

**Egamkulov Khusniddin Erkaboevich**  
**Gulistan State University Acting Associate Professor of the**  
**Department of Ecology and Geography,**  
**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Geographical Sciences**  
**Shadmanov Elbek Erkin ugli**  
**Gulistan State University**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>-year student in the Geography program**

## **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, BORDERS AND FEATURES OF SURKHANDARYA REGION**

**Abstract:** This article provides detailed information about the geographical location of Surkhandarya region, the date of its establishment, its area, and the neighboring republic and regions. Additionally, brief information is given on the administrative-territorial division of the region, its cities, and rural districts. The enchanting landscapes of Surkhandarya's rivers, mountains, and oases are also described. This information reveals the natural beauty and geographical significance of the region.

**Keywords:** Surkhandarya region, city, village, district, border, mountain river, oasis, square.

### **Географическое расположение, границы и специфические особенности региона Surkhandarya**

**Аннотация:** в статье содержится подробная информация о географическом месте, дате формирования, площади, площади региона Surkhandarya и пограничных районах. Административное территориальное подразделение региона также предоставляет краткую информацию о административном территориальном отделе, городах и сельских районах. Самые очаровательные сухопуты природы Surkhandarya покрыты реками, горы и озинами. Эти данные показывают естественную красоту и географическое значение региона.

**Ключевые слова:** Регион Surkhandarya, город, деревня, район, граница, горная река, оазис, поле.

Surkhandarya region is situated in the southern part of Uzbekistan. The region was established on March 6, 1941. Termez, a center of culture and education, is located in the southern part of the region along the banks of the Amudarya river. The word “Surkhan” in Persian-Tajik language means “red”. For this reason, the river flowing from the north to the south of the region is also called Surkhan. Surkhandarya region encompasses the Surkhan-Sherabad Valley and the surrounding mountains. With an area of 20.1 thousand square kilometers, its northern part is narrow and gradually widens towards the south.

The region’s width varies, averaging 15-20 km in the north and expanding to 110-120 km in the south. It stretches 170 km from north to south. The highest point of our republic, the Hazrat Sultan peak (4643 m), is located in the northern part of the region, within the Hissar Range. To the north, the Hissar Range and to the east, the Babatag Range border Tajikistan, while the Kuhitang Range in the southwest borders Turkmenistan. The Amudarya river forms the border between the region and Afghanistan. The border with Kashkadarya region runs along the Baysuntog Range.

Surkhandarya region is located in the southern part of the Republic of Uzbekistan and holds strategic importance for the country. The region borders the republics of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan, while its only internal border is with Kashkadarya Region. The northern, eastern, northwestern, and southwestern borders of the region primarily follow mountain ranges and watersheds. These boundaries traverse high peaks and mountainous areas only in the Hisor, Kuhitang, Babatag, and Baysuntag ranges, while the remaining sections consist of foothills, mountain slopes, and intermontane valleys.

The territorial structure within the administrative units of Surxondarya Region is quite diverse. Sariosia is one of the largest districts in the region, covering an area of 3,820 square kilometers. Similarly, Boysun (3,210 km<sup>2</sup>), Sherobod (2,730 km<sup>2</sup>), Uzun (1,840 km<sup>2</sup>), and Kumkurgon (1,830 km<sup>2</sup>) districts

are also considered large in terms of area. These five districts collectively occupy 66.81 percent of the region's total area.

On the other hand, the districts with the smallest areas are Angor (0.39 thousand km<sup>2</sup>), Altinsai (0.57 thousand km<sup>2</sup>), and Bandikhon (0.68 thousand km<sup>2</sup>). The territorial ratio between the largest district (Sariosio) and the smallest district (Angor) is 9,79. This indicates a sharp difference in the areas of the region's districts, which is attributed to natural-geographic and economic factors.

Table 1

**The administrative-territorial division of Surkhandarya region as of January 1, 2025**

	Area (thousand km <sup>2</sup> )	Districts	Total cities	including those of republican and regional subordination	Towns	Rural settlements
Surkhandarya region	20,10	14	8	1	112	859
Termez city	0,04	0	1	1	0	0
<i>Districts:</i>						
Altynsai	0,57	1	0		14	46
Angor	0,39	1	0		12	27
Bandikhon	0,68	1	0		3	40
Baysun	3,21	1	1		4	49
Muzrabat	0,74	1	0		10	48
Denou	1,15	1	1		11	106
Jarkurgan	1,16	1	1		5	66
Kumkurgan	1,83	1	1		11	76
Kizirik	0,38	1	0		5	42
Sariasia	3,82	1	1		4	115
Termez	0,83	1	0		7	27
Uzun	1,84	1	0		9	77
Sherabad	2,73	1	1		7	96
Shurchi	0,72	1	1		10	44

**Source:** The table was compiled based on data from the Statistics Department of Surkhandarya region.

The southern border is a hydrological boundary, and the presence of hydrological boundaries in the north-eastern part of the region is also identified, with the border passing through the Kafirnihon river being of significant importance. Naturally formed hydrological boundaries, especially where they follow the riverbed and floodplain, create complexity in the border areas. Under

these conditions, additional challenges may arise for the defense system. Furthermore, the border crossing the Amudarya river necessitates water transportation, which requires special attention to the transport infrastructure of the region.

There are 14 districts in Surkhandarya region: Angor, Bandikhan, Boysun, Denau, Jarkurgan, Muzrabat, Altynsai, Kizirik, Kumkurgan, Sariasia, Termez, Uzun, Sherabad and Shurchi. Among these, state borders pass through 9 districts. In the northwest of the region, Sherabad, Boysun, and Sariasia districts border the Dekhkanabad, Kamashi, and Shakhrisabz districts of Kashkadarya region. The Lebap province of Turkmenistan shares a border with Surkhandarya province, with Muzrabat and Sherabad districts located in the southwestern part of this border. The southern parts of Muzrabat and Termez districts in the province border the northern part of Balkh province in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Table 2).

Table 2

### **Borders of Surkhandarya region**

№	Border Countries	Border districts of Surkhandarya region	Regions bordering Surxondaryo Region of neighboring states
1.	Turkmenistan	Muzrabat, Sherabad	Lebap
2.	Tajikistan	Termez, Jarkurgan, Sariosia, Uzun	Khatlon (Nasir-Khusraw and Shahritus districts)
3.	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	Muzrabat, Termez	Balkh

**Jadval: Mualliflar tomonidan tuzildi.**

Surxondaryo Region borders the Republic of Tajikistan with several districts, including Termez, Jarkurgan, Uzun, and Sariasia. The border of these districts with Tajikistan is longer than in other neighboring countries. These districts are bordered by Nasiri-khusrau and Shahritus districts of Khatlon region of the Republic of Tajikistan. Muzrabat district also borders two countries - Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Termez district is also located on the borders of two countries - the Islamic Republics of Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

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