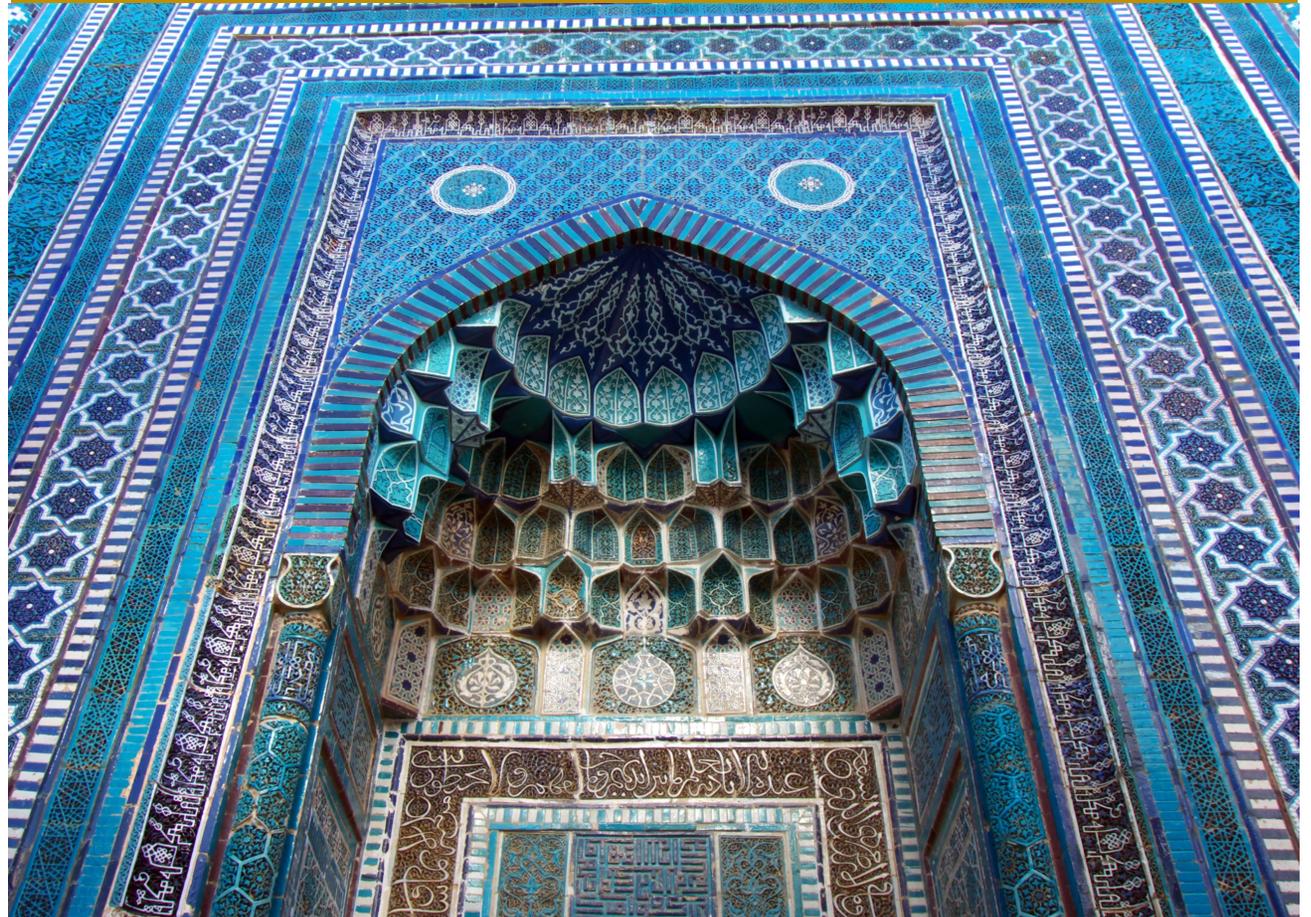


UZBEKISTAN

Textiles and Arts & Crafts of The Silk Route
With Tajikistan and optional Kyrgyzstan
March 25 – April 11, 2020

The Silk Route was a place where culture and commerce intersected. A sense of exploration mixed with the exchange of things and ideas.” -- Ron Pompeii





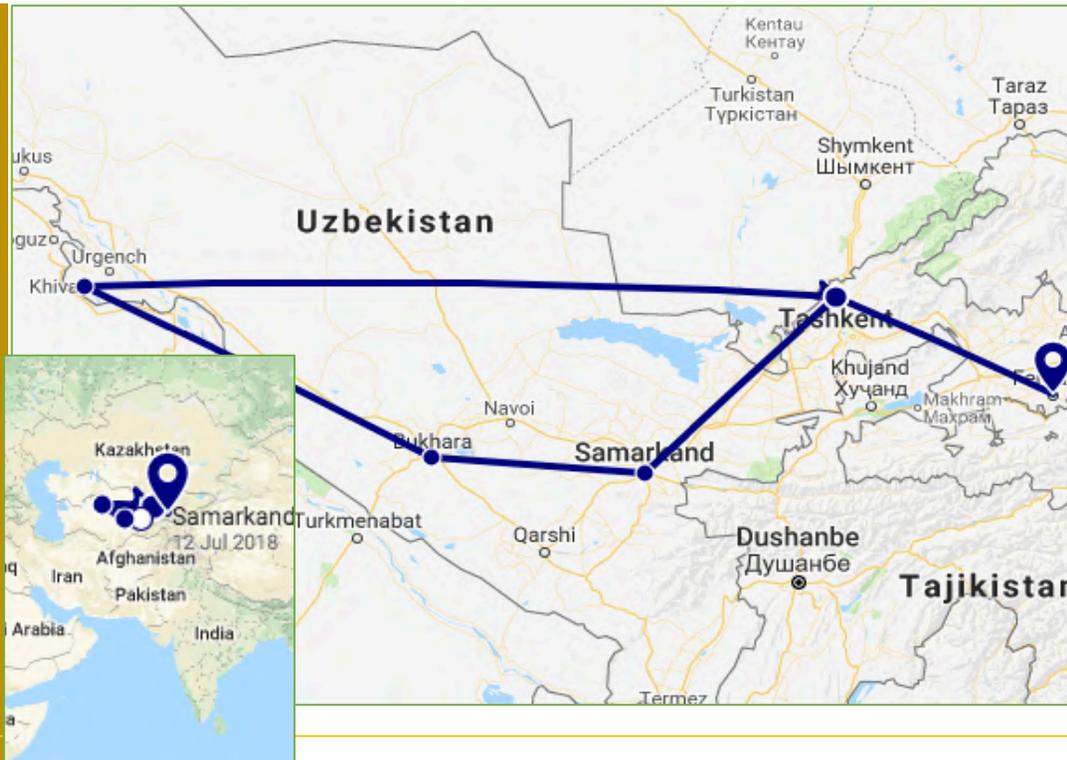
Your Destination Awaits...

Since the Middle Ages, Uzbekistan was the **center of the Silk Road** whose rulers left behind **impressive art and architecture**. From **weaving to embroidery, pottery to papermaking** against the backdrop of **awe-inspiring architecture**, it's a country full of many generations of applied artistry.

Our tour traverses Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan to tell the tale of one of humankind's most important arteries of trade and culture. Skirting deserts, loping over mountains, delving into fabled cities, **join us as we explore thousands of years in eighteen leisurely days.**

Highlights

- Follow the Silk Road through ancient cities **Khiva, Bukhara, Shahrissabz, Khujand,** and **Tashkent** for arts, culture, and history of this storied region
- Beautiful **Fergana Valley** in easternmost Uzbekistan for outstanding ikat, suzani, and ceramics
- Buzz of markets in **Urgut** and **Margilan** teeming with all manner of goods, especially textiles
- Isolated, semi-autonomous **Karakalpakstan** for the stupendous **Savitsky Collection**, a treasure trove of modernist Russian art spirited away from the Soviet revolution
- Visit **award-winning artisans** for traditional block printing, ikat weaving, rug making, embroidery, ceramics, and contemporary fashion
- **Culinary** beats, desert **fortresses**, wild and **windswept landscapes**



AT A GLANCE...

(17 nights/18 days)

- 2 nights Tashkent
- 1 night Nukus
- 3 nights Khiva
- 3 nights Bukhara
- 4 nights Samarkand
- 1 night Khujand
- 1 night Fergana Valley
- 2 nights Tashkent

Cost

USD 4240 pp double occupancy

USD 1260 single supplement

Contact: shila@eyhotours.com

"Who goes to Uzbekistan? You will get that question. I certainly never expected to visit, let alone fall in love with it. Drawn by the textiles, it turns out everything captivates me: the markets, mosques and monuments exceed expectation; there are lush valleys and rugged mountains in contrast to the expected desert expanses. It is so different and yet it feels familiar; a reminder that life and culture have persisted for millennia, evolving through incredible hardship, invasion and plunder.



*The most vivid memories are, of people:
warmth, and the gratitude
you are visiting their country. I am so happy to return
again and again."*

-Dana Davies





Day 1: Wednesday March 25

TASHKENT

Touchdown Tashkent! Be welcomed on arrival and transferred to hotel.

Tashkent, capital city of Uzbekistan, is known for its museums, mix of modern and Soviet-era architecture.

Depending on your arrival time, you may want to venture forth on your own or catch a nap before the welcome dinner and briefing.

Overnight Tashkent

Meals : D



Day 2: Thursday March 26

TASHKENT

Tashkent offers myriad examples of architecture, art, and crafts that represent the influences of the English and Russians, the Soviet occupation, and independence.

Kicking off with a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts with a lovely curated collection of vintage Uzbek handicrafts, we will then visit workshops of artisans reviving traditional crafts (wood block printing, embroidery, wood working) as well as contemporary designers using traditional materials for modern fashion.

Overnight Tashkent

Meals: B, D



Day 3: Friday March 27

TASHKENT

Take the metro to the Chorsu Bazaar and nearby ateliers of contemporary Uzbek designers who are inspiring international interest in the textiles of Uzbekistan.

Our tour includes the must-see sites of the Khast Imam Complex, Independence Square, the many parks and monuments that dot the city. Who knew there are lush canals in Tashkent? We will take an evening flight to Nukus is the Western semi-autonomous province of Karakalpakstan.

Overnight Nukus

Meals: B, L



Day 4: Saturday March 28

NUKUS - KHIVA

Admittedly in the middle of nowhere, Nukus is worth the effort to get there because of the Savitsky Collection, one of the largest collections of Uzbek and Russian avant garde art in the world. Visit of the museum, which also displays a range of Uzbek textiles, jewelry, and ceramics.

In the afternoon we we will head to Khiva by bus, stopping along the to explore some of the desert fortresses that served as way stations along the old Silk Route.

Overnight Khiva.

Meals: B, D



Day 5: Sunday March 29

KHIVA

It's impossible not to be charmed by Khiva, despite its history as a center of slave trading. We will have a walking tour of the attractions of Juma Mosque, Mausoleum of Pahlavan Mahmud, Kunya Ark Citadel, Gaza Khan Madrasa, Palace of Nurallah-bai and more.

Visit the Silk Carpet Workshop where Khivan tile and and carved door designs make their way into beautiful rug and suzani designs. Walk the walls for spectacular views of the city and surrounding steppe at dusk.

Overnight Khiva.

Meals: B, L



Day 6: Monday March 30

KHIVA

Today there is free time to explore!

Perhaps you'd like to try your hand at making nan (bread) or walk through the open air market outside the city walls where the locals shop.

Enjoy lunch at one of the cafes.

Overnight Khiva

Meals: B, D



Day 7: Tuesday March 31

BUKHARA - KHIVA

We will cross the Steppe on the early morning train to Bukhara, the heart of the Silk Road in Uzbekistan and a major trading center. Today, it still makes and sells the most complete range of Uzbek crafts. Once home to hundreds of madrasahs, many of which are now craft centers, we will visit the Ark fortress, the Kalon minaret, Poi Kalyan Mosque, and Ismail Samanid Mausoleum.

