



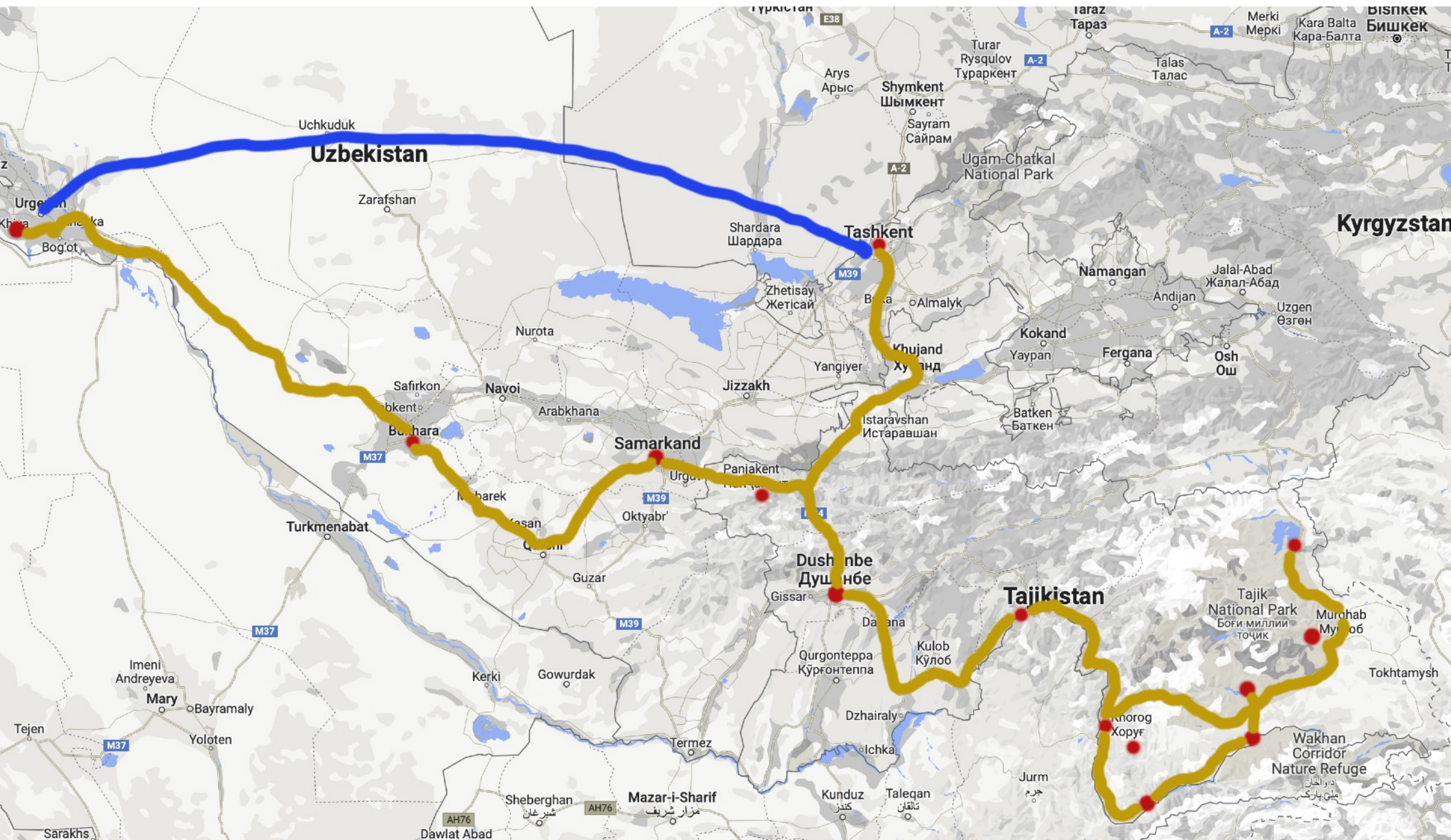
Cultural Discovery and Photography Tours with NURAN ZORLU

# CENTRAL ASIA

## Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Road Trip to the roof of the world and magical silk road cities





*8th May to 5th June 2024*  
*29 days -28 nights*

# Uzbekistan,Tajikistan and Mighty Pamir Mountains

Road trip through natural and manmade marvels of Silk Road in depth

Embark on an extraordinary road trip through Central Asia, commencing in Tashkent, where the Soviet-era masterpiece, the Tashkent Metro, sets the stage for your adventure. Fly to Urgench and step into the living history of Khiva's Kalta Minor, Kunya-Ark Citadel, and the mesmerising Islam Khodja Minaret.

