

# 7 Days Uzbekistan Tour 2016

## Day 01: Flying to Tashkent

Friday: HY-552 SIN-KUL-TAS (09:10-10:25; 11:55-16:50)

Tuesday: HY-552 KUL-SIN-TAS (09:20-10:25; 11:45-16:50)

Upon arrival in Tashkent Airport you are met and transferred to your pre booked Hotel.

The rest day at leisure at hotel.

*Dinner at local restaurant*

Overnight at Hotel

## Day 02: (SAT, WED) Tashkent



In the morning visit the old town to see **Barak Khana Seminary, Tila Shaikh mosque** and archives known for the exhibit of a rare copy of Koran written the third Caliph Othman. Later proceed to **Chorsu bazaar, Kukeldash Madrassah.**

*Optional: EXCLUSIVE - Tea ceremony with sweets and pastry at national house of Akbar and Alisher Rakhimov – famous family of ceramists in Uzbekistan.*

*You will have an opportunity to have a lecture about history of ceramics and see the unique collection of their exclusive works.*

*Lunch at local restaurant*

After lunch visit the **Museum of Applied Arts**, in the Russian Turkestan governor's old mansion: over 7,000 pieces of traditional folk art: ceramic, glass and porcelain, handmade and machine embroidery, national fabrics and costumes, carpets, varnished miniatures, jewellery starting from the first half of 19th century; later excursion to **Mustakillik (Independence) Square**

in the heart of Tashkent and famous Tashkent Metro (underground) decorated with local marble and granite like an underground palaces, visit Amir Temur square.

*Dinner at local restaurant where you will be able to taste the dishes of our national delicious Uzbek cuisine.*

Overnight at Hotel

## Day 03: (SUN, THU) Tashkent – Bukhara (HY1321 07:35-09:15)



Morning you are transferred to Tashkent Airport to board flight for Bukhara.

Upon arrival meet and transfer for check in at your pre booked Hotel.

Full day sightseeing in Bukhara:

Visit – Lab-i-khauz ensemble, the pool and chaikhana of which is the modern centre of traditional Uzbekistan.

Visit Madrassah Nadirkhon Devanbegi, Khanaga, Mogaki Attari mosque, Poi Kalon minaret and mosque,

See Madrassahs Aziz Khan and Ulugbek.

*Lunch at local restaurant "Old Bukhara" which is great place with the fascinating view of the old city of Bukhara.*

Afternoon after lunch visit Ark Fortress, Balakhauz mosque, mausoleum of Ismail Samanid, Chashma Ayub.

We will walk through the surviving Jewish part of the old city, then stroll around the ancient domes (they are the Taki-Zargaron (jewelers' dome), the Taki-Tilpak-Furushan (headwear merchants' dome), the Taki-Sarrafan

(shroffs' (money-changers) dome) which have interesting shops featuring new and old pieces of art, from hand-made shoes to local-style ceramics, unique silverware and traditional metallic embroidery still being done in small madrasas.

*Dinner at Adras local restaurant with a beautiful folkloric performance in the courtyard.*

Overnight at Hotel

## Day 04: (MON, FRI) Bukhara



Continue sightseeing of Bukhara with an out-of-town excursion to visit the **Sitora-i-Mokhikhosa**, the summer residence of the former emir of Bukhara where you can see unique mixture of traditional Russian style of architecture harmoniously mixed with local oriental traditions. Famous thrown white hall decorated with carved alabaster resembles halls in Peterhof Palace in the suburb of St Petersburg.

Excursion to **Bahauddin Naqshbandi Mausoleum** famous Sufi spiritual leader of this region in 14th century. Bahouddin Naqshband's cult was highly venerated among folks. The rulers, too, paid a considerable attention to this architectural ensemble.

Later drive back to Bukhara.