Overnight Bukhara

Meals: B, L



Day 8: Wednesday April 1

BUKHARA

After breakfast, we will tour the last Emir's summer palace, a fabulous mash up of Russian and Islamic styles. On the estate, we will visit the collection at the Bukhara Museum of Decorative Applied Arts. Upon return to the walled city, we will tour the last remaining Jewish synagogue.

A wonderful town to explore on foot (no vehicles inside the old city walls), visiting the trading domes, tea houses, and galleries.

Overnight Bukhara.

Meals: B, L



Day 9: Thursday April 2

BUKHARA

Master class at the workshop of a professor of suzani embroidery and her daughter, some of the most popular artists in Bukhara.

Travelers' choice: enjoy free time for shopping, bathing at a hamam, viewing a puppet show or simply taking it all in at the Lyabi Houz lake and park.

Overnight Bukhara

Meals: B, D



Day 10: Friday April 3
SAMARKAND

Farewell to Bukhara and on to Samarkand by train, arriving mid afternoon. Perhaps the best known city of the Silk Road in Central Asia. Samarkand captures the romantic spirit many associate with the name.

In addition to the spectacular monuments of the Registan, we will also visit the mosques of Gur-e-Emir and Bibi Hanum.

Overnight Samarkand.

Meals: B, L



Day 11: Saturday April 4
SAMARKAND

Beyond the historical monuments, much of Samarkand's significance lies in its roots as a center of Islamic, mathematic, and scientific learning as the 13th century observatory we will visit attests the breathtaking necropolis of Shah-i-Zinda..

Free time to revisit the monuments of the Registan, do some shopping or perhaps try a lesson in cooking the famed national dish, plov.

Overnight Samarkand

Meals: B, D



Day 12: Sunday April 5
URGUT

Depart Samarkand early to drive to the famed Urgut Market. Sundays attract sellers of vintage and new handmade textiles. Possibly the oldest continuously operating market in Uzbekistan, it's the largest we visit: everything you can imagine...and then some! As Uzbekistan is "discovered," vintage treasures will become rare.

On return, we will stop to visit a paper making operation using mulberry branches that have been stripped of leaves by silk worms.

Overnight Samarkand.

Meals: B, D



Day 13: Monday April 6
SHAKHRISABZ

By now, the name of Amir Timur (Tamerlane) will be very familiar and today, we will drive to Shakhrisabz, his birthplace and hometown. Once a major city at during the reign of different rulers, its monuments are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

We will Visit the Ak-Saray Palace, Kok Gumbaz Mosque in the Dorut Tilovat Complex.

Overnight Samarkand

Meals: B, D



Day 14: Tuesday April 7
KHUYAND

Making our way east toward the lush Fergana Valley, we will travel by bus to Khujand in Tajikistan, one of the oldest cities in Central Asia.

While indeed a different country, the cultural similarities to parts of Uzbekistan are undeniable. We will have the afternoon to explore the museums. Monuments, markets and parks in this small city.

Overnight Khujand

Meals: B, D

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Day 15: Wednesday April 8
KOKAND-FERGANA

Early departure for the lush Fergana Valley to our first stop in the Uzbek Fergana Valley, Kokand. We will go to the vast and stunning former palace of the last Kahn built at the end of the 19th century. The Jumi or “Friday” mosque, equally impressive in size, built decades earlier for worship is known for the intricate woodwork and painted décor. On the way to Fergana, visit Rishtan famed for its production of ceramics from the local red clay featuring intricate designs and distinctive blue green glazes.

Overnight in Fergana.

Meals: B, D



Day 16: Thursday April 9

FERGANA VALLEY

After breakfast, the Kumtepa Bazaar in Margilan beckons. As with all bazaars, there is a little bit of everything in the narrow aisles and alleys but Kumtepa is unique with a multitude of stalls selling all types of ikat by the meter, likely the largest collection you will see. If fabric is your thing, this is your place!

After lunch, on to the Yodgorlik Silk Factory where the production of silk textiles is demonstrated starting from cocoon to thread which is then used for ikat, carpets, and suzani embroidery.

