



**Badminton Azerbaijan**  
in association with  
**Badminton Europe Confederation**  
**2023 BEC Congress**

**APRIL 21-22. 2023**  
**Baku/AZERBAIJAN**

**INCLUSIVE BADMINTON**

*Let's make badminton accessible for all* [www.badminton.az](http://www.badminton.az)

# THE OFFICIAL MOTO OF 2023 BEC CONGRESS IS **INCLUSIVE BADMINTON**

*Let's make badminton accessible for all*



**Badminton Azerbaijan applies Virtual Reality Badminton programs in its inclusive classes which makes accessible badminton as a sport for all disabled people**



**Badminton Azerbaijan are actively encouraging our clubs to become more inclusive within their club structure and delivery environments; therefore, creating more opportunities for disabled people to get involved**

# Inclusive Badminton



During the 2023 BEC Congress, Badminton Azerbaijan will provide an opportunity for disabled people to get involved and try a new sport of Badminton with new technologies.



Delivered by experienced Disability Badminton Coaches and Experts, VR Badminton and many other inclusive programs can be discussed during 2023 BEC Congress as the solution for involvement of all disabled people and to promise to make Badminton accessible for All.

- Nationally, there are pockets of excellent development work ongoing within existing inclusive or disability specific clubs and sessions. Badminton Azerbaijan encourages all partners and sets out to build on this current 2023 BEC Congress provision with a focus on increasing the number of disabled people playing badminton.
- Our vision is to further develop disability provision through creating capacity and building demand on a region by region basis and embedding inclusive practice throughout the sport to support the growth of badminton for disabled people.
- To present badminton as an inclusive sport for all, we're supporting our existing clubs structure to develop strong, sustainable environments that cater effectively for disabled players.
- We would also like to identify new opportunities to introduce inclusive badminton provision in to, such as local disability groups that would like to include badminton to their existing activity portfolio.

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# Visit Azerbaijan

## Azerbaijan - Land of Flames

Azerbaijan, which stretches across the heights of the Caucasus Mountains and curves along the low Caspian shores, is famed for its natural beauty, ethnic diversity, and geo-strategically vital location. Being a key geopolitical power in the Caucasus, Azerbaijan has enormous potential as a regional hub due to its oil and gas resources and extensive network of international ports, pipelines, railroads and highway routes.

Azerbaijan has international land borders with 5 states. The neighboring countries are Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Iran to the south, and Turkey and Armenia to the west. To the east, Azerbaijan is bordered by the Caspian Sea, which is classified as the world's largest lake and also as a closed sea. The Caspian is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.

# Visit Azerbaijan

## Azerbaijan - Land of Flames

The climate of Azerbaijan is very diverse. Azerbaijan contains 9 out of the 11 recognized climate zones. Azerbaijan's climate can be described as a continental climate with warm summers and very cold, dry winters. The three largest climate zones of Azerbaijan can be found north of the mountainous regions, south of the mountainous regions, and along the coast of the Caspian Sea

Azerbaijan is also popular for its sources of eternal fires - the atashgehs. There is a place named Yanardag (blazing mountain) in Absheron and thermal springs in some parts of Nakhchivan, Kelbejar, Masali, Lenkoran, and Babadag



Azerbaijani cuisine is one of the most interesting cuisines in the East. It includes a unique array of different meats, fish and vegetable dishes supplemented by special herbs and spices. When you are in Baku, don't miss the chance to taste our delicious national dishes!

Come and touch the soul of Azerbaijan!

### AZERBAIJAN HOLDS THE WORLD FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MUD VOLCANOS

Out of the 800 mud volcanoes in the world, 350 are located in Azerbaijan. The mud volcanoes of Azerbaijan won 5th place in the “Seven Natural Wonders” competition, an international contest held by a non-commercial Swiss organization

**On September 15th, 2004  
Azerbaijan’s largest mud volcano  
was registered into the Guinness  
Book of Records for being the  
biggest of its kind in the world**







V I S I T

# AZERBAIJAN

The musical culture of modern Azerbaijan includes various kinds of oral traditional music. Mugham is a national music form belonging to the peoples of the East. It is an example of classical music based on oral traditions. Azerbaijani jazz is a popular variety of jazz, widespread in Azerbaijan. It encompasses a broad range of musical styles and often incorporates elements of traditional Azeri music

International Mugham and Jazz Festivals Hall

# Baku at Glance



Baku is the capital of Azerbaijan and the cultural, commercial, and political center of the country.



This vibrant capital city offers a unique blend of traditional charm and urban bustle. It also boasts many luxury hotels, beautifully-aged historical sites, central streets buzzing with hordes of exuberant tourists, and restaurants with cosmopolitan elegance.



With its unique ensemble of architecture and monuments from different periods of Azerbaijan's history, Baku's walled Old City (Icherisheher), Shirvanshah Palace and Maiden Tower, have been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



# Welcome Message

## from BA President



**BADMINTON  
AZERBAIJAN**



### Welcome to the 2023 BEC Congress in Baku, Azerbaijan

We would like to extend our invitation to you to participate in the 2023 BEC Congress in the pearl of Caspian basin, the booming capital city of Azerbaijan, Baku.

Baku has been known as a port city for centuries. In the 1st century, Romans organized two Caucasian campaigns and reached Baku. Marco Polo and Alexander Dumas both lived in Baku for a period of time, leaving behind mesmerizing accounts of the rich cultural heritage of Azerbaijanis. In the mid-19th century, the Rothschilds and Nobel brothers exploited the rich oil fields of Baku and turned the city into the world's biggest oil supplier of the time.

In September 1994, an independent Azerbaijan, under the late President Heydar Aliyev, signed the Contract of the Century, once again inviting the tycoons of the oil industry to believe and invest in the Azerbaijan Republic. The contract has sealed the future of our economy, making it one of the most rapidly developing economies of the world.

Badminton in Azerbaijan, as a sport, was born in 1957. Other popular sports are gymnastics, judo, futsal, weightlifting and boxing. Azerbaijan is also an active member of the international sports community, with full membership in the World Badminton Federation, Badminton Europe Confederation, International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), European Athletics Association (EAA), International Olympic Committee (IOC), among many others. It has also hosted the first European Games and 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games .

A special cultural program has also been drafted for accompanying people which includes tours to the famous "Flaming Mountain", the Baku Old City, some ancient vineyards, an authentic UNESCO Heritage sites, the carpet museum, and a traditional silk scarf painting plant. We will also offer master cooking classes in traditional Azerbaijani cuisine and many other entertaining events which are sure to leave you with unforgettable memories of Baku and Azerbaijan.

We want you to see it for yourselves, an enigmatic city where modern and ancient buildings co-exist harmoniously for centuries.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the pearl of the Caspian next year!**

**Dr. Taleh Ziyadov**  
President of Badminton Azerbaijan

Sport in Azerbaijan is directly supported by the government. Azerbaijani national leader, Heydar Aliyev and later the President Ilham Aliyev have had personal attempts to promote and develop sports in order to improve the results of the country in the international arena.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic was established based on this vision in 1994 according to Decree no 861 of the former president Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev.

### Sport Policy of Azerbaijan

In 1995, in accordance with another decree, the Sports Foundation was set up and sport was funded by the resources allocated from President Fund. After I. Aliyev was elected the President of National Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan in 1997, sport in Azerbaijani Committee increased its international bonds. In 1997, Azerbaijani Milli Majlis adopted a law about "physical education and sports".

On April 21, 2001, the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MYST) was established. In 2003, with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about "preparing for XXVIII Summer Olympic Games" Azerbaijani sportsmen started to prepare for XXVIII Summer Olympic Games in a more sophisticated way in order to have better achievement. There are 44 Olympic sports complexes operating in the cities and districts of Azerbaijan currently.



# BADMINTON AZERBAIJAN

Badminton in Azerbaijan, as a sport, was born in 1957. Thus, in the capital of the Soviet Union in Moscow on Youth and Students Festival, the world first became acquainted with the sport. Docent of the Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Culture and Sports Nazim Aliyev took part at the festival, got acquainted with the secrets of badminton, and laid the foundations of the sport.

In 1964, was held the first Baku championship, in 1963 – first Azerbaijan championship. Azerbaijan Badminton Federation was founded in 1964 and was restored in 1966. Since 1997, the Badminton Federation of Azerbaijan became a member of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Badminton Europe (BEC).

In 1962, Lado Mehdiyev became the first champion of Baku. In 1969, Gardashxan Hadiyev became the first Master of Sports in this sport. In 1969, Nazim Aliyev became the first honored coach in badminton, and in 1979 - his follower Lado Mehdiyev.

In 1969, Valentina Tsyupa and Gardashxan Hadiyev became the champions of the USSR Juniors championship in the team event, held in the city of Klaipeda. In 1976, Mirza Orujov became the champion of the USSR Juniors championship, held in the city of Mogilev, Belarus, and in 1981, the team of Azerbaijan became the champion in the championships of the USSR Central Council community "Spartak".

## Category A

In International Iran Fajr tournament category "A", Orkhan Galandarov and Kanan Rzayev won a silver medal as a pair.

## 2015

In 2015, the first European Games was held in Baku, Orkhan Galandarov and Kanan Rzayev represented Azerbaijan under the leadership of the head coach Jeyhun Mammadaliyev.

## 2002-2005

In 2002 - 2005, Nargiz Mehdiyeva became a champion in the traditional International Iran Fajr tournament in women's singles, and several times became the champion in women's doubles paired with Sevinj Akhundova.

## 1997

In 1997, Nargiz Mehdiyeva won a bronze medal in the Islamic Countries Women's Sports Games.

## 2018

Azerbaijan men badminton national team participated in team European Championship for the first time in its history held in Kazan city, Russian Federation in 2018. Our team held matches against Germany, Luxembourg and Iceland.

## 2019

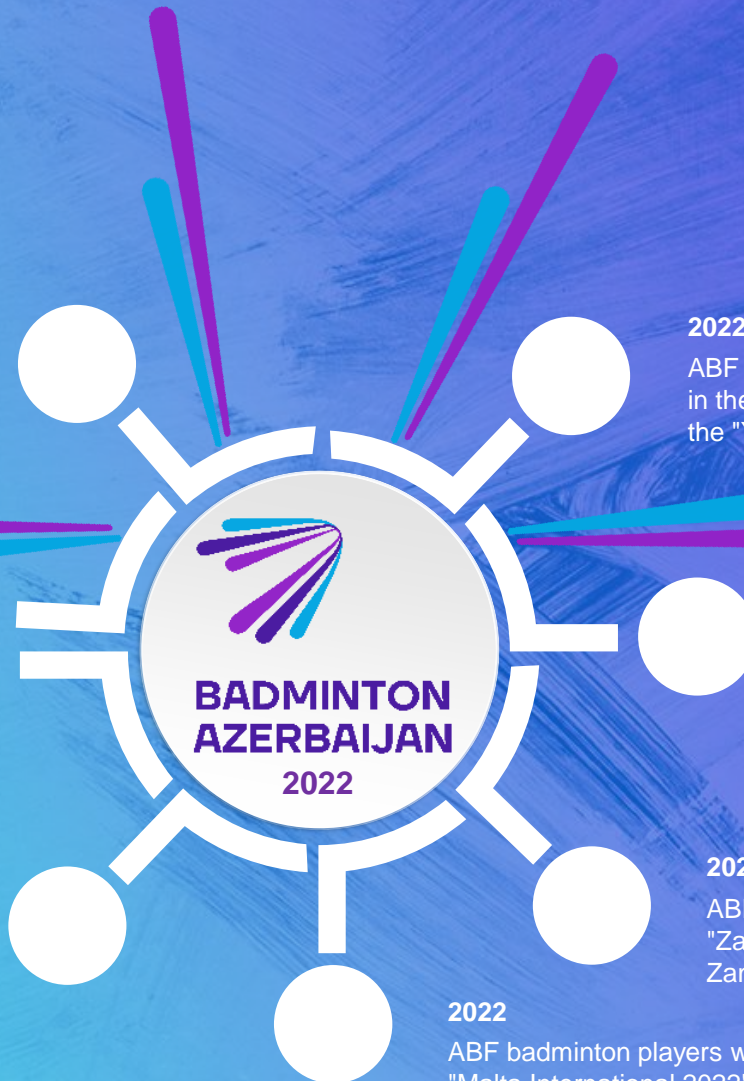
Azmy Qowimuramadhoni, player of Azerbaijan national team advanced to quarterfinals of Minsk 2019 2nd European Games badminton tournament February 2020. Azerbaijan men badminton national team participated in team European Championship held in Lievin, France. Our national team competed with Germany, Iceland and Czech Republic.



**2022**  
Azerbaijan Badminton Federation won the European Fair Play Movement (EFPM) award in "Spirit of Fair Play" nomination for its initiatives in preserving ethical values and Fair Play ideas. The EFPM award ceremony of International Olympic Committee on the topic "The European Fair Play Plaque of Merit and Diploma" was held on November 3 and 4 in Rome, Italy.

**2022**  
Badminton, our team won a bronze medal in the individual competition category of male badminton players at the "Bahrain Bahrain International Series 2022" tournament.

**2022**  
ABF player, who performed at the Yonex Estonian Youth International 2022 U-11 tournament, took second place in the tournament in the under-11 boys' doubles competition.



**2022**  
ABF junior badminton players won two bronze medals for the first time in the under-13 girls' individual (GS) and doubles (GD) competition at the "Youth International" tournament held in Novi Sad, Serbia.

**2022**  
ABF badminton players won bronze medals in 2 categories at the "Egypt International 2022" tournament held in Cairo, the capital of Egypt.

**2022**  
ABF Badminton players won two gold and one silver medals at the "Zambia International 2022" tournament held in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

**2022**  
ABF badminton players won 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal at the "Future" series "Malta International 2022" tournament held in Kospicua, Malta.

# Programs

## “Hub Badminton Sea Breeze” Badminton School

Special dedicated to badminton  
center in Sea Breeze Resort



1

2



## Corporate Badminton-Teambuilding

Corporate Social Responsibility oriented  
team building series aimed to develop  
corporate teams in equilibrium with the art of  
badminton

## Badminton Kids

Specialized courses by badminton  
trainers/coaches for schoolchildren mobilized  
in their own schools



3

4



## Badminton Shine-Summer Camp

Series of summer camps for schoolchildren  
and students of universities oriented on  
simulation based PBL-Problem Based  
Learning games and activities

## “The Colors of Badminton” Open Badminton 2022

Hybrid 2 day event dedicated to  
badminton tournaments



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## Badminton International

Program dedicated to develop  
potential skills of candidates for  
international badminton  
tournaments and events




# Program of 2023 BEC Congress



**APRIL 20.2023 THURSDAY**

**Welcome DAY**

 <b>Main event</b>	<b>Location</b>
20:00-22:00 Welcome drinks with the BEC Board and Staff	JW Marriot Hotel Baku



**APRIL 21.2023 FRIDAY**

**First half of the DAY**



**APRIL 21.2023 FRIDAY**

**Second half of the DAY**

 <b>Main event</b>	<b>Location</b>
14:00-14:45 Workshop & (To be confirmed by BEC)	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
14:45-15:30 Workshop & (To be confirmed by BEC)	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
15:30-16:00 Conclusion End of the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Congress	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
16:00-18:30 Baku City Tour Cultural Program 1	Arts and Crafts of Baku: The legends of Flame Cultural Program 2
18:30-20:00 Free time	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
20:00-22:00 Dinner	Restaurant Art Garden



 <b>Main event</b>	<b>Location</b>
08:30-09:00 Registration BEC Members' Forum	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
09:00-09:30 Welcome & presentation Official Opening of 2023 BEC Congress	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
09:30-10:30 Workshop & (To be confirmed by BEC)	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
10:30-11:15 Coffee and Tea Break and interactive networking activity	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
11:15-12:00 Workshop & (To be confirmed by BEC)	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
12:00-13:15 Official Lunch accompanied with Jazz Concert by Baku Jazz Center	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
13:15-14:00 Workshop & (To be confirmed by BEC)	JW Marriot Hotel Baku

# Congress Program



APRIL 22.2023 SATURDAY

56th Annual Delegates' Meeting DAY

 	Main event	Location
09:00-10:00	Registration 56th Annual Delegates' Meeting	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
10:00-11:30	56th Annual Delegates' Meeting Part 1	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
11:30-12:00	Coffee and Tea Break Interactive Networking Activities	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
12:00-14:30	56th Annual Delegates' Meeting Part 2	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
14:30-17:00	Legacy of Oil Barons Cultural Program 3	Gobustan Rock Landscape Cultural Program 4
17:15-18:15	Free time	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
18:15-19:00	Official Reception	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
19:00-23:00	2023 BEC Awards Gala Grand ballroom accompanied by Orchestra n.a. Gara Garayev	JW Marriot Hotel Baku
23:00-01:00	Party/Live open air music	JW Marriot Hotel Fire Works Restaurant Open Air Terrace



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APRIL 23.2023 SUNDAY  
Departure Day for Delegates



## JW Marriot Baku Is official venue of the 2023 BEC Congress

Discover 5-star service at JW Marriott Absheron Baku. Ideally located in the city center, our elegant hotel is the premier choice for both business travelers and those visiting Azerbaijan for vacation. Explore Port Baku Mall, Fountain Square, Shirvanshakh Palace and the Central Botanical Garden, all nearby. Within our sophisticated hotel, you'll enjoy rooms and suites with views of Baku's skyline or the Caspian Sea and upscale amenities.

You'll value our cutting-edge audio-visual technology, much-lauded catering and sophisticated venues, including the Sharg Zali ballroom, the largest hotel ballroom in Baku. No matter what brings you to our hotel, we look forward to making your stay in Baku, Azerbaijan, remarkable



JW MARRIOTT  
ABSHERON BAKU



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# Visa procedures in video

All the delegation members have to apply for the “Urgent Visa” via <https://evisa.gov.az/en/>

You will be able to obtain your visas in 3 working days

Note! Please, watch the video.



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For any related questions:  
Imran.m@badminton.az



<https://evisa.gov.az/en/>

Click for details

# Cultural program 1: Bus City Tour

## April 21.2023 16:00-18:30

This comprehensive tour makes an ideal introductory taster for first-time visitors to the city, cramming most of Baku's top highlights into 2 hours.



The Maiden Tower (Azerbaijani: Qız qalası; Persian: قلعه دختر) is a 12th-century monument in the Old City, Baku, Azerbaijan. Along with the Shirvanshahs' Palace, dated to the 15th century, it forms a group of historic monuments listed in 2001 under the UNESCO World Heritage List of Historical Monuments as cultural property, Category III. It is one of Azerbaijan's most distinctive national emblems, and is thus featured on Azerbaijani currency notes and official letterheads.



The Heydar Aliyev Center represents a fluid form which emerges by the folding of the landscape's natural topography and by the wrapping of individual functions of the Center. All functions of the Center, together with entrances, are represented by folds in a single continuous surface. This fluid form gives an opportunity to connect the various cultural spaces whilst at the same time, providing each element of the Center with its own identity and privacy. As it folds inside, the skin erodes away to become an element of the interior landscape of the Center.



Old City or Inner City (Azerbaijani: İçərişəhər) is the historical core of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The Old City is the most ancient part of Baku,[3] which is surrounded by walls which were easily defended. In 2007, the Old City had a population of about 3000 people.[4] In December 2000, the Old City of Baku, including the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and Maiden Tower, became the first location in Azerbaijan to be classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



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# Cultural program 2: Arts and Crafts of Baku

## The Legends of Flame

April 21.2023 16:00-18:30



**16:00-16:30**

Icheri Sheher Old city to explore the UNESCO Heritage site. The ancient heart of Baku is Icheri Sheher, a magical maze of narrow lanes and alleyways that's still mostly ringed by battlement-topped defensive walls erected in the 12th-century.



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**16:30-18:00**

Cooking master class with a professional chef learning how to make variety of Kutabs (traditional flatbreads with different fillings) and Shekerbura (traditional dessert with walnuts and spices)



# Cultural program 3: Legacy of Oil Barons

April 22, 2023 14:30-17:00

Believe it or not, at the beginning of the 20th century, Azerbaijan was producing more than half of the world's oil supply. And that 'oil boom' made millionaires of many landowners and businessmen who became known as 'oil barons'.



**14:30-15:30**

Italian Renaissance (exterior) and German Rococo (interior) styles. Its design was inspired by the architectural style of buildings within the Monte-Carlo Casino, particularly l'Opéra de Monte-Carlo. [

**15:30-16:00**

Baron Agha Musa Naghiyev was no exception. But, the story of his Ismailiyev Palace is a sad one. His son died, and the baron decided to build a huge symmetrical mansion on Istiglaliyyat Street in honour of his late son. Construction finished in 1913.



**16:00-16:45**

The theatre was built at the request of magnate Daniel Mailov and funded by magnate Zeynalabdin Taghiyev. In 1910, famous Russian soprano Antonina Nezhdanova visited Baku giving several concerts at various clubs and performance venues. At a ball organized on the occasion of Nezhdanova's departure at the local casino, she was asked whether she would like to visit Baku again.



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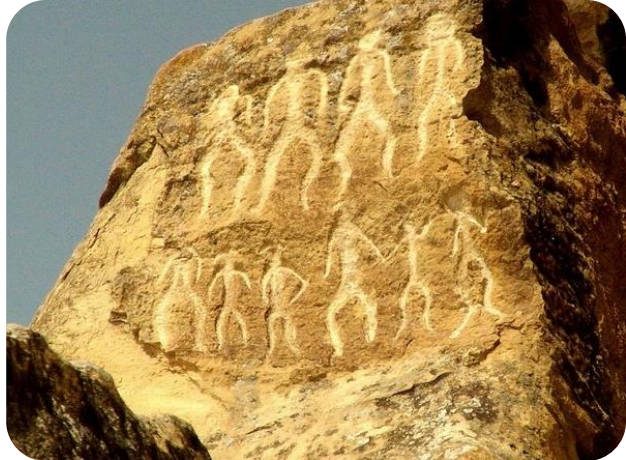


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# Cultural program 4: Gobustan Rock Landscape

April 22, 2023 14:30-17:00 (travel time included)

There are few places on earth where traces of ancient human history are so vividly apparent as at Gobustan. Rocky formations here that once formed part of stone-age cave dwellings, are richly inscribed with a wide range of fascinating petroglyphs. These have been scratched in styles that evolved over the millennia as tool technology changed. You'll find depictions of animals, hunting scenes, shamen and group dances.



## 15:00-15:30

Gobustan State Historical and Cultural Reserve (Azerbaijani: Qobustan dövlət tarixi-bədii qoruğu) is located west of the settlement of Gobustan, about 40 miles (64 km) southwest of the centre of Baku. Interactive Museum tour

It was established in 1966, when the area was declared a national historical landmark of Azerbaijan in an attempt to preserve the prehistoric rock carvings, mud volcanoes and musical stones in the region.



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## 15:30-16:30

Gobustan State Reserve is very rich in archeological monuments. Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape within the reserve, which covers an area of 537 ha, has more than 6,000 rock carvings, which depict people, animals, battle-pieces, ritual dances, bullfights, boats with armed oarsmen, warriors with lances in their hands, camel caravans, pictures of sun and stars, on the average dating back to 5,000-20,000 years.



Gobustan State Historical and Cultural Reserve acquired national status in 2006, and Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007.



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