WAYFARER

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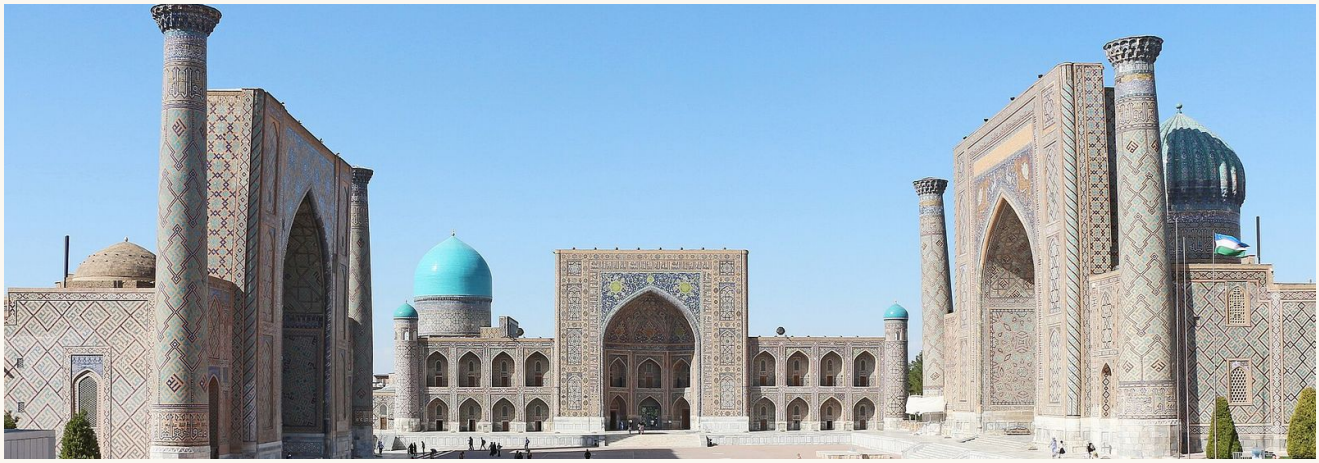
EDITOR'S DISPATCH

Heritage is an easy word to put on a brochure and a hard one to live with. The old city of Fez is a World Heritage site, and it is also where people go to work, pray, study and buy bread on a Tuesday. We wanted an issue that keeps both facts in view.

So the places in these pages come with their makers. A boatman on the Ganga, a Zapotec weaver who went away and came home, a fourth-generation Kyoto weaver testing what an algorithm can and cannot add. Their stories come from published reporting, and we say so on each page; we have not interviewed them, and we say that too.

- Gitanjali Gautam

LEAD STORY



Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva: the Silk Road cities, slowly

Three UNESCO-listed old towns in Uzbekistan, a fast train between two of them, and a case for staying long enough to look at the tilework twice.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Mizoram: hill towns, heritage villages and a code called tlawmngaihna
A state whose capital joined the rail map only a year ago, a festival calendar still being built, and an ethic of generosity that visitors meet before they meet any monument.

Odisha's heritage triangle: Bhubaneswar, Konark and a village of painters
A stone chariot for the sun, a temple city, and a lane of painted houses where every household has a craft.

Kyoto in October: a craft city before the leaves turn
The crowds come for the maples in late November. October offers the festivals, the workshops and the shorter queues.

Fez: walking the world's largest car-free medina
A walled old city of lanes, craft quarters and a university, built to be crossed on foot.

The Heritage Visitor's Checklist
Ten habits for visiting places where people still live and worship.

COMING UP (DATES APPROXIMATE - VERIFY)

Anthurium Festival
Ailawng and Reiek, Mizoram · 1–3 October 2026

Prices, timings, permits and visa notes are approximate - please verify before booking.

Durga Puja
Kolkata and across eastern India · About 16–21 October 2026 (Shashthi to Vijaya Dashami; dates vary by regional calendar)

Diwali
India · 8 November 2026 (Lakshmi Puja)

Pushkar Camel Fair
Pushkar, Rajasthan · Listed as 17–24 November 2026; climax at Kartik Purnima on 24 November

ONE PRACTICAL TIP

Before you photograph a person at a shrine, workshop or market, make eye contact and ask. A smile and a gesture are enough.

YOUR TURN

Which craft have you watched being made, and who made it? Reply and tell us.

Read the full issue: travaah.com/magazine/2026-10/