



WORLD DISCOVERY  
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

## Journey to Samarkand



Registan Square, Samarkand

**DAY 1 – Depart UK.**

**DAY 2 – Arrive Tashkent. Fly to Bukhara.**

On arrival in Tashkent in the morning you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs and taken by private car to your hotel, where a day room has been booked for you. In the afternoon take the short flight to Bukhara. After checking in at your hotel there should be time to walk through the narrow lanes to **Lyab-i-Hauz Square**, surrounded by 3 beautifully decorated madrassahs. Here you may sit at a cafe overlooking the ornamental pool, sipping green tea and simply watching the world go by - the perfect introduction to this wonderful ancient city.

**DAYS 3 AND 4 - Bukhara.**

Two days of sightseeing in Bukhara, the holiest of the ancient Silk Road cities with a history of more than 2,500 years. At the heart of the old city lies the **Kalyon Mosque** with its stunning 48m/155ft minaret. As well as exploring this and the nearby Islamic monuments, you will visit the infamous **Ark**, palace of the ruling emirs of Bukhara, including Emir Nusrallah who was responsible for the cruel treatment and subsequent beheading of the British envoys Stoddart and Connolly in 1842, an incident that caused international outrage. Just outside the Ark is a small park which is graced by the exquisite 10th century **Ismael Samani Mausoleum** with its intricately patterned brickwork. The unique **Chor Minar** with its 4 blue-tiled towers is on your itinerary, as is the unusual early 20th century **Summer Palace**, some miles outside the city proper, whose eclectic and somewhat bizarre decor is not to everyone's taste. One of the joys of Bukhara is simply wandering through the old city to take in the atmosphere, stop at a cafe or browse in a handicraft shop.

**Meals included: Full breakfast each day.**

## DAY 5 - By road via Shakresabz to Samarkand.

Your journey continues eastwards through the Kizilkum Desert to arrive in time for lunch in **Shakresabz**, birthplace of the Emperor Tamerlane. Visit the remains of Tamerlane's Aksaray Palace and the tomb of his son Jehangir, before continuing to Samarkand.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.**

## DAY 6 - Samarkand.

The very name of Samarkand conveys grandeur and extravagance as well as mystery and remoteness. Tamerlane's great capital city was one of the richest and most extravagant cities in the world and its remaining monuments bear clear witness to this. **The Registan** is undoubtedly one of the world's wonders - ".the noblest square in the world" according to Lord Curzon in the 19th century. Its unique combination of massive but elegant mosaic facades, turquoise domes and patterned minarets creates a perfect harmony and balance. You will spend time in and around The Registan before walking to Tamerlane's awesome **Bibi Khanum Mosque**, once the largest mosque in the world. Other included visits are to Tamerlane's final resting place, the **Gur Emir Mausoleum** with its distinctive ribbed dome, and the **Astronomical Observatory** built in the 15th century by Tamerlane's grandson Ulug Beg.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

## DAY 7 – Samarkand. Return to Tashkent.

This morning visit one of Samarkand's less well known but most delightful treasures - the complex of tombs known as the **Shah-i-Zinda**, located in the old city of Afrosiab which predated Samarkand and was destroyed by Genghis Khan in the 13th century. The Shah-i-Zinda tombs contain some of Central Asia's finest majolica tilework. In the afternoon drive back to Uzbekistan's capital and check into your hotel.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

## DAY 8 – Tashkent sightseeing. Depart for home.

After breakfast your guide will take you for a morning's sightseeing in what has become the largest city in Central Asia. Visit the History Museum, the Fine Arts Museum and stroll along the main central thoroughfare of the city. Private transfer in the afternoon to the airport for your flight home.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**