

An excursion-historical tour passes along the territory of two modern countries: Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It repeats the part of the way of Alexander's Asian campaign. Using bulls' skins, Alexander's army had crossed Amudarya river and invaded the territory of Sogdiana (an interfluvium of Amudarya and Sirdarya). It took three years for the forces of Alexander to conquer this region and suppress the often aroused rebellions. Here he had married a beautiful woman Roxana (the daughter of a local lord). Here, in mountain regions, for siege of the fortresses Alexander (first time in the world) had successfully practiced mountainous special troops. During his campaign he founded many settlements, including big towns. One of them is Alexandria Eshata (Distant) – a modern Khodjent. The tour is assigned for those who love history, ethnography and oriental exotic.

The itinerary: Tashkent – Samarkand – Bukhara – Shakhrisabz – Termez – Baysun – Dushanbe – Margib – Iskanderkul lake – Istravshan – Khujand – Tashkent

Duration: 15 days

Number of tourists in the group: min. – 1 pax, max. – 16 pax

Language: English

PROGRAM OF THE TOUR

Day 1 Arrival to Tashkent. Transfer to hotel. Rest.

Day 2 After breakfast drive to Samarkand (300 km, 5 hrs). On arrival check in hotel & short rest. Afternoon sightseeing: Registan Square - the "heart" of Samarkand - ensemble of 3 majestic medreses (XIV-XVI c.c.) – Sherdor, Ulugbek and Tillya Qory, the grandiose cathedral Bibi-Khanum Mosque (XV c.), Gur-Emir Mausoleum (XV c.).



Day 3 After breakfast continue of sightseeing in Samarkand: Tamerlan's grandson Ulugbek's the well-known ruler and astronomer-scientist observatory (1420) - the ruins of an immense (30 m) astrolabe for observing stars position, Shakh-Zinda Necropolis (XI-XVIII cc), exotic Siab bazaar. After lunch transfer to Bukhara (300 km, 5 hrs).



Day 4 Sightseeing in Bukhara: the heart of Bukhara – architectural complex Lyabi-Khauz (XIV-XVII cc), Kukeldash madrasah (XV c), Poi-Kalyan complex: minaret Kalyan (XII c), large Friday mosque Kalyan (XV c), stand madrasah Miri-Arab (XVI c), Samanids mausoleum (IX-X cc), Ark citadel (IV–XX cc) surrounded with large fortress wall, Chor-Minor – the original building of four minarets (XIX c). Hotel.



Day 5 Continue sightseeing in Bukhara: Sitorai-Mokhi-Khosa - summer residence of the Emir of Bukhara. The Bahauddin Naqshbandi complex - one of the founders of Sufism, which was created for five centuries. Necropolis of Sheikh Bahaaddin (Baha-ad-Din) Naqshbandi a patron of Bukhara, is located near to Bukhara. After lunch – transfer to Shakhrisabz (290 km, 4-5 hrs). Hotel.



Day 6 Sightseeing in Shakhrisabz: ruins of Ak-Saray Palace (1380-1404), Doruttiliyavat Ensemble (XIV-XV cc), Kok Gumbaz Mosque (1435), Jami Mosque (1915), Jakhongir Mausoleum (XIV c), Dorussiadat (XIVc). In the afternoon drive to Termez (340 km, 6 hrs). Hotel.



- Day 7** Sightseeing in Termez: Fayaz-tepe Buddhism Complex (I c.), ensemble of Sultan-Saodat Mausoleums with graves of aristocracy of Samanid period (IX - X cc.), Kyrk-Kyz Farmstead (IX - X cc), Mausoleum of Khakim al Termezi (748 – 869), Kampyr-Tepe ancient settlement (40 km from Termez), Jarkurgan village famous for its medieval minaret, local historical museum in Termez.
- Day 8** Transfer to Baysoon (150 km, 3 hrs). On the road excursion to 1000 years old Plane tree (chinara) in Sayrob settlement. Baysoon – the largest settlement, a regional centre, which is situated at the grand Ketmen-Chapti massif. The folk folklore of Baysoon is included by UNESCO to the list of masterpieces of non-material people world culture. Vissiting the traditional family crafts of making carpets, susane embroidery. Acquaintance with the way of life, traditions and culture of local people. Overnight in an Uzbek family.
- Day 9** Transfer Baysoon - Dushanbe (205 km, 5-6 hrs). Crossing Uzbek-Tajik border “Saryosiyoy”. excursion along the city: Independence square, Samany monument – the founder of Tajik government, Rudaki avenue, an ancient museum with interesting collection of ancient artifact which includes the ceramic figure (13 m) of Buddha in nirvana (VII c.). Hotel.
- Day 10** Transfer to Margib village (135 km, 3 hrs). Margib is ancient Tajik ethnic settlement in the valley of Yagnob river. The population consists of ethnic Tajiks. Hiking along the picturesque gorge near rocky massif Zamin-Karor, aquittance with local lifestyle. Overnight in traditional Tajik house.
- Day 11** Transfer to Iskanderkul, the biggest and the most beautiful lake of Fann mountains. Hiking around the lake and to the “Fann Niagara” – 40 meters high waterfall, flowing out from the lake. Picnic at the lake. After lunch – returning to Margib.
- Day 12** Transfer to Istravshan (Kiropol, Ura-Tyube) (150 km, 3 hrs). Excursion in Istravshan, founded by Persian King Kier in VIth c. B.C., old city, bazaar, Kok – Gumbaz mosque-medrese (XVI c.) Mug mountain.
- Day 13** Transfer to Khojent (Alexandria Eshata) (80 km, 2 hrs). Excursion: Sheikh Maslikhiddin Mausoleum and Mosque (XIV-XIX c.c.), Payshhambe exotic bazaar, country estate of collective farm named after Urumkhodjaev (Tajik copy of the palace of Russian tsars in Petergof). Hotel.
- Day 14** Tranfer to Tashkent (160 km, 3 hrs). Crossing the Tajik-Uzbek border “Oybek”. In the afternoon – excursion along Tashkent: Old city, Barak-Khan Madrassah (XVI c.), Yunus-Khan Mausoleum, Kaffal-al-Shashi Mazar Mausoleum (XVI c), Kukeldash Madrassah (XVIII), Independence Square, Tamerlane Square, People Friendship Square, Tashkent underground (“Metro”), the building of National Theatre of opera and ballet, orient bazaar and shopping.
- Day 15** Departure from Tashkent.



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