



Steppe Journeys

1, Abdulla Kahhar street, Tashkent 100035, Uzbekistan. Tel/Fax: +998909981723

Email: tashkent@steppejourneys.com

Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan tour Spring-Fall 2022 (option without Ashgabat and Mary)

Day 1: Arrival in Tashkent.

Sightseeing tour in the capital of Uzbekistan - Khast-Imom Complex, Madrasah of Barak-Khan, Tilla Sheikh Mosque, Mausoleum of the Saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi and the Islamic Institute of Imam al-Bukhari. Explore Chor-Su Bazaar. Walk in the city center with Amir Temur Square, Independence Square, Applied Arts Museum. Ballet and Opera show in Tashkent Navoi theatre , optional , tickets can be arranged upon request (10\$ per person). Overnight.

(B+Welcome dinner in Tashkent)

Day 2: Tashkent – Kokand -Tashkent

After early breakfast in the hotel, at 0715 Transfer to the Tashkent train station. Take the train to Kokand at 0805-1157 . Lunch at local restaurant Chayhana in Kokand and Visit the Khudoyar-Khan Palace, Jami Mosque and Norbut-biy Madrasah. Evening transfer to Kokand station to get back to Tashkent at 1650-2045. Transfer to hotel in Tashkent. Overnight.

(B)

Day 3: Tashkent – Samarkand 320 km, 2 hrs10 min ride by train

Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to railway station at 0715– take fast speed train "Afrosiyob" at 0800-1010. Upon arrival in Samarkand proceed for City tour in Samarkand - visit Registan Square, remains of Bibi Khanum Mosque, Siyob Bazaar, Ulughbek Observatory, Shakhi-Zinda Necropolis and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight.

(B+D)

Day 4: Samarkand

Continue sightseeing: visit Afrasiab Museum and the Tomb of Saint Daniel. Then drive to Koni Ghil village to explore traditional way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry tree. Overnight. Sound and light show can be arranged in Registan square at around 2100, upon request. (optional \$7 per person)

(B)

Day 5: Samarkand – Bukhara 300 km, 5 hrs

In the morning - drive to Bukhara. Stop on the way at Rabati-Malik Caravanserai. At afternoon – walk in Old Bukhara. Explore Kalyan Minaret, Kalyan Mosque and Miri-Arab Madrasah, Magoki-Attori Mosque, madrasahs of Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan, trade domes, Lyabi Hauz Ensemble, Chor-Minor Madrasah. Overnight.

(B+D)

Day 6: Bukhara

Second day in Bukhara - Ark Fortress, Bolo-Khauz Mosque, Samani dynasty and Chashma-Ayub mausoleums. Visit of Sitorai-Mokhikhosa – summer residence of Bukhara's last emir and Mausoleum of Bakhoutdin Naqshbandi. Optional Folk show with local music and dance and costume show can be arranged in Nadir Divan Begi madrasah at 1800. (\$10 per person). Overnight.

(B)

Day 7: Bukhara – Khiva 500 km, 7 hrs drive

In the morning - drive to Khiva. Stop en-route to enjoy views of the desert and Amudarya River. Time for rest. Overnight at the hotel.

(B+Dinner with show in Private home restaurant)

Day 8: Khiva

Visit of Ichan-Kala Fortress, Mukhammad Amin Khan Madrasah, Mukhammad Rahimkhan Madrasah, Kalta Minor, Juma Mosque, Toshkhovli Palace, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum. You will have to explore the local handicraft workshops, silk carpet workshop, wood carving workshop. Local music and dance show can be arranged in Khiva as well or Rope walkers show in Khiva, optional \$5 per person. Overnight at the hotel.

(B)

Day 9: Khiva – Kunya-Urgench – Darwaza gas crater 300 km

In the morning drive to Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan border and drive to Kunya Urgench. Visit mausoleums of Turebek-Khanym, Sultan Tekesh, Sultan Il Arslan, Najmad-din-Kubra, Sultan Ali. Discover the Kutlug Timur Minaret and Kyrk Molla hill.

In the afternoon drive to Darwaza gas crater. Dinner with fire-cooked meal near the burning gas crater. Overnight in tents.

(B+Dinner in the camp)

Day 10: Darwaza – Khiva 260 km-Urgench airport-Tashkent

After breakfast drive back to Uzbekistan border near Dashauz-Shavat. You will be met by Uzbek guide and bus driver and transferred to Urgench airport for flight to Tashkent, 1hr 20 min flight at 2045 or 2120. Transfer to hotel in Tashkent for overnight.

(B+D) Farewell Dinner in Tashkent

Day 11: Tashkent – departure

Free time until transfer to International Airport. Departure.

(B)

Tour price:

02 person: US\$2190 per person Double room share

04 person: US\$2139 per person Double room share

06 person: US\$1980 per person Double room share

08 person: US\$1840 per person Double room share

Single room supplement: US\$ 325 per person

- Visa for Turkmenistan \$79 pp.

