



*Itinerary specially designed for  
Creative Photography Workshops  
Mike Langford and Jackie Ranken  
Via-Victoria Keating - Xtravel*

*Uzbekistan: October 18- November 2 2024*



**Double Twin share NZD \$10,688 per person**  
**Solo Room NZD \$11,596**

Ten in the group plus Mike Langford and Jackie Ranken as instructors



Uzbekistan is a Central Asian nation and former Soviet republic. It's known for its mosques, mausoleums and other sites linked to the Silk Road, the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean. Samarkand, a major city on the route, contains a landmark of Islamic architecture: the Registan, a plaza bordered by 3 ornate, mosaic-covered religious schools dating to the 15th and 17th centuries.

## Itinerary in brief:

Day	City	Program
Day 01	Tashkent	Arrive in Tashkent, transfer to your Hotel.
Day 02	Tashkent	Morning sightseeing tour of Tashkent, afternoon at leisure
Day 03	Tashkent	Photography Day with Mike and Jackie (subways)
Day 04	Samarkand	Transfer to Tashkent railway station, train to Samarkand
Day 05	Samarkand	Sightseeing tour Samarkand
Day 06	Samarkand	Day excursion to Shakhreizabz
Day 07	Samarkand	Photography Day with Mike and Jackie at the best sights
Day 08	Bukhara	Transfer to Samarkand railway station, train to Bukhara
Day 09	Bukhara	Sightseeing tour of Bukhara
Day 10	Bukhara	Photography Day with Mike and Jackie at the best sights
Day 11	Khiva	Transfer to Bukhara railway station, train to Khiva
Day 12	Khiva	Sightseeing tour of Khiva
Day 13	Khiva	Photography Day with Mike and Jackie at the best sights
Day 14	Khiva	Khiva fortress tour
Day 15	Tashkent	Transfer to Khiva airport, flight to Tashkent
Day 16	Tashkent	Transfer to Tashkent airport, flight to onward destination

## Hotels included:

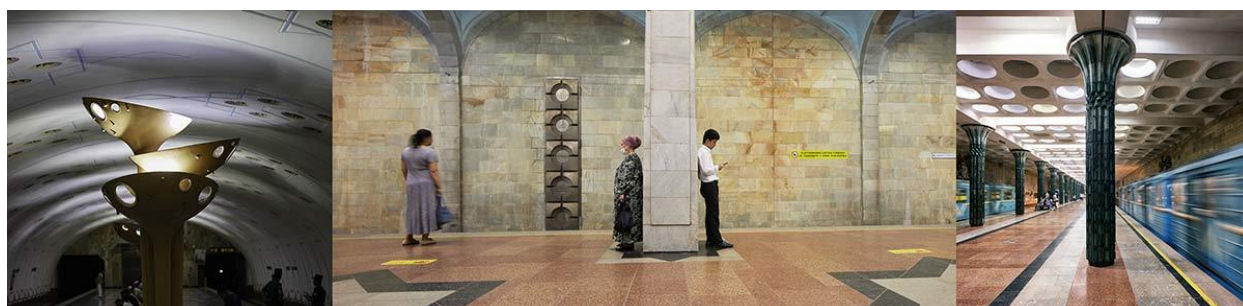
CITY	NIGHTS	HOTELS	Room Category
Tashkent	03	Hotel Uzbekistan	Standard Room
Samarkand	04	Sangzor Boutique Hotel	Standard Room
Bukhara	03	Hotel Minorai Kalon	Standard Room
Khiva	04	Zarafshon Botique hotel	Standard Room
Tashkent	01	Hotel Uzbekistan	Standard Room

**Program:** *Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara - Khiva - Tashkent*

**D1: Fri, 18Oct** *Tashkent*

TBA

Arrive in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, with a population of 3 million people, it is the largest city in Central Asia. This large metropolis reflects the historical development of the country from its architectural monuments of oriental design to its Soviet planned street layout and its modern glass high buildings. The area of modern Tashkent was already settled in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC. Its name literally translates as "stone city". It has been destroyed several times in history; the most recent damage came from the earthquake in 1966 when many of its ancient historical monuments were destroyed. Thus Tashkent today is a modern city with a wide variety of restaurants and shopping opportunities



After completing customs and immigration formalities, you will be met & assisted by our representative for your arrival transfer to the hotel.

