

Reopening, Reconstruction and Expansion of Mosques in Russia

- Compiled

- info@iosworld.org

**Institute of Objective Studies
162, Jogabai, Jamia Nagar
New Delhi - 110025**

Reopening, Reconstruction and Expansion of Mosques in Russia

Old Mosques of Russia depict the glory of Islam. The reopening, reconstruction and expansion of mosques in Russia shows an important development towards Islam.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Mukhtarov+Mosque%2C+Vladikavkaz%2C+Russia&oq=Mukhtarov+Mosque%2C+Vladikavkaz%2C+Russia&aqs=chrome.69i57j33i160.2749j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Mukhtarov Mosque, Vladikavkaz, Russia - 1908



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukhtarov_Mosque#/media/File:MechetVladik.jpg

The Sunni Mosque or the Mukhtarov Mosque is a historic mosque on the left bank of the Terek River in Vladikavkaz, Russia. The mosque owes its name to the Azerbaijani millionaire Murtuza Mukhtarov who financed its construction in 1900–1908. The architect Józef Ploško was inspired by Al-Azhar and other mosques of Cairo. [Wikipedia](#)

Address: Ulitsa Kotsoyeva, 62, Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia–Alania Republic, Russia, 362008

Mukhtarov Mosque, Vladikavkaz, Russia - 1908

The Sunni Mosque or the Mukhtarov Mosque is a historic mosque on the left bank of the Terek River in Vladikavkaz, Russia. The mosque owes its name to the Azerbaijani millionaire Murtuza Mukhtarov who financed its construction in 1900–1908. The architect Józef Ploško was inspired by Al-Azhar and other mosques of Cairo.^[1] Ploško was also the architect of Mukhtarov Palace in Baku. The mosque serves the Ossetian Muslim minority.

The Sunni Mosque is known for its picturesque setting against the dramatic backdrop of the Caucasus Mountains. It also used to serve the Ingush residents of Vladikavkaz before they were expelled from North Ossetia in the 1990s. The mosque has been protected as a historic landmark since 1934. In 1996, it was badly damaged by an explosion^[2] and later restored.

History

The mosque gets its name from Murtuza Mukhtarov, an Azerbaijani millionaire who constructed the mosque from 1900 to 1908. In 1960, under Soviet rule, it came under complete protection, in which a branch opened an indoor museum. Communism's fall brought the collapse of the Soviet Union, but within dispersion over the gatherings of Ossetian Muslims, the mosque returned to its usual function as a house of worship in 1996.

Architect: Jozef Plosko

<https://www.advantour.com/russia/vladikavkaz/mukhtarov-mosque.htm>

Mukhtarov Mosque, Vladikavkaz, Russia - 1908

Mukhtarov Mosque (also called Sunni Mosque) is one of the most recognizable sights of Vladikavkaz, as evidenced by the many postcards, calendars and other souvenirs emblazoned with imprints of the mosque against a mountain backdrop.

The mosque was built in the early 20th century for local adherents of Islam, the predominant minority religion in North Ossetia. Like many mosques in Russia it would have been destroyed by the Soviets, yet in 1934 local Tatars armed themselves and successfully defended it. In 1960, Sunni Mosque came under full state protection, after which a branch of the local history museum was opened inside. It was not until 1996, however, that the house of worship was returned to the local Muslim community.

Today, Mukhtarov Mosque is an active mosque and a highlight of Vladikavkaz architecture. A delicately carved structure, it appears to have been lifted from the pages of a fairy tale and is often likened to Cairo mosques of the 10th-12th centuries. Its interior, much of which was made using pure gold, impresses with a wealth of harmonious ornamentation and bright colors.

As a famous mosque in Russia and a tangible piece of the city's past, Mukhtarov Mosque is definitely worth a visit if you are in Vladikavkaz!

https://www.google.com/search?q=Grand+Mosque+in+Makhachkala%2C+Dagestan%2C+Russia&rlz=1C1CHBF_enIN809IN809&oq=Grand+Mosque+in+Makhachkala%2C+Dagestan%2C+Russia&aqs=chrome.69i57j33i10i160.82856j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Grand Mosque, Makhachkala, Dagestan, Russia - 1998



The Grand Mosque in Makhachkala is the main mosque of the Republic of Dagestan. It is supposed to have been patterned after the Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Istanbul. The building can accommodate up to 17,000 worshippers. Its construction was financed by Turkey. The mosque was completed and consecrated in 1998. Wikipedia

Address: Ulitsa Dakhadayeva, 136, Makhachkala, Republic of Dagestan, Russia, 367015

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Mosque_of_Makhachkala

Grand Mosque, Makhachkala, Dagestan, Russia - 1998

The Grand Mosque in [Makhachkala](#) (*Yusuf Bei Cami*) is the main [mosque](#) of the [Republic of Dagestan](#). It is supposed to have been patterned after the [Sultan Ahmed Mosque](#) in [Istanbul](#). The building can accommodate up to 17,000 worshipers.^{[1][2]} Its construction was financed by [Turkey](#).^[2] The mosque was completed and consecrated in 1998. It is the focal point of the city's main thoroughfare, [Imam Shamil Avenue](#).

The construction of the mosque was started in 1991 thanks to the financing of one of the wealthy Turkish families. The [Blue Mosque](#) in Istanbul was taken as a model. The grand opening took place in 1997. The first imam was the Turk Hafiz Aydin.

In 2004-2007 the building was reconstructed in order to increase its capacity to 15 thousand people. In July 2007, a telethon was held in Makhachkala, thanks to which more than 25 million rubles were collected to expand the mosque and improve the surrounding area.

The current imam since 2021 is Muhammad Atangulov.

Nurda Kamal Mosque, Norilsk, Russia -1998



RIA Novosti

The Nurda Kamal Mosque is located in Norilsk, an industrial city in northern Siberia. Opened in 1998, the building is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's northernmost mosque.

The Nord Kamal Mosque is the largest mosque in the city of Norilsk, Russia. It is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the most northerly-situated mosque in the world. It was built by businessman Mukhtad Bekmeyer, an ethnic Tatar native of Norilsk, who named it after his father Nuritdin and mother Gaynikamal. Wikipedia

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Nurda+Kamal+Mosque%2C+Norilsk%2C+Russia&oq=Nurda+Kamal+Mosque%2C+Norilsk%2C+Russia+&aqs=chrome.69i57j33i10i160l4.5377j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/90/Norilskmosque.jpg>

Nurda Kamal Mosque, Norilsk, Russia -1998



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nord_Kamal_Mosque

Opened for prayers in 1998. Its architecture is Turkish-style with a minaret and central dome.

The architecture of the mosque, built according to a custom design, is different from traditional mosques, because of the special climatic conditions of the Far North. For example, Norilsk's minaret tower, which is generally supposed to have a round shape, has a square base, because in such walls, the bricks do not freeze and they are more resistant to wind loads.

Norilsk has a Muslim population of about 50,000, mostly migrants from Azerbaijan and Dagestan, although it is shrinking due to the area's harsh environment and unfavorable work opportunities.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Lala+Tulpan+Mosque%2C+Ufa%2C+Russia&oeq=Lala+Tulpan+Mosque%2C+Ufa%2C+Russia&aqs=chrome.69i57j0i546.69822j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Lala Tulpan Mosque – Ufa, Russia - 1998

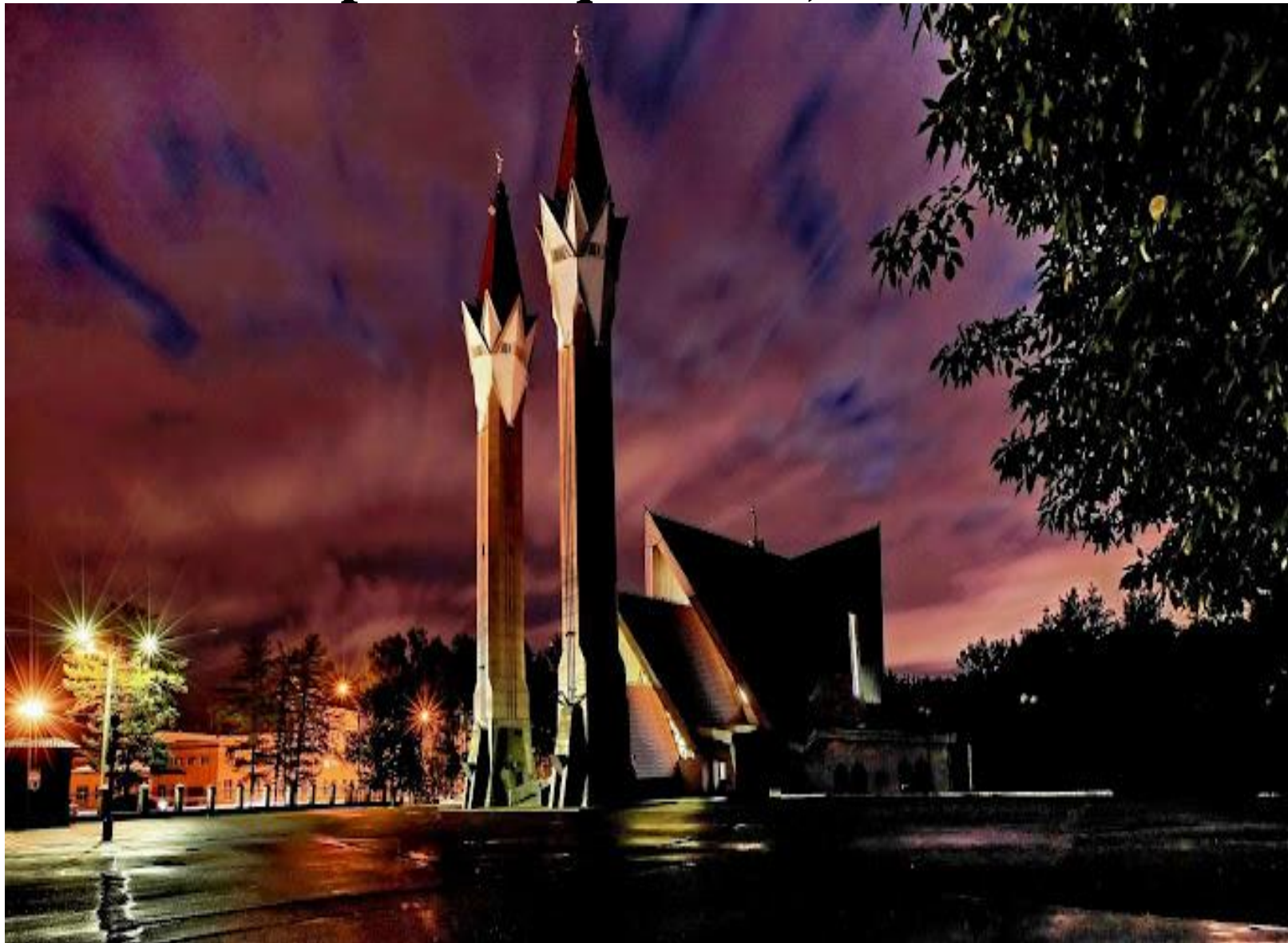


Lala Tulpan in Ufa is one of Russia's largest mosques with 53-metre-tall twin minarets. The building can hold up to 1000 worshippers. It was built between 1990 and 1998 to a modernist design by Wakil Davlyatshin.

In 2001 Vladimir Putin held a meeting with Talgat Tadzhuiddin and other Muslim clerics at the mosque.

Address: Ulitsa Komarova, 5, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia, 450044

Lala Tulpan Mosque – Ufa, Russia - 1998



https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-g298520-d2328198-Reviews-Kul_Sharif_Mosque-Kazan_Republic_of_Tatarstan_Volga_District.html#/media-attf/2328198/55509782:p/?albumid=-160&type=0&category=-160

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Kul+Sharif%2C+Kazan%2C+Russia&oq=Kul+Sharif%2C+Kazan%2C+Russia&aqs=chrome.69i57j0i22i30j0i15i22i30j0i390i650l3.3347j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#cobssid=s>

Kul Sharif Mosque, Kazan, Russia - 2005



Kul Sharif Mosque in Kazan, Russia opened its doors in 2005 as the central mosque of Tatarstan.

The construction of the complex, located inside the Kazan

History

The construction of the mosque started in 1996. The aim of the architects and builders was to recreate the ancient mosque of the Kazan Khanate. The traditional mosque with many minarets was destroyed by the troops of Ivan the Terrible during the storming of Kazan in 1552. They named a mosque in honor of her last Imam. He was one of the leaders of the defense of Kazan.

Urban and Architectural Description

One of the most worshiped and legendary mosques in Kazan Khanate were the mosque named in honour of Imam Seid Kul Sharif – prominent figure in the history of the Tatar people, most educated of his time, a poet and social activist, deep intellect and experience, diplomat and influential public and respected religious agent as absolute spiritual Muslim leader of Kazan Khanate. During the tragic events of 1552 head of defended shakirds (medresse pupil) group heroically died like a real warrior in walls of the grand mosque.

In accordance with the dated November 13, 1955 Decree by President Mintimer Shaimiev to reconstruct the mosque on the territory of Kazan Kremlin as synthesizing an Islamic revival ideal in actual Tatar culture – in western part – in the backyard of the former cadet military school.

The mosque has four levels – lower stilobate-podium used as Islam Museum, women hall and dressing rooms, ablution halls, administrative and technical rooms, - in ground floor there are men hall dressing rooms, Imams private office. Prayers hall for 720 men and women gallery level for 300 women locate in first and second floor.

The arch niches are decorated with the medallions in the technoloque of mosaic with the names of honored prophets in the Koran: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad. On the top of the stained-glass windows, under the canvas of the dome space and on dome itself there are 99 epithets of the God, made of smalt, coated with gold leaf. Around the ring of the dome s prop there is Surah Gimran made of smalt. On the four corners of the praying hall on the level of women s gallery there are four shamails with surahs from the Koran. The Mihrab s dome is decorated by ornamental composition looking like flowers branches interlaced with each other and symbolizing paradise gardens (Firdaus).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhmad_Kadyrov_Mosque

Akhmad Kadyrov Mosque, Grozny, Chechnya, Russia - 2008



The mosque is one of the largest in Russia and is officially known as "The Heart of Chechnya"

Akhmad Kadyrov Mosque, Grozny, Chechnya, Russia - 2008

The mosque is named after **Akhmad Kadyrov**, the first president of the Republic of Chechnya and father to the current president of the Republic, **Ramzan Kadyrov**. The construction of the mosque was commissioned by the mayor of the Turkish city of **Konya**. The mosque's design includes a set of 62-metre (203 ft)-tall **minarets** which are based upon those of the early seventeenth century **Sultan Ahmed Mosque** (known also as the Blue Mosque) in **Istanbul**.

On October 16, 2008, the mosque was officially opened in a ceremony in which Chechen leader **Ramzan Kadyrov** appeared and conversed with Russian Prime Minister **Vladimir Putin**.

The mosque is located on the picturesque banks of the **Sunzha River** in the middle of a huge park (14 hectares) and is part of an Islamic architectural complex, which in addition to the mosque, consists of the **Russian Islamic University**, the Kunta-Haji, and the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Republic of Chechnya.

The mosque design is executed in the classic **Ottoman style**, as exemplified in the architecture of **Istanbul**. The central hall of the mosque is covered with a huge dome (diameter - 16 meters, height - 32 m). The height of the four minarets is 62 meters, making them among the tallest in **southern Russia**. The exterior and interior walls of the mosque are built of **marble** and **travertine**, while the interior is decorated in white marble.

The area of the mosque is 5000 square metres and which allows a capacity of more than 10000 people. The same number of the faithful can pray in the mosque adjacent to the summer gallery.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Bulgar+Mosque%2C+Russia&oq=Bulgar+Mosque%2C+Russia&aqs=chrome.69i57j33i10i160l3.2761j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Bulgar Mosque, Spassky, Kazan, Russia - 2012



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolgar,_Spassky_District,_Republic_of_Tatarstan#/media/File:Bolgar_mosque.jpeg

Bulgar Mosque (Cheboksary)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgar_Mosque_\(Cheboksary\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgar_Mosque_(Cheboksary))

The Bulgar Mosque is a mosque in the city of Cheboksary, Chuvashia, Russia. It is located on the outskirts of the city.

<https://learnrussianlanguage.net/beautiful-facts-of-bulgar-mosque-russia>

The majority of Tatarstan people are Sunni Muslims. This branch of Islam maintains peace and avoids the growth of radicals and extremists in the republic. The decision for the government to restore Bulgar and construct the Bulgar White Mosque stemmed from two reasons; to flourish the tourism in the republic and to return the good image of Islam in Russia after what happened in Chechnya. Tatarstan is wealthy from oil and gas, so expecting for revenue from the tourism is definitely not the republic's goal. The White Mosque of Bulgar is doing the favor by presenting a clean, peaceful, beautiful and welcoming image of Islam in Russia.

<https://learnrussianlanguage.net/beautiful-facts-of-bulgar-mosque-russia>

Bulgar Mosque, Spassky, Kazan, Russia - 2012



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolgar,_Spassky_District,_Republic_of_Tatarstan

Bolgar, Spassky District, Republic of Tatarstan

8 Beautiful Facts of Bulgar Mosque, Spassky, Kazan, Russia - 2012

As we all know, Russia is such a vast country. In the entire nation there are three famous Bulgar Mosques; two in Kazan, Tatarstan and the other one in Cheboksary, Chuvashia. The one we will discuss about in this article, though, is the one in Kazan. Let us now take a look at 8 beautiful facts of Bulgar Mosque in Russia.

1. Out of the two Bulgar Mosques in Kazan, Tatarstan, the outstanding one is also known as The White Mosque and younger than the other one. The newer Bulgar Mosque is located on the Spassky district, Kazan, opened on June 10, 2012.
2. The design of the Bulgar White Mosque adopted the Taj Mahal's structure, and so that's why locals call this worshipping place as "Kazan Taj Mahal".
3. Bulgar White Mosque is entirely white and made of one thousand and two hundred tons of marble. The color represents purity and peace.
4. The mosque is now the home to the world's largest Qur'an from the middle of 16th century.
5. There are two minarets of the mosque, each 46.5 meters high and built – by the request of Mintimer Shaimiev, the first President of Tatarstan – to resemble the style of the minarets of the Mosque of the Prophet in Medina. The prayer hall is 180 square meters wide and can accommodate thousands of worshippers, being the first floor for the women and the second one for men.
6. Regular mosques in Tatarstan were built based on the rationalist design or an architectural design developed in Italy during the 1930's. They are mostly square, sturdy and tall with one minaret and a rather box-y dome.
7. The Bulgar White Mosque stands on an arcade of the ancient Bolgar which is one of UNESCO World Heritage sites.
8. Kazan Taj Mahal or the Bulgar White Mosque is included in one of the most beautiful mosques in Russia also ones with the most astonishing architectural design.