

ICHO 2026 - UZBEKISTAN

CATALYZER

NO.1

Where Science Meets Culture

EXPLORE
UZBEKISTAN

Get ready for an unforgettable IChO experience — competitions, culture, connections, and discoveries await you in Uzbekistan!

HEART OF THE SILK ROAD –

The **Republic of Uzbekistan** sits at the very center of **Central Asia**, bordered by **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan**. With roughly **449,000 km²** of land, it stretches from the ochre sands of the **Kyzylkum Desert** to the green orchards of the **Fergana Valley**, and from the **Syr Darya** to the **Amu Darya** rivers that have nourished life here for millennia.

Time zone: UZT (UTC+5)

People, languages, and warmth

Home to over **36 million** people, Uzbekistan is a welcoming mosaic of cultures. **Uzbek** is the state language (written in a Latin-based alphabet), and **Russian** is widely understood in cities. Hospitality is a national art: you'll be greeted with aromatic tea and **non** (traditional bread), and likely urged to take "just one more" helping of **plov**.

Long before passports and planes, caravans traveled the **Great Silk Road** through **Samarkand**, **Bukhara**, **Khiva**, and **Tashkent**, bringing not only silk and spices but also **ideas**. Out of this scholarly world came thinkers who shaped global science:

- **Muhammad al-Khwarizmi** (c. 780–850) — Father of Algebra. His work gave us **al-jabr** (algebra) and the very notion of **algorithms**.
- **Abu Rayhan al-Biruni** (973–1050) — Polymath of **astronomy**, **physics**, and **geography**; his methods and measurements (like the Earth's radius) were astonishingly precise.
- **Ibn Sina (Avicenna)** (980–1037) — Physician-philosopher whose **Canon of Medicine** guided medical teaching for centuries.
- **Ulugh Beg** (1394–1449) — Ruler-astronomer of Samarkand; his **observatory** and **star catalog** set a new standard for observational accuracy.
- **Ahmad al-Fergani (Alfraganus)** (9th c.) — His **astronomical compendium** influenced science from the Islamic world to Renaissance Europe.

This heritage isn't just in textbooks—you can feel it in the madrasas and observatories, the blue-tiled domes, and the way students still speak proudly of ilm (knowledge).



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– HOME OF ICHO 2026

Modern momentum

Today's Uzbekistan blends tradition with a push toward innovation:

- **High-speed rail** links **Tashkent–Samarkand–Bukhara–Khiva**, making heritage cities comfortably day-trip-able.
- Growing **tech parks** and universities are nurturing startups and research.
- Major investments in **energy, transport, textiles, agriculture**, and **tourism** are reshaping the economy.

For IChO participants, that means efficient logistics, contemporary venues — and plenty to explore beyond the lab.

Taste of Uzbekistan

If chemistry is transformation, Uzbek cuisine is a delicious reaction:

- **Plov (osh):** Rice, meat, carrots, and spices—each region has its signature.
- **Somsa:** Baked pastries (often with beef, pumpkin, or potato).
- **Shashlik:** Grilled skewers.
- **Lagman & shurpa:** Noodle and hearty soups.
- **Fresh fruit & dried nuts:** From Fergana's orchards to market stalls.
- Halal options are common; vegetarian dishes are increasingly available (look for vegetable **lagman**, **somsa**, salads, and market produce).

Etiquette & practical tips

- **Greetings:** A friendly smile goes far. Handshakes are common; in traditional settings, hand over heart with a slight nod is respectful.
- **Dress:** Casual is fine; **modest clothing** is appreciated in religious sites.
- **Photography:** Always **ask before photographing** people, especially in markets or mosques.
- **Money:** Currency is the **Uzbek so'm (UZS)**. Cards are widely accepted in cities; carry a little cash for small vendors. ATMs are common in central areas.
- **Connectivity:** Local SIM/eSIM options are available at airports and malls; major carriers have good city coverage.
- **Getting around:** **Tashkent Metro** is clean and efficient; **ride-hailing apps** and taxis are plentiful.
- **Water:** Prefer **bottled** or filtered water.

Why this matters to young chemists

Uzbekistan's story is one of **exchange** — of goods, cultures, and **knowledge**. Here, scholars mapped the skies, quantified the Earth, healed with science, and built the mathematical language that underpins **modern computation** and **chemistry**. As you compete, you're stepping into a tradition that celebrates curiosity, precision, and discovery.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CENTER

**JOIN US IN
UZBEKISTAN FOR**
ICHO **2026**
AND CREATE
YOUR *memories.*



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