



ESSENTIAL UZBEKISTAN - NOON VOYAGER

Never too Old, Never too Late!

OVERVIEW

- Flight 1 night
- Khiva 2 nights
- Bukhara 2 nights
- Lake Aydarkul (Yurt camp) 1 night
- Samarkand 2 night

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Led by Female Expert Guide
- Unesco World Heritage Sites
- Desert Yurt Camp
- In the company of Eleanor Mills

INTRODUCTION

Located at the crossroads of the ancient Silk Road, Uzbekistan is well-known for its magnificent historical architecture; beautiful mosques and madrassas, alongside Soviet modernism, a thriving arts and crafts scene, rich traditional culture, and the sincere hospitality of locals. Specially curated for Noon Members, we explore the very best of Uzbekistan as we delve into the culture of the ancient Silk Road Cities of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand, and escape into nature. Following in the footsteps of nomads and merchants, we stay at a desert Yurt camp close to the shores of Lake Aydarkul. Experience the magical realms of 'Arabian Nights' alongside the contrast of modern Central Asia on an adventure that will leave a lifetime of memories, in the company of our local expert guides, ensuring a secure and unforgettable journey.

ITINERARY

DAY 01 Depart from London with Turkish Airlines via Istanbul to Urgench.

DAY 02 Morning arrival in Urgench, transfer to Khiva. Immediate check-in at the hotel, breakfast then time to relax. Early afternoon, explore Ichan-Kala, the ancient citadel of Khiva city – a living open-air museum and fortress. Dinner at a city restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 03 Continue to explore Khiva, with her mosques, harems and palaces. Afternoon free for independent exploration. Ascend the city wall platform to enjoy the breath-taking views of ancient Khiva at sunset. Dinner in a rooftop restaurant. Noon Circle. Enjoy a local cuisine master class with a local family and discover Ubeks' famous Shvit-osh. (B, D)

DAY 04 Early start for our flight to Bukhara and transfer to the Old Town. Enjoy a stroll before checking in at our hotel. Afternoon city tour culminating with Shukhov's observation Tower and the massive Ark Citadel. Dinner in the city. (B, D)

DAY 05 Spend the morning exploring with your local expert guide, discover world-famous Kalyan Square and the ancient Trading Domes. Visit the Fine Arts Museum of Bukhara and enjoy a private visit to the studio of the world-renowned papier-mache artisan Usto Iskandar to discover the secrets of making the ancient traditional Bukhara puppets. Later, visit the Old Town women's Hamman. Indulge yourself in the age-old traditions with a steam, scrub and peel, followed by hot stone therapy, and a massage. Invigorated, enjoy a roof-top

dinner "Minorai Kalan" with the opportunity for a Noon Circle. (B, D)

DAY 06 Drive to Nurata, explore the remains of ancient Alexander the Great fortress before continuing to our Yurt Camp in the desert. Enjoy a desert trek, or walk into the nearest village to meet locals and experience their culture. Explore the shore of Lake Aydarkul and take a swim, then spend the evening around the campfire, listening to folklore performances under a mesmerising stary sky. Noon Circle. (B, L, D)

DAY 07 Enjoy an early swim or desert hike before travelling to Samarkand (290 km, 4.5 hours). Check-in to our hotel and rest. An evening stroll through illuminated Registan Square, then dinner with great views at Registan. Round off the night with a stroll by majestic Gur-Emir Mausoleum, (without the tourists!). (B, D)

DAY 08 Visit ancient Meros, surrounded by canals, mysterious Shakhi-Zinda necropolis, grandiose Bibi-Khanym Mosque and busy Siab market. Discover local cuisine with the private pilov-cooking masterclass at national house "Adras". Later visit the studio of prominent local fashion designer Elena Ladik for coffee and discussions on local design and outfits history. Free time to explore before dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 09 Early departure for the return flight to London, via Istanbul. (B)



Eleanor Mills, founder of NOON, award-winning editor, broadcaster and bestselling author.



DESERT EXPERIENCE YURT CAMP

Among the sand dunes of the Kyzylkum Desert, our simple yurt camp borders both the desert and Lake Aydarkul. With unforgettable sunrises and sunsets, these classic nomadic dwellings provide an authentic slice of the Great Silk Road, as we travel in the footsteps of ancient nomads and merchants through the desert landscapes.

8
NIGHTS

FROM
£3495

2025 – Thursday To Friday

May 15	May 23	£3495
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Supplements per person

Single Supplement £425
Rooms and facilities at the Yurt Camp are shared

Price includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 night's accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 7 dinners. Itinerary as described, local transport as required, services of local expert guides and representative. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Provisional flight details

London Heathrow - Istanbul	18:00 23:55
Istanbul - Urgench	01:10 07:30
Samarkand to Istanbul	09:00 12:15
Istanbul to London Heathrow	14:05 16:15

To secure your place on the trip, please call Jules Verne on 020 7633 6700, the deposit is £350 per person. If you are transferring your booking, please quote NOON so that your deposit can be credited to the booking. Balance payment is due 61 days prior to departure.
Booking conditions can be found: vjv.com

Notes: The programme includes walking tours, with some inclines and steps, areas in the Old Towns are cobbled.

Yurt Camp: This simple campsite has traditional style yurts that accommodate up to 4 people, they have some modern touches to make your stay comfortable: electricity, and shower and toilet blocks. (Shared facilities)



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