Travel Bliss

DAY TOUR · FROM SAMARKAND

SHAKHRISABZ

HISTORIC CENTRE · UNESCO 2000

AMIR TIMUR'S BIRTHPLACE · UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Shakhrisabz Day Tour

A day from Samarkand over the Takhtakaracha Pass to the town where Amir Timur was born — from the giant portal of Ak-Saray to the blue dome of Kok Gumbaz.

DURATION	INCLUDES	STARTS	RUNS
About 6–7 hours	Car + local guide	Your hotel, Samarkand	Daily

THE TOUR

The home town of Amir Timur

Shakhrisabz, once called Kesh, lies about 80–90 km south of Samarkand on the far side of the mountains. Amir Timur was born nearby, and he built here on a scale meant to impress. Its historic centre has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.

We pick you up at your hotel in Samarkand. The road runs past vineyards and villages and over the Takhtakaracha Pass, about 1.5–2 hours each way. In Shakhrisabz a local English-speaking guide walks with you through the old centre.

You see the giant portal of the Ak-Saray Palace, the Dorut Tilovat complex with the Kok Gumbaz Mosque, and Dorus Saodat, the burial complex Timur planned for his family. On the way back there is time for a stop with a view at the pass.

AT A GLANCE

DURATION
About 6–7 hours; a lunch stop can make the day a little longer

WAYS TO GO
Private tour with a guide, group tour, or a car with a driver only

MEETING POINT
Pick-up at your hotel in Samarkand

GUIDE
Local English-speaking guide in Shakhrisabz

RUNS
Daily

HIGHLIGHTS

- The UNESCO-listed historic centre of Amir Timur's birthplace
- The giant portal of Timur's Ak-Saray Palace, about 38 m tall even as a ruin
- Dorut Tilovat with the blue-domed Kok Gumbaz Mosque
- Dorus Saodat, with the Jahongir mausoleum and Timur's unused crypt
- Panoramic mountain views from the Takhtakaracha Pass

Your guide, your pace

On a private tour your guide and driver follow your rhythm: more time at the monuments, a longer stop at the pass, or a relaxed lunch. Ask anything along the way.

A TYPICAL ROUTE

What you will see

A typical day. The order can change with the day and with what interests you most.

1 **Takhtakaracha Pass**
The road from Samarkand climbs past vineyards and villages to one of the most beautiful viewpoints on the route, with panoramic mountain views.

2 **Ak-Saray Palace**
The two surviving pylons of the portal of Timur's White Palace, begun in 1380. In front of them stands the bronze statue of Amir Timur.

3 **Dorut Tilovat**
The complex grew around the grave of Shamsiddin Kulol, spiritual teacher of Timur's father. Timur's father is buried here too.

4 **Kok Gumbaz Mosque**
The "Blue Dome" Friday mosque, built in the 1430s by Timur's grandson Ulugh Beg in honour of his father, Shah Rukh.

5 **Dorus Saodat**
The burial complex Timur planned for his family: the mausoleum of his eldest son Jahongir and the underground crypt Timur prepared for himself, found in 1943.

· **Local museum (optional)**
If you wish, the local museum can be added as a stop.

· **Lunch (optional)**
A lunch stop can be arranged; the pass has restaurants that cook meat in a tandir oven.

What to wear

Comfortable shoes for paving and gravel, sun protection, and modest clothing for the working mosques; women should carry a scarf.

In summer

Start early: the park around the monuments has little shade.

In winter

After heavy snowfall the pass can be closed for a time. Ask us before you book.

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

- Your hotel, Samarkand
- Takhtakaracha Pass
- Ak-Saray Palace
- Dorut Tilovat · Kok Gumbaz
- Dorus Saodat
- Lunch (optional)
- Back to Samarkand

BEFORE YOU GO

Good to know

INCLUDED

- Round-trip transport
- Local English-speaking guide in Shakhrisabz
- Hotel pick-up in Samarkand
- Bottled water

NOT INCLUDED

- Entrance tickets to the monuments
- Lunch
- Personal expenses

Prefer not to pay on the spot? On a private tour, choose the All-inclusive option when you book: the entrance tickets on the route and a local lunch are then arranged for you, for a fixed amount per person.

How long is the tour?

Usually about 6–7 hours, round trip from your hotel in Samarkand. A lunch stop can make the day a little longer.

Is it a private or a group tour?

You can choose a private tour with a guide, a group tour, or a car with a driver only. A private tour can follow your own interests and pace.

What should I bring?

Comfortable shoes, sun protection, a scarf for the mosques, and some cash in Uzbek som for tickets and the bazaar.

If I get car-sick?

Take the front seat: the pass road has many bends.

Can I cancel or change the date?

Cancellation is free up to 24 hours before the tour, and changing the date is free.

Travel Bliss

Book or ask us

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan tour operator based in Samarkand. Private, group and tailor-made journeys since 2016. We reply within 24 hours.

★ 4.9 Tripadvisor · ★ 4.9 Google

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