

Travel Bliss

SMALL-GROUP TOUR · 11 DAYS · FROM TASHKENT

TASHKENT · KHIVA · BUKHARA · NURATA · YURT CAMP · SAMARKAND

Silk Road & Desert

Eleven days through Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand, with a night in a yurt camp by Aydarkul Lake and a night with a village family in Asraf.

DURATION	TOUR TYPE	STARTS & ENDS	RUNS
11 days · 10 nights	Small group · max 12	Tashkent	Fixed dates · Saturdays

THE JOURNEY

Silk Road & Desert in 11 days

The great Silk Road cities joined with the desert and village life of central Uzbekistan.

You fly to Khiva, cross the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara, sleep in a yurt camp near Aydarkul Lake with a camel ride and a campfire, and spend a night with a host family in Asraf village in the Nuratau mountains before Samarkand and Shakhrisabz. The last day ends with a Tashkent city tour.

1 Tashkent ---- **2** Khiva ---- **3–5** Bukhara ---- **6** Yurt camp ---- **7** Asraf ---- **8–10** Samarkand ---- **11** Tashkent

AT A GLANCE

START AND FINISH
Tashkent

NIGHTS
8 in 3★ B&B hotels · 1 in a yurt camp · 1 in a village guesthouse

GUIDES
Local guides in Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand, Shakhrisabz and Tashkent

GETTING AROUND
Flight Tashkent → Khiva, A/C transport, train Samarkand → Tashkent

MEALS
Daily breakfast, plus 3 lunches and 2 dinners between Bukhara and Samarkand

HIGHLIGHTS

- The UNESCO-listed old towns of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand
- A night in a yurt camp near Aydarkul Lake, with a camel ride and campfire music
- Village life and home cooking with a host family in Asraf
- A drive across the Kyzylkum Desert to the Amu Darya
- A day trip to Shakhrisabz
- Small group of up to 12 travellers



The Itchan Kala at sunset, Khiva



Registan Square in the evening, Samarkand

DAY BY DAY

Khiva and Bukhara

Day 1 — Arrival in Tashkent

TASHKENT

Arrive at Tashkent International Airport, where our driver meets you and takes you to the hotel. In the evening, an optional short orientation tour of the city; dinner on your own or at a local restaurant.

Day 2 — Flight to Khiva and the Itchan Kala

KHIVA

Early-morning domestic flight to Khiva (hotel departure around 05:00). After check-in, a full-day guided tour of the Itchan Kala, the UNESCO-listed walled city: the Kunya-Ark Citadel, the Pahlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, the Juma Mosque with its carved wooden columns, and the narrow streets and bazaars. Optional sunset from the city walls.

Day 3 — Across the Kyzylkum to Bukhara

BUKHARA

Air-conditioned transfer across the Kyzylkum Desert (6–7 hours). Stops in the Red Sands for photos and a short walk, and at the Amu Darya river for fresh local fish and wide river views. Arrival and check-in in Bukhara.

Day 4 — Bukhara: the old city

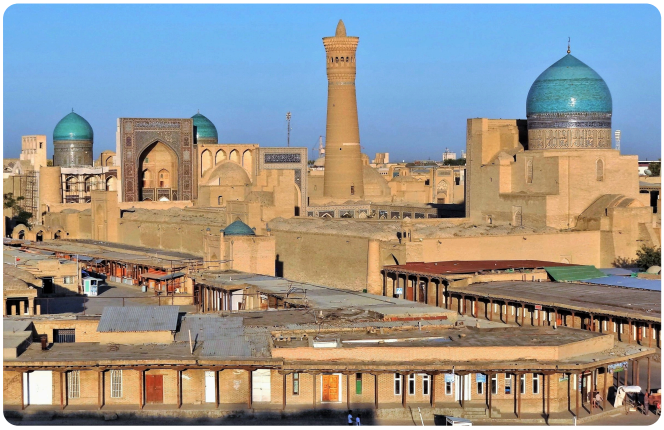
BUKHARA

Morning tour with your local guide: the Lyabi-Hauz ensemble, the Kalon Minaret and Mosque, the Mir-i-Arab Madrasah and the Bolo-Hauz Mosque. A walk through the bazaars and craft workshops, lunch with Uzbek cuisine, then free time.

Day 5 — Bukhara: palaces and shrines

BUKHARA

Morning tour with an English-speaking local guide: Sitorai Mohi Hosa, the last emir's summer palace; the Bahauddin Naqshband Mausoleum, a famous Sufi shrine; and the Ismail Samani Mausoleum. Afternoon free for the bazaar or a spa.



Old Bukhara seen from the Ark



The Kalyan Minaret, Bukhara

DAY BY DAY

Desert, village, Samarkand and Tashkent

Day 6 — **Nurata and a night in the desert** — YURT CAMP

Drive by air-conditioned transport with a stop at a ceramics workshop. A walk in Nurata town and lunch at a local restaurant, then on to the yurt camp near Aydarkul Lake. Camel ride, dinner by the campfire and live Kazakh folk music.

