

UZBEKISTAN



# SURKHANDARVA

WELCOME TO A HEAVENLY PLACE

[uzbekistan.travel](http://uzbekistan.travel)

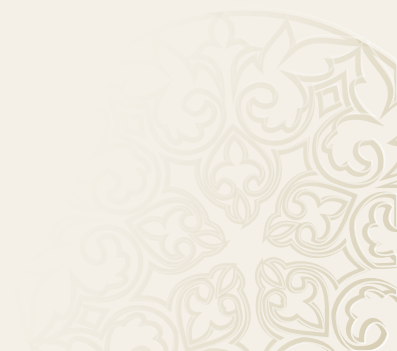





# SURKHANDARYA

The land of amazing nature, deepest caves and sharp contrasts

Such changeable landscapes you will not see anywhere  
The Surkhandarya oasis is a hollow, surrounded by mountains to the west,  
north and east, and ended by Amu Darya, the deepest river in Central Asia from  
south.



# CONTENT

TERMEZ - THE DIAMOND OF THE SOUTH	08
TERMEZ OTA - AMONG THE NATION	10
THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF TERMEZ AND TERMEZIDS	12
TARAMASTKHA	14
THE ISLAND OF PROPHET	16
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ALEXANDER NEVSKY	18
AYRITOM	20
KHABEVAKA VIKXARA - THE MONASTERY OF KINGS	22
NOBLES' FEAST	26
PRINCESSES OF TOKHAR	28
BOYSUN	30
THE DARK STAR	32
THE HEALING SPRING	34
THE CENTRE UNDER PROTECTION OF UNESCO	35
SHERABAD	38
THE MAGIC HUNT EVENT	40
THE HEALING CAVE - GIFT OF NATURE	42
METEOR LAKE	44
UNIQUE NATURE GIFT	46
SARYSIA	48
WATER RESOURCES	50
PILGRIMAGE AND TREATMENT	52
THE MIRACLE OF THE EARTH	54
CULTURAL EVENTS AND NATIONAL GAMES	56
FOLK GAMES OF SKILLED RIDERS - KOPKARI	58
NATIONAL CUISINE	60
ART OF BAKHSHI AND FOLKLORE	64
NATIONAL APPLIED ART	66



WELCOME  
TO A HEAVENLY PLACE



Surkhandarya - the southern territory of Uzbekistan, due to its favorable geographical location and climatic conditions, it has long attracted the attention of people.

Here one can observe all seasons, so in this oasis you can find all kinds of flora and fauna. Every person who has visited this region, first of all, will be delighted with its unique nature.

The landscape of the majestic mountains of Gissar, extending from north to south, the endless valleys and wide plains, the rich culture that has developed in different historical periods give even more attractiveness to this land. The climate is subcontinental, winter is warm, and summer is dry and hot, during the day the temperature reaches up to 44–46 °C. In winter you can view very little snow falls. From the southwest often blows a dry "Afghan" wind. The juniper, walnut, almond, poplar, pistachio tree and others grow in the mountains and create a rich flora of these places. The main part of the vegetation of the fields is made up of various grasses that cover the area with greenery in spring and dry out in summer. In the Amu-Darya Valley, especially, in the "Aral-Paygambar" rushes grow.



# SURKHANDARYA

*Surkhandaryya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*



# TERMEZ IS SOUTH DIAMOND

The role of roads in the internal and external transport of the region is great. Therefore, to create additional conveniences for tourists and residents of Termez, Denau, Sherobod cities, and many other countries set up continuous car traffic to various parts of the country and abroad. Besides, railway line Termez-Tashkent, Termez-Tashkent-Andijan, Tashguzor-Baysun-Kumkurgan and Hayraton railroad bridge over the AmuDarya make a base for a sharp increase in commodity transportation and commodity exchange, passenger traffic not only for the region, but also the whole republic and interstate form, raw materials and commodity turnover, a substantial increase in traffic volumes.

Termez International Airport has modern air routes from Termez to Tashkent, to Samarkand, Namangan, Bukhara, Andijan, and also the foreign flights to Moscow, St. Petersburg and Ashgabad. There is the only river port in the republic in Termez, which contributes to the development of industry, services, agriculture and tourism of Termez, Sherabad and Boysun regions.





*Surkhandaryya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*



## TERMEZ OTA - AMONG THE NATION

Many books were authored by at-Termizi. He wrote more than 400 books, of which about 60 have survived till our days. Among them are such well-known works devoted to Hadith Muhammad (p.b.u.h.):

- “Navodir al-usul fi marifat ahbor Rasul” (unique methods in the cognition of the traditions of Rasululloh);

- “Kitob khakikat al-Odam” (a book about the truth of humanity);

- “Adab un-nafs” (Ethics of desires);

- “Kitob ul-haj wa asrorih” (Hajj and its secrets),

- “Kitob us-soalot wa makosiduhu” (Namaz and its goals);

- “Kitob ul-zhuma al-lozim marifatikho” (lines you need to know);

- “Hatm ul-avliyo” and others.

In book “Hatm ul-avliyo”, Termezi’s views on the Walis (Islamic saint, otherwise referred to by the more literal “friend of God”) are widely represented. The main theme of the work is a description of the truthfulness of the Walis, its aspects regarding nubuvvat (prophecy).

