

# Nakhchivan – citadel of Azerbaijani land

**Musa MARJANLI,**  
Editor-in-Chief

Nakhchivan is one of the origin centers of human culture. Four thousand years ago, there already existed thriving cities here, while the capital of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is more than five thousand years old. Every stone in these places is a witness to history. The republic has more than 1,200 monuments, of which nearly are 700 archaeological. Every year scientists find new evidence of ancient life on this land. But so many mysteries are yet to be discovered! So many exciting and amazing stories are yet to be written into a multi-page chronicle of Nakhchivan.

Nakhchivan is also about diverse culture, no matter whether we are talking about age-old cities or the present day of the region. Myths and legends, stories and songs, customs and traditions – they permeate the entire life of the people of Nakhchivan, contain a mass of details, hundreds of customs left behind by time. And such a legacy neighbors on numerous libraries and museums, theaters, a huge university, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.

It is a place where infinite expanses of steppes coexist with mountains that rise above the clouds. Green forests oozing with the moisture of countless creeks and mountain streams go hand in hand with waterless and sunshine lands. The endless wasteland which, it would seem, is rarely visited even by birds, and the populous villages surrounded by vast gardens, cozy towns with narrow medieval streets, modern buildings and wide avenues of the capital of the republic... Whoever has been to this wonderful land at least once, admired its scenery, enjoyed the taste of water from its pure sources and witnessed the hospitality of its inhabitants will keep the love of Nakhchivan in his heart forever.

This year marks 90 years since the establishment of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. It has been a time of amazing successes in the economy, science, culture and all spheres of life. But the people of Nakhchivan have also endured many trials, above all because of the Armenian aggression followed by attempts to blockade the region. But these ordeals did nothing to break the will of Nakhchivan. In fact, they have brought its people even closer together. Due to the resolute measures to defend the region, Armenia failed to achieve its aggressive goals. Nakhchivan was and will always be an integral part of Azerbaijan.

Despite the blockade, the economy of Nakhchivan continues its dynamic development. This is evidenced by the opening of new industrial enterprises meeting contemporary requirements, extensive construction of social facilities and qualitative improvement of living standards in the republic. And there is no doubt that the speedy resolution of the conflict with Armenia will open up great prospects for the comprehensive development of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.