

15 DAYS CENTRAL ASIA Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Tajikistan



Day 01 Tuesday: Kuala Lumpur-Tashkent (Meals on board)

Depart Kuala Lumpur for Tashkent, arrive Tashkent, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 02 Wednesday: Tashkent- Ashgabat (B/L/D)

After breakfast, sightseeing of Tashkent old city, the Kafelsashi Mausoleum, the Barak Khana, the Tila Shaikh Mosque and Archives, followed by the Friendship Square, the Navoi Theatre, the History Museum of Uzbekistan and the Museum of Fine Arts. Evening, transfer to airport for flight to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Day 03 Thursday: Ashgabat (B/L/D)

Khush Gelinis - welcome to Turkmenistan! land of the Turks, and now an independent country. We are warmly received and transferred to our hotel. After breakfast, enjoy a complete sightseeing tour of the capital city of Turkmenistan. We visit the famous archaeological site of Nisa, which served as the winter capital of the Parthian rulers, Independence Park, Ertogrul Gazi mosque, Monument of Neutrality and the National Museum of History and Ethnography.

Day 04 Friday: Ashgabat/Merv (B/L/D)

Today we explore Merv, The "Queen of Cities" as it was known in the Islamic world, when it flourished as an important town on the Great Silk Road until its destruction. Merv was considered as the second city after Baghdad between the 8th and 13th centuries- the oldest and most completely preserved of the oasis cities along the Silk Route in Central Asia. The remains of this wide oasis span four thousand years of human history and a number of monuments are visible, particularly from the last two millennia. Merv is often mentioned as Margiana by classical writers and was part of the Achaemenian Empire in 6th Century BC, until the invasion by Alexander the Great.

Visiting includes: the cities-Erk Kala (6 cent. B.C), Gyaur Kala (2 cent. B.C)-(9 cent.A.D), Sultan Kala IX-XIII cent. A.D. Mausoleum of sultan Sanjar, Mausoleum of ibn Zaid, Medieval Castles 'Keshk' (6-7 cent. A.D).



Day 05 Saturday: Merv/Margush/Ashgabat (B/L/D)

Breakfast, full day excursion to excavations of Ancient country Margush. Visiting of temples and palaces of Togolok 21-13 Cen. B.C, Gonur-Depe (16 cent. B.C), Necropolis. Return to Mary, en-route, visit "Caravan-Saray". Transfer to airport for flight to Ashgabat.

Day 06 Sunday: Ashgabat (B/D)

Breakfast in the hotel. Morning transfer to Tolkuchka Bazaar. Afternoon, free at own leisure. Dinner in the hotel.

Day 07 Monday: Ashgabat/Tashauz (Dashaguz)/Kunya Urgench/Khiva (B/L/D)

Our early morning flight takes us to the northern city of Tashauz. On arrival proceed for the Kunya Urgench Tour. Situated across the Amu-Darya (Oxus River), Kunya Urgench was once the Capital of Khorezm, known as Gurganj. The town has seen historic times of growth as well as destruction. Once known as 'the pearl of Khorezm' it was in the 13th century burnt to ashes by the armies of Genghiz Khan. Later, Kunya Urgench was rebuilt (ironically by the descendents of Genghiz Khan) and again became the capital of Khorezm. It grew into one of the major Central Asian cities. In 1388 Tamerlane, considering the city as a rival to Samarkand completely destroyed it. Well-known scientists such as Al-Khorezmi, Al-Beruni, Abu-Ali-ibn-Sina (Avicenna) and Al-Hammar lived and created their works here. We can see today the mausoleums from pre Mongol period like that of Nadjim-ud-din Kubra. However the later Mongol period tomb of Tjurabeg Khanum strikes spectators look by its proportional correlations. Also preserved is a Caravanserai dating from the same period and a 62meter minaret with winding brick staircase.

Crossing border into Uzbekistan. After border formalities we enter Uzbekistan and proceed to Khiva.

Day 08 Tuesday: Khiva (B/L/D)

After breakfast, we explore the **World Heritage Site** at Khiva, a city where time has stood still in the age of the Arabian Nights. Our visit starts with the main site of Itchan Kala fortress, where monuments Allakulikhan Madrassah, Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Islom Khoja Minaret, Juma Mosque, Toshhovli and other monuments..

