

“Golden Ring of Uzbekistan”



If you visited Uzbekistan and lost the chance to visit Fergana valley, you can be sure that you have not really been in Uzbekistan. The valley's richness includes its thousands -of-years-old history and traditions of master craftsmen in silk, ceramics, woodcarving and a bounty of other ancient arts of man.



Itinerary: Tashkent – Urgench(Khiva) – Bukhara – Nurata - Samarkand - Tashkent

Duration: 13 days/12 nights

Day 1 Tashkent(Air)

P.M. Arrival to Tashkent. Meeting at the airport with tour escort guide and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation and rest at hotel. Dinner and o/n at at hotel. Meals: HB

Day 2.Tashkent

A.M. Breakfast at hotel. Start sightseeing of Uzbek capital with:

Next to the Old Town and under the green dome of **Chorsu Bazaar** lies a farmers market that is one of the largest and oldest in central Asia. It is also a great place to buy Uzbek souvenirs including the ubiquitous skull caps. On a hill behind the bazaar is the 16th century **Kulkedash Medressa** – an Islamic school that sits beside the 15th century **Juma (Friday) Mosque**.



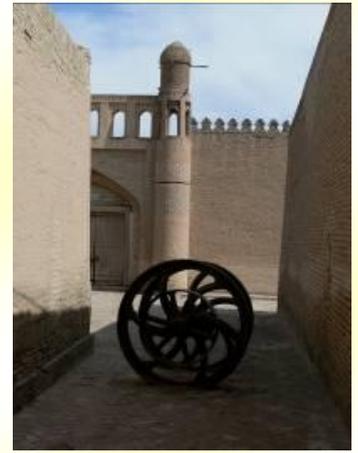
History Museum, Monument “Courage” – this is the monument to the victims of the earthquake in 1967, after which Tashkent was wholly reconstructed, **Mustakillik Square** – former “Red Squire” the main square of the Tashkent with the monument to victims of the WW II, **Drujba Narodov Square** (Friendship of Nations) – the square with the modern buildings of Parliament and monument to Shaahmad Shomahmudov, man who adopted 15 orphans of different nations during WW., **Navoi Theatre Square**- by 1940, Soviet planners had decided a theatre would greatly enhance an area known as the Drunken Bazaar for its wine-soaked market.

Japanese prisoners of war completed construction in 1947, **Barak Khan Madrassah** (XVI c) it is headquarters of the Sunni Mufti of ex Sogdian Central Asia & Kazakhstan. It is interesting with its mosaic and Arabic calligraphy on its late 16 cent. Brick facade and the intricately carved doors made by Samarkand craftsmen. O/n at hotel. Meals: HB

Day 3.Tashkent – Urgench (Khiva) (HY Air)

A.M. Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Airport, flight to Urgench by HY-1051 on 07:00.-08:40. Drive to Khiva (30 km)

where we are met and driven to the fabled city of Khiva. As legend has it, this place has a history that dates back to the time of Shem, son of Noah. A settlement was certainly established here by the 8th century AD and began to flourish in the early 16th century. A colourful procession of conquering khans, Silk Road traders, Great Game spies and Russian invaders has long captured the imagination of writers and poets. It is also a photographer's delight, particularly in the evenings when the sun begins to set. This beautifully-preserved town is perfect for exploring on foot, with impressive walls that mark the boundaries of the old city. Upon entering through its gates we are greeted by towering minarets and numerous medressas. Our guide takes us through many of these monuments including the **Kalta Minor Minaret and Mohammed Rakhim Khan Medressa**,- the first building in the entering of city on the right built in the 1850 and serving since Soviet time as the hotel Khiva.



The 17th century Juma Mosque(X – XVII c) a cathedral mosque, the roof of which lies on 212 wooden fretted columns with unique acoustics and original technical ideas natural of lighting Mausoleum of Seyid Alaudin (XIV c) with its gravestone made from colored majolica in unique among world architectural ceramics. **The Islom-Hoja Minaret and Medressa (built in 1908 and the highest structure in Khiva)** (1908) – 45 m high is the highest building in Khiva with, the observation area., **the Kuhna Ark**(XVII c) – an inner fortress with administrative buildings, gunpowder works, law courts, mosque. **the Pahlavon Mahmud Mausoleum complex (the Persian-style resting place of Khiva's patron saint)** (XIV – XIX c) – the most remarkable architecture memorial complex in Khiva with unique tiles.

