

GROBAL EXCHANGE  
MAGAZINE

# A B O U T U S

## ONE DAY, TWO SCHOOLS

LIFE OF STUDENTS FROM  
DIFFERENT WORLDS

## FROM TRADE TO CULTURE

THE SILK ROAD'S ENDURING LEGACY

## REMEMBERING KORYO SARAM

THE JOURNEY OF A FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

INTERVIEW WITH K-CHAE

CINEMA · BOOKS · CULTURE  
INSPIRATIONS THAT MOVE US



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봉은사  
BONGEUNSA  
Korean Temple



## Message from the Vice Principal of Gyeongsan Jeil High School



It is my great pleasure to extend warm greetings to all readers of this joint journal, published as part of the Korea–Uzbekistan Sister-School Exchange Program. This publication is a meaningful achievement that shows how young people can accomplish remarkable things when they connect beyond borders.

Through this exchange, our students are learning not only to share knowledge but also to respect diversity, embrace global perspectives, and build bridges of trust and empathy.

The collaboration between our two schools embodies the true spirit of international education — one that nurtures peace, curiosity, and lifelong learning.

I believe that the bonds of friendship formed through this program will continue to grow stronger each year, inspiring our students to pursue excellence and mutual respect.

May this journal stand as a symbol of our shared dreams and achievements,

and may it remind us that learning has no boundaries when hearts and minds come together.

Thank you. 사랑합니다.

*Vice principal of  
Gyeongsan Jeil High School*

*Song Myeong ju*



## Message from the Principal of Chust Specialized School



It is a great honor for me to extend warm greetings to all readers of this journal, published within the framework of the Korea–Uzbekistan Sister-School Exchange Program. On behalf of our school community in Chust, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the friendship and cooperation we are building together with Gyeongsan Jeil High School.

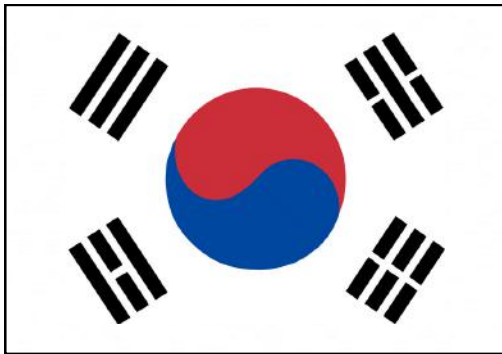
This partnership is more than just an exchange of knowledge—it is a bridge between two cultures, two nations, and two groups of young people who share the same dreams of learning, growth, and a brighter future.

We believe that such collaborations not only enrich education but also strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between Uzbekistan and South Korea. I am confident that our joint efforts will inspire students to achieve excellence and to become ambassadors of peace, cooperation, and innovation. Let this journal serve as a reflection of our shared journey and as a symbol of the lasting friendship between our schools. We look forward to many more meaningful projects, cultural exchanges, and academic successes together.

*Principal of  
Chust Specialized School*

*Akram Ikromalievich Yuldashev*

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KOREA



- ✔ **Capital:** Seoul
- ✔ **Official language:** Korean
- ✔ **Area:** 223,903km<sup>2</sup>
- ✔ **Population:** about 51 million



South Korea is a dynamic country where tradition and modern innovation exist side by side. Located in East Asia, it's known for its rich history, beautiful nature, advanced technology, and vibrant pop culture.

From ancient palaces in Seoul to peaceful temples in the mountains, Korea's heritage reflects thousands of years of culture and philosophy. At the same time, it is home to global technology leaders, high-speed internet, and futuristic cities. Korean food, such as kimchi, bibimbap, and K-BBQ, has become popular worldwide for its unique flavors and healthy ingredients. Meanwhile, K-pop, K-dramas, and K-fashion continue to attract fans across the globe, making Korea a cultural powerhouse. South Korea is also renowned for its world-class education system and rapid economic growth, transforming it into one of the most developed nations in Asia. Above all, Koreans are known for their warmth, hospitality, and strong sense of community. Whether you visit for the history, the food, or the modern lifestyle, Korea welcomes everyone with open arms — a country where the past and the future come together beautifully.



# DISCOVERING UZBEKISTAN



- ✔ **Capital:** Tashkent
- ✔ **Official languages:** Uzbek
- ✔ **Area:** 448,978 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✔ **Population:** over 37 million



Uzbekistan is a land of timeless beauty and vibrant energy, where the echoes of the Silk Road blend with the rhythm of modern life. Nestled in the heart of Central Asia, it's a country of dazzling history, breathtaking architecture, warm-hearted people, and growing innovation.

From the turquoise domes of Samarkand and Bukhara to the lively streets of Tashkent, Uzbekistan's heritage tells stories of scholars, traders, and empires that shaped world culture and science. Each city feels like an open-air museum, yet pulses with the vitality of a nation confidently looking toward the future. Uzbek cuisine is a feast for the senses — plov, somsa, lagman, and fresh fruits bursting with flavor. Every meal reflects the Uzbek spirit of generosity and togetherness. Today, Uzbekistan is not only preserving its magnificent traditions but also embracing progress — building new cities, fostering creativity, and opening its doors wider to the world. Above all, it is the warmth and sincerity of its people that make Uzbekistan unforgettable. Every guest is treated like family, and every journey feels like coming home — a place where history lives and the future shines bright.





태권도  
TAEKWONDO

# GYEONGSAN JEIL HIGH SCHOOL



Gyeongsan Jeil High School, located in Gyeongsan City, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Republic of Korea, is a distinguished private specialized high school for girls, established in 1974. Grounded in the motto, "Be True, Be Wise, Be Beautiful," we are dedicated to helping students develop both the competence and character required to confidently shape their own futures.

Gyeongsan Jeil High School focuses on customized career education that supports students in achieving success in both employment and higher education. Through specialized fields such as Health & Nursing, Service Management, Non-Commissioned Officer & Administration, and Office Accounting, students discover their aptitudes and build in-depth practical knowledge.

Our educational approach goes beyond simple knowledge transfer, focusing on empowering students to participate actively in their learning and develop their creative problem-solving abilities. Instruction in each department features dynamic, practice-oriented lessons designed for real-world application, supplemented by after-school advanced programs and mentoring initiatives that provide a personalized growth roadmap for continuous self-improvement.

This systematic guidance has led to outstanding achievements. Our school is recognized as a leader in employment, recording the highest public servant pass rate in the region. Simultaneously, we consistently achieve success in higher education, with students enrolling in top national universities like Yonsei and Kyungpook National University through regular or Special Admission for Incumbents pathways. Students can choose to become stable professionals in their fields or pursue advanced academics, securing their desired next step.

The school also encourages students to mature into leaders who possess both wisdom and ethical integrity alongside their expertise. We offer diverse club activities and extracurricular programs that allow students to freely express their talents and enhance their individuality. Within a pleasant and secure educational environment, Gyeongsan Jeil High School will continue to support students in realizing their full potential and emerging as capable and responsible female talents who contribute positively to society.

# CHUST SPECIALIZED SCHOOL



Located in the heart of Chust district, Namangan region of Uzbekistan, Chust Specialized School is a place where tradition and modern education come together to prepare students for a successful future. Our school is known for its strong academic programs, dedicated teachers, and talented students who are eager to learn and grow.

As a specialized institution, the school offers classes focused on exact sciences and natural sciences. From Grade 5, students are admitted to the exact sciences track through special entrance exams, while from Grade 7, students can join the natural sciences track. English is taught in depth in both directions, giving students an opportunity to strengthen their global communication skills.

Each class consists of 24 students, but during specialized subject lessons, students are divided into two groups of 12 to ensure individual attention and effective learning. Lessons begin at 8:30 a.m., and after 6–7 main lessons, students stay until around 4:00 p.m. for optional courses, clubs, and extracurricular activities. This system allows students to balance academic study with personal development.

The school's campus provides excellent facilities for learning and growth. It includes two two-story academic buildings, a spacious gym, a stadium, a canteen, and an assembly hall for various events. The schoolyard is beautifully decorated with colorful flowers, fruit trees, ornamental plants, benches, and small resting areas, creating a welcoming and inspiring environment for students.

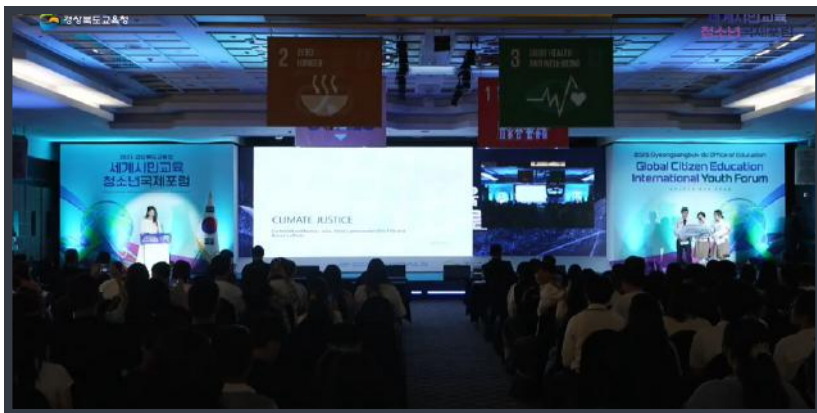
One of the greatest strengths of Chust Specialized School is its teaching staff. Our teachers are highly qualified professionals who continuously work to improve their methods and create an inspiring learning environment. They encourage students to think critically, solve problems, and explore new ideas.

Chust Specialized School is also proud to be part of the Korea–Uzbekistan Sister-School Exchange Program, working closely with Gyeongsan Jeil High School. This partnership opens doors for international cooperation, cultural exchange, and global learning experiences for our students.

Our mission is to educate a new generation of young people who are knowledgeable, responsible, and ready to contribute to society both in Uzbekistan and around the world. With strong values, innovative teaching, and a spirit of friendship, Chust Specialized continues to be a beacon of learning and development in the region.

# GC INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES

Gyeongsan Jeil High School in Korea and Chust Specialized School in Uzbekistan have come together to form a Joint International Exchange Club. Guided by two advisors and supported by 19 student members, the club serves as a special space where young people from both nations learn about each other’s cultures, build understanding, and form lasting friendships across borders. More than simple exchange, this joint club provides students with the opportunity to share ideas, respect differences, and discover common ground—gaining the strength to connect with a wider world. The journey we are taking together is living proof that “even though we are far apart, we are still united as one”—a meaningful experience and a stepping stone toward the future.



## 2025 YOUTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN GYEONGJU

At the 2025 Youth International Forum in Gyeongju, we—students from Korea and Uzbekistan— stood proudly on stage as the very first speakers of the forum. Together, we gave a presentation on SDG 13: Climate Action, focusing on the theme of climate justice. Sharing our ideas in front of an international audience was both challenging and inspiring. It wasn’t just a speech; it was a chance for us to raise our voices about one of the most urgent global issues of our time and to feel, even for a moment, like true representatives of youth from both of our countries.

## PEN PAL LETTERS



We shared our hearts through letters! Writing about school life and hobbies, we exchanged not just words but also warm friendship along with stamps.

## OFFICIAL INSTAGRAM

world\_leaders2025



Our club now runs an official Instagram: [@world\\_leaders2025](https://www.instagram.com/world_leaders2025) Through this account, we share updates from our activities and host a variety of exciting events.

## CULTURE & HISTORY QUIZ & JOINT PHOTO CONTEST

We organized a joint culture and history quiz competition, followed by a photo contest that invited participation from all students in both countries. Korean and Uzbek students joined the same events simultaneously, and the winners were selected together. Although we were miles apart, it felt as if we were sharing the same stage—an experience that left a lasting impression on all of us. What made it even more meaningful was that students beyond our club also joined in, gaining a deeper understanding of each other's country through these activities.



## SHARING CONGRATULATIONS ON EACH OTHER'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

The international exchange club has been fostering warm friendship with students from Uzbekistan. On each country's important national holidays, members learn about the meaning of those days and exchange congratulatory video messages. In particular, during each country's Independence Day, they shared speeches celebrating one another's history and pride. Through these heartfelt interactions, the students are building not just an exchange program, but a genuine bridge of friendship and mutual cultural understanding. These exchanges strengthen their bond and encourage mutual respect and global awareness.

## GROUP CHAT CLASSES

During Uzbekistan's vacation period, we held group discussion sessions every two weeks online. We introduced ourselves, played cultural games, and engaged in in-depth conversations on various social issues. In total, six group chat sessions were conducted, and in September and October, live online discussion classes are held. Through this, students are fostering global citizenship and intercultural understanding.



# LEE YOUNG-WOONG

## ENVISIONS THE FUTURE OF KOREA– UZBEKISTAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

Since his appointment as Director of the Korean Education Center in Tashkent in August 2024, Dr. Lee Young-woong has been at the forefront of strengthening educational cooperation between Korea and Uzbekistan. He emphasizes the importance of expanding Korean language education, fostering international exchange, and building sustainable educational partnerships for the next generation. In his interview, Dr. Lee shared his vision for how these initiatives will shape the future and offered words of encouragement to students in both countries.



### **Please give us a brief self-introduction**

My name is Young-woong Lee, and I am the Director of the Korean Education Center in Tashkent. I assumed this post on August 21, 2024, and will serve for a three-year term until August 20, 2027. Before this appointment, I worked at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea as a researcher and senior researcher, mainly responsible for formulating policies related to primary and secondary education.

### **Describe the role and mission of the Korean Education Center in Tashkent**

The Korean Education Center is an institution established by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea under Article 28 of the Act on the Support of Education for Overseas Koreans, etc. Our Tashkent center was founded in May 1992, the same year that diplomatic relations between Korea and Uzbekistan were established (January 1992). Since then, we have been carrying out key roles such as promoting and expanding Korean language education in Uzbekistan, supporting and attracting international students, and fostering educational exchange and cooperation with local institutions.

*Korean Education Center in Tashkent*

*Established: May 27, 1992*

*Director: Lee Young Woong*

*Phone: +998-71-291-8182*

*Official website: [tashkec.uz](http://tashkec.uz)*

*Location: 3 Tallimarjon Street, Mirabad District, Tashkent, Uzbekistan*

### **Tell us about the new programs and future vision of the Center**

The Tashkent Korean Education Center is currently operating a variety of programs to promote educational exchange between Korea and Uzbekistan. We will continue to expand support so that cooperation between schools, teachers, and students can become even more active. At the same time, we will strive to establish a sustainable system of educational exchange that will ensure long-term growth.

### **Explain the competencies students can gain through international exchange**

We are already living in a globalized world, thanks to the rapid development of information technology and transportation. In such a world, the most important competencies and values are communication skills, mutual understanding, and empathy.

Through international exchange, students can deepen their knowledge of other languages and cultures, while also learning to respect diversity and appreciate the value of working together.

### **Share your advice for Uzbek students learning Korean**

First of all, I would like to thank you for your interest in Korea and the Korean language. As Korea's economy and culture have grown to a global level, more and more people around the world are learning Korean. Uzbekistan, at the national level, places great importance on foreign language education and provides opportunities to study a wide range of languages at school. I believe that if you continue to study Korean diligently through your school education, you will gain valuable opportunities to communicate with the wider world.

### **Share your perspective on the future of educational cooperation between Korea and Uzbekistan**

Both Korea and Uzbekistan place a very high value on education. As special strategic partners, our two nations are steadily expanding cooperation in the educational sector. Alongside governmental collaboration, there is also rapidly growing interest and demand for exchange at the level of schools and students.

The Tashkent Korean Education Center will continue to do its best to transform this demand into practical cooperation, ensuring that both countries benefit from stronger ties in education.

### **Leave a message for students participating in exchanges**

The world we live in is like a vast forest, made up of many smaller forests—each representing different nations, cultures, and values. In today's global era, understanding ourselves, while also respecting and empathizing with others, is one of the most essential values of life.

