

# Calendar 2015



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The Premier Islamic Bank



## Prominent Cities of the Muslim World

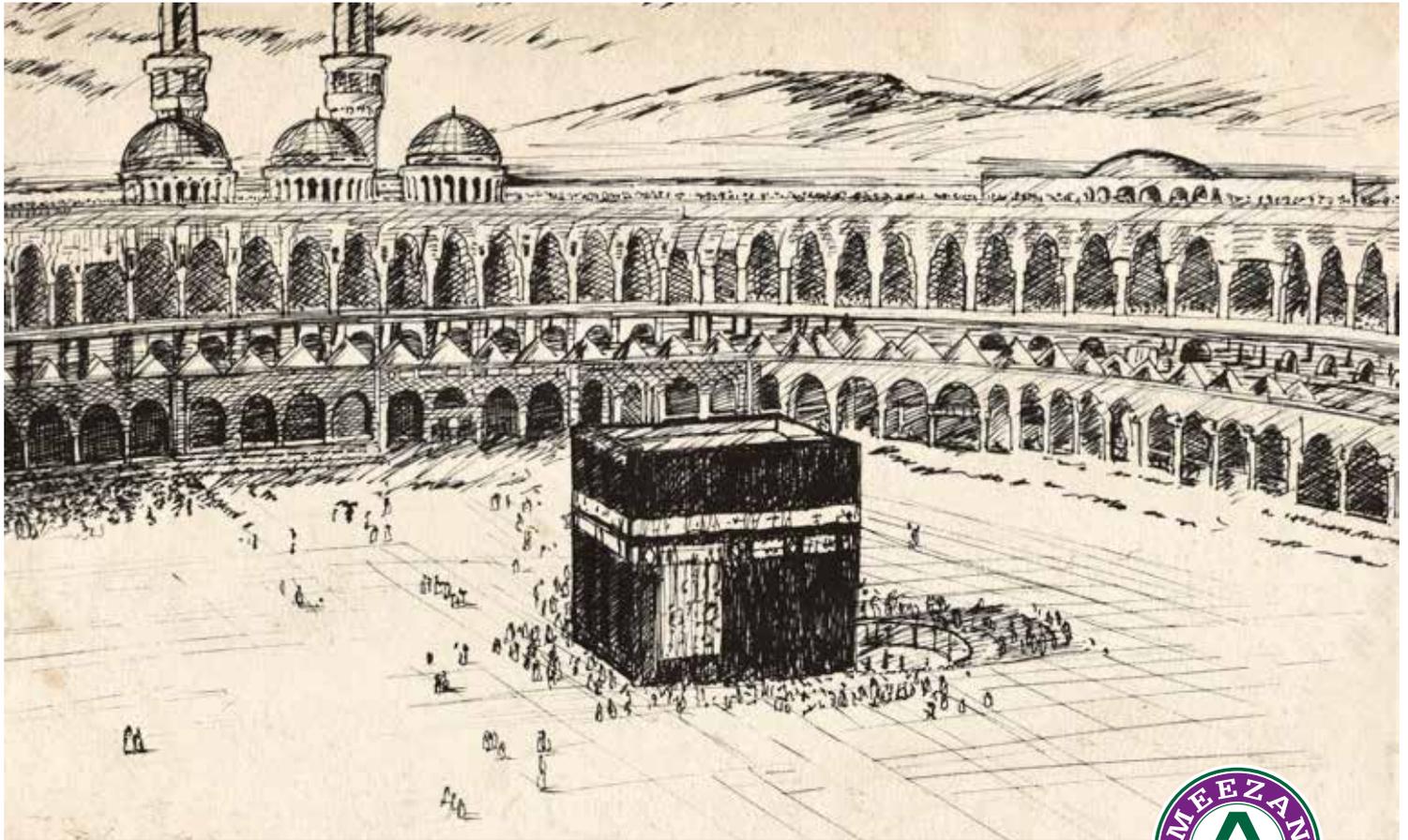
*Islam started from the Hijaz region of Arabia more than 1400 years ago. After its advent in the Arabian peninsula, the Muslim empire expanded quickly to an area that stretched from the borders of China and India, across Central Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, Sicily and the Iberian Peninsula, to the Pyrenees and lands as far as Turkmanistan and the Indus Valley.*

*Through the growth of the Muslim empire, many cities gained prominence – some due to their economic significance, others by virtue of their achievements in the fields of science, religious knowledge, medicine, philosophy and architecture as well as trade and commerce.*

*Within the pages of this calendar are interesting pieces of information about some of the most prominent cities in the Muslim world. The information in this calendar is concise but is designed to give you an idea of the extraordinary history, contribution and grandeur of these fantastic cities.*

The information in this calendar has been extracted from numerous sources. Detailed references of the sources of this information are available at: [www.meezanbank.com/calendar2015.aspx](http://www.meezanbank.com/calendar2015.aspx)

**Concept:** Meezan Bank Corporate Communication Team  
**Layout:** Argus Advertising (Pvt.) Limited  
**Illustrations:** Wizard of Oz



Masjid al-Haram, Makkah



## Makkah

Makkah was founded by Hazrat Ibrahim ؑ. Makkah is home to the Kaaba, Islam's holiest site and the direction of prayers for all Muslims. It was in Makkah that the Prophet ﷺ was born and where he received the first revelation of the Quran. In 630 CE, the Prophet ﷺ took control of Makkah and removed the 360 idols placed inside the Kaaba.

When the Muslims conquered Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ said, "Allah ﷻ had made this city sacred the day He created the heavens and the earth and its sanctity shall remain until the Day of Qiyamah. Its thorns cannot be broken, its animals cannot be harmed and things fallen on its ground cannot be picked up unless with the intention of returning it to its owner or making public announcements (to locate the owner). It is also forbidden to cut the grass that (naturally) grows here."

As a result of the vast numbers of pilgrims coming to Makkah each year, the city has become by far the most diverse city in the Muslim world. Land cost per square meter near Masjid al-Haram is USD 100,000, making it the most expensive land in the world.

