

# **Great Silk Road Tour** Cultural tour through Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

Mixtures of the cultures in the countries of the Great Silk Road make this region more attractive for people from different countries. From ancient times, the different tribes were traveled from country to country and brought the different traditions and style of life to the Central Asia. Now you have a great opportunity to visit the small unique part of the Great Silk Road, to return to the past and to learn resemblance and difference. During this tour, you will visit magnificent historical places, see Great Mountains, learn about the culture of peoples and try the tastiest national dishes.

## Dates of the tour

25.04.2025 - 08.05.2025 23.05.2025 - 05.06.2025 27.06.2025 - 10.07.2025 15.08.2025 - 28.08.2025 12.09.2025 - 25.09.2025

Route: Tashkent 🚔 Bukhara 💂 Samarkand 💂 Tashkent 🔶 Almaty 🚔 Charyn 🚔 Karakol 🚔 Tamga🚔 Bishkek

# *Highlights of the tour:*

- Visit the biggest Islamic complex in the capital of Uzbekistan
- Visit the Ark Fortress were kings and Khans lived over the centuries
- Visit Registan square at the heart of old city and take a group photo in the middle of the Iconic place
- Visit Great Charyn Canyon in Kazakhstan
- Enjoy the quiet charms and warm hospitality of Kyrgyzstan
- Visit Issyk Kul, the lake known as "The Pearl of Kyrgyzstan"
- Experience nomadic life sleeping in a yurt











## Day 1, Fr. Tashkent

Arrival in Tashkent. Meet your driver and transfer to the hotel. Check in at 1400. Free day. (Meal: -/-/-)

#### Day 2, Sa. Tashkent – Urgench – Khiva

After breakfast start guided sightseeing tour in the capital of Uzbekistan, the biggest city in Central Asia. You will start with exploring the Old City. Visit Khast-Imam Complex, where the world famous Quran, holy book that belonged to Caliph Uthman, has been preserved. The complex consists of Barak-Khan Madrasah, Tillya Sheykh Mosque, Saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi Mausoleum and the Islamic Institute of Imam al-Bukhari. Continue to Chorsu Bazaar. Then take a ride on Tashkent Metro to the city center to visit Applied Arts Museum and walk through Navoi Theater to Amir Timur Square where you will end Tashkent city tour.

Transfer to domestic airport, evening flight to Urgench departing at 20:25 (1093 km, 1 h 30 min). Arrival in Urgench at 21:55, transfer to the hotel in Khiva (30 km, 35 min).

Duration of sightseeing tour: 5-6 hours (Meal: B/-/-)

#### Day 3, Su. Khiva – Urgench – Bukhara

After breakfast start your sightseeing tour of Khiva, a highlight for many on the Classic Uzbekistan Group Tour. Visit Ichan-Qala Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In Ichan-Qala Fortress visit Kunya-Ark, Sayeed Alauddin Mausoleum, Arab-Mukhamadkhan Madrasah, Oq-Masjid Mosque, Madrasah of Hodjan Berdi-biya, Shirgazikhan Madrasah, Abdullakhan Madrasah, Juma Mosque, Allakulikhan Madrasah, Tosh-Khovli Palace, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum, Minaret of Islom-Khoja. At 19:00 transfer to domestic airport flight\* to Bukhara at 15:20 arriving in Bukhara at 16:10. Arrival in Bukhara, transfer to the hotel.

\*subject to availability and maybe substituted to transfer by train

Duration of sightseeing tour: 4-5 hours (Meal: B/-/-)

#### Day 4, Mo. Bukhara

After breakfast start walking sightseeing tour in Bukhara.

Visit Lyabi Hauz Ensemble, Magoki-Attori Mosque, Chor-Minor Madrasah, trade domes, Kalyan Minaret, Kalyan Mosque and Miri-Arab Madrasah, Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan madrasahs, Ark Fortress, Bolo-Khauz Mosque, Ismail Samani and Chashma-Ayub mausoleums. In the evening enjoy a National Show at Nadir Divan-begi Madrasah and a delicious dinner at the National house. Duration of sightseeing tour: 6-7 hours

(Meal: B/-/-)

## Day 5, Tu. Bukhara – Samarkand

Breakfast. Continue your Classic Uzbekistan Group Tour with a visit to Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa – the summer residence of Bukhara's last emir, unique site combining Oriental and Russian architecture. Continue to the Mausoleum of Bakhouddin Naqshbandi and Chor-Bakr Necropolis. In the afternoon take the high-speed train, Afrosiyob, 15:52-17:20 or overland transfer. Arrive in Samarkand, check in to the hotel. Duration of sightseeing tour: 3-4 hours (Meal: B/-/-)

#### Day 6, We. Samarkand

After breakfast, Samarkand sightseeing tour. Visit spectacular Registan Square, Gur Emir Mausoleum – the mausoleum of Amir Timur, remains of Bibi Khanum Mosque, Siab Bazaar, Ulugbek Observatory. Free time in the afternoon.

