**TRIP TO UZBEKISTAN - 6 DAYS**

Embark on an exciting educational adventure through the cultural marvels of Uzbekistan with our specially curated school trip programme. From the bustling streets of Tashkent to the awe-inspiring monuments of Samarkand and the historic gems of Bukhara, each day promises fascinating discoveries and valuable learning experiences. Join us as we explore ancient mosques, vibrant bazaars, and centuries-old traditions, immersing ourselves in the rich heritage of Uzbekistan. With engaging excursions and hands-on activities, this trip offers a unique opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of history, culture, and global perspectives.

**Itinerary**

**Day 1. Departure from the UK**

Most flights from Europe to Uzbekistan are overnight, departing in the evening and arriving the following morning.

**Day 2. Arrival in Uzbekistan. Excursion in Tashkent**
 **Highlights: old city, Khast – Imam (Khazret – Imam) complex, Istiqlol square, Amir Timur square (Tamerlan), Courage monument (dedicated to the victims of the 1966 earthquake), Opera and Ballet theater, Mustaqillik (Independence) square, Eternal flame, Romanov Palace, "Chorsu" eastern bazaar, Museum of Applied Art / Esenin Museum (depending on time availability), Writers Park.**

Upon your early morning arrival in Tashkent, a friendly driver and a knowledgeable guide await to whisk you away to your hotel, ensuring a seamless transition after your journey.

At 11:00, we'll gather in the hotel lobby to embark on a captivating exploration of Tashkent's treasures. Our adventure commences in the historic Old Town, where the Khast – Imam (Khazret – Imam) complex stands as a testament to centuries of cultural richness. Here, we'll marvel at the grandeur of the Friday mosque, the solemn beauty of the Yunus-khan and Kafal-Shashi mausoleums from the 16th century, and the architectural splendour of the Barakh – khan and Kukeldosh madrasahs dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Within the Tillya Sheykh mosque's library, we'll encounter a rare treasure: one of Osman caliph’s original Korans from the 7th century, the oldest in existence.

Our journey continues through Istiqlol Square, where the Abdul Kasim madrasah beckons amidst bustling craftsmen offering an array of unique products and souvenirs. Then, we'll venture to Amir Timur Square (Tamerlan), where an imposing equestrian statue of Tamerlan presides over a landscape adorned with landmarks such as the Forum Palace, the Timurids Museum, Uzbekistan Hotel, Tashkent Chimes, and Tashkent University of Law.

We'll pay homage to the resilience of Tashkent's people at the Courage Monument, a poignant reminder of their fortitude in the aftermath of the devastating 1966 earthquake. Nearby, the Opera and Ballet Theater, constructed by Japanese prisoners of war in 1945, offers a glimpse into Tashkent's cultural heritage. Independence Square awaits with its majestic Independence Monument, “Ezgulik” Arch, eternal flame, and captivating fountains, alongside the nearby Romanov Palace, steeped in history as a residence for members of the Russian Empire's Romanov dynasty during their visits to Tashkent in the late 19th century.

Our journey also leads us through the vibrant "Chorsu" Eastern Bazaar, a bustling marketplace steeped in the rich history of the Silk Road.

If time permits, we'll delve into the captivating realms of art and culture with visits to the Museum of Applied Art or the Esenin Museum.

As the late afternoon approaches, our enchanting journey culminates in Writers Park. Here, amidst the serene beauty of lush greenery, statues honouring revered writers and poets stand sentinel, illuminated by the soft glow of evening lights. It's a fitting end to our exploration, where the convergence of nature and literature creates an atmosphere of tranquillity and inspiration, leaving indelible memories of Tashkent's cultural richness.

In the evening, you will enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Tashkent. Breakfast, dinner.

**Day 3. Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara**
 **Highlights: Registan Square, Gur-Emir Mausoleum, Ulugbek Observatory, Shakhi-Zinda complex, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, Siab bazaar.**

Following an early breakfast, we'll transfer you to the train station to catch the "Afrosiab" train departing at 08:30, whisking us away on a scenic journey from Tashkent to Samarkand. We'll arrive in Samarkand at 10:30 (subject to change), ready to embark on a mesmerising exploration of this historic city.

Our sightseeing adventure in Samarkand unfolds with a visit to the iconic Registan Square, often regarded as the "heart" of the city. Here, we'll marvel at the awe-inspiring ensemble of three majestic madrassahs, each boasting intricate Islamic architecture and rich cultural significance. Next on our itinerary is the imposing Bibi-Khanum Mosque, a colossal cathedral mosque that stands as a testament to the grandeur of Timurid architecture. We'll then pay homage to Timur himself at the Gur-Emir Mausoleum, where the revered ruler rests in eternal splendor. Our exploration continues with a visit to the observatory of Ulugbek, Timur's grandson and a renowned astronomer-scientist. Here, we'll discover the remnants of an immense astrolabe, once used to observe the positions of stars and planets with remarkable precision. Shakhi-Zinda awaits us next, inviting us to explore its enchanting necropolis of Samarkand rulers and noblemen. The exquisite mausoleums, adorned with stunning tilework and intricate designs, offer a glimpse into the city's rich history and cultural heritage. Before concluding our day, we'll immerse ourselves in the vibrant atmosphere of the Siab Bazaar, where the bustling stalls offer an array of local treasures, from spices and textiles to handicrafts and souvenirs.

