

UZBEKISTAN TOUR IN TWO WEEKS

Price: €2,590 per person. Deposit: €500. Payment can also be made in USD or CHF.
Single supplement available for €500 and required for solo travelers.

Guaranteed departures 2021 and 2022:

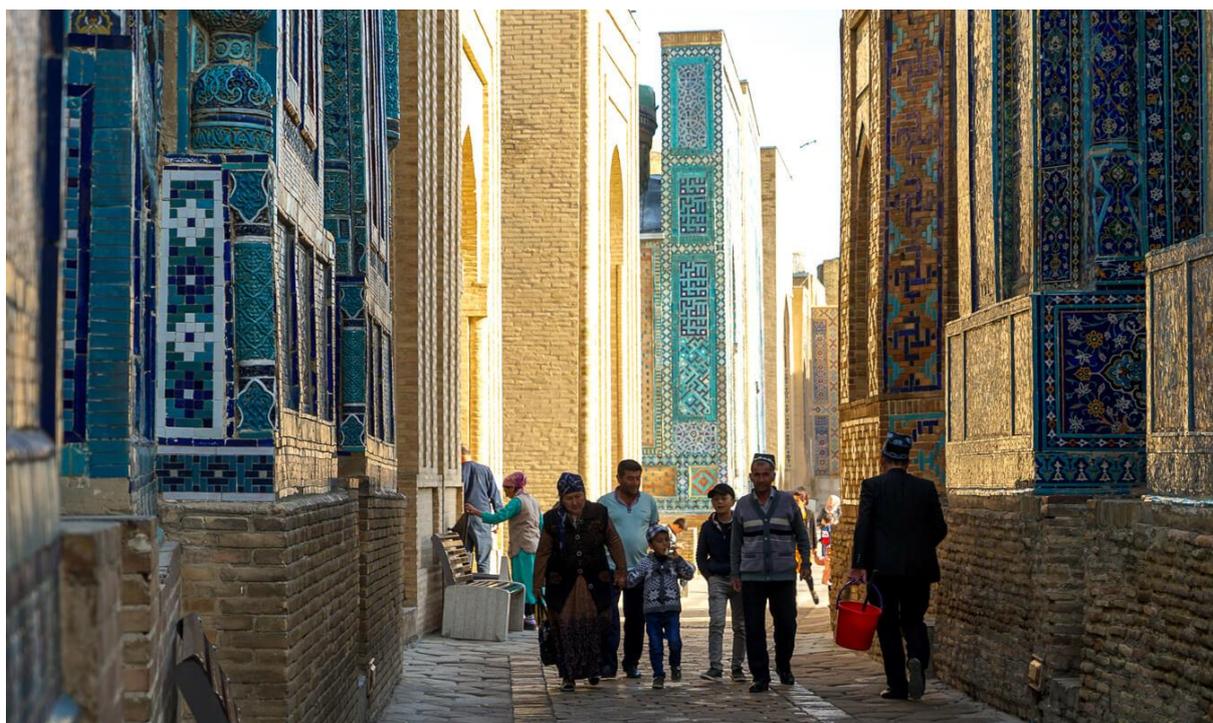
**29 March – 11 April 2021 | 12 April – 25 April 2021 | 27 September - 10 October 2021 |
11 October - 24 October 2021**

**28 March – 10 April 2022 | 11 April – 24 April 2022 | 26 September - 9 October 2022 |
10 October - 23 October 2022**

Please note: This tour is scheduled to fit with direct flights from New York (JFK) to Tashkent.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour modern [Tashkent](#), the capital of Uzbekistan and the largest city in Central Asia
- Visit the Fergana Valley to learn about the strong local traditions of ceramics and silk production
- Discover Termez, an historic regional center of Buddhism
- Explore remarkably well-preserved [Khiva](#), a museum city surrounded by mud brick walls
- Spend time in the charming Old City of [Bukhara](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Be wowed by the spectacular Registan and other architectural wonders of ancient [Samarkand](#)
- Meet master craftsmen, who will share with you their expertise in paper making, ceramics, and silk production.



