CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE



GROUP TOUR · 10 DAYS

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Group Tour

Round trip from Tashkent · Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Duration 10 days, 9 nights	Start and end Round trip from Tashkent	Best time to visit All year
Group tour from $1,405 per person	Tour type Culture, Multi-country, Nature, Silk Road	Difficulty Easy
Trains 2 train journeys included	Departures 6 guaranteed dates	

Prices and dates valid for 2027 departures. Issued 26 November 2026.

Tour highlights

This group tour links the Silk Road cities of Uzbekistan with the mountains and old towns of northern Tajikistan in 10 days, starting and ending in Tashkent. After a day in the Uzbek capital you cross the Oybek border to Khujand on the Syr Darya, then drive via Istaravshan, with its Kuk-Gumbaz Mosque and craft bazaars, to Penjikent, once a Sogdian city. From there you visit the 5,500-year-old ruins of Sarazm and six of the Seven Lakes in the Fann Mountains, with lunch at a family home by the fourth lake.

Back in Uzbekistan you spend two full days in Samarkand – the Registan, Gur-e-Amir, Shah-i-Zinda and the Afrosiab Museum – and take the train to Bukhara for its trading domes, the Ark Citadel and a plov cooking class with a local family. The 11-day version continues across the Kyzyl-Kum Desert to Khiva and its walled inner city, Ichan-Kala, before a flight back to Tashkent.

Difficulty: Easy. Cultural sightseeing tour by road and train with easy city walks and short lakeshore walks at the Seven Lakes. Expect two land border crossings and some long driving days (up to 260 km; the 11-day version adds a 460 km drive from Bukhara to Khiva).



Fann mountains trekking tour, seven lakes



Shah i Zinda is Samarkand's most beloved site holding the stunning avenue of mausoleums

Where you'll stay

Night 1	**Tashkent**	Human Hotel or similar
Night 2	**Khujand**	Khujand Deluxe Hotel or similar
Night 3	**Panjakent**	Panjakent Plaza Hotel or similar
Nights 4–6	**Samarkand**	Arba Hotel or similar
Nights 7–8	**Bukhara**	Asal Boutique Hotel or similar
Night 9	**Tashkent**	Human Hotel or similar
Optional extension	**Khiva**	Khiva Residence Hotel or similar
Optional extension	**Tashkent**	Human Hotel or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Tashkent

This morning, we arrive in Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital. After settling in at the hotel and breakfast, we meet our guide. Today we discover Uzbekistan's bustling capital, where old and new meet in surprising harmony.

We'll visit the spiritual heart of the city – Khast-Imam Square, home to ancient madrasahs and mausoleums, and wander through the colorful Chorsu Bazaar, alive with the aromas of spices, fresh produce, and handicrafts. After lunch, we'll explore Independence Square and Amir Temur Square, wide spaces framed by impressive architecture. One highlight not to miss is the Tashkent Metro, famous for its ornate stations that feel like an underground art gallery. Overnight in Tashkent.

Overnight	**Tashkent** · Human Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast

DAY 2

Tashkent - "Oybek" land border - Khujand by road, 160 km

After breakfast we drive toward the Uzbek-Tajik border at Oybek, complete formalities, and continue to Khujand, one of the oldest cities in Central Asia.

On arrival, we enjoy a city tour: strolling through bustling Panjshanbe Bazaar, visiting the historical Museum of Khujand, and seeing the city's fortress walls. The mix of ancient history and modern Tajik life makes Khujand an unforgettable introduction to the country. Overnight in Khujand.

Overnight	**Khujand** · Khujand Deluxe Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Tashkent – Khujand (160 km)

DAY 3

Khujand - Istaravshan - Penjikent by road, 260 km

After breakfast we leave Khujand and set out towards Istaravshan, a city with more than 2,500 years of history and once an important stop along the Great Silk Road. Here we explore its bustling bazaars and historic sites, including Kuk-Gumbaz Mosque and the colorful caravanserai-style markets, where traditional craftsmanship is still alive.

Continuing our journey, we drive through dramatic mountain landscapes to Penjikent, often called the "Pompeii of Central Asia" thanks to its fascinating ruins of ancient Sogdian settlements. On arrival we settle into the hotel, with time to rest before dinner. Overnight in Penjikent.