Late afternoon train back to Tashkent

Overnight Tashkent

Meals: B, D



Day 14: Friday April 10

TASHKENT

Before wrapping up and readying for departure, we will visit the Museum of Victims of Political Repression that offers a sobering view of Stalinist years in Uzbekistan and the complicated relationship with the former Soviet Union.

Time for last minute shopping, to picking up custom items you may have ordered, and packing. We will have a farewell dinner as our visit to this incredible country comes to a close.

Overnight Tashkent

Meals: B, D

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Day 15: Saturday April 11

DEPARTURE

On our last morning we will wrap up with a visit to the Museum of Victims of Political Repression, a sobering reflection on recent Uzbek history.

Transfer to the airport prior to your scheduled departure for your trip home, or join us April 11-17 in Kyrgyzstan for a 6-day extension.

Thank you for travelling with E.Y.H.O. Tours. We look forward to welcoming you again!

Xavfsiz Sayohat! Safe Travels!

Meals: B



Kyrgyzstan | April 11 – 17, 2020

*6 nights, 7 days following main tour, fully escorted **

Day 1: April 11, 2020

Arrival in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Day 2: April 12, 2020

Spend the day exploring historical sites of Bishkek, including the National History Museum, local bazaars, and the Eternal Flame.

Day 3: April 13, 2020

Discover the art of felt-making in Kochkor village. Continue on to Issyk Kul lake, nestled in the majestic snow-capped mountains.

Day 4: April 14, 2020

Visit Cholpon-Ata, a 500BC open-air stone carvings museum. Stroll the heart of Karakol city, taking in its unique architecture and bustling marketplaces. Dinner and folklore performances hosted by a local Kyrgyz family.

Day 5: April 15, 2020

Eagle hunting show in Jety-Oguz valley. Visit the home and workshop of a local yurt maker – spend the afternoon learning the techniques of yurt making and lunch with the local family.

Day 6: April 16, 2020

On to Chonkemin valley, for a true taste of the fresh and raw Kyrgyz wilderness. Hike through untouched mountain woods. Continue on to Bishkek, visiting Burana tower along the way. Be treated to Kyrgyzstan's infamous horseback games, *ulak tartysh*.

Day 7: April 17, 2020

Final sightseeing in Bishkek, and transfer to airport for onward flight/departure.

** Does not include Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan connecting airfare*

Fun Facts - Uzbekistan:

- Population (2017): 30,575,817 people.
- 56th largest country in the world by area with 447,400 square kilometers (172,700 square miles)
- Once part of the ancient Persian Empire, later conquered by Alexander the Great in 4th C B.C.
- Handshakes are only acceptable between men; you greet an Uzbek woman by bowing with right hand placed over your heart.
- Green tea is the national hot beverage; teahouses (chaikhanas) are of cultural importance
- Uzbekistan is one of the largest producers and exporters of cotton
- Uzbekistan has the fourth largest gold deposits in the world.



Enquiries

To register or for answers to your questions, please email: shila@eyhotours.com

Visit <http://www.eyhotours.com>

For your complete peace of mind, we are TICO (Travel Industry of Ontario) accredited #50023991

COSTS

Main Tour: USD 4240pp double occupancy
USD 1260 single supplement

Kyrgyzstan Add-on: USD 1170pp dbl. occ. (group size 3-8)

USD 1600pp
dbl. occ. (group size 9-12)

What's included:

- Travel to the 2 “-Stans”
- Co-led by Dana Davies who has travelled extensively in Uzbekistan, and is one of Uzbekistan’s most experienced guides in specialty arts and crafts
- Hosted by E.Y.H.O. owner Shila Desai
- Visa support letter
- All internal travel and transfers (flights, trains, sedans, mini buses)
- Accommodation in select 4-5* family-run and heritage properties
- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily
- Craft workshop in Fergana
- Culinary lesson in Samarkand
- Daily bottled water
- Admission to museums and other sites
- All taxes and fees

What's not:

- International flight, gratuities, and beverages at meals

Read about our trip leader Dana Davies [here](#)