

UZBEKISTAN

Textiles and Arts & Crafts of The Silk Route

October 14 – 30, 2019

The Silk Route was a place where culture and commerce intersected. A sense of exploration mixed with the exchange of things and ideas."

-- Ron Pompeii





Your Destination Awaits...

Since the Middle Ages, Uzbekistan was the center of the Silk Road whose rulers left behind impressive art and architecture. From weaving to embroidery, pottery to papermaking against the backdrop of awe-inspiring architecture, it's a country full of many generations of applied artistry.

Our tour tells the tale of one of humankind's most important arteries of trade and culture. Skirting deserts, loping over mountains, delving into fabled cities, join us as we explore thousands of years in seventeen leisurely days.

Highlights

- Follow the Silk Road through ancient cities **Khiva, Bukhara, Shahrissabz, Samarkand,** and **Tashkent** for arts, culture, and history of this storied region
- Beautiful **Fergana Valley** in easternmost Uzbekistan for outstanding ikat, suzani, and ceramics
- Buzz of markets in **Urgut** and **Margilan** teeming with all manner of goods, especially textiles
- Isolated, semi-autonomous **Karakalpakstan** for the stupendous **Savitsky Collection**, a treasure trove of modernist Russian art spirited away from the Soviet revolution
- Visit **award-winning artisans** for traditional block printing, ikat weaving, rug making, embroidery, ceramics, and contemporary fashion
- **Culinary** beats, desert **fortresses**, wild and **windswept landscapes**



AT A GLANCE...

(16 nights/17 days Oct 14-30, 2019)

- 2 nights Tashkent
- 2 nights Fergana Valley
- 1 night Tashkent
- 1 night Nukus
- 2 nights Khiva
- 3 nights Bukhara
- 4 nights Samarkand
- 1 night Tashkent
- Depart Tashkent

Cost

USD 3980 pp double occupancy

USD 1120 single supplement

Contact: shila@eyhotours.com

“Who goes to Uzbekistan? You will get that question. I certainly never expected to visit, let alone fall in love with it. Drawn by the textiles, it turns out everything captivates me: the markets, mosques and monuments exceed expectation; there are lush valleys and rugged mountains in contrast to the expected desert expanses. It is so different and yet it feels familiar; a reminder that life and culture have persisted for millennia, evolving through incredible hardship, invasion and plunder.



The most vivid memories are, of course, the people: the curiosity, the warmth, and the gratitude that you are visiting their country. I am so happy to return again and again.”

-Dana Davies





Day 1: Monday Oct 14

TASHKENT

Touchdown Tashkent! Be welcomed on arrival and transferred to hotel.

Tashkent, capital city of Uzbekistan, is known for its museums, mix of modern and Soviet-era architecture.

Depending on your arrival time, you may want to venture forth on your own or catch a nap before the welcome dinner and briefing.

Overnight Tashkent

Meals : D



Day 2: Tuesday Oct 15

TASHKENT

Tashkent offers myriad examples of architecture, art, and crafts that represent the influences of the English and Russians, the Soviet occupation, and independence.

Kicking off with a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts with a lovely curated collection of vintage Uzbek handicrafts, we will then visit workshops of artisans reviving traditional crafts (wood block printing, embroidery, wood working) as well as contemporary designers using traditional materials for modern fashion.

Overnight Tashkent

Meals: B,D



Day 3: Wednesday Oct 16

FERGANA VALLEY

We will have an early departure for the lush Fergana Valley via train to our first stop, Kokand. After lunch, we will go to the vast and stunning former palace of the last Khan built at the end of the 19th century. The Jumi or "Friday" mosque, equally impressive in size, built decades earlier for worship is known for the intricate woodwork and painted décor.

On the way to Fergana, we visit Rishtan famed for its production of ceramics from the local red clay featuring intricate designs and distinctive blue green glazes.

Overnight in Fergana.

