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Cycling trip to Uzbekistan

ON THE SLOPES OF THE SILK ROAD

Uzbekistan is a rich country in a history and culture, whose reputation for beauty and architectural perfection has survived with the cities like Samarkand, Bukhara. Cycling is a fabulous way of discovery, to borrow the old roads that once led the caravans by the Silk Road.

Highlights of the tour

A perfect route for bike trips with rich cultural encounters in emotion and discovery, good food and comfortable campsites transform this trip to a special experience.

A beautiful bike trip about 250 km, mixed asphalt road and track, with an average of 60 km a day across mountain ranges, isolated valleys and lush green plains.

**BEST TIMES: MAY – MID JUNE – SEPTEMBER
– OCTOBER – MID NOVEMBER**

DURATION: 11 DAYS

ITINERARY: (SEE THE MAP ON PAGE 4)

**Tashkent - Bukhara - Urtagurgon - Sarmish -
Nurata – Aydarkul - Hayot - Pangat - Josh - Mitan -
Samarkand - Tashkent**

Uzbekistan in brief

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Population: 30,060,000 people

Area: 447,400 square kilometers

Capital: Tashkent (3 million)

Main cities: Bukhara, Samarkand, Navoi

Official languages: Uzbek and Russian

Land borders: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

Religion: Sunni Muslim majority, practice very tolerant

Currency: Soum (UZS)

Entry requirements: Passport and visa short validity (see <http://www.uzbekistan.fr> site for more details on the formalities for obtaining)

PROGRAM

Day 01 – Flight international – Tashkent

Flight international-Tashkent.



Day 02 - Tashkent – Bukhara (560 km)



Arrival in Tashkent. Customs procedure. Meeting with your local guide. Breakfast at a cafe in city. Early tours of the Uzbek capital: visit the old city of Tashkent. This discovery begins with a colorful Chorsu bazaar, which marks the heart of the ancient city, with around, some witnesses of the growth experienced by the city after the Islamic conquest: the Hazrati Imam complex with the Juma Mosque and Madrasah Barakhan Khan mausoleum. Lunch during the visits. Presentation of the Program. PM free for bikes settings. In the evening, transfer to the train station. Departure by night train (train compartment for 4 people). Dinner lunchbox. Overnight on train.

Day 03 - Bukhara

Arrival around 07:00 to tarin station. Transfer to Bukhara (15 km). Arrive at the hotel and breakfast. Start of visit with guide. Bukhara is one of the oldest cities of Central Asia. Spiritual and commercial center whose importance does not decline over the centuries. Visit the central part of the city - Chakhristan: Poi Kalon, Citadel Ark and Bolo Khauz mosque. Walk through the park to visit Samanid Mausoleum and Chashma Ayub mazar. Lunch in city. Continuation of the visit of Bukhara. Visit medressa Abdulazizkhan and madrasah Ulugbeg. Walk through the market domes. Visit the mosque Magokki Attori and complex Labi Khauz. Dinner. Overnight at hotel.

Day 04 - Bukhara – Urtagurgon – Sarmish (140 km)

Transfer by car to Urtagurgon (70 km). Continue cycling to Sarmish through farming villages (70 km). Lunch on road. Arrive Sarmish, a real reserve cave drawings dating from the Bronze Age. Installation under the tent. Short walk to visit the drawings. Dinner. Night under the tent.

Day 05 - Sarmish - Nurata –Aydarkul (135 km)

The morning departure by car to Nurata (70 km). Visit the mosque and the sacred pond fish. Lunch of grilled lamb in a Chaikhana. In the afternoon, continue cycling to Lake Aydarkul (60 km). Arrival and accommodation in yurt camp near the Lake Aydarkul (6 km) for one night in the middle of the desert steppe. Camel safari or a swim at the lake. Dinner. Evening around the fire with a Kazakh troubadour. Night in a yurt.

Day 06 - Aydarkul – Hayot (130 km)

Go on your bike for 60 km, then drive in the direction of the green valley of Hayot inhabited by Tajik people in stone houses located along the river, and bordered with ancient walnut trees over 300 years . Arrival at the guest house. Lunch. After lunch, visit of the village. Dinner. Overnight at the guesthouse.

Day 07 - Hayot – Pangat (20 km)

Day in nature and hike to Pangat for a journey of about 20 km on horseback and on foot, accompanied by a local mountain guide. Picnic lunch. Capita Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse in Pangat.

Day 08 – Pangat – Samarkand (125 km)

End of the hike and drive to Samarkand. Depart cycling through farming villages until Mitan (60 km). Lunch on the road. Continuation road drive to Samarkand (65 km). Arrive late afternoon to Samarkand. Check in hotel. Dinner. Overnight at hotel.

Day 09 - Samarkand

City tour: Ulugbek Observatory, Afrosiab museum complex-necropolis Shakhi-Zinda, Registan square: Medreseh Ulughbek (15th c.), Medreseh Shir-Dor (17th c.), Medreseh Tilla-Kori (17th c.). Lunch in downtown. Following tour to Bibi-Khonum Mosque, market place. Lunch in traditional Uzbek house. Following tour of Sightseeing to famous Mausoleum Guri Emir — Tamerlane's Tomb (14—15th cc.). Dinner in downtown. O/n at hotel.



Day 10 – Samarkand -Tashkent (310 km)

Free time. Lunch at the restaurant. Transfer to the station 16:00. Departure with express train (Spanish Talgo) at 17:00. Arrive to Tashkent at 19:10. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation. Dinner. Overnight at hotel.

Day 11 - Tashkent – Flight international



Transfer to international aeroport and departure.

Total Distance by bike: about 250 km

Price in Euros per person:

2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	14+1*	Single room supplement
1090	990	950	920	890	870	850	850	130

NOTE*: *1 pax free of charge in double room for trip leader (hotels, food, transportation between cities) excluding international flight

The cost includes:

- transport on all route (a minibus with the conditioner, special vehicle);
- hotels in double rooms;
- a food (full board), services of the cook on a track;
- the excursion program;
- services of the guide in cities and on a bicycle track;
- accompanying;
- bikes
- repair kit;
- equipment (tents, tables etc.);
- entrance tickets for the historical monuments specified in the program;
- police registration;
- visa support.

The cost doesn't include:

- payment of excess weight of luggage;
- a photo and video of monuments of architecture and museum pieces;
- the medical insurance, international flights.
- Insurance;

Necessary to have:

- personal medical kit;

Itinerary in Map

