



PRIVATE TOUR · 8 DAYS

Northern Tajikistan Trekking Tour

Dushanbe – Samarkand · Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Duration
8 days, 7 nights

Start and end
Dushanbe – Samarkand

Best time to visit
All year

Private tour from
\$1,064 per person

Tour type
Multi-country, Nature, Trekking

Difficulty
Moderate

Issued 12 October 2026.

Tour highlights

Experience an unforgettable 8-day adventure through the breathtaking landscapes and rich history of Tajikistan. Start in Dushanbe with visits to the National Museum of Antiquities and vibrant local markets before heading to the picturesque Iskanderkul Lake. Explore the scenic Saritag village and trek through the stunning Karakul Valley in the Fan Mountains. Discover ancient Panjakent, known as the "Pompeii of Central Asia," and take in the serene beauty of the Chukurak Lakes. Enjoy the captivating views of the Seven Lakes in the Fan Mountains, a natural wonder of diverse colors. Conclude your journey in Panjakent before crossing into Uzbekistan and continuing to Samarkand.

The pace of this tour is relaxing and the accommodation as good as it gets in these regions of Central Asia. There is plenty of time to focus on what you are interested in and even to make some extra stops on the way.

Difficulty: Moderate. This tour requires normal physical condition. There will be some walking on easy and moderate terrain; the longest hiking days are 3–5 hours with about 455 m of ascent and descent.



Northern Tajikistan trekking tour



Dushanbe Khorog iskanderkul tour

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Dushanbe	Atlas Hotel or similar
Nights 2–3	Sary Tag	Dilovar homestay or similar
Nights 4–5	Artuch alpinist camp	Artuch tourist camp or similar
Nights 6–7	Panjakent	Penjikent Plaza Hotel or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Dushanbe city tour

After a leisurely breakfast we spend the day in the Tajik capital. We start with a visit to the National Museum of Antiquities with its famous Sleeping Buddha, excavated from the Buddhist monastery at Ajina Teppa.

Touring today also includes the Museum of Musical Instruments and Folklore, a small but fascinating museum started by the Badakhshani actor Gurminj Zavkybekov. Our next destination is the city's main market. In the afternoon we walk in Rudaki Park, dedicated to the great Persian poet Rudaki, who lived during the Samanid period in the 10th century AD. From the park we walk up to the statue of Ismail Somoni. This large monument commemorates the 1,100th anniversary of the Samanid State, a Golden Age of the Tajik nation when science and arts flourished.

Dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight	Dushanbe · Atlas Hotel or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

2

Dushanbe – Iskanderkul Lake – Saritag village (135 km, 3–4 hrs)

After breakfast at 8:00 we drive to Iskanderkul, along beautiful mountains and through the Zeravshan valley. On the way we pass the 5 km long Istiklol tunnel at 2650 m.

Iskanderkul is known as the lake of Alexander the Great. The lake covers 340 hectares. According to legend it was named after Alexander the Great, known as Iskander in the East, whose path to India is said to have passed by this lake. Lunch at the traditional homestay "Dilovar" or at the lakeshore.

In the afternoon we explore the surroundings of the lake: the five springs, Zmeinoe (Snake) Lake and a 1-hour walk to the 38 m high waterfall called "Fan Niagara". Time to relax at the lake and a short boat ride on the lake.

Overnight	Sary Tag · Dilovar homestay or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Dushanbe – Sary Tag (135 km)
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DAY

3

Saritag village (2380 m) – Karakul Valley (2495 m) – Saritag village, 10 km hike

After breakfast we hike for 4–5 hours along the Karakul Valley, an incredibly beautiful corner of alpine landscapes and snow-capped peaks at the junction of the Fan Mountains and the Zeravshan Range, not far from the ancient city of Panjakent. This unique highland region was known in the past as Kuhistan, "the country of mountains" in Farsi.

