Silk Road Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Bukhara & Samarkand

TASHKENT

8D 6N | 25–30 PAX | STARTS KUALA LUMPUR | UZBEKISTAN AIRWAYS

Follow the most visible legacy of the Silk Road through Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand over eight days. Travel by Afrosiyob fast train between cities and explore Bukhara's Lyabi Khaus Ensemble, historic madrasahs and Trading Domes before continuing to Samarkand for the Imam Al-Bukhariy Mausoleum and monumental Registan Square. A day excursion to Chimgan Mountain and Charvak Lake adds natural scenery before the final exploration of Tashkent. Return Uzbekistan Airways flights, four-star accommodation, halal breakfasts, lunches and dinners, rail travel, transfers, entrances, an English-speaking guide, tour manager and tipping are included. This journey suits travellers who want Central Asia's Islamic history, architecture and living bazaars presented as one coherent cultural route.

DAY

01

TASHKENT · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Kuala Lumpur — depart for Tashkent

Assemble at Kuala Lumpur International Airport for the group flight to Uzbekistan. The flight is with Uzbekistan Airways, and meals are served on board. On arrival at Tashkent International Airport, your guide meets the group for a brief orientation — first impressions of the city, a welcome dinner, then transfer to the hotel. An early night makes sense: tomorrow's journey to Bukhara begins in the morning.

Tashkent city introduction — a brief orientation drive on arrival; less about sightseeing, more about calibrating to the city before the deeper exploration on Day 7.

MEALS

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Azimut Hotel

DAY

02

BUKHARA · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 2

Tashkent to Bukhara — by fast train

An early departure by the Afrosiyob high-speed train — hotel box breakfast in hand. The journey covers 572 km and is faster and more comfortable than the coach alternative. Bukhara is one of the best-preserved ancient cities in Central Asia, and the afternoon goes straight into the old city. You'll notice immediately that this isn't a reconstructed heritage district — people live and trade here, and the buildings are genuinely medieval.

Lyabi Khaus Ensemble — a 16th-century complex of pool, khanaka and madrasah; the only ensemble in Bukhara where all three monumental buildings face each other across a single courtyard.

Trading Domes — a series of 16th-century covered bazaars connecting Lyabi Khaus to Miri Arab Madrasah; the route through them is the same one merchants used along the Silk Road.

MEALS

Breakfast · Lunch · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Turon City Plaza Hotel

DAY

03

BUKHARA · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 2

Bukhara — where Islamic architecture reached its first peak

A full day in Bukhara, which is exactly the right amount of time. The sites here span fifteen centuries of continuous occupation, and the guide's job is to help you read the layers rather than just move between them. The Ark Citadel predates Islam in Bukhara by several centuries; the Ismail Samani Mausoleum represents one of the earliest surviving examples of fired-brick Islamic architecture anywhere in the world. Expect a full morning on foot.

Ismail Samani Mausoleum — built at the close of the 9th century and one of the finest examples of early Islamic architecture in Central Asia; the brickwork pattern changes depending on the angle of light.

Bolo Khouz Complex — the only surviving monument on the original Registan Square, comprising a mosque, minaret and reservoir; less visited than the Ark, and more atmospheric for it.

Ark Citadel (exterior) — Bukhara's oldest structure, dating to the 4th century and rebuilt repeatedly by successive dynasties; the view from the entrance rampart puts the entire old city in context.

MEALS

Breakfast · Lunch · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Turon City Plaza Hotel

DAY

04

SAMARKAND · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Bukhara to Samarkand — the road Tamerlane built his empire from

After checkout, the coach heads 273 km northeast to Samarkand — a city as old as Babylon and Rome, and the former capital of Timur's empire at its height. The afternoon arrives at two sites that make the journey immediately worthwhile: the Imam Al-Bukhariy Mausoleum, the resting place of one of Islam's most important scholars, draws pilgrims from across the Muslim world. The Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum, Timur's own tomb, is quieter — and more intimate — than its significance might suggest.

Imam Al-Bukhariy Mausoleum — the burial complex of Imam Muhammad al-Bukhari, compiler of the most authoritative collection of hadith in Sunni Islam; the complex was reconstructed in the 1990s but the site's significance predates it by over a millennium.

Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum — the burial place of Amir Timur and members of his dynasty; the ribbed azure dome has influenced Central Asian architecture for six centuries.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Marokand Spa Hotel

DAY

05

TASHKENT · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 3

Samarkand to Tashkent — via Registan and the fast train

The morning belongs to Samarkand's greatest monuments. Registan Square — three madrasahs facing each other across a vast ceremonial plaza — is the defining image of Timurid architecture and, for many travellers, the defining moment of the trip. Bibi Khanum Mosque, once the largest in the Muslim world, and Shakhi Zinda Necropolis round out the morning. There's time for the Siyob Bazaar before the afternoon Afrosiyob train returns the group to Tashkent.

Registan Square (exterior) — the Ulugbek, Sher Dor and Tillya Kori madrasahs form a composition that took 250 years to complete; standing in the centre of the square is the correct way to understand the scale.

Shakhi Zinda Necropolis — a sacred processional avenue of mausoleums in continuous use since the 11th century; the tilework here is finer than at Registan and far less photographed.

Siyob Bazaar — Central Asia's largest dried-fruit market; a good place to stock up before the train.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Azimut Hotel

DAY

06

CHIMGAN · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 3

Chimgan Mountain & Charvak Lake — a day outside the city

80 km from Tashkent, the Tian Shan foothills offer a complete change of scale. Chimgan Mountain is a popular escape for locals, and the chair lift to the summit rewards the ride with a wide panorama over the Charvak reservoir and the ranges behind it. Charvak Lake — a large reservoir created by a Soviet-era dam — sits in a valley ringed by peaks and is visually striking even from the road. The group returns to Tashkent city for dinner, then back to the hotel.
Chimgan Mountain chair lift — the ascent takes about 15 minutes each way and the view at the top justifies the trip; dress in layers, the temperature at altitude is noticeably cooler than the city.
Charvak Lake — a photo stop at the reservoir before the drive back; the landscape here is genuinely different from anything else on the itinerary.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Azimut Hotel

DAY

07

TASHKENT · OVERNIGHT 3 OF 3

Tashkent — the old city, the metro, and a farewell dinner

The final full day gives Tashkent its proper attention. The Hazret Imam Ensemble is the spiritual centre of Uzbekistan's Muslim heritage — the Khast Imam library holds one of the world's oldest Quranic manuscripts. Chorsu Bazaar is a functioning wholesale market in a Soviet-era domed complex; it's where the city actually shops. The Tashkent Metro stations are worth the stop for their Soviet-era mosaic and marble interiors. Dinner is the group farewell before the airport transfer.

Hazret Imam Ensemble — the oldest manuscript of the Quran in Uzbekistan is housed here; the ensemble is the country's principal Muslim heritage site and is treated as such.

Chorsu Bazaar — a wholesale oriental bazaar under a large Soviet dome; more practical than picturesque, which is exactly what makes it worth an hour.

Tashkent Metro station — the underground platforms are decorated with Soviet-era mosaics, chandelier lighting and marble; a photo stop that genuinely earns its place on the itinerary.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Azimut Hotel

DAY

08

KUALA LUMPUR

Arrive Kuala Lumpur

Arrival in Kuala Lumpur. Meals are served on board the return flight. The Silk Road was, for most of human history, the route along which ideas, goods and faiths moved between East and West — and Uzbekistan is where more of it survives than anywhere else. You'll come back understanding why.

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

What's Included

DEPARTS FROM	FLIGHTS	GROUP SIZE
Kuala Lumpur	**Uzbekistan Airways**	**25–30 pax**

INCLUDED

- check Return economy class group ticket by Uzbekistan Airways
- check Airport tax, check-in baggage 1 piece max 30 kg, economy class seat and meals on board
- check 6 nights accommodation at local 4-star hotel or similar class
- check 6 halal breakfasts in hotel, 6 lunches and 7 dinners in hotel or local restaurant
- check Transfer, entrance fees and sightseeing as per itinerary
- check Escorted English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- check Tipping for guide and driver
- check Services of tour manager to ensure smooth operation

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses — minibar, laundry, telephone bills, etc.
- Porterage fee
- Others not stated in the itinerary