

COUNTRY OF BLUE DOMES AND HOSPITALITY

Destination(s): Uzbekistan
Region(s): Tashkent, Chimgan, Samarkand, Bukhara
Duration: 7 days
Season: Middle of June-September

Summary:

Our coach tour will immerse you deeply in the history of most ancient towns of the world – Samarkand and Bukhara. World famous monuments of ancient architecture remember Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan. In Medieval time Samarkand was the center of Tamerlane's Empire. Here more than 20 centuries ago numerous caravans carried precious silk, gold, porcelain and spices along the Great Silk Road connecting China to Europe. Tall and elegant minarets, grandiose madrasahs and mosques, medieval palaces and mausoleums decorated with incredibly rich ceramic ornaments, bustle and colors of oriental bazaars, thrilling legends, warm hospitality and hoary traditions of local people will leave indelible imprints in the memory of tourists. Trip also includes visiting Chimgan mountains with accommodation in CBT guest house.

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 – CHIMGAN MOUNTAINS (90 km)

Transfer from Tashkent to a popular ski resort Chimgan 1660 m (90km, 2 hrs)

(Trekking 12km; +500m, - 1000 m, 5 hrs).

Program starts with walking from resort Chimgan to Pesochniy pass (1830 m).

There are many beauty approaches to the canyon from Chimgan settlement through Pesochniy pereval (1830m). Even for not skilled tourists It will take 40 m – 1 hour to get Chimgan gorge (1600 m) till the pass with the altitude drop. From the pass you can walk up for more 270 m higher to Small Chimgan peak, 2100m. An amazing view opens up to the neighboring mountains. Ugam, Pskem, Chatkal ranges are clearly visible, Charvak reservoir is shining in the sun with falling into it Pskem river, Koksuy river, Chatkal river. Gorgeous Aukashka Peak (Hunters Peak, 3100m), flowering valleys, legendary settlement Brichmulla. Going down from the passing to Gulkam gorges through a shady birch grove, enjoying the silence and valley views. And finally here is Gulkam canyon – one of the most interesting places in mountains of the Western Tyan-Shan. The canyon rocks are absolutely smooth, water had been running here thousands of years and smoothed all the ledges. It is so much pleasure to walk through Gulkam gorges especially in summer. Having passed through Gulkam canyon, you appear in front of the car waiting for you. Transfer to Charvak high-mountain reservoir. Overnight in CBT homestay in the Yangikurgan village, 1100m. Exploring lifestyle and customs of local inhabitants.

Day 3. CHIMGAN MOUNTAINS – TASHKENT (90 km)

Transfer from Yangikurgan to ski resort Beldersay. (20 km, 30 min)

(Trekking 10km; +500m, -800m, 6-7 hrs). Active part of the route starts from low point of chair-lift (1520 m).

Twenty minutes lifting up on the chair (+600 m), then 1 hour ascent along the path and we are on Kumbel peak (2300 m). It is a vision point, from there you can see Karjantau and Chatkal ridges and valley of Chirchik river. Then descends with traverse to Chetkumbel pass (1880 m). On the pass, under a huge Juniper tree - shade place for rest with a view to Big Chimgan (3309m), the highest peak in this area. Chatkal range spurs are overtopping to the south. Continue the descent to a picturesque valley Beldersay (1700 m). Here around big Juniper trees is a very good place for lunch. Then small ascent to Urtakumbel pass (1850 m) and descent to Mramornaya River (1720 m). if you want, it is possible the excursion to waterfall, with visit the canyon with relict stoned shells. After photo session transfer to Tashkent (90 km, 2 hrs).

Day 4. TRAIN TASHKENT – SAMARKAND (300 km)

Breakfast. Transfer to railway station for morning train Tashkent – Samarkand. **Arrival to Samarkand, city tour:** Registan square – the "heart" of Samarkand - ensemble of 3 majestic madrassahs (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. TRAIN SAMARKAND – BUKHARA (250 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 6. FLIGHT BUKHARA – TASHKENT (650 km)

Breakfast. **Continue of city tour:** 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 airport, afternoon flight to Tashkent. Transfer to hotel.

Day 7. 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 Yangikurgan 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!

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