



Central Asia

Uzbeks

Famous Foods

Uzbeks are known throughout the region for making delicious food, including...

- **Plov** -a delicious meal made of rice, lamb or beef, carrots, chickpeas, raisins, apricots, eggs, garlic and peppers. These ingredients are cooked together and served on a plate along with a fresh vegetable salad.
- **Samsa** -a crispy meat pocket baked in a tandoor oven. The filling is typically minced lamb or beef with diced onions, seasonings, and a good helping of fat, which is rendered down in the cooking process.
- **Kabobs** –large skewers of meat grilled over hot coals, sprinkled with a decent amount of salt and served hot with sliced onion. The meat used can include beef, lamb, or chicken, and for the daring, liver and kidney are also available.
- **Manti** –large steamed dumplings. The filling can vary from local greens with eggs, to meat and onion, potato and meat, or even pumpkin with meat. Typically served with spicy sauce and vinegar for dipping.

...and so much more!

Who are the Uzbek People?

The Uzbeks are a Turkic people with a rich history throughout Central Asia. For them, to be Uzbek is to be Muslim. Their ethnic identity and religious identity are very intermingled. Uzbeks are a hospitable people who are always happy to share naan and tea with guests. Traditional Uzbek culture includes vibrant colors in their decorative plates, teapots, and famous hand-woven Adras fabrics.

Why Serve Uzbeks in Central Asia?

- Only 0.3% of 37 million Uzbeks are evangelical.
- The need is great, and you know the answer... The gospel of our great God and Savior!
- The Turkic language speaking peoples of Central Asia are all least reached peoples, needing gospel witness.
- Uzbek is “coined” the easiest of the Central Asian Turkic languages to learn.
- The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Be a light in the dark.
- Their cuisine is some of the best in the world.

World Team

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Restricted Access Doesn't Restrict the Gospel

The Family Structure

Having two older brothers, and two sisters, *Timur* was the youngest son in a family of five children. With this position in the family comes great responsibility. While his older brothers have more freedom to move about and blaze their own path to a prosperous life, *Timur* must find a respectable wife who is willing to become the household *Kelin* (daughter-in-law).

The *Kelin* must stay home every day caring for the children, cooking three meals a day, making sure the courtyard and front of the gate (which collects dust quickly because of the climate and landscape) are swept clean, taking care of her in-laws' needs, and all other household chores.

Timur finished his obligatory education at age 17 and immediately began working in order to bring in extra income for his household. The need to take care of his parents was a heavy burden. Even with the money his brothers would send home, it was necessary for him to work. One day, while at the bazaar, he spotted her — *Gulnora*.

Gulnora was a childhood friend who used to live in the same neighborhood but who had moved across town in their teenage years. *Timur* went home from the bazaar that day and told his mom that she needed to contact *Gulnora's* parents and discuss his interest in marrying *Gulnora*.

Timur's mom, wailing, said, "My Son, how could you suggest we take such shame upon us by mixing with that family? Don't you know why they had to move away so many years ago? My son, they are Christians. They have abandoned their Uzbek heritage. No, my son, I cannot call *Gulnora's* parents. Do not worry. We will find you a good wife."

Join the Team!

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Ministry Overview

People	The Uzbek
Language	Uzbek
Location	Central Asia
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church Planting• Entrepreneurs• ESL Teaching• Leadership training and development

What types of people and skills do we need?

- Hardy people, not easily discouraged from difficulty
- Those happy to give and receive hospitality
- Skilled professionals
- Teachers
- Entrepreneurs who can create jobs

