

Uzbekistan Small Group Tour 2024-2025

Duration: 8 days

You will visit: Tashkent, Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 Sat Tashkent

Arrive in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. Pick-up from the airport and transfer to the hotel, where check-in begins at noon.

Your guide and driver will pick you up from your hotel at 10:00 to begin your Tashkent city tour. Your private tour will include:

In the evening enjoy a national folk-show and dinner at Nadir Divan-begi Madrasah. Overnight in Bukhara.

- Excursion to the Old City, including the Khazret-Imam Architectural Complex, which holds the oldest known Quran in the world. Also on site are the Madrasah of Barak-Khan (16th century), Tillya-Sheykh Mosque, Juma Mosque and Mausoleum of Saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi (15th century);
- Visit to Chorsu Bazaar, Tashkent's most well-established bazaar that includes a large selection of traditional Uzbek ceramics, jewelry, handbags, garments and more;
- Ride on the Tashkent Metro, an immaculate subway system with each station decorated in colored mosaics and ceramics to depict a specific theme;
- Walk through Amir Timur Square, with a massive statue of none other than Tamerlane himself at the center;
- Independence Square, including the moving Mourning Mother Monument and the Eternal Flame, burning continuously in memory of more than half a million Uzbek soldiers who died during World War II;
- Drive to the Sacred Heart Cathedral, a 20th century Roman Catholic Church with beautiful stained-glass windows and Gothic-style architecture;
- Tour of the Applied Arts Museum, an informative collection of Uzbekistan's finest handicrafts housed in an ornately decorated villa.

Overnight in Tashkent.

Tour duration: 5 hours

Optional Activity: Performance at Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theater (App 10 USD, website: gabt.uz).

Day 2 Sun Tashkent – Urgench – Khiva

In the morning transfer to the local airport to catch a flight to Urgench (1093 km, 1hr 40min).

After landing in Urgench, a driver will take you to the hotel in Khiva (35 km, 45min).

Your guide will meet you at the hotel 10:00 to begin your walking tour of Khiva, the "Museum Under the Open Sky".

- Excursion at Kunya-Ark Fortress, the inner citadel of Ichan Kala (Ichan-Qala);
- Kalta Minor Tower, once destined to be one of the tallest minarets in Central Asia;
- Muhammad Amin-Khan, the biggest medieval madrasah and educational institution in Khiva;

- Muhammad Rahim-Khan Madrasah, a sprawling complex that once stood as one of the largest in all Central Asia;
- Juma Mosque, built with 212 wooden columns and a minaret 32.5 m high;
- Tash-Hauli Palace (Stone Courtyard Palace), which resembles a fortress with high battlements, towers and garrisoned gates;
- Necropolis of Pahlavan Mahmud, the ancient religious center of Ichan Kala;
- Minaret and madrasah of Islam Khodja, the vizier of the last khan. The complex consists of a madrasah and a minaret whose top platform has a height of 45m.

Overnight in Khiva.

Tour duration: 6 hours.

Day 3 Mon: Khiva – Bukhara

After breakfast, head to the railway station for your morning departure to Bukhara (7h)*. Your train will take a similar route as that of the Great Silk Road, which also ran through this desert between Khiva and Bukhara. Arrive in Bukhara in the afternoon, where your driver will meet you at the station to take you to your hotel. Enjoy down time as you explore the old streets of Bukhara, whose alleyways resemble a living depiction of “A Thousand and One Nights”. In the evening enjoy a national folk-show and dinner at Nadir Divan-begi Madrasah. Overnight at the hotel.

*Subject to availability and maybe substituted to transfer by car (7h).

Day 4 Tue Bukhara

Begin the day by exploring Bukhara on a walking tour with your local guide at 09:00. Enjoy your private tour of the Old City’s most impressive sights:

- Samanids Mausoleum (9-10th centuries), the most ancient brick building in Central Asia.
- Bolo-Khauz Complex, consisting of an artfully decorated 18th century mosque, a minaret and reservoirs that once provided water for the entire city.
- The Ark Fortress (4th century), the ancient center of Bukharin statehood and currently home to a small museum.
- Ulugbek Madrasah (15th century) and Abdulazizkhan Madrasah (17th century), these relatively untouched religious schools have remained crudely intact through the passing of time.
- Poi Kalyan Ensemble (12-16th centuries), consisting of the Kalyan Minaret, Kalyan Mosque, Amir-Allimkhan Madrasah and Miri-Arab Madrasah. Includes an active madrassah, one of the most esteemed Islamic universities of ancient times and a ‘Tower of Death’ minaret where criminals were formerly executed.
- Four Trade Domes (15-16th centuries): Toqi Zargaron, Toqi Sarrafon, Toqi Telpak Furushon and Tim Abdulla Khan, where you can join your traveling predecessors in purchasing carpets, jewelry, fabrics, ceramics and other handmade souvenirs inside these domes.
- Magoki-Attori Mosque, the oldest mosque in Bukhara (12th century), is considered a masterpiece of Bukharin architecture.
- The Lyabi-Hauz ensemble holds the largest artificial reservoir of medieval Bukhara (14-17th centuries) and includes the Khanaka and Kukeldash Madrassahs (16th century), and the Nadir Divan Beghi Madrassah (16th century).