# January 2015

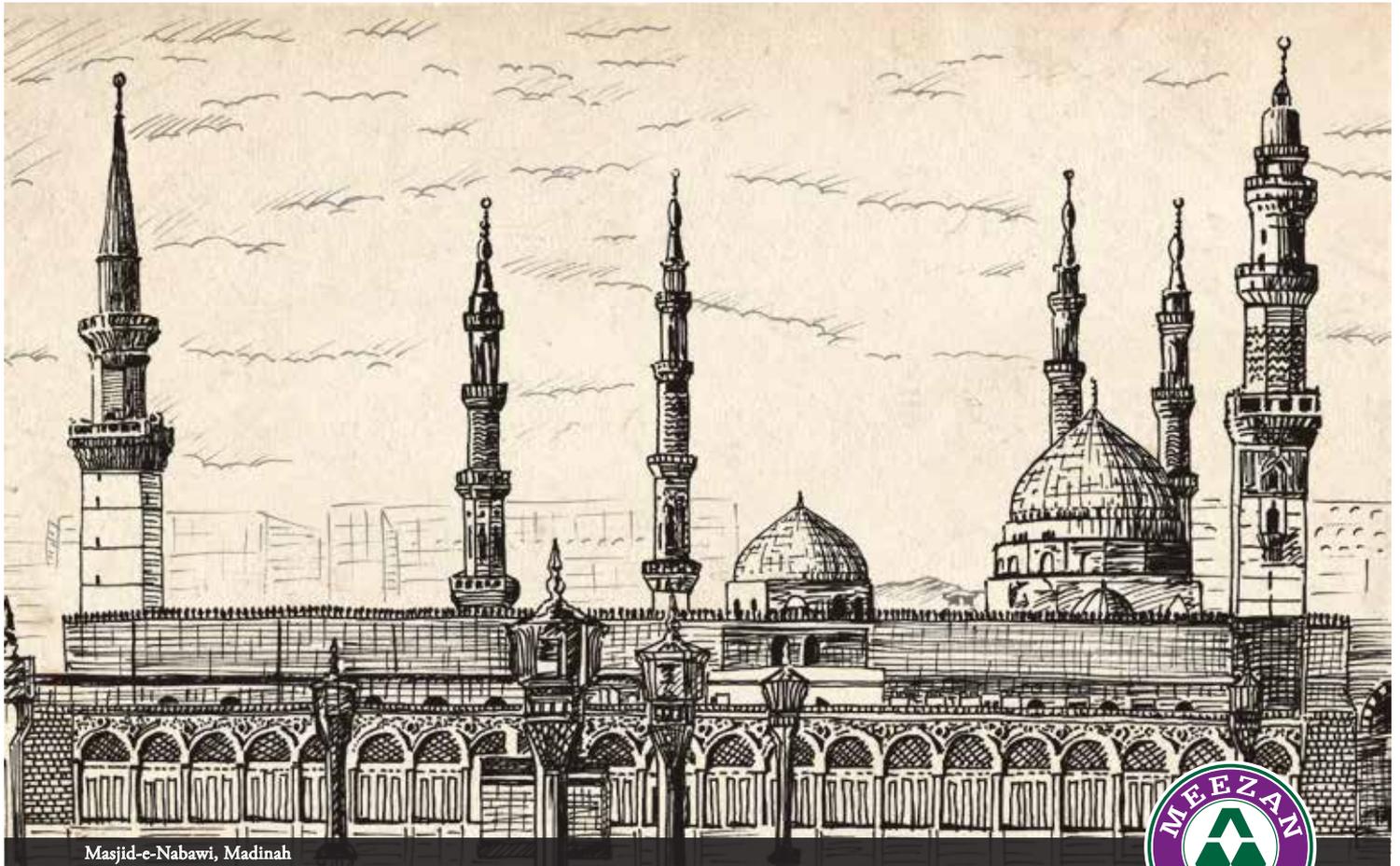


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رَبِيعُ الْأَوَّلِ / رَبِيعُ النَّبِيِّ ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			٩ ربيع الأول 1	١٠ 2	١١ 3	١٢ 4 Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi
١٣ 5	١٤ 6	١٥ 7	١٦ 8	١٧ 9	١٨ 10	١٩ 11
٢٠ 12	٢١ 13	٢٢ 14	٢٣ 15	٢٤ 16	٢٥ 17	٢٦ 18
٢٧ 19	٢٨ 20	٢٩ 21	٣٠ ربيع الثاني 22	١ 23	٢ 24	٣ 25
٤ 26	٥ 27	٦ 28	٧ 29	٨ 30	٩ 31	

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Masjid-e-Nabawi, Madinah



## Madinah

Madinah المدينة المنورة is the second holiest city in Islam. During the pre-Islamic period, the city was known as Yathrib, but the Prophet ﷺ renamed it as Madinat Al-Nabi (City of the Prophet ﷺ). Madinah is home to the three oldest masjids, namely Masjid-e-Nabawi, Masjid-e-Quba and Masjid-e-Qiblatain. Masjid-e-Quba is the first masjid built in the history of Islam. The tomb of Prophet ﷺ became part of Masjid-e-Nabawi when it was expanded by the Umayyad Caliph Al-Walid ibn Abd al-Malik.

When the Ottomans introduced electricity to the Arabian Peninsula, the first place to be lit up was the masjid of the Prophet ﷺ. By some accounts, the Sultan himself got full electricity in his own palace in Istanbul a few years after Masjid-e-Nabawi. The current masjid is more than 100 times the size of the original building which means that it covers almost the entire area of the old city itself. Historically, Madinah is known for growing dates and today, more than 20 different types of dates are cultivated in the city.