From Khiva, your journey continues as you drive to Bukhara, where the Ark Fortress and the Po-i-Kalyan complex reveal the city's rich history. Traverse the captivating landscapes between the flowing Amu Darya River and the vast Central Asian desert on your way to Samarkand. Immerse yourself in the grandeur of the Registan Square, Gur-e Amir Mausoleum, and Bibi-Khanym Mosque, showcasing the architectural wonders of the Timurid era.

Drive from Bukhara to Samarkand, tracing a route between the flowing Amu Darya River and the vast Central Asian desert. Experience the transition from fertile riverbanks to the serene desert, witnessing the diverse landscapes that connect these two ancient cities.

Next, your adventure will take you natural wonders like the serene Iskanderkul Lake, nestled in the majestic Fann Mountains . As you head to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. Begin your exploration with the National Museum of Tajikistan before embarking on the Pamir Highway road trip. As you conquer the legendary Pamir Highway, relish the thrill of navigating the second-highest road crossing in the world. Drive along the Abu Darya River, natural border to Afghanistan. Venture further into the Wakhan Valley to explore the enigmatic remnants of Kushan castles, resonating with echoes of ancient civilisations. Experience the cultural mosaic of Murghab in the high-altitude Pamir Plateau, where history and influences converge.

Your journey reaches its zenith at the breathtaking Karakol Lake, framed by the dramatic Pamir Mountains, creating a cross-cultural dimension on the edge of Kyrgyzstan.

The return leg of your adventure takes you back to Dushanbe, passing through Khujand, founded by Alexander as Alexandria Eschate Finally, drive to Tashkent, completing a circuit that transcends time, terrain, and cultural richness. As your road trip concludes, you'll find yourself back in Tashkent, having circled through ancient cities, picturesque landscapes, and the majestic Pamir Highway.

Join us on this remarkable journey that spans across borders, cultures, and centuries, promising an expedition where every mile is a step into the heart of Central Asia's rich and diverse heritage.



## Day 1-2 Tashkent

Start your journey in Tashkent, the contemporary heart of Uzbekistan. Admire the historical treasures at Khast-Imam Square, savour the aromas of spices at Chorsu Bazaar, and revel in the modernity of Independence Square..

Throughout your adventure, relish the opportunity to capture the vivid landscapes and rich tapestry of Uzbekistan with your camera. From the intricate tile work of ancient mosques to the vibrant hues of bustling markets, each photograph tells a story of a land where history and culture intertwine.

Embark on this immersive journey, where every step reveals the secrets of Uzbekistan, and every dish and photograph creates memories to last a lifetime.



