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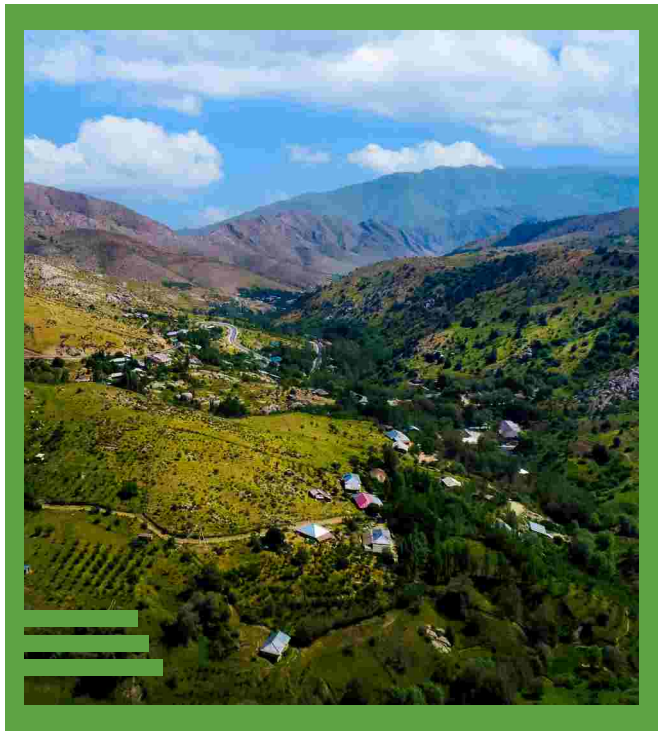
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Nature of Uzbekistan

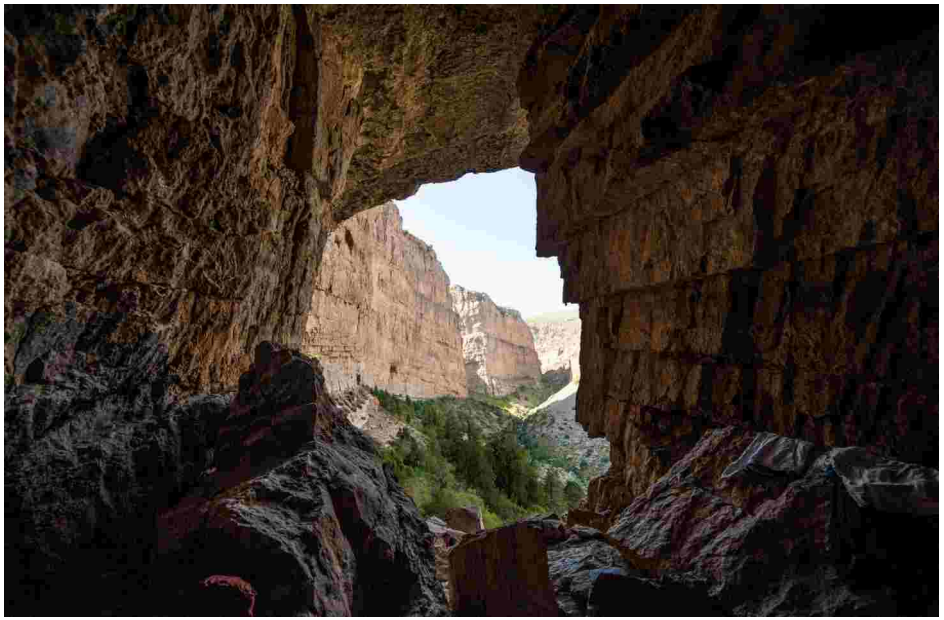


At the crossroads of great deserts and oases, in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan is building a new strategy – the "Green Path" of development, based on respect for nature, sustainability, innovation, and regional responsibility. Picturesque mountains, blooming valleys, hot deserts, rivers, and crystal-clear lakes – all this beauty can be enjoyed here, in Uzbekistan! Here, the most important ecosystems with a millennia-long history of interaction with humans are concentrated. The biological diversity of Uzbekistan includes more than 4,500 species of plants, about 15,000 species of insects, and 424 species of vertebrate animals. Some of them are endangered, and the state is actively working to preserve them by creating new wildlife sanctuaries, expanding protected areas, and restoring natural habitats.

Gissar State Nature Reserve

The Gissar State Nature Reserve was established in 1983 and is located on the western slopes of the Gissar Range in the south of Uzbekistan, at an altitude ranging from 1,750 m to 4,349 m above sea level. The Gissar Range stretches through both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, with the reserve situated on the Uzbek side of the border. The Gissar State Reserve was formed as a result of the merger of two independent nature reserves. The first was the Kyzylsu Nature Reserve, established in 1975 to protect one of the largest juniper forests of the Western Pamir-Alay along with its fauna, typical for this part of the Gissar Range. The second was the Miraki Nature Reserve, founded in 1976 to preserve the sources of the Kashkadarya River and the Severtsov Glacier.





The combination of complex geological structure and distinctive climate in the reserve has led to the development of diverse landscapes. Numerous rivers and streams flow into the Kashkadarya River, the largest of which are the Aksu, Khanaksu, Takhasdarya, and Kizildarya. These rivers are fed by glaciers from the peaks of the Gissar Range, which begin to melt actively in the second half of summer. The reserve is also rich in other natural features, including one of the largest caves in Central Asia – the Amir Temur Cave, located in the southern part of the reserve at an altitude of over 2,900 meters. In the Kyrtau Range, 50 km north of the nature reserve, there are also cave systems that are among the largest in Central Asia.

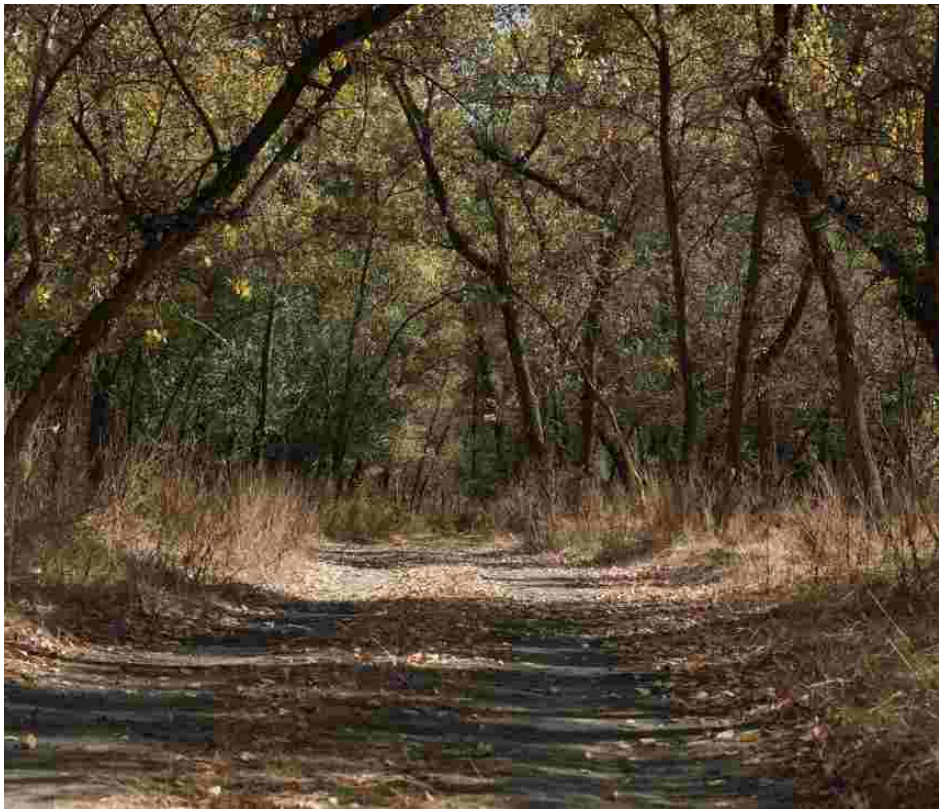
The upper reaches of the Aksu River are renowned for the beautiful Suvtushar Waterfall, and there are smaller waterfalls in other parts of the reserve. Mature juniper forests occupy less than 10% of the territory, while open juniper woodlands and creeping juniper groves cover about 20%. The park's flora includes more than 1,500 species of vascular plants, which are found throughout the Western Gissar area within the Kashkadarya Region.

Zarafshan State Nature Reserve

The reserve was established in 1975 in the southeast of the Samarkand Region, along the right bank of the Zarafshan River. It covers an area of more than two thousand hectares. It is renowned for its pristine forests, foothill tugai vegetation, biological diversity, and natural conditions.

The territory of the reserve stretches in a narrow strip along the river, spanning 46 km. The main goal of its creation was to preserve the unique flora in its untouched form. Despite its small area, in addition to tugai thickets, the reserve is home to fruit trees, willow, poplar, tamarisk, sea buckthorn, reed, licorice, broom, oleaster, and much more. The Zarafshan Reserve is the only place where sea buckthorn grows not in mountainous areas but on the plain.





The fauna of the reserve is also rich, with more than 80 species of insects, over 20 species of mollusks, and more than 240 species of vertebrate animals recorded. Permanent residents include the steppe tortoise, sand boa, lake frog, and the European grass snake. There are 207 species of birds and 24 species of mammals, including porcupines, foxes, corsac foxes, muskrats, wildcats, and weasels. In the 2000s, an attempt was made to reintroduce the Bukhara deer into the reserve.

The Zarafshan Reserve is beautiful in every season. In spring, the park is filled with the fragrance of flowers and lush greenery. In September and October, the rutting season of the Bukhara deer begins, and the forests turn into a colorful autumn landscape. In winter, the snow-covered tugai groves and large white willow trees make an especially striking impression.

Tugai Forests of the Saykhun Reserve

Tugai are unique elongated oases located along the banks of perennial rivers in Central and Middle Asia, such as the Syr Darya and Amu Darya. Tugai forests become home to a wide range of vegetation and wildlife.

The Syr Darya River is the longest and the second most water-abundant river in Central Asia (after the Amu Darya). It flows through four countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan), forming one of the two largest river basins in the region. Within Uzbekistan, the river occupies a relatively small section of its middle and lower course. Most of its channel is regulated and used for economic purposes. In the river valley, small isolated patches of tugai vegetation have been preserved, one of which is the Saykhun protected natural area in the Syrdarya Region.

This protected natural area covers a total of 400 hectares. The tugai forest is primarily composed of turanga trees of various ages (diversifoliate poplar), as well as other species typical for floodplain forests such as narrow-leaved oleaster, various types of willow, tamarisk, licorice, reed, and others.

