

Baku

The Old city

This place, known as "Gala" or simply "Old City" among the people, is the most valuable pearl of Baku, as well as historical and architectural reserve. Icherisheher, which operates as a museum under open sky, was built on the shape of amphitheater in a 22 hectare area. Located on a small hill on the shores of the Caspian Sea, the city is surrounded by fortress walls with a height of 8-10 meters and a width of 3.5 meters and trenches.



The Maiden tower

The Maiden Tower is a Baku landmark, a much loved symbol of the city and of Azerbaijan. It looms dark and enigmatic, looking out to sea from the southern edge of Baku's old, walled city, the Icheri Sheher. The origins of the tower are shrouded in mystery - no-one knows for certain when it was built or what it was built for or even how it acquired its name Maiden Tower (Qiz qalasi). No written sources survive that record its construction or original function.



The Shirvanshah palace

Palace of the Shirvanshahs was officially announced a museum in 1964 and from that date it has been preserved by the government. Except being inscribed into [UNESCO World Heritage Sites List](#) together with the [Maiden Tower](#) in 2000, the Palace is also significant for its situation inside the Inner City (Icharishahar) behind the ancient fortress walls built by the same kingdom in 12th century, when the city became a capital. Thus, the architectural style of Inner City buildings and walls is very similar and exquisite, emphasizing the art of medieval Islamic civilization. The walls were built to defend the city residence against enemy warriors frequently attacking the cities of Shirvanshah kingdom.



The Heydar Aliyev Center

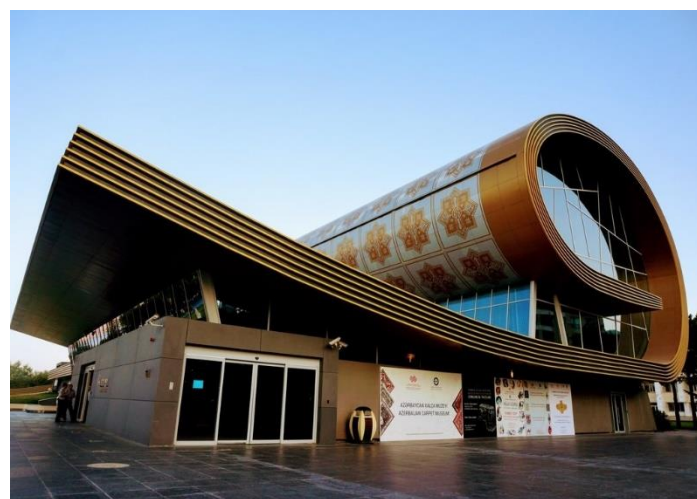


The modern Azerbaijan is recognized in the world through its nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev. And the Center bearing the name of Heydar Aliyev has become a symbol of modern Azerbaijan and modern Baku. The building of the Heydar Aliyev Center is an embodiment of the development of the present-day Azerbaijan and its attachment both to the past and to the future. The logo of the Heydar Aliyev Center also represents a reflection of this idea. The Center's logo symbolizes Azerbaijan's forward-looking aspirations, the progress and the future of the country. The Heydar Aliyev Center's logo

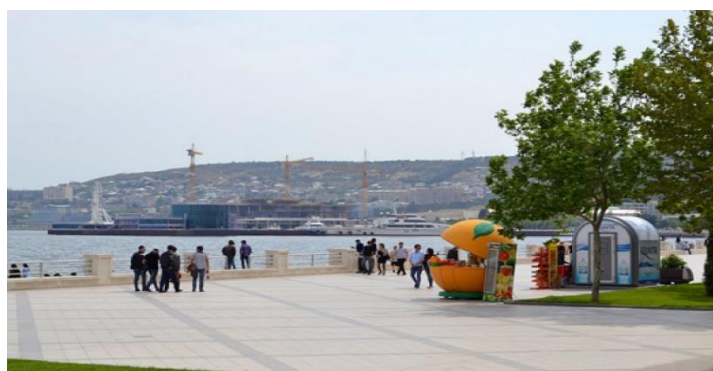
emphasizes the institution's mission viewed through the prism of global and national values, nation building traditions and the message to be passed over to future generations. The Center's slogan "To the Future with Values!" is based on this idea.

The Carpet museum

The Azerbaijan Carpet Museum was created under the Decree No. 130 dated March 13, 1967 of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR. From 1967 to 1993, the museum was called the Azerbaijan State Museum of Carpet and Folk Applied Arts, from 1993 to 2014 - State Museum of Carpet and Applied Arts named after Latif Karimov, from 2014 to the present time the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum. Today, the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, which is located in one of the country's most modern buildings, not only stores a rich collection of artifacts and carpets (our nation's most valuable heritage), but also operates as the site for the comprehensive research of traditional carpet weaving art and its popularization within world culture.



The National Seaside Park



The Baku Seaside Boulevard, construction of which started back in 1909, is considered to be one of the longest promenades on the planet. To celebrate the centennial anniversary of the boulevard in the year 2009, it was decided to reconstruct and modernize the whole area. The total length of the Seaside Boulevard is now 25 kilometers. Baku Boulevard is not only about strollers, green areas, park benches and the sea; there are quite few very interesting buildings located there: a 75 meter-

high parachute jump tower, the new Carpet Museum (built in the shape of a rolled-up carpet), the International Mugham (Azerbaijani national music) Centre, and even the charming "Baku Venice" waterway and canal complex where you can ride in a gondola.