

# 14D Uzbekistan + Russia Muslim Tours



## Day 1, Mon: Tashkent D

Arrival to Tashkent international airport is at 17:00, meet by your escort guide. Transfer to your hotel, check in and overnight.

## Day 2, Tue: Tashkent – Saint Petersburg (flight) BLD

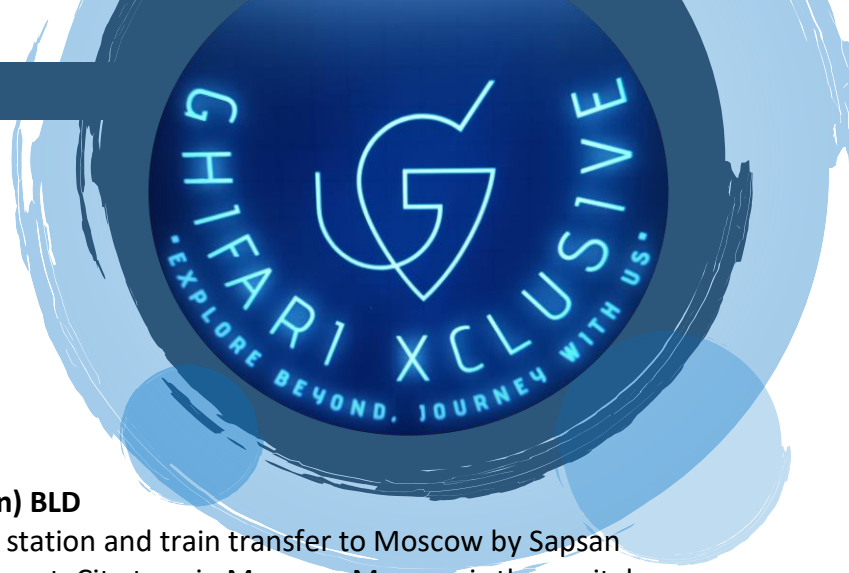
Today you will visit Independence Square, which is the main square of the country and was erected as a symbol of victory over fascism in World War II. Then you will have a chance to walk along the local Broadway, a walking street between Independence Square and Amir Timur Square. Furthermore, you can take a ride on the famous Tashkent metro, among the most beautiful subways in the world. The first line was opened in 1977. Then you will visit the old part of the city, which includes Chorsu Bazaar, Kukaldash Madrasah, and the Hast Imam complex, which consists of several madrasahs, mosques, and mausoleums. The highlight of its exhibits is the Othman Quran, which is the world's oldest Quran copy, dating back to the 8th century. Transfer to the airport and flight to Saint Petersburg. Arrival, check in to the hotel, dinner and overnight Night is in a hotel.



## Day 3, Wed: Saint Petersburg BLD

Breakfast is at the hotel. City tour in Saint Petersburg: During the tour, you will be taken out on the extra-comfortable bus, which will take you to the most precious monuments of the city's rich history and original architecture carefully preserved as the world cultural heritage. During this panoramic city-tour of Saint Petersburg, you will be able to hear amazing stories and to take fine pictures of the main architectural and historical sites like Nevsky prospect, the Kazan Cathedral, the Winter Palace, Vasilievsky Island, St. Isaac Cathedral, Peter and Paul Fortress, the Senate Square and the Palace. Afternoon will visit Hermitage – Winter Palace. Overnight is at the hotel.





#### **Day 4, Thu: Saint Petersburg – Moscow (train) BLD**

Breakfast is at the hotel. Transfer to the train station and train transfer to Moscow by Sapsan fast train. Arrival and lunch at the local restaurant. City tour in Moscow. Moscow is the capital of Russian Federation and represents a unique set of old architecture masterpieces and modern high-tech buildings. If you want to know more about the history of the Russian capital, you need to take this City tour! In only a few hours, you will have a glimpse of its main landmarks, such as the Red Square, the Kremlin, the Victory Park, the White House, the Arbat, Cathedral Christthe-Saviour, the observation platform of Sparrow hills, Lomonosov University and much more! It is an interesting and efficient introduction to Europe's biggest city. Dinner and overnight.



#### **Day 5, Fri: Moscow – Flight BLD**

Breakfast is at the hotel. City tour in Moscow: Moscow Kremlin - Visit one of the most wellknown sights of Moscow – the Kremlin with its red brick walls and 20 towers holding their own unique history. Since its first construction in 1156 as a wooden fortress by the order of Grand Duke Yuri Dolgoruky, it has been rebuilt several times. Late lunch. Visit Izmaylovo Kremlin – It is a unique authentic complex that combines museums (museum of vodka, bread, chocolate, Russian toys), art workshops, markets, and a variety of different opportunities for entertainment. The architecture of the center itself deserves a special attention: the Kremlin is a very colorful, and inside the territory there are authentic wooden buildings in traditional Russian style. Late dinner and further transfer to Moscow airport. Registration for the overnight flight to Urgench.





