

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS: UZBEKISTAN  
AND GREAT BRITAIN**

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**Abstract:** *This article provides a comprehensive comparative analysis of the customs and traditions of Uzbekistan and Great Britain. It explores the cultural roots, social etiquette, hospitality, and holiday celebrations of both nations. While Uzbekistan represents a vibrant Eastern culture deeply rooted in community and family values, Great Britain showcases a blend of historical monarchy and modern Western individualism. The study highlights both the stark differences and the surprising similarities in how these two nations preserve their heritage in a globalized world.*

**Keywords:** *Uzbekistan, Great Britain, customs, hospitality, traditions, culture, tea ceremony, etiquette, social norms.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqola O‘zbekiston va Buyuk Britaniyaning urf-odatlarini va an‘analarining har tomonlama qiyosiy tahlilini taqdim etadi. Unda har ikki xalqning madaniy ildizlari, ijtimoiy odob-axloq qoidalari, mehmonnavozlik va bayram tantanalari ko‘rib chiqiladi. O‘zbekiston jamoaviylik va oilaviy qadriyatlarga chuqur ildiz otgan yorqin Sharq madaniyatini ifodalasa, Buyuk Britaniya tarixiy monarxiya va zamonaviy G‘arb individualligining uyg‘unligini namoyish etadi. Tadqiqot globallashgan dunyoda ushbu ikki xalq o‘z merosini qanday saqlab qolayotganidagi keskin farqlar va hayratlanarli o‘xshashliklarni yoritib beradi.*

**Kalit so‘zlar:** *O‘zbekiston, Buyuk Britaniya, urf-odatlar, mehmonnavozlik, an‘analar, madaniyat, choy marosimi, odob-axloq, ijtimoiy normalar.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Culture is the heartbeat of a nation, and customs are the rhythmic patterns that define its identity. Uzbekistan, located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, and Great Britain, an island nation with a vast colonial history, possess some of the world's most distinct cultural landscapes. Although separated by thousands of miles and different socio-political histories, both countries place a high value on "politeness" and "heritage." This article delves into the nuances of daily life, celebrations, and social interactions that make these two cultures unique.

### **1. Hospitality and Social Etiquette**

**Uzbekistan:**

Hospitality is not just a custom in Uzbekistan; it is a sacred duty. The Uzbek proverb "Mehmon otangdan ulug'" (A guest is greater than your father) encapsulates this philosophy. When a guest enters an Uzbek home, they are immediately offered the seat of

honor (to'r) and served tea. The bread (non) is never placed upside down, as it is considered disrespectful to the "bread of life."

Great Britain:

British hospitality is more reserved but equally sincere. While an Uzbek host might insist on overfeeding a guest, a British host respects "personal space." Politeness is the cornerstone of British etiquette—words like "please," "thank you," and "sorry" are used frequently. Punctuality is a vital custom; being five minutes late to a dinner party is often considered rude, whereas in Uzbekistan, time is viewed more fluidly.

## 2. The Art of Tea Drinking

Both nations are famous for their love of tea, though the ceremonies differ significantly:

- The Uzbek Choykhona: Tea is served in a piala. It is a communal activity, often involving the "three times pouring" rule (loy, moy, choy) to ensure the tea reaches its full flavor.

- The British Afternoon Tea: Traditionally served around 4:00 PM, involving Earl Grey or English Breakfast tea, often accompanied by milk, scones, and finger sandwiches. It is a symbol of elegance and social refinement.

## 3. Family Values and Community

Uzbekistan:

The concept of the Mahalla (neighborhood community) is central to Uzbek life. Life events like weddings and Sunnat Tuy involve the entire community. Respect for elders is paramount; younger people always greet elders first and avoid speaking loudly in their presence.

Great Britain:

British culture tends to be more individualistic. While family is important, children are encouraged to become independent at a younger age. However, the British have a deep-seated respect for tradition, particularly concerning the Royal Family, which acts as a unifying symbol of national identity.

## 4. Traditional Festivals and Holidays

- Navruz (Uzbekistan): The Persian New Year, celebrating the spring equinox. It involves making Sumalak and communal festivities. It reflects the agricultural roots and the rebirth of nature.

- Christmas (Great Britain): The most significant holiday in the UK. Beyond its religious roots, it is a time for family reunions, gift-giving, and the traditional Christmas dinner (turkey and pudding).

- Guy Fawkes Night: A uniquely British tradition involving bonfires and fireworks, commemorating a historical event in 1605.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the customs of Uzbekistan are characterized by warmth, communal bonding, and Eastern generosity, British traditions are defined by courtesy, historical continuity, and a respect for privacy. Uzbekistan's customs are deeply tied to the

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soil and the neighborhood, whereas British customs are often tied to institutional history and social etiquette. However, both cultures share a common goal: to maintain a sense of belonging and to pass down a moral compass to future generations. Understanding these differences fosters mutual respect and global harmony.

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