



## Uzbekistan: The Heart of Central Asia

**12 days / 11 nights**

*11 - 22 October 2019*

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*Your personal Consultant:*

+61 2 8310 7667  
+1 64 67 51 78 53

*Group: 10-20 people*

*This package is available either*  
**Group Tour** (scheduled departure)  
*or*  
**Private Tour** (flexible dates)





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**Safe.**

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**Secure.**

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**Please have a look at our reviews and feedbacks below from people that have travelled with us.**



**If you're hesitating about going with us, you may find these reviews useful:**

- Trustpilot <https://www.trustpilot.com/review/www.discoveryrussia.com.au>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pg/discoveryrussia.com.au/reviews/>





## **Uzbekistan Visa**

Since 1 February 2019 **no Visa** needed for the citizens of 62 countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia, European Union, Norway, Switzerland.

Citizens of the USA have to apply for e-visa (\$20, issued in 3 days online)

An electronic visa allows a single entry into Uzbekistan for up to 30 days, and is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.

# Itinerary



## **Day 1**

Arrival at Tashkent

## **Day 2**

Tashkent and Charvak

## **Day 3**

Tashkent-Samarkand train

## **Day 4**

Samarkand

## **Day 5**

Samarkand and Shakhrisabz

## **Day 6**

Samarkand – Lake Aider

## **Day 7**

Lake Aider - Bukhara

## **Day 8**

Bukhara

## **Day 9**

Bukhara – Khiva

## **Day 10**

Khiva

## **Day 11**

Khiva – Tashkent flight

## **Day 12**

Departure from Tashkent



# DAY 1: Arrival at Tashkent



- Arrival at Tashkent. Meet and greet at the airport.
- Transfer to hotel in the city center.
- Welcome dinner.



# DAY 2: Charvak Reservoir & Tashkent



- Breakfast
- Tour to Charvak Reservoir
- Lunch
- Evening free at leisure

After breakfast we head out to Charvak Reservoir, located in the northernmost region of Uzbekistan. The rugged and beautiful Charvak basin is home to some of Uzbekistan's oldest archaeological monuments. One of them is Chinara Cave and its rock paintings dating to the Palaeolithic period as well as artefacts from over 21 different Stone Age cultures.

After lunch take a ride back to Tashkent and enjoy the evening free at leisure visiting bazaars and walking around the city.



# DAY 3: Tashkent - Samarkand



- Breakfast in Tashkent
- Tashkent - Samarkand bullet train “Afrosiyob” (2 hours ride)
- Lunch in Samarkand
- Samarkand Walking tour
- Saib bazaar

After an early breakfast you'll board the Afrosiyob bullet train from Tashkent to Samarkand.

Dating to the 8th century BC, Samarkand is famous for its ancient craft traditions. In Samarkand we'll start our city tour with a visit to the Gur-i-Amir Mausoleum. Then relax and watch a traditional folk dance show in the Registan Square, the cultural and historical heart of Samarkand.

After lunch we head to the Bibi-Khanym Mosque. Built by Timur in the 15th century, it's one of the most magnificent mosques in Islam. From there, we visit the Siab bazaar, a produce market famous for local delicacies like dried fruits, sweets, specialty breads and nuts.



# DAY 4: Samarkand



- Breakfast
- Samarkand day tour
- Lunch
- Ulug Bek Observatory tour
- Evening El Meros folk show

Your day begins with breakfast at the hotel. Then continue your acquaintance with Samarkand's sights starting with an excursion to the Tomb of Daniel at Afrasiab. This magnificent 18-foot long tomb is said to house part of the remains of the biblical prophet Daniel.

We'll also visit nearby Shokh-i-Zinda, a complex of beautiful mosques and mausoleums. Dating to the 11th Century, this was an important site of pilgrimage in the ancient world.

After lunch, drive to Ulug Bek Observatory. Built in the early 15th century it's considered to be one of the finest observatories ever built. Return to Samarkand for an evening cultural performance at the famous El Meros, Samarkand's Theater of Historical Costume.



# DAY 5: Shahrisabz



- Breakfast in Samarkand
- Full day tour to Shakhrisabz
- Lunch in Shakhrisabz
- Free time at Shakhrisabz gardens
- Evening free at leisure

After breakfast, travel to Shahrisabz, a town founded more than 2,700 years ago by the Persian Empire, home of the Ak Sarai Palace complex.

The grandest of all of Timur's constructions, only parts of its gigantic 65 m gate-towers now survive. Visit the Dorus Siadat Mausoleum, built as a tomb for his eldest son Jahonguir and the Dorut Tilyavat, tomb of Timur's father.

Lunch at a local restaurant, then enjoy the extensive gardens surrounding the palace.

Drive back to Samarkand via the 1788m Takhtakaracha Pass. This breathtaking scenic trip takes around four hours to complete.

The evening is at leisure to continue your exploration of Samarkand at your own pace.



