

Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Tour

Ashgabat – Mary – Merv – Ashgabat – Darvaza – Dashoguz – Khiva – Bukhara – Samarkand – Tashkent

DURATION

11 Days

DESTINATIONS

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

TRAVEL STYLE

Private

SUPPORT

Turkmenistan LOI, Uzbekistan visa guidance, border crossing, flights & train logistics

Overview

This 11-day Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Tour connects two of Central Asia's most fascinating Silk Road destinations in one carefully arranged route. The journey begins in Ashgabat, continues through the ancient ruins of Merv and the Karakum Desert, then crosses into Uzbekistan for Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand and Tashkent.

In Turkmenistan, the route combines modern white-marble Ashgabat, UNESCO-listed Old Nisa, the historical landscapes around Mary and Merv, and an overnight desert experience near the Darvaza Gas Crater. In Uzbekistan, the focus shifts to walled old towns, Islamic architecture, craft traditions, bazaars and classic Silk Road monuments.

This tour is suitable for travelers who want a compact but rich two-country itinerary. It includes border formalities, domestic transport, desert travel and several walking sightseeing days, so guests should be comfortable with changing hotels, moderate walking and occasional long transfer sections.

Tour Highlights



Prices

TRAVELERS	PRICE PER PERSON
Reference group price per person	\$2,580
Private tour quotation	On request

Reference group-tour pricing is shown when available. Final quotation is confirmed after inquiry based on dates, hotel category and transport availability.

Itinerary

DAY 01	Arrival in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan Arrive at Ashgabat International Airport, where your local team will meet you and transfer you to the hotel. Check-in follows the hotel's standard timing, with free time to rest after the flight or take a first independent look at the city. Overnight in Ashgabat.
DAY 02	Ashgabat – Mary – Ancient Merv – Ashgabat After breakfast, travel east toward Mary, passing historical sites connected with the old Silk Road. Continue to Ancient Merv, one of the region's great archaeological landscapes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore key monuments such as Sultan Sanjar Mausoleum, Kyz Kala, Erk Kala, Gyaur Kala and religious complexes linked to the city's long history. Later, transfer to Mary Airport for the return flight to Ashgabat and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 03**Ashgabat City Tour – Old Nisa – Darvaza Gas Crater**

Begin with a guided introduction to Ashgabat, a capital known for its wide avenues, monumental architecture and white-marble buildings. Visit Old Nisa, the ancient Parthian fortress area listed by UNESCO, and continue to selected city landmarks such as major mosques, museums, monuments, parks or local market areas depending on schedule. If possible, stop at an Akhalteke horse stable to see Turkmenistan's famous horse breed. In the afternoon, drive into the Karakum Desert toward Darvaza Gas Crater. Enjoy dinner near the glowing crater and overnight in a simple yurt camp.

DAY 04**Darvaza – Dashoguz/Shavat Border – Khiva, Uzbekistan**

Wake up in the desert and have a simple camp-style breakfast. Drive north across the Karakum Desert toward the Dashoguz area and continue to the Turkmenistan–Uzbekistan border crossing. After completing exit and entry procedures, meet the Uzbek team on the other side and continue to Khiva. Check in at the hotel and enjoy free time near the old city walls.

DAY 05**Khiva City Tour – Urgench – Bukhara**

Spend the day exploring Khiva's Ichan-Kala, a compact UNESCO-listed walled city filled with madrasahs, minarets, palaces and narrow lanes. Highlights may include Juma Mosque, Tosh-Khovli Palace, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum, Islam Khodja Minaret and other monuments inside the old town. Later, transfer to Urgench for the onward journey to Bukhara by domestic flight or alternative transport depending on availability. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel.

DAY 06**Bukhara Old City Walking Tour**

Begin a full walking tour through Bukhara's old city, one of the most atmospheric urban centers of the Silk Road. Visit Lyabi-Hauz, Magoki-Attori Mosque, Chor-Minor, the trading domes, Kalyan Minaret and Mosque, Miri-Arab Madrasah, Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan madrasahs, Ark Fortress, Bolo-Khauz Mosque, Ismail Samani Mausoleum and Chashma-Ayub. In the evening, a cultural dinner or folklore show may be included depending on the final program.

DAY 07**Bukhara Surroundings – Samarkand**

Continue sightseeing around Bukhara with visits outside the old city, such as Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa, the summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara, the Bakhouddin Naqshbandi memorial complex and Chor-Bakr Necropolis. In the afternoon, depart for Samarkand by road. Arrive in Samarkand, check in at the hotel and rest after the transfer.

