



# UZBEKISTAN & KYRGYZSTAN 2022

AUGUST 6 - 21

*The capital city of Tashkent, which is the only city in Central Asia with a subway system. A remarkable journey through three UNESCO world heritage sites in Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand. Experience eagle hunting, yurt building, and horseback riding amongst the beautiful sceneries of Kyrgyzstan.*

## AUGUST 6 . . .

Arrival into Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. After lunch, a light 3-mile walking tour to visit Shahidlar Kotirasi Khiyoboni (victims of the repression memorial), Monument of Courage, Saylgoh Khiyoboni (earthquake memorial), the Tashkent Artists' Street, Amir Temur Square, Independence Square and Navoi Theatre. Afterwards, we check out several subway stations. Each subway station is an original work of art, and the themed stations are among the most beautiful in the world. Welcome dinner. Overnight in Tashkent.

## AUGUST 7 . . .

An all-day excursion within Tashkent, which is a curious blend of Islamic and Soviet influences. Visit the Old City, where we will find the Khast Imom complex, which contains the ancient holy Quran of Caliph Osman. Experience the bustling crowds of traders at Chor-Su Bazaar. Visit the Applied Arts Museum. Late in the afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our evening flight to Urgench. Stay in Khiva for 2 nights.

## AUGUST 8 . . .

The name Khiva once struck fear into the most hardened of travelers due to the bloodcurdling cruelty practiced by its errant khans. Its location in the middle of a sunbaked-in-summer, frozen-in-winter desert and its fierce resident tribes that had a habit of enslaving people trying to cross the desert kept invaders and conquerors out for centuries. Visit the walled inner-city called Ichan Kala. This old protected section of Khiva preserves more than 50 historic monuments and over 250 old houses. See Kalta Minor Minaret. View of old Khiva atop the Kunya-Ark Citadel. Stop in one of the woodcarving workshops where masters and novices work.

## AUGUST 9 . . .

Early in the morning, we take the 6-hour train from Khiva to Bukhara through the Kyzylkum Desert. The very name Bukhara conjures up images of the exotic Orient. For centuries, it was an important trading post and academic center. The old town has been well preserved and is crammed full of minarets, mosques and madrassas. After our arrival, we walk in the old town, and see the most famous Lyabi-Hauz, which is an oasis shaded by mulberry trees in the heart of the city. Stay in Bukhara for 2 nights.

#### AUGUST 10 • • •

Today, we visit the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, which is a unique 10<sup>th</sup> century cubic monument with 16 styles of brickwork. Chashma Ayub Mausoleum, which is a pilgrimage site for the locals who believe that prophet Job had visited. Bolo Haouz Mosque. Ark Citadel, which is the original fortress of Bukhara dating back more than 2,000 years. After lunch, we visit Poi Kalan Complex, which is the highlight including Kalon Mosque and Minaret and Mir-i-Arab Madrassah.

#### AUGUST 11 • • •

Begin the morning at Labi-Havuz Plaza. Nodir Devon Begi Khonakoh, which is the abode for the Sufi dervishes. Visit the famous Trading Domes of the city that once housed the best merchants of the Silk Road. Head over to the train station for mid-afternoon departure from Bukhara to Samarkand. Free time in the evening. Stay in Samarkand for 2 nights.

#### AUGUST 12 • • •

Start the morning with arguably Uzbekistan's most famous landmark, which is the spectacular Registan Square. The focal point of ancient Samarkand is framed by 3 beautiful madrassas - Ulugbek, Sherdor and Tillya Kori. Then we visit Bibi Khanym Mosque, which was a project built by the wife of Timur. Next door is the famous Bazaar of Samarkand known as Siyob Bozor. After lunch, we see the Shahi-Zinda necropolis where the Timur family members are buried. Afrasiyab Museum, where we learn more about the ancient city of Samarkand, which was then known as Afrasiyab that was destroyed by the Mongols in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century.