Chorsu Bazaar Tashkent

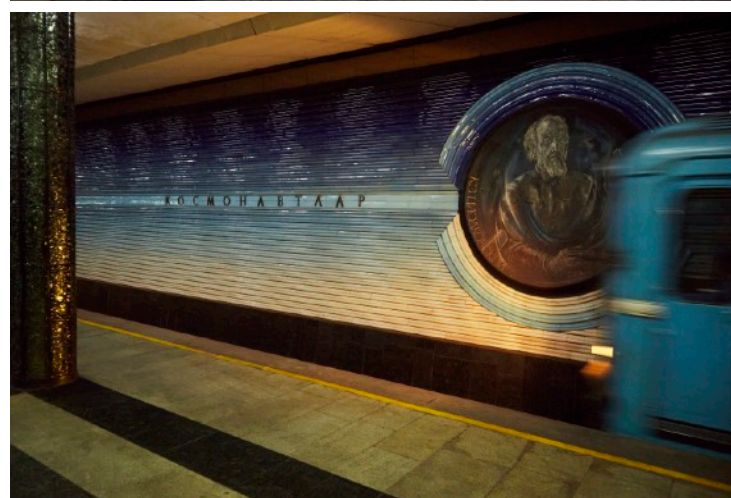
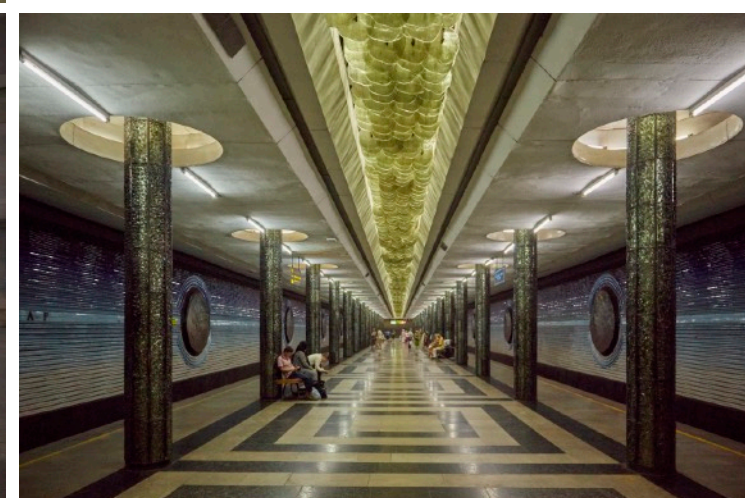
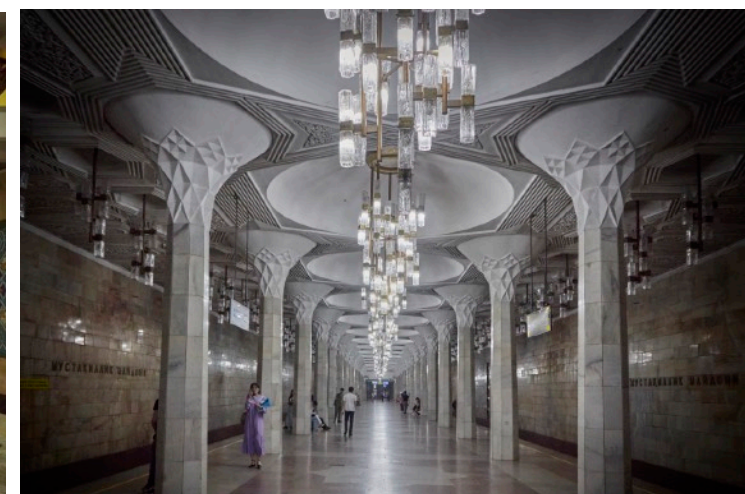
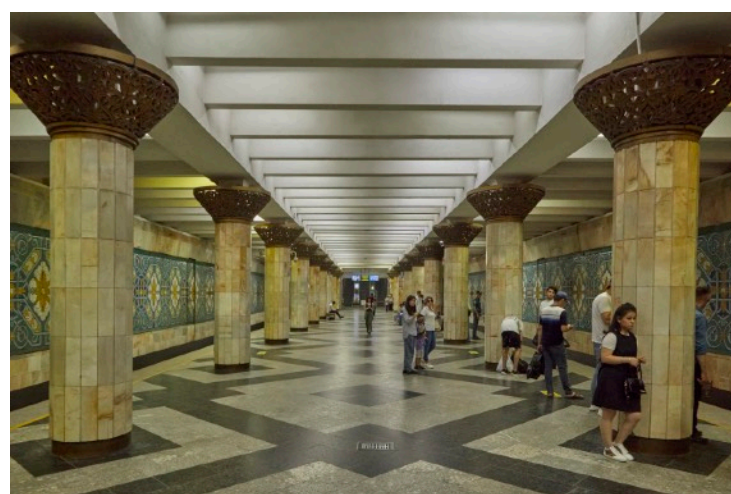
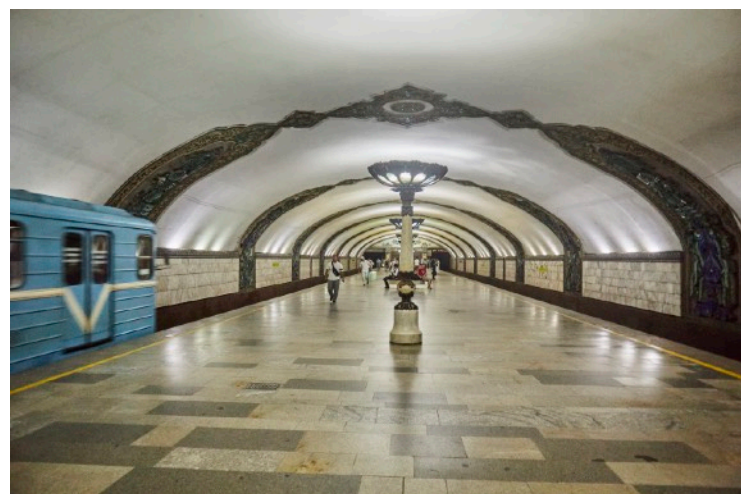


