

## “3 STANS” AND CAUCASUS – 27 DAYS ITINERARY – 2025 (UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA)

### 1 OCTOBER 9 THURSDAY – ARRIVAL TO TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

Welcome to Uzbekistan! Upon your arrival to Tashkent airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check. We will have a welcome dinner at 7PM with short introduction about Uzbekistan – one of the economically developed states of the Central Asian



region, occupying a bit more than 11% of the territory of Central Asia. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the cotton growing, silk production, fruit and vegetable production and irrigation construction. Overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.



 Tashkent

### 2 OCTOBER 10 FRIDAY – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel, today we'll have a full day of sightseeing of Uzbekistan's capital city Tashkent. While full day of sightseeing in Tashkent for many travelers seems as a necessary stopover en route to the dream destinations, this historical city holds many unexpected surprises. First half of the day we'll visit to old part of the city: Khast Imam Complex which displays unique Osman Koran thought to be the world's oldest Koran. Chorsu bazaar - is one of the oldest, biggest bazaars of Tashkent. Madrasah Kukeldash – is a significant architectural sights of the 16th century. After lunch we will continue on to modern part of the city: Independence Square called Mustakillik, the main square of Tashkent, flanked by largest public buildings and walls of fountains. A. Navoi theatre square built in 1947 by Japanese prisoners in World War II. Visits to museum of Amir Timur and museum of Handicraft Art will end our excursion of Tashkent, and we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.



 Tashkent

**3****OCTOBER 11 SATURDAY – TASHKENT – SAMARKAND – 190 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)**

After breakfast we will take a train to world famous Samarkand located 190 mi. from Tashkent. The road to Samarkand passes through Syrdarya and Jizzakh provinces and takes approximately 3 hours. We will arrive to Samarkand in the afternoon, check in to a hotel and have lunch. After short rest we'll start our excursion of Samarkand by visiting Paper Mills Factory where we'll have a presentation of paper production from mulberry tree, Afrasiab Museum, Ulugbek's observatory – dated to 1428 - 1429 – known as biggest observatory of the East with best equipment to the time. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll transfer to a hotel for overnight in Samarkand.

**4****OCTOBER 12 SUNDAY – SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)**

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Samarkand. Visit heart of the city – Registan Square which played a great role in commercial and scientific life of the time. Gur Emir Mausoleum - mausoleum for the males of Timurid dynasty, a real masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. Shaki Zinda Necropolis in the northern outskirts of Samarkand. Bibi-Khanum Mosque construction of which started in 1399 after Victorian campaign of Timur to India. Central bazaar of Samarkand – Siab where we'll taste famous round bread (non) made only in Samarkand. After this long day, we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight in Samarkand.

**5****OCTOBER 13 MONDAY – SAMARKAND – BUKHARA – 172 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)**

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart Samarkand for Bukhara. Stop on the way at the ruins of medieval monument Caravanserai Rabat-i-Malik. Continue driving to Bukhara via Gijduvan where we'll visit Abdulla's pottery house where we'll be offered short presentation and a cup of tea. Upon arrival to Bukhara, we'll accommodate at the hotel. Visit Chor Minor memorial. Today we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and will overnight in Bukhara.



## 6 OCTOBER 14 TUESDAY – BUKHARA (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast we'll have a full day of sightseeing of this ancient city. Bukhara is one of most historically rich cities on the Great Silk Road attracting attention of thousands of people with its unique heritage. Today we'll visit: Samanid dynasty mausoleum known to be one of the best architectural samples of the Samanid period (875 - 999). Chashma Ayub Mausoleum – legend says of the Prophet Job. Bolo – Khauz Mosque. The Ark Fortress – Citadel is the most ancient memorial of Bukhara, on archeological matter dated to the 3rd century B.C. Kalon Complex – consists of minaret, Mosque and Madrasah both of which are still active. Magoki Attori Mosque. Ulugbek and Abdulazizi Khan madrasahs. Next we'll visit the most popular place of Bukhara – reservoir Lyabi Khauz, complex built in 1620 by khans' dignitary Nodir Devan Begi. We'll end the day with a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Today we'll overnight in Bukhara.



## 7 OCTOBER 15 WEDNESDAY – BUKHARA – FARAB – TURKMENABAT – MARY – 290 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/TURKMENISTAN)

After early breakfast we'll say goodbye to Uzbekistan as we make our way to Turkmenistan border which is almost 1.5 hours of driving away. Upon arrival to the border we'll go through custom procedures. Guide and transport will be waiting for you on Turkmenistan side.

