



Pearls of Central Asia
07 Nights



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

Interest: family, friends, seniors

Level of Comfort: 4/5

Minimum # of passengers: none

Maximum # of passengers: none

Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Iranian Rial
- **Language:** Persian- Kurdish
- **Dialing Code:** 98
- **Recommended vaccine :** none
- **Banks & currency exchange:** It is advised to exchange money via international or well known banks

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**Day 1: 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: 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: Khiva — Bukhara

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

Dinner at hotel.

Day 4: 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: 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.

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Day 6: 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-i-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: 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: Tashkent

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

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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