Fallen Soldiers memorial, Tashkent



Palace of International Forums, Tashkent





Tashkent Metro, masterpiece,









Arg of Bukhara



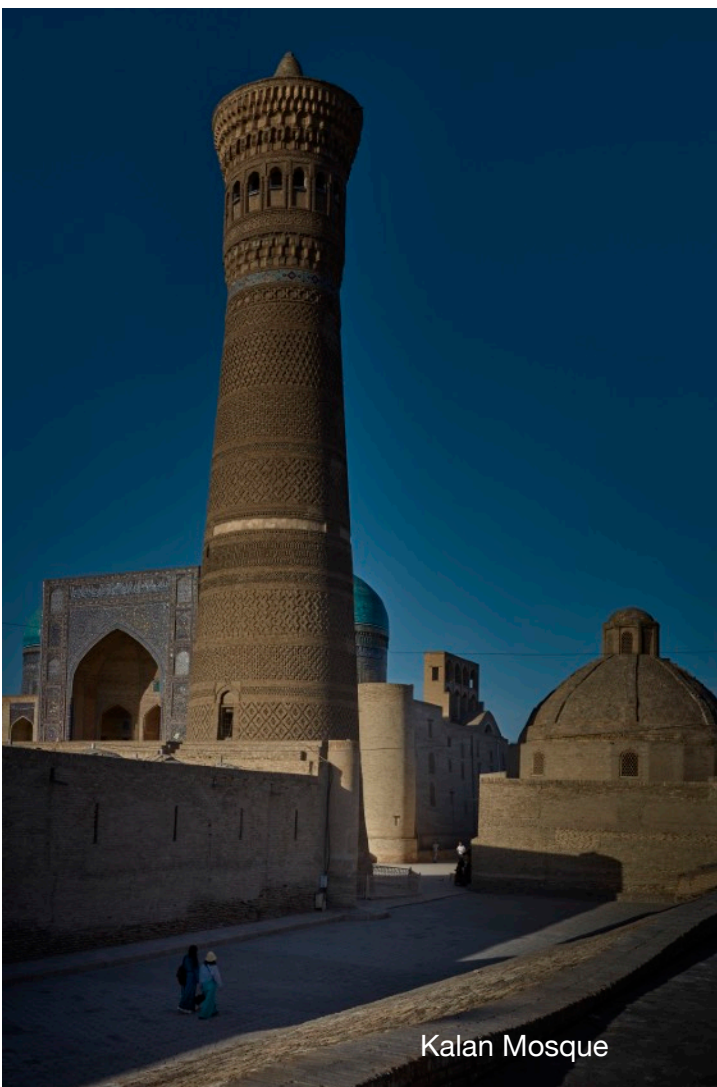
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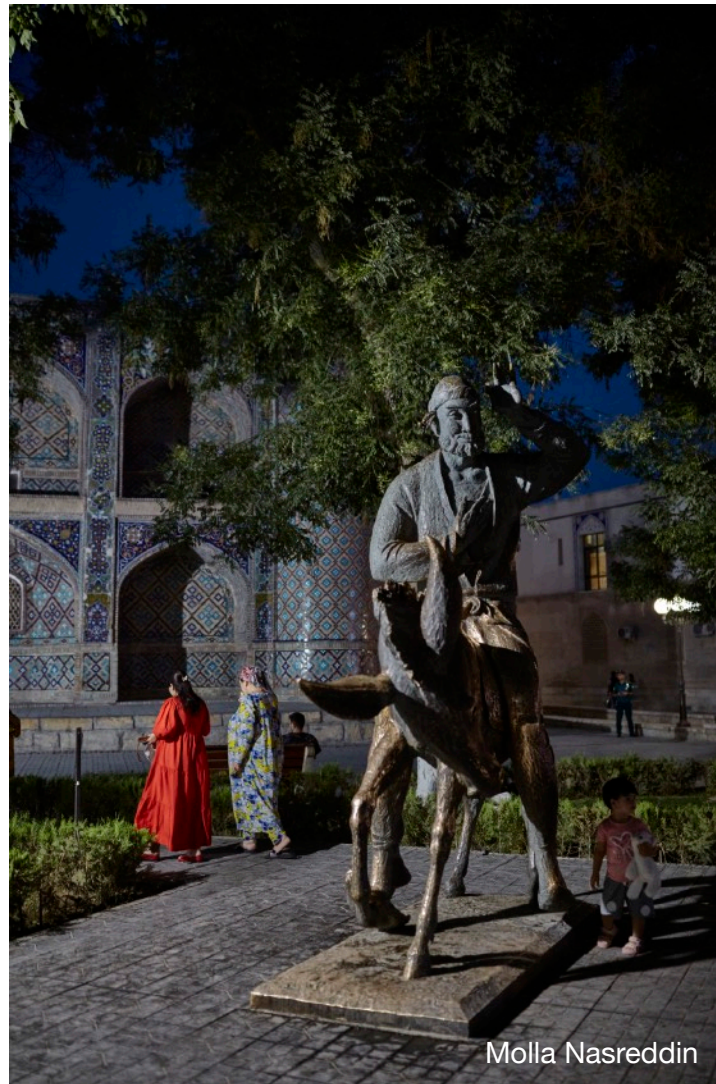
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## Historical Bukhara



