



## Pearls of Central Asia

7 Nights

01 May 2016 – 30 September 2016



### Summary

This tour to Uzbekistan covers the world-famous historical cities with their unique architectural complexes striking imagination of everyone. During the trip you will follow exactly the same Great Silk Road route formed by the ancient trade caravans that over the centuries passed along the way from China to Europe, connecting the East with the West.

You have a great opportunity to get to know more about local customs and traditions, as well as feel deeply the hospitality and originality of Uzbek people by the example of particular families.

Do not miss it!

### Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

### Overview

**Dates:** 01 May 2016 – 30 September 2016

**Interest:** family - group - seniors

**Level of Comfort:** 4/5

**Minimum # of passengers:** none

**Maximum # of passengers:** none

### Information about the destination

**Currency:** Iranian Rial

**Language:** Persian- Kurdish

**Transportation:** private car or bus

**Dialing Code:** 98

**Recommended vaccines:** none

**Banks & currency exchange:** It is advised to exchange money via international or well known banks

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**Day 1 Tuesday:**

**Tashkent**

Upon arrival at Tashkent airport, meet greet and transfer to hotel

Spend the day exploring Tashkent: visit to Khast Imam Square – the holy heart of Tashkent consisting of Barak Khan Madrassah (the administrative center of the Mufti of Uzbekistan, the head of official. Islam in the Republic), Tillya Sheykh Mosque (now serves as the district's Friday Mosque but the highlight is the immense Osman Koran, claimed to be the world's oldest) and Kafal Shashi Mausoleum (the grave of a local doctor, philosopher and poet of Islam who lived from 904 to 979) Modern Tashkent includes Museum of Applied Arts (housed in an ancient palace of a tsarist diplomat Polovtsev); Independence Square; visit Tashkent metro and Chorsu Bazaar  
Dinner at local restaurant

**Day 2 Wednesday:**

**Tashkent - Urgench – Khiva**

Transfer to the airport for a connecting flight to Urgench

Upon arrival in Urgench, direct drive to Khiva (30 km)

Spend the day exploring Khiva. Visit to Ichan Kala, architectural complex of the inner city, surrounded by the large fortress wall with four gates. There are more than sixty architectural monuments: palaces, mosques, madrassahs, minarets and mausoleums inside the inner town: Muhammed Aminkhan Madrassah and its minaret; Kunya Ark and Juma Mosque with 218 pillars (one of the most ancient structures in Central Asia; Tash Khauli palace (the Harem of Khiva Khans); Mausoleum of Pakhlavan Makhmud; Islam Khodja complex and other monuments  
Dinner at hotel

**Day 3 Thursday:**

**Khiva – Bukhara**

Depart for Bukhara via Kyzylkum desert (450 km/7-8 hrs drive)

Dinner at hotel

**Day 4 Friday:**

**Bukhara**

Architectural heritage of Bukhara is really very rich – caravan-sarais and trading domes, public baths and big pools, defensive walls and city gates, khanakas and mausoleums, mosques and madrassahs, individual structures and big complexes. Decorative methods, splendor designs and original ideas of architects strike the imagination of anyone: Lyabi-Khauz Complex; trading domes consists of three trading centers of the 14th to 17th century: Tok-i-Sarrafon – Moneychangers Bazaar, Tok-i-Tilpak Furushon – Cap makers Bazaar, Taqi Zargaron - Jeweler's Bazaar; Poi-Kalyan Ensemble, the symbol of the city; the Citadel Ark – highest point in the city; Bolo-Khauz mosque; Chashma-Ayub shrine (XIV-XVI cc.) known as a curative source; the Samanids Mausoleum that considers to be a masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. Visit to the Fayzulla Khodjaev's Home Museum, fine example of the Bukharian architectural style of the late 19th c. Fayzulla Khodjaev, born in the rich merchant family, was the first President of Soviet Uzbekistan; traditional Bukhara clothing (XIX c) presentation  
Dinner at local restaurant

