

Best of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Chimgan, Samarkand, Shakhrisabz, Bukhara, Khiva **SR-07**



Embark on an extraordinary journey through the timeless wonders of Uzbekistan with our "Best of Uzbekistan" tour. This captivating itinerary invites you to discover the cultural treasures and architectural marvels of this Central Asian gem. Over the course of 10 days, delve into the rich history and vibrant culture of Uzbekistan as you explore its iconic cities and historic landmarks. From the bustling bazaars of Tashkent to the ancient streets of Khiva, each destination promises an unforgettable adventure filled with discovery and wonder. Highlights of the tour include exploring the majestic Registan Square in Samarkand, wandering through the labyrinthine streets of Bukhara's Old Town, and marveling at the ancient city walls of Khiva. Along the way, immerse yourself in the artistry of local craftsmen, savour the flavours of traditional Uzbek cuisine, and experience the warm hospitality of the Uzbek people.

With expert guides to lead the way and comfortable accommodations to relax in after a day of exploration, our "Best of Uzbekistan" tour offers the perfect blend of culture, history, and adventure. Join us as we uncover the beauty and charm of Uzbekistan, where every moment is an opportunity to create lasting memories.

DEPARTURE DATES: 17.08.2024; 24.08.2024; 31.08.2024; 07.09.2024; 14.09.2024; 21.09.2024; 28.09.2024; 12.10.2024; 26.10.2024; 09.11.2024; 23.11.2024; 07.12.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tashkent

Welcome to Uzbekistan! Upon your arrival, our driver will be waiting for you at the arrival sector to transfer you to your hotel. We look forward to making your stay in Uzbekistan comfortable and enjoyable.

Day 2 - Tashkent

Today's agenda is all about immersing yourself in the dynamic cityscape of Tashkent, where a blend of modernity and tradition awaits. Start your city tour at Independence Square, a poignant symbol of Uzbekistan's sovereignty, before moving on to the iconic Amir Timur Square and the grandeur of the Tashkent Metro, famed for its intricate architecture. Next, delve into the rich history of the Old Town and the architectural wonders of the Khast-Imam complex. Then, prepare for a sensory adventure at the vibrant "Chorsu" Eastern Bazaar, where you can indulge in exquisite crafts and savor the diverse flavors of Uzbekistan. After a day filled with exploration and discovery, retreat to your accommodation in Tashkent for a restful overnight stay, ready to continue your Uzbekistan adventure tomorrow.

Day 3 - Tashkent / Ugam-Chatkal National Park / Tashkent / Samarkand

After breakfast, prepare for an extraordinary day trip to Ugam-Chatkal National Park, a haven of untouched wilderness celebrated for its awe-inspiring vistas and rich biodiversity. Be captivated by the shimmering turquoise waters of the Charvak Reservoir and embrace the serenity of nature as you venture along the park's picturesque trails. As the day draws to a close, board a high-speed train bound for Samarkand, a city steeped in history and

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

International flights
Accommodation
Breakfasts in the hotels
High-speed day train
English - speaking guides
Guided tours & entrance fees
Airport & railway transfers

Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions
Lunches & dinners

Optional extras and upgrades

Optional excursions

Practical information

About Go Russia company
Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs
Accommodation options

legend as one of the oldest inhabited cities in Central Asia. Relax and unwind during the comfortable two-hour journey, reveling in the scenic views passing by. Upon arrival in Samarkand, you'll be whisked away to your hotel for a well-deserved overnight stay, ready to delve into the wonders of this ancient city the following day. Allow the rhythm of the train to carry you to your next adventure in Samarkand.

Day 4 - Samarkand

Get ready to embark on an unforgettable journey through the ancient wonders of Samarkand as you begin your guided city tour today. Your first stop is the iconic Registan Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site adorned with magnificent madrasahs and mosques that will leave you in awe. Next, continue your exploration to the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, a sacred site boasting intricately decorated mausoleums and tombs, each telling a story of centuries past. Marvel at the grandeur of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, a testament to the city's rich architectural heritage, before immersing yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the Siab Bazaar. Here, you can sample local delicacies, shop for souvenirs, and soak in the bustling ambiance of daily life. Conclude your day with a visit to the Ulugh Beg Observatory, an ancient marvel built by the Timurid ruler Ulugh Beg, where you can witness the astronomical prowess of centuries gone by. After a day filled with exploration and discovery, retreat to your accommodation in Samarkand for a well-deserved overnight stay.

Day 5 - Samarkand / Shakhrisabz / Samarkand

Prepare for an enriching day trip to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of the legendary conqueror Timur, as you embark on an exploration of this historic gem. Discover the UNESCO-listed historic center of Shakhrisabz, where architectural treasures await at every turn. Marvel at the grandeur of the majestic Ak-Saray Palace and pay homage to the revered Dorus-Saodat Memorial Complex, each adorned with intricate tilework and ornate designs that speak to the city's rich history and cultural significance. Immerse yourself in the stories of centuries past as you explore these ancient monuments, gaining insights into the legacy of Timur and the vibrant heritage of Shakhrisabz. After a day filled with discovery and wonder, return to Samarkand for a restful overnight stay.

