Tamerlane's Empire

Days	Eastbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
15	Tashkent to Tashkent	Uzbekistan + Tajikistan	3160	●●●○○

Take a deeper look into Uzbekistan as we transport you from the lively capital of Tashkent to hidden villages in a remote valley, before focusing on those magical places which have besotted travellers for centuries – Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva.

"I'd previously heard of Samarkand and had always wanted to go there, but Khiva and Bukhara were a magical revelation. In fact Uzbekistan as a country was a complete surprise - so clean and

tidy, the people lovely and don't hassle you, the trains were clean and on time and the shopping was great!" **- Julie Lewis, United Kingdom**

Itinerary

Day 1: Tashkent

We begin our journey in Tashkent – the dynamic Uzbek capital, busily shaking off its Soviet past, despite twenty percent of its citizens being Russian. But street-side shashlik and pilau vendors don't differentiate between the newer city or the old town which remains distinctly Turkic. In the evening of Day 1 you join your National Guide and fellow travellers at 5:00pm for your Welcome Meeting as detailed in your joining instructions.

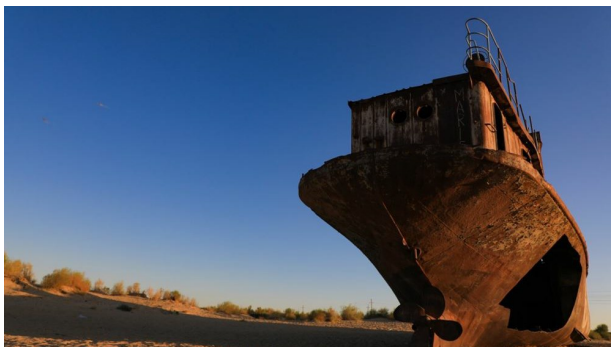
Meals - Dinner

Day 2: Fly to Nukus and to Muynak

We begin our adventure by flying to the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan and Nukus which provides a gateway to gateway to the Aral Sea and its related environmental challenges. We journey out to Muynak, famous for being one of the former ports on the Aral Sea that has now been left stranded due to the dramatic shrinking of the sea.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Ship graveyard Muynak

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 3: To Khiva and Ayaz Qala

We spend the morning visiting the incredible collection of the Savitsky Museum, renowned for its unique and extensive collection of avant-garde Russian and Uzbekistan art from the early to mid-20th century.

Our journey to Khiva is via the ancient forts of Ayaz Qala in the Kyzylkum Desert. One of the highlights of Ayaz Qala is the panoramic view of the surrounding desert landscape, the vastness unimaginable from the fortress. We arrive in Khiva and settle into our hotel within the city walls.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Savitsky Museum, Ayaz Qala desert fortress

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 4: Khiva

Today we explore in the wonderfully preserved city of Khiva – one of the finest examples of a Khanate fortified city and a living museum with mosques, madrassas and caravanserai crowded within its walls. Kunya Ark – a former residence of the Khan, the beautiful Kalta Minar minaret and the extraordinary Tash Khauli or 'Stone Palace' are among the prominent attractions.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Khiva walking city tour

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5: To Bukhara

A final morning in Khiva before we depart to Bukhara where we are treated to Central Asia's most complete medieval city and revel in its beautiful traditional architecture as we walk through its history.

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Bukhara

Encapsulating and enchanting, Bukhara's intrigue lies in the evolution of the city; whilst some highly significant centres of human history are frozen for prosperity – Bukhara lives on unchanged by time. Highlights of your time here will most certainly include the Ark Fortress, the Samanid Mausoleum – one of the world's oldest monuments, and the Kalyan Minaret which once served as a beacon for caravans negotiating the desert at night, the only surviving structure from 1220 when Genghis Khan laid the city to waste.

Sightseeing and Tipping - City Tour including: Ark Fortress, Bolo-Khauz Mosque, Samanid Mausoleum, Poyi Kalyan Ensemble, NodirDevonbegi Madrasah, Kosh Madrasah Ensemble, Lyabi Hauz Ensemble, Magoki Attori Mosque and the Coumpol Bazaar.

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 7: Bukhara

Take your time here to explore the Old Town and enjoy some of the many chaikhanas (tea-houses) in Lyabi-Hauz, one of the most peaceful and interesting people-watching places in town.

