

**THIS
EDITION:**

Tajikistan

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WANDER to WONDER

WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.
G.K. Chesterson**

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE.....	4
CENTRAL ASIA MAP	5
TAJIKISTAN MAP	6
TAJIKISTAN.....	7
FOOD	10
DUSHANBE	17
NAVRUZ PALACE	22
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TAJIKISTAN	31
BOTANICAL GARDEN	37
THE AUTHOR: MARTINA NICOLLS	39



editor's note

Welcome to this edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on Tajikistan in Central Asia as a tourist destination.

Until next edition, with another theme,

Martina

MARTINA NICOLLS



central asia map



tajikistan map



tajikistan

The Republic of Tajikistan is a mountainous, landlocked country in Central Asia with about nine million people. It is bordered by Kyrgyzstan to the north, Afghanistan to the south, China to the east, and Uzbekistan to the west.

Tajikistan on the Silk Route was conquered by Alexander the Great, the Tibetan empire, the Chinese empire, the Umayyads, the Samanid empire, the Kara-Khanid Khanate, the Mongol empire, the Chagatai Khanate, and the USSR. It became an independent republic on 9 September 1991, but experienced a civil war from 1992 to 1997.

Tajikistan has four provinces: Sughd and Khatlon, the autonomous province of Gorno-Badakhstan, and the Region of Republican Subordination. Its capital city is Dushanbe above the Kofarnihon valley. Other main cities include Khujand, Kulob, and Qurghonteppa.

It includes the Fann mountain range and the Pamir mountain range, with Ismoil Somoni Peak the highest mountain at 7,495 metres (24,590 feet).







food













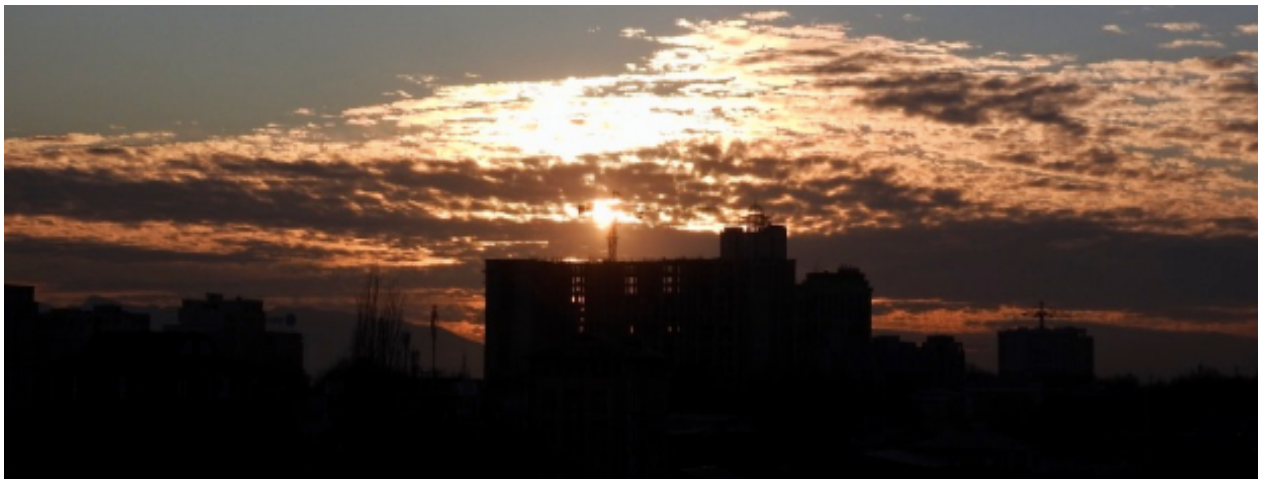


dushanbe

Dushanbe is the capital of the Republic of Tajikistan. Dushanbe means ‘the second day after Saturday’ (i.e. Monday) – the day of the market.

It was a small market village that came under the Bolsheviks in July 1922 and proclaimed the capital of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic as part of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic in 1924, but from 1929-1961 it was called Stalinabad after Joseph Stalin. It returned to its original name in November 1961. The location became the centre for cotton and silk production under the Soviets.

