Development Strategies For Halal Tourism In Indonesia Through The Smart Tourism Approach

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Abstract. Halal tourism in Indonesia has experienced rapid growth and has become a strategic sector in the economic and cultural landscape. In an effort to maximize this potential, the smart tourism approach has become the foundation for a holistic development strategy. The aim of this writing is to provide a comprehensive overview of the development strategy for halal tourism in Indonesia through the smart tourism approach. By analyzing its progress, identifying challenges, and formulating solutions, this writing aims to offer a profound and solution-oriented perspective. This article is a literature review utilizing qualitative methods. Document data is collected from relevant journals and books and analyzed using content analysis methods. The research findings indicate that the smart tourism approach, through the utilization of digital technology, engagement with local communities, and strengthening infrastructure, is key to the success of halal tourism development. This integrated solution not only creates significant economic opportunities but also supports cultural preservation, positioning halal tourism as an inclusive and competitive sector on a global scale.

Keywords: Halal Tourism; Smart Tourism Approach; Indonesia.

INTRODUCTION

Halal tourism has experienced significant growth in Indonesia in recent years. As a country with a majority Muslim population, Indonesia recognizes the substantial potential of halal tourism as an economic revenue source that can positively impact various sectors (Pranandari et al., 2023). This development is driven by an increased awareness among the public regarding the importance of tourism destinations that adhere to Sharia principles, including aspects of food, accommodation, and entertainment in line with Islamic values. Indonesia's success in developing halal tourism is evident in the rising number of domestic and international Muslim tourist visits. Destinations offering facilities and services aligned with halal principles attract tourists seeking a comprehensive travel experience in accordance with their religious beliefs (Patriani & Binol, 2019).

Halal tourism not only creates unique experiences for Muslim travelers but also serves as a potential economic driver. With the growing demand for products and services compliant with halal principles, this industry provides economic opportunities for various stakeholders, including local businesses, hospitality, culinary, and the creative industry. The development of infrastructure and facilities supporting halal tourism also has a positive impact on related sectors such as transportation, security, and public services. By harnessing the economic potential of halal tourism, Indonesia can boost national income, create job opportunities, and stimulate the growth of other economic sectors (Darussalam et al., 2021).
In the global context, Indonesia has the opportunity to become a leader in the halal tourism industry, attracting tourists from around the world seeking destinations that are friendly to halal principles. Therefore, a deep understanding of the development of halal tourism and its economic potential is crucial for formulating effective strategies in the sustainable development of this tourism sector (Mustaqim, 2023). Halal tourism in Indonesia faces several challenges that affect its development potential. The purpose of this article is to analyze effective strategies to overcome these challenges and maximize the development potential of halal tourism through Smart Tourism. This article aims to provide a profound understanding of how the implementation of Smart Tourism can act as a catalyst for the development of halal tourism in Indonesia.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive method with a qualitative literature review approach to elucidate halal tourism as a tool for addressing economic issues and national interests through the cultivation of a positive image as a halal tourism-friendly destination. The research is based on library research with a descriptive approach, focusing on the development strategies for halal tourism in Indonesia through the smart tourism approach. Data for the research are collected through the documentation method, involving various articles and books, and are subsequently analyzed using content analysis. This method involves a scientific analysis of the descriptive content found in premium messages related to halal tourism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Potential of Halal Tourism: An Exploration of Key Elements

The importance of analyzing the appeal of halal destinations is fundamental in crafting a strategic framework for tourism development. Halal destinations must offer distinctive experiences aligned with Sharia values to meet the expectations of Muslim travelers. Halal destinations should reflect the cultural and historical richness of Islam, providing a profound experience of Islamic heritage and values. The presence of mosques, prayer spaces, and other religious facilities is a critical factor in attracting travelers seeking spiritual experiences. The diverse array of halal cuisine, showcasing its culinary traditions, becomes a primary attraction for travelers seeking gastronomic experiences aligned with halal principles. Halal destinations should offer recreational and entertainment activities aligned with Islamic values, creating a family-friendly and Islamic environment. By carefully considering these elements, destinations
can enhance their appeal and cater to the spiritual and cultural preferences of Muslim travelers. The harmonious integration of cultural, historical, religious, and culinary aspects creates a holistic and enriching experience for visitors seeking a halal-friendly environment (Soehardi, 2022)