### Day 6, Sat: Urgench – Khiva BLD

03:30-08:50 is the flight Moscow – Urgench. Arrival and transfer to Khiva (30 km). Today you will have a wonderful sightseeing tour in the oldest city of Uzbekistan. Qala, the inner city in Khiva rounded with strong walls. Centuries old sound buildings, palaces, mosques, Madrasahs, Mausoleums, Minarets, Caravan-Sarais and Bathhouses transformed Ichan-Qala into unique city-monument. Ichan-Qala consists of over 400 traditional dwelling houses and about 60 architectural monuments. In 1969 Ichan-Qala was designated a historical and architectural conservation area. The most remarkable sites in it are the Kunya-Ark fortress dating back to 17th century, found by Muhammad Arang Khan, Kalta Minor minaret and Tash Khovli palace, an incredible sample of Khorezm architectural mastership of 1830s. Night is in a hotel.



### Day 7, Sun: Khiva – Bukhara (440 km, 8 hours) BLD

Early in the morning we will have transfer to a fascinating city of Bukhara. With its more than 140 architectural monuments Bukhara is a "town museum" dating back to the Middle Ages. The city consists of narrow streets, green parks and gardens, historical and architectural monuments belong to different epochs, but locate very close to each other. The road from Khiva to Bukhara goes through famous Kizilkum desert. On the way we will enjoy the view to Amu Darya River, the deepest river in Central Asia, formed by the confluence of the Panj and Vakhsh in Tajikistan) and flowing into Aral Sea. Upon arrival in Bukhara you will have free time. Night is in a hotel.





### Day 8, Mon: Bukhara BLD

Today you will have a full day of sightseeing tour in the fascinating city of Bukhara. At first you will visit the most ancient citadel in Bukhara dating back to the 4th century named Citadel Ark which served as a palace for several dynasties of Bukhara Empire. Then you will see Samanids mausoleum, a real masterpiece of architecture of 9th -10th century. Then the tour continues to Chashma Ayub, meaning Job's well and Bolo-Hauz Mosque, known also as the mosque of forty columns built in honor of Bukhara governor Abu-Fayud Khan. Then you have a chance to walk along the shopping domes and visit one of the most famous madrasahs of Bukhara called Nodir Divan Begi which is also a part of Lyabi House Ensemble, famous central sightseeing of Bukhara. The tour will end with visiting Poi Kalon complex, the unique sample of architectural art of Bukhara. It consists of three structures built in the 12th - 16th centuries: Kalon minaret, Kalon mosque and Mir Arab Madrasah. Night is in a hotel.



### Day 9, Tue: Bukhara BLD

Today you will have a sightseeing tour in the surrounding area of Bukhara. First you will visit Bahauddin Naqshbandi complex, located few kilometers from Bukhara. It is a memorial complex of famous Sufi Leader and philosopher, one of the Muslim pilgrimage places for all people of Islamic world. Sheikh Bahauddin Nakshbandi was one of the spiritual masters of Amir Timur. Today complex consists of mosques of Kushbegi and Muzafarohana, courtyard with pool, madrasah, and burial vault of Bukhara rulers and Dakhma upon the tomb of Saint Bahauddin Nakshbandi.



Then you will drive to see the countryside residence of Bukhara Emirs named Sitorai Mohi Hosa complex. The palace is the sample of combination of various architectural styles. Emir named the palace on behalf of his wife who died young "Star - like and moon- like Palace".



At last, you will drive to Sumiton village to find Chor Bakr memorial complex, the town of the dead. Complex symbolizes the four sides of the earth and interprets that all people are equal. Construction of the complex began during the Samanids reign until the 16<sup>th</sup> century. After excursions you will return to city. Night is in a hotel.

#### **Day 10, Wed: Bukhara – Nurata BLD**

In the morning is transfer to a small town of Nurata, located in the foothills of Nuratau Mountains. People refer the origin of the city to the fortress Nur, which was founded by Alexander the Great in 4th century BC. However, according to archeological excavations the cultural layer in this area reaches the age of 40 thousand years. Upon arrival you will have a sightseeing tour that includes: visit the Khasan- Khuseyn Mosque, blacksmiths and potter's workshops and a sacred pond with sacred fishes, a place for pilgrimage by Muslim worshipers in Nurata. Also, you will visit the Medressa of Sheihun Hasan Nury, Mamazgokh Mosque and remains of so called "Alexander the Great's Fortress". Then we will continue the drive to yurt camp in dessert. Night is in a yurt camp.