I sincerely hope that through international exchange activities, our students will learn to respect others, to embrace diversity, and to treasure the value of working together.



# A Bridge Between Korea and Uzbekistan



## **UMAROV BOBURJAN, A KOREAN LANGUAGE TEACHER IN UZBEKISTAN**

Meet Umarov Boburjon, the Korean language teacher who first linked Gyeongsan Jeil High School with Chust High School in Uzbekistan.

Even now, he continues to drive cultural exchange and friendship between the two countries.

Currently a graduate student at Chungnam National University, he is dedicated to sharing the beauty of Korean language and culture with the next generation. We conducted this interview with him in Korean, and for convenience, the content has been translated into English here.

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### **Please introduce yourself first.**

My name is Boburjon, and I am originally from Uzbekistan.

At present, I am pursuing my graduate studies at Chungnam National University in Korea.

From an early age, I have had a deep interest in learning foreign languages, and among them, the Korean language have held a special fascination for me.

### **How has life in Korea been for you?**

In the beginning, it was somewhat challenging to adapt to a completely new environment. However, over time, I was able to make Korean friends and gradually became comfortable with my academic life.

I feel very satisfied living in Korea, as I can experience its diverse culture firsthand and continue to learn new things every day.

### **What led you to choose and eventually teach the Korean language?**

My initial interest in Korean came through watching movies. That curiosity soon grew into a strong desire to gain a deeper understanding of Korean history and culture. This motivation eventually led me to study the Korean language in earnest, and, in time, I felt a calling to pass on that knowledge by teaching others.

### **what does it mean to work as a Korean language teacher in Uzbekistan?**

To me, it is both a great responsibility and a tremendous source of pride. Teaching Korean requires dedication, but the rewards are invaluable. Whenever I see students' eyes sparkle with enthusiasm and ambition as they engage with the language, I experience a profound sense of fulfillment.



**What do students most enjoy and struggle with when learning Korean?**

Students are especially excited when they are able to understand the lyrics of Korean songs or watch dramas and films without relying on subtitles. These moments give them a sense of achievement and joy. On the other hand, they often find the complexity of Korean grammar—particularly the many honorific verb forms—quite difficult to master.

**What special experiences can language exchange provide?**

Language learning goes far beyond memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules. It enables learners to view the world from a new perspective. Through language exchange, people can come to understand each other's values, form genuine friendships, and build cultural bridges that connect societies.

**How do people in Uzbekistan view Korea and Koreans?**

The image of Koreans in Uzbekistan is overwhelmingly positive. People generally view Koreans as hardworking, disciplined, and well-mannered individuals. In addition, Korean dramas, music, and cuisine enjoy remarkable popularity, especially among the younger generation, further strengthening this favorable impression.

**What aspects of Korean culture do you want to share with your students?**

I would especially like to share with them the spirit of community that is deeply rooted in Korean society, often referred to as the “we” culture. This sense of cooperation and solidarity is deeply admirable and, I believe, carries great value as a lesson for students.

**Are there any new challenges or programs you would like to try in the future?**

Yes, I would like to incorporate more multimedia resources into my teaching to make lessons even more engaging and dynamic. For instance, I am considering interactive online programs or small-scale projects that center on various aspects of Korean culture. I believe these approaches could greatly enrich the learning experience.

**Finally, what message of encouragement would you like to share with the students who are participating in the creation of this magazine?**

Learning a language is a journey that requires patience, dedication, and perseverance. Even if you make progress little by little each day, you will undoubtedly achieve your goals in time. Always believe in yourselves, and never give up on your dreams. From the bottom of my heart, I offer you my sincere support and encouragement.

# ABOUT TEENS

Being a teenager is a journey of growth, dreams, and discovery.

**Let's take a closer look at their stories**


— their days, their heroes, and their dreams.



# A Day in the Life of a Korean Student

Hello! I'm a Korean student working hard for my future. My daily routine is pretty regular, but every day I discover something new about myself and grow along the way.

Let's take a look at my colorful day!

 **8:20 AM:**

## A Fresh Start to the Day!

My school starts at 8:20 AM. After a hectic morning getting ready, I grab the bag I packed the night before and head out early. The bus is always packed, and if I'm late, I have to stand, but at least, it's a good workout for my legs in the morning! 🚌

 **At School:**

## Opening the Door to Knowledge!

By 8:40 AM, I've done some light exercise and cleaned the classroom to start the day fresh. Classes start at 9:00 AM, and they're always interesting. There are lots of presentations and group activities, so I never get bored!

 **Lunchtime:**

## The Best Part of the Day!

Finally, it's time for lunch! Korean school meals are the best—healthy and delicious! We always have rice, soup, and kimchi, and the menu changes every day, which makes it exciting. When it's snack day, like tteokbokki and sundae, my friends and I are thrilled—it's like a little celebration! 😊



	월	화	수	목	금
1교시 9:00-9:50	창체	국어	사회(조)	수학	한문
2교시 10:00-10:50	한문	치과(실)	국어	병원	병원
3교시 11:50-11:50	사회(성)	치과(실)	영어	한문	수학
4교시 12:50-12:50	병원	치과(실)	치과(유)	체육(곽)	체육(김)
5교시 13:40-14:30	수학	병원	병원	영어	치과
6교시 14:40-15:30	치과(유)	체육(곽)	진로	사회	영어
7교시 15:40-16:30	동아리				국어

### ✨ After School :

### Growing One Step Closer to My Dream!

Even after class ends, many of my friends stay at school to continue studying. We have a special self-study room called the "Vision Classroom," where we do homework, prepare for projects, and focus on personal growth. I also use this time to review what I learned that day and memorize important things. These small efforts add up to something valuable. 📖

### 🌙 10:00 PM :


### Wrapping Up the Day and Resting for Tomorrow!

I usually get home around 10:00 PM. After a warm shower, I finish my homework. During exam periods, I sometimes stay up late to study. On regular nights, I either watch my favorite dramas, chat with friends, or spend time with my family to wind down. 🛋️

My daily life might seem simple and repetitive, but I'm enjoying every opportunity to learn and grow. Thanks to the passionate teaching from my teachers and the fun lessons, I've learned to enjoy learning. I believe this daily routine is a precious process that's helping me become better every day! ❤️



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT IN UZBEKISTAN

I'm   
Lochinbeck

## Morning :

### The Race Against Time

My alarm rings at 6:30 a.m. and, like most teenagers, I usually want "just five more minutes." But there's no time to waste. I quickly get ready, eat a piece of fresh bread with butter, jam or honey and tea a typical Uzbek breakfast and head out. On the way to school, I often meet my classmates. We chat about homework, football matches, or even the latest social media trends.

## At School :

### Lessons and Learning

Our school day usually starts at 8:30 a.m. The curriculum is quite demanding with core subjects such as Math, English, Physics, Literature, History of Uzbekistan, World History, Russian Language, Geography, Computer Science, PE, Moral Education and Basic Pre-Military Training. We usually have six or seven lessons a day. Between classes, the corridor becomes noisy with laughter and conversations. We head to different classrooms according to the cabinet system. Unlike the homeroom system, where students stay in one classroom all day, our school follows cabinet system, where we move among subject classrooms.

Being a student in Uzbekistan is both challenging and exciting. Every day feels like a new adventure, filled with books, friends, lessons, and small moments that shape who I am becoming. Let me take you through a typical day in my life as a student.



## Lunch and Friends

Lunch is one of my favorite parts of the day. The school canteen serves national dishes like palov, somsa and shashlik, as well as some popular international foods and snacks like pizza and hot dog. Sitting together, sharing jokes, and even complaining about the next test creates a strong bond between us.

## Afternoon : More Than Just Books

After the main lessons, I often join extracurricular activities. For example, on Mondays I go to the debate club, where we practice expressing opinions confidently. On Fridays, I attend English club, which helps me improve my speaking skills and prepare for the future. Thursday is probably the most favorite day of the week for many students, because that is when the intellectual game Zakovat takes place. The game not only helps us relieve the stress of studying, but also sharpens our logical thinking and expands the capacity of our minds to absorb and process information. In one of our elective classes, we study German as a second foreign language, but this year the addition of Korean to the program has made us especially excited. Altogether, with different clubs, extracurricular programs, and extra lessons the school day often extends until about 4 p.m.



## Evening : Balancing Work and Rest

When I get home, I usually take a short break, have dinner, drink some green tea, and then start homework. Of course, I sometimes get distracted by my phone, but deadlines push me back to my desk. By evening, I try to spend time with my family. We often watch TV together or simply talk about the day.



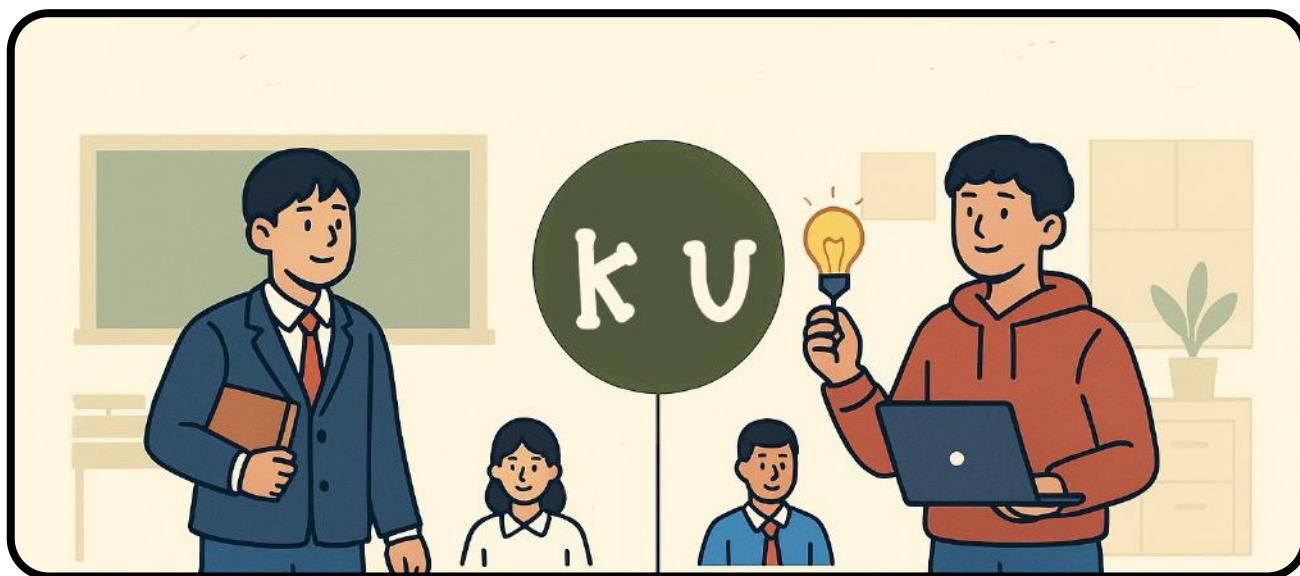
At first, it might seem like every day is the same: wake up, go to school, study, go home, sleep. But in reality, every day is a small story of growth. Whether it's solving a difficult math problem, learning a new English phrase, or laughing with friends, each moment teaches me something valuable.

Being a student is not always easy, but it is full of opportunities. And I believe that these days filled with both challenges and joys are the foundation of my future.



## Teachers and Entrepreneurs

# How Korean and Uzbek Students Dream of the Future



The job preferences of high school students in Korea and Uzbekistan clearly reflect the economic values and future visions of their societies.

In Korea, students have chosen “teacher” as their most preferred job for several years, showing a strong tendency to value stability. On the other hand, students in Uzbekistan most often choose “entrepreneur,” revealing a strong desire for economic success and leadership.

In addition to teachers, Korean students also prefer professional jobs such as nurses and doctors. Recently, the popularity of the military has risen sharply, showing a growing preference for stable public-sector jobs.

At the same time, the career landscape of Korean students is rapidly changing. The percentage of students who want to go to college after graduation is decreasing, while the number of students who wish to get a job right away is increasing. This shows that, in a time of academic inflation and an uncertain job market, students are becoming more practical, preferring vocational training and an early start to their careers. Future-oriented jobs such as computer engineers, software developers, and life scientists also rank high, showing strong interest in future industries.

Meanwhile, in Uzbekistan, top-ranked dream jobs among high school students include entrepreneurs and IT programmers.

This reflects the dynamic nature of Uzbekistan’s young society and its strong desire for economic growth, along with the government’s open economic policies. It also shows that the government’s focus on digital transformation and information and communication technology (ICT) has deeply influenced students’ awareness. Doctors also remain among the most preferred jobs, showing that traditional respect for professional careers still exists.

Uzbek students tend to value high income and career growth when choosing a job, which contrasts with Korean students’ preference for stability and reflects a growth- and achievement-oriented mindset.



**Students are  
the leaders of tomorrow.**

They always change the world —  
through their courage, creativity,  
and compassion.

LET'S EXPLORE  
THEIR **HEROIC**  
STORIES

**THEIR  
STORIES**

# YOUNG HEROS

REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
UZBEKISTAN

MAKE OUR WORLD BEAUTIFUL

# OUR FUTURE GUARDIANS

## YOUNG ECO-HEROES OF TODAY



### A young hero is turning the world green

Living in Jeju changed the way one teenager looked at the island's coastline. Ryu Ji-yul (18), a student at Korea International School, Jeju Campus, started a volunteer club with his school friends and has been cleaning the beaches twice a month.

He first joined a local environmental group called "Save Jeju Sea," but wanted to share a more hands-on, meaningful experience with his peers, so he founded the club. "Having lived in Jeju, I began to notice far more litter along the shore than I did when I only visited as a tourist. I couldn't just walk past it," he says. While photos of Jeju often show pristine scenes, a closer look at the ground reveals piles of trash.



Over the past two years, Ryu and about 30 club members have regularly cleaned the shoreline. He admits that the work can feel limited at times—picking up litter in Jeju won't solve the ocean's problems by itself—but comparing photos from before and after each cleanup gives them a real sense of accomplishment. That visible change keeps them going. Ryu also uses social media to share photos and reports from their activities, encouraging more people to join. Beyond simply collecting trash, he hopes to raise awareness and inspire action. "Now, even when I go out with my family or visit tourist sites, I find myself picking up trash first and only then starting to enjoy the visit," he laughs. Ryu Ji-yul's efforts show that small actions can lead to meaningful change. His steady commitment to protecting the sea is opening new perspectives on the environment among his peers, and one young person's example is beginning to influence others far beyond Jeju.



# A YOUNG HERO WHO BROUGHT GREAT CHANGE

Yu Gwan-sun was a young independence activist who was born in Cheonan in 1902.

She was a student at Ewha Haktang, and in 1919 she took part in the March 1st Movement in Seoul.

The March 1st Movement started because Korea was suffering under Japanese rule. People wanted freedom, so they went out into the streets holding the Korean flag and shouting, "Long live Korean independence!" Even though many were hurt or killed by Japanese soldiers,

the voices of that day spread all over the country and showed the strong will of the Korean people.

When Yu Gwan-sun returned to her hometown, she planned another independence protest with her family and neighbors. On April 1, 1919, she led a big demonstration at the Aunae marketplace in Byeongcheon. Many people joined, waving the Korean flag and calling for independence.

It gave great hope to the local community. After the protest, Yu was arrested.

In prison, she never gave up and kept shouting for independence. Sadly, after heavy torture and hunger,

she died at the young age of 18. Although her life was short, Yu Gwan-sun's bravery and

sacrifice became a lasting symbol of Korea's independence movement. After Korea was liberated,

she was honored as a national hero and awarded the Order of Merit for National Foundation.

Today, she is still remembered as a brave young girl who gave her life for her country.