**Day 5 Saturday:**

**Bukhara – Samarkand**

Depart for Samarkand (300 km/4-5 hrs drive). Approaching Samarkand (app. 30 km to Samarkand), visit memorial complex of Imam Al-Bukhari (24 km to Samarkand). Now it is a center of pilgrimage for Muslims and tourists from all over the world. Creative legacy of Al-Bukhari has always been the source of wisdom for scientists all over the world  
Dinner at local restaurant



#### Day 6 Sunday:

##### Samarkand

Samarkand has witnessed a lot of upheavals during the times of Alexander the Great (Macedonian), the Arabic Conquest, Ghengis-Khan Conquest and lastly Tamerlane's. Hence, Samarkand's culture was developed and mixed together with the Iranian, Indian, Mongolian and a bit of the Western and Eastern cultures

FD SS tour of Samarkand: Registan Square (meaning "sandy place") became an official centre of Samarkand since Tamerlane the Great's time. The Square is surrounded by the Ulugbek's madrassah (1417-1420), the Sher-Dor madrassah (1619-1636), and Tilla-Kori madrassah (1646-1660); Mosque Bibi-Khanum (named in honor of Timur's eldest and favorite wife); Siab bazaar, a colorful main farmers' market; Necropolis Shakh-Zinda and ensemble of mausoleums of the 11th-19th centuries (According to the legend, the ensemble was erected around the grave of Kussam, a son of Abbas and cousin of Mohammed)

Dinner at local restaurant

#### Day 7 Monday:

##### Samarkand - Tashkent

In the morning visit to Afrosiab museum of the city foundation, Observatory of Ulugbek (Ulugbek, Timur the Great's grandson, was the founder of the unique constructions of the observatory (1428-1429); a visit to Samarkand Handmade Silk Paper Center "Meros" which has been making paper since the 8th century. Samarkand was the first city in Central Asia (and the second in the world!) to produce its own paper. By the middle of the 19th century, its silk paper virtually disappeared. Here at MEROS the artisans have revived this ancient tradition and reintroduced Samarkand Paper to the world; Gur-Emir Mausoleum (graves of Tamerlane and his descendants, 15c)

Transfer to railway station for high-speed train "Afrosiab" Samarkand/Tashkent at 17h00/19h10

Upon arrival transfer to the hotel .

Dinner at local restaurant

#### Day 8 Tuesday:

##### Tashkent - Istanbul

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

#### Selected hotels (or similar)

Nights	Regions	4* Stars or similar
2	Tashkent	Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace 4* / International Hotel Tashkent
1	Khiva	Asia Khiva (best possible in city)
2	Bukhara	Zargaron Plaza 4* / Omar Khayam / Minorai Kalon
2	Samarkand	Registan Plaza 4*

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#### Prices Include

Round trip ticket to Tashkent ( economy class )  
 Internal flight: Tashkent - Urgench  
 High-speed train "Afrosiab" Samarkand - Tashkent  
 Round trip transfer: airport – hotel – airport  
 7-night accommodation at hotel  
 Meal: half board  
 English speaking local guides  
 All transfers in air conditioned motor coach  
 Full day tour of Tashkent  
 Full day tour of Khiva  
 Full day tour of Bukhara  
 Half day tour of Samarkand  
 Full day tour of Samarkand  
 Assistance of our representative in Uzbekistan

#### Prices Exclude

Airport taxes  
 Fuel surcharge  
 DIP surcharge \$5/ticket  
 Visa fees  
 Travel insurance  
 All other expenses

#### Starting price per person In US\$

Hotel	2 Passengers	3-4 Passengers	5-6 Passengers	7-9 Passengers	Single Supplement
4*hotels	2625	2480	2230	2190	365

- Prices may change without prior notice and subject to availability at time of booking

#### Flight Schedule

From	To	Flight No	Departure	Arrival
Beirut	Istanbul	ME 267	17:40	19:30
Istanbul	Tashkent	HY 274	22:45	05:20
Tashkent	Istanbul	HY 333	08:40	11:15
Istanbul	Beirut	ME 427	12:45	15:05

#### Payment facilities available with CFC

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

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