

**Byroads**  
*Inspiring Escorted Journeys*

# UZBEKISTAN

*Explore Uzbekistan and the fabled cities along the ancient Silk Road*

**13 DAYS STARTING – TASHKENT 18 August 2019**





# UZBEKISTAN

## Trip Outline

Lying on the crossroads of the ancient 'Silk Road', Uzbekistan remains a mystery to the masses. For centuries the great cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva were important centres of trade, wealth, culture and learning and today they are among the most exotic cities of the Islamic world. Ancient mosques covered in shimmering tilework, crowned by stunning turquoise domes etch the skyline. Together with Tashkent, these three cities form the core of our journey through this ancient and extraordinary land.

In Tashkent we ride the metro, visit the State Museum of Applied Arts and explore the fabulous Chorsu food bazaar. Next is legendary Samarkand, whose colourful history dates back over 2,500 years. Here we discover its most celebrated sights including the madrassas and mosques of the magnificent Registan. A short drive away is World Heritage-listed Shahrissabz where we explore the ruins of the conqueror Timur's palace and visit nearby Urgut and Konigil, known for their ceramics and ancient paper making workshops.

Alongside Samarkand, Bukhara is one of the great Silk Route cities of central Asia and two days allows ample time to see the principal sights and make our own discoveries. We then travel across the desert steppe to Khiva, once a slave-trading Khanate, and the most intact and homogenous of our three ancient cities. Within its baked mud brick walls we visit a wonderful carpet and textile workshop and see some stunning vernacular architecture, exploring a number of mosques, madrasas and mausoleums.

Northeast of Khiva we plan to spend a night in a traditional yurt camp, giving us a glimpse into central Asian nomadic life, before driving up to the remote town of Nukus, which boasts the world's second largest collection of Russian *avant garde* art.

An evening flight takes us back to Tashkent and our tour ends the following day.

## Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads Travel and will be your host on this tour. Steve has nearly 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He has worked with a number of well-known Australian adventure travel companies including 13 years as a Product Manager and Operations Director for Peregrine Adventures.

Most recently he has been involved in researching and developing holidays in several different regions of the world, including Latin America and the Middle East where he has lived.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing them to some of the world's most interesting places. A particular feature of his tours is the chance to see places that others often miss (or simply don't know about!), such as the incredibly ancient Khorezm fortress ruins at Ayaz Kala in the Kyzylkum Desert that date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

With our itinerary you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions – and much more, however there are some days when you'll have time to wander and make some of your own discoveries. Throughout the tour local guides are employed to provide a wealth of background information and share their extensive local knowledge.



# ITINERARY STARTS IN TASHKENT

**SUN 18 AUG: TASHKENT** – Upon arrival at Tashkent Airport you are met and transferred to your hotel. Today is simply an arrival day and we will plan to meet up in the evening. Pre-tour accommodation is available if you wish to arrive a day earlier (see back page for details).

**MON 19 AUG: TASHKENT** – We explore new and old Tashkent today, visiting the Khast Imam complex and the excellent Museum of Applied Arts. We'll also take a ride on the metro, comparable only to Moscow's celebrated subway system, and explore Chorsu Bazaar. (B)

**TUE 20 AUG: TASHKENT-SAMARKAND** – An early start sees us at the railway station for the 8.00am fast train to Samarkand, arriving two hours later. We then spend the rest of the day seeing the highlights of this stunning city, including the Registan complex, Gur Amir mausoleum, the Shah-I-Zinda complex, the bazaar and more. (B)

**WED 21 AUG: URGUT, KONIGIL** – Driving southwest from Samarkand we reach the mountain village of Urgut, known particularly for its excellent ceramics. We visit a local workshop before continuing to nearby Konigil, where the ancient art of papermaking can still be seen. We return to Samarkand in the afternoon, with ample time to explore further. (B)

**THU 22 AUG: SHAHRISABZ** – The World Heritage-listed town of Shahrisabz was the birthplace of Timur and contains several impressive Timurid monuments, including the White Palace built in 1380. You have the option of visiting Shahrisabz, or staying back in Samarkand to make your own discoveries. (B)