# February 2015



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ربيع الثاني / جمادى الأولى ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						11 1
12 2	13 3	14 4	15 5 Kashmir Day	16 6	17 7	18 8
19 9	20 10	21 11	22 12	23 13	24 14	25 15
26 16	27 17	28 18	29 19	30 20	1 21	2 22
3 23	4 24	5 25	6 26	7 27	8 28	

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Masjid Al Aqsa in Jerusalem



## Jerusalem

With a history extending over 3,000 years, Jerusalem, known in Arabic as Al Quds or Baitul Maqdis, is among the longest inhabited cities in the world. The Masjid Al Aqsa in Jerusalem is mentioned by name in the Holy Quran.

The masjid was originally built by Hazrat Adam عليه السلام; Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام rebuilt it and Hazrat Daud عليه السلام undertook a reconstruction that was completed by Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام. Jerusalem is the third-holiest city in Islam, after Makkah and Madinah. It is known as the land of many prophets and was the first Qiblah for Muslims. It is the only city in the world that is historically and spiritually significant to Muslims, Jews and Christians alike. Jerusalem is one of the most fought over cities in human history. It has been destroyed at least twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times. The Mount of Olives cemetery in Jerusalem is the oldest continually used cemetery in the world.

# March 2015



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جُمادى الثانیہ / جُمادى الآخرة ۱۴۳۶

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
۹ 30	۱۰ 31					۹ 1
۱۰ 2	۱۱ 3	۱۲ 4	۱۳ 5	۱۴ 6	۱۵ 7	۱۶ 8
۱۷ 9	۱۸ 10	۱۹ 11	۲۰ 12	۲۱ 13	۲۲ 14	۲۳ 15
۲۴ 16	۲۵ 17	۲۶ 18	۲۷ 19	۲۸ 20	۲۹ 21	۱ 22 جُمادى الآخرة
۲ 23 Pakistan Day	۳ 24	۴ 25	۵ 26	۶ 27	۷ 28	۸ 29

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Sultan Ahmed Masjid, Istanbul



## Istanbul

Istanbul (Turkey), the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the world by population within city limits, is also the only city in the world located on two continents, Europe and Asia. The city was originally established as a Greek colony, called Byzantium, in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. Its name was Constantinople from 330 CE to 1930 CE and was renamed to Istanbul استنبول in 1930. Its historic significance can be gauged from the fact that Rome and Athens are the only other cities in the world that equal Istanbul in historical importance.

Istanbul came under Muslim rule in 1453 CE. When it was conquered by the Ottoman (Usmani) Turk Sultan Muhammad Fatih at the age of 21. One interesting element in the conquest of Istanbul was that Sultan Fatih and his army carried his fleet of seventy ships ten miles over land in one night and landed them in a waterway from where they attacked the city.

Istanbul has more than 3,000 masjids and the third oldest subway in the world, built in 1875. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul has been in operation since 1461 and is one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world with 60 streets and over 3,000 shops.

