



# Urban Cultural Tours: Dushanbe



# Urban Cultural Tours: Dushanbe

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**Front page:** Panel created with block printing method known as “Chitgary”

**Dushanbe**, the capital of Tajikistan, is situated in the centre of the Hissar valley more than 800m above sea level. Until 1961 it was called Stalinabad. From the north and east it is surrounded by the foothills of the snowy Hissar range, whose peaks reach over 4,000m high, and from the south it borders the Kofarnihon River. Situated in the largest agricultural oasis of the country, Dushanbe occupies the area along both banks of the Varzob River (called Dushanbinka within the city), which takes its waters from the snowfields and glaciers of the Hissar range that forms a part of the giant Pamir-Alai mountain system. In the Upper Varzob river basin there are around 120 glaciers of various sizes that create a favorable microclimate in the mountainous valley near Dushanbe. Due to the gentle breeze caused by the proximity to the mountains, residents of the capital do not suffer that much from the heat during the hot season of the year. The Varzob River generously provides drinking water, irrigation for adjacent gardens and fields, and electricity for the city's residents. The Varzob Valley is also a popular place for recreation during both the summer and winter seasons.

The city is very green, boasting vines, flower gardens, and various types of trees including fruit trees, sycamores, maples, chestnuts, mulberry-trees, oaks, and walnuts. Precipitation occurs mainly in the winter and spring, with the highest amount in March and April. Snow does not usually settle, and if it does, it tends to melt within a few days. During the summer season, the area has a continental-tropical climate characterized by hot and dry weather.

Autumn is widely considered to be the best season of the year due to the warm, dry weather, and a rich harvest of crops including fruit, vegetables, and cotton. As it is only 90 years old, Dushanbe is a relatively “young” capital. It cannot be compared in age, history, or monuments to ancient cities like Bukhara and Samarkand.

Nevertheless, archaeologists, ethnographers, and historians have recently made numerous findings in Dushanbe that cast scientific dispute upon its true age. These include a wedge-shaped copper axe dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C., an elegant and splendidly-made gold and silver alloy earring, a bronze gilded piece of a



harness in the middle of which there is an embossment of the head of the Greek god Dionysus, and a treasure of Sasanid silver coins. These discoveries serve as evidence that the area was already populated, and that a high-level of culture, craft and town-planning existed almost 2,500 years ago.

The first-known historical record of Dushanbe dates back to 1676. Dushanbe was called kasabai, confirming its status as a town. It was favorably located at the crossroads of caravan routes connecting the Hissar valley with Bukhara and Samarkand, the Pamirs and Afghanistan. Dushanbe, translated from Tajik as “Monday”, takes its name from a large bazaar that took place in the city on this particular day. The establishment of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic in 1929 marked the beginning of Dushanbe’s rapid growth: the first streets were paved, and mills, soap and oil factories, cotton-cleaning plants, metal-working mechanical and joiner’s workshops became operational. A film studio was opened in the same year, and the first documentary was produced to record the arrival of the first train to Dushanbe from

Termez by the railway that was built in 1929. In 1931, the first water supply system (about 4km long) was built in the city. All goods, including construction materials, were transported by camel. In 1929, Dushanbe was renamed “Stalinabad”, the name by which it was known for the following 32 years. The first hydropower station in the country was built on the outskirts of Dushanbe, on the Varzob River.

In 1938, the first General Development Plan was developed for the city, whose population had grown to 170,000. According to the Plan, the Opera and Ballet Theatre, Vakhsh Hotel, House of Government, House of Specialists and a number of other beautiful buildings were constructed. After many decades, these buildings continue to decorate the capital of Tajikistan against a background of snowy mountains and blue sky. The main street in Dushanbe – Rudaki Avenue – is named in honor of the hero of Tajik literature. The avenue stretches for 12 km from north to south, from the Varzob Valley to the railway station. A walk or a ride along the avenue will provide the chance to see many of the capital’s sights, including its most



impressive architectural complexes, administrative, research and cultural institutions, universities, theatres, hotels and restaurants. There is a Memorial Complex in the central square to honor the 1,100th anniversary of the Samanid State. A monument within the complex commemorates Ismoil Somoni, the founder of the first Tajik state that existed during the 9th and 10th centuries. Ismoil Somoni's uplifted right hand grasps a regal gold scepter that depicts an image of the sun with seven stars – a symbol of national unity and revival in Tajikistan.

There are many department stores on Rudaki Avenue, including the Central Department Store ("TSUM"). As people in the east used to judge towns by their bazaars, several markets can be found across the city. Shohmansur, generally known as the Green Market, is located in the city centre, right behind the S. Aini Opera and Ballet Theatre. The Sultoni Kabir, Sakhovat and Korvon markets can be found in the southern part of the city. In these bazaars, one can find a wide range of foodstuffs, manufactured goods and local crafts.

The National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan

opened several years ago. Within its collection, the museum boasts the famous 13m long clay Nirvana statue of Buddha.

The National Museum of Tajikistan opened its doors in 2013. With both permanent and temporary collections on display, Tajikistan's history, archaeology, fine arts, and flora and fauna are all represented within its walls. A large collection of musical instruments from many countries is presented in the private Gurminj Zavqibekov Museum of Musical Instruments.

Sometimes it is possible to listen to "live" national music performed by the son of the museum's founder or his apprentices.

One of the most remarkable buildings in the city is the Sadridin Aini State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, which was opened in 1940. S. Aini was the founder of contemporary Tajik literature, a famous writer, and the first President of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. The theatre continues to play host to national operas and ballets as well as classical works. The first professional theatre in the country – the A. Lohuti Tajik State Academic Drama Theatre –



is a recognized centre of Dushanbe's cultural life. In 1929, the first seeds of professional Tajik theater were sown in the form of an amateur art activities hobby group inspired by the distinctive amateur and folk arts of the Tajik people. In their creative work, the Tajik artists rely on the traditions of both national art and international theatre.

Several theatres also cater to younger generations, including the children's "Lukhtak" puppet-theatre and the "M.Vohidov" Youth Theatre.

The National Library of Tajikistan, which blends traditional local design with modern architecture, is one of the most beautiful buildings in the capital. This temple of human knowledge contains more than three million books in different languages, including an ancient oriental manuscripts collection, of which the library takes great pride. Among its most unique and rare manuscripts are the History of Tabari (13<sup>th</sup> century); one of the most impressive hand-written copies of Firdausi's epic "Shohnoma" (16<sup>th</sup> century); a collection of Jomi's works "Seven Beauties"; poems of Hofiz; rubai (4-line stanza poems) of Omar Khayom;

and an anthology of poems by Saadi. Manuscripts of the works of Avicenna, Alisher Navoi, Tusi, Ghazali, Bedil, Ahmad Donish and other famous writers, scholars and enlighteners of the Orient are also carefully preserved in the collection. The foreign publications collection contains about 100,000 books in 34 languages. The library has thematic catalogues and several reading halls.

Founded in 1933, the Botanical Gardens of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan are located on one of the back streets crossing Rudaki Avenue. More than 2,000 species of plants from all over the world grow here, including over 600 species of rose and more than 30 species of juniper.

Dushanbe is a member of the World Federation of Sister Cities and maintains friendly ties with 13 sister cities, including Lusaka (Zambia), Sana (Yemen), Klagenfurt (Austria), Boulder (USA), Monastir (Tunisia), Lahore (Pakistan), Reutlingen (Germany), Tehran and Mashhad (Iran), Urumchi (China), Mazari Sharif (Afghanistan), Minsk (Belarus) and Saint Petersburg (Russia). While Dushanbe's public transportation



system includes buses, trolleybuses and marshrutkas (minibuses), there is no metro in the city. Dushanbe International Airport (international airport code - DYU) is within the city limits, and it only takes 10-20 minutes to get there from the city centre by public transportation.

Dushanbe grows prettier every year and always greets guests with a warm and open heart.



*Tulips in Botanical garden "Iram"*





*Flagpole*



*Monument Abuabdulloi Rudaki*



## Rudaki Park

Covering an area of 8 hectares, City Garden “Bogi Rudaki” (Rudaki Park) is located in the Ismail Somoni district of Dushanbe, stretching to the eastern side of the city’s main street - Rudaki Avenue. As part of an urban redevelopment project, the city began reconstruction of the former Lenin Park in 2007, after which it was renamed “Bogi Rudaki”. The central, green stretch of city garden arrives at the main facade of the Palace of the Nation, at which point the compositional focus of the entire park becomes the sculptural monument dedicated to the 1150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abuabdulloi Rudaki.

## Flagpole

Dushanbe is home to the highest flagpole in the world, which reaches a height of 165m. Construction of the flagpole began on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, when Tajikistan celebrated National Flag Day. The official opening was held on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and was dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Tajikistan’s independence, which is celebrated on

the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. A representative of Guinness World Records, David Chambers, attended the solemn ceremony on the opening day and presented a certificate to the Tajik President confirming that the “flagpole installed in Tajikistan, is the highest in the world”.

**The Botanical Garden of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan** (Garden “Iram”) – was founded in the 1930<sup>s</sup> on the northern part of Dushanbe’s left bank. The Botanical Garden is located in the Ismail Somoni district and expands westward to the edge of the river bank – Dushanbinka. The garden sprawls for an impressive 30 hectares. At the park’s central entrance, located to the east, one can find trees planted by the first members of the Institute of Botany in the mid 1930<sup>s</sup>. Following the alley, you will arrive at the glass greenhouse, from which all of the park’s other pathways extend. The Institute of Botany of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan is located in the northern part of the Botanical Garden. After the establishment of the Academy of Sciences of the Tajik SSR (1951), the greenhouses were built in the



1960s on the territory of the garden for the Academy's Institute of Botany. Today, the garden contains samples of trees and bushes from almost all corners of the world, many of which are already included in the Red Book of Nature. The Botanical Garden currently serves as a place for rest and educational tourism. In 2007, on the north side of the greenhouse, an open-air ethnographic reserve of folk architecture was created.

Here in the garden, one can find traditional houses of inhabitants from the different regions of Tajikistan; exhibits include alouhona (translated from Tajik: Summer Dutch oven), mehmonhona (living room), a hamom (bath), dairy mills and so on. On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the independence of Republic of Tajikistan (2011), wooden aivans (arbour) encrusted with eastern ornaments were installed on the territory of the garden, together with animal sculptures and benches for visitors. Various exercise machines were installed along one of the main alleys in the garden, making it one of the most popular places for Dushanbe's citizens to pass their free time. A summer amphitheatre that can seat 1.5 thousand people was

also built. Following a decision by the Dushanbe City Hall (Khukumat city), the Botanical Garden of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan was renamed the Garden "Iram". Garden "Iram" has developed into a recreational park that is enjoyed by many for the cultural activities that are carried out by the city, as well as the weekend exhibitions of craftsmen, artists, and local businesses.





*Children in botanical garden*



*Wedding in botanical garden*



*Handicrafts fair in botanical garden*





*National Museum of Tajikistan. Lion's statuette IX-X. Hulbuk*

## National Museum of Tajikistan

### About use

The museum building consists of 22 small and large exhibition halls that house exhibits on nature, antiquity, the Middle Ages, modern and contemporary history, and fine and applied arts. A research department was formed under the auspices of the museum, consisting of the departments of written heritage, archaeology and numismatics. The exhibition area is 15.000 sq. meters and it takes about 4 hours to conduct a tour around the museum. There is a special, permanent exhibition of Tajik souvenirs available for sale.

### Contact information

**Address:** Ismoil Somoni av., 11, 734001, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 227-85-61; 227-85-77

**e-mail:** museumtj@rambler.ru

**Facebook page:** National Museum of Tajikistan

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00

Sunday: 11:00 – 15:00

Closed on Mondays and on the last Saturday of every month

### Admission

Ticket price: 25 TJS

Tours: English-speaking guide 30 TJS

Extras: taking photos (no flash) 10 TJS



*Oxus treasure*





*Declaration of Cyrus the Great*



*Buddha in nirvana (replica)*



*Musical instruments*



*Ismoil Somoni coins*



▲ *Ancient Quran*

◀ *Selen sculpture*



*Souvenirs shop*



## Museum of the Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography of Tajikistan

### About us

The museum of ethnography is located in the central part of Dushanbe. The building that houses the museum was built in 1934. Today this museum contains one of the richest Central Asian collections of historical objects of Tajik culture and lifestyle. The Museum's exhibition includes samples of pottery, furniture, jewelry, musical instruments and items of national clothing from all regions of Tajikistan.

### Contact information

**Address:** Rajabov st., 9, Dushanbe, Tajikistan,  
**Phone:** + (992 37) 227-87-51

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Friday; 10:00 – 17:00  
Saturdays: 10:00 – 16:00  
Sundays: 10:00 – 14:00  
Closed on Mondays

### Admission:

Ticket price: 10 TJS

No photos allowed

Languages: Tajik, Russian



*Traditional dresses of Tajik women*



## National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan

### About us

Opened in 2001, the Museum's impressive collection includes artifacts from the temple of the Hellenistic age of Ox, found on the Takhti-Sangin site, as well as wall paintings from Panjakent. The Museum's most popular and valuable exhibit however, is the statue of Buddha in Nirvana. The statue was discovered during archaeological investigations of a Buddhist monastery of the early Middle Ages, Ajina teppa. Other items of interest include unique monuments of material and nonmaterial culture, found during the course of excavations in Khujand, Panjakent, Istravshan, Kulob and Hulbuk.

### Contact information

**Address:** Rajabov st., 7, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 227-13-50; 221-37-42

**web-site:** [www.afc.ryukoku.ac.jp/tj](http://www.afc.ryukoku.ac.jp/tj)

**e-mail:** [kamila-rose@mail.ru](mailto:kamila-rose@mail.ru)

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Friday: from 10:00 – 17:00

Saturdays: from 10:00 – 16:00

Sundays: from 10:00 – 14:00

Closed on Mondays

**Admission:** Ticket price: 20 TJS

No photos allowed

Languages: Tajik, Russian

English-speaking tour guide is available



*Buddha in nirvana (original)*



## Gurminj Museum of Musical Instruments

### About us

The Museum of Musical Instruments was founded in 1990 on the basis of the private collection of the Tajik artist Gurminj Zavkibekov. The talented actor started his collection in his early youth. Gurminj Museum currently has more than 200 items exhibited from all over Asia, boasting a wide range of mainly stringed and percussion instruments including “setars”, “dutars”, “rubabs”, “tanburs” and “banjos”. The most beautiful setar – Kashgar – is encrusted with sadaf (ivory). The collection’s most impressive pieces are the Afghan Badakhshan and Shah setars, which are more than 100 years old. The Shah setar is made of mulberry wood, large in volume but light in weight, and the sound of its strings is the most melodic. Many different setars made by modern masters, in which you can see the original idea of the author. The Museum’s collection of “dutors” (two strings setar) is its most diverse. In the museum you can find dutars from Bukhara and Badakhshan, from the most simple and to the most refined designs.

In this museum, you can also listen to a concert organized by a group of musicians upon special

request (the price varies from 50 to 100 US dollars per hour).

### Contact information

**Address:** Bokhtar st., 23, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 223-10-76; (992) 93-57-31-076

**website:** [www.gurminj.tj](http://www.gurminj.tj)

**e-mail:** [lkbol\\_sho@mail.ru](mailto:lkbol_sho@mail.ru)

**Facebook page:** Gurminj Museum of Music Instruments

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Open daily from 9:00 to 17:00

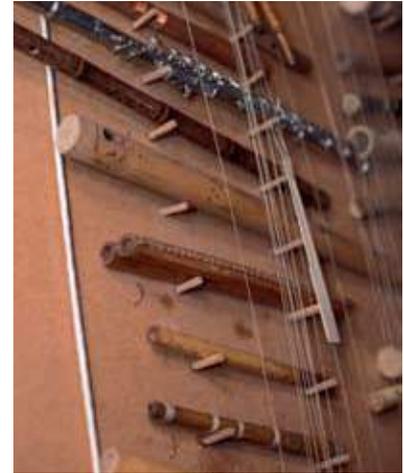
**Admission:** Ticket price: 20 TJS

Languages: Tajik, Russian, Badakhshan, English





*Eastern musical instruments in museum*



Museums



## Mirzo Tursunzade Memorial Museum

### About us

The Memorial and Literature Museum in Dushanbe was founded in 1981 in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous Tajik poet and public figure - Mirzo Tursunzade - under the initiative of his family and with support from the government. The Museum is located in the private house of Mirzo Tursunzade and is owned by the Academy of Science. The living and working conditions the poet are carefully preserved in order to reflect the culture and lifestyle of Dushanbe in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In a separate room, one can find an exposition of Mirzo Tursunzade's works related to his peace promotion activity. An important part of the Museum's collection is a library and personal archive comprised of more than four thousand books. Literary soirees, concerts and conferences are organized at the Museum.

### Contact information

**Address:** Loiq Sherali st., 59, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 224-17-15; (992) 91-84-05-120

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00

Closed on Sundays and Mondays

Free admission

Guided tours are available

Languages: Tajik, Russian

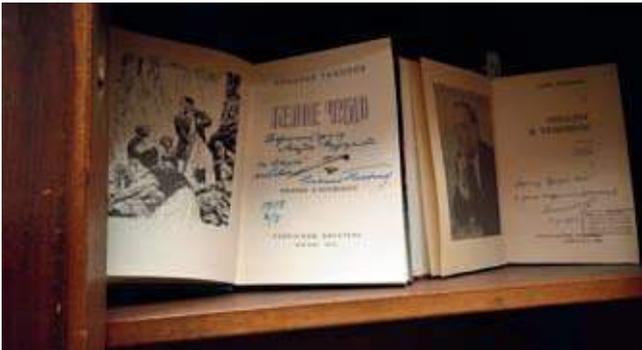


*Entrance to the museum.  
On the wall bas-relief M. Tursunzade*





*Living room*



*Books with original signatures of authors*



*Hazelwood planted by M. Tursunzade*



## Ziyodullo Shahidi Museum of Musical Culture

### About us

The Ziyodullo Shahidi Museum of Musical Culture was founded in 1989. Ziyodullo Shahidi is the founder of modern Tajik music, author of its first Tajik symphony and opera, and writer many popular songs. First as the house-museum where Mr. Shahidi lived and worked for many years, and then as the Museum of Musical Culture, the Museum seeks to preserve and develop Tajik musical culture in all of its diversity. It is wellknown for hosting musical evenings that exhibit fusions of cultures: Tajik-Indian, Tajik-Turkish, Tajik-English, Tajik-Norwegian, etc. At the same time, the Museum often organizes seminars and conferences on the theme "Peace through music". The International Cultural Fund in the name of Ziyodullo Shahidi operates under the auspices of the museum. The Museum of Musical Culture contains over 1500 exhibits including books, personal items of Mr. Shahidi, and musical instruments.

### Contact information

**Address:** Loiq Sherali st., 108, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 224-23-42; (992) 91-92-30-641

**website:** www.shahidifoundation.com

**e-mail:** ziyodullo.shahidi@gmail.com  
yusuf\_shoev@mail.ru

**Facebook page:** The Ziyodullo Shahidi Museum Of Musical Culture

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Monday - Friday: 9:00 – 17:00

Closed on Sundays and Mondays

Free admission

Languages: Tajik, Russian, French



*Entrance  
to the museum*





*Personal library of Z. Shahidi*



*Music room in museum*



*Plaque with name Z. Shahidi on the museum wall*



## Literary Museum of Sadriddin Ayni

Sadriddin Ayni is a famous Tajik Soviet writer. In addition to his mother tongue, Tajik, Ayni was also wellversed in Uzbek. As such, some of his works are written in both languages, and he made a significant contribution to the literary heritage of both nations. His major works are: “Odina” (1924), “Dohunda” (1930), “Slaves” (1934), “Memories” (“Bukhara”) (1949-1954). Sadriddin Ayni is an historical and literary author of great importance to the people of Central Asia. He worked on compiling an anthology, “Samples of Tajik literature”, which includes the best samples of Tajik poetry, from Rudaki through the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This publication was especially important, as it proved the existence of an independent Tajik nation, detailing its history and culture in its dispute with the Panturkists. The writer himself said that “work based on historical facts tore the veil from the intrigues and harassment of the Panturkists and imposed on them the seal of silence...”. Sadriddin Ayni was a participant at the team that witnessed the opening of Tamerlane’s tomb in 1941. The Sadriddin Ayni Museum hosts

a large number of exhibits, including the writer’s personal library, personal belongings, photographs and literature about the life of S. Ayni. The Museum has provided access to this invaluable literature in the Tajik, Russian, Ukrainian, English and German languages.

### Contact information

**Address:** Hamza Hakimzade Niezi st., 1, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 224-52-75; (992) 91-70-55-533

### Hours and Admission

**Opening hours:** Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 – 16:00

Saturdays: 10:00 – 14:00

Closed on Mondays and Sundays

Free admission

Languages: Tajik and Russian





*Literary Museum of Sadriiddin Ayni*



*Typewriter on which worked S. Ayni*



*Working cabinet S. Ayni*



*S. Ayni with school children*





Theatres

*Theater of Opera and Ballet in the name S. Ayni. "Carmen Suite"*

## Tajik Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet

The Tajik Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet in the name of Sadriddin Ayni is the most famous musical theatre in Tajikistan. Opened in 1940, the Theatre is located on Dushanbe's main street, Rudaki Avenue, near the wonderful Park of Opera and Ballet. The Theatre's success was achieved through the work of: L. Kaufman, D. Dalgat, P. Bolenko.; the directors: R. Koroha, S. Saidmuradov, V. Rheinbach, A. Makarov; the choreographers: K. Y. Goleizovsky, A. Procenko; and such artists as: E. Chemodurov, V. Fufygina, V. Suslov. Since 1944, the Theatre has played host to opera performances in both the Russian and Tajik languages.

### General information

**Address:** Rudaki ave., 28, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 221-62-91

**website:** [www.operaballet.tj](http://www.operaballet.tj)

**Facebook page:** Opera Ballet

Ticket price: 20 TJS

Languages: Tajik and Russian

**What's on:** see posters for the current program



## State Russian Drama Theatre

The State Russian Drama Theatre is the biggest theatre in Tajikistan, having opened its doors on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1937. Just three years later, it was named after the great poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky. The Theatre cooperates closely with the cast from the A. Lahuti Academic Drama Theater. The V. Mayakovsky State Russian Drama Theatre is located in the north-eastern part of Dushanbe, on the main street, Rudaki Avenue, in a specially equipped historical building. Current performances include plays based on masterpieces of classical and contemporary world dramas, including those of Isaac Babel, S. Mikhalkov, N. Machiavelli, C. Goldoni and A. Pushkin. About 400 works have been performed on the Theatre's stage throughout the years. During Soviet times, the Theatre was considered to be the best dramatic Russian-speaking theatre in Tajikistan. Today, the Theatre is one of the most visited and popular in the country, and its members are presented with the presidential award every year.

### General information

**Address:** Rudaki av., 76, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Ticket price:** 10 TJS.

**Language:** Russian

**What's on:** see posters for the current program



## “Luhtak” Puppet Theatre

The Puppet Theatre has been operated by its chief director, Zafar Javodov (honored artist of the Republic of Tajikistan), since its opening in 1985. The Puppet Theatre is located in the north east of Dushanbe, on Shotemur Street, next to the playground. Since its inception, more than sixty performances have been presented at the Theatre, seen by thousands of people from Tajikistan and abroad. Today, the Puppet Theatre of Dushanbe maintains its traditional style with performances in the Russian and Tajik languages.

### General information

**Address:** Shotemur st., 54/1 , Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Ticket price:** 10 TJS

**Languages:** Tajik and Russian

**What's on:** see posters for the current program



## Tajik Academic Theatre

Established in 1929, the Theatre is honored to be named after Abulkasim Ahmadzade Lahuti, a classic of modern Tajik literature who translated Shakespeare's plays into the Tajik language and adapted them for theatrical performance. The Theatre is located on the main street of Dushanbe, Rudaki Avenue, not far from the Russian Academic Theater. Famous Tajik actors including M. Kasymov, A. Burhanov, T. Fazilova, A. Muhamadzhanov, H. Maybaliev and others have performed on the stage. The current repertoire of the Theatre includes masterpieces of Tajik drama and international drama such as "Oedipus" by Sophocles, "Zarathustra" by N. Tabarova, "Don Juan" by Moliere, "Tales of the Old Man" by N. Abdullayev, "Call of Love" by K. Abdullah, and others.



### General information

**Address:** Rudaki av., 86, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Ticket price: 10 TJS

Languages: Tajik and Russian

**What's on:** see posters for the current program



# ART GALLERY

## Noor Art Gallery

The gallery is located on the second floor of the five-star “Hyatt Regency” hotel. Products of domestic and foreign craftsmen are represented in the gallery. Here you can buy paintings, graphics, woodcarvings, jewelry, natural stone products, ceramics, pottery, photography, books, postcards, glasswork, embroideries, textiles, ikat home wares and accessories, mohair and cashmere products, clothing made from traditional textiles, carpets, and other ethnic crafts.

**Opening hours:** Daily from 10:00 – 20:00

### Contact information

**Address:** Ismoil Somoni av., 26/1, Dushanbe, Tajikistan,

**Phone:** + (992) 93-80-09-008

**e-mail:** noorartshop@gmail.com

**Facebook page:** NOORARTSHOP

Languages: Tajik, Russian, English



*Feeroozy Negmatzade, owner of the gallery*



*Noor Art shop*





*Ceramics*



*Jewelry*



*Kundal*



*Silk*



## Art Gallery “Rukhom”

“Rukhom” is translated as onyx - the stone of Kings. “Rukhom” was founded in 1994. The main activity of the company is to manufacture products from raw gems: beads, necklaces, bracelets, charms, pendants, earrings, candlesticks, vases, desk sets, jewelry boxes, and mineralogical collections. The company opened a shop where you can the items produced by “Rukhom” from Tajikistan’s semiprecious stones.

**Opening hours:** Daily from 10:00 – 17:00

### Contact information

**Address:** intersection Bukhoro st., and Rudaki av., building “Poytakht 80”, Dushanbe, Tajikistan “World semi-precious stones” shop: Shotemur st., 32, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 227-97-65; 227-43-05; 227-01-79

**website:** [www.rukhom.tajnet.tj](http://www.rukhom.tajnet.tj)

**Facebook:** Rukhom

Languages: Tajik, Russian, English





**Art Gallery “Modigliani”** is named after the Italian impressionist painter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The gallery features arts and crafts of Tajikistan: ceramics, stained glass, jewelry, paintings, textiles, graphics, miniatures, etc.

**Opening hours:** Monday - Friday, from 10:00 – 17:00  
Saturdays from 10:00 – 16:00  
Closed on Sundays

### Contact Information

**Address:** M. Mukhammad st. 4A, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992 37) 227-04-74; (992) 90-00-54-920

**e-mail:** holov.mizrob@yandex.ru

Languages: Tajik, Russian, English





**Art Gallery “Art Salon”** was established at the Institute of Fine Arts and Design of the Republic of Tajikistan. The gallery features arts and crafts of Tajikistan: ceramics, painting, textiles, graphics, miniatures, kundal, wood carving, etc. All available products are made by leading professors of the Institute and their students.

**Opening hours:**

From Monday to Saturday: from 10:00 – 17:00

Saturdays: from 10:00 – 16:00

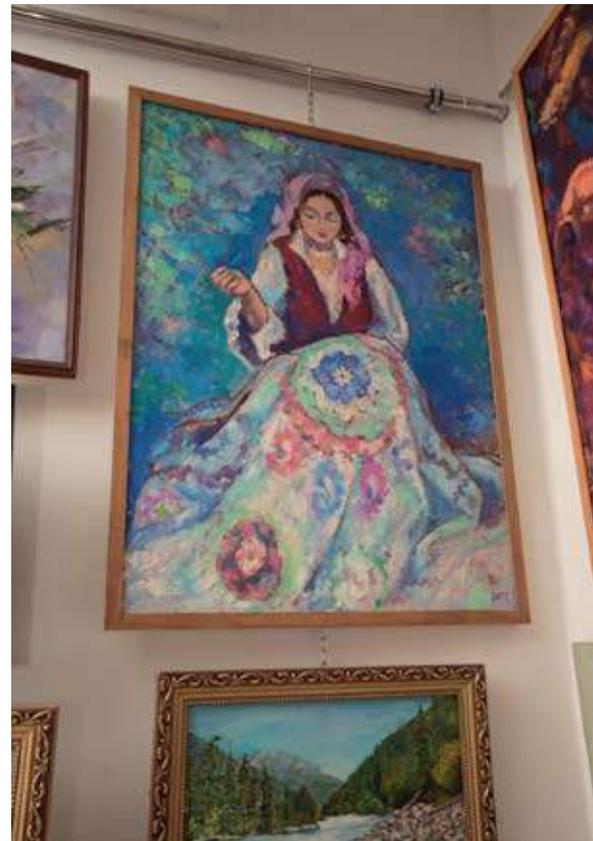
Closed on Sundays

**Contact Information**

**Address:** Ayni st., 31 (former Museum Behzod),  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 734012

Languages: Tajik, Russian





## Art Gallery “Tajikistan”

This shop features products made by Tajik and Pakistani craftsmen. In the gallery you can see a variety of wood products that have been masterfully decorated with national ornaments using traditional wood carving techniques.

**Opening hours:** Daily from 10:00 – 17:00

### Contact information

**Address:** intersection Bukhoro st., and Rudaki av., building “Poytakht 80”, Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
**Languages:** Tajik, Russian



## Art Gallery “Amazing gifts”

In this gallery you can find and purchase traditional, Tajik style souvenirs of good quality. The master craftsmen combine functional items from daily life with national style. Products purchased in this gallery will be a memorable gift.

**Opening hours:** Monday-Saturday: 09:00 – 18:00  
Closed on Sundays.

### Contact information

**Address:** Rudaki av., 32, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

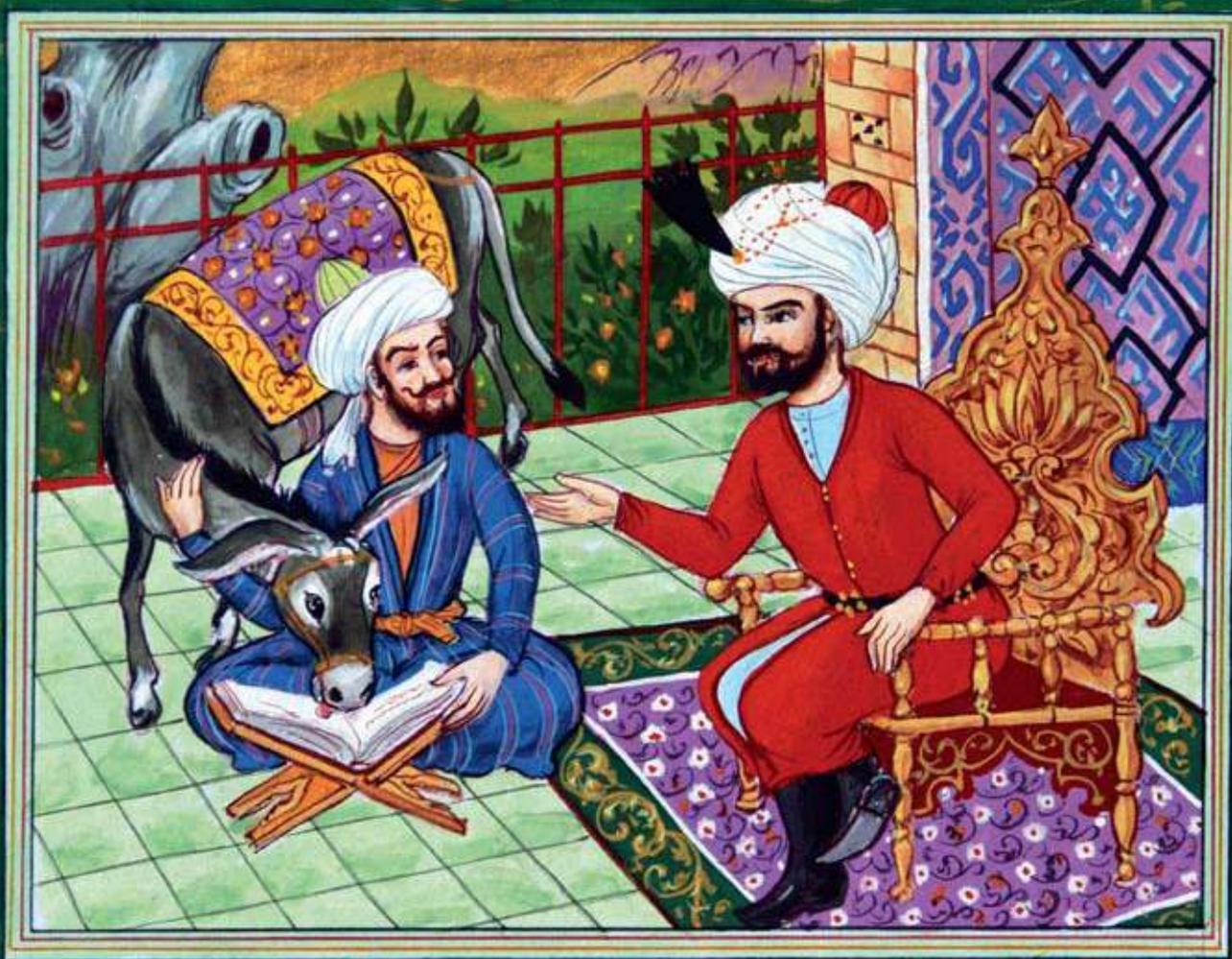
**Phone:** + (992) 90-78-11-793

**Facebook page:** Интересные подарки

Languages: English, Russian







*Olim Kamalov's miniature "Hodja Nasreddin teaches his donkey to read"*

## “MINO” Art Centre of Miniatures

The “Mino” Art Centre - UNESCO club has developed strong relationships with international partners to share experiences and present Tajik art abroad, thereby preserving the historical legacy of Tajikistan - the art of miniatures. The centre conducts cultural and educational activities including round tables; conferences; art, literature and music evenings; and organizes various workshops and exhibitions. Here you can also buy souvenirs made of wood in miniature, paintings and works of art in the style of miniatures, painted plates of ceramic and wood, and plates and pictures in the style of the school of Kamoliddin Behzod. Moreover, the Centre organizes courses where you can learn drawing techniques and the basic skills of painting in miniature.

**Course days:** Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 18:00. A visit to the “Mino” Art Centre - UNESCO Club can be arranged at any time upon a preliminary request.

### Contact information

**Address:** Gani Abdullo st., 16, 1 proezd (Hanifa Mavlonova), Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 734003

**Phone:** + (992) 91-90-09-669; (992) 91-93-60-990

**e-mail:** siluet13@mail.ru

**Facebook page:** Mino Art Centre

Languages: Tajik, Russian, English

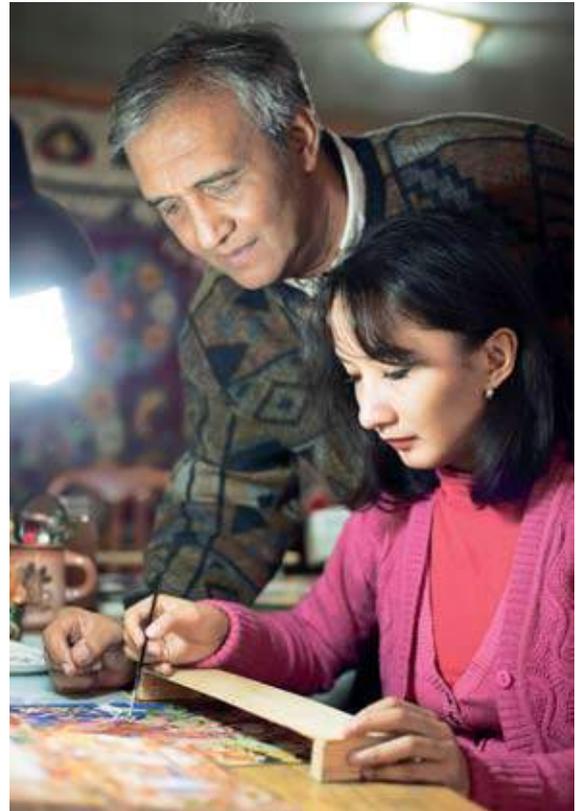


*Master-miniature Olim Kamalov*





*The interior decoration*



*Olim Kamalov with student*



**Suhrob Saidov (1963)** is a craftsman of small ceramic forms. Born in Dushanbe, he graduated from the Ivanovo Chemical Technology University as an engineer-technologist, after which he worked at the ceramics factory in Tursunzade, Tajikistan. In the 1990s, Suhrob decided to begin producing ceramics at home. The first products he manufactured were statues of women and men in national dress. Two of his products were awarded with the UNESCO Seal of Excellence in 2007 and 2008: the jug with cups and the ceramic aromatic lamp.

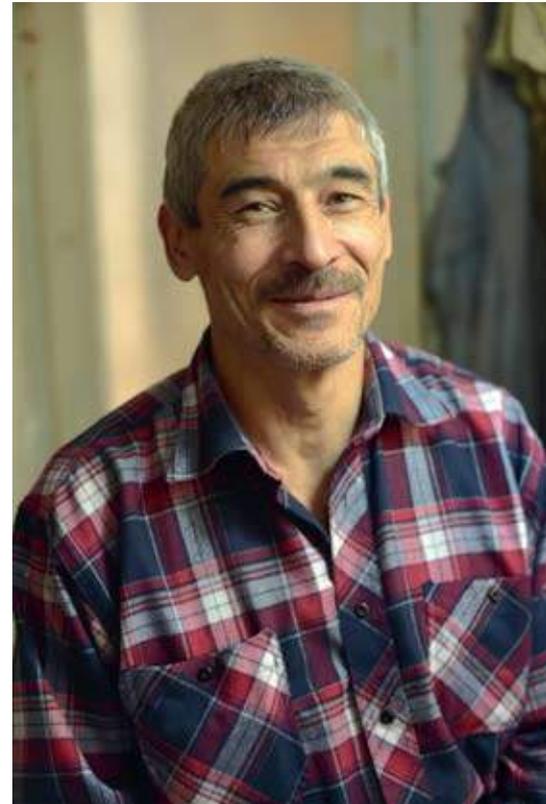
**Contact information**

**Address:** Ispechak - 2, M-21, 8 apt. 9, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992) 91-91-99-825

**e-mail:** suhrob24@mai.ru

Languages: Tajik, Russian



*Master-ceramic Suhrob Saidov*





## Craftsmen's Workshop "Umed"

The workshop is located in a three-story building. On the ground floor there is a workshop for national embroidery, where Tajik women prepare crafts and souvenir products using traditional Tajik ornaments. The ground floor also contains a shop which sells all of the items produced at "Umed". The second floor contains a carpet weaving workshop in which carpets are woven by delicate femal hands using the ancient knot weaving technique for woolen threads. These carpets make use of traditional patterns. Leading experts of "Umed" hold master classes for those wishing to learn the technique of traditional Tajik embroidery and nodular carpet making. The master classes are held by appointment.

### Opening hours:

From Monday to Saturday: from 10:00 – 17:00

On Saturdays: from 10:00 – 16:00

Closed on Sundays

### Contact information

**Address:** Rustam Karimov st., 165, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992) 91-95-53-512; (992) 91-91-70-200

Languages: Tajik, Russian



*Handmade products from "Umed"*





*Handmade products from "Umed"*



The word **“Suzani”** is derived from the Persian word “Suzan”, which is translated into English as “needle”. Women embroider Suzani using colored silk threads on silk or cotton fabrics. Suzani is traditionally sewn by hand, and it has a number of national compositions and colors from which embroiderers never stray. Suzani is artistically impressive due to its size and decorative embroidery, and it does not result in carpets of inferior quality.



*Suzani*



The laborious “**Latch Hook**” technique produces beautiful, woven carpets of the highest quality. The carpet is considered braided if the yarn is inside of its fabric base by the way of weaving of knots. “Latch Hooks” necessarily have fleece, and are therefore called fleeced. A master spends from two to seven seconds at each knot, tying between seven to fourteen thousand knots per day. Only after a month of such work does a picture of the future carpet begin to emerge. The speed depends on the complexity of the weaving pattern, the weaver’s skills, the quality of workmanship, and the material from which the carpet is made.





*Women weave carpets by  
"Latch Hook" techniques*



**Academy of Painters of Tajikistan** was established in 1936 as a school for young artists. Today, the Academy is represented by highly qualified specialists of various genres of fine art such as wood carving and embossing, painting, drawing, stone processing and sculpture (sculptor), Florentine mosaic, jewelry, engraving, souvenirs, kundal, batik, tapestry, etc.

**Opening hours:** Daily from 10:00 – 17:00  
The master classes are held by the Masters of the Academy by advance appointment.

**Contact information**

**Address:** Ibn Sina st., 12, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992) 90-77-43-838

**e-mail:** academy.amt@mail.ru

Languages: Tajik and Russian





*Daler Mihtodjov - Master painter*



*Jumakhon Umarov - Master painter*



*Eraj Olimov - Master easel painting*



## Kundal

From Farsi, “kundal” translates as “flowers paradise”. This decorative painting technique was developed in the late 14<sup>th</sup> – early 15<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, people decorated their homes and dishes in this style. The production of Kundal by machine appeared in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, at the birthplace of the original style, there are not many artisans left who continue to practice this kind of art. Kundal’s technique of painting is widely used however by contemporary artists in Tajikistan. The only thing that has changed is the method of creating the paintings. A primer is formed on the fabric, onto which cement and adhesive are poured. The decorative designs are then applied using colors and gold.



*Karim Rakibov - Master kundal painting*



*Komron Karimzoda - Master kundal painting*





*Dilmuriod Sharipov - Master jeweler*



## Florentine mosaic

“Folded from pieces” – that is how the word “mosaic” is translated from Italian, and it reveals the nature of the art itself. Mosaic from colored natural stone is one of the oldest forms of art. Mosaic pictures made of stone have one of the most valuable properties - they are eternal in time, as the stone colors do not grow dull, do not fade and do not crumble.





*Grinding and polishing mosaic*



*Jamshed Juraev  
Florentine mosaic  
Master*

*Ahmad Ahmedov  
Florentine mosaic  
Master*



## Jahonnek Leather

This is a beautiful example of the high quality fashion accessories produced by craftsmen in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The craftsmen use organically tanned goat and sheep leather, incorporating traditional designs, ethnic textiles, and embroideries that reflect the wonderful cultures of this remote area in the High Pamir Mountains of Central Asia. They have recently introduced yak leather into their product line. The craftsman workshop was established to empower the creativity and to enhance the skills of our Tajik partners. Jahonnek LLC applies and promotes Fair Trade principles and is establishing Tajikistan in the International fashion world, whilst already providing a livelihood for at least 18 families.

### Opening hours:

Daily from 09:00 – 20:00

### Contact information

**Address:** Govorov st., 7, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Phone:** + (992) 91-84-99-080

**website:** [www.tajiktrading.com](http://www.tajiktrading.com)

**e-mail:** [johan@yakpost.net](mailto:johan@yakpost.net)

Languages: English, German, Tajik, Russian



*Zarina Mirzoshoeva – Master leather work*





*"Jahonnek Leather" products. Bags from yak leather*



*Assembling bags from yak leather*



*"Jahonnek Leather" products. Bags from yak leather*





*Handicraft Fair in Dushanbe*

## There are two city tours available in Dushanbe:

### Dushanbe City Cultural Tour No. 1

**Duration:** 8,5 h.

**Availability:** except Monday

**Price:** 4 pax - 510 TJS per person

What is included: transport, lunch, all admission charges, interpreter

Languages: English, Russian, Tajik

#### Schedule:

09:30 - departure from Hotel

09:45 - 10:45 - visit to the National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan

11:00 - 11 :45 - visit to the Museum Archeology and Ethnography of Tajikistan

12:00 - 13:00 - lunch break/free time

13:30 - 14:30 - visit to the Academy of Painters of Tajikistan

15:00 - 16:00 - visit to the Craftsmen`s Workshop "Umed"

16:30 - 17:30 - visit the Art gallery "Rukhom"

18:00 - return to Hotel

### Dushanbe City Cultural Tour No. 2

**Duration:** 9 h.

**Availability:** except Monday

**Price:** 4 pax – 480 TJS per person

What is included: transport, lunch, all admission charges, interpreter

Languages: English, Russian, Tajik

#### Schedule:

09:00 - departure from the Hotel

09:15 - 10:30 - visit to the National Museum of Tajikistan

11:00 - 11:45 - walk to the Flagpole and around the Rudaki park

12:00 - 13:00 - lunch break/ free time

13:30 - 15:00 - visit to the Art Centre of Miniatures - "Mino"

15:30 - 16:30 - visit to "Jahonnek Leather" Craftsmen`s Workshop

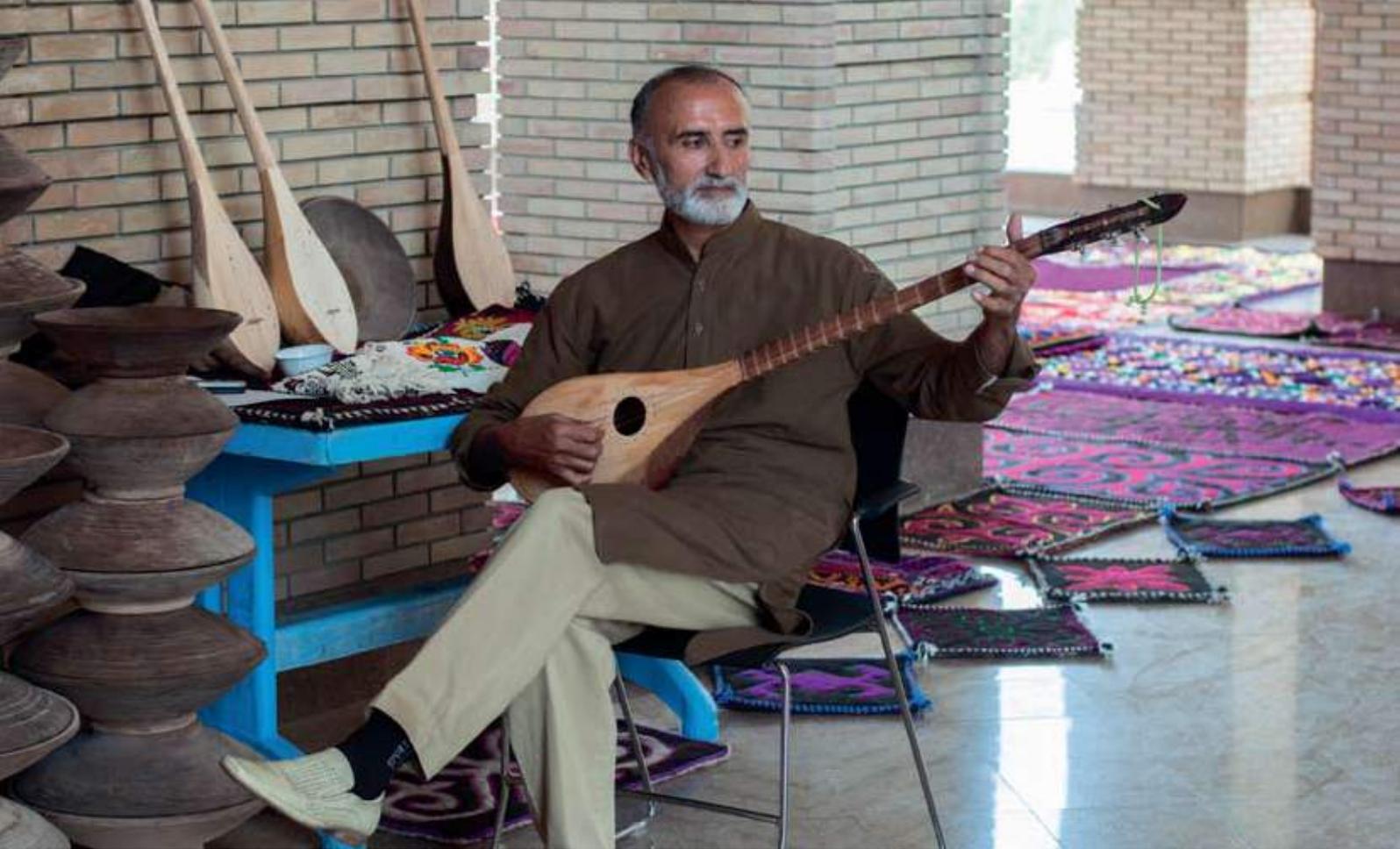
17:00 - 17:30 visit to Noor Art Gallery

18:00 - return to Hotel

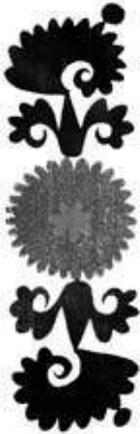




*Handicraft Fair in Dushanbe*



*Handicraft Fair in Dushanbe - Mirzoshoh Akobirov*



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This brochure was prepared by the “Tourism Development Center”, in the framework of the Trade Cooperation Program in Tajikistan, implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and financed by the Government of Switzerland.

The Information provided in this brochure introduces readers to the cultural life of the capital.

\*Attention, prices given below may change

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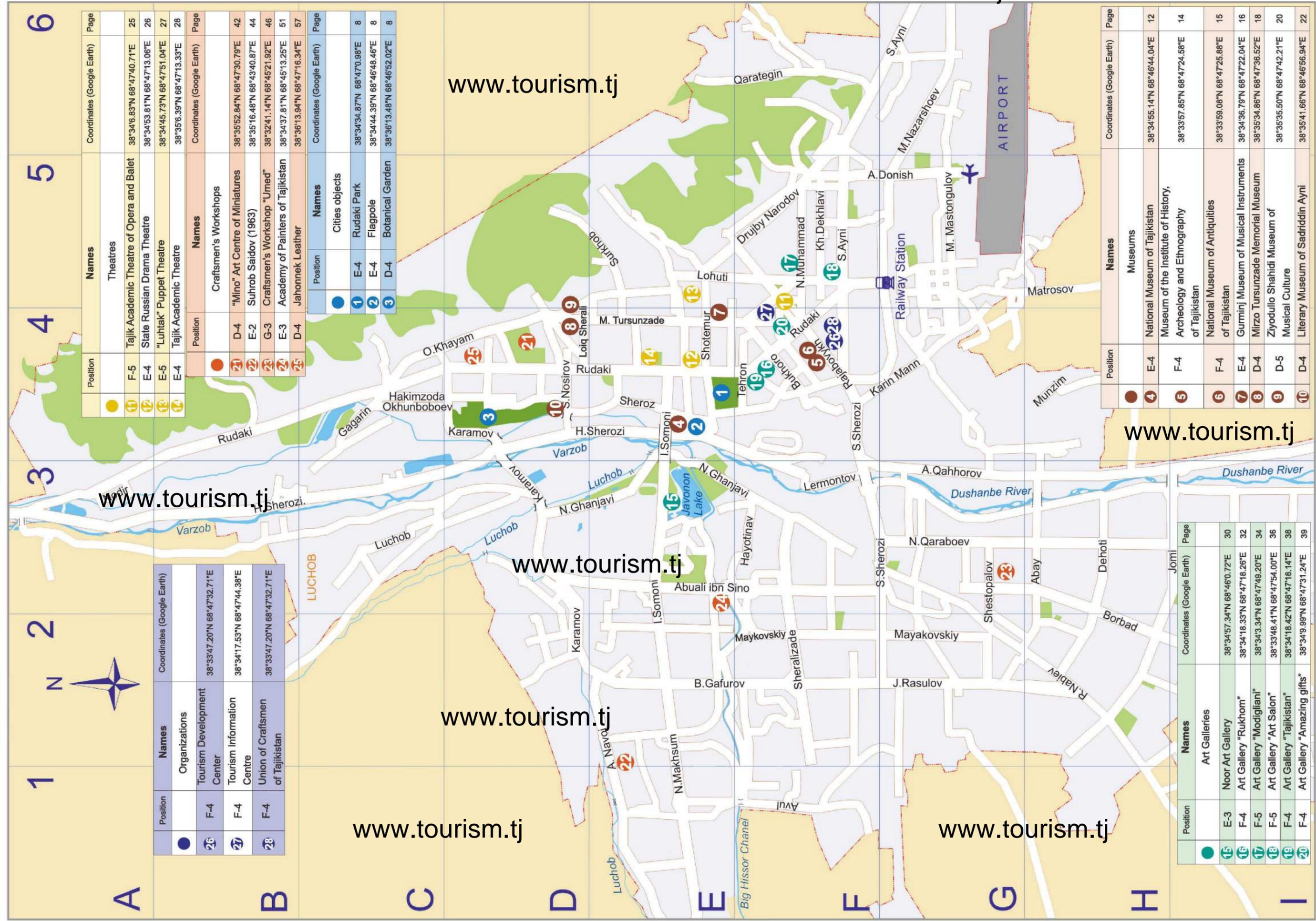
For additional information please contact:  
NGO "Tourism Development Center" Ayni st., 15#3, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 734042  
**Phone/fax:** + (992 37) 221-48-73, **website:** [www.tourism.tj](http://www.tourism.tj) **e-mail:** [info@tdc.tj](mailto:info@tdc.tj)

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E-4	State Russian Drama Theatre	38°34'53.81"N 68°47'13.06"E	26
E-5	"Luhtak" Puppet Theatre	38°34'45.73"N 68°47'51.04"E	27
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E-2	Suhrob Saidov (1963)	38°35'16.48"N 68°43'40.87"E	44
G-3	Craftsmen's Workshop "Umed"	38°32'41.14"N 68°45'21.92"E	46
E-3	Academy of Painters of Tajikistan	38°34'37.81"N 68°45'13.25"E	51
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F-4	Tourism Information Centre	38°34'17.53"N 68°47'44.38"E
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