

10 Days Treasures of Karakalpakstan

Valid Till : Dec 2018



Day 1. Arrive in Tashkent

Meeting and assistance on arrival to Tashkent. On this day you will see the old and new parts of the capital. You will visit **Hast-Imam architectural complex**, where you can see famous **Koran of Caliph Osman** – VIII century manuscript Koran. Then visit one of the oldest bazaars on the Great Silk Road – **Chorsu Bazaar** and historical monument of XIX century **Kukeldash Madrasah**. After lunch in local restaurant continue excursion to **Tashkent Metro**, **Independence Square**, **Amir Temur Square**, **Opera and Ballet Theatre** named after **Alisher Navoiy**, **Museum of Amir Temur** and **Museum of Applied Arts**. After sightseeing welcome dinner in local restaurant. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 2. Tashkent - Samarkand (morning railway transfer)

Early breakfast and transfer to Samarkand by "Afrosiab" express train.

Arrival in Samarkand at 10:10. You will be met by local guide and transferred to the hotel. After a short rest begin your sightseeing day. You will visit the pearl of Samarkand - **Registan ensemble** with its madrassahs – **Sher-Dor**, **Mirzo Ulugbek** and **Tilla Kori**. Later visit **Gur-Emir mausoleum** – the tomb of Temurids, where all members of Temurids' dynasty are buried, **Bibi-Khanym Mosque** – the mosque which was built by Tamerlane (Amir Temur) for his wife after campaign to India, **Shakhi-Zinda necropolis** - where located the grave of Kusam Ibn-Abbas - the cousin of prophet Mukhammed.



Also you will have opportunity to visit **Khodja-Daniyar Mausoleum** – the mausoleum of prophet Daniil and **Mirzo Ulugbek's observatory**. After excursion dinner at local restaurant or national house. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 3. Samarkand – Shakhrisabz - Samarkand

Morning drive to Shakhrisabz via picturesque Takhtakaracha Pass (H=1610 m) and “**Demons' Plateau**” (huge stones in Amankutan Mountains of Zarafshan Mountain Ridge) to Shakhrisabz town – the birthplace of Tamerlane. You will visit Tamerlane's palace **Ak-Saray** (“White Palace” 1380-1404), which is mostly ruined, but it is being restored intensively. In addition to giant gates 40 m high, you can see magnificent filigree mosaics and unique (by technology) examples of wall laying, which are the evidence of greatness of this big summer residence. Then visit Ensemble of **Dorus-Saodat mausoleum** (“Place of Power”, XIV c.) – crypt of Djakhangir and Omar (Timur son's) is not less interesting, **Dorus-Tilovat ensemble** (“blue mosque”, XIV c.) – **Shamsuddin Kulola Mausoleum** (spiritual leader of Timur), graceful **Ghumbazi-Seyidon mausoleum** and **Kok-Ghumbaz cathedral mosque** (1435), also you will visit **Khazrat-Imam mosque** and **Timur's tomb** – mausoleum of great conqueror's relatives. After excursion return back to Samarkand and dinner at local restaurant or national house. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 4. Samarkand - Bukhara (morning railway transfer)

Today in the morning after the breakfast transfer to railway station to catch an express “Afrosiyob” train to Bukhara. Meeting and assistance upon arrival to Bukhara.



Today you will see **Lyab-i Hauz Ensemble** with its three architectural buildings: **Khanaka** (dervish lodge) (17th c.), **Nodir Divan Beghi madrassah** (17th c.), and **Kukelhdash madrassah** (16th c.), **Magok-i-Attari mosque** (12 – 16th cc.), trading domes (16th c.). **Toki Sarrafon** (the dome of money-changers), **Toki Telpak Furushon** (the dome of headwear sellers), **Toki Zargaron** (the dome of jewelers), under which a number of souvenir workshops are located, just like many years ago, **Poi-Kalon architectural complex** which consists of **Kalon mosque** (16th c.), **Kalyan minaret** (1127)- the minaret served as a lighthouse for caravans going to Bukhara along the Great Silk Way, **Mir-i-Arab madrassah** (16th c.), **Abdullazizkhan madrassah** (17th c.), **Ulugbek madrassah** (15th c.), **Tim Abdulla-khan trading dome** (16th c.) After excursion dinner at local restaurant. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5. Bukhara

Full day sightseeing tour in Bukhara: **The Ark fortress** (1st c. BC – 19th c.) For years, the fortress served as a residence of Bukhara emirs where an emir's whole family lived permanently, and where bureaucracy was located, as well as a "zindan" (a dungeon), a harem and a treasury, **Bolo-Hauz complex** (18 – 20th cc.). Unusually beautiful jami for the nobles living in the Ark fortress, **Ismail Samani Mausoleum** (end of 9th – beginning of 10th cc.) The oldest monument in Bukhara, made of burnt bricks decorated with skillful carving., miraculously survived through Chenghis Khan invasion, **Chashma-Ayub mausoleum** (12 – 16th cc.) There is a legend about the sacred spring inside the mausoleum which says that Iov (Ayub), the biblical prophet, in a dry year made a way to the water with the help of his stick and, thus, saved Bukhara from death.



