

Uzbekistan Budget Group Tour 2025

Duration: 7 days

Physical Grading: Light

Travel Style: Classic

Trip Type: Small Group (min 2 – max 8)

Travelers Age: from 20 to 70

You will visit: Tashkent, Bukhara, Gijduvan, Aydarkul Lake, Nuratau Mountains, Samarkand

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 (Sunday): Tashkent

Begin your Uzbekistan Budget Group Tour with a warm welcome in Tashkent, the thriving capital of Uzbekistan. Arrive in Tashkent International Airport, our friendly driver will meet you and escort you to your hotel complimentary breakfast, check-in begins at noon.

Your guide and driver will pick you up from your hotel to begin your Tashkent city tour. A rich history of over 2200 years, Tashkent boasts a myriad of captivating museums, historic sites, and lush parks waiting to be discovered. Your private tour will include:

- Tour of the Applied Arts Museum, an informative collection of Uzbekistan's finest handicrafts housed in an ornately decorated villa;
- Walk through Amir Timur Square and Independence Square;
- Ride on the Tashkent Metro, an immaculate subway system with each station decorated in colored mosaics and ceramics to depict a specific theme;
- Excursion to the Old City, including the Khazret-Imam Architectural Complex, which holds the oldest known Quran in the world. Also on site are the Madrasah of Barak-Khan (16th century), Tilya-Sheykh Mosque, Juma Mosque and Mausoleum of Saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi (all 15th century);
- Visit to Chorsu Bazaar, Tashkent's most well-established bazaar that includes a large selection of traditional Uzbek ceramics, jewelry, handbags, garments and more.

Tour duration: 5 hours. Spend the night at your hotel in Tashkent.

Meals: breakfast.

Day 2 (Monday): Tashkent – Bukhara

Breakfast at the hotel before taking the morning train to Bukhara (580 km, 4-5h). Arrive in Bukhara and transfer to your hotel in the Old City, UNESCO World Heritage site.

With your private local guide, enjoy a walking tour of the most impressive sights of Bukhara's Old City:

- Lyabi-Hauz ensemble, holding the largest artificial reservoir of medieval Bukhara (14th-17th centuries). This ensemble includes some of the largest madrasahs in the city: the Khanaka Madrasah, Kukeldash Madrasah and Nadir Divan Beghi Madrasah (all 16th century);
- Magoki-Attori the oldest mosque in Bukhara (12th century);
- Four Trade Domes (15th-16th centuries), which still house local handicrafts for sale;
- Ulugbek Madrasah (15th century) and Abdulazizkhan Madrasah (17th century), relatively untouched yet impressive religious schools;
- Poi Kalyan Ensemble (12th-16th centuries), consisting of the Kalyan Minaret, Kalyan Mosque, Amir-Alimkhan Madrasah and Miri-Arab Madrasah;
- Ark Fortress (4th century), the ancient center of Bukharan statehood and currently home to a small museum;
- Bolo-Khauz Complex, consisting of an artfully decorated 18th century mosque, a minaret and reservoirs that once provided water for the entire city;

Tour duration: 6 hours. Overnight in Bukhara.

Meals: breakfast.

Day 3 (Tuesday): Bukhara – Gijduvan – Yurt camp

In the morning breakfast and free time. Check-out at noon. Drive from Bukhara to Yurt camp in Kyzylkum desert via Gijduvan (250km, 4h). Gijduvan is a small town whose traditional crafts and ceramics have been sought after in Central Asia for centuries due to their quality and colorful, decorative style. Visit the ceramic museum and workshop. Along the way, stop by the Rabat-i-Malik Caravanserai ruins and Sardoba, an ancient water reservoir. After arriving at the camp, you'll have free time for camel rides (10min), resting or walking among the dunes. Enjoy dinner around a campfire in the evening while a Kazakh akin (skilled improvised singer) entertains with folk songs. Overnight in the yurt after stargazing in the endless desert sky.

Meals: breakfast, dinner.