Overnight	**Panjakent** · Panjakent Plaza Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Khujand – Panjakent (260 km)

DAY 4

Penjikent - 7 Lakes - "Jartepa" land border - Samarkand by road, 180 km

After breakfast we explore Penjikent's surroundings, beginning with the Sarazm ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back more than 5,500 years — one of the earliest settlements in Central Asia. We then visit the Rudaki Museum, dedicated to the great Persian poet, and wander through the lively local bazaar, where everyday Tajik life unfolds in a swirl of colors and aromas.

Later, we journey into the Fan Mountains to discover the enchanting Seven Lakes of Marguzor. Each lake has its own character and color, ranging from deep sapphire to shimmering turquoise, shaped by light, altitude, and legend. Today we'll visit six of them, stopping for a traditional lunch at a local family home near the fourth lake. Short walks along the lakeshores will give us time to absorb the mountain serenity.

In the afternoon, we return to Penjikent and proceed to the Jartepa border crossing. After formalities, we cross into Uzbekistan and continue to Samarkand, the jewel of the Silk Road. Accommodation at the hotel and rest. Overnight in Samarkand.

Overnight	**Samarkand** · Arba Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Panjakent – Samarkand (180 km)

DAY 5

Samarkand

After breakfast we set off to discover the treasures of Samarkand, one of the most dazzling cities of the Silk Road. Our tour begins at the iconic Registan Square, framed by three grand madrasahs – Ulugbek, Sher-Dor, and Tilla-Qori – each a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. We continue to the Gur-e Amir Mausoleum, the resting place of Tamerlane and his dynasty, with its turquoise dome and richly decorated interiors.

After lunch, we visit the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, once one of the largest in the Islamic world, and wander through the Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis, where vibrant blue-tiled mausoleums line a narrow medieval street. The day ends at the Ulugbek Observatory, where the great astronomer charted the stars centuries ago. Return to the hotel for overnight.

Overnight	**Samarkand** · Arba Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast

DAY 6

Samarkand

This morning we dive deeper into Samarkand's history and culture. We begin at the Afrosiab Museum and nearby archaeological site, which reveal the ancient roots of the city long before the Timurid era. Then we visit the tomb of Saint Daniel, a unique pilgrimage site venerated by Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike.

Later, we explore the Khujum carpet factory and a silk paper workshop, where age-old crafts are preserved and practiced with pride. Finally, we stroll through the bustling Siab Bazaar, a lively market brimming with spices, dried fruits, nuts, and handicrafts – the perfect place to experience the flavors and energy of modern Samarkand.

Return to the hotel in the afternoon. Evening at leisure. Overnight in Samarkand.

Overnight	**Samarkand** · Arba Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast

DAY 7

Samarkand - Bukhara by morning train

After breakfast we transfer to the railway station and take a morning train across the steppe to Bukhara (09:55–11:38). On arrival, we begin our exploration of the Old Town - one of the most atmospheric and best-preserved medieval cities in Central Asia. Our walk starts at Lyabi-Hauz Square, a lively plaza shaded by old mulberry trees and surrounded by beautiful madrasas and cozy teahouses.

Here we see the Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasa and Kukeldash Madrasa, two fine examples of Islamic architecture. We continue through the ancient trading domes (Toqi) - Toki Zargaron, Toki Telpak Furushon, and Toki Sarrafon — where merchants once sold jewelry, silk, and coins. Today these domes are filled with local crafts, carpets, and souvenirs. We end the day with a leisurely stroll through the narrow lanes of the Old Town, soaking up the peaceful atmosphere of Bukhara at sunset. Overnight in Bukhara.

Overnight	**Bukhara** · Asal Boutique Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Samarkand – Bukhara (train)

DAY 8

Bukhara

After breakfast, we continue discovering the treasures of Bukhara. We visit the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, a true masterpiece of early Islamic architecture, and the Chashma Ayub Mausoleum, connected to the legend of the Prophet Job. Then we explore the local bazaar, full of life, colors, and aromas. Next, we head to the Bolo-Hauz Mosque, famous for its elegant wooden pillars reflected in the pool, before entering the mighty Ark Citadel, the former residence of Bukhara's emirs, with its old Zindan prison. We finish our sightseeing at the majestic Po-i-Kalyan Complex, the spiritual heart of Bukhara, with its impressive minaret, madrasa, and mosque.

In the evening, we are welcomed into a traditional local home for an authentic cultural experience. Here we'll take part in a master class on cooking plov, Uzbekistan's most famous dish, learning its secrets step by step. Afterward, we'll share a delicious dinner with the family, enjoying warm hospitality and stories of local life. Overnight at the hotel.