We'll continue driving to the city of

Mary, about 150 mi, we'll be crossing one of the biggest deserts in the world known as Garagum Desert which means "black sand". En route we will stop to visit some amazing sand dunes of Garagum Desert. Upon arrival in Mary we'll check in to hotel and rest. Dinner and lunch we will have in the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Mary.



## 8 OCTOBER 16 THURSDAY – MARY – ASHGABAT – 237 MI. (TURKMENISTAN)



After breakfast, we will have a morning drive to Bayramaly and have sightseeing tour of Old Merv. Today's excursion at Old Merv will include: Gyz Gala and Oglan Gala, Complex of Askhabs, Gyaur Gala, Erk Gala, Soltan Gala, Shrine and Pilgrimage Complex of Yusup Hemadani: famous scholar who was the founder of Sufism, Soltan Sanjar Mausoleum, Ibn Zeid Mausoleum. After Old Merv we'll drive back to Mary. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch break proceed with sightseeing in Mary visiting: Local United Museum of History, Ethnography, Flora and Fauna of Mary, Orthodox Church built by Russians at the end of XIX century, Regional Mosque of Mary Province, Central Theater of Mary, Convention and Conference Center "Ruhiyet Koshgi", Central Park and Monument of Mollanepes - the National Classic Poet who lived in Mary. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Mary for flight to Ashgabat by flight T5-134. Departure time at 18:55

(subject to change). Upon arrival we'll transfer to hotel with en route dinner in local restaurant. Accommodate and overnight at a hotel in Ashgabat.



## 9 OCTOBER 17 FRIDAY – ASHGABAT – NISSA – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

Today after breakfast we'll have a full day Sightseeing in/around Ashgabat. Today's sightseeing includes: Memorial Complex with Monuments for Victims of World War II, Patriotic Wars of XIXcc & Monument for the Victims of the Earthquake of 1948, "Turkmenbashynyn Ruhy Metjidi": the largest mosque in Central Asia & Mausoleum Complex of the tombs of Turkmenbashy (first President of Turkmenistan S. Nyyazow) and his parents with his brothers, Old Nissa-The Sanctuary of Parhian Kings. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break you will continue with a half day sightseeing in Ashgabat including: Museum of Turkmen Carpets, Park dedicated to Turkmen horses-the pride of Turkmen, Gulistan Bazar which is known as "Russian Bazaar" in public, Monument of Lenin which was erected in 1927 and was one those few monuments which survived the earthquake of 1948, making it the oldest standing monuments in Ashgabat, Ertogrul Gazy Mosque. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. After dinner break night driving city tour along the main avenues/streets of Ashgabat including one stop near Palace of Happiness to have colorful views of night lights of Ashgabat which makes it one of the spectacular cities of Central Asia. Overnight in Ashgabat.



## 10 OCTOBER 18 SATURDAY – ASHGABAT – DASHOGUZ (TURKMENISTAN)



Today after breakfast we will have another full day of sightseeing in Ashgabat which will include: Complex of Monuments of Oguz Han and Sons surrounded with fountain complex. Ashgabat's famous "Altyn Asyr" Oriental Bazaar – Jygyldyk. Lunch in one of the local restaurants in Ashgabat. After lunch proceed to the National Museum of History. After Museum sightseeing of Monuments of Archabil Shayoly (Berzengi), we'll see monuments and parks: Monument of Constitution, "Alem" Culture and Recreation Center, Arch of Neutrality. We'll proceed with late afternoon transfer to the airport of Ashgabat for flight to Dashoguz, flight T5-113. Departure at 18.55 (subject to change).



Upon arrival transfer to have dinner at local restaurant. After dinner accommodation and rest. Overnight in Dashoguz.



**11** OCTOBER 19 SUNDAY – DASHOGUZ – KUNYA – URGENCH – KHIVA – 184 MI. (TURKMENISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast we will have a morning drive about 70 mi to Koneurgench - the capital of Khorezmshahs. The sightseeing of the Old City will include: Turabek Hanum Mausoleum, Kutlug Timur Minaret - one of the tallest minarets in Central Asia, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum, Academy of Horezm, Il Arslan Mausoleum, Mausoleums of Najm Ed Din and Soltan Ali, located near Dash Metjit/Medrese. After sightseeing of Koneurgench we'll drive back to Dashoguz where you will stop for a lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break transfer to the border pass "Dashoguz-Shavat" located close to Dashoguz. Upon arrival we'll proceed through passport control and customs procedures. After border formalities on both sides we'll continue our way to Khiva. Upon arrival we'll accommodate in hotel in Khiva for rest and relaxation. Khiva is a fascinating place, walk through Ichan Kala – old walled city of Khiva, will give you an insight into the life led there from ancient days up to the present time. We'll have a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Overnight at a hotel in Khiva.