Recommended places to visit in Bukhara during your free time in the morning:

- *Chor Minor ("Four Minarets"), an unusual madrasah built by Niyazkul in the 18th century, whose four minarets are said to reflect the four major world religions of that period;*
- *Samanids Mausoleum (9-10th centuries), the most ancient brick building in Central Asia;*
- *Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum, a house model representing the residential architecture in Bukhara.*
- *The Bozori Kord Hammam (public bathhouse) was built in the 14th century and has been in regular use ever since. You'll immerse yourself in centuries-old traditions.*

Day 4 (Wednesday): Yurt camp, Aydarkul – Nurata - Samarkand

In the morning visit Aydarkul Lake (5 km). Walk along the shore or go for a swim in its clear waters. Have lunch at the yurt camp before leaving for Samarkand via Nurata (250km, 4h). Nurata village to visit a local old mosque known for its holy spring waters, a bath-house and to explore the ruins of a fortress built by

Alexander the Great. Founded by Alexander the Great in 327 BC, the city of Nurata bears witness to its rich history, with the remains of his fortress still proudly standing to this day. Mentioned in numerous historical texts, this area has long been recognized for its strategic significance. Arrive in Samarkand - the capital of Tamerlane's Empire. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Samarkand.

Meals: breakfast, lunch.

Highly recommend visiting Registan Square in the evening, where the enchanting evening lighting creates a breathtaking atmosphere. This magnificent Silk Road sight captivates the hearts of travelers.

Day 5 (Thursday): Samarkand

After breakfast, start your private tour of Samarkand, Silk Road City. Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel before setting out with your local guide and driver to visit some of the city's most famous sites:

- Gur Emir, the imposing burial site of Tamerlane and Mirzo Ulugbek;
- Registan Square, the commercial center of Samarkand for centuries and Samarkand's most famous site today. The square includes three madrasahs: Ulugbek Madrasah (15th century), Sher-Dor Madrasah (17th century) and Tilla-Kori Madrasah (17th century);
- Bibi Khanum Mosque, built by Tamerlane for his favorite wife;
- Siab Bazaar, a multi-level complex where you can shop for souvenirs and sample sweets, fruits and Samarkand's famous bread;
- Shakhi-Zinda, a burial complex built between the 9th-14th centuries. Climb the blue-domed path and explore more than 20 small mausoleums that line the broad alleyway;
- Ulugbek Observatory, where you can see the remains of a 14th-15th century sextant and tour the Ulugbek Museum.

Tour Duration: 6-7 hours. Transfer to hotel and free time. Overnight in Samarkand.

Meals: breakfast

Day 6 (Friday): Samarkand

After breakfast, continue your sightseeing tour of Samarkand will continue with trips to these culturally significant sights:

- Visit to the excavation site and museum of the ancient city Afrasiab;
- Tour of the mausoleum of Khodja Daniyar, believed to be the tomb of the prophet Daniel, whose remains were brought here by Tamerlane;
- Konigil Village to observe the traditional way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry leaves;
- Cooking master class national dish and lunch;
- Excursion to the Oriental Silk Carpet Factory to see firsthand how top-quality carpets are created.

Tour Duration: 6 hours. Transfer to hotel and free time. Overnight in Samarkand.

Meals: breakfast, lunch.

Optional Activity: Visit the Samarkand Khovrenko Winery, which is over 150 years old and today continues to produce a range of wines, brandy and vodka. The tour includes a wine museum and a special wine tasting room.

Day 7 (Saturday): Samarkand, departure

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a free morning. Check-out and transfer to Samarkand International Airport. End of Uzbekistan Budget Group Tour – Silk Road cities and UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Price included:

- Accommodation based on double/twin room, 5 nights and yurt camp 1 night.
- Entrance tickets to the museums, mausoleums and sights on 1, 2, 5 and 6 days.
- Transfers between cities and during city tours on 1, 5 and 6 days.
- Transfers include airport pick-ups and drop-offs.
- Local guides for sightseeing on 1, 2, 5 and 6 days.
- Meals – 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner.
- Cooking master class in Samarkand.
- 1L bottle of water per person per day.

Price does not include:

- Tour leader to accompany the travelers for the whole duration of the tour.
- Full board (lunches and dinners).
- Costs for the 'optional activities'.
- The hotel charges for additional services.
- Consular fees for Uzbekistan tourist visa.
- Travel insurance.
- All services not mentioned above as included in the Uzbekistan tour plan price.