Duration of sightseeing tour: 6-7 hours (Meal: B/-/-)

## Day 7, Th. Samarkand – Tashkent

Breakfast. Continue sightseeing tour in Samarkand. You will visit Shakhi-Zinda Necropolis, Afrasiab Museum and the Tomb of Saint Daniel. Then drive to Konigil village to explore traditional way of making Samarkand paper from mulberry. Farewell lunch in Samarkand.

At 16:30 transfer to the railway station to take the high-speed Afrosiyob train departing at 17:30 (300 km, 2 h 10 m) and arriving in Tashkent at 19:40. Pick-up and transfer to the hotel.

Duration of sightseeing tour: 4-5 hours (Meal: B/L/-)

## Day 8, Fr. Tashkent – Almaty

Check-out from the hotel till noon. Transfer to the airport. Flight to Almaty at 14:10. Arrival to Almaty. Meeting with the local guide and driver. Transfer to Hotel. City tour around Almaty. Walking via old city center (today: Square Astana) to the 28 Panfilovtsev Park, Zenkov Cathedral (monument of cult architecture of Christians in Kazakhstan). A walk along the pedestrian street, which appeared in 1883 and has the name Silk Road, here you can see the works of street artists and listen to local musicians, buy souvenirs. Overnight at the hotel. (Meal: B/-/-)

# Day 9, Sa. Almaty – Saty (300 km, 4- hours of driving)

After breakfast, you will visit Green Baazar where it is possible to purchase fresh vegetables, fruits and other goods from the region. Later on, leaving Almaty and head towards Kol-Say Nature Park, in Saty. Transfer to the parking place nearby Kol-Say lake, walking excursion about 30-40 minutes to the view point of the first Kol-Say lake. The mountain lake, with an emerald colour in fine weather, framed by a coniferous forest. Return back to Saty. Overnight at the guest house.

(Meal: B/-/-)

# Day 10, Su. Saty – Charyn Canyon - Karakol (300 km, 5 -6 hours of driving)

After breakfast, transfer to Charyn Canyon. Charyn Canyon, it is an amazing creation of nature that has existed for millions of years, picturesque and very diverse in geomorphologic aspects. The height of steep mountainsides reaches 150-300 meters. Numerous ravines and gullies make dense rambling net. Wind and water created stunning "Red Castles Valley". All along the valley you are surrounded by towers of fantastical forms, built of sedimentary. Throughout time nature has created these architectural wonders, without haste, it has built majestic castles. Transfer to the Kazakh/Kyrgyz border, crossing, the procedure takes around 1 hour. Continue driving to Karakol. Dinner in Uighur Family (small nationality migrated from Chine in 19th Century). Overnight in the hotel. (Meal: B/-/-)

## Day 11, Mo. Karakol - Tamga (120 km, 2-3 hours of driving)

Breakfast. City tour in Karakol with visiting Russian Orthodox Church, Muslim Mosque in Dungan Style, Lenin Statue, local bazaar and "one village one product shop". Transfer to the Sothern shore of Issyk-Kul lake. Visiting Barskoon waterfall. Walking to the waterfall takes around 30 minutes, one way.

Continue driving to the yurt camp, which is located on the shore of Issyk-Kul. Master class of making Kyrgyz bread – Boorsak. Dinner and overnight in the yurt camp.

(Meal: B/-/D)

## Day 12, Tu. Tamga - Bishkek (320 km, about 5-6 hours of driving)

Breakfast. Transfer to Bishkek along the southern shore of Issyk-Kul lake. On the way, we will also stop in Fairy – Tale Canyon. Turning after Tosor village towards Terskey Ala-Too mountains and after passing about 4 km, we will notice how mountains part, and immediately, as if by the wave of a magic stick we will find ourselves in this valley of fairytales. In Russian, the word Skazka means "Fairy Tale" and the place is certainly a magical place, full of mystery and mysticism, sufficient to stimulate the imagination of those with the inclination to stand, and stare, and wonder. Walking there. Here for additional payment, you can also watch the Eagle Hunting show. The hunter will tell you more about the process of hunting and about birds. Have a visit to Kyzyl Tuu village, here you can see how the wooden parts of the yurts (dwelling house of nomad people) are made, and even test it by your own hands. On the way visiting of Burana Tower, a place on the Great Silk Road dated to 11th century. Besides the tower you will see the ruins of ancient city called Balasagyn, an excursion to the museum dedicated to this place. Upon arrival to Bishkek, check-in in the hotel.