Her story teaches us about the importance of freedom and the courage to stand up for what is right.



# INCREDIBLE YOUNG CHESS HERO



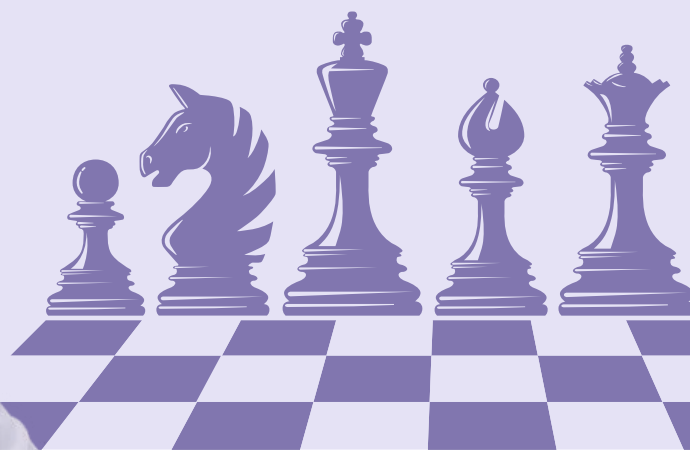
## NODIRBEK ABDUSATTOROV SHINES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Nodirbek Abdusattorov is a chess prodigy from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, who has gained international recognition for his exceptional talent at a young age. Born in 2004, he began playing chess at the age of four and won the World Youth Chess Championship (Under-8 category) at just eight years old. By the age of thirteen, he earned the title of Grandmaster from the International Chess Federation (FIDE), becoming one of the youngest players in history to do so.

His global breakthrough came in 2021 when, at the age of seventeen, Abdusattorov won the World Rapid Chess Championship. In this prestigious event, he defeated several of the world's top players, including Magnus Carlsen, and became the youngest champion in the tournament's history. In 2022, Abdusattorov led the Uzbekistan national team as the top board player at the 44th Chess Olympiad. Under his leadership, the team won the gold medal, and he also earned an individual silver medal. This marked a historic moment for Uzbekistan, as it was the country's first gold medal in the event.



Abdusattorov's success has had a significant impact on youth and sports development in Uzbekistan. His achievements have inspired many young people across the country to take up chess, and interest in the game has grown rapidly. In response, the government and national chess federation have expanded youth training programs and increased support for international competition. More than a sports figure, Abdusattorov has become a symbol of possibility for Uzbekistan's younger generation. His story demonstrates how dedication and talent can elevate not only an individual, but also a nation's presence on the global stage.



# INCREDIBLE YOUNG CHESS HERO 2!



## JAVOKHIR SINDAROV A GRANDMASTER AT 12

Javokhir Sindarov is a rising chess star from Uzbekistan. At just 12 years and 10 months old, he became the second youngest Grandmaster (GM) in the world. This achievement was remarkable, as earning the GM title at such a young age is very rare. His success has made Uzbekistan proud and put the country on the world chess map.

### Success on the International Stage

Sindarov has also shined in team competitions. In 2022, he helped Uzbekistan win a gold medal at the International Chess Olympiad. The following year, he won a bronze medal at the 2023 Asian Games, continuing to show his skill and determination on the global stage.

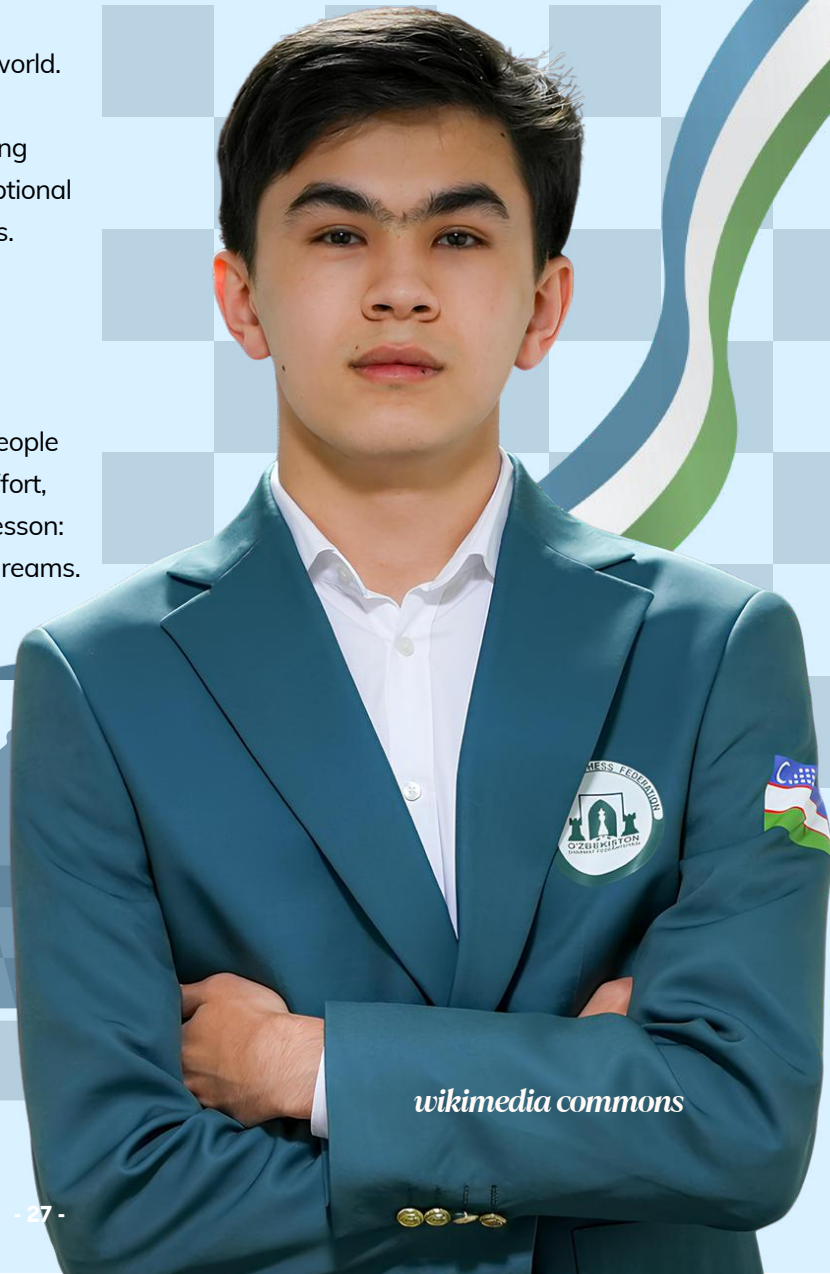
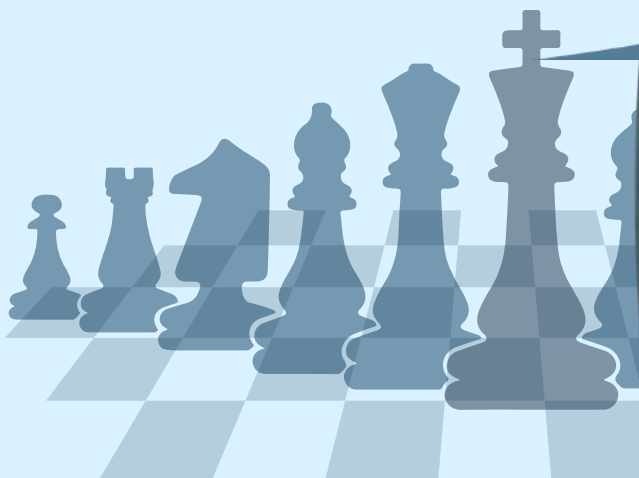


### Victories Over Top Players

Javokhir has defeated some of the top players in the world. He won matches against high-ranked opponents like Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, shocking the chess community. These wins confirmed his exceptional talent and earned him respect among the best players.

### A Leader for Uzbekistan's Future

Javokhir Sindarov is more than just a chess player. He is a leader who represents Uzbekistan's future. Through his achievements, he inspires many young people in his country, showing them that with passion and effort, anything is possible. His story teaches an important lesson: age doesn't matter when it comes to achieving your dreams.



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# FIND FRIENDS!

GC INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB



Want to make new friends from  
Uzbekistan or Korea?  
Just scan the **QR code** and fill out  
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FIND YOUR NEW  
**FOREIGN FRIENDS!**



Photo by Kchae

# The Great Silk Road :

## A Bridge of Cultures and Civilizations

The Great Silk Road was not only a network of trade routes but also a lifeline of civilization that connected East and West for centuries. Stretching thousands of kilometers, this ancient road linked China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, carrying silk, spices, paper, ceramics, and precious stones. Yet, more importantly, it carried ideas, religions, technologies, and cultural traditions that shaped the world as we know it today.

For Uzbekistan and Korea, the Silk Road holds a special place in history. Uzbekistan, located at the very heart of Central Asia, was one of the main crossroads of caravans. Cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva became world-famous centers of science, architecture, and commerce. Scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi and Ulughbek made groundbreaking contributions in mathematics and astronomy, while artisans decorated madrasas and mosques with turquoise tiles admired by travelers from afar. Even today, walking through Samarkand's Registan Square feels like stepping into a living museum of the Silk Road era.



Among these historic routes, the ancient and youthful town of Chust in the Namangan region also proudly stood along the Silk Road.

Chust, famous today for its traditional blacksmithing and the world-renowned Chust knives, as well as its iconic Chust skullcaps (do'ppis), once welcomed caravans and traders who brought with them new products, cultures, and ideas.

These embroidered do'ppis, with their unique patterns and symbolism, became a symbol of identity and pride, just as they remain today. Chust's strategic location made it an important stop for merchants traveling across the Fergana Valley, strengthening the city's role as both a commercial hub and a cultural meeting point. The echoes of the Silk Road spirit still live on in Chust's craft traditions and hospitality.

Korea, particularly during the Shilla Dynasty (57 BC – 935 AD), was also connected to this vibrant trade network. Known as the “Eastern End of the Silk Road,” Korea imported silk weaving techniques, glassware, and Buddhist texts from China and Central Asia. In return, Korean ceramics and refined craftsmanship traveled westward.



*Goryeo celadon*



*A group of tourists riding camels*

Historical records mention envoys and merchants who journeyed between Korea and Central Asia, roving that the Silk Road was not just about goods, but also about cultural and diplomatic exchanges.

One fascinating fact is that Korean celadon ceramics, famous for their jade-green color, found their way to Central Asia through the Silk Road. Meanwhile, Central Asian horse breeds—valued for their speed and endurance—were highly sought after by Korean kingdoms. This mutual exchange highlights how both regions contributed to a shared heritage of knowledge and beauty.

The Silk Road also had profound social and economic significance. Markets flourished along caravan routes, giving birth to cosmopolitan societies where diverse languages, cuisines, and traditions blended. In Uzbekistan, caravanserais provided shelter for travelers and merchants,

while in Korea, port cities like Gyeongju welcomed foreign traders. These meeting points became melting pots of creativity and innovation.

Today, the legacy of the Silk Road continues to inspire cooperation between Uzbekistan and South Korea. Both countries celebrate their shared history through cultural festivals, academic research, and UNESCO heritage projects. Modern initiatives such as the “New Silk Road” echo the same vision: building bridges of friendship, trade, and knowledge across continents.

The story of the Great Silk Road reminds us that true wealth lies not only in material exchange but also in the sharing of wisdom and culture. It is a timeless lesson—one that Uzbekistan, with proud towns like Chust and its enduring traditions, and Korea, as heirs of this heritage, continue to honor in the modern world.

SPECIAL REPORT

# KORYO SARAM

## THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY

### The Legacy of Koryo-saram: Resilience, Culture, and Friendship in Central Asia

**W**hen people think of Uzbekistan's history, they often recall the grandeur of Samarkand's Registan, the minarets of Bukhara, or the legacy of scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi, Avicenna, and Ulughbek. Yet, there is another story — quieter but equally profound — that belongs to the modern history of Uzbekistan and Central Asia. It is the story of the Koryo-saram, ethnic Koreans who, despite hardship, carved out a new life in Central Asia and left a lasting mark on the cultural, economic, and social fabric of the region.

#### Who Are the Koryo-saram?

At the end of the 19th century, many Koreans crossed the Tumen River to escape poverty and oppression. In the unfamiliar land of Russia, they put down roots again and came to be known as Koryo-saram, or ethnic Koreans. Their lives were full of hardships, but they left important marks in history. Farming in barren soil and building new villages, they also became strong supporters of the Korean independence movement, never letting go of their ties to their homeland. In Vladivostok's Shinhan Village, independence leaders gathered, and figures such as Hong Beom-do, Choi Jae-hyung, Lee Sang-seol, and Lee Dong-hwi dreamed of national liberation there. Among them, General Hong Beom-do stands out. Born in poverty in Pyongan Province, he developed excellent shooting skills through

hunting and later joined the Righteous Army to fight against Japanese troops after the Korean military was disbanded in 1907. He organized the Korean Independence Army in Manchuria and, in 1920, led the famous Battle of Bongodong, where independence forces defeated Japanese troops and boosted the spirit of the Korean people. He also took part in the Battle of Cheongsanri, becoming one of the key leaders of the anti-Japanese struggle. Living in exile in Russia and Central Asia, he kept



*In a time when the nation was lost, he never lost his conviction — General Hong Beom-do.*



The wind carried them far from home, yet their roots found new soil and grew again. Where the sands of Uzbekistan meet the winds of Korea, the Koryo-saram live on – as bridges between people and nations.

***“We are not a lost name,  
but a people who have blossomed again on new soil.”***

the dream of independence alive until his death in Kazakhstan in 1943. His remains were returned to South Korea in 2021 and buried at the Daejeon National Cemetery. Many other independence fighters, too, devoted their lives to the liberation of Korea even in distant foreign lands. Without the support of the Koryo-saram community, the foundation of overseas independence movements would have been much weaker. However, in 1937, the Stalin regime of the Soviet Union labeled them as “potential Japanese spies” and forced about 170,000 Koreans to move to Central Asia. During the long journey by train, countless people died. Overnight, the Koryo-saram lost their homes and had to survive in deserts and wastelands. Yet, with their diligence, they introduced rice farming and vegetable cultivation, contributing greatly to the development of agriculture in Central Asia. Today, more than 500,000 Koryo-saram live in countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Although many generations lost their Korean language, they still keep their identity. The history of the Koryo-saram is more than just a story of migrants. It reflects the strong life force of the Korean people, who endured oppression under two empires and continued to dedicate themselves to their homeland, even as strangers in a foreign land.

### *Language, Education, and Cultural Revival*

In the early years, Korean-language schools and newspapers had flourished. Soviet assimilation policies brought a gradual linguistic shift to Russian and, following independence, Uzbek. Only 15% of Uzbekistan's Koryo-saram could speak Korean as a mother tongue, though there is growing interest in the language due to economic and cultural exchange with South Korea, a 2009 survey showed. Korean Cultural Centers nationwide, such as in Tashkent, have offered language classes, traditional dance classes, and cultural activities. Over 2,000 students enrolled in Korean language courses across the nation in 2022, reflecting a rekindling of national pride.

### *Cuisine and Everyday Life*

Koryo-saram cuisine is a fusion of Korean, Russian, and Uzbek cuisine. Such dishes as morkovcha (hot carrot salad), kuksu (cold noodle soup), and pyan-se (steamed buns with meat and vegetables) are routine fare. Morkovcha, for example, was created as a substitute for kimchi when daikon radish was unavailable, and it is now eaten by everyone in Uzbekistan. Korean-Uzbek restaurants are favorites in Tashkent and serve as bridges of culture.