#### AUGUST 13 • • •

All morning, we go to the local village of Ohalik for a short trek. Return to Samarkand for lunch then the famed paper production village. See how paper is prepared from mulberry tree bark. Short coffee stop before taking a high-speed train from Samarkand to Tashkent. Late dinner (which would be after 8:30 pm) before checking into hotel. Overnight in Tashkent.

#### AUGUST 14 • • •

Morning flight from Tashkent to Bishkek. Free time in the afternoon, with an optional walking tour of the city. Overnight in Bishkek.

#### AUGUST 15 • • •

Head out to Kochkor. Stop at Burana Tower. Observe a workshop where they make felt handicrafts, which Kyrgyzstan is famous for. Then we drive to Song Kul, one of the jewels of Kyrgyzstan. The alpine lake sits above 3,000 metres (9,842 feet), and is surrounded by nomadic shepherds looking after yaks, donkeys, goats and horses. Sunset walk. Overnight in a yurt camp in Song Kul.

#### AUGUST 16 • • •

Breakfast in Song Kul before going over to Kyrgyzstan's other legendary lake - Issyk Kul. After lunch, we observe an eagle hunting demonstration as well as other traditional sporting demonstrations. Free time in the evening. Stay 2 nights in another yurt camp in Tong.

#### AUGUST 17 • • •

Half-day horse trek into the mountains. Return to yurt camp for lunch before visiting a nearby village that is famous for building yurts. Hands on learning experience with building a yurt. Free time in the evening.

### **AUGUST 18** • • •

Hit the road in the early morning and start off the day's adventure with a visit to Skazka Canyon, also known as Fairytale Canyon. Spend an hour exploring the canyon and taking picture of the rainbow-like formations. Continue onwards to Jeti Oguz for a gorgeous view of the Seven Bulls rock formation. In the late afternoon, we arrive into Karakol. Stay in Karakol for 2 nights.

### **AUGUST 19** • • •

Morning walking tour of Karakol. Dungan Mosque. Russian Orthodox Cathedral. Experience a traditional cooking class with a Dungan family for lunch. The Dungans are a Chinese-Muslim ethnic minority group that fled persecution in their homeland and settled in the valleys around Karakol. Free time in the afternoon before a sunset kayaking excursion on Issyk Kul.

### **AUGUST 20** • • •

Depart Karakol. Stop to see ancient petroglyphs spread out over hundreds of boulders in an open sky museum. Check out the new Rukh Ordo Cultural Centre. Stop at Cholpon Ata for lunch. Arrival into Bishkek in late afternoon. Farewell dinner. Overnight in Bishkek.

### **AUGUST 21** • • •

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flights.

## UZBEKISTAN & KYRGYZSTAN 2022

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\$800 deposit per person is required to reserve space. The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis. 100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

**\$3,390**  
per person /double occupancy

**16 DAYS**

**SMALL GROUP 8 - 14**

**TOUR LEADER:** Dan Brubaker • [dan@handson.travel](mailto:dan@handson.travel) • 888-822-1577

### WHAT'S INCLUDED??

- 12 nights in 3-star or 4-star accommodations.
- 3 nights in yurts based on quadruple occupancy with communal bathrooms.
- 30 meals: Breakfast (15), Lunch (6), Dinner (9)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf and/or hearing guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Single entry e-Visa for Uzbekistan. No visa needed for Kyrgyzstan.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour itinerary consultation.
- \$100 discount per person on your next regular tour.

### WHAT'S EXCLUDED??

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

### WHAT TO EXPECT?

- EXTRA COSTS which will be added to the invoice.
  - \$460 for single supplement.
  - \$120 for 1 internal flight (Tashkent > Bishkek on August 14)
- Tour begins in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and ends in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- Tour will be confirmed when we meet the minimum number of participants.
- When the tour is confirmed, additional deposits/payments may be required.
- There will be limited airport pick up and drop off windows at the start and end of the tour. Early/late arrivals and early/late departures outside of pick up or drop off windows are not included.
- Substantial amount of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is necessary.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.  
<https://handson.travel/resources/terms/>

- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel insurance plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. To learn more, please view the following link:  
<https://handson.travel/resources/protection/>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.**