

# ASSALOMU ALAYKUM!

## Jared and Emily's Fulbright Experience in Uzbekistan

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### Ahsikent

As often happens to us in Uzbekistan, we were whisked away on a grand adventure by locals who wanted to “mehmon qilmoq” (see Uzbek Tili Tidbits). Our friends, Akmal, Nargiza, and Boburmirtzoo picked us up and took us to a village for fish at a “baliqxonona.” After a feast of food, laughter, broken Uzbek, broken English, and confused Russian, we

explored Ahsikent, a historic location of ruins in Uzbekistan. The old city is over 2000 years old and housed an estimated 200,000 people before Genghis Khan came and killed almost everyone and buried the city. He cut off the water supply to conquer the town. Being in this spot and imagining life that long ago was surreal.



From left to right: Boburmirtzoo (Graduate student at NIET and employee at IT Park) Jared, Emily, Nargiza (NESTLE accountant, Akmal's wife), Akmal (NIET professor)



The remains of a home from this ancient city before being destroyed by Genghis Khan



## Fergana

We travelled to Fergana City from March 26-28 for a weekend full of school visits, activities, a Green Team reunion, and Hannah's birthday! We all shared presentations about our state at a teacher training day with Xenia's school, resulting in gifted Uzbek teacher scarf bows, making Emily feel officially immersed as a teacher in Uzbekistan. Then, Hannah organized a wonderful English movie night for University students. We watched *Rise of the Guardians* and had a blast explaining different traditions about the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, and so on. Some frisbee fun, karaoke, and cake helped complete the birthday festivities for Hannah.



Green Team (minus Alon) after a cultural presentation at a teacher training with Xenia's school in Fergana. Green team ladies are sporting our new Uzbek teacher scarf bows.



(Left) Xenia and Emily after a Fergana road run. (Right) Emily and Jared at dinner with Green Team members, surprised by the food selection in Fergana!



Green Team (minus Manneha & Wendy's eyes), left to right: Alon, Emily, Jared, Wendy, Xenia, Hannah, Jesse



## School Visits

Although we are kept busy at our main institutions, we are often invited to visit other schools or language centers. We give presentations about ourselves and how to speak and learn English more confidently. In return, we are given a plethora of smiling and excited students and teachers and often a great traditional Uzbek lunch. On one notable day, we visited three schools in Chust, a nearby town, and were met with a 20 foot long table of food, 30 students, and a futbol match after our presentations. Clearly, it was a fantastic day.



From top to bottom: Jared visiting an English Center, our 20 foot long feast in Chust, and our individual visits to the IT school.



## Tashkent Trip

We travelled to Tashkent for one week to participate in two conferences: Webster University in Tashkent's Media Literacy Conference for ETAs and Tashkent World Languages University's International Conference on English Assessment. At the latter presentation with 100 in person participants and over 200 virtual participants from across Uzbekistan, Emily did a presentation called *Seven Seconds of Silence for Formative Assessment Success* and Jared did a presentation called *On the Spot Assessment: Open Ended Visual Discussion*. These conferences were great professional development experiences as well as entertaining. See Emily at the "Make your own palov" session on the right.



A visit with Arizona State University's Critical Language Institute Uzbek teacher, Saodat Opa, and CLI alumna and Fulbright ETA, Carolyne, in Tashkent



Worlds Collide—Dinner with ETAs, our first Uzbek teacher, Namangan Access teachers, and teachers from other regions



Emily and Jared with two Uzbek volunteers from Tashkent World Languages University's International Conference on English Assessment



# Staying Active in Uzbekistan

We love playing sports in Uzbekistan. Here are some recent fun times. From top to bottom: Jared's new exercise location—an Olympic Weightlifting gym with Habib aka, a previous Olympic athlete, futbol in Namangan with NIET professors, futbol in Tashkent with other ETAs and friends from the train, futbol again in Tashkent, and frisbee club in Fergana



Staying Active in Uzbekistan with lots of sports, running, and more





## Daily Life

The weather is getting warm here as we head into summer. We are enjoying the sunshine and pleasant temperatures around high 70s before the swelter of summer consumes us. We discovered an outdoor bozor walking distance from our house where we can buy fresh fruits and vegetables, and we also recently bought our own soccer ball to practice in the field next to our apartment. This month is Ramadan, so almost everyone in our town is fasting during the daylight hours of this lunar month, causing most oshxonas to be empty. Both of us are improving our teaching and our Uzbek language skills everyday!

### Uzbek Tili Tidbits

**Mehmon qilmoq** - to have over as a guest. This phrase is used as a verb to explain how Uzbek people will treat you as their guest, including arranging your transportation, entertaining you, feeding you, and giving you fun for as long as the day allows! Rules for mehmon qilmoq—the guest may choose when to arrive, but the host chooses when to send you home!

**Baliqxon**a - fish house

**Ko'rshamiz!** - We will see each other! A nice additional to a farewell



An assortment of photos from life in Uzbekistan