

## Uzbekistan

# Between culture and traditions

Let's discover Uzbekistan, a country with a rich past and an authentic heritage! Let's dive into its contrasts and delight in its exceptional landscapes of high mountains, deserts, and oases! Let's dare to immerse ourselves in tradition and explore the nomadic and sedentary culture of the country!



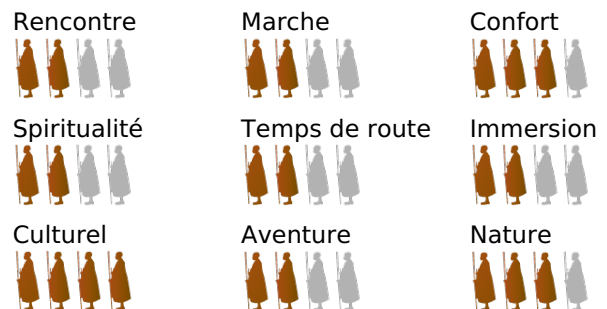
Uzbekistan, a cosmopolitan country and a true cultural crossroads, welcomes us with open arms for a unique discovery of its legendary cultural heritage and a warm immersion in its Uzbek, Tajik, and Kazakh families.

This must-see journey fascinates us not only with its cultural wealth but also with its human connections, leaving us truly captivated. Let's sail from one surprise to another and let ourselves be carried away by this colourful escape, full of enriching encounters!

### You will like

- 👉 The charm of the legendary Silk Road cities
- 👉 The discovery of an incredible heritage
- 👉 The beauty and diversity of Uzbek landscapes
- 👉 Everyday life of Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Kazakhs

### Barometer





## Practical information

- 🕒 **Age & public** : for individuals, small groups, and families with children aged 6 and over
- 🕒 **Durée** : 10 days on site
- 🕒 **Dates & périodes** : best period from April to November, on the date of your choice
- 🕒 **Nombre participants** : 2 to 8 travellers (solo or groups from 9+ travellers: on request)
- 🕒 **Formule du voyage** : People, nature, and culture ("Discovery" package)
- 🕒 **Régions & paysages** : Mountain, lake, desert, countryside, steppe
- 🕒 **Hébergements** : Small hotels
- 🕒 **Transport** : Private transport, train, domestic flight
- 🕒 **Portage** : 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 - Nukus (Meals: B- ; Transport: domestic flight 1h40)

Arrival at Tashkent airport. We are welcomed by our guide/driver and transferred to our hotel.

Let's set off on a panoramic tour of Uzbekistan's capital. Visit of the Old Town: Khast-i Imam Square with the Barak-Khan Madrasah, the Kaffal Shashi Mausoleum, and the Tilla Shaykh Mosque. Enjoy a delicious (non-included) meal at a local restaurant. Then, let's explore the Chorsu Market. The discovery of modern Tashkent and Amir Temur Square is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Transfer to Tashkent airport for the flight (1h40) to Nukus. Upon arrival in Nukus, we check in for an overnight stay at our hotel.

### Day 2: Nukus - Toprak Kala - Khiva (Meals: B- ; Transport: 250 km)

Let's enjoy a delicious breakfast before setting off to explore one of the most remarkable museums in the world, created by Igor Savitsky. This desert gem is located in Nukus, the capital of the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. The Savitsky Museum holds a collection of over 90,000 pieces, including Russian avant-garde works, visual arts of Uzbekistan, traditional applied arts from Karakalpakstan, art from ancient Khorezm, and stunning replicas of many exhibitions from the Louvre in Paris.

We then take the road to Toprak Kala to discover an exceptional monument of Khorezm culture (1st-6th centuries). Its size and the brilliance of its architectural design make Toprak Kala one of the most iconic landmarks of the Khorezm civilization. This fortress once protected the ancient capital of the Khorezm kingdom from nomadic invasions. The day continues with a visit to the ancient citadel before we head onward to Khiva. We arrive in Khiva in the late afternoon. Check-in at the hotel and well-deserved rest.

### **Day 3: Khiva** (Meals: B-)

As usual, a delicious breakfast awaits us at the hotel. Once satisfied, we begin our exploration of the legendary city of Khiva. The entire day is dedicated to discovering this true open-air museum.

We are delighted by the visits to Ichan-Kala, Ota Darvoza, and the central square of the ancient city. The Mohammed Amin Khan Madrasah and its Kalta Minor Minaret (19th century), as well as the Kunya Ark (17th century), leave us in awe.

More visits complete today's programme. Prepare to be amazed by the Pakhlavan Mahmoud Complex (14th-19th century), the Islam Khodja Madrasah and its minaret (1908), the Juma Mosque (10th-18th century), Kosh Darvoza, Tash Khauli, and the Alla Kuli Khan Square (18th-19th century).

In the evening, a small folk concert awaits us in the Allakulikhan Madrasah — the perfect way to unwind before our second night in Khiva.

### **Day 4: Khiva - Bukhara** (Meals: B- ; Transport: train 6h/450 km)

The traditional hotel breakfast gives us the energy we need for this fourth day. Our visit to Khiva ends with the Tash Khauli Palace, the beautiful residence of the Khan. We also have the opportunity to visit the Khan's Harem.

Let's enjoy some free time until 1pm and wander at our leisure. A transfer is arranged to take us to the train station. At 4pm, we board the train to Bukhara.

