

Silk to Canvas: Grand Artisan Journey from Samarkand to Karakalpakstan

15 days / 14 nights

DURATION

15 Days

TOUR TYPE

Private only

FROM

\$800 / person

A 15-day immersive journey through Uzbekistan's living craft traditions, from Samarkand's silk workshops to Karakalpakstan's art galleries, meeting master artisans along the Silk Road.

Tour Highlights

- ★ Explore local culture and heritage
- ★ Experience authentic local hospitality
- ★ Professional guided experience

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Samarkand

Airport transfer and welcome dinner. Evening orientation walk through the illuminated Registan Square.

Day 2: Samarkand Craft Workshops

Visit Konigilmeros paper mill, Samarkand silk carpet workshop, and master ceramicist studios. Hands-on papermaking experience.

Day 3: Samarkand Monuments & Bazaar

Full day exploring Registan, Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, Bibi-Khanym Mosque, and Siab Bazaar. Afternoon suzani embroidery demonstration.

Day 4: Samarkand to Fergana Valley

Scenic drive through Kamchik Pass to Fergana Valley. Stop at Kokand Palace. Evening arrival in Margilan.

Day 5: Margilan Silk Weaving

Full day at Yodgorlik Silk Factory watching the entire silk production process from cocoon to fabric. Meet master ikat weavers and try your hand at the loom.

Day 6: Rishtan Ceramics & Fergana

Morning visit to Rishtan's famous ceramic workshops. Hands-on pottery session with master craftsmen. Afternoon explore Fergana city bazaar.

Day 7: Fergana to Bukhara

Drive to Bukhara via Jizzakh. Stop at Zaamin National Park for a short nature walk. Evening arrival in Bukhara.

Day 8: Bukhara Old City

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage old city: Ark Fortress, Poi Kalyan complex, Lyabi-Hauz ensemble. Visit gold embroidery workshop.

Day 9: Bukhara Craft Quarter

Deep dive into Bukhara's artisan traditions: miniature painting, metal chasing, carpet weaving, and traditional puppet-making. Shopping in covered bazaars.

Day 10: Bukhara to Nuratau Mountains

Drive to Nuratau via desert landscape. Afternoon homestay in Sentyab village. Evening walk to ancient petroglyph site.

Day 11: Aydarkul Lake & Desert Camp

Morning hike in Nuratau Mountains. Afternoon drive to Aydarkul Lake. Camel ride at sunset. Overnight in traditional yurt camp under desert stars.

Day 12: Desert to Khiva

Long drive across Kyzylkum Desert to Khiva. Stops at roadside chaikhanas. Evening arrival at Ichon-Qala inner city.

Day 13: Khiva - Museum City

Full day exploring Khiva's perfectly preserved inner city: Kalta Minor minaret, Tash-Hauli Palace, Juma Mosque with 218 wooden columns. Visit wood carving workshops.

Day 14: Nukus & Karakalpakstan Art

Drive to Nukus. Visit the Savitsky Museum housing one of the world's finest collections of Russian avant-garde art. Optional excursion to Moynaq and the Aral Sea ship graveyard.

Day 15: Departure from Nukus

Morning free time for last shopping. Transfer to Nukus airport for departure or onward travel. Farewell with handcrafted souvenirs.

What's Included

- ✓ Professional English-speaking guide
- ✓ Transportation as per itinerary
- ✓ Entrance fees to sites mentioned
- ✓ Bottled water during the tour

Not Included

- ✗ Meals and beverages (unless specified)
- ✗ Personal expenses and souvenirs
- ✗ Tips and gratuities
- ✗ Travel insurance