April 2015

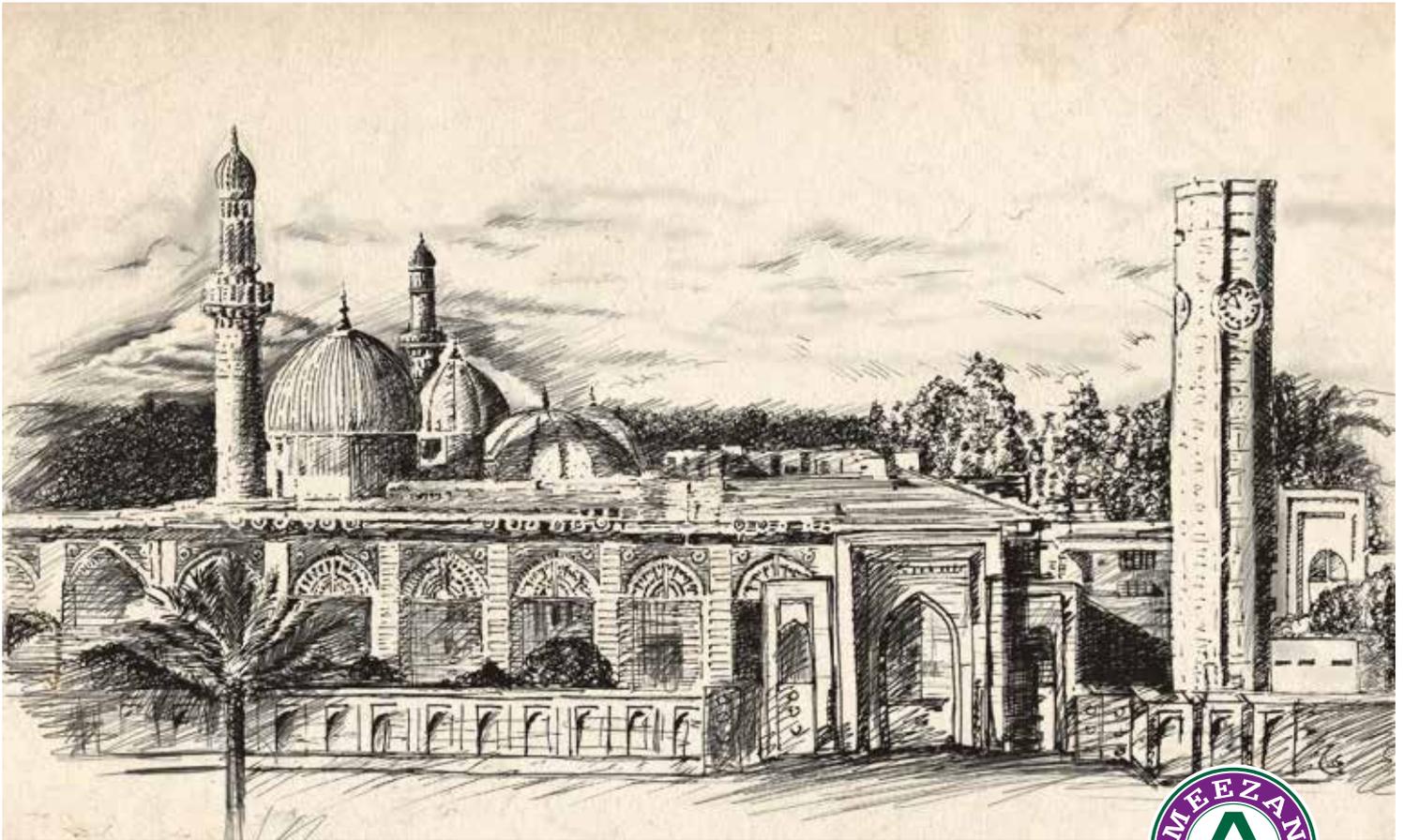


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جُمَادَى الْآخِرَةَ / رَجَب ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		١١ 1	١٢ 2	١٣ 3	١٤ 4	١٥ 5
١٦ 6	١٧ 7	١٨ 8	١٩ 9	٢٠ 10	٢١ 11	٢٢ 12
٢٣ 13	٢٤ 14	٢٥ 15	٢٦ 16	٢٧ 17	٢٨ 18	٢٩ 19
١ رَجَب 20	٢ 21	٣ 22	٤ 23	٥ 24	٦ 25	٧ 26
٨ 27	٩ 28	١٠ 29	١١ 30			

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Imam Abu Hanifa Masjid, Baghdad



## Baghdad

Baghdad, located along the River Tigris **دجلة**, is the capital and the largest city of Iraq and the second largest city in the Arab world after Cairo. It was founded in 762 CE by the Abbasid Khalifa, al-Mansur as the administrative capital of his empire. Baghdad reached its Golden Age during the reign of Khalifa Harun al-Rashid. Since it lay on the crossroads of Asia, Europe and Africa, the city evolved into a significant commercial centre. The markets that developed in Baghdad were some of the most sophisticated of those times and Baghdad became a trading hub in the Islamic empire where cultures merged, ultimately creating a 'cosmopolitan city' that developed into a learning centre for the world.

The famous **بيت الحكمة** (House of Wisdom) academy, established by Khalifa Harun al-Rashid is considered to be the first university in the world and was a major intellectual centre during the Islamic Golden Age, making Baghdad a centre for scientific and intellectual achievements. The tomb of Imam Abu Hanifa, the founder of Hanafi School of Islamic Jurisprudence is also in Baghdad.

May 2015



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رجب / شعبان ۱۴۳۶

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				۱۲ 1 Labour Day	۱۳ 2	۱۴ 3
۱۵ 4	۱۶ 5	۱۷ 6	۱۸ 7	۱۹ 8	۲۰ 9	۲۱ 10
۲۲ 11	۲۳ 12	۲۴ 13	۲۵ 14	۲۶ 15	۲۷ 16	۲۸ 17
۲۹ 18	۳۰ 19	۱ شعبان 20	۲ 21	۳ 22	۴ 23	۵ 24
۶ 25	۷ 26	۸ 27	۹ 28	۱۰ 29	۱۱ 30	۱۲ 31

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Citadel area, Cairo



## Cairo

Cairo القاهرة, located in northern Egypt along the Nile Delta, is the capital of Egypt. It is the largest city in the Middle East and the 16<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan in the world. Cairo is also called the 'City of a Thousand Minarets', and Umm al-Dunia – 'Mother of the World.' Founded in 969 CE by the Fatimid dynasty, Cairo has long been a centre of Islamic architecture, knowledge, politics and culture. Today, it also has the oldest and largest film and music industries in the Arab world as well as the world's second-oldest institution of higher learning - Jamia al-Azhar جامعة الازهر which was founded in the tenth century; Cairo is also home to Africa's only subway. Primary education is free and compulsory in Cairo, as elsewhere in Egypt, and university education has been free since 1962.

Ninety-five percent of Egypt is desert and majority of the country's population lives on only five percent of the territory. Over the last four thousand years, Egypt has stood as the land where many civilizations have met. The Pharaohs, together with the Greeks, Babylonians and Romans have left their imprints here. Muslims from the Arabian peninsula, led by Hazrat Amr ibn al-A'as رضي الله عنه, introduced Islam in Egypt.

June 2015



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شعبان / رمضان ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
١٣ 1	١٤ 2	١٥ 3	١٦ 4	١٧ 5	١٨ 6	١٩ 7
٢٠ 8	٢١ 9	٢٢ 10	٢٣ 11	٢٤ 12	٢٥ 13	٢٦ 14
٢٧ 15	٢٨ 16	٢٩ 17	٣٠ 18	١ 19 رمضان	٢ 20	٣ 21
٤ 22	٥ 23	٦ 24	٧ 25	٨ 26	٩ 27	١٠ 28
١١ 29	١٢ 30					

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Alhambra Palace, Al-Andalus



## Al-Andalus

In 711 CE, Arabs, led by Tariq ibn Ziyad crossed the Strait of Gibraltar (derived from 'Gabal Al-Tariq': 'Mountain of Tariq') and arrived on the Iberian Peninsula (Spain). In less than a decade, Muslims had established control over much of the Iberian Peninsula; they called it al-Andalus, and it became the richest country in Europe. Although the borders of al-Andalus shifted over the centuries, the Muslims remained a powerful force on the peninsula for almost eight hundred years. During the 10<sup>th</sup> century reign of Abd al-Rahman, al-Andalus was a beacon of learning. Cordoba قرطبة was the capital of al-Andalus and became one of the leading cultural and economic centres in Europe, throughout the Mediterranean Basin and the Islamic world. Nothing in Europe compared with the wealth, power, and sheer brilliance of al-Andalus during this period. A number of achievements that advanced Islamic and Western science came from al-Andalus, including major advances in trigonometry, astronomy, surgery, pharmacology and other fields. Al-Andalus became a major educational centre for Europe and the Mediterranean region and acted as a doorway for culture and science between the Islamic world and the Christian world.