Kalan Mosque



Molla Nasreddin



Chor Minor Mosque





Gur Amir Complex, Samarkand

### **Day 3-4: Khiva's Living Museum**

Fly to Khiva, a UNESCO World Heritage site and an open-air museum within the Ichan-Kala fortress. Explore the historical sites, including Tash-Khovli Palace and the towering Islam-Khoja minaret. Capture the essence of this ancient city with your camera as you stroll through its winding streets.

### **Day 5 Shirin Etho village**

We journey to the quaint village of Shirin, located just 25 km from the bustling city of Bukhara. Here, amidst the tranquility of nature, you'll be enveloped in crisp, fresh air, surrounded by lush green gardens. As day turns to night, marvel at the star-studded sky overhead, a mesmerizing spectacle. Take leisurely walks in the serene surroundings, contemplating the beauty of nature. For a touch of local charm, consider riding donkeys—a delightful experience that allows you to connect with the village's rustic ambiance. Engage in the preparation of traditional dishes, a hands-on opportunity to delve into the heart of Uzbek culinary traditions.

### **Day 6-7; Bukhara's Timeless Charm**

Hop on a high-speed train to Bukhara, where antiquity meets authenticity. Immerse yourself in the ancient city's wonders – from the Lyabi-Hauz complex to the Poikalyan ensemble. Journey to the village of Shirin, experiencing local life at an ethno house. Ride donkeys, savor traditional cuisine, and let the charm of Bukhara weave its spell on you.