Moreover, the analysis of supporting infrastructure is a crucial step in determining the success of halal tourism development. The availability of reliable transportation, including by land, sea, and air, is a key factor in enhancing tourist visits to halal destinations. The presence of hotels and accommodations that understand and implement principles of halal tourism, including special facilities for Muslim families, such as bathrooms adhering to Islamic norms. The existence of healthcare facilities understanding health needs based on halal principles is a determining factor for the sustainability of halal destinations. Adequate digital technology infrastructure, including fast internet connectivity, can enhance the tourist experience and support the implementation of Smart Tourism (Nisa, 2022).

Through analyzing the potential attractiveness of halal destinations and the supporting infrastructure, a more holistic strategy for the development of halal tourism can be formulated. This strategy considers cultural aspects, well-being, and technology to create a unique and Sharia-compliant travel experience.

**Identification of Constraints in the Development of Halal Tourism**

1. **Regulation**

   Regulatory aspects pose a significant obstacle to the development of halal tourism in Indonesia. The success of the halal tourism industry heavily relies on a regulatory framework that supports and facilitates sector development. Identified constraints include: (a) Unclear or complex regulations can impede halal tourism businesses in understanding applicable requirements and procedures; (b) Inconsistency between central and regional regulations can create uncertainty for investments and the development of halal tourism in various destinations; and (c) Excessive restrictions without room for innovation can hinder the competitive and sustainable development of halal tourism destinations.

2. **Public Perception**

   Public perception of halal tourism is another key factor that can influence sector growth. Constraints arising from public perception encompass: (a) Limited understanding among the public regarding the concept of halal tourism can create uncertainty and concerns about the halal status of tourism products and services; (b) Negative stigmas associated with halal tourism, such as stereotypes and prejudices, can hinder attracting tourists and investments; and (c) Changes in consumer trends and preferences related to halal tourism can impact the demand and popularity
of halal destinations. By identifying these constraints, strategic steps can be taken to address these obstacles. Involving relevant stakeholders, formulating supportive regulations, and enhancing public understanding of halal tourism can serve as initial measures to create a conducive environment for the growth of this sector (Maulidizen, 2019a).

Development Strategies for Halal Tourism through Smart Tourism

1. Utilization of Digital Technology

The utilization of digital technology is crucial for the development of halal tourism through the Smart Tourism approach. The integration of digital technology can provide significant benefits in enhancing operational efficiency, delivering a better tourism experience, and increasing the competitiveness of halal destinations. Key aspects of digital technology utilization include:

a. Halal Tour Guide Applications

The Halal Tour Guide Application has emerged as an innovative solution to support and enhance the experience of Muslim tourists in tourism destinations. By integrating digital technology, this application provides comprehensive and relevant information about halal destinations, ensuring that tourists can travel in accordance with Sharia principles. The application offers easy access to up-to-date information about tourist destinations, halal facilities, and activities tailored to tourists’ preferences. This information includes details about mosques, halal restaurants, Sharia-compliant accommodations, and other essential locations (Maulidizen, 2019c).

The application enables tourists to personalize their experiences based on personal preferences, such as selecting destinations with halal facilities that meet their needs, including halal culinary options and places of worship. Halal Tour Guide Applications are often equipped with navigation features and real-time guidance that direct tourists to halal destinations accurately, ensuring efficient and smooth travel. Additionally, user reviews and recommendations allow tourists to share their experiences and provide guidance to fellow travelers, building trust and enriching the decision-making process.

