



Uzbekistan



Where is Uzbekistan?



Uzbekistan – Central Asia Region





Uzbekistan – General Information

- **Area:** 447,001 km² (172,588 mi²) or 2.5 size of Florida
- **Population:** 26 million (July 2003 est.)
- **Ethnic Groups:** Uzbek 80%,
Russian 5.5%, Tajik 5%, Kazakh 3%,
Karakalpak 2.5%, Tatar 1.5%, other 2.5%
(1996 estimates)
- **Independence** in August 1991 from former USSR
- **President:** Islom Abduganievich KARIMOV (since 1990)
- **Capital:** Tashkent (population 2 million)
- **Religion:** Muslim, Eastern Orthodox



Geography & Administration

- Uzbekistan is a **landlocked** country in Central Asia.
- The nation is divided into **12 vilayats** (governmental regions) plus one autonomous republic: Karakalpakstan (the Aral Sea region).
- The country can be divided into three zones:
 - **Desert** (Kyzylkum), steppe and semi-arid region covering 60% of the country, mainly the central and western parts;
 - **Fertile Valleys** (including the Fergana valley) that skirt the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers;
 - **Mountainous Areas** in the east with peaks of about 4500 m(14765 ft) above sea level (Tien Shan and Gissaro-Alay mountain ranges).

Climate

Temperature is continental, dry and hot :

- Summer 107-116 °F in the plains
77-86 °F in the mountainous zone
- Winter 12 °F in the north
35 - 37 °F in the south

Rainfall:

- Annual 10 inches
4 inches in the northwest
17 inches in the mountainous zone, middle and southern
- Rainfall occurs during the winter season, mainly between October and April.

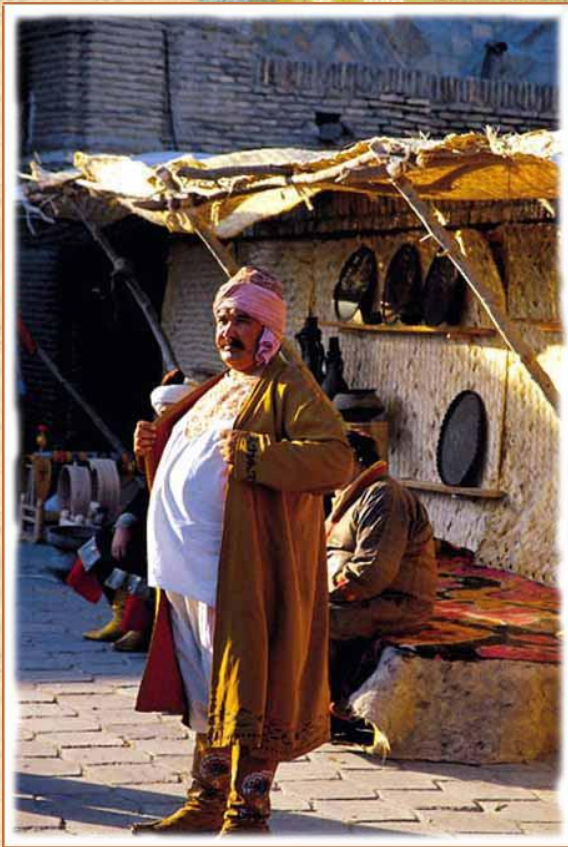


Uzbekistan – Central Asia Region



City of Samarkand

2500 Years Old



Rivers and Topography



What am I doing now?

Actions to be taken are:

- Educate young people and professionals by training in the college where I teach;
- Bring young professionals from Uzbekistan to Florida, discuss major problems, and come to common point of view in water management issues.
- Facilitate the adoption of US water management methods and irrigation systems in Uzbekistan and educate Uzbek people on why American systems work efficiently.
- Improving drinking water supply, health and general actions to promote the socio-economic conditions of the population in the area.
- If you are interested in details, please visit the web site UzbekWater.net

UzbekWater.NET

Uzbekistan - Central Asia - Aral Sea

Uzbekistan Water Management Information Exchange

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Uzbekistan





History of Uzbekistan

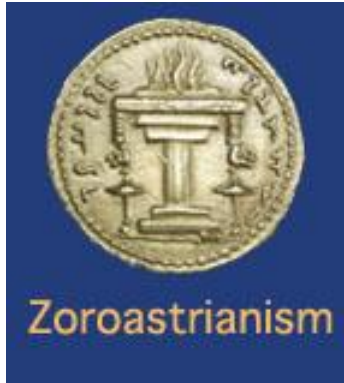
500-300 B.C.	Early History
700-800 A.D.	The Early Islamic Period
900-1200	The Turkification of Mawarannahr
1219-1380	The Mongol Period
1380-1510	The Rule of Timur
1510-1870	The Uzbek Period
1867	Arrival of the Russians
1867-1900	The Russian Conquest
1900	Entering the Twentieth Century
1900-1930	The Jadidists and Basmachis
1929-1953	The Stalinist Period
1953-1982	Russification and Resistance
Sep 1, 1991	Independence

Early History



- Cities such as Bukhoro (Bukhara) and Samarqand (Samarkand) began to appear as centers of government and culture. By the fifth century B.C., the Bactrian, Soghdian, and Tokharian states dominated the region. As China began to develop its silk trade with the West, Iranian cities took advantage of this commerce by becoming centers of trade. Using an extensive network of cities and settlements in the province of Mawarannahr (a name given the region after the Arab conquest) in Uzbekistan and farther east in what is today China's Xinjiang Uygur Auton-omous Region, the Soghdian intermediaries became the wealthiest of these Iranian merchants. Because of this trade on what became known as the Silk Route, Bukhoro and Samarqand eventually became extremely wealthy cities, and at times Mawarannahr was one of the most influential and powerful Persian provinces of antiquity.

