



The heart of the ancient Silk Road

In *One Thousand and One Nights* – popularly known as *The Arabian Nights* – it was in Samarkand that Scheherazade, the books' narrator, began telling tales to the king. Dubai-based travel photographer Andy Marty took this picture, featuring model Kamilla Atabaeva, during a trip to the storied 3,000-year-old city this year. In addition to its beautiful mosques and madressahs with incredible mosaics, and lanesways of artisans handcrafting traditional items, Marty says the people are extremely friendly, patriotic, and curious about visitors. "I suggest landing in Tashkent then using the train network to travel between cities, making sure to include Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. The highlight for many is Samarkand's Registan Square – an architectural wonder best experienced in the early morning," he says. Marty offers guided photography tours to Uzbekistan, as well as various other destinations across the world, some of which are held in conjunction with fellow renowned travel photographer Daniel Kordan. For a full list of itineraries, and prices, visit andymartyphotography.com