**12** OCTOBER 20 MONDAY – KHIVA – URGENCH – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)



After breakfast at hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing in Khiva: visit Ichan Kala – a UNESCO World Heritage Site including madrasah Muhammad Amin Khan, Kelta Minar, Kunya Ark, madrasah Muhammad Rakhimkhan. We'll have lunch at local restaurant and continue sightseeing program: visit Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Islam Khodja Minaret and Madrasah, Djuma Mosque and Minaret, Tash Hovli Palace. After dinner at the local restaurant we'll proceed to airport for a flight back to Tashkent leaving at 08:40PM and arriving at 10:10PM (subject to change). Upon arrival to Tashkent, we'll accommodate in hotel for overnight and rest.



**13** OCTOBER 21 TUESDAY – TASHKENT – OYBEK – KHUJAND – 104 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/TAJIKISTAN)

After early breakfast at the hotel in Tashkent today we'll head on to a one-day excursion of Tajikistan. We'll drive to the border check point Oybek and after border crossing formalities we'll continue on to city Khujand. Upon arrival we'll accommodate at the hotel after a long drive and start sightseeing. Khujand – the country's second largest city – situated in the north of Tajikistan and is one of its most ancient, founded about 2300 years ago during the time of Alexander the Great. Standing in a favorable location in the Ferghana valley, Khujand prospered for a long time, becoming rich and building palaces, mosques, and citadels. In the 13th century it was conquered and destroyed by the Genghis Khan's army. We'll have a close city tour in second part of the day, and end the day with a dinner followed by a folk show program. We'll overnight in Khujand.



**14** OCTOBER 22 WEDNESDAY — KHUJAND — OYBEK — TASHKENT — 104 MI. (TAJIKISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll continue sightseeing of Khujand, visit ancient part of Khujand: Timurmalik fortress, Archeology and History museums, Orient bazaar Panjshanbe – famous Panjshanbe city market is one of the most interesting sights of Khujand. Near the market we'll stop by Sheikh Muslihiddin Mosque and Mausoleum, Museum of Archaeology and Fortification. We'll have lunch at the local restaurant and in the afternoon transfer back to Tashkent. Once back to Uzbekistan, we'll have a rest at the hotel before making a long way back home. We'll have a Farewell dinner followed by a show program and return to hotel for overnight in Tashkent.



**15** OCTOBER 23 THURSDAY — TASHKENT — BAKU (UZBEKISTAN/AZERBAIJAN)



After breakfast today, we'll transfer to airport of Tashkent for flight to Baku. Depending on flight schedule we'll have time to rest before or after the flight. Upon your arrival to Baku airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check in and rest. We'll have dinner at 7PM with short introduction about Azerbaijan – one of the economically developed states of the Caucasus region, located at the shore of Caspian Sea. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the oil drilling due to reach deposits of oil and gas in Azerbaijan. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Baku.



**16** OCTOBER 24 FRIDAY — BAKU — GOBUSTAN — BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend a day in Azerbaijan having an excursion to Gabustan where we'll see more that 4000 rock-cravings which describe like style of ancient inhabitants of area near Caspian Sea. In the evening we'll have a dinner at one of the local restaurants followed with folk show program. We'll overnight at a hotel in Baku.



## **17** OCTOBER 25 SATURDAY – BAKU – ABSHERON PENINSULA – BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend the morning sightseeing capital of Azerbaijan – city of Baku. Sightseeing will include: panoramic view of the city, visit Shirvan Shahs Palace, Maiden Tower architectural monument of 12th century, Caravanserai. After lunch break at one of the local restaurants we'll visit Absheron Peninsula – the Fire Worshippers Temple in Surakhany district, historical architectural monument of the 17th. Visit Mardakan Fortresses. Have acquaintance with the oil industry in Azerbaijan. Continue on with excursion to “Yanar Dag” – the Fire Mountain. We'll have dinner at the local restaurant at the end of the day and overnight at a hotel in Baku.



## **18** OCTOBER 26 SUNDAY – BAKU – SHAMAKHI – MARAZA – SHEKI (AZERBAIJAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll spend most of the day in transfer from Baku to Sheki. The transfer will take 4 hours and we'll cover almost 220 mi. En route we'll visit mud volcanoes, Diri Baba mausoleum in Maraza, Yeddi Gumbez and Cuma mosque in Shamakhi. We'll have lunch break at the restaurant in route. Upon arrival to Sheki, we'll accommodate at the hotel, have some time to rest and then head for dinner. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Sheki.



