**Uzbekistan**

**Following the Caravan Steps, you will discover the unique culture and nature of Uzbekistan. Once powerful trading centers along the ancient Silk Road, cities such as Bukhara and Samarkand still house stunning buildings that will make your trip a memorable one.**

**14 Days / 13 Nights**

**Tashkent – Urgench – Khiva – Bukhara – Dungalyak – Samarkand – Schakhrisabz – Samarkand – Tashkent – Fergana valley – Tashkent**

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Direction** | **Program** |
| **1** |  | Tashkent | Arrive in Tashkent. Transfer to Hotel. Overnight in Tashkent |
| **2** |  | Tashkent – Urgench - Khiva | Breakfast. City tour in Tashkent - the capital of Uzbekistan - the largest city in Central Asia. We will visit the Old City, where is the Khast-Imam Complex, where the world-famous Qur'an is preserved by the caliph Uthman. Afterwards we will visit the Barak-khan Madrassah, the Tillya Sheykh Mosque, the mausoleum of saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi. After discovering Chorsu Bazaar, then take a ride on Tashkent Metro to city center to walk through Amir Timur Square, Independece Square.  Transfer to the airport. The evening flight to Urgensch (1093 km, 1 hour 30 minutes). Arrival in Urgench. Transfer to hotel in Khiva (30 km, 35 min.) |
| **3** |  | Khiva | Breakfast. Spend a day in Itchan-Kala Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Take a walking sightseeing tour in Khiva with a guide: visit Kunya-Ark Citadel, Tash-Khovli Palace,  Mukhammad Aminkhan Madrasah, Mukhammad Rahimkhan Madrasah, Kalta-Minor, Juma Mosque, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum, Minaret of Islam-Khoja. Overnight at the hotel.  Duration of sightseeing tour: 5 hours |
| **4** |  | Khiva – Bukhara | In the morning depart Khiva and drive to Bukhara (480 km, 7-8 h.\*). The Great Silk Road once routed through Bukhara and Khiva ran through the Kyzyl Kum Desert, as the present road does nowadays\*\*. Stop en-route to enjoy views of Amu Darya River and the desert. Arrive in Bukhara late in the afternoon, check in to the hotel. Time for rest and overnight at the hotel. |
| **5** |  | Bukhara | After breakfast, the city tour starts in the old town of Bukhara. They will include the Ljabi Chaus Ensemble, the Magoki Attori Mosque, the Choir-Minor Madrassah, the Handel Domes, the Kaljan Minaret, the Kaljan Mosque and the Miri-Arab Medrese, as well as the Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan Medressen, the Ark Fortress, the Bolo -Khauz Mosque, Ismail Samani and Tschaschma-Ajub mausoleums visit. |
| **6** |  | Bukhara – Dungalyak Jurtcamps | Breakfast. Transfer to the Yurt camp. Opportunities for easy walks and a 20-minute horseback ride on a camel. In the evening at the campfire under the open starry sky you can enjoy songs by nomadic singer Akyn. Overnight in yurt. |
| **7** |  | Dungalyak – Aydarkul – Samarkand | Breakfast. Transfer to Aydarkul Lake. In the nice weather a possibility to swim. After the picnic on the shore of the lake, drive to Samarkand. Arrival in the evening, accommodation in the hotel, overnight stay. |
| **8** |  | Samarkand | Breakfast. Full Day Sightseeing: Gur Amir Mausoleum, Ensemble Registan, Bibi Hanim Mosque, Bazar Siab. Lunch break. Ulugbek Observatory, Necropolis of Schachi Zinda. Overnight in Samarkand. |
| **9** |  | Samarkand – Shakhrisabz – Samarkand | After breakfast we drive to Shahrisabz. Sightseeing in the city: Ak Sarai Palace, Dorut-Tilowat and Dorus-Saodat complexes. After lunch break. Return to Samarkand. Overnight in Samarkand. |
| **10** |  | Samarkand - Tashkent | After breakfast transfer to Mausoleum of Imam al – Bukhari. Lunch. Transfer to Tashkent. Overnight in Tashkent. |
| **11** |  | Tashkent – Kokand – Fergana | Breakfast. Drive through charming mountain scenery to Kokand. The khanate of Kokand was once an important trading center, but also the religious center of the Fergana Valley. The palace of the Khan and the Juma Mosque date from this period. After the sightseeing in Kokand continue to Fergana. Overnight in Fergana. |
| **12** |  | Fergana – Margilan – Rishtan - Fergana | After breakfast drive to Margilan, the "city of silk". They visit a silkworm farm and a silk factory. Learn about the silk production process, from unraveling the cocoons to weaving the dazzling fabric. Continue to Rishtan, the oldest center for ceramic art in Central Asia. Visit to the ceramics workshop. Return to Fergana. Overnight in Fergana. |
| **13** |  | Fergana – Tashkent | Breakfast. Transfer to Tashkent. Afternoon visit to the Museum of Applied Arts. Overnight in Tashkent. |
| **14** |  | Tashkent / - | Breakfast. Transfer to the airport. |