## *Festivals, Arts, and Integration*

Koryo-saram cuisine is a fusion of Korean, Russian, and Uzbek cuisine. Such dishes as morkovcha (hot carrot salad), kuksu (cold noodle soup), and pyan-se (steamed buns with meat and vegetables) are routine fare. Morkovcha, for example, was created as a substitute for kimchi when daikon radish was unavailable, and it is now eaten by everyone in Uzbekistan regardless of ethnicity. Korean-Uzbek restaurants are favorites in Tashkent and serve as bridges of culture.

## *Economic Life and Contributions*

Koryo-saram were instrumental in introducing advanced rice cultivation to Uzbekistan, especially in the Ferghana Valley. Today, they are represented in diverse sectors—education, medicine, science, and business. According to a 2020 survey, Koryo-saram have higher-than-average rates of university education and are prominent among the country’s scientific and medical professionals.

## *Literature: A Unique Voice in Diaspora*

Koryo-saram literature is a powerful testament to the community’s struggle, adaptation, and cultural synthesis. Early writers, such as Cho Tong-hyon, chronicled the trauma of forced relocation and the longing for a lost homeland. In the postwar decades, writers like Kim Byung-hak and Anatoly Kim explored identity, memory, and the challenges of assimilation.

"The Cranes are Flying," a poem by Kim Byung-hak, is emblematic of this genre, reflecting on migration and resilience. Anatoly Kim, perhaps the most internationally recognized Koryo-saram writer, has published novels and essays in Russian, delving into themes of displacement, memory, and the search for belonging. His novel "Father-Forest" (Otets-Les) is acclaimed for its lyrical style and philosophical depth.

Koryo Ilbo, a long-running newspaper, has played a crucial role in supporting literary expression. It publishes poetry, short stories, and essays in both Russian and Korean, fostering intergenerational dialogue and cultural self-reflection.

Contemporary Koryo-saram writers increasingly engage with questions of identity, globalization, and the experience of returning or visiting South

Korea. Their works are gaining attention in literary circles both in Central Asia and among the Korean diaspora worldwide.

Lavrenti Son, a notable Koryo-saram playwright, wrote the play Memory (기억), performed by the Korean Theatre of Kazakhstan. The theatre company became a bridge between Korean culture and Central Asian audiences, performing in Korean dialect and Russian, celebrating the shared histories of resilience and survival.

Koryo-saram writers like Anatoli Kim wrote in Russian, blending Korean themes with the language and culture of their new home, which helped promote understanding and respect between communities.

## *Film and Documentaries:*

### *Sharing Stories of Unity*

Documentaries such as Koryo Saram: The Unreliable People (2006) highlight how the Koryo-saram integrated into Central Asian societies while keeping their cultural identity alive. These films show Koryo-saram working alongside locals, contributing to farming collectives, education, and industry, and forming lasting friendships. Similarly, Sen-bong (Avangard: Koreyskiy Kolkhoz) (1946), a Soviet film about a Korean collective farm in Kazakhstan, portrays the collaborative spirit between Koryo-saram and other ethnic groups during a difficult post-deportation period.

### *Music: A Harmony of Cultures*

Music is another space where friendship blossomed. The Koryo-saram adopted and contributed to the rich musical traditions of Central Asia while preserving Korean folk songs.

One iconic figure, Viktor Tsoi, a rock musician of Koryo-saram descent, became a symbol of youth and change in the Soviet Union, appealing to diverse audiences beyond ethnic lines.

Community events in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan often feature performances of “Koryo Arirang,” a hybrid folk song blending Korean melodies with Central Asian influences, symbolizing the harmony between cultures.

## *Looking Ahead:*

### *Friendship and Cultural Legacy*

The story of the Koryo-saram is not just one of survival, but of friendship — with the countries that

became their new homes, and the people who welcomed them.

Through literature, theatre, film, music, food, and daily life, Koryo-saram and Central Asians have built lasting bonds, showing that even after forced displacement, friendship and cultural exchange can thrive.

Their shared history is a powerful reminder that new roots can grow in unexpected places — and that friendship across borders is a form of resilience.

### *Koryo-saram in Korea:*

#### *An Era of Return and Coexistence*

Since the 1990s, as international exchange expanded, many descendants of Koryo-saram returned to the land of their ancestors. Today, tens of thousands of Koryo-saram live in South Korea, and a large portion of them are from Uzbekistan. They can be found across the country — in factories and service industries, on farms, and within the daily life of small and medium-sized cities. Neighborhoods with concentrated Koryo-saram populations — such as Yeonsu District in Incheon, Wongok-dong in Ansan, and Wolgok-dong in Gwangju — have become small versions of Central Asia. Russian words hang beside Korean signs,

Russian-language worship fills the churches, and markets sell Uzbek plov alongside Korean carrot kimchi, morkovcha.

Children learn Korean at school while speaking Russian and Uzbek at home. Within their daily lives coexist the warmth of Central Asia and the diligence of Korea. As migrant workers and members of multicultural families, the Koryo-saram have become active participants in South Korea's transition toward a truly multicultural and multilingual society.

Though institutional barriers and language difficulties still remain, programs for Korean-language education, legal assistance, youth support, and community-building continue to grow steadily. No longer outsiders, the Koryo-saram are emerging as members of a new era — living bridges that connect Korea and Uzbekistan. From the sandy winds of Uzbekistan to the bright lights of Korean cities, the Koryo-saram continue to write a shared history — one that carries the enduring name of “connection.”



# THE JOURNEY OF GREAT INDEPENDENCE

## INDEPENDENCE

Independence is one of the most powerful milestones in a nation's history. It marks the moment when a people reclaim their right to self-determination, restore their cultural identity, and shape their own destiny. For Uzbekistan and the Republic of South Korea, independence came through different struggles and at different times, but both experiences share common themes of resilience, cultural revival, and the pursuit of progress.



## UZBEKISTAN'S ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

### Historical Background

Uzbekistan, a land at the heart of the Silk Road, has always been a crossroads of civilizations. Cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva were once centers of trade, science, and culture. Yet by the 19th century, much of Central Asia had been absorbed into the Russian Empire, and later into the Soviet Union.

Under Soviet rule, Uzbekistan was modernized but heavily controlled. While the economy industrialized, expressions of national identity were restricted. Language, traditions, and religion were tightly monitored.



### 1991: The Turning Point

The late 1980s brought winds of change as the Soviet Union weakened. On August 31, 1991, Uzbekistan's Supreme Council declared independence. The next day, September 1, was proclaimed as the official Independence Day.

For the Uzbek people, independence meant more than political sovereignty. It was an opportunity to revive centuries-old traditions, restore pride in the Uzbek language, and reassert the cultural legacy of great scholars and leaders.

### The Journey After Independence

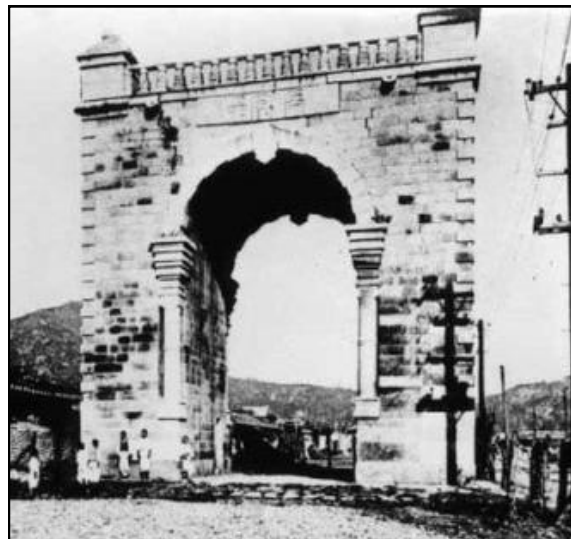
Since 1991, Uzbekistan has worked to strengthen its economy, modernize its education system, and reconnect with its heritage. New national symbols — the flag, emblem, and anthem — became reminders of unity and pride. Each year, Independence Day is celebrated with concerts, parades, and exhibitions that showcase both tradition and modern achievements.

# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S PATH TO FREEDOM

## Colonial Struggles

Korea, with its thousand-year-old kingdoms, faced a different kind of challenge in the 20th century. In 1910, the Korean Peninsula was annexed by Japan. For 35 years, Koreans endured strict colonial rule: their language was suppressed, cultural traditions were discouraged, and economic resources were exploited.

Despite this, resistance grew. Movements such as the March 1st Movement of 1919 showed the strong spirit of independence among Koreans, even though it was brutally suppressed by colonial authorities.



Independence Gate (Dongnimmun)

## Liberation in 1945

The end of World War II brought freedom. On August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered, and Korea regained independence.

This day is celebrated in South Korea as Gwangbokjeol, or the “Day of Restoring the Light.”

However, independence came with new challenges. The Korean Peninsula was divided between North and South, eventually leading to the Korean War (1950–1953). The Republic of Korea (South Korea) officially formed in 1948, choosing a path toward democracy and modernization.

## Transformation into a Global Leader

In the decades after independence, South Korea faced poverty and instability, but through determination, investment in education, and rapid industrialization, it rose to become one of the world’s most advanced economies. Today, South Korea is recognized for its technological innovations, global brands, and cultural exports like K-pop and Korean cinema. Independence gave Koreans not only freedom, but also the chance to redefine their role in the world.

## SHARED LESSONS OF INDEPENDENCE

Though their histories differ, Uzbekistan and South Korea share important similarities:

**Foreign Domination:** Both nations experienced a loss of sovereignty — Uzbekistan under Russian/Soviet rule, Korea under Japanese colonialism.

**Cultural Revival:** Independence allowed both nations to restore their languages, traditions, and heritage.

**Resilience:** Despite hardship, both peoples rebuilt their societies and looked to the future with determination.

**Youth and Education:** In both countries, younger generations became central to shaping national identity and driving progress.

## NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF FREEDOM

**Uzbekistan:** The national flag — with its blue, white, and green stripes, crescent moon, and twelve stars — represents peace, faith, and renewal. Independence Day (September 1) is marked with concerts, fireworks, and cultural festivals.

**South Korea:** The national flag (Taeggeukgi) symbolizes balance, harmony, and the unity of opposites. Independence Day (August 15) is commemorated with official ceremonies, concerts, and historical reenactments.

Both countries use these symbols not only as reminders of their past struggles but also as inspiration for future generations.

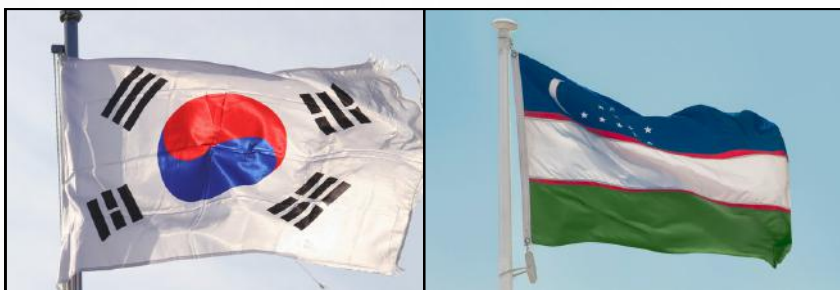
## INDEPENDENCE IN DAILY LIFE

For Uzbeks, independence means reconnecting with the historical legacy, celebrating national poets, and reviving crafts, cuisine, and traditions. For South Koreans, it means honoring the memory of independence fighters while embracing innovation and creativity in a globalized world.

In both cases, independence is not just a date on the calendar — it is a living force shaping daily life, education, and national pride.

## A BRIDGE BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND SOUTH KOREA

Today, Uzbekistan and South Korea share warm diplomatic and cultural relations. Thousands of Uzbek students study in South Korea, and cultural exchanges bring together the best of both worlds — from Uzbek plov to Korean kimchi,



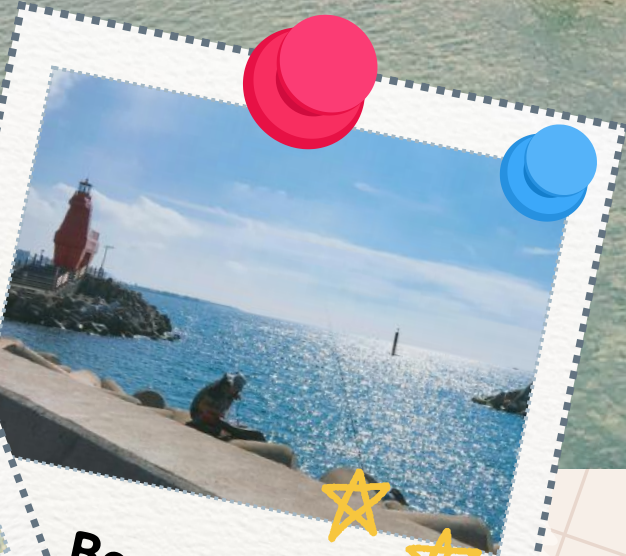
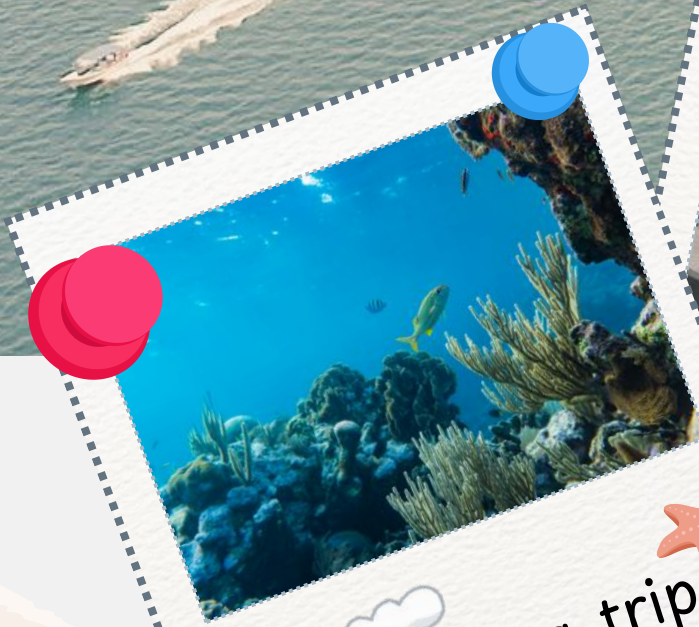
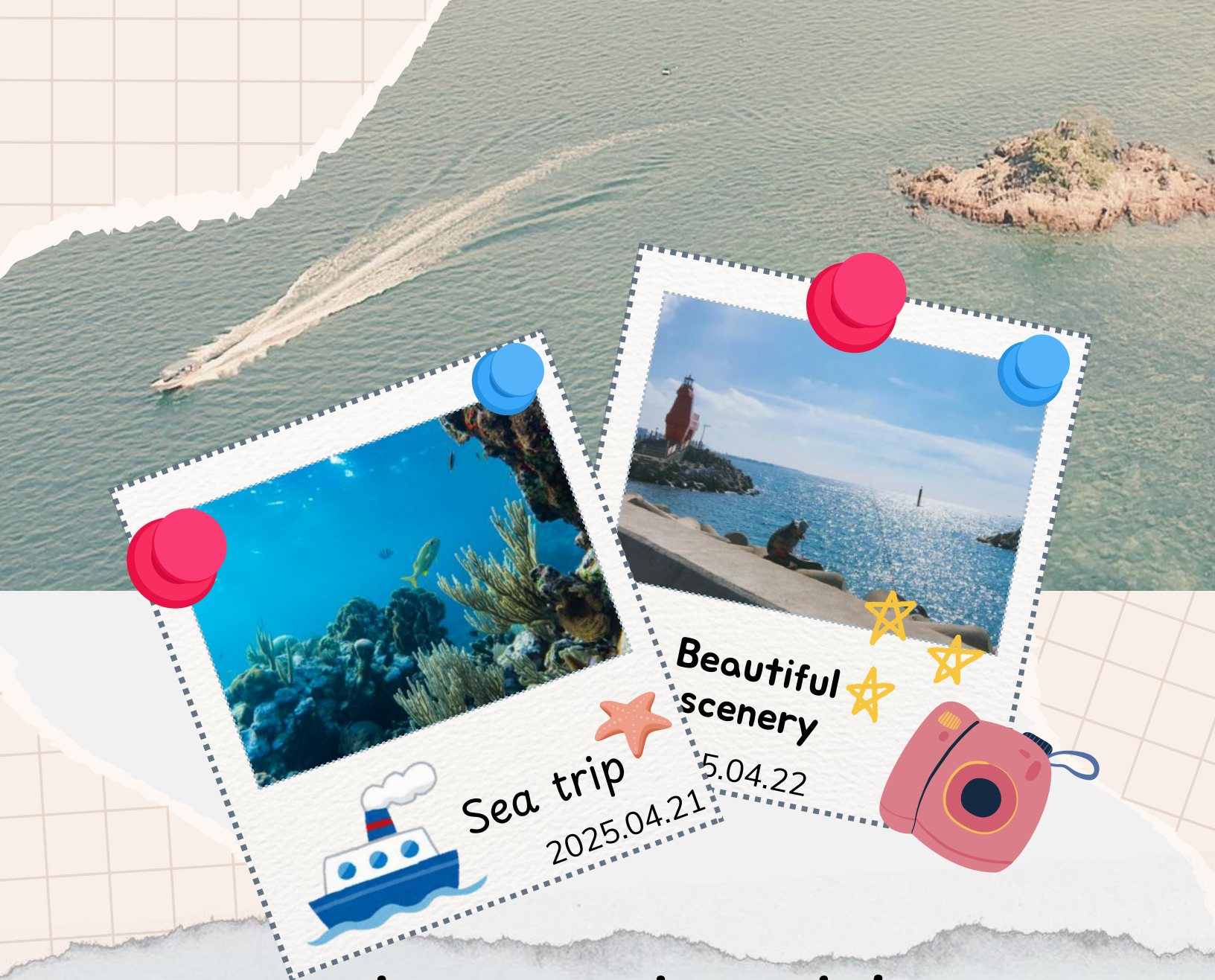
from Silk Road heritage to K-pop energy. The friendship between the two nations reflects the spirit of independence: cooperation, respect, and shared dreams of a brighter future.

