

# Pottery & Suzani Intensive: Masters of Clay and Thread

6 days / 5 nights

DURATION

6 Days

STARTING FROM

Samarkand

TOUR TYPE

Private only

FROM

\$1,850 / person

A 6-day deep dive into Uzbekistan's pottery and embroidery traditions. Learn from 6th-generation potters in Gijduvan, master suzani stitches in Bukhara, explore Samarkand's UNESCO sites. Small groups (max 6).

## Tour Highlights

- ★ 5 hands-on workshops (20+ hours) with master potters and embroiderers
- ★ Small groups (max 6 travelers) for personalized instruction
- ★ 4 nights in artisan homestays with family meals and cultural exchange
- ★ Create and keep: ceramic bowl, plate, tile, suzani panel kit, embroidered bookmark
- ★ Learn 6th-generation Gijduvan pottery techniques (natural ishkori glaze)
- ★ Master traditional suzani stitches from Bukhara embroidery families
- ★ Explore iconic sites: Registan Square, Bukhara Old City (UNESCO)
- ★ Perfect for time-constrained travelers (1 week) or first-time visitors

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

### Day 1: Samarkand Arrival & Orientation

Arrive Samarkand. Hotel check-in. Evening: Registan Square walking tour at golden hour. Orientation dinner—meet your small group and guide. Discuss the week ahead.

Overnight accommodation

### Day 2: Gijduvan Pottery Workshop Day 1

Morning: Transfer to Gijduvan (1 hour). Meet UNESCO master potter Alisher Nazirov. Pottery wheel session—learn centering and shaping techniques. Afternoon: Create bowls and plates. Evening: Traditional dinner at potter home. Homestay.

Overnight accommodation

### Day 3: Gijduvan Pottery Day 2 → Bukhara

Morning: Glazing and decorating your pottery. Learn the famous Gijduvan blue glaze patterns. Afternoon: Drive to Bukhara (1 hour). Old City walking tour. Evening: Explore Lyabi-Hauz plaza. Boutique hotel.

Overnight accommodation

## Day 4: Bukhara Suzani Embroidery Day 1

Full day with master embroiderer. Morning: Suzani history, design principles, stitch types (chain, satin, basma). Afternoon: Begin your own suzani panel—choose traditional or modern design. Homestay with embroidery family.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 5: Bukhara Suzani Embroidery Day 2

Full day continuing your suzani. Morning: Add colors, refine stitches. Master shares family patterns and stories. Afternoon: Visit Bukhara textile bazaar—see merchants selling suzani and ikat. Evening: Farewell dinner at artisan courtyard. Homestay.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 6: Bukhara → Samarkand Departure

Morning: Pick up your fired pottery pieces (or arrange shipping). Transfer back to Samarkand. Afternoon: Final Registan visit, souvenir shopping. Depart with your pottery, suzani panel, and new artisan connections.

### What's Included

- ✓ All 5 craft workshops with master artisans (20+ hours)
- ✓ 5 nights accommodation (4 homestays + 1 boutique hotel)
- ✓ All meals (5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners)
- ✓ Private transportation throughout
- ✓ Train tickets: Tashkent-Samarkand, Samarkand-Bukhara
- ✓ English-speaking craft guide (entire journey)
- ✓ Museum and site entrance fees (Registan, Ark Fortress, etc.)
- ✓ All pottery materials (clay, glazes, firing costs)
- ✓ Suzani embroidery kit to continue at home (threads, needles, fabric)
- ✓ Craft journal
- ✓ Airport/station transfers
- ✓ Your finished ceramic pieces (bowl, plate, tile)
- ✓ Embroidered bookmark
- ✓ All workshop fees (70% goes directly to artisans)

### Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Tashkent
- ✗ Travel insurance (required)
- ✗ Visa fees (if applicable)
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Personal shopping and souvenirs
- ✗ Tips for guides and drivers (suggested \$60-80 total)
- ✗ Optional activities not listed in itinerary
- ✗ Return flight/train from Bukhara to Tashkent (can be arranged)