

## Secrets of Oriental masters

### UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent – Khiva – Bukhara – Gijduvan – Yurt camp in Aydarkul lake – Samarkand - Tashkent

8 days / 7 nights

March-June & September-November

#### HIGHLIGHTS

During the tour tourists except acquainting with history of Uzbekistan and the Great Silk Road by visiting such ancient cities as Tashkent, Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand, will have opportunity participate in master classes on making various patterns of Uzbek national arts and meals in different regions of Uzbekistan.



#### Day 1 Tashkent – Urgench – Khiva

Arrival in Tashkent by morning international flight, passing border and passport control (1 hour). Meeting, welcoming tourists, transfer to city for excursion.

*Excursion along Tashkent:*

Visit **Khazrat-Imam Complex** including **Madrasseh Barak-Khan** (XVI c.); **Jami Mosque** (XIX c.); **Mausoleum of Kaffal-Shoshi** (XV c.). Visit of the **old city** and colourful oriental **bazaar Chorsu** where you can find fresh fruits, amber-colored dried fruits, toasted bread (*lepeskka*), fresh-killed meat, *kazy* (horse meat sausage), and what not... And all these things are so attractive that one can't stand to pass by them. Here you can also find handicraft shops, where **masters of applied art** sell hand-made souvenirs.

**Lunch at local restaurant where you can taste traditional Uzbek meal shurpa (soup).**

**16:30** - Transfer to Tashkent domestic airport.

**18:40** - Departure to Urgench by HY057 (*subject to change*).

**20:00** - Arrival in Urgench.

Meeting at the airport. Drive to Khiva (30 km). Arrival in Khiva. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation.

**Welcome drink upon arrival to hotel.**

**Dinner is in the hotel restaurant.**

Overnight is in **Khiva**.

#### Day 02: Khiva

Breakfast is in the hotel.

*Excursion over Khiva:*

*Ichon-Kala architectural ensemble - „Museum under the open sky“.*

**Tosh-Khowli Palace (Harem) (1830-1836), Kunya-Ark Fortress (1868-1888), Kalta-Minor Minaret (1855), Complex of Alla-Kuli Khan (XIII-XVIII), Juma Mosque and Minaret (XII-XX), Medrese of Abdulla-Khan (1865), Mausoleum of Said Alautdin (XIV), Medrese of Mukhamad Amin-Khan (XIX), Walls of Ichan-Kala (XVIII-XIX).**  
(Architectural complex of Ichan-Kala is a mini town and excursion is held inside of Ichan-Kala by walk)

*Demonstration of the national bread cooking.*

**Lunch at local restaurant and tasting of original Uzbek cuisine – green noodles/**

*Demonstration of the work of woodcarving master.*

**Dinner in one ancient madrassah and folklore concert of national Uzbek dances.**

Overnight in **Khiva**.

### **Day 03: Khiva – Bukhara**

Breakfast is in the hotel.

Long drive to Bukhara over the Kyzylkum desert (450 km).

**Lunch-picnic in one road café with “shashlik” – famous Uzbek cuisine.**

Upon arrival transfer to you're a hotel.

**Dinner on the top of the local restaurant with panoramic view of old city of Bukhara .**

Overnight is in **Bukhara**.

### **Day 04: Bukhara**

Breakfast is in the hotel.

*Excursion over Bukhara (walking excursion in old city):*

*Complex "Poi Kalon" ("Beneath the Great"): "Kalyan Minaret" - the main symbol of sacred Bukhara that symbolized authority and power of spiritual governors. (12th c), "Kalyan Mosque" - its area of 130x80 m surpasses Bibi-Khanym mosque in Samarkand, "Ulugbeg Madrassah" - one of the 3 madrassahs constructed by grandson of Tamerlan - Ulugbeg (15th c), "Kukeldash Madrassah" (16th c) - one of the biggest Bukhara madrassah, "Lyabi-Hauz" ensemble - the largest artificial reservoir of medieval Bukhara - is very popular among tourists (14-17th cc)*

*Visit the house of the master of miniature. Master class of miniature painting.*

**Lunch at national house with master class of cooking famous national Uzbek cuisine “manti”.**

*Visit to the blacksmith work-shop and demonstration of production of traditional uzbek knives and unique handmade scissors.*

*Visit the "Ark fortress" - the center of Bukhara statehood (4th c BC); The mausoleum of Chashma Ayub that belongs to esteemed "places of trace" left by saints (14th c). - the legend says that once the bible prophet Job (Ayub) visited this place.*

*Demonstration of the process of dyeing, design, drawing and embroidery of suzani (type of embroidered and decorative tribal textile) at the house of Suzanne master.*

**Dinner at ancient caravanserai Adras and musical performance in historical costumes.**

Overnight is in **Bukhara**.