Our arrival in Bukhara is expected at 10pm. A transfer is arranged to take us to our hotel, where we'll settle in comfortably for our first night in Bukhara.

### **Day 5: Bukhara** (Meals: B-)

The cultural immersion in the oldest part of Bukhara promises us a colourful day. We begin by discovering the Ismail Samani Mausoleum (9th-10th century), the Chashma Ayub Mausoleum (12th-14th century), the Bolo Khaouz Ensemble (18th century), the Ark Citadel (1st-4th century), and the Po-i-Kalyan complex (15th-16th century). The Kalon Mosque, its minaret, and the Miri Arab Madrasah conclude the first part of this intense day.

We continue the visit of this extraordinary heritage with the Ulugh Beg and Abdoulaziz Khan Madrasahs (15th-17th century) and Liab-i-Khaouz. The central pool, surrounded by madrasahs, khanakas, and caravanserais, brightens our afternoon. Overnight in Bukhara.

### **Day 6 : Bukhara** (Meals: B-)

After breakfast, we venture a little way from Bukhara to immerse ourselves in the beauty of the surrounding sites. The summer residence of the last Emir, Setora-i-Mokhi Khosa, is truly impressive. The sacred site of Baha-ud-Din Naqshband offers us many surprises. The visit to the Chor Minor Madrasah is followed by a stroll through the alleys of the ancient makhallas.

Let's make the most of our free time in the afternoon to follow our own desires. Overnight in Bukhara.

### **Day 7 : Bukhara - Vobkent - Guijduvan - Rabati Malik - Samarkand** (Meals: B- ; Transport: 280 km)

We set off early this morning, around 9am, heading towards Vobkent, 30 km from Bukhara. A series of visits to Uzbek heritage sites will mark the day. We begin with a 12th-century minaret. Then, we continue towards Gijduvan, renowned for its fine ceramics, and take the opportunity to visit the home of a local ceramics family. On the way to Rabati Malik, we discover the remains of a 11th-century caravanserai. Across from the caravanserai, a sardoba—an ancient water reservoir that once sustained the life of the caravans—catches your attention.

We continue our journey towards Samarkand. The arrival is expected in the late afternoon, followed by check-in and overnight at the hotel.

### Day 8 : Samarkand (Meals: B-D)

A hearty breakfast is a must before we set off to discover the capital of the Timurid Empire.

Registan Square, the most magnificent complex in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the Islamic world, awaits us. It was the nerve center of Timur's capital, with six main streets converging beneath the dome of a bazaar. This site consists of three stunning madrasahs: Ulugh Beg, Sher-Dor, and Tilla-Kari.

We visit the Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum, the dynastic tomb of Timur's family, where the world conqueror himself, Timur, is buried. The Bibi Khanum Mosque and the Siyab city bazaar (closed on Mondays), famous for its flatbreads and dried fruits, give us a taste of the country's rhythm. Let's not forget to buy vegetables there to prepare the evening meal. We will take part in preparing a national dish, palov. Dinner with a local family. Overnight in Samarkand.

### Day 9: Samarkand - Tashkent (Meals: BLD ; Transport: high-speed train 2h10/320 km)

On today's agenda, a visit to the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, a complex containing over 20 mausoleums from different periods. Without a doubt, it is the most sacred site in Samarkand. This ensemble brings together all the architectural experiences of the 14th and 15th centuries in a culmination of ceramic art.

A visit to the Afrasiab Museum, the Saint Daniel Mausoleum, and the observatory of the famous Ulugh Beg, the astronomer prince and grandson of Timur, is also planned. Unmatched in the known world of the time (15th century), his instruments allowed for highly precise measurements and made Samarkand the capital of star observation. Around 4pm, a transfer takes us to the train station to take the high-speed train from Tashkent to Samarkand. Arrival in Tashkent at 7:15pm. Transfer and overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.

### Day 10: Return journey (Meals: B-)

Breakfast and transfer to the airport to catch our 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: **€1,495**
- From 4 to 5 travellers: €1,695
- 3 travellers: €1,995
- 2 travellers: €2,095

### Supplements:

- Single room: €295
- Transfer if arriving/departing at a different time than the first booked: from €40 per transfer per person

### Flights

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

### Included in the price

- Full trip organisation – travel book & itinerary roadbook
- Welcome and airport transfers
- Domestic flight Tashkent – Nukus
- Transport throughout the journey
- English-speaking guide and/or local guides
- Accommodation as mentioned in the programme
- Meals as mentioned in the programme
- Guided tours and entrance fees as mentioned in the programme
- Train tickets Samarkand – Tashkent
- One water bottle per person per day
- Train tickets Khiva – Bukhara
- Folk dances in Khiva
- Emotion Planet's signature immersive activities 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 the destination: international flight
- Carbon offsetting of your flight and travel (*on a voluntary basis*)
- Travel insurances (*highly recommended*)
- Meals not included as mentioned in the programme
  - *Budget between €5 and €20 per meal*
  - *An average meal without drinks costs between €10 and €12*
- Visa: *you DON'T need a visa for Uzbekistan if you have a British passport (for up to 30 days)*
- Photography fee in monuments (€10 to €15)
- Drinks
- Tips
  - *for the drivers: €3-4 per person per day*
  - *for the guide: €4-5 per person per day.*
  - *For host families: €3-4 per person per day.*
- 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. »