



## THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT PERIOD OF KALTAMINOR CULTURE

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13990017>

### ARTICLE INFO

Received: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Accepted: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Online: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### KEYWORDS

Archaeology, artifact, city,  
tradition, architecture,  
craftsmanship, art.

### ABSTRACT

*This article presents information on the architecture of the Kaltaminor culture from antiquity, as well as its trade and economic relations, archaeological excavations, and findings.*

## ИСТОРИЯ АНТИЧНОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ КАЛТАМИНОРА

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Археология, артефакт,  
город, традиция,  
архитектура, ремесло,  
искусство.

### ABSTRACT

*В данной статье представлены сведения о культуре Калтаминов, античной архитектуре, торговых и экономических связях, а также археологических раскопках и находках.*

## KALTAMINOR MA'DANIYATI ANTIK DAVRI TARIXI

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13990017>

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### ABSTRACT



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## KEYWORDS

*arxeologiya, artefakt, shahar,  
an'ana, me'morchilik,  
hunarmandchilik, san'at.*

*Mazkur maqolada Kaltaminor ma'daniyati antik davri me'morchiligi, savdo va iqtisodiy aloqalari, arxeologik qazishmalar va topilmalarga oid ma'lumotlar keltirilgan.*

**Introduction.** The Kaltaminor culture is primarily an ancient culture that developed in the southern regions of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. The name Kaltaminor culture is derived from the Kaltaminor region in the Surxondaryo province of Uzbekistan. The Kaltaminor culture is one of the important cultural layers that has influenced the historical and cultural development of Uzbekistan. The Kaltaminor culture developed in the region of Central Asia, particularly along the banks of the Amudarya River and its surroundings. This region was a significant route for trade and economic connections, where numerous cultures intersected according to historical maps. The cultural heritage known as Kaltaminor in Central Asia is primarily spread throughout the western and northwestern regions of the area. Its borders also extend to the Ural River and the Caspian Sea.

To the south, it reaches the foothills of the Kyzylkum and Northern Kyzylkum deserts, while to the east, it extends to the north-eastern and southern shores of the Aral Sea, reaching down to the lower Syr Darya. The Kaltaminor culture is also quite widespread in the extensive territories of the Kyzylkum and Ustyurt.<sup>i</sup>

In the other regions of Central Asia, the tribes of the Neolithic period lived along the riverbanks and the shores of lakes, mainly engaged in hunting and fishing, based on the natural resources available to them (the Kaltaminor culture in Khorezm, the Hisor culture in Southern Tajikistan, or the Neolithic cultures of Fergana). One of the greatest achievements of the Neolithic period is the emergence of pottery.<sup>ii</sup>

The Kaltaminor culture is primarily distinguished by its unique architectural style, pottery, metalworking, and textile weaving. The Kaltaminor culture maintained strong connections with other cultures through trade, cultural exchange, and customs. Archaeological excavations have revealed important monuments of Kaltaminor culture, including ancient villages, temples, and burial sites. These monuments provide a wealth of information about the culture's life, agricultural practices, religious beliefs, and social structure.

The study of Kaltaminor culture is conducted through several key methods:

- ❖ Archaeological excavations at Kaltaminor sites help gather extensive information about the culture and history. These excavations are primarily conducted around ancient villages and burial mounds. Archaeologists are discovering numerous historical artifacts, ceramics, and metal objects.
- ❖ Ethnographic research also plays a vital role in studying Kaltaminor culture. Communicating with the local population and collecting information about their customs, traditions, and lifestyle contributes to a deeper understanding of the culture.



❖ The study of Kaltaminor culture is continuing within the field of historiography as well. Historians analyze archaeological and ethnographic data to explore the development of Kaltaminor culture and its connections with other cultures. This process is essential for demonstrating the significance of the culture within a holistic historical context.