Visit local **Karvon bazaar** – optional. Here you will find yourself in an abundance of the cheapest in the city fruits, dried fruits, nuts, spices and sweets. The rest part of the day is for your own exploration. Dinner at national house. Overnight at hotel.

Day 6 Bukhara – Khiva

Early morning drive to Khiva (470 km). En route you will see Kyzylkum desert with its flora and fauna. You will also see Amudarya river and will have a short stop at Amudarya River bank in order to take photos of panoramic view. Lunch will be en route (lunch boxes). On arrival to Khiva transfer to the hotel and check in. Dinner will be at local restaurant. Overnight at hotel

Day 7 Khiva

Khiva is a city - museum under the open sky protected by UNESCO World Heritage. Full day sightseeing tour in Khiva. Today you will visit **Ichan Kala**. The places to visit in the Ichan-Kala: **Kunya-Ark, Alauddinkhan Mausoleum, Mukhammad Aminkhan madrassah (XVIII century), Ak-Maszhid mosque, madrassah of Khoja Berdibiy, Shirgazikhan, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum, minaret of Islam-Khoja, Juma Mosque (XVIII century), Tash-Khovli Palace, Allakulikhan madrassah**. Free time in the evening. Overnight in the hotel.

Day 8 Khiva – Nukus

Morning after breakfast drive to Nukus. En route visit **Ayaz Kala** and **Toprak Kala** desert fortresses. On arrival to Nukus visit the **Karakalpakstan Art Museum** named after Savitsky. The museum hosts the world's second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art and exposition of Karakalpak applied arts items.



Have a short drive around center of Nukus: see **statue of Karakalpak poet Berdakh**, **Nukus City Hall** and **Drama Theatre**. Free time in the evening. Overnight in the hotel.

Day 9 Nukus - Muynak - Nukus - Tashkent

After breakfast, we drive to the town of Muynak. Muynak was busy fishing fleet with large canning factory that supplied fish products to the whole country prior retreat of Aral. Many locals in Muynak still believe that the waters of Aral will one day return to its original shores. Arrive in Muynak and visit the **ship cemetery** and small local museum with many photos and painting describing environmental disaster in Aral. After having lunch continue to Nukus. Shortly before reaching Nukus, stop at **Mizdakhhan Complex** located in the settlement of Hujayli 30km west of Nukus. The complex consists of several mausoleums, madrassahs and a caravan serai that date back to 9-14 century AD. Complete today's tour by visiting nearby ruins of **Gaur Qala fortress** (2-4 centuries BC).

Arrive in Nukus at the afternoon. 20:00 - Transfer to Airport and flight to Tashkent. Overnight in the hotel.

Day 10 Tashkent – departure flight home

Transfer to International airport to catch a flight home

Departure flight

Price list:

Group size	Price
30 pax	743
25 pax	770
20 pax	794
15 pax	836
10 pax	871
4 pax	1070
Single Supplement per 1 person	185
Full board service (B,L,D)	149
Domestic airfares for flights Nukus-Tashkent	90

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Cities	Hotels
Tashkent	Arien Plaza Hotel 3* or similar
Samarkand	City Hotel 3* or similar
Bukhara	Zargaron 3* or similar
Khiva	Orient Star 3* or similar
Nukus	Jipek Joli 3* or similar

PRICE DESCRIPTION:

Tour price includes:

- Visa support letter (telex);
- Lux class transportation as per itinerary;
- Twin/double sharing accommodation in 3 Star Hotel;
- Escort guides' services
- Economy class train tickets
- Entrance fee to historical sights according and museums as per itinerary;
- Mineral water: 1 bottles water a day for each pax.

Tour price does not include:

- All extra services,
- Medical expenses,
- FB: Lunches and Dinners;
- Insurance
- Any other expenses of personal nature;
- International Flights
- Local air tickets for domestic flights

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