

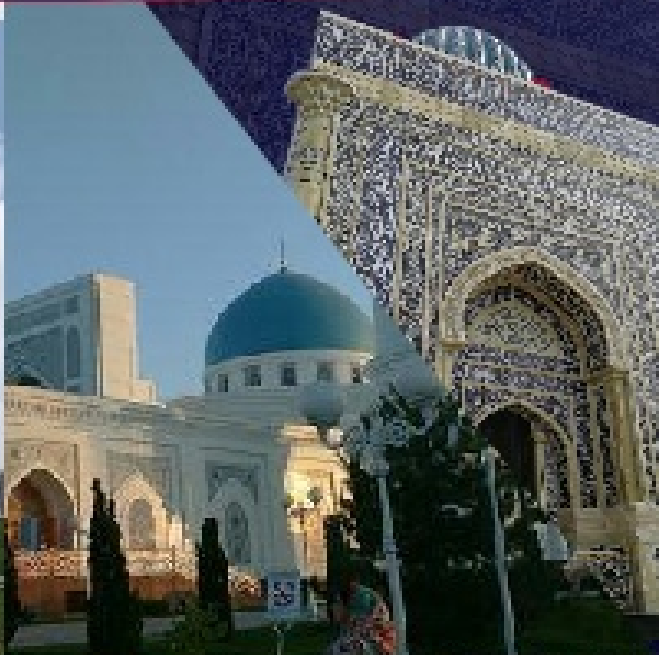


THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10

Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan



THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10
Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan
19TH / 27TH SEPTEMBER 2019





PREFACE

The heritage tour was a feast for the eyes and fodder for the soul. From the iconic Zaha Hadeed designed cultural center to the soaring portals of Registan was a blend of the future and the past. The glorious history of Muslims, an enduring legacy of conquerors, sufis and saints is writ large on the Central Asian landscape. Emir Taimur, the last great conqueror, a patron of arts, architecture, and learning turned Samarkand into an exquisitely beautiful city of mosques, madarssas, and mausoleums. He laid the foundation of the most magnificent and powerful place of monumental architecture in Asia. Thus was born the Muslim quest for learning and knowledge manifested by its history of creativity and tolerance. The monumental works of Imam al-Bukhara, the great sufi order Naqshbandiyah and the scientific genius of al-Beruni are all rooted in this intellectual renaissance. Generations of central Asians steeped in inventive ways of early Islam sallied forth East and West intellectually enriching places and spreading the Faith. The eternal flame marking the birthplace of Zoroastrianism continues to burn brightly.

The highlight of the tour was the visit to Registan where gigantic bluish monoliths face each other across a square expanding into works of art and scientific tablets signifying Heavenly power. One can stand in awe and reverence at these giant pillars gazing up into the cosmos, communicating the power and grandeur of nature. The precise geometric patterns of blue, turquoise, and gold are a microcosm of Universe itself. The Registan represents the intimidating intellect and the absolute awesome power of the Taimurids which is as alive today as it was 500 years ago.

A truly lifelong experience to stand in wonder at the splendor, grandeur, and magnificence of these architectural marvels.

Rear Admiral H M Ansari HI(M) S Bt (R)
12 October 2019

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

شروع اللہ کے نام سے جو بڑا مہربان نہایت رحم کرنے والا ہے۔

THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10 Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan
19TH / 27TH SEPTEMBER 2019

19th To 21st Sep Azerbaijan
22nd To 27th Sep Uzbekistan

*A JOURNEY IS MEASURED BY FRIENDS
NOT BY MILES*







THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10

Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan



THE BUS, THE TRAIN AND ON THE STREETS



THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10

Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan



KARACHI TO DUBAI

Thursday, 19th September 2019.



DUBAI TO BAKU





Day 02

After Breakfast leaving the Hotel ... Museum-Dedicated to the Medieval Period history of the Absheron Peninsula in the museum, visitors can learn about the lifestyle of Medieval period Azerbaijan people.

Gala State Historical Ethnographic Reserve





Gala State Historical Ethnographic Preserve

The **Gala State Historical Ethnographic Reserve** is a complex of museums in Baku, Azerbaijan. Inside there are three different types of museums: Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography (open-air)^[dubious – discuss], Castle Museum (partly open-air), and the Museum of Antiques. Vehicles are offered to visitors due to the spacious area of museums. There are the tours in different languages: Azerbaijani, Russian, English, German and French. The museum is 1.5 ha in area and has rock paintings, pottery, household items, jewelry, weapons and coins belong to the ancient times of Azerbaijan. In this museum, there are more than 2,000 different archaeological and architectural monuments – mounds, seats of ancient settlements, burial places dating back to thousands of years ago.

The reserve was established in the year of 2008 under the auspices of the HeydarAliyev Foundation. It is located in Qala, 40km far from Baku and bears the name of this district. Gala-State Historical Ethnographic Reserve is devoted to the history of the Absheron Peninsula. As a result of archaeological excavations, it is feasible to get the picture of the lifestyle of the Azerbaijani people from ancient times to the Middle Ages. There is an 18th-century tandoor, two underground passages belonging to the 10th and 15th centuries. Besides these, old houses, portable tents made of animal skins, stone and straw houses with domes, an old smithy, a pottery workshop, and a thresher can be found. All these can be touched and photographed.

Gala Museum

There are 243 historic-architectural monuments (mosques, ancient living buildings, baths, coffee beans, walls of ancient houses, etc.) in the Gala Museum. There are also 400-year-old pistachio trees, figs, olive trees, flowers and other decorative items in the territory of the reserve. In 2008, on the initiative of the HeydarAliyev Foundation, the Archeological and Ethnographic Museum Complex under the open sky was established. Archaeological

architectural monuments discovered on the Absheron Peninsula were collected and restored here. The mounds, settlements and other architectural monuments of the 3rd-2nd millennium BC were built in the same way as before the era.

Ancient mounds, grave stones, dwellings, quarries, places of worship and some other material cultural remains found in the territory of Absheron Peninsula reflect the mood of the previous millennia. One of the mounds is called "Dubendi". The basis of this mound is the rug-shaped stone masonry.

