

Early Islamic period

Ghaznavid Empire

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The Ghaznavids were a Persianate Muslim dynasty of Turkic-Mamluk origin which existed from 975 to 1187. During these years they ruled over a large empire extending from Afghanistan to Persia, Transoxania and the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent. The Ghaznavid state was centered in Ghazni. The Ghaznavids were followed by the Ghorid dynasty, who ruled from their capital in the Hindukush over a great empire that stretched through northern India. The Timurid empire, which followed the Ghorid dynasty, extended across eastern Iran, northern Afghanistan and western central Asia. Herat was one of the greatest center of literature and painting during the 15th century.

During this extended period from the 10th-16th centuries, culture, art and language flourished. Artifacts made of bronze, copper, glass, ceramics and clay show unique and very special decorative elements. Each period – Ghaznavid, Ghorid (1011–1215) and Timurid (1370–1507) – contributed its own distinctive style to the Islamic art of Afghanistan.



Mosque, Lashkari Bazaar, Ghaznavid dynasty
11th-12th c.

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Pictures:
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Ceramic bowl, showing inscription, possibly
9th-10th c.



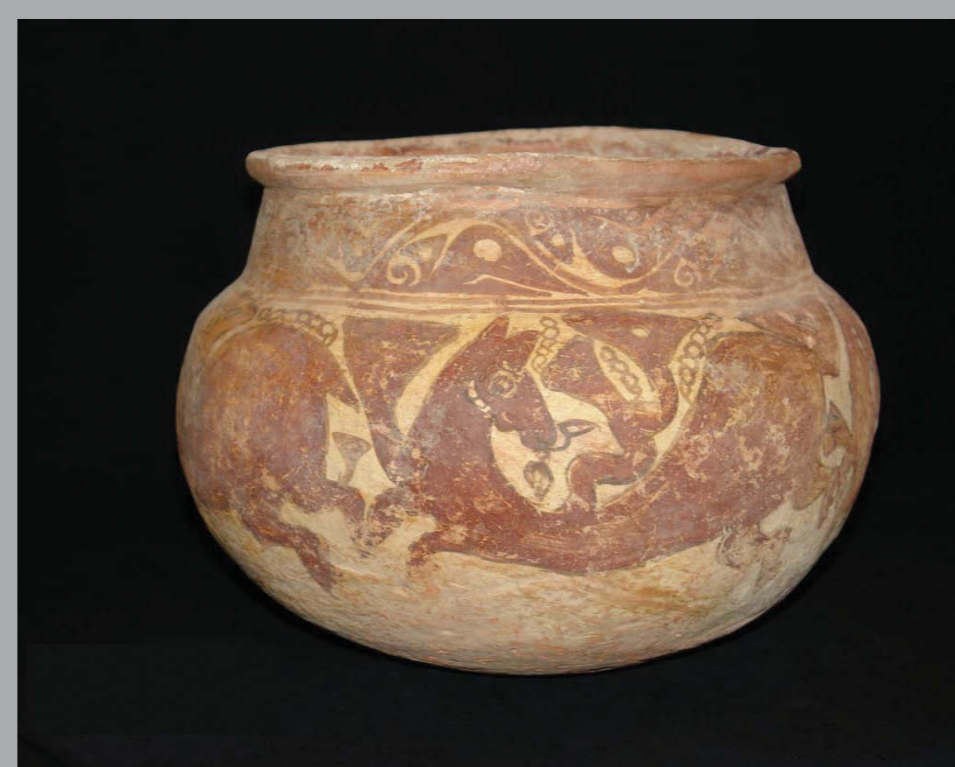
Ceramic bowl, inscription: „Allah“
9th-10th c.



Panel from Mosque, Lashkari Bazaar
Ghaznavid dynasty, 11th-12th c.



Ceramic bowl, 10th-12th c.



Clay vessel, Ghaznavid dynasty, late 10th -12th c.



Ceramic bowl, Afghanistan, Ghaznavid dynasty
12th-14th c.



Copper basin, Kufi-script, Ghaznavid dynasty
late 10th-12th c.



Bronze incense burner, form: bird
Ghaznavid dynasty late 10th-12th c.



Vase, Afghanistan
Ghaznavid dynasty 12th-14th c.