Day 6 - Samarkand / Bukhara

Start your day with a delightful breakfast before boarding a morning train to Bukhara, a scenic journey lasting approximately 1.5 hours through the picturesque Uzbek countryside. Upon arrival, be ready to immerse yourself in the timeless charm of Bukhara as your adventure unfolds with a guided walking tour of the city's historic center. Explore the UNESCO-listed Old Town, where narrow alleys beckon you to discover hidden mosques, madrasahs, and caravanserais, each steeped in centuries of history and culture. Marvel at the iconic Kalyan Minaret, a towering symbol of Bukhara's architectural prowess and one of its most recognizable landmarks. As you stroll through the labyrinthine streets, soak in the rich architectural heritage of the city, from the intricate tilework to the

grand facades of ancient buildings. Allow yourself to be transported back in time as you uncover the secrets and stories hidden within Bukhara's ancient walls. Overnight stay in Bukhara.

Day 7 - Bukhara / Gijduvon / Bukhara

Indulge in a captivating day trip to Gijduvon, celebrated for its rich cultural heritage. Wander through its charming streets, uncovering hidden treasures like local ceramics workshops where skilled artisans meticulously craft intricate designs, offering a glimpse into Uzbekistan's artistic legacy. Immerse yourself in the artistry of Uzbekistan as you observe the creation process, marveling at the skill and precision involved. Afterwards, dive into a hands-on Plov cooking master class, where you'll learn the traditional techniques behind this beloved Uzbek dish. Engage with expert chefs to prepare and savor the authentic flavors of the region. For those seeking a different activity, there's the option to participate in a ceramics master class, where you can unleash your creativity and craft your own unique piece of pottery under the guidance of expert craftsmen. Alternatively, explore the town further, meandering through bustling bazaars, visiting historic landmarks, or simply soaking in the local ambiance. As the day draws to a close, return to Bukhara, where you can unwind and reflect on the day's experiences. Enjoy a peaceful overnight stay, filled with cherished memories of your exploration in Gijduvon.

Day 8 - Bukhara / Khiva

After a hearty breakfast, embark on a picturesque journey to Khiva, traversing the vast expanse of the Kyzyl-Kum Desert spanning approximately 480 kilometers (300 miles). As you journey through this enchanting landscape, marvel at the ever-changing scenery of rolling sand dunes and lush oasis settlements. Take advantage of a short stop in the desert to stretch your legs and soak in the breathtaking views that surround you. Upon arrival in Khiva, be greeted by the ancient walls of the historic Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site steeped in centuries of history and culture. Check in to your hotel and take some time to relax and rejuvenate after your travels, preparing yourself for the adventures that await.

Please note: While the typical journey by car takes approximately 7-8 hours, there's a convenient alternative for travelers - an overnight train from Bukhara to Khiva. Departing at 3 - 4 AM (depending on the schedule), this train offers a comfortable and efficient journey, arriving in Khiva at 10 - 11 AM the same morning. Although it requires an early start, it provides ample opportunity for rest onboard and ensures you arrive at your destination refreshed and ready to explore. If opting for the train, you'll depart from Bukhara on the morning of Day 9, allowing for a few hours of sleep until 2:30 - 3 AM at your hotel in Bukhara.

Day 9 - Khiva

Today offers an enchanting opportunity to immerse yourself in the timeless charm of Khiva, where history whispers from every cobblestone and minaret. Embark on a guided walking tour of the UNESCO-listed Old Town,

known as Itchan Kala, where every twist and turn reveals a new architectural marvel. Marvel at the intricate tilework adorning the Kalta Minor Minaret, a testament to Khiva's rich artistic heritage. Explore the grandeur of the Mohammed Amin Khan Madrasah, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture that leaves visitors in awe of its beauty and craftsmanship. As you wander through the labyrinthine streets, take in the sights and sounds of the bustling markets at the Tash-Hauli Palace, where merchants have traded their wares for centuries. Throughout your exploration, delve into Khiva's rich history and cultural heritage, as your knowledgeable guide shares stories of conquests, trade, and the vibrant life that has thrived within these ancient walls for centuries. Allow yourself to be transported back in time as you uncover the secrets of this historic oasis city.

Day 10 - Khiva / Urgench

Your Silk Road journey concludes today. We'll arrange your transfer to Urgench Airport for your return flight home. Alternatively, you can opt to return to Tashkent and catch your international flight from there. Thank you for joining us on this unforgettable adventure through Central Asia. Safe travels!

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
17/08/2024 - 26/08/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
24/08/2024 - 02/09/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
31/08/2024 - 09/09/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
07/09/2024 - 16/09/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
14/09/2024 - 23/09/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
21/09/2024 - 30/09/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
28/09/2024 - 07/10/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
12/10/2024 - 21/10/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
26/10/2024 - 04/11/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
09/11/2024 - 18/11/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
23/11/2024 - 02/12/2024	£1395	£2095	£245
07/12/2024 - 16/12/2024	£1395	£2095	£245

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organised group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Highlights of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva \(SR-04\)](#), Price from £995, 8 days
- > [Best of Kyrgyzstan: Discover Finest Lakes, Steppe Land & Historic Towns - 8 days \(SR-05\)](#), Price from £1,395, 8 days
- > [Great Uzbekistan Discovery: from Fergana to Khiva \(SR-06\)](#), Price from £1,695, 13 days
- > [Great Mongolian Discovery: Ulan Bator, Terelj, Gobi Desert, Karakorum, Hustai \(MN-01\)](#), Price from £3,195, 15 days

INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any

immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in the UK, USA, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including your original passport. Please allow about two - three weeks for each visa application to be processed. The actual visa processing times are published on our website. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents

If you are not resident in the above countries, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa, processing times and application forms on our website:

www.justgorussia.co.uk/en/visa_services.html

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.justgorussia.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@justgorussia.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on +44 (0)20 33 55 77 17

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

