



Uzbekistan & Zoroastrianism

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Presentation Outline

Goal: share a taste of Uzbekistan and its fascinating history, and show in what ways Zoroastrianism has left a mark on the country

1. Uzbekistan History
2. My Journey & Adventures
3. Traces of Zoroastrianism

THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA



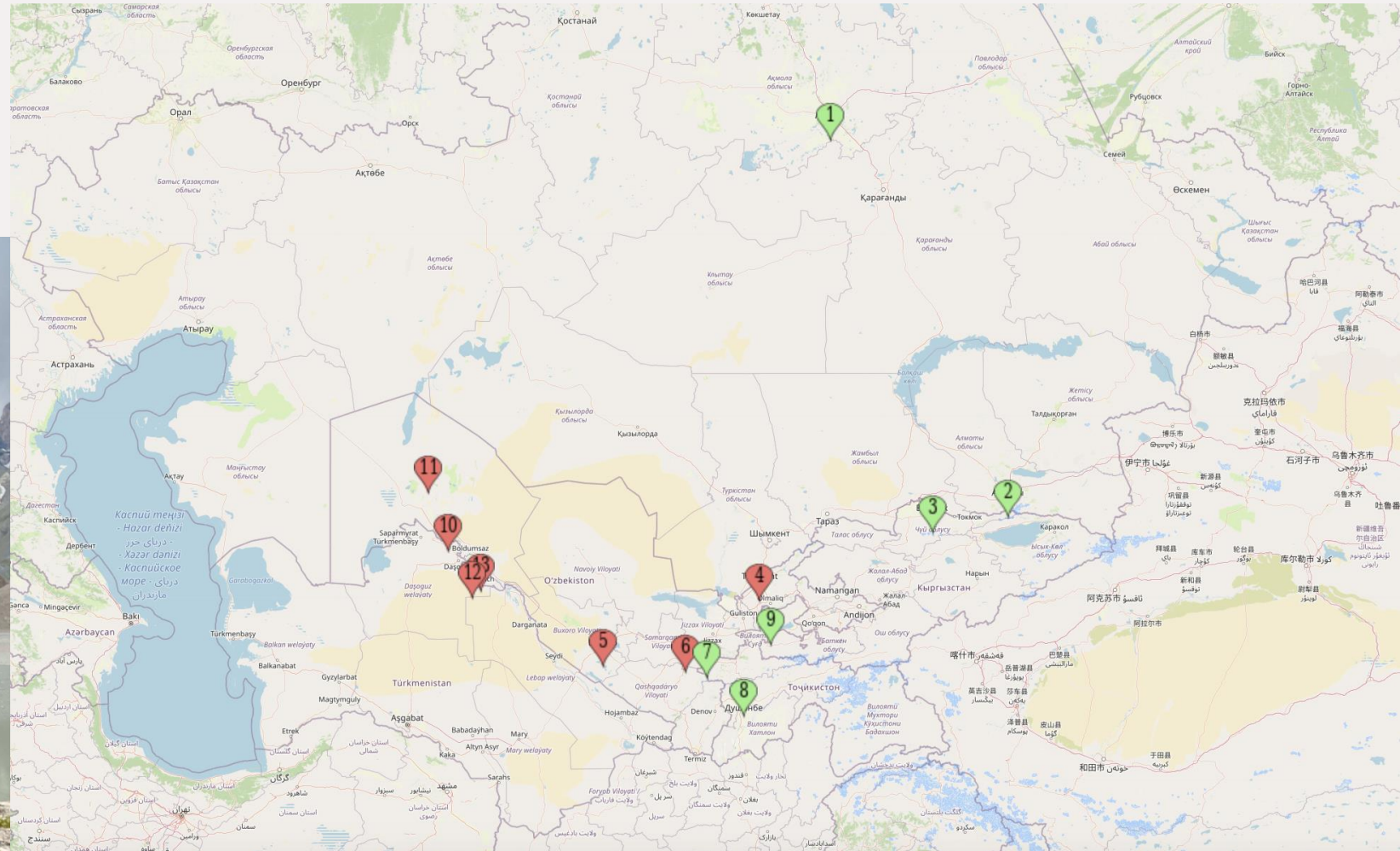
1. *Uzbek History*



- Part of the Achaemenid Empire until it was overrun by Alexander of Macedon in 330BC
- Fell under Muslim influence in the 7th and 8th centuries (Rashidun and then Umayyad Caliphates)
- Fell to the Mongols under Genghis Khan in the 13th century.
- Starting in 1370, led by Amir Timur, who founded the Timurid Empire and is today treated as a hero
- In the 19th and 20th centuries, fell under the influence and then control of the Russian Empire
- Part of the Soviet Union until its collapse in 1991
- Today is a very neutral, quite authoritarian nation that is steadily liberalizing

