 km.

The main part of the territory of the Zominsuv basin is occupied by mountains of medium height. Many of the ridges here are narrow and deep, alternating with gorges sometimes up to 700 meters. On the steep rocky slopes of the mountains there are magnificent shapes formed by the wind, caves and carvings formed by the erosion of groundwater. In the Zominsuv basin, not only some components of nature (geological structure, topography, climate, flora, soil and fauna), but also the value of some components was expressed in harmony with all other components. One of the most interesting unique landscapes here is the "Kyrgyz" tract. The "Kyrgyz" has stunningly miraculous shapes composed of a collection of bright red clays, conglomerates and sandstones of the neogene period, which will undoubtedly amaze tourists.

Another of the most beautiful geographical features in the region is the Supa Plateau. Located in two tiers at an altitude of 2300-2500 meters above sea level, karst tunnels are decorated in the nature of caves and are one of the most beautiful natural monuments. The flat mountain of Supa has a low-lying surface, carved and deepened by caves. At the bottom of the ravine, from the tributaries of the Zominsoy, the Kolsay flows, and this makes the nature of the land even more beautiful. In the lower part of the gorge, the steep rock walls reach 300-400 meters, and if you look from the top, you can see the Kolsoy bazaar. Attractive gorges and numerous waterfalls, the noise of which can hardly be heard from the depths of the depths, are common landscape types of the middle mountains. But they are also Chortangi; here are four deeper branches branched in four directions, in which many small waterfalls are found.

Although there are about 20 caves on the northern slope of the Turkestan ridge, none of them have been re-equipped for tourist excursions, only some caves (in the upper reaches of the Ettikechuv River) are used by

locals as refrigerators. The locals store the butter and yoghurt collected in the spring and summer in caves until the winter months by bagpipes (made from goat skin). The test products stored in the caves are distinguished by their taste compared to other test products. Here the art of cave bagpipe storage for many years in Ettikechuv can be compared to the art of wine storage in a cave in France. The French were famous all over the world for their taste of cave wines. It is also possible to create a brand of "Ettikechuv cave bagpipe" by demonstrating the art of cave bagpipe storage to foreign tourists

On the way from the gorge of Chortangi to the Ettikechuv gorge, you will come across the legendary fortress "Miq". As the trail rises along the stream, the stream narrows and becomes harder to climb. Just below the beginning of the Chortangi gorge, on the right bank of the river, the ruins of a stone fortress stand out. This is the ancient fortress of Miq that is located 20 km south of the village of Ettikechuv, at the top of the Yulsay and Ettikechuv rivers, on a steep rocky ravine.

The first scientific reports about the fortress "Miq" date back to the 40-50s of the last century. In the mid-1980s, archaeologists conducted targeted research at the Miq Fortress. In 1986, the researcher Pruger collected valuable information on the history of the castle "Miq" and put it into a single scientific system.

Miq Fortress is divided into 2 castles, Upper Miq and Lower Miq. Iron smelting was carried out in these castles. Iron ore was mined in the Kyzylmozor gorge on the left bank of the Ettikechuv valley. Two of the mine caves have survived to the present day. The mouths of the caves are closed for safety reasons. Based on the information of "Aga Burgutli" (1992) about the mines, iron mining was carried out in the "fire style". A bonfire was lit and heated at the excavation site, and water was sprinkled on the rock. After this method was repeated several times, it became easier to crack the rocks. The softer rocks were mined with a hammer, a chisel, a hoe and a shovel, an ax, a heavy iron and a head hammer, and wooden piles. The miners of the Miq mine have identified only the required iron layer and determined the width so that it can walk and allow the excavation work to continue. The ancient miners worked in the Miq mine without any reinforcement, without pillars, and the hard rocks made it possible. The iron ore mined here was transported to China via the Goralash and Shahristan passes, a branch of the Great Silk Road.

According to archeological data, the fortress "Miq" was built in the VII century AD, and its life lasted until the middle of the XII century. The inhabitants of the fortress "Miq" were mainly engaged in the extraction and smelting of iron ore, and partly from it to make work and military weapons.

The fortress "Miq" is a unique aspect of the rich history of the Uzbek people, the culture of handicrafts. By looking at the Upper and Lower Mick castles and the Mick mine caves that supplied iron for them, one gets an idea of how iron was mined and processed in ancient times. Due to the prevalence of red soils (containing iron) in the Kyzylmazor gorge in the Ettikechuv basin, the waters of the Ettikechuv and Zominsuv rivers turn red due to the melting of snow in the first ten days of June.

Ettikechuv is the most sparsely spruce-infested area in the Zominsuv Basin. As a result of the research, 2 main causes of sparse sparseness in Ettikechuv were identified. The first reason is that in the process of smelting iron in the fortress "Miq" cut down many spruces and used them as firewood. The second reason is the arrival of the railway in Uzbekistan in the XIX century and its passage through the city of Dashtobod. Flights passing through Dashtobod used spruce wood instead of fuel. As the Ettikechuv River is the largest tributary of the Zominsuv River, timber drainage works were carried out from the upper reaches of the Ettikechuv River to the lower reaches of the Zominsuv River (Hulkar village). As a result, a large number of spruces were felled in Ettikechuv, making it the rarest spruce area in the Zominsuv Basin.

Due to the diverse nature of the Zaamin Basin, the development and implementation of modern ecotourism projects with a single system remains one of the most pressing issues today. Having studied the local conditions in the Zominsuv basin, we would like to highlight some of the projects that need to be implemented:

The staff of the Zaamin National Park has developed 6 ecological trail routes that take into account local conditions. Because route maps of these eco-trails have not been developed, it is difficult for tourists to move independently unless guided. It is therefore necessary to create schematic route maps so that tourists can walk independently or without getting lost on ecological trails;

It is necessary to give the status of “tourist village” and develop services to the villages of Ettikechuv, Korangisay, Togterak, Uriklisay in the northern part of the Zaamin National Nature Park, and Kashkasuv and Kizilmazor in the southern part. The reason is, first of all, that the nature of these villages is not significantly different from the nature of the Zaamin National Nature Park. Second, the establishment of housing hotels in the villages and employment of the local population. Third, by developing tourism in these villages, it will be possible to reduce the “anthropogenic burden” on the Zaamin National Park;

Recreation areas in the Zaamin National Park, such as “Uriklisay”, “Zilola”, “Bukhara Sharif” and “Plato”, should be drastically reduced. Walking, cycling or horseback riding in the National Park area should be widely promoted in order to develop modern ecotourism in Zaamin district.

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