About 18 species of mammals inhabit the reserve. In the past, the Turan tiger lived here. Between 1910 and 1915, the last eight tigers killed in the area were documented.





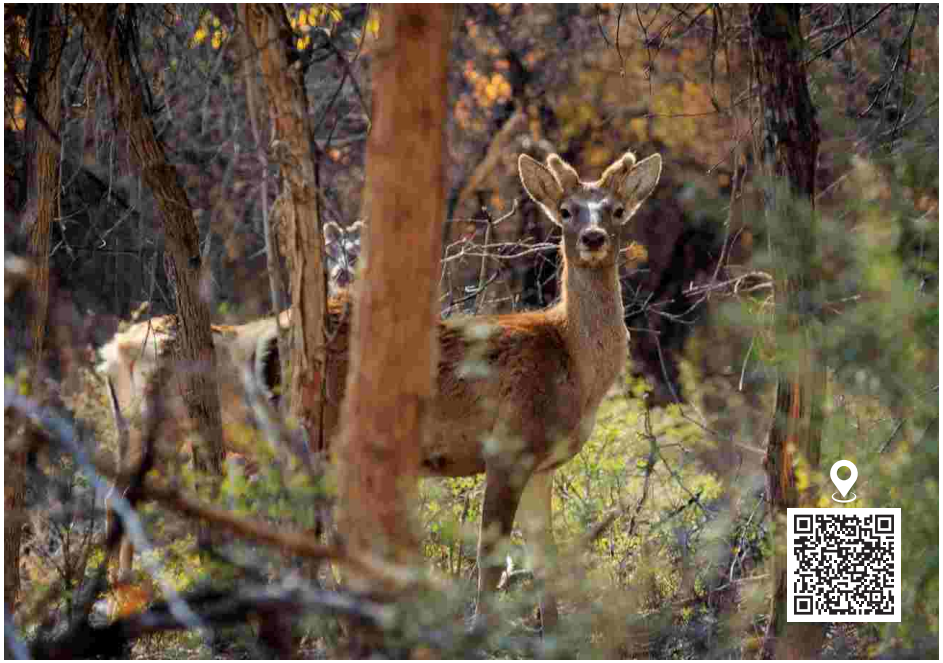
Other important inhabitants of the reserve included the Bukhara deer and the wild boar. The latter was the tiger's main prey but disappeared along with it. Unfortunately, the main reasons for their extinction were direct human impacts on the environment: deforestation of the tugai forests and hunting.

Today, the reserve is home to insectivores, lagomorphs, rodents, several species of predators, and one species of ungulate. Species found in the reserve include long-eared hedgehogs, tolai hares, muskrats, nutrias, tamarisk jirds, jackals, red foxes, weasels, badgers, and wildcats.

The reserve contains several natural attractions. In addition to the tugai forest, which stretches about 800 meters, and the Syr Darya River, visitors can see a reed-covered lake formed in the 1960s. It was once part of the riverbed, where the Syr Darya made a loop. Over time, the water carved out a straight path, and the former loop turned into a unique lake.



Badai-Tugai Reserve



The reserve is located in the Beruniy District of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, in the southeast of Uzbekistan, along the banks of the Amu Darya River. It was established in 1971 and covers an area of 6,462 hectares. Winters here are harsh and cold, while summers are hot and scorching. The reserve is home to dense tugai forests, Bukhara deer (Hangul – listed in the Red Book of Uzbekistan), weeping willows, and tall poplars.

Wild boars, foxes, jackals, badgers, wildcats, hedgehogs, numerous rodents, and many other animals can be found in the reserve. Among the flora, there are oleaster trees, various vines, and plantains. At the border of the reserve stands the Janpyk-Kala fortress. Known as the most beautiful fortress of Khorezm, as described by the prominent archaeologist S.P. Tolstov, it was built in ancient times and is considered a priceless treasure of humanity.

Surkhan Reserve

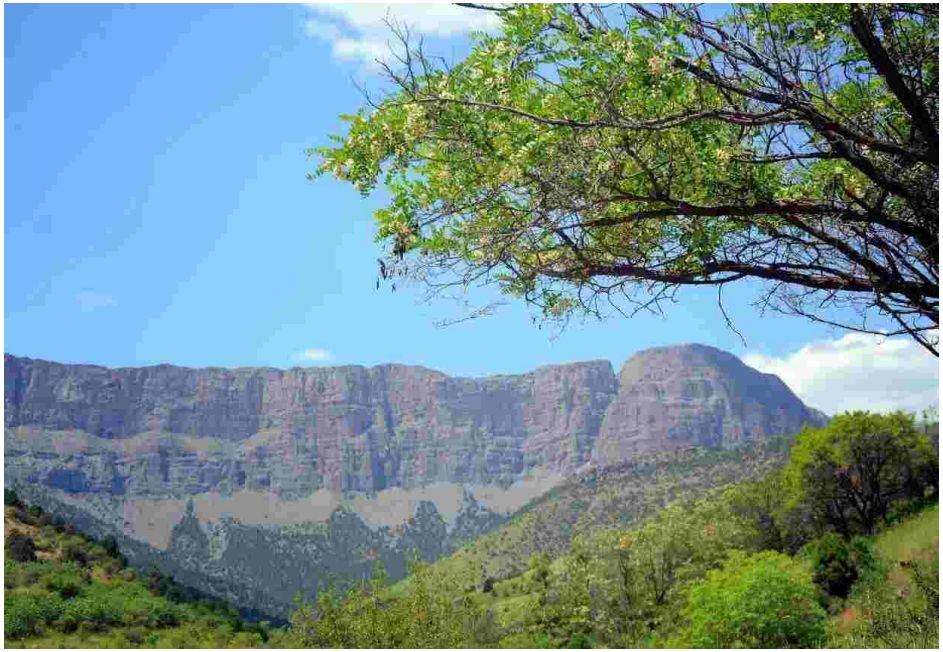
The Surkhan Reserve is a protected natural area covering more than 24,000 hectares, home to rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. Among the fauna are animals on the verge of extinction: the markhor (screw-horned goat) and the Bukhara argali. Listed in the Red Book of Uzbekistan, the reserve is inhabited by majestic wild cats such as the leopard and the Turkestan lynx. Also found here are striped hyenas, goitered gazelles, white and black storks, black vultures, bearded vultures, short-toed snake eagles, and other animals.

Among the flora, more than twenty species are included in the Red Book of Uzbekistan, such as pistachio, karna, juniper, and ferula. Some plant species are extremely rare and grow only in the mountains of southern Uzbekistan.

The reserve is also home to important archaeological monuments, the discovery of which became major historical events. These include unique rock paintings from the Mesolithic period, depicting scenes of ancient humans hunting bulls and wild goats in the Zaraut-Kamar cave. Remarkably, the images have retained their brightness, and the paint has not faded. The composition of the paint remains a mystery to scientists even today.

However, the most significant discovery was the remains of a Neanderthal adolescent found in the Teshik-Tash cave. The discovery was made in 1938 by archaeologist A.P. Okladnikov, who uncovered the burial of a child surrounded by mountain goat horns embedded in the ground. This burial suggests the existence of logical thinking and the presence of cultural rites among Neanderthals.

In addition to important archaeological sites, the reserve features the unique island of Aral-Paygambar, located on the Amu Darya River. The island is a sacred site for pilgrims, as it is the burial place of one of the 25 Muslim prophets – Dhul-Kifl. A mausoleum was built over his grave, and the place is considered holy.





Mountain System of Uzbekistan

The area of the mountain system reaches one hundred thousand square meters and occupies 20% of the country's total area, which is quite a lot. Among them, the mountain peaks of the Western Tien Shan stand out especially, famous for their mild climate, picturesque ridges, and rich flora and fauna. The highest mountain is Hazret Sultan Peak, with an altitude of 4643 meters, located on the border of the Surkhandarya region with Tajikistan on the Gissar Ridge. The mountainous terrain is rich in coniferous and deciduous forests, and the numerous rivers and streams flowing through gorges and canyons make this area ideal for active recreation.

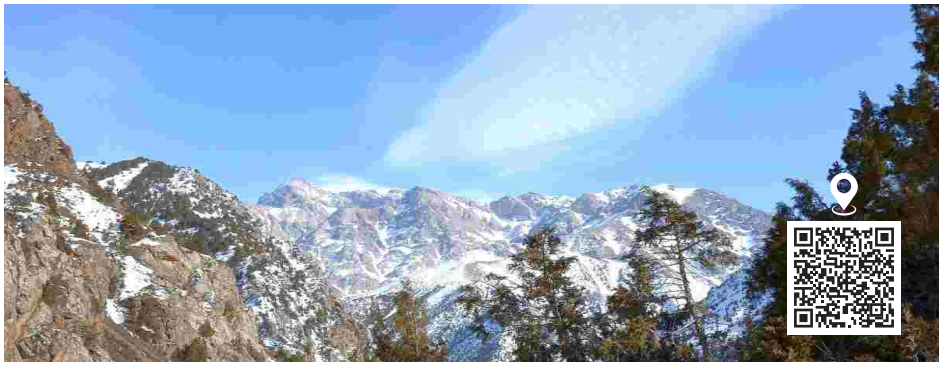
Western Tien Shan

The mountains of the Western Tien Shan majestically stretch across the territories of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. The highest point is Chatkal Peak, with an altitude of 4503 meters. The length of the mountain ridge is three hundred kilometers and is considered a rather difficult mountain route.



The Ugam Ridge

The Ugam Ridge is part of the Tien Shan mountain chain and is located on the border of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The ridge stretches for one hundred kilometers, and its highest point is Sairam – 4299 meters. The narrow slopes of the mountains in the east are covered with snow and thick ice.



The Pskem Ridge

The Pskem Ridge also belongs to the Tien Shan mountain system. Its length extends to 160 kilometers with its highest point Beshtor – more than four thousand meters. Notably, the slopes of the Pskem Ridge feature broadleaf forests and coniferous valleys, typical alpine meadows, and rare thickets in the most picturesque river valleys.



Adelunga Peak

Adelunga Peak is a mountain summit of the Pskem Ridge, located at an altitude of 4301 meters above sea level, in the northeast of the Tashkent region. Adelunga Peak received its unique name in the 1970s in honor of the famous geologist-mineralogist Alexei Adelung.



The Ispay Valley

The Ispay Valley is one of the most beautiful mountain valleys located in the Bostanlyk district of the Tashkent region. The Ispaysay River flows here, along which lies a narrow and deep gorge. The Ispaysay River originates in the northwestern slopes of the Pskem Ridge. Near the river is the mountain village of Ispay. Due to high humidity, the surroundings of the gorge are covered with dense thickets and forests. Here you can find birch and walnut groves, mountain apple orchards, and juniper thickets. This area, including the Ispaysay Gorge, is famous for its mountain tourism.