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Mon	Arrive in Tashkent
Day 2	Tue	Tashkent – Fergana
Day 3	Wed	Fergana – Kokand – Tashkent
Day 4	Thu	Tashkent – Train to Termez
Day 5	Fri	Termez
Day 6	Sat	Termez – Derbent
Day 7	Sun	Derbent – Shakhrisabz – Samarkand
Day 8	Mon	Samarkand
Day 9	Tue	Samarkand – Bukhara
Day 10	Wed	Bukhara
Day 11	Thu	Bukhara – Khiva
Day 12	Fri	Khiva
Day 13	Sat	Khiva - Tashkent
Day 14	Sun	Departure from Tashkent

MAP



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Tashkent

Arrival at Tashkent Airport (for example, the Uzbekistan Airways' flight from New York arrives at 9:55 AM; Turkish Airlines' flights from Istanbul arrive at 7:40 AM and 1:55 AM). Transfer to the hotel and rest after your flight. You will have free time until the evening, when you will meet your group and the tour leader in the hotel. After the welcome briefing, we will enjoy the short walk through Independence Square and along Sayilgoh Promenade, where artists gather to showcase their works. Together we will enjoy a lively welcome dinner and celebrate the start of what will no doubt be a captivating journey through Uzbekistan.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel Wyndham 4 or similar*

Day 2: Tashkent – Margilan – Fergana (train, 5h)

Following breakfast, we will travel by train to the Fergana Valley. Surrounded by the Tien Shan Mountains and watered by tributaries of the Syr Darya River, this is the most fertile part of Central Asia. Since the time of Alexander the Great and throughout the heyday of the Great Silk Road, it was a rich oasis. We will stop in Margilan, a famous Silk Road staging post, the economic life of which is still dominated by large-scale production of silk and other textiles. We will learn firsthand about the manufacturing process during a visit to the Margilan Yodgorlik Silk Factory. At Yodgorlik, silkworms are raised on mulberry leaves, and the cocoons are unraveled to yield the raw material. The artisans use natural dyes and Uzbekistan's traditional ikat technique to produce stunning pieces. Several different grades of fabric are produced, from the pure silk *khon atlas* to cotton and silk blends called *adras*. After sightseeing, we will check-in and have dinner at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Grand Fergana Hotel 3 or similar*

Day 3: Fergana – Rishtan – Kokand (100 km, 2h) – Tashkent (train, 4h)

This is our second day exploring the Fergana Valley. The region is famous in Uzbekistan not only for agriculture but also for its artisans and markets. After visiting the local market in Fergana, we will drive around one hour to Rishtan, which is celebrated as a center for ceramics. It is no coincidence that pottery became such a prominent industry here: the local red clay and pigments are of excellent quality. We will have the chance to visit the studio of a master potter, and to learn more about his job and passion, which has been passed down from generation to generation. From Rishtan, we drive on to Kokand, another city with a rich history as a trading and religious center. In the 19th century, Kokand was the capital of the Kokand Khanate, which stretched to the southern Kazakh steppe. Our short sightseeing tour will include the remains of the Khudayar Khan's Palace, as well as the impressive Jami Mosque. At 5:30 PM our train will depart from Kokand to Tashkent. We will arrive in Tashkent at 9:20 PM and transfer to the hotel for a late dinner and bed.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel Wyndham 4 or similar*

Day 4: Tashkent – Night Train to Termez

[Tashkent](#) is the biggest city in Central Asia and one of the oldest. Unfortunately, most of its historic buildings were destroyed in a catastrophic earthquake in 1966, after which Tashkent was rebuilt as a model Soviet city. Amongst the older buildings which did survive are those of the Khast Imom

Complex, which is where we will head first on today's city tour of Tashkent. The library contains the Quran of Caliph Uthman, which dates from the 7th century and hence is maybe the oldest Quran in the world. In the same place is the mausoleum of an Islamic saint, Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi. We will then join traders at the vibrant Chorsu Bazaar before taking a ride on the stunningly decorated Tashkent Metro. Our city tour will end with a visit to the Applied Arts Museum, after which we will go to the railway station and board the night train to the southernmost city of Uzbekistan, Termez.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Overnight train (two people per compartment)

