



Nobody ever forgets their first sight of the soaring massive gates to the fortress that rise up out of the desert in Bukhara. Inside this city of desert-hues, the fortress and the emir's palace really do have to be seen, but the Kalyan Minaret (dating back to 1127) is the greatest remnant of old Bukhara; Genghis Khan destroyed most of the city, but left the minaret standing because he was so struck by its beauty.

Ancient Arab manuscripts refer to Samarkand as the *Gem of the East*; Europeans called it the "Land of Scientists." Alexander the Great was dazzled by its mosaics, and visitors today are still impressed by the Registan Square and the Jewish Quarter.

WE SUGGEST:

One night in Tashkent, one night in Khiva, two nights in Bukhara, two nights in Samarkand. A private dinner in Samarkand's famous Madrassa.