Examples of Halal Tour Guide Applications include; (1) Zelloz Halal Travel App. Provides comprehensive information about halal destinations worldwide, allowing users to search for mosques, halal restaurants, and Sharia-compliant accommodations. Interactive features such as interactive maps, user reviews, and travel guides make it a popular choice among Muslim travelers; (2) Muslim Pro. Originally known as a prayer time reminder app, Muslim Pro has evolved into a halal tourism guide providing information about mosques, halal restaurants, and attractions in various destinations. The app also offers Muslim travel guides and inspirational content aligned with Islamic values; (3) Zabihah. Specifically designed for halal dining searches, Zabihah presents information about halal restaurants and food stores worldwide. The app allows users to rate and review establishments, assisting Muslim travelers in choosing halal dining options; (4) HalalTrip. An app providing comprehensive information about halal tourism destinations, including mosques, halal restaurants, and accommodations meeting halal standards. The app also offers guides on halal tourism activities, including cultural tours and events aligned with Islamic values. Features such as prayer time notifications and an active online community make HalalTrip a comprehensive choice for Muslim travelers; and (5) Visit-Malaysia. Specifically designed to support Muslim travelers visiting Malaysia, this app provides information about mosques, halal restaurants, and Islamic events in various cities in Malaysia. Navigation features and interactive maps assist travelers in exploring destinations easily and efficiently.

Halal Tour Guide Applications create an inclusive environment for Muslim tourists by providing information that meets their needs and preferences. Travelers can plan their trips more
effectively, identify destinations in line with halal principles, and avoid discomfort during their travels. Halal Tour Guide Applications support the concept of Smart Tourism by leveraging digital technology to enhance the tourist experience. This aligns with the strategy of developing halal tourism through intelligent approaches, where technology is a key element in advancing the tourism sector.

While Halal Tour Guide Applications offer numerous benefits, challenges such as ensuring information accuracy, sustaining application development, and achieving greater inclusivity need to be addressed. However, opportunities to continually improve features, provide richer content, and collaborate with local and global stakeholders make these applications highly potential in supporting the growth of halal tourism worldwide. With Halal Tour Guide Applications, Muslim tourists can explore the world with confidence that their journeys adhere to Sharia principles. These applications are an integral part of the tourism industry’s transformation towards sustainability and inclusivity, creating significant economic opportunities and supporting a positive image of halal tourism destinations globally.

b. Digital Marketing in Halal Tourism

Digital marketing has become a crucial tool in supporting the global growth and popularity of halal tourism destinations (Maulidizen, Sofian, et al., 2022). By leveraging social media, online platforms, and digital marketing campaigns, the tourism sector can reach a broader audience, build a positive image, and attract the attention of Muslim travelers. The utilization of social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn presents significant opportunities to promote halal tourism destinations. Engaging visual content, inspirational videos, and traveler experience stories can provide a more personal and authentic appeal (Wulandari & Indahsari, 2021).

The existence of an official website for halal tourism destinations and a presence on online platforms such as TripAdvisor or Google Maps offers easy access for travelers to find comprehensive information about the destination. This transparency builds trust among potential tourists. Through well-directed digital marketing campaigns, halal tourism destinations can identify and reach their target market more effectively. The selection of appropriate keywords, smart advertising campaigns, and the use of data analytics help measure campaign success and adjust it according to needs. Smart digital marketing content can provide a comprehensive overview of the uniqueness of halal tourism destinations. Engaging users with inspirational stories, user reviews, and real-time information creates a greater appeal (Maulidizen, Rukmana, et al., 2022a).

Advantages of Digital Marketing in Halal Tourism: (1) Global Reach. Digital marketing enables halal tourism destinations to reach a global audience without geographical limitations, creating significant opportunities to attract tourists from various countries; (2) Direct Interaction. Through social media, destinations can interact directly with tourists, answering questions, providing additional information, and responding to feedback, creating closer relationships; (3) Targeted Campaigns. Digital marketing allows highly targeted campaigns, directing messages to specific target groups, such as Muslim travelers seeking halal experiences; and (4) Real-time Monitoring. Digital marketing enables real-time campaign performance monitoring and in-depth data analysis, allowing destinations to evaluate campaign success and identify areas for improvement.

With smart and effective digital marketing, halal tourism destinations can build a strong image, enhance attractiveness, and gain a competitive edge in an increasingly digitally connected global market. The use of social media and online platforms is key to reaching and meeting the expectations of the target market of Muslim travelers more effectively.

c. Technology-Based Reservation System in Halal Tourism

Implementing a technology-based reservation system is a progressive step in supporting the development of halal tourism. This system leverages technological advancements to provide ease and convenience for Muslim travelers in selecting and booking accommodations, transportation, and activities that align with halal principles. The online reservation system offers an easily accessible platform that can be operated by Muslim travelers anytime and anywhere. Advanced search features enable them to find accommodation, transportation, and activities that match their
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halal preferences. Through this system, travelers can access comprehensive information about offered accommodations and services, including halal facilities, the location of nearby mosques, and Sharia-compliant activities. This helps them make informed and accurate decisions (Maulidizen, 2019b).