*Lunch at local uzbek house of Rakhmon. Here you will see a unique collection of ancient Susanne.*

Visit Hunarmand UNDP Assisted workshops near Lyabikhauz. We see

block printing, metal chasing, suzani embroidery, carving and miniature painting. Gold Embroidery

Some free time will be at your disposal for your own exploration.

**Optional:** enjoy folk show which accompanied by traditional instruments and contemporary fashion parade which is held under the stars in the courtyard at Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah.

Dinner at Minzifa restaurant, located in the center of the historical part (the Old City) of Bukhara, very close to the medieval trade domes and the Lyabi-Khauz ensemble.

You will have your dinner at the open-air veranda, where a gentle breeze and marvelous stars in the sky leave unforgettable impression. A perfect panorama of the ancient Bukhara may be viewed from this veranda.

Overnight at Hotel

#### Day 05: (TUE, SAT) Bukhara – Gijduvan – Samarkand (268 km)



Morning drive to Samarkand. En route visit Gijduvan – visit the house of famous potter Alisher. **We see all the processes from clay to pottery making. Gijduvan pottery is famous for unique coloration and techniques.**

**Lunch with potter's family**

Proceed to Samarkand.

On arrival transfer to hotel, check in.

Reminder of the day at leisure.

**Dinner at a nice local restaurant Platan:**

**Decoration of the interior is made of natural materials (stone, wood). Uzbek and European cuisine, good service, abundance of interesting details, making the interior more elegant – all these things create the unique spirit of the restaurant.**

**The restaurant has two halls, including small non-smoking hall. In the evenings live music of saxophone and piano sounds. The restaurant**

**offers to taste dishes of national, European and vegetarian cuisine. The restaurant is located in the new part of the city, close to GUM store.**

Overnight at Hotel

#### Day 06: (WED, SUN) Samarkand



Morning visit **Gur Emir** - mausoleum of Great Tamerlane.

Later visit **Registan Square** which was for many centuries the heart of Samarkand. See the three beautiful madrasahs: the Ulug-Bek Madrasah built in the fifteenth century; the Tillya-Kori Madrasah built in the seventeenth century; the Sher-Dor Madrasah, also built in the seventeenth century.

**Visit Hunarmand Artisans center to see the artisans at work.**

**Lunch at "Karimbek" restaurant**

Afternoon see the grandest structure of Amir Temur's times is the chief Friday Mosque called **Bibi-Khanum**, **Silk Road bazaar** and **Shahi Zinda** necropolis.

**Optional:** Visit **El-Mirosi Theatre** to see the show of ancient costumes. Your attention will be drawn to a program where you can learn about life, customs and traditions of our region from ancient times to the present. Theater costumes represent different historical periods.

**These suits have recorded the life of our ancestors and the language of color, shape, pottery and painting, and the theater reveals intimate secrets and laws of the beauty of Uzbek costume.**

**Dinner will be arranged outdoor in a local uzbek house of Ilkhom, where guests would have an opportunity to enjoy delicious home-made food and enjoy the authentic and homey atmosphere of uzbek hospitality.**

Overnight at Hotel

#### Day 07: (THU, MON) Samarkand – Tashkent (330 km) - Leave to home



Morning visit the paper-making workshop located in the **Konigil village** (10 km from Samarkand). For a long time Samarkand has been famous as a center of a high-quality paper manufacture. In the workshop of a talented master you will see how the rind of the mulberry tree turns into a paper.

Later visit **Ulugbek's observatory** located in the entrance to Samarkand. Among historical monuments of Samarkand observatory takes particular place, constructed by Ulugbek (Grand son of the Great Amir Temur) in 1428-1429.

**Lunch at local restaurant "New Arbat", it is a nice European style restaurant which offers both national and European cuisine with the highest level of service and a competent welcoming staff**

After lunch drive to Tashkent. Upon arrival transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

**Thursday: HY-551 TAS-SIN-KUL (21:35-08:25+1; 09:10-10:25)**

**Monday: HY-551 TAS-KUL-SIN (21:15-07:50+1; 09:20-10:25)**

**End of the services**