Hotels

Tashkent – City palace 4* or Grand Mir 4* or Wyndham Tashkent 4*

Samarkand – Asia Samarkand, Registon hotel, Malika Diyora 3*

Bukhara – Boutique hotels (Komil, Laby Hauz, Rizo, Old Bukhara)

Khiva – Malika Khiva, Asia Khiva or similar 3*

Inclusions:

Transport 14/22 seats Minibus with air condition

Breakfast in the hotel

Tour escort guide (Russian and English speaking)

Meals as mentioned in above program (5 dinners)

Entrance fee to the sites and museums as per program

Bottled water daily per person

Local flight URG-TAS flight ticket, Train ticket TAS-SAM

Exclusions:

International flight to Tashkent, Personal charges in hotels, Alcohol beverages and soft drinks

Tips for guides and drivers, Photo and video fee at sites and museums, Visa fee for Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan



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Continue sightseeing: visit Afrasiab Museum and the Tomb of Saint Daniel. Then drive to Koni Ghil village to explore traditional way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry tree. Overnight. Sound and light show can be arranged in Registan square at around 2100, upon request. (optional \$7 per person)

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Day 5: Samarkand – Bukhara 300 km, 5 hrs

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Day 6: Bukhara

Second day in Bukhara - Ark Fortress, Bolo-Khauz Mosque, Samani dynasty and Chashma-Ayub mausoleums. Visit of Sitorai-Mokhikhosa – summer residence of Bukhara’s last emir and Mausoleum of Bakhoutdin Naqshbandi. Optional Folk show with local music and dance and costume show can be arranged in Nadir Divan Begi madrasah at 1800. (\$10 per person). Overnight.

(B)

Day 7: Bukhara – Khiva 500 km, 7 hrs drive

In the morning - drive to Khiva. Stop en-route to enjoy views of the desert and Amudarya River. Time for rest. Overnight at the hotel.

(B+Dinner with show in Private home restaurant)

Day 8: Khiva

Visit of Ichan-Kala Fortress, Mukhammad Amin Khan Madrasah, Mukhammad Rahimkhan Madrasah, Kalta Minor, Juma Mosque, Toshkhovli Palace, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum. You will have to explore the local handicraft workshops, silk carpet workshop, wood carving workshop. Local music and dance show can be arranged in Khiva as well or Rope walkers show in Khiva, optional \$5 per person. Overnight at the hotel.

(B)

Day 9: Dashoguz – Kunya Urgench – Darvaza

Meet the guide at Dashoguz border (Shavat) border of Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan. Complete border formalities. Drive to Kunya-Urgench (100 km/1,5 hrs) to visit the monuments of medieval Kunya-Urgench (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the former capital of the medieval Khorezmshah Empire. We will visit the 14 century mausoleum of Turabek Hanum, one of the best living examples of the architecture of its period; minaret of Kutlug Timur, a former highest minaret of Central Asia that used to form a part of the main cathedral mosque of the city; mausoleum of Sultan Tekesh, a beautiful 12 century mausoleum with one of the earliest portals of the east and a unique cone of a dome; Kyrk-Mollah mound, the fabled al-Mamun's Academy of Sciences; and mausoleum of Il-Arslan, a tiny precursor of unique Khorezmian mausoleums with a pyramidal cone of a dome. Having finished sightseeing, we drive due south, along the main north-south highway, still partly a pot-hole road, partly a newly-built highway, following the traditional travel route across the Karakum desert (238 km/3,5-4 hrs). Arriving at the border between the northern and southern regions of Turkmenistan we turn off the main road for an exciting eight-kilometre desert drive. The drive over, we find ourselves a couple of hundred metres away from the flaming crater, which, at daylight, seems more of an ordinary whole in the ground slightly smoked by fire. Having unpacked our vehicles, we go for a walk around the crater, while our drivers occupy themselves with gathering wood, arranging cosy accommodations of tents and sleeping bags, and spreading a "table" on the ground. By the time we notice the smell of a fire-cooked dinner, the simple whole of the crater turns into what may seem a front door of hell, a fire temple or any other mysteriously spectacular place that a romantic's imagination may associate with fire. We finish the day tasting delicious nomadic food, pondering over the meaning of life in the serene atmosphere of beautiful evening sky and flickering lights of the "eternal" fire. Overnight in tents (wild camping).

(B+D)

Day 10: Darvaza – Ashgabat

In the morning, we pack up our camp and head south towards Ashgabat (268 km/3,5 hrs). But before we leave this land of sand we visit two more craters, located 100 m from the main road, one with water and the other with mud, both bubbling with natural gas seeping from underground. Then we continue driving to Ashgabat. Arrive in Ashgabat and check in to hotel (after 13:00). In the afternoon introduction tour of the city. We will see independence period parks and monuments, such as the Monument and Park of Independence (looking like a white-marble "Eiffel Tower" standing in a beautiful park) and the Arch of Neutrality, extraordinary Wedding Palace "of Happiness". Accommodation in Hotel Grand Turkmen or Ak Altyn.

