By trails of Tamerlane

Destination(s):	Uzbekistan
Region(s):	Tashkent, Shakhrisabz, Bukhara, Samarkand
Duration:	12 days

Summary:

An exciting adventure tour takes place in the mountains of Gissar, Kashkadarya region, the birthplace of the great Amir Temur (Tamerlane). You will pass secret trails from the village to the village, enjoy the mountain panoramas, see the deep canyons, picturesque waterfalls and dinosaur footprints. You will get acquainted with the traditions and way of life of shepherds and mountain people in the lost mountain villages. After the active part of the tour you will visit the world-famous ancient cities of the east - Shakhrisabz, Bukhara and Samarkand and get acquainted with their centuries-old history.

Day by day itinerary:

Day 1. ARRIVAL TO TASHKENT.

Rest. After lunch, excursion in Tashkent- the capital of Uzbekistan: Old City, Barak-Khan medrese (XVI medrese), Yunus-Khan mausoleum, Kafal-al-Shahi mausoleum (XVI century), Kukeldash medrese (XVII century), Applied arts museum, Independence square, Friendship of Peoples Square, metro, the building of the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet, eastern bazaar and shopping.

Day 2. TRANSFER BY HIGH-SPEED TRAIN "AFROSIAB" TO SHAKHRISABZ

The motherland of the great medieval commander Amir Temur (Tamerlane), 8:00-12:25. Accomodation in the hotel. Excursion in Shakhrisabz: the ruins of Ak-Saray palace (1380-1404), Doruttilavat ensemble (XIV-XV centuries), Dorussiadat ensemble (XIV century), Amir Temur monument, Kok Gumbaz mosque (1435), Djami mosque (1915), Djakhangir mosque (XIV century), trade dome "Chor-su".

Day 3. Transfer to the cave of Tamerlane (130 km, ~3,5-4 hours).

Transfer to the cave of Tamerlane through Lyangar kishlak (village) (130 km, ~3,5-4 hours). Setting up a camp on the Kyzyl-Gaza plateau near the Kola-say canyon. Acquaintance with the life of shepherds walks in the vicinity of the camp. Overnight in tents on the Kyzyl-Gaza plateau. (2800 m above the sea level).

Day 4. Descend to the great Kola-say canyon (6 km, ~4-5 hours).

Descend to the great Kola-say canyon and excursion in natural and unequipped cave of Tamerlane (6 km, \sim 4-5 hours). If desired, an optional excursion to the Green Falls and an inspection of dinosaur footprints (9 km, \sim 4h) is possible. Return to the camp on the Kyzyl-Gaza plateau (2800 m above the sea level), overnight in tents.

Days 5-6. Trekking to Zarmas village, 25 km.

Overnight in tents in the Kapir-say boundary (1950 m above the sea level) and in Zarmas village (1900 m above the sea level, homestay, CBT). Acquaintance with the lifestyle of local people.

Day 7. Hiking through picturesque Zarmas.

Hiking through picturesque Zarmas canyon along the gorge Kyzyl-Darya to the village of Tatar (12 km, ~ 4 hours). Transfer to the 40 m waterfall Suvtushar – one of the most picturesque waterfalls in Uzbekistan (50 km, ~2 hours) than to Gilan kishlak (40 km, 1,5 hours), overnight in homestay (CBT).

Day 8. Excursion in visiting places in Gilan

Excursion in visiting places in Gilan – this is an exotic kishlak (village) in Uzbekistan. Until the recent times foreign tourists could not visit this village due to the special border regulations. The village is surrounded

by mountains from all the sides. Local people still keep their ancient cultural traditions and lifestyle. The village is located on 2000 meters above the sea level. There are no any flat area in the village, where tractors can be used, thus, peasants have to cultivate fields on steep almost by hand or using a simple plow harnessed by a pair of bulls or donkeys. Also on steep slopes and river gorges orchards are cultivated. A special pride of the inhabitants of the village is an extensive irrigation network of man-made canals laid tens of kilometers on the mountain slopes. Particularly exotic is the central part of the village with old houses and narrow streets. In the village, tourists can socialize and get acquainted with the way of life of residents. Transfer to the village of Kul (15 km, 40 min). Return to Shahrisabz (80 km, 2 hours). Overnight at the hotel.

Day 9. Transfer to Bukhara (270 km, 4 hours).

Transfer to Bukhara (270 km, 4 hours), on the way, stop for a blitz-excursion in Kerim. By the arrival, excursion in Bukhara: Chashma Ayub Mazar tomb (XIV – XIX centuries), Poi-Kalyan complex (XII-XVI centuries), Miri-Arab medrese (XVI century), Lyabi-Hauz complex (XVI-XVII centuries). Overnight in the hotel.

Day 10. Excursion in Bukhara continuous:

Samanids mausoleum (IX – X centuries), Nadir- Divan-Begi medrese (1622), Ark fortress (VI-VII centuries) – citadel, from where, the old Bukhara started, Chor-Minor minaret (XVIII century), Sitorai Mokhi Khosa - "The Palace of Moon and Stars" – summer palace of the last Emir of Bukhara (XIX century) 15:50 transfer on Speed Train Afrosiab to Samarkand. 15:30 arrival in Samarkand. Transfer to hotel. Rest. Free time.

Day 11. Excursion in legendary Samarkand.

Excursion in legendary Samarkand, the city with the history of 27 centuries: "Heart" of Samarkand - Regsitan square (XIV-XVI centuries), in which Tamerlane, his sons and his grandson Ulugbek are buried. Observatory of Mirzo Ulugbek (1420), Shakhi-Zinda necropolis (XI-XVIII centuries), exotic Siab bazaar. Transfer on Speed Train Afrosiab in Tashkent 17:30/19:40. Transfer to hotel.

Day 12. Transfer to airport. Flight home.

1) Level of difficulty:

This tour is suitable for both children and adults.

2) Conditions:

- 1. If you have some specific sicknesses you need to bring own first aid kit with necessary medicaments.
- 2. It is necessary to bring warm clothes and trekking boots.

3) List of included services:

- 1. Transport for transfers and excursions
- 2. Double room accommodation in hotels,
- 3. Accommodation in CBT homestay
- 4. Full board
- 6. German or English speaking guide for whole program
- 7. Entry fees for museums and excursions

4) Name and contact details of the tour operator company able to organize and provide the tour program:

"Asia Adventures" Cultural tours and adventures in Central Asia! ------

28, Mukanna str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: (+998 71) 150-62-80, 254-41-00, 254-53-00 Fax: (+998 71) 254-87-10 E-mail: <u>info@asad.uz</u> Web-site: <u>www.asad.uz</u>