DENOV DISTRICT — A CENTER OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION AND MODERN DEVELOPMENT

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Denov district is located in the Surkhandarya region of the Republic of Uzbekistan and is recognized as one of the most ancient cultural areas of Central Asia. This region stands out for its rich historical heritage, unique archaeological monuments, and the rapid socio-economic development it has experienced in recent years. Combining ancient history with modern progress, the Denov oasis today attracts not only historians and researchers but also tourists from different parts of the world.

Formation and Historical Significance

The city of Denov and its surrounding territories were historically part of ancient Bactria and later the Kushan Empire. Denov district was officially established as an administrative unit in 1926. Its proximity to branches of the Great Silk Road played an important role in the development of trade, culture, and civilization in the region. For this reason, the Denov oasis has long served as a crossroads of different cultures and peoples.

Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites

Dalvarzintepa (Dalverzin-tepa)

Located near Denov district, Dalvarzintepa is one of the largest archaeological sites in Uzbekistan. The monument dates from the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE and is known as one of the capitals of the Kushan Empire.

Archaeological excavations in this area have revealed the remains of an ancient city, Buddhist temples, residential complexes, and craft workshops. Today, Dalvarzintepa is being actively studied by international scientific

expeditions and is recognized as an important site for the development of historical tourism.

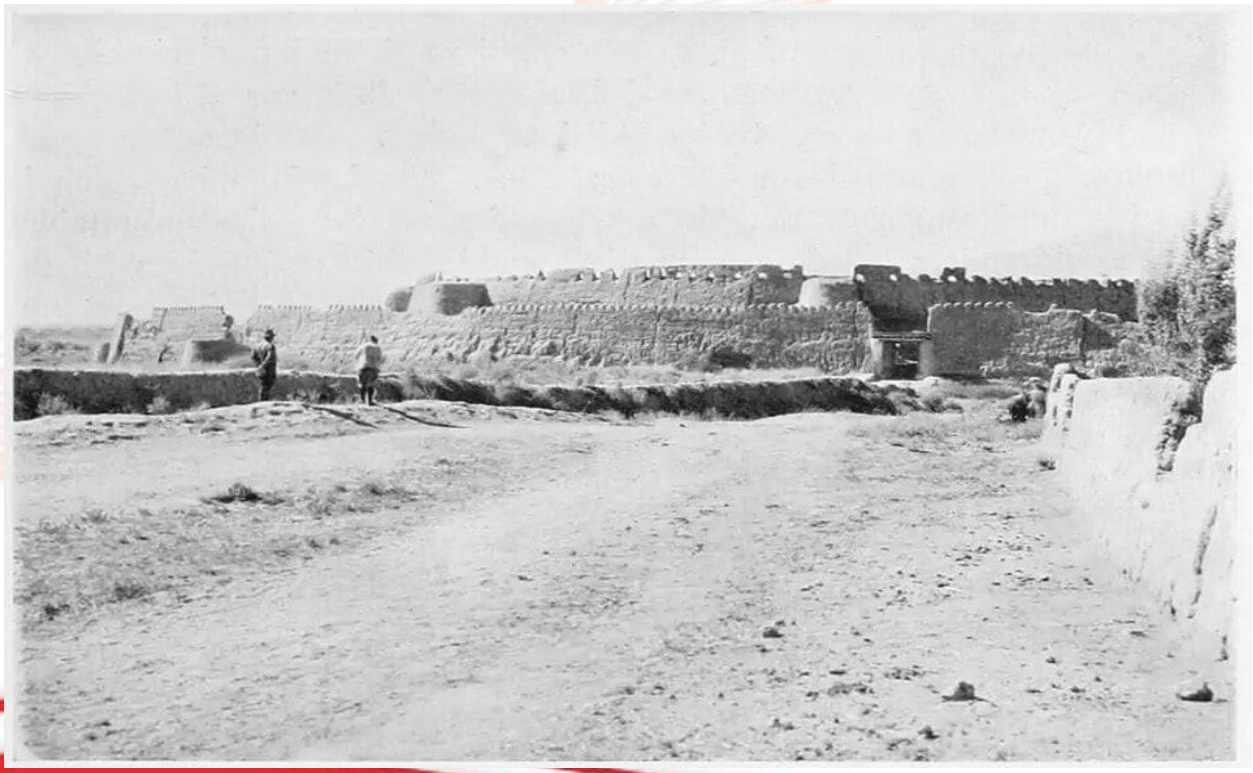
Historical Madrasas and Spiritual Heritage

Said Otaliq Madrasa

The Said Otaliq Madrasa, located in the historic part of Denov district, is an important religious and educational monument dating back to the 16th–17th centuries. This madrasa is associated with the famous saint Khoja Alouddin Attor, known in history as the son-in-law of the great spiritual leader Bahauddin Naqshband.

In its time, the madrasa served as a center of Islamic learning and enlightenment. Its architectural design—with domes, decorative portals, and intricate tile ornaments—represents a fine example of traditional Eastern architecture.

Today, the monument is protected by the state and remains open to tourists and researchers. In 2025, open historical lessons for students of the Denov Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy were held here, further increasing its importance in modern educational processes.



Archaeological Monuments

Several other important archaeological sites are located within the territory of Denov district, providing valuable insight into the region's ancient past. Among them are:

- **Kattatepa site (5th–7th centuries)** — an important source for studying ancient cultural layers;
- **Qorabogtepa-1 (5th–7th centuries)** — an archaeological site reflecting the early medieval history of the region;
- **The remains of ancient defensive walls known as "Kofirdevor"** — historical evidence of early fortification structures;
- **Denov Fortress, Budrachtepa, and Khalchayon** — sites that testify to the development of ancient urban planning, craftsmanship, and cultural life.

In addition, the pilgrimage sites of **Khoja Barkuh** and **Khoja Hisor**, located in the Denov oasis, reflect the centuries-old spiritual and religious traditions of the region.

Modern Development and Tourism Potential

In recent years, large-scale construction and development projects have been implemented in Denov district. Transport infrastructure has been modernized, new parks and recreational areas have been established, and the infrastructure surrounding educational and cultural institutions has been improved.

Modern shopping centers, service facilities, hotels, and national cuisine restaurants are being developed, significantly increasing the tourism attractiveness of Denov.

Furthermore, Denov district is famous for its viticulture and horticulture, creating strong potential for the development of agro-tourism and ethno-tourism.

Conclusion

With its unique historical monuments such as Dalvarzintepa and the Said Otaliq Madrasa, rich archaeological heritage, favorable natural conditions, and modern infrastructure, Denov district is one of the important cultural and historical areas of the Surkhandarya region and Uzbekistan as a whole.

By preserving its historical heritage while harmoniously combining it with modern development, Denov district has great potential to secure a достойное place on the international tourism map in the future.