Meals: B, L



Day 4: Thursday Oct 17

FERGANA VALLEY

After breakfast, the Kumtepa Bazaar in Margilan beckons. As with all bazaars, there is a little bit of everything in the narrow aisles and alleys but Kumtepa is unique with a multitude of stalls selling all types of ikat by the meter, likely the largest collection you will see. If fabric is your thing, this is your place!

After lunch, on to the Yodgorlik Silk Factory where the production of silk textiles is demonstrated starting from cocoon to thread which is then used for ikat, carpets, and suzani embroidery.

Overnight in Fergana.

Meals: B, D



Day 5: Friday Oct 18

FERGANA - TASHKENT

In the morning we will visit the Handicraft Development Center established by a fifth generation and UNESCO award-winning ikat weaver Rasuljon Mirzaahmedov. He is credited with introducing the fabric to Oscar de la Renta. Set in a lovely courtyard, there are studios with artisans plying a range of crafts, many of which are for sale.

In the afternoon we will return to Tashkent by train, arriving in time for dinner.

Overnight in Tashkent.

Meals: B, L



Day 6: Saturday Oct 19

TASHKENT - NUKUS

Our tour includes the must-see sites of the Khast Imam Complex, Independence Square, the many parks and monuments that dot the city. Who knew there are lush canals in Tashkent? We will take the metro to the Chorsu Bazaar and nearby ateliers of contemporary Uzbek designers who are growing international interest in the textiles of Uzbekistan.

A late afternoon flight will take us to Nukus in time for dinner and a good rest before we begin our Eastward travel on the Silk Road.

Overnight Tashkent

Meals: B, D



Day 7: Sunday Oct 20

NUKUS - KHIVA

Admittedly in the middle of nowhere, Nukus is worth the effort to get there because of the Savitsky Collection, one of the largest collections of Uzbek and Russian avant garde art in the world. The museum also displays a range of Uzbek textiles, jewelry, and ceramics. After the museum, we will head to Khiva, stopping along the way for lunch and to explore some of the desert fortresses that served as way stations along the old Silk Route.

Overnight Khiva.

Meals: B, L



Day 8: Monday Oct 21

KHIVA

The walled city Khiva, once a literal gateway on the route to China, was once home to slave traders. Despite a bloody history, it's impossible not to be charmed in this ancient city. We will have a walking tour of the attractions of Juma Mosque, Mausoleum of Pahlavan Mahmud, Kunya Ark Citadel, Gaza Khan Madrasa, Palace of Nurallah-bai and more.

Walk the walls for spectacular views of the city and surrounding steppe at dusk.

Overnight Khiva.

Meals: B, L



Day 9: Tuesday Oct 22

KHIVA - BUKHARA

Visit the Silk Carpet Workshop where Khivan tile and carved door designs make their way into beautiful rug and suzani designs.

Today there is free time to explore. Perhaps you'd like to try your hand at making nan (bread) or walk through the open air market outside the city walls where the locals shop. Enjoy teatime or a beer at one of the cafes.

After dinner, evening transport to Bukhara.

Overnight Bukhara.

Meals: B, D



Day 10: Wednesday Oct 23

BUKHARA

Bukhara is the heart of the Silk Road in Uzbekistan was a major trading center and today still makes and sells the most complete range of Uzbek crafts. Once home to hundreds of madrasahs many of which are now craft centers, we will visit the Ark fortress, the Kalon minaret, Poi Kalyan Mosque, and Ismail Samanid Mausoleum. Bukhara is a wonderful town to explore on foot (no vehicles inside the old city walls) as you visit the trading domes, tea houses, and galleries.

Overnight Bukhara.

Meals: B, L



Day 11: Thursday Oct 24

BUKHARA

After breakfast, we will tour the last Emir's summer palace, a fabulous mash up of Russian and Islamic styles. On the estate, we will visit the collection at the Bukhara Museum of Decorative Applied Arts. Upon return to the walled city, we will tour the last remaining Jewish synagogue.

Afternoon free time for shopping, bathing at a hamam, taking in a puppet show or simply taking it all in at the Lyabi Houz lake and park.

Overnight Bukhara.