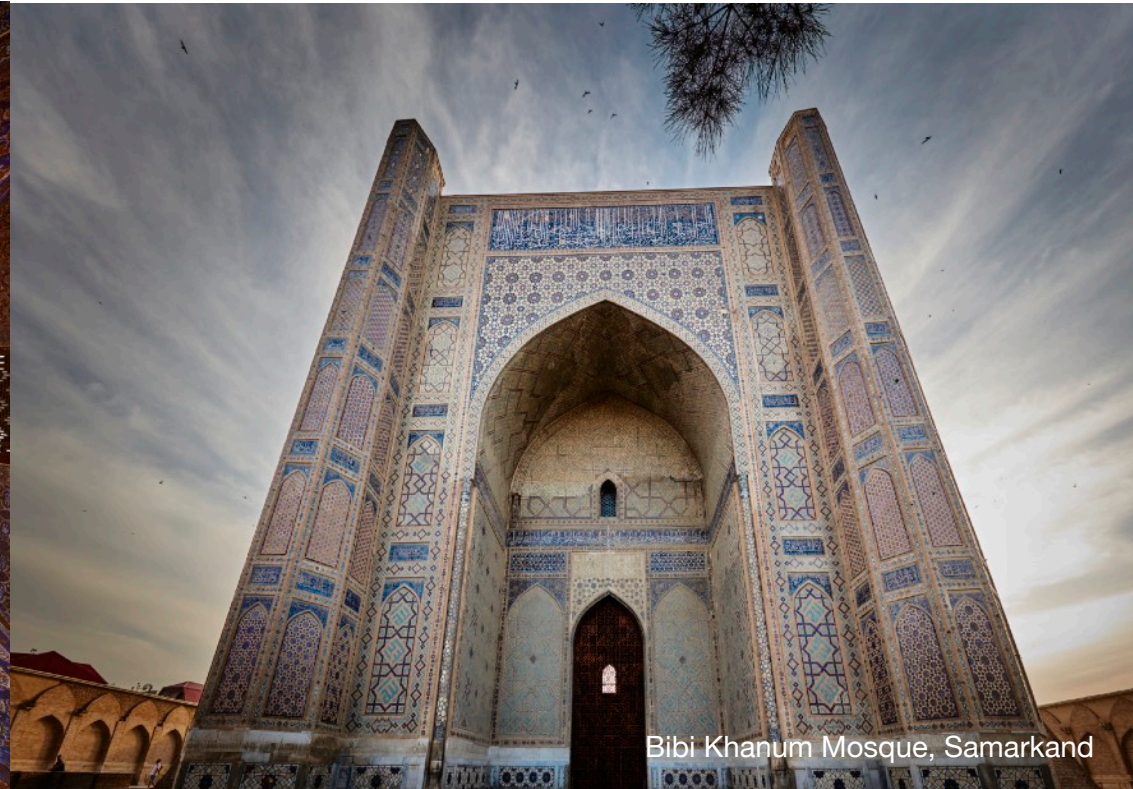
### **Day 8-10: Samarkand's Silk Road Splendours**

Begin your odyssey in Samarkand, a city that echoes with the footsteps of conquerors and scholars. Marvel at the intricate beauty of Registan Square, explore the tomb of Tamerlane at Gur Emir, and be enchanted by the grandeur of Bibi-Khanum Mosque. Wander through the Siyab Bazaar, a kaleidoscope of colours and flavours. As the day fades, rest in a luxurious 4-star hotel and let the echoes of Samarkand's history lull you to sleep.