Pionersky Peak



Pionersky Peak is a mountain summit located in the Akhangaran district of the Tashkent region at an altitude of 2336 meters. The exact location will take you to the territory of the Yangiabad forest farm.

Koksu Gorge

Koksu Gorge is a gorge located near the river of the same name at an altitude of 3000 meters above sea level, near the village of Brichmulla in the Tashkent region. At a distance of about 18–20 km from the mouth, the river valley widens, and a birch grove is located near the river. Just beyond it, further upstream, the river is enclosed by sheer cliffs up to 25 meters high, forming a canyon about 3–4 meters wide through which the Koksu River flows. This picturesque place, loved by tourists, is more popularly known as the “Koksu Gorge.”



Aktash

Aktash is the highest peak of the Koksu Ridge, located in the Tashkent region at an altitude of about 2510 meters. One of the well-known routes includes an ascent through the Shakhkurgan Pass, offering panoramic views of the Tashkent region. In the cold season, winter hikes are also organized on Aktash with the opportunity to rest at viewing platforms that offer unique views of snow-covered slopes and coniferous forests. After active recreation on Aktash, guests can recover at the “Aktash” sanatorium, located just 65 km from Tashkent.

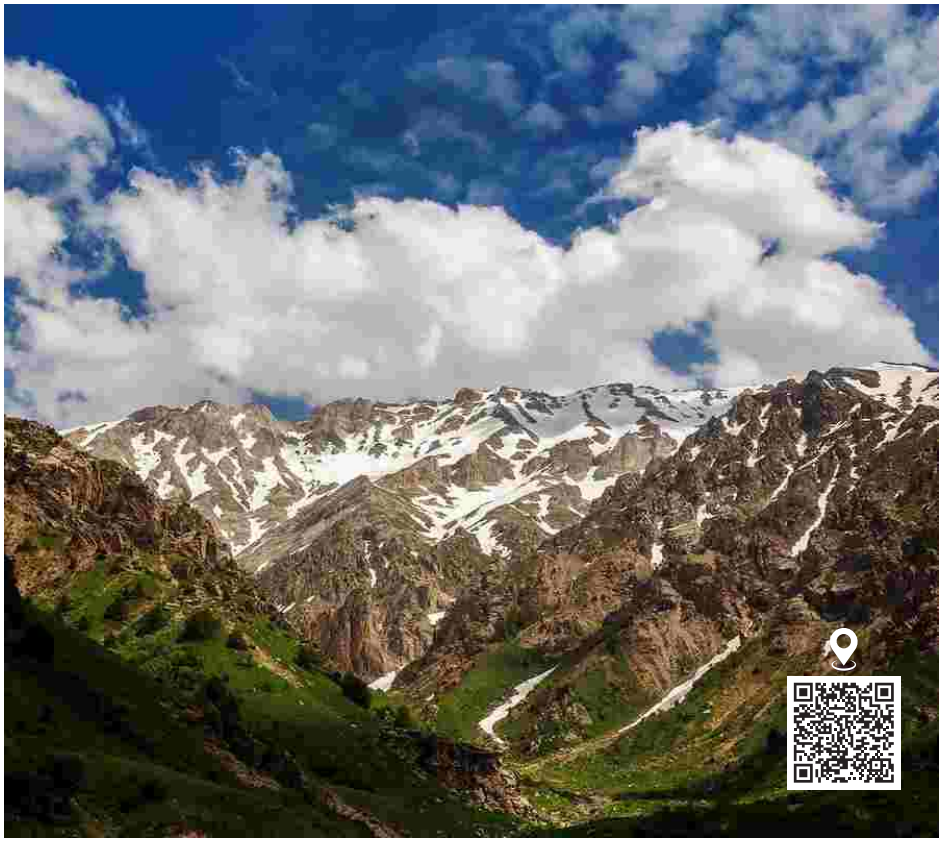


Sukok Mountain



Sukok Mountain, located in the Tashkent region, is a picturesque natural attraction ideal for hiking and getting acquainted with the culture and nature of the region. Rising above the green hills and valleys of the Parkent district, Sukok is part of the Tien Shan mountain system. The massif itself is a combination of rocky slopes and gentle ascents, making it accessible for trekking of various levels. Next to the mountain lies a coniferous zone known as the Sukok Forest. This forest amazes with its pristine nature and tranquility; the air here is filled with the aromas of pine needles and wild herbs. At the foot of the mountain lies the village of Sukok, where the traditional way of life is preserved.

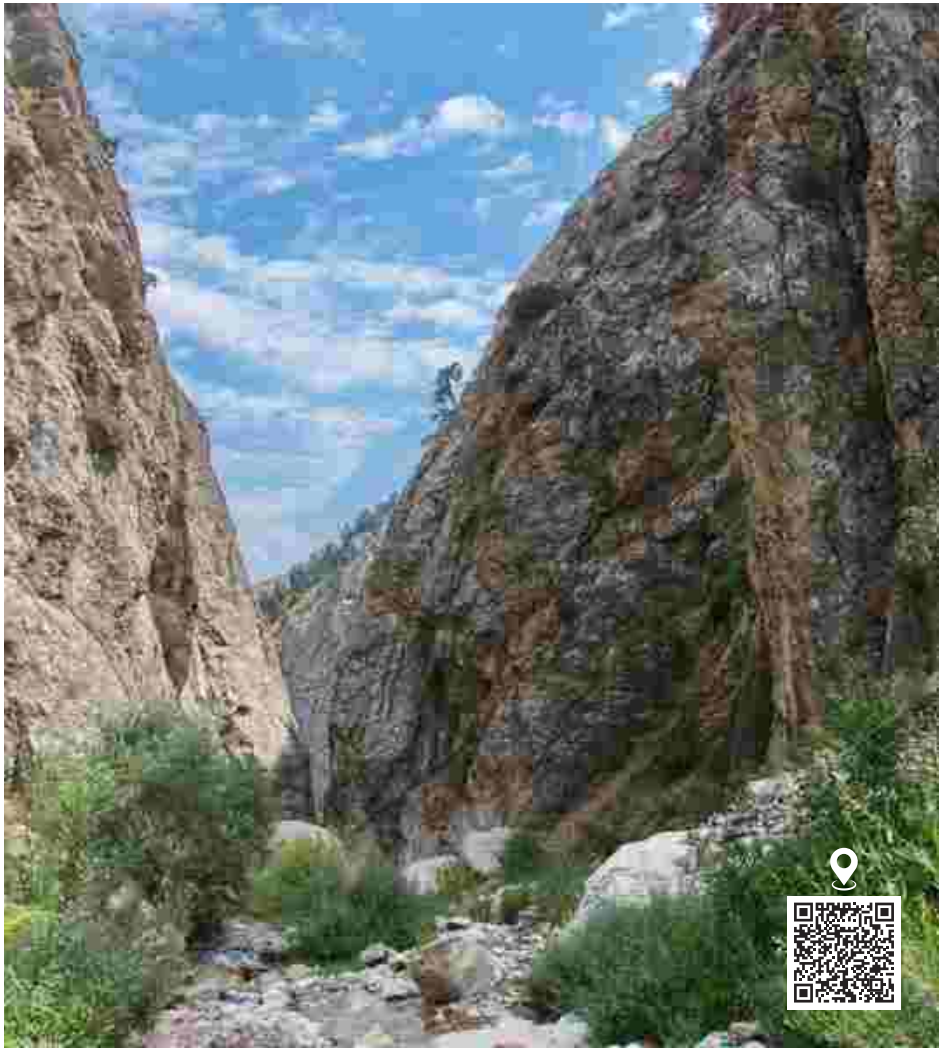
Chimgan



Chimgan is one of the largest massifs belonging to the Chatkal Mountains. Chimgan has become a favorite vacation spot for Uzbeks. As a rule, this area is divided into several zones. Greater Chimgan is the highest point of the area with an altitude of 3309 meters, difficult to access for climbing, but this does not stop lovers of mountain recreation and mountaineering. Lesser Chimgan is located next to Greater Chimgan and is the most accessible route for mountain climbing, with an altitude of 2097 meters. The Chimgan area abounds with numerous recreation areas, sanatoriums, and resorts. Various tourist and mountaineering routes of all levels of difficulty are available here.

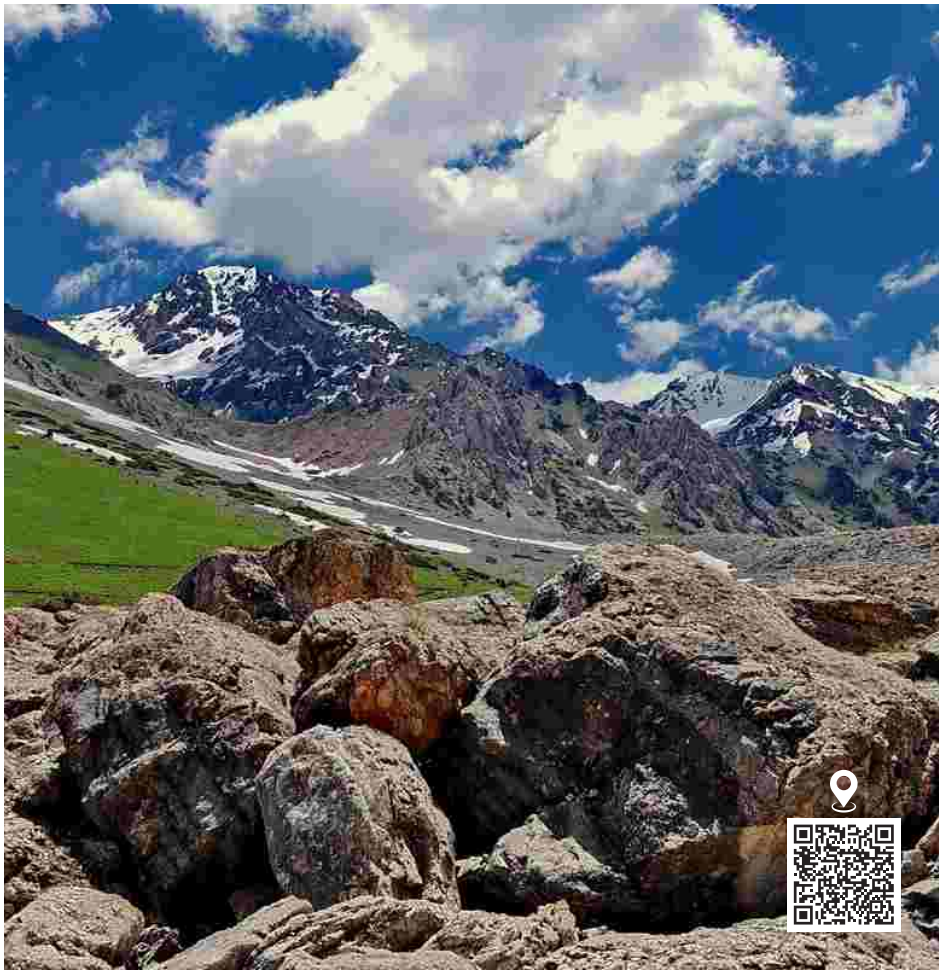
The Gulkam Gorges

The Gulkam Gorges – the most beautiful part of Chimgan are the cascade ridges on Gulkam. There, thanks to numerous channels and streams, the Gulkamsay River was formed, which in turn shaped an amazing terrain – mountain gorges. Today, Gulkam is a popular destination for mountain trekking enthusiasts in the Chimgan Mountains.



