

**THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS, ANCIENT PLACES, GREAT FIGURES
AND MUSEUMS OF THE COUNTRY UZBEKISTAN. ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN**

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Annotation: *Uzbekistan, located at the crossroads of the ancient Silk Road, boasts a rich tapestry of historical monuments, ancient sites, and cultural treasures. This article provides an in-depth exploration of Uzbekistan's renowned landmarks, from the majestic cities of Samarkand and Bukhara to the great figures who shaped the country's history. Additionally, it highlights the diverse array of museums that showcase Uzbekistan's rich heritage and artistic legacy.*

Keywords: Uzbekistan, historical monuments, ancient places, great figures, museums.

Nestled in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan stands as a testament to the region's rich history and cultural heritage. With a legacy dating back thousands of years, Uzbekistan is home to a wealth of historical monuments, ancient sites, and revered figures who have left an indelible mark on its landscape. From the magnificent cities of Samarkand and Bukhara to the towering minarets of Khiva, Uzbekistan's historical treasures continue to captivate visitors from around the world. Additionally, the country's museums offer a glimpse into its storied past, preserving and showcasing its artistic, archaeological, and ethnographic heritage. In this article, we delve into the fascinating world of Uzbekistan's historical landmarks, exploring their significance and enduring legacy.

Great Figures of Uzbekistan:

Uzbekistan has been home to numerous great figures who have left an indelible mark on its history and culture. One such figure is Amir Timur, also known as Tamerlane, whose conquests and patronage of the arts left a lasting legacy on the region (Manz, 2007). Born in the 14th century, Timur rose from humble origins to become one of the most powerful rulers of his time, establishing a vast empire that stretched

from Anatolia to India. His mausoleum in Samarkand, the Gur-e Amir, stands as a testament to his grandeur and ambition.

Another notable figure is Ulugh Beg, a Timurid prince who was renowned for his contributions to astronomy and mathematics (Sezgin, 1997). Ulugh Beg's observatory in Samarkand, built in the 15th century, was a center of scientific learning and innovation, where scholars from across the Islamic world gathered to study the heavens.

Museums of Uzbekistan:

In addition to its architectural wonders and historical sites, Uzbekistan is home to a wealth of museums that preserve and showcase its cultural heritage. The State Museum of History of Uzbekistan in Tashkent houses a vast collection of artifacts spanning the country's history from ancient times to the present day (State Museum of History of Uzbekistan, n.d.). Meanwhile, the State Museum of Arts of Uzbekistan showcases a diverse array of traditional crafts, textiles, and works of art that highlight the country's rich artistic heritage (State Museum of Arts of Uzbekistan, n.d.).

Historical Monuments and Ancient Places:

1. Samarkand: Jewel of the Silk Road
 - Samarkand, one of the oldest inhabited cities in Central Asia, holds a special place in Uzbekistan's history and culture.
 - The Registan Square, with its stunning madrasas and mosques adorned with intricate tilework and calligraphy, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of Samarkand's architectural splendor (UNESCO, 2001).
 - The majestic Bibi-Khanym Mosque and the mausoleum of Tamerlane, known as the Gur-e Amir, are among Samarkand's other notable landmarks (Lerner, 2019).
2. Bukhara: The Living Museum
 - Bukhara, another ancient city along the Silk Road, is renowned for its well-preserved historic center, which has earned it the nickname "the living museum."
 - The Ark Fortress, a massive citadel dating back to the 5th century, offers a glimpse into Bukhara's military and political history (Kanevskaya, 2016).
 - The Lyab-i-Hauz complex, centered around a tranquil pool surrounded by centuries-old mulberry trees, is a popular gathering place for locals and visitors alike (Karimova, 2018).
3. Khiva: A Timeless Oasis
 - Khiva, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a living testament to Uzbekistan's nomadic past and medieval heritage.
 - The ancient walled city of Itchan Kala, with its maze-like streets and well-preserved architecture, transports visitors back in time to the days of the Silk Road (UNESCO, 1990).

- The towering minarets of Khiva, such as the Kalta Minor and Islam Khodjayeva, offer panoramic views of the city's skyline and surrounding desert (Dukhovny, 2015).

4. Museums: Guardians of Uzbekistan's Heritage

- Uzbekistan's museums play a vital role in preserving and promoting its cultural heritage.

- The State Museum of History of Uzbekistan in Tashkent houses a vast collection of artifacts spanning the country's history, from ancient civilizations to modern times (Sokolova, 2013).

- The Afrosiab Museum in Samarkand showcases archaeological finds from the ancient city of Afrasiab, providing insights into Uzbekistan's pre-Islamic past (Khodjaeva, 2017).

In conclusion, Uzbekistan's rich tapestry of historical monuments, ancient places, great figures, and museums form the cornerstone of its cultural heritage. From the bustling cities of Samarkand and Bukhara to the tranquil oasis of Khiva, each landmark tells a story of the country's vibrant past and enduring legacy. The great figures of Uzbekistan, such as Amir Timur and Ulugh Beg, stand as testament to the country's intellectual and artistic achievements, inspiring awe and admiration for generations to come. Moreover, Uzbekistan's museums play a crucial role in preserving and promoting its cultural heritage, providing invaluable insights into the country's history, art, and archaeology. These institutions serve as guardians of Uzbekistan's past, ensuring that its rich and diverse heritage is safeguarded for future generations. As Uzbekistan continues to evolve and embrace modernity, its historical landmarks and cultural treasures remain vital links to its past, offering a glimpse into the country's rich tapestry of traditions, customs, and achievements. By celebrating its heritage and embracing its cultural diversity, Uzbekistan charts a course towards a future that honors its past while embracing the opportunities of the present. Through sustained efforts in preservation, education, and promotion, Uzbekistan stands poised to share its rich cultural legacy with the world, fostering understanding, appreciation, and mutual respect across borders and generations.

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