Ancient cultural centers of the Southern Urals: preservation with a view to development.

III. Tourist Historical Road
"The Ancient Civilizations of the Southern Urals" - version of the interregional project

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Abstract

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Introduction

History has presented the Southern Urals a unique heritage, i.e. traces of the original civilization, embracing epochs with vivid flashes of culture such as the Palaeolithic sanctuary in Shulgan-Tash Cave with rock painting (16 thousand years BC) and Aarkaim-Sintashta steppe civilizations with elements of early statehood with fortified settlements, metallurgy, necropolises, ore fields left by ancient Indo-Europeans from the Bronze Age (at the turn of 3-2 thousand years BC) (Usmanov, I.Yu., Lebedev A.I., 2009).

Monuments of the Southern Urals from different epochs and cultures, located on the border between Europe and Asia, at the watershed of rivers are situated in the unified cultural space. The Ural Centre of cave painting was included in a cultural-informative space of Europe (caves of Spain and France). Arkaim-Sintashta civilization occupied the Eurasian steppe space.

Opening of rock painting in Palaeolithic sanctuary in Shulgan-Tash Cave turned 50 years old (Lebedev A.I., 2010). But it still presents new discoveries and intensifies scientific interest.

No less striking phenomena are Arkaim and "The Country of cities". This is the region of the spreading of Arkaim-Sintashta fortresses, their age about 4 thousand years, which corresponds to the Middle Reign of Egypt, the city cultures of India Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, Crete-Mycenaean culture of the Mediterranean. Arkaim is almost thousand years more ancient than Homeric Troy (Zdanovich G.B., 2002).

Tourist Historical Area

"The country of cities" covers the eastern slopes of the Urals mountain ridge, 350 km from North to South and 250-300 km from West to East. From a geographical point of view "The country of cities" is Zauralskij peneplain and the South-Ural steppe-forest-steppe from the foothills of the Urals in the West to the West-Siberian lowland plains in the East.

On the administrative map it is the South-East of the Republic of Bashkortostan and the South of the region of Chelyabinsk with large modern industrial and cultural centers. They are Sibaj, Bajmak and Magnitogorsk. The Eastern Steppes of Orenburg and the North of Kazakhstan are also included in the region of Sintashta.

The most vivid fortified settlements in the central area of culture expansion are Arkaim, Sarim-Sakly and Andreevskoje. In the western area there are a roundly planned fortress Ulak-I in the region of Bajmak of the Republic of Bashkortostan in the territory of the historical-archaeological and landscape Museum-reserve "Irendyk", and an oval planned settlement Alandskoje in the region of Orenburg.

The ancient settlement Selek, the metallurgical complex Ulak-VI, the settlement Bahtigareevskoje are also located in the territory of the museum-reserve "Irendyk". Arkaim-Sintashta period is presented by the layers of the Bronze Age settlement of Bashkiria in the intermontane plains of the mountain ridges Ural-Tau, Krykty: Bahtigareevskoe, Laimberdy,
Olair as well as in the numerous burial mounds (such as unique Voskresenskoje burial mound with the interment of a caster) (Usmanov I.Yu., Zdanovich G.B., 2013).

**Historical Monuments (Artefacts) of South Urals and Tourism**

Scientific interest to the discovery of Arkaim and "The Country of cities" has extraordinarily been great both in Russia and in the world. This discovery is recorded in the executive scientific documents as "an outstanding historical and archaeological event of the 20th century". This fact raises the prestige of the Russian Science, updates our knowledge about the ways of development of modern civilization.

Opening of Sintashta and Arkaim aroused great interest in the archaeology of the Bronze Age in the Southern Urals. Besides, other monuments of this period, in one way or another bound with the problem of Arkaim have also generated interest of scientists.

They are monuments of Drevneymny cultural and historical community Abashevskaia, Srubny and the Andronovskaja culture (located in the Republic of Bashkortostan, the regions of Chelyabinsk and Orenburg). Only in 2009-2010, universities of the United States and England (Pittsburg, Sheffield, Cambridge), universities of Japan (Tokyo, Chiba, Kyoto), the German Institute of Archaeology in Berlin investigated the monuments of the middle-late Bronze Age. The works are carried out in conjunction with the Urals Department of the Russian Academy of Science and regional universities (The Urals State University, The Chelyabinsk State University, The South Urals State University).