In the culture of Kaltaminor, there are several architectural styles. Among them, Islamic architecture, Central Asian food, and handicraft styles stand out. Islamic architecture is emphasized through the significance of mosques and madrasas, as well as minarets and mausoleums, which are created using artistic decorations, vivid patterns, and arabesques. One of the most important aspects of Kaltaminor architecture is its architecture and geometric designs. Each building is associated with a specific symbol and meaning, creating characteristic artistic appearances and sounds. Historical monuments are primarily constructed from glass, ceramics, bricks, and natural stones, which can also be harmonized with Western and Eastern architectural styles.

Among the significant monuments in the city of Kaltaminor are the Khudoyorkhoja madrasa, the Bukhoro Bobo mosque, and many other religious and educational buildings. These structures, with their complex designs and delicate decorations, reflect the cultural and religious life of their time.

❖ **Khudoyorkhoja Madrasa** — this building showcases one of its artistic and architectural characteristics. The madrasa was built to provide education and religious knowledge to numerous students in its spacious and bright rooms. The books and manuscripts preserved there illustrate the scientific development of Kaltaminor culture.

❖ **Bukhoro Bobo Mosque** — this mosque is another example of Kaltaminor architecture. Its striking minaret and size played an essential role in the religious life of Kaltaminor city. The interior decorations of the mosque serve specific purposes, with unique meanings.

The architecture of Kaltaminor culture not only presents an artistic and pragmatic side but also focuses on the functional aspects of city life. Each building holds unique value for the population, being centers of religious, educational, and cultural life.

Currently, preserving Kaltaminor architecture and its monuments is of great importance for developing tourism and transmitting this art to future generations. Furthermore, this architecture also positively influences the fields of food and craftsmanship alongside its historical and cultural monuments. Researching the origins of Kaltaminor culture, its geographic location, and its connections with other cultures in the region is essential. Surkhandarya has long been recognized as one of the main areas where humanity has existed. Due to its location on trade routes, this region has been rich in intercultural relations. Kaltaminor culture stands out with its unique characteristics and distinctive styles.

The archaeological findings of the Kaltaminor culture are primarily discovered through archaeological layers located in Kaltaminor, Teshiktosh, Shurchi, and other areas. These findings provide insights into the lifestyle, economic life, and cultural values of the populations during these periods.

❖ **Stone Tools:** The stone artifacts of the Kaltaminor culture consist mainly of tools and weapons made of stone. These artifacts were used for hunting, agriculture, and various other purposes. Among the discovered items are cutting tools, swords, and other labor instruments.



❖ **Ceramics:** The ceramic artifacts of the Kaltaminor culture are certainly among the most interesting and significant archaeological finds. They often stand out with their colorful and rich decorations. The ceramic items include vessels, decorative pieces found in graves, and various shapes of jars, showcasing the unique design and crafting techniques that characterize the culture.

The Kaltaminor culture communities were skilled in pottery production. Although they had not mastered the art of using the potter's wheel, they had acquired the primitive techniques of creating pottery items as a skill. The people of Kaltaminor added clean ash from reeds and straw to the clay prepared for making vessels.<sup>iii</sup>

❖ **Metal Objects:** The presence and significance of metalworking in the Kaltaminor culture hold great importance. Archaeological excavations have uncovered metal objects, particularly tools and ornaments made of bronze and copper, which indicate their social and economic development.

❖ **Findings in Graves:** Archaeological materials found in graves related to the Kaltaminor culture provide abundant information about religious beliefs, rituals, and social strata. Objects discovered in the graves, especially those related to the comforts of the deceased and values associated with their lives, allow for insightful reflections.