According to Termezi, the highest knowledge that the mind can know is enlightenment or wisdom, it is the “divine light” illuminating the human soul. In the process of learning various knowledge, one can master it, but only those who receive the blessings of Allah reach true enlightenment. Sufi Termezi is referred to a number of such holy people. Due to his fame in various fields of science and knowledge, the contemporaries of Termezi magnified him as “al-Hakim.” Al-Hakim at-Termizi died at the end IX - the beginning of the X century. A mausoleum over his grave and a memorial complex around this tomb of al-Hakim al-Termizi were built in the 9th – 15th centuries. This complex, consisting of a mosque, a mausoleum, khanaki, kary-khans, was built in different periods. First, the khanaka was built from an un-

burnt brick, where Hakim at-Termizi taught. After the death of al-Termizi, a mausoleum was built over his grave, which was turned into a sacred place of worship. In the northern part of the mausoleum in the XI – XII centuries, a three-domed mosque was completed to perform prayers, with arched vaults at the entrance and several additional rooms.

In the center of the western wall of the mosque exists a widely bordered Mehrab (niche in a mosque showing the direction of Mecca). It has convex inscriptions, ceramic frescoes and carved ganch between them. The columns of the mosque are lined with brick ornament. From the mosque through the arch there is an exit to the mausoleum. The interior of the mausoleum is richly decorated with ganch (gypsum inscription) carving in the form of a carpet. The white marble gravestone inside the mausoleum is a fine example of the art of imprint on the stone of the Temurids period. The 3-tier base of the tombstone is decorated with patterns and inscriptions, the central (middle) part of the niche with 3 mehrabas in the middle part is decorated with mukarnas cups, the two sides with a candlestick. The inscriptions on the mausoleum reflect the life and work of at-Termizi. During the reign of the Temurids, that is, in the 15th century, the khanaka was rebuilt on a high base (height 1.5 m) made of burnt brick.



# AT-TERMEZI MUSEUM

*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*



# THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF TERMEZ AND TERMEZIDS

The Sultan Saodat complex is a complex of majestic mausoleums, where the tombs of Sayids of Termez, the descendants of the Prophet's family, are located .

The dynasty of Sayids, who made a great contribution to the prosperity of our Motherland, is formed in the 9th century. Most Central Asian Sayids associate their origin with this dynasty . According to the legends, the origin of Sayids of Termez go back to Khasan al-Amir, the fifth generation of Imam Hussain, the son of Fatimah, the daughter of Prophet Muhammad. Khasan al-Amir came to Samarkand in 850 with his family and lived there 11 years then moved to Balkh. In about 865, Khasan al-Amir moved back to Termez and completely fled there.

During the military campaigns of Amir Temur, Khasan's house was dominant. Among them, Abu al-Maali and Ali Akbar were involved in the battlefields of the city. Amir Temur always stops in Termez Sayids house of worship in the course of his trip to India and is a guest of two of them. The mansion built by Amir Temur, now a part of the complex of Sultan Saodat complex, is an example of his respect for Termez's Sayids.

Sultan Saodat Complex is an architectural monument in Termez, built in 12th-17th centuries. The mausoleum was built in a 70-meter courtyard. The main building of the plot is located in the west. Located in the north-eastern part of Termez, the dam was built during the 7th century and covered about twenty mausoleums. There are mausoleums of the Sayid's dynasty. Popularly known as the Mausoleum of Sultan Saodat, burials were built side by side in the 12th centuries and occupied two sides of the courtyard. The complex was renovated after independence and became a holy place.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# TARAMASTIHA

Tarmita – Termez fortress city, founded in the middle of the 1st millennium BC. The name of the city is derived from the ancient Bactrian word “Taro Maetha”, meaning «the other side of the river». Alexander the Great named it Alexandria of the Ox. In the third century BC, the city called Antioxia – Tarmita. In the 4th-5th century BC, «Drmat» was found in Armenian sources and in the VII Century in Chinese sources it was written as «Tami». In the Arabic-Persian sources of the IX- XII Centuries, the city was written as Tarmid, Tarmiz and Tirmiz.

During the rule of the Greek Bactrian Kingdom (III-II Centuries BC), Termez was one of the largest cities in Bactria, which played an important role in the political, economic and cultural life of the country. During that period, the city occupied more than 10 hectares and it was considered one of the largest centers in North Bactria. During the Kushan period Termez played an important role in social, political and cultural life of Bactria. There are many great administrative and social buildings in the city, various areas of craftsman's, trade was highly developed. The city became the main harbor on Amu Darya. Large boats and ships going from the harbor city were sailing from ancient Khorezm to the Caspian Sea through Uzboy. During the Kushan period, Termez was considered as the largest center of Buddhism and culture in Central Asia.

The city of Termez was one of the main centers of science in Kushan period. When the Kushan Empire was overthrown, the city was ruled by the Sasanids for some time, and the Eftalits. Later it became the part of the Turkish Haganat. At the beginning of the VIII Century Termez was added to the Arab Caliphate. In the 9th century, the city was a part of the State of Samanids, in the XI-XII Centuries, the state of Gaznevids, Karakhanids, Seljuks. During

this period, Termez developed in all aspects. The city consisted of three parts – the Castle, the Shahristan and the Rabad – occupy more than 500 hectares. Many new administrative buildings, mosques have been built in the city and extensive renovations have been done.

Various areas of craftsmanship are developed in the city. Numerous products manufactured by Termez craftsmen are also popular in remote areas. Particularly, Termez soaps, carpets, and boats are highly appreciated in the countries of the East. Medieval authors have described Termez as the economic and cultural center of Northern Tokharistan. During this period, many famous Islamic scholars, poets lived and worked here.

Among them are the scholar of Hadiths Iso at-Termizi, the scholar-encyclopedist and philosopher Khakim at-Termizi, the poet Sobir Termizi. In the autumn of 1220, Termez was captured and turned into ruins by the troops of Genghis Khan. Due to the courageous repulse of Termez inhabitants to the invaders, the city became famous as “Madinat ur-rizhol”, that means, “the city of brave men”.