## CONCLUSION

Independence is not only about breaking free from external control; it is about creating identity, nurturing culture, and building a future. Uzbekistan and South Korea, though separated by geography and history, both demonstrate how resilience and unity can turn hardship into strength.

For Uzbeks, September 1 is a reminder of freedom and renewal. For South Koreans, August 15 is the day when light was restored after decades of darkness. Together, these stories show that independence is not a single event but a continuing journey — one that inspires generations to protect freedom, celebrate culture, and strive for progress.

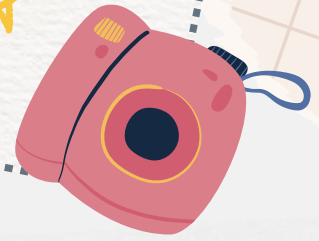
True independence is not simply the absence of foreign rule, but the presence of national spirit and shared purpose. Uzbekistan and Korea both remind us that freedom must be nurtured, protected, and passed on to future generations.



Sea trip  
2025.04.21

Beautiful  
scenery

5.04.22



# Where should we go on a trip?

*Let's go somewhere  
where we can experience **Korea's** tradition and charm.*





About

# Jeju Island



## Basic Information

- **Location** : Jeju is located in the southwest of South Korea and is a special self-governing province.
- **Area** : It covers about 1,848 square kilometers, making it the largest island in Korea.



## Local specialty

- Jeju tangerine
- Black pork
- Tilefish
- Hairtail
- Hallabong



## To-do list

- 01 Hiking Hallasan or climbing an oreum (a small volcanic hill)
- 02 Trying Jeju black pork and seafood dishes
- 03 Tangerine picking or experiencing the life of a haenyeo (female diver)

## Popular Experience Activities

- Biking or electric car tours
- Haenyeo experience or visit the Haenyeo Museum
- Tangerine picking (fall to winter)
- Water sports like surfing, snorkeling, and kayaking
- Horse riding (many riding parks available)



### Seopjikoji in Jeju Island

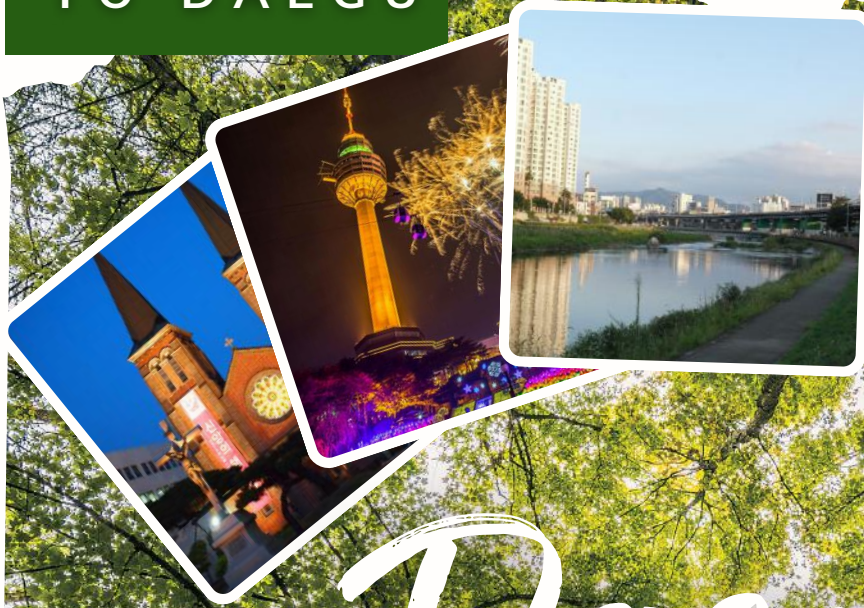
The walking path is well-maintained, so it's nice to take a leisurely stroll while looking at the sea. Photo spots like the "swing spot" and "Grand Swing" are very popular. The view is especially beautiful when you can see Seongsan Ilchulbong (Sunrise Peak) in the background. Because it has been used in many dramas and films, it is very well-known among tourists.

### Canola flower fields in Jeju Island

Jeju is one of the places in Korea where spring arrives early, and the sight of the island being dyed yellow by canola flowers is striking. It's widely known as a place that's great for driving through or strolling while enjoying the scenery. The soft light at early morning or around sunset makes it ideal for taking photos.



TO DAEGU



# Daegu

🌸 Daegu, the city of youth and leisure 🌸

## TRAVEL NOW

- ✔️🛍️ **Dongseong-ro – shopping and cultural street**  
→ Dongseong-ro is the street where you can feel the trend of Daegu best. Fashion stores, street food, and emotional cafes! Street performances and small exhibitions are often held and always full of vitality.
- ✔️🎡 **E-World & 83 Tower Daegu's landmark 83 Tower and large amusement park E-World!**  
→ After enjoying the dizzying rides and enjoying the night view from the observatory, the day becomes perfect. It gives the best memories to travelers by adding a rest in nature.
- ✔️🏞️ **Suseong Pond – Healing spot in the city center**  
→ Suseong Pond with a wide lake, a walkway, and cafes with a good atmosphere. You can take a leisurely walk during the day and enjoy the romantic atmosphere with the lights reflected on the lake at night.

## MORE INFO

- Kim Gwang-seok Street
- Palgongsan Mountain
- Retro-style restaurants and cafes.





### Dalseong Park

There are old trees like large elm trees in the park, which form part of the scenery. Because the zoo facilities are aging, and issues with parking and animal welfare have been raised, there is a plan to move the zoo to Daegu Grand Park. Dalseong Park has been selected as one of the "50 Beautiful Urban Forests" by the Korea Forest Service. It is a park recognized for its green space and landscape value within Daegu.



### 83 Tower

The 83 Tower is located inside Duryu Park, so it's a great place to visit together with the park. You can see the whole view of downtown Daegu from the top, and the night view is especially beautiful. There is also a rotating restaurant at the observatory where you can enjoy a meal while looking at the scenery.



# A SIMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

01

Jeonju Hanok Village  
Strolling through the alleys.

02

The taste of Jeonju  
Mul-jjajang and Mul-galbi  
enjoyed in the alleys.

03

A Stylish Street, Gaekridan-gil  
Terarosa Jeonju Branch.

04

End the day with a romantic  
night view at Deokjin Park. 



## TOUR GUIDE



Stepping into the Hanok Village feels like traveling back in time to the Joseon Dynasty.

Traditional hanok houses line every alley, with their quiet tiled roofs and stone walls creating a picturesque setting. Every corner is a photo spot in itself.

You can rent a hanbok from a rental shop and stroll through the alleys, enjoying a moment where tradition and modernity come together.

At the Traditional Pottery Experience Center, you can make your own piece of pottery by hand.

What you create becomes more than just a souvenir — it's a special memory of your trip, filled with the spirit of Jeonju.



Just a short walk from the Hanok Village brings you to Gaekridan-gil, a street filled with modern charm.

Among the many stylish cafés built in renovated old buildings, Terarosa Jeonju is a must-visit spot.

Its signature drink is the rich cold brew coffee — with just one sip, you'll taste deep notes of chocolate and subtle hints of nuts that linger on the palate.

The smooth, slightly sweet finish is a delight that coffee lovers won't want to miss.

Take a seat by the window, enjoy the fragrant coffee and desserts, and soak in a different side of Jeonju where traditional hanok charm meets modern sensibilities.



The sparkling lights over the lake and the glow filtering through the trees create a truly romantic scene.

Take a walk along the pond or relax on a bench and enjoy the calm — the memories of your day in Jeonju will stay with you for a long time.

Jeonju Hanok Village is more than just a tourist attraction — it's a living cultural space where Korean tradition and modern life blend together. From food and hands-on experiences to stylish cafes and nature, Jeonju is a city where you can deeply understand Korea through a single trip.



## Jeonju Jeondong Catholic Church

It is located right next to Jeonju Hanok Village, so it's a great place to visit together. The cathedral was completed in 1914 and was built in the Romanesque style. It is considered one of the most beautiful churches in Korea and is well known for its outstanding architecture.





Photo by Kchae

# Travel

## TO UZBEKISTAN



### Some tips before you go to Uzbekistan

- ✓ Uzbekistan is very safe for tourists, even solo travelers
- ✓ Mostly Muslim country, but relaxed about dress for tourists
- ✓ Always ask before taking photos of people (especially kids or locals at markets)
- ✓ Bring a light jacket, and comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Credit cards work in major cities, but cash is essential outside cities.

### Travel destinations and food to introduce



# Samarkand

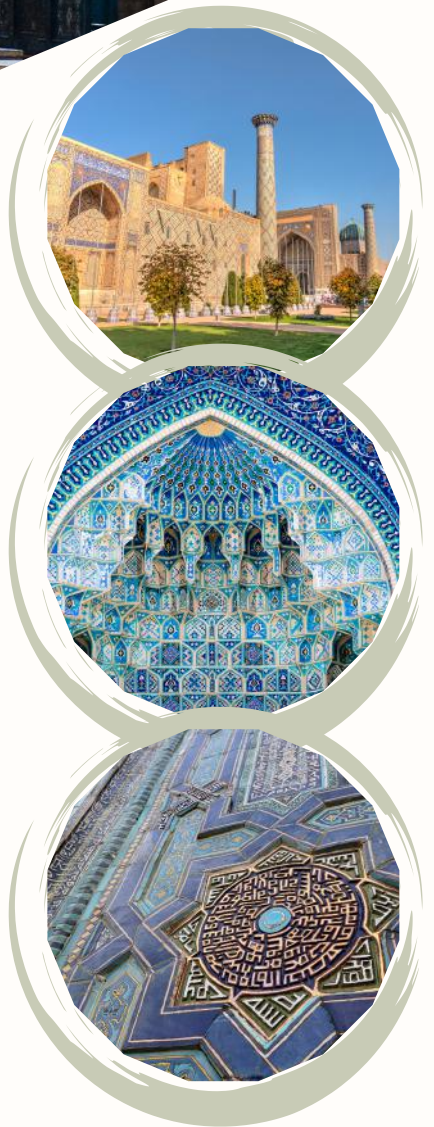
into the world

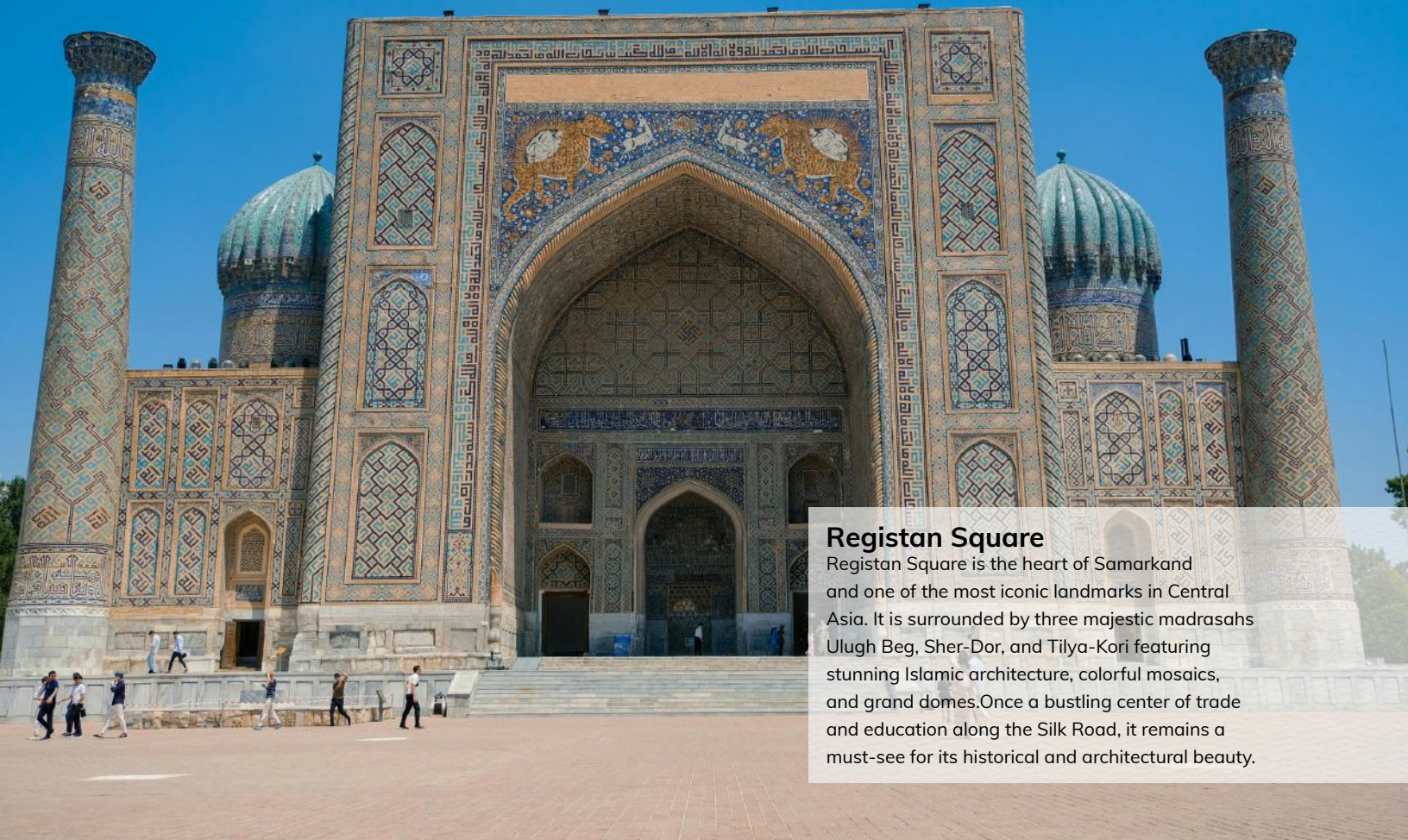
## Introduction

- ✓ Samarkand is an ancient city located in eastern Uzbekistan, the center of the Silk Road and the capital of the Timur Empire. With a 2,700-year history, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a well-preserved Islamic architectural and scientific heritage, and a representative tourist destination in Central Asia where the past and present coexist.