*Your accommodation in Tashkent: Three nights in **Hotel Uzbekistan (4\*)** in Standard room including breakfast*

Rest of the day is at leisure

**D2: Sat, 19Oct**

**Tashkent**

**(B)**

Morning, proceed for city tour of Tashkent. The tour includes visits to: Old City, Hazrati Imam Complex, Kafelsashi Complex, Barak Khana, Tila Shaikh Mosque, Chorsu Bazaar, Kukeldash Madrassah.



While we move to our first sight, you will hear general information about the city, learn how it became the capital. In the northern part of Tashkent we visit a memorial complex built in the Islamic architectural style, where we will see blue domes, Khiva ornaments and carved glazed terracotta. You will also admire the Tashkent TV tower - the highest in Central Asia. Not far from the tower, a flame burns under the cauldrons of the Pilaf Center. You will see how pilaf is cooked in giant cauldrons, which in a few hours will be eaten by thousands of guests and residents of the capital.

We will look into the white marble Minor Mosque, you will learn about the Tashkent earthquake at the Courage monument, and then, after passing the Ankhor Canal, we will go to the Old City.

Rest of the day is at leisure

**D3: Sun, 20Oct**

**Tashkent**

**(B)**

Photography Day with Mike and Jackie (Tashkent Subways)

**D4: Mon, 21Oct**

**Tashkent - Samarkand**

**(B)**

Today, you will be transferred to railway station to connect the train to Samarkand. Samarkand Crossroad of Cultures is the official moniker used to describe this city as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Samarkand conjures up images of ancient times and sounds almost mythical.

However, this is no fairytale: Samarkand today is a lively city which cherishes its traditions. Archaeological excavations have revealed a history which dates back 3500 years; the town of Afrosiab was founded in the 7th century BC. The area was continuously inhabited and served as a melting pot of diverse cultures. It was conquered by Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan, was the sumptuous capital of the Timurid Empire and played an important role in the development of Islamic architecture and arts. You won't want to miss Registan square, the Bibi Khanum

and Gur Emir Mausoleums, the Shah-i-Zinda complex, Afrosiab & the Ulughbek Observatory

TBA  
TBA

Depart from Tashkent by train.  
Arrive in Samarkand.

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your Hotel.

*Your accommodation in Samarkand: Four nights in Sangzor Boutique Hotel including breakfast*

Afternoon free for own activities



**D5: Tue, 22Oct**

**Samarkand**

**(B)**

Sightseeing tour today - Registan square, the Bibi Khanum and Gur Emir Mausoleums, the Shah-i-Zinda complex, Afrosiab & the Ulughbek Observatory, Konigil village

Afternoon is at your leisure.

**D6: Wed, 23Oct**

**Samarkand - Shahrizabz - Samarkand**

**(B)**

Today, we will take a day excursion to Shakhrisabz (90 kms/2 hrs one way).

Upon arrival, we will proceed for a short city tour in Shakhrisabz. Visit Mausoleum of Jakhongir in Dor-us Saodat Memorial Complex, remains of Ak-Saray Palace, Dor-ut Tilavat Ensemble with Kok-Gumbaz Mosque and burial vault of Tamerlane's father.

Later, we will return to Samarkand.

**D7: Thu, 24Oct**

**Samarkand**

**(B)**

Photography Day with Mike and Jackie at the best sights

**D8: Fri, 25Oct**

**Samarkand - Bukhara**

**(B)**

At an appointed time, you will be transferred to Samarkand railway station to connect the train to Bukhara.

