

Kazakhstan Uzbekistan

Part of the Great Silk Road
9 days / 8 nights (FRIDAY, SUNDAY)

- **Almaty – 3 nights**
- **Tashkent - 2 nights**
- **Bukhara - 2 nights**
- **Samarkand - 2 nights**

Itinerary ...

Day 1: Almaty /B-D/

Arrival to Almaty.

Arrival to Almaty, transfer to the hotel «*Kazzhol*» 3*. Free time.

City tour. During the excursion, you will get acquainted with Almaty's history and see the *Ascension Cathedral, Glory Memorial* dedicated to the heroes of the Civil War and World War II, old center of the former capital historically formed in the 30s-50s of the 20th century, which includes the *Opera and Ballet Theatre, Parliament*, and a number of ministries. You will see the architectural ensemble of Kazakhstan, main square - the *Republic Square, Independence Monument*, and monuments erected in honor of the prominent Kazakh enlighteners. You will pass along the most popular avenues - *Abai, Dostyk*, and *Abylai Khan avenues*, and visit Almaty's trade, sports and cultural centers.

Length : 23 km.

Duration : 2,5-3 hours

Day 2: Almaty - Issyk Lake – Turgen – Almaty /B-D/

Breakfast in the hotel. Departure to Issyk .Observing *Issyk lake*. Moving to *Turgen Waterfalls*. On the way visiting of ostrich and trout farms. Lunch in the trout farm

Trail to lake Issyk runs in the scenic *Zaili Alatau Mountains*. One of the beautiful pearls of the Tien-Shan and tourists' favorites, the lake is located in the *Issyk Gorge*. Long ago it was formed here by a mountain landslide. The lake was located at 1,760 meters above sea level and was 55 meters wide. In 1963 a powerful mudflow from the glacier area destroyed the natural dam in the upper reaches of the Issyk river, and the lake was washed away within hours. The lake has been partially restored. Presently, there are two small water reservoirs divided by a road in the scene of the Issyk lake. Not far from it are very spectacular cliffs called the *Kremlin Wall*.

Turgen Waterfalls, tiny mountain lakes, relic *Chin-Turgen* spruce forests, a trout hatchery, and the vast *Assy Plateau* - all this is located in a marvelous gorge at the *Ile Alatau National Park*. The road runs in the same direction as the ancient caravan route which witnessed caravans passing to China and India.

Length: 90 km.

Duration : 10 - 11 hours.

Overnight in the hotel (Almaty)

Day 3: Almaty - Shymbulak Alpine Skiing Resort – Almaty /B-D/

Breakfast in the hotel. Departure to *Alpine Shymbulak Alpine Skiing Resort* (2,250 m) is one of the most popular and the best skiing bases not only in Central Asia. Three chair lifts can bring you up to the *Talgar Pass* (3,163m). The length of the downhill track from the pass is 3,500 m, and that of the giant slalom is 1,500 m

Length: 22 km.

Duration: 2,5 hours.

Overnight in the hotel (Almaty)

Day 4: Arrival to Tashkent. /D/

Transfer to airport and flight to Tashkent.

Arrive in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, much of it was destroyed in the earthquake of 1966 it has been rebuilt as a modern model city, with spacious avenues and ever-present fountains to cool the air. Meet in airport and transfer to the hotel "*Poytaht*" 3*. Briefing information about tour and welcome dinner in local restaurant "Nur".

Day 5: Tashkent - Bukhara. /B-D/

Transfer to airport and flight to Bukhara with HY 1321 dep at 08:50 arr at Bukhara 10:35, on arrival transfer to hotel "*Lyabi House*" 3*. Bukhara former capital of the once powerful Emirate of Bukhara, with more than 140 architectural monuments, is a "town museum" dating back to the Middle Ages 2300 years. The city was once a big commercial center of the Great Silk Road. In the afternoon we visit central *Lyabi Hauz square*, one of the few plazas in the city with its shady pool still intact. This is one of the most interesting spots in town and an ideal place to sit in a tea shop and watch the world go by. Dinner in Lyabi Hauz restaurant.

