



# 5TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AZERBAIJANI CARPETS

## Traditions and Innovations

17–20 October 2017  
Baku, Azerbaijan

### The Symposium

The 5th International Symposium on Azerbaijani Carpets (ISAC) takes place over 4 days, 17-20 October 2017. It is a decade since the last ISAC was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris—the only one to be hosted abroad. The first took place in 1983.

Tuesday 17 October 2017 is the first day of the Symposium, with the opening ceremony in the morning and the first academic session in the afternoon. Days 2 and 3 will have all-day academic sessions. The Symposium will conclude on Friday 20 October 2017 with a half-day session in the morning, followed by the closing ceremony in the afternoon. There will be a cultural programme each evening, including receptions at special exhibition openings and other activities.

### The Organizers

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and “Azerkhalcha” Joint-Stock Company are organizing ISAC 2017. Technical support and patronage for the Academic Programme is provided by the International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC).

Minister Abulfas Garayev will chair the Organising Committee, Asli Samadova is Project Manager and Alberto Boralevi is Co-Chair of the Academic Committee with Dr. Togrul Efendiyev, who represents the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences as well as the Azerbaijan National Museum of Art (ANMA), which will be one of the symposium venues.

### The Venues

The main venues for the affiliated temporary exhibitions in Baku are the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum and the Azerbaijan National Museum of Art (ANMA).

Shirin Melikova, Director of the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, will curate ‘Contemporary Art in Carpets’ – an exhibition that spans around the permanent exhibition and invites international and Azerbaijani artists to expand the boundaries of traditional carpet perception. Alberto Boralevi and Asli Samadova, the curators of ‘Silk Treasures’, another special temporary exhibition of Azerbaijani embroideries at ANMA, have secured international loans from V&A museum and important private collections and will also present unpublished pieces from the ANMA collection. HALI Publishing Ltd. will produce an accompanying book on this material.

The venue for the academic sessions will be confirmed at a later date.

### Academic Sessions and Speakers

The academic session titles and the full Symposium programme will be finalised in late Summer 2017. If you are interested in speaking at ISAC 2017, please read the [Call for Papers](#) and submit your abstract [here](#) before the deadline of 15 March 2017.

### Visas

While certain nationalities are eligible for a visa-free regime or could apply for a visa upon arrival at Heydar Aliyev International Airport in Baku, all other nationalities are required to apply for a visa in advance. Please contact the consulate services at your nearest Embassy of Azerbaijan to check your visa requirements.

If you require a visa for Azerbaijan, we suggest you apply via the [ASAN Visa e-service](#). The online application should be submitted at least 3 working days before your trip and costs \$20. You will find further information at their [website](#).



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### Travel and Accommodation

Hotel recommendations and special rates are available to ISAC guests and speakers. A dedicated section will appear soon on our website. Please **contact us** for further details.

Shuttle buses will be provided from Heydar Aliyev International Airport to the recommended hotels. Uber provides a reliable taxi service in Baku, but please note that most local drivers do not speak English. While Uber and similar services have fixed pre-order rates, only 'London blackcab' cars are equipped with taximeter (3AZN is the minimum fare for a ride).

### National currency

National currency is Azerbaijani Manat (AZN) and approximate exchange rate is:

£1 = 2.15 AZN  
€1 = 1.9 AZN  
1USD = 1.8 AZN

You may exchange currency or withdraw money from ATMs at the airport and banks in the city.

### Weather

There are nine different climatic zones in Azerbaijan. The weather in Baku in October is on average 13–15 degrees Celsius.

### Practicalities

No registration fee is required to participate at ISAC 2017. You are welcome to bring other guests with you, please enter their details in the relevant section of the **conference registration form**.

### HALI Tour

An 8-day HALI Tour will take place in Azerbaijan and Georgia straight after the symposium, 21–28 October 2017. Organized by HALI magazine, the focus will be on the carpet and textile traditions of these regions and their survival/revival with additional opportunities to visit other sites of cultural interest. The tour will begin in Azerbaijan's capital city, Baku with a walking tour of the Old Town, further museum visits and presentations of private collections of textiles and archival photographs.

The tour then travels north through rural weaving villages to the Sheki Khan Palace at Sheki, before crossing the border into Georgia by road; visiting the historic towns of Sighnaghi and Mtskheta and gaining exclusive access to museum collections in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, where the tour ends.

Luxury accommodation, quality dining and scheduled free time will be included, along with unique access to little-seen pieces in museum and private collections in the company of experts and fellow enthusiasts.

For further information or to register your interest please **contact us**.

[www.ISACBaku.org](http://www.ISACBaku.org)