#### **Day 11, Thu: Nurata – Samarkand BLD**

Breakfast. Tourists can make one - two-hour camel tour to Aydarkul lake, the unique lake stretching for 250 km along the desert, try freshly cooked fish for a lunch, relax, swim in warm, slightly salted water and sun bath on the picturesque bank. Picnic lunch at the lake. Drive to Samarkand, en route stop over at Sariamish stone paintings - more 3 000 pictures were discovered here, on black basalt rocks- petroglyphs displaying animals, people, hunting scenes,



lifestyle and even love-making. Upon arrival to Samarkand check in and overnight is at the hotel.



### Day 12, Fri: Samarkand BLD

Samarkand is situated in the valley of the river Zerafshan. It is the second largest city of Uzbekistan and is of the same age as the city of Babylon or Rome. Today you will visit its most outstanding sights such as Registan square, Shakhi-Zindeh, Mausoleum Guri Emir and Bibi Khanum Mosque. Registan Square, a complex of three fascinating Madrasahs dating back to 15-17th centuries, is the main highlight of Samarkand that no person can stop admiring its beauty and majesty. Architectural complex of Shakhi-Zindeh represents a big collection of mausoleums dating back to 11th-15 centuries being a part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Bibi Khanum Mosque was built in honor of favorite Tamerlane's wife, after his successful campaign in India. Overnight is at the hotel.



### Day 13, Sat: Samarkand – Tashkent BLD (train)

Today you will continue exploring Samarkand city. You will visit Ulughbek observatory, built in 15th century by Ulughbek, one of the most famous Samarkand rulers and scientists. Working in observatory, Ulughbek created in 1437 the "Zidji Guragoni" catalog, which had information about 1018 celestial bodies. Unfortunately, he was killed by order of his own son. After it you can walk along the local Broadway surrounded by souvenir shops, teahouses, sweets and workshops.





Then you can visit national bazaar Siab, oriental bazaar, where it is easy to find Uzbek traditional handmade products and local sweets. Also, you will see carpet factory, a unique handmade carpet factory where over 400 women sew carpets without using traditional techniques. Afternoon transfer to Tashkent is by train. Night is in a hotel.

#### **Day 14, Sun: Tashkent – Chimgan Mountains – Tashkent BLD**

In the morning you will transfer to Chimgan Mountains. Upon arrival you will have a chair lift to reach the top to see Beldersay peak 30 min one-way. Here you will have some free time for walking around, enjoying the nature. On the way back you will stop over at Charvak lakeside beach for free time and own water activities (as per season). Charvak is an artificial lake, a popular resort in Tashkent region and thousands of holiday makers from all over Uzbekistan and neighboring countries visit the reservoir. In the end of the day is return to Tashkent. Dinner and transfer to the airport.

#### **Type of transport:**





### Pricing 2024

No of pax.	Price per person in \$\$	
	Option A	Option B
2	\$3,500	\$3,800
6	\$2,850	\$3,150
10	\$2,600	\$2,950
Single Supplement	\$300	\$650

Cities	Nights	Option A	Option B
Tashkent	2	Grand Atlas 3*	Milan 4*
Saint Petersburg	2	Bristol 3*	Izmaylovo Gamma 3*
Moscow	1	Ohtyanorskaya 4*	Izmaylovo Delta 4*
Khiva	1	Old Khiva 3*	Zarafshan Boutique 4*
Bukhara	3	Porso 3*	Omar Khayam 4*
Nurata	1	Yurts Camp	
Samarkhand	2	Malika Classic 3*	Diyora 4*





**Price includes:**

- Accommodation at mentioned hotels on double share basis
- Transportation per program in comfortable a/c transport with professional drivers
- Breakfasts at the hotels
- All lunches and dinners per program
- Train tickets in economy class:
- Saint Petersburg – Moscow – Sapsan train economy class
- Samarkand – Tashkent – Afrosiab or Shark train as per availability
- Daily two bottles of 0.5l water per person
- Escort English speaking guide, separate in Saint Petersburg, Moscow and entire Uzbekistan
- Entrance fees to mentioned sights per program

**Price does not include:**

- Visa consular fees and processing expenses
- Photo and video charges at sights
- International air tickets
- Travel Insurance
- Extras, not indicated in inclusions
- **PS:**
- Pricing valid for contracted partners only for 2024 dates
- If mentioned hotels are overbooked or not available, we will give appropriate alternative.
- If there are no free seats in bullet train, we will replace by normal train.