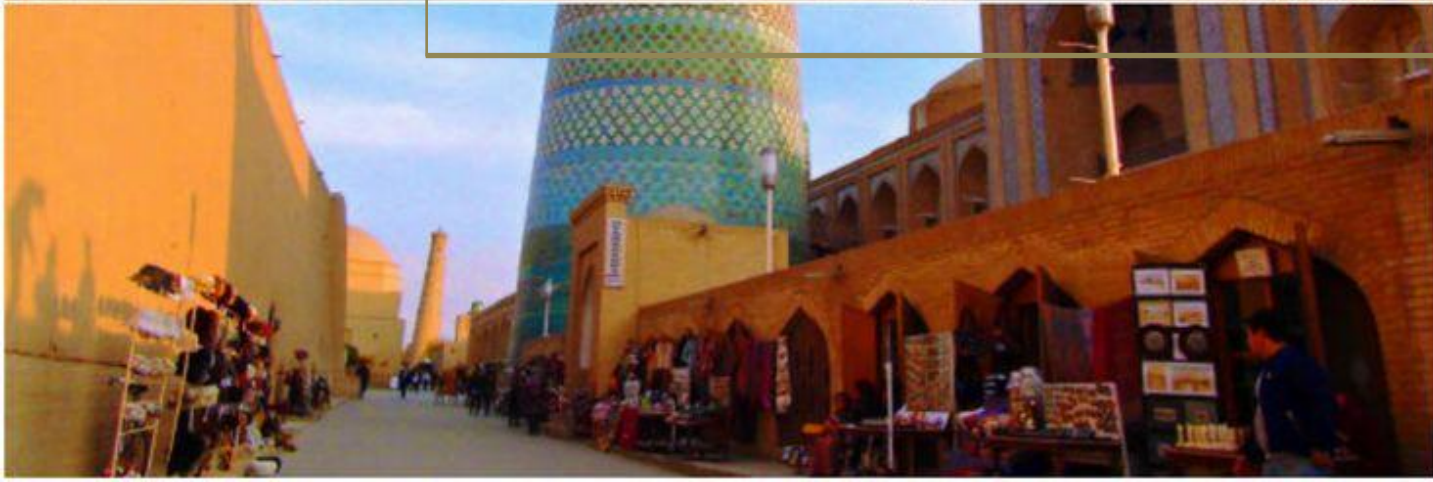


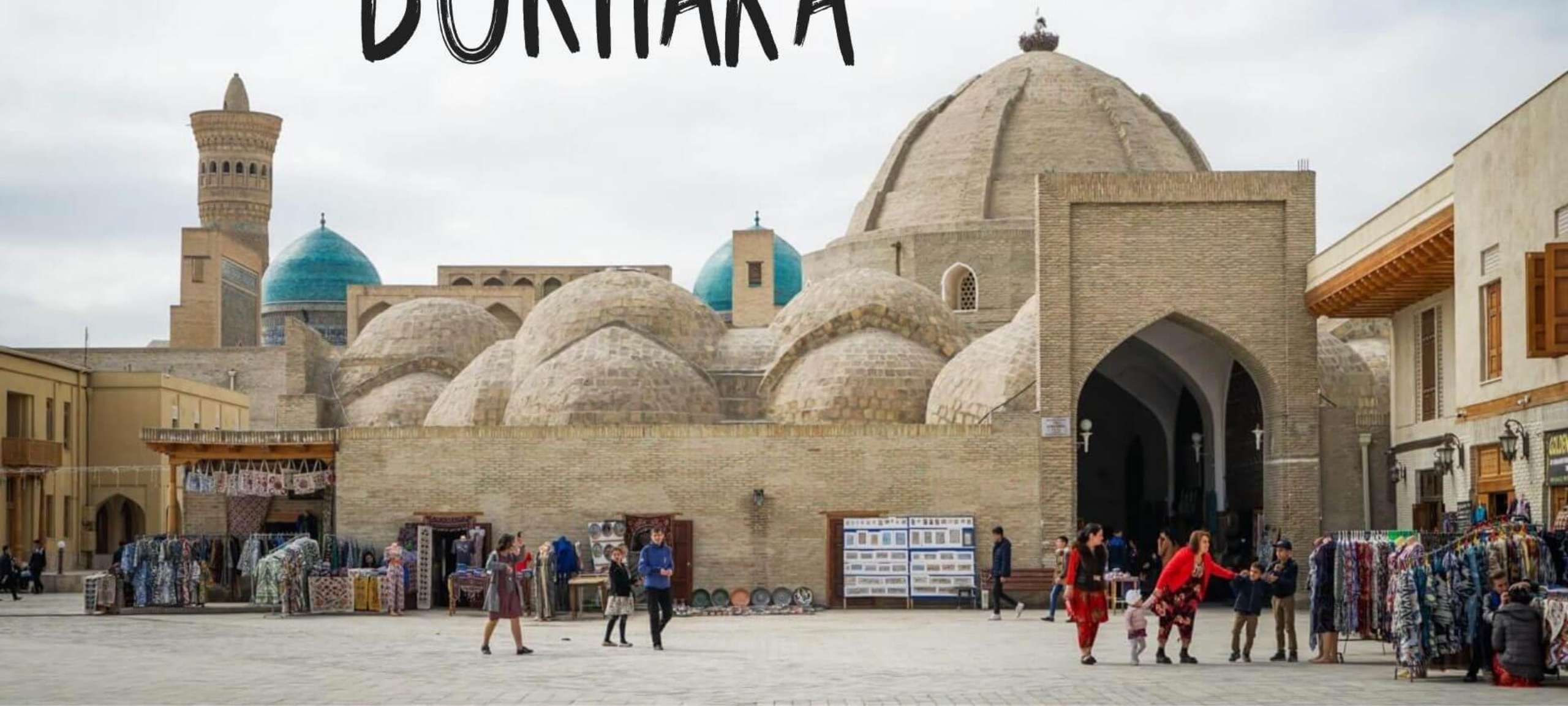


HISTORICAL CITIES OF UZBEKISTAN





BUKHARA



BUKHARA

An aerial photograph of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, during the golden hour of sunset. The image shows the city's ancient walls and a large courtyard filled with numerous small, dome-shaped structures. A prominent mosque with a large blue dome is visible in the foreground. The sky is a mix of pink, orange, and blue.

Bukhara is estimated to be about 2300 years old. It was conquered by Alexander the Great and was also once ruled by the Kushan Empire. However, when the Samanids later came into power, they created a large feudal state, with Bukhara as its capital. It was part of what came to be called the Golden Road, the meeting point of the northern and southern branches of the Great Silk Road, and hence a great center for commerce, religion, and culture.

In Sanskrit, Bukhara means “Monastery,” and was revered the Medieval Muslim East as a stronghold of the faith. In the 10th century, Bukhara became a scientific and cultural center, home to famous poets like Rudaki and Dakiki, and Avicenna, the great scientist and physician.

SAMARKAND



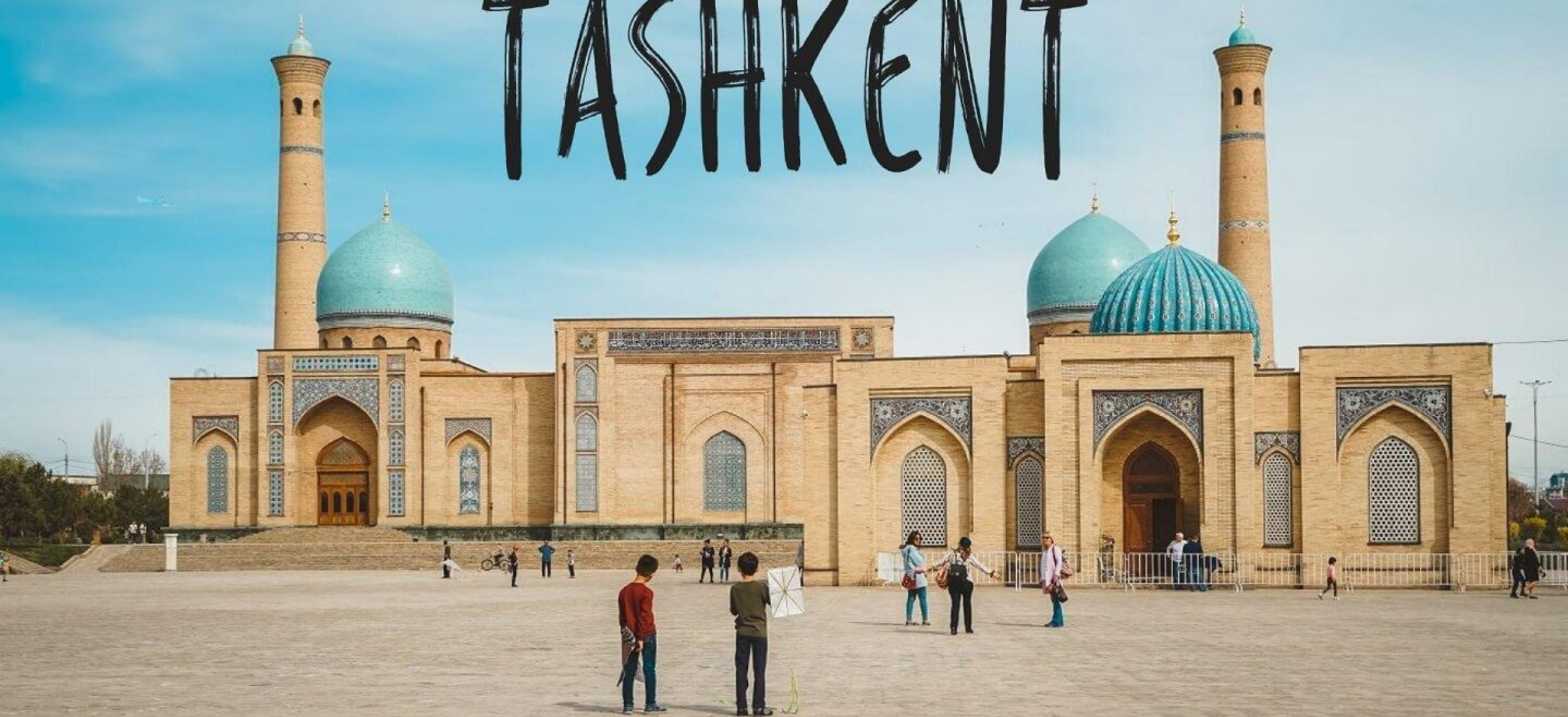
SAMARKAND



Samarkand was founded at the same time as Babylon, Memphis, Athens, and Rome - almost 2500 years ago. It has been called the “Pearl of the Muslim World,” “Eden of Ancient East,” and “Rome of the East.” Samarkand has been conquered many times - by Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Tamerlane, for instance. Tamerlane made it his capital and named it the “Center of the Universe.” Here was a mix of those from Iran, India, Persia, and Mongolia, and being the central part of the Silk Road, was additionally influenced by China, the Middle East, and Europe.

Samarkand saw its glory at the height of trade on the Silk Road, beginning in the 2nd century and lasting until the 16th century. In May 1868, Samarkand fell to the Russian Empire, caught up in what is now known as *The Great Game*. Under Russian rule the city changed its face; buildings and walls were torn down and the city was turned into a Russian military fortress. After the Russian Revolution, Samarkand became capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.

TASHKENT



TASHKENT

An aerial night photograph of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The city is illuminated with various lights, including streetlights and building lights. A prominent tower with a pointed top is visible in the distance. The sky is dark, and the city lights create a vibrant contrast against the night.

Tashkent, or at least the region around it, has been home to humans for over 3,000 years. There is no written record of a settlement, however until Arabs took control of the area in the 8th century A.D. and the city flourished with trade along the silk route.

The Arabs remained in control until the arrival of Ghengis Khan in the 13th century. By this time it had already become one of the largest and most influential cities in Central Asia. With the fall of Ghengis Khan, the city passed to the control of Tamerlain. By 1449, Tamerlain's great empire fell into anarchy, and the city eventually came under the control of the Khanate of Kokhand.

By 1865, Russian forces controlled the city and made it the capital of Russian Turkistan. When the Central Soviet Government broke Turkistan up into several regions, Tashkent replaced Samarkand as the capital of the Uzbek SSR in 1930, and today it is the capital of an independent Uzbekistan.

KHIVA





KHIVA

Khiva is located in the Khorezm oasis inside the great Karakum Desert. While the Khorezm *khanate* was famous in the 4th century B.C. the actual date of origin of Khiva is lost in the mists of time. Some archaeologists believe it was founded about the same time as the birth of Christ, and was named after the ancient well of Kvivak, said to have been discovered by Shem, the Son of Noah. The remains of that ancient well are in the old city, and you are likely to see many newlyweds who come here to drink for good luck.

In the 10th century, the region was home to great philosophers, including Abu Ali Bin Sina (Avicenna) and was the center of a major agricultural civilization, whose armies routed the Roman legions of Marcus Crassus. Its power derived from sitting astride the great caravan routes from east to west, and in the 16th century, it became the capital of the Khorezm state. That state thrived until being decimated by the Mongols.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**