Day 6: Bukhara (/B-D/

Today begin explore the beauty and history of Bukhara visits; *Mausoleum of Ismail Samani*, remaining of city wall, *Chashamyi Ayub*, *Bolo-hauz mosque*, *Fortress ark*, *Poi-Kalon complex* (Minarte Kalon, Mosque Kalon and Miri-Arab madrassah). *Three trading domes (Toqi-Zaragron, Togi-Telpakfurushon and Toqi-Sarafon)*, *Kosh madrassah (Ulugbek and Abdullazizhan)*, *Tim Abdullahan*, *Magoki Attari mosque and Lyabi Hauz complex (Kukeldash madrassah, Nadir Devanbegi mardrassah and Honaqo)*. *Dinner in Nadir Devanbegi mardrassah with folk show.*

Day 7: Bukhara - Samarkand /B-D/

Drive to Samarkand, en route visit *Summer Palace* (residence) of last *Bukharan Emirs Sitorai Mokhi Khosa*, *Gijduvan ceramic centers*, famous *Vabkent minaret* and *old caravanserai Rabati Malik*. Arrive in Samarkand and check-in to hotel "*Malika*" 3*. The afternoon is free to begin to explore the city on your own. Samarkand was founded at the same time as Babylon, almost 2500 years ago and was called the "Rome of the Orient". Tamerlane made it his capital and named it the "Center of the Universe". Its period of greatest glory was at the height of the trade on the Silk Road at the beginning of 2nd century until the 16th century. Dinner in local restaurant.

Day 8: Samarkand /B-D/

After breakfast you start the tour from the *Ulugbek Observatory*, and then the *Shakhi-Zinda ensemble of Mausoleums*, this unusual necropolis has monuments of the 14th and 15th centuries. Visit the great central square of Samarkand- the *Registan*. See the magnificent tile decorated brick buildings, - the Ulugbek, Sher-Dor and Tilly-Kari madrassahs from the 15th to 17th centuries. Visiting the *Bibi Khaum Mosque*, which was built as a gift for Tamerlane by his Chinese wife. *The Gur-Emir mausoleum* is the central part of a major architectural complex erected by Tamerlane in honor of his grandson Mukhammad Sultan. Tamerlane himself is buried here along with other important people of that time. Finally visit the *Khodja Akrar Madrasah*, beautifully restored to show its beautiful mosaic. Dinner in restaurant "Karimbek" (10 kinds of shish kebabs). It is very tasty.

Day 9: Samarkand - Tashkent /B-D/

Drive to Tashkent, en route visit Imam Al Bukharyi memorial complex of buildings. Arrive in Tashkent and transfer to the hotel "*Poytaht*" 3*. In the afternoon city tour Tashkent and visit the *Museum of Applied Arts* to see some beautiful embroidery, wall hangings, carved furniture, ceramics and more. Later you will visit the *Museum of Antiquities* and the old city, which has mosques and madrassahs (Islamic schools) with workshops of craftsmen (14th century). Next, you explore *Kukeldash and Abul Khasim Madrasahs* (16th century Islamic schools) and the *Chorsu Bazaar*, a huge open market beside *Kukeldash* with crowded people from the countryside; most of them are traditionally dressed. In the evening, experience the rich traditions

and modern of Uzbek folk songs and dances as well as you enjoy a farewell dinner in local restaurant “Sim-Sim”.

Day 10: Departure from Tashkent /B/

Departure. Transfer to airport for back flight to home.

Prices valid until 01/12/2009

Based on 2 persons 1 390 US\$ p. person

Based on 4 persons 1 070 US\$ p. person

Based on 6 persons 970 US\$ p. person

Based on 8 persons 920 US\$ p. person

Single supplement 350 US \$

Tour price includes:

- Accommodation in twin or double bed room 3 star hotels
- Meals plan as indicated (B-breakfast & D-dinner)
- Arrival and departure transfers
- All sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to monuments and cultural events
- All over land transportation by transport with air condition
- Escort touring guide for whole tour itinerary
 - **Available:** English and Russian speaking guides.

Tour price excludes:

- Visa support to Kazakhstan (DEPENDS ON NATIONALITY)
- Visa support to Uzbekistan (DEPENDS ON NATIONALITY)
- Air ticket Almaty – Tashkent 155 US\$ p. person
- Air ticket Tashkent - Bukhara 70 US\$ p. person
- Visa cost
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Tips for driver and local guide
- Video & photo camera charges during sightseeing.