

ART & CULTURE

IN

AZERBAIJAN



Architecture To Note:

The Heydar Aliyev Centre - Completed 2003 - Architect - Zaha Hadid

The Heydar Aliyev Centre is a 619,000-square-foot building complex in Baku, Azerbaijan designed by Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid and noted for its distinctive architecture and flowing, curved style that eschews sharp angles. The centre is named after Heydar Aliyev, the leader of Soviet-era Azerbaijan from 1969 to 1982, and president of Azerbaijan from October 1993 to October 2003.

It contains a museum dedicated to Aliyev and contains some of the country's jewels in presidential gifts and monuments. This cultural centre is also home to a revolution of contemporary museum exhibitions and art shows. It has been hailed as one of the late Hadid's greatest

designs and draws a lot of international interest.

The Flame Towers - Completed 2012

The three towers are the tallest skyscrapers in Baku, with a height of 190m. The buildings consist of luxury apartments, a hotel and an office block, which strongly identify today's main architectural uses of modern Baku.

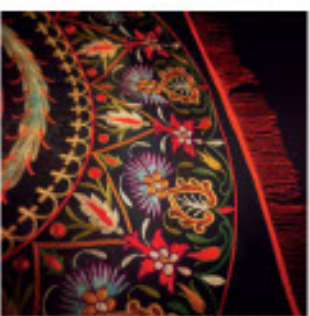
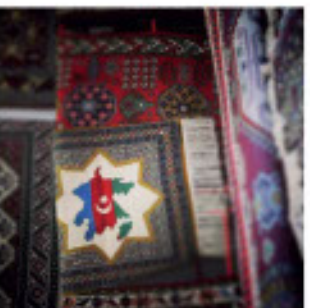
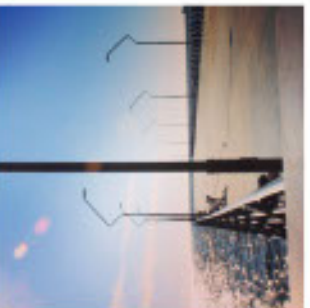
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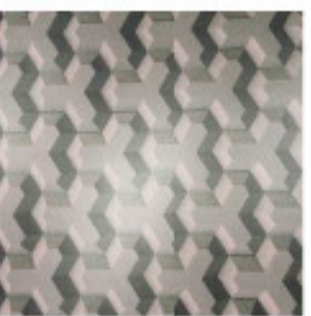
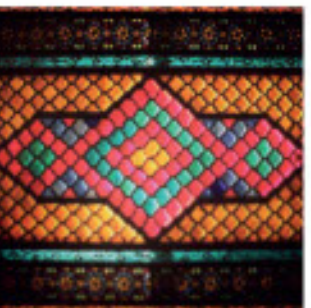


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ECONOMY

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Tourism

In the past years Azerbaijan has greatly increased its potential for global access and as a unique tourism destination. With general annual tourism coming from Russia and Turkey, as well other countries in close proximity, Azerbaijan has also been placing itself on the world map, beginning to appeal more to western travellers. For example, Azerbaijan has seen host to various international tourist events such as the European Song contest in 2008 and the first European games in 2015. Football has also played a role in breaching the UK audience, with Tottenham Hotspur playing Qarabag in the Europa league in 2015. Baku is also due to host the 2016 Grand Prix in Baku.

As Azerbaijan lays claim to having 9 different climate zones across its regions, the country is also the home to a very popular ski resort. Shahdagh Resort is on Mount

Shahdagh, a mountain peak of the Greater Caucasus range, located in the Qusar region of Azerbaijan. This lies close to the Russian border and thus attracts many Russian tourists. The elevation of the peak is 4,243 metres above the sea level and Prehistoric cave dwellings have been discovered at the base of the mountain indicating habitation for over 9,000 years - another popular reason for holidaying on the mountain.

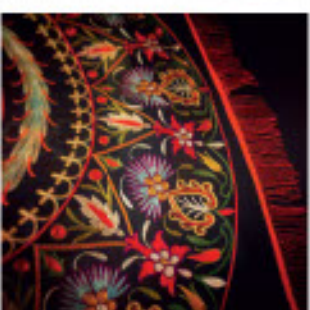
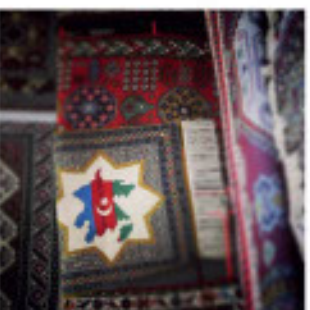
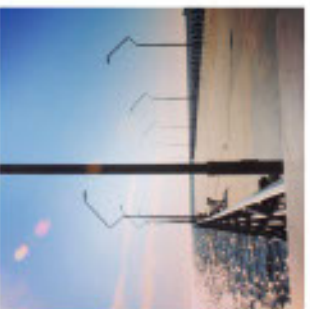
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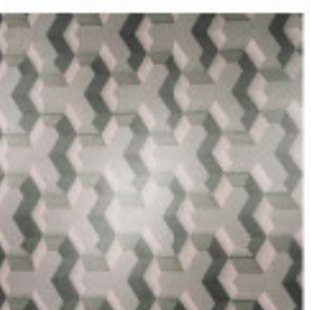
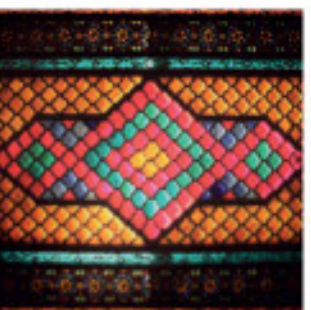


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ENVIRONMENT

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The Land of Fire

Azerbaijan is a country known as the 'Land of Fire' and also the 'Land of Oil'. It has received these two titles from very natural causes and what you might not realise is that the two are linked together. Azerbaijan is located by the Caspian Sea and its capital Baku is right by the shore. The Caspian Sea and surrounding lands are well known for their rich oil supply. This has contributed to varying natural phenomena in the geographic area, much of which can be seen in Azerbaijan. This richness in oil is also responsible for the name and reputation that the country has received.

Azerbaijan is the home of about three hundred mud volcanoes, the country with the highest number in the world, especially as there are only about seven hundred known mud volcanoes in existence.

In the volcanoes, pent-up and burning hydrocarbon gases are released, along with mud, and can travel from up to 812 km from underneath the ground.

The gases leaking from the ground can create a fascinating phenomenon seen in the ever burning fire at Yanar Dag, where gas leaks, and fuels a flame from the side of a mountain.

For Further Information Visit:

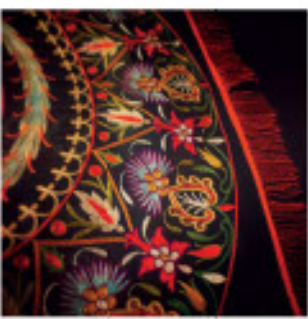
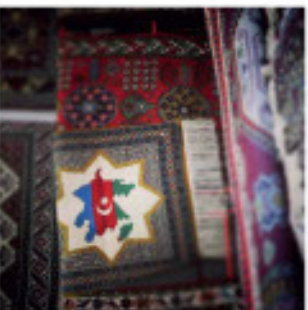
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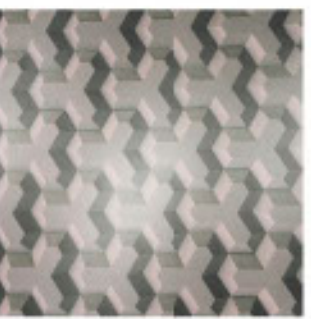
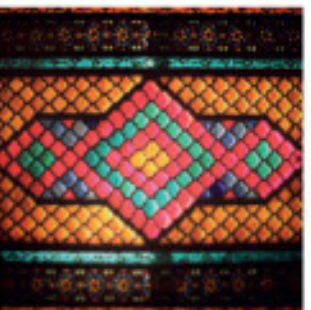


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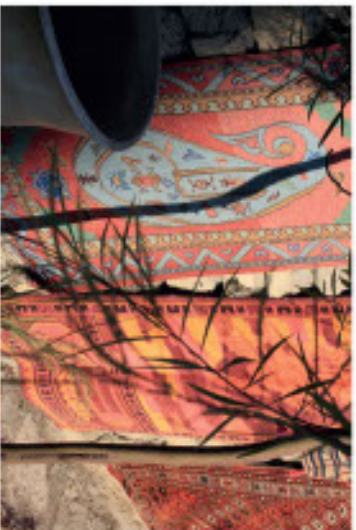
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HISTORY

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The Silk Trade Route

In the 1st – 2nd centuries BC the busiest trade route began with Chinese and Indian traders crossing Central Asia, to the Caspian Sea, and across the territory of Azerbaijan. There the route split into two roads: one led upstream the Kura towards Colchis and Iberia, the second along the western coast of the Caspian Sea.

Azerbaijan was the safest of the entire Silk Road and attracted a diverse range of merchants. Another attraction of the destination was that most of the travel here was by water, which was the cheapest mode of transport at the time. As a result, this section of route was durable, stable and intensive.

It was along these split branches of the Silk Road that the numerous individual cities of Azerbaijan were founded.

During early Middle Ages, Azerbaijan still remained the important centre of the route. And Barda, which became the capital of Azerbaijan in the 5th century, was considered the world's greatest trading centre on one of branches of the Silk Road and until the 10th century was one of the greatest centres of crafts of the entire Middle East.

For Further Information Visit:

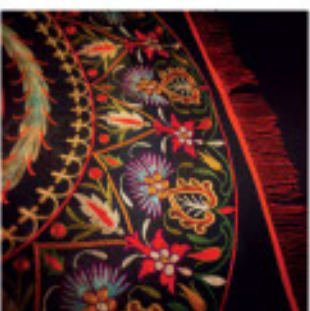
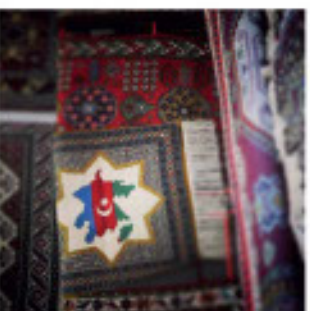
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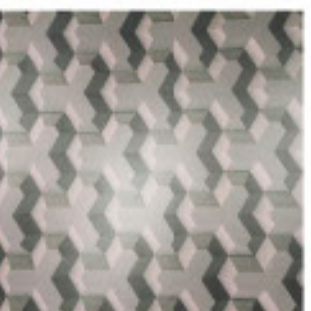
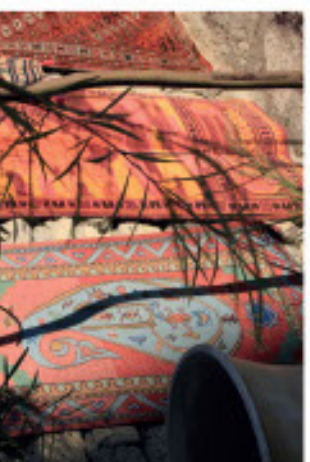


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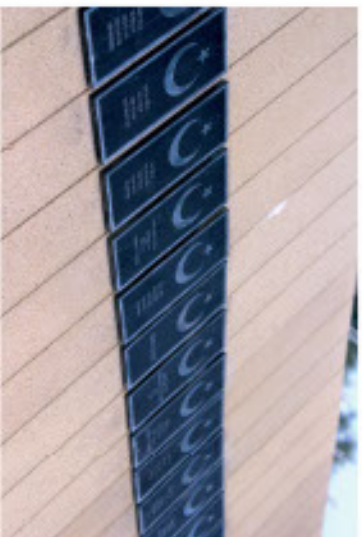
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POLITICS

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1918 - 1920 - Azerbaijani Democratic Republic

In May 1918, Azerbaijan declared independence as the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR). The ADR was the first modern parliamentary republic in the Muslim world. Among the important accomplishments of the Parliament was the extension of suffrage to women, making Azerbaijan the first Muslim nation to grant women equal political rights with men. Another important accomplishment of ADR was the establishment of Baku State University, which was the first modern-type university founded in Muslim East.

Despite existing for only two years, the multi-party Azerbaijani Parliamentary republic and the coalition governments managed to achieve a number of measures on national and state building, education,

the creation of an army, independent financial and economic systems, international recognition of the ADR as a de facto state pending recognition, official recognitions and diplomatic relations with a number of states, preparing of a Constitution involving equal rights for all, etc.

This laid an important foundation for the re-establishment of independence in 1991.

For Further Information Visit:

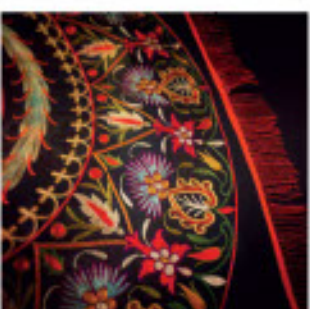
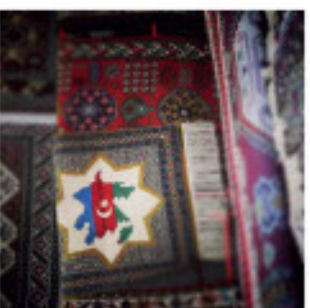
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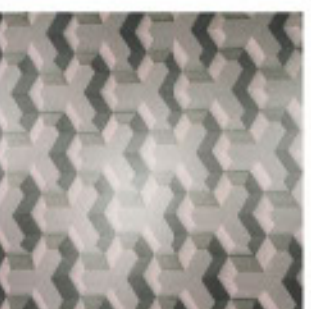


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SOCIETY

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Azerbaijani National Holidays & Traditions

Azerbaijan is a multinational country where many ancient traditions and holidays play a very significant role in citizen's lives. Furthermore, when Azerbaijan obtained independence it established new series of memorable days and dates which became public holidays in the country. All the holidays in Azerbaijan can be divided into national, professional and religious ones.

Out of the many religious holidays in Azerbaijan, Kurban Bayram (a feast of sacrifice), Ramazan Bayram (a holiday after fasting) and Novruz Bayram should be specially noted. Novruz is a holiday based on nature and ideas of renewal and fertility. It has been observed in Azerbaijan since ancient times, when its population followed Zoroastrianism. In addition to these holidays,

Azerbaijan also observes other memorable days such as Martyrs' Day.

Days of special importance for Azerbaijan are: the 'Day of Youth in Azerbaijan', 'Day of Remembrance' for victims of the Khojaly massacre, 'Day of Knowledge', and 'Day of Azerbaijani Oil'.

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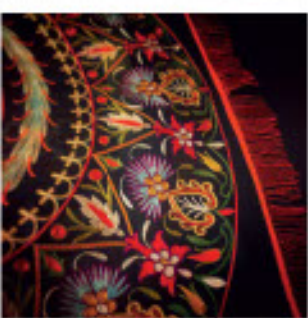
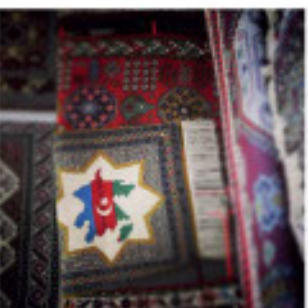
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