Nurulla Bai Palace 1906-1912 the fortified courtyard of Isfandiyar Khan's residence today languish in a largely sorry state of disrepair, but the modern-style reception hall is still in good condition. O/n at hotel. Meals: HB

Day4.Khiva – Bukhara (430 km)

A.M. Breakfast in hotel.

Morning departure to Bukhara by coach through **flora and fauna of Kyzyl Kum desert**. For centuries it marked the northern limits of Transoxiana and the edge of the boundless nomadic steppe. You will see **Amu Darya** one of the two second river of Central Asia separating the Kyzyl Kum from the Kara Kum of Turkmenistan.



Near the Pool. O/n in hotel. Meals: HB

P.M. Arrival to Bukhara in the afternoon.

Bukhara – this is one of the best places in Central Asia which was as capital of Samanid state in the 9th and 10th centuries that called “Bukhoro-i Sharif” Boasting a different mosque for every day of the year, drawing the finest minds of the East with its cultural and commercial vitality, the city well deserved the title “Bukhara the Holy”. S/S in Bukhara: **ARK Fortress** (VI – XIX c) – in middle ages it was a whole town with the emirs house, with wives, mosques mint place, government institutes, store rooms, a prison and a square for public executions: **Bolo Khauz Mosque** (1712) Mosque

Day 5. Bukhara

A.M. Breakfast in hotel.

Continue of sightseeing in Bukhara incl: **Samanid's mausoleum** (IX – X c) – it was the first building in Central Asia constructed from backed bricks in the shape of a cube covered by a dome with unrepeatabe geometrical brickwork design – a masterpiece of world architecture **Chashma Ayub Mausoleum** – the original construction dates from the 12th century rule of Karakhanid Arslan Khan, the earliest surviving dome was raised by Amir Temur in 1380 over the existing tomb chamber. **Poikalon** (XII – XVI c) architectural ensemble in the center of old Bukhara – includes the cathedral mosque “Masjidi Kalon”, “Miri Arab” madrasah and the highest minaret (46 m) at that time in the Orient. **Ulugbek Madrassah** 1417 was the earliest of three commissioned by the enlightened Timutid ruler (the other two stand in Samarkand and Gijduvan) and his secular influence dominates the exterior design of the religious college. **Abdul Aziz Khan Madrassah** (1652), glittering in mercifully unrestored 17th century glory



P.M. In the afternoon continue of city tour in Bukhara incl: **Tim Abdullakhan** was built in 1577 and was one of the most elegant trade halls in Bukhara

where silk and wool was sold by Afghan trades. **Trading Domes** consists of three trading centers: Tok-i-Zargaron (1570) – Jeweler’s Bazaar, Tok-i-Tilpak Furushon – Cap Maker’s Bazaar, Tok-i-Sarrafon – Moneychanger’s Bazaar. **Magoki Attori** – in 937 the four-pillared mosque was burn the ground in a city-wide fire and in the 12th century the present mosque was erected, from which the focus of the mosque, the original southern portal remains. **Laby Khauz complexe.** O/n in hotel. Meals: HB

Day 6. Bukhara – Nurata – Yangi Gazgan (300 km)

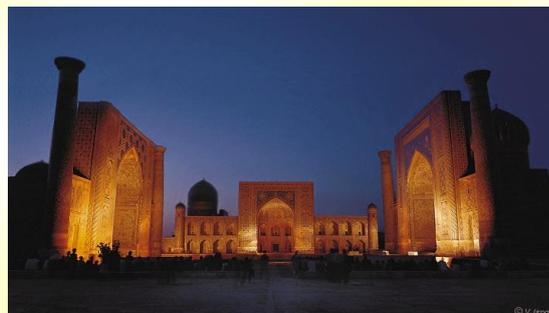
A.M. Breakfast in hotel. We leave captivating Bukhara and continue east towards Samarkand. Our next destination is **Nurata**, formerly known as Nur and founded in the 3rd century BC by Alexander the Great. This ancient town was once regarded as the frontier between the cultivated lands and the steppes, and the ruins of Alexander’s hilltop citadel stand testament to its ancient history. The city was also an important Muslim place of pilgrimage, reaching its peak in the 10th century AD as devotees flocked to its many significant graves and memorials.

We visit the **Chashma**, a complex of religious constructions that serves as the central point for such pilgrimages. After lunching in a local teahouse we continue onto the **Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve** just south of Aiderkul Lake.

P.M. Transfer to the yurt camp – 5km inside the desert.

