

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

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**Annotation:** *This article provides a detailed exploration of the diverse and vibrant traditions and customs that form the cultural fabric of Uzbekistan. It delves into the historical roots, social significance, and contemporary relevance of various customs practiced in the country, offering readers a nuanced understanding of Uzbek cultural heritage. From traditional celebrations like Nowruz and Independence Day to customary practices such as wedding ceremonies and family gatherings, the article illuminates the key rituals that shape the social life of Uzbek communities. It captures the essence of hospitality, unity, and respect that underpin these customs, shedding light on the values and beliefs that have been passed down through generations. Through captivating descriptions and personal anecdotes, the article paints a vivid picture of the sights, sounds, and flavors associated with Uzbek traditions, transporting readers*

*to the heart of this vibrant cultural tapestry. By highlighting the intricate details of daily life, festive occasions, and rites of passage, the article celebrates the richness and diversity of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage.*

*Overall, this article serves as a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about the traditions and customs of Uzbekistan, offering a glimpse into the cultural practices that have shaped the identity of the Uzbek people and continue to endure in the modern era.*

**Key word:** *Uzbekistan, Traditions, Customs, Cultural Events, Festivals, Ceremonies, Rituals, Heritage, Celebrations, Nowruz, Independence Day, Wedding Rituals, Community, Hospitality, Values, Beliefs, Diversity, Identity*

The main feature of the Uzbek family is traditionally reverential respect for elders. Uzbeks usually lives in large families consisting of several generations, therefore, preference is given to a large houses on the land. Significant place in family life as element of the hospitality is tea ceremony. Moreover, tea making and pouring it to the guests is exclusive prerogative of the host. It is common to receive invitations to a lunch or dinner and be on time. When planning a visit it is advisable to take souvenirs or sweets for children of the owner of the house. Hand shaking is usually only for the menfolk. Women and people sitting in the background, greeted by putting right hand to your heart, and accompanying this gesture with slight tilt of the head. During hand shaking it is common to ask about health, family, and state of affairs at work and at home. In rural areas in case of the guests, women usually do not sit at same table with the men in order not to interfere their conversation. It is not polite to admire the beauty of the women and pay close attention to them. When entering the living quarters shoes are taken off. Must take place indicated by the host. Moreover, the farther it is form the entrance the more honorable this place is. Customs and traditions of the Uzbek people have been forming for centuries. They are very distinctive, impressive and different,

dating back to different epochs and religions. Initial formation of Uzbek culture dates back to the 6th-7th centuries BC, by that time nomadic tribes shifted to a settled way of life in the valleys of Amu Darya, Syr Darya and Zarafshan and founded first states. Former nomads founded settlements and cities, bringing with them customs and traditions based on ancient cults of their ancestors. Territory of modern Uzbekistan, Transoxiana, being parts of ancient states – Khorezm, Sogdiana, Bactria - became the basis for formation of culture, which subsequently became the basis of Uzbek culture. Over centuries, traditions and customs of Uzbek people remained almost unchanged despite the desire of many invaders to impose alien culture on. The Arabs had the greatest influence on Uzbek customs and traditions, through the expansion of Islam throughout Central Asia. Islam traditions were closely intertwined with pre-Islamic beliefs and traditions, local culture, and firmly settled in the mode and minds of the Uzbek people. Centuries-old customs and traditions of the Uzbek people are carefully maintained and passed on from generation to generation. Like many Asian nations, most festive Uzbek customs are related with major family celebrations: wedding and birth. These events include many rites and rituals, involving parents, children, brothers, sisters, immediate and remote relatives even neighbors and guests, each one has its own role. Uzbek traditions are based on hospitality, respect for elders, collectivism, manifested especially vividly in makhallas (Uzbek residential quarters) – repository of age-old national basis.

### Traditions of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan, a country rich in history and cultural heritage, is renowned for its diverse and colorful traditions that have been passed down through generations. These traditions encompass various aspects of daily life, celebrations, rituals, and social customs that reflect the unique identity of the Uzbek people. One of the most prominent traditions in Uzbekistan is hospitality, known as "Mehmondo'stlik." Hospitality is highly valued in Uzbek culture, and guests are traditionally treated with utmost respect and generosity. It is common

for hosts to offer guests a variety of foods, teas, and sweets, showcasing the warmth and welcoming nature of Uzbek hospitality. Another significant tradition in Uzbekistan is the celebration of Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Nowruz marks the beginning of spring and is a time of renewal and rebirth. Families come together to clean their homes, prepare special dishes like sumalak, and participate in festive events, including traditional dances, music, and games. Wedding ceremonies are also deeply rooted in Uzbek traditions, with elaborate rituals and customs that vary by region. These ceremonies often span several days and involve intricate traditions like the presentation of gifts, traditional dances such as the "Lazgi," and ceremonies to honor the bride and groom. Moreover, Uzbekistan is known for its craftsmanship and traditional arts, such as pottery, weaving, and embroidery. These traditional handicrafts not only serve as a means of artistic expression but also play a vital role in preserving Uzbek cultural heritage and showcasing the skills passed down through generations. The traditions of Uzbekistan are a reflection of the country's rich history, diverse ethnic groups, and vibrant cultural tapestry. Through the preservation and celebration of these traditions, Uzbekistan continues to honor its heritage and uphold the values that have defined its society for centuries. Uzbek traditional food is majorly influenced by its neighboring countries. Thanks to the Silk Road, Uzbekistan's foods & cuisine are a varied mixture of Eastern and Western cuisine. Uzbek traditional food is mostly meat-based, accompanied by locally grown vegetables. Uzbek cuisine offers a variety of roasted meats, baked bread, noodles, steamed dumplings, and rice. Uzbek traditional food consists of many colorful tastes. The national dish of Uzbekistan is called plov or pilaf. Plov is the signature of the Uzbek people, and it is the most common and delicious food in Uzbekistan. The main ingredients of plov are fried lamb or beef, carrots, onions, and rice. However, the journey of different tastes does not end in Uzbekistan. Manty or stuffed dumplings are other common cuisines in Uzbekistan. Manty is a dumpling stuffed with meat, onions, fat, and vegetables cooked over steam. It is served with ketchup

or special sauces. Laghman, Meat Skewer or Shashlyk, Samsa, Churba, and Soups are other tasty dishes of Uzbekistan.

### Customs of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan, with its blend of ancient traditions and modern influences, boasts a tapestry of customs that define the social fabric of the country. These customs encompass a wide range of practices, rituals, and etiquettes that are deeply ingrained in the daily life of Uzbek society, reflecting its unique cultural identity. One of the most striking customs in Uzbekistan is the practice of showing respect to elders. Elders are highly revered in Uzbek culture, and it is customary for younger individuals to greet them with a bow and show deference in their presence. This tradition underscores the importance of respect for wisdom, experience, and age in Uzbek society. Another notable custom in Uzbekistan is the art of traditional greetings. Handshaking is a common form of greeting in Uzbek culture, often accompanied by polite inquiries about one's well-being and family. Additionally, it is customary to remove one's shoes before entering a home as a sign of respect for the host's property and cleanliness. Family values play a crucial role in Uzbek customs, with strong emphasis placed on familial ties and unity. Family gatherings are common in Uzbek culture, providing an opportunity for relatives to come together, share meals, and celebrate important milestones such as weddings, births, and religious holidays. Furthermore, the culinary customs of Uzbekistan are an integral part of its cultural heritage. Traditional dishes like pilaf, shashlik, and various flatbreads are not only a source of nourishment but also a reflection of Uzbek culinary artistry and hospitality. Sharing meals with family and guests is a cherished custom that fosters bonds and strengthens relationships. The customs of Uzbekistan serve as a means of preserving traditions, fostering social cohesion, and reinforcing cultural values that have withstood the test of time. These customs help shape the social interactions, behaviors, and identity of the Uzbek people, adding depth and richness to the cultural tapestry of the country.

### Cultural Events

Uzbekistan, a country steeped in history and cultural diversity, hosts a myriad of vibrant cultural events that showcase its rich heritage and artistic traditions. These events bring together people from various backgrounds to celebrate, honor traditions, and revel in the beauty of Uzbek arts and culture. One of the most significant cultural events in Uzbekistan is Navruz, the Persian New Year celebration. Navruz marks the beginning of spring and is a time of joy, renewal, and festivity. During Navruz, colorful street festivals, traditional music and dance performances, and bazaars selling handicrafts and local delicacies enliven cities and towns across the country. This celebration symbolizes the arrival of a new season and represents hope, prosperity, and unity. Another notable cultural event in Uzbekistan is the Silk and Spice Festival held in Bukhara. This festival pays homage to the historical significance of the Great Silk Road and the cultural exchange it facilitated between East and West. Visitors can immerse themselves in exhibitions of traditional silk weaving, spice markets, folk performances, and culinary delights, providing a glimpse into Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage and global connections. Uzbekistan also celebrates Independence Day on September 1st, commemorating the country's independence from the Soviet Union. This national holiday is marked by grand parades, fireworks displays, concerts, and cultural performances that showcase the patriotic spirit and cultural achievements of the Uzbek people. Moreover, the Sharq Taronalari International Music Festival held in Samarkand is a major cultural event that attracts performers and music enthusiasts from around the world. This festival celebrates traditional Uzbek music, dance, and craftsmanship, fostering cultural exchange and promoting the preservation of musical heritage.

Cultural events in Uzbekistan serve as platforms for artistic expression, intercultural dialogue, and community engagement. They play a vital role in preserving traditions, promoting cultural diversity, and fostering a sense of pride and unity among Uzbekistan's diverse population. These events not only

showcase the beauty of Uzbek culture to the world but also serve to strengthen the bonds that connect people across generations and borders.

### **CONCLUSION**

The traditions, customs, and cultural events of Uzbekistan serve as vibrant threads in the rich tapestry of the country's cultural heritage. From the warm hospitality extended to guests to the elaborate celebrations of Nowruz and weddings, Uzbek customs reflect a deep-rooted respect for history, community, and artistry. The values of respect for elders, traditional greetings, and family unity underscore the importance of relationships and connections in Uzbek society. Moreover, cultural events like the Navruz festival, Silk and Spice Festival, Independence Day celebrations, and the Sharq Taronalari International Music Festival not only showcase the diversity and creativity of Uzbek cultural expressions but also serve as platforms for cultural exchange, dialogue, and unity. Through a deep appreciation of its traditions, customs, and cultural events, Uzbekistan not only honors its past but also shapes its present and future. These cultural practices bind communities together, celebrate diversity, and showcase the unique identity of Uzbekistan to the world. Embracing these customs and events is not just a celebration of heritage; it is a reaffirmation of the values, creativity, and spirit that define the Uzbek people and their enduring cultural legacy.

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