



# Silk Steps

EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE



## Uzbekistan

*An exotic region largely overlooked by tourism. Uzbekistan is the crossroads of the largest landmass on earth and is open to those who wish to explore the hidden delights of this historic area.*

The land of the Silk Road which stretched from the Middle East to China and along which lie the famous cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva.

This was the trade artery through which the great civilisations of the East and West exchanged not only produce, but also cultural ideas.

Peoples, rulers and cultures have swept across the region's steppes, deserts and mountains for thousands of years.

### WEATHER

Temperatures in this area vary widely, with dramatic differences between the deserts and mountains.

The best time to visit is in the spring and autumn, as summer temperatures sometimes reach 40°C and winter temperatures dropping to as low as -10°C.



### WHEN IN UZBEKISTAN, WHY NOT...?

**Stay overnight in a yurt and ride a camel along part of the Silk Road.** As you roll along on the back of a camel close your eyes and imagine that you are at the head of a camel train carrying food and silks along the Silk Road, the greatest ancient trading route. Complete the picture with a night in a traditional yurt and eat with the locals under the stars.

**Visit Nukus and see the receding Aral sea.** You won't be able to believe that what was once the fourth largest inland sea is now largely desert. Once the waters of the Aral Sea lapped Nukus and the port of Muynak, which now is now home to a 'ship cemetery'.

See the fortresses that lie in the desert; **Toprak Kala**, a 2000-years-old ruined city fortress that grew up around the first century BC and became the capital of the Khorezm in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Also **Ayaz Kala**, located 60 kms from Toprak Kala and is an impressive mud-walled hilltop fortress of the 6th and 7th centuries.

**Extend your stay in Uzbekistan and visit Kokand** and the potter's town of Rishton. Continue through the valley and visit the silk producing town of Margilan where the friendly locals still dress in traditional costume and with hardly a tourist in sight, take pleasure in the sights, sounds and aromas of the most interesting bazaar in the Fergana Valley.



# Suggested Itineraries

Nights stay at:	
1	Tashkent
2	
3	Samarkand
4	
5	Shakhrisabz
6	
7	Bukhara
8	
9	
10	Khiva
11	
12	Tashkent

## CLASSICAL UZBEKISTAN

Discover a land of vast deserts and soaring mountains where traders plied their wares along the Silk Road along which lie the famous oasis cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva.

Start your journey in Tashkent, the capital of independent Uzbekistan and the gateway to Central Asia, in the western foothills of the Tien Shan Mountains. A major industrial centre, there are still many museums and galleries of interest, although much was swept away in a major earthquake in 1966. Start to follow the great Silk Road, beginning in Samarkand an oasis town fought over by Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan. Despite much destruction in its history there are still wondrous sights such as the Registan Square and the unique Bibi Khani Mosque. Cross the never-ending plains to Shakhrisabz, home of Tamerlane, and a treasure trove of wonderful ruins.

Historians will marvel at the wonderfully preserved city of Bukhara which is full of stunning buildings such as the Ark Citadel and an array of mosques and mausoleums. You won't know what to visit first. The enchantment continues in the Museum City of Khiva, another oasis town frequented by traders, which has a lovingly preserved collection of mausoleums, madrassahs and mosques. You will understandably be reluctant to leave this treasure house, but here the tour ends with a flight back to Tashkent for your final night.

### Cost per person

(based on two people travelling in a twin/double room)

**FROM £1,342**



Nights stay at:	
1	Tashkent
2	
3	Khiva
4	
5	Bukhara
6	Yangigazgan (yurt camp)
7	
8	Samarkand

## THE ROAD TO SAMARKAND

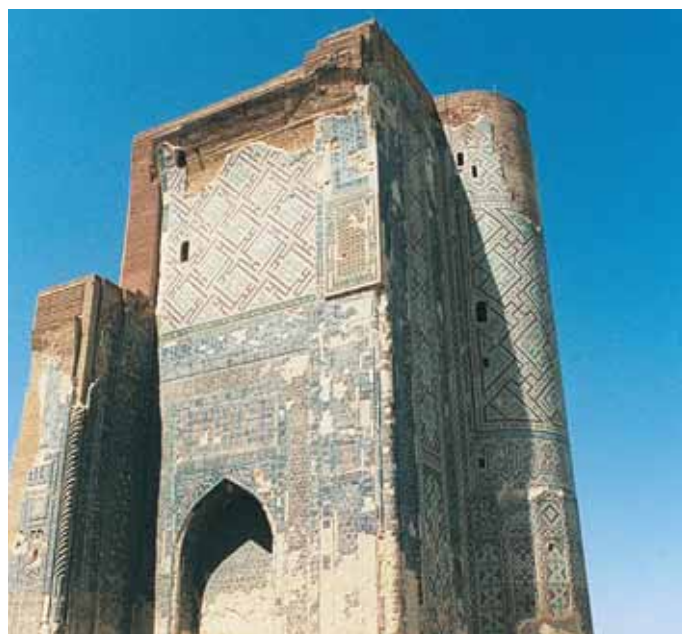
Go on a journey of discovery starting in bustling Tashkent, capital of independent Uzbekistan and crossing the desert to the remarkable oasis town of Khiva, where there is a stunning array of mosques and madrasses on offer, many with delicate tiles and paintings. Bukhara is an assault on the senses with its pools, mosques and mausoleums, all beautifully preserved and each demanding that you linger there to soak up the history.

Truly step back in time to a much gentler way of life when you spend one night in a traditional yurt in the village of Yangigazgan. Eat under the stars, join with the villagers in a sing along and ride into the desert on a camel before continuing to the splendour of Samarkand. Here you will find an evocative collection of architecture with Registan Square at its heart lined with blue-tiled buildings.

