Tour: Fabulous Uzbekistan

Culture and nature

Destination(s):UzbekistanRegion(s):Tashkent, Termez, Baysun, Bukhara, SamarkandDuration:14 days

Day by day itinerary:

Day1. Arrival in Tashkent.

Rest. After lunch, excursion in Tashkent- the capital of Uzbekistan: Old city, Barak-Khan Medrese (XVI c.), Yunus-Khan Mausoleum, Kaffal-al-Shashi Mazar Mausoleum (XVI c), Kukeldash Medrese (XVII c), Museum of Applied Art, Independence Square, Peoples Friendship Square, metro, the building of National Theatre of opera and ballet, orient bazaar and shopping.

Day2. Transfer to Ugam-Chatkal National Park (90km, 2hours).

Hiking around Chimgan (6-10 km, ~ 3-4 hours). Overnight homestay in the village. Yangikurgan (CBT).

Day3. Walk to the Gulkam waterfall (6 km, ~ 3 hours).

After lunch, transfer to Tashkent (90km, 2 hours) and on to the night train to Termez in 19:27.

Day4. Arrival in Termez in 09:47.

An ancient city on the Amu-Darya River on the border with Afghanistan. Here, 2500 years ago, Alexander the Great began the invasion of Central Asia. Buddhism flourished here in the II century. Excursion in the city and suburbs: Ruins of the Buddhist temple Fayaz Tepa (UNESCO object), ruins of an ancient fortress, Sultan-Saodat mausoleum complex (X-XI centuries), Kirk-Kyz country estate (X-XI centuries), historical archaeological museum.

Day5. Transfer to Baysun.

A small regional center at the foot of the Baysuntau (145 km, 2-2,5 hours) mountain range. Acquaintance with family traditional handicrafts of local residents (embroidery of suzane, making traditional hats, carpet weaving). Participation in the preparation of a traditional Uzbek dinner in the family. Overnight homestay. (CBT).

Day6. Transfer to the Urta-Machay village (50 km, 1,5 hours).

Hiking, walks through the Kaptarkhana canyon. Acquaintance with the life of local residents. Hiking is possible in the Teshik-Tash Mountain, where for the first time in history a whole skull of a Neanderthal boy was found. Overnight homestay in the house of local residents. (CBT).

Day7. Transfer through the village of Lengar.

Kyzyl-Gaza to the cave of Tamerlane (240km, ~ 5 hours), descent to the grand canyon of Kola-Say and an excursion to the natural not equipped cave of Tamerlane (6 km, ~ 4-5 hours). Overnight in tents on plateau Kyzyl-Gaza.

Day8-9. Trekking to the village of Zarmas, 25 km.

Overnight stay in tents (1950m above the sea level) and in the village of Zarmas (1900m above the sea level, homestay, CBT).

Day10. Hayikng through the picturesque Zarmas Canyon to the domain of the Kyzyl-Darya River to the village of Tatar (12km, ~ 4hours).

Moving to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of the great medieval commander Amir Temur (Tamerlane), 50km, 1,5hours. Accommodation in the hotel. Excursion in the evening Shakhrisabz: ruins of Ak Saray Palace

(1380-1404), Doruttilyavat Ensemble (XIV-XV cc), Amir Temur Minument, Kok Gumbaz Mosque (1435), Jami Mosque (1915), Jakhongir Mausoleum (XIV c), Dorussiadat Ensemble (XIV c), Chor-Su Trade dome.

Day11. Transfer to Bukhara (270km, 4hours).

Transfer to Bukhara (270km, 4hours) on the way stop for a blitz-excursion in Kerim. By the arrival, excursion in Bukhara. Chashma Ayub Mazar Burial-vault (XIV-XIX c.c.), Poi-Kalan Complex (XI-XVI c.c.), Miri-Arab Medrese (XVI c.), Lyabi-Hauz Complex (XVI-XVII c.c.).

Day12. Excursion in fabulous Bukhara continuous:

Mausoleum of Samanids (IX-X c.c.), Nadir Divanbegi Medrese (XVI c.), Ark - ancient fortress (VI-VII c.c.), Chor-Minor Minaret (XVIII c.), Sitorai Mokhi Khosa - "Palace of Moon and Stars" - summer residence of the last Bukhara Emir (XIX c). 15:50 on the Speed Train Afrosiab to Samarkand. 15:30 Arrival in Samarkand. Transfer to hotel. Rest. Free time.

Day13. Excursion in legendary Samarkand, the city with the history of 27 centuries:

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 of Timur (Tamerlan), his sons and grandson Ulugbek (XV c.), Tamerlan's grandson Ulugbek's the well-known ruler and astronomer-scientist observatory (1420) - the ruins 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. Transfer to Tashkent on Speed Train Afrosiab 17:30/19:40. Transfer to hotel.

Day14. Transfer to the airport, flight to 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>