July 2015



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رَمَضَانَ / شَعْبَانَ ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		١٣ 1	١٤ 2	١٥ 3	١٦ 4	١٧ 5
١٨ 6	١٩ 7	٢٠ 8	٢١ 9	٢٢ 10	٢٣ 11	٢٤ 12
٢٥ 13	٢٦ 14	٢٧ 15	٢٨ 16	٢٩ 17	١ شَعْبَانَ 18 Eid-ul-Fitr	٢ 19
٣٠ 20	٣١ 21	١ 22	٢ 23	٣ 24	٤ 25	٥ 26
١٠ 27	١١ 28	١٢ 29	١٣ 30	١٤ 31		

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Umayyad Masjid, Damascus



## Damascus

Damascus دمشق is the capital and the second largest city of Syria. The beginnings of Damascus go back to times before recorded history. Founded almost 5,000 years ago, Damascus is considered to be the oldest city as well as the oldest capital in the world. Damascus has been called the 'Pearl of the East' and praised for its beauty and lushness. The 10<sup>th</sup> century traveler and geographer Al-Muqaddasi praised the city as being among the four earthly paradises. Ibn Battuta, the famous traveler said that no words could do justice to the city's beauty. Soon after it was found, Damascus became an important cultural and commercial centre. In the Middle Ages, it was the centre of a flourishing crafts industry, specializing in swords and lace. The city has 125 monuments from different periods of its history – one of the most spectacular of which is the 8<sup>th</sup> century Great Mosque of the Umayyads. The University of Damascus was founded in 1923 through the joining of four older institutions of higher learning and was a pioneer in the Arab world for introducing Arabic as the sole language of instruction and research. Damascus was conquered by Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleed ﷺ and Hazrat Abu Ubaida ibn Jarrah ﷺ in 635 CE (14 Hijri).

# August 2015

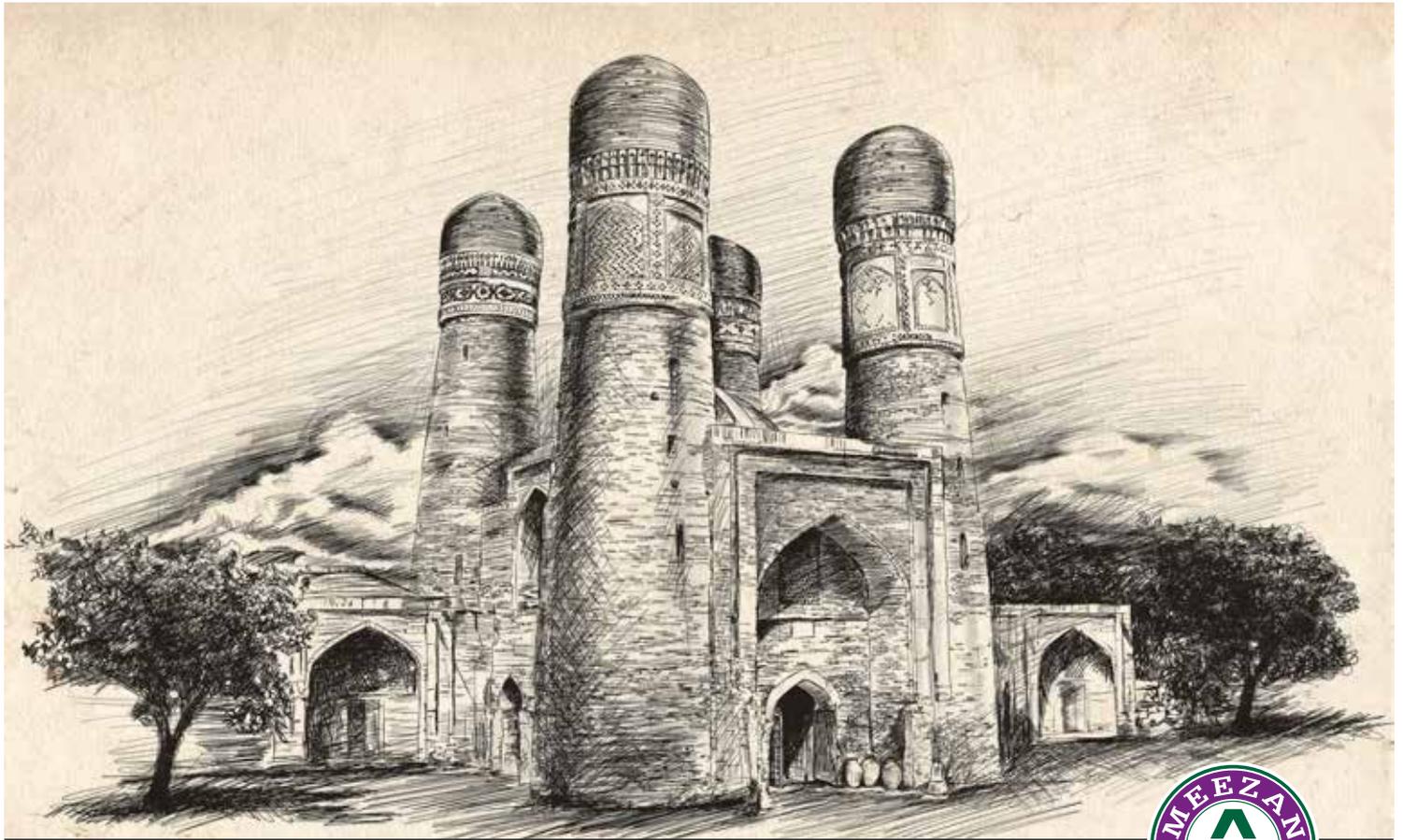


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شَوَّال / ذُو الْقَعْدَةِ ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
١٥ 31					١٥ 1	١٦ 2
١٦ 3	١٨ 4	١٩ 5	٢٠ 6	٢١ 7	٢٢ 8	٢٣ 9
٢٤ 10	٢٥ 11	٢٦ 12	٢٧ 13	٢٨ 14 Independence Day	٢٩ 15	٣٠ 16
١ ذُو الْقَعْدَةِ 17	٢ 18	٣ 19	٤ 20	٥ 21	٦ 22	٧ 23
٨ 24	٩ 25	١٠ 26	١١ 27	١٢ 28	١٣ 29	١٤ 30

