

Tour South Uzbekistan.

Destination(s): Uzbekistan
Region(s): Tashkent, Bukhara, Samarkand, Shakhrisabz, Baysun, Termez
Duration: 8 days
Season: Middle of June-September

Summary:

Interesting historical-cognitive tour will familiarize you with unique places of Uzbekistan – you will see the ancient monument-masterpieces of world heritage of UNESCO in Samarkand, Bukhara and Shakhrisabz, ruins of Buddhist monasteries in Termez, and finally legendary village of weavers Baysun. The hospitality of local people with their centuries-old traditions awaits you everywhere.

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. TRAIN TASHKENT – BUKHARA (650 km)

Breakfast. Transfer to railway station for train to Bukhara. Arrival to Bukhara, city tour: "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 3. 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 4. 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 5. SAMARKAND – SHAKHRISABZ – BAYSUN (200 km)

Breakfast. Transfer to Baysun via Shakhrisabz. City tour in Shakhrisabz: ruins of Ak Saray Palace (1380-1404), Doruttiliyavat Ensemble (XIV-XV cc), Kok Gumbaz Mosque (1435), Jami Mosque (1915), Jakhongir Mausoleum (XIV c), Dorussiadat Ensemble (XIV c), Chor-su Trade dome.

Arrival to Baysun. Accommodation in CBT homestay.

Homestay. Each house has 2-3 rooms with square from 6 to 20 m², 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.

Day 6. BAYSUN

Breakfast. Excursion in Baysun: Visit of local weavers, traditional cap makers. Folklore show.

Baysun is the centre of a district in Surkhandarya province located 150 km north of the city of Termez in the south of Uzbekistan. This green and cosy town rests at the foot of the Ketmen-Chapty Mountains in the Baysuntau Range. What makes the town famous is that each family in Baysun is keen to preserve ancient rituals, traditions and customs originating from the pre-Islamic pagan culture and pass them from generation to generation. That was the place where akyns (folk poets and singers) composed heroic epic Alpomysh a thousand years ago. Baysun is a region where an authentic musical culture consisting of a series of rituals, musical performances and dances has developed. This resulted in the inclusion of the cultural spaces of Baysun District and 19 other regions across the world in the UNESCO World Intangible Heritage List.

Transfer from Baysun via the big Derbent canyon to the mountain village Yukary-Machai, acquaintance with the lifestyle of local inhabitants. Hiking and photo session in the canyon. Return to Baysun.

Accommodation in CBT homestay.

Day 7. BAYSUN - TERMEZ

Breakfast. Transfer to Termez. Sightseeing: Fayaztepa Buddhism Complex (I c.), Ensemble of Sultan-Saodat Mausoleums with graves of aristocracy of Samanid period (IX - X cc.), Kyrk-Kyz Farmstead (IX - X cc), Mausoleum of Khakim At-Termezi (748 – 869), Kampyrtepa settlement (40 km. from Termez), medieval Jarkurgan minaret, local historical museum.

Day 8. FLIGHT TERMEZ – TASHKENT (750 km). FLIGHT HOME.

Breakfast. Morning flight to Tashkent, free time. Afternoon transfer to airport, departure from Tashkent.

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 Baysun village.
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: info@asad.uz

Web-site: www.asad.uz