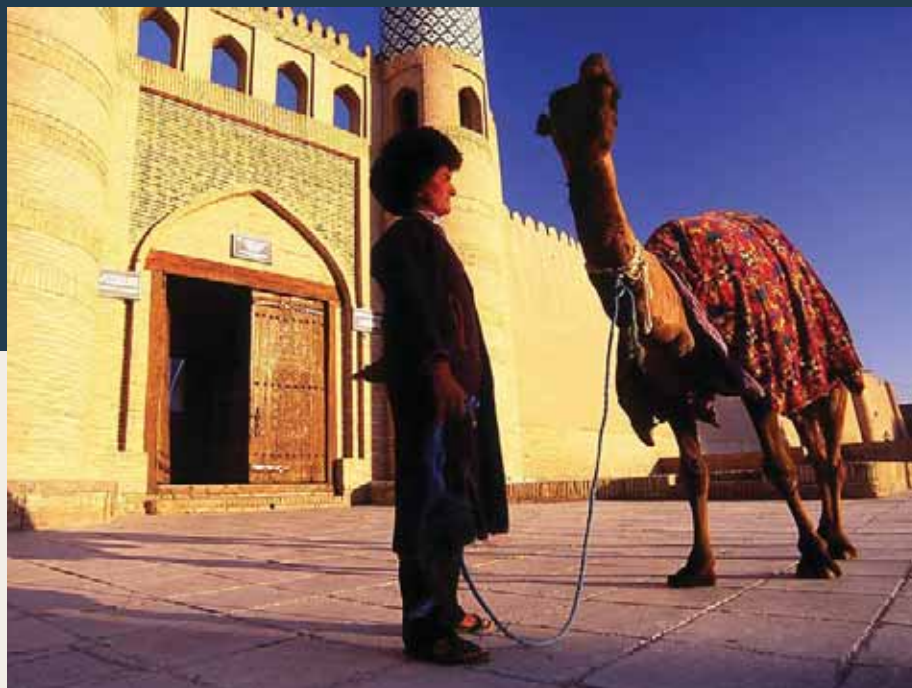


Silk Route Odyssey: Caravan Across Uzbekistan

VALLEYS, DESERTS, BAZAARS, AND OASES



Khivan camel greets the day

The center of Central Asia, Uzbekistan is home to three of the most renowned of the Silk Road oases — Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. Journey through these UNESCO Sites, the arid Kyzyl Kum Desert and the lush Fergana Valley, where Central Asia's silk production began with two cocoons hidden in the headdress of a royal Chinese bride.

Days 1-4: Tashkent, Fergana Valley Gather in the modern Uzbek capital, Tashkent. Drive to the fertile Fergana Valley, heartland of Uzbekistan. Bordered by the Tien Shan Mountains, the valley is an oasis of cotton fields and melon plantations, dotted with ancient villages distinguished for their silk production and ceramic tiles.

Days 5-7: Samarkand, Shakhrisabze Continue to Samarkand, the grand capital of the conqueror Tamerlane. Admire the grace of the blue-tiled Registan, and visit Ulug Bek's Observatory. The grandson of Tamerlane, Ulug Bek spent his life constructing the best-equipped observatory in the medieval world. Stop at Tamerlane's hometown, UNESCO-listed Shakhrisabze.

Day 8: Navoi, Nurata, Kyzyl Kum Desert Explore the vast Kyzyl Kum Desert, whose red sands protect the remnants of Alexander the Great's ancient well system, and learn the art of producing the traditional round bread of Central Asia. Spend the night in a yurt camp, relaxing around a campfire under a dome of stars.

Days 9-15: Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent The next stop is Bukhara, whose densely inhabited UNESCO-listed ancient city center is a maze of mud-walled homes, mosques and stone bazaars, and whose 2,500th anniversary came and went in 1997. Stop in Khiva, the last great oasis on the northern caravan route. The odyssey concludes in Tashkent with an Uzbek feast and farewell toasts.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



15 Days

2 departures in 2010

May 29-June 12 • September 25-October 9

Land Tour Cost

4-12 travelers \$3,995**
Partial Single Supplement \$395*

*See page 93 for Partial Single Supplement details.

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

Stay a little longer... Combine this tour with a customized extension to Tajikistan – ask for our suggested tour.



At the cap-makers' bazaar

MIR Signature Features

- Visit rural craftsmen in their workshops
- Take an introductory camel ride across the red sands of the Kyzyl Kum Desert
- Explore all four of Uzbekistan's UNESCO World Heritage Sites



WWW.MIRCORP.COM
1.800.424.7289