



Traditional Aspects of Pilgrimage Etiquette in Modern Uzbek Society

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Annotation: This article examines the peculiarities of visiting etiquette in Uzbekistan. In addition, the customs, traditions and social norms that shape the guest-host dynamic are clarified. From the importance of a warm welcome to the art of gift-giving and the significance of shared meals, the intricate details that define the hospitality experience in this Central Asian masterpiece are revealed. By embracing these local characteristics, visitors can immerse themselves in the genuine warmth of the people of Uzbekistan and create unforgettable memories of their travels through the culturally rich and diverse nation. Apart from that, there is also talk about the unique tourist attractions of Samarkand.

Keywords: customs, harmonious environment, pilgrimage, sign of hospitality, local customs, respect and reverence, politeness.

Introduction. Welcome to Uzbekistan, which is known for its rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality. When traveling through this Central Asian gem, it's important to familiarize yourself with the local etiquette of visiting. With its colorful traditions and customs, Uzbekistan offers a unique experience for travelers seeking to immerse themselves in its vibrant culture. From the ancient cities of Bukhara and Khiva to the bustling capital of Tashkent, each region reflects its own rules of etiquette, values and traditions of its people. Learning about local customs and manners is essential to help you travel this amazing country with a spirit of respect and gratitude, making meaningful connections and unforgettable memories along the way.

First of all, it is important to dress modestly and conservatively, especially when visiting religious sites or attending formal events. These are your open spaces in particular; means covering your shoulders and knees and avoiding revealing clothing. Uzbekistan is a predominantly Muslim country, and Islamic customs and traditions are an integral part of everyday life. If you plan to visit mosques, mausoleums, or religious sites, you should dress modestly and appropriately. Women must cover their heads with a headscarf and wear clothing that covers their shoulders and legs. Men should wear long pants and avoid short or sleeveless shirts. By following these guidelines, you not only show respect for the local culture, but also create a harmonious atmosphere in these holy places. When entering a house or mosque, it is customary to remove your shoes before entering. Shaking the host's hand or nodding is also considered polite. Hospitality is highly valued in Uzbekistan; guests are often treated with great generosity. If you are invited to someone's home for a meal, it is customary to bring a small gift such as sweets or pastries. When eating in Uzbekistan, it is customary to share food among the group. It is polite to wait until everyone has been served before starting to eat and to use your right hand to eat, as the left hand is traditionally used for hygiene purposes.

In Uzbek culture, the elderly are respected and respected. It is customary to use formal titles such as "aunt" or "uncle" when talking to someone older than you, even if they are not related to you.

Finally, remember to ask permission before photographing people or places of worship. It is also important to respect local customs and traditions when participating in cultural events such as dance or music performances.

By following these simple etiquette rules and respecting local customs and traditions, you can fully immerse yourself in the culture of Uzbekistan and make meaningful connections with its people during your visit.

When visiting Uzbekistan, particularly the historic city of Samarkand, it's important to be aware of local customs and etiquette to ensure a respectful and pleasant experience. Located in Central Asia, Uzbekistan has a rich cultural heritage influenced by the Silk Road and its position as a crossroads of different civilizations. Some local features of pilgrimage etiquette in Samarkand:

1. **Respect for Islamic culture:** Uzbekistan is a predominantly Muslim country, which occupies an important place in the daily life of the Islamic people. When visiting religious monuments such as Registan Square or Bibikhanim Mosque, it is necessary to dress modestly and wear clothes that cover the shoulders, chest and legs. Women may consider wearing a headscarf as a sign of respect. Do not forget to remove your shoes before entering the mosque or mausoleums.¹
2. **Greetings and courtesy:** Uzbeks are known for their warm hospitality and friendliness. It is customary to greet people with a smile, make direct eye contact, and shake hands. When addressing a person, it is polite to use the title "bek" for men or "xonim" for women after their name. However, older men can be addressed as "aka" or women as "Opa", meaning brother and sister respectively.
3. **Tea drinking culture:** Tea holds a special place in Uzbek culture and is often used as a sign of hospitality. When invited to someone's home or to a local tea house, it is customary to accept the invitation and have a cup of tea. When taking tea, it's polite to hold the cup in your right hand and take at least a few sips as a token of appreciation.²
4. **Eating together:** Uzbeks are proud of their culinary traditions, and eating together is an integral part of their culture. If invited to dinner with the locals, it is impolite to refuse. When you sit down to eat, wait for the host to start eating before you start. Don't forget to sample a little of everything served to show your appreciation for the food and the host's efforts.
5. **Giving a gift:** It is customary to bring a small gift to express gratitude when visiting someone's home or leaving Uzbekistan. Common gifts include sweets, dried fruit or souvenirs from your home country. Present the gift with both hands as a sign of respect.
6. **Photography Etiquette:** Samarkand has amazing historical sites and photography enthusiasts will find plenty of opportunities to capture the beauty. However, local customs and regulations should be kept in mind. Photography may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas, especially at religious sites. Always ask permission before photographing people and respect their wishes.
7. **Haggle in the markets:** Samarkand's markets like Siyob Bazaar offer lively shopping. Bargaining is one of the most common aspects of Uzbekistan and can often be observed in the markets. However, it is important to maintain a friendly and respectful tone during negotiations. Remember, haggling is part of the cultural experience, but if you think the price is already fair, don't haggle too much.

By keeping these local characteristics and etiquette in mind, you can improve your visit to Samarkand in terms of tourist etiquette, get to know the local culture, and make a positive impression on the people you meet.

Conclusion. In conclusion, learning about the local etiquette of visiting Uzbekistan opens up a world of cultural richness and genuine hospitality. The Uzbek people are proud to welcome guests with open arms, share their traditions, and establish strong ties. You honor the deep-rooted values of

2.1 ¹ Islam. Encyclopedia. - Tashkent: UzME, 2017. - P. 619-620

2.1 ² Alimuhamedov A. Ceremonies and customs in Islam. -Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1969. -B. 90-91.

Uzbek society by respecting Islamic customs, dressing modestly when visiting religious places, and showing respect for the elderly. Warm greetings, practicing the art of tea drinking, and embracing the spirit of shared dining show your appreciation for the local way of life. In addition, strolling through lively markets and friendly haggling not only allows you to bring home unique treasures, but also strengthens ties with local vendors and gives a glimpse into Uzbekistan's entrepreneurial spirit. As you travel through ancient cities, beautiful landscapes and charming villages, these etiquette rules become not only social norms, but also bridges of cultural understanding and values. By immersing yourself in local traditions, you'll make meaningful connections, create lifelong memories, and make a positive impact on the communities you encounter. With its fascinating history, architectural wonders, and friendly people, Uzbekistan invites you to embrace its unique visiting etiquette.

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