The Chatkal Mountains

The Chatkal Mountains form an indescribably beautiful frame around the Fergana Valley. Their length is 120 meters and they are divided into southern and northern slopes, the latter of which is considered very steep. Chatkal Peak is located within the Ugam-Chatkal National Park and is considered the pride of all Uzbekistan. Here you will encounter the most beautiful places that take your breath away: magnificent emerald lakes, high-mountain waterfalls, juniper forests, pastures, and bare cliffs.



Gissaro-Alay Mountain System

The Gissaro-Alay mountain system is partially located within the Fergana Valley and stretches for nine hundred kilometers. The valleys of this mountain system are rich with the most beautiful lakes, mysterious caves, and picturesque slopes.

The Gissar Range



The Gissar Range lies between the basins of the Zerafshan and Amu Darya rivers. The length of the ridge is 200 kilometers. Its modest slopes form unique landscapes, creating natural and historical landmarks. In this area you can see places such as the Amir Timur Cave, the Maidanak Plateau and astronomical observatory, the Gissar State Mountain-Juniper Reserve, and much more.

The Zerafshan Range

The Zerafshan Range is part of the Gissar Mountains; it stretches for 370 kilometers and includes more than 130 mountain passes. Within this ridge lies an unusual plateau called the "Devil's Helmet" or "Shaytan Zhiga." The plateau is located about thirty kilometers from Samarkand. Local elders no longer remember why this place received such a name. However, in this area you can see whimsically shaped boulders and unusual mountain formations in which outlines of wild animals can be traced.



The Agalyk massif



The Agalyk massif, located only 15 km southwest of the city of Samarkand, in the valley of the Agalyksay River, is a natural attraction. The Agalyk Ridge is a spur of the Zerafshan Range, which stretches 370 km and has an average elevation of about 818 meters above sea level. The main peak of Agalyk and of the entire Samarkand region is Kemkutan Mountain, reaching an altitude of 2178 meters. The flora of the Agalyk massif is quite rich in forage plants: camel thorn, wormwood, couch grass, and feather grass.

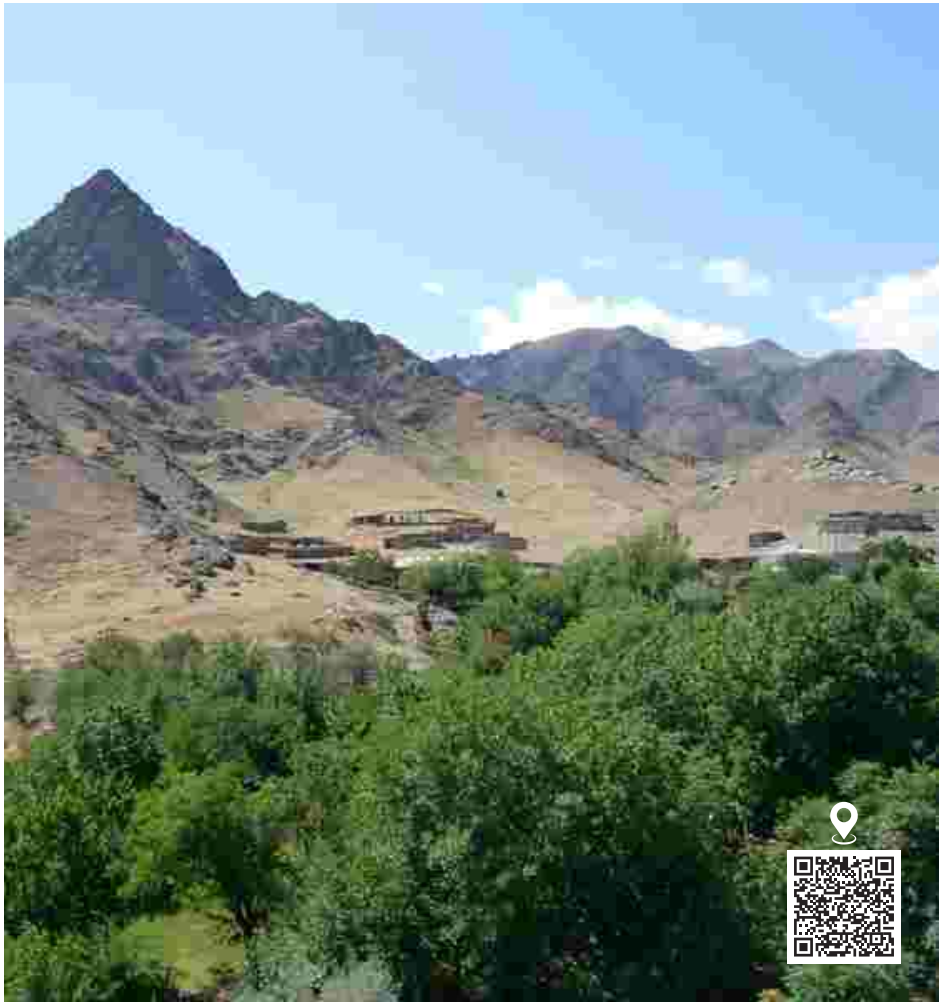
The Mirankul mountain



The Mirankul mountain zone is located 40 kilometers from Samarkand and is a site of pilgrimage. One of the region's famous shrines is the Khazrat Davud Cave. This place is revered by followers of various religious confessions and is visited daily by dozens of pilgrims. It is believed that all wishes made inside come true, and prayers directed to the Almighty are heard more quickly. To reach it, one must climb 1,303 steps. At the very peak of the mountain stands an ancient mosque; descending 200 steps leads into the cave of the saint.

The Nurata Mountains

The Nurata Mountains extend north toward Naratov, belong to the Gissar mountain system, and stretch for 170 kilometers. Here lies the Nurata State Mountain-Nutwood Reserve, occupying territory in the Jizzakh Region. The protected reserve is the forest home to numerous species of flora and fauna, including walnut trees and the endemic subspecies of Severtsov's argali.

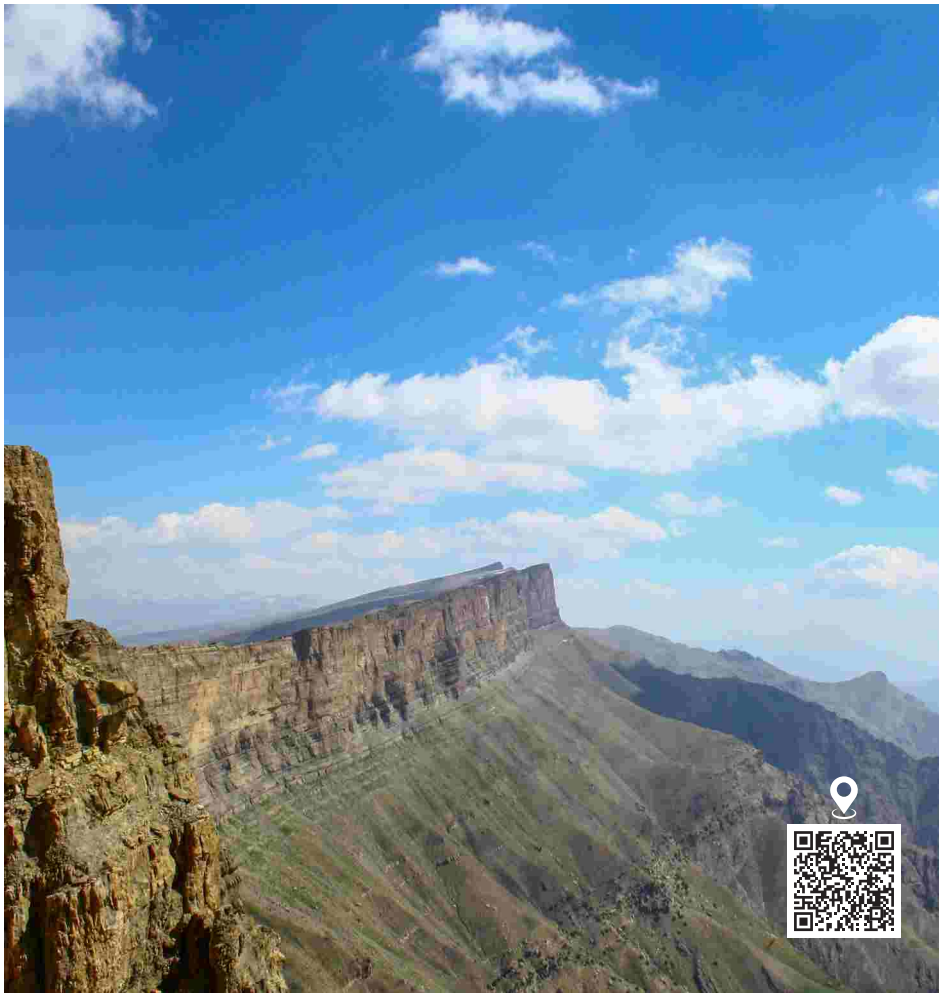


The Yakkabag and Baysun Mountains

The Yakkabag and Baysun Mountains are located next to each other and are considered some of the highest in Uzbekistan. They are separated by rivers and gorges, which make them difficult to access. One of the prominent landmarks of the Baysun Mountains is the Khoja Gur Gur Ota massif—a remarkable summit with a five-hundred-meter cliff—located in the Surkhandarya region. Additionally, here you can see the Derbent Gorge, deep canyons, fossilized dinosaur tracks, the Teshik-Tash Cave, the ancient mountain settlement of Baysun, and many other attractions.



Khoja Gur Gur Ota



Khoja Gur Gur Ota is one of the astonishing and picturesque peaks of Baysuntau, in the Surkhandarya region. It is an unusual giant summit with a five-hundred-meter cliff on one side and deep canyons on the other. Known as the "Father of all caves," the Khoja Gur Gur Ota massif attracts not only climbers and extreme-sport enthusiasts. It is home to an ancient shrine and a gorge with a holy spring.

