

CULTURAL HERITAGE OBJECTS OF KHIVA

ABDURAXMANOV TURAXON SAYDULLAYEVICH

*Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages, Faculty of English Philology,
Teaching Methodology and Translation Studies. Deputy dean.*

Mazamjonova Muslima

*Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages, Faculty of English Philology,
Teaching Methodology and Translation Studies. Student of the 2nd year of guiding
and interpreting*

Abstract: Khiva is a beautiful oasis city with ancient walls, minarets and unique clay buildings. Within the framework of the XI session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Baku, Khiva was declared as the tourist capital of the Islamic world in 2024! Khiva is over 2500 years old. If you want to plunge into history and see the true beauty of the ancient East, then welcome to Khiva.



Key words: East remains, Ichan Kala, touristic object, minaret.

Khiva, once a major city of ancient Khorezm (also spelled Khwarezmia, Khwarizm, Khwarazm, Khwarezm, Khoesm, Khorasam, Harezmi, Horezm, and Chorezm) features an almost intact medieval Central Asian historic city being preserved as it was in the past - Ichan-Kala ('inner city'). Although protected by the state and having the status of a museum reserve, Ichan-Kala is populated with real people, mainly artisans. You can occasionally smell frying meat and onion there, for instance, or see children running about. It is real pleasure to stroll along its cobbled streets, visiting Juma Mosque with its 112 wooden pillars covered with beautiful carvings, Kunya-Ark Fortress with its most interesting exhibits, or Islam Khodja Minaret where you can climb narrow spiral stairs to have a terrific Ichan-Kala panoramic view.

ICHAN-KALA

The historical complex Ichan-Kala ('inner defense circle') is an almost intact medieval old town area in Khiva. It was the first site in Central Asia to be included in UNESCO World Heritage List. In 1969 Ichan-Kala was designated a historical and architectural conservation area. Ichan-Kala is a densely built-up old town. It has several times been destroyed and restored. They date the beginning of its construction to 1598. It was in this year when because of a change of Amudarya River course the capital of Khorezm was transferred from Gurgandj (Urgench) to Khiva.

DISHAN KALA

In Khiva, Dishan Kala is one of the two sections of the historic city. Khiva, located in Uzbekistan, is known for its well-preserved ancient architecture, and Dishan Kala is part of that. It's characterized by its traditional mud-brick buildings, narrow streets, and historical landmarks, such as the Khiva city walls and the Mohammed Amin Khan Madrassah. Dishan Kala offers visitors a glimpse into the rich history and culture of the region.

When it comes to the city of Khiva photos aren't enough. You need to personally see all the historical sights in order to feel that special oriental atmosphere.

The ancient inner city of Khiva is declared a part of the UNESCO World Heritage. It is called Ichan-Kala and is enclosed by mighty walls. The Old Town is very small, so half of the day would probably be enough to explore it. After visiting Khiva, you can easily imagine how other cities of Central Asia looked many years ago.

You can enter the Old Town through one of the four gates. Palvan Darwaza, or the Eastern Gates, were built in 1804-1806 and were called "Slave Gates" because local



slave traders used them at that time.

Among all the structures of ancient Khiva, the Kalta-Minar minaret attracts the most attention. Its beautiful glazed tiles and fantastic majolica show the talent of the skillful Uzbek artists. Kalta-Minar is translated as "short". Initially, it was expected to

become the highest minaret in the East. But after Muhammad Amin Khan's death in 1855, the construction ceased at the height of 29 meters. The reasons for ending the construction, of course, are covered with mystery and legends. But the fact remains – the largest minaret of the East remains unfinished.

Conclusion:In conclusion, the heritage objects in Khiva, Uzbekistan, represent a remarkable testament to the city's rich history, culture, and architectural legacy. From the imposing city walls to the intricate mosques and madrasas within Ichan-Qala, each structure stands as a testament to the city's past glory and enduring significance. Preserved with care and recognized on the UNESCO World Heritage List, these objects serve as invaluable resources for understanding the cultural and historical evolution of Khiva and Uzbekistan as a whole. As custodians of this unique heritage, it is essential to continue efforts in conservation and promotion to ensure that future generations can continue to appreciate and learn from Khiva's remarkable legacy.

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