

Golden Road to Samarkand

Independent tour

This independent tour of Uzbekistan takes you through the fabled lands of Alexander the Great and Tamerlane. The pace is unhurried, allowing free time in each city for independent exploration. The itinerary is flexible and can be tailored to your requirements.

13 days / 12 nights

Day 1: Tashkent

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your accommodation. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

Day 2: Tashkent to Samarkand

Morning tour of the Uzbek capital, including the Old Town and Chorsu market, the largest in Central Asia. Depart by car for your 4 hour trip to Samarkand. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 3: Samarkand

Your morning sightseeing includes the Shakhi-Zindah street of tombs, Bibi Khanun Mosque, Ulugbek Observatory, Gur Emir Mausoleum, where Timur (Tamerlane) is buried and magnificent Registan Square. The colourful bazaar is well worth a visit. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 4: Samarkand to Shakhrisabz

Full day excursion to Shakhrisabz, birthplace of Timur. Travel through the foothills of the Zeravshan range, stopping for a simple lunch. Visit the ruins of Timur's huge summer palace, Ak-Saray, with only the massive gates remaining. Overnight Samarkand. **BLD**

Day 5: Samarkand to Bukhara

After breakfast depart for Bukhara (approx. 4 hours). Bukhara's blood-thirsty history dates back to the 9th century. The old town centre has changed little in two centuries. En-route visit the White Palace of Kagan, built for Tsar Nicholas II. The Revolution prevented him from accepting the hospitality. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**



Day 6: Bukhara

This morning's sightseeing includes the infamous Ark Fortress, the Kalyan Minaret and 9th century Saminids Mausoleum, one of the holiest places in Uzbekistan. The bazaars offer excellent buys in local carpets. You are expected to bargain. This evening you will attend an open-air folklore show. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 7: Bukhara

Morning visit to the Emir's summer palace and the 16th century Chor-Bakr necropolis. Time at leisure to explore the ancient streets and bazaars. Relax with a cup of green tea at the Labi-Hauz, a peaceful square overlooking a pool, shaded by 700 year-old mulberry trees. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 8: Bukhara to Khiva

After breakfast you start your 6-hour drive

through the Kyzylkum Desert to Khiva, keeping watch for eagles and wild camels. Afternoon free to stroll through this museum town. Your hotel is located within the old town walls. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

Day 9: Khiva

Once the main slave market of Central Asia, Khiva retains the air of a medieval oriental town. The area within its mud-baked city walls is closed to traffic and easy to navigate. Your sightseeing this morning will take you through the exotic streets and courtyards, with a visit to the Tashkauli Palace. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

Day 10: Khiva to Tashkent

Morning flight to Tashkent. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

Day 11: Tashkent to Fergana Valley

After breakfast, your five hour drive to the Fergana Valley, centre of Central Asia's silk production, winds through the Kamchik mountain pass. Enjoy lunch in a local fish restaurant near the Sirdarya river. Continue on via Kokand, visiting the Khana Palace, Narbutaev Medressah, Shahib Hazrat Medressah and Khamza Museum. Watch master potters create their traditional ceramics. Overnight Fergana city. **BLD**

Day 12: Fergana Valley to Tashkent

Morning sightseeing of Fergana. Your excursion to Margilan, famous for its silk and carpets, includes a tour of a local silk factory to view the manufacturing process, utilising traditional designs and original technology.

After a relaxing tea ceremony, you return to Tashkent. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

Day 13: Tashkent

After breakfast, tour services end with a transfer to the airport. Those taking a late evening flight may take an optional excursion to Chimgan mountain and Charvak reservoir. **B**

Inclusions

- ① 12 nights accommodation at private 3-star hotels and guesthouse
- ① Meals as specified
- ① Arrival/departure transfers by car
- ① Sightseeing as specified conducted in English language only
- ① Flight Urgench/Tashkent
- ① Transportation by car Tashkent-Samarkand-Bukhara-Khiva & Tashkent-Fergana Valley-Tashkent
- ① Full day excursion to Shakhrisabz with lunch
- ① Folklore show with dinner in Bukhara

Your hotels

- 📍 **TASHKENT** – Airat's guesthouse
- 📍 **SAMARKAND** – Kamila
- 📍 **BUKHARA** – Kabir, Farkhad or Maya
- 📍 **KHIVA** – Shakherezada or Asia-Khiva
- 📍 **FERGANA** – Club 777 or Asia- Fergana

■ *Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2011.

Departures	Twn	Sgl	Tpl*
Daily	2257	3427	1927
Supplement for 4-STAR hotel in Tashkent	136	450	240

* If triple rooms are not available, twin share & a single room will be provided at no extra cost.

The most direct way to fly to Central Asia from Australia is with Qantas or Thai Airways to Bangkok connecting with Uzbekistan Airways from Bangkok to Tashkent. Uzbekistan airways operates three times a week from Bangkok to Tashkent (duration 7 hours). Call your travel agent for airfares. Russian Travel Centre is the ticketing agent for Uzbekistan airways in Australia.

