

Samarkand Pottery Weekend: Craft Immersion Taster

3 days / 2 nights

DURATION

3 Days

STARTING FROM

Samarkand

TOUR TYPE

Hybrid

FROM

\$850 / person

A 3-day introduction to Uzbek pottery traditions in Samarkand. Perfect weekend escape: learn wheel throwing with 6th-generation masters in Gijduvan, explore Registan Square, stay with artisan family. Small groups (max 6).

Tour Highlights

- ★ Perfect 3-day weekend escape - test craft tourism before committing
- ★ 2 hands-on pottery workshops (7 hours) with UNESCO Living Human Treasure
- ★ Small groups (max 6) for personalized wheel throwing instruction
- ★ 1 night artisan homestay with pottery family in Gijduvan
- ★ Create and keep: ceramic bowl, plate, hand-painted tile
- ★ Learn ancient ishkori glaze technique (natural mountain ash)
- ★ Samarkand highlights: Registan Square, Gur-e-Amir, Shah-i-Zinda
- ★ Entry-level price (\$850) - perfect for budget travelers or "try before you buy"

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Samarkand Arrival → Gijduvan

Arrive Samarkand. Quick Registan Square visit (photo stop—you will see it properly tomorrow). Transfer to Gijduvan pottery village (1 hour). Afternoon: Pottery workshop introduction—watch master demonstrate wheel throwing. Evening: Traditional dinner with potter family. Homestay.

Overnight accommodation

Day 2: Full-Day Pottery Immersion

Full day with UNESCO master potter. Morning: Hands-on pottery wheel session—shape your own bowls. Learn centering and basic techniques. Afternoon: Glazing and decorating. Learn the famous Gijduvan blue patterns. Evening: Free time at homestay. Homestay.

Overnight accommodation

Day 3: Gijduvan → Samarkand Departure

Morning: Pick up your fired pottery (if dry) or arrange shipping. Transfer back to Samarkand. Afternoon: Proper Registan tour—explore the tilework that inspired your pottery patterns. Depart with your ceramic pieces and newfound pottery skills.

What's Included

- ✓ 2 pottery workshops with Master Alisher (7 hours total)
- ✓ 2 nights accommodation (1 homestay + 1 boutique hotel)
- ✓ All meals (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners)
- ✓ Private transportation (Samarkand ↔ Gijduvan, cultural sites)
- ✓ English-speaking craft guide (entire weekend)
- ✓ Museum and site entrance fees (Registan, Gur-e-Amir, Shah-i-Zinda)
- ✓ All pottery materials (clay, glazes, firing costs)
- ✓ Protective wrapping for your ceramics
- ✓ Craft journal
- ✓ Train/airport pickup and drop-off in Samarkand
- ✓ Your finished ceramic pieces (bowl, plate, tile)
- ✓ All workshop fees (70% goes directly to artisan)

Not Included

- ✗ Transport to/from Samarkand (train from Tashkent ~\$10, flight ~\$50)
- ✗ Travel insurance (recommended)
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Personal shopping and souvenirs
- ✗ Tips for guide and driver (suggested \$30-40 total)
- ✗ Optional ceramic shipping (if you prefer not to pack them)
- ✗ Single supplement if traveling alone (\$100)
- ✗ Extension activities (Bukhara add-on, etc.)