Meals: B, L



Day 12: Friday Oct 25

BUKHARA – SAMARKAND

After a leisurely morning in Bukhara, we will take the afternoon bullet train to Samarkand, the storied highlight of the Silk Road, arriving in time to see the stunning monuments of the Registan and Bibi Hanum mosque bathed in golden autumn light.

Overnight Samarkand

Meals: B, D



Day 13: Saturday Oct 26

SAMARKAND

Samarkand, perhaps the best known city of the Silk Road in Central Asia, captures the romantic spirit many associate with the name. In addition to the spectacular monuments of the Registan, we will also visit the mosques of Gur-e-Emir and Bibi Hanum, the breathtaking necropolis of Shah-i-Zinda. Beyond the historical monuments, much of Samarkand's significance lies in its roots as a center of Islamic, mathematic, and scientific learning as the 13th century observatory we will visit attests.

Overnight Samarkand.

Meals: B, D



Day 14: Sunday Oct 27

URGUT

Depart Bukhara early the drive to the famed Urgut Market. Sundays attract sellers of vintage and new handmade textiles. Possibly the oldest continuously operating market in Uzbekistan, it's the largest we visit: everything you can imagine...and then some! As Uzbekistan is "discovered," vintage treasures will become rare.

On return, we will stop to visit a paper making operation using mulberry branches that have been stripped of leaves by silk worms.

Overnight Samarkand.

Meals: B, D

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Day 15: Monday Oct 28

SHAKHRISABZ

By now, the name of Amir Timur (Tamerlane) will be very familiar and today, we will drive to Shakhrisabz, his birthplace and hometown. Once a major city at during the reign of different rulers, its monuments are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. We will visit the Ak-Saray Palace, Kok Gumbaz Mosque in the Dorut Tilovat Complex.

Overnight Samarkand.

Meals: B, D



Day 16: Tuesday Oct 29

SAMARKAND

In addition to markets and museums, our final day in Samarkand will offer options: learn to make the signature Uzbek dish of plov. Or visit the Afrasiab Museum, learning about the archaeological history of Samarkand. Or perhaps revisit some of the monuments and markets or simply stroll around this extraordinary city, savoring the atmosphere.

Early evening, we will take the bullet train back to Tashkent and have a farewell dinner on our last night.

Overnight Tashkent.

Meals: B, D



Day 17: Wednesday Oct 30

TASHKENT

On our last morning we will wrap up with a visit to the Museum of Victims of Political Repression, a sobering reflection on recent Uzbek history.

With time for any last errands, you will transfer to the airport prior to your scheduled departure for your trip home.

Xavfsiz Sayohat! Safe Travels!

Meals: B, L

Fun facts – Uzbekistan



- Population (2017): 30,575,817 people.
- 56th largest country in the world by area with 447,400 square kilometers (172,700 square miles)
- Once part of the ancient Persian Empire, later conquered by Alexander the Great in 4thC B.C.
- Handshakes are only acceptable between men; you greet an Uzbek woman by bowing with right hand placed over your heart.
- Green tea is the national hot beverage; teahouses (chaikhanas) are of cultural importance
- Uzbekistan is one of the largest producers and exporters of cotton
- Uzbekistan has the fourth largest gold deposits in the world.



Enquiries

To register or for answers to your questions, please email:
shila@eyhotours.com

Visit <http://www.eyhotours.com>

For your complete peace of mind, we are TICO (Travel Industry of Ontario) accredited #50023991

COSTS

USD 3980 pp double occupancy

USD 1120 single supplement

What's included:

- Co-led by Dana Davies who travelled extensively in Uzbekistan, and one of Uzbekistan's most experienced guides in specialty arts and crafts
- Hosted by E.Y.H.O. owner Shila Desai
- Visa support letter
- All internal travel and transfers (flights, trains, sedans, mini buses)
- Accommodation in select 4-5* family-run and heritage properties
- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily
- Craft workshop in Fergana
- Culinary lesson in Samarkand
- Daily bottled water
- Admission to museums and other sites
- All taxes and fees

What's not:

- International flight, gratuities, and beverages at meals

Read about our trip leader Dana Davies [here](#)