*Surkhandaryya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# THE PROPHET ISLAND

Zulkifr mausoleum – an architectural monument near Termez, refers to 11-12th centuries. It is said that the names of the Qur'an are mentioned here.

Legend says that one of the 25 prophets, Zulkifl, was buried there. Zulkifl is a historic person, who lived in the 7th-6th centuries. His grave was located in Kifl, Iraq. In the period of Ghaznevids, the grave of Zulkifl was carried to the island, where mausoleum and mosque were built. Historical sources say that Iskhaq bin Kuntaj, a commander, who died in 992-993, was also buried here. The mosque, located in the southern part of the Prophet's island of Amudarya, consists of two bedrooms, and two adjacent rooms. Buildings were built in different periods. The mosque is composed of a corrugated dome. The goblet of the graveyard is embroidered.

The tower was built up to a height of 1 meter from the mosque and the mud was stored there. The two luggage passes through two lanes to the dining room. The bricks were sculpted in the walls of the rooms.

According to legend, a prophet who lived on the other side of

Amu Darya, before his death, order his murids. «When I die, put my coffin on the Amu Darya River. Bury me where Tobut's (coffin) stops». After his death, his disciples fulfilled his will and dumped the coffin into the river. With the grace of God, the Amu Darya water flows faster and faster, but the coffin will run counter to water. Astonished murids follow the coffin. The coffin stops when the Amu Darya river reaches the island that splits into two. «He was above the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace and his coffin would not be able to prevent him from doing so». When Khakim was buried in the same island, he was called by the local population as Prophet.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# CHURCH OF ORTHODOX ALEXANDER NEVSKIY

It was built in 1904-1905 according to the standard design of military prayer houses. Capacity-1500 people. In 1927 the chapel was closed.

After some time, the bell tower was destroyed. Then the temple was turned into an Armory, which served as a military hospital and sports hall. In 1990, the building of the chapel was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church and was again named in the name of St. Duke Alexander Nevsky. In 2000 the main altar part of the Church was restored and the roof was renovated. Currently, the temple is open to believers and visitors.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# AYRITOM

The ruins of the ancient city, telling about the ancient history and culture of the Uzbek people, is located 18 km East of the city of Termez, on the banks of the Amu Darya. First, in 1932, near Ayrطوم from the bottom of the Amudarya the fragments of the frieze with the image of people were recovered. In 1933, 7 more fragments of the frieze and the ruins of a Buddhist temple were discovered. Friezes belong to the I-II centuries, they depict musicians playing on a pipe, drum, wreaths of flowers, as well as boys and girls holding a bowl of fruit.

On the friezes, Ayrطوم reflected a scene associated with the "Parinirvana – Jataka". According to Indian legend, the sounds of the five great musical instruments accompanied by pleasant melodies must convey the deceased Buddha and donatrices (monstrances) needs to escort him till the grave with fragrant flowers. Interestingly, in the frieze found in Ayrطوم this fabulous fragment is depicted through the images Ayrطومans that facilitated the easy understanding of its local residents. In addition, in the frieze of Ayrطوم found a close relationship with the art of Gandhara and thereby confirmed the idea of scientists that the school of Gandhara was widespread around the Kushan Kingdom as a historical and cultural phenomenon. In 1978 in Ayrطوم the stand of the statue with the inscription in 6 lines in the Greek alphabet was found. Material and cultural monuments of Ayrطوم possess of a great importance in the study of the history of the Uzbek people of the Kushan period, its cultural heritage, traditions and customs.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# KHABEVAKA VIXARA

## THE MONASTERY OF KINGS

The mysterious Karatepa Buddha Cave Settlements are the largest Buddhist construction in Central Asia. It is located in the north-eastern part of the Old Termez and was discovered in 1926-1928. Construction lies on three natural hills. Total area is 8 hectares. There are more than 15 cave complexes in the southern slope, and up to 5 steep slopes in the western slopes. The eastern part of the northern slope occupies a monumental complex. The rules of construction of cave cathedrals were borrowed from Indians. In subsequent buildings the architecture of the Bactrian landscapes prevails.

The first Buddhist temple in Karatepa was built in the 1st century BC. The rise of Karatepa went back to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD, when many temples were built, renovated and decorated. By the end of the 3rd century BC, the complexes of Karatepa were ruined. It is connected with the military campaigns of the Sassanids to Kushan. In some rooms the attributes of fire worship were installed. At the same time, a certain part of the Karatepa complex functioned until the end of the 4th century and beginning of the 5th century. In the 4th century, many abandoned rooms in Karatepa were used as graves in the cave temples, and the entrance areas were covered with raw bricks. At the earliest graves, Kushan-Sassanid coins, coins of Peroz King, and in the later tombs, the coins of the Termez rulers of the 5th and 6th centuries were found there.

Numerous statues of Buddha, ceramic bottles of the Kushan Empire, cups and gullies, copper lamps, limestone architectural decorations, plates, ceramic lanterns were found there. At the time of Sassanids' invasion to Kushan, Karatepa was abandoned.



The southern and northern hills of Karatepa are similar to Guxa-type temples, which are designed for monks, ceremonial conventions, and assembly halls. Therefore, two or three monks served on the underground and on the monastery of Karatepa, so they could be included in the small monasteries.