# DAY 6: Samarkand – Aidar Lake



- Breakfast in Samarkand
- Bus transfer to Aidar Lake
- Riding camels (short ride about 15 mins)
- Lunch
- Dinner in the camp
- Akyn singing performance
- Overnight in yurts.

Prepare for the day with an early breakfast, and then set off for Lake Aidarkul. This scenic 248 km drive takes around 5 hours. The lake covers over 4000 square kilometers and is one of Uzbekistan's most beautiful attractions. It's also home to many species of migratory birds and is full of aquatic life.

Here you'll get to try a short camel ride (around 15 minutes), followed by lunch in the yurt camp. Then you'll have the afternoon to yourself to take a rest or to discover the lake and surrounding countryside.

Experience a dinner of traditional Uzbek food around an open fire, accompanied by Akyn, the improvising singers of the Kazakh and Kyrgyz people.

Spend the night under the stars in a magical yurt. These round tents are the traditional dwellings of the nomad Steppes people of Central Asia.



# DAY 7: Aidar Lake - Bukhara



- Breakfast in yurt camp
- Bus trip to Bukhara
- Lunch in Bukhara
- Bukhara city tour

Breakfast in your yurt, then take the scenic route to Bukhara. Bukhara is an ancient city and important stop on the Silk Road. It's filled with mosques, madrasahs, bazaars and caravanserais, all dating from the 9th to the 17th centuries.

In Bukhara, tour the Nakshbandi complex, dedicated to Sufi saint Bakhaudin Nakshbandi and his mother: the Bakhaudin Nakshbandi Mausoleum and the Bakhaudin Nakshbandi Memorial.

From there we head to the Sitorai-Mohi Hosa Palace. Built in the 19th Century by the father of the last Emir Ahadhan, the building houses a museum of decorative arts.

Drive to Chor Bakr Necropolis, 6 kms west of Bukhara at Sumitan. This beautiful park contains 22 burial areas, a bath house, madrasah, hostel for Sufi dervishes and several mosques.



# DAY 8: Bukhara

- Breakfast
- Bukhara walking tour
- Lunch
- Traditional hammam sauna or dancing show



After breakfast, take in the highlights of Bukhara, stroll through the central square, Lyabi-Hauz and explore the iconic Samanid Mausoleum.

Then we head to the Po-i-Kalyan complex. Here you'll see the ruin of a temple built before Islamic occupation and the Po-i-Kalyan Mosque and Minaret. And finally the Mir-i-Arab Madrasah. Built during the mid 1700's, it's still in use as a school today.

A trip to the Ark of Bukhara will finish off your morning.

After lunch, you'll have a choice of either a traditional Hammam sauna or a dancing Harem show in a restaurant.



# DAY 9: Bukhara - Khiva



- Breakfast in Bukhara
- Bukhara – Khiva bus transfer
- Lunch in Khiva
- Evening free at leisure

After an early breakfast in your hotel, take a bus to Khiva through the magnificent Kyzyl-Kum desert. This 425 km journey takes eight hours to complete.

Khiva is an ancient desert city in the southern region of Xorazm. Built around the time of Christ, it was a vital oasis stop on the Silk Road.

Experience lunch in an authentic Chaikhana teahouse. Then spend the evening at leisure discovering the medieval sights of Khiva. Watch the sunset from the city wall.



# DAY 10: Khiva



- Breakfast
- Khiva city tour
- Lunch
- Evening free at leisure

After breakfast we start the day at the Tash-Hovli Palace. This was the magnificent stone summer residence of the Khivan Khans with courtyards, public rooms, a harem and caravanassi.

Then it's off to the historical district of Itchan-Kala with Muhammad Amin-khan Madrasah, largest school in Central Asia. And the Muhammad Rahiman Madrasah, famous for its summer and winter mosques and beautiful library.

Finish the day with the Kalta-Minor and Islam-Khodja Minarets. These are a part of the Islam-Khodja complex, one of the wonders of Khiva and the first Uzbek site included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.