Zoroastrianism



Alexander the Great conquered the region in 328 B.C., bringing it briefly under the control of his Macedonian Empire.

In the same centuries, however, the region also was an important center of intellectual life and religion. Until the first centuries after Christ, the dominant religion in the region was Zoroastrianism but Buddhism, and Christianity also attracted large numbers of followers. *Zoroastrianism*, the dominant pre-Islamic religious tradition of the Iranian peoples, was founded by the prophetic reformer Zoroaster in the 6th or 7th century BC (if not earlier).



The Early Islamic Period

The conquest of Central Asia by Islamic Arabs, which was completed in the eighth century A.D., brought to the region a new religion and culture that continue to be dominant. The Arabs first invaded Mawarannahr in the middle of the seventh century through sporadic raids during their conquest of Persia.



The Mongol Period

The Mongol invasion of Central Asia by Chinggis Khan is one of the turning points in the history of the region. That event left imprints that were still discernible in the early twentieth century. The Mongol conquest of Central Asia, which took place from 1219 to 1225, led to a wholesale change in the population of Mawarannahr. The conquest quickened the process of Turkification in the region because, although the armies of Chinggis Khan were led by Mongols, they were made up mostly of Turkic tribes that had been incorporated into the Mongol armies as the tribes were encountered in the Mongols' southward sweep.

The Rule of Timur




Following the death of Chinggis Khan in 1227, his empire was divided among his three sons. Timur (Tamerlane), emerged from these struggles in the 1380s as the dominant force in Mawarannahr.

Samarkand has been as capital of Central Asia a few centuries .

Tamerlane (1336 - 1405)



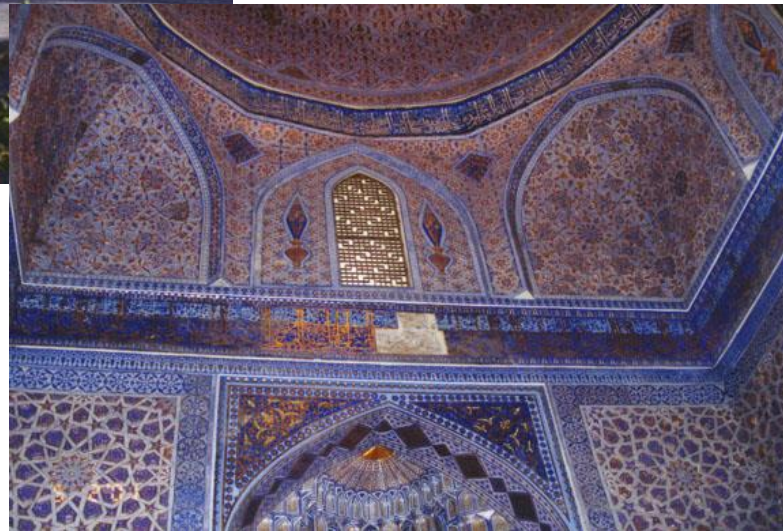
Tamerlane, the name was derived from the Persian Timur-i lang, "Temur the Lame" by Europeans during the 16th century. His Turkic name is Timur, which means 'iron'. In his life time, he has conquered more than anyone else except for Alexander. His armies crossed Eurasia from Delhi to Moscow, from the Tien Shan Mountains of Central Asia to the Taurus Mountains in Anatolia. From 1370 till his death 1405, Temur built a powerful empire and became the last of great nomadic leaders.



Timur initiated the last flowering of Mawarannahr by gathering in his capital, Samarqand, numerous artisans and scholars from the lands he had conquered. By supporting such people, Timur imbued his empire with a very rich culture.

Timur also patronized scientists and artists; his grandson Ulugh Beg was one of the world's first great astronomers. It was during the Timurid dynasty that Turkish, in the form of the Chaghatai dialect, became a literary language in its own right in Mawarannahr--although the Timurids also patronized writing in Persian. Until then only Persian had been used in the region. The greatest Chaghataid writer, Ali Shir Nava'i, was active in the city of Herat, now in northwestern Afghanistan, in the second half of the fifteenth century.

