

Remarks by

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Sheki, Azerbaijan

Remarks on Cultural Preservation

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- Şəkiyə səmimi qəbula görə təşəkkür edirik. Nə gözəl yer! Nə gözəl şəhər!
- I've heard about this place, and I've read about the palace, but coming here and seeing it remarkable. The Sheki Khan Sarayi is truly a national treasure.
- This place is not only a treasure for Azerbaijan, but also a treasure for world.
- Restoring and preserving this kind of treasure is very important. Worldwide people see more than ever the need to preserve monuments and historical buildings. The State Department and Azerbaijani institutions such as the Heydar Aliyev Foundation work to preserve our world heritage treasures. For example, our Embassy is working to restore the Guba Hamam complex.
- President Aliyev has rightly focused on diversifying the economy of Azerbaijan. Tourism is certainly a great strength of Sheki – but this Palace also illustrates the historical importance of the Silk Road to Azerbaijan as well as the potential impact of rebuilding Azerbaijan as a transportation hub. I saw beautiful glass windows – stained glass brought in trade routes from Venice illuminating the rooms of this Palace nestled at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains. We are committed to helping Azerbaijan diversify their economy in tourism, transportation, and in other areas. Azerbaijan has benefited as a transport hub historically, and can again in the future.
- I just heard the story of Gellersen Gorursan where the Persians came to take the Khanate of Sheki, and the Sheki Khan said, “gellersen, gorursan,” and Sheki remained independent. Sheki established itself as an independent force in the same way that Azerbaijan has charted a strong course of independence. The United States has stood and will stand with our friend Azerbaijan and wants to see a strong democratic independent Azerbaijan.