DAY 08**Samarkand City Tour**

Discover Samarkand, one of the most celebrated cities of the Silk Road. Visit Registan Square, Gur Emir Mausoleum, the remains of Bibi Khanum Mosque, Siyob Bazaar and Ulugbek Observatory. The sightseeing introduces the city's Timurid architecture, blue-tiled monuments and important role in regional trade and scholarship. Free time may be available later in the day.

DAY 09**Samarkand – Konigil Village – Tashkent**

Continue the Samarkand program with Shakhi-Zinda Necropolis, Afrasiab Museum and the Tomb of Saint Daniel, then visit Konigil village to learn about traditional paper-making from mulberry bark. After lunch or free time, transfer to the railway station for the train to Tashkent. Arrive in the capital and transfer to the hotel for overnight.

DAY 10**Tashkent City Tour**

Explore Tashkent, Central Asia's largest city and a mix of old neighborhoods, Soviet-era avenues and modern public spaces. Visit the Old City area, Khast-Imam surroundings, Chorsu Bazaar, selected metro stations, the Museum of Applied Arts, the exterior of Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theatre and Amir Timur Square. Enjoy free time in the afternoon.

DAY 11**Tashkent Departure**

Check out from the hotel by noon unless late check-out has been arranged. Transfer to Tashkent International Airport for your departure flight. This concludes the Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Tour.

What is Included

- Accommodation in selected hotels or similar category properties based on double or twin room sharing, with breakfast included
- Yurt or camp-style accommodation near Darvaza Gas Crater with simple shared facilities
- All transfers and transportation according to the confirmed itinerary, including airport, railway station and border transfers
- Sightseeing with local English-speaking guides in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan according to the program
- Entrance tickets to listed monuments and museums according to the confirmed itinerary
- Economy-class domestic flight from Mary to Ashgabat, subject to schedule availability
- Onward transport from Urgench or Khiva area to Bukhara by flight, train or road depending on final availability
- Economy-class train ticket from Samarkand to Tashkent, subject to schedule availability
- Turkmenistan Letter of Invitation support and Uzbekistan visa guidance where required
- Camp-style dinner and breakfast at Darvaza Gas Crater
- Selected cultural meals or local experiences when listed in the final confirmed program

Not Included

- International flights before and after the tour
- Consular visa fees, e-visa fees, border fees, migration taxes or local tourist taxes where applicable
- Turkmenistan visa fee, migration tax, PCR or health-related testing fees if required at the time of travel
- Single room supplement or room upgrade charges
- Lunches and dinners not clearly listed in the final confirmed itinerary
- Personal travel insurance

- Photo or video fees charged separately by museums or monuments
- Tips for guides, drivers and service staff
- Costs caused by personal changes, missed transport, visa delays, border changes, flight changes or circumstances outside the operator's control

FAQ

Is this tour private or group-based?

This CMS version is prepared for a private Yola Rowana tour page. The route is based on a classic group-tour reference, but the final program can be quoted privately depending on your travel dates, group size and hotel preference.

Do I need a visa for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan?

Visa rules depend on your nationality. Turkmenistan usually requires advance Letter of Invitation support, while Uzbekistan may be visa-free or require an e-visa for some travelers. We check the requirements based on your passport and travel dates.

What is the accommodation like at Darvaza Gas Crater?

Darvaza is a remote desert experience. Accommodation is simple, usually in yurts or camp-style facilities, with basic shared washing and toilet arrangements. The main highlight is seeing the burning crater after dark.

Can the route be customized?

Yes. Extra nights, hotel upgrades, private transfers, different arrival or departure cities and additional cultural experiences can be added after checking logistics and availability.

Are flights and trains guaranteed?

Domestic flights and trains are subject to schedule and seat availability. If a preferred flight or train is unavailable, the route may be adjusted with the closest practical alternative.

How active is this tour?

The tour includes several walking sightseeing days, border formalities, hotel changes and desert travel. It is suitable for travelers in reasonable health who are comfortable walking at a moderate pace and managing stairs or uneven surfaces at historical sites.



UZBEKISTAN & TURKMENISTAN TOUR

Plan Your Central Asia Journey

Contact us for updated availability, final price confirmation, visa guidance and custom travel planning.

TOUR ROUTE

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Tailor-made journeys across Central Asia