Dushanbe is on the confluence of two rivers: the Varzob and the Kofarnihon. It has a Mediterranean climate, ranging from minus 1C to 36C (30-96F), and an average annual rainfall of 500 millimetres (20 inches).











navruz palace

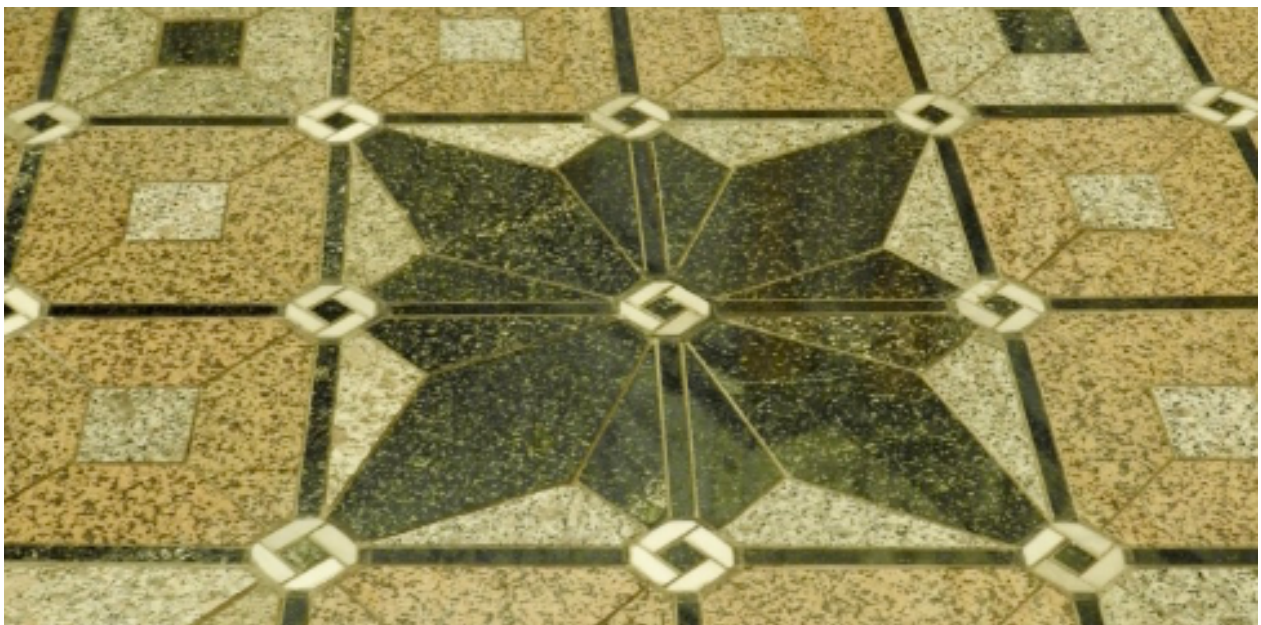
Navruz Palace in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan in Central Asia, began construction in 2009 and was completed in September 2014. The four-hectare complex includes a large palace, fountains, summer pavilions, and gardens. From the beginning the complex – “Kohki Navruz” – was planned as the biggest national tea house in Central Asia, but in the process of building it, it turned into a monumental museum of national Tajik artisanry and carpentry.

Approximately 4,000 craftsmen from all parts of Tajikistan were involved in its architecture, construction, and decoration — from its chandeliers to its parquet floors. The artisans crafted decorative wood carving columns and ceilings, wall decorations, Florentine mosaic coloured mirrors, and hand-painted ceilings. The height of the biggest cupola — the dome — is 40 metres. It’s considered to be the largest dome in Central Asia. The complex also has seven lifts (including a panorama elevator), bowling hall, billiard room, 3D movie theatre, night club, shop, art gallery, and a small national teahouse.



