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Char Minar, Bukhara



## Bukhara

Bukhara is the capital of the Bukhara province of Uzbekistan. The region around Bukhara has been inhabited for at least five thousand years and the city itself has existed for approximately 2,500 years. Located on the Silk Road, Bukhara is one of the oldest centres of trade, culture, scholarship and religion in Central Asia. Bukhara is a city museum with about 140 architectural monuments. The historic centre of Bukhara contains numerous masjids, madrassahs and Caravanserais (roadside inns for caravans), and has been listed by UNESCO as one of the World Heritage Sites. The example of Bukhara in terms of its urban layout and buildings had a profound influence on the evolution and planning of towns in a wide region of Central Asia. Bukhara is one of the highlights of one's trip to Uzbekistan and hosts many unique sights of the region including the first masjid built in Central Asia, the Maghoki-Attar Masjid. Among the notable people who lived in Bukhara in the past were Imam Bukhari, who authored the hadith collection Sahih al-Bukhari صحيح البخارى, and Ibn Sina author of القانون فى الطب which is considered to be one of the most famous books in the history of medicine.

# September 2015

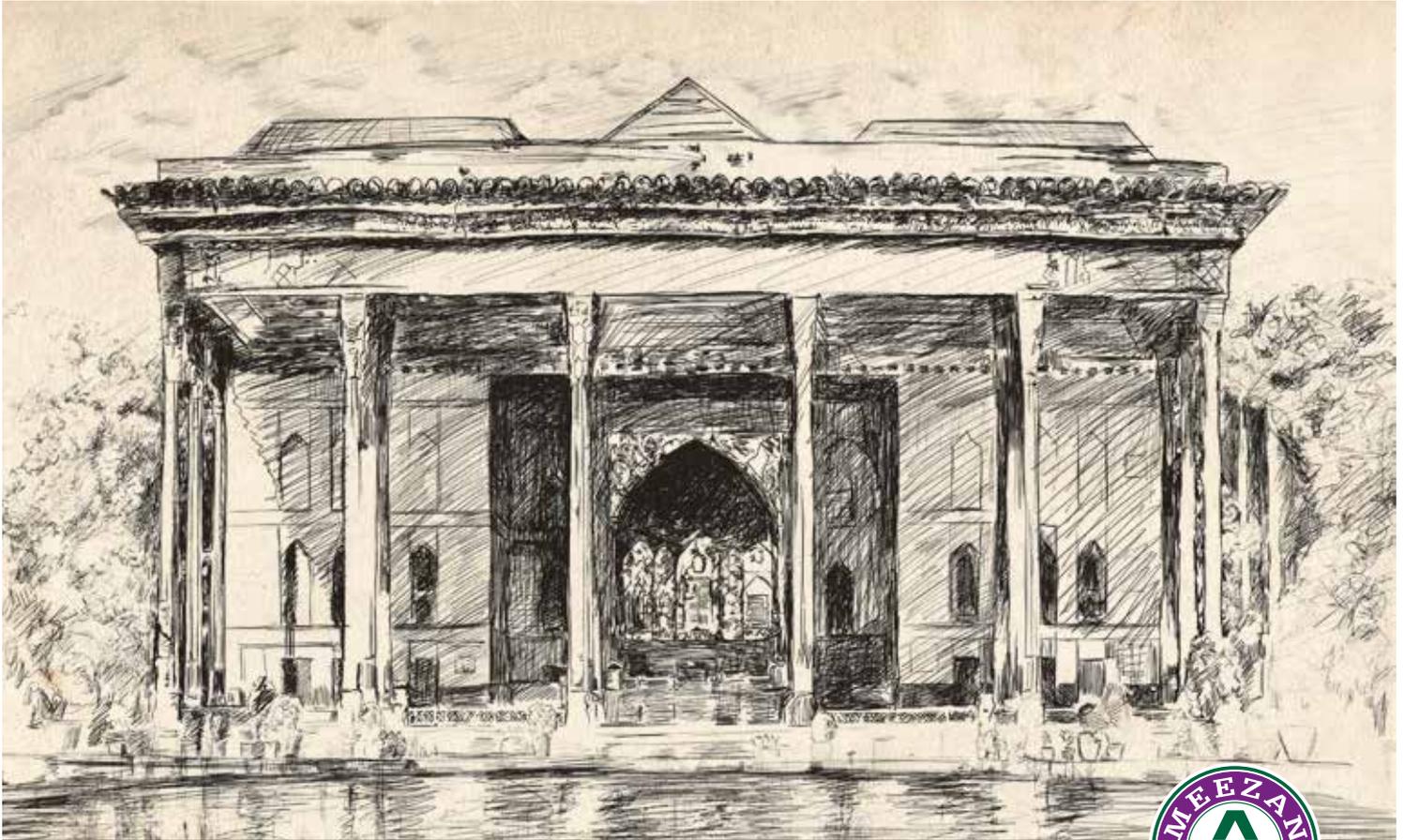


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ذو القعدة / ذوالحجة ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	١٦ 1	١٧ 2	١٨ 3	١٩ 4	٢٠ 5	٢١ 6
٢٢ 7	٢٣ 8	٢٤ 9	٢٥ 10	٢٦ 11	٢٧ 12	٢٨ 13
٢٩ 14	١ ذوالحجة 15	٢ 16	٣ 17	٤ 18	٥ 19	٦ 20
٧ 21	٨ 22	٩ 23	١٠ 24 Eid-ul-Azha	١١ 25	١٢ 26	١٣ 27
١٤ 28	١٥ 29	١٦ 30				

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Chehel Sutoon Palace, Isfahan



## Isfahan

Isfahan اصفهان is the third largest city in Iran after Tehran and Mashhad and is famous for its Islamic architecture, with many beautiful boulevards, covered bridges, palaces, masjids and minarets. It was once one of the largest cities in the world which led to the Persian proverb اصفهان نصف جهان است (Isfahan is half of the world). One of the most prominent companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Hazrat Salman Farsi ؓ was born in Isfahan and lived his early life there before moving to Syria.

