

SILK, MOSAIC AND DESERTS

CAMEL RIDE IN DESERT, ONE NIGHT IN YURTS

* SAMARKAND * NURATA * YURT CAMP * AIDARKUL LAKE * BUKHARA *

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

A tour that in addition to classic part offers a couple of days in yurts featuring camel ride and rest by the lake shore located in the middle of the desert, to get acquainted with nature of Uzbekistan. A visit to the ancient town of Nurata with remnants of fortress built at the time of Alexander the Great.



Days	Cities	Itinerary
01	Tashkent / Samarkand	<p>In the morning transfer to the railway station for express train to Samarkand:</p> <p><i>Express train "Registan" (TAS/SKD) at 07:00/10:30 operates on Mon, Thu-Sun or</i> <i>Express train "Sharq" (TAS/SKD) at 08:10/11:45 operates daily</i></p> <p>Arrival in Majestic and beautiful Samarkand, called by historians a "Rome of the East, The pearl of the Eastern Moslem World". Samarkand has witnessed a lot of upheavals during the times of Alexander the Great (Macedonian), the Arabic Conquest, Ghengis-Khan Conquest and lastly Tamerlane's. Hence, Samarkand's culture developed and mixed together with the Iranian, Indian, Mongolian and a bit of the Western and Eastern cultures. Upon arrival SS tour of Samarkand: Afrosiab archaeological site & museum of the city foundation; Observatory of Ulugbek (the founder of the observatory; Gur-Emir Mausoleum (graves of Tamerlane and his descendants).</p> <p><i>Visiting local Uzbek house and meet with the family. It is great opportunity to get to know more about local customs and traditions, as well as feel deeply the hospitality and originality of Uzbek people by the example of a particular family.</i></p> <p>Overnight at hotel in Samarkand.</p>
02	Samarkand	<p>FD SS tour of Samarkand: Registan Square (meaning "sandy place") surrounded by the Ulugbek's madrassah, the Sher-Dor madrassah and Tilla-Kori madrassah; Mosque Bibi-Khanum (named in honor of Timur's eldest and favorite wife); local bazaar; Shakhi-Zinda</p>

		<p>Necropolis and ensemble of mausoleums. <i>Visiting Samarkand Handmade Silk Paper Center where the artisans have revived the ancient tradition of hand-made paper production and reintroduced Samarkand Paper to the world.</i> Overnight at hotel in Samarkand.</p>
03	Samarkand / Nurata / Yurt camp	<p>In the morning drive to ancient town Nurata (200 km). Walk to the fortress built at the period of conquest of Alexander the Great, Nurata Friday mosque and a pool of sacred fishes. After lunch at the local house proceed to the yurt camp (63 km). Accommodation at the camp. <i>Dinner accompanied by performance of Kazakh singer Akyn.</i> Overnight at the camp.</p>
04	Yurt camp / Aidarkul Lake / Bukhara	<p>In the morning, we take camel ride, walking... Proceed to Aidarkul Lake (app. 7 km). Swimming or walking nearby. After picnic-lunch depart to Bukhara (190 km). Arrival in Noble Bukhara, as it is sometimes called, was the centre of world civilization in ancient times, an attribute it enjoys even today. The Great Silk Road connecting states of Near and Middle East, India and China, passed through the city. This was a very beautiful and colorful picture: the Bukharas wearing dazzling white turbans and colorful silk robes, long-haired Chinese in wide caftans and skirts, the Indians with their silk-embroidered shoes... Transfer to hotel. Accommodation at hotel. Overnight at hotel in Bukhara.</p>
05	Bukhara	<p>FD SS tour of Bukhara incl. Samanids mausoleum, the burial place of the Samanids; Chashma-Ayub shrine known as a curative source; local bazaar, Bolo-Khauz mosque; fortress Ark (citadel), a fortified residence of Emirs of Bukhara. <i>Folklore performance at Nodir Divan Begi madrassah.</i> Overnight at hotel in Bukhara.</p>
06	Bukhara / Tashkent	<p>FD SS tour of Bukhara: Poi-Kalyan complex consisting of Miri-Arab madrassah, Kalyan minaret & Djuma mosque; trading domes consisting of three centers: Tok-i-Zargaron – Jeweler’s bazaar, Tok-i-Tilpak Furushon – Cap Maker’s Bazaar, Tok-i-Sarrafon – Moneychanger’s Bazaar; Ulugbek’s madrassah, Abdulaziz-khan madrassah; Liabi-Khauz Complex: Nodir-Divan-beghi madrassah, Kukeldash madrassah, Khonako; Magoki-Attari mosque; Chor Minor. A countryside excursion to Sitora-i-Mokhi-Khosa, summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara (4 km). <i>Visiting the house of rich merchant of the 19th century - Fayzoulla Khodjaev to see the demonstration of national Uzbek costume.</i> In the evening transfer to the airport for evening flight to Tashkent (per current timetable of Uzbekistan Airways): <i>Domestic flight HY-1338 (BHK/TAS) at 20:50/21:45 operates on Wed, Fri or Domestic flight HY-1328 (BHK/TAS) at 21:35/23:10 operates on Mon, Tue, Thu or Domestic flight HY-1336 (BHK/TAS) at 18:40/19:35 operates on Sun</i> Upon arrival transfer to your hotel.</p>

SUGGESTED HOTELS FOR ACCOMMODATION				
Option "Silk"	Samarkand	President 4*	2 o/n	
	Yurt camp	Yurts (6-8 pax in a yurt)	1 o/n	
	Bukhara	Zargaron Plaza 4* / similar	2 o/n	
Option "Cotton"	Samarkand	Orient Star 3* / similar	2 o/n	
	Yurt camp	Yurts (6-8 pax in a yurt)	1 o/n	
	Bukhara	Zargaron 3* / similar	2 o/n	
TARIFFS:				
Number of pax:	2 pax	3 - 5 pax	6 – 9 pax	Single room supplement
Option "Silk" (price per person)	\$899	\$809	\$642	\$100 (except yurts)
Option "Cotton" (price per person)	\$849	\$759	\$592	\$60 (except yurts)
THE PRICE OF TOUR INCLUDES:		THE PRICE OF TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation on double/twin base at above mentioned hotels; Meals: B & B base: 5 breakfasts (<i>from breakfast on day 2 till breakfast on day 6</i>) + 1 dinner in Samarkand (<i>on day 1</i>) + Full-board in Nurata and yurt camp (<i>lunch & dinner on day 3 + lunch on day 4</i>); All transfers and transportation throughout by A/C car / minibus; Porterage at airports/railway stations and hotels; Services of National guide-escort THROUGHOUT (speaking English / French / German); All excursions and entrance fees (per itinerary); <i>Samarkand Handmade Silk Paper Center;</i> <i>Performance of Akyn in the yurt camp;</i> <i>Folklore performance at Nodir Divan Begi madrassah in Bukhara;</i> <i>Visiting Fayzoulla Khodjaev's house in Bukhara</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International airfare; Visa fee for Uzbekistan; Train ticket TAS/SKD ("<i>Registan</i>") – 12 USD/pax (<i>common compartment seat</i>) or 18 USD/pax (<i>1st class seat</i>); Train ticket TAS/SKD ("<i>Sharq</i>") – 18 USD/pax (<i>1st class seat</i>) or 28 USD/pax (<i>2-berth luxe seat</i>); Domestic airfare BHK/TAS – 55 USD/pax (<i>subject to change</i>); All personal expenses (<i>extra charge for video and p hoto at monuments and museums, luggage overweight</i>) 		