Day 5: Termez

We will arrive in Termez early in the morning and immediately begin exploring the city. Few tourists ever venture as far south as Termez. It is a pity, as it is a place of exceptional historic importance and with a wealth of intriguing archaeological sites from pre-Islamic times. In the 6th century BC, Termez was already known to the Achaemenids, and it was later conquered by Alexander the Great. The city's medieval fortifications ran for 10 miles, and the famous Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta wrote of its lively bazaar, fine buildings, canals, and gardens. It is still possible to see the ruins of Kara Tepe and Fayaz Tepe, two important ancient Buddhist monasteries; plus the Kyrk-Kyz Fortress. Termez's archaeological museum is one of the best in Central Asia, and we will visit it to learn about the millennia of Buddhist, Zoroastrian, and Islamic history in the region. This will provide the context for our subsequent visit to the archeological sites of Fayaz Tepa and Kampir Tepa.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel Meridian 3 or similar*

Day 6: Termez – Derbent Village (180 km, 3h)

After breakfast, we will drive north to the village of Derbent. Derbent translates as "Dead End Valley" in the local language. It sits amidst the huge Hissar Mountain Range, a place steeped in nature and history. Historically, trading caravans traveling between the famous Silk Road cities of Kabul, Samarkand, and Bukhara would pass through this village. Derbent had a favorable strategic location: it was lush, populous, and situated on one of the main passes through the mountains. This pass was also a major crossing point between the ancient kingdoms of Bactria and Sogdia.

It is not by accident that both Alexander of Macedonia and Timur used this pass to move their armies through the area. The famous Iron Gate of Timur, a natural, narrow gorge through the rocky mountains, probably its name from the occasion when Timur led his soldiers through here en route from Samarkand to Balkh.

On arrival, we will have a short walk in the village. We will enjoy lunch with a local family and then go for an easy hike through the mountain foothills, perhaps also visiting the sacred spring which is a lifeline for the village. Dinner will be together with the villagers, so you can once again experience authentic rural hospitality.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Guesthouse (Shared bathroom)

Day 7: Derbent – Shakhrisabz – Samarkand (250 km, c. 5h)

Today is the day we journey to Samarkand! On the way, we will stop in the hometown of Emperor Timur, Shakhrisabz. Shakhrisabz is one of Uzbekistan's five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We will arrive in time for lunch, then visit the Ak Saray, which was built as a summer palace for Timur. Next,

we will explore the Dorut Tilovat memorial complex and the Kok-Gumbaz Mosque before continuing on our way and reaching Samarkand in the early evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel Rabat 3 or similar*

Day 8: Samarkand City Tour

Sublime [Samarkand](#) evokes an almost mythical past full of romance and intrigue. This was the domain of Emperor Timur, one of history's greatest conquerors. His vast empire rivaled any, stretching across the Eurasian steppe. Timur ruled his kingdom with an iron fist, whilst at the same time patronizing the arts and literature. Much of Samarkand's Timurid-era architectural heritage has been preserved, allowing us to see how the city might have looked at the peak of Timur's power.

Today is devoted to exploring Samarkand. We will start the day at the Gur-e-Amir, the gilded mausoleum where Timur is buried. We will hear stories from his life and how he began the construction of Samarkand. Then, we will go on to the Registan, the most famous (and arguably most impressive) landmark in Uzbekistan. The square is the historic focal point of Samarkand, and it is framed by three beautiful madrassas, Ulugbek, Sherdor, and Tillya Kori. We'll stroll from here through the spacious courtyard of the Bibi-Khanum Mosque, a structure which legend says was gifted to Timur by one of his wives. After lunch, we'll have time to explore the Siyob Bazaar, where fruit and vegetables grown in the rich soils of the Zarafshan Valley are sold in a colorful market. You may explore the city on your own during your free time this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel Rabat 3 or similar*

Day 9: Samarkand – Bukhara (train, 2h)

After breakfast, we will visit Konigil Paper Mill to see the same process of paper production from mulberry tree bark which was used in 8th century Samarkand. We then go to the Shah-i Zinda, the magnificent royal necropolis decorated with turquoise and blue mosaics and domes. After lunch together, you can choose to have free time or to visit Ulugbek's Observatory and Afrasiyab Museum with our guide. The museum explores the ancient history of Afrasiyab - Samarkand's precursor – which was destroyed by the Mongols in the early 13th century. Dinner will be in the city center, and once we've eaten we will transfer to the train station to catch the Afrosiyob high-speed train to Bukhara at 9:00 PM. We'll arrive at 10:40 PM and transfer to the hotel to check in.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel Safiya 3 or similar*