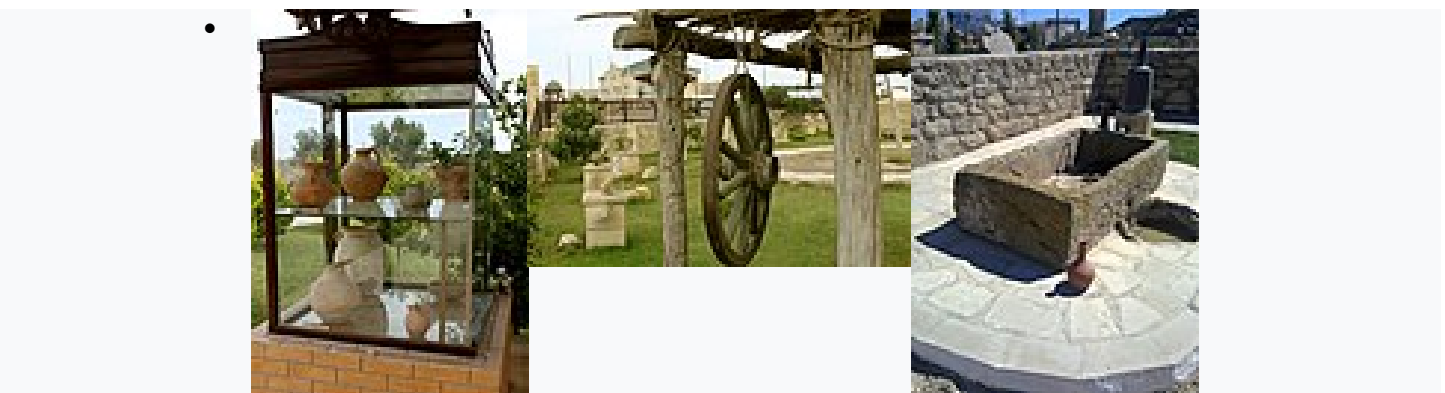
Tools made from sheep bones and stone were found in the Reserve area. The "Turkan" mound also consists of a ring-shaped stonework. There is also a quadrilateral hole in this mound.

There are residues of water and food wells, coffee houses, and ancient houses in the territory of the reserve. Archaeological excavations have been proven to be the Bronze Age settlement 5,000 years ago in the village of Gala.

In the ancient village of Gala, there were a number of fields of art. One of them is pottery. Pottery products discovered during archaeological excavations in Galada are potentially interesting in terms of pottery. The ancient carpets, the tools used during the carpet weaving - the apron, the cloth, the scissors, the hooked knife.

Rock paintings and caves dating back to the new stone Bronze Age were discovered during the archaeological excavations in the Agdash Plain, Khashakhun and Dubendi in the vicinity of Gala village in the east of Absheron. As well as traces of settlements, mounds, hearths and material cultural remains have been discovered here.

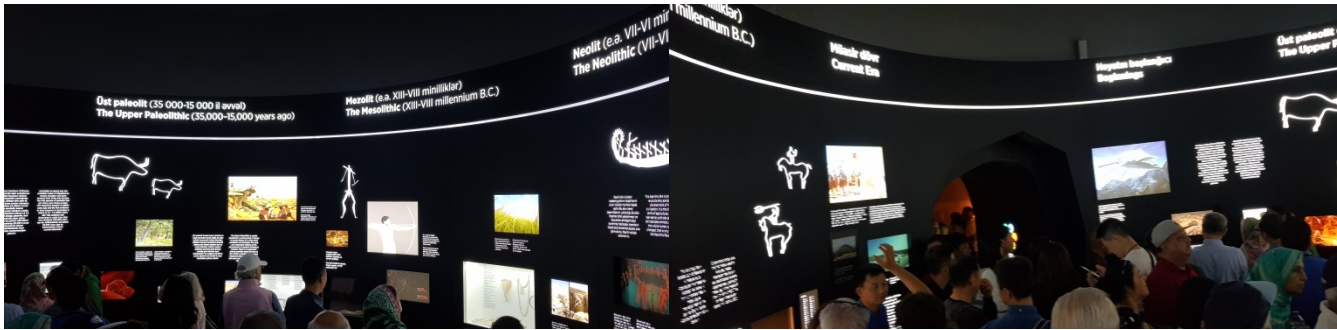
There are three baths in the village of Gala: Shor Baths, Gum Baths and Bayramali Baths. The "Shore Bath" was located in the southern part of the village, near the salt lake. There was water from the lake.



Gala archeological ethnographic museum







Yanar Dag

Burning Mountain (Yanardag) one of the "must See: natural Wonders located about 25 KM from the capital Baku in Mehmedi Village of Absheron. A 10 m long wall of fire on the hill is never extinguishes.



Yanar Dag (Azerbaijani: *YanarDağ*, meaning "burning mountain") is a natural gas fire which blazes continuously on a hillside on the Absheron Peninsula on the Caspian Sea near Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan (a country which itself is known as "the Land of Fire"). Flames jet into the air 3 metres (9.8 ft) from a thin, porous sandstone layer.^{[1][2]} Administratively, Yanar Dag belongs to Absheron District of Azerbaijan.

Unlike mud volcanoes, the Yanar Dag flame burns fairly steadily, as it involves a steady seep of gas from the subsurface. It is claimed that the Yanar Dag flame was only noted when accidentally lit by a shepherd in the 1950s.^[3] There is no seepage of mud or liquid, which distinguishes it from the nearby mud volcanoes of Lökbatan or Gobustan.

On the territory of Yanar Dag, State Historical-Cultural and Natural Reserve was established by the Presidential decree dated 2 May 2007 which operates under the control of State Tourism Agency of Azerbaijan. After major overhaul between 2017-2019, Yanardag Museum and Yanardag Cromlech Stone Exhibition were launched in the area of the Reserve



Ateshgah Temple the most famous is the wellpreserved Zoroastrian of fire worshippers.

General information

Type Ancient Syncretic (Zoroastrian) Temple

Location Surakhani, Baku, Azerbaijan

Current tenants Museum

The Baku Ateshgah (from Persian: آتشگاه Atashgāh, Azerbaijani: Atəşgah), often called the "Fire Temple of Baku" is a castle-like religious temple in Surakhani town (in Suraxaniraion), a suburb in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Based on Persian inscriptions, the temple was used as a Hindu, Sikh, and Zoroastrian place of worship. "Atash" (آت) is the Persian word for fire. The pentagonal complex, which has a courtyard surrounded by cells for monks and a tetrapillar-altar in the middle, was built during the 17th and 18th centuries. It was abandoned in the late 19th century, probably due to the dwindling of the Indian population in the area. The natural eternal flame went out in 1969, after nearly a century of exploitation of petroleum and gas in the area, but is now lit by gas piped from the nearby city.