Isfahan has existed in some form since pre-historic times; however, much of what still stands in the city was built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century during the era of Shah Abbas I. During his time Isfahan had a population of around 600,000 people and had 160 masjids, 48 religious schools, 1,800 shops and over 270 public baths. The city is one of the most important architectural centres in the Islamic world and has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Isfahan has the largest shopping mall in Iran, the largest indoor amusement park in the Middle East and the largest shopping mall with a museum in the world.

# October 2015

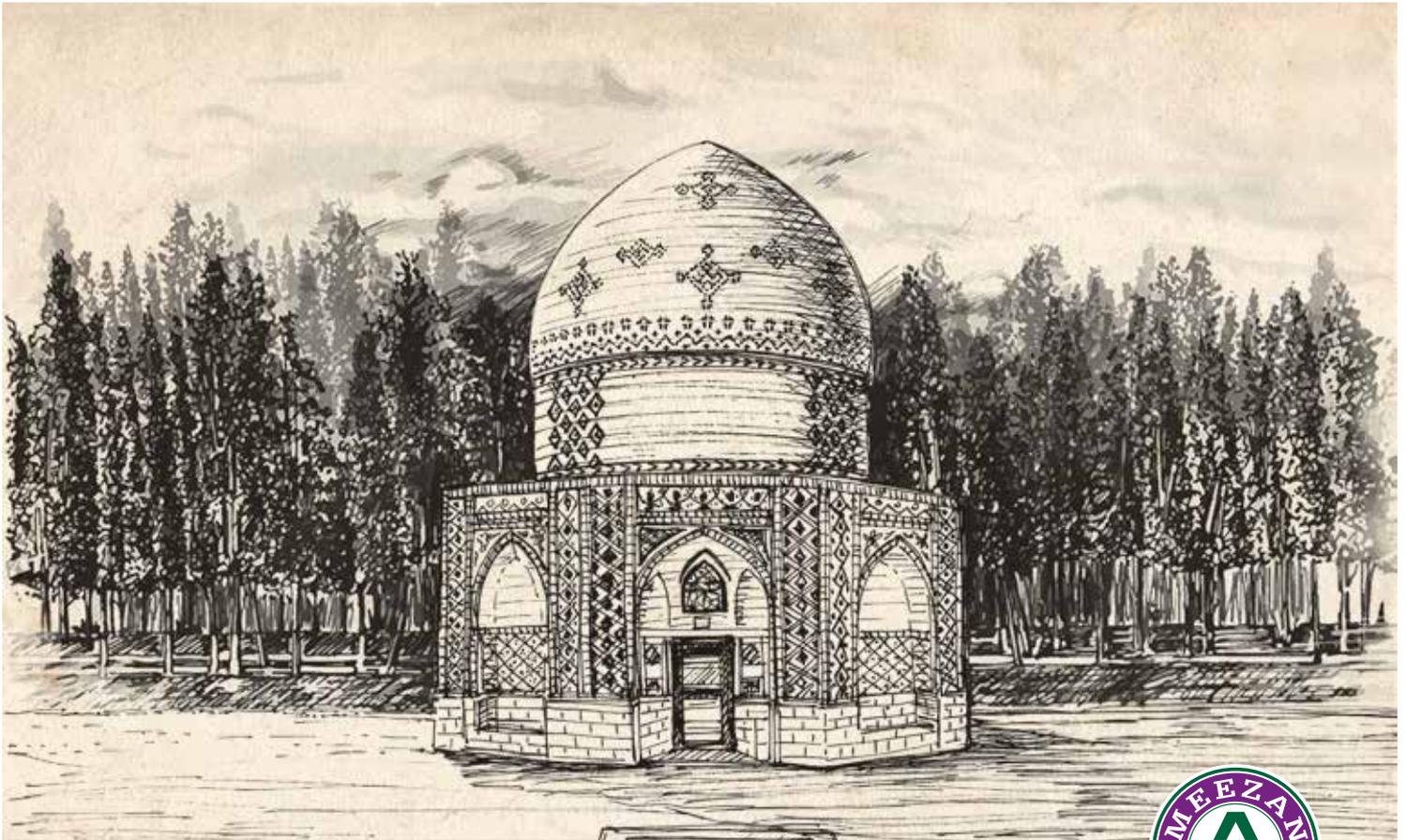


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ذو الحجة ١٤٣٦ / مُحَرَّم ١٤٣٧

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			١٢ 1	١٨ 2	١٩ 3	٢٠ 4
٢١ 5	٢٢ 6	٢٣ 7	٢٤ 8	٢٥ 9	٢٦ 10	٢٧ 11
٢٨ 12	٢٩ 13	٣٠ 14	١ ١٥ مُحَرَّم	٢ 16	٣ 17	٤ 18
٥ 19	٦ 20	٧ 21	٨ 22	٩ 23	١٠ ٢٤ Ashura	١١ 25
١٢ 26	١٣ 27	١٤ 28	١٥ 29	١٦ 30	١٧ 31	

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Farid ud Din Attar's Mausoleum, Nishapur



## Nishapur

Nishapur نیشاپور, the former capital of Khorasan province, is one of the greatest cities of medieval Iran. In the year 1,000 CE it was among the ten largest cities on earth. The city derived its name from its founder, the Sassanian king Shapur I, who is said to have established it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE. Nishapur was conquered by the Muslims, without struggle, during the caliphate of Hazrat Umar رضي الله عنه. During the Abbasid era which started in 750 CE, Nishapur evolved into a significant cultural, commercial, and intellectual centre within the Islamic world. Nishapur occupies an important strategic position extending across the old Silk Road that linked Anatolia and the Mediterranean Sea with China. Nearby Nishapur are turquoise mines that have supplied the world with turquoise for over 2,000 years, giving Nishapur the name 'the turquoise land'.

Nishapur is home to many notable figures of Islamic history. One of the most famous compilers of Hadith, author of Sahih Muslim صحيح مسلم, Imam Muslim ibn al Hajjaj was born in Nishapur in 821 CE. Imam Bukhari, author of Sahih al-Bukhari صحيح البخاري arrived in Nishapur in 864 CE and started giving lectures on Hadith. Famous Muslim poet, mathematician and philosopher, Omar Khayyam was also born in Nishapur in 1048 CE.

# November 2015

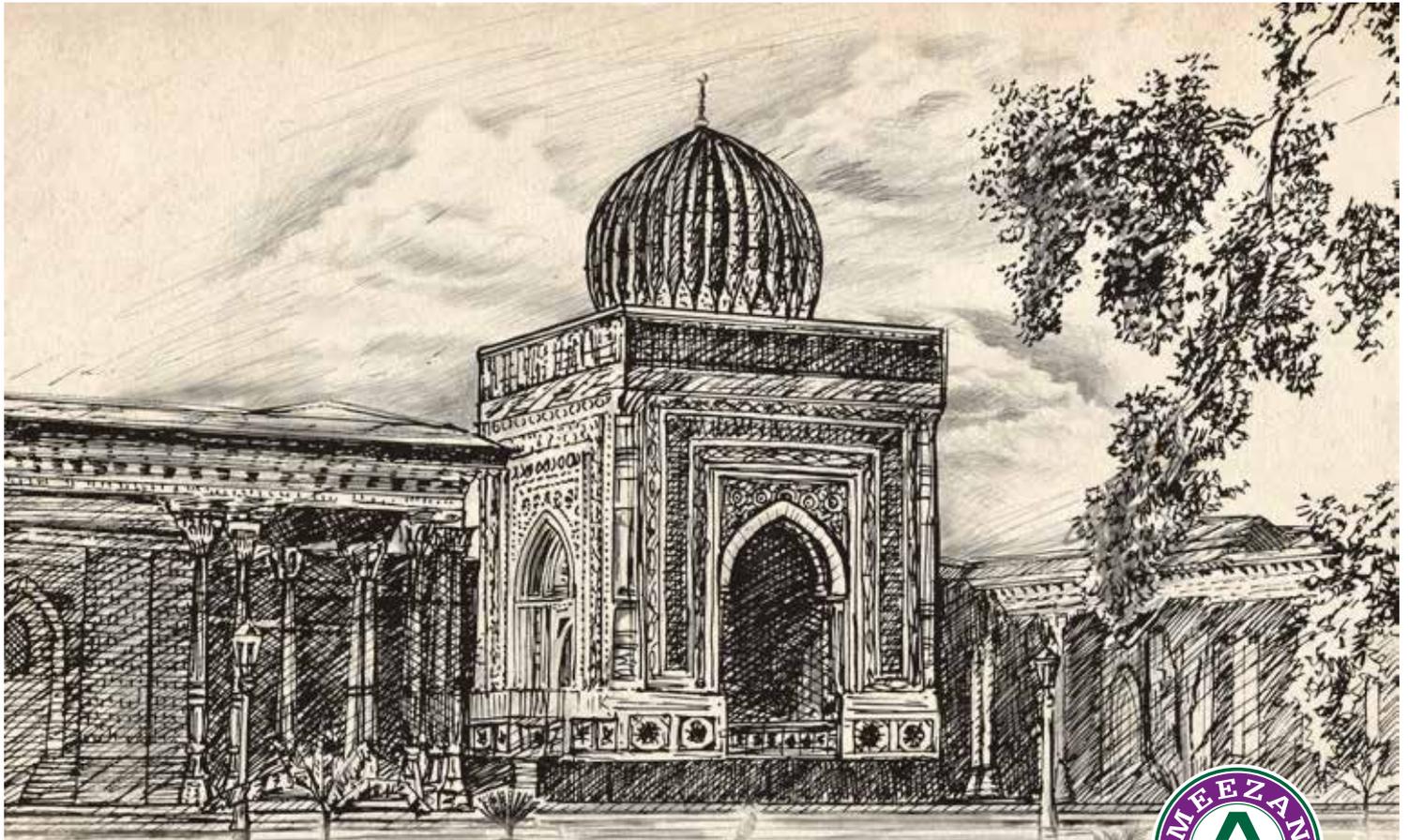


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مَحْرَمٌ / صَفَرٌ ١٤٣٦

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
١٤ 30						١٨ 1
١٩ 2	٢٠ 3	٢١ 4	٢٢ 5	٢٣ 6	٢٤ 7	٢٥ 8
٢٦ 9 Iqbal Day	٢٧ 10	٢٨ 11	٢٩ 12	٣٠ 13	١ صَفَرٌ 14	٢ 15
٣ 16	٤ 17	٥ 18	٦ 19	٧ 20	٨ 21	٩ 22
١٠ 23	١١ 24	١٢ 25	١٣ 26	١٤ 27	١٥ 28	١٦ 29

Lunar calendar is subject to appearance of the moon



Imam Bukhari's Mausoleum, Samarkand



## Samarkand

Samarkand **سمرقند** is the capital of Samarkand province of Uzbekistan in Central Asia. It is one of the oldest existing cities in the world. The city was founded 2,750 years ago, almost as long ago as Rome and occupies a key place on the trade routes of Central Asia. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century it became the capital of the vast empire of Timur (Tamerlane) who made the city the most important economic and cultural centre in Central Asia. Poets and historians of the past called it 'Rome of the East'. At the time of its greatest splendor, Samarkand was a fabulous city of palaces and gardens, with paved and tree-lined roads and lush greenery everywhere. It had great silk and iron industries and was the meeting point of merchants' caravans from India, Persia, and China. Samarkand is unrivalled in the richness and diversity of its architectural and historical heritage in the whole of Central Asia. This city is also the centre of Uzbekistan tourism, attracting guests from all over the world. The tomb of Imam Bukhari, who authored the Hadith collection Sahih al-Bukhari **صحيح البخارى**, is in Samarkand.

*"If it is said that a paradise is to be seen in this world, then the paradise of this world is Samarkand"* (Ata-Malik Juvaini-famous Persian historian)