The majestic temple complex at the northern elevation of Karatepa, one of the largest Buddhist constructions of the Kushan Bactrian Age, Stupa architectural center was built. Stupa's platform is built around the world. The building was renovated and rebuilt several times in its era. The western wall of the building is decorated with stone friezes made of marble limestone, and its remains are recorded on the west side of the Stupa platform. According to the findings, the frieze is decorated with Buddha and other sacred images and pages reflecting the life of the noblemen.

The temple complex is located south of the great Stupa. The large rectangular courtyard surrounded by all sides is its architectural center. Marble limestone and well-preserved columns have a magnificent range of labels showing that the courtyard is luxurious. The courtyard is surrounded by a large arch with dome roofs on four sides, which connect the courtyard with the passage between the side walls. On the north and western turns there are dome-shaped rooms with small roof shaped rows. The appearance of the chapel of the complex was quite simple - it was gently wrapped around a lava blade. The roof of the wall is decorated with an earthed vest. In most cases, the walls were painted in red. The material, spiritual and artifacts found here are of great importance for the history of Buddhism in Termez, Bactria and Central Asia, and are a great contribution to the global Buddhist culture. They allow us to track the time of Buddhism's entry into the South of Central Asia, its developmental traits, and cultural relations with Buddhist art centers in neighboring Buddhists, primarily Gandhara school.

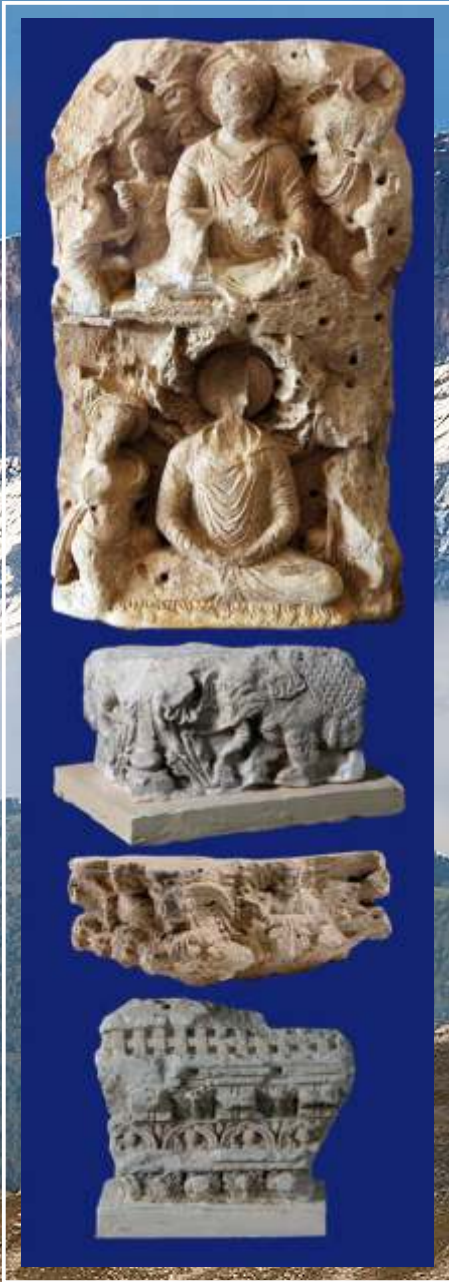
The Kushan monuments in Surkhandarya are very diverse. More than 110 cities, temples, locations were discovered during this time. During the Kushan era, agriculture and craftsmanship rose. The science and art culture was flourishing. Local culture and the process of enrichment and mutual enrichment of India, Iran, Greece, Rome and the Far East have taken place. Among the findings are the Buddhist temples, Ayritom, Dalvarzintepa,

Kampirtepa monuments found in Halchayn, Karatepa and Fayoztepa, of world significance. The Fayoztepa Buddhist monastery, dating back to the 1st century BC, is located in the north of the ruins of Old Termez, 1 km northwest of Karatepa. It was discovered in spring 1968 by the shepherd Absad Beknaev, who discovered Buddhist stone from limestone rock on the mobile sand and transferred it to the Termez Museum, and discovered the monument in 1968-1976. When the Fayoztepa area was cleared of flooded sandstones, its architectural style was discovered and it was discovered that it consisted of a monumental building consisting of 3 parts. The central part is a temple with a courtyard and a quadrangular terrace, with 20 rooms adjoining the temple and its surroundings. In the north-western monastery there is a monastery, and in the south-east there are constructional constructions, the total length of the building is 117 meters and its width is 34 meters. The total area of the complex is 1.5 thousand square meters. Located in the monastery square rooms lived monks and students of the monastery. Monastery rooms featured for monks and monasteries, study rooms, and dormitories. On the walls of the rooms, shelves for lamp light fixtures are mounted on the pilot. Under the walls of some rooms Buddha sculptures and footsteps were set up to install them. Thus, monks and students and visiting tourists practiced their worship at monastery temples when religious ceremonies stopped in the central temple. Fayoztepa has been ruined as a result of Iranian occupation.

In 2004-2006, this monument was reconstructed in cooperation with UNESCO, the Trust Fund of Japan and the regional administration.







*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# NOBLES FEAST

A large landowner (farmer) residence neighborhood of 5th-7th centuries is located 2 km north - east of Tashkent - Termez highway. Bolalik Tepa - one of the world-famous archeological monuments on the territory of Uzbekistan was first studied in 1953-1956 .

At the end of the 5th and early 6th centuries in the central part of the building served as the courtyard, some wall paintings dedicated to the feast ceremonies were found. The paintings belongs to the Early Middle Ages. On the walls of this monument, images of 47 people on the noble feast are presented. It is known that the location of hands and fingers in the fine art expresses people's feelings during the rituals and feast.