## Day 13, We. Bishkek – Ala-Archa – Bishkek (45 km, one way)

Breakfast. City tour with visiting of Victory Square - memorial for the fallen in WWII; Statue of Kurmandshan Datka - legendary fighter against the Russian occupation in 1862 - 1876. Her portrait is also on 50-Som bill figured; Alatoo Square - official holidays are held with parades in front of representative facades of government buildings; Panfilov Park - under shady trees children will find a variety of attractive amusements; Monument to Manas the Great, on horseback - first encounter with the country's most important historical figure , which is also the name of the Kyrgyz airline Air Manas; Osch-bazaar - it offers not only decorative goods of all kinds, but also corresponding photo opportunities. In the afternoon transfer to Ala-Archa National Park.

During the excursion you will walk towards to the waterfall Aksai. Duration of the walking is around 3 hours. Silent snow peaks will charm you with its powerful and beauty. Fresh air, crystal springs and smelling of herbs will give you pleasant minutes in your life. Transfer back to Bishkek late afternoon.

Overnight in the hotel. (Meal B / - / -)

## Day 14, Th. Bishkek – Airport

Transfer to the airport about 40 minutes. Fly home. (Meal B / - / -)

\*To get detailed day-by-day itinerary, please contact us by mail: novinomad@elcat.kg

**Price for the tour** is **2830 USD** per person (minimum size of the group is 2 pax, maximum is 8 pax) Single supplement is 393 USD per person (available only in

#### Service includes:

- Airport pick-ups and drop-offs
- Transport for transfers and excursions during the tour (with A/C)
- Twin/double room accommodation
- Four-person accommodation in the yurts
- Meal as indicated in each day of the program
- Mineral water during the tour (1 liter per person)
- Entree fees to cultural places and nature parks
- English speaking guides in each city in Uzbekistan in Days 2,3,4,5,6,7 and escorting guide in Days 8-14 in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
- Economy class tickets for flights Tashkent-Urgench, Urgench-Bukhara
- Economy class tickets for trains Bukhara-Samarkand (subject to availability and maybe substituted to transfer by bus/auto), Samarkand-Tashkent (on rare occasions when the high-speed train is unavailable, we will replace this with the mostcomfortable class of regular train)
- Folklore show program at Nadir Divan-begi Madrasah and dinner at National house in Bukhara, farewell lunch in Samarkand;
- Master class of making Kyrgyz bread Boorsak
- Yurt Production Show

#### Accommodation during the tour:

#### Service is not included:

- Early check-in on day 1
- Single accommodation
- Alcohol and soft drinks
- Costs for Kyrgyz, Kazakh and Uzbek visa if necessary;
- Porter service in hotels and at the airport
- International and domestic flight tickets
- Personal expenses of customers
- Any deviation from the program
- Full Board
- Flight ticket Tashkent Almaty 200 USD (subject on change)

Place	Hotel/guesthouse/yurt camp	Conditions:
Tashkent	Ateca, Navruz or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room
Khiva	Erkin Palace, Orient Star or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room
Bukhara	As-Salom, Munzifa Boutique or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room
Samarkand	Gur Emir Palace, Asia or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room
Almaty	Kazzhol Hotel or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room
Saty	Guest House	twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the room
Karakol	Amir Hotel or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room
Tamga	Nomad Lodge Yurt camp or similar	4 people accommodation in the yurt, shower and toilet are shared
Bishkek	Freedom Hotel or similar	3 star hotel, twin/double rooms with shower and toilet in the
		room

\*For additional payment, we can make upgrade hotels where it is possible.

#### Additional information:

**Level of difficulty:** There are no difficulties on the route, but tourists should be ready have long transfers 3-4 hours by mountain roads. **Conditions:** It is necessary to bring warm clothes, walking boots, rain coat and etc. Weight of personal things is not limited. **Health:** If you have any specific sicknesses, you need to bring own first aid kit with necessary medicaments.