Accommodation in yurts. Getting acquainted with fauna and flora of the desert. Tasting camel milk. Dinner around the fire with Kazakh songs “akyn”. O/n in Yurts (8-10pax in one Yurts) (B+L+D)

The **yurt** is a round felt tent on a wooden frame preferred by Kazakh & Kyrgyz nomads to European style canvas tent for the most practical of reasons. It is also something of national symbol. Made of paited wooden slats lashed diagonally into a lattice. More slats slope up to a cartwheel - sized birch hoop which serves as both chimney and skylight. The inside of yurts is colorful. Sleeping places are on the ground. All other facilities are outside the yurt. Meals: FB



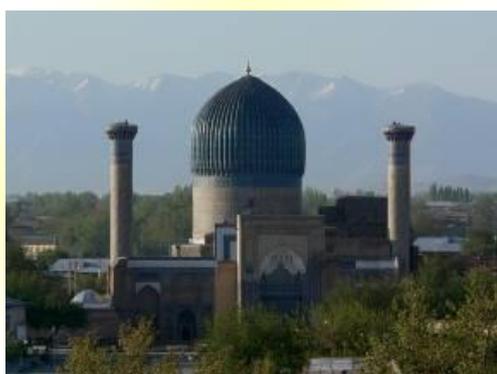
Day 7. Nurata - Samarkand (284 km)

A.M. Breakfast in yurta. **Camel trekking**

Camel farms to the north of Nurata supply the mounts for anyone wishing to experience desert life in proper Silk Road style, aboard the stubborn and enigmatic ships of the desert. Kazakh families dominate the pasturelands of the Kyzyl Kum. Unlike the Uzbeks, they remained nomads into the 20th century and, despite Stalin's enforced collectivization in the 1930s, many traditions survive. Kazakh yurts, round felt tents set on a wooden framework, stand next to modern shacks and are preferred for summer use.

PM. Arrival & accommodation at hotel. **Samarkand** - the Eden of ancient East, the most precious pearl in the Islamic world. Samarkand - called Marakanda in the 4th century BC, whoever tried to conquer it! During the centuries the city has been invaded by troops of Alexander the Great, Arabian invaders, Chingiz Khan and Tamerlane. Today romance of Samarkand still works its magic, alluring the traveler with a dreamlike quality.

O/n in hotel. Meals: HB



Day 8. Samarkand

A.M. Breakfast in hotel . Start of sightseeing in Samarkand:

Registan Square (XV–XVIIc) official center of Timur Empire, consist of grandiose madrasahs of Ulugbek, Sher Dor & Tillya Kari. **Gur Amir mausoleum** (XV c) Timurids dynastic burial vault. A unique monument of arhitecture with blue ribbed teessellated dome.

P.M. In the afternoon continue of SS incl: Excavations and museum of the **ancient city of Afrosiab**

Ulugbek’s Observatory (XV c) 1st observatory in orient with 30m sextant built by Ulugbek to make exact astronomical catalogue. **Shahi Zinda mausoleum** (XIV–XV c) ‘Town of Dead’ a complex of more than 20 unique

buildings of different ages. **Bibi Khanym mosque Oriental Bazar “Siab”.** O/n in hotel. Meals: HB

Day 9. Samarkand – Tashkent (360 km)

A.M. Breakfast in hotel. Drive to Tashkent.

P.M. Arrival & accommodation in hotel.

Tashkent Metro- currently the only subway in Central Asia, is fantastically designed in a unique, monumental Uzbek-Soviet style. It is never crowded, and the easiest and cheapest way to quickly transit the city.

Farewell dinner at local restaurant. O/n in hotel. Meals: HB

Day 10. Tashkent-Fergana (HY Air) - Kokand (100 km)- Rishtan (50 km)- Fergana (50 km) (by car)

A.M. Morning transfer to the airport. Flight to Fergana by HY 1413 at 08:10-09:10. Arrival and accommodation at hotel.

The Fergana Valley - is the most densely populated region of Uzbekistan, with almost a third of the country's population. Of the fertile land sits nestled between the Tien Shan Mountains in the north & the Alay in the south. There is scarcely a hectare of uncultivated land, the primary crop being cotton. Drive to Kokand. SS incl:

Khudoyar Khan Palace– the Palace of last khan Khudoyar. The Palace with 7 courtyards & 113 rooms, was completed in 1873, just three years before tsar's troops arrived.

