

The 1st Open Asian Cup

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, September 21-23, 2007

HISTORY OF UZBEKISTAN

Samarkand - its power of attraction is magnificent. It took **500 years** to grow from a small village situated on the *Siab river* bank to a city with high and mighty walls, breathtaking temples and numerous workshop. The most favourable time for cult buildings came under the authority of *Amir Temur* and his successors, the *Temurid* and *Sheibanid* dynasties.



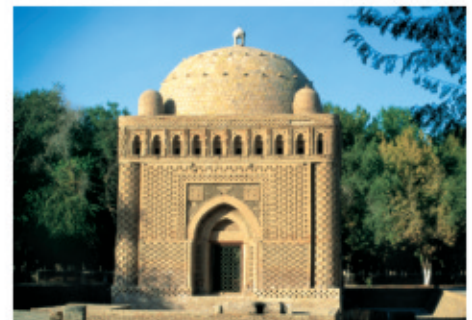
The **Registan Square** in Samarkand has always been the trade and public centre of the city since time immemorial. The appearance of the *Registan* has changed as time has passed, its magnificent buildings were destroyed and then restored. It took on its contemporary shape in the middle of the 17th century. Today the *Registan* contains the *Ulugbek madrasah* (Muslim religious school) from the 15th century, the *Sher-Dour madrasah* built in the 16th century and the *Tillya-Kary madrasah* dating to the 17th century.



Shakh-i Zindeh Necropolis is one of the most famous monuments. This complex consists of three mausoleum groups. Their dazzling surfaces are living evidence of the incredible refinement of local decorative art. There is a giant district formed around *Bibi-Khanum Mosque*. This mosque does not have a long existence but its majestic beauty has managed to create many romantic tales about talented architects and the beautiful lady, *Bibi-Khanum*.

Bukhara - the most ancient of *Bukhara's* monuments and, perhaps the most beautiful, it's the *Ismail Samani mausoleum* dating to the beginning of the **9th** or **10th century**. Its sweet harmony and originality is astonishing.

The *Magokhi-Attory district mosque* (**12th-16th centuries**) was once located in medieval Bukhara on the site of ruined pagan temple. Especially interesting is a portal of a mosque dating back to the **12th century** that has luxurious terracotta decor with a blue glazed sign framing the arc.



The central complex of ancient *Bukhara* is formed by small square. It consists of the *Kolyan minaret* (1127), the *Kolyan mosque* (1514), *Miri-Aram madrasah* (1535-1536) and a library (beginning of the **20th century**). The mightiness of the *Kolyan mosque* of assembly is only surpassed by the *Bibi-Khanum mosque* in Samarkand and the *Juma mosque* in Herat.



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Khiva - a city and a museum in one. Its inner and oldest section called the *Ichan-Kala*, was built over centuries. High minarets, domes and portals tower above the whole city. The most ancient part of *Ichan-Kala* is a fortress of *Kuna-Ark*.

The ruins of the legendary saint *Akh-Sheikh Bobo* are raised above the strong walls of the fortress between the *Ata-Darvoza* and *Tash-Darvoza* gates. The oldest monuments in *Khiva* is the *Said Aloutdin Mausleum*. Central Asia's largest madrasah dedicated to *Mukhammad Aminkhan* dated **1851-1855**, is also located here. The impressive portal is covered with complicated glazed ornamentation. The *Kalta Minor* blue minaret is especially striking. The construction of the mosque of assembly was the main activity of medieval Muslim builders. The penetrative archaic style generally distinguishes the *Juma mosque*.

The enormous multi-columned hall containing more than **212 column (10th - 16th century)** is covered with a plain roof and surrounded by blank walls. The main aesthetic value of the mosque is the entrance and column with a deep carved plant pattern. The *Pakhlavan Makhmud* complex and the *Khan family memorial* is adjacent to the *Juma mosque*.



Tashkent - in centuries past, the present capital of Uzbekistan was called Chach, Shash, Binkent and finally Tashkent at various times. Each of the names is a part of the city's history. Among memorials still standing in Tashkent is the Khast-Imam structure, the Abu-Bakr-Mukhammad Kaffal-Shashi mausoleum, the Barakh-Khan madrasah, the Sheikh-Khavendi Takhur complex (embracing the Sheikh-Khavendi Takhur burial vault, the Kaldirgatch-Biy mausoleum and the Yunus Khan Magolistan crypt), the Kukeldash madrasah, the Zainutdin-Bobo crypt, the Zangi-Ata complex and numerous district mosques.



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