2. My Journey

1. Astana (Kazakhstan)
2. Almaty (Kazakhstan)
3. Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)
4. Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
5. Bukhara (Uzbekistan)
6. Samarkand (Uzbekistan)
7. Panjakent (Tajikistan)
8. Dushanbe (Tajikistan)
9. Khujand (Tajikistan)
10. Nukus (Uzbekistan)
11. Moynaq (Uzbekistan)
12. Khiva (Uzbekistan)
13. Urgench (Uzbekistan)



3. *Vestiges of Zoroastrianism*

- Chilpik Kala (Tower of Silence)
- Mizdakhan Necropolis
- Magok I Attari Mosque
- Avesta Museum
- Other Fascinating Architecture



Chilpik Kala



Massive Ancient Tower of Silence
Between Urgench and Nukus



Chilpik Kala (2)

6km from Turkmen border
(across the Amu Darya River)



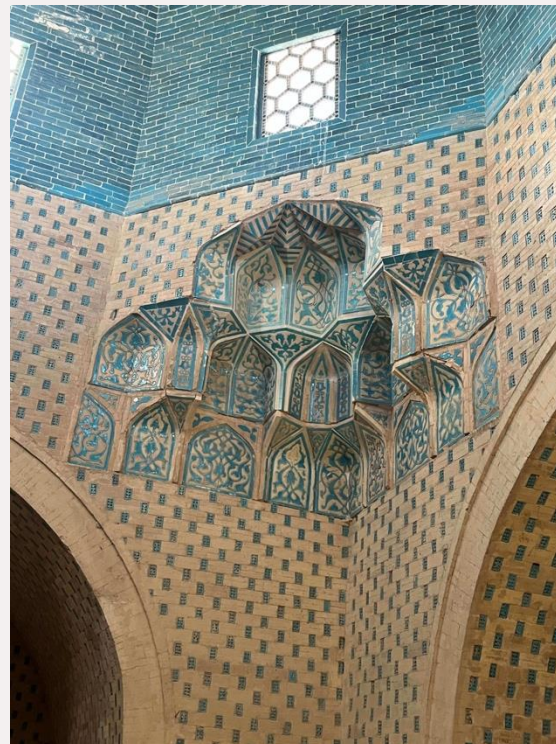
Mizdakhan Necropolis

North of Nukus, 6km from Turkmen border
Zoroastrian ossuary turned Muslim cemetery



Mizdakhan Necropolis (2)

Adam's burial place - just like 10 other places!



