



Bukhara dancer

FLEXIBLE ESSENTIAL PRIVATE TRIPS

CLASSIC INDEPENDENT JOURNEYS

*F*lexible **Essential Private Trips** are compact, well-designed private tour itineraries — researched and ready to book on the dates you choose. They work perfectly as brief overviews of a country or as effortless extensions to group tours — great for solo travelers, couples, or private parties who prefer to travel independently but appreciate a savvy pre-designed program.

Essential Central Asia

MARKETS AND MINARETS OF UZBEKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN

Explore the markets, mosques and minarets of oasis towns on the fringes of the Kyzyl Kum and Kara Kum deserts. Here spiritual beliefs were the greatest commodities to flow along trade routes, and civilizations blossomed amidst austere natural beauty.

Days 1-7: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara In Uzbekistan's capital, wander the Chorsu Bazaar and visit the studio of a master ceramics craftsman. Tamerlane transformed Samarkand into one of the most beautiful cities along the Silk Road, overseeing an unmatched flourishing of architecture and decorative art. In Bukhara, admire the peaceful Lyabi-Hauz Plaza, embodying the soul of pre-Soviet Central Asia.

Days 8-9: Khiva Continue to Khiva, a living museum with its dun-colored city walls, merchants hawking their wares from each side, and distinctive minarets watching over the whole scene.

Days 10-13: Tashauz, Ashkabad In Turkmenistan, marvel at the meeting of ancient traditions and modern mores at Ashkabad's Tolkuchka Bazaar, one of Central Asia's best. Barter for jewelry and carpets, sealing each bargain Turkmen fashion, with a handshake. Toast the journey's end at a festive farewell dinner.



Essential Central Asia

13 Days

Private Journey

Your choice of dates — start on a Monday



Land Tour Cost

2 traveler minimum From \$3,995**
Single Supplement From \$495

**Land tour cost includes internal flight costs which are subject to change; see the Descriptive Daily Itinerary for details.

Essential trip prices vary by season and are subject to hotel availability for your travel dates. Hotel upgrades, additional nights and solo traveler prices are available on request. Contact us for a descriptive itinerary and booking details.



Cobalt and turquoise tilework

Essential Silk Road

10 Days

Private Journey

Your choice of dates — start on a Saturday



Land Tour Cost

2 traveler minimum From \$3,095**
Single Supplement From \$250

**Land tour cost includes internal flight costs which are subject to change; see the Descriptive Daily Itinerary for details.

Essential trip prices vary by season and are subject to hotel availability for your travel dates. Hotel upgrades, additional nights and solo traveler prices are available on request. Contact us for a descriptive itinerary and booking details.

Essential Silk Road

UZBEK OASES OF SAMARKAND, BUKHARA AND KHIVA

Roam the great Silk Road oases of Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva, all of them UNESCO Sites. Admire their mosques, *madrasahs* and minarets clad in ceramic tiles the color of the desert sky.

Days 1-6: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara Begin in modern Tashkent and drive to blue-tiled Samarkand, the city that Tamerlane built and decorated. Visit massive Bibi Khanum Mosque and walk gracefully-proportioned Registan Square.

Explore Bukhara's original fortress, the Ark Citadel, the 15th century Kukeldash Madrasah, and the Kalon Mosque and Minaret. Browse the market for brilliant silks and hand-painted ceramics and attend a dinner performance of traditional music and dance.

Days 7-10: Khiva, Tashkent Travel overland to Khiva, the best-preserved of the caravan cities, its compact old walls filled with minarets, a khan's fort, cobbled alleys and mosques. Flying back to Tashkent, spend one final night in this exotic country.