



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Best of Uzbekistan

Private journey – 10 days/9 nights



Meals: 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches

Tashkent	Dedeman Silk Road	1 night
Khiva	Hotel Asia Khiva	2 nights
Bukhara	Hotel Asia Bukhara	3 nights
Samarkand	Regal Palace	2 nights
Tashkent	Dedeman Silk Road	1 night

DAY 1 – Arrive Tashkent. Tashkent sightseeing.

On arrival in Tashkent in the morning you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs and taken by private car to your hotel. The rest of the morning is free. In the afternoon your World Discovery Uzbekistan holiday gets under way with a sightseeing tour of Uzbekistan's capital, including the History Museum, the Fine Arts Museum and a stroll along the main central thoroughfare of what is now the largest city in Central Asia.

DAY 2 - Fly to Urgench. Drive to Khiva.

Free until your short flight in the early afternoon to the city of

Urgench. You will be met and driven to Khiva, a journey of around 30 minutes. Khiva is the most intact of the ancient caravan cities along the famous 'Silk Road'.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 3 - Khiva.

A full day walking tour of the walled city of **Khiva**, often described as an 'Open Museum', a city with a history going back some 2,500 years. Khiva has the distinction of having more minarets than any other city in Asia. Visits today include the unfinished Kalta Minar, the Kunya Ark, the Rakhimkhon maddrasah (Islamic college), the UNDP workshops for the development of local handicrafts, the Mausoleum of Pakhlavan Makhmud, the 44-metre high Islam Khodja minaret and the museum. You will also visit the Friday Mosque, the Tashauli palace and harem, and the Caravan Bazaar.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAY 4 - Through the Kizilkum Desert to Bukhara.

A long drive today will take you through the Kizilkum Desert, during which you will cross the mighty Amu Darya River (the Oxus of Classical times). Arrive in Bukhara in the late afternoon. After checking in at your hotel there should be time to walk through the narrow lanes to Lyab-i-Hauz Square, surrounded by 3 beautifully decorated maddrasahs. Here you may sit at a cafe overlooking the ornamental pool, sipping green tea and simply watching the world go by - the perfect introduction to this wonderful ancient city.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAYS 5 AND 6 - Bukhara.

Two days of sightseeing in Bukhara, the holiest of the ancient Silk Road cities with a history of more than 2,500 years. At the heart of the old city lies the **Kalyon Mosque** with its stunning 48m/155ft minaret. As well as exploring this and the nearby Islamic monuments, you will visit the infamous **Ark**, palace of the ruling emirs of Bukhara, including Emir Nusrallah who was responsible for the cruel treatment and subsequent beheading of the British envoys Stoddart and Connolly in 1842, an incident that caused international outrage. Just outside the Ark is a small park which is graced by the exquisite 10th century **Ismael Samani Mausoleum** with its intricately patterned brickwork. The unique **Chor Minar** with its 4 blue-tiled towers is on your itinerary, as is the unusual early 20th century **Summer Palace**, some miles outside the city proper, whose eclectic and somewhat bizarre decor is not to everyone's taste. One of the joys of Bukhara is simply wandering through the old city to take in the atmosphere, stop at a cafe or browse in a handicraft shop.

Meals included: Full breakfast each day.

DAY 7 - By road via Shakresabz to Samarkand.

Your journey continues eastwards through the Kizilkum Desert to arrive in time for lunch in **Shakresabz**, birthplace of the Emperor Tamerlane. Visit the remains of Tamerlane's Aksaray Palace and the tomb of his son Jehangir, before continuing to Samarkand.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAY 8 - Samarkand.

The very name of Samarkand conveys grandeur and extravagance as well as mystery and remoteness. Tamerlane's great capital city was one of the richest and most extravagant cities in the world and its remaining monuments bear clear witness to this. **The Registan** is undoubtedly one of the world's wonders - "the noblest square in the world" according to Lord Curzon in the 19th century. Its unique combination of massive but elegant mosaic facades, turquoise domes and patterned minarets creates a perfect harmony and balance. You will spend time in and around the Registan before walking to Tamerlane's awesome **Bibi Khanum Mosque**, once the largest mosque in the world. Other included visits are to Tamerlane's final resting place, the **Gur Emir Mausoleum** with its distinctive ribbed dome, and the **Astronomical Observatory** built in the 15th century by Tamerlane's grandson Ulug Beg.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 9 – Samarkand. Return to Tashkent.

This morning visit one of Samarkand's less well known but most delightful treasures - the complex of tombs known as the **Shah-i-Zinda**, located in the old city of Afrosiab which predated Samarkand and was destroyed by Genghis Khan in the 13th century. The Shah-i-Zinda tombs contain some of Central Asia's finest majolica tilework. In the afternoon drive back to Uzbekistan's capital and check into your hotel.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 10 –Depart.

At leisure. Private transfer in the afternoon to the airport for your flight home.

Meals included: Full breakfast.