The technology-based reservation system ensures that payment transactions are conducted securely and efficiently. Travelers can use various electronic payment methods, including credit cards, e-wallets, or bank transfers, providing flexibility and ease in the payment process. This reservation system can be integrated with other service systems such as halal restaurant reservations, guided tours, or additional transportation services. This creates a holistic and comprehensive travel experience for tourists.

Advantages of Technology-Based Reservation System in Halal Tourism is Travelers can plan their trips more effectively, identify, and book facilities that meet halal needs and preferences. The system allows travelers to choose accommodations and services aligned with halal principles easily, including halal dining options and special facilities. Travelers can choose the most convenient payment methods, ensuring smooth transactions that align with individual preferences. The system enables tourists to choose accommodations and services that align with halal principles easily, including halal dining options and special facilities. For service providers, the technology-based reservation system allows more efficient management, availability monitoring, and dynamic pricing adjustments (Maulidizen, 2018a).

By adopting a technology-based reservation system, halal tourism can enhance efficiency, provide a better travel experience, and support the overall growth of the tourism industry. This is a step toward smart and adaptive destination management, ensuring the sector remains relevant and competitive in the current digital era.

d. Sensor and IoT Integration in Halal Tourism

The integration of sensors and Internet of Things (IoT) technology in the halal tourism sector marks a new era in providing smarter, safer, and more efficient travel experiences. The implementation of this technology brings significant benefits in various aspects, including traffic management, cleanliness monitoring, and technology-based security services. Sensors and IoT can be utilized to manage traffic in halal tourism destinations, ensuring smooth traffic flow and avoiding excessive crowds. This system can provide real-time information on traffic conditions, offer alternative route suggestions, and optimize the use of public transportation.

IoT technology enables real-time cleanliness monitoring in tourist areas. Integrated sensors can provide information about cleanliness levels in toilets, restaurants, and other public areas. This helps destination managers maintain visitor cleanliness and health more effectively. Sensors and IoT can enhance security services in halal tourism destinations. Smart video surveillance systems, sound detection sensors, and connected security devices can provide rapid responses to emergency situations and improve security throughout the destination. By leveraging sensor technology, destinations can collect data on tourist behavior anonymously. This information can be used to personalize the tourist experience, provide more accurate recommendations, and adjust services according to individual preferences (Maulidizen, Rukmana, et al., 2022b).

Advantages of Sensor and IoT Integration in Halal Tourism; (1) Efficient Resource Management. Sensors and IoT help destination managers efficiently manage resources, including traffic control, cleanliness management, and security maintenance; (2) Traffic Optimization. Traffic sensors and IoT technology help optimize vehicle flow, reduce traffic congestion, and expedite the movement of tourists within destinations; (3) Real-time Monitoring of cleanliness and security provides rapid responses to emergency situations and helps prevent security disruptions; and (4) Data-Driven Decision-Making. Data collected from sensors and IoT devices offer valuable insights for better decision-making in the management of halal tourism destinations.

The integration of sensors and IoT technology is a key element in creating smart and sustainable halal tourism destinations. By leveraging real-time data, destinations can respond better to visitor dynamics and enhance the quality of services provided to Muslim tourists.

2. Community Engagement in Halal Tourism
Community engagement is not only a crucial strategy but also a key factor in the success of halal tourism development. Involving the local community not only ensures the sustainability of the project but also brings rich and authentic local cultural elements to the tourist experience. By gaining support from the local community, halal tourism projects have a greater chance of enduring and thriving. Active community involvement ensures sustainability in terms of destination management and promotion (Hidayatullah et al., 2023).