### Cost per person

(based on two people travelling in a twin/double room)

**FROM £940.00**





Nights stay at:	
1	Khiva
2	
3	Bukhara
4	
5	Samarkand
6	
7	Tashkent

### CLASSIC UZBEKISTAN - group departure

This 8-day itinerary is for those short on time but who will enjoy the opportunity to see the best that Uzbekistan can offer. The Silk Road links these once important trading cities and the journey is one that takes you back in time.

You will be astounded at the state of preservation of the many beautiful buildings in Khiva, an oasis town whose survival in the harsh desert depended on its wells, a draw for the many trading caravans. Bukhara is full of treasures from across the centuries, despite the efforts of Genghis Khan to destroy the city. Mosques and mausoleums abound and the 12<sup>th</sup> century Kalyan Minaret should not be missed. Cross the desert to Samarkand, where the blue domes and mosaics on the mausoleums and mosques are quite awe inspiring.

Leave the Silk Road and return to the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the capital, Tashkent, a city tentatively discovering its place on the world stage.

#### Dates for 2007:-

10 <sup>th</sup> May	14 <sup>th</sup> June
12 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> August
13 <sup>th</sup> September	11 <sup>th</sup> October
8 <sup>th</sup> November	20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> December

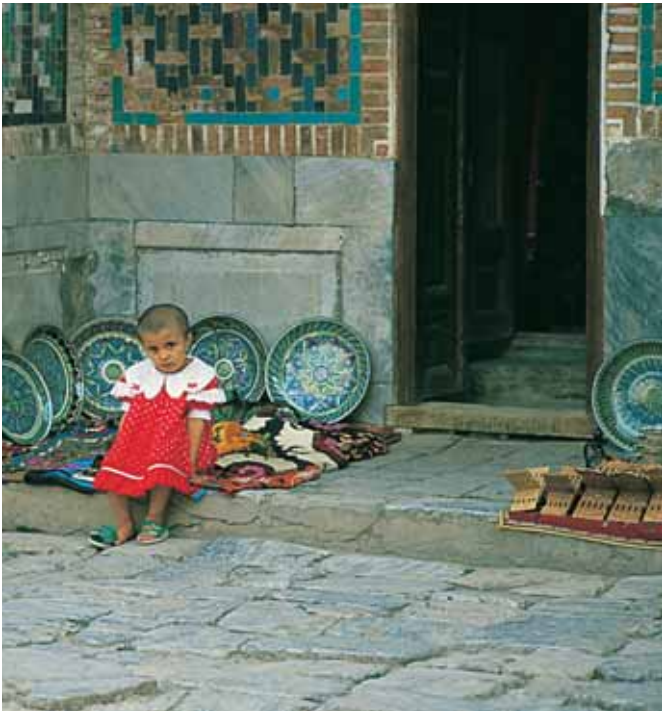


#### Cost per person

(based on two people travelling in a twin/double room)

**FROM £636.00**

# Hotel Selection



The choice of hotels in Uzbekistan is endless and those detailed below are recommendations only. We can book most hotels throughout Uzbekistan, so please contact us if you would like alternative hotels.

## TASHKENT

The **Dedeman Hotel** has a perfect location on the crossing of two main streets of the capital, Amir Temur and Navoi streets and it is not far from the Amir Temur Square.

## SAMARKAND

The **Malika Hotel** is a newly built private hotel that presents the finest Uzbek woodcraft. It features 26 guestrooms and there is a small courtyard with the Uzbek national sitting benches, 'supa', where you can have breakfast or just relax with a cup of tea after a day's sightseeing.

## BUKHARA

Privately-owned **Hotel Sasha & Son** is one of the first and experienced hotels in Bukhara. It is located next to the historical centre of Bukhara, Lyabi Hauz. A homely atmosphere and personal hospitality awaits you in this charming small hotel with private facilities. There is a small yard surrounded by grapevines where you can have breakfast or a cup of green tea after an exciting day of sightseeing.

**Minzifa Boutique hotel** is one of the best private hotels in Bukhara with great service and accommodation. The hotel is located in one of the narrow streets of a quite area within 3 minutes walk from Lyabi House Complex. The hotel runs 8 rooms. All rooms are decorated in traditional Bukhara design and has hand made furniture. Every room differs from another with its colour and design. The rooms have almost all-modern amenities and you will find yourself in a quite, beautiful room with Satellite TV and direct International telephone line. The hotel is also famous for its Boutique shop selling lots of handy crafts, carpets and other souvenirs in Toki-Saraffon trading dome.

## KHIVA

The **Malika Hotel** is a quality hotel that opened in the spring of 2004. It is well located, next to the Ata Darvaza, the main gate of Ichan Qala. Designed in traditional style, the hotel is well equipped with good amenities making it a very comfortable place to stay.

### A Silk Steps inclusive holiday price includes:

- Private return transfers between airports and hotels (unless otherwise specified)
- The services of English speaking guides and representatives at each stage of the tour. Between most places you will travel unescorted
- Accommodation in a standard room (shared twin) with private facilities (unless otherwise specified) with breakfast
- Government taxes and compulsory service charges
- All tours and sightseeing as specified, inclusive of entrance fees
- Economy class air travel within all countries on the scheduled services of the national or domestic carrier as specified in each tour
- The services of our local representative

### Extras:

- International flights - please contact us for up-to-date prices
- Travel insurance
- Meals - unless otherwise stated
- Optional sightseeing other than specified
- International airport departure tax payable overseas
- Visa fees
- Single supplement (on request)