## **19** OCTOBER 27 MONDAY – SHEKI – GEORGIA BORDER – TELAVI (AZERBAIJAN/GEORGIA)

Today after breakfast at the hotel, we'll have a half day excursion of Sheki and Shebeke visiting Khan's palace and museum of history. After we'll have lunch at the local restaurant we'll be transferred to the border between Azerbaijan and Georgia called Lagodekhi. Once border formalities will be completed, we'll continue sightseeing tour in Georgia, visiting Gremi complex – is the capital of Kakheti province. Visit local family to observe Georgian bread 'Shoti' baking in "Tone" and taste local cheese with freshly baked bread. You'll be offered a cup of simple coffee and we'll move on to Telavi. Upon arrival we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants, accommodate at hotel for rest, overnight at a hotel in Telavi.



## **20** OCTOBER 28 TUESDAY – TELAVI – SIGHNAGHI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Kakheti region well known for its wine producing. Visit Great Caucasus Mountains and valleys of Kakheti, observe traditions and culture of the country, taste wines and delicious food. We visit 11th century Alaverdi Cathedral operating as a monastery. Later transfer to Tsinandali Garden and the Museum – estate of 19th

century Georgian Duke. After excursion we'll enjoy a glass of wine and continue to a farmer's house to see a unique 300-year-old wine-cellar. We'll get acquainted with the Georgian way of wine-making, quite different from the European and drink more Georgian wine straight from the clay jars. Transfer to the fortified town of love – Signaghi. Here we take a leisure walk and enjoy more wine-tasting at a winery established by an American painter. Afterwards we'll continue making our way to Tbilisi. We'll have lunch and dinner at local restaurants on the way. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.



### **21** OCTOBER 29 WEDNESDAY – TBILISI – MTSKHETA – GORI – GUDAURI (GEORGIA)

Today after breakfast we'll have an excursion to the ancient capital and religious center of Georgia – Mtskheta dated 3000 years back and see its historical places: Jvari church built in 6th century and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral built in 11th century– known as the place where the Robe of Christ is buried –a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later we'll transfer to town of Gori – the heart of Kartli region. We'll visit Stalin museum and Uplistsikhe Cave Town – dated to 1st millennium BC, it is the place where the Great Silk Road used to pass. Later drive along the Georgian Military Highway and enjoy a photo stop at Ananuri fort set on the background of Jinali water reservoir. We'll have lunch and dinner at local restaurants on the way. Today we'll overnight at a hotel in Gudaury.



### **22** OCTOBER 30 THURSDAY – GUDAURI – KAZBEGI – TBILISI (GEORGIA)

Today after breakfast we'll have a stunning drive from Gudauri along the Tergi River which will bring us to Kazbegi – the main town in the region. From Kazbegi a leisurely 2 hour walk up through beautiful valleys and woodland leads to Gergeti Trinity Church located at 7100 ft –round trip will take 3 hr of walking. Weather permitting you may catch a glimpse of one of the highest glaciers in Caucasus – Mt Kazbegi – 16500 ft high. On our way back we enjoy lunch at a local cafe. Walk a bit more back to our vehicle and transfer to Tbilisi. After accommodation and short rest at the hotel we'll head for dinner at a local restaurant followed by a folk show. Overnight at a hotel in Tbilisi.



### **23** OCTOBER 31 FRIDAY – TBILISI – GEORGIA – ARMENIA “SADAKHLO” – SEVAN – DILIJAN (GEORGIA/ARMENIA)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll have a walking sightseeing tour of Tbilisi – capital of Georgia, visiting different religious buildings – churches, synagogue, as well as famous 19th century houses with wooden multi-colored balconies, Old city, Georgian History Museum, Rustaveli Avenue – the



main street in Tbilisi. After lunch drive to Georgia – Armenia border “Sadakhlo”. After border formalities we’ll start acquaintances with Armenia with the Haghpats dated to 976 AD, Monastic Complex which one of outstanding works of medieval Armenian architecture and is inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List. The complex used to be an educational center of the middle ages where the majority of Armenian scholars and scientists obtained their education. We’ll continue on driving to Dilijan, where we’ll accommodate at the hotel, have dinner at local restaurant and overnight in Dilijan.