The information about Sintashta and Arkaim are presented in the exposition of the State Historical Museum in Moscow on one of the basic exhibition stand. A wonderful collection of monuments of Sintashta and Arkaim type of the Republic of Bashkortostan and the region of Chelyabinsk are stored in the museums of the city of Ufa (The National Museum of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Museum of archaeology and ethnography of the Institute of Ethnology of the Ufa National Center of the Russian Academy of Science).

The exhibition devoted to Arkaim was held in France (Nice, Tènd) in 2010-2011. The idea of the architectural solution of the Russian Pavilion at Shanghai Expo 2010, was defined by planigraphy of the ancient Arkaim (see the draft of the Russian Pavilion, 2008) The city of Magnitogorsk featured Arkaim in the exhibition in Shanghai.

A number of films about Arkaim and Sulgan-Tash were shoot in France (1991), Germany (2009), Russia (1996, 2008, 2009). The information about Arkaim was broadcasted by BBC radio station (London, September 2010 r.) and was published in newspapers of England and Spain (October 2010).

Revelation of Palaeolithic rock painting in Shulgan-Tash Cave, the interest in which is not being reduced among researchers all over the world, as well as archaeological monuments in Arkaim and “the Country of sites” imposes on public opinion of the Urals region special responsibility before Russia and the world community for preservation of the unique heritage.
The territories offered to be included in the project are appreciated not only as historical and cultural heritage but as a natural one. They are the National Park “Bashkiria” and historical-archaeological and landscape Museum-reserve "Irendyk"; and State nature reserve “Shulgan-Tash” with of the same name Paleolithic sanctuary. Arkaim is also located in the territory of the nature reserve (Lebedev A.I., 2014; Likhachev D.S., 2000).

To save Shulgan-Tash Cave, archaeological objects of "The Country of cities" and placed on the same level steppe landscapes being the monuments of world level and value is possible only in case if they are included in the modern system of culture, enlightenment and economic life of the Urals region by means of various tourist programs, and also, if these monuments are legislatively given international status of objects of cultural and natural heritage of UNESCO nominated as "Cultural landscape".

Archaeological sites of “The Country of cities” are well preserved, visible on the terrain, harmoniously inscribed by ancient architects in the natural landscape. This is the only area of the world where resettlement system dating to the period of formation of ancient civilizations has been the most fully saved. Archaeological materials with a high degree of accuracy permit to model the architecture, ancient crafts, funeral ceremony.

Paleolithic temple Shulgan-Tash and "The Country of cities" are extraordinarily attractive objects for development of internal Russian and international tourism.

**Historical Road**

“Ancient Civilization Of South Urals”

Taking into account large distance between the end points of the offered route, location of the most interesting objects of tourist destinations on considerable distances from each other it is necessary to use widely practiced organization of "tourist roads" in home and foreign practice. This approach allows to combine different types of tourism, considerably diversify the offered programs, provides the tourists with more impressions etc (Lebedev A.I., 2013, 2015; Usmanov I.Yu., 2007).

Besides, it is not a simple binding of any route to one or another track. The main principle is to arrange proposed routes focused on changing of impressions, scenery, landscapes, artificial (such as sports) destinations, etc.

Moreover, organization of tourist flows on "tourist roads" permits to optimize logistic schemes. Tourist roads can complement and integrate local clusters. This approach can be examined as a real mechanism of substantial improvement of tourist infrastructure and tourist services (Usmanov I.Yu., Goncharov A.S., 2013; Usmanov I.Yu., 2009, 2011)/

Just taking into account such approach, in order to create structures for the maintenance and development of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Bashkortostan and the Southern Trans-Urals, we propose the project of tourist historical road "The Ancient civilizations of the Southern Urals", including:
- organization of international-class tourist route: the National Park “Bashkiria” (Nugushskoe and Yumaguzinskoe reservoirs; the whole complex of natural and archaeological monuments, including the unique caves and grottoes); the Palaeolithic sanctuary in “Shulgan-Tash” Cave; the historical-archaeological and landscape Museum-reserve "Irendyk" in the area of Bajmak the Republic of Bashkortostan (more than 400 archaeological monuments, including the chalcedony manufacturing workshop, of 200 thousand years old, are discovered in its territory);

