

# Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Silk Road Cultural Discovery

## East Meets West Journey from Tashkent to Khiva

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

**We love talking travel!**  
Contact us at [info@mtsobek.com](mailto:info@mtsobek.com)  
or call **800-974-0300**





# Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

## Unrivalled Expertise

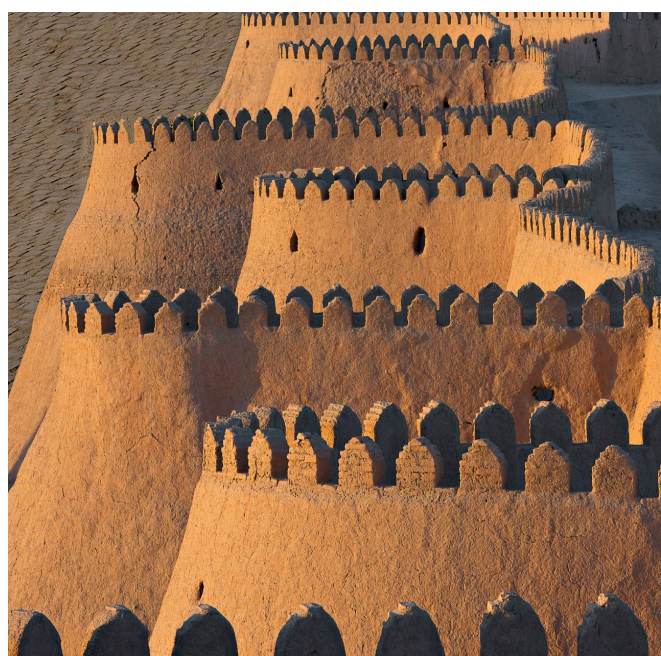
MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

## Unique Trip Design

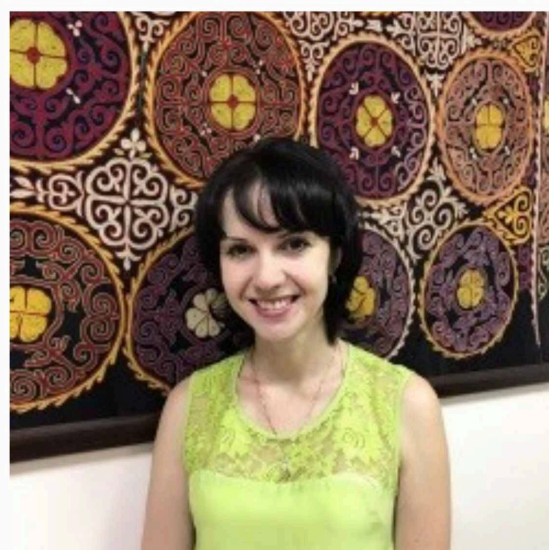
Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

## Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.







## Leading the Way

### World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.







# Why take this trip with us?

## REASON 1

MT Sobek has led travelers on this epic Silk Road adventure for over 20 years, expertly navigating border crossings and visas.

## REASON 2

Our remarkable local guides offer immense insight and expertise, and go out of their way to make you feel at home.

## REASON 3

This immersive adventure takes you back in time to explore the legendary wonders of Samarkand, Bukhara, Tashkent, Khiva, and beyond.

## At A Glance

### ACTIVITIES

Cultural touring of historical cities and stunning sights, including bazaars, mosques, tombs, madrassas and palaces. At night enjoy folk performances and savor regional cuisine.



### LODGING

Comfortable and conveniently located Silk Road hotels with modern and traditional flair.



### CLIMATE

Temperatures will range from the low 50's F at night to the high 80's and into the 90's F during the day. It will generally be warm, dry and sunny.



### KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

While we help to facilitate the visa process, approval is not guaranteed and final decisions rest solely with the Turkmenistan government. On rare occasions visas have been denied.

Overland border crossings are subject to sudden closures or changes. Even with the assistance of our expert guides, crossings can be slow with thorough checks, so patience and flexibility are key. You may need to walk across the border on foot, which takes around 20 minutes and includes moving your own luggage. Covid 19 tests are also still required.

Medication rules are very strict, and some common prescriptions are prohibited (your Adventure Coordinator will be able to share a list of prohibited items). Travelers must carry a doctor's note and be prepared to declare all medications upon arrival.





# Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Silk Road Cultural Discovery

## East Meets West Journey from Tashkent to Khiva

Experience the best of East and West on this extraordinary journey through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Delight in the natural beauty of the northern Silk Road route's immense deserts and rich cultural heritage. Explore some of the region's most stunning ancient and modern cities, from Tashkent and Samarkand to Bukhara and Khiva. Visit bustling bazaars; explore mosques, mausoleums, and palaces; take in local folk performances; and sample traditional regional cuisine.

### 12 Days

**Start:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**End:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Departing:** March, April, May, September, October

**Activities:** Cultural Discovery

**Lodging:** Luxury Hotels, Comfortable Hotels, Rustic Lodging

**Group Size:** 4-15 Guests

**ACTIVITY:**



Check [mtsobek.com](https://mtsobek.com) for date-specific pricing.

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*“In Central Asia you really need to have guides and MT Sobek works with excellent country guides, which makes a huge difference.”*

- Irina & Andrei S.



# The Itinerary

## DAY 01

### Welcome to Uzbekistan

Welcome to Tashkent! Meet your MT Sobek representative at the airport and transfer to your hotel. This evening, meet your MT Sobek guide and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, then return to the hotel for a restorative rest after your travels.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Hyatt Regency Hotel Tashkent

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## DAY 02

### Take the Train to Samarkand

After breakfast, watch the scenery slide by, riding the Afrosiyob high-speed train to Samarkand, a historic and central part of the old Silk Road. On arrival, set off to explore some of Samarkand's most notable arches, domes, and minarets, marveling at Guri Emir, the mausoleum and burial place for Amir Temur and his family, and regal Registan Square, with its intricately designed and vibrantly colored blue-tiled mosques and madrassas (Muslim schools). See the massive mosque of Bibi Khanum, and the adjacent colorful market, where aromatic cardamom, coriander, and saffron make wonderful mementos to tuck in your suitcase. Meet local artisans and see their silk and ceramic creations, followed by a traditional dinner at a historic UNESCO-protected home. After this exceptional welcome dinner, step outside to an enchanting nighttime view of Registan Square and marvel at the glowing monuments.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Movenpick Samarkand or Royal Hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 2.5 hour train ride

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## DAY 03

### Explore the Legendary City of Samarkand

Begin today's tour at the regal mausoleums of Shah-i-Zinda, the site of Central Asia's most sacred Islamic shrine. Visit the former mansion of Abram Kalandarov, a wealthy Jewish man, which is now a museum of local lore, and Alexiy Cathedral. At the Koni Ghil Silk Paper Center, learn the process of silk paper production and see how Samarkand's fabled flatbread is created. Before dinner at a local restaurant, enjoy a wine tasting at Khovrenko Winery.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Movenpick Samarkand or Royal Hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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## Take the Train to Bukhara and Visit its UNESCO-Listed Sites

This morning, transfer to the train station for a trip on the Afrosiyob high speed rail line to Bukhara. Explore the city, with its bustling trading domes and active mosques, including Kalyan Minaret, one of Central Asia's tallest towers, and the ancient Silk Market. Taste splendid herbal teas at Retro-Saloon Timur. Tonight enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner of plov, a local lamb and rice pilaf dish.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Omar Khayyam Hotel or Minorai Kalon

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 2-hour high speed train transfer

**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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## Stroll the Streets of Old Bukhara

Step back in time as you wander the old town center, where locals chat endlessly while drinking tea around a natural oasis spring. Bukhara's UNESCO recognition has resulted in restorations of some of its 11th- to 15th-century mosques, including Bolo Hauz Mosque, Chashmai Ayub, and Magokki Attori Mosque. Visit Bukhara's massive fortress, the Ark, and Ismail Samani's beautiful 10th-century mausoleum.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Omar Khayyam Hotel or Minorai Kalon

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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## Cross into Turkmenistan & Discover Historic Mary