Bukhara, the historic centre of Bukhara has been an important base for Islamic theology and science for several centuries. Its well-preserved city center was

recognized by UNESCO as an exemplary medieval city. City planning, urban, economic and scientific development in Bukhara had a large impact on the Islamic World in the Middle ages. The earliest architectural monument is the tomb of Ismail Somoni dating back to the 10th century. For seven centuries up until the 16th century, it was the largest Islamic center for the study of Sufism with hundreds of mosques and madrasas or learning places. World-renowned scholar Avicenna was born near Bukhara and grew up there. While in Bukhara we'd recommend taking a stroll around the old city to savor its architectural legacy and imagine you bargaining as they would have done in medieval times

TBA Depart from Samarkand by train.  
TBA Arrive in Bukhara.

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your Hotel.

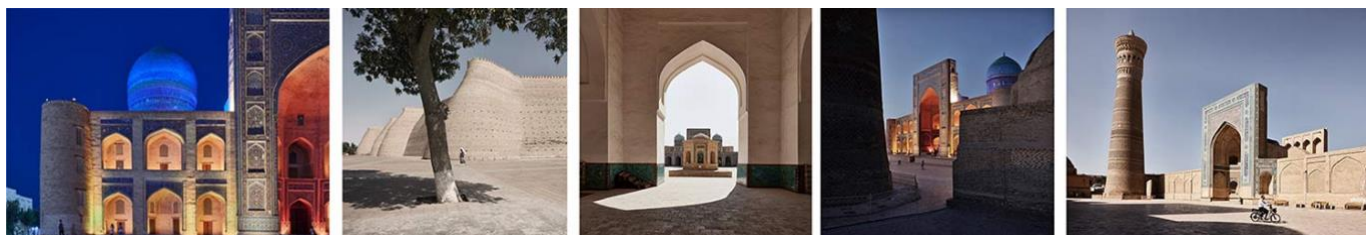
*Your accommodation in Bukhara: Three nights in **Hotel Minorai-Kalon (4\*)** including breakfast*

Afternoon – OWN ARRANGEMENTS

**D9: Sat, 26Oct Bukhara (B)**

Sightseeing Tour of Bukhara

Evening dinner & Cultural show at Madrassa



**D10: Sun, 27Oct Bukhara (B)**

Photography Day with Mike and Jackie at the best sights

**D11: Mon, 28Oct Bukhara - Khiva (B)**

At an appointed time, you will be transferred to Bukhara railway station to connect the train to Khiva.

Khiva, is the first UNESCO World Heritage site in Uzbekistan was inscribed in 1990 noting its importance in the exceptional heritage of ancient Silk Road traditions. Itchan Kala, which literally translates as the inner part of the old city, is surrounded by thick mud walls. It contains 51 monuments and is although around 250 households still make their home inside, it feels more like an open-air museum. Looking down from Djuma minaret or the city walls, it's hard to imagine this is the 21st century. It is here in Khiva that the scholar Al-Khoresmi, the father of algebra, was born and introduced algorithms to the world. Take a guided tour to get to know the stories that feature in the history of this fascinating city.

TBA Depart from Bukhara by train.

TBA

Arrive in Khiva.

Upon arrival you will be transferred to your Hotel.

*Your accommodation in Khiva: Four nights in **Zarafshon Botique hotel** including breakfast*

Rest of the day is at leisure.

**D12: Tue, 29Oct**

**Khiva**

**(B)**

Morning, we will start our journey through the ancient city known as “A Thousand and One Nights” Khiva, an integral part of ancient Khorezm, the homeland of Algebra. Today, we start our excursion with the discovery of the Ichan Kala (inner fortress, 10th-19th centuries) complex in Khiva, which occupies an area of 26 hectares and it was surrounded by a thick and high fortress wall. In addition, it is also known as the “open-air museum city”.