In the paintings with high skill are depicted glasses and cups in people's hands, outfits, jewelry, robes and fans. Dressing gowns and camisoles of various colors had triangular collars, the colors were so clear that it was obvious the clothes were made of silk. Fabrics had pictures with the image of three and four leaves, with geometrical ornaments and zoomorphic figures. Earrings, necklaces, as well as cups in hands are depicted with a touch of gilding. The figures also masterfully depicted the appearance of people. The structure of their faces and ethnicity gives us reason to consider them local Turkic inhabitants - the Tochars.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*



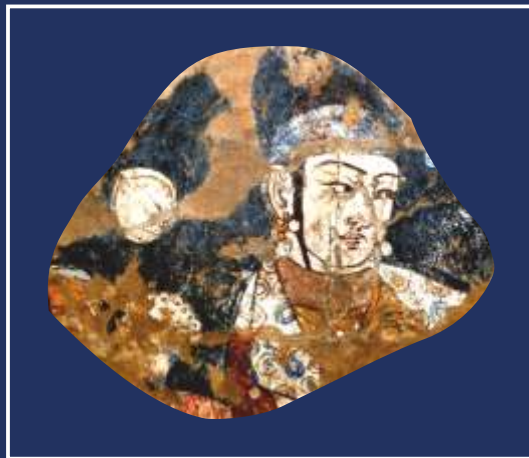
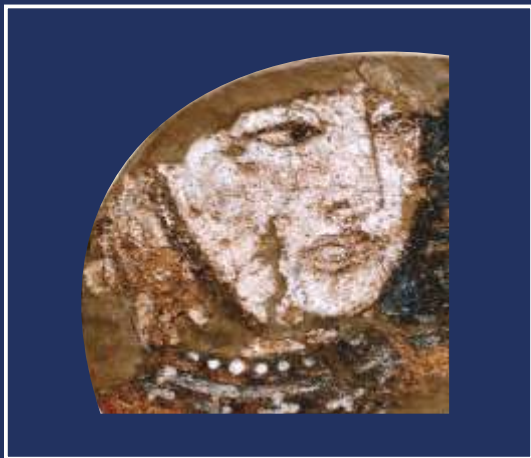
# PRINCESSES OF TOKHAR

During the Early Middle Ages, the Surkhandarya culture is characterized by a high level of development. The Tavka fortress, located in Sherabad region, is one of the most important monuments of this period. The remains of these memorial walls are distinguished by their unique and originality. The fortress is surrounded by mountains. It is supposed that there was a guard control around the fortress. Tavka fortress has been the residence of Kuftan governors in the 5th and 6th centuries.

Due to the archaeologists' research, 2 halls, terraces and corridors of the customs building has been discovered. On the paintings made on the walls of the customs building, there is a group hunt of secular people on wild animals. Riders are skillfully depicted, frightened deers, trying to survive from the hooves of horses. Also preserved images of girls and women, who are happy to watch this process. Wall paintings of the Tavka fortress is the evidence of the development of the traditions of the fine arts of the Kushan period, their acquisition of new forms and colors. The customs fortress Tavka once again demonstrates that the history of the Uzbek statehood is rooted back centuries.



*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*



# BOYSUN

The nature of Boysun is incredible. The deepest cave in the world is also the highest peak of Uzbekistan, the place where the first humanity lived, the healing springs and the abnormal zone of gravity above the bottom. At the top of the mountain one can see the snow in the summer. The hawks is covered with red tulips in the early spring. In this way, the nature represents its beauty .

The flora is also diverse, wild and cultivated plants grow in the mountains and foothills.

One of the display of nature that does not occur in Central Asia is the Tangisar canyons in the Boysun Mountains. These red canoes have saved their mysterious heritage for centuries.





# THE DARK STAR

There is a cave in Uzbekistan, called «Underground», «Reverse Everest», «Dark Star» or the deepest cave in the world.

The cave was discovered by researchers in 1984 and is being studied by scholars from different parts of the world for many years. The Khoja Gurgur ota – the mountain of Boysuntau ridge, at a height of 3700 meters above sea level, has a 300-meter upright wall. To enter the cave it is necessary to reach the height of 160 meters in the middle of this steep wall. Researchers say the bottom of the cave is 2.650 meters, and the speleologists have now reached a 1158 meter high point.

The area is distant from the land and relief of the district. Mountain and mountain hills, mountain slopes, rivers Valley is the main natural zone. In the north-eastern part of the region, the highest point of Uzbekistan is Khazrat Sultan Khan, its height is 4643 meters.



# THE HEALING SPRING

One of the health resorts in the Boysun region is Omonxona. In the village of Omonxona there is a magnificent building of 100 places, that is, a balneal resort, where the patients, in particular, use Omonxona spring mineral water treatments. They use the healing water and take the spring water baths. Additionally, there are dozens of services such as electrotherapy, massage, phytotherapy, diagnostics, and ultrasound. About 1400 Uzbekistans visit the Omonxona Balneal Rehabilitation Center annually.

Omonxona cave is 3.5 meters high and the total area is 60 square meters. One can observe the strange phenomenon in this cave - the temperature in the cave is about 5-6 degrees Celsius in summer and 20-22 Celsius in winter.

Among the inhabitants of Boysun there are various legends about the history of Omonxona. It is said that the Amir Temur's troops were exhausted, when they came to this valley. In addition, the soldiers got ill one after the other. Then they drank the water from the Omonxona, had a rest in the cave and became more powerful.





# THE CENTER UNDER PROTECTION OF UNESCO

Boysun National Center of Applied Art include the museum, workshop and shops. The visitor will have the opportunity to buy the traditional souvenirs made by handicraftsmen. There are 16 people in the center. Here one can also observe the full process related to the preparation, dyeing, weaving and packaging of the yarn and directly participate in this process. The center also owns its own museum and protected by UNESCO.



*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# SHERABAD

The most picturesque place in the region is a mausoleum of Abu Isa Imam Termezi. The person, who visits this place, will certainly witness it. It is also a place of worship that gives spiritual food to the people, being the part of pilgrimage tourism.

The mausoleum was built in honor of Muhammad ibn Isa ibn Savra ibn Musa ibn Zahhaq Salam al-Bughi Termezi, who lived in 824-892. Imam Termezi was distinguished from his peers by his youthfulness, strong memory, and unique abilities. He has studied religious and secular subjects, especially the science of hadith, and has traveled to many Eastern countries to increase his knowledge on this subject. He lived with his teacher Imam Bukhari for five years in Nishapur. In turn, Bukhari praised his disciple and humbly replied, «I learned more from you than you did from me». This was a tremendous appreciation for Termezi. His works are distinguished in the Islamic world with a simple and fluent language for the people.

The works of Abu Isa Imam Termezi:

- «Al-Jomi as-Sahih» – Trusted Collection;

- «Ash-Shamil an-Nabawiya» – The qualities and qualities of the Prophet;

- «Al-Ilal fil-Hadis» – the disadvantages of Hadiths;

- «Risala fil-xilof val-jadal» – on the contradictions and disputes in the Hadith;

- «At-Tarih» – History;

- «Kitab Uz-zuhd» – The Book of Zahid;

- «Kitab ul-asmo val-kuno» – The book of names and verses
- and so on.

■ Abu Isa Imam Termizi's mausoleum was founded in the 11th-12th centuries, and in 2016-2017, at Abu Isa At-Termizi Complex, major repairs and improvement works were carried out. In particular, a 450-seat mosque, a men's and women's ablution room and a kitchen were built in the complex. Five courtyards and three gates have been installed in the yard. The mausoleum of Imam Termizi was rebuilt and an additional vicinity was built beside it.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# THE MAGIC HUNT EVENT

In some parts of the world, rock paintings have been identified and they are unique works of art. Similarly, one of the first examples of such work are Zarautsoy rock paintings, found on the territory of Uzbekistan. They were found in the eastern side of the Kukhitang mountain in the south-west of the Gissar mountain range, 100–110 km north-west of Termez, 5 km north of the village of Kizil olma, Sherabad region, in the Zarautsoy gorge.

From the Zarautkamar cave, over 200 paintings, related to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and later period, drawn with red anchor (octave) in contour and shade style were found in 1912. Zarautsoy's paintings illustrate the scenes of people hunting of wild bulls with the help of dogs. The magic hunting processes, where animals, people are originally depicted, are extremely impressive. Among the Zarautsoy rock paintings the medieval inscriptions in Arabic «Muhammad» is also found.





# THE HEALING CAVE - GIFT OF NATURE

In Uzbekistan, especially in the Khojaikon salt cave, over the years, a spa resort has been developed. One of them is called Speleotherapy – a method of treatment in the salt cave.

The method of speleotherapy treats diseases of the respiratory tract - asthma, chronic bronchitis, pneumonia. It is very beneficial to spend time in salt caves, especially for people with weakened immune system and various skin diseases.

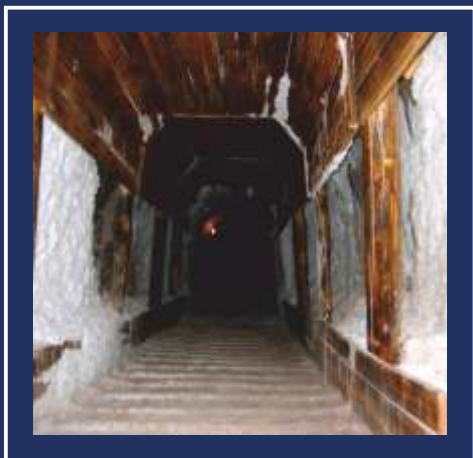
The cave was discovered in 1989.

The advantage of the Khojaikon salt cave from other salt caves is its dry climate and that it is located at an altitude of 1200 meters from sea level. Its length is 155 meters, the volume is 900 meters. There are five medical rooms inside the cave. They differ from each other in temperature, humidity, pressure and microelements.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*



# THE METEORITE LAKE

In the western part of Surkhandarya region, on the territory of natural zone Khamkon, the Kanbeshbulak lake is located. The lake is 800 meters wide. This lake is not natural or artificial, it was formed as a result of the meteorite fall. Many things around the lake remind of traces of meteorite that hit and is the true cosmogonic monuments of nature. In the composition of the soil and river sand near the lake, many tektites (small glass-like bodies) were found, which arose under the influence of high temperature as a result of a meteorite collision with the ground. In the mountains, surrounding the Kashkadarya basin, there are also fragments of large porous and fibrous meteorites and other stones with cosmogonic character. The time, when the Central Asia meteorites fell to Earth, was about 100,000, and some, million years ago.

Do not forget to visit this lake crater and touch "space", because meteorites are the remnants of matter that causes the condensation of solar and planets.





