



EXETER
INTERNATIONAL

Founder's Tour of Uzbekistan
23 April - 4 May, 2024





Itinerary at- a- glance:

Day 1	Apr 24	Arrival in Tashkent
Day 2	Apr 25	Tashkent
Day 3	Apr 26	Tashkent - Nukus - Khiva
Day 4	Apr 27	Khiva
Day 5	Apr 28	Khiva - Bukhara
Day 6	Apr 29	Bukhara
Day 7	Apr 30	Bukhara - Guijduvan - Bukhara
Day 8	May 1	Bukhara - Samarkand
Day 9	May 2	Samarkand
Day 10	May 3	Samarkand
Day 11	May 4	Depart Samarkand

Featuring Extraordinary Experiences:

Dinner in the garden of a famous Uzbek ceramists' workshop
 Private tour of the Savitsky Art Museum led by a top curator
 Dinner within the Harem in Khiva with a private folk show.
 Plov cooking class
 Visit to the Koni Ghil Silk Paper Center

Why Exeter International?

Our Experience

At Exeter International we have been creating memories and crafting custom-designed journeys since 1993. We are a team of specialists committed to providing the best travel experiences in our destinations. Each of our experts has either travelled extensively on reconnaissance trips, or has lived in their area of expertise, giving us unparalleled first-hand knowledge. Because we focus on specific parts of the globe, we return to the same destinations many times, honing our experience over the years.

Knowledgeable Up-to-the-Minute Local Information

We are best placed to give you advice about traveling to Europe and beyond; from logistics and new protocols in museums, hotels and restaurants in each country. We are here to expertly guide you through the new normal in travel.

Original Custom Programs, Meticulously Planned

Our experts speak your language both literally and culturally. Our advice and recommendations are impartial, honest, and always have the individual in mind. We save valuable time in pre-trip research and focus on developing experiences that enrich and enhance your experience. Once on your journey you will have complete peace of mind with our local 24-hour contact person who is on hand to coordinate any changes in your program or help you in the case of any emergency.

Hand-Selected Guides

We know that guides are one of the most important components of any travel experience. That is why we only use local experts who have a history of working with our guests and whom we know personally. We are extremely particular in selecting our guides and are confident that they will be one of the most memorable aspects of any of our trips.



DAY 1



Wednesday, April 24 Arrival in Tashkent

Arrive today in Uzbekistan. You'll be met by your private driver and transferred to your hotel, where your room has been reserved from the night before to accommodate early-morning flights. We recommend flying to Uzbekistan with Turkish Airlines which has the best connections, including international departure flights from Samarkand, where our tour will end.

Exeter Extraordinary Experience

We'll meet this evening for a private Welcome Dinner in the garden of a famous Uzbek ceramists' workshop and enjoy some classic Uzbek music.

Exeter Services

Airport Transfers

Hotel

Hyatt Regency Tashkent

Meals Included

Welcome Dinner

DAY 2



Thursday, April 25 Tashkent

Meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a tour of Tashkent's Old City main sights. Originally an oasis on the Chirchik River, Tashkent gradually grew to become an important commercial center, which now has a population of over 2 million.

We will enjoy a visit Khastimom complex, which is a collection of historical structures dating back to the late Middle Ages. The complex was built around the tomb of Abubahr Muhammad Kaffal, a revered Muslim mentor. It's remarkable majolica and stunning ancient domes are truly one-of-a-kind.

For centuries, Khastimom has been a vital center for cultural and architectural development in the Islamic world, proudly representing Uzbekistan's rich history.

Next, we will visit the Chorsu Bazaar for the true feeling of Tashkent! Bazaars in Uzbekistan are a unique sites in each city. You will capture some of your best local photos at these markets, where you will find everything from bins of spices, nuts, fruit, and cheese to clothing, toys, tools, and everyday goods.

After lunch, we'll visit the Applied Arts Museum. This building was constructed at the end of the 19th century in the elaborate style of the period as a private residence of a wealthy merchant. It now displays various types of national handicrafts, including carpets, jewelry, woodcarving, and gold embroidery from the 19th and 20th centuries.

This evening is at leisure.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Hyatt Regency Tashkent

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3



Friday, April 26 Tashkent - Nukus - Khiva

This morning we'll meet our driver for an early transfer to the airport for our flight to Nukus (business class ticket cost is included.) Upon arrival, you will visit the small city of Nukus in western Uzbekistan, which is the capital of the autonomous region of Karakalpakstan, home to the Karakalpaks, a Turkic people more closely related to Kazakhs than to Uzbeks.