Magok I Attari Mosque

Fire temple turned mosque in Bukhara



Magok I Attari Mosque

Inside is (literally) whitewashed, but ancient
structure still visible



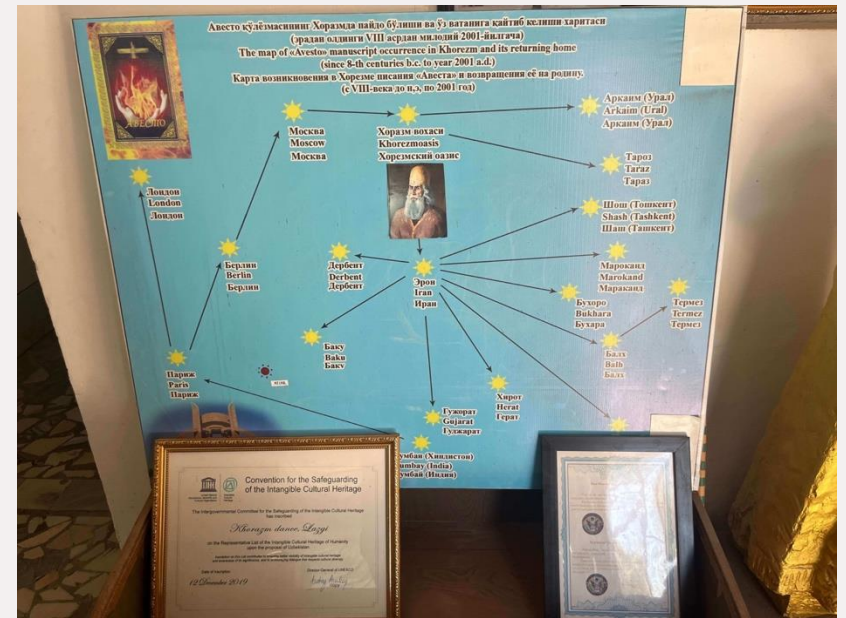
Avesta Museum