Day 7 — **Asraf village homestay** — HOMESTAY

After breakfast, drive to Asraf village in the Nuratau mountains. Home-cooked lunch with your host family, a walk through the village and its daily life, then watch, or join, the cooking of dinner. Live local music in the evening.

Day 8 — **Village morning, on to Samarkand** — SAMARKAND

Breakfast with the host family and a morning walk through farms, gardens and the village surroundings. Lunch in the village, then a scenic countryside drive to Samarkand with photo stops.

Day 9 — **Samarkand: Registan and Gur-Emir** — SAMARKAND

The historic heart of Samarkand: Gur-Emir, the mausoleum of Amir Timur, and the Registan Square. After lunch, the Bibi-Khanym Mosque and the lively Siyob Bazaar. Free evening.

Day 10 — **Day trip to Shakhrisabz** — SAMARKAND

A scenic drive over the mountains to Shakhrisabz, Amir Timur's birthplace: the Ak-Saray Palace ruins, the Dorus-Saodat and Dorut-Tilovat complexes and a walk in the historic centre. Lunch in Shakhrisabz, then back to Samarkand.

Day 11 — **Train to Tashkent, city tour and departure** — END OF TOUR

Afrosiyob high-speed train to Tashkent (or the Sharq train if it is not available). Tashkent city tour: the Khast-Imam complex with the Quran of Caliph Uthman, lunch at a local restaurant, Chorsu Bazaar, a ride on the Tashkent Metro and Amir Timur Square. In the evening, transfer to Tashkent International Airport. Flying out the next day? An extra night in Tashkent can be added on request.

> Trains: if the Afrosiyob high-speed train is not available, we use the Sharq train. Timings are approximate.



Campfire night at the yurt camp



The Ak-Saray Palace, Shakhrisabz

BEFORE YOU GO

What's included

INCLUDED

- 10 nights: 3★ B&B hotels, 1 night in a yurt camp near Aydarkul Lake, 1 night in a village guesthouse in Asraf
- Local guides for the city tours
- Airport transfers
- Domestic flight Tashkent → Khiva
- A/C transport: Khiva → Bukhara; Bukhara → Nurata → yurt camp → Asraf → Samarkand; Samarkand → Shakhrisabz → Samarkand
- Train Samarkand → Tashkent (Afrosiyob high-speed, or Sharq if it is not available)
- Meals from Bukhara to Samarkand: 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, plus daily hotel breakfasts
- Camel ride and folk music at the yurt camp

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Visa fees and visa support
- Travel insurance
- Lunches and dinners not listed as included
- Personal expenses and tips

SMALL-GROUP FACTS

- Fixed departure dates
- Small group: up to 12 travellers
- Every date guaranteed from 2 travellers
- 30% deposit by payment link after we confirm your seats; the rest in Uzbekistan, in cash or by card
- Free cancellation up to 45 days before departure
- One free date change up to 30 days before departure

See dates and prices: travel-bliss.uz/tour/silk-road-desert-small-group

Booking

Choose a date and send a request; nothing is paid at this point. We confirm your seats by WhatsApp or e-mail and send a payment link for the 30% deposit. The rest is paid in Uzbekistan, in cash or by card.

Cancellation and changes

- 45 days or more before departure: the whole deposit is refunded
- 44 to 15 days before: half of the deposit is refunded
- Less than 15 days before: the deposit is not refunded
- One free move to another date of the same tour, up to 30 days before departure

GOOD TO KNOW

Questions and answers

How big are the groups?

Up to 12 travellers. Every date is guaranteed once 2 travellers have confirmed.

I travel alone. Can I join?

Yes. Choose a shared room and we will look for a roommate. If we cannot find one, you pay only half of the single-room supplement. A single room is also possible.

Can we do this tour privately?

Yes. The tour also runs as a private tour on the dates you choose. Ask us, or see the private version on travel-bliss.uz.

What hotels do you use?

3★ hotels in the cities. On this tour you also spend one night in a yurt camp near Aydarkul Lake and one night in a village guesthouse in Asraf.

Are international flights included?

No. International flights, visa and travel insurance are not included.

WHAT TO BRING

- Passport (needed for hotels, the flight and trains)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Clothes that cover shoulders and knees for mosques and mausoleums
- A warm layer for cool evenings
- Sun protection: hat, sunglasses and sunscreen

Photos: yurt camp © TravelBliss. Itchan Kala: Nassima Chahboun, CC BY-SA 4.0; Registan in the evening: Adam Harangozó, CC BY-SA 4.0; Bukhara skyline: Adam Jones, CC BY-SA 2.0; Kalyan Minaret: Humoyun Mehridinov, CC BY-SA 4.0; Ak-Saray: Jean Housen, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, edited.

Travel Bliss

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Uzbekistan and Tajikistan tour operator based in Samarkand. Private, group and tailor-made journeys since 2016. We reply within 12 hours.

★ 4.9 Tripadvisor · ★ 4.9 Google

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