Djuma Mosque - the city's Friday mosque reopened in 1989 after decades of neglect & today accommodate up to 10,000 worshippers.

Modari Khan– built in 1825 for the khan's mother. **Mausoleum Dakhma Shokhon** – “Grave of King”, tomb of the Khan and other family members.

P.M. Lunch and drive to Rishtan (50 km). SS incl:

Pottery Center - famous potters and ceramic products of the region are came from Rishtan. They are also well known in whole Central Asia. In local ceramic art there is a special style, named Rishtan style.

Drive to Fergana. Arrival and accommodation at hotel Dinner o/n at hotel. Meals: HB



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Day 11, Fergana-Margilan (30 km) – Kuva (31 km) –Fergana (15 km) (by coach)

A.M. Breakfast. Drive to Margilan. SS incl: **Margilan** – a small town on the way to Fergana. Well known by its best atlas – a traditional colorful fabric. To watch the art of spinning and winding and dyeing and weaving silk by hand is a fascinating unique experience. From traditional bright colors to color combinations of the latest fashion, you will find something to suit your very taste.

Visit of silk factory “**Yodgorlik**”, where you can see all process silk production. **Margilan Bazaar** Transfer to the ancient settlement **Akhsykent** (2nd-1st c. BC, 20 km to West of **Namangan, on the banks of the Syr-Darya River**) (85 km). Fish lunch in the Baliklar teahouse, near the ruins of an old settlement.

P.M. Lunch at local restaurant. Drive to Kuva. SS incl:

Buddhist Fortress– excavations of ancient Buddhist fortress in Kuva. Drive back to Fergana. Dinner & o/n at hotel. Meals: HB



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Day 12, Fergana – Tashkent (by car)

A.M. Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Tashkent via Kamchik pass.

P.M. Arrival and accommodation at hotel. Free time at leisure.

Dinner and o/n at hotel. Meals: HB

Day 13. Tashkent – home

A.M. Transfer to the airport for flight home.



<u>Tour cost for "standart" category without Tour Leader :</u>	<u>Tour cost for "standart" category with Tour Leader:</u>
2 pax: 1759 \$per person 3-8 pax: 1373 \$ per person 9-15 pax: 1177 \$ per person 16-21 pax: 1103 \$ per person 22-30 pax: 1015 \$ per person 31-40 pax 948 \$ per person	2 pax: 1759 \$per person 3-8 pax: 1373 \$ per person 9-15+1 pax: 1225 \$ per person 16-21+1 pax: 1133 \$ per person 22-30+1 pax: 1025 \$ per person 31-40+1 pax 948 \$ per person
Single supplement: 255 \$ p/pax/room Supp. For full board: 138 \$ p/pax	Single supplement: 255\$p/pax/room Supp. For full board: 138 \$ p/pax

Tour cost includes:

1. Accommodations in twin/double room basis
2. All land transportation by air-conditioned vehicle
3. English speaking escorted guides services (or guide with another language)
4. Excursion and entrance fees to historical monuments as per itinerary
5. Meals: Half board as per itinerary
6. Folklore show in Bukhara Nodir Devon Begi Madrassah
8. Invitation for visa or visa support letter
9. Refreshments such as: coffee, tea and mineral water
10. Portages service fees at hotels and air-ports

Tour Cost do not includes:

1. International air-fares
2. Domestic air-fare: Tashkent-Urgench / Tashkent - Fergana
3. Single supplement
4. Visa fees
5. Photo and camera charges in monuments
7. Travel Insurance
8. Tips for guide and Drivers

Note:

- A) Transportation service and vehicle type
1. For 2 pax: air-conditioned car
 2. For 3-8 pax: air-conditioned minibus with 6-11 seats
 3. For 9-15 pax: air-conditioned mini-coach with 18-25 seats
 4. For 16-21 pax and more: air-conditioned coach with 30-45 seats

B) Tour cost valid from 1 March 2014 till the 31 October of 2014y.

C) Name of all hotels in mentioned as below:

Hotels in Tashkent: Hotel Tashkent Palace / Shodlik / Uzbekistan or similar

Hotels in Khiva: Hotel Orient Star/Hotel Asia Khiva or similar

Hotel in Bukhara: Hotel Grand Bukhara/Malika Bukhara / Asia Bukhara/Omar Hayyam or similar

Hotels in Samarkand: Hotel Diyora/Hotel Asia Samarkand/ Grand Samarkand / Majestik Palace hotel or similar

Hotel in Fergana: Club 777 / Asia Fergana or similar