In Urgench, run by a very friendly elderly man who only speaks Russian and Uzbek

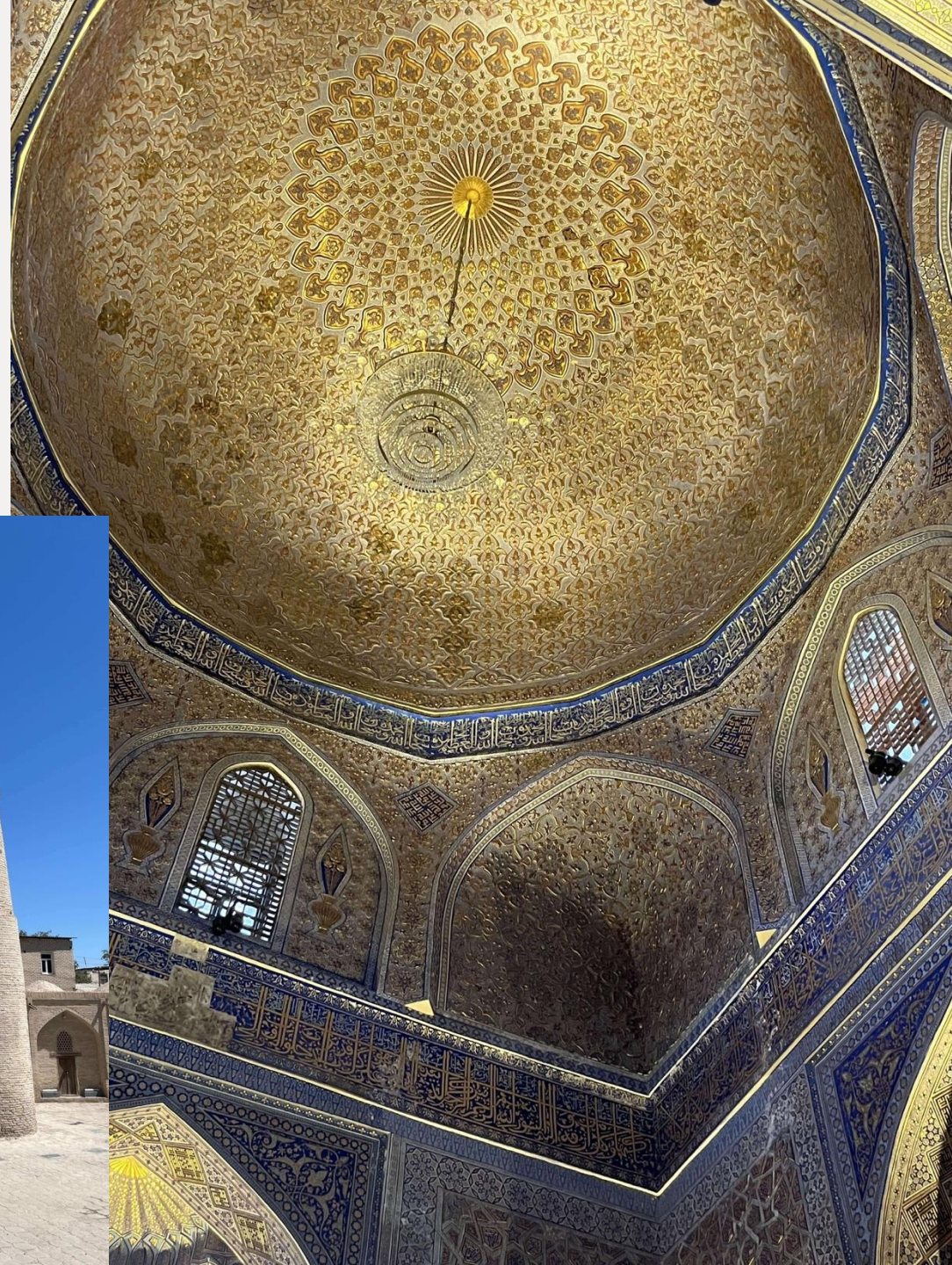


Avesta Museum

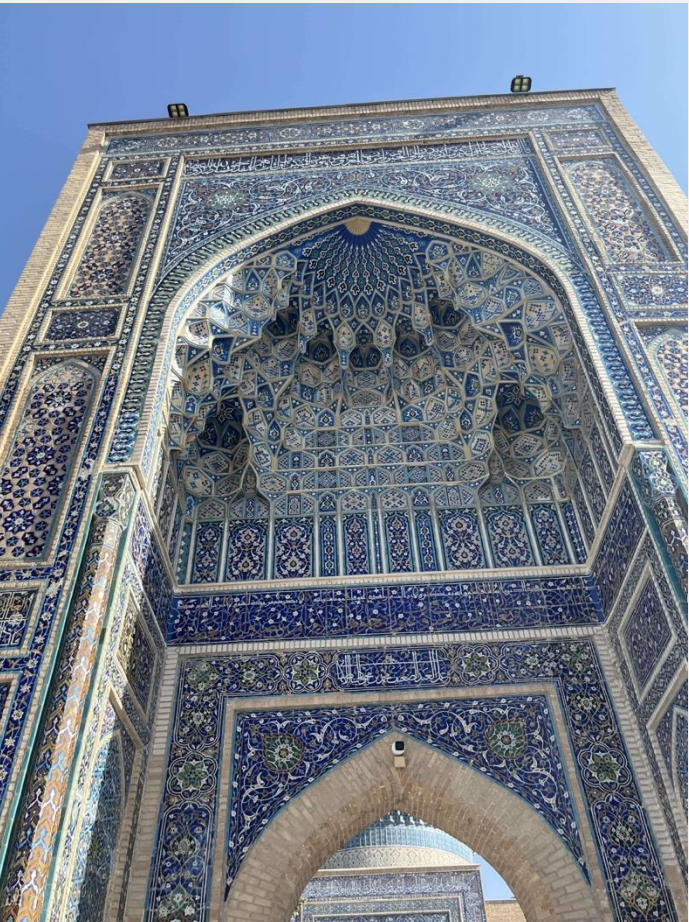
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