Khoja Buzbarak



Khoja Buzbarak is a mountain peak located adjacent to the majestic Khoja Gur Gur Ota ridge (3700m), at an altitude of 3920m. It is the highest point of the Baysuntau Ridge, in the Baysun district. Near the peak, traces of a large dinosaur were discovered in the 20th century, which lived there when such a high summit was merely part of the shore of an ancient sea.

The Derbent Gorge



The Derbent Gorge is located in the Surkhandarya region. Historically, this was one of the strategically important trade routes on Uzbekistan's southern borders. Also located here is the ancient settlement of Derbent. To the north of the village you can see the entrance to a large canyon, nestled between towering steep cliffs. This canyon was formed by the Machay River, which for millions of years has cut its way through limestone cliffs, descending from the Gissar Mountains, whose heights exceed 4,000 meters. In places, the canyon narrows to just 15 meters. A journey through this gorge promises an adventurous experience.

The Khujamay Ota tract



The Khujamay Ota tract: on the left side of Derbent, near a karst spring, lies a shrine visited by numerous pilgrims. This is the burial place of the saint Khujamay Ota. Here is also located a gorge of astonishing beauty, sharing the shrine's name. Near the main gorge, in its central part, is the narrow, winding Kaptarhona Canyon, home to thousands of pigeons.

Teshik-Tash Cave

Teshik-Tash Cave. Through the Derbent Gorge the road leads into the Machay Valley, connecting the mountain villages. From here various tourist routes begin, leading to the majestic ridges of Khoja Gur Gur Ata and Sarykiya. Near the village of Yokary Machay is the famous Teshik-Tash Grotto, where Neanderthal burials were discovered, adding intrigue to this already captivating region.



Interweaving of Natural Landscapes

In Uzbekistan, one can find many picturesque corners where mountain ranges harmoniously coexist with lakes, and full-flowing rivers intertwine with deserts. These places captivate with their scenic views and the diversity of natural landscapes. Lakes are those places where the blue sky merges with emerald water, and the coastal landscape frames all this beauty, turning each location into a natural landmark.

Tudakul

Tudakul is an oasis in the middle of the desert in the Kyzyltepa district of the Navoi region. The water in this lake is mineralized due to the content of sodium and chlorides. What captivates visitors most about Tudakul is its pristine nature, where vacationers love to greet sunrises and sunsets, when the colors of the sun blend with the colors of the sky and water. On the shore of Tudakul is the beach resort Silk Road Family Resort, intended for healthy and family recreation. This picturesque tourist facility, cozily located on 15 hectares of land, includes beach areas, modern attractions for children, tapchans for family relaxation, a ship-style restaurant, small cottages, a spa salon, and summer terraces. Also available to visitors are a medical corner and a health center. For entertainment, several concert and dance venues have been built where various outdoor shows, contests, and concerts are held.



Kanbeshbulak



In the west of the Surkhandarya region, within the unique natural zone of Khaman, lies one of the region's most intriguing geological formations – the Kanbeshbulak Lake. This meteorite lake, which formed as a result of a meteorite impact, is of special interest to both researchers and tourists. The lake spans about 800 meters in width and has the characteristic structure typical of meteorite formations. Millions of years ago, after the meteorite passed through the atmosphere and struck the Earth's surface, it left a deep crater, which over time filled with water, turning into a picturesque lake. The area and soil composition around the lake, as well as river sand, contain many tektites – glass-like bodies formed under extreme temperatures during the meteorite's collision with Earth. In the mountains surrounding the Kashkadarya basin on the eastern side, fragments of glass-like meteorites with large holes and other cosmogenic stones can also be found. The water in the lake remains crystal clear with an incredible blue tint, which gives it a special beauty. In the vicinity of the lake, rare plant species adapted to high-altitude conditions can be found, as well as numerous bird species that find shelter and food sources here. In spring, the lake is surrounded by bright flowering alpine meadows, adding special appeal. In autumn, the lake takes on a calming golden hue, reflecting the change of seasons and creating a picturesque landscape.

Karakir

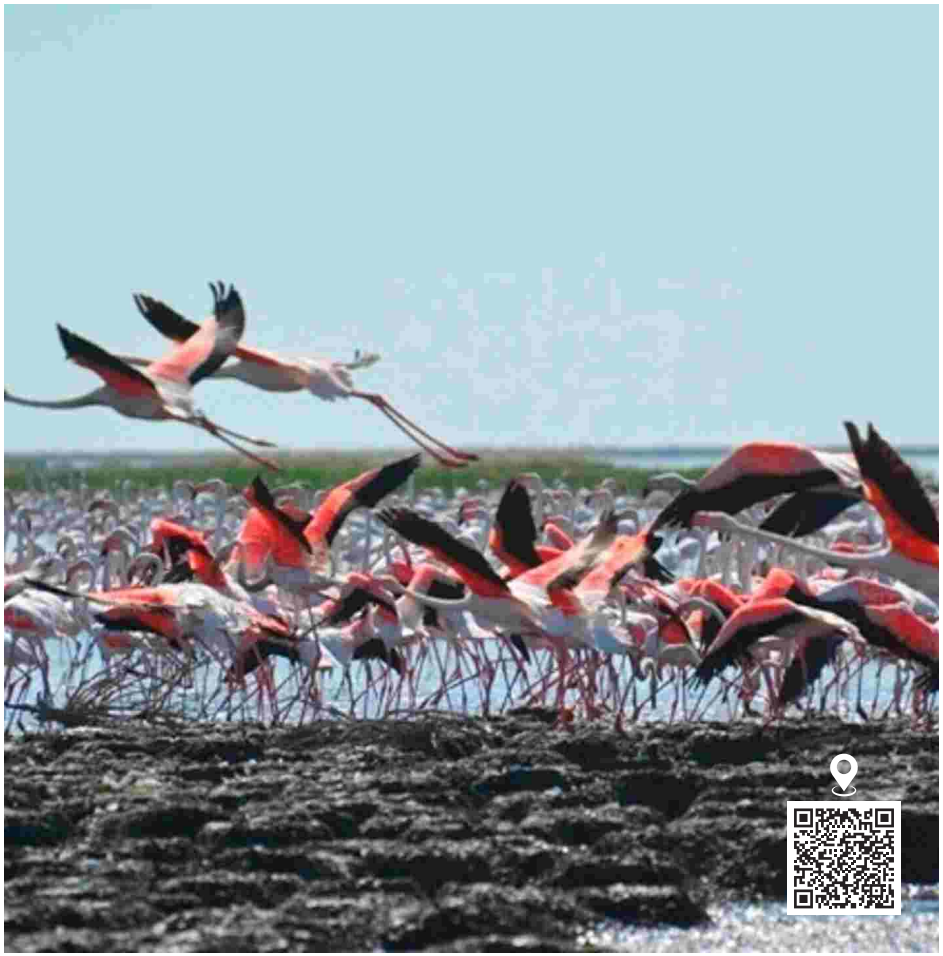
Bukhara attracts tourists from all over the world not only with its ancient architecture and rich history but also with a variety of agro- and ecotourism centers. One such natural gem is the Karakir lake system, located in the southwestern part of the Kyzylkum Desert, in the Peshkun district, 120 kilometers from the city of Bukhara.

The system includes three lakes: Big Karakir, Small Karakir, and Aquarium, with a total area of about 50,000 hectares. The main inflow of water occurs in March and April. In summer, due to high evaporation rates and a decrease in water inflow, a significant part of the reservoir dries up.

The main area of the lake is covered with tall aquatic vegetation, creating favorable conditions for fishing. Karakir offers excellent conditions for fishing due to the presence of fish species such as carp, asp, bighead carp, trophy pike-perch, snakehead, and catfish. The lake's forest and hunting estate, specializing in hunting tourism, is of particular interest. Visitors come here to enjoy horseback and camel rides, hunting wild animals, and fishing. Karakir provides a wide range of opportunities for fishing and hunting enthusiasts, as well as for those who prefer "wild" recreation.



Sudochye



Lake Sudochye is the only large lake on the left bank of the Amu Darya River delta. At one time, the lake was the largest in Uzbekistan and the largest reservoir in the Amu Darya delta. The total area of Sudochye reached 350 square kilometers, with a width of up to 15 km and a length of up to 50 km, and an average depth of 2 meters. However, due to the drying of the Aral Sea and the cessation of river inflow, by 1968 the lake had divided into several smaller bodies of water.

In the late 1960s, collector waters began flowing into Sudochye, which became the determining factor in its water regime. By 1972, the lake area had decreased to 96 square kilometers, and by 1978 it was 78.5 square kilometers.

Two main types of natural ecosystems can be distinguished within Lake Sudochye: wetlands and desert areas, each with its own unique fauna complexes. The reservoir is surrounded by various natural landscapes, including salt lakes, dense tree and shrub thickets, solonchaks, saxaul plantations, as well as deserts and semi-deserts extending to rocky areas on the Ustyurt Plateau.

This ecosystem supports significant biodiversity: by 2000, 218 species of birds and 13 species of animals listed in national and international Red Books had been recorded at the lake. Over the past decade, the Sudochye lake system – because of its unique geographical location – has become a place where exotic tropical birds nest: pink flamingos. Flocks of several thousand pink flamingos can be observed every spring, and their numbers increase annually thanks to the expanding food base. This rare phenomenon makes Lake Sudochye an important site for studying flamingo migration routes and protecting their habitat.



Lake Aydarkul

Sanzar is the main river of the Jizzakh region, originating in the upper reaches of the Jumkartay Ridge. The river flows through the Jizzakh region and then empties into Lake Turkan, whose channels connect it with two other picturesque lakes– Aydarkul and Lake Arnasay.

Lake Aydarkul is located on the southeastern edge of the Kyzylkum Desert in the Jizzakh region, on the shore of which a yurt camp has been established. The banks of this natural lake stretch from the Nurata district of the Navoi region to the Farish and Mirzachul districts of the Jizzakh region.

Known for its beautiful color and impressive size, the picturesque lake is often called the “turquoise sea in the sands”. Above the smooth surface of the lake, pink pelicans, graceful swans, and white herons can often be seen soaring. In addition to a wide variety of flora and fauna, Lake Aydarkul is considered one of the best places for recreation. Multi-kilometer beaches with surprisingly soft and clean sand, pristine coastal thickets, as well as the silence and tranquility of the area leave a wealth of positive impressions and unforgettable sensations.



