

# Silk to Canvas: Fergana Valley to Karakalpakstan Grand Journey

15 days / 14 nights

DURATION

15 Days

STARTING FROM

Tashkent

TOUR TYPE

Group only

From master weavers to forgotten masters - A 15-day craft immersion through Uzbekistan's living traditions and hidden art treasures. 10 hands-on workshops, culminating at the legendary Savitsky Museum.

## Tour Highlights

- ★ Culminates at Savitsky Museum - "Louvre of the Desert" with 90,000 artworks
- ★ All major Uzbek crafts: silk, pottery, embroidery, carpet, knife-making
- ★ Best season: April-June & September-October
- ★ From Fergana Valley to Karakalpakstan - full Uzbekistan experience
- ★ Small groups (max 10 travelers) for quality artisan time

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

### Day 1: Tashkent Arrival → Kokand

Arrive Tashkent. Transfer to Fergana Valley (5 hours by car or 1-hour flight). Evening walking tour of Kokand—visit Khudoyar Khan Palace. Orientation dinner with your small group.

Overnight accommodation

### Day 2: Margilan Silk Factory & Ikat Workshop

Morning: Visit legendary Yodgorlik Silk Factory—watch silk being spun from cocoons on 100-year-old machines. Afternoon: Hands-on ikat dyeing workshop. Learn how threads are tie-dyed BEFORE weaving to create blurred patterns. Homestay with silk weaver family.

Overnight accommodation

### Day 3: Rishtan Pottery Masterclass

Drive to Rishtan (1.5 hours). Full day with master potter Alisher Nazirov family. Morning: Pottery wheel session—shape bowls and plates. Afternoon: Learn the famous Rishtan turquoise glaze technique. Evening: Traditional ceramics family dinner. Homestay.

Overnight accommodation

### Day 4: Carpet Weaving in Fergana → Samarkand

Morning: Carpet weaving workshop—try knotting techniques on a loom. Afternoon: Drive to Samarkand (6 hours through mountains). Evening: Registan Square at sunset—see where your journey crafts originated. Boutique hotel.

Overnight accommodation

## Day 5: Samarkand Paper-Making & Miniature Painting

Morning: Konigil village paper-making workshop—see how mulberry bark becomes silk-smooth paper. Make your own sheets. Afternoon: Miniature painting intro session—learn brush techniques. Evening: Registan by night (photo opportunity). Homestay.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 6: Gijduvan Pottery Immersion Day 1

Drive to Gijduvan (1 hour). Full day with UNESCO master potter. Morning: Advanced wheel techniques, shaping large pieces. Afternoon: Decorating pottery with traditional patterns. Evening: Potter family dinner with stories of 6 generations. Homestay.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 7: Gijduvan Pottery Day 2 → Bukhara

Morning: Glazing your pottery pieces. Learn the iconic Gijduvan blue technique. Afternoon: Transfer to Bukhara (1 hour). Old City walking tour—explore artisan quarters. Boutique hotel.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 8: Bukhara Embroidery & Metalwork

Morning: Suzani embroidery workshop—learn chain stitch and satin stitch. Begin your own suzani panel. Afternoon: Blacksmith workshop—watch knife-making, try basic metalwork. Evening: Bukhara Old City at dusk. Homestay with embroidery family.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 9: Bukhara Continued Embroidery & Free Time

Morning: Continue your suzani panel—add colors and patterns. Master shares family designs passed down 5 generations. Afternoon: Free time to explore Bukhara bazaars, visit Ark Fortress, or shop for crafts. Evening: Rooftop dinner. Homestay.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 10: Khiva Old Town & Wood Carving

Early morning flight to Urgench, transfer to Khiva (30 min). Morning: Khiva Old Town tour (UNESCO site)—see wood carving masters at work. Afternoon: Wood carving workshop—try chiseling walnut wood for doors and pillars. Boutique hotel in Old Town.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 11: Nukus → Savitsky Museum Finale

Morning: Drive to Nukus through Kyzylkum Desert (4 hours). Afternoon: 3-hour private curator tour of Savitsky Museum—see 90,000 artworks, including Soviet avant-garde banned pieces. This is the culmination of your craft journey. Hotel in Nukus.

*Overnight accommodation*

## Day 12: Nukus → Tashkent Departure

Morning: Flight back to Tashkent. Afternoon: Pick up your fired pottery pieces (or arrange shipping). Farewell lunch. Depart with your handmade ikat scarf, ceramic bowl, suzani panel, miniature painting, and craft journal.

## What's Included

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- ✓ All 10 craft workshops with master artisans (32+ hours)
- ✓ Private transportation throughout (air-conditioned van)
- ✓ English-speaking craft guide (entire journey)
- ✓ Museum entrance fees (Savitsky, Registan, palaces)
- ✓ Airport transfers (arrival & departure)
- ✓ All workshop fees (70% goes directly to artisans)
- ✓ 14 nights accommodation (homestays + boutique hotels)
- ✓ 6 lunches 3 dinners

## Not Included

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- ✗ International flights to/from Tashkent
- ✗ Travel insurance (required)
- ✗ Visa fees (if applicable)
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Personal shopping and souvenirs
- ✗ Tips for guides and drivers (suggested \$100-150 total)
- ✗ Optional activities not listed in itinerary