



Uzbekistan, Samarkand

NEW

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 Afrosiyob train Tashkent-Samarkand
- Flight Urgench-Tashkent
- Sightseeing as specified with your own **English speaking** guides
- Folklore show in Bukhara

Your hotels

- **Tashkent** - Ichan Qala, City Palace or Lotte
- **Samarkand** - Grand Samarkand, Orient Star or Malika
- **Bukhara** - Asia, Omar Khayyam or Malika
- **Mary** - Mary
- **Ashgabat** - Grand Turkmen
- **Darvaza** - yurt or tent
- **Khiva** - Orient Star or Kheivak

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Tashkent

Arrive Tashkent. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tashkent. **D**

Day 2 Tashkent

Today's city tour of Tashkent includes a visit to the famous Plov Centre to witness and taste the art of cooking plov, Uzbekistan's delicious national dish. You will also visit the Chorsu farmers market and see some of Tashkent's most impressive metro stations. Overnight Tashkent. **BLD**

Day 3 Tashkent to Samarkand

Morning transfer to the railway station to catch your high-speed Afrosiyob 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. **BD**

Day 4 Samarkand

Today you visit the Shah-i-Zinda street of tombs, Bibi Khanum Mosque and Ulugbek Observatory. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 5 Samarkand & Shakhrisabz

Full day excursion, travelling through the foothills of the Zeravshan mountain range to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Timur (Tamerlane). Overnight Samarkand. **BLD**

Day 6 Samarkand to Bukhara

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

Day 7 Bukhara

Today you visit the 5th century Ark Fortress, Kalyan Minaret and nearby mosque, Lyabi-Haz, covered bazaars and 9th century Saminids Mausoleum. Evening folklore performance. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

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. **BD**

Day 9 Bukhara

Free day to explore Bukhara at your own pace. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

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 Ashhab and Sultan Sanjar; the Sultan Kala and Erk Kala complex and the Ice House - a giant freezer built in the Timurid period. Continue to Mary. Overnight Mary. **B**

Day 11 Mary to Ashgabat

After breakfast, drive to Ashgabat via the medieval city of Abiverd and 13th century ruins of Seit Jamal-ad Din mosque in Anau. Overnight Ashgabat. **B**

Day 12 Ashgabat

Full day sightseeing of Turkmenistan's dazzling capital, boasting more marble buildings than any other city in the world. Highlights include the National Museum and the Ertugrul Mosque, modelled on Istanbul's Grand Mosque. Overnight Ashgabat. **B**

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. **BD**

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. **BD**

Day 15 Khiva

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

Day 16 Khiva to Tashkent

Transfer to Urgench for your short flight to Tashkent. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

Day 17 Tashkent

Your services end with your departure transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Apr-Nov 2019.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Apr-30 Nov	5430	8858