national museum of tajikistan







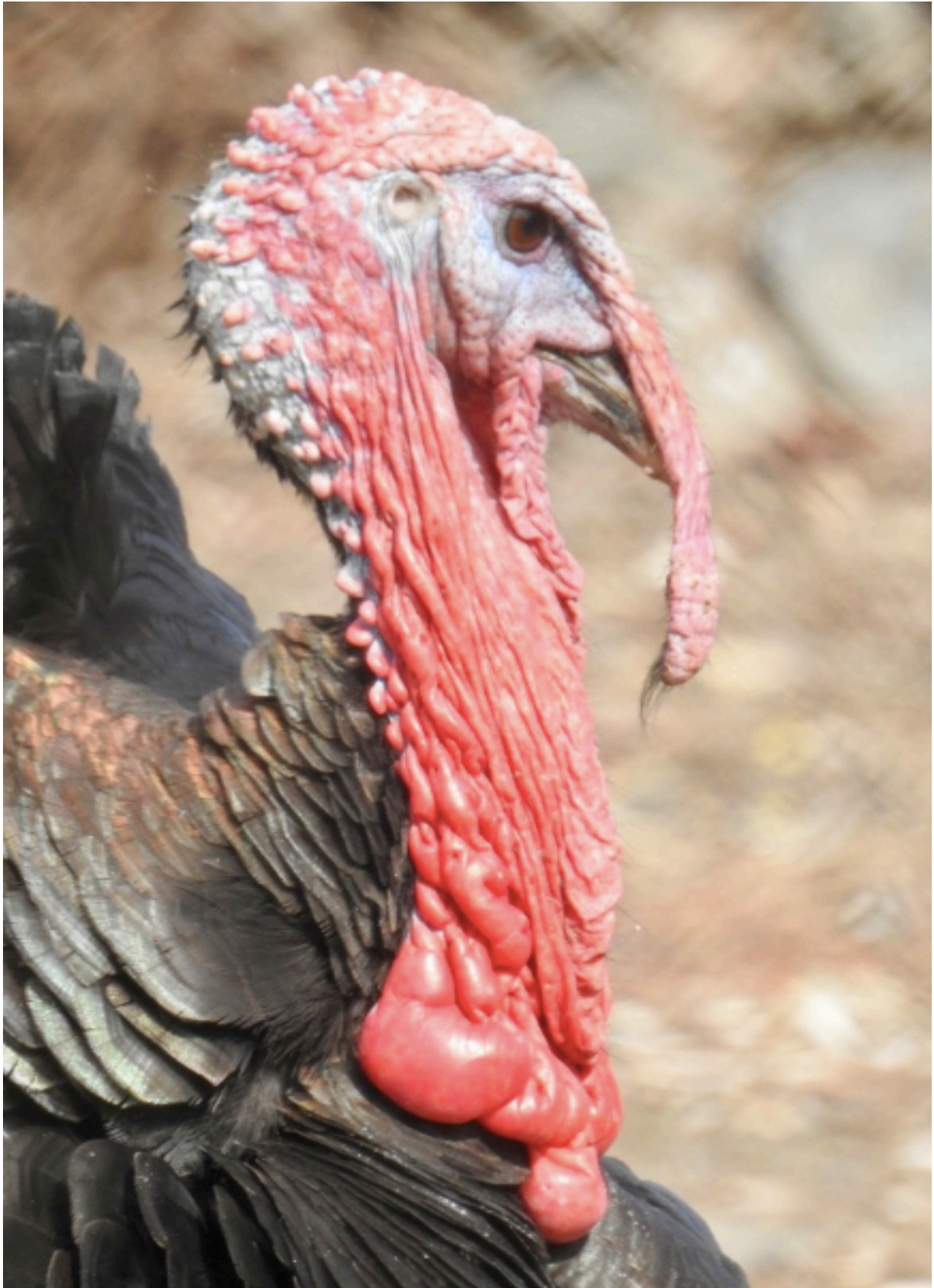






botanical garden





the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Georgia, Kosovo, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, human trafficking, monitoring and evaluation, and data quality.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)
A Mongolian Lament (2015)
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)
Bardot's Comet (2011)
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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