Sightseeing and Tipping - City exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8: Samarkand via Shakhrisabz

A spectacular drive takes us to Gijduvan a pretty market town offers a relaxed atmosphere with traditional homes, teahouses and mosques and famed for it's role as a centre of ceramics and trade. It's also famous for delicious shashlik kebabs. Continue onwards to Samarkand.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Shakhrisabz : Ak Sarai, Dorus Saodat Complex, Crypt of Timur, and Kok Gumbaz mosque

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Day 9: Samarkand

Tamerlane – affectionately known in Uzbekistan as Timur – was dragged to Samarkand as a prisoner by an invading Mongol army. In the years following, his fortune improved and he returned and made Samarkand the capital of his Temurid realm. He and successive 14 & 15 century rulers shaped the city we see today. The madrassas of Registan Square and the mausoleum of Timur and his family – Gur-e-Amir – are sure to be highlights of your journey.

Sightseeing and Tipping - City Tour including:Registan Square, Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum, Shari zinda necropolis, Afrosiyob Museum, Ulugbek Observatory, Bibi Khanum Mosque - Including entrance

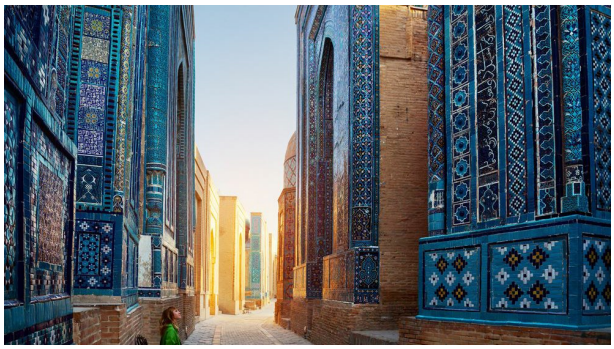
Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 10: Samarkand

Our sightseeing continues and also includes some free time for exploring further in this magical city.

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch



Day 11: Samarkand to Khujand

We cross another border to Tajikistan and journey to Khujand. The city will delight with the vast array of ancient monuments and ancient charm, offering a journey through millennia along the Silk Road. Explore historic treasures like the Khujand Fortress and Sheikh Muslihiddin Mausoleum. Immerse yourself in the vibrant Panjshanbe Bazaar, savoring the flavors of Tajikistan.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Khujand city tour

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12: To Fergana

This morning we stop in Rishton – a town renowned for its master potters, around 300 of them! Then we continue on to the town of Fergana in the oasis of the Fergana Valley, the lyrical land of fruit and honey.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Excursion to the potteries in Rishton, City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 13: To Kokand and on to Tashkent

After spending the night in Fergana we explore one of the Silk Road's earliest and most important centres as well as the birthplace of Babur, father to India's great Moghul Empire - Margilan, the silk capital of Uzbekistan, here friendly locals spruik their wears at the fascinating bazaar dressed in traditional costume.

From there we journey to Kokand.Once home to over three hundred mosques, today you can still discover a number of impressive palaces, mosques and madrassas, including the magnificent Khudayar Khan Palace and Mir Mosque. Remnants of what once was a powerful state as well as a prosperous trading and religious centre.

This afternoon we board our train back to Tashkent.

Sightseeing and Tipping - Margilan excursion, Kokand

Meals - Breakfast and Lunch

Day 14: To Tashkent

We spend the day exploring this vibrant capital city and it is your last chance to haggle in the bazaar, wander the gardens and eat a final meal of delicious plov.

Meals - Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15: Tashkent

Today our incredible journey ends, one which has traced the path of defeats and victories, of births and deaths all experienced in the shadow of incredible architecture and with iconic Central Asian hospitality.

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Journey Summary		
Day 1	Tashkent - journey begins	
Day 2	Flight to Nukus and to Muynak	Flight
Day 3	To Khiva via Ayaz Qala	
Day 4	Khiva	
Day 5	Khiva to Bukhara	
Day 6	Bukhara	
Day 7	Bukhara	
Day 8	To Samarkand via Gijduvan	
Day 9	Samarkand	
Day 10	Samarkand	
Day 11	Samarkand to Khujand	
Day 12	To Fergana	
Day 13	Kokand and to Tashkent	Afternoon onboard train
Day 14	Tashkent	
Day 15	Tashkent - journey concludes	

What's included

Group size

2 minimum

15 maximum

Meals

14 breakfasts
8 lunches
6 dinners

Transfers

All transfers including to and from the airport.

Accommodation

14 hotel / guesthouse (twin share)

Optional single supplement available for hotel stays – prices available on request

Sightseeing and Tipping

This journey is accompanied by a National Leader who will also provide a comprehensive schedule of sightseeing as a certified Local Guides. You'll have a generous sprinkling of free time to relax or explore on your own.

Tipping for local drivers is included in the tour cost.

Expertise

Expert National Guides will accompany you through each country to keep your adventure on track. National Guides are native to each country and as certified professionals will share their immense knowledge with you. 24/7 support is available in the office and on the ground.

Transport

For rail sectors on this journey, where possible and available, two-berth or sole use of a four-berth compartment will be provided.

Contact Us

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