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Architecture of Historical Monuments of Shahrissabz

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Abstract

Sahrissabz, also known as Shakhriyabz, is a historic city located in Uzbekistan. It holds a significant place in history due to its rich cultural heritage and the presence of numerous historical monuments that reflect its past glory. In this article, we will explore some of the most prominent historical monuments of Sahrissabz.

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Ak-Saray Palace: Ak-Saray, meaning "White Palace," is one of the most famous landmarks in Sahrissabz. It was commissioned by Timur (Tamerlane), the famous Central Asian conqueror, in the 14th century. The palace was intended to be an opulent residence, and its grandeur is evident in the massive arches and intricate tilework that once adorned its walls. Though much of it is in ruins today, the scale and design of Ak-Saray are a testament to the architectural marvels of the Timurid era. **Ak-Saray Palace** is a ruined palace and historic site in Shahrissabz, Uzbekistan. The palace was built at the beginning of the Timurid period, between 1380 and 1404,^[1] under the reign of Timur. In 2000, the palace was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

History Timur was born near Kesh, as Shahrissabz was then called, and wanted to make the city the capital of his empire instead of Samarkand. So he had a mighty palace built here. Construction of the castle began in 1380 and lasted 24 years until 1404, just before Timur's death.

In the 16th century, Shahrissabz along with Ak-Saray Castle were destroyed by the forces of Abdullah Khan II, the Khan of Bukhara. After Uzbekistan gained independence, conservation works were carried out between 1994 and 1998. A colossal statue of Timur was erected on a high pedestal on the original site of the palace.

Architecture The remains Ak-Saray Palace lie to the north of the historic center of Shahrissabz in a park near the north gate in the city walls. Above all, the remains of the 38 m (125 ft) high pylons of the former portal, whose vault had a span of 22 m (72 ft), have been preserved.^[2] The facade is decorated with large patterns of ocher and dark blue and light blue glazed bricks. A scroll bears the inscription "God prolong the Sultan's days."^[2] The arcaded main courtyard of the palace with a water basin was 120–125 m (394–410 ft) wide and 240–250 m (790–820 ft) long.^[3] It was surrounded by buildings, one of which is said to have been six stories high.^[2] The number and size of other farms could not be

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determined due to destruction in the 16th century.^[3]

Dorut Tilavat Complex: This complex includes the Dorut Tilavat (House of Meditation) and the Kok-Gumbaz Mosque. The Dorut Tilavat is a mausoleum built for Timur's eldest son, Jahangir, and is renowned for its blue-tiled dome. Nearby stands the Kok-Gumbaz Mosque, characterized by its imposing turquoise dome and intricate mosaic work. The combination of these structures showcases the Timurid architectural style.

Dorus Siadat Complex: Another significant complex in Sahrisabz is Dorus Siadat, which translates to "House of Power." It includes the mausoleum of Timur, as well as the graves of his sons and grandsons. Timur's mausoleum is especially impressive with its finely detailed tilework and ornate designs. The complex is a symbol of the grandeur and power of the Timurid dynasty.

Shahrisabz Bazaar: While not a historical monument in the traditional sense, the Shahrisabz bazaar is a bustling marketplace that has been a central part of the city's life for centuries. Visitors can experience the vibrant local culture and purchase traditional Uzbek crafts, textiles, and spices. The bazaar is a window into the daily life of Sahrisabz's residents.



Ak-Saray Palace

Chor-Su: This is a large central square in Sahrisabz where you can find various monuments and structures from different historical periods. It is surrounded by shops, tea houses, and traditional Uzbek architecture. The square often serves as a gathering place for locals and tourists alike.

Aksaray Mausoleum: Located near the Ak-Saray Palace, the Aksaray Mausoleum houses the tomb of Sheikh Shamseddin Kulyal, a prominent Sufi scholar and spiritual mentor of Timur. The mausoleum is a beautiful example of Timurid architecture and is known for its intricate tilework and geometric designs.

Khazrati Imam Complex: This complex includes the Khazrati Imam Mosque and mausoleum. It is a place of religious significance and pilgrimage for Muslims in the region. The mosque is an elegant

structure with a peaceful courtyard and beautiful tilework.

Sahrisabz is a city steeped in history and offers a unique opportunity to explore the architectural and cultural heritage of Central Asia. Its historical monuments are not only a source of pride for Uzbekistan but also a testament to the enduring legacy of Timur and the Timurid dynasty. A visit to Sahrisabz provides a glimpse into the grandeur and artistic achievements of a bygone era. Construction Period: 1380-1404

Architecture: The palace was designed to be an architectural masterpiece, featuring huge turquoise and white terracotta tiles, grand arches, and intricate geometric patterns. **Purpose:** It served as both a royal residence and a symbol of Timur's power and wealth.

Dorut Tilavat Complex: Dorut Tilavat (House of Meditation) is a mausoleum built for Timur's son, Jahangir, who died young.



Kok-Gumbaz Mosque, also part of the complex, is known for its massive blue dome.

The complex is a fine example of Timurid architecture, characterized by its use of vibrant blue and turquoise tiles.

Dorus Siadat Complex: Timur's mausoleum in this complex is a prominent structure adorned with stunning tilework and intricate calligraphy. It also contains the graves of other Timurid family members.

Shahrisabz Bazaar: The bazaar is a bustling marketplace where you can find traditional Uzbek crafts, textiles, spices, and more.

It offers a taste of daily life in Sahrisabz and is a great place to interact with locals.

Chor-Su: Chor-Su Square is a central gathering point in Sahrisabz with various historical and cultural attractions.

It's a great starting point for exploring the city and immersing yourself in its vibrant atmosphere.

Aksaray Mausoleum: This mausoleum is dedicated to Sheikh Shamseddin Kulyal, a significant Sufi scholar and spiritual guide to Timur.

The mausoleum is a testament to the Timurid dynasty's patronage of religious and scholarly pursuits.

Khazrati Imam Complex: The Khazrati Imam Mosque and mausoleum are important religious sites in Sahrisabz. The mosque's courtyard is a peaceful place for reflection and prayer. Exploring Sahrisabz is like stepping back in time to the era of Timur and the Timurid dynasty. The city's historical monuments are not only remarkable in their architectural beauty but also carry the weight of centuries.

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of history and culture. They provide a glimpse into the artistic and cultural achievements of Central Asia during this period and are a must-visit for anyone interested in the region's heritage. Sahrisabz's rich history and architectural splendor make it a unique destination for travelers seeking to explore the heart of Uzbekistan's cultural legacy.

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