



MEJDI TOURS

Discover Uzbekistan: A Multi-Narrative Journey through the Silk and Spice Road

Dates: October 9 - 18, 2025, May 14 - 23, 2026

9 nights' accommodation at the following hotels (double occupancy), or similar hotel as necessary:

- The Shahar, Tashkent
- Polvon Qoriy Boutique Hotel, Khiva
- Labi Rud Hotel Premium, Bukhara
- L'Argamak, Samarkand

1 Local English Speaking Guide for 10 days

2 MEJDI-Expert Tour Leaders for 10 days

9 days of private bus transportation, including 2 one-way train tickets (Bukhara-Samarkand & Samarkand-Tashkent)

1 One-way domestic flight Tashkent-Khiva

Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 Breakfasts, X lunches, 5 dinners

Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers

Water on bus throughout tour

Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff

Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not included: International airfare
Travel and Medical insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Individual airport transfers outside of the group transfers
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing \$2,995 Per Person (Double Occupancy)
\$3,650 Per Person (Single Occupancy)

Overview:

Embark on a captivating 10-day journey through Uzbekistan, discovering its rich cultural heritage and historical wonders. Your tour Experts, Aziz Abu Sarah and Mark Bauman, will expose you to multiple narrative intersections driven by the region's rich history as one of the great centers of the Silk and Spice Roads where intellectuals of Sunni and Shia Islam came together for centuries and have alternately clashed and embraced each other, as well as the famous Jews of Bokhara, and the complex influences of the Kremlin to the north. Explore stunning UNESCO-listed ancient sites featuring well-preserved madrasas, vibrant bazaars, finely woven carpets, and delectable Central Asian cuisine. Delve into medieval Islamic architecture, participate in a cooking class, and learn about Jewish and Islamic heritage.



Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Tashkent

Arrive to Tashkent and travel to your hotel for check in.

Meet up with your group, guide and Expert tour leaders for an opening session. Then, head to a **local restaurant** for a **Welcome Dinner** where you will be treated to **traditional Uzbekistan cuisine**. After dinner, meet with **2 speakers - A Russian Expat and an Uzbek** talk about the long and complicated Relationship between the two countries, including the impact of the Ukraine war.

Overnight: The Shahar, Tashkent (Dinner included)

Day 2: Tashkent to Khiva

Check out of your hotel this morning and travel as a group to the airport for a domestic flight to **Khiva**, one of the 30 most important cities in the Arab world. Arrive at the archeological gem, Khiva, founded in the 5th or 4th centuries B.C.

After a quick lunch, take an afternoon tour of the city sites; Begin your tour at the **Ichan Kala**, the walled inner city of Khiva and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Explore the labyrinthine streets, lined with well-preserved **madrasas, mosques, mausoleums, and minarets**.

Visit the **Kalta Minor Minaret**, a striking turquoise tower that remains unfinished but is nonetheless an iconic symbol of Khiva. If time permits, visit the local bazaars to shop for souvenirs, handicrafts, and traditional textiles.

This evening, meet with a **local Historian** that will share information about the origins of the land, its rulers, significant events, and cultural developments over the centuries.

Overnight: Polvon Qoriy Boutique Hotel, Khiva (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 3: Khiva

This morning, head to the **Muhammad Amin Khan Madrasa**, an architectural masterpiece known for its intricate tilework and peaceful courtyard. Take your time to admire the details and learn about the history of the madrasa.

Then, explore the nearby **Islam Khodja Minaret and Mosque**, which offers panoramic views of the city from its towering height.

Visit the **Kunya-Ark Citadel**, the ancient fortress and residence of Khiva's rulers. Explore the various rooms and exhibitions within the citadel, including the throne room and the harem. Wander through the **Tash Hauli Palace**, also known as the **Stone Palace**, renowned for its stunning blue tilework and ornate carvings. Then, stroll along the city walls of **Ichan Kala** to



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enjoy the sunset and capture breathtaking views of the surrounding desert landscape at one of the **Traditional Tea Houses** within Ichan Kala for a unique cultural experience.

Overnight: Polvon Qoriy Boutique Hotel, Khiva (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 4: Khiva to Bukhara

Check out of your hotel in the morning and transfer to the airport for a **domestic flight** to **Bukhara**, another ancient city situated along the Silk Route.

Transfer to your hotel upon arrival for a **lecture** given by **Jewish and Muslim experts**, discussing these religious communities living in the area today / historically.

This afternoon, enjoy a **cooking class**, preparing your own local dish for dinner.

Overnight: Labi Rud Hotel Premium, Bukhara (Breakfast and Dinner Included)

Day 5: Bukhara

Today, you will tour the medieval-like city of Bukhara and its urban fabric that has remained largely intact for over 2,000 years. Visit the famous **tomb of Ismail Samani**, a masterpiece of 10th-century Muslim architecture, and a large number of 17th-century madrasas.

