

**TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF UZBEKISTAN.CULTURAL
EVENTS**

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Annotation: this article comprehensively examines Uzbekistan's national customs and cultural events, which have involved over centuries and continue to thrive as living expressions of the nation's identity. It begins with highlighting the central pillars of Uzbek society: legendary hospitality, deep respect for elders, extended multi-generational families, and the unique mahalla(neighborhood)system. The article also celebrates Uzbekistan's vibrant calendar of cultural events, from the ancient spring festival of Navruz and modern international gatherings including the Sharq Taronalari International Music Festival and the Silk and Spices Festival. Special attention is given to ongoing efforts to preserve traditional crafts and restore historic monuments, ensuring that this rich heritage remains alive for future generations.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, national clothing, hospitality, mahalla, wedding traditions, Navruz, Sharq taronalari, Silk and Spices Festival, traditional crafts, cultural preservation, Silk Road heritage, hashar, national identity.

Introduction

Uzbekistan is one of the oldest cultural centers of Central Asia, where traditions have been preserved for thousands of years. The country's customs, celebrations, and lifestyle reflect the influence of ancient civilizations and the Silk



Road. Today, Uzbekistan continues to celebrate its rich cultural heritage through national holidays, international festivals, community traditions, and the mahalla system. Uzbekistan remains one of the few countries where traditional values and modern cultural development coexist harmoniously. This article analyzes the main aspects of Uzbek traditions and cultural events, highlighting their historical, social, and educational significance.

Uzbekistan's Cultural Identity and Historical Background

Uzbek culture is closely connected to the ancient civilizations of Sogdiana, Bactria, and Khorezm. Many traditional practices, including hospitality and community unity, originated from Silk Road interactions. Historical cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva still preserve ancient architecture and cultural memory. According to UNESCO, sites such as Ichon Kala and the Historic Centre of Bukhara are prime examples of Central Asian cultural identity.

TRADITIONAL CLOTHING

Uzbek national clothing has a long history and represents the artistic heritage of different regions. Women often wear colorful clothes, dresses made from atlas and adras, while men wear chopon and doppi. Each pattern, color, and ornament symbolizes local identity, nature, and historical values. Today, costumes are commonly worn during cultural festivals, weddings, and national holidays, helping preserve the beauty of traditional fashion.

Core Values of Uzbek Society

The core values of Uzbek society include hospitality, respect for elders, strong family ties, and neighborhood solidarity. Guests are treated with honor, often welcomed with tea, bread, and traditional meals. Hospitality remains one of the most defining features of Uzbek culture. Respect toward parents and elders is an important moral principle that guides social interaction.

Role of the Mahalla System in Social Life

The mahalla is a unique Uzbek institution that functions as a local community and self-governance structure. Mahallas help organize social events,



assist families, preserve traditions, and maintain neighborhood unity. They also serve as centers for cultural education and community decision-making.

Traditional Customs and Everyday Cultural Practices

Traditional customs include weddings, circumcision ceremonies, seasonal celebrations, hospitality rituals, and national dishes such as plov, somsa, and halim. Weddings are among the most meaningful customs in Uzbekistan, consisting of many rituals and ceremonies. Kelin salom and Yuz ochdi, non sindirish and other traditions symbolize family unity, respect for elders and blessings for a happy life. Uzbek weddings, are large community events full of traditional music, dances, and symbolic rituals like kelin salom and dasturkhon yozish. Everyday cultural practices continue to reflect ancient lifestyle patterns.

National Festivals and Their Historical Significance

Navruz is one of the most beloved and ancient holidays in Uzbekistan. Celebrated on March 21, it marks the arrival of spring, the awakening of nature, and the beginning of a new year. For the Uzbek people, Navruz symbolizes purity, renewal, kindness, and hope. One of the most beautiful traditions of Navruz is the preparation of sumalak. Families, neighbors, and friends gather together, cook all night, sing songs, and share warm wishes. Along with sumalak, people prepare halim, kuk somsa, ko'k chuchvara and other spring dishes. Before Navruz, homes are cleaned, old quarrels are forgiven, and people try to start the new year with a pure heart. Visiting elders, helping the poor, and planting trees are all part of the holiday spirit. Public celebrations take place across the country with national dances, music, and traditional sports like kupkari and kurash. The atmosphere becomes festive, colorful, and full of joy. Today, Navruz is recognized internationally as a symbol of peace and friendship. In Uzbekistan, it continues to unite people, strengthen traditions, and remind everyone that every new day brings new opportunities. Other important national festivals include Independence Day, Constitution Day, and Harvest Festivals, which highlight cultural unity and national progress.

International Cultural Events in Modern Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan hosts several major international festivals:

Sharq Taronalari (Samarkand)

One of the largest music festivals in Asia, held every two years in Registan Square. It brings together artists from more than 70 countries.

Silk and Spices Festival (Bukhara)

This festival celebrates Bukhara's Silk Road heritage through traditional crafts, music, and folk performances.

Art and cultural exhibitions (Tashkent & Nukus)

Tashkent hosts international art events, while the Nukus Museum (Savitsky Museum) is world-famous for its avant-garde collection. These festivals strengthen Uzbekistan's cultural diplomacy and global image.

Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage

Uzbekistan actively preserves historical monuments, revives traditional crafts, and protects intangible heritage.

UNESCO lists several Uzbek sites as World Heritage, including:

Ichon Kala (Khiva)

Historic Centre of Bukhara

Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures

Cultural programs support artisans in pottery, embroidery, carpet-weaving, and miniature painting.

Cultural Heritage as a Bridge to the Future

Uzbek traditions continue to shape the identity of the younger generation. Cultural events promote patriotism, respect for heritage, and social unity. Festivals, museums, and educational programs help integrate historical values into modern life. By preserving traditions, Uzbekistan strengthens its cultural foundation for future development. Hospitality is a key of Uzbek nations. Guests are welcomed with tea and traditional meals.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan's traditions and cultural events play a central role in maintaining national identity, social unity, and historical continuity. From the ancient celebration



of Navruz to international festivals like Sharq Taronalari, culture remains an essential part of everyday life. The mahalla system, hospitality, and family traditions continue to enrich social relations. Through the preservation of historical monuments and the promotion of cultural diplomacy, Uzbekistan successfully connects its ancient heritage with modern cultural growth. These practices ensure that national traditions remain alive and meaningful for future generations. Key pillars of Uzbek culture include the paramount values of hospitality and profound respect for elders, which are evident in all aspects of daily life, from the elaborate tea ceremonies to the seating arrangements for guests. The mahalla, or neighborhood community, serves as a crucial social institution where mutual support (hashar) and collective responsibility reinforce strong community bonds and preserve age-old national customs. Furthermore, significant life events such as births (beshik-tui), weddings, and major national holidays like Navruz are celebrated with vivid and intricate rituals, showcasing the Uzbek people's love for music, dance, and festive gatherings. This deep connection to their heritage, combined with an openness to the modern world, ensures that Uzbekistan's cultural landscape remains dynamic yet firmly rooted in its ancestral values. By preserving and celebrating these unique customs, Uzbekistan continues to showcase its rich and captivating heritage to the world.

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