**Day 05: Bukhara – Gijduvan – Aydarkul**

Breakfast in hotel.

**09:00** - Morning drive to Gijduvan city (70 km).

*Visit Center of Gijduvan school of potters. The owner of the center is the famous ceramist of Uzbekistan - Alisher Narzullaev, who is one of the most known and recognized masters of ceramics of modern Uzbekistan*

*The center offers:*

*- Master Classes of ceramic and embroidery*

*- Visit the Ceramic Museum (here presented works of 5-generations)*

**13:00** - *An opulent lunch at Alisher Narzullaev's house*

*Taking a part in the process of preparing national Uzbek dish - "kovurma lagman".*

Transfer to yurt camp in Kiziquim desert near Aydarkul lake (200 km)

Arrival and accommodation in the yurt camp.

*Dinner near the camp-fire accompanied by the song of nomad singer – akyn.*

Overnight is in **yurt camp**.

**Day 06: Aydarkul – Samarkand**

Breakfast .

*Camel riding around the yurt camp.*

Departure for Aydarkul lake (warm lake in desert).

*Swimming is possible.*

*Lunch - picnic on the lakeshore.*

Drive to Samarkand (300 km). Arrival and accommodation in hotel.

*Dinner in local habitant's house with the pilaf prepared with tourist's assistance.*

*Taking a part in the process of preparing national Uzbek dish - "pilaf".*

*Householder cooks the pilaf and provides the tourists by his comments and explaining of traditions of national cuisine.*

Overnight is in **Samarkand**.

**Day 07: Samarkand – Tashkent**

Breakfast is in the hotel.

*Excursion along Samarkand:*

*Visiting **Shakhi Zinda Mausoleum** (XII-XVI cc), **Gur-Emir Mausoleum** (XV c.).*

*Visiting **Registan square** including: **Madrasseh of Ulugbek** (XIV), **Sherdor Madrasseh** (XVII) and **Tilya Kari Madrasseh** (XVII).*

*Master class of making paper at "Meros" Paper factory in small village Konighil.*

**Lunch at local restaurant.**

Visiting **oriental market “Siyob” bazaar.**

**Visit of Samarkand cellar and winery named after “Khovrenko”, where tourists can taste different kinds of alcohol drinks produced in Samarkand.**

**17:00** - Transfer to railway station.

**18:00** - Departure to Tashkent by high speed comfortable train “Afrosiob” (*subject to change*).

**20:10** - Arrival in Tashkent and transfer to a hotel.

**Farewell dinner at the local restaurant of Tashkent.**

Overnight is in **Tashkent**.

**Day 08: Tashkent**

Breakfast is in the hotel.

Check out the hotel till 12:00.

Transfer to airport.

Departure from Tashkent by international flight.

**Tour cost (in USD per pax):**

Quantity of tourists	Double/Twin or triple accommodation
10	785\$
15	696\$
20	652\$
25	625\$
30	607\$
Supplement for single accommodation	97\$

**Includes:**

- Accommodation **at the following or similar** hotels as per program:
  - **in Khiva:** “Arkanchi” hotel (3\*) or similar (2 nights);
  - **in Bukhara:** “Fatima” hotel (3\*) or similar (2 nights);
  - **in Aydarkul:** “Safary” yurt camp (1 night);
  - **in Samarkand:** “Malika Classic” hotel (3\*) or similar (1 night);
  - **in Tashkent:** “Shodlik Palace” hotel (4\*) (local standard) or similar (1 night);
- Meals –breakfasts – 7, lunches – 7 and dinners - 7;
- Transport services throughout program on comfortable bus (up to 43 seats) with A/C;
- English speaking escort along the whole itinerary.

- Entrance fees for all excursion objects in program;
- All master-classes and demonstrations mentioned in the program;
- Visa support for Uzbekistan.

**Excludes:**

- International air-tickets;
- Charge for consular fee at the Embassy of Uzbekistan;
- Supplement for flight tickets Tashkent-Urgench (economy class) – **70\$ per pax** (*subject to change*);
- Supplement for train tickets Samarkand-Tashkent (economy class) – **28\$ per pax** (*subject to change*);
- Charges for entries with photo- & video cameras;
- Tips for guides and drivers.



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