Engaging the local community allows destinations to care for and preserve unique cultural aspects, including traditions, culinary delights, crafts, and other cultural activities that provide an authentic experience for tourists. Involving the local community in the development of halal tourism products and services supports the local economy. This may include the development of handmade products, local cuisine, and tourism services managed by residents (Rukmana & Purnomo, 2023). Furthermore, involving the local community in education and awareness about the needs and expectations of halal tourists helps the local population better understand and respond to the requirements of Muslim visitors. By empowering the local community, halal tourism destinations can integrate local knowledge into the management and promotion of the destination. The community can serve as tourism ambassadors, local guides, or partners in cultural activities (Maulidizen, 2018b).

Benefits of Community Engagement in Halal Tourism; (a) Deeper Cultural Experiences. Community engagement provides tourists with access to deeper, authentic, and meaningful cultural experiences; (b) Positive Contribution to Local Welfare. By supporting local businesses and economic actors in the destination, halal tourism positively contributes to the well-being of the community; (c) Building Stronger Relationships. Community engagement builds stronger relationships between tourism stakeholders, local governments, and the community, creating mutually beneficial partnerships; and (d) Sustainable Positive Impact. Prioritizing community engagement ensures a sustainable positive impact, not only economically but also in cultural preservation and enhancing intercultural understanding (Maulidizen & Athoillah, 2018).

In conclusion, community engagement is a cornerstone for the holistic development of halal tourism. It fosters a sense of ownership and pride among the local community, making them active participants in the tourism development process. By integrating local traditions and cultural practices, halal tourism destinations can offer unique and authentic experiences that resonate with the values of Muslim travelers. This approach not only enhances the attractiveness of the destination but also ensures the long-term success and sustainability of
the halal tourism industry (Suryani & Bustamam, 2021).

3. Strengthening Halal Tourism Infrastructure

Strengthening tourism infrastructure is a crucial and strategic step in developing the halal tourism sector. Robust and sustainable infrastructure not only enhances the comfort of tourists but also establishes a solid foundation for sector growth. Improving and maintaining transportation facilities such as airports, ports, and road networks will enhance accessibility to halal tourism destinations, facilitating traveler journeys (Maulidizen et al., 2019).

The construction of accommodations that understand the needs of halal tourists, including providing facilities such as mosques, halal restaurants, and prayer spaces, will increase the appeal of the destination. Ensuring the availability of worship places and shopping centers that meet halal standards will provide convenience and ease for Muslim travelers. Training for tourism sector workers and certification of service quality that considers the needs of halal tourists will elevate service standards at the destination. The use of advanced security technology, such as CCTV monitoring systems and technology-based security, provides a sense of security for tourists and supports the destination's safe image (Songgirin & Maulidizen, 2022).

Benefits of Strengthening Tourism Infrastructure in Halal Tourism; (a) Positive Tourist Experience. Strengthened infrastructure creates a positive tourist experience with adequate facilities, comfortable transportation, and quality services; (b) Competitive Advantage. Destinations with well-established infrastructure have a higher competitive edge in attracting tourists, especially Muslim travelers with specific needs; (c) Economic Growth. Improved infrastructure has a positive impact on local economic growth through increased employment, income, and investment; (d) Long-Term Benefits. Solid infrastructure creates a sturdy foundation for the growth and sustainability of the tourism industry, providing long-term benefits for the destination; and (e) Inclusivity. Adequate infrastructure supports inclusivity, allowing destinations to attract various types of tourists and diversify tourism offerings (Pinem et al., 2021).

Focusing on strengthening tourism infrastructure allows halal tourism destinations to create a friendly and comfortable environment for Muslim travelers, thereby supporting the overall growth of the tourism sector. Infrastructure improvement is not only an investment in destination appeal but also a strategic step in creating an excellent halal tourism experience.
CONCLUSION

The development of halal tourism in Indonesia through the smart tourism approach requires a comprehensive strategy. Emphasizing economic potential, addressing constraints, engaging communities, strengthening infrastructure, and utilizing digital technology, especially smart tourism, are essential elements. This aims to achieve sustainability goals and provide a positive experience for tourists. The strategy goes beyond creating economic opportunities; it also supports cultural preservation, making halal tourism an inclusive, competitive sector that contributes positively to Indonesia's economic growth.

REFERENCES


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