



Samarkand

# Golden Road to Samarkand

## Tailor-made tour - 11 days/10 nights

This tailor-made tour of Uzbekistan takes you through the fabled lands of Alexander the Great and Tamerlane. The pace is unhurried, allowing free time in each city for independent exploration. The itinerary is flexible and can be tailored to your requirements.

### Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch, 10 dinners, 1-litre bottle mineral water per day
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Sightseeing as specified conducted in **English language** by local guides
- Business class high-speed Afrosiyob train Tashkent-Samarkand
- Transportation by car Samarkand-Bukhara-Khiva
- Flight Urgench-Tashkent
- Folklore show with dinner in Bukhara

### Your hotels

- **Tashkent** - Lotte Tashkent Palace, City Palace, Wyndham or Ramada
- **Samarkand** - Grand Samarkand or Emir Khan
- **Bukhara** - Asia or Omar Khayam
- **Khiva** - Asia or Kheyvak

*Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

### Day 1 Tashkent

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your accommodation. Overnight Tashkent. **D**

### Day 2 Tashkent

Your sightseeing today includes a special visit to the iconic Plov Centre to witness

and taste the process of cooking the celebratory plov - Uzbekistan's national dish, previously reserved exclusively for weddings. One chef prepares plov for over a thousand patrons in one cauldron. You will also visit the Old Town and Chorsu Market, the largest in Central Asia and



have some free time to explore at your leisure. Overnight Tashkent. **BLD**

### Day 3 Samarkand

You will be transferred to the rail station and escorted to your seats on the new high-speed Afrosiyob train to Samarkand, departing at 08:00 hrs. The journey takes approximately two hours. Upon arrival Samarkand, you will be met to begin your sightseeing of this fabled city. You will see the Shah-i-Zinda street of tombs, Bibi Khanum Mosque, Ulugbek Observatory, Gur Emir Mausoleum where Timur (Tamerlane) is buried, and magnificent Registan Square. The colourful bazaar is well worth a visit. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

### Day 4 Samarkand

Today is at leisure to discover Samarkand at your own pace. Or you may wish to take an optional full day tour, travelling by car through the foothills of the Zeravshan range, to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Timur. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

### Day 5 Samarkand to Bukhara

After breakfast, depart for Bukhara (approx. 4 hours). Bukhara's blood-thirsty history dates back to the 9th century. The old town centre has changed little in two centuries. En-route visit the White Palace of Kagan, built for Tsar Nicholas II. The Revolution prevented him from accepting the hospitality. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

### Day 6 Bukhara

This morning's sightseeing of Bukhara includes the infamous Ark Fortress, the Kalyan Minaret and 9th century Saminids Mausoleum, one of the holiest places in Uzbekistan. The bazaars offer excellent buys in local carpets. You are expected to bargain. This evening you will attend an open-air folklore show. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

### Day 7 Bukhara

Morning visit to the Emir's summer palace and 16th century Chor-Bakr necropolis. Time at leisure to explore the ancient streets and bazaars. Relax with a cup of green tea at the Labi-Hauz, a peaceful square overlooking a pool, shaded by 700-year-old mulberry trees. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

### Day 8 Bukhara to Khiva

After breakfast, you start your 6-hour drive through the Kyzylkum Desert to Khiva, keeping watch for eagles and wild camels. Afternoon free to stroll through this museum town. Your hotel is located within the old town walls. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

### Day 9 Khiva

Once the main slave market of Central Asia, Khiva retains the air of a medieval oriental town. The area within its mud-baked city walls is closed to traffic and easy to navigate. Your sightseeing this morning will take you through the exotic streets and courtyards, with a visit to the Tashkauli Palace. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

### Day 10 Khiva to Tashkent

Morning flight to Tashkent. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

### Day 11 Tashkent

After breakfast, tour services end with a transfer to the airport. Those taking a late evening flight may take an optional excursion to Chimgan mountain and Charvak reservoir. **B**

## Tour price & departures

*Prices shown per person in AUD.  
Daily departures Apr-Nov 2017.*

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Apr-30 Nov	3289	5132