**24** NOVEMBER 1 SATURDAY – DILIJAN – SEVAN – NORAVANK – KHOR VIRAP – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

After breakfast at the hotel we’ll start sightseeing tour with Lake Sevan – the emerald of Armenia. It is the second largest alpine freshwater lake in the world and the biggest in Caucasus. This mountain lake is located at 6200 ft above sea level. Sightseeing in Sevan also includes peninsula with Sevan Monastery. Later we’ll drive to Selim caravanserai – built in 1332 by prince Chesar Orbelian, according to an inscription in Armenian and Arabic, it used to be an important trade point in the famous Silk Road. Visit Noravank monastery – religious and cultural centre of 12th century, Areni wine factory to taste local wine made from special sorts of grapes grows in Armenia and Noravank. We’ll have lunch in local cave café. Continue sightseeing with Khor Virap monastery which is situated in the Ararat valley close the biblical Ararat Mountain, where Noah’s ark casts its anchor. We’ll have dinner at a local restaurant followed by folk show program and overnight at a hotel in Yerevan.



**25** NOVEMBER 2 SUNDAY – YEREVAN – GARNI – GEGHARD – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

After breakfast today we’ll drive to a magnificent monument of medieval Armenian architecture – Geghard monastery partly carved out of a mountain. Continue on to Garni Temple – citadel and pagan temple of Garni. Have lunch at a local house in Garni where you will have opportunity to watch Armenian national bread “lavash” baking and barbeque making process in the underground stove called “tonir”. After lunch we’ll return to Yerevan. Second part of the day we’ll visit the

depository of ancient manuscripts – Matenadaran, which contains historical documents of Europe and Asia from many centuries. We'll have dinner and overnight in Yerevan today.



**26** NOVEMBER 3 MONDAY – YEREVAN – ETCHMIATZIN – ZVARTNOTS – YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

After breakfast at the hotel, today we'll drive to Etchmiatzin. On the way visiting St. Hripsime Church. We'll have lunch in a local community tasting homemade dishes. Then drive back to Yerevan with stop at the ruins of Zvartnots temple – of the 7th c. architecture. Second part of the day our main attraction will be Armenian History Museum and visit to Tsitsernakaberd memorial and museum of victims of Genocide. We'll have farewell dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at a hotel in Yerevan.



**27** NOVEMBER 4 TUESDAY – DEPARTURE (ARMENIA)

Today is the last day of the tour; we'll have breakfast at the hotel and arrange transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of tour. Thank you!



 **PRICE – \$ 11,000 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE (SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – \$ 900)**

 **GUARANTEED DEPARTURES IN 2025:**

<b>Start:</b>	<b>End:</b>
April 3	April 29
April 17	May 13
May 1	May 27
May 15	June 10
May 29	June 24
June 12	July 8
August 28	September 23
September 11	October 7
September 25	October 21
October 9	November 4
October 23	November 18



## HOTELS:

Tashkent (4 nights)	Tashkent Palace or similar
Samarkand (2 nights)	Konstantin or similar
Bukhara (2 nights)	Sasha and Son or similar
Mary (1 night)	Mary or similar
Ashgabat (2 nights)	Yulduz or similar
Dashoguz (1 night)	Dashoguz or similar
Khiva (1 night)	Asia Khiva or similar
Khujand (1 night)	Khujand Deluxe or similar
Baku (3 nights)	Sapphire or similar
Sheki (1 night)	Sheki Saray or similar
Telavi (1 night)	Chateau Schuchman or similar
Tbilisi (2 nights)	Tiflis Palace or similar
Guduary (1 night)	Guduary Inn or similar
Dilijan (1 night)	Best Western Paradise or similar
Yerevan (3 nights)	Opera Suites or similar



## PRICE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Letter Of Invitation;
- ✓ Hotel Accommodation (double room sharing);
- ✓ Full Board Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner);\*
- ✓ Bottled water (1 lt per person per day);
- ✓ All Land Transfers with A/C;
- ✓ Internal Flights (Mary- Ashgabat, Ashgabat-Dashoguz, Urgench-Tashkent, Tashkent-Baku);
- ✓ Railway ticket (Tashkent-Samarkand);
- ✓ Accompany of guide/escort;
- ✓ Guided sightseeing;
- ✓ Entrance Fees;
- ✓ Show programs.

\*Meals: Breakfast at the hotel. Lunch/Dinner consists of: 1 salad, 1 soup, 1 entrée, bread, tea.



## PRICE EXCLUDES:

- ✗ Tips in hotels, to the guides and drivers;
- ✗ Any extra expenses for additional services in hotels;
- ✗ Video and photo camera charges.