Picturesque gorges and passes, rapid rivers, ancient glaciers, emerald green and turquoise lakes, juniper forests and pointed summits, stable warm weather and good accessibility make the Fan Mountains highly attractive for trekkers and fans of outdoor activities. We carry a lunch box with us.

Return to the Dilovar homestay for one more night.

Hiking: 4–5 hours, ascent +455 m / descent –455 m.

Overnight	Sary Tag · Dilovar homestay or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Sary Tag – Sary Tag (hike, 10 km)
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DAY

4

Saritag village – Artuch tourist base (2000 m), 220 km, 4–5 hrs

After breakfast we drive through the beautiful mountains and gorges of the Zeravshan valley to the Artuch tourist base ("Artuch vertical base") in the central part of the Fan Mountains, where we are warmly welcomed. Lunch on the way.

Dinner and overnight at the Artuch tourist camp.

Overnight	Artuch alpinist camp · Artuch tourist camp or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Sary Tag – Artuch alpinist camp (220 km)

DAY

5

Artuch tourist base – Chukurak Lakes (2455 m) – Artuch, 3–4 hrs hike

After breakfast we do a short day hike from the Artuch tourist base to the Chukurak Lakes, with excellent views of the Fan Mountains and the lakes. We carry a picnic and have lunch on the lakeshore.

The hike can easily be combined with the longer Kulikalon trek, but it is a good option for visitors with limited time in this area, which remains among the most popular places for trekking in Tajikistan. Return to the Artuch tourist base for dinner and overnight.

Hiking: 3–4 hours, ascent +455 m / descent –455 m.

Overnight	Artuch alpinist camp · Artuch tourist camp or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

6

Artuch tourist base – Panjakent (70 km, 2 hrs)

Breakfast and drive to Panjakent, a major city established in the 5th century AD by the Sogdians. We visit the Rudaki Historical and Ethnographic Museum, the local bazaar and the mosque. After lunch in a traditional chaikhana we visit the ruins of ancient Panjakent.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight	Panjakent · Penjikent Plaza Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Artuch alpinist camp – Panjakent (70 km)

DAY

7

Panjakent – Seven Lakes (Haftkul, 2190 m) – Panjakent (130 km, 3–4 hrs drive)

After breakfast we drive to Haftkul, the Seven Lakes in the gorge of the Shing River in the Fan Mountains. The valley is considered one of the best destinations in Tajikistan and attracts visitors from all over the world with its natural beauty. The lowest lake (Mijgon) lies at 1,640 m and the highest (Hazorhashma) at 2,400 m, and each lake has a different color: Mijgon, Soya, Hushyor, Nofin, Khurdak, Marguzor and Hazorhashma.

Lunch in a homestay, then time to relax on a traditional Tajik tapchan in the Jomaboy garden. In the afternoon we drive up to the sixth lake and walk to the seventh lake (about 1.5 hours), then return to the sixth lake where the drivers wait for us. Drive back to Panjakent.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Hiking: about 1–1.5 hours, ascent +100 m / descent –100 m.

Overnight	Panjakent · Penjikent Plaza Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Panjakent – Panjakent (130 km)

DAY

8

Panjakent – Samarkand

After breakfast, transfer to Samarkand via the Uzbek–Tajik land border.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
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Meals	Breakfast
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Travel	Panjakent – Samarkand
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What's included

Included

- All transfers
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Accommodation based on a double/twin room
- English-speaking driver
- Sightseeing tour program in each city
- Entrance fees to sights as per itinerary
- One bottle of water per person per day

Not included

- Personal travel insurance
- Flight tickets
- Tips
- Alcohol

Prices

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	Price per person
1 traveller	\$1,926
2–4 travellers	\$1,792
5–6 travellers	\$1,568
7–8 travellers	\$1,456
9–10 travellers	\$1,344
11–12 travellers	\$1,221
13–14 travellers	\$1,098
15–20 travellers	\$1,064

Private tours start on any date you choose. Prices per person in a double or twin room.

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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