Day 09 Wednesday: Khiva/Bukhara (B/L/D)

In the morning, depart Khiva for Bukhara. It is 6-7 hours drive to Bukhara. Along the way we stop for some refreshments and to see the Amudarya river.

Day 10 Thursday: Bukhara (B/L/D)

Full day sightseeing in Bukhara. Visits to Ismail Samonid mausoleum (a burial place of the Samani dynasty founder Ismail Samani, 10th century), Kalon Minaret and Poi Kalon Mosque, Miri Arab Madrassa (16th century), Ulugbek Madrassa (15th century) and Abdilazizkhan Madrassa (17th century), Magoki Attory Mosque (a very interesting construction, with facade 12th century and reconstructed in 16th century, with Zoroastrian temple ornaments underneath), Lyabi House complex, Bolo Hauz Mosque (18th century an official place of worship of emir of Bukhara), Ark Fortress (a home to the rulers of Bukhara), Chor Minor, summer residence of Bukhara rulers. Trip to the summer palace of rulers of Bukhara Sitorai-Mokhi-Khosa.

Day 11 Friday: Bukhara/Samarkand (B/L/D)

After breakfast, depart for Samarkand via Shakrisabz (**the World Heritage Site**), hometown of Tamerlane. In Shakrisabz, we visit the Ak Saray Palace, Kuk Gumbaz, Gumbazi Saidon, Khazrati Imam mosque, Mausoleum of Jakhangir (Tamerlane's son).

Day 12 Saturday: Samarkand (B/L/D)

Samarkand is situated in the valley of the river Zarafshan. It is the second largest city of Uzbekistan and is of the same age as the city of Babylon or Rome. The history of Samarkand is about 2,500 years old and has witnessed a lot of upheavals during the times of Alexander the Great, the Arabic Conquest, Genghis-Khan Conquest and lastly Tamerlane's. Hence, the culture of Samarkand was developed and mixed together with the Iranian, Indian, Mongolian and a bit of the Western and Eastern cultures. Majestic and beautiful city Samarkand has a marvelous and attractive power. Poets and historians of the past called it "Rome of the East, The beauty of sublunary countries, The pearl of the Eastern Moslem World". Its advantageous geographical position in Zarafshan valley put Samarkand to the first place among cities of the Central Asia.

Our City tour takes us to the major monuments and includes the Registan Mosque and the adjoining madrassas, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, the Shakhi-Zinda compound and the Gur-Emir Ensemble, as well as Ulugh-Beg's Observatory, the Afrosiab Museum, located on the site of ancient Afrosiab, and the Historical Museum of Uzbek Culture and Art, which houses the wooden coffin of Tamerlane and a large copy of the Koran.

Day 13 Sunday: Samarkand/Penjikent/Tashkent (B/L/D)

Today we cross into **TAJIKISTAN** to see the site of the ancient city of **Sogdiana** at Penjikent.

Many of archaeologists of the world aspire to Penjikent, one of the centers of ancient civilization, a major sogdiana city was founded in the 5th century. Ancient Panjekent was a small but rich town of the Soghdians, an Iranian people among the most important peoples of pre-Islamic Central Asia. The ethnic and territorial name "Soghd/Soghdian" occurs in historical sources as early as in Iranian Achaemenid times (6th century B.C.). In their heartland, the Zarafshan valley, they founded several city-states, as well as colonies along the ancient Silk Routes from Eastern Europe (Crimea) to the Chinese border and Mongolia.

Day 14 Monday : Tashkent (B/L/D)

This morning, you will be taken to Kukeldesh Madrassah- a grand 16th century academy undergoing restoration, whose plaza overflows with worshippers on warm Friday mornings; the tiny 15th century Jami mosque nearby was used during the Soviet era as a sheet metal workshop. After that, proceed to Chorsu Bazaar-a huge open market beside Kukeldash, draws crowds of people from the countryside, many in traditional dress. Afternoon, free at leisure. Evening, transfer to airport for flight home.

Day 15 Tuesday: Kuala Lumpur

Arrive Kuala Lumpur safely.