

EXOTIC EXPEDITIONS



Experiential journeys for the exploring traveller

**UZBEKISTAN
DISCOVERY
TRAILS**

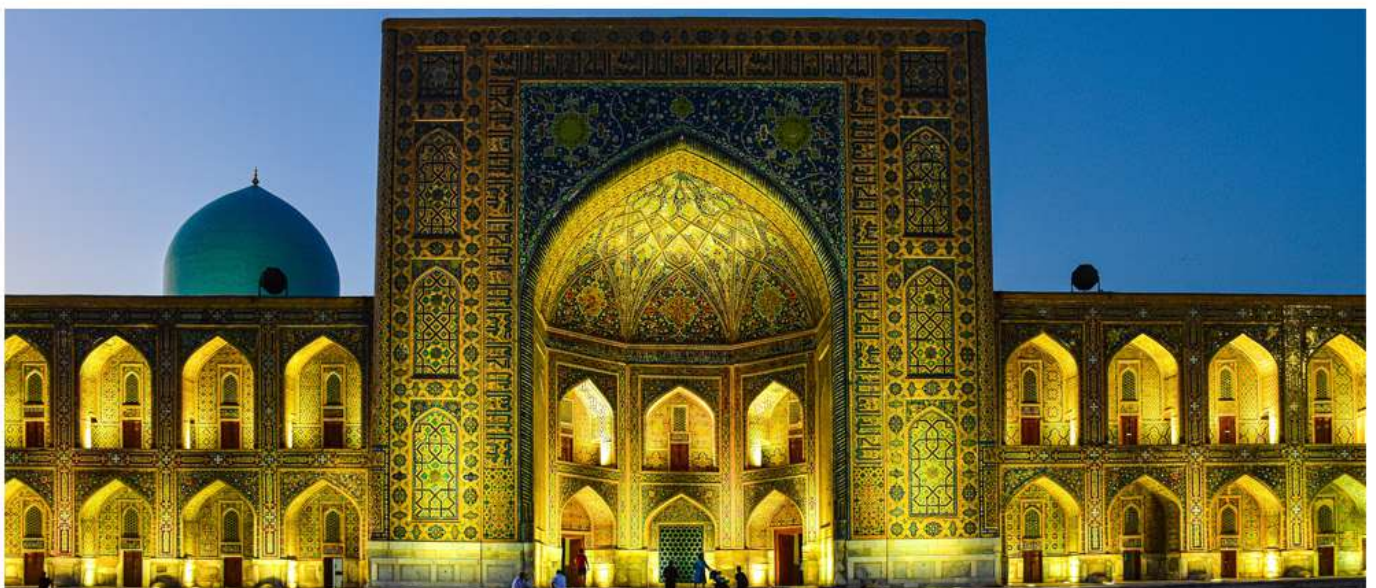
MARCH 29 - APRIL 5

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**TASHKENT - BUKHARA
SAMARKAND
NURATAU MOUNTAINS**

OVERVIEW

Famous for its incredible historical cities; delightful Uzbekistan is the land of the great Khanates and Sultanates – the kingdoms that controlled the Silk Road of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand. Once home of the mighty warlord Timur, Samarkand's highlight is the great Registan Square, surrounded with grand madrasah. Bukhara perfectly captures the atmosphere of Central Asia before the Russian domination, and has many spectacular buildings such as the Kalon Mosque and the Ark Fortress. We will also be visiting Tashkent, the country's capital and the most modern Uzbeki city. The elaborately decorated metro stations of Tashkent are a sight to be seen, and outside of the cities Uzbekistan is just as full of surprises – like the traditional villages of the Nuratau Mountains, where we will be staying for a night to experience the lifestyle and customs of the Uzbeki and Tajiki people. This is an experiential journey of Uzbekistan in all its charming glory.



ESSENTIAL INFO

Cost: Rs 64500/- per person

Country: Uzbekistan

Start: Tashkent

End: Tashkent

Start Date: 29th March' 2025

End Date: 5th April' 2025

Duration: 8 Days

Group Size : Min 5 / Max 10

Theme: Culture, Adventure



HIGHLIGHTS



High speed train journey through the Uzbek landscape



Stay one night at a Tajiki village in the Nuratau Mountains



Explore silk road monuments in Tashkent,, Samarkand and Bukhara



Explore the local markets and try mouth watering Uzbeki cuisine



Marvel at the spectacular Registan Square in Samarkand



See the Soviet era influence in the capital, Tashkent

ITINERARY

Day 1: TASHKENT

Welcome to the eclectic capital of Uzbekistan where modern skyscrapers mix with Soviet-era architecture and mosaic mausoleums. The largest city in Central Asia, Tashkent is a mix of Russian and Uzbek styles, an indication of the fact that for many years it was a key city of the USSR. Arrive and transfer to the hotel. Evening we set out for a walking tour of Tashkent. You can visit the Amir Temur square Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Church and Independence Square. Later you can take a metro train ride to see some of Tashkent's beautiful subway stations and try some Uzbeki kebabs and pilaf for dinner. Overnight in Tashkent.