Explore the wonderful Savitsky Art Museum. This remote desert museum houses the incredible life's work of founder, Igor Savitsky, who was able to amass a collection of thousands of banned avant-garde Russian art pieces without interference from Moscow and keep it hidden from the watchful eyes of the KGB. The collection is the second-largest gathering of Russian avant-garde art after the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. The story of this collection has been told in the award-winning documentary, "Desert of Forbidden Art"

Exeter Extraordinary Experience

An exclusive private tour led by one of the top curators includes an opportunity to go inside the archives to view paintings not on public display and learn about the restoration efforts of this unique collection. Included in the museum are exhibits showing the culture of the Karakalpaks, expressed in clothing, jewelry, and decorative arts.

After a stop for lunch, we'll take an afternoon drive to Khiva. Upon arrival, check-in and enjoy some time at leisure.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Farovon Khiva

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 4

Saturday, April 27

Khiva

Khiva's origin dates to the 6th century and during medieval times it became a city of great importance. It also has a long history of barbaric rulers and your guide will give you a glimpse into their colorful stories. Today, approximately 40,000 people live and work inside the ancient city walls (called Ichan Kala).

One of the most notable sites within the walls of Khiva is the Kunya Ark. This was the former fortress and residence of the Khiva rulers since the 12th century.

We will also visit the Djuma Mosque, which was built in the 10th century and rebuilt in the 18th century. Its unique design features a roof supported by 218 wooden columns, possibly an early Arabic influence. We will also visit the Tozabog Palace. Built in 1897, this was the summer residence of the Emirs of Khiva.

In the northwest of the city, we will also visit the Palace of Nurullah-bai. Constructed between 1906-1912 the palace is an eclectic mix of Uzbek and European architectural styles.

In the afternoon, we will visit a Silk Carpet and Suzanne (embroidery) workshop sponsored by UNESCO, where you can see artisans practicing their craft.

Exeter Extraordinary Experience

This evening we'll enjoy dinner within the Harem, including a private folk show.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Farovon Khiva

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5



Sunday, April 28 Khiva - Bukhara

This morning we will check out of our hotel and meet our guide and driver for the transfer to the airport for our flight to Bukhara.

Bukhara is an oasis in the Kyzyl Kum desert, which is located on the banks of the Zeravshan River and has been inhabited since approximately 3,000 BC. Located on the historic Silk Road, the city has long been a center of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion. The old city part of the town has a small and friendly feel and much of today's sights are accessible on foot.

On our way from the airport, we'll visit Sitorai Mokhi Khosa, the summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara.

Upon arrival in Bukhara, we'll check into our hotel and enjoy lunch at a rooftop café before continuing touring.

Our afternoon tour will include touring highlights Poi Kalyan Mosque, Amiri Arab Madrassah, Trade Domes, an ancient Silk Market, and the Labi Hauz complex.

Afterward, return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Minorai Kalon

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 6

Monday, April 29 Bukhara

Today we'll continue our exploration of Bukhara, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, starting with the Ark Fortress – the very core of the ancient city and the oldest building in Bukhara. Initially built in the 5th century, it was used as a royal residence and a fortress until the early 20th century when it fell in the hands of the Russians.

Just opposite the Ark, we will see the Bolo-Khauz Mosque. The earliest part of this religious complex is the pond called Bolo-Khauz - one of the few remaining ponds in the city of Bukhara. Until the Soviet period, there were many ponds, which were the city's principal source of water, but they were notorious for spreading diseases and were gradually filled-in in the 1920s

Next, we will visit the Ismail Samani mausoleum, which was built in the 9th century as the final resting place of Ismail Samani - the founder of the Samanid dynasty, the last Persian dynasty to rule in Central Asia. Near the Samani mausoleum, we will also see the Chashmai Ayub (Job's Well). The water of this well is considered healing. After lunch, we'll have a workshop with local artisans, where you may create your own miniature drawing.

Exeter Extraordinary Experience

This evening's dinner will be a night to experience Uzbek customs. We'll cook plov (the national dish of Uzbekistan) together and learn about Suzanne embroidery art.

After dinner, enjoy an evening guided walk through the old town back to the hotel.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Minorai Kalon

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7



Tuesday, April 30 Bukhara - Guijduvan - Bukhara

This morning we'll drive to Guijduvan. Here we'll be invited into a ceramic school, where the sixth generation of potters from the Narzullayev family can be found practicing their craft.