After a fulfilling day of exploration, we'll enjoy a delicious dinner. As the day draws to a close, we'll bid farewell to Samarkand and board the "Afrosiab" train once again, departing at 21:00. We'll arrive in Bukhara at 22:40 (subject to change). Upon arrival at the train station in Bukhara, a dedicated representative will be there to greet you warmly. They'll assist with your luggage and ensure a smooth transition from the train station to the hotel.

Overnight in Bukhara. Breakfast, dinner.

**Day 4. Samarkand - Bukhara**
 **Highlights: Lyabi-Khauz complex, Kukaldosh madrasah, Poi-Kalyan Complex, Miri-Arab madrasah, Samanids mausoleum (IX-X cc), Ark citadel (IV-XX cc) - the oldest residence of the Emirs, Chor-Minor – the original building of four minarets (XIX c), Sitorai-Mohi-khosa Palace (XIX-XX cc) - country summer palace of Bukhara Emirs, folk show performance.**

After a satisfying breakfast, our exploration of Bukhara begins with a leisurely stroll through the historic and architectural marvels of Lyabi-Khauz. Here, we'll encounter the oldest pool in Central Asia, surrounded by medieval wonders like the Nadira Divan-begi madrasah and khanaka, showcasing breathtaking mosaic artistry. Our journey continues to the grand Kukaldosh madrasah, a monumental structure dating back to the 15th century, offering insights into Bukhara's rich educational heritage. Next on our itinerary is the iconic Poi-Kalyan Complex, a symbol of Bukhara's spiritual and architectural legacy. We'll stand in awe of the towering Kalyan minaret, a majestic structure standing 46 meters tall. Nearby, the grand Friday mosque Kalyan and the Miri-Arab madrasah captivate with their intricate design and historical significance, dating back to the 16th century.

Following a delightful lunch, our exploration of Bukhara continues with visits to some of the city's most revered landmarks. Our first stop is the Samanids mausoleum, an exquisite example of early Islamic architecture dating back to the 9th and 10th centuries. Renowned for its intricate brickwork and geometric patterns, this mausoleum stands as a testament to Bukhara's rich cultural heritage. We then venture to the Ark citadel, an ancient fortress that served as the seat of power for the Emirs of Bukhara from the 4th to the 20th centuries. Exploring its historic walls and chambers, we gain insight into the city's political history and royal legacy. Our journey continues with a visit to the enchanting Chor-Minor, a charming architectural gem adorned with four distinct minarets. Dating back to the 19th century, this unique structure reflects Bukhara's eclectic architectural heritage. Finally, we'll delve into the opulent beauty of the Sitorai-Mohi-Khosa Palace, a Bukhara Emir's country summer retreat dating from the 19th to the 20th centuries. This magnificent palace, blending Russian, European, and Oriental influences, offers a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of Bukhara's rulers and boasts stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

In the evening you'll have the opportunity to enjoy a folk show accompanied by dinner, immersing yourself in the rich cultural traditions of Bukhara.

Overnight in Bukhara. Breakfast, dinner.

**Day 5. Bukhara - Gijduvan - Bukhara - Tashkent**

**Highlights:**​**Ceramics and Plov Cooking Master class in Gijduvan.**

Prepare to delve deep into the rich traditions of Uzbekistan as we embark on a cultural journey to Gijduvan, celebrated for its centuries-old ceramics heritage. Here, you'll step into a world where time-honoured craftsmanship thrives, as we visit a local ceramics workshop. Witness skilled artisans deftly shaping and adorning their exquisite pottery using techniques passed down through generations. From the intricate patterns to the vibrant colours, each piece tells a story of tradition and craftsmanship.

But our adventure doesn't end there. Get ready to participate in a Plov cooking master class, immersing yourself in the art of preparing this quintessential Uzbek dish from scratch. Guided by expert chefs, you'll learn the nuances of selecting the finest ingredients and mastering the precise cooking techniques to create a flavourful and aromatic Plov that captures the essence of Uzbek cuisine.

As the day unfolds, we'll bid farewell to Gijduvan and transfer you to the train station for your return journey to Tashkent aboard the "Afrosiab" train, departing at 15:40 and arriving at 19:50 (subject to change). Upon arrival, our attentive representative will be waiting to greet you at the station, ready to transfer you to your hotel.

Overnight in Tashkent. Breakfast, lunch (plov), dinner.

**Day 6. Tashkent**

End of the programme. Airport transfer.

Breakfast.

**Included**

* Hotel accommodation 3\*\*\*
	+ Tashkent - 2 nights including early check-in on arrival day (Milan, Green Park Hotel, Gabrielle, Unique)
	+ Bukhara - 2 nights (Fatima, Sultan, Sasha & Son, Lyabi House)
	+ Tashkent - 1 night
* Meals according to the programme (breakfasts - 5, lunch - 1, dinners - 4)
* Local English-speaking guides
* Transport
* Entrance tickets to museums and tourist sites according to the programme
* One bottle of water per person per day
* Airport transfers

**Price**

Below is the estimated cost of the trip excluding flights. We can provide a detailed calculation based on the size of your group. The approximate cost of air tickets from the UK to Tashkent is from £700 per person. The cost of air travel depends on your departure city and trip dates. Our company will assist with booking flights.

The cost per person in pounds sterling, taking into account free places and the number of participants in your group.

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| **10 people2 free of charge** | **15 people​2 free of charge** | **20 people​2 free of charge** |
| £675 | £645 | £615 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **25 people3 free of charge** | **30 people​3 free of charge** | **40 people​4 free of charge** |
| £575 | £565 | £545 |

**request a no-obligation quote**

<https://www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk/en/school-uzbekistan-6-days.html>