After breakfast, drive to the Turkmenistan border and on to Mary — known as Merv in ancient times — a city on an oasis in the Karakum Desert. En route, stop for lunch in Turkmenabat. An important hub on the ancient Silk Road, Turkmenabat once connected Bukhara with Khiva and Merv. For about 300 years, Merv was the largest city in Central Asia and the Khalifat capital for eight years. During the 12th century, it was said to be the world's biggest city. Today Merv is a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site with the remnants of walled cities containing mosques, monasteries, and mausoleums in its historic center. Explore some of these sights before enjoying a hearty dinner.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Margush Hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 6-hour private van transfer

**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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## Spend the Morning in Merv & Fly to Ashgabat

This morning delve into more of ancient Merv, the oldest and best-preserved of the oasis-cities along the Silk Route in Central Asia. Visit the History Museum and other sites, before transferring to the airport for an evening flight to Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. Its gleaming domes, monuments, minarets, and lavish palaces make it feel like an enchanted city.



**ACCOMMODATION:** Yyldyz Hotel  
**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner  
**TRANSPORTATION:** 40-minute flight  
**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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### Tour Ashgabat's Tombs & Sanctuary of Parthian Kings

Today browse the city's famous Sunday bazaar, a truly medieval experience! Everything from camels to auto parts to world-famous Bukhara rugs — both new and old — are sold. After you've had your fill, see more of Ashgabat, including the majestic Turkmenbashy Ruhy Metjidi, one of the biggest mausoleum complexes in Central Asia, containing the tombs of Turkmenbashy (the former ruler of Turkmenistan) and his family. Visit the ruins of Nissa, the former seat of the Parthian kings and an important Silk Road trading town, then some of the city's modern sights. After dinner, drive Ashgabat's main avenues to take in its brightly lit buildings and monuments. This exquisite city is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as having more white marble than any other in the world!

**ACCOMMODATION:** Yyldyz Hotel  
**MEALS:** Breakfast | Dinner  
**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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### Arrive in the Ancient City of Khiva

This morning, transfer to Ashgabat Airport for a flight to Dashoguz. Upon arrival, take a 35-minute drive to what was once one of the most impressive fortresses of the Middle Ages: the ruins of Yzmukshir Fortress, birthplace of famous scientist and philologist As Zamahshary. Return to Dashoguz for lunch and, leaving Turkmenistan, drive into Uzbekistan and on to Khiva, a very ancient city said to be founded by Shem, the son of the biblical Noah. Visit a Khorezmian singer's house and enjoy traditional music. The Khorezm people are an ethnic group with their own dialect, known for their musical traditions. There will be time to rest before dinner at the hotel.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Farovon Khiva or Asia Hotel  
**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner  
**TRANSPORTATION:** 1-hour flight & 1.5-hour private van transfer  
**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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### Tour Old Khiva

After breakfast at the hotel, set off on a walking tour of old Khiva, visiting Kunya-Ark fortress, several mosques, madrassas, and minarets. The walled city of Khiva hosts more than 50 monuments, making it a true archaeological treasure. The afternoon is free to explore the city on your own before convening for dinner tonight at a local family's restaurant for traditional regional fare.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Farovon Khiva or Asia Hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Dinner

**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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## Explore the Wonders of Tashkent

Enjoy an early breakfast, before transferring to the Urgench Airport for your flight back to Tashkent. On arrival, explore the bustling and cosmopolitan city of Tashkent, with its tree-lined boulevards, verdant parks, and elaborate monuments. Take in many of the city's highlights, including the Khast-Imam Complex and its architectural marvels; the world-renowned Uthman Qur'an Friday Mosque, which houses an early copy of the Quran; the Chorsu Bazaar, a traditional market set beneath a vibrant, blue dome and the Applied Arts Museum. After lunch, visit the newer part of the city: Independence Square, Amir Temur Museum, Alisher Navoi Theater. In the late afternoon, visit ceramist Akbar Rahimov's workshop and take a tea break. This evening, enjoy a festive farewell dinner at a local Georgian restaurant.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Hyatt Regency Hotel Tashkent

**MEALS:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**TRANSPORTATION:** 1.5-hour flight

**ACTIVITY:** City touring

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## Depart from Tashkent

After breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport, bid farewell to your travel companions, and depart on your homeward-bound flight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast





# Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

## Hyatt Regency Tashkent

Hyatt Regency Tashkent boasts an excellent location near the prestigious National Library, as well as shopping, dining, and local attractions. The hotel offers spacious guestrooms and a plethora of amenities, including complimentary Wi-Fi, several restaurants, bar, 24-hour fitness center, pool, and spa. A perfect base to explore the fascinating city of Tashkent.