- whole complex of monuments of Arkaim-Sintashtype: sites of the ancient settlement Ulak-I and Selek, the metallurgical complex Ulak-VI, which are a part of "The Country of cities"; unique monuments of the early Iron Age and Middle Ages, etc.; the site of the ancient settlement Arkaim in the region of Chelyabinsk, as the capital of "The Country of cities";

- working-out of measures aimed at improving of tourism infrastructure on the given route;

- participation in substantiation and preparation of materials for including of Shulgan-Tash Cave, the Museum-reserve "Irendyk" and “the Country of sites” in “The Register of the World Heritage of UNESCO" nominated as "Cultural landscape".

The project “The Ancient civilizations of the Southern Urals "is intended to better realize the tourist potential of Russia and to include the Southern Urals in world tourism community.

Certain task this project is aimed to be coped with is working-out of the project of the tourist road on the basis of unique historical sites of cultural and natural heritage of the Southern Urals, provided with the world level infrastructure.

The fundamental concepts of the tourist project are the following:

- elaboration of the modern ecological outlook of Russian and foreign tourists assimilating historical-cultural and natural space of Midline Eurasia by virtue of the dialogue of cultures, man and nature, society and the environment, by feat of realization of the inseparable connection of the past, present and future;

- implementation of the international principle of stable tourism (absolute preservation of natural and cultural heritage and its efficient use in expanding tourism development) in the Southern Urals.

In the course of complex contemporary social and political situation, while the conflict of civilizations develops on a background of opposition of fundamental religious values and norms, interfusion of economic interests, educational and spiritual space is necessary.

The economy is the arrangement of society, and there is no more distinguished aim, than the development of the educational and intellectual tourism. Since visiting the monuments of ancient history is a pilgrimage, but not tourism in ordinary understanding, it is also the unity of the peoples by means of culture.

Thus cultural events, which have consolidated the efforts of the Republic of Bashkortostan and the region of Chelyabinsk will help to solve the general political, economic
problems of the Urals region and will raise the status and historical attractiveness of the
territory of the Southern Urals.

Offered methods and approaches, general plan of work on all term of implementation of
project and expected results:

The basic method is a complex analysis of the perspectives of creation tourist
historical road "The Ancient civilizations of the Southern Urals".

Approaches and program of works:

The description of tourist objects including the ground of expediency of inserting the
Palaeolithic sanctuary with rock painting by age over 16 thousand in Shulgan-Tash Cave
(Kapova), the historical-archaeological and landscape Museum-reserve "Irendyk" (amounting
more than 400 archaeological monuments of various epoches, including early palaeolithic,
ethnographic, etc.), “The Country of cities” (complex of monuments of Arkaim-Sintashta
type) in “The Register of World Heritage of UNESCO" nominated as "Cultural landscape" as
well as estimation of their availability and comfort for tourists.

Working out of the concept of tourist historical road "The ancient civilizations of the
Southern Urals" including the principles of stable development of tourism for reasonable
usage of historical, cultural and natural resources aimed at creating tourist infrastructure on
the basis of modern resource-and energy-saving technologies and the application of the
requirements of the world standards

The analysis of existing elements of the tourist infrastructure, as well as an estimation
of the necessary investments in the development of the project. Working-out of a master plan
of tourist historical roads "The Ancient civilizations of the Southern Urals".

Working-out of projects and creation of necessary infrastructure, integrated
management of the tourist route (opening up of the route for students and schoolchildren in
the summer. It could start in 2012-2013, involving means of accommodation of a tent camp
type).

Conclusion

Development of inbound and internal tourism in the Russian Federation is one of the
important criteria for selecting the projects to be realized. This position is supported by our
colleague from Germany professor E. Greezel as well as by expert on tourism Mr. R. Bong
(North Hessen) (Ссылку на сборник Уфа-Гессен).

Analysis of tourist resources of the Republic of Bashkortostan and adjacent areas shows
that one of the most interesting projects of the Federal scale can be organized with the
participation of the Republic of Bashkortostan and the region of Chelyabinsk.
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