# UNIQUE NATURE GIFT

The interest in the nature of the Surkhon State Nature Reserve is rising not only in Uzbekistan, but also in foreign countries. The total area of the reserve is 24554 hectares. The reserve is rich in plant species, and over 600 species of plants are found in the area. More than 20 plant species are rare, protected and included in the Red Book. They are Tubergen Tulips, Surkhon Tulips, Anzur Berries, Snail Bulb, Red Roses, Boysun Astragali and other plants. The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity on Kukhitang Mountain has also received special attention from international organizations, in particular, UNDP and the GEF. Moreover, the film studio "Uzbektelefilm" produced a film "In the footsteps of argali", telling about the goats with screw horns, which was shown several times on national and foreign TV channels.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# SARVASIA

The Sangardak waterfall located in this area is 205 km from Termez. Water flows from the 150-meter-high mountain and its water drops hit the ground and small parts rise from the ground and form a fog in the air. On the banks of the river grow wild plants such as figs, grapes, noodles, spruce trees and other trees.

The Sangardak Falls are especially beautiful in spring, summer and autumn. Located 30 km away from Sangardak, the resort of Khondiza, where in hot summer days it breathes the cool. The recreation area is a favorite place of the population, located in the picturesque nature of rare plants.

On the way to Sangardak and Khondiza, in Nelu village grows a plane of 22 meters in diameter. Under the plane there is a clear water spring, where fish, named by local population as «Marinka», inhabits.

The peoples of the Scandinavian nations considered the waterfalls as the gateway to the another world. They worshiped them, made sacrifices at waterfalls and performed divine ceremonies. Nowadays, they are considered as natural phenomena, and the waterfalls are attracted by their mystery as before. The water flowing from the waterfall will immediately calm the person and relieve the stress. It is reported that the source of the waterfall of Sangardak is located in the lake inside the cliffs.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# WATER RESOURCES

There are 5 reservoirs in the region, one of which is the Tupalang reservoir. Its construction began in 1982. Today, the dam level is 122 meters and the damaged rocks are 9.1 million tonnes  $m^3$  and water storage at the reservoir amount to 120.3 mln.  $m^3$ .

Tupalangar Water Reservoir - one of the most attractive and brightest places with a beautiful nature landscapes.

The main source of water in the region Surkhandarya is formed due to the laying of Kuratak and Tupalangdarya rivers, flowing from the southern Gissar mountain chain. Surkhandarya in Farsi means «Red River». The length of the river is 175 km, the pool area is 13,500  $km^2$ . From June to August, the river is filled with water. The average water consumption is 6 km and 65.8  $m^3/s$ . There is also a southern Surkhan Water Reservoir.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

A large, faint, light-colored geometric pattern, likely a traditional Islamic tile design, is visible in the background on the left side of the page. It features interlocking lines forming stars and polygons, with circular motifs at the intersections.

# PILGRIMAGE AND TREATMENT





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# THE MIRACLE OF THE EARTH

The resort Khojaipak is located on the tourist route Termiz – Denov. The name of Khojaipak is associated with the name of Abdurahhman ibn And. This cave is located on the slopes of Kenagi Mountain. Length of the cave has not been fully studied by experts. The healing spring that flows from the surface of the cave, flows from a small 45 meter deep underground stream. It flows 200 liters of water per second. The Semashko Research Laboratory has identified sodium, potassium, calcium, sodium hydrocarbonate, silicic acid, nitrogen, iron, aluminum and other microelements in the composition of water. The 1 liter of water in the cave contains 10–11 mlg of sulfur, which is a treatment for the skin, gastrointestinal tract, arthritis, nervous diseases, obstetric-gynecological diseases. There are also natural baths in the cave. People from ancient times used the water for treatment.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# CULTURAL EVENTS AND NATIONAL GAMES

Navruz is a nationwide holiday - a holiday of renewal and re-juvenation, which is celebrated in the early spring, a New Year's Eve for Muslim citizens, and is celebrated on March 21, equally day and night. «Navruz» in Farsi means «new day».

This nature warmly welcomes the wake-up season, with many delicious national dishes such as sumalak, almond, green samsa, green chuchwara. One of them is the tradition of Sumalak from ancient times to the present. One day is needed for the preparation of Sumalak wheat juice and water mixture. Of course, for the preparation of this meal, neighbours, relatives, and wives are involved. Perhaps that is why the name of this dish is called Farsi, «si malak», thirty females. Thus all Uzbek holidays are widely celebrated with the people.

In 2001, Boysun's cultural spaces, its unique rituals, national costumes, folklore samples, and chanqovuz melodies were recognized by UNESCO as «Pearls of Oral and Intangible Heritage» in 2008 and included in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. After that, an open folklore festival «Boysun bahori» began to be traditionally held. Various regions, even folklore groups from neighboring countries will participate in this festival with their performances and national traditions, demonstrating examples of folk arts, and will be held annually in April in the Padang area of the Boysun district.





# FOLK GAMES OF SKILLED RIDERS - KOPKARI

Almost all holidays and important events are held in the territory of Uzbekistan as folk dances. The roots of this tradition go back to the long past, and the whole nation is celebrating holidays so far. At such moments, skillful riders, horsemen and artisans show their skills and abilities, and this is a tradition. Kopkari is one of the most popular folk dance games. Larger width is selected for horseback riding and this is the width up to 1.5 km.

Finish diameter is a 20-meter-high pitch, and the rider is required to take the prey, not losing it out of hand, to bring to the finish. The winning riders are given camels, carpets, valuables and a large amount of money. In ancient times such national games were valued and loved by the people.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

# NATIONAL FOOD

Surkhandarya region's climate is very hot because its residents mostly eat meat products. Almost all of the regional delicacies are served with delicious national dishes. Tandir, cheddar, jiz, shashlik, boiling soup, sausage soup, soup, manti, somsa and other dishes.

These are not the same as the Surkhanians in cooking "Tandir gusht" (meat in tandir). Mixed with mutton sheepskin shells and cooked in special tomato sauce, this dish provides a unique aroma and unique flavor. Syuan Szyan, who has been visiting as our 7th century as a tourist in our land, has written valuable information about the inhabitants of this region, mostly eating and drinking milk and pastries, especially meat, so they look energetic and healthy.





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*







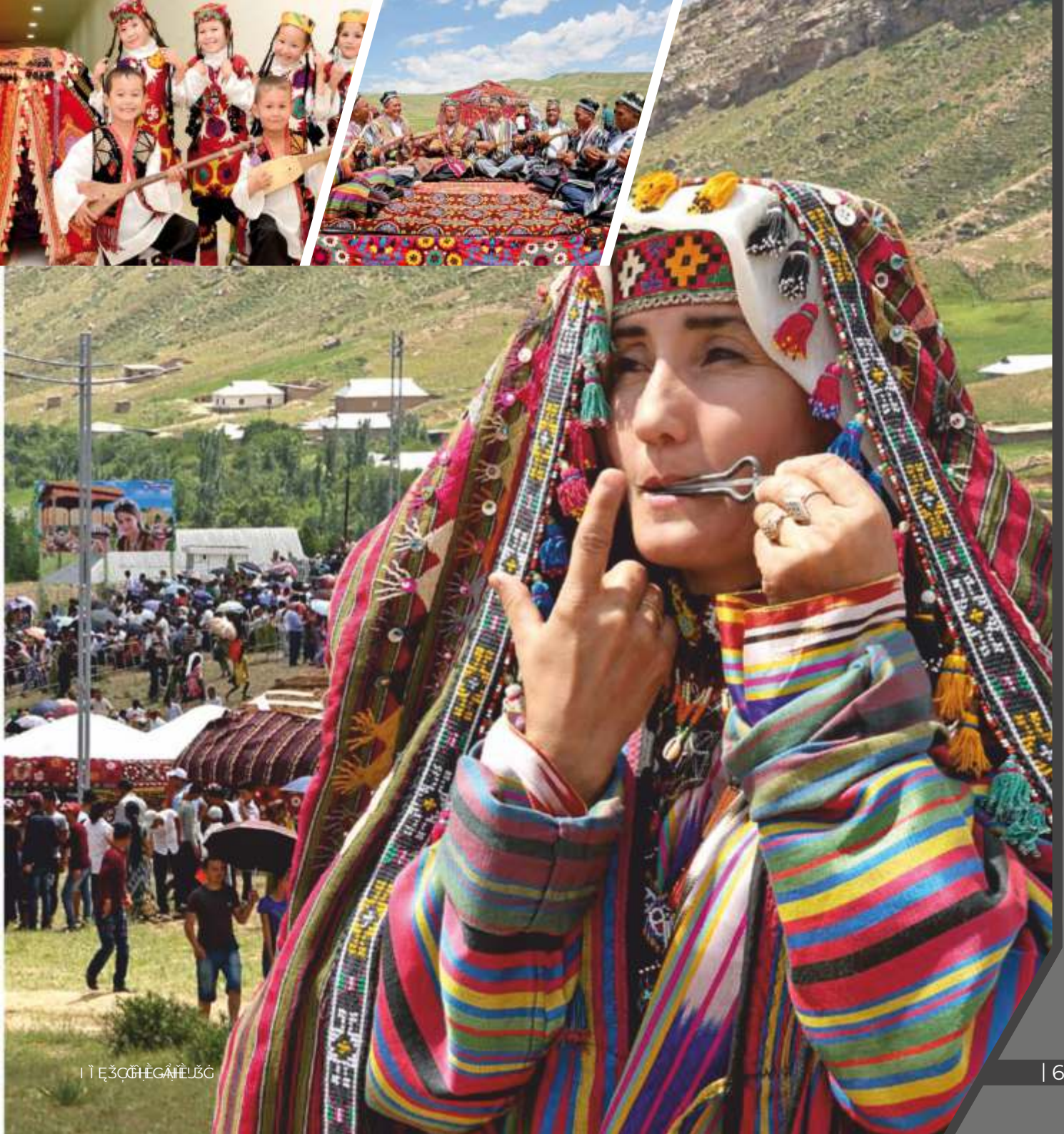


*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

A large, faint, light-colored geometric pattern in the background, consisting of interlocking lines forming a complex star or floral design, typical of Islamic art.

# ART OF BAKHSHI AND FOLKLORE





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*

A large, faded, light-colored geometric pattern, likely a traditional Islamic or Uzbek tile design, consisting of interlocking lines and circular motifs, serves as a background for the central text.

# NATIONAL APPLIED ART





*Surkhandarya. Welcome to a heavenly place!*









Established: March 6, 1941  
Square: 20,1 thousand km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 2,5 млн.  
Length of border: 664,7 км

**Borders with neighbour countries:**

Tadjikistan – 343,1 км;	343,1 км;
Afganistan – 143,0 км;	143,0 км;
Turkmanistan – 93,3 км;	93,3 км;
Kashkadarya region – 85,3 км.	85,3 км.

**Time difference with Moscow:** 2 hours

**Center:** Termez city

**Ethnic groups :**  
uzbek, tadjik, turkmen, russian, tatar, korean, kazakh and so on.

**Natural places:**

Art Palace  
Museum of Archeology  
Puppet theatre  
Piligrimage places  
Buddhist temples  
Orthodox church

Sangardak waterfall  
Zovboshi  
Omonkhona  
Khojaipok





+ (998 71) 200-00-88

UZBEKISTAN.TRAVEL

1163



UZBEKISTAN.TRAVEL



@UZBEKISTAN TRAVEL



UZBEKISTAN TRAVEL



UZB\_TRAVEL