The Baku Ateshgah was a pilgrimage and philosophical centre of Zoroastrians from Northwestern Indian Subcontinent, who were involved in trade with the Caspian area via the famous "Grand Trunk Road". The four holy elements of their belief were: ateshi (fire), badi (air), abi (water), and heki (earth). The temple ceased to be a place of worship after 1883 with

the installation of petroleum plants (industry) at Surakhany. The complex was turned into a museum in 1975. The annual number of visitors to the museum is 15,000.

The Temple of Fire "Ateshgah" was nominated for List of World Heritage Sites, UNESCO in 1998 by Gulnara Mehmandarova. On December 19, 2007, it was declared a state historical-architectural reserve by decree of the President of Azerbaijan.



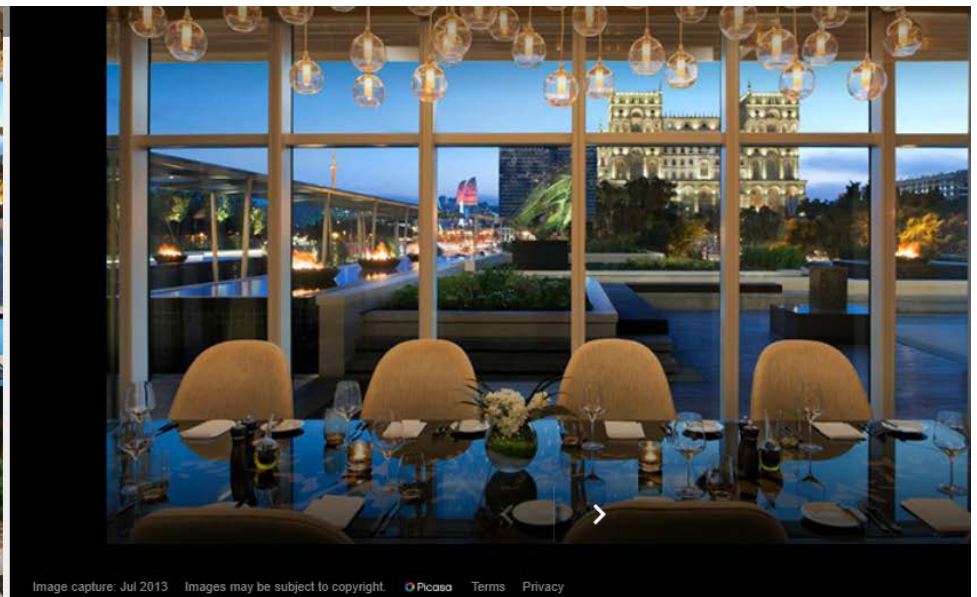


Lunch in 50 Qepikrestaurant with traditional food.





Return to the Hotel and take rest
Dinner in Sedef Restaurant with T





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Classic bathroom at Sedef Restaurant

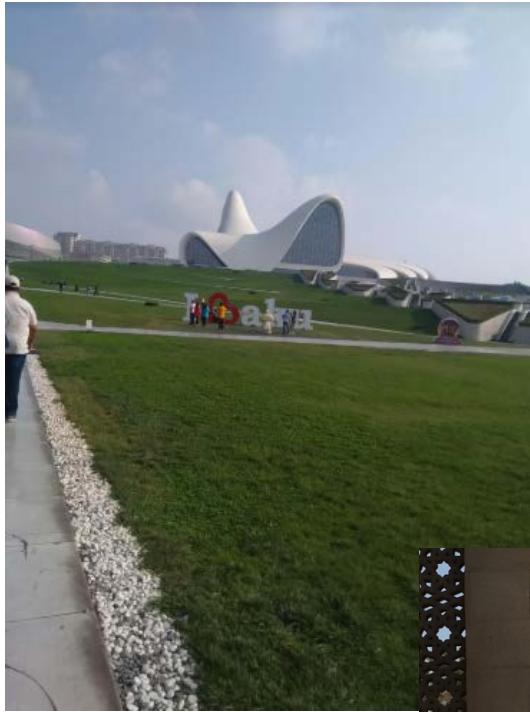
Overnight Baku.

Day 03

After breakfast Visit Highland Park to view the beautiful panorama of Baku City & Caspian Sea, as well as watching the Magnificent Flame Tower of Baku.









Panoramic view of Baku city



<https://youtu.be/lboxDuIUFFo>

<https://youtu.be/xpWm-Xi8vVA>

Highland park, well known as “Viewing Square”, and earlier in Soviet era as “Sergei Kirov park” is one of the most favorite places in Baku to have walk, rest, and enjoy the sea view.

There you can take rest by breathing fresh air, viewing the city, drinking tea in the Highland Park Café , while listening to the classic lounge music. It's the best place to relax that is located right in the heart of Baku.

It is suggested that you visit this park at night time, because of the amazing lighting on the stairs to the Highland park! And also on hot summer days and nights you can feel there cool, and a bit windy.



Tour in Old City of Baku- the most ancient part of the city dates back to Palaeolithic period. **Old City** or **Inner City** (Azerbaijani: *İçərişəhər*)^[2] is the historical core of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The Old City is the most ancient part of Baku,^[3] which is surrounded by walls which were easily defended. In 2007, the Old City had a population of about 3000 people.^[4] In December 2000, the Old City of Baku, including the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and Maiden Tower, became the first location in Azerbaijan to be classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



History

Pagan temple in IcheriSheher, One of the gates of IcheriSheher

It is widely accepted that the Old City, including its Maiden Tower, date at least to the 12th century, with some researchers contending that construction dates as far back as the 7th century. The question has not been completely settled.

During this medieval period of Baku, such monuments as the Synyg Gala Minaret (11th century), the fortress walls and towers (11th–12th centuries), the Maiden Tower, the Multani Caravanserai and Hajji Gayyib bathhouse (15th century), the Palace of the Shirvanshahs (15th–16th centuries), the Bukhara Caravanserai and Gasimbey bathhouse (16th century) were built.



