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Bukhara Day Trip from Samarkand (Full Day Group Tour)

Duration: 1 days / 0 nights

## Day 1: Samarkand to Bukhara Full Day Tour

Complete exploration of Bukhara's UNESCO World Heritage monuments with traditional lunch

### PM:

#### Hotel Pickup in Samarkand

Early morning pickup from your Samarkand hotel at 7:00 AM for optimal touring time in Bukhara

#### Drive to Bukhara

Comfortable 3.5-hour journey through the Uzbek steppe landscape. Pass through Navoi city and see the transformation from Samarkand's green valleys to Bukhara's desert setting. Your guide will share stories about the Silk Road and prepare you for Bukhara's history.

#### Ark Fortress

Begin your Bukhara exploration at the massive Ark Fortress, a royal citadel dating back to the 5th century. Walk through the ceremonial gate, visit the throne room, mosque, and museums. Learn about the last Emir of Bukhara and see panoramic views of the old city from the fortress walls.

#### Bolo Hauz Mosque

Visit this beautiful 18th-century mosque directly across from the Ark. Marvel at the 20 intricately carved wooden columns supporting the Ivan (covered porch) and the stunning painted ceiling. This is still an active mosque serving local worshippers.

#### Poi Kalyan Complex

Explore Bukhara's spiritual heart: the iconic 47-meter Kalyan Minaret (12th century), the grand Kalyan Mosque (one of Central Asia's largest), and the exquisite Mir-i-Arab Madrasah with its blue domes. Learn about the minaret's survival during Genghis Khan's invasion and its role as a beacon for caravans.

#### Lunch at Traditional Restaurant

Enjoy authentic Bukhara cuisine at a local restaurant. Sample regional specialties that may include plov (pilaf), shurpa (lamb soup), somsa (savory pastries), and fresh bread from a tandoor oven. Vegetarian options available.

#### Trading Domes & Bazaars

Walk through the medieval covered bazaars (toki): Toki Zargaron (jewelers' dome), Toki Tilpak Furushon (hat makers' dome), and Toki Sarrafon (money changers' dome). Watch craftsmen at work and shop for traditional suzani embroidery, ceramics, knives, and carpets.

#### Lyabi-Hauz Complex

Relax at Bukhara's beloved central plaza surrounding a historic hauz (pool). Visit the Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah and Khanaka. Enjoy tea or coffee at a traditional chaikhana under ancient mulberry trees while locals play chess and socialize.

#### Chor-Minor

Discover this charming and quirky gatehouse with four distinctive blue-domed towers. Each tower is slightly different, representing different religions or philosophical concepts. Perfect photo opportunity in a quiet residential neighborhood.

#### Samanid Mausoleum

Visit this architectural masterpiece from the 9th-10th century, one of the oldest and most refined monuments in Central Asia. Marvel at the intricate brickwork patterns and the perfectly proportioned cubic design. Learn about the Samanid dynasty's golden age.

#### Free Time for Shopping/Exploration

Optional time for last-minute souvenir shopping, additional photography, or revisiting favorite spots. Your guide can recommend specific shops or help with purchases.

#### Return Journey to Samarkand

Comfortable drive back to Samarkand through the evening landscape. Arrive at your hotel around 8:30-9:00 PM.