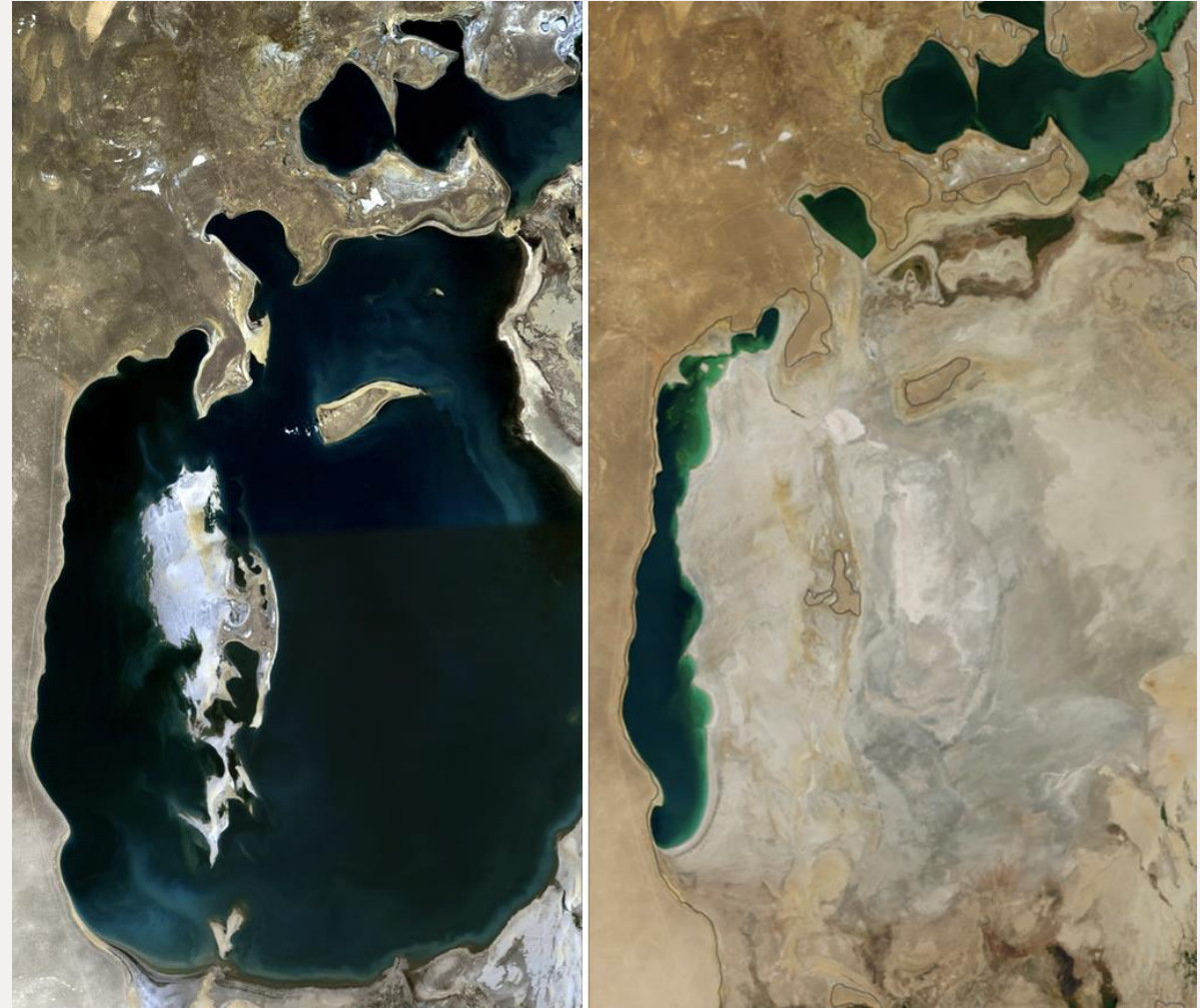
Uzbek Architecture



Uzbek Architecture (2)



Aral Sea Catastrophe



Change in Aral Sea 1989-2014 (top)

Moynaq Ship Cemetery (left)

Georgia



Tbilisi Fire Temple