

# UZBEKISTAN: ESSENTIAL ONLY

**Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara – Tashkent**

**Season, 12/23-03/24**

## **Day 1, Fri – Tashkent, arrival**

Upon arrival in Tashkent airport (20.50), we move directly to the hotel for accommodation and rest after a long flight.

## **Day 2, Sat – Tashkent**

**10:00** After breakfast, we begin our first acquaintance with the “stone city” - that is how the name of the city is translated from the Turkic language. The architecture and atmosphere of the old and the new city reveals the appearance of Tashkent from different sides.

A city tour in Tashkent includes the ancient Khast Imam Square with ador similarining madrasah and mosque, the vast Chorsu oriental bazaar, the Independence Arch, theatrical square adorned with a great Alisher Navoi theater building. There will also be an opportunity to ride the local metro and see some of the most beautiful stations in Central Asia.

## **Day 3, Sun – Tashkent - Samarkand** by a high-speed train (2 hours)

Transfer to the railway station. Transfer from Tashkent to Samarkand by Afrosiab high-speed train.

Upon arrival in the city we start our busy day in a jewel of the ancient and modern Silk Road. There is the mysterious jade mausoleum of Gur-i-Emir, the graveyard of Tamerlane. One of the greatest treasures is Registan Square, Temur’s outstanding creation, a huge complex of minarets, mosques and madrassas. Further we move on to Bibi Khanum Mosque, the gorgeous necropolis of Shah-i-Zinda, and the old observatory of Ulugbek, the greatest Muslim astronomer, and the neighboring Ulugbek museum. Overnight.

## **Day 4, Mon – Samarkand**

Continuation of the sightseeing tour of incredible Samarkand.

The emotions experienced in Samarkand will never end while staying here. In the first half of the day before leaving we will continue admiring the yesterday’s views and meet some others: the fabulous Afrasiab Museum with its famous museum containing unique Varakhsha paintings, and *the* Tomb of Saint Daniel - one of the local shrines.

After lunch time we will have a 20 min transfer to the countryside to visit Konigil village - a place, that gives a chance to explore the traditional centuries-proofed way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry. Besides, the locals will show us the process of oil and flour production using the ancient methods. Overnight.

## **Day 5, Tue – Samarkand - Bukhara**

Transfer to Bukhara by high-speed train.

Meet the guide and start exploring Bukhara. Bukhara is filled with over 900 historical monuments, here we will spend time visiting many sites and wandering amongst the old city streets. Our focus will be directed today on Samanids Mausoleum and Bolo-Khauz Mosque. Further we proceed to the Fortress Ark, the old citadel of over 20 m in height. Visit Poyi Kalon Architectural Ensemble that consists of Kalon Minaret, Kalon Mosque and Miri Arab Madrasah; Ulugbek Madrasah; Abdul-Aziz khan Madrasah, Lyabi Khauz Complex and the Trading Domes - Coumpol Bazaar, that has been existing here from the times of the Great Silk Road. Overnight.

## **Day 6, Wed – Bukhara - Tashkent**

Explore the out-of-town sites located in 30 min driving from Bukhara. Visit the following holy sites: Sitorai Mohi Khosa summer palace of the Emirs of Bukhara, Bakhouddin Naqshbandi ensemble (the important Muslim shrine and a place of eternal calming energy) and Chor-Bakr necropolis.

Transfer from Bukhara to Tashkent by Afrosiab high-speed train.

On arrival meet your driver at the railway station and transfer to the hotel. Overnight.

## **Day 7, Thu – Tashkent - Chimgan - Tashkent**

Departure to the Chimgan Mountains. Departure from Tashkent by car towards the Chimgan Mountains (80 km, about two hours on the way). The way to the Chimgan Mountains runs through the picturesque settlements of the Tashkent region. If there is a cable car in the Beldersay gorge, the length of which is more than three km, then you can ride to the top of Mount Kumbel (2400 m), where the longest ski run in Uzbekistan is located. Free time (riding a cable car, quad bikes, horses). Return to Tashkent. Overnight.

## **Day 8, Fri – Tashkent, departure**

Morning sightseeing program. Transfer to the International Airport. Departure by schedule.

| Group size                                 | Cost in US\$ per person |
|--|-------------------------|
| 2 pax                                      | 960                     |
| 4 pax                                      | 780                     |
| 6 pax                                      | 680                     |
| 8 pax                                      | 655                     |
| <b>Supplement for single accommodation</b> | <b>+ 130</b>            |

#### **INCLUDED:**

- Accommodation in mentioned hotel on DBL/TWN/TPL sharing basis no other early check-ins or late check-outs are included
- Meals on BB basis: all breakfasts at the hotels
- Mineral water bottles during the tour (1 L p/p per day)
- Services of A/C comfortable transport with professional driver as per the program
- Economy-class high-speed train tickets. Train tickets are subject to availability and can't be guaranteed in advance
- English-speaking local guides for the whole tour

#### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Visa costs and processing
- International flight tickets to / from Tashkent
- Entrance fees for all the above-mentioned monuments
- Beverages and alcohol drinks
- Extras in fixed lunch and dinner menu
- Lunches and dinners not mentioned above
- Travel and Medical insurance
- Tips and gratuities
- Personal expenses and any services not included in the above program

**\* The schedule of internal railway and air tickets is changeable!**

**\*Check-in time to the hotel is 14:00, check-out - at 12:00. All early / late check-ins / check-outs are paid on the spot to the hotels' administration (or negotiated in advance - please, see the list of included services below).**

#### **Cancellation fees:**

- Cancellation prior 45 calendar days - \*no charges apply
- Cancellation prior 44-25 calendar days - 50 % charge of the tour price
- Cancellation prior 24-10 calendar days - 75 % charge of the tour price
- Cancellation prior 9-0 days - 100 % charge of the tour price

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 \*no charges apply in case the tour is cancelled 45 days prior the date of arrival - but only in case we have not purchased the flight or railway tickets yet. In case the mentioned tickets are purchased, penalties for their cancellation will take place in accordance with the cancellation policy of the air- and railway companies.