**Uzbekistan**

**You have a good opportunity to visit Autonomic Republic of Karakalpakstan that is situated on the western part of Uzbekistan. The Aral Sea which sometime ago was an immense salt lake in Central Asia is very interesting object not only from ecological point of view, but also from tourism reason as well. Expedition tour to the Aral Sea is a good chance to see the object which can totally disappear in some years.**

**Tour to the Aral Sea includes also visit to Ustyurt Plateau which stretches out along the bank of Big Aral with the giant wall at three hundred meters height. Photographers all over the world want to reach that place in order to make unique frames.**

**15 Days / 14 Nights**

**Tashkent – Nukus – Muynak – Aral sea – Khiwa – BuKhara – Nurata – Samarkand – Schakhrisabz – Tashkent**

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Direction** | **Program** |
| **1** |  | – / TAS | Arrive in Tashkent. Transfer to Hotel. Overnight in Tashkent |
| **2** |  | Taschkent | After breakfast, explore the monuments and markets of the capital of Uzbekistan on foot and by car. A visit to the famous ceramist Akbar Rachimov is also part of the program. After the first impressions and the lunch  Enjoy a free afternoon. Rest in the hotel or another stroll through the city or the market. |
| **3** |  | Tashkent –Nukus - Muynak | Transfer to the airport. Flight to Nukus. After visiting the Savitskiy Museum (closed on Monday) and having lunch in Nukus, drive to Muinak. On the way visit the large archaeological complex Misdakkhan. You will get interesting impressions and information about the monuments and the history of the region. Arrival in the evening in Muinak. Overnight in Muinak in a simple guest house with shared bathroom. |
| **4** |  | Muynak – Aral sea - Muynak | Day trip through interesting desert landscapes at the threatened by drying Aral Sea. The desiccation of the lake, which has been on the rise since about 1960, is one of the largest man-made environmental catastrophes in the world. Originally about 68,000 square kilometers, the Aral Sea used to be the fourth largest inland lake in the world. You take a walk along the lake shore. In the evening return to Muinak. Overnight in a simple guest house with shared bathroom. |
| **5** |  | Muynak – Khiwa | After breakfast, visit to the Aralsee Museum and the ship cemetery of Muinak. Then drive direction Khiva, the first cultural highlight of the journey. On the way you will stop at yurt camp Ayaz Kala for lunch. Arrival in Khiva in the evening and possibly free time for first sightseeing of the beautiful desert town. |
| **6** |  | Khiwa | Full day to visit the 2'500 year old fortress town. The car-free old town behind mighty. City walls is a real gem with its monumental buildings. You will visit the architectural complex Pachlawan Mahmud, the Juma Mosque, the Kunya Ark Citadel and the Islam Chodja Minaret. In the evening enjoy the sunset from the Sheyk Boto tower while tasting a non-alcoholic local wine / sparkling wine. |
| **7** |  | Khiwa - Bukhara | In the morning visit the Ak Mosque, the caravansary of Allakuli Khan.  About 6 hour drive to Bukhara in the afternoon. In spring, in the Kysylkum Desert, which you pass through today, flowers and herbs are blooming. In the evening arrival in Bukhara and overnight. |
| **8** |  | Bukhara | Sightseeing: Samanid Mausoleum, PoiKalon Complex - the religious heart of ancient Bukhara, active Islamic school Miri-Arab, commercial domes of Bukharas bazaars, Kukeldash Koran school - the largest medresse of Central Asia.  In the afternoon visit to the mighty Ark Citadel. The local bazaar will not leave you untouched: stout filled stalls with aromatic spices, traditional ornaments and unique rugs and much more. In the evening you can enjoy an optional folklore show in the courtyard of the Medresse Nodir Dewon Begi. |
| **9** |  | Bukhara – Kysylkum desert | Drive to a yurt camp in the desert. Opportunities for easy walks and a 20-minute horseback ride on a camel. Simple overnight stay in the Yurt camp with shared bathroom. |
| **10** |  | Kysylkum desert – Nurata mountain | Take a short drive into the Nurata Mountains in the area of Tabiati Forisch and make short hikes of up to 2 hours. Or you just rest in this beautiful environment. Overnight in a simple guest house with shared bathroom. |
| **11** |  | Nurata mountain – Samarkand | After lunch drive to Samarkand where you will spend the next three nights. |
| **12** |  | Samarkand | City Tour: The heart of Samarkand is the imposing Registan Square with three famous maids, Scherdor, Ulugbek and Tilla Kori. Also there are the grand mosque Bibi-Chanum and the unique  Mausoleum Gur Emir, where Tamerlan and his descendants are buried. In the afternoon, visit the Observatory of Ulugbek (1420) - the grandson of Tamerlane. Ulugbek was a famous ruler, scientist and astronomer. Later, visit the necropolis of Shachi-Sinda, where rulers and aristocrats of Samarkand were buried. The complex consists of beautifully decorated mausoleums. You will also visit the oriental bazaar of Samarkand. |
| **13** |  | Samarkand – Shakhrisabz - Samarkand | 2-hour drive to Shahrisabz where you will visit the ruins of Ak Sarai Palace, Doruttiljawat Ensemble, Amir Temur Memorial, Kok Gumbas Mosque, Dzhami Mosque, Dzhahongir Mausoleum and Chorsu Trade Dome. In the afternoon return to Samarkand. |
| **14** |  | Samarkand - Tashkent | Morning at leisure in Samarkand. Shortly before noon departure for Tashkent and lunch on the way. Arrival in Tashkent in the evening and check-in at the hotel. |
| **15** |  | TAS / - | Transfer to the airport |