## Dilimah Luxury Hotel

## Movenpick Hotel Samarkand

Located in the heart of Samarkand, close to historic and ancient cultural sights, mosques, mausoleums, sits an urban oasis with indoor and outdoor pools, a hammam, sauna and gym. Stylish rooms feature air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and city views. With two restaurants to choose from, serving European and Uzbek fare, you have everything you need for a comfortable stay in the UNESCO-listed city.

## Zarafshon Parkside Hotel



# Where You'll Stay

**These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.**

## **Royal Hotel**

Tucked into a side street, two buildings house spacious air-conditioned rooms with comfortable bedding, plush seating, and the full range of amenities. Step into an opulent entrance graced with gilded furnishings and chandeliers. Relax in the beautiful indoor pool, tiled steam room, sauna, and Jacuzzi. The top-floor restaurant overlooks the city with both indoor and outdoor seating. The Royal is a delightful stay for your adventures in legendary Samarkand.

## **Omar Khayyam**

Omar Khayyam is conveniently located in picturesque old Bukhara, within walking distance of all ancient monuments, including Ulugbek's Mosque, Poi Kalyan Complex and the Ark Citadel. The hotel offers comfortable rooms with attractive designs and balconies overlooking the hotel's courtyard. There's a fine restaurant with local and international offerings, Wi-Fi in the common areas and a beautiful courtyard typical of traditional Uzbek architecture.

## **Minzifa Caravansary**

## **Ark Hotel**

## **Minorai Kalon**

Sit looking across the Silk Road city of Bukhara on the terrace restaurant of Minorai Kalon. Enjoy the local architectural touches, such as a brick exterior, stylish arches, and vaulted ceilings, and colors reflecting the surrounding monuments. A warm welcome and friendly service are the hallmarks of this boutique hotel. Unwind in a simple, cozy climate-controlled room with attached bath and basic amenities. Book a massage for an extra treat!

## **Margush Hotel**

The Margush Hotel, centrally located in Mary, is a modern hotel with welcoming staff. Guest rooms surround an airy atrium, and each room offers comfortable beds and attached baths, ensuring a restful stay. Splash around in the swimming pool or enjoy a traditional hammam at the spa. Guests can also enjoy dining outdoors among the surrounding lawns and gardens. Enjoy the sights of ancient Merv from this modern accommodation.

## **Yyldyz Hotel**

Look out over the city and the Kopetdag, the distinctive architecture of the Yyldyz Hotel is a landmark in the city with Central Asian design. Treat yourself to a spa experience or take a dip in indoor and outdoor pools. Spacious rooms feature rain showers, espresso machines, minibars, and Wi-Fi. Dine in the restaurant or grab a snack at the pool bar. The Panoramic Bar offers gorgeous views of the city.

## **Feruzhkhon Hotel**





# Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

## **Zarafshon Boutique Hotel**

### **Hotel Farovon Khiva**

Experience luxury and comfort at Khiva's Farovon Hotel. The hotel features 106 rooms and suites with Wi-Fi, a 55" flat-screen TV, a minibar, a work place, complimentary slippers, and a bathrobe. The hotel also offers an indoor pool, a bar and three on-site restaurants that serve Mediterranean, National, and Central Asian cuisine.

## **Malika Khorezm Hotel**

### **Asia Hotel**

Just outside the ancient walled old town of Khiva, this hotel has an excellent location for exploring the sights. Modern yet homey, comfortable rooms include ensuite baths, colorful decor, and other basic amenities. In summer, take advantage of the large, blue-tiled swimming pool surrounded by gardens. Simply put, the Asia Hotel offers one of the best locations in Khiva, directly across from the South Gate.

# Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: March, April, May, September, October

**Book early for a greater choice of available dates.**

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

September 7-18, 2025

October 5-16, 2025

March 20-31, 2026

April 12-23, 2026

May 3-14, 2026

September 6-17, 2026

October 4-15, 2026



# What's Included

## PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

## PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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