Gur emir mausoleum





Ulugbek observatory

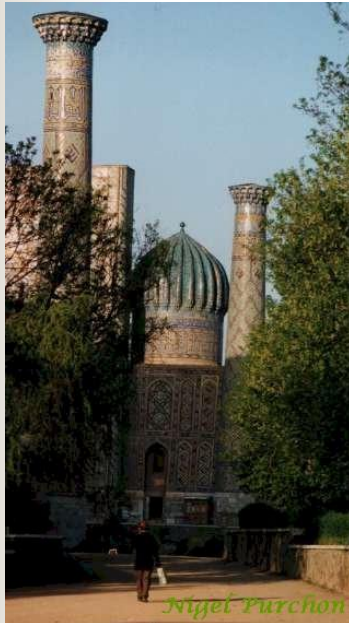
- constructed by Ulugbek in 1428-1429, 46 meters in diameter, 30 meters in height. In the main hall huge instrument was placed for observations of Moon, Sun, and other stars of the vault of heaven. Observatory was unique construction for its time. The basis of observatory was giant goniometer (vertical circle), radius of circle was equal 40,212 meters, and the length of arc was 63 meters. The main instrument-sextant-was oriented with amazing exactness by line of meridian from south to north.

Contribution of creation astronomic catalog-“Zidji-Gurgani”, known as “Star tables of Ulugbek” belongs to Ulugbek. Whole galaxy of great scientists was working on them for a long period and finished them to 1437.

Ulugbek observatory

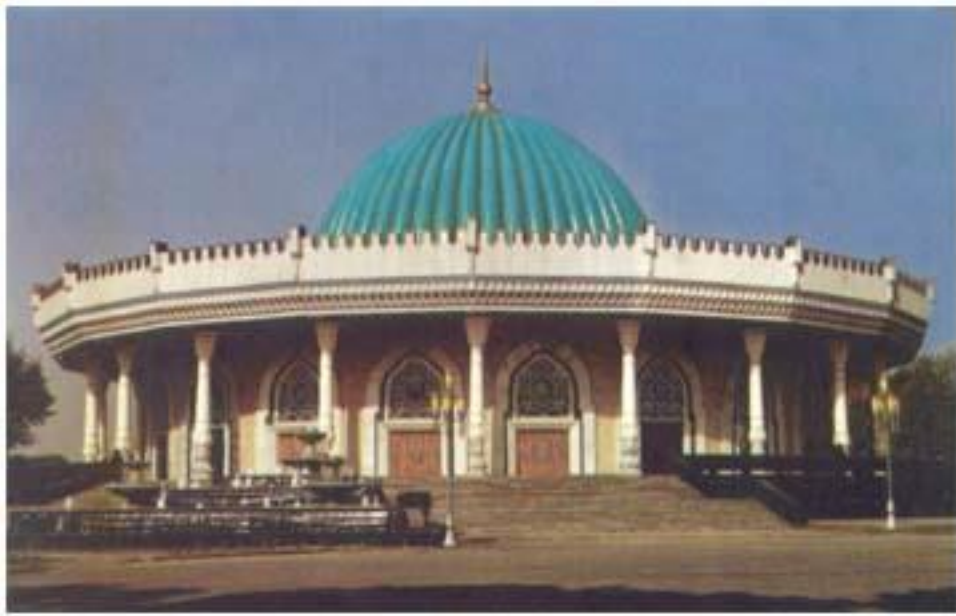


Samarkand



**Assalomu alykum! O'zbekiston sizni
qutlaydi!
Welcome to Uzbekistan!**









People





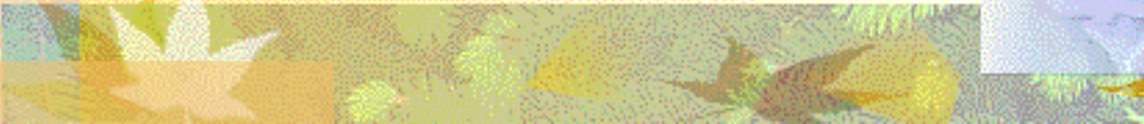
Education

- Uzbekistan's children, teenagers and young people under the age of 25 comprise approximately 60% of the total population.
- Nowadays in the country every third child studies at the secondary school or gets trade experience at the high and secondary special schools and trade institutions. Five million children study at school, and more than a million are preparing to be school children at kindergarten level.

Sport



- Kurash - the traditional upright jacket wrestling which originated in Uzbekistan more than 3500 years ago. The original translation of the word "Kurash" from the Uzbek language is grappling or wrestling. Kurash as a type of martial art or public sport entertainment is mentioned in many ancient oriental historical sources.
- The great oriental scientist and philosopher Avetsena writes that practicing Kurash is one the best ways to keep the human body and mind healthy and sound. Still there is no exact information when, where and by whom Kurash was first practiced. Kurash is one of the most ancient forms of martial arts people had ever practiced.



Uzbek Dance & Culture Society



Culture



Uzbek Dance & Culture Society





Customs and traditions

People from Uzbekistan can be chiefly described as hospitable - Uzbek hospitality is something to be experienced. You will certainly find yourself as a guest in an Uzbek house. There is a short information about Uzbek national dish –Pilav.

Pilav is the most popular dish in Uzbekistan. You will almost always be served pilav as a guest. This dish basically consists of cooked meat, rice, onion, garlic and spices.

During the autumn hunting season, gourmets would use quail, pheasant, wild goose, wild pigeon's as a substitute for mutton. This, however, is not very common.





Welcome to Uzbekistan!