Day 10: Bukhara

After breakfast, we will start our walking tour of [Bukhara](#). Even the name, Bukhara, conjures up images of the exotic Orient. For centuries, it was an important trading hub and a center of scholarship and religion. The Old City - which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site - has been well preserved and is crammed full of minarets, mosques, and madrassas. Its once-notorious canals and pools, the source of many an epidemic, have now been drained, but the most famous, Lyabi-Hauz, is still there, and today it is an oasis shaded by mulberry trees in the heart of the city. Your guide will show you Bukhara's unmissable sights, and you can soak up the atmosphere wandering through the city's labyrinthine alleyways. Key sights on today's walking tour include the Samanid Mausoleum, Poi Kalon, Ark Fortress, Bolo Hauz Mosque, and the historic trading domes still used for handicrafts markets. Dinner will be served in the city center.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on your own
Hotel Safiya 3 or similar*

Day 11: Bukhara – Khiva (train, 6h)

This morning is free for you to relax, shop for souvenirs, or sip tea in the famous Lyabi Hauz square. Before mid-day, we will transfer to the railway station, and our journey through the Kyzylkum Desert to the walled city of Khiva will take approximately six hours on the train. Enjoy the scenery of the desert along the way. We will reach Khiva - the heart of which is an open-air museum - in the evening and have our dinner next to the minaret.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel Zarafshan 3 or similar*

Day 12: Khiva City Tour

A jewel of desert architecture, [Khiva](#) is one of the most important centers of ancient Khorezm. Locals believe that Shem, son of Noah, founded the city when he discovered a fresh water spring in the middle of this vast desert. Archeologists believe the city was founded some 2,500 years ago. Today, Khiva is the most architecturally intact Silk Road city in Uzbekistan. Its intense green and blue tilework ranks as some of the most spectacular in Central Asia, and the entirety of the Ichan-Kala - the inner city - is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Khiva is full of incredible architecture, and today we will get the chance to see it all. The focus of our tour is the walled Ichan-Kala, within which are preserved more than 60 historic monuments and hundreds of centuries-old houses. As you walk through the massive city gates, you'll be met by the dazzlingly patterned tiles of the Kalta-Minor, a minaret which is a masterpiece of Islamic design. The walking tour will be complemented by panoramic views of Old Khiva from the top of the Ak Sheikh Baba observatory platform.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on your own
Hotel Zarafshan 3 or similar*

Day 13: Khiva – Tashkent (flight)

After breakfast we will transfer to Urgench Airport for the flight to Tashkent, which arrives in the capital around noon. We will check-in at the hotel and you will then have free time to do as you wish, before rejoining your fellow travelers and guide for a final goodbye dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel Wyndham 4 or similar*

Day 14: Departure from Tashkent

We will arrange a complimentary transfer to Tashkent International Airport.

Departure to New York (JFK): 7:05 AM on flight HY101

Departure to Istanbul: 3:25 AM or 9:10 AM on Turkish Airlines flights

Meals: Breakfast

Price includes:

- All transfers by minibus according to the itinerary, including airport pickup and drop off
- Accommodation based on double/ twin room sharing, incl. early check-in on Day 1
- English-speaking local tour guide accompanying the group
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Train tickets as per the itinerary
- Economy class flight ticket from Urgench to Tashkent
- Meals as per the itinerary

Price does not include:

- International air fares
- Hotel charges for additional services
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance (required)
- Personal expenses, e.g. souvenirs

Important notes:

- Travel insurance is required for this tour. You are free to choose any insurance company.
- All listed departures are guaranteed
- The maximum group size is 16 people
- A €500 per person deposit is required at the time of booking, and the balance is due 15 days prior to departure. Terms & Conditions: <https://kalpak-travel.com/terms-and-conditions/>
- One local English speaking tour leader will accompany the group for the whole trip
- You can opt to book the whole itinerary as a private tour. We can also arrange extra nights before or after the trip, and suggest private tour extensions in Uzbekistan or neighboring countries.
- Citizens of most countries do not need a visa to visit Uzbekistan (US citizens do need an electronic visa, though). If you do need an electronic visa, we will get it for you. The official fee is 20 USD: there is no extra charge from our side. We will send the visa to you as a PDF; you just need to print it out and take it with you.
- We are happy to suggest flights to get to Tashkent and back home: please contact us
- Read more about [food in Uzbekistan](#)
- Read more about the [best time to travel to Uzbekistan](#)