

Uzbek and Turkmenistan Adventure

15 Days | Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Discover the highlights of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on this 15 day overland adventure. See the flaming Darvaza Gas Crater, marvel at the ruined city of Kunye Urgench and enjoy a tour of the bizarre capital of Turkmenistan - Ashgabat. Visit the Silk Road cities of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand in Uzbekistan, stay in a traditional yurt in the Kyzylkhum Desert and end your journey in the Soviet-style metropolis of Tashkent.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Ashgabat - enjoy a guided tour of Turkmenistan's capital city which is known for its white marble architecture and bizarre buildings including the world's largest indoor Ferris wheel
- Darvaza Gas Crater - marvel at the flickering fires of this incredible flaming crater, nicknamed the "Door to Hell" by the locals
- Kunye Urgench - explore the ruins of this Silk Road city in the Karakum Desert, which was spared by Genghis Khan during his invasion

- Khiva - admire the striking city walls and take a guided tour of the Uzbek city including the turquoise Kalta Minor Minaret and the palace of Tash Khovli
- Bukhara - discover the gruesome past of the Silk Road city including the Kalyan Minaret which is known as "Death Tower" and opt to visit Zindon Prison
- Kyzylkhum Desert - camp in a traditional yurt in the remote desert and perhaps take a camel ride across the rolling sand dunes
- Tashkent - end your adventure in Uzbekistan's clean and modern Soviet-style capital city
- Samarkand - visit the jewel in Timur's empire to see highlights including the breathtaking Registan Square and the ruins of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque

What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- 11 nights in hotels
- 2 nights camping without facilities
- 1 night in a traditional yurt camp
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- All necessary camping equipment (excluding sleeping bags)
- Transportation in an overland expedition vehicle
- Services of two crew (drivers/tour leaders) and local guides along the way
- Sightseeing as per itinerary

- Guided tour of Ashgabat and visit to Kunye Urgench and the Darvaza Gas Crater in Turkmenistan
- Guided tour of Khiva, Bukhara & Samarkand in Uzbekistan

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Items of a personal nature, additional meals and drinks
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Sleeping bag and roll mat - please bring your own for camping

Local Payment

\$660pp, paid in USD

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Ashgabat



Welcome to Turkmenistan! On arrival in Ashgabat there's an included transfer from the airport to our hotel. Join a Welcome Meeting before we set off on a minibus

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tour of this off the beaten track capital city. Look out for the bizarre marble architecture and some of the golden statues of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow. The president has a fascination with collecting world records and some of the more unusual architecture you may spot includes the worlds largest indoor Ferris wheel. **Overnight - Ashgabat**

Day 2 : Darvaza Gas Crater - The Door to Hell



Ashgabat - Darvaza Gas Crater. Leaving Ashgabat, we board our overland truck and drive to the incredible Darvaza Gas Crater, known locally as the Door to Hell.

The crater was created by accident in 1971 when Soviet oil drillers released gas into the atmosphere, causing the ground to collapse. The Soviets then set fire to the gas to try and burn it all off. However, there was much more gas present than they realised and the crater has been burning away ever since. After we've admired the site, we find a suitable spot to camp for the night. **Overnight - Darvaza - (camping without facilities)** (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Kunye Urgench

Darvaza Gas Crater - Kunye Urgench. Today we drive into the remote Karakum Desert, visiting the ruins of Kunye Urgench towards the end of the day. Once an important Silk Road city, Kunye Urgench was spared by Genghis Khan during his invasion and the ruins remain well-preserved today. Admire highlights including the Kutlug-Timur Minaret, which is the highest minaret in Central Asia. Tonight, we camp in the desert close to the city. **Overnight - Kunye Urgench (camping without facilities)** (B, L)

Days 4-5 : Khiva



Kunye Urgench - Khiva (Uzbekistan). Today we visit the vibrant market in the border town of Dashoguz before crossing into Uzbekistan. We continue to the beautiful Silk Road city of Khiva. On day 5 there's a guided tour of the city to see highlights including the incredible city walls, the turquoise Kalta Minor Minaret and the blue palace of Tash Khovli. There are also included visits to the Mohammed Rakhim Khan Madrassa museum, the Kukhna Ark and Juma Mosque. **Overnight - Khiva** (B:2)

Days 6-8 : Beautiful Bukhara



Khiva - Bukhara. We have a long drive on day 6 to reach the beautiful city of Bukhara, our home for the next three nights. Enjoy a guided tour the next day, taking in highlights including the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, Kalon Mosque and Ark Fortress. You'll also get to see the Kalyan Minaret. This beautiful tower hides a sinister past - it's nickname of "Death Tower" has been earned due to its former use as a place of execution.

Day 8 is free to explore or join some of the optional excursions available. Perhaps visit the gruesome Zindon Prison, home to the infamous Bug Pit. Prisoners would be thrown into the pit and rats, lice, scorpions and other creatures would be dropped on their heads.

Overnight - Bukhara

Day 9 : Nurata & the Kyzylkhum Desert



Bukhara - Nurata. Leaving Bukhara, we drive into the Kyzylkhum Desert and stop near the town of Nurata. There's an optional camel ride over the rolling dunes of the desert and we spend the night in traditional yurts. **Overnight - Nurata (yurt camp)** (B, L, D)

Days 10-12 : Exploring Samarkand



Nurata - Samarkand. On day 10 we explore the striking scenery of the Nurata Hills, and you can opt for a dip in Lake Ajdar Kul. We then drive to the beautiful city of Samarkand, our home for the next three nights. Enjoy a guided tour on day 11 to see the central Registan Square, the Ulug Beg Observatory and the ruins of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque. The mosque was once the jewel in the empire of the warlord Timur, who was born here.

Day 12 is free to explore or join optional activities including an excursion to the ancient city of Shakhrisabz. **Overnight - Samarkand** (B:3)

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Uzbek and Turkmenistan Adventure

Days 13-14 : Tashkent



Samarkand - Tashkent. On day 13 we have a free morning in Samarkand before we drive to the final destination of our adventure, the Uzbek capital of Tashkent. Clean and modern, this Soviet style city is a fascinating place to explore and we have two free days in the city.

Overnight - Tashkent (B:2)

accommodation when staying in hostels, homestays or yurts, which may be mixed sex.

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
18 Apr	GBP 1,295	GBP 1,295
04 May	GBP 1,295	GBP 1,295
30 May	GBP 1,295	GBP 1,295
08 Jul	GBP 1,295	GBP 1,295
25 Jul	GBP 1,295	GBP 1,295

Day 15 : Tashkent



Our tour comes to an end today and you are free to depart for your onward journey. If you wish, speak to our sales team about booking a few additional days accommodation in Tashkent.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. These overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Whilst the crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect multi-share

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