Lake Tuzkan



Lake Tuzkan is located in the Farish district of the Jizzakh region and occupies the eastern part of the Kyzylkum Desert. Tuzkan is the second-largest lake in Uzbekistan after Aydarkul and is part of the Arnasay lake system. With the overflow of the Shardara Reservoir, located a few kilometers away, Lake Tuzkan merged into the watercourse of the Arnasay lowland. This place is ideal for "wild" recreation when one wants to escape from a big and noisy city. Here you can sit in a tent on the shore, build a campfire, and watch the orange sunset. In addition, it is possible to spend the night in yurt camps or tents, as well as observe the sunrise, when the bright rays reflect on the boundary between the sky and the endless lake.

Cascades of Mountain Oases – Waterfalls of Uzbekistan

Most waterfalls in Uzbekistan are located in hard-to-reach places on mountain slopes by rivers. These natural wonders can mostly be reached on foot, leaving personal transport in the nearest lowlands.

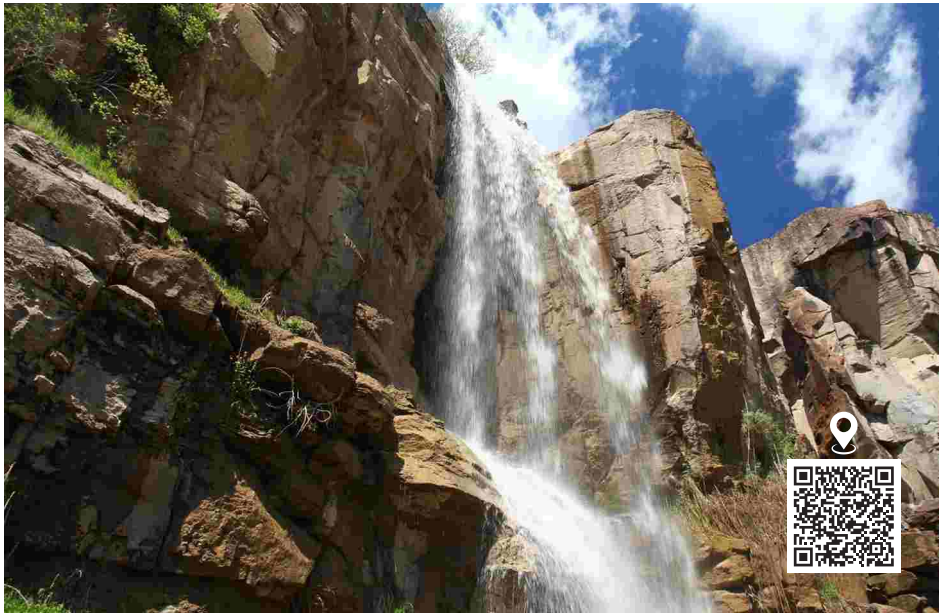
Paltau Waterfall

Paltau Waterfall – an unimaginably beautiful natural wonder located in the Tashkent region. Paltau is an ancient natural monument, situated not far from the Paltau settlement, near the Tashkent–Burchmulla highway. To reach the waterfall, one must traverse the mountain landscapes within the Ugam-Chatkal National Park. A noisy, unrestrained, powerful mountain stream plunges from a height of 38 meters. Its source is a mountain say–the Chatkal River, which originates high in the mountains in the spurs of the Koksu Ridge, near the border with Kyrgyzstan. These places take your breath away with their landscapes and picturesque valleys.



Tavaksay Waterfalls

Tavaksay Waterfalls include a series of waterfalls located in the picturesque Tavaksay area of the Tashkent region, 70 km from Tashkent. Two large waterfalls form canyons reminiscent of those in Hollywood westerns. But the most magnificent is rightfully considered to be the largest waterfall on the Tavaksay River, which is 40 meters high.



Ispay Waterfall

Ispay Waterfall flows in the Bostanlyk district of the Tashkent region, near the settlement of Ispay. The settlement is located 127 km from Tashkent on a steep rocky plateau, on the left bank of the Pskem River. From the settlement, there is a stunning view of the Surkhat tract, down which one of the tributaries of the Pskem—the turbulent Ispaysay River—falls from the mountain peaks. The waterfall perfectly complements the breathtaking mountain landscape of the Ispay Valley.



Nanai Waterfall

Nanai Waterfall is located in the northeastern part of the Bostanlyk district, about 130 km from Tashkent. Its source is in the Chatkal Ridge and it flows by a scenic settlement of the same name. To reach the waterfall, one must walk along a narrow road beside the river. This river formed as a result of digging small channels – locals used the water to irrigate the land. The waterfall, which falls from 8–10 meters, was reconstructed in 2014.



Kyzylsu River

Kyzylsu River – a mountain river in the Bostanlyk district of the Tashkent region. The mountain river is formed by the merging of two says flowing from the southern slope of Mount Mingbulak. Proximity to the railway station has made the Kyzylsu Gorge a favorable place for tourism. The abundance of recreational zones also supports the growing tourist flow. In the upper reaches, 5 kilometers above the "Sokol" camp, the river enters a narrow, rocky gorge, forming several waterfalls 3–6 meters high. Immediately after the waterfalls lies another popular tourist site – a birch grove.



Badaksay Waterfall

Badaksay Waterfall – near Lake Badak – one of the picturesque bodies of water in the Tashkent region – lies the equally beautiful Badaksay Waterfall. The lake is situated at an altitude of 1700 meters and has a depth of up to 23 meters. The waterfall itself is located a one-hour walk from the main lake.



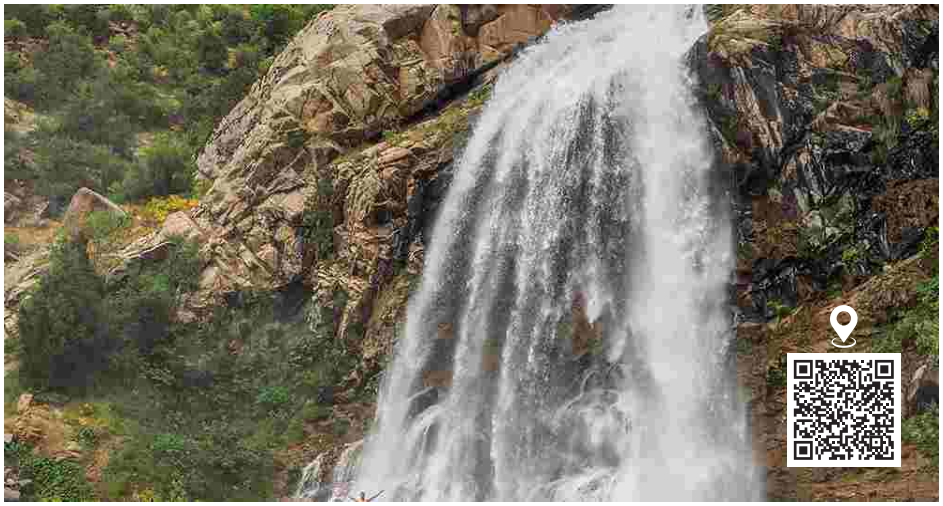
Lashkerek Waterfall

Lashkerek Waterfall – 20 km from Angren lies a small cozy settlement called Lashkerek. Tourists visiting the border areas of the Tashkent region are greatly interested in the scenic surroundings of the mountain kishlak, juniper forests, and the unique waterfall sharing the same name, flowing from the Kuramin Mountains.



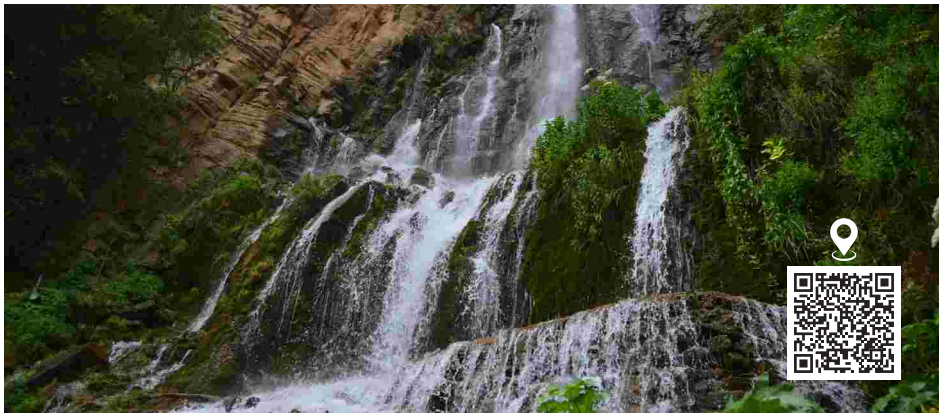
Suvtushar Waterfall

Suvtushar Waterfall – near the settlement of Suvtushar, one can visit a stunningly beautiful waterfall. It is located in the Gissar Reserve and flows into a river at an altitude of 2100 meters above sea level. It is almost impossible to take your eyes off such beauty! The noisy water stream, turning into lush foam, looks especially impressive in summer. But in winter, the waterfall is no less beautiful, as it almost never freezes, set against the backdrop of snow-covered mountains draped in soft snow.



Sangardak Waterfall

Sangardak Waterfall – the Sangardak Waterfall is located 205 kilometers from the city of Termez, in the Sariasiya district. Sangardak can rightfully be called one of the most beautiful places in Uzbekistan. Water falling from a height breaks into billions of microscopic droplets rising into the air like mist. The rocks surrounding the waterfall are covered in green moss. According to local tradition, if you tie a small piece of cloth in the Sangardak area while making a wish, it is sure to come true.



Devsharshara Waterfall

Devsharshara Waterfall – Fifteen kilometers from Samarkand lie the picturesque Agalyk Mountains. Within this mountain massif you can find whimsically shaped stone outcrops, numerous riverbeds and tributaries, blooming poppy fields, and the Devsharshara Waterfall. The waterfall seems hidden from curious eyes, revealing itself only by the sound of falling water. It lies in a small gorge on the mountain and has a height of 8 meters. Amid stone masonry and intricate rock formations, the waterfall's water diligently carves its way into a natural pool.



Beaches of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has no access to the sea, but the country compensates for this with its beautiful bodies of water: rivers, lakes, and mountain streams scattered across forested, mountainous, and even desert regions.

Qumlik Beach – located in Milliy Bog Park, on the site of the former Komsomol Lake. The beach offers sun loungers, umbrellas, tables, and a bar.



"Yangi O'zbekiston" Beach – the first beach in Tashkent built during the years of Independence. The total area is 0.6 hectares. The beach can comfortably accommodate up to 400 people. It has become a great addition for visitors to the new park. Lifeguards ensure the safety of swimmers. For the convenience of visitors, sun loungers and umbrellas are provided. Inflatable rings and mattresses can be rented. There is a medical center on the beach.