The spread of agricultural culture in the upper part of the Zarafshan Valley was caused by the population of the Geoksur type in Southern Turkmenistan. Additionally, among the material finds of Sarazm, there are items belonging to the cultures of Southern Afghanistan and Kaltaminor. These artifacts indicate extensive cultural and economic connections among the tribes of the Eneolithic period, as well as migrations of tribes during that era, reflecting their movements from one place to another. The copper dagger and axe found around Shahrissabz, dating back to the late 4th millennium BCE - 3rd millennium BCE, specifically illustrate the direction of these migrations.<sup>iv</sup>

The Kaltaminor culture has a significant impact on modern culture in various ways. Firstly, through such cultures, the unique artistic and literary expressions of the people are developing. The traditions and values of Kaltaminor culture serve as a source of inspiration for contemporary artists. For instance, folk songs and musical instruments are being incorporated into modern rhythms.

Secondly, Kaltaminor culture also influences architecture. For a long time, architects have been using the ancient Kaltaminor style in their projects. This often results in the creation of buildings that reflect local beliefs and customs. Architectural monuments in the Kaltaminor style not only hold historical significance but also play a major role in the tourism sector.

Thirdly, Kaltaminor culture helps preserve the identity of its people by impacting social life. In today's world, where globalization is ongoing, Kaltaminor culture strives to maintain its values and traditions. As a result, the new generation is encouraged to understand and pay attention to their cultural heritage.

Religious beliefs and practices hold great importance in Kaltaminor culture. During its development, particularly under the influence of polytheism (worship of multiple gods), the beliefs of the people considered natural phenomena, animals, and plants as connected to specific deities. For example, the sun, moon, and stars are viewed as deities and are



considered sacred. Such beliefs have directly impacted people's lives and shaped unforgettable mythological sentiments.

The mythology of Kaltaminor culture typically manifests in tales that provide information about events related to nature, their interactions, and humanity's place on earth. Kaltaminor mythology often focuses on the interaction between the sun and the earth, isolation, and relationships with animals and plants. This is fundamentally rooted in the significance of land and natural resources, which are the main sources of economic activity for the Kaltaminor people.

Beliefs and rituals are of tremendous importance in Kaltaminor culture. Additionally, they are closely linked with many customs and find their place in all aspects of life. For example, various rituals are conducted for success in agriculture and animal husbandry. Before these rituals, the people, specifically the Kaltaminor community, offer prayers to the deities for gratitude and assistance. They usually present cultivated products and animals as sacrifices to the gods.

The mythology of Kaltaminor includes numerous heroes and their legends. These mythological heroes often serve as symbols who act to connect humans and animals, influence natural phenomena, or achieve specific goals. Such characters can be found in folklore and legends. They are often portrayed as individuals capable of returning lost items, overcoming challenges, or controlling the forces of nature.

The culture of Kaltaminor is closely related to religious and mythological talents and traditional customs. Various rituals (such as the elder's ceremony, harvest festival) are held in connection with each holiday or specific event. These rituals are generally shaped based on religious rules and legends. They help people unite, assist one another, and develop their culture. The Kaltaminor community worships the fire in a large hearth, which demonstrates the religious beliefs of these people. The small hearths in the hut indicate that there are many paired families within the maternal lineage. At the Jonbos-4 site, a large number of labor tools made from flint, cutting instruments, bone harpoons, various patterned artifacts, engraved ceramic fragments, and other items were found. Most of the discovered remnants consist of fish and bird bones, indicating that the Kaltaminor people engaged in fishing and hunting. The Kaltaminor people widely utilized bows. .<sup>v</sup>

**Conclusion:** The Kaltaminor culture is an important part of our nation's historical heritage. It is a key component of ancient urban culture in Central Asia, and its history and development motivate numerous scientific research and exploration. The study of Kaltaminor culture not only helps us better understand our historical heritage but also contributes to preserving its significance for future generations. Throughout its process, Kaltaminor culture represents a significant segment of human cultural development, and as its study continues, we expand our knowledge. The exploration of Kaltaminor culture is still ongoing, with many secrets and mysterious facts yet to be uncovered. In the near future, the use of new technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and computer simulations, will provide better opportunities for understanding Kaltaminor culture. Additionally, new excavations and analyses using modern archaeological methods are planned.



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