

Historical and cultural tour of the two most interesting Central Asian republics will acquaint visitors with diverse culture and monuments of ancient civilizations: Margiana, Parthia, Sogdiana and Khorezm. In 2 weeks you will visit 8 (!) objects of UNESCO World Heritage in Samarqand, Shakhrisabz, Bukhara, Khiva, Merv, Margush, Kunya-Urgench and Old Nisa. You will not only plunge into the ancient history and culture, but also communicate with the locals, who turned the desert into fertile oases.

Itinerary: Tashkent – Samarqand – Shakhrisabz – Bukhara – Mary/Merv – Ashgabat – Dashoguz – Kunya-Urgench – Khiva – Tashkent

Duration: 15 days

Number of tourists in group: minimum - 1, maximum - unlimited

Language: English

PROGRAM OF THE TOUR

Day 1 Arrival in **Tashkent**. Transfer to the hotel. Rest.

Day 2 After breakfast drive to **Samarqand** (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.). O/n at the hotel.



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. Late afternoon drive to **Shakhrisabz** (90 km., 2 hrs). On arrival check-in hotel & rest. O/n at the hotel.



Day 4 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 **Bukhara**. On arrival check-in hotel & rest. O/n at the hotel.



Day 5 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). O/n at the hotel.



Day 6 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. O/n at the hotel.



Day 7 After breakfast depart **Bukhara** and drive to Uzbek / Turkmen border point "Farap". Border formalities on both sides, crossing the border (1.5 to 3 hours procedure). Transfer to **Mary** via Turkmenabat. Stop in Turkmenabat for lunch. Continue driving to Mary (3 hours). On arrival check-in hotel & rest. O/n at the hotel.



Day 8 Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning depart **Mary** and drive through fields by asphalt road corresponding partly to the Old Caravan Route



from Merv to Kunya Urgench. After 70 km, change the vehicle to desert track and continue driving through the desert to archaeology camp. Discover the excavations of the ancient **Margush** country capital – Gonur which consists of the Palace of the city, Fire and Water Temples, Royal Necropolis. Return in Mary. Visit Mary historical Museum. O/n at the hotel.

Day 9 Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to **Ancient Merv** (30 minutes). Sightseeing Merv historical park with: Sultan Sanjar Mausoleum, Large and Small Gyz Gala, Erk Kala, Gyaur Gala, medieval castles – “Kesk” fortresses, others. Return to Mary. Fly to **Ashgabat**. Upon arrival to Ashgabat transfer to hotel. Check –in & rest. O/n at the hotel.

Day 10 Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing in Ashgabat. Visit the Museum of Turkmen Carpets Turkmenistan, visit center of the city with magnificent new marble building and fountains. O/n at the hotel.



Day 11 Breakfast at the hotel. Continue sightseeing Ashgabat, Visit National Museum of Turkmenistan and the ruins of Old Nisa – residence of the ancient Parthian kings. Continue to Gypjak. Visit Spiritual Mosque. Return to Ashgabat. O/n at the hotel.

Day 12 Early breakfast. Morning flight to **Dashoguz**. Arrival to Dashoguz, transfer to Kunya-Urgench. Sightseeing tour: Mausoleum of Fakhr At-Din, Turabek Khanum Mausoleum, Mausoleum of Najmitdin Kubra and Sultan Ali.



Kutlug Timur Minaret. Transfer to Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan border point. Border formalities on both sides (1.5 hours to 3 hours procedure). Drive to **Khiva**. On arrival check –in hotel & rest. O/n at the hotel.



Day 13 After breakfast start sightseeing in **Khiva**: Ichan Kala – the museum under one sky, protected by the UNESCO as one of the world heritage masterpiece. Kalta-Minor Minaret (1855) – incomplete minaret of 26m height and base diameter of 16m height. It was planned as a highest minaret in Central Asia. Kunya-Ark (XVII-XIX cc) – the first palace of Khiva’s khans, Pahlovan Mahmud mausoleum (XIV-XIX c), Islam Khodja madrassah and minaret (1908 y.). Juma-mosque (1789) - the original Friday mosque with flat roof, propped up by 218 wooden carved columns (X-XIX c) with magnificent acoustics. In the evening fly to **Tashkent**. On arrival transfer to the hotel, check –in & rest. O/n at the hotel. .



Day 14 Sightseeing in Tashkent: Old town, cult-architectural complex Khast-Imam – Imam) with grand Friday mosque, medieval Yunus-khan and Kafal-Shashi mausoleums (XVI c), Barakh – khan and Kukeldosh madrasahs (XVI-XVII c), Islamic University, library in Tillya Sheykh mosque with one of Osman caliph’s (VII c) original Korans, the oldest in the world; Istiqlol square with Abdul Kasim madrasah (XVI-XVII c) (the craftsmen works and sells their original products and souvenirs here), Alisher Navoiy monument, great amusement park, and the color music fountain; Amir Timur square (Tamerlan) with the park, equestrian statue of Tamerlan, surrounded by historic and administrative buildings such as the Forum palace, the Timurids museum, Uzbekistan Hotel, Tashkent chimes, Tashkent University of Law and others; Courage monument – the monument to Tashkent people suffered from the destructive earthquake in 1966; Opera and Ballet theater, built by the Japanese prisoners of war in 1945, and the color music fountain; Mustaqillik (Independence) square with the Independence monument, “Ezgulik” arch, the eternal flame, the fountains; “Chorsu” eastern bazaar, decorative and applied art with the richest collection of Uzbekistan craftsmen’s products.



Day 15 Departure from Tashkent.

The tour can be organized in any dates / number of pax, cost & conditions are available upon request.