Yusufkhona Beach – one of the popular beaches in the Bostanlyk district of Tashkent region. It is located along the shoreline of the Charvak Reservoir and the "Charvak Oromgokhi" recreational area. The beach can be reached via the road from the village of Khodjikent, approximately 70 km from Tashkent.



Robinson Beach – a beach with a unique name, Robinson is located in the Bostanlyk district of Tashkent region near the Yusufkhona recreation area. Here visitors can find all the conditions for summer relaxation: a clean sandy beach, turquoise water, breathtaking views, and a golden sunset.



Burchmulla Beach – an excellent option for budget-friendly recreation. The beach is located in the Bostanlyk district of Tashkent region along the shoreline of the Charvak Reservoir.



Tashmore – the Tuyabuguz Reservoir, more popularly known as the Tashkent Sea or Tashmore, is located in the Urtachirchik district of Tashkent region and is one of the favorite vacation spots for locals and guests of the capital.



Yallama Beach – a beach area near Lake Yallama, located on the road from Tashkent to the Syrdarya region, a few kilometers before reaching Chinaz. A sand quarry once operated here after the 1966 earthquake in Tashkent.



"Energetik" Sanatorium Beach – located in the Kibray district of Tashkent region, in the village of Aganay. The sanatorium-resort complex is situated at an altitude of 560 meters, in a secluded area away from the city noise. In addition to comfortable infrastructure and a health-improvement complex, the sanatorium has its own body of water – the Bozsuv River and a small lake, where visitors can spend pleasant time on hot days.



"Avtomobilist" Resort Beach – a recreational area of the Almalyk Mining and Metallurgical Complex (AMMC) located on the shores of the Charvak Reservoir, in the Bostanlyk district. The resort was created for the cultural and social relaxation of the plant's workers, but it also has a well-equipped beach open to all visitors.



Qorovultepa Beach – the beach area of the Qarovultepa Reservoir. It is located in the south of the Gallaorol district of Jizzakh region, between the Bakhmal district and Samarkand region. The beach area has rich birdlife, making it a great spot for observing migratory birds.



Tuzkan Beach – one of the three major saline and endorheic lakes of the Aydar-Arnasay lake system. It is located in the Farish district of Jizzakh region. Today, Tuzkan is a lake surrounded by uniquely beautiful salt flats and breathtaking landscapes. For those wishing to spend the night, it's an excellent option for camping in the wild, where one can enjoy spectacular sunsets or observe the movement of the starry Milky Way.



Kyzylkum Safari – a yurt camp located 60 km from Nurata in the Navoi region. Lake Aydarkul lies 5 km away. Tourists visiting this area can enjoy camel rides, walks through the Kyzylkum Desert, relaxation on the shores of Lake Aydarkul, and evenings by the fire. A night in yurts provides an opportunity to experience the traditions and lifestyle of the nomadic population.



Aydarkul Beach – for its unique and picturesque location, the lake is often called "an oasis of pristine beauty." Its shores stretch from the Nurata district of Navoi region to the Farish and Mirzachul districts of Jizzakh region. Aydarkul is considered one of the best recreation spots in the region. The extensive beaches with soft, clean sand, pristine vegetation, and the tranquility of the coastal zone leave lasting positive impressions and unforgettable experiences.



Silk Road Family Resort – a modern beach resort located in the heart of Uzbekistan's sands, in the Navoi region, on the shore of Lake Tudakul.



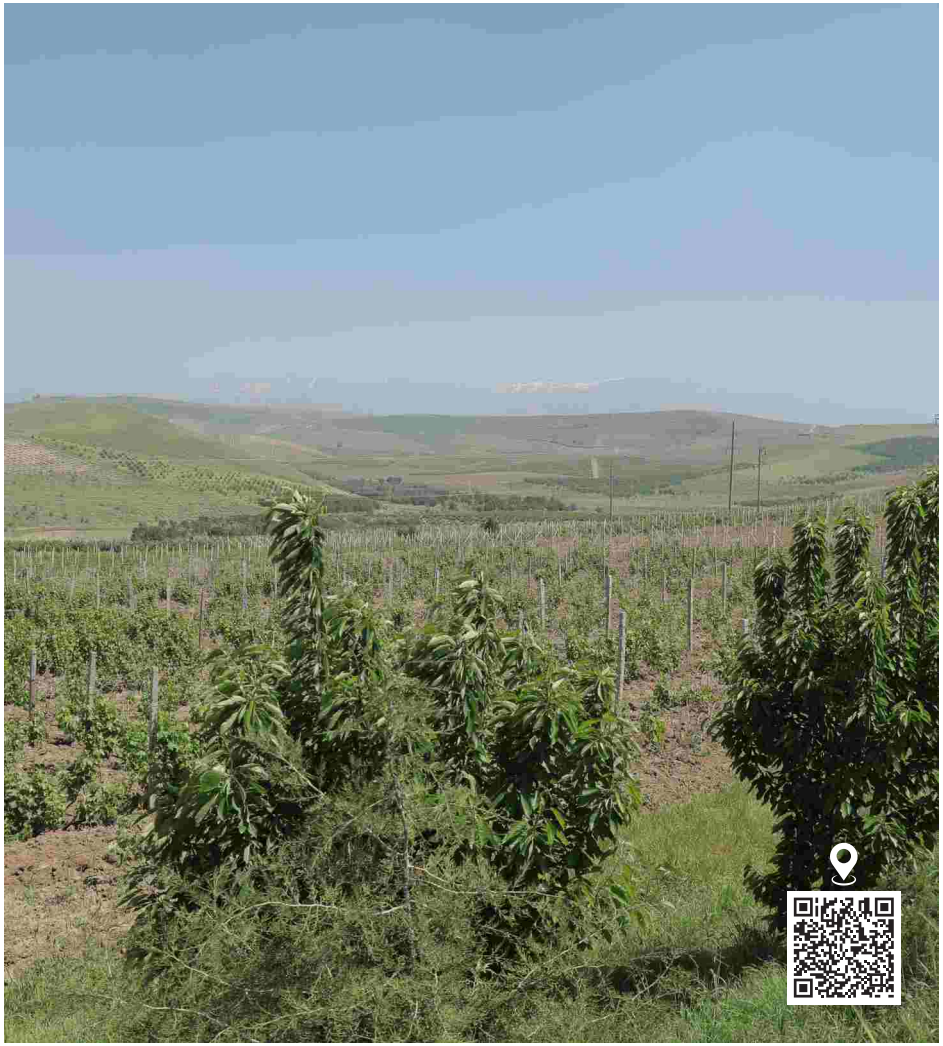
Ornithofauna – Birdwatching

Uzbekistan is an excellent destination for tours that include birdwatching. The ornithofauna of Uzbekistan is represented by unique species of migratory and nesting birds from different parts of the world, attracted by the relatively mild climate. During the autumn and spring migrations, almost all northern birds fly over Uzbekistan, and European representatives of the avian world also come here for wintering.

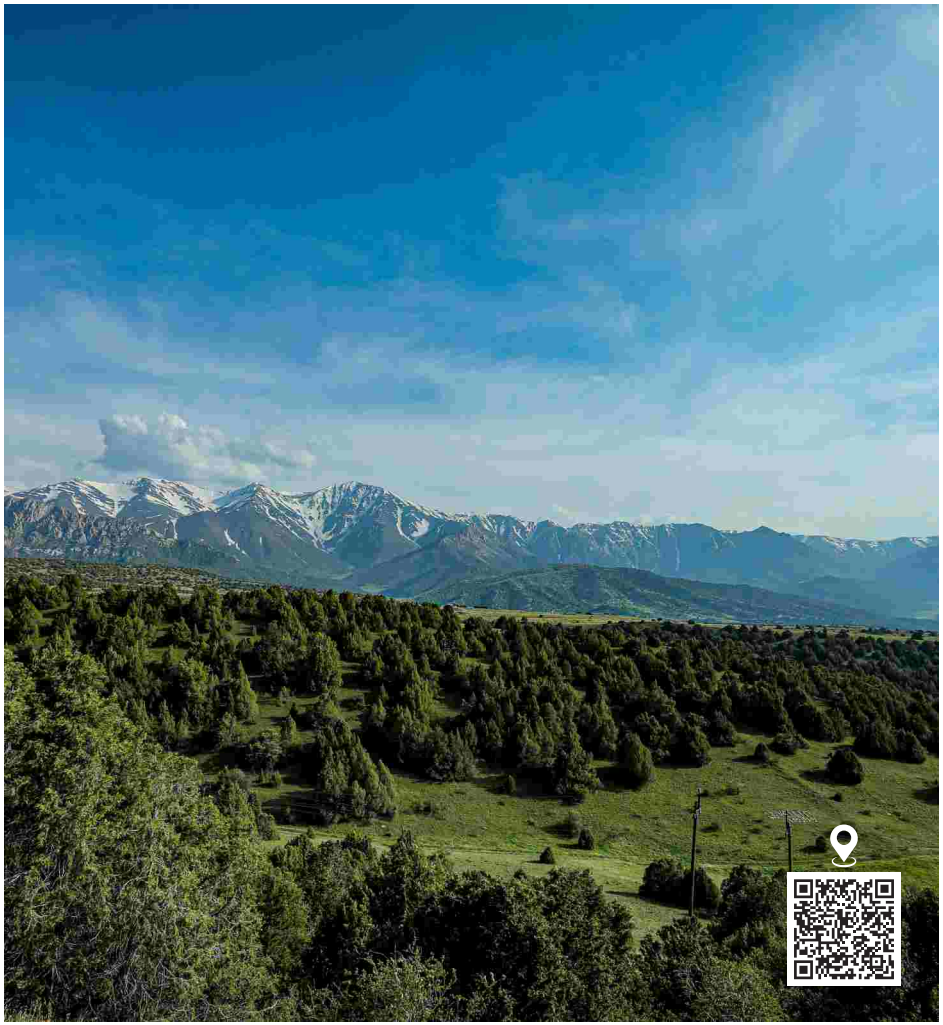


Sukok Reserve, Parkent District, Tashkent Region, 53 km

More than 200 bird species inhabit the reserve. The reserve is located in the Parkent District, 60 km from Tashkent. Its main goal is the conservation and study of diverse ecosystems, as well as rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. Visitors can enjoy sightseeing tours, hiking routes, and birdwatching.