## 6 must-do experiences in Samarkand

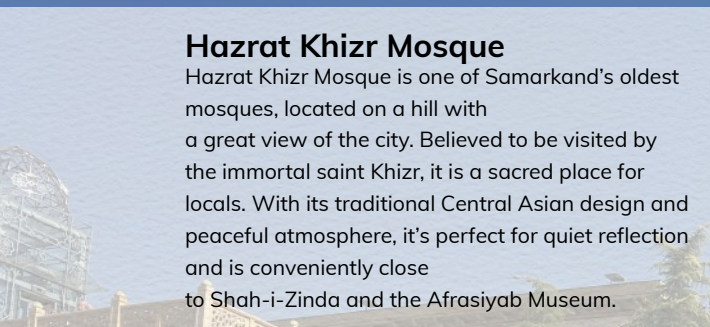
- ✓ **Visit Registan Square** - The iconic site of Samarkand surrounded by three madrasas.
- ✓ **Explore Shah-i-Zinda** - A mystical necropolis adorned with striking blue-tiled mausoleums.
- ✓ **Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum** - The tomb of Tamerlane (Timur) and a masterpiece of Islamic architecture.
- ✓ **Taste Plov and Non Bread** - Enjoy Uzbekistan's signature rice dish and freshly baked tandoor bread.
- ✓ **VSee Registan by Night** - Witness the square beautifully illuminated under the evening lights.
- ✓ **Admire Bibi-Khanym Mosque** - A grand mosque built by Timur in honor of his wife, showcasing impressive scale and detail.





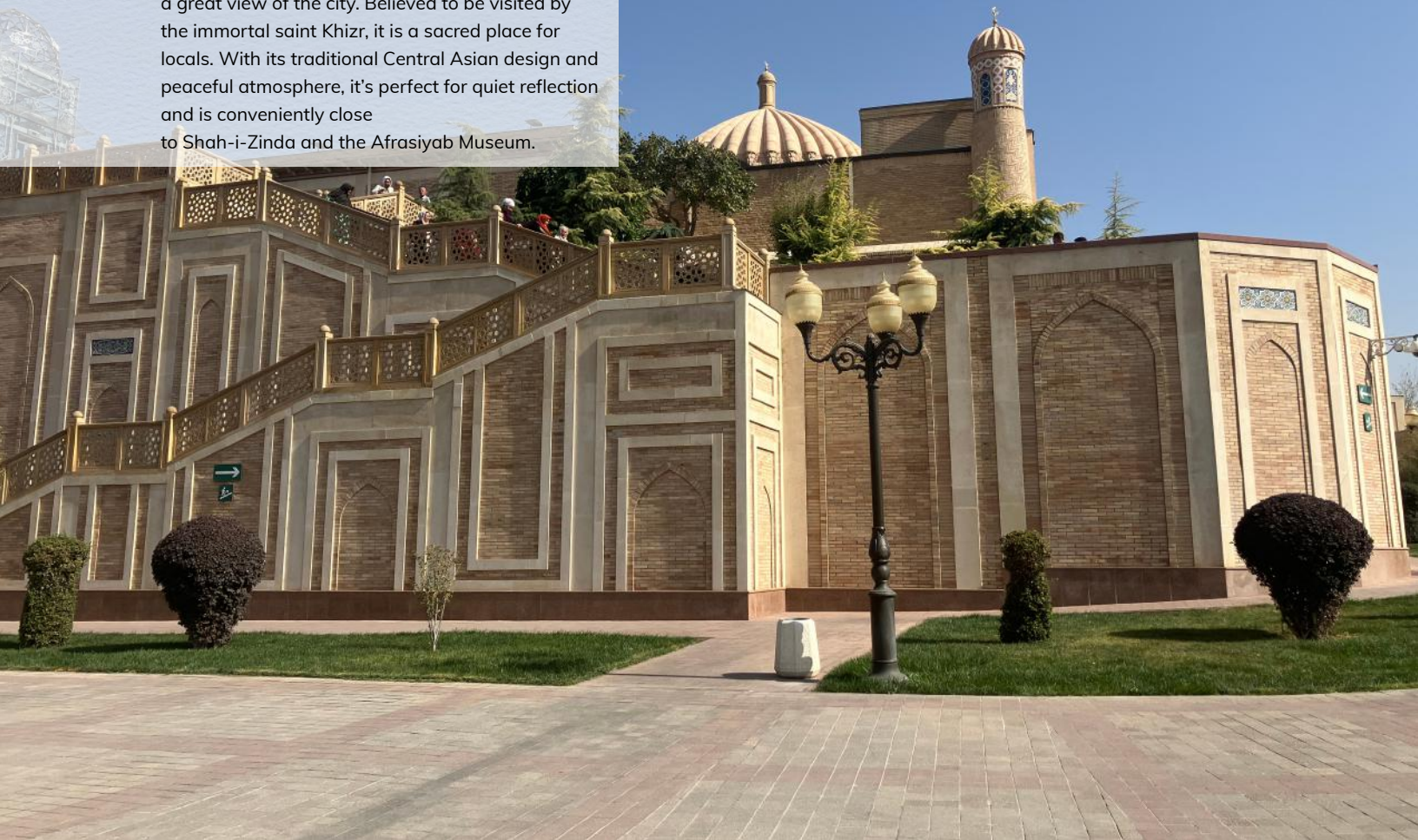
### Registan Square

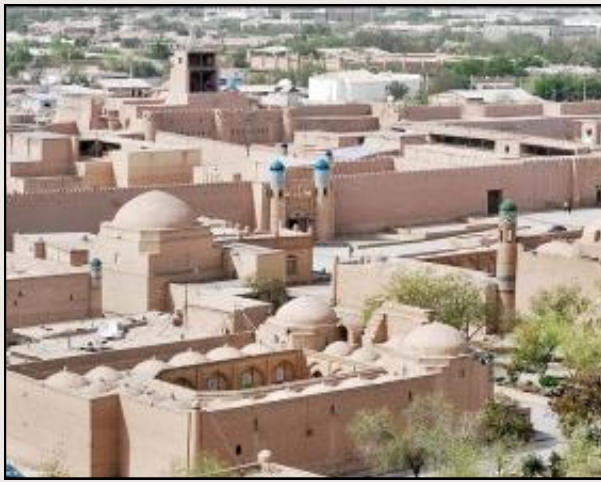
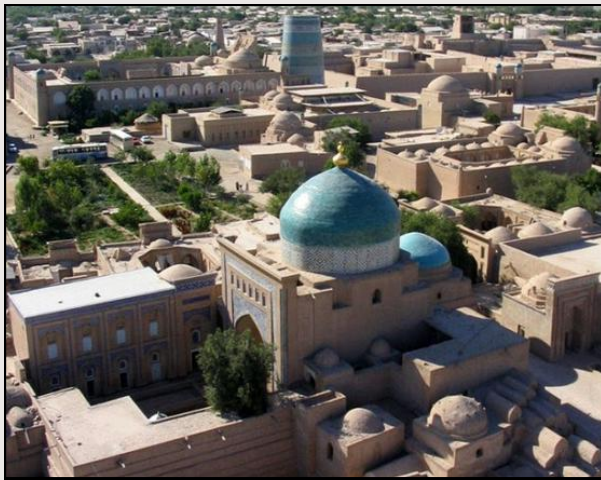
Registan Square is the heart of Samarkand and one of the most iconic landmarks in Central Asia. It is surrounded by three majestic madrasahs Ulugh Beg, Sher-Dor, and Tilya-Kori featuring stunning Islamic architecture, colorful mosaics, and grand domes. Once a bustling center of trade and education along the Silk Road, it remains a must-see for its historical and architectural beauty.



### Hazrat Khizr Mosque

Hazrat Khizr Mosque is one of Samarkand's oldest mosques, located on a hill with a great view of the city. Believed to be visited by the immortal saint Khizr, it is a sacred place for locals. With its traditional Central Asian design and peaceful atmosphere, it's perfect for quiet reflection and is conveniently close to Shah-i-Zinda and the Afrasiyab Museum.





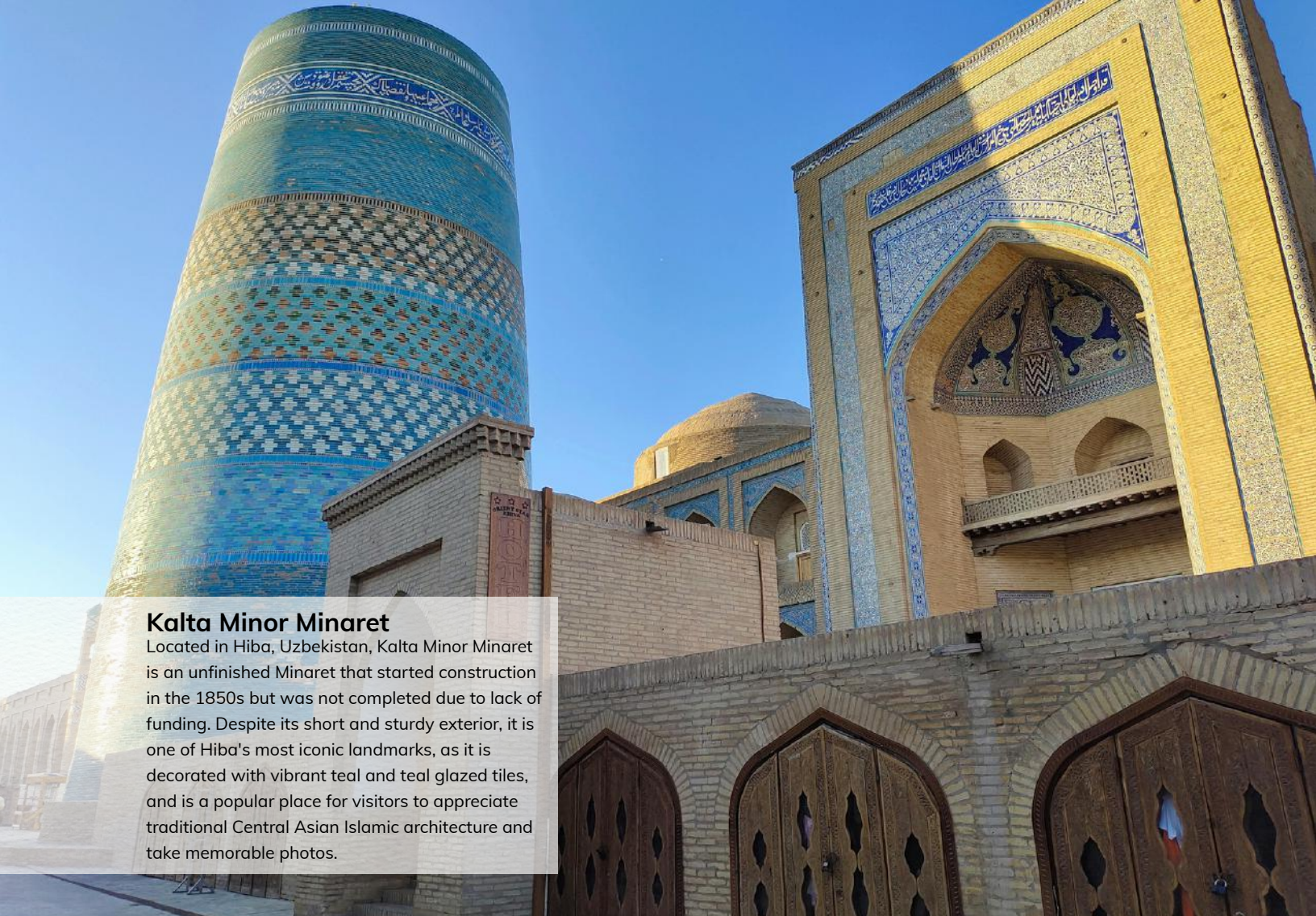
# KHIVA, CITY OF TIME ETCHED IN SAND



Hiba, located in the middle of the Uzbekistan desert, is an important base on the ancient Silk Road and a "living museum" that preserves the image of a medieval Islamic city. In the walled old town of Ichan Kala, hundreds of years-old architecture such as the royal palace, mosque, and madrasa remain intact. Hiba preserves tradition and history even in the wave of modernization, and time flows slowly in the tranquil space. The entire city is a "city of time" where the past and the present coexist, and visitors experience the experience as if they are walking back to the old times. Despite centuries of war and aggression, Hiba has firmly preserved its history and culture. Today, Hiba is a World Heritage Site, quietly shining so that memories and traditions of the past do not disappear.

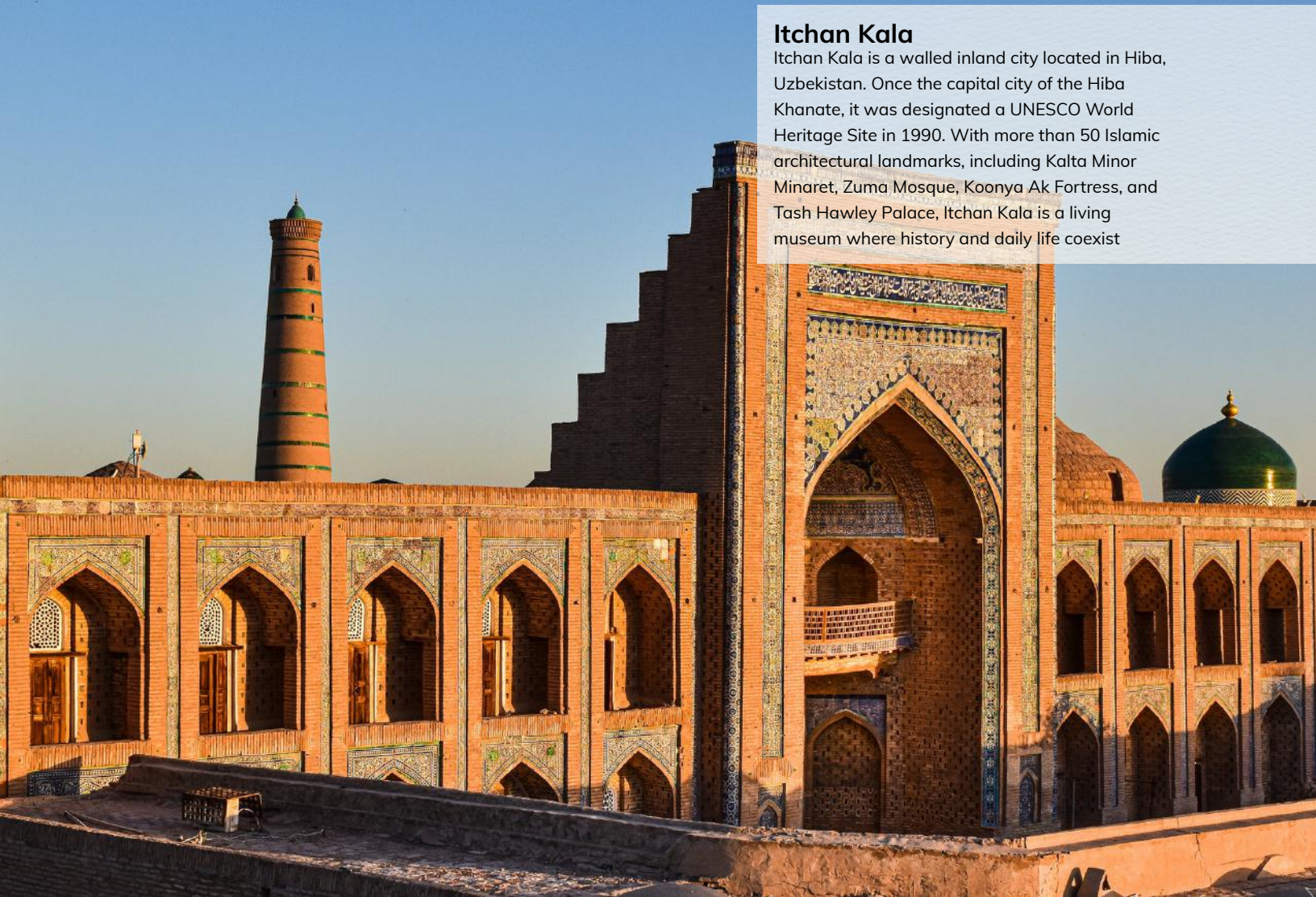
## Culture and Traditions of Khiva

Hiva is an ancient city in Uzbekistan that was one of the important cities on the Silk Road, and it preserves its rich culture and tradition. Residents wear traditional costumes and live in the center of their family and community, giving warm hospitality. Traditional crafts such as woodworking, ceramics, and embroidery have developed, and Islamic culture has become deeply entrenched, leading to several mosques and madrasas. Traditional music and dance are also active, and Dutar and Doira performances make the city lively during festivals. Hiva, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, protects tradition and history and delivers it to the next generation.