Then, Visit the **Po-i-Kalyan Complex**, home to the iconic **Kalyan Minaret**, **Kalyan Mosque**, and **Miri-Arab Madrasa**. Admire the stunning architecture and learn about the complex's historical significance.

Explore the **Ulugbek Madrasa**, built in the 15th century by the astronomer and ruler Ulugbek. Admire its intricate **tile work** and visit the **museum** inside.

Visit a **local spice market** to learn about the exotic spices used in Uzbek cuisine and pick up some souvenirs to take home.

Overnight: Labi Rud Hotel Premium, Bukhara (Breakfast Included)

Day 6: Bukhara

Begin the day with a visit to the **Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace**. Take a short drive to the outskirts of Bukhara to visit the Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace, the summer residence of Bukhara's last emir. Explore the palace complex and its beautiful gardens.

Visit the **Chor-Bakr Necropolis**, a complex of **tombs** and **mausoleums** honoring the descendants of the **Islamic prophet Muhammad**.



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Meet with a **Jewish community member** before taking a Jewish heritage tour in the city. Visit the **Maghoki-Attar Synagogue**, one of the oldest synagogues in Central Asia dating back to the 16th century. Stroll through the **Jewish Quarter of Bukhara**, known as **Mahalla-i Juif**, viewing the remnants of Jewish architecture, including old homes and buildings that once served as synagogues, schools, and communal spaces. The Jewish Quarter provides insight into the daily life and culture of Bukhara's Jewish population in centuries past.

End the tour at the **Jewish Cemetery**, located on the outskirts of Bukhara. The **Mullah Sadra Necropolis** is an ancient cemetery that includes a section dedicated to the Jewish community. The Jewish cemetery contains **tombstones inscribed with Hebrew script** and provides a glimpse into Bukhara's Jewish history and traditions.

Overnight: Labi Rud Hotel Premium, Bukhara (Breakfast Included)

Day 7: Bukhara to Samarkand

This morning, after checking out of the hotel, we will board a bullet train to the city of **Samarkand**, founded in the 7th century BC. Samarkand derived its commercial importance in ancient and medieval times from its location at the junction of trade routes from China and India. With the arrival of the railway in 1888, Samarkand became an important centre for the export of wine, dried and fresh fruits, cotton, rice, silk, and leather.

Visit the **Imam Bukhari Mosque/Tomb** near Samarkand, an ancient Sunni site and discuss the **Sunni/Shia differences** with a local **Shia Scholar**.

Conclude your day tour at the **Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum**, the final resting place of **Timur the Great**, along with several of his descendants. Admire the majestic dome and intricate tilework of this historical monument, which served as a prototype for the famous Taj Mahal in India.

Overnight: L'Argamak, Samarkand (Breakfast Included)

Day 8: Samarkand

Begin your tour at **Registan Square**, the heart of Samarkand and one of the most iconic landmarks in Uzbekistan. Marvel at the stunning ensemble of **three madrasas: Ulugh Beg Madrasa, Tilya-Kori Madrasa, and Sher-Dor Madrasa**. Take your time to admire the intricate tilework, towering minarets, and grand arches of these architectural masterpieces.

Then, head to the nearby **Bibi-Khanyam Mosque**, one of the largest mosques in the Islamic world when it was built in the 15th century by Timur the Great. Admire the colossal proportions of the mosque and the intricate details of its façade and interior.



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After lunch, visit the **Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis**, a **UNESCO World Heritage site** renowned for its stunning collection of mausoleums and tombs.

Next, make your way to the **Ulugh Beg Observatory**, located a short distance from the city center. Built in the 15th century by the astronomer king Ulugh Beg, this ancient observatory once housed one of the largest astronomical instruments of its time. Learn about the fascinating history of astronomy in Samarkand and enjoy panoramic views of the city from the observatory's platform.

Overnight: L'Argamak, Samarkand (Breakfast Included)

Day 9: Shahrisabz

Today you will be taking a day trip to **Shahrisabz**, an important urban center of **Sogdiana**, a **province** of the **Achaemenid Empire of Persia**. It is primarily known today as the birthplace of 14th-century Turco-Mongol conqueror Timur.

For lunch, visit a nearby Yurt camp and, if interested, take a short **camel ride**. Head back to Samarkand, have a **farewell dinner** with your group and guides.

Overnight: L'Argamak, Samarkand (Breakfast and Dinner Included)

Day 10: Samarkand to Tashkent for Departure

Check out of your hotel and board a bullet train back to Tashkent for your departing flight home. *(Breakfast included)*