Orthodox Pilgrimage: History and Modern Age

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Abstract: Pilgrimage is the earliest type of travels. Pilgrimage tradition has been existing since the most ancient times in all world religions and exists to the present day. In Russia, throughout all its history, Orthodox cathedrals and monasteries has been built; we can say that most of Russian monuments of history and culture are Orthodox shrines, i.e. pilgrimage objectives. In Russia we can find a lot of shrines that are of interest to orthodox pilgrims from all over the world. Russia has a great spiritual, cultural and historical potential for development of Orthodox pilgrimage – both inbound and home ones. All above mentioned predetermined the research’s aim: analysis of development history and current state of the Orthodox pilgrimage.

Key words: Orthodox pilgrimage • Pilgrimage • Pilgrim trips • Pilgrim service • Pilgrim tourism • Orthodox tourism • pilgrim • Orthodox shrine

INTRODUCTION

A rising tide of the Orthodoxy, building and reconstruction of cathedrals and monasteries and also apparent growth of amount of the orthodox christians wanting to visit Orthodox shrines and to know their history predetermined the necessity of the Orthodox pilgrimage development.

Nowadays it is very important for Russia to develop the home Orthodox pilgrimage. This is caused by the fact that it promotes spiritual and moral revival of Russia. The point is that a pilgrim trip includes not only visiting and expert examination of cathedrals, monasteries, sacred sites (sources etc.), but also a pilgrim’s real participation in religious life of a cathedral or a monastery, possibility to visit sacred service, i.e. pilgrimage includes two components: a spiritual one (worshipping the Orthodox shrine) and an informative one (introduction to history and culture). Such complex approach helps to nurture a devout, regardful and solicitous attitude to people’s history, culture and faith. That is an Orthodox cathedral or monastery is not only and not so much a “construction of the XVI century”, but a Shrine which should be worshipped, cared of and preserved at all cost. On the basis of all above mentioned, we can draw a conclusion that the Orthodox pilgrimage development is a very important task for modern Russia, because it is one of ways of nurturing historical memory, patriotism, devout attitude to faith, culture and art; it spreads spiritual and moral values of the Orthodoxy, which since the ancient times was the main fundamental basis of not only the culture but also the life of our nation.

During the work the authors studied and analyzed researches of Russian and foreign scientists [1-8] and also members of clergy, which were dedicated to matters of tourism, religious tourism and pilgrimage.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

As research instruments we used general scientific methods, including theoretical analysis of scientifical, scientific-methodical and special literature on the investigated problem, study and summation of practice of Orthodox pilgrim trips organization.

RESULTS

- We conducted a comparative analysis of notions “orthodox tourism”, “pilgrim tourism”, “pilgrim tours”, “religious tourism”, “religious pilgrimage”, “excursionist religious tourism” and found out differences among them.
- We analyzed the Orthodox pilgrimage history development from the ancient times and to the present day, whereby we phrased main differences between ancient Orthodox pilgrimage and modern one.
- We analyzed the current state of Orthodox pilgrimage in various countries, whereby we drew a conclusion that the most interesting and promising countries from the point of view of the Orthodox pilgrimage development are Russia, Greece and Israel.
- We made practical recommendations for pilgrim trips organizations.
- We made practical recommendations for organization of Orthodox vacation which includes pilgrim trips.

CONCLUSION

The Orthodox pilgrimage development is a promising trend, because there is a great cultural, historical and spiritual foundation for it and people feel the need for it, which is connected with a gradual revival of the Orthodoxy, reconstruction of cathedrals and monasteries, desire to visit Sacred sites, to housel Orthodox shrines.

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