

The touristic ancient monuments in Bukhara

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Abstract: This article provides information about historical places in Bukhara. Such as Ismoil Samoni Mausoleum, Magoki-Attori Mosque, Mausoleum of Chashmai-Ayyub, Ulugbek Madrasah, Poikalon Architectural Ensemble, Kalon Mosque, Kukaldosh Madrasah, Lab-I Hauz Complex, Mir-i-Arab Madrasah, Kalyan Minaret, Bahoutdin Architectural Complex, Char Minar, Khanaqah of Nodir Devonbegi, Bukhara Prison, Mosque of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, Shirbudun Palace.

Keywords: historical places, a center of trade, scholarship, culture, religion, ancient monuments

“The glorious stronghold of the faith” was the epithet by which Bukhara was known in the Medieval Muslim East. Every stone of ancient Bukhara is marked with the breath of centuries. It is located on the Silk Road, the city has long served as a center of trade, scholarship, culture and religion. Bukhara served as the capital of the Samanid Empire, Khanate of Bukhara and Emirate of Bukhara. It was the birthplace of the scholar Imam about 140 architectural monuments. UNESCO has listed the historic center of Bukhara as a World Heritage Site.

There are a lot of ancient monuments in Bukhara as follows:

Ismail Samani mausoleum considered to be one of the finest achievements of the early medieval architecture and symmetrical with respect to the main axes which are orientated to the four sides of the world. It was built in the 9th century, between 892 and 943, as the resting-place of Ismail Samani the founder of the Samanid dynasty, which was the last native Persian dynasty to rule the region in the 9th to 10th centuries, after the Samanids established virtual independence from the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad.

The side is unique for its architectural style combines both Zoroastrian and Islamic motifs. The reminiscent of the Zoroastrian god, Ahuramazda, who is typically represented by fire and light. The building’s shape is cuboid and reminiscent of the Kaaba in Makkah, while the domed roof is a typical feature of mosque architecture. The syncretic style of the shrine is reflective of the 9th to 10th centuries time when the region still had large populations of Zoroastrians who had begun to convert to Islam around that time.

Poikalon Architectural Ensemble. This is the heart and focal point of all Bukhara from which many winding streets of the city branch out. The ensemble is another creation of medieval architects which has won fame over the world. It is impossible to

imagine the skyline of Bukhara without the silhouette of the majestic Kalon Minaret, which is topped by a skylight rotunda, reaches a height of almost 50 metres.

Kalyan minaret. More properly, Minara-I Kalan. That practice was common in initial years of Islam. The word "minaret" derives from the Arabic word "minara", "lighthouse" or more literally "a place where something burnt". The diameter of the base is 9 meters, while at the top it is 6 m. The tower is 45.6m high, and can be seen from vast distances over the flat plains of Central Asia.

Kalan Mosque. This is largest in mosque in Bukhara and one of the largest in all of Central Asia. Its simple yet monumental forms make up a unified architectural organism which embodies that type of ancient mosque the compositional structure of which is best represented by the Bibi-Khanum Mosque in nearby Samarkand. Two hundred and eighty-eight monumental pylons serve as a support for the multi-domed roofing of the galleries encircling the courtyard of Kalan Mosque. Then moving back step, one can count all belts of brickwork of the minaret to the rotund.

Mir-Arab Madrasah 1535-1536. They say that Ubaidullah-khan had invested money gained from redemption of more than three thousand Persian captives into construction of Mir-Arab Madrasah. Ubaidullah-khan was very religious. His father named him in honor of prominent sheikh of the 15th century Ubaidullah al-Ahrar 1404-1490, by origin from Tashkent Region. Khans of Shaibanid dynasty were standard-bearers of Koran traditions. In the middle of the vault in Mir -Arab Madrasah is situated the wooden tomb of Ubaidullah-khan. At this head is wrapped in the molds his mentor, Mir-Arab. Muhammad Kasim, mudarris of the madrasah is also interred nearby here. The portal of Mir-Arab Madrasah is situated on one axis with the portal of the Kalan Mosque. However, because of some lowering of the square to the east it was necessary to raise a little an edifice of the madrasah platform.

