



# UZBEKISTAN THE JEWEL OF THE SILK ROAD

May 02 - May 14, 2025  
Led by STST Tour Lecturer / Manager

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through the heart of Central Asia with our 10-day Premium adventure in Uzbekistan. Immerse yourself in the rich history and diverse landscapes of this doubly noncoastal country, nestled among Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Your adventure begins in Tashkent, the cosmopolitan capital that seamlessly blends modernity with ancient traditions. From there, prepare to be captivated by the majestic architecture of Samarkand, as you wander through its breathtaking monuments that date back to the days of the Great Silk Road. Experience the allure of Bukhara, a city steeped in spiritual heritage, where you'll discover holy sites that have stood the test of time. Then, venture to the enchanting city of Khiva, where ancient monuments and charming communities await your exploration.

But the adventure doesn't stop there. Prepare to be embraced by the warm hospitality of a traditional Uzbek village, where you'll gain firsthand insight into the local way of life. From undulating deserts to awe-inspiring mountain ranges and the iconic Aral Sea, Uzbekistan's speckled landscape offers a tapestry of natural wonders waiting to be discovered. No matter where you turn, you'll encounter a friendly welcome that will make you feel right at home.

Join us on this unparalleled journey as we weave through medieval cities, charismatic communities, and timeless traditions. Uncover the enduring legacy of the Great Silk Road and create memories to last a lifetime in the captivating country of Uzbekistan.

Ihab Zaki  
Managing Director

**Saturday, May 11**

**Arrival in Tashkent (UZBEKISTAN)**



Upon arrival at **Tashkent International Airport** and after passport and customs controls, meet the guide/driver, and transfer to *Lotte Hotel or similar* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Note: Standard check in time is 3:00 pm. If you arrive on May 10 or in the early morning of May 11, an extra hotel night needs to be booked.**

**Sunday, May 12**

**Tashkent**



Enjoy breakfast then begin the city tour of **Tashkent**, the Capital of Independent Uzbekistan, and the cosmopolitan city in the heart of Central Asia, the crossroad of different cultures. Begin with a visit to **Khast-Imam complex** named after Abubekr Muhammad Kaffal Shahi, one of the first imams in Tashkent and is holding the original Koran of Caliph Osman from 7<sup>th</sup> century. The complex is considered one of the most outstanding examples of an accountable attitude to architectural monuments. Its construction began in the XVI century. Also, visit **Chorsu Bazaar**, and the **Peoples Friendship Square** with huge flag of Uzbekistan. The Palace was built in 1980 and was designed by architect Evgeny Rozanov in dedication to the people who came to help rebuild the city after the earthquake that destroyed the old city back in 1964. Also visit **Tashkent Subway**, the underground wonder. Free afternoon at leisure, dinner and overnight at the *Hotel*. **(B,L,D)**

**Monday, May 13**

**Tashkent - Kokand**



Enjoy breakfast and then transfer to the train station to

board the train at 08:04AM heading to Kokand arriving at 12:09PM. Upon arrival in **Kokand**, begin your city tour including a visit to the **Palace of the last Koand's Khan** "Khudoyar Khan" built in 1871, and was constructed in the traditions of Central Asian architecture. Also visit **Jomiy Mosque** then transfer to *Fergana Hotel or similar* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, May 14**

**Kokand - Tashkent (190 miles)**



Begin the day with a visit to colonial history of **Fergana**, located in the central Part of the City, includes buildings of the University, Theatre and visit to Local Museum, holding artifacts from different period of history. Continue the drive to **Margilan**, one of the oldest cities in the Fergana valley. It was a major silk road stopover by the 9<sup>th</sup> century although the legend continues its history back to Alexander the Great who was given "*Murgh*" which means chicken and "*Nan*" which means bread upon his arrival, and this is how the town got its name from.

Then head to visit the **Silk Factory**, observe the old-style techniques of how the silk is produced and be able to see the entire process on display from streaming and unraveling the cocoons to the weaving of the dazzling Khanatlas fabrics for which Margilons is famous. Then continue the drive to **Rishtan**, situated in the foothills of the Alai Mountains, bordering the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in the southern part of the Fergana Valley and the oldest center of ceramic art in Central Asia. Upon arrival, head to visit the **Ceramic workshop**, where you will see the unique hand painted ceramics within the stern traditions of the

folk art that developed over the centuries. After his graduation, Rustam Usmanov the master of ceramics devoted much of his time to studying the old Rishtan ceramics through books and museum collections, which helped in enhancing his knowledge of earth ware and slowly develop his own original style.

