

## Uzbekistan

# Along the Silk Road

Let's discover Uzbekistan, a country with a rich past and an authentic heritage! Let's dive into its contrasts and marvel at its exceptional landscapes, from high mountains to deserts and oases! Let's dare to immerse ourselves in tradition, explore the country's nomadic and sedentary culture, and share, with simplicity, the daily life of Uzbek, Tajik, and Kazakh families!



Uzbekistan, a cosmopolitan country and a true cultural crossroads, welcomes us with open arms for a unique discovery of its legendary heritage and a warm immersion in its Uzbek, Tajik and Kazakh families.

Let's venture out and meet the inhabitants of these remote mountain villages! Let's get to grips with yurt life and the daily lives of these families. Let's travel through the Nuratau Mountains, drive through the red sands of the KyzylKum Desert, admire the mosaics of Samarkand and finally lose ourselves in the steppe of Aydar Lake!

This inescapable journey fascinates us with its cultural and human riches, and leaves no one indifferent. Let's sail from surprise to surprise and let ourselves be carried away by this colourful escapade rich in encounters!

### You will like

- 🕒 The charm of the legendary cities along the Silk Road
- 🕒 The beauty and diversity of Uzbekistan's landscapes
- 🕒 Immersion in small mountainside villages
- 🕒 Nights in a yurt
- 🕒 Sharing the daily life of Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Kazakhs

### Barometer

Encounter



Spirituality



Culture



Walk



Driving time



Adventure



Comfort



Immersion



Nature





## Practical information

- 🕒 **Age & public** : for individuals, small groups, and families with children aged 6 and over
- 🕒 **Duration** : 14 days on site
- 🕒 **Dates & travel periods** : best period from April to November, on the date of your choice
- 🕒 **Number of travellers** : 2 to 6/8 travellers (solo or groups from 9+ travellers: on request)
- 🕒 **Travel package** : people, nature and culture ("Discovery" package)
- 🕒 **Regions & landscapes** : mountain, lake, desert, countryside, steppe
- 🕒 **Accommodation** : small hotels (B&B), homestays, yurts
- 🕒 **Transport** : private transport, train
- 🕒 **Luggage handling** : None (luggage transported by vehicle)

## Program

**Legend: B L D** = meals included in the price of the trip (**B**reakfast, **L**unch and **D**iner)

**Note** : the outline of this program (steps, activities, etc.) is given for information purposes only.

It may undergo modifications or adjustments depending on technical criteria, safety requirements, current climatic conditions and availability. Our guides always do everything possible to make the best possible decisions and options.

### little note :

Tout voyage qui sort des sentiers battus comporte parfois des événements imprévus (grève, route coupée, fête locale...) ; votre capacité d'adaptation aux conditions locales (transports, nourriture, hébergements, imprévus, aléas climatiques), comme à des événements inattendus sera aussi une clé à la réussite de votre voyage.

Nous comptons sur vous pour avoir un esprit délibérément « positif » et ne jamais oublier votre sens de l'humour.

Nous vous souhaitons un très beau et riche voyage .

### Day 1: Tashkent (Meals: B- ; Transport: 1h)

Arrival in Tashkent: welcome at the airport, transfer to our hotel. Check-in and end of the day at leisure. We set off to discover the Uzbek capital. From the Khazrati Imam complex, featuring the mausoleum of Kaffal Chachi, the Barakh Khan madrasa and the Khasti Imam mosque, to the Chorsu Bazaar, Tashkent reveals itself bit by bit. Lunch in town and overnight in a B&B hotel.

### Day 2: Tashkent-Bukhara (Meals: B- ; Transport: train 3h30)

After an early breakfast, transfer to the train station to catch the high-speed train to Bukhara. Arrival in Bukhara and check-in at a B&B hotel. Lunch in town. Most of Bukhara's points of interest are concentrated in the old city of Chakhristan and can be visited on foot. Let's start our visit with the Labi Khaouz complex (16-17th century), comprising a madrasa, a khonako and a pool in the middle. This is the most picturesque part of Bukhara.

Lunch in town and overnight at hotel.

### Day 3: Bukhara (Meals: B-D; Transport / )

Today we devote our time to visiting the ancient part of this museum-like city in the middle of the sands. We'll be enchanted by the atmosphere of its alleyways and immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of the Silk Road caravans.

We immerse ourselves in the ancient part of Bukhara, a UNESCO World Heritage site. A museum city in the middle of the sands, Bukhara reveals its remarkable monuments and immerses us in the atmosphere of the Silk Road caravans. We first visit the Ismail Samani mausoleum, the city's oldest building and one of Uzbekistan's most beautiful jewels, then the Tchachma Ayoub mausoleum, the Bola Khaouz complex (18th century) and the Ark Citadel. The symbol of the Bukhara emirate stands majestically in Reghistan Square, a reminder of the terror of the Manguit era. Home to the lords of Bukhara, Ark is as old as Bukhara itself.

Traditional meal in a family restaurant. Night at the hotel.

**Day 4: Bukhara - Aydar Lake - Dongalak** (Meals: BLD ; Transport: 4h)

We drive to Dongalak and picnic on the shores of a majestic lake 170 km long and 35 km wide. We take advantage of these few moments of freedom to swim, weather permitting.

We then join our Kazakh host family and settle into their yurt. We get to know each other and settle into their livestock farm.

Meal and overnight in the yurt.

**Day 5: Dongalak** (Meals: BLD ; Walk: 2 to 4 hours depending on preferences)

After breakfast, we set off for a walk in the desert. We observe endemic plants, forests of desert bushes and succumb to these improbable landscapes.

We visit a new farm and share a meal with the owners. We then return to our yurt and take part in the various daily tasks.

Meal with the family and overnight in the yurt.

**Day 6: Dongalak** (Meals: BLD ; Walk: 2 to 4 hours depending on preferences)

We set off for Dongalak village and meet some shepherd families. We have lunch with a shepherd. We then return to our yurt and take part in various activities.

Meal with the family and overnight in the yurt.

**Day 7: Dongalak - Oukhoum** (Meals: BLD ; Walk: 2h depending on mood)

After breakfast, we head for the Nuratau Mountains to reach the village of Oukhoum.

Settling in with the locals and getting to know the family and our new accommodation (2 to 4 people in each family). First contact with this friendly village.

Dinner with the family and overnight at a local's house.

**Day 8: Oukhoum** (Meals: BLD ; Walk: 2 to 4 hours depending on your preferences)

After breakfast, we take a tour of the village and meet the locals. We'll have a meal with the locals and take part in work in the fields and garden, and care for the animals if we wish.

Meals and overnight with local people.

**Day 9: Oukhoum** (Meals: BLD ; Walk: 2 to 4 hours depending on preferences)

Hiking in the Nuratau nature reserve. From the heights, we can observe the Kyzylkoum desert plains and Aydar Lake (Aydarkul), as well as many endemic plants. The valley is ideal for birdwatching and boasts a wide variety of flora.

Participation in daily tasks. Meals and overnight stay

**Day 10: Youkori Hayat - Oukhoum** (Meals: BLD ; Walk: 3 to 4 hours)

We leave the village, crossing the hills to reach another charming mountain village, Youkori Hayat. During the day, we cross several hills and pass through hamlets with a warm rural atmosphere.

We have the option of staying in our host village, Oukhoum, or immersing ourselves in another typical village, Ashraf. We continue to share the daily life of our hosts and participate in the various daily tasks.

Meals and overnight with local people.

### **Day 11: Oukhoum, at leisure** (Meals: BLD; Walk: 2 to 4 hours depending on preferences)

Early in the morning, we stroll along the village and arrive at a walnut garden. We visit an archaeological site and observe petroglyphs. Afterwards, we once again share in the daily life of the villagers. Farewell meal and overnight stay.

### **Day 12: Samarkand** (Meals: B- ; Transport: 4h)

We return to Samarkand. We discover the capital of Timur's empire and stroll through this crossroads of the different silk routes. The domes and their blue mosaics are awe-inspiring. We also visit the Ulugbek Observatory and the Chakhi Zinda necropolis.

### **Day 13: Samarkand -Tashkent** (Meals: B- ; Transport: train 2h )

We continue our visit of Samarkand: Tamerlan Gur-Emir's mausoleum with its sumptuous fluted dome, Registan Square, the Bibi Khanoum mosque and the Siyob Market. We take the high-speed train back to Tashkent.

Lunch in town and overnight at hotel.

### **Day 14: Tashkent** (Meals: B- ; Transport /)

Free time before your transfer to the airport for your return flight.

## **Prices and conditions**

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### **Price per person** (varies depending on the number of travellers, including adults and children)

- From 6 to 8 travellers: **€1,895 € Promo: €1,695**
- From 4 to 5 travellers: €2,295
- 3 travellers: €2,495
- 2 travellers: €2,695
- Solo traveller: [on request](#)

### **Supplements**

- Single room: €275
- Transfer if arriving/departing at a different time than the first booked: from €40 per transfer per person

### **Options**

- Groups from 9+ travellers: [on request](#)
- Khiva extension by train, 2 days: €250/person [on request](#)
- 10-day trip: from €1,395 per person (excluding flights) [on request](#)
- 10-day cultural tour [on request](#)
- Combined trip with Kyrgyzstan [on request](#)

### **Flights**

- Price depending on the date of booking, the airline, and the travel dates.

### **Included in the price**

- Trip organisation – travel booklet and itinerary booklet
- Welcome and transfers from the airport, train station, or meeting point to your accommodation, round trip
- Transport throughout the journey
- English-speaking tour guide and/or local guides, mountain leader
- Accommodation with breakfast with local people, in hotels, guest houses, yurts (double or multiple rooms)
- Meals as mentioned in the programme
- Complete “Emotion Planet” activity programme
- Invitation to take part in relationship-based activities, a journey to the heart of oneself
- Pharmacy (*first aid*)
- Hotel and tourist taxes

### **Not Included**

- Everything not included in the above paragraph and any change throughout the journey
- Transport to destination: domestic and/or international flight, round-trip train...
- Carbon offsetting of your flight and travel (*on a voluntary basis*)
- Travel insurance (*highly recommended*)
- Meals not included (*Budget between €5 and €20 per meal. An average meal without drinks costs between €1 and €12*).
- Visa: *British citizens can enter visa-free for stays of up to 30 days*
- Right to photograph monuments (€10-15)
- Beverages
- Tips
- *for drivers: 3-4 euros per person per day*
- *4-5 euros per person per day for the guide.*
- *For host families: 3-4 euros per day per person.*
- Personal expenses

## Contact

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Discover these colorful countries, the heart & values that drive us and comments from former travelers.

### Contact person for your trip :



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« **Emotion Planet**, the world is never far away when its men are not strangers to us. »