Muhammad Amin-Khan Madrasah And Kalta Minor Minaret: The largest madrasah in Khiva was built by Khiva khan Muhammad Aminkhan, next to it, the Kalta Minor Minaret took place, which attracted everyone with its wonderful colours and appearance.



Onto the Kunya-Ark Citadel: One of the oldest and most beautiful eye catching buildings in Khiva is the Khan’s Palace, which is divided into four courtyards. By visiting this ruler’s residence, you will discover with your own eyes how the rulers of the past lived in those times.

Next, we will proceed to a wonderful photo opportunity at Ok Shaykh Baba Teresa: Allows you to observe the whole beauty of Khiva in the form of a panorama and it is a great chance to test your photography skills.

We’ll visit the Muhammad Rahim-Khan (Feruz) Madrasah: It was built by the order of one of the most revered khans of Khiva, and it is also one of the most beautiful madrassas in the city and it consists of a mosque, a porch, a classroom, a library and rooms.

You will be awed by the Friday Mosque: It is known as one of the first mosques built in Central Asia (10th-18th centuries). It will amaze you with its 227 unique wooden pillars and you will not come across such a unique mosque anywhere else in the world.

Rest of the day is at leisure

**D13: Wed, 30Oct Khiva**

**(B)**

Photography Day with Mike and Jackie at the best sights

**D14: Thu, 31Oct Khiva**

**(B)**

Today, we will explore the desert fortresses of Karakalpakistan from Khiva on this day trip. Already 2000 years ago, people who lived in the fertile Amu-Darya delta built many fortresses to defend themselves against the invasions of nomadic tribes, who lived with their herds in the Kyzyl-Kum desert. Most of the fortresses are located at the edge of the Sultan Uiz Dag mountain range. With this day trip to the deserts around Khiva, you will have a chance to explore the ancient desert capitals of Khorezm and learn about the fascinating legends related to them.

Rest of the day is at your leisure

**D15: Fri, 01Nov Khiva - Tashkent**

**(B)**

At an appointed time, you will be transferred to Khiva airport to connect the flight to Tashkent.

TBA Depart from Khiva by flight.  
TBA Arrive in Tashkent.

Upon arrival you will be transferred to your Hotel.

*Your accommodation in Tashkent: One night in **Hotel Uzbekistan (4\*)** including breakfast*

Rest of the day is at leisure

**D16: Sat, 02Nov Tashkent**

**(B)**

Today at an appointed time, you will be transferred to airport to connect the flight for your onward destination.

TBA Depart from Tashkent by flight.

\*\*\*\*\* *End of our services*\*\*\*\*\*

- *Meals mentioned above: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner*
- *International flights in the program are not arranged by Exotic Holidays*
- *All pick up times will be advised locally, a day before*
- *For arrival transfers, you will be paged by your Surname by the Representatives*

**Book with confidence**

At Exotic Holidays we believe that you should automatically expect your holiday to run smoothly and meet your requirements, so you won't find us getting over-excited about the fact that we are good at what we do. We want to redefine what you can expect; our team of professionals will work in partnership with your expert travel agent to help you plan the perfect holiday and ensure a seamless, trouble-free experience.

We know you have high expectations, so we do not leave the task of fulfilling them to just anyone. Our travel designers are true 'specialists' – most have over 10 years experience in the industry – and travel regularly to the destinations and properties within our portfolio. This first-hand, up-to-date and intimate knowledge means that they can truly advise you; from the most suitably located Hotel to that exhilarating place to snorkel or from the ultimate honeymoon location to that suitably challenging golf course!

Our close working relationships with all of our overseas partners means that every effort is made to confirm even the smallest of special requests. We understand how valuable and precious your holiday time can be.

Finally, we believe that it is our task to recognize the key ingredients that make a memorable holiday and to ensure that you, our valued client, get that extra special experience.

Our high level of customer satisfaction, high service standards and attention to detail has seen us being recognized as:

