

# CULTURE AND NATURE OF UZBEKISTAN

**Destination(s):** Uzbekistan  
**Region(s):** Tashkent, Sentyab, Bukhara, Samarkand  
**Duration:** 8 days  
**Season:** April - October

## Summary:

This unusual tour in Uzbekistan will acquaint you with world-famous sights of ancient cities in Uzbekistan – Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent; also you will see extraordinary nature of Uzbekistan. Our jeeps will drive you along Nuratau mountains to the great desert Kyzylkum. You will see a real life of local people in forgotten mountain settlement Sentyab, visit noisy local east markets, try dishes of the famous Uzbek cuisine, east sweets, fruit, watermelons and melons, get acquainted with works of national craftsmen.

## Day by day itinerary:

### Day 1. ARRIVAL TO TASHKENT

Arrival to Tashkent early in the morning. Transfer to a hotel. Early check-in.

**Tashkent city tour:** Old town, cult-architectural complex Khast-Imam (Khazret-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 2. TASHKENT – SENTYAB VILLAGE (350 km)

Breakfast. Transfer from Tashkent to Nuratau Mountains, distant village Sentyab, to see the local lifestyle. Accommodation in CBT guest house. Free time.

**Guest house.** Each house has 2-3 rooms with square from 6 to 20 m<sup>2</sup>, in which from 2 to 6 tourists can be accommodated. There are no any beds in the houses of local people and by traditions the people sleep on the special mattresses on the floor. The bed is laid before sleeping, rolled up in the morning and laid up at one of the walls of the room. The bed set is included: mattress, bed-sheets, blankets, pillows, towels. Toilet and shower are outside in the yard. A garden with fruit-trees is attached to each house. Food is prepared on firewood in special fireplaces, and bread (flat round national bread) is prepared in special earthenware stoves – tandyr. Tourists can watch and take part in the process of food preparing.

**Meals.** It is prepared from traditional products by the hostess of the house. Fruits, vegetables are from own kitchen garden as a rule. The dishes are from Uzbek cuisine in general: vegetable soups with previous fried and then boiled meat, dishes from pastry, traditional Uzbek plov (rice, meat, vegetables), potatoes fried meat (beef, mutton), damlyama (ragout from stewed vegetables). Sweets are given for tea.

Since the 5th century the area has been known as a goldfield. Local people continue to follow ancient traditions and lifestyle. The village is the only one in the region where you can come across houses built of flat stones on the edges of steep walls.

### Day 3. SENTYAB VILLAGE – YURT CAMP 120 km)

Breakfast. Hiking. Transfer from Sentyab village to yurt camp in Kyzylkum desert.

Walk around Sentyab gorge (10km, 2-3h)

The Sentyabsay, a little stream running along the gorge and cutting the village into two parts, is responsible for the wonderful microclimate permeating this cosy place on the border between mountains and a lifeless desert.

Driving to yurt camp in Kyzylkum Desert (120 km; 1,5 hrs). Riding on camels and walking along the desert. Dinner in the yurt camp at bonfire. Overnight staying in the yurts.

### Day 4. YURT CAMP – BUKHARA (250 km)

Breakfast. Transfer to Bukhara. Free time.

On road sightseeing to well-known holy "Nur" Complex with a source with holy fish, lunch in Nurata (about 2-3 hrs). Arrival in Bukhara in the evening. Accommodation in hotel.

## Day 5. BUKHARA

**Breakfast. City tour in Bukhara:** "The heart of Bukhara – historic-architectural complex Lyabi-Khauz with the oldest in Central Asia pool (XIV-XVII c) surrounded by medieval buildings madrasah and khanaka of Nadira Divan-begi (XV-XVI c) with the facade, decorated with gorgeous mosaic, Kukeldash madrasah (XV c) - the largest madrasah in Bukhara. Poi-Kalyan Complex includes: 48 m minaret Kalyan (XII c) – the symbol of Bukhara; large Friday mosque Kalyan (XV c) with galleries topped with 288 domes of 1-hectare area; the only one active madrasah in Bukhara Miri-Arab (XVI c).

## Day 6. TRAIN BUKHARA – SAMARKAND (250 km)

**Breakfast. Continue of sightseeing in Bukhara:** Samanids mausoleum (IX-X cc), Ark citadel (IV-XX cc) - the oldest residence of the Emirs, Chor-Minor – the original building of four minarets (XIX c). Sitorai-Mohi-Hosa Palace (XIX-XX cc) - country summer palace of Bukhara Emirs.

**Transfer to railway station for afternoon train Bukhara – Samarkand.**

## Day 7. SAMARKAND

**Breakfast. City tour in Samarkand:** Registan square – the "heart" of Samarkand - ensemble of 3 majestic madrasahs (XIV-XVI c.c.) – Sherdor, Ulugbek and Tillya Qory, Bibi-Khanum the gigantic cathedral Mosque (XV c.), Gur-Emir Mausoleum of Timur (Tamerlan), his sons and grandson Ulugbek (XV c.). Tamerlan's grandson Ulugbek's the well-known ruler and astronomer-scientist observatory (1420 y.) - the remains of an immense (30 m. tall) astrolabe for observing stars' position, Shakhi-Zinda – "The Living King" (XI-XVIII c.c.) Necropolis of Samarkand rulers and noblemen, consisting of set of superb decorated mausoleums, exotic Siab bazaar.

## Day 8. FLIGHT HOME

**Breakfast. Transfer to international airport, departure flight.**

### 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 in Sentyab village
4. Accommodation in yurts in yurt camp "Safari"
5. 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: [info@asad.uz](mailto:info@asad.uz)

Web-site: [www.asad.uz](http://www.asad.uz)