(B)

Day 11: Ashgabat

After breakfast at hotel, we start our sightseeing. We begin with the fortress of Old Nisa (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the earliest of Parthian Empire capitals. Located in an atmospheric area on an irregular pentagon hill, at the foot of the Kopet-Dag Mountains, Old Nisa is a beautiful landmark. 14 ha in size, the fort accommodates two semi-excavated complexes of Parthian period (III c. BC - III c. AD) structures, designated as royal residence and temple complex. Abandoned at the end of the Parthian period, Old Nisa conveyed its functions to New Nisa, another archaeological site located a couple of kilometres to the west of it, an important medieval Silk Road city. Drive further to Geok-Depe (40 km/1 hr) to see real pure-blood Akhal-Tekke horses at Arkadash stud farm. On our way to the farm, we will pass by a former Tekke stronghold, which was the site of the biggest battle for the Russian domination in Central Asia in the late 19 c. The fortress is also a site of a beautiful Geok-Depe mosque, built in 1996 in honour of the fortress defenders. On the farm, we have a chance to take a close look at the fabled "winged" horses. After excursion of the farm and

"photo session" with horses we return to Ashgabat, en-route stop at Kipchakvillage (10 km outside Ashgabat) to see an impressive complex of the biggest mosque in Turkmenistan and the family mausoleum of the first President.. We finish the day with a visit to the National Museum of History and Ethnography – TUE day off (more than 327.000 objects on a display) to see the exclusive ancient artefacts from different historical & archaeological sites of Turkmenistan, like Old Nisa, Ancient Merv & etc. Overnight in hotel Grand Turkmen or Ak Altyn.

(B)

Day 12: Ashgabat – Mary

Morning transfer to airport for flight to Mary (40 min by Boeing 717 or 737). On arrival in Mary we head 25 km to the east of Mary, towards Bayram-Ali, the contemporary re-incarnation of and humble suburb of the glorious Ancient Merv (UNESCO World Heritage Site). One of the major archaeological sites of Central Asia, Merv played an important part in the development of the Silk Road for more than 2 000 years. Within the limits of the archaeological park, which is 1200 ha, we will have a chance to observe all constituent parts of the "wandering city". A series of adjacent cities, which can be roughly divided into the ancient (Erk Kala and Gyaur Kala), the medieval (Sultan Kala with its suburbs), and post-medieval (Abdulla-Khan Kala and Bayram-Ali-Khan Kala), appeared in the course of time as a token of the natural progress of the city from initial stages of its existence to a more advanced level. Besides remnants of the cities of Merv, we will visit the VI-IX cc. AD forts of Big and Little Kyz-Kalas, excellent examples of the so-called corrugated Koshks; the splendid XII c. mausoleums of Sultan Sanjar and Muhammed ibn-Zeyd, demonstrating exquisite Seljuk period brickwork and architectural décor. If time and enthusiasm permits, it is possible to visit several more interesting spots within the site. After sightseeing, we head back to Mary to visit Regional Mary Museum, presenting a wide array of archaeological finds (dating back to the III mill. BC through the late XIX century) from both Ancient Merv and Bronze Age sites of the Margush country. Overnight in hotel Mary.

(B)

Day 13: Mary – Turkmenabat – Bukhara-Tashkent

After breakfast, we drive to border of TM/UZ near Farab/Alat (280 km-3,5-4 hrs). Lunch en route in a local restaurant. Continue to the border. On arrival at the border, complete formalities. Transfer to Bukhara airport for your flight to Tashkent. Transfer to hotel in Tashkent

(B+D) Farewell Dinner in Tashkent

Day 14: Tashkent – departure

Free time until transfer to International Airport. Departure.

(B)

Tour price:

02 person: US\$2690 per person Double room share

04 person: US\$2540 per person Double room share

06 person: US\$2480 per person Double room share

08 person: US\$2380 per person Double room share

Single room supplement: US\$ 385 per person

Hotels

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Samarkand – Asia Samarkand, Registon hotel, Malika Diyora 3*

Bukhara – Boutique hotels (Komil, Laby Hauz, Rizo, Old Bukhara)

Khiva – Malika Khiva, Asia Khiva or similar 3*

Darwaza – Tent

Ashgabat – Ak Altyn or Grand Turkmen 3-4*

Mary – Mary hotel 4*

Inclusions:

Transport 12/22 seats Minibus with air condition, Breakfast in the hotel, Tour escort guide (Russian and English speaking), Meals as mentioned in above program (5 dinners), Entrance fee to the sites and museums as per program, Bottled water daily per person

Local **flight Bukhara-TAS** flight ticket, Train ticket TAS-SAM, **Ashgabat-Mary flight ticket**



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(B)

Day 12: Departure

Transfer to airport for return flight home to Istanbul?

(B)

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