After lunch at the ceramists' house, we'll continue to Naqushbandi Complex in the Bukharan countryside. It is a revered Muslim shrine. Naqshbandi, a theologian, and Sufi Order founder is buried there. The complex includes a mosque, minaret, madrassah, and a necropolis. It is considered the Central Asian Mecca, attracting believers from different Muslim countries. The complex also houses a museum showcasing Sufi artifacts and information.

This evening we'll return to Bukhara and enjoy dinner on the terrace of a charming local restaurant.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Minorai Kalon

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8



Wednesday, May 1 Bukhara - Samarkand

Today we'll check out of our hotel and continue touring Bukhara.

First, we will visit the Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum. Built in the 19th century, it is a spectacular example of a wealthy family home with a stunning interior.

Next, our guide will take us to the Jewish Quarter where we will see the Synagogue. Bukhara once had a large Jewish community. Most of the Jews in Central Asia in the 16th century used to live in Bukhara and played a major role in the city's development. The Bukharan Jews, many of whom migrated to the United States and Israel after the collapse of the Soviet Union, still speak a distinctive language, which is a dialect of ancient Persian.

After lunch, we will transfer to the train station and depart for Samarkand. Upon arrival in Samarkand, we'll transfer to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure at this Leading Hotel of The World.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Regency Samarkand

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 9

Thursday, May 2 Samarkand

Today we will begin your exploration of this historic city. One of the highlights of today's tour will certainly be Registan Square, the most famous landmark, and the heart of the ancient city. Registan (Sandy Place) probably got its name from the sand, which was strewn on the ground to soak up the blood from the public executions, which were held there until the early 20th century. Today, the Registan complex consists of three main buildings – the 15th-century Ulugbek Madrasah, the Tilya-Kori Madrasah, and the 17th-century Sher-Dor Madrasah, where, if you are interested, you can get acquainted with the history of Uzbek musical instruments.

We will also visit the Gur Emir (Tomb of the King) Mausoleum – the actual place where Timur was buried. This architectural complex with its bright blue dome contains not only the tomb of Tamerlane, but also the ones of his sons, grandson, and other notable political and religious figures.

This afternoon, we will see the Shakhi Zinda Necropolis. This cluster of 11 mausoleums was built during the 14th through the 15th centuries and is one of the most beautiful sights in the city.

Our guide will show you the Bibi Khanym Mosque, the largest of its kind in Central Asia. Constructed in the 14th century after Timur's conquest of India, it is said that some 90 elephants were used to carry from India the precious stones and metals to be used for the decoration of this temple.

Return to your hotel, where the rest of your evening is at leisure.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Regency Samarkand

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 10

Friday, May 3 Samarkand

This morning we will continue touring in Samarkand including Ulugbek Observatory, Saint Daniel Mausoleum, and the Koni Ghil Silk Paper Center.

The Observatory of Ulugbek is one of the highlights of the city. Located on a hill on the outskirts of the city. Ulugbek turned Samarkand into the intellectual and scientific center of the empire. He built the madrasah on Registan Square and invited Islamic mathematicians and astronomers to study there. His observatory was a remarkable scientific discovery in its time (the early 15th century).

The Saint Daniel Mausoleum is a revered burial site located in a picturesque setting. It is a place of great significance and holds the remains of Saint Daniel, a highly revered figure in religious history for Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike.

Exeter Extraordinary Experience

Afterward, our guide will take you to the small village of Konigil, a few miles from the center of Samarkand. With the help of UNESCO funding, the ancient art of silk papermaking has been revived. We will have the opportunity to learn about this ancient process, brought to Samarkand from China in the 7th century, and have a go at making our own silk paper to take home.

This evening we'll enjoy a farewell dinner.

Exeter Services

Vehicle, Driver & Guide

Hotel

Regency Samarkand

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



DAY 10

Saturday, May 4 Depart Samarkand

Today we say goodbye to Uzbekistan. Individual departure transfers to the airport.