**FRI 23 AUG: SAMARKAND-BUKHARA** – It's a longish drive to Bukhara and along the way we stop to visit the remains of the Ribat-I Malik Caravanserai, one of several 11<sup>th</sup> century inns built along the northern Silk Road. We continue to the ancient reservoir at Sardoba before arriving in Bukhara mid-afternoon, where we visit the Chor Minar and Lyabi Hauz. (B)

**SAT 24 AUG: BUKHARA** – Like Samarkand, there is much to see and do here and we spend our day exploring its most celebrated sights including the Ishmael Samani Mausoleum, Arg, Kalon complex and Ulu Beg. There's also time for a hamam. (B)

**SUN 25 AUG: BUKHARA** – We continue our sightseeing today, with the chance to visit craft centres and a carpet shop. The afternoon is then free to explore further or browse the bazaars. (B)

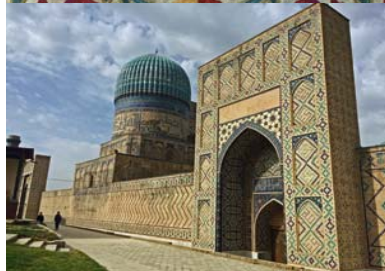
**MON 26 AUG: BUKHARA-KHIVA** – Today is the longest day of the trip (around 8 hours) as we head north across the steppe to the remote mud brick town of Khiva. We can stop along the way for a picnic lunch and plan to arrive in the late afternoon. (B)

**TUE 27 AUG: KHIVA** – The old quarter of Khiva is UNESCO listed and contains some fine monuments, notably the Juma (Friday) Mosque. There are also a number of craft workshops including a carpet weaving and suzani (embroidered textile) project, where original plant dyes and ancient designs are still employed. We spend our day exploring the mosque, madrasa, minarets, bazaars and workshops of this homogenous old city. (B)

**WED 28 AUG: KHIVA-AYAZ KALA** – The morning is free for further exploration and after time for lunch we drive north east into the edge of the desert, to Ayaz Kala and Topraq Kala – both ruined mud brick citadels dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Tonight we sleep 'dormitory-style', on the floor of traditional yurts. It's a great introduction into the traditional way of life of the nomads. *Note: If weather conditions are not conducive to sleeping in the yurts, we will visit the citadels and return to Khiva for the night.* (B)

**THU 29 AUG: AYAZ KALA-NUKUS** – Northeast of Ayaz Kala is the city of Nukus, where our focus is its outstanding art gallery. Opened in 1966, the museum houses a collection of over 82,000 items, ranging from antiquities from Khorezm to Karakalpak folk art, Uzbek fine art and, uniquely, the world's second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art. We visit the gallery and then fly back to Tashkent in the evening, where we are transferred back to our hotel. (B)

**FRI 30 AUG: TASHKENT** – Our tour ends today. Taxis can be easily arranged at the hotel to take you out to the airport. Extra nights are also available (see back page for details). (B)



## Prices & Inclusions

### 13 Days Uzbekistan Tour

**Price in US Dollars: USD 3050 (per person twin-share)**

**Single Supplement: USD 685**

**Price includes:** Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local tour guide, arrival transfer, all local transportation, 12 nights accommodation and meals as indicated.

**Not Included:** Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), flights, additional meals, drinks, departure transfer, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips.

**Transportation:** Our transport is in a comfortable air-conditioned minibus or coach.

**Accommodation:** Contrary to popular opinion, Uzbek hotels are fine. Rooms can be quite small and 4\* hotels might be considered closer to 3\* by international travellers, but we've selected what we think are some of the best hotels in the country, in terms of character, service and location. In Tashkent we stay in a renovated Soviet-era style hotel. In Samarkand our traditional-style hotel is minutes from all the sights. In Bukhara our small, Uzbek-style hotel gets great reviews. In Khiva our hotel is by the gates of the old city and again among the best available – and the yurt experience is relatively comfortable and a great cultural experience.



