Yusuf Has Hajib Statue - Kyrgyzstan - Bishkek



Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, is considered one of the most important cultural and educational centers of Central Asia. One of the most symbolic structures of this city is the Statue of Yusuf Has Hajib, rising right in front of the Jusup Balasagyn Kyrgyz National University. This monument is not just a mass of stone or bronze, but a concrete reflection of the thousand-year-old state tradition, sense of justice, and philosophical depth of the Turkic-Islamic world. Built in 2003, this statue depicts the great 11th-century thinker Yusuf Has Hajib holding his immortal work, Kutadgu Bilig. This posture symbolizes the unshakable place of knowledge and written culture in Turkic history. Serving as a historical bridge within the modern silhouette of Bishkek, this statue is a source of inspiration for both local people and tourists visiting the city.

Yusuf Has Hajib lived during the Karakhanid State period and was not only a poet but also a political scientist and moral philosopher. His journey, which began in Balasagun, was crowned with Kutadgu Bilig, completed in Kashgar and considered the first book of politics in Turkic literature. This statue in Bishkek is a source of national pride, as Balasagun, the birthplace of Yusuf Has Hajib, is located on Kyrgyz territory. The square where the statue is located is a frequent destination for young people, academics, and thinkers. Every day, thousands of students pass by this monument to enter their classes, thus feeling at every moment that they are the heirs of a deep-rooted past. The design of the statue has been meticulously crafted to reflect the dignified stance and intellectual depth of Yusuf Has Hajib.

An Art Piece in the Shadow of Kutadgu Bilig

The most striking detail of the statue is the book Yusuf Has Hajib holds between his hands. This book is Kutadgu Bilig, which means Wisdom Which Brings Happiness. This work is the first major literary and didactic text written after the Turks accepted Islam. Highlighting this book in the statue

reminds us that Yusuf Has Hajib was not only a statesman but, above all, a laborer of the pen and ideas. Every detail from the pedestal of the statue to its top is a blend of Karakhanid aesthetics and modern Kyrgyz sculptural art. The use of bronze material increases the monument's resistance to time while giving it a noble brilliance. Despite Bishkek's harsh winter conditions and scorching summer heat, this statue continues to stand tall, just like the ideas of Yusuf Has Hajib.

The process of erecting this monument is part of Kyrgyzstan's effort to return to its own values in the post-independence period. Naming the university after Yusuf Has Hajib in 2002, followed by the opening of this statue in 2003, was a major step in the construction of national identity. The landscaping around the statue is designed to allow visitors to stop and reflect in front of the monument. This is not just a photo-taking area, but also like an open-air museum where the common denominators of the Turkic world are discussed. The concepts of justice, mind, happiness, and destiny mentioned by Yusuf Has Hajib in Kutadgu Bilig literally come to life in the silent but deep stance of this statue.

The Statue of Yusuf Has Hajib in Bishkek Culture Tourism

From a touristic perspective, this statue should definitely be on the route of every traveler coming to Bishkek. Its location on Chuy Boulevard, one of the city's main avenues, makes the statue very easy to reach. When you stand in front of the statue, the composition formed by the magnificent building of the Kyrgyz National University rising before you and the statue offers a tremendous view where education and history are intertwined. This spot, which is at the top of the list of places to visit in Bishkek in terms of SEO, is one of the strongest pens of Kyrgyzstan's cultural diplomacy. The statue is like a place of pilgrimage, especially for visitors from the Turkic world; because Yusuf Has Hajib is the common ancestor and common mind of all Turkic peoples.

The night lighting of the statue is also enchanting. The monument, illuminated in the Bishkek evenings, looks like a torch of knowledge shining in the middle of the darkness. This visual feast symbolizes Yusuf Has Hajib's personality, which fought against ignorance with knowledge. It should be emphasized in this part of our article that what makes a city a city is not just its buildings, but the monuments that give soul to those buildings. The Statue of Yusuf Has Hajib is the soul of Bishkek. It represents not only the past but also the future. The Kyrgyz government and people take great care of this monument, keeping the legacy of Yusuf Has Hajib alive through annual commemoration ceremonies and cultural events.

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Workshop: Heykel.org - Publication Date: 2026-04-13 16:07:10 - PDF Date: 27/11/2026