Overnight	**Bukhara** · Asal Boutique Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9

Bukhara - Tashkent by afternoon train

We spend the morning outside the city walls to see some of Bukhara's most atmospheric sites: the Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace, once the opulent summer residence of the last emir; the Chor Bakr Necropolis, often called the "City of the Dead"; and the Mausoleum of Bakhouddin Naqshbandi, a revered Sufi pilgrimage site.

In the afternoon, transfer to the train station for a comfortable ride to Tashkent. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for rest.

Overnight	**Tashkent** · Human Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Bukhara – Tashkent (train)

DAY 10

Tashkent, departure

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out before 12:00. Transfer to the international airport for your onward flight — carrying with you warm memories and vivid impressions of your unforgettable journey through Central Asia.

Meals	Breakfast

DAY 11

OPTIONAL

11-day version: Bukhara – Khiva by road (instead of the train to Tashkent)

After breakfast we set off on a long but scenic journey across the Kyzyl-Kum Desert and along the mighty Amudarya River. This vast landscape of golden sands and rippling dunes gives a real sense of the Silk Road's endurance.

We stop for lunch en route and continue our drive to Khiva, a perfectly preserved medieval city that feels like an open-air museum. On arrival, we have leisure time to wander its narrow streets, visit traditional workshops, and browse local souvenir shops. Overnight in Khiva.

Overnight	**Khiva** · Khiva Residence Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Bukhara – Khiva (460 km)

DAY 12

OPTIONAL

11-day version: Khiva (Ichan-Kala) – Urgench – Tashkent by evening flight

After breakfast we explore Ichan-Kala, the walled inner city of Khiva and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its mudbrick walls, minarets, and madrassahs create one of the most atmospheric cities in Central Asia.

Highlights include the Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, the Kunya-Ark Fortress, and the tall Islam Hajji Minaret. After lunch, we visit the ornate Tash Khauli Palace, the Juma Mosque with its 200 carved wooden columns, the Muhammad Aminkhan Madrasah, and the Avesta Museum.

In the evening we transfer to Urgench for the flight to Tashkent. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, check-in and rest.

Overnight	**Tashkent** · Human Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Khiva – Urgench (30 km) Urgench – Tashkent (flight)

What's included

Included

- Accommodation at the hotels listed below, or at similar properties of the same category, in double/twin rooms with breakfast. Early check-in on Day 1 in Tashkent is included; check-in at other hotels is at 14:00, check-out at 12:00.
- Meals – daily breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner (incl. a cooking class in Bukhara) as per the program.
- Entrance fees to the monuments and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Services of English-speaking local guides for sightseeing.
- Comfortable air-conditioned transportation throughout the tour, including all airport–hotel–airport transfers.
- Railway transfer from Samarkand to Bukhara (economy class).
- Railway transfer from Bukhara to Tashkent (economy class) - 10-day version only.
- Flight ticket Urgench – Tashkent (economy class) - 11-day version with Khiva only.
- * Tickets for high-speed trains are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed in advance.

Not included

- International flight tickets.
- Extra hotel night in Tashkent before the tour: 75 USD per night (single room) / 95 USD per night (double room) - can be added when booking.
- Extra hotel night in Tashkent after the tour: 75 USD per night (single room) / 95 USD per night (double room) - can be added when booking.
- Meals not mentioned above.
- Medical expenses and travel insurance.
- Porterage at hotels, railway stations, and airports.
- Tips for guides and drivers.

Prices and dates

Valid for 2027 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
Uzbekistan – Tajikistan 10 days	**$1,405**	+ $250
11 days with Khiva extension	**$1,605**	+ $275

Same price on all departures. 20% deposit, balance 30 days before tour starting date.

Optional extras

- Extra hotel night in Tashkent before the tour (1 night): double/twin room $95, single room $75
- Extra hotel night in Tashkent after the tour (1 night): double/twin room $95, single room $75

Guaranteed group departures

2027

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
17 Apr 2027	26 Apr 2027	Sat – Mon	Available
15 May 2027	24 May 2027	Sat – Mon	Available
5 Jun 2027	14 Jun 2027	Sat – Mon	Available
28 Aug 2027	6 Sep 2027	Sat – Mon	Available
25 Sep 2027	4 Oct 2027	Sat – Mon	Available
16 Oct 2027	25 Oct 2027	Sat – Mon	Available

Availability as of 26 November 2026. Check current availability on the tour page.

Book or ask a question

Choose a date or ask us anything about this tour. We usually reply within one working day.

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