

Samarkand Outskirts Group Tour (Half Day)

1 days / 0 nights

DURATION

1 Days

TOUR TYPE

Group only

FROM

\$25 / person

Explore ancient astronomical wonders at Ulugbek Observatory, visit the sacred Daniel's Tomb, and discover Afrasiab's archaeological treasures in this half-day journey through Samarkand's historic outskirts.

Tour Highlights

- ★ Visit Ulugbek Observatory, one of the world's greatest medieval astronomical facilities
- ★ Explore the sacred Daniel's Tomb shrine with panoramic city views
- ★ Discover 7th-century Sogdian frescoes at Afrasiab Museum
- ★ Learn about Samarkand's pre-Islamic history and ancient Marakanda city
- ★ See the remains of Ulugbek's giant marble sextant used for star mapping
- ★ Walk through peaceful gardens and ancient pistachio groves
- ★ Understand the scientific achievements of medieval Islamic astronomers
- ★ Experience local pilgrimage traditions at Daniel's shrine

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Samarkand Historical Outskirts

Half-day exploration of Ulugbek Observatory, Daniel's Tomb, and Afrasiab Museum

AFTERNOON:

Hotel Pickup

Morning pickup from your Samarkand hotel (9:00 AM or 2:00 PM depending on tour schedule)

Ulugbek Observatory

Explore the remains of the 15th-century observatory built by the Timurid ruler and astronomer Ulugbek. See the massive underground marble sextant (40-meter radius) used to calculate star positions with remarkable accuracy. Learn how Ulugbek's star catalog of 1,018 stars influenced European astronomy for centuries.

Observatory Museum

Visit the adjacent museum displaying astronomical instruments, Ulugbek's mathematical works, and explanations of medieval Islamic science achievements. Understand how this site was rediscovered by archaeologist Vyatkin in 1908.

Drive to Daniel's Tomb

Short scenic drive through Samarkand's northeastern suburbs

Prophet Daniel's Tomb (Hazrat Doniyor Maqbarasi)

Visit this sacred pilgrimage site believed by locals to house the remains of the biblical prophet Daniel. Walk through the peaceful complex with its 18-meter-long tomb chamber (legend says it grows yearly). Enjoy views of Samarkand from the hillside location surrounded by ancient pistachio trees and spring.

Drive to Afrasiab

Journey to the ancient settlement site

Afrasiab Museum & Archaeological Site

Explore the museum built on the ruins of ancient Marakanda (Sogdian Samarkand, 7th-6th century BC). Marvel at the famous Afrasiab frescoes from the 7th century CE showing Silk Road ambassadors, cultural exchanges, and daily life. Walk through the excavation site to see the ancient city's foundations.

Return to Hotel

Drop-off at your Samarkand accommodation

What's Included

- ✓ Professional English-speaking guide
- ✓ Air-conditioned transportation between sites
- ✓ All entrance fees (Observatory, Daniel's Tomb, Afrasiab Museum)
- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ Hotel pickup and drop-off in Samarkand

Not Included

- ✗ Lunch or snacks
- ✗ Tips for guide and driver (optional)
- ✗ Personal expenses and souvenirs
- ✗ Photography fees at museums (if applicable)