Overnight at the hotel.

Tour duration: 6-7 hours

Optional Activity: The Bozori Kord Hammam (public bathhouse) was built in the 14th century and has been in regular use ever since. You’ll immerse yourself in centuries-old traditions (App. 25 USD).

Day 5 Wed Bukhara – Samarkand

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy free time discovering old Bukhara city. Check out at noon.

Transfer to the train station to catch the afternoon train to Samarkand (280 km, 3h).

Arrive in Samarkand, the capital of Tamerlane's Empire. Check in to the hotel and have a free evening to rest or explore your neighborhood. Overnight at the hotel in Samarkand.

Recommended please to visit in Bukhara on free time:

- *Chor Minor ("Four Minarets"), an unusual madrasah built by Niyazkul in the 18th century, whose four minarets are said to reflect the four major world religions of that period;*
- *Emir's Summer Residence, Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa (19th century), a unique site boasting of a blend of Oriental and Russian architecture;*
- *Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum, a house model representing the residential architecture in Bukhara.*
- *Bakhautdin Naqshband Mausoleum, an ensemble dedicated to the founder of the Sufi Order "Naqshbandia"; the site includes a mausoleum, mosque, pond, and museum;*

Optional Activity: In the evening you can visit Registan Square, where the enchanting evening lighting creates a breathtaking atmosphere. This magnificent Silk Road sight captivates the hearts of travelers.

Day 6 Thu Samarkand

After breakfast, your guide will meet you at your hotel 09:00 to begin your private city tour of Samarkand. Led by your local, professional guide, you'll visit:

- Gur Emir, the mausoleum of Tamerlane and Mirzo Ulugbek.
- Registan Square, the social and commercial center of Samarkand for centuries and Samarkand's most famous site today. The square includes three madrasahs: Ulugbek Madrasah (15th century), Sher-Dor Madrasah (17th century) and Tilla-Kori Madrasah (17th century).
- Siab Bazaar, a multi-level complex where you can shop for souvenirs and sample sweets, fruits and Samarkand's famous bread.
- Bibi Khanum Mosque, built by Tamerlane for his favorite wife.
- Shakhi-Zinda, a burial complex built between the 9th-14th centuries. Climb the blue-domed path and explore more than 20 small mausoleums that line the broad alleyway.
- Ulugbek Observatory, the remains of a 14th-15th century sextant, and its accompanying museum on the astronomer's life.

Tour duration: 6-7 hours.

Overnight in Samarkand.

Day 7 Fri Samarkand – Tashkent

After breakfast, free time to discover the Samarkand city. Check-out at noon.

Transfer from hotel to the railway station to catch your late afternoon train to Tashkent (3h).

Upon arrival in Tashkent, a driver will meet you and bring you to your hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Tashkent.

Recommended please to visit in Samarkand for free time:

- *Visit to the excavation site and museum of the ancient city Afrasiab;*
- *Tour of the mausoleum of Khodja Daniyar, believed to be the tomb of the prophet Daniel, whose remains were brought here by Tamerlane;*
- *Konigil Village to observe the traditional way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry leaves;*
- *Excursion to the Oriental Silk Carpet Factory to see firsthand how top-quality carpets are created.*

Day 8 Sat Tashkent

Breakfast at hotel. Check-out from the hotel by noon. Your driver will take you to the airport for your departure flight. End of the Uzbekistan Small Group Tour.

Price included:

- Accommodation based on double/twin room with breakfasts, 7 nights;
- Transfers including airport and train station pick-ups and drop-offs;
- Economy class flight ticket Tashkent to Urgench;
- Compartment-class tickets for train Khiva to Bukhara;
- Economy-class tickets for train Bukhara to Samarkand and Samarkand to Tashkent train;
- Tashkent city tour (local guide, entrance fee, transport);
- Khiva walking city tour (local guide, entrance fee);
- Bukhara walking city tour (local guide, entrance fee);
- Samarkand city tour (local guide, entrance fee, transport);
- Folklore-show program and dinner at Nadir Divan-begi Madrasah;
- 1L bottle of water per person per day.

Price does not include:

- Tour leader to accompany the travelers for the whole duration of the tour;
- Full board (lunches and dinners);
- Costs for the 'optional activities' listed on days 1, 4 and 6;
- Hotel charges for additional services;
- Consular fees for Uzbekistan tourist visa;
- Travel insurance;
- All services not mentioned above as included in the Uzbekistan tour plan price.