### **Kalta Minor Minaret**

Located in Hiba, Uzbekistan, Kalta Minor Minaret is an unfinished Minaret that started construction in the 1850s but was not completed due to lack of funding. Despite its short and sturdy exterior, it is one of Hiba's most iconic landmarks, as it is decorated with vibrant teal and teal glazed tiles, and is a popular place for visitors to appreciate traditional Central Asian Islamic architecture and take memorable photos.



### **Itchan Kala**

Itchan Kala is a walled inland city located in Hiba, Uzbekistan. Once the capital city of the Hiba Khanate, it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990. With more than 50 Islamic architectural landmarks, including Kalta Minor Minaret, Zuma Mosque, Koonya Ak Fortress, and Tash Hawley Palace, Itchan Kala is a living museum where history and daily life coexist

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# ALL ABOUT NUKUS



Despite being isolated, Nukus has established itself as the educational and academic research center of the region. It has various research institutes focusing on environmental science, regional research, the Karakalpak language, and culture. Universities in the city are often working with international organizations to study the long-term impact of the Aral Sea crisis, and Nukus has become an important place for understanding environmental resilience and regional development.



Nukus is a city located on the western outskirts of Uzbekistan and serves as the capital of the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. Situated near the Amu Darya River in a dry region, it has been severely affected by one of the world's worst environmental disasters—the drying up of the Aral Sea. Once located close to the sea, Nukus is now far from the shoreline and faces serious environmental challenges such as desertification, toxic dust storms, and ecological collapse. As a result, local residents suffer from respiratory illnesses, and traditional industries like agriculture and fishing have been severely impacted, leading to economic difficulties. Additionally, extreme climate changes and increased soil salinity have worsened water shortages and reduced food production, raising growing concerns about the sustainable development of Nukus and its surrounding areas.



In recent years, Nukus has seen modest urban development, with new infrastructure projects aimed at improving transportation, housing, and public services. However, the city continues to struggle with economic limitations, youth migration, and limited access to healthcare. While the local government has invested in modernization efforts, Nukus remains a city defined by both its challenges and its enduring role as a cultural and administrative heart of Karakalpakstan.

Nevertheless, Nukus stands as a symbol of resilience—where history, culture, and determination converge to envision a more sustainable future.



## Savitsky Museum

Located in Nukus, Uzbekistan, the Savitsky Museum is a world-renowned art museum that boasts one of the largest collections of Russian avant-garde art in the world, along with ancient Horè relics and traditional Karakalpak folk art. The museum was founded by Igor Savitsky and is a unique cultural and historical treasure that provides deep insight into avant-garde art and the region's rich history.



## Aral Sea

Once the world's fourth-largest inland lake, located between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the Aral Sea has been largely dried up by Soviet-era irrigation projects, and its vast desert stretches with abandoned shipyards and unfamiliar and haunting landscapes that are among the world's worst man-made environmental disasters.



# TASTE AND SPIRIT OF KOREA

**Kimchi** is not just a side dish; it is the “science of fermentation and devotion” that has preserved Korean dining. Made by fermenting napa cabbage or radish with chili powder, garlic, ginger, and salted seafood, kimchi changes with the seasons, offering different flavors year-round. The traditional “kimjang culture,” where families gather to prepare kimchi for winter, symbolizes warmth and cooperation.



Kimchi

**Bibimbap** is a Korean dish made by mixing steamed white rice with various ingredients such as colorful vegetables, meat, egg, and gochujang (red chili paste). Its key feature is the perfect harmony and balance created by the diverse ingredients coming together in one bowl. More than just a culinary experience, bibimbap reflects the Korean spirit of community—where different elements, each with their own character, come together to create a unified flavor.



Bibimbap

Sweet and tender, **bulgogi** is one of Korea’s most iconic meat dishes. It features thinly sliced beef marinated in a mixture of soy sauce, sugar, pear juice, and other ingredients, then grilled or pan-cooked. The soft texture and sweet-savory flavor make it a favorite among people of all ages. Traditionally served to honor special guests at feasts, bulgogi has evolved into various forms today—such as bulgogi rice bowls and bulgogi burgers—captivating taste buds around the world.



Bulgogi

Kimchi, bibimbap, and bulgogi are more than food — they represent Korea’s culture, harmony, and warmth, sharing its proud flavors with the world.



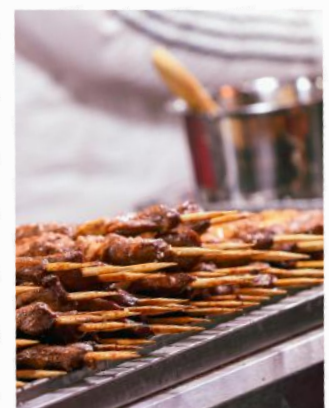
# DELICIOUS UZBEKISTAN FOOD

A flop, also known as an **osh**, may be a national dish and the most iconic expression of Uzbekistan's hospitality. Made with rice, lamb, or beef, carrots, onions, and spices, it is traditionally baked in a large cast-iron quartz. Each region has its own recipe: The Samarkand flop is layered with rice and meat separately, the Tashkent flop is thick and moist, and the Pergana flop is thicker and more flavorful. Flops are often prepared for weddings, holidays, and special gatherings, and traditionally, men play the role of a chef.



**Lagman** is a traditional noodle dish loved throughout Central Asia, including Uzbekistan. It is a dish made with beef or lamb, vegetables, and spices, and is widely loved as a "meal meal" for locals as it contains meat, vegetables, and carbohydrates in one bowl. This noodle dish, which has been handed down along the Silk Road, has developed in different styles in various cultures. Among them, Uzbekistan's Lagman is characterized by its thick soup taste, thick noodles and chewy texture.

**Shaslik** is a skewer-grilled dish widely eaten throughout Central Asia, and in Uzbekistan, it is established as a street food, home food, festival food, and guest entertainment food. The dish, which is sliced into large pieces, marinated in seasoning, and slowly baked on charcoal by iron skewers, boasts a simple but deep taste. It is crispy on the outside and moist on the inside, and the combination of oil and spices makes anyone fall in love quickly with just a bite



Let's find out about various delicious foods in Uzbekistan

Korean soul food

**GIM-BAP**

**김밥**



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# A B O U T   O U R C U L T U R E



Korea and Uzbekistan are nations proud of their distinct cultural identities. Uzbekistan, shaped by the legacy of the Silk Road, shines through its historic cities, architecture, and traditions. Korea, meanwhile, has become a modern cultural powerhouse, sharing K-pop, K-dramas, and other creative expressions with the world while staying rooted in its heritage. Today, exchanges between the two countries are growing stronger, especially among the youth. Young Uzbeks are inspired by Korea's dynamic pop culture, while young Koreans are discovering the timeless beauty of Uzbekistan's traditions. Together, they build mutual understanding and friendship, weaving a meaningful cultural connection for the future.



OFFICIAL SELECTION

70th FESTIVAL DE CANNES

BONG JOON HO FILM

옥자

We're Going Home, Together

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL FILM

2017

A SUPER PIG, A GIRL,  
PUREST ADVENTURE  
ACROSS THE WORLD.

# OKJA

2017, BONG JOON-HO

THE MOVIE

**📺 OKJA (2017, DIRECTED BY BONG-JOON-HO)**

Release Date: June 29, 2017 (Netflix Premiere)

Running Time: 121 minutes

Director: Bong Joon-ho (Parasite, The Host, Memories of Murder)

Cast: Ahn Seo-hyun, Tilda Swinton, Jake Gyllenhaal, Paul Dano, and more

**SYNOPSIS**

Mija, a young girl living in the mountains of Korea, has grown up caring for a giant “super pig” named Okja as if it were family. One day, a powerful multinational corporation takes Okja away, shattering their peaceful life. Determined to rescue her beloved friend, Mija ventures into unfamiliar cities and across borders, where she encounters activists, corporations, and the harsh realities of the modern world. What unfolds is a breathtaking adventure of courage and friendship between a girl and her extraordinary companion.

**RATINGS**

Audience Score (Naver, Korea):

★★★★☆ (approx. 7.5 / 10)

International Score (IMDb): 7.3 / 10

Critics’ Score (Rotten Tomatoes):

86% Fresh

**WHAT IF YOU HAD TO PROTECT SOMEONE YOU TRULY LOVE?**

**WHY WE RECOMMEND IT TO YOU**

Mija’s journey with Okja begins in the quiet mountains of Korea, but soon it reaches across the world—asking us all the same question.

This isn’t just an adventure film. It’s a story that makes us reflect on friendship, courage, and the environment. And the best part? It’s available on Netflix with Russian subtitles, so friends in Uzbekistan and Korea can watch it together, enjoy the same moments, and share the same emotions.

**VIEWER’S VOICES**

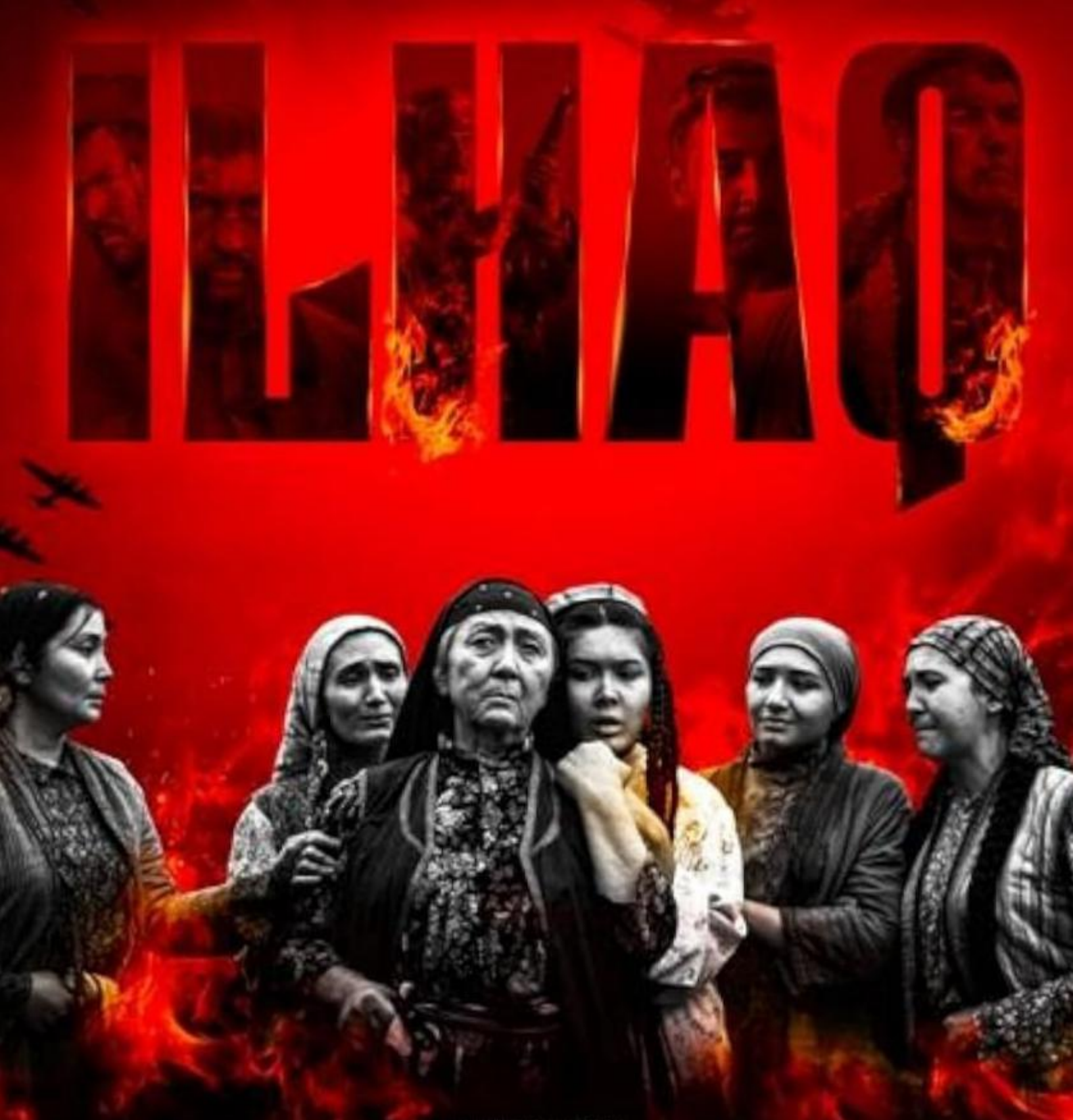
“I never knew love for an animal could move me this deeply.”

“A film that explores environmental and ethical issues in a touching, entertaining way.”

“Serious at times, yet-filled with humor and heart.”

“heartbreaking but beautiful”





# A mother

sacrifices her five sons to the war, receiving black letters that tear at her heart. A moving true story about one woman's noble hope and great maternal love that remained unbroken in an era of devastating loss.

# ILHAQ

## The movie called ILHAQ

If you are interested in powerful stories of courage, sacrifice, and the strength of the human spirit, the 2020 Uzbek military drama *Ilhaq* is a must-watch. Directed and written by Jahongir Akhmedov, this film is not only a piece of art but also a poignant reflection on one of the darkest periods of history—the Great Patriotic War.

## The life of Zulfiya Zokirova

The film is inspired by real events and based on Zulfiya Zokirova's work *Life*. Zulfiya's story is heartbreaking yet deeply inspiring: during World War II, she sent all five of her sons to the front. None of them returned. Four had young wives who never remarried, remaining faithful to their memories. Despite receiving the dreaded "black letters" confirming her loss, Zulfiya continued to hope until the end of her life that one of her sons might still come home.

## A new milestone in film

*Ilhak* portrays this mother's resilience with profound emotional depth. Dilorom Karimova delivers a moving performance in the lead role, supported by an excellent cast including Tahir Saidov, Dilrabo Mirzayeva, Fotik Nasimov, and Husan Rashidov. Together, they bring to life a story that is both tragic and uplifting.

