



UZBEKISTAN

ISLAMIC RIDDLE

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KHIVA. PEOPLE GATHERED FOR THE FRIDAY PRAYER AT THE SAID NIYOZ SHOLIKORBOY MOSQUE

LANDLOCKED IN THE DRY HEART OF THE CAUCASUS, SUSPENDED BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN AND EUROPEAN SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, WARY OF THE THREATS THAT MIGHT COME FROM NEIGHBORING AFGHANISTAN AND FIRMLY RULED BY AN AUTOCRAT, THE EX-SOVIET REPUBLIC STRUGGLES TO KEEP FAIR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES (MOST OF ALL WITH RUSSIA) WHILE TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS ECONOMY, WHICH RELIES HEAVILY ON TOURISM ALONG THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD, WITH THE IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF TIMUR'S ERA.

BUT THE MOST COMPLEX ISSUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO DEAL WITH IS ISLAM: IN A MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH UNDER EXTREMELY TIGHT CONTROL, RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM HAS ALREADY SHOWN ITS FACE IN MORE THAN ONE OCCASION.

BUKHARA. A MADRASAH (KORANIC SCHOOL) ON THE LABI KHAUS SQUARE AT SUNSET



KHIVA. A SQUARE IN THE OLD TOWN



A SIGN ON A ROAD LEAVING BUKHARA
FOR THE ELLIKKALA PROVINCE
READS "HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY"





KHIVA. A MAN COPIES A TILE DECORATION IN A MADRASAH (KORANIC SCHOOL) IN THE OLD TOWN

SAMARKAND. VISITORS IN THE TILLYA-KARI
GOLDEN MOSQUE WITHIN THE THREE-MADRASAH
(KORANIC SCHOOL) COMPLEX ON REGISTAN SQUARE





PEOPLE SWIMMING IN A CANAL IN
THE OUTSKIRTS OF BUKHARA

SAMARKAND. THE THREE-MADRASAH (KORANIC SCHOOL)
COMPLEX ON REGISTAN SQUARE AT SUNSET





BUKHARA. THE FACADE OF THE POI-GKALIAN
MOSQUE, BUILT IN 1514



SAMARKAND. WOMEN AT A
BUS STATION NEAR THE
CENTRAL SIYAB MARKET



BUKHARA. WORKERS SET THE CARPETS FOR
EVENING PRAYER IN THE COURT OF THE
POI-GKALIAN MOSQUE, BUILT IN 1514





TASHKENT. PEOPLE LOOK FOR REFRESHMENT ON A HOT AFTERNOON IN A PUBLIC FOUNTAIN IN THE HADRA NEIGHBORHOOD. IN THE BACKGROUND, THE PERMANENT CIRCUS' BUILDING

KHIVA. PEOPLE GATHERED FOR
THE FRIDAY PRAYER AT THE SAID
NIYOZ SHOLIKORBOY MOSQUE



BUKHARA. PEOPLE SITTING AT A CAFÉ ON
THE LABI KHAUS SQUARE AT SUNSET



SAMARKAND. VISITORS IN THE
THREE-MADRASAH (KORANIC SCHOOL)
COMPLEX ON REGISTAN SQUARE





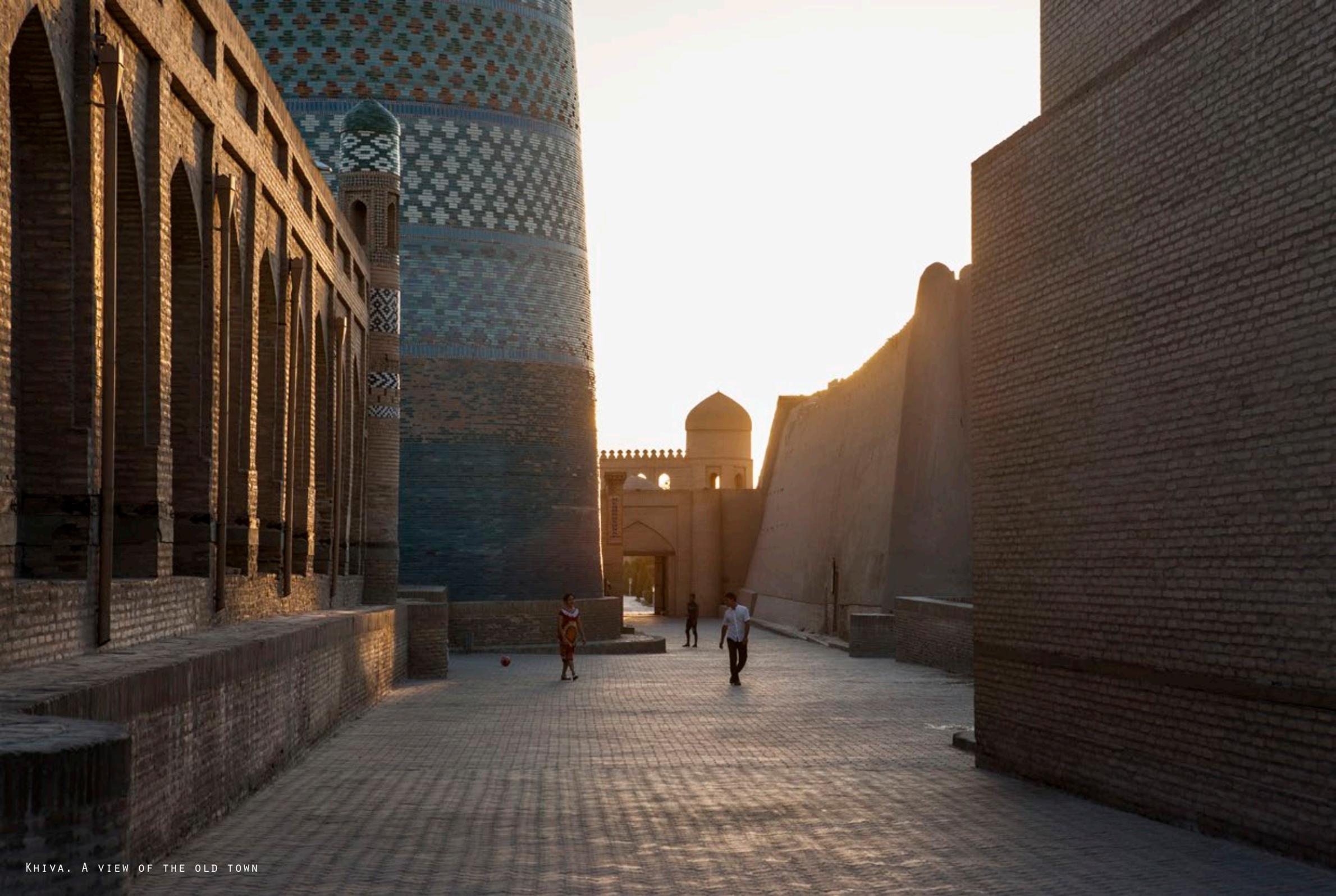
SAMARKAND. THE COURTYARD OF THE BIBI
KHANUM MOSQUE (15TH CENTURY)



SAMARKAND. A MAN READING INSIDE THE THREE-MADRASAH (KORANIC SCHOOL) COMPLEX ON REGISTAN SQUARE



SAMARKAND. THE OUTER FACADE OF THE BIBI KHANUM MOSQUE (15TH CENTURY)



KHIVA. A VIEW OF THE OLD TOWN



SAMARKAND. THE THREE-MADRASAH
(KORANIC SCHOOL) COMPLEX ON
REGISTAN SQUARE AT SUNSET



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