# DAY 11: Khiva - Tashkent

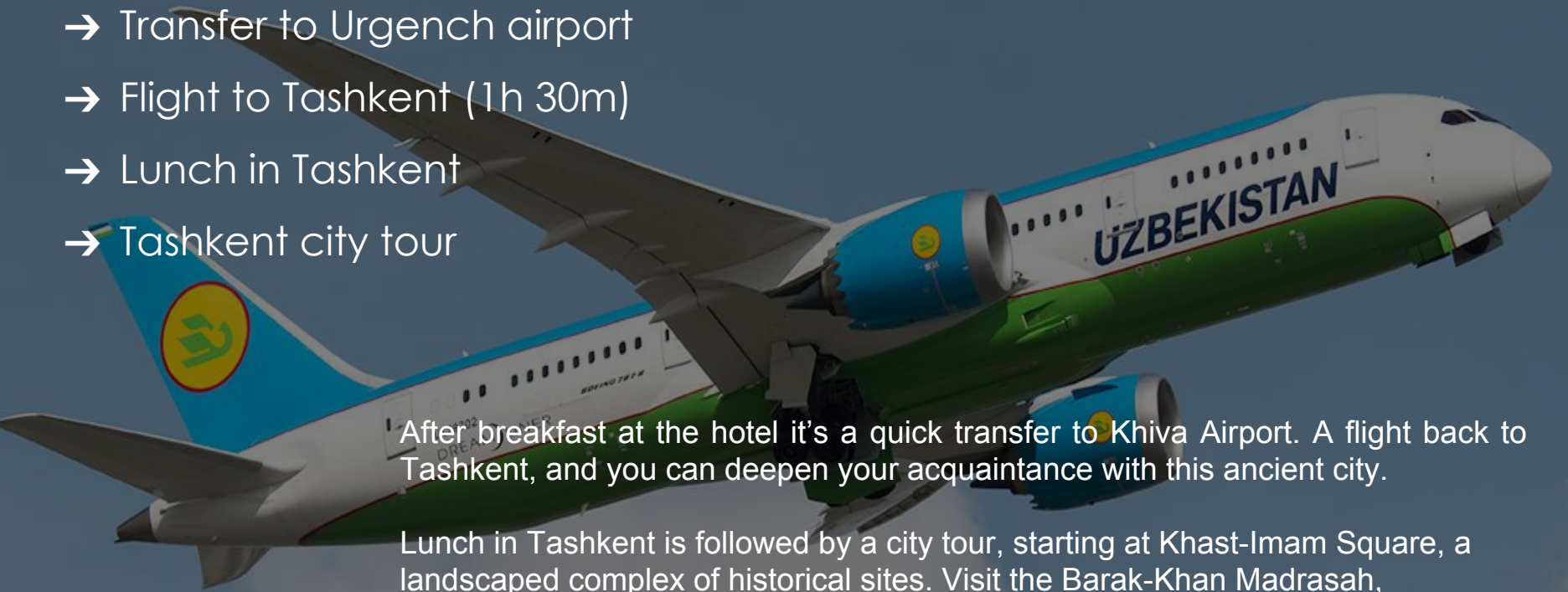


- Breakfast in Khiva
- Transfer to Urgench airport
- Flight to Tashkent (1h 30m)
- Lunch in Tashkent
- Tashkent city tour

After breakfast at the hotel it's a quick transfer to Khiva Airport. A flight back to Tashkent, and you can deepen your acquaintance with this ancient city.

Lunch in Tashkent is followed by a city tour, starting at Khast-Imam Square, a landscaped complex of historical sites. Visit the Barak-Khan Madrasah, displaying the famous Koran of Caliph Osman and the Kafal-al-Shashi Mazar Mausoleum.

Next stop is the Kukeldash Madrasah. Built by the Shaybanid Dynasty of rulers, it has a long and interesting history. It's a short stroll on to the iconic Chorsu Bazaar. You can buy almost anything here, from traditional textiles and handicrafts to exotic spices and even horse meat.





# DAY 12: Farewell



- Breakfast
- Check-out at the hotel
- Transfer to Tashkent airport
- Departure





## Group Tour 20 September – 1 October 2019



### Rates per person:

3\* hotels, sharing double room **1989 USD 2740** AUD

3\* hotels, single room **2425 USD 3341** AUD

4\* hotels, sharing double room **2460 USD 3389** AUD

4\* hotels, single room **3136 USD 4320** AUD

**Private Tour: on request**

### INCLUSIONS:

- Meet and greet at the airport & transfers on arrival and departure
- Accommodation in 3\* or 4\* hotels, central location, 11 nights: 1 night in the yurts (2 persons/yurt), 3 nights in Tashkent, 3 nights in Samarkand, 2 nights in Bukhara, 2 nights in Khiva.
- Breakfasts daily in the hotels (except day 1)
- Lunches daily in local restaurants (except days 1 and 12)
- Welcome dinner on day 1
- Dinner in yurt camp on day 6
- Camel ride in yurt camp on day 6
- Hammam sauna or dance show on day 8
- Topped up local SIM card with 4G Internet
- Guided tours as per program
- Local English-speaking guides
- Entrance Tickets to all listed attractions
- Group transportation as per program by comfort bus (Samarkand – Shahrisabz – Aidar Lake – Bukhara – Khiva)
- Tashkent - Samarkand bullet train "Afrosiyob" tickets, economy
- Khiva - Tashkent airfare, economy
- 24/7 English-speaking support line
- Group tour is fully escorted by our English-speaking staff

### NOT INCLUDED:

- International flights to/from Tashkent
- E-Visa fee (USD \$20 Per Person)
- Extras of Personal nature
- Lunches on day 1 and 12
- Dinners (except days 1 and 6)
- Insurance

Plan it wisely. Travel with Discovery Russia

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