We suggest Turkish Airlines flight # 373, departing at 5:40am to Istanbul

Exeter Services

Departure Transfers

Meals Included

Breakfast



What Is Included

Tour Cost:
\$12,000 per person based on double occupancy
Single Supplement: \$2,000

Accommodations

Tashkent

Two (2) nights in the Deluxe Club Rooms at the Hyatt Regency; *Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.*

Located in the heart of bustling Tashkent, the Hyatt Regency is a tranquil and elegant retreat. With floor-to-ceiling windows offering sweeping city views, spacious rooms flooded with natural light, and contemporary furnishings adorned with local artwork, it provides a sophisticated haven for both business and leisure travelers. Its prime location allows guests to easily explore vibrant bazaars, striking mosques, and fascinating museums.

Deluxe Club Rooms are spacious and elegantly furnished rooms, complete with a luxurious marble bathroom featuring premium toiletries. These rooms offer access to the Regency Club Lounge, serving complimentary evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Khiva

Two (2) nights in the Superior Rooms at the Farovon Khiva Hotel; *Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.*

The hotel is ideally situated in the heart of Khiva, one of the oldest cities in Uzbekistan and throughout Central Asia. With its prime location, the hotel seamlessly blends modern style with elements of Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage, incorporating national colors and motifs into the room decor. This unique fusion creates an inviting and authentic ambiance that immerses guests in the local culture while providing all the modern amenities they expect.

Superior Room offers a spacious and comfortable accommodation option. It typically features a king-sized bed or twin beds, a modern bathroom with a bathtub or walk-in shower, and amenities such as a flat-screen TV, minibar, and coffee/tea maker.

Bukhara

Three (3) nights in the Standard Rooms at the Minorai Kalon Hotel; *Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.*

Minorai Kalon, a charming hotel located in the heart of Bukhara, is conveniently situated just a 10-minute stroll away from Divan-Begi Madrasah and Lyabi Hauz. With its tasteful Oriental decor, this boutique hotel boasts 30 cozy rooms, each equipped with a television, air conditioning, and a minibar. The majority of the rooms offer magnificent views of the minaret, which inspired the hotel's name. On the rooftop, guests can enjoy the terrace with a captivating panorama of ancient Bukhara. The hotel's restaurant serves delectable Uzbek cuisine in a delightful ambiance, catering to all tastes and preferences.

Standard Room is a spacious and stylish accommodation option. It features a comfortable bed, air conditioning, a private bathroom, entertainment options like Wi-Fi and a TV, a mini-bar, coffee/tea facilities, and a workstation. Room service is available, and the room may offer nice views of the city or surroundings.

Samarkand

Three (3) nights in the Superior Rooms at the Regency Samarkand Hotel; *Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.*

The grand resort emerges from the very same ancient lands where Amir Temur established his empire over five centuries ago, seamlessly blending Samarkand's abundant cultural heritage and warm hospitality with a lavish five-star luxury experience. Within the resort, visitors can indulge in opulence, enjoying a variety of exquisite dining choices and rejuvenating spa services. Adjacent to the resort, a unique Eternal City, conceived and crafted by Uzbek artist Bobur Ismoilov, stands as a pioneering tribute to the artistic prowess and traditions of Uzbekistan.

Superior Rooms offer spacious and elegant accommodation with a comfortable bed, ensuite bathroom with luxury amenities, modern entertainment technology, and in-room facilities like a minibar and coffee/tea-making facilities. Guests may enjoy stunning views and access to additional services such as the fitness center, spa, and swimming pool.

Meals

Breakfast is included daily in your hotel's restaurant. All other meals are included as noted in the itinerary. Included lunches are generally two courses with coffee, tea, and mineral water. Dinners are three courses with coffee, tea, mineral water, and house beer or up to two glasses of wine.

Services

Private vehicle, driver and guide at your service as described. The timing for each day is noted in your program. Exeter International's local offices are available for emergency assistance 24 hours per day while you are traveling.

Transportation

Transportation is included as noted. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have limited English-speaking skills. Timing for each day is noted in your program.

Your Guide

Hand-picked for their knowledge of local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

Tickets

All entrance tickets as described in the program.

Exeter International Travel Information

UZBEKISTAN VISA

Uzbekistan E-visa is available for American passport holders <https://e-visa.gov.uz>. We also can provide an invitation letter allowing to apply for a visa at the embassy in US.

Note: American citizens who have reached the age of 55 & older are allowed to enter Uzbekistan without visa for up to 30 days.

SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are not included in your tour price and are at your own discretion. Please see your final documents for tipping suggestions.

REFUNDS

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

INSURANCE

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.

PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2023. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International does not breakdown costs involved in any Small Group or Individual Travel Program.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.*

Exeter International

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