



## Cultural and Historical Sights of Termez: Termez Archaeological Museum and Buddhist Statues

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### ABSTRACT

Termez is the southernmost city of Uzbekistan, the administrative centre and the largest city of the Surkhandarya vilayat. It is one of the oldest cities in Central Asia and Uzbekistan - it is over 2500 years old. In 2014, Termez was awarded the Order of Amir Temur. The article explores the most important sights of Termez: the Termez Archaeological Museum and Buddhist statues.

### Keywords:

historical sights, Termez, Uzbekistan, historical value, cultural heritage.

### Introduction

Termez's inception date remains a mystery. Both the war of Alexander the Great (329-327 BC) to capture ancient Bactria and Sogdiana and the reign of the first Seleucid monarchs have been linked to this find (Molera et al., 2020).

Termez has several enclosed spaces inside it. The oldest of them has shown that the Termez (on the Afghan border) is Uzbekistan's most popular tourist destination and a sleepy town of about 140,000 people. A town of 111,000, Termez, sits on a mountain range that may reach temperatures as high as 49 degrees Celsius (120 degrees Fahrenheit) in summer. There are a lot of Tajiks there. Here, you'll find the Zurmula Tower, built around 200 BCE, as well as Buddhist monasteries dating back almost as far as the 2nd century, as well as a statue of the Buddha from Fayaz Tepe (824-892 CE). Today, many Muslims visit the mausoleum of Al Hakkim At-Termezi Hakim al-Termez.

### The main part

An extensive collection of more than 76,000 items and artefacts may be seen in the museum showrooms at Termez Archaeological Museum. Among them are 1,000 artefacts deemed important by scholars all across the globe. From the 2nd century BC to the 14th century, there were a variety of valuable artefacts, including silver Greco-Bactrian coins, silver Sassanid Ardashir's coins, gold amulets, and buttons from the 8th century, silver Timurid coins, ivory boxes, Tula brass samovar, and other valuable exhibits (fig. 1).



**Figure 1. Statue of Buddha**

Beautifully preserved sculpture of Buddha with monks excavated from the site of Fayaztepe and exposed in the Termez archaeological museums. In celebration of the city's 2500th birthday, the Archeology Museum of Termez opened its doors in 2001(Olimovich, 2015).

The museum is divided into ten sections based on themes. Paintings, sculptures, numismatics (coins), photographs, household goods, and much more may be found among the more than 40,000 antiquities. Over 17,000 unique volumes, as well as handwritten and lithographic publications in Persian, Arabic, and European languages, are housed in the museum's scientific library. Stone and plaster sculptures, pottery vessels, and a stone pool are on exhibit at the museum, which also has a map of the region that shows the 20 archaeological sites where the artefacts were unearthed.

The museum's scientific research is carried out in the following departments: Stone and Bronze Ages; 2) Hellenistic and Ancient Bactrian ages; 3) Kushan Empire of Northern Bactria; 4) evolved Middle Ages; 5) early Middle Ages of Northern Tokharistan; 6) Khanate era, and 7) the Numismatic Department are all included (fig.2).



**Figure 2. Museum**

The Museum "cuts" across time, beginning with the beginning of the XX century, and shows us how humanity's spiritual and technological advancements have progressed through the millennia. Unique plaster and stone sculptures, a stone pool, and lofty ceramic humans (ceramic jars) from various eras are all stunning in their mastery of performance. There's a relief map of the Surkhan Darya area with the locations of 20 historical sites noted on it, too. History is broken down into nine halls (Staviskii & Mkrtchyan, 1996).

To better understand the history of Surkhandarya and to undertake archaeological expeditions, the museum conducts its study and conducts archaeological explorations. The museum's collection is constantly being supplemented by discoveries made during archaeological excursions in Surkhandarya, such as those from Zharkutan, Baysun barrows, Kampir-tepa, and Old Termez. The exhibits in the museum's nine major rooms range from ancient stone implements to contemporary pieces of art created by master artisans excavated in the Surkhandarya area (Abdullaev, 2013) (fig.3), (fig.4).



**Figure 3. Artefacts from the 2nd -3rd centuries AD excavated in old Termez and exposed in the Termez archaeology museum**



**Figure 4. Artefacts from the 2nd -3rd centuries AD excavated in old Termez and exposed in the Termez archaeology museum.**

Nearly one-fifth of the museum's 17,000-volume collection is housed in a cutting-edge reading area. An exhibition hall is also available, where archaeologists may display findings from their work, and local artists can display their work on historical and cultural events.

## Conclusion

Thus, the exhibits of Termez listed above represent a cultural and historical value for the present, which must be protected (Usmonova, 2022).

The southernmost city of Uzbekistan, Termez has concentrated around itself historical and architectural monuments of various eras,

including Buddhist temples and statues, as well as finds of the archaeological past, which speak of the unique history of the city.

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