

# Uzbekistan

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Uzbek (official), Russian, Tajik

**Population:** 36,000,000

**Currency:** Uzbekistani som (UZS)

**Area:** 448,978

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Registan Square', 'writeup': 'A historic public square in Samarkand, surrounded by three madrasahs showcasing Timurid architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Itchan Kala', 'writeup': 'The walled inner town of Khiva, a UNESCO World Heritage site with well-preserved Islamic architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Bukhara Historic Centre', 'writeup': 'An ancient city center with numerous mosques, madrasahs, and bazaars reflecting Central Asian culture.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Navruz', 'writeup': 'The Persian New Year celebrated on March 21, marking the beginning of spring with traditional music, dance, and food.'}
- {'name': 'Sharq Taronalari', 'writeup': 'An international music festival held in Samarkand, celebrating traditional and contemporary music from Central Asia.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Uzbek cuisine features hearty dishes such as plov (rice pilaf with meat and vegetables), shashlik (grilled meat skewers), and samsa (savory pastries), reflecting a blend of Central Asian flavors.

## Brief History:

Uzbekistan, historically part of the Silk Road, was ruled by various empires including the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, and the Timurid dynasty. It became a Soviet republic in 1924 and gained independence in 1991 after the USSR's dissolution.

## Important People:

- Amir Timur (Tamerlane) - 14th-century conqueror and founder of the Timurid Empire
- Alisher Navoi - 15th-century poet and philosopher
- Islam Karimov - First President of independent Uzbekistan

## Current Conflicts:

Uzbekistan is generally stable with no active internal or external conflicts, focusing on regional cooperation and economic development.

## Youtube Links:

- Discover Uzbekistan: The Heart of Central Asia
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan Travel Guide 2023
- The History and Culture of Uzbekistan
- Uzbek Cuisine: Traditional Dishes Explained