Comfortable 4\* hotel in Tashkent



Traditional-style hotel in Samarkand



Courtyard hotel in Bukhara



Just outside our Bukhara hotel



The best location in Khiva



Nomadic yurt accommodation

**Food and drink:** Breakfast is included every day along with dinner at the yurt camp. Elsewhere, we enjoy the great variety of local food on offer. Beer, wine, vodka, soft drinks, tea, coffee and bottled water is all widely available.

**Group size:** Maximum 16

**Additional Expenses:** Food is not expensive in Uzbekistan. You should allow US\$5-\$10 for a light lunch and around US\$15-\$20 for dinner. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour guide, driver and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

**Bookings:** Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

**Travel on Q** (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: [travel@travelonq.com.au](mailto:travel@travelonq.com.au)

**Currency:** Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in United States Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

**Flights and Transfers:** Korean Airlines fly to Tashkent via Seoul. Uzbekistan Airways fly from Dubai, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. Turkish Airlines has flights from Istanbul and there are options from Moscow. An arrival transfer is included; however the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request. Travel on Q will be able to assist you with your flights and advise you on your best options.

**Extra Nights in Tashkent:** Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

**Visas:** As of January 2019 Uzbekistan visas are no longer required for Australian and New Zealand passport holders.

**Documentation:** Upon receipt of final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

**What Next?** Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at [www.byroads.com.au](http://www.byroads.com.au).





# BOOKING FORM

Byroads Travel is the operator of your tour. Byroads Travel (henceforth referred to as Byroads) is a registered trading name of Byroads Pty Ltd (ABN 88 615 738 746).

Travel on Q (Bonard Pty Ltd, ABN 40 059 566 184) acts as the sole booking agent for Byroads.

## RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A deposit is payable on all tours. The amount payable is stated in the Byroads brochure. This deposit must be paid to Travel on Q and accompanied by a signed booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and signing the Booking Form you accept these conditions.

Your Byroads tour will only be confirmed once the deposit and signed booking form have been received. This Booking Form forms the basis of your contract between you and Byroads.

Travel on Q is an agent of Byroads.

## PAYMENT

Payments may be made to Travel on Q by direct deposit or by credit card. If paying by credit card the following surcharges will be applied to the cost of your tour arrangements: 1.65% for Visa and MasterCard, 2.26% for American Express, and 3.85 % for Diners Club.

## FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

## CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- \*Cancellation up to 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- \*from 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- \* from 44 to 15 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- \*within 14 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilised.

## AMENDMENTS

Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation will incur a fee of \$50 per change per file, in addition to any change fees levied by Travel on Q, airlines, or any other service provider. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements will incur a fee, of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched,

any amendment will incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

## TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

## TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice. If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, all monies paid in respect of the tour will be refunded in full less any credit card fees collected.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather conditions such as floods or earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour after it has commenced. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads and Travel on Q shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operates soft adventure tours. All participants are required to be fit and healthy. Some of the hotels used by Byroads may not have lifts or porters so you must be prepared at times to carry your own suitcase. Before travelling with Byroads, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to areas through which you will be travelling.

## ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Australian passport holders must have at least 6 months validity on their passport after the date of return to Australia. Visas are

required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them. Travel on Q can assist with this process. Non Australian passport holders are asked to check passport and visa requirements at the time of booking.

## ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour includes hotel accommodation, transportation, transfers as specified, sightseeing and meals as indicated in the tour brochure. It does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls etc. or any other incidental expenses.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance including full cover for repatriation. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances. If on the first day of your tour you cannot provide evidence that you have purchased comprehensive travel insurance you will be required to purchase a policy before proceeding with your tour.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our trips as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

- (i) any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a trip, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;
- (ii) Travel on Q acts only as agent for Byroads and accepts no responsibility for the acts and omissions of Byroads or any of its associated service providers for any inaccuracies in information provided, negligence, loss, damage, omission, accident, detention, diversion or theft in regard to luggage or any personal belongings whatsoever.
- (iii) you release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of or in connection with your participation in a trip; and
- (iv) any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty), is excluded

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar trip to an equivalent value; or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss, however it arises, or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

## APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a trip or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts Victoria, Australia.