Rajastan, Samarkand



Bibi Khanum Mosque, Samarkand



Bibi Khanum Moaque, Samarkand



Shahe Zinda, Samarkand





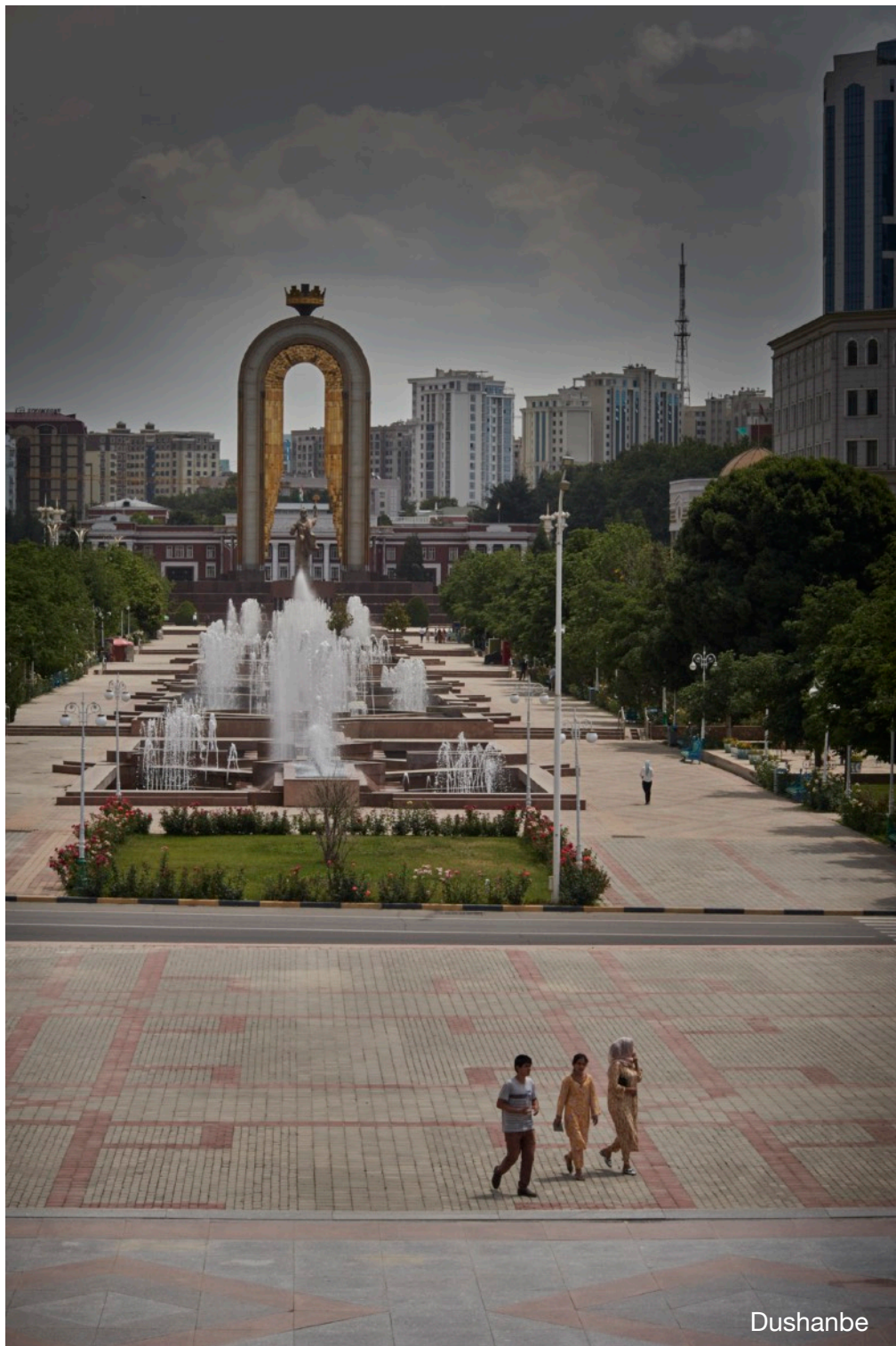
Rajasthan, Samarkand





Fann Mountains , Northern Tajikistan





### **Day 11: Samarkand - Iskenderkul**

Embark on a scenic drive from Samarkand to Iskenderkul. Explore the breathtaking landscapes and cultural richness along the way. Visit key attractions en route to Iskenderkul, ensuring a memorable start to your Tajikistan journey. Dinner and overnight stay in Iskenderkul.

### **Day 12: Dushanbe**

After breakfast, continue your journey to Dushanbe. Explore the natural beauty and cultural wonders of the region, with a stopover at notable sites. Arrive in Dushanbe in the afternoon and start exploring by visiting prominent attractions such as the National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan, the Botanical Garden, Oriental Bazaar Mehrgon, Rudaki Park, Somoni Monument, and the Flagpole.

### **Day 13 Kalai-Humb (370 km, 6/7 hrs)**

Depart from Dushanbe towards Kalai-Humb, experiencing diverse landscapes and cultural shifts. Enjoy the panoramic views and immerse yourself in the local atmosphere. Dinner and overnight stay at the Karon Palace Hotel 4\*.

### **Day 14 Kalai-Humb - Khorog (260 km, 6/7 hrs)**

Continue the journey to Khorog along the Panj River, witnessing the distinct lifestyles on both sides. Explore Khorog's attractions, including the Botanical Garden and Central Park. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at a 3-star hotel.









Yumchun Kushan castle 2nd C CE, Wakhan valley





Pamir Highway



### **Day 15: Khorog - Ishkasim (110 km, 3/4 hrs)**

Head to Ishkashim, stopping for hot springs at Garm-e-Chasma. Witness the historical significance of the Wakhan River valley and enjoy the stunning views. Dinner and overnight at Hani

### **Day 16: Ishkasim - Zong (180 km, 4/5 hrs)**

Explore Namadgut village, Bibi Fatima hot spring, and the ruins of Yamchun fortress. Relax in the holy hot spring Bibi Fatimai Zuhro. Dinner and overnight in Zong village at Sash's guest house.

### **Day 17 : Free Day in Zong**

Enjoy a leisure day in the wide Vakhan Valley, taking in the historical and natural beauty.

### **Day 18: Langar - Alichur - Murgab (260 km, 5/6 hrs)**

Drive through the scenic Wakhan Valley and potentially experