Heydar Aliyev Statue - Azerbaijan Baku



Baku, this energy capital on the shores of the Caspian Sea, is one of the rare cities that, with the new face it has acquired over the past two decades, can look simultaneously at its own history and its future. In this city, Heydar Aliyev's name appears everywhere: at the airport, at the cultural center, on streets and in statues. But the Heydar Aliyev Statue in Baku does not serve a purely commemorative function; it stands like a text that must be read in order to understand Azerbaijan's last fifty years.

Heydar Aliyev: A Man of Two Eras

Heydar Aliyev is one of the most singular figures in Azerbaijan's political history. Having risen to the highest echelons of the KGB during the Soviet period and governed the Azerbaijan SSR for many years, Aliyev returned to power following the collapse of the Soviet Union, this time as president of an independent Azerbaijan. During this second period in power, which lasted from 1993 until his death in 2003, the country's oil revenues and foreign policy balance were shaped largely by his decisions. His supporters describe him as the architect of modern Azerbaijan, while his critics emphasize the authoritarian aspects of his rule.

The Location and Atmosphere of the Statue in Baku

The Heydar Aliyev Statue in Baku appears at various points throughout the city. The best known of these stands at the monument grounds near the cultural center that bears his name. The Heydar Aliyev Center, designed by Zaha Hadid, and the statue situated within the same grounds together create a powerful composition in which modern architecture and history intertwine. This site, which the vast majority of Baku's visitors make a point of stopping at, reflects the city's aesthetic and

political identity simultaneously.

The Aliyev Legacy in Azerbaijan

Following Heydar Aliyev's death, his son Ilham Aliyev assumed the presidency. This political continuity demonstrates that Heydar Aliyev's legacy is being kept alive not only symbolically but at an institutional and practical level as well. While the Aliyev Foundation carries out projects across a broad range from education to culture, May 10, Heydar Aliyev's birthday, is celebrated as an official public holiday. The statue in Baku is the urban reflection of this wide-ranging sense of ownership.

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