

THE SULTAN ASTRONOMER

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You're looking at something historically and scientifically astonishing. It is what remains of an astronomical observatory built 600 years ago – in 1420 – by a Sultan in Central Asia who loved science and mathematics more than war and conquest.

It was in Samarkand, the most fabled oasis of the Silk Road, that Sultan Ulugh Beg built his circular observatory, three stories high of white marble. All that's left today is part of the underground sextant that you see in the photo.

For the full story of what he achieved, with many more photos, click on *The Sultan Astronomer* in TTP I wrote in 2020.

This Glimpse is to whet your appetite to learn about this amazing Sultan and his scientific achievements.

It's also to whet your appetite for joining your fellow TTPers on our *Heart of Central Asia* expedition this September. The story of The Sultan Astronomer is but one example of what awaits you in exploring Central Asia, an enrichment of your life beyond description. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #212* photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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