

7-Day Uzbekistan Itinerary: Samarkand, Bukhara & Khiva

The Silk Road's three great oasis cities in one week — Samarkand's turquoise-tiled Registan, Bukhara's walled old town frozen since the 16th century, and Khiva's mud-brick fortress rising straight out of the desert — linked by the Afrosiyob high-speed train and a private crossing of the Kyzylkum Desert, all from one Tashkent arrival.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

Apr–Jun & Sep–Oct

mild desert climate, fewer crowds

FROM

\$1,050 USD / person

for 2 people, land services

Day 1

Arrive in Tashkent

Land at Tashkent International Airport and settle into a central hotel before the Silk Road cities begin tomorrow.

Private Transfer — Tashkent (TAS) to City Center

~30–40 minutes · From \$25 USD per vehicle, up to 3 people

A pre-arranged sedan meets you in arrivals for the short drive into central Tashkent — no haggling with taxi touts after a long-haul flight.

Advantour advantour.com · +998 78 150 30 20

Overnight — Wyndham Tashkent

From \$93 USD / night, for 2 people

A modern 4-star tower near Alisher Navoi Metro and the closest full-service hotel to Tashkent International Airport — a comfortable, central base for your one Tashkent night.

Wyndham Tashkent wyndhamhotels.com · +998 78 120 3700

Dinner in Central Tashkent

Est. \$20–35 USD / person

On your own — the streets around Amir Timur Square and Sailgokh ("Broadway") are full of Uzbek and international kitchens within walking distance of the hotel.

Day 2

Tashkent City Tour & High-Speed Train to Samarkand

A morning in the capital, then a bullet train across the steppe to the most famous Silk Road city of them all.

Half-Day Tashkent City Tour

~3.5 hours · From \$90 USD / person

A private guide covers the Khazrati Imam Complex, the ornately tiled Tashkent Metro stations, and Chorsu Bazaar's domed market halls before the early-afternoon train.

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Afrosiyob High-Speed Train — Tashkent to Samarkand

~2 hours 10 minutes · Economy from \$22 USD · Business from \$34 USD / person

Uzbekistan's flagship bullet train covers 344 km across the steppe at up to 250 km/h — book at least a few weeks out, as seats sell out fast in high season.

O'zbekiston Temir Yo'llari (Uzbekistan Railways) · eticket.railway.uz

Overnight — Emir Han Hotel

From \$65 USD / night, for 2 people

A boutique 4-star hotel a short taxi ride from the Registan, with a courtyard restaurant and a loyalty program well-liked by returning guests.

Emir Han Hotel hotelemirhan.uz · +998 90 190 40 00

Dinner near the Registan

Est. \$15–25 USD / person

On your own — Samarkand's old town is dense with plov houses and shashlik grills a few minutes' walk from the hotel.

Day 3

Samarkand: Registan, Gur-e-Amir & Shah-i-Zinda

A full day through the monuments that put Samarkand on the Silk Road map.

Full-Day Samarkand City Tour

~6 hours · From \$100 USD / person

A private guide walks the three madrasahs of the Registan Ensemble, Timur's mausoleum at Gur-e-Amir, the Shah-i-Zinda tomb corridor, and Bibi-Khanym Mosque, with a stop at Siab Bazaar in between.

Advantour advantour.com · +998 78 150 30 20

Dinner in Samarkand

Est. \$15–30 USD / person

On your own — try Samarkand-style plov, the dish the city claims as its own, at one of the restaurants ringing Registan Square.

Day 4

Train to Bukhara

A short, scenic rail hop between two of the Silk Road's great oasis cities.

Afrosiyob / Sharq Train — Samarkand to Bukhara

~1 hour 35 minutes · Economy from \$14 USD / person

The fastest of the three rail legs, crossing flat farmland in time for an afternoon arrival in Bukhara.

O'zbekiston Temir Yo'llari (Uzbekistan Railways) · eticket.railway.uz

Overnight — Boutique Hotel Minzifa

From \$45 USD / night, for 2 people

A family-run guesthouse on a quiet lane near Lyab-i Hauz, built around a traditional courtyard — the property takes cash on arrival, so book ahead through a major booking platform.

Boutique Hotel Minzifa Eshoni-Pir 63, Bukhara · booking.com

Evening at Lyab-i Hauz

Est. \$12–22 USD / person

On your own — Bukhara's 17th-century plaza pool is ringed with terrace restaurants, best at dusk when the mulberry trees light up.

Day 5

Bukhara: Ark Fortress, Poi Kalyan & the Trading Domes

A full day inside Bukhara's walled old town, one of Central Asia's best-preserved.

Full-Day Bukhara City Tour

~6 hours · From \$70 USD / person

A private guide covers the Ark Fortress, the Poi Kalyan minaret and mosque complex, Bolo Hauz Mosque, and the covered Trading Domes still selling carpets, ceramics, and suzani embroidery.

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Dinner in the Old Town

Est. \$15–28 USD / person

On your own — Bukhara's old town has some of Uzbekistan's best home-style cooking, served in restored merchant houses near the Trading Domes.

Day 6

Private Transfer to Khiva via the Kyzylkum Desert

A long but classic Silk Road crossing to the most remote of the three cities.

Private Transfer — Bukhara to Khiva

~6.5–7 hours (450 km) · From \$160 USD per vehicle, up to 3 people

A private driver crosses the Kyzylkum Desert with a stop along the way — pack snacks and water, and start early to arrive in Khiva by early evening.

Advantour advantour.com · +998 78 150 30 20

Overnight — Orient Star Khiva

From \$64 USD / night, for 2 people