In 1806, when Baku was occupied by the Russian Empire during the Russo-Persian War (1804–13),[6] there were 500 households and 707 shops, and a population of 7,000 in the Old City (then the only neighbourhood of Baku) whom were almost all ethnic Tats.[7] Between 1807 and 1811, the city walls were repaired and the fortifications extended. The city had two gates: the Salyan Gates and the Shemakha Gates. The city was protected by dozens of cannons set on the walls. The port was re-opened for trade, and in 1809 a customs office was established.[8]



It was during this period that Baku started to extend beyond the city walls, and new neighbourhoods emerged. Thus the terms Inner City (Azerbaijani: İçəriŞəhər) and Outer City (Azerbaijani: BayırŞəhər) came into use. Referring to the early Russian rule, Bakuvian actor HuseynguluSarabski wrote in his memoirs

Baku was divided into two sections: IchariShahar and BayirShahar. The Inner City was the main part. Those who lived in the Inner City were considered natives of Baku. They were in close proximity to everything: the bazaar, craftsmen's workshops and mosques. There was even a church there, as well as a military barracks built during the Russian occupation. Residents who lived inside the walls considered themselves to be superior to those outside and often referred to them as the "barefooted people of the Outer City".

With the arrival of Russians the traditional architectural look of the Old City changed. Many European buildings were constructed during the 19th century and early 20th century, using styles such as Baroque and Gothic.

In 1865, a part of the city walls overlooking the sea was demolished, and the stones were sold and used in the building of the Outer city. The money obtained from this sale (44 000 rubles) went into the construction of the Baku Boulevard. In 1867, the first fountains of Baku appeared in the Boulevard.

In this period two more gates were opened, one of them being famous Taghiyev Gate (1877). The opening of new gates and passes continued well into the Soviet period.

The church mentioned by HuseynguluSarabski was the Armenian Church of the Holy Virgin, built under Persian rule between 1797 and 1799 in the shadow of the Maiden Tower, defunct since 1984 and demolished in 1992.

Maiden Tower

The Maiden Tower (Azerbaijani: Qızqalası) is a 12th-century monument in the Old City, Baku, Azerbaijan. Along with the Shirvanshahs' Palace, dated to the 15th century, it forms a group of historic monuments listed in 2001 under the UNESCO World Heritage List of Historical Monuments as cultural property, Category III. It is one of Azerbaijan's most distinctive national emblems, and is thus featured on Azeri currency notes and official letterheads

The Maiden Tower houses a museum, which presents the story of historic evolution of the Baku city. It also has a gift shop. The view from the roof takes in the alleys and minarets of the Old City, the Baku Boulevard, the De Gaulle house and a wide vista of the Baku Bay. In recent years, the brazier on the top has been lit during the nights of the Novruz festival.[2]

Baku's Maiden Tower is a legendary place and world-famous landmark in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The Tower is covered by cloud of mysteries and legends which are rooted to the History of Azerbaijan and national Culture of Azerbaijan. The pool of tower's epics and legends is a part of Azerbaijan's culture and national heritage. Indeed, Some epics became a subject for scenario for ballets and theatre's plays. The Maiden Tower (ballet) is a world class Azerbaijani ballet created by AfrasiyabBadalbeyli in 1940 and ballet's remake was performed in 1999.

Consequent to the receding of the sea shore line of the Caspian Sea, a strip of land emerged. This land was developed between the 9th and 15th centuries, when the walls of the old city, the palace including the huge bastion of the Maiden Tower were built.



Shirvankhakhs' palace

The Palace of the Shirvanshahs (Azerbaijani: Şirvanşahlar Sarayı, Persian: آن‌لش‌ن‌اورش‌خ‌اک) is a 15th-century palace built by the Shirvanshahs and described by UNESCO as "one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture". It is located in the Inner City of Baku,[1] Azerbaijan and, together with the Maiden Tower, forms an ensemble of historic monuments inscribed under the UNESCO World Heritage List of Historical Monuments.[2] The complex contains the main building of the palace, Divanhane, the burial-vaults, the shah's mosque with a minaret, SeyidYahyaBakuvi's mausoleum (the so-called "mausoleum of the dervish"), south of the palace, a portal in the east, Murad's gate, a reservoir and the remnants of a bath house.[3] Earlier, there was an ancient mosque, next to the mausoleum. There are still ruins of the bath and the lamb, belong to the west of the tomb.



In the past, the palace was surrounded by a wall with towers and, thus, served as the inner stronghold of the Baku fortress. Despite the fact that at the present time no traces of this wall have survived on the surface, as early as the 1920s, the remains of apparently the foundations of the tower and the part of the wall connected with it could be distinguished in the north-eastern side of the palace.

There are no inscriptions survived on the palace itself. Therefore, the time of its construction is determined by the dates in the inscriptions on the architectural monuments, which refer to the complex of the palace. Such two inscriptions were completely preserved only on the tomb and minaret of the Shah's mosque. There is a name of the ruler who ordered to establish these buildings in both inscriptions is the – Shirvan Khalil I (years of rule 1417–1462). As time of construction – 839 (1435/36) was marked on the tomb, 845 (1441/42) on the minaret of the Shah's mosque.[6]

The burial vault, the palace and the mosque are built of the same material, the grating and masonry of the stone are the same.[7]

The complex used to occupy more place. There were rooms for court servants and services.[8]

The main buildings of the ensemble were built at different times. Despite this fact, these buildings are linked by unity of scale, by rhythm and proportionality of the basic architectural forms – cubic volumes of buildings, domes, portraits. The builders of the ensemble relied on the traditions of the Shirvan-Absheron architectural school.[6]

In 1964, the palace complex was declared a museum-preserve and taken under the protection of the state. In 2000, this ensemble, along with the fortified walls of the historic part of the city and the Maiden Tower, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.[9][10]

The palace is depicted on the obverse of the Azerbaijani 10,000 manat banknote of 1994–2006[11] and of the 10 new manat banknote issued since 2006. Which were inscribed to UNESCO World Heritage List; Walking tour across

Nizami Street-

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nizami_Street

Nizami Street (*Azerbaijani: Nizamiküçəsi*) is a large pedestrian and shopping street in downtown Baku, Azerbaijan, named after classical Persian poet NizamiGanjavi.

The street's history could be traced back to Baku's town-planning project of 1864. The street runs through the city's downtown from west to east. It begins from Abdulla Shaig Street, in the mountainous part of the city and ends at railroad bed on SabitOrujov Street, near a monument to Shah Ismail Khatai in "Black City". The total length of the street is 3,538 m.

The traffic-free segment, which begins at the Fountains Square and ends at the Rashid Behbudov Street, is commonly known as **Torgovaya** ("the merchant street" in Russian).

Nizami Street is home to various outlets, from banks to fashion stores and is one of the most expensive streets in the world. The street also accommodates the embassies of Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and Austria, as well as the European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan.^{[1][2]} The nearest metro stations are Sahil (red line, south of Nizami Street) and 28 May (both red and green lines, north of the street).



Nizami Street & Carpet Museum, Baku

Lunch in Cave restaurant.



Fountain Square of Baku-a public gathering place, especially after business hours and during the weekend.

Fountains Square (Azerbaijani: Fəvvarələrmeydanı) is a public square in downtown Baku,

capital of Azerbaijan. The square was previously called Parapet and is often referenced to by the same name now. The name of the fountains square derives from the presence of dozens of fountains throughout the square first constructed during Soviet rule of Azerbaijan.

The square is a public gathering place, especially after business hours and during the weekend. It is an attractive tourist destination with many boutiques, restaurants, shops, hotels and passage.[1] It starts from the Istiglaliyyat Street and walls of the IcheriSheher and stretches through Nizami Street, also called in popular culture as the Torgovaya street running parallel to Baku Boulevard. The fountains square are a location where the city authorities hold many public festivals, shows and celebrations.

In 2010, the square was renovated by Baku authorities. A "Fountains Square" salad has been named after the square.





Carpet Museum- a museum that has the largest collection of Azerbaijani carpets in the world. The structure of the building is intended to look like a rolled carpet;

Azerbaijan National Carpet Museum (formerly called the **Azerbaijan Carpet Museum** (Azerbaijani: *Azərbaycan Xalça Muzeyi*)) displays Azerbaijani carpets and rug items of various weaving techniques and materials from various periods.^[1] It has the largest collection of Azerbaijani carpets in the world.^[2] It moved to a new building on the Baku's seafront park during 2014 from its former location on Neftchiler Avenue.^[3]

Azerbaijan National Carpet Museum was established in accordance with the decree No. 130 of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR dated March 13, 1967. From 1967 to 1993, the museum was called the Azerbaijan State Museum of Carpet and Folk Applied Arts, from 1993 to 2014 – State Museum of Carpet and Applied Arts named after LatifKarimov, from 2014 to 2019 – Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, and from 2019 to the present – Azerbaijan National Carpet Museum.





Walking Excursion in Baku Boulevard;

Shopping Center we visited last day in Baku.

Visited from outside HeydarAliyev Center- a building complex designed by Iraqi-British architect ZahaHadid. The building is very distinctive for its unique architectural design and flowing of his signatures.

GOODBYE OUR GUIDE IN BAKU - GULNAR

Dinner in Crown Hotel Baku

Overnight Baku.

Day 04

After early Breakfast Transfer to Airport, Fly to Tashkent. HY756 10:30 14:05 (2H 35Mnts).

After Arrive take Lunch in Shalimar Restaurant with Pakistani Food.

Transfer to Hotel Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Hotel Uzbekistan TASHKENT

Just 100 metres from Amir Temur Square, this hotel in the heart of Tashkent offers a gym,



sauna, and air-conditioned rooms with flat-screen TVs. Guests enjoy free parking and great transport links.

After taking some rest, The sightseeing tour of Tashkent – the capital of Uzbekistan, the age of which is more than 2200 years. First, you will explore the new part of Tashkent with Independence square with its grandiose fountains,

After the proclamation of Uzbekistan's independence in September 1991, "Lenin Square" was renamed in 1992 as "MustaqillikMaydoni", which translates to "Independence Square" in English. The monument to Lenin was dismantled, and in its place the Monument of Independence of Uzbekistan, in the form of the globe, was erected. Later, in front of the pedestal was set a figure of a woman, symbolizing the Motherland.

Independence Square is now the central square of Tashkent; it hosts celebrations and military parades in the days of special events and public holidays.

History

The largest square in Tashkent is more like a large park than a square. With several monuments and fountains, surrounded by impressive public buildings and filled with trees and flower beds, the Independence Square in Tashkent is a showcase of modern Uzbekistan.

Today the Independence History consists of several areas: administrative buildings, the recreation area with green zones and fountains, monuments including the Arch of Independence and the Independence Monument.

The story of the Independence square as a center of Tashkent goes back to more than hundred years. The General Governor of Turkestan erected here his military fortress in 1865. Since 1974 this place was called the Avenue of Parades, where military parades and demonstrations of workers were held to celebrate the holidays of May 1, International Workers Day, May 9 - Victory Day, November 7 - Revolution Day.

Passing through the arch of silver with figures of storks around the fountain, which marks the entrance to the Independence Square, you will see the main monument of the Independence square. It is a high pedestal with a golden globe erected on the top. Before the pedestal there is a statue of a seated mother with a baby in her arms. The monumental complex represent the revival of Uzbekistan as a free independent state. The Monument of Independence was erected in 1992, and the complete reconstruction of the area was completed in 2006.



On the opposite sits a statue depicting a mourning mother sadly looking down onto an eternal flame in memory of her children who fell when defending the country, to commemorate the fallen unidentified soldiers in the past World Wars.

Administrative buildings, including the Cabinet of Ministers, Senate of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Finance are located on the western side of the Independence square in Tashkent.

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Victory monument,



Romanov Prince Duke Residence, Broadway street with artist and local souvenirs and Amir Timur central square, AlisherNavoi opera and ballet theatre square, Memorial of Repression Victims, Tashkent TV Tower (11th place among other 200 towers in the world), Monument of Courage, dedicated to the deadly earthquake of 1966 in Tashkent, and newly constructed Minor mosque, the favorite place of local residents for evening walking's - the white mosque

White mosque of the capital

The Minor mosque is one of new sights of Tashkent located in the new part of the city, not far from the Uz Expo Centre and Hotel International. It was opened on 1 October 2014, on the eve of the Eid holiday, and has become one of the favorite places of city residents for evening strolls. Minor mosque is located on the embankment of the Ankhor channel and is surrounded by a landscaped area.

Construction of the mosque began in the summer of 2013 and was done in the best traditions of the eastern architecture. At the same time, Minor mosque differs from old brick mosques with its white marble finishing. It shines under the clear sky and its turquoise dome seems to be vanishing in the sky. Its capacity is more than 2400 people. Minor mosque is divided to the open front part with terraces, and big round hall with gold plated mihrab (a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the qibla (the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca and the direction Muslims should face when praying), adorned with writings from Koran. New sight does not have a long history yet, but once you are in Tashkent, don't miss your chance to have a look at Minor mosque in all its white marbled glory.

21.00 Dinner at Uzbek Restaurant with show. Overnight in Tashkent

Day 05

After Early breakfast transfer to railway station for high-speed train "Afrosiyob" to Samarkand.

FAST TRAIN = 2 HOURS

After arrival Samarkand



Sightseeing Tour,

Visiting the complex of Imam al-Bukhari.

Imam al-Bukhari was the great theologian of the East. He collected and recorded about 600 thousand hadith, the legends based on cases of life or some sayings of the Prophet. Out of them, al-Bukhari selected as “flawless” about 7400 hadith to include into the famous “As-Sahih” which became the second most important book after the Koran for the majority of Sunni.

Abū ‘AbdAllāhMuḥammadibnIsmā‘īlibnIbrāhīmibn al-MughīrahibnBardizbah al-Ju‘fī al-Bukhārī (Arabic: **أبي خزيمة**; 21 July 810 – 1 September 870), or Bukhārī (Persian: **ابراهیم**), commonly referred to as Imam al-Bukhari or Imam Bukhari, was a Persian[6][7][8] Islamic scholar who was born in Bukhara (the capital of the Bukhara Region (viloyat) of Uzbekistan). He authored the hadith collection known as Sahih al-Bukhari, regarded by Sunni Muslims as one of the most authentic (sahih) hadith collections. He also wrote other books such as Al-Adab al-Mufrad.

At the age of sixteen, he, together with his brother and widowed mother, made the pilgrimage to Mecca. From there he made a series of travels in order to increase his knowledge of hadith. He went through all the important centres of Islamic learning of his time, talked to scholars and exchanged information on hadith. It is said that he heard from over 1,000 men, and learned over 600,000 traditions. After sixteen years absence, he returned to Bukhara, and there he drew up his al-Jami' as-Sahih, a collection of 7,275 tested traditions, arranged in chapters so as to afford a basis for a complete system of jurisprudence without the use of speculative law.

His book is highly regarded among Sunni Muslims, and considered the most authentic collection of hadith, even ahead of the Muwatta Imam Malik and Sahih Muslim of Bukhari's student Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj. Most Sunni scholars consider it second only to the Quran in terms of authenticity. He also composed other books, including al-Adab al-Mufrad, which is a collection of hadiths on ethics and manners, as well as two books containing biographies of hadith narrators (see isnad).

Shakhi-Zinda Necropolis – the ensemble of the mausoleums erected around the grave of KhusamIbn-Abbas, a cousin of Muhammad prophet (s.a.v).

The Shah-i-Zinda Ensemble includes mausoleums and other ritual buildings of 9-14th and 19th centuries. The name Shah-i-Zinda (meaning "The living king") is connected with the legend



that Kusamibn Abbas, a cousin of the prophet Muhammad, is buried here. He came to Samarkand with the Arab invasion in the 7th century to preach Islam. Popular legends speak that he was beheaded for his faith, but he didn't die, took his head and went into the deep well (Garden of Paradise), where he's still living now.

The Shah-i-Zinda complex was formed over eight (from 11th till 19th) centuries and now includes more than twenty buildings.

Modern view.

The upper group of mausoleums.

Mausoleum (detail)

The ensemble comprises three groups of structures: lower, middle and upper connected by four-arched domed passages locally called chartak. The earliest buildings date back to the 11-12th centuries. Mainly their bases and headstones have remained now. The most part dates back to the 14-15th centuries. Reconstructions of the 16-19th centuries were of no significance and did not change the general composition and appearance.[1]

The initial main body - Kusam-ibn-Abbas complex - is situated in the northeastern part of the ensemble. It consists of several buildings. The most ancient of them, the Kusam-ibn-Abbas mausoleum and mosque (16th century), are among them.[2]

Detail of the column.

The upper group of buildings consists of three mausoleums facing each other. The earliest one is Khodja-Akhmad Mausoleum (1340s), which completes the passage from the north. The Mausoleum of 1361, on the right, restricts the same passage from the east.[3][4][5]

The middle group consists of the mausoleums of the last quarter of the 14th century - first half of the 15th century and is concerned with the names of Timur's relatives, military and clergy aristocracy. On the western side the Mausoleum of ShadiMulk Aga, the niece of Timur, stands out. This portal-domed one-premise crypt was built in 1372. Opposite is the Mausoleum of ShirinBika Aga, Timur's sister.[6][7][8]

Next to Shirin-Bika-Aga Mausoleum is the so-called Octahedron, an unusual crypt of the first



half of the 15th century.[9]

Near the multi-step staircase the most well proportioned buildings of the lower group is situated. It is a double-cupola mausoleum of the beginning of the 15th century. This mausoleum is devoted to KaziZade Rumi, who was the scientist and astronomer. Therefore the double-cupola mausoleum which was built by Ulugbek above his tomb in 1434-1435th has the height comparable with cupolas of the royal family's mausoleums.

The main entrance gate to the ensemble (Darvazakhana or the first chartak) turned southward was built in 1434-1435 under Ulugbek.

After lunch continue tours in Samarkand. You will visit Gur Emir Mausoleum – the graves of Tamerlane and his descendants, spectacular Registan Square (sandy place) with its world famous three splendid madrassahs of Ulugbek, Sher-Dor and TillyaKari and the remains of BibiKhanum Mosque named after one of Timur’s beloved wives. The mosque **Bibi-Khanym Mosque** (Persian: *مسجد بی بی خانم*; Uzbek: Bibi-Xonim masjid; Russian: Мечеть Бибиханым; also: Khanum / Khanom / Hanum / Chanym / Hanim, etc.) is one of the most important monuments of Samarkand. In the 15th century it was one of the largest and most magnificent mosques in the Islamic world. By the mid-20th century only a grandiose ruin of it still survived, but major parts of the mosque were restored during the Soviet period.

SO WE MEET AGAIN

Free time for shopping at local bazaar Siyab, a colorful main farmer’s market where you can get acquainted with the life of Samarkand people walking along the trade domes.

After breakfast drive to Bukhara.

ROAD JOURNEY =5 HOURS



Then, drive out of town to visit SitoraiMokhiKhosa – summer residence of Bukhara’s last emir, unique monument combining Oriental and Russian style architecture.

Sitorai-Mohi-Khosa is a suburban residence of Bukhara emirs, located 4 km. north of Bukhara. The name of the palace is translated as "Palace, like the stars and the moon."

The building of the palace is divided into old and new parts. The old palace was built under the emir of Seid-Abdul-Ahad-Khan in 1892. Seid-Abdul-Ahad-Khan specially sent a group of Bukhara masters to St.Petersburg and Yalta to study Russian architecture. Using Russian experience, a group of local architects, led by ustoHodja Hafiz, erected a palace combining local and European traditions. Mirrors, tiled Dutch furnaces, crystal chandeliers, a baguette, furniture were brought specially for decoration, decoration and equipment of the palace from Russia.

The old palace is a traditional three-story complex with one- and two-story buildings in the spirit of Bukhara dwelling houses.

The new palace, built at Seid-Alim-Khan in 1917, has a pavilion building, contains several isolated courtyards scattered in a vast park, with a rectangular layout of the "chorbag" type: birun - a hall for spectacles, a daran - a reception room, a harem - the main dwelling, khazin - warehouse, hayvonathana - zoo. The new complex is built in European style, but at the same time it is divided into male and female parts. Inside of the building is decorated in oriental style.

In 1927, the Sitorai-Mokhi-Khosa Palace was converted into the Museum of Decorative and Applied Art. The collection of the museum presents a large exposition of 19th century clothing, Japanese and Chinese porcelain, palace art from Russia, jewelry of famous Bukhara craftsmen, gold embroidered panels and blankets, household utensils of the late XIX - early XX centuries and much more.

BakhauddinNaqshbandi Mausoleum. **Sayyid BahouddinNaqshbandBuxoriy** (Persian: بهاءالدين محمد نقشبند بخاری) (1318–1389) was the founder of what would become one of the largest Sufi Muslim orders, the Naqshbandi. Baha-ud-Din was born on 18 March 1318 CE (14 Muharram, 718 AH) in the village of Qasr-i-Hinduwan (later renamed Qasr-i Arifan) near Bukhara, in what is now Uzbekistan and it was there that he died in 1389.^[1]

He came into early contact with the Khwajagan (lit: the Masters), and was adopted as spiritual progeny by one of them, Baba Muhammad Sammasi, while still an infant. Sammasi was his first guide on the path, and more important was his relationship with Sammasi's



principal khalifa (successor), Amir Kulal, the last link in the silsila, or chain of teachers, before Baha-ud-Din.^[2]

The memorial complex of **Chor-Bakr** was built over the burial place of Abu-Bakr-Said, who died in the year 360 of the Muslim Calendar (970-971 AD), and who was one of the four of Abu-Bakrs (**Chor-Bakr**) - descendants of Muhammad. The complex includes the **necropolis** of family tombs, and courtyards. This site was built during the era of Uzbek leader Muhammad Shaybani. at the purported burial site of Abu Bakr Said and his son Abu BakrAhmad.The site became a popular location for ceremonies and prayers in the 16th century. However, it started to lose importance in the 19th century and eventually became forbidden as a religious site during the Soviet era. After the end of the Soviet era in Uzbekistan, the site increased in importance for Muslim pilgrimage and is considered necessary for Muslim Uzbeks, along with ShahiZinda, before their pilgrimage to Mecca.

MULLA NASIRUDDIN

Nasreddin or NasreddinHodja or MollaNasreddinHoojawas a Seljuq satirist, born in Hortu Village in Sivrihisar, Eskişehir Province, present-day Turkey and died in 13th century in Akşehir, near Konya, a capital of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum, in today's Turkey. He is considered a populist philosopher, Sufi and wise man, remembered for his funny stories and anecdotes. He appears in thousands of stories, sometimes witty, sometimes wise, but often, too, a fool or the butt of a joke. A Nasreddin story usually has a subtle humor and a pedagogic nature. The International NasreddinHodja festival is celebrated between the 5th and 10th of July in his hometown every year.

Dinner at Open Air Restaurant.

Overnight Bukhara.

Day 07

9.30 Check out the hotel, Your second day in Bukhara will start from the walking



sightseeing tour with a guide in Old City visiting splendid water Complex Lyabi-Khauz with Nadir Divan-Begi Madrassah, Magoki-Attori Mosque, trade domes of Toki Sarrofon (moneychanger's bazaar), Toki-Telpak

Bukhara (Uzbek Latin: *Buxoro*; Uzbek Cyrillic: *Бухоро*; Persian: بۇخارا) is a city in Uzbekistan. Bukhara is rich in historical sites, with about 140 architectural monuments.^[1] The nation's fifth-largest city, it had a population of 247,644 as of 31 August 2016.^[2] People have inhabited the region around Bukhara for at least five millennia, and the city has existed for half that time. The mother tongue of the majority of people of Bukhara is Tajik.^[3] Located on the Silk Road, the city has long served as a center of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion. UNESCO has listed the historic center of Bukhara (which contains numerous mosques and madrasas) as a World Heritage Site.

Furushon (cap makers bazaar)

The Cap Makers Bazaar is a typically domed bazaar straddling one of Bukhara's main street junctions. It contains several souvenir stalls that still sell the eponymous fur hats and skullcaps.

Toki Zargaron (jeweler's bazaar),

On the main streets of medieval Bukhara they used to build domed shopping arcades. Three of them, built in the 16th century, have survived to the present day. **Toki Zargaron** ('Dome of Jewelers') is located at the intersection of two arterial roads next to Kalyan Mosque and Miri-Arab Madrassah. *Tok* means 'an arch' or 'a vault'; this word was also used to call the street shopping arcades. **The four vaulted passages of Toki Zargaron opened to Great Silk Road caravans to come in.** The large ribbed dome with 16 windows stands on an octahedral base. And all around there cluster smaller domes topping craftsmen's workrooms and shops. The spacious and cool halls under these domes accommodated over 30 workrooms and shops of jewelers who manufactured and sold here rings, earrings, necklaces, stamps, splendid settings for weapons...

The shopping arcade **Toki Telpak-furushon** ('Dome of Headgear Salespersons') comprised 5 streets fanning extensively. By means of cranked turnings skillful constructors transformed the streets into a regular hexahedral base. The central dome crowning Toki Telpak-furushon has a circle of windows. **In the past the shops met the customers with abundance of turbans, fur hats, and skullcaps embroidered with silk and decorated with beads.**

At the Y-intersection of two streets, one of which ran right to the city's central square – Registan Square, there rises **Toki Sarrafon** ('Dome of Moneychangers'). Recent archeological



excavations showed that over a thousand years ago at the site of Toki Saraffon there used to be a building that had suffered heavy fire damage. The building was provided with a sewerage system; its residents used high-quality earthenware. The latest coins found there during the excavations date from the 10th century. Within 400 years, from the 11th through the 15th centuries, the building was reconstructed several times and was adapted at one moment for a ceramic workshop, at another for a glass-blowing shop. In the 16th century the dome of Toki Sarrafon was erected on the ancient baked brick foundations. Under its four intersecting arches there is a passage. **The very name of the dome is evidence to the fact that in the Middle Ages Bukhara was one of the largest trading centers on the Great Silk Road. Here the local merchants could exchange their money for foreign currencies before leaving for far-away lands, whereas foreign merchants readily acquired Bukhara's coins.**

Today under the three ancient domes there is a busy life, too. Just like in the Middle Ages the structure houses craftsmen shops where tourists can buy a memory token of their trip: a skullcap with gold embroidery, a metal tray with beautiful engravings, a ceramic dish, a jewelry box with beautiful painting or carving

Poi Kalyan complex consisting from Kalyan Minaret that was in use for many years as a sort of beacon showing the way to Bukhara.

The **Kalyan minaret** (Persian/Tajik: Minâra-i Kalân, Kalon Minor, Kalon Minaret) is a minaret of the Po-i-Kalyan mosque complex in Bukhara, Uzbekistan and one of the most prominent landmarks in the city. The minaret, designed by Bako, was built by the Qarakhanid ruler Mohammad Arslan Khan in 1127 to summon Muslims to prayer five times a day. An earlier tower collapsed before completion. It is made in the form of a circular-pillar baked brick tower, narrowing upwards. It is 45.6 metres (149.61 ft) high (48 metres including the point), of 9 metres (29.53 ft) diameter at the bottom and 6 metres (19.69 ft) overhead.

The body of the minaret is topped by a rotunda with 16 arched fenestrations, from which the muezzins summoned the Muslims in the city to prayer. There is a brick spiral staircase that twists up inside around the pillar to the rotunda. Once the minaret was believed to have had another round section above the rotunda, but now only the cone-shaped top remains. The tower base has narrow ornamental strings belted across it made of bricks which are placed in both straight or diagonal fashion. The frieze is covered with a blue glaze with inscriptions. In times of war, warriors used the minaret as a watchtower to lookout for enemies.



The minaret in 1909

About a hundred years after its construction, the tower so impressed Genghis Khan that he ordered it to be spared when all around was destroyed by his men. It is also known as the Tower of Death, because until as recently as the early twentieth century criminals were executed by being thrown from the top. Fitzroy Maclean, who made a surreptitious visit to the city in 1938, says in his memoir *Eastern Approaches*, "For centuries before 1870, and again in the troubled years between 1917 and 1920, men were cast down to their death from the delicately ornamented gallery which crowns it."^[6]

Kalyan Friday mosque and Miri-Arab Madrassah, Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan madrasahs. Continue sightseeing tour visiting the Samanids Mausoleum - full of magnificence and feeling of moving from this world to the world that lasts forever, Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum with the holy water source, Bolo-Khauz Mosque, also known as the mosque with the 40 pillars, and Ark Fortress, the reinforced citadel of Bukhara(only the western gate has been restored).

Bolo Haouz Mosque is a historical mosque in Bukhara, Uzbekistan.^[4] Built in 1712, on the opposite side of the citadel of Ark in Registan district, it is inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list along with the other parts of the historic city. It served as a Friday mosque during the time when the emir of Bukhara was being subjugated under the Bolshevik Russian rule in 1920s. Thin columns made of painted woods were added to the frontal part of the iwan (entrance) in 1917, additionally supporting the bulged roof of summer prayer room. The columns are decorated with colored muqarnas.

After traditional Lunch

22:13 Arrival at Tashkent, Dinner at Local restaurant. Overnight in Hotel Uzbekistan

Day 08

11.30 After the breakfast In the morning drive to Chimgan Mountains (80 km – 2 hours). Chimgan Mountain area, located just 80 km north-east of Tashkent, on the altitude of 1500



meters above sea level in the mountains of South-West Tian-Shan, the most popular holiday place of both local people and visitors from other countries. You will drive through the picturesque places full of local villages, gardens, and mountain streams.

SIMSIM RESTUARANT

Greater Chimgan (3,309 m) of the Chatkal Mountain range (the Western Tian Shan) is located in the territory of the Ugam-Chatkal National Park, and it is in the Bostanlyk administrative district (Tashkent Province), Uzbekistan.

Orographical scheme of the Greater Chimgan Mountain and surrounding area

The Chimgan village was settled 400–500 years ago in the mountain massive of dominant the Greater Chimgan peak (3,309 m), at an altitude of 1,620 m.

Some experts see Chinese words in the name "Chimgan" but others translate it as "sod" or "pasture abundant in water, green valley".

For generations of those, who live in Tashkent province, the Greater Chimgan is the place of romantic gravitation.

Greater Chimgan (3,309m) has been known to mountaineers since the beginning of the 20th century.

For many years the Greater Chimgan was the first challenge for thousands beginners of Soviet mountaineering.

A great number of routes of several levels of complexity (from 1B to 4B inclusively) allows a wide spectrum of mountaineering. Beginners at climbing usually take on the uncomplicated western ridge of the Greater Chimgan Mountain, while there are plenty of more complicated routes for experienced climbers.

Since we arrived late, the Cableway was closed. Have a walk at mountain area & enjoy magnificent view of the nature.



THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10

Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan

Then continue to the lake shore of Charvak water reservoir, surrounded by green mountain flanks. This area is a favorite place of locals and foreigners to enjoy summer days outside the city.

13.00 – 14.00 Visit Charvek lake “Pyramids” resort hotel restaurant.

Drive to Tashkent. Shopping in Mall.
2200 Dinner



THE NAVY LEAGUE Overseas Tour # 10

Azerbaijan & Uzbekistan





Uzbekistan

Tashkent

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat

Dushanbe
Душанбе

Tajikistan

Mashhad

Tehran

تهران

Kabul

کابل

Afghanistan

Islamabad

اسلام آباد

Iran

27th September 2019

Pakistan

Persian Gulf

Saudi Arabia

Qatar

United Arab Emirates

Dubai

Muscat

Karachi

کراچی

Gulf of Oman

Maldives