Lab-I Hauz Complex. Ensemble 1568-1622 is the name of the area surrounding one of the few remaining hauz or pond in the city of Bukhara. The ponds acted as the city's principal source of water, but were also notorious for spreading disease and thus were mostly filled in during the 1920s and 1930s by the Soviets. The Lab-I Hauz ensemble consists of the 16th century Kukeldash Madrasah, the largest in the city, along the north side of the pond.

Bahoutdin Architectural Complex is a necropolis commemorating Shaykh Bahoutdin, the founder of Naqshbandi order. The complex includes the dahma of Bahoutdin, Khakim Kushbegi mosque, Muzaffarkhan mosque and Abdul-Lazizkhan khanaqah.

Kukaldosh Madrasah 16th century. This is the largest madrasah still standing in Central Asia. Tourists are always struck by the harmonious combination of new and old that pervades the atmosphere of present day Bukhara, an industrial, cultural and administrative centre. There are dozens of industrial enterprises in the city, including a

giant cotton mill. The Bukhara lamb tannery is one of the largest fur-producing enterprises in Uzbekistan, and is known in many countries of the world, for it won a Gold Medal at the Leipzig International Fair. Gold-thread embroidery executed at the Bukhara textile mills has also won fame abroad. The discovery of sources of oil and natural gas not far from the city have drastically increased its growth rates and indices. Over the past twenty years, a thriving contemporary town has sprung up around old Bukhara. The present population of Bukhara is over 400,000. There are institutes of higher education and eleven technical schools.

Char Minor is a building tucked away in a lane northeast of the Lab-I Hauz complex. The four-towered structure is sometimes mistaken for a gate to the madras that once existed behind the structure, however, the Char-Minar is actually a complex of buildings with two functions, ritual and shelter. The main edifice is a mosque. These madrasahs were employed as student hospices. Each of the four towers has different decoration motifs. One can find elements reminiscent of a cross, a Christian fish motif and a Buddhist praying-wheel, in addition to Zoroastrian and Islamic motifs. In 1995, due to an underground brook, one of the four towers collapsed and emergency assistance was applied for and granted by UNESCO under the World Heritage Fund.

Mausoleum of Chashmai-Ayyub 12th century. The foundation of this building dates to the 12th century, but then considerable alterations were made to the existing structure. A conical cupola quite a typical for Bukhara, appeared additionally, the interior was decorated with stalactites. The new entrance and oblong exterior walls of the building, both added in the 16th century, complete the somewhat stark and ascetic impression created by the mausoleum.

Ulugbek Madrasah 15th century. Of all this type which have come down to us, the Ulugbek Madrasah is the earliest. It was already functioning as a Muslim religious school in 1417. On the entrance doors is carved the inscription "It is the obligation of every Muslim man and women to strive to attain knowledge". This monument is distinguished by simplicity of architectural form, severity of line and modesty of decoration.

Magoki-Attori Mosque 12th century. The Southern facade and portals of this Mosque have been preserved from the 12th century. It is noted for complex geometrical patterns skillfully executed in carved brick and ceramic cupola of the roof, which covers the six-columned interior, features an elevated skylight.

Khanaqah of Nodir Devonbegi is a historical memorial in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. It was established by Nodir Devonbegi, the vizier and brother of the ruler of Bukhara, Imamquli khan, in 1620-162. The Khanaka has been included in the national list of intangible cultural heritage objects of Uzbekistan. Bukhara Prison is the Amir of Bukhara.

Mosque of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani. In Bukhara there is a mosque which is said to be that of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamdani, the patron saint of Kashmiri Muslims in the Valley of Kashmir.

Shirbudun Palace is one of the Bukhara emirs' political building. The palace's construction started approximately 1870, under the reign of Muzaffar bin Nasrullah 1860-1885 in the Bukhara Emirate.

Sacred Bukhara is one of the tourist gems of Uzbekistan. If you want to plunge into the atmosphere of an ancient oriental tale, visit the top attractions of Bukhara. We have now learnt with you what we did not know about the 16 most famous monuments in Bukhara. If you visit Uzbekistan, I recommend you to visit the city of Bukhara. In Bukhara you will find a lot of private hotels. Most of them are located in the old part of Bukhara close to the main historical ensemble Lyabi-Khauz. Private Bukhara hotels are situated in private Bukhara houses of one or two stores with typical four-corner yards. These Bukhara hotels are built in modern style and offer a wide range of amenities and services.

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