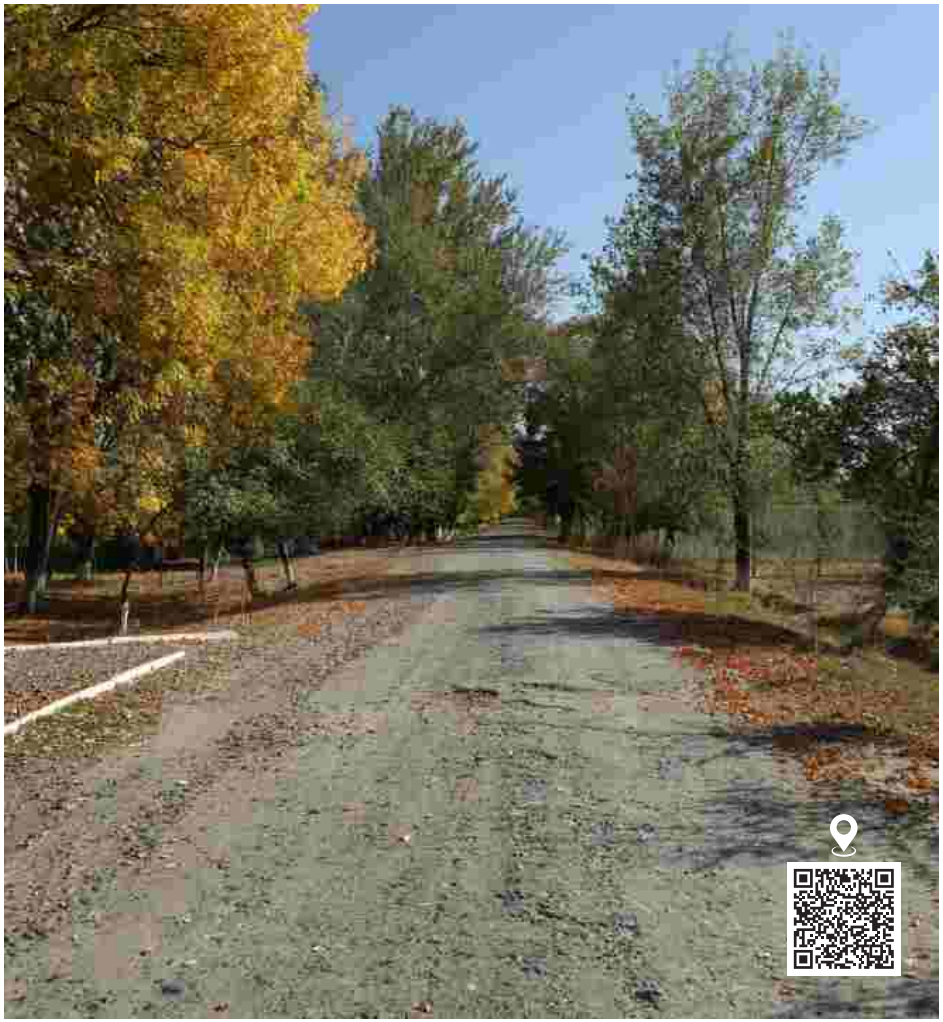


Zaamin Reserve, Jizzakh Region, 330 km



The Zaamin mountain-arch juniper reserve in the Jizzakh Region is home to 102 bird species. Large birds of prey nest high on the cliffs: griffon vultures, cinereous vultures, and bearded vultures. In the Chortangi Gorge, in inaccessible deep crevices of the cliffs, one pair of black storks nests.

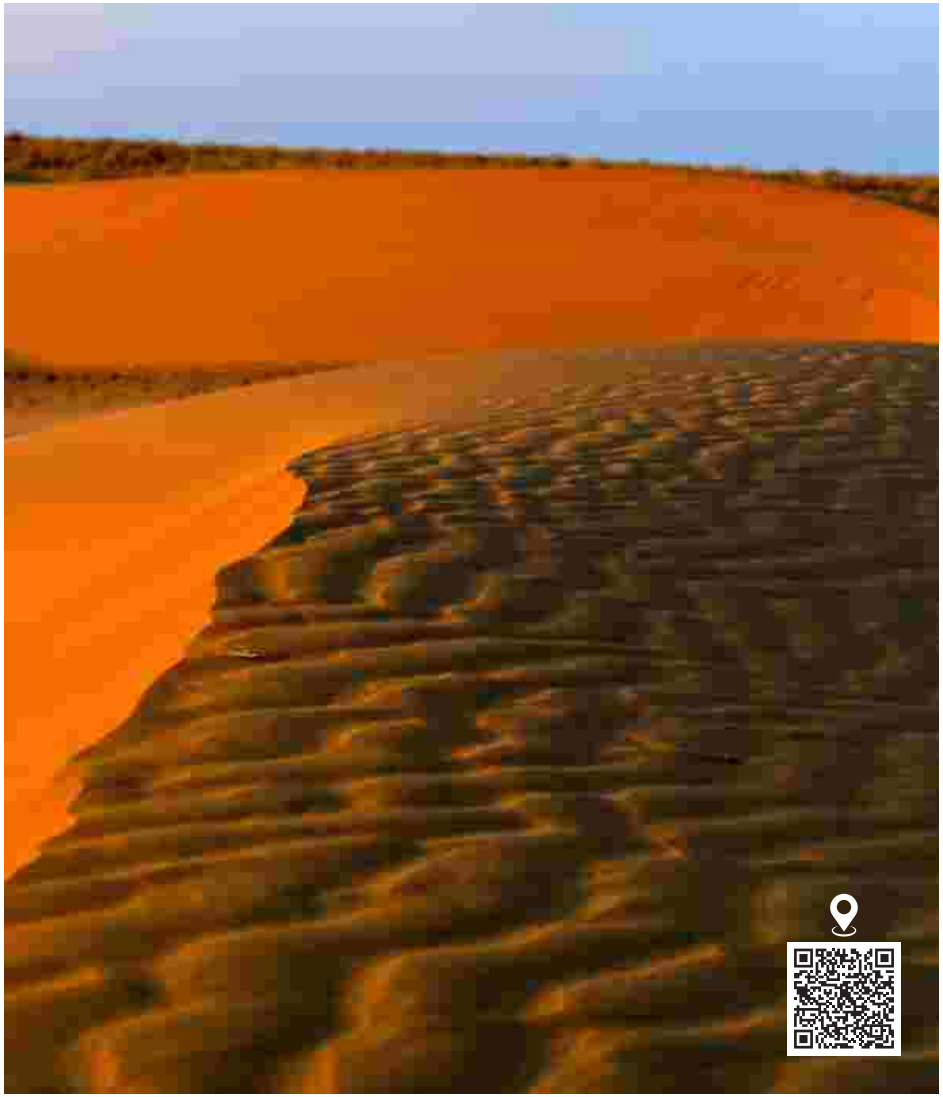
Zarafshan National Park, Samarkand Region, 310 km



Located 15 km from the city of Samarkand in the western part of the Zerafshan River basin. In the tugai forests stretching along the Zerafshan River, one can encounter, for example, the Turkestan tit, night heron, white-winged woodpecker, shikra, and others.

Kyzylkum Desert, Bukhara Region, 121 km

Various bird species inhabit the Bukhara Region, such as the jay, lesser short-toed lark, pied wheatear, rufous bush robin, desert warbler, and others.

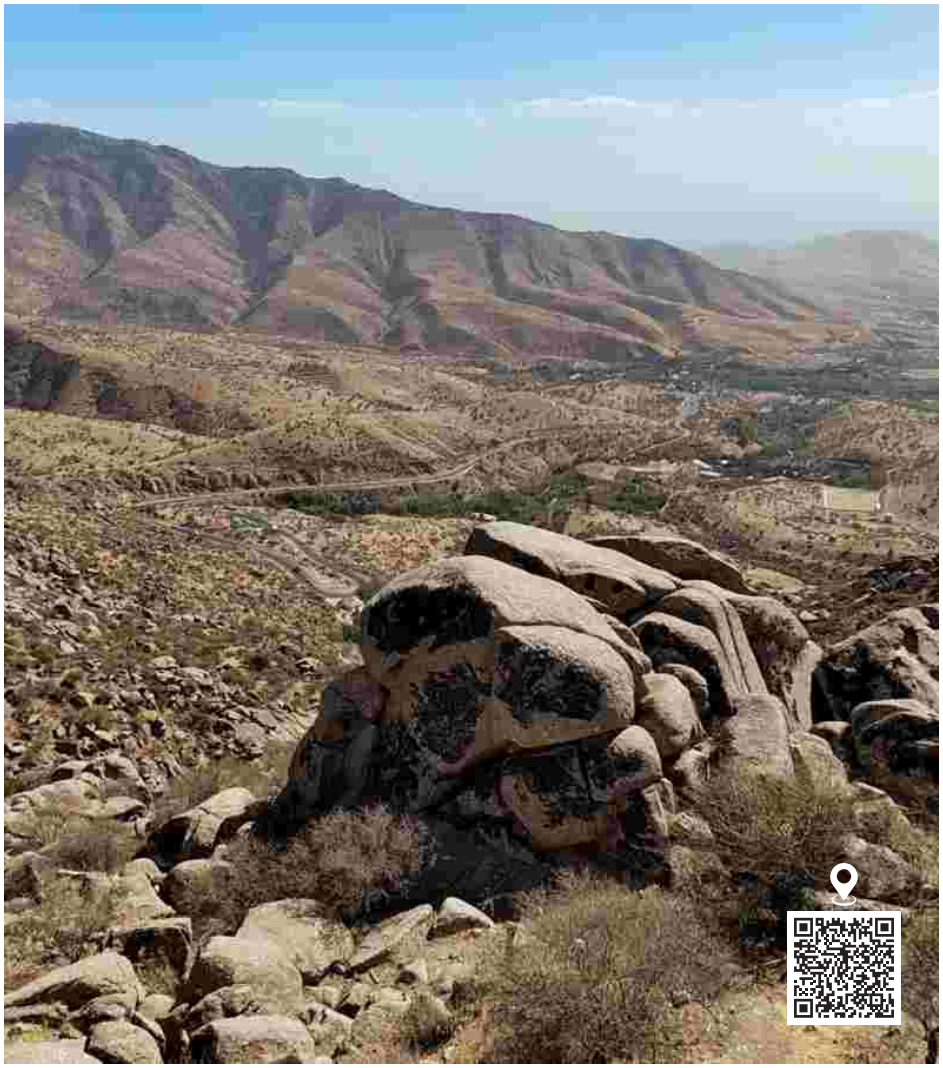


Lake Tudakul, Bukhara Region

At the lake, one can observe thousands of bird species, including many migratory birds as well as those that breed here: great cormorant, pygmy cormorant, grey heron, purple heron, Indian lark, bearded reedling, and others.



Takhta-Karacha Pass, Samarkand Region, 90 km



At the Takhta-Karacha Pass, located at an altitude of 2,100 meters above sea level, one can observe many bird species: lesser lark, white-throated robin, yellow bunting, lesser whitethroat, common whitethroat, and others.