Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Discovery

Tailor-made tour – 17 days/16 nights

This tour explores the fabled wonders of Uzbekistan and the mysterious and largely unexplored attractions of oil and gas-rich Turkmenistan.

Inclusions
- 16 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3, 4 & 5-star hotels and tent or yurt in Darvaza
- Meals - Uzbekistan - 2 lunches, 12 dinners, Turkmenistan - 1 dinner, 1-litre bottle of mineral water daily
- Arrival/Departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- High-speed Afroisiyob train Tashkent-Samarkand
- Flight Urgench-Tashkent
- Inclusions – Folklore show in Bukhara

Your hotels
- Tashkent - Khan Qala, City Palace or Lotte
- Samarkand - Grand Samarkand, Orient Star or Malika
- Bukhara - Asia, Omar Khayyam or Malika
- Mary - Mary
- Ashgabad - Grand Turkmen
- Darvaza - yurt or tent
- Khiva - Orient Star or Kheivak

Inclusions – Meals & In-Transit Meals

Day 1 Tashkent
Arrive Tashkent. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tashkent.

Day 2 Tashkent
Today's city tour of Tashkent includes the magnificent Registan Square with its three grand medressas and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand.

Day 3 Tashkent to Samarkand
Morning transfer to the railway station to catch your high-speed Afroisiyob train to Samarkand (approx. 2 hrs). You will be met upon arrival to commence your sightseeing of this fabled city. Highlights include the magnificent Registan Square with its three grand medressas and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand.

Day 4 Samarkand
Today you visit the 5th century Ark Fortress, Samarkand (approx. 2 hrs). You will be met upon arrival to commence your sightseeing of this fabled city. Highlights include the magnificent Registan Square with its three grand medressas and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand.

Day 5 Samarkand & Shahrisabz
Full day excursion, travelling through the foothills of the Zeravshan mountain range to Shahrisabz, the birthplace of Timur (Tamerlane). Overnight Samarkand.

Day 6 Samarkand to Bukhara
After breakfast, begin your 300 km drive to Bukhara. On your way you will visit the ancient caravanserai and the ceramic centre of Gijduvan. Overnight Bukhara.

Day 7 Bukhara
Today you visit the 5th century Ark Fortress, Bukhara and the magnificent Registan Square with its three grand medressas and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Bukhara.

Day 8 Bukhara
Visit the White Palace of Kagan, built by the last Emir of Bukhara to host Tsar Alexander II. The 1917 Revolution prevented the visit from taking place. Continue to the Emir's Summer Palace and the peaceful Chor-Bakr necropolis. Overnight Bukhara.

Day 9 Bukhara
Free day to explore Bukhara at your own pace. Overnight Bukhara.

Day 10 Bukhara to Mary
Early morning departure to cross the Uzbekistan/Turkmenistan border. Continue to ancient Merv. Your sightseeing includes the 12th century Ibn Zeid Mausoleum, the 7th century Kyz Kala fortress, mausoleums of Two Ashkhab and Sultan Sanjar; the Sultan Kala and Eri Kala complex and the Ice House – a giant freezer built in the Timurid period. Continue to Mary. Overnight Mary.

Day 11 Mary to Ashgabat
After breakfast, drive to Ashgabat via the medieval city of Abiverd and 13th century Kyz Kala and Erk Kala complex and the Ice House – a giant freezer built in the Timurid period. Continue to Mary. Overnight Mary.

Day 12 Ashgabat
Continue your exploration of Ashgabat today, then drive through the Karakum Desert to visit the village of Erbent, before arriving at the Darvaza Gas Craters also known as ‘The Gates of Hell’, one of the world’s most amazing natural phenomena. The craters have been burning for 40 years. Overnight in tents or yurt in Darvaza.

Day 13 Ashgabat to Darvaza
Continue your exploration of Ashgabat this morning, then drive through the Karakum Desert to visit the village of Erbent, before arriving at the Darvaza Gas Craters also known as ‘The Gates of Hell’, one of the world’s most amazing natural phenomena. The craters have been burning for 40 years. Overnight in tents or yurt in Darvaza.

Day 14 Darvaza to Konya Urgench, Nukus and Khiva
Continue to the UNESCO-listed Konya Urgench to visit the Turabeg Khanum Complex, some mausoleums and minarets, before crossing the border into Uzbekistan at Hojayli/Nukus. Overnight Khiva.

Day 15 Khiva
Morning sightseeing of Khiva's inner walled city. Khiva was once the main slave market of Central Asia. Overnight Khiva.

Day 16 Khiva to Tashent
Transfer to Urgench for your short flight to Tashkent. Overnight Tashkent.

Day 17 Tashent
Your hotels – Hitarach, City Palace or Lotte

Tour price & departures
Prices shown per person in AUD.

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<td>1 Apr-30 Nov</td>
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