

58US58

Samarkand Outskirts Group Tour (Half Day)

Duration: 1 days / 0 nights

Day 1: Samarkand Historical Outskirts

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

PM:

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