

# **Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India**

Duration: 6 days

You will visit: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara

## **Tour Itinerary:**

#### Day 1 – TUE/FRI: Delhi – Tashkent

Depart Delhi, India by flight HY422 and arrive in Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital. Pick-up from airport and transfer to the hotel.

Your guide and driver will pick you up from your hotel to begin your, Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India, Tashkent city tour. Your private tour will include:

- 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), Tillya-Sheykh Mosque, Juma Mosque and Mausoleum of Saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi (all 15th century);
- Drive though Lal Bahadur Shastri monument and Visit to Chorsu Bazaar, Tashkent's most well-established bazaar that includes a large selection of traditional Uzbek ceramics, jewelry, handbags, garments and more;
- Ride on the Tashkent Metro, an immaculate subway system with each station decorated in colored mosaics and ceramics to depict a specific theme;
- Walk through Amir Timur Square, with a massive statue of none other than Tamerlane himself at the center and Independence Square, including the touching Mourning Mother Monument;
- Drive to the Sacred Heart Cathedral, a 20th-century Roman Catholic Church with beautiful stained-glass windows and Gothic-style architecture;
- Tour of the Applied Arts Museum, an informative collection of Uzbekistan's finest handicrafts housed in an ornately decorated villa.

Tour duration: 5-6 hours. Overnight in Tashkent.

#### Day 2 – WED/SAT: Tashkent – Samarkand

Begin the second day of your Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India, with a delicious breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the train station to take Tashkent - Samarkand train (330 km).

Pick-up from Samarkand train station and transfer to hotel. Check-in to the hotel at noon. Begin your private city tour with local guide, will include the following:

- 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. Overnight in Samarkand.

#### Day 3 – THU/SUN: Samarkand

Breakfast at the hotel, on the third day of your Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India, enjoy a free day and discover Samarkand yourself. Overnight in Samarkand.

#### **Optional activities in Samarkand:**

- Wine tasting at Khovrenko Wine factory;
- 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;
- Drive to Konigil Village to observe the traditional way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry leaves; you'll also have the chance to buy these unique souvenirs;
- Excursion to the Oriental Silk Carpet Factory to see firsthand how top-quality carpets are created.

#### Day 4 – FRI/MON: Samarkand - Bukhara

Breakfast at the hotel before taking the morning train to Bukhara (280 km).

Arrive in Bukhara and transfer to your hotel in the Old City (check-in at noon), an area resembling a scene from Arabian Nights. 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 Mosque, the oldest mosque in Bukhara (12th century);
- Four Trade Domes (15th-16th centuries), which still house local handicrafts for sale;
- Poi Kalyan Ensemble (12th-16th centuries), consisting of the Kalyan Minaret, Kalyan Mosque, Amir-Alimkhan Madrasah and Miri-Arab Madrasah;
- Ulugbek Madrasah (15th century) and Abdulazizkhan Madrasah (17th century), relatively untouched yet impressive religious schools;
- 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;

Finish your walking city tour of Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India. Tour duration: 6-7 hours. Overnight in Bukhara.

#### Day 5 – SAT/TUE: Bukhara – Tashkent

After having a good breakfast in the hotel, the Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India gets even more exciting to explore old city of Bukhara before checking out of the hotel at noon. Free time.

Transfer to the train station to take the late afternoon train to Tashkent (600km). You'll be met at the Tashkent station and transferred to hotel. Overnight in Tashkent.

#### Optional activities in Bukhara:

- 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;
- Emir's Summer Residence, Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa (19th century), a unique site boasting of a blend of Oriental and Russian architecture;
- Bakhautdin Naqsband Mausoleum, an ensemble dedicated to the founder of the Sufi Order "Naqshbandia"; the site includes a mausoleum, mosque, pond, and museum;
- Chor-Bakr Necropolis, (City of the Dead, 10th century), ancient burial grounds which were developed into a memorial complex in the 1500s.

#### Day 6 – SUN/WED: Tashkent

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a free morning. Check out from the hotel by noon. Transfer to the Tashkent International Airport and take a flight to Delhi. End of Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India.

## Inclusions:

- Accommodation based on double/twin room with breakfasts, 5 nights;
- Transfers including airport pick-ups and drop-offs;
- Transfers including train station pick-ups and drop-offs;
- Transfers during city tour on days 1 and 2;
- Tashkent to Samarkand, Samarkand to Bukhara and Bukhara to Tashkent high-speed train tickets economy class;
- Sightseeing city tour in Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara with local guide;
- Entrance tickets to the museums, mausoleums and sites in Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara;
- Your Uzbekistan UNESCO Sights Tour from India includes VAT tax 12%.

### **Exclusions:**

- Tour guide to accompany travelers for the full duration of the tour;
- Letter of Invitation and consular fees for Uzbekistan tourist visa;
- International flight tickets before and after the tour;
- Hotel charges for additional services;
- Tips are not included (driver, guide, porter);
- Full board (lunches and dinners);
- Travel insurance;
- All other charges and services not mentioned under "Inclusions".