Continue the drive through the Mountain pass and the beautiful scenery until we reach Tashkent, and upon arrival transfer to *Lotte Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, May 15**

**Tashkent**



Begin the city tour with a visit to **Tamerlane** (Amir Temur) **Square** with equestrian statue of the great leader. Founded in 1882 and was called “Konstantinovsky Square” and in August 1994, it was renamed in honor of the great Amir Temur who created the Timurid Empire, which lasted 200 years. Head to visit the Uzbekistan **Museum of History**, one of the old museums in Central Asia (founded 136 years ago) exhibiting archeological, numismatic, and ethnographical items reflecting Uzbekistani history from the primitive times until today, then head for a walking tour on **Sayilgokh Street** (local analogue of Broadway). Continue to **Romanov’s Palace** (from outside), built by architects V.S Heinzemann and A.L Benua in 1891 for Grand Prince Nikolay Konstantinovich Romanov. The palace is a masterpiece of architecture from the Russian Empire.

In the afternoon, head to visit **Mustakillik** (Independence Square) and **eternal flame**, it was renamed after the declaration of independence in 1991. In addition, visit the **Monument of Courage**, dedicated to the Tashkent earthquake that took place in 1966, and the **Peoples Friendship Square** with huge flag of Uzbekistan. The Palace was built in 1980 and was designed by architect Evgeny Rozanov in dedication to the people who came to help rebuild the city after the earthquake that destroyed the old city back in 1964. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Thursday, May 16**

**Tashkent - Nukus - Khiva**



Transfer in the morning to the airport for our flight to **Nukus** and upon arrival; begin the city tour with a visit to the famous **Savitskiy Museum**, also known as “Karakalpakstan State Museum of the Arts” and was founded in 1966 at the initiative of Moscow artist Igor Vitalievich Savitsky. Its unique collection is the second

largest collection of Russian avant-garde in the world.

Then drive to **Khiva** stopping en route to see **Chilpyk** from a distance. Also known as “Zoroastrian death-tower” or “tower of silence” believed to be an early example of the traditional funerary ceremony, constructed somewhere between the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE and 1<sup>st</sup> century CE and **Toprakkala** (ruins of ancient city of Khorezm / Kwarasmia). Upon arrival in **Khiva**, the ancient capital of Khorezm, “The Land of the Sun”, transfer to *Farovon Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, May 17**

**Khiva**



Begin the day with a walking tour along the **Ichan-Kala Complex**, which was the first site in Central Asia to be included in the UNESCO List. Visits include **Muhammad Amin Khan Madrasah**, **Kalta Minaret** (1845-1855), **Kunya Ark**, which was constructed in 1686, the **Museum of Zindan** and **Muhammad Rahim Khan Madrasah** (1876). Visit **Mausoleum of local Saint Pakhlavan Makhmud**, and **Shergazi Khan Madrasah** (1718 - 1726); also visit **Minaret and Madrasah of Islam Khodja**, **Djuma Mosque** with 218 columns, **Allakuli Khan Madrasah** (1834-1835), which housed the town’s library and **Caravan Saray**; **Tash Khauli Palace and Harem** (1830-1838). Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Saturday, May 18**

**Khiva - Bukhara**



Enjoy breakfast then start the drive to the city of **Bukhara** through the **Kyzyl-Kum desert**, the second largest desert. En route, stop to see and enjoy the panoramic view of the **Amu-Darya River**, the largest river in Central Asia. Stop at a local **chaykhana**, a roadside café for tea and picnic. Upon arrival in Bukhara in the late afternoon, transfer to *Shakhriston Hotel or similar* for check-in, free time at leisure, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Sunday, May 19**

**Bukhara**



After breakfast, begin exploring **Bukhara**, the “pearl of the east” - the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient town of Bukhara goes back in history more than 2500 years. It was one of the important towns along the caravan route and the richest of the Transoxiana countries. Some of the sites you will visit include the **Magoki Attor**, where archaeologists found the remains of a 5<sup>th</sup> century Zoroastrian temple destroyed by the Arabs and an earlier Buddhist temple underneath, the **Kukeldash Madrasah** built in 1569. It became the symbol of strong state during

the governing of Abdullah Khan II. Explore the **Lyabi Khauz** in the heart of the city, including a visit to the **Nadir Divan Begi Madrasah**, built in 1620 by vizier Nadir Divan-begi, the **Traders Dome**, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Bukhara's ideal location along the Silk Road gave it an advantage and the city grew quickly. Visit the **Zargaron trading dome**, which was built in 1569-1570. It is located in the historical center of Bukhara and considered the largest covered bazaar in the city. In addition, visit **Telpak Furushon**, built at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was a place for trading books, and then was selected to trade hats, scarves, turbans, and fur hats, **Sarofon Dome**, translated as the moneychanger bazaar and used to house one of the largest currency exchange in the country. Visit **Tim Abdulla Khan trading dome**, built in 1577 where fabrics and carpets have been sold for centuries. Also, visit **Ark Citadel**, a mud brick fortress that served not only as a residence to the Bukhara Khans and Emirs, but also to poets, scientists and philosophers and **Bolo-Khauz Mosque**, was the most important mosque in the city, where the Emir of Bukhara himself performed prayers every Friday along with many thousands of Muslims. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Monday, May 20**

**Bukhara**



Enjoy breakfast, and then continue touring this marvelous city of the Silk Road. Thousands of caravans and people wandered the vast territory of Central Asia aiming to reach Bukhara and its markets. Explore outskirts of Bukhara, spiritual and Russian Heritage sites including a visit to the **Samanid Mausoleum**, and **Mausoleum of Chashma-Ayub**. Head to visit the **Kalon Complex** consisting of **Kalon Minaret**, **Mir-Arab Madrasah**, means "Prince of Arabs" and refers to Sheikh Abdullah Yemeni who became the Khan's divine mentor and **Kalon Mosque**, one of the outstanding shrines, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Head to visit the **Local synagogue**, the **Madrasahs of Ulugbek**, one of the earliest schools that was constructed by the donation of Ulugbek (1394 - 1449 gg.). It was completed in 1417 and **Abdul-Aziz Khan**, built in 1417, **Chor Minor Madrasah** "four minarets" built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Khalif Niazkul where you can see the religious inscriptions in Arabic along the walls. Head to visit the **summer palace of emirs** (Sitorai Mokhi Khosa), built by the third to last Emir of Bukhara, Nasrullah Khan, rebuilt by his grandson in the 19<sup>th</sup> century then his son Alim Khan the last Emir built the summer palace we see today. It was built to host family of the Romanovs, some of the objects are exclusively brought from Europe and Russia. Return to the

*Hotel* in Bukhara for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, May 21**

**Bukhara - Shakhrisabz - Samarkand**



After breakfast, begin the drive to **Shakhrisabz**, the birthplace of Tamerlane, through the mountain pass Takhtakaracha and pasturelands of Khissar Range of Pamir Mountains. Upon arrival, begin your guided tour with a visit to the magnificent architectural sights of the Timurids period including the Entry Pylons of **Ak Saray palace**, **Dorus Saodat complex**, **Mausoleum of Djehangir** and **Khazrat Imam Mosque**, **Dorut Tilovat**, **Kok Gumbaz Mosque** and **Mausoleum of Sheikh Shamsiddin Kulal**. Continue the drive to **Samarkand** and upon arrival transfer to *Dilimah Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, May 22**

**Samarkand**



Begin the day with a guided tour in the capital of the great empire of Tamerlane Samarkand, a city praised by medieval poets and historians, where you will visit the **Gur-Emir mausoleum**, the family vault of the Timurids and **Registan Square**, the site of a 14<sup>th</sup> century **bazaar**. See three madrassas: **Ulugbek** a monumental madrassa built by a grandson of Tamerlane and was the greatest University in Central Asia in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, **Sherdor Madrassa** and **Tillya-Kari Madrassa**, both were built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Head to visit **Shakhi Zinda Necropolis** meaning "the Living King". It was built in the middle of 11<sup>th</sup> century over the grave of Prophets Mohammed cousin, **Bibi-Khanum Mosque** built by the ruler Timur in honor of his favorite wife. Also, visit the **Colorful Siyab Bazaar**, which gives you a sense of Samarkand as a significant meeting point on the Silk Road in the Middle Ages, when caravans arrive to trade goods from across the region and the **Museum of Observatory of Ulugbek**, built by Ulugbek on Kuhak Hill in the vicinity of Samarkand between 1424-1428. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Thursday, May 23**

**Samarkand - USA**



Transfer to the airport for your early morning flight back to the US.

*"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients."*

## Tour Cost (Land Only): \$4,795.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

## Single Supplement: \$695.00

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 12 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: \*\*\*-\*\*\*\*



### Tour includes:

- All transfers using comfortable air-conditioned tourist class motor coach.
- Accommodation at mentioned superior 4\* Hotels or similar.
- Meals as per the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Entrance fees to the sites, museums, mausoleums as per itinerary.
- English speaking professional escort guide.
- Tashkent - Khiva (economy class) and Tashkent - Nukus (economy class) flights.
- Train tickets Tashkent - Kokand.
- Bottled water on the bus during touring days.
- Escort of a tour manager throughout the trip (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, and porters (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

### Tour does not include:

- International air USA - Tashkent / Samarkand-USA.
- Uzbekistan visa - e-visa (subject to change) (<https://e-visa.gov.uz/application>).
- Tips & gratuities to drivers, guides, restaurant staff, etc., (suggested \$15/day for guide and \$10/day for driver).
- Items of personal nature (camera fees at sites, laundry, emails, excess luggage, etc.).
- Photography and video fees.
- Beverages or any alcoholic drinks with or without meals.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or early arrival.
- Any additional costs due to inflation, fuel costs, additional taxes, or supplier's increase.
- Travel protection insurance. (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

### Trip Grade

**II Active** - Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides and extensive drives.

### Lodging Level

★★★ **Superior** - Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards. (3 or 4 stars).

★★★★ **Luxury** - Regular style - usually large - hotels, typical western standard with ample venues, and full amenities. (4 or 5 stars).