Day 2: TASHKENT - SAMARKAND (310 kms / 2.5 hrs / High Speed Train)

After breakfast, we take one of Uzbekistan's high speed train to the ancient Silk Road hub of Samarkand. The city has long been a center of artisans and traders as well as the prize for many a conquering army, leaving behind a rich and complex history. Make a visit to the Gur Amir Mausoleum. Stand on the iconic Registan Square with three mosaic-adorned madrassas towering over you. Visit the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, overlooking the busy and colourful Siob Bazaar, full of bustling stalls and friendly local traders. Continue to the holy Shah-i-Zinda complex, the so-called 'Town of the Dead' necropolis, with more than 20 beautifully decorated unique buildings. After your city tour, transfer to your hotel and enjoy a free evening to soak up the magic of this historical city. Overnight in Samarkand.



ITINERARY

Day 3: SAMARKAND

Spend a full day in Samarkand continuing to take in the ancient sights and sounds. We start with Shah-i-Zinda, a stunning avenue of mausoleums decorated with beautiful blue tiles. Its holiest, most loved shrine is built around what's thought to be the grave of Quasam ibn-Abbas, cousin of the Prophet Mohammed and the man who brought Islam to the region many centuries ago. Another highlight is a visit to the workshop of Zarif Mukhtarov, one of the few people producing handmade paper in Central Asia as per a 1000-year-old process. Also, visit the Ulugh Beg Observatory. Built-in the 1420s by the Timurid astronomer Ulugh Beg. For lunch, we can try the plov/pilaf, the national dish of Uzbekistan. Afternoon, free to stroll and explore Samarkand on your own, have a cuppa in a local tea house or wander around the bazaars. Overnight at Samarkand

Day 4: SAMARKAND - NURATAU MOUNTAINS (180 kms / 3.5 hrs / Van)

After breakfast, we drive out to a mountain village in the Nuratau mountains crossing Nurata town. The mountains overlooking the Adyar lake is one of the highlights of the tour where you stay in a Tajik village and experience the life of the mountain people. Late afternoon for a walk in the village and the trails around it or just explore the oasis of cherry, almond, apricot, apple and berry trees in the village. Overnight at Nuratau Mountain Village Homestay.



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Day 5: NURATAU MOUNTAIN - BUKHARA (350 kms / 5.5 hrs / Van)

After breakfast travel to Bukhara, known as one of the most charming cities in the country. Stop along the way in Gijduvan, famous for its ceramic pottery, where you'll have the chance to visit a pottery workshop. Witness the pottery process from start to finish and see a small museum to uncover the centuries-old history of ceramics in this area. Reach Bukhara by afternoon and after lunch explore the old city bazaars. One can also try a traditional Uzbeki Hammam in the evening. Overnight at Bukhara.



ITINERARY

Day 6: BUKHARA

A UNESCO-listed site, Bukhara is widely regarded as Central Asia's holiest city with monuments dating from the 8th to the 18th century. The meticulous restoration of many of the mosaic and majolica decorations give you a true sense of how these buildings looked in their original glory. Visit the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, the Chashma Ayub Mausoleum, the Bolo-Khauz Mosque, the ruins of the 5th-century Ark Fortress and the imposing Poikalon complex. Taki Zargaron and the trading domes near here still offer a colorful array of goods including embroideries, jewellery, spices, handicrafts, and all manner of Silk Road treasures. Enjoy a free evening here – the twilight hours lend themselves to wandering around the central Lyabi-Hauz and its surrounding areas. Overnight at Bukhara.



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Day 7: BUKHARA - TASHKENT (570 kms / 4.15 hrs / High Speed Train)

Ater breakfast transfer to the railway station to take the Afrosiyob train to Tashkent. Arrive in Tashkent by late afternoon. Evening free to explore Tashkent and visit Khast Imom Complex including the Barak Khan madrassa (a college for Islamic instruction). Then leave behind the spiritual world and venture into the real-life hustle and bustle of Chorsu Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest markets in Central Asia. Wandering through this giant marketplace is a fantastic way to see locals going about their daily lives. Overnight at Tashkent.

Day 8: TASHKENT (Departure)

Ater breakfast transfer to airport. End of tour.





**Rs 64500/-
per person**

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights stay each in Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara AND
- 1 night stay in Nuratau Mountain Homestay (Twin / Double sharing)
- Breakfast on all days
- All airport transfers during tour in Suv / Mini Van
- Walking Tour
- City tours and Nuratau Mountain Homestay Tour in Suv
- Service charges
- Taxes

EXCLUSIONS

- Flight Charges
- Visa
- Entry tickets and camera charges (wherever applicable)
- Dinner & Lunch
- Other than those mentioned
- Taxes



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