This film also marks a significant milestone in Uzbek cinema: it is the first joint project between the Film Agency of Uzbekistan and the renowned "Belarusfilm" studio. The collaboration results in high production quality, gripping storytelling, and a strong historical atmosphere.

## A story that connects generations

Released on May 9, 2020—Victory Day—*Ilhaq* serves as both a tribute to the countless families who endured unimaginable loss and a reminder of the enduring strength of love, memory, and hope. If you enjoy films that go beyond entertainment to offer history, emotion, and inspiration, *Ilhaq* is a cinematic journey worth taking. It is not just a war drama—it is a mother's story, a nation's memory, and a lesson in resilience for generations to come.



#Growth #Empathy  
#Difference #Wounds  
#Solidarity



# ALMOND

## About the Author

Son Won-pyung (b. 1979) studied film and began her career writing screenplays before turning to fiction. *Almond*, her debut novel, won the 10th Changbi Prize for Young Adult Fiction and has since been translated into English, Russian, French, and many other languages, gaining international recognition. She went on to publish works such as *I Want to See Your Snaggletooth* and *Counterattack of Thirty*, exploring the wounds, resilience, and struggles of youth with warmth and insight.

## Why Read *Almond*?

This is far more than just a teenage coming-of-age story. Yunjae's journey—learning empathy in a world he cannot fully feel—asks a universal question: Can we truly understand another person's pain?

For high school readers, the novel serves as a mirror reflecting their own hearts and friendships. For adults, it offers a chance to rediscover the essence of feelings they may have forgotten.

**Opening *Almond* brings us a little closer to one another's hearts.**

## Global Recognition

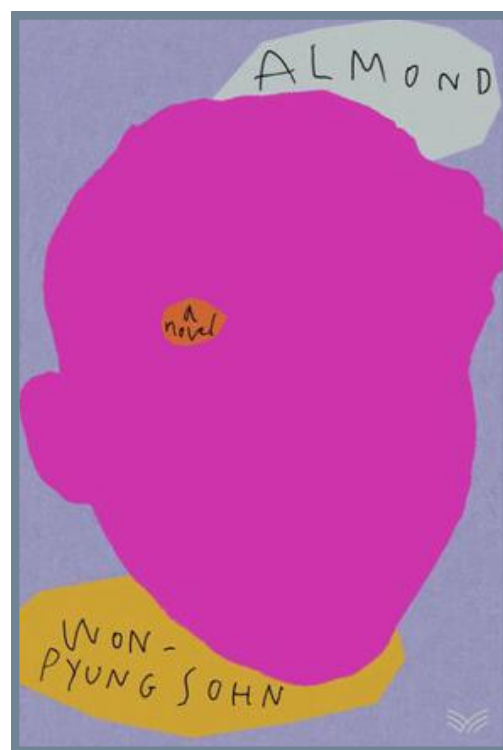
Selected as one of NPR's "Best Books of the Year" in the United States (2020).

Shortlisted and recommended by several European young adult literary prizes.

Published in more than 20 countries and loved by readers across Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

“Most people could feel but didn't act. They said they sympathized, but easily forgot. The way I see it, that was not real. I didn't want to live like that.”  
Page 99 (HarperVia, 2020)

SHOWING THAT DIFFERENCE IS NOT A  
FLAW, BUT ANOTHER PATH IN LIFE



## Synopsis

**Yunjae**, a boy who cannot feel emotions, was born with an unusually small amygdala—what Koreans call the “almond.” Because of this, fear, anger, and even joy barely register in his life. The world sees him as cold and unfeeling, yet deep inside, Yunjae longs to connect with others.

One day, a life-shattering event throws him into a harsh new reality, where he meets Goni, a rough and lonely boy. The two, each scarred in different ways, clash and collide—but slowly draw closer. Together, they discover what it truly means to be human.

# The Devils' Dance

## About the Author

Hamid Ismailov is one of Central Asia's most acclaimed contemporary writers. Born in Uzbekistan, he was forced into exile due to political pressure, and now lives in the United Kingdom. Writing in Uzbek, Russian, and English, Ismailov has made it his mission to bring the rich literary and cultural history of Central Asia to a global audience. *The Devils' Dance* is one of his most significant works, notable for being the first major Uzbek novel translated directly into English, and for reviving the voice of Abdulla Qodiriy, a legendary Uzbek writer silenced during Stalin's purges.

## Why We Recommend It

**Rich Historical Context:** For those interested in Central Asian history, Soviet repression, or the "Great Game," this novel provides a deeply human perspective.

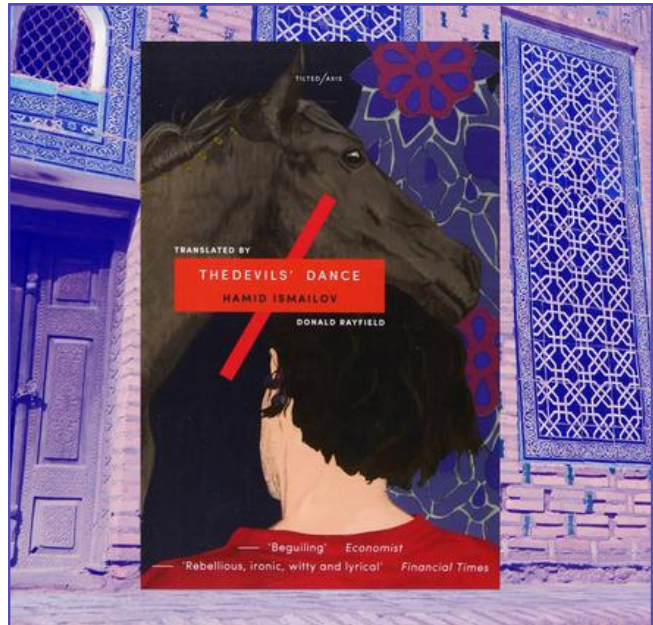
**Literature as Resistance:** The novel is a tribute to the power of the written word. It shows how stories can survive—even when their authors do not.

**Symbolic Storytelling:** Oyxon becomes more than a character—she symbolizes the Uzbek people, their endurance, and their longing for dignity and freedom.

**Inventive Structure:** Each chapter is named after a different "game" (e.g., chess, Russian roulette), reflecting the political gambles and personal risks the characters face—both in history and in fiction.

## Reception

*The Devils' Dance* has received critical acclaim for its literary innovation and cultural importance. The novel is seen as a milestone in Uzbek literature, finally giving English-speaking readers access to the literary legacy of Abdulla Qodiriy and a deeper understanding of Uzbekistan's turbulent history.



## Synopsis

*The Devils' Dance* is a novel with two interwoven narratives:

**Historical Fiction Layer:** The book reimagines the unfinished novel that Abdulla Qodiriy was writing before his arrest in 1937. This lost novel centers on Oyxon, a 19th-century slave girl who is married off to three different khans. Her journey—filled with betrayal, court intrigue, and resilience—mirrors the political instability of Central Asia during the time of the "Great Game."

**Biographical Layer:** Parallel to Oyxon's story is the harrowing account of Qodiriy's own imprisonment under Stalin. As he faces interrogation and fears execution, we see the emotional and psychological toll of censorship, oppression, and lost freedom. Together, these two narratives reveal how personal suffering and historical trauma intertwine—how literature becomes both refuge and resistance.

## Conclusion

If you're looking for a book that feels like *Game of Thrones* with real historical stakes, this is the one. *The Devils' Dance* is dramatic, poetic, and unforgettable.



Photo by Kchae

# Interview with K.chae

## WHO IS K.CHAE?

Profession: Photographer.

Activity: A wandering artist currently pursuing a global '100-Country Photography Project'.

Key Publications: NOT SEOUL, leaps of faith.

To make a better photograph,  
you have to be a better person.

Traveling across the globe to capture the “colors of the Earth,” photographer K-Chae views color not merely as a visual element, but as a symbol of diversity and humanity itself. In his work, color is more than a feature of a beautiful landscape—it becomes a mirror reflecting the people, spaces, and even the self he encounters. The international exchange magazine team first discovered K-Chae through his photo collections “Pictures That Need No Words” and “For Us.” Moved by the sincerity and warmth that radiated from his lens, the students reached out to him for an interview. To their delight, the artist graciously—and warmly—accepted. “Color is who I am.” Just as this simple yet profound statement suggests, K-Chae’s photography is, at its heart, a journey of self-discovery. Through his lens, the world we live in—diverse yet deeply connected—shines in ever richer hues. In the following pages, we share a one-on-one Q&A with K-Chae, exploring his art, his philosophy, and his unique way of seeing the world.





**How would you describe yourself — the person reflected in your colorful photographs?**

The first thing people say when they look at my photographs is that they are very colorful. It's not something I came up with to be special. It is a reflection of myself. I am a very colorful person, inside and out. I always had a fascination for vibrant colors, and thus they're reflected in my work. I am color.

**What does color mean to you beyond the visual sense?**

Colors represent variety. Colors are endless, and so are we. Colors on earth show us that we are all different. Humans, plants, animals, and yet we are universal. We are different colors, but all in the same. I don't find colors. It's more like I find colors that are within me. I see an extension of myself in the world and I capture it. As with photography in general, finding my color is about finding myself. You get your photograph when you know yourself better.

**How do you express both clarity and ambiguity in your photographs?**

Again, it's about expressing myself. I don't try to

find something that will please others. I leave everything by chance. I am a believer that a moment means something because you discover it by chance. I walk all day, just hoping to lay my eyes on something that I find to be a reflection of myself, then try to capture it the only way I can. It's special not because of how I do it, but because I do it. Being as personal as I can be is a way to be unique.

**How do you discover “the unfamiliar within the familiar” in everyday life?**

I don't really train myself for it. I think I'm born that way. I don't have a great memory. Funny enough, I don't have sharp eyes. I get lost so often, as I'm not good at finding directions. Even the places I've been many times before. Therefore it comes naturally to me that every place I visit, I always feel like I'm there for the first time. You can always find something new. That's how I see the world. Not just Korea.

**What kind of feeling gives you the certainty to press the shutter?**

It's hard to explain. I have to feel some kind of connection to the moment. Especially in today's environment, millions of photographs are taken

everyday. To add one to the world, as a professional, you really need to have a good reason. Something about the moment I have to feel special. Something that's worth being immortalized. I've done this long enough now it comes right away. But you need time to develop such a sense when you're starting out. It takes time to find yourself. The same goes for photography.

## Traveling the Colors of the Earth

### **What was your most memorable experience photographing in Uzbekistan?**

To me it's always people. I knew Uzbekistan would have amazing architecture. Buildings, houses, beautiful landscapes. But the people there were the greatest treasure the country has. I had countless encounters with the locals where they helped me, gave me food, ride, and everything they could. I knew people would be kind, but it was beyond even I could have expected them to be.

### **Do you have a favorite photograph — one that's most special to you?**

I can't really pick one. Same reason I can't pick a country I like the most, which is the most often asked question for me. The photographs I put out to the world, I do because they're special. I can't really put numbers on them, They're all equally special.

### **How do you connect with people to capture their true emotions?**

You have to know yourself in order to connect with people you meet. I am not good looking, but people find me funny. I can make people laugh easily. I make them feel at ease. Sometimes I can't speak their language at all, but oftentimes language is not what you need to have a conversation. Heart is. You have heart for the person you meet, show them you care. And they'll care for you too.

### **What color comes to mind when you think of Uzbekistan?**

Maybe yellow. Hard to pick one, but it's lands of sands and yellow always stuck out to me. They build everything from the ground up. People are honest, earthy. It's all in the land. All in the sands.

## For Readers and Students

### **What do you hope students feel when they see your photographs?**

I don't have exactly what people want to feel when they look at my work. As you said, it feels good to see people like different images and feel all differently too. As my photographs are personal, what people feel about my works are personal too. I have a personal feeling when I take photographs, but the feeling is all mine. I hope you feel whatever you feel. I only hope it's a positive emotion, that is all.

### **What advice would you give to young people chasing their dreams?**

I'm not really a role model type of person, so I wouldn't be really someone to lecture students on anything really. All I can say is find what you love, and love it til the end. It might seem an unrealistic dream, but everything that is worth doing is. You have to take a leap of faith. Take the first step, and follow it with the second. And it goes.

### **How can beginners express themselves beautifully through photography?**

I always say, a tip to take a better photograph is not anything technical. To make a better photograph, you have to be a better person. As I said, photography is a reflection of the photographer. Read books, watch movies, learn something new. You become a better person, your perspective widens, and you start to see what was in front of you but didn't see it the whole time.

### **What do you think about cultural exchange projects like ours?**

We all come from different backgrounds, and that doesn't just mean different countries. We're all different in our own ways. But that doesn't mean we're really different. We are all human beings. One good thing about travel is that you realize while all these countries are different, we're so alike in a way as well. People fear what they don't know about. I hope you continue to get to know Uzbekistan and all the other countries around the world and realize, we're all friends.

**Could you share a short message for our Korean and Uzbek readers?**

Be open minded. Don't listen to hate and misogyny. Always be kind, be helpful. I know the world tells you how horrible some people are, some countries are, and some things are. The world is not heaven, that's' for sure. But it's only love, and your kindness that will make this world better. Open your heart. Love someone. Help someone. It will not only make those people happy, but yourself too. We can not exist without one another.

## Final Inspirations

**What song best represents your world of photography?**

I really like '여기보다 어딘가에' by 하림. It's a type of song that speaks to my heart, and my reason for traveling.

**Do you plan to publish your STAN series someday?**

I wish I could. Sadly people photography is the least popular genre of photography so I can't at the moment, but hopefully one day!

**If you could describe the world in one sentence, what would it be?**

It's our home. Home is not just where you live. Earth as a whole is home. No matter where you end up being, don't forget. We're home. And those around you are too. So treat everyone as if they're visiting your home.





Korea–Uzbekistan Co-hosted

# PHOTO CONTEST EXCELLENT WORKS

Gyeongsan Jeil High School in Korea and Chust Specialized School in Uzbekistan held a joint photo contest over the course of one month. Students from both schools shared the same theme while capturing their everyday lives and cultures from their own unique perspectives. Many students participated and submitted outstanding works, and after careful review by the International Exchange Committee, four winning photos were selected. Through this contest, students experienced the joy of connecting and collaborating beyond time and distance. It was a meaningful opportunity to share friendship and deepen cultural understanding through art. The memories they created will last a lifetime.

**TURN THE PAGE TO DISCOVER  
THE FOUR AWARD-WINNING WORKS.**



Park So hyun

「Lakes and Cliffs」

"This is the Daegu Gachang Quarry in Korea. As you can see from the photo, don't you agree that the emerald-colored lake and cliffs harmonize so beautifully? I, too, was utterly captivated by the stunning sight of the cliffs and the lake blending together. Feeling it would be a shame to keep such beauty to myself, I decided to enter it into the photo contest, and I am truly grateful that it was selected as an outstanding entry."





## Lochinbek Sodiqjonov

### 「Uzbekistan's history」

"I particularly love the 'Gur-e Amir Mausoleum,' an architectural masterpiece that embodies the history of our country. For that reason, I took this photo, hoping that many people would come to appreciate its unique charm."



2nd PRIZE

Baek Ye ji

「A Break in the Verdure」

“When I escaped my busy daily life to rest in nature for a while, my heart felt much more at ease upon seeing the lush green trees. I took the photo because I wanted to capture the tranquility of that moment and the healing power nature offered. The vibrant green trees felt as if they were embracing me, and I wanted to share that beauty with others.”



3rd PRIZE

Bae Ga eun

「Sea in a Picture Frame」

“When I saw the sea of Pohang, it looked just like a painting in a frame — calm, beautiful, and timeless. I wanted to capture that moment and share the feeling of peace it gave me through my photo.”

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