

May 2025

# Newsletter.



Embassy of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan  
Islamabad



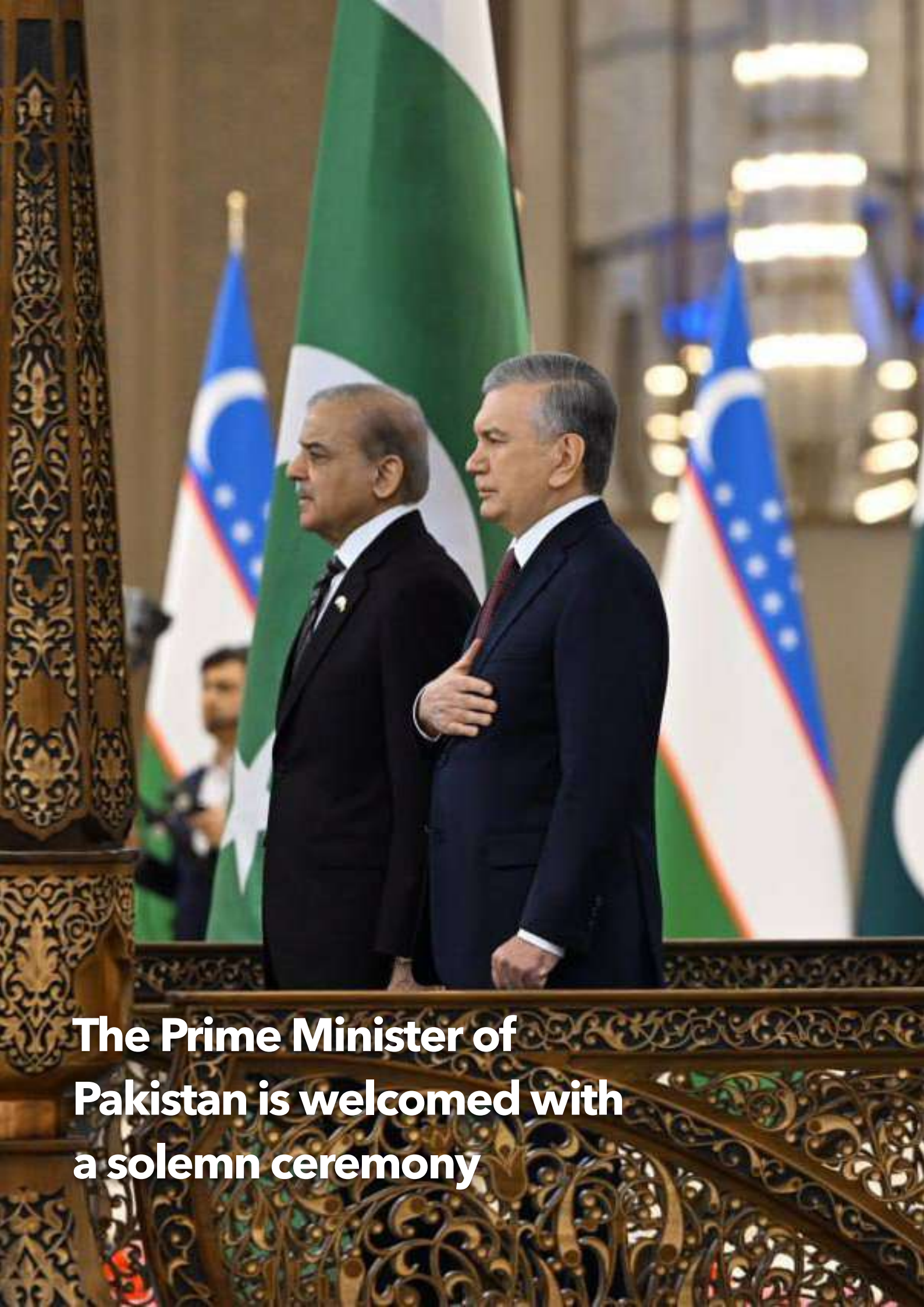
NATIONAL  
PR CENTER



## Strengthening Ties, Shaping the Future

A Historic Moment as the Prime Minister of Pakistan  
and the President of Uzbekistan Unite for Regional  
Cooperation and Prosperity





**The Prime Minister of  
Pakistan is welcomed with  
a solemn ceremony**





On February 26, the International Congress Center in Tashkent hosted the official welcoming ceremony of Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif, who is paying an official visit to our country.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev warmly greeted the distinguished guest and invited him to the podium. A military band played the national anthems of the two countries.

The leaders passed the guard of honor and introduced members of official delegations to each other.





Tashkent and Lahore are renewed.

The meeting of the Intergovernmental commission, business-forums and a national industrial exhibition of Uzbekistan were successfully held.

In the course of the negotiations particular attention was paid to expanding trade and economic cooperation.



**P**resident of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif held negotiations in a narrow format and with participation of the official delegations.

The entire range of issues on further expanding and strengthening Uzbek-Pakistani relations of strategic partnership

The importance of implementing coordinated measures for bringing the volume of trade to \$2 billion based on the adopted "roadmap" was underlined.

Expansion of the nomenclature of goods within the framework of the Preferential Trade Agreement, mutual simplification of phytosanitary and quarantine requirements, customs procedures, convergence of standards, integration of electronic trading

utilizing the transit potential.

It was noted with satisfaction that over the past few years the volume of cargo transportation through the multimodal corridor "Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan" has increased by 5 times.

In order to further increase the volume of cargo turnover, an agreement has been reached on establishing a joint transport and logistics company.

The importance of coordinating joint efforts for practical promotion of the Trans-Afghanistan railroad construction project was also stressed.

An agreement was reached to hold the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in July this year in the city of Lahore.

The sides advocated for further expansion of cultural, humanitarian and tourist exchange. In this context, it was agreed to hold mutual cultural weeks and presentations of tourism programs.

An exchange of views on the current international and regional agenda was also held. The importance of continuing mutual support within the framework of the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, SCO and other multilateral structures was highlighted.

The President of Uzbekistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan emphasized the need to join efforts in the fight against terrorism, radicalism, Islamophobia and other contemporary security challenges.

In order to elaborate new areas of comprehensive cooperation, it was agreed to establish the Supreme Council of Strategic Partnership and hold its first meeting next year.

As a result of summit talks a decision was made on developing and approving a joint "roadmap" for the timely implementation of the agreements reached and signed.



## Leaders of Uzbekistan and Pakistan define priority areas for expanding strategic partnership

was reviewed.

In the beginning of the meeting Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif expressed sincere gratitude to the President of our country for the warm and cordial welcome.

The Heads of state noted the dynamic development of multifaceted cooperation in the past years with deep satisfaction.

Active political contacts, fruitful interparliamentary and interagency exchanges continue.

In 2024 the trade turnover exceeded \$400 million, the quantity of joint enterprises reached 130. Trade houses are open in Karachi and Tashkent. Direct flights between

platforms, ensuring access to the procurement system, improvement of interbank settlement mechanisms and others were identified as priority tasks.

The plans of leading companies to implement cooperation projects in pharmaceuticals, electrical engineering, agrarian sector, agricultural machinery, geology and mineral resources, textile, leather and other industries were reviewed.

In order to encourage business and cultural contacts between the regions, the Head of our state suggested organizing a Forum of Regions of the two countries in Uzbekistan.

Leaders of Uzbekistan and Pakistan particularly reviewed the issues of strengthening transport connectivity and



**A solid package of bilateral agreements between Uzbekistan and Pakistan signed**







## New City in Uzbekistan to Be Named After the Great Babur Whose Legacy is a Symbol of Shared Heritage for Uzbek and Pakistani Nations

In a move that deeply resonates with the hearts of millions across Central and South Asia, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has announced that the newly built city in the Andijan region will be named after Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, the great founder of the Baburid Empire and a beloved historical figure for both Uzbeks and Pakistanis.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the exceptional legacy of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur – a great thinker, poet, and statesman. To honor Babur's profound contributions to science, literature, and culture, and to immortalize his memory, President proposed naming the newly built city "Babur City".

said the President.

For Pakistan, where Babur's legacy lives on through centuries of history, architecture, and culture, this is a profound gesture of unity and shared heritage.

Andijan, the birthplace of Babur, is one of the most densely populated areas in Uzbekistan. With 10% of the nation's population residing in just 1% of its territory, the government launched a visionary project in 2021 to build a new city to ease urban pressure and provide modern living standards. This bold project is being constructed in eight phases on 4,000 hectares of previously unused land.

"Babur Mirza was a worthy successor of the Timurid Renaissance, a patron of science, culture, arts, and literature. His remarkable legacy glorified our people around the world. Building a city that carries his name is a symbolic realization of his lifelong dream,"

Already, 63 apartment blocks, a modern school for 1,680 students, a kindergarten, a medical center, a light industry enterprise, and an affordable housing center have been completed. The essential infrastructure, including roads, water supply, gas, electricity, and heating, has been fully established. A new reservoir and distribution station have also been launched to supply clean drinking water.

The future city named after Babur is planned as a modern and technologically advanced

**"The youth of Uzbekistan are talented and capable. When does talent reveal itself? When there is effort. Seek knowledge and strive to grow - then your tomorrow will be bright."**



urban space, deeply rooted in cultural and spiritual values. Central to its development will be a large educational complex, which will include kindergartens, schools, a university, a museum, a library, and an IT park. The city will also feature a world-class sports facility.

Significant attention is being given to environmental and recreational spaces. Among them is the “Yangi O‘zbekiston” Park, which spans 19 hectares and is planted with over 10,000 trees, offering visitors scenic areas for rest and a spacious amphitheater for cultural events. Another key site is “Vatanparvar” (“Patriot”) Park, where visitors will find the “Oath to the Homeland” monument, a museum dedicated to patriotism, and various performance venues.

A grand monument to Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur will be built at the city's highest point, symbolizing his spiritual return to the land of his birth.

Speaking to the youth, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the importance of education, innovation, and hard work:

“The youth of Uzbekistan are talented and capable. When does talent reveal itself? When there is effort. Seek knowledge and strive to grow – then your tomorrow will be bright.”



A special development program with a funding commitment of \$250 million has been approved to bring the city of Babur to life. Once completed, it will be home to over 410,000 people, offering a vibrant environment for living, learning, and growth.

New Babur City is more than a development milestone – it is a tribute to a shared past and a vision for a collaborative future between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Babur, the ancestor of the Baburid dynasty, left a legacy of art, poetry, architecture, and governance that shaped South Asian history. Uzbekistan's tribute reaffirms the deep

cultural bond between the two brotherly nations. As Babur longed for his homeland, this city stands as a homecoming – an eternal reminder that our histories are intertwined.

“As is well known, wherever in the world, in whichever country Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur found himself, he longed for his homeland throughout his life. I believe you will agree that today the dream of our great ancestor has come true – it is as if he has returned to his native land once again. I congratulate all of us on this historic event!” the President said.







## Product of Uzbekistan Exhibition Opens at Centaurus Mall, Islamabad



Islamabad, Pakistan –

The grand opening of the "Product of Uzbekistan" Exhibition was held at Centaurus Mall, Islamabad, attracting business leaders, diplomats, and enthusiastic visitors eager to explore the rich tapestry of Uzbek products. The event marks a significant step in enhancing bilateral trade and cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

The exhibition was officially inaugurated by **H.E. Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev**, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan. In his keynote address, Ambassador Tukhtaev

highlighted the centuries-old historical and cultural ties between the two nations and emphasized the growing cooperation in trade, tourism, and investment.

"This exhibition is not just a display of Uzbek products; it is a celebration of our shared heritage and a step towards deeper economic collaboration," he remarked. "We invite Pakistani businesses and consumers to discover the quality and uniqueness of Uzbek craftsmanship, agriculture, and industry."

The chief guest of the ceremony, **Mr. Sardar Tanveer**, the esteemed owner of Centaurus Mall, welcomed the Uzbek delegation and expressed his full support for such initiatives. In his speech, he applauded the Embassy of Uzbekistan for organizing the event and reaffirmed Centaurus Mall's commitment to promoting international trade and cultural exchange.

"We are honored to host the 'Product of Uzbekistan' exhibition, which not only offers Pakistani consumers a glimpse into Uzbekistan's dynamic economy but also fosters stronger people-to-people and business-to-business ties," Mr. Tanveer stated.

The exhibition features a wide array of

Uzbek products including textiles, traditional handicrafts, organic food items, leather goods, herbal cosmetics, and industrial innovations. Special emphasis has been placed on showcasing Uzbekistan's strengths in cotton, silk, ceramics, and dried fruits.

The event is expected to run for several days, providing a valuable opportunity for local businesses, investors, and the general public to engage with Uzbek producers and explore avenues for mutual cooperation.

This initiative aligns with the broader vision of both governments to boost regional connectivity and economic integration under the framework of ECO and SCO partnerships.





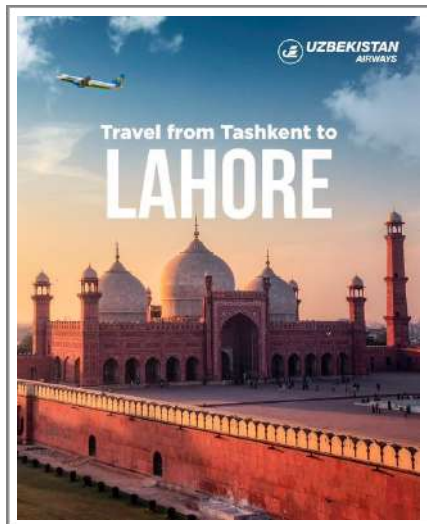
**Uzbekistan Tourism Minister  
Mr. Umid Shodiev  
Visits Pakistan to Strengthen  
Bilateral Tourism and Economic  
Ties Islamabad, Pakistan -**

In a significant step toward deepening Uzbekistan-Pakistan cooperation, Mr. Umid Shodiev, Chairman of the Tourism Committee under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, concluded a productive visit to Pakistan marked by high-level meetings and strategic dialogue.

During his visit, Mr. Umid had the pleasure of holding meaningful and practical talks with Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Industry and Production. The discussions centered around expanding bilateral collaboration in tourism and economic diplomacy, with a focus on practical, results-driven initiatives.

The key areas of mutual interest discussed included:

- Developing new cross-border tourism routes that highlight the shared spiritual,



# Promoting Tourism Diplomacy and Investment Partnerships

historical, and cultural heritage of Uzbekistan and Pakistan

- Promoting pilgrimage tourism, particularly to sacred Islamic sites, to encourage people-to-people connections

powerful bridges that connect our countries. This visit has further strengthened our shared vision to build a vibrant and people-centered partnership," he noted.

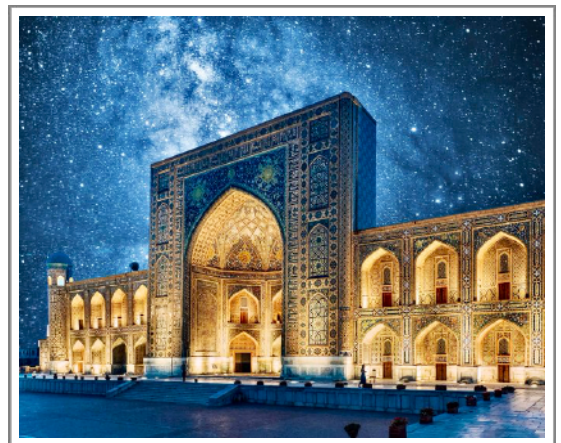


This visit by the Uzbek delegation signals a renewed momentum in Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations, especially in the sectors of tourism, cultural exchange, and economic development. The outcomes of these meetings are expected to pave the way for tangible progress,

- Simplifying visa procedures and organizing joint tourism promotions to attract more visitors from both countries

- Enhancing investment and industrial cooperation to build long-term economic partnerships alongside tourism development

including the introduction of new tourism routes, collaborative marketing campaigns,



The meeting was also attended by Mr. Aftab ur-Rehman Rana, Managing Director of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). Concrete steps to facilitate increased tourist exchanges, joint tour packages, and direct travel initiatives were discussed in detail.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Umid emphasized that diplomacy must go beyond dialogue to deliver concrete results that directly benefit the people of both nations.

and simplified travel processes.

The visit concluded on a note of optimism and commitment to shared prosperity through closer bilateral cooperation

"Tourism and economic cooperation are



# Strengthening Bilateral Tourism and Cultural Ties

Uzbekistan Tourism Road Shows  
Shines in Pakistan







MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY,  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



# Uzbekistan - Pakistan TOURISM FORUM

April 9, Lahore



Lahore - Karachi - Islamabad | April 9-11, 2025

The Uzbekistan-Pakistan Tourism Forum 2025 concluded successfully with a series of vibrant events held in Lahore, Karachi, and culminating in a grand ceremony in Islamabad. Organized to promote bilateral tourism, cultural exchange, and regional connectivity, the forum showcased Uzbekistan's historical charm, culinary heritage, and immense potential as a prime travel destination for Pakistani tourists.

The forum commenced in Lahore on April 9, followed by a session in Karachi on April 10, and concluded with a grand ceremony in Islamabad on April 11, attended by government officials, travel industry stakeholders, media representatives, and cultural enthusiasts from both countries.

The highlight of the grand ceremony in Islamabad was the participation of H.E. Mr. Umid Shadiev, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change of Uzbekistan, who also oversees

the country's tourism affairs. In his keynote speech, Mr. Umid expressed Uzbekistan's deep commitment to enhancing tourism cooperation with Pakistan.

**Uzbekistan and Pakistan are bound by history, faith, and friendship. Through this forum, we aim to strengthen people-to-people ties and invite our Pakistani brothers and sisters to explore the spiritual, historical, and natural wonders of Uzbekistan," said Mr. Umid.**

H.E. Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, delivered a warm welcome speech, emphasizing the importance of tourism diplomacy and the growing mutual interest between the two nations. He appreciated the support of the Pakistani travel community and media in promoting Uzbekistan as a preferred destination.

**"We are witnessing a new era of tourism collaboration. Uzbekistan is ready to welcome Pakistani travelers for pilgrimage, cultural, medical, and**

**business tourism. This forum is a bridge between our peoples," stated Ambassador Tukhtaev.**

The event also featured an authentic Uzbek cultural experience, with traditional Uzbek cuisine served to guests. The highlight was the famous Uzbek Plov, freshly prepared by expert Uzbek chefs, offering attendees a delicious taste of Central Asia's culinary traditions. A selection of national sweets, breads, and herbal teas complemented the experience.

Tour operators from both countries participated in B2B meetings, presentations, and networking sessions, exploring opportunities to develop joint tour packages, charter flights, and promotional campaigns.

The Uzbekistan-Pakistan Tourism Forum 2025 marks a significant milestone in bilateral tourism promotion, laying the groundwork for increased visitor exchange and stronger cultural understanding between the two friendly nations.

Islamabad, Pakistan – In a vibrant display of heritage and diplomacy, the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad hosted a grand celebration of Navruz (Nowruz), the traditional spring festival that has been celebrated across Central Asia and beyond for over three millennia. The event brought together diplomats, cultural figures, government officials, and members of civil society to experience the colors, flavors, and spirit of Uzbekistan's most cherished cultural holiday.

Held in the lush grounds of the Embassy, the Navruz Festival served as a powerful symbol of Uzbekistan's deep-rooted traditions and

In Uzbekistan, Navruz is more than a holiday – it is a nationwide celebration filled with family gatherings, cultural performances, and the preparation of special dishes that symbolize prosperity, health, and hope.

#### A Festive Atmosphere in Islamabad

The Embassy's garden was transformed into a cultural courtyard, adorned with traditional Uzbek decorations, colorful fabrics, and displays of crafts and textiles. Guests were welcomed with traditional hospitality, including flower garlands, music, and a warm greeting from the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Alisher

with our friends in Pakistan," he said.

#### Music, Dance, and Cultural Performances

The event featured a series of live cultural performances by Uzbek children, showcasing folk music played on traditional instruments such as the dutar and doira. Dancers in vibrant national costumes performed joyful routines that reflected the cultural diversity of Uzbekistan's regions – from Samarkand to Bukhara, Khiva to Tashkent.

Pakistani guests, including students, officials, and members of the diplomatic community,

## A Fusion of Culture, Tradition, and Friendship Uzbekistan Embassy Celebrates Navruz Festival in Islamabad



the country's growing cultural ties with Pakistan.

#### Navruz: A Celebration of Renewal and Unity

Navruz, meaning "new day," marks the beginning of the solar New Year and the arrival of spring on March 21. Rooted in Zoroastrian traditions and recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Navruz is not only a time of joy and festivity but also a time for reflection, renewal, and unity.



Tukhtaev.

In his opening remarks, **Ambassador Tukhtaev** highlighted the importance of Navruz as a celebration of harmony between human beings and nature. He emphasized that festivals like Navruz remind us of the universal values of peace, gratitude, and mutual respect.

"Navruz connects us beyond borders. It is a celebration of life, nature, and humanity. We are proud to share this beautiful tradition



applauded enthusiastically and often joined in the rhythmic dances, reflecting the spirit of friendship and shared celebration.

#### Flavors of Uzbekistan: A Culinary Journey

One of the highlights of the evening was the traditional Uzbek cuisine prepared specially for the event. Guests were treated to signature Navruz dishes including:

**Sumalak** – a sweet, wheat-based delicacy cooked for hours in large pots, symbolizing health and abundance.



Plov – the national dish made of rice, meat, carrots, and spices.

Manti – steamed dumplings filled with minced meat and herbs.

Non – round Uzbek bread, baked in traditional clay ovens.

These dishes were accompanied by Uzbek tea served in piala cups and a variety of dried fruits and sweets, offering a complete sensory journey into Central Asian hospitality.

Symbol of Pak-Uzbek Friendship

exchange between the two brotherly countries. The event also coincided with ongoing efforts to increase bilateral tourism, educational exchange, and economic cooperation.

**Intercultural Harmony: Navruz Meets Ramadan**

This year, the Navruz festival coincided with the holy month of Ramadan, and the Embassy marked the occasion by hosting a traditional Iftar dinner. This beautiful gesture of interfaith and intercultural solidarity brought together guests of various backgrounds to share a meal at sunset,

Samarkand and Bukhara.

**Cultural Diplomacy at its Finest**

The Navruz Festival hosted by the Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad exemplified the power of cultural diplomacy. By sharing its rich heritage, Uzbekistan continues to build bridges of understanding and goodwill with Pakistan and the broader international community.

Such events foster not only bilateral relations but also mutual respect and global appreciation for traditions that bring joy, reflection, and a sense of renewal to all who



The Navruz celebration was not only a cultural showcase but also a demonstration of the deepening friendship between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. High-level guests included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, members of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, diplomats from Central Asia and South Asia, and academic leaders.

Speakers during the event reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties and promoting cultural

reinforcing the values of tolerance and unity that both Navruz and Ramadan represent.

**Memories Captured and Shared**

Guests captured photos with traditional Uzbek backdrops, folk performers, and displays of historic artifacts from the Silk Road. A special photo exhibition on the theme “Uzbekistan – Cradle of Culture and Civilization” was also featured, presenting images of ancient architecture, craftspeople, and UNESCO World Heritage sites such as

celebrate them.

**Looking Ahead**

As spring continues to blossom, the spirit of Navruz – of hope, togetherness, and cultural pride – will linger in the hearts of all who attended. The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan has once again succeeded in turning a cultural tradition into a celebration of international friendship.

Happy Navruz Mubarak to all!





significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to strengthen trade, investment, and economic collaboration between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Pakistan, the high-level event brought together key government officials, business leaders, investors, and trade representatives from both countries.

**His Excellency Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, delivered the opening remarks. In his speech, he emphasized the long-standing cultural and historical ties between the two nations and highlighted the growing momentum in bilateral cooperation. He reaffirmed Uzbekistan's commitment to enhancing connectivity with Pakistan through diverse avenues, including trade, logistics, agriculture, tourism, and joint ventures.**

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), was the Chief Guest of the forum. In his address, he welcomed the Uzbek delegation and underlined Pakistan's readiness to work with Uzbek counterparts to boost regional trade. He noted that the improved diplomatic and transport links, including the trans-Afghan railway project and direct flights, have opened new doors for business

## Uzbekistan Pakistan Business Forum

## Strengthens Bilateral Economic Ties

Islamabad, 27 May 2025 – The Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Forum, held at the prestigious Islamabad Club, marked a







partnerships and mutual prosperity.

The forum featured insightful presentations from both Uzbek and Pakistani representatives, showcasing investment opportunities in key sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, construction, renewable energy, information technology, and tourism. Uzbek companies expressed strong interest in joint ventures and industrial cooperation in special economic zones in Pakistan, while Pakistani businesses explored export possibilities to the fast-developing Uzbek market and beyond, including access to Central Asia and CIS countries.

One of the forum's highlights was the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between prominent Uzbek and Pakistani companies. These agreements are expected to foster collaboration in agriculture, trade facilitation, and industrial development.

Delegates from both sides engaged in productive B2B meetings during the forum, facilitated by the Embassy of Uzbekistan and supported by the Uzbekistan Tourist

Information Center Pakistan. These interactions allowed participants to identify common business goals and plan future visits and trade missions.

Speaking at the conclusion of the event, Ambassador Tukhtaev noted:

"This forum is more than just a meeting; it is a platform for building bridges between our economies and peoples. Together, Uzbekistan and Pakistan can play a vital role in regional connectivity and sustainable development."

The event concluded with a cultural segment and traditional Uzbek refreshments, symbolizing the warmth and hospitality that define the Uzbek-Pakistani relationship. The success of the forum stands as a testament to the shared vision of both governments to deepen economic diplomacy and people-to-people connectivity.

As Uzbekistan continues to open its markets and Pakistan seeks to expand its economic footprint in Central Asia, forums like this serve as vital instruments in translating political goodwill into practical, impactful cooperation.

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## Editor's Note



Hamid Mahmood

From February 25-26, 2025, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif embarked on a pivotal two-day official visit to Uzbekistan, deepening the seeds of a strategic partnership and expanding regional cooperation.

### Grand Reception & Cultural Appreciation

Upon landing in Tashkent, PM Sharif was warmly welcomed by Uzbek PM Abdulla Aripov, Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, local dignitaries, and senior officials, including Foreign Office representatives from both nations. A formal military salute marked the beginning of a visit infused with hospitality and goodwill.

H.E Sharif expressed his admiration for Uzbekistan's cultural heritage, emphasizing its "ancient cities, timeless art, and magnificent architecture," and reaffirming his commitment to fostering deeper bilateral bonds.

### Expanding Economic & Connectivity Frontiers



One highlight was the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum, which convened prominent business leaders from both nations. The Forum facilitated targeted B2B interactions and underscored mutual economic interests, setting the stage for significant MoUs and agreements in key sectors like textiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and electrical engineering.

- ▶ Prime Minister Sharif and President Mirziyoyev conducted in-depth bilateral talks that spanned across:
- ▶ Economic integration: trade, investment, and energy cooperation
- ▶ Connectivity: launching transit routes and transport corridors
- ▶ Defence & security collaboration
- ▶ Regional stability and shared geopolitical interests
- ▶ Advancement in education and technology

### Expanding Economic & Connectivity Frontiers

One highlight was the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum, which convened prominent business leaders from both nations. The Forum facilitated targeted B2B interactions and underscored mutual economic interests, setting the stage for significant MoUs and agreements in key sectors like textiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and electrical engineering. These efforts aim to elevate bilateral trade from its 2019 level of \$122 million to a projected range of \$300-\$387 million by 2024-25. Uzbekistan's fruit and vegetable exports to Pakistan reached \$192

million in 2024, confirming the promising trajectory of economic ties.

Crucially, the long-anticipated Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway Project was a key topic, emphasizing the strategic vision of linking Tashkent and Peshawar through Kabul—a 573 km corridor poised to transform regional logistics and trade flows.

### Broader Regional & Diplomatic Context

Beyond bilateral gains, the visit contributes to wider regional integration. Enhanced transit connectivity with Uzbekistan opens routes not only to Central Asia but also to European and Middle Eastern markets. Moreover, strategic alignment strengthens regional diplomacy through platforms like the SCO and ECO.

PM Sharif's trip came on the heels of visits to Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, demonstrating Islamabad's intensified diplomatic engagement aimed at balancing regional relations and articulating Pakistan's narrative amid rising tensions with India.

### In Summary

This visit marks a watershed in bilateral relations. By committing to a High-Level Strategic Partnership Council, launching significant economic mechanisms, and advancing transport corridors, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have set a clear roadmap for long-term cooperation. The agreements and diplomatic momentum generated promise economic prosperity and stronger geopolitical synergy—on a local, regional, and international stage.

### Looking Ahead

Implementation of signed MoUs across key sectors

Construction progress in the trans-Afghan railway corridor

Emergence of a direct Tashkent-Karachi flight route

Continued institutional engagement through the Strategic Partnership Council

Together, Islamabad and Tashkent are charting a course toward deeper integration, connectivity, and mutual growth in an increasingly interdependent region.

This comprehensive visit reinforces Pakistan's commitment to regional collaboration and highlights Uzbekistan's evolving role as a Central Asian gateway.



A photograph showing President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif in a friendly conversation. They are both wearing dark suits and ties. A third man in a suit is visible in the background.

# Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Landmark visit to Uzbekistan

Following the talks, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif signed a Joint Declaration and Protocol on the establishment of a bilateral Strategic Partnership Council at the highest level, aimed at further developing and strengthening Uzbek-Pakistani relations of multifaceted cooperation.

The following documents signed during the visit were exchanged in the presence of the two leaders:

- Agreement on cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovations;

- Agreement on visa-free travels of holders of diplomatic passports;

- Agreement on cooperation between the Ministries of Interior;

- Agreement on cooperation in the field of vocational education;

- Agreement on cooperation in the field of youth policy;

- Agreement on cooperation between national information agencies;

- cooperation agreements and arrangements between diplomatic academies, the cities of Tashkent and Lahore, and other documents.



Congratulation team  
**Uzbekistan**





# CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2025



#AFCU17







ISLAMABAD : Sports Desk - In one of the most sensational finals in AFC U-17 Asian

host nation Saudi Arabia 2-0, despite being reduced to nine players in the first half. The victory, achieved in dramatic fashion on April 20, crowned Uzbekistan as champions of Asia for the second time in their U-17 history.

The match, held at the King Fahd Sports City in Taif, Saudi Arabia, was filled with tension and controversy. Two Uzbek players, Nurbek Sarsenbayev and Miraziz Abdukarimov, were shown red cards in the 40th and 45th minutes respectively by Qatari referee Abdulrahman Al-Jassim. With nine men on the pitch and facing the full force of Saudi

minute, following a stunning counterattack. Goalkeeper Nematullo Rustamjonov made a string of heroic saves before launching the ball forward, allowing midfielder Sadridin Hasanov to race past the Saudi defense and slot it home, sealing the result.

Led by Head Coach Ismoilov Ismoilov, Uzbekistan's journey through the tournament was nothing short of dominant. The team scored 17 goals and conceded only 3. Their campaign began with a 4-1 thrashing of Thailand, followed by a tough 2-1 victory over China, securing early qualification to the knockout stage and a



## Uzbekistan U-17s Crowned Asian Champions After Historic Final

Cup history, Uzbekistan's youth football team overcame monumental odds to defeat

front. The second goal came in the 70th

Arabia's squad and home crowd, Uzbekistan could have crumbled. Instead, they rose.

In the 50th minute, striker Muhammad Hakimov converted a coolly taken penalty to put Uzbekistan in

spot in the upcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup. They concluded the group stage with a statement 3-0 win - again over Saudi Arabia.

In the knockout rounds, they maintained their clinical form, defeating the UAE 3-1 and North Korea 3-0 in the semifinal.

This is Uzbekistan's second AFC U-17 Championship title, with their first triumph dating back to 2012 when they defeated Japan in the final hosted in Iran. The current



team has not only equaled that achievement but arguably surpassed it in dramatic impact and national pride.

Several Uzbek players earned top individual honors.

Asilbek Aliyev was named the Top Scorer with 5 goals.

Sadriddin Hasanov was recognized as the Player of the Tournament.

Nematullo Rustamjonov was awarded Best Goalkeeper.

These accolades reflect the all-around

determination, and fighting spirit symbolize the strength of the youth of New Uzbekistan."

The President went on to commend the coaching staff and families of the players, emphasizing the importance of the country's ongoing investment in youth sports development.

As a gesture of appreciation, the President awarded:

- Head Coach Islombek Ismoilov with the title "Honored Coach of Uzbekistan"

Qatar from November 3 to 27, 2025. With momentum and national pride on their side, the young Uzbek squad will aim to carry their winning spirit to the global stage.

Uzbekistan's U-17 triumph resonates far beyond national borders - it sends a message of inspiration to Central and South Asian footballing nations. Overcoming adversity, controversial officiating, and home crowd pressure, Uzbekistan's youth side showed that belief, unity, and resilience can triumph even in the most challenging circumstances.



quality of the Uzbek side - from defense to attack.

Following the historic win, President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, issued a heartfelt congratulatory message to the players, coaches, and the nation. In his address, he stated:

"This unforgettable victory, achieved while down to nine men against a formidable host team, will be etched in the golden annals of Uzbek football. Your courage,

- All 23 players with the prestigious "Kelajak Bunyodkori" (Builder of the Future) Medal

Additionally, each player and coach were gifted a car by the government in recognition of their achievement.

Having already secured their qualification by reaching the quarterfinal stage, Uzbekistan will now represent Asia at the FIFA U-17 World Cup, set to take place in







## Uzbekistan Golden Visa

Recent changes in the issuance of “Golden Visas” to foreigners, particularly foreign investors, for residency in our country have generated considerable interest among the general public of Uzbekistan, in the media, and on social networks.

So, what exactly is the “Golden Visa” program, and what benefits will this project bring to the economy of Uzbekistan and to foreigners? To find answers to these questions, we studied documents on procedures related to this system.

Specifically, the decree of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev “On Measures to Stimulate Production, Export and Entrepreneurial Activity, Improve the Efficiency of Trade and Industrial Policy,” adopted on April 18 of this year, mentions the issuance of “Golden Visas.”

This issue is outlined in paragraph 26 of the decree. According to the document, in order to stimulate investment, from June 1 of this year, citizens of foreign countries and stateless persons will be issued a residence permit in Uzbekistan for a period of 5 years in a simplified procedure for 150,000 USD for each family member (spouse, children, and parents).

The “Golden Visa” program aims to create favorable conditions for foreign investors, provide legal guarantees, and strengthen the country’s investment climate. It also

makes a significant contribution to the country’s openness, capital protection, and the development of stable international economic relations.

It should be emphasized that over the past eight years, despite the contradictions in the world, the pursuit of an open and pragmatic foreign policy has become Uzbekistan’s hallmark on the world stage.

Our country has become a favorable place for foreign investors. It would not be an

reliable legal protection for their money.

Seven or eight years ago, leading companies were hesitant to invest in Uzbekistan, because the rights of investors were not sufficiently ensured. However, since 2017, Uzbekistan has been implementing radical reforms to create a favorable investment climate. Guarantees of the rights of private owners, including investors, have been updated and even strengthened in our Constitution. In addition, a number of resolutions and decrees of the head of state, and corresponding documents of the Cabinet of Ministers, aimed at stimulating foreign investment have been adopted in recent years.

The result was not long in coming. Wherever you go in our country today, you will

encounter new investment projects and joint ventures. They serve the prosperity of our country, the well-being of the population, the creation of new jobs, and the construction of social facilities.

The Tashkent International Investment Forum, established in our country on the initiative of the head of state, has become a tradition and generates great interest on an international scale. In addition, the Foreign Investors Council has been created. The main tasks of the Council are to provide advisory assistance on the most important areas of investment, trade, technological, and innovative development of our country based on successful experience and

exaggeration to say that Uzbekistan, with its growing economic potential, is in this regard the most attractive destination in Central Asia.

Of course, in order to win the trust of foreign investors, it is necessary to provide them with the necessary conditions, opportunities, and benefits. This approach is common not only in Uzbekistan but all over the world.

Currently, especially against the backdrop of global challenges in the world economy, the competition for investment is intensifying worldwide. Investors choose countries with favorable conditions and a safe investment environment, because they want to see



international practice, as well as to ensure an open dialogue between the government of Uzbekistan and foreign investors. The first session of the Council in 2022 laid the foundation for the effective functioning of this mechanism.

In May 2024, the second plenary meeting of the Foreign Investors Council under the President of Uzbekistan was held within the framework of the III Tashkent International Investment Forum. It expressed confidence that with the support of the members of the Council, Uzbekistan will continue to demonstrate high growth rates, improve the living standards of our people, and ensure a prosperous future for our country.

In his speech at the III Tashkent International Investment Forum, the President of Uzbekistan expressed his support for foreign investors: "We have taken decisive steps towards a radical improvement of the investment and business environment in the country, and the gradual elimination of all barriers. The large-scale reforms we are implementing are aimed precisely at ensuring that every investor feels free and confident."

Over the past seven years, more than \$100 billion in foreign investment has entered our country. A law on public-private partnerships has been adopted, and more than a thousand projects have been put into operation. We have launched our own production of 1,800 new types of products.

Another initiative to issue "Golden Visas" to foreign investors will also pave the way for accelerating the attraction of foreign investment to our country.

Foreign investors working in our country also highly appreciate the large-scale reform program in New Uzbekistan. In their opinion, the comprehensive support of the head of our state for investment activities and his determination to continue mutually beneficial cooperation deserve high recognition.

"The active dialogue between President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and members of the government with foreign investors is of great importance. This approach has become a clear and convincing signal to stimulate the attraction of foreign direct investment for the economic growth and development of the country. The modern conditions and new initiatives in your country have

shown that Uzbekistan is a country ready to receive foreign direct investment. Also, the economic reforms carried out by the head of your state, in particular, the liberalization of the foreign exchange market, the liberalization of the banking sector and monetary policy reforms, the restructuring and privatization of state-owned enterprises and much more, give confidence and strength to foreign investors. During our meeting with the President of Uzbekistan, he listened carefully to all my investment plans and gave clear and prompt instructions to provide all the necessary assistance to the relevant persons. As a result, we invested about 400 million dollars in sugar production. We also attracted an initial investment of more than 20 million US dollars for gold and copper mining," - says Naguib Sawiris, founder of the leading Egyptian investment holding company Orascom.

According to experts, similar visa programs are widely used in international practice, including in countries of Europe, the United States, the UAE, Singapore, and others.

In particular, the Golden Visa program in Portugal sets a fee of 250-500 thousand euros, in Greece - 250 thousand euros, in Cyprus - 300 thousand euros, in the UAE - 550 thousand dollars, in the USA - 5 million dollars, in Spain - 500 thousand dollars, in Singapore - 7.7 million dollars, in Hungary - 250 thousand dollars, in Latvia - 60 thousand dollars.

This program has proven to be an effective means of attracting capital, technology, and business activity to the above-mentioned countries. The issuance of "Golden Visas" creates a favorable and predictable

environment for foreign investors, provides legal guarantees, and strengthens confidence in the investment environment. The innovation reflects the country's strategic focus on openness, capital protection, and the development of stable international economic relations.

Some countries offer "Golden Visas," and some even grant foreigners full citizenship through "Golden Passports." Their goal is to attract capital and wealthy foreign investors to the country.

Central Asian countries are also introducing the procedure for issuing "Golden Visas." In particular, new rules for obtaining such a visa came into force in Kazakhstan in April of this year. Individuals who have invested at least \$300,000 in the authorized capital of Kazakh companies or in locally issued securities can apply for a visa. Later, they can obtain a residence permit for a period of 10 years.

In short, the "Golden Visa" program is aimed at attracting foreign direct investment for the technical re-equipment of the national economy, the modernization of production, the privatization of state-owned facilities, and the creation of new jobs in the regions of the republic where there is a workforce.

and religious confessions, educating young people on the basis of the noblest ideas. As part of the "Tolerance Week", events aimed at maintaining peace and harmony between peoples, essay competitions, exhibitions "National Traditions and Customs", musical events, poetry evenings, festivals are organized in mahallas and educational institutions of the country. Scientific, practical and educational events will be held







**G**elon is a blend of unique nature, rich history, and distinctive architecture. Visiting this high-mountain village will be a true discovery for adventure

enthusiasts and cultural tourism seekers.

### **History and Culture**

The village of Gelon was founded in 1305 and holds a rich historical legacy. It is the resting place of warriors who defended Islam in Central Asia. The village has witnessed numerous historical events.

The local culture preserves ancient traditions and customs. All residents practice Islam, and weddings, as well as other celebrations, are conducted in accordance with Muslim Sharia law.

### **Location and Geography**

Gelon is an urban-type neighborhood located in the Shahrissabz district of the Kashkadarya region. It lies on the western slope of the Pamir-Alay mountain range at an altitude of 2,600 meters above sea level.

This is one of the highest mountain neighborhoods in Uzbekistan, situated 80 kilometers from the city of Shahrissabz and near the border with Tajikistan.

The village can be reached via a scenic yet challenging mountain dirt road with numerous switchbacks, making the journey to this area particularly thrilling.

### **Architecture and Uniqueness**

The architecture of Gelon deserves special attention. The houses here have a distinctive structure: the ground floor is designated for keeping livestock, while the upper floor is used for living.







This type of layout is found only in Tibet and Nepal, making Gelon a village with a unique architectural style in Uzbekistan.

The narrow streets in the central part of the village, surrounded by old houses, create an atmosphere of coziness and authenticity.

### Economic Activities

The main occupation of the locals is agriculture. Potatoes, fruits, and watermelons are hand-grown on steep mountain slopes. To cultivate the land, they use a simple plow pulled by oxen.

Despite the difficult conditions, the residents

cultivate fertile gardens even on slopes with an inclination of up to 40 degrees, preserving the traditional way of life.

### Tourism Opportunities

For a long time, Gelon was inaccessible to foreign tourists due to a special border regime, which was lifted in 2018.

Today, the area is open to travelers seeking to enjoy untouched nature and immerse in a traditional way of life.

Visitors can embark on hiking trails through picturesque mountain paths, explore neighboring villages such as Kul,

Sarchashma, and Shut, and engage with local residents to observe their daily lifestyle.





## Hidden Treasures of Eco-Tourism

# Sangardak Waterfall A Hidden Gem in Uzbekistan

Located in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan the Sangardak waterfall is a natural wonder that is often overlooked by tourists. This hidden gem is a must-visit for nature lovers and adventure seekers who want to explore the off-beaten path.

The Sangardak waterfall is surrounded by lush greenery and rocky terrain. The waterfall is fed by a natural spring that flows down from the mountains, creating a stunning cascade of water that drops over 50 meters into a crystal-clear pool below.

Getting to the Sangardak waterfall can be an adventure in itself. The journey involves a scenic drive through winding roads and rugged terrain, passing through small villages and farms along the way. Once you reach the parking area, you'll need to hike for about 30 minutes through the forest to reach the waterfall.

As you approach the Sangardak waterfall,

you'll hear the sound of rushing water echoing through the trees. The sight of the waterfall is breathtaking, with water cascading down the rocky cliffs and mist rising up from the pool below. The area around the waterfall

is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, including rare species of birds and butterflies.

Visitors can take a dip in the pool below the waterfall, which is refreshing and invigorating, especially on a hot summer day. There are also picnic areas and camping sites nearby, making it an ideal spot for a day trip or weekend getaway.

Upon bidding farewell to the waterfall, one feels that another empty niche in one's mind has been filled with something bright. Indeed, unlike other natural wonders, the Sangardak waterfall can not only be seen but also heard its singing, plunge into its breath and breathe it. And also let it play the melody of kindness and wise eternity on the strings of the soul.

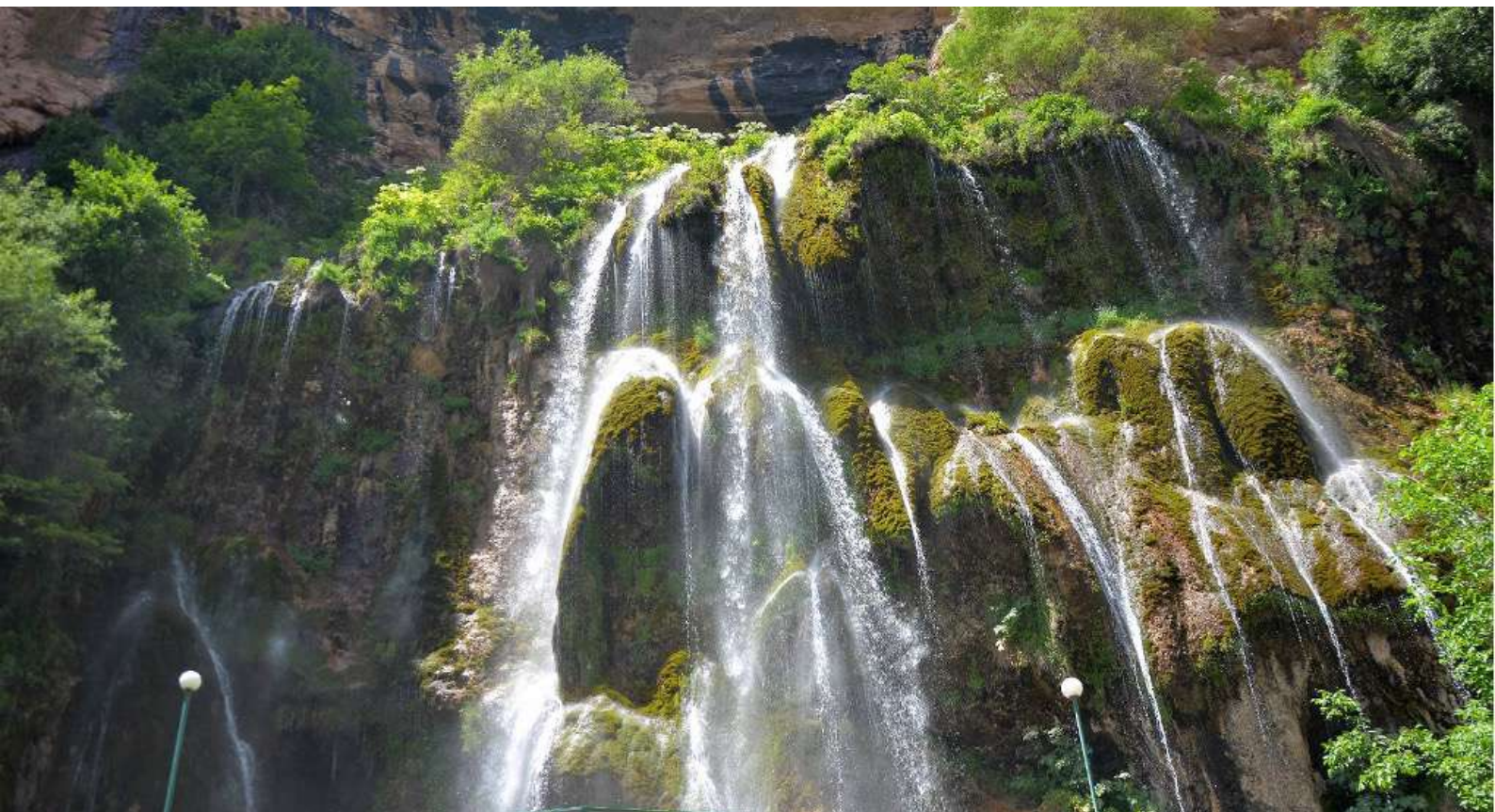
**Omonxona - a Mountain Miracle, Source of Healing and Inspiration**

In the heart of Surkhandarya's unique mountains, nestled within its beautiful nature, lies a place called Omonxona. This village is not just an ordinary location, but a truly exceptional destination where nature, history, and the human spirit harmoniously blend. Omonxona embodies captivating beauty, springs that bring healing to body and soul, ancient traditions, and genuine hospitality.

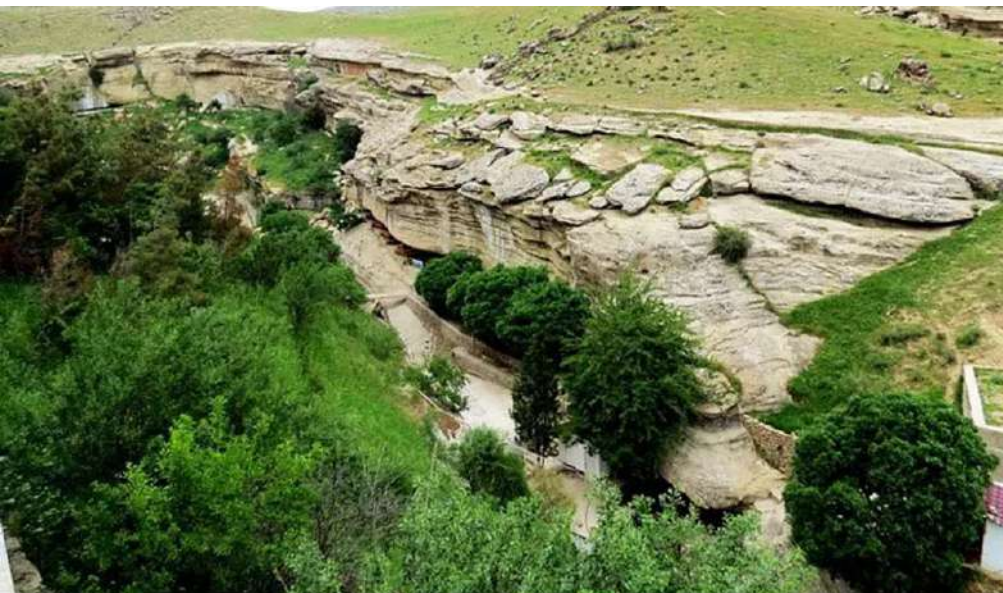
A tourist stepping into Omonkhona feels like they've entered another world: while crystal-clear, ice-cold healing waters cleanse the body, the peaceful landscape on the mountainside brings comfort to the soul. Here, natural treasures blend perfectly with modern tourism: cable cars, recreation areas, hotels, and family houses offer not only relaxation but also spiritual refreshment.

The most unique blessing of this land is the spring water, rich in crystalline and mineral elements. Local residents call this water the elixir of life: it improves the functioning of internal organs, calms the nervous system, and naturally cleanses the body. Every year, thousands of local and foreign tourists recover their health in this beautiful place. For example, in 2024, more than 100,000 tourists visited, and this number continues to grow year by year.

Modern sanatoriums and health resorts are







customs, village life, traditional methods of gardening and farming.

Chodak, which embodies peace and tranquility, as well as true warmth, is surrounded by lush green valleys, clear rivers, and stunning mountain scenery. The village has more than 300 family guest houses, 4 resorts, 3 children's camps and 30 gastronomic tourist destinations. Here there is an opportunity for a deeper appreciation of natural beauty and national traditions. In this village, more than 1,500 local residents are employed in the tourism sector.

The gastronomic potential of the village of Chodak reflects the rich national culinary heritage of Uzbekistan. From famous pilaf to other national dishes, it creates amazing emotions in the hearts of the guests. Visitors can also take part in cooking workshops to learn the time-honored methods that have been passed down through generations.

The heart of Chodak is its local inhabitants. Visitors can get acquainted with craftsmen and farmers and get deeper into the village's daily life. Chodak, by preserving its natural and cultural heritage, is becoming a place of national traditions for tourists visiting it.

Chodak is not just a destination - it is a history, tradition, and experience. Through the harmony of history, nature, and national identity, it evokes unforgettable emotions in visitors.

being established around this healing water source. These projects are transforming Omonkhona into a perfect destination not only for recreation but also for health recovery and spiritual refreshment.

Omonxona's charm is further enriched by its warm-hearted people who preserve the ancient art of handicrafts, prepare traditional dishes with love, and welcome guests as if they were blessings from above.

Today, Omonkhona is the pride of Surkhondaryo region, a pearl of Uzbekistan's tourism, and priceless treasure yet to be discovered by the world's travelers. With its

natural wonders, living heritage, and forward-looking approach to tourism, it stands as a must-visit destination in Uzbekistan.

#### **Unknown. Unforgettable. Welcome to Chodak - the heart of Uzbekistan**

Hidden in the heart of Uzbekistan, Chodak is an eternal village with over 4000 years of history, combining rich cultural heritage with amazing natural beauty. This place is quickly becoming a mandatory destination for those seeking authentic Uzbek life experiences.

Chodak is a place that has preserved its





*Uzbekistan Airways opens Flight*  
**ISLAMABAD**  
*to*  
**TASHKENT**

**Every Saturday.  
Every Wednesday and  
Friday from Lahore**







As part of a broader vision to enhance regional integration and connectivity, Uzbekistan Airways, the national carrier of the Republic of Uzbekistan, will launch direct flights between Tashkent and Islamabad beginning June 14, 2025.

Operating every Saturday, the new route underscores the shared commitment of Uzbekistan and Pakistan to strengthen their long-standing partnership and deepen cooperation across multiple sectors.

This direct link marks a strategic advancement in bilateral relations and aligns with the broader goals of the Central and South Asia Connectivity Initiative – a regional framework aimed at fostering infrastructure development, trade, energy cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges between the two regions.

In addition to the new Islamabad route, Uzbekistan Airways currently operates biweekly direct flights to Lahore on Wednesdays and Fridays. These connections are helping expand the airline's regional footprint, linking Pakistan's major cities not only with Uzbekistan, but also with the wider Central Asian region and beyond. Together, these routes support cross-border mobility, business travel, educational exchange, and cultural cooperation.

As both countries pursue ambitious agendas of modernization and economic diversification, the Tashkent-Islamabad flight offers a practical, high-impact platform for advancing trade facilitation, attracting investment, and enhancing regional supply chain networks. Key sectors, such as textiles

and apparel, agriculture and agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, logistics and transport, tourism and hospitality, are expected to benefit from this enhanced connectivity.

Serving as gateways to larger regional blocs – Uzbekistan to Central Asia and the CIS, and Pakistan to the Indian Ocean and Gulf states – both nations are well-positioned to leverage this route as a channel for transregional trade and transit.

Beyond its commercial significance, the Tashkent-Islamabad route is poised to enhance people-to-people ties by enabling smoother, more direct travel for students, pilgrims, tourists, academics, and official delegations. As both countries work to rebuild regionalism and trust, such air links play a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding, cultural diplomacy, and shared prosperity.

With a growing number of educational partnerships, cultural exchanges, and intergovernmental initiatives, improved connectivity is expected to significantly increase academic and civil society engagement.

The direct link is also expected to boost tourism in both directions. For Pakistani travelers, Uzbekistan's famed Silk Road cities – Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva – are now more accessible than ever. Likewise, Uzbek visitors can now more easily explore Pakistan's rich landscapes, from the mountains of the north to historic and spiritual sites across the country.

Tourist flows between the two nations have seen steady growth in recent years, driven by shared historical ties, cultural affinity, and religious heritage. The new air service offers a convenient and reliable option for a growing number of visitors, students, and pilgrims seeking meaningful

cross-border experiences.

This air route is a cornerstone of the Central and South Asia Connectivity Initiative, first proposed by the President of Uzbekistan in 2021. It is part of a broader strategic push to transform Central Asia from a landlocked region into a land-linked hub, through a combination of air, road, rail, and energy corridors.

The Tashkent-Islamabad flight complements major regional infrastructure initiatives such as the Trans-Afghan Railway and supports broader cooperation in transport, logistics, infrastructure, energy, and digitalization.

By connecting two dynamic and culturally rich regions, this air route fosters deeper economic integration, facilitates interregional trade, and contributes to continental connectivity across Asia.

The launch of the Tashkent-Islamabad route is not only a milestone in bilateral cooperation but also a broader statement of intent: to build a peaceful, interconnected, and economically resilient Asia. It reflects a new chapter in regional diplomacy, where economic pragmatism and strategic connectivity go hand in hand.

By reducing travel time and improving accessibility, Uzbekistan Airways is playing a pivotal role in translating this vision into tangible results. More than just a transport link, this route is a gateway to deeper economic integration, cultural exchange, and strategic partnership – a testament to



the growing synergy between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, two nations united by shared values, complementary interests, and a long history of collaboration.



# Cultural Diplomacy Building New Uzbekistan's International Identity

In recent decades, cultural diplomacy has become an important element of the foreign policy of many countries, including Uzbekistan. As a result of ongoing efforts, we are witnessing an active expansion of cooperation with foreign states, the establishment of sincere and respectful relations with international organizations and diplomatic missions, and the systematic implementation of joint spiritual and educational work.

the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held, with a focus on strengthening cooperation in promoting the priceless cultural and historical heritage of Turkic peoples.

Uzbekistan joined the organization in 2019 and has since regularly put forward initiatives not only in political and economic cooperation but also in the area of cultural and humanitarian collaboration. Among the

International organizations play a special role in advancing cultural diplomacy. For example, on May 21 in Budapest (Hungary), an informal summit of

Under the OTS umbrella, six organizations operate, two of which serve as platforms for the development of cultural and humanitarian relations. These include the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY), headquartered in Ankara, Turkey, established on July 12, 1993, to revive cultural and humanitarian ties among Turkic-speaking peoples. TURKSOY is a scholarly and educational organization that promotes Turkic culture through various international projects. It highlights key cultural contributions by commemorating significant figures from Turkic culture annually. Among its important initiatives is the annual naming of a cultural capital of the Turkic world from among member countries. The jewel of our country, Khiva, has already been honored with this prestigious title.



Our country possesses an ancient history, a rich culture, and centuries-old traditions and customs. Leveraging its cultural potential in foreign policy has become one of the key aspects of building a positive image of the Republic, enhancing its international authority, and efficiently addressing both internal and external political challenges. This is why our country actively employs cultural diplomacy in its foreign policy, which is based on mutual respect, the exchange of values, art, and traditions. Experts in international relations describe cultural diplomacy as a strategic tool that forms long-term contacts between peoples and influences the perception of a country on the global stage.

key objectives are the preservation and promotion of Turkic heritage, the advancement of Turkic languages, and support for cultural exchanges and joint events.

It is important to emphasize that the foundation of the OTS lies in a shared language, religion, and historical and cultural ties, which help amplify the voices of member states on the international stage and promote the values of their peoples. It is no coincidence that among the organization's priorities, in addition to fostering trust and friendship among members, are the expansion of cooperation in science, education, culture, and tourism.

Another organization working under the auspices of the OTS and focusing on cultural initiatives is the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, headquartered in Baku, Azerbaijan. It was established at the initiative of the Azerbaijani side in August 2012 to develop projects aimed at reviving, developing, and promoting the culture and historical heritage of the Turkic peoples.

Promoting important cultural and humanitarian initiatives through affiliated OTS structures (TURKSOY, TurkPA, the International Turkic Academy, and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation), with an emphasis on Uzbekistan's special historical role in the Turkic world, is one of the priorities of our country's foreign policy. This



active approach is no coincidence: on the ancient land of Uzbekistan lived great scholars and thinkers, writers and theologians who made tremendous contributions to the development of global civilization. Al-Khwarizmi, Ahmad al-Fergani, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, Ibn Sina, Mirzo Ulugbek, and many others left a brilliant mark in history, and the works of the genius Alisher Navoi still serve as a unifying force within the Turkic world.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, speaking at the informal OTS summit on March 31, 2021, especially emphasized: "Special attention should be paid to the deep study of our peoples' invaluable contributions to the development of secular sciences and their rich cultural heritage, the conduct of various research, and their promotion worldwide." In the six years since joining the OTS, Uzbekistan, together with the organization's Secretariat, has held a number of major events: the international conference "The Role of the Kokand Khanate in the Development of Statehood and Cultural Heritage of the Turkic Peoples," the first Forum of Young Entrepreneurs with over 250 young businesspeople from OTS countries, and the 4th Forum of Young Leaders in Bukhara, which was named the first Youth Capital of the Turkic World. At Uzbekistan's initiative, the International Alisher Navoi Prize for contributions to unity in the Turkic world was established.

The year 2022 proved particularly active, as our country hosted over ten major events, including the First Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and the Turkic Agroforum. In December 2023, Uzbekistan successfully held the international conference "Jadids: National Consciousness, Ideas of Independence and Statehood."

Tashkent supports a comprehensive strategy to bring OTS countries closer together by relying on shared historical roots and a rich cultural heritage, and it aims to develop projects in education, innovation, and tourism. One such example is the implementation of the Union of Turkic Universities and the Orhun Exchange Program within the OTS framework. These initiatives enhance academic mobility and strengthen scientific cooperation.

Today, OTS countries possess tremendous institutional and practical potential for expanding multifaceted cooperation. Moreover, initiatives in the cultural and humanitarian spheres provide opportunities to showcase national achievements and heritage, while jointly creating platforms for cultural dialogue and knowledge exchange. The initiatives put forward by Uzbekistan

within the OTS are constructive and are not attempts at dominance or the creation of "bloc alliances." Such a pragmatic and balanced policy by Uzbekistan opens new dimensions for the development of regional and international cooperation, laying the foundation for mutually beneficial relationships with foreign partners in the fields of economy, trade, industry, investment, and business.

The development of interstate relations within the Organization of Turkic States demonstrates that ethnic, linguistic, and geographic commonality serves as a solid foundation for building strong political, economic, and cultural ties. Based on these shared motivations, countries in the region are striving to establish reciprocal foreign trade communications as a priority, provide mutual support in accessing markets and transit routes, and resolve other related issues.

The initiatives proposed by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at OTS summits, aimed at promoting Uzbekistan's culture and the priceless heritage of its ancestors, who are the pride of the entire Turkic world, deserve particular attention. In speaking of great poets such as Jalaluddin Rumi, Yunus Emre, Yusuf Khass Hajib, Nizami Ganjavi, Magtymguly, Firoghi, and Boborakhim Mashrab, the President noted that the legacy of these cultural figures is a shared spiritual treasure of all Turkic peoples.

Speaking recently at the informal summit in Budapest, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: "The in-depth study and global promotion of the legacy of our great ancestors, who made a tremendous contribution to world science and culture and are our pride, is an honorable and responsible task for all of us. In our efforts to develop science and expand educational

opportunities for the younger generation, we have enshrined in the Turkic World Charter the high spiritual principle: 'There is no salvation except through knowledge.'" The President also introduced new initiatives. One of them is the establishment of the International University of Turkic States in Tashkent. It is expected that leading professors and scholars from Turkic countries will work at this university, contributing significantly to intellectual potential and creating new opportunities for youth.

It is important to understand that over the past few decades, the global cultural landscape has changed significantly, increasing the demand for the development of cultural and humanitarian ties. In today's world, where economic and political tensions often arise, it is culture that holds the greatest potential to overcome differences, enhance mutual understanding, and improve international relations. The promotion of cultural diplomacy principles is essential for strengthening ties between countries and supporting global sustainable development. It contributes to the preservation and promotion of heritage, facilitates the exchange of experience and knowledge, and creates new opportunities for creative development and mutual understanding.

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# Tourist street of Gulbozor Mahalla







Uzbekistan, with its rich history and heritage, offers unique tourist routes for travelers to experience the life and traditions of the Uzbek people. In order to preserve and transfer cultural values, one of the streets of Gulbozor neighborhood in Tashkent city was transformed into a tourist space. The street is located in the historical part of the city and is a unique place that attracts the attention of tourists with its unique features and priceless cultural heritage. The close proximity to the Chorsu bazaar and the famous Kukeldash Madrasah, built in 1570, make this street even more charming for tourists who want to get acquainted with the history and culture of Uzbekistan.

During the reconstruction, the entrance to the tourist street was adorned with gates built in a traditional medieval style. Particular attention is drawn to the 50-meter ivan with carved columns, which offers a magnificent view of the Khoja Ahrar Vali Mosque. It is worth mentioning that a water reservoir has been created on the street, adding coolness and freshness on hot days. Additionally, as landscaping, flowers, fruit and decorative trees were planted along the street.

The street has preserved the authentic appearance of the Uzbek mahalla with narrow streets, small houses and carved wooden doors, but at the same time acquired new functionality, becoming a

center of cultural and craft workshops. Not only craft workshops have appeared along the street, where visitors can watch the work of craftsmen and buy favorite products, but also cozy bakeries and restaurants offering the richness of Uzbek cuisine. The aroma of freshly baked bread creates an atmosphere of true oriental Eastern hospitality. To explore the history and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, tourists are offered the opportunity to visit exhibitions such as "History of Bread" and "Journey to Ancient Tashkent" organized on the street.

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aroma of freshly baked bread creates an atmosphere of true oriental Eastern hospitality. To explore the history and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, tourists are offered the opportunity to visit exhibitions such as "History of Bread" and "Journey to Ancient Tashkent" organized on the street.

The tourist street in Gulbozor mahalla is a wonderful opportunity to get a glimpse of Uzbek culture and immerse oneself in the national color of Uzbekistan. In this bustling corner of the city, every visitor feels the true spirit of the East and the beauty of the local heritage.





The Uzbekistan Tourist Information Center Pakistan serves as the official representative office of the Ministry of Tourism of Uzbekistan in Pakistan. Established to bridge the gap between the two nations, this center is dedicated to promoting tourism opportunities and facilitating seamless travel experiences for Pakistani travelers to Uzbekistan.

Our mission is to provide a one-window solution for all tourism-related needs, whether it's Ziyarat Tourism, Medical Tourism, Study Tourism, Business & Exhibitions, or Youth Tourism. By offering state-of-the-art services such as visa facilitation, accommodation, transport arrangements, ticketing for flights, trains, and buses, and

professional guide and translation services, we ensure that every traveler's journey to Uzbekistan is convenient and memorable.

As a key partner of the Uzbekistan Ministry of Tourism and closely working with the Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad, the center is committed to fostering cultural and economic ties between the two countries. Whether you're a tourist, a businessman, or a student, our center is your trusted gateway to explore Uzbekistan's rich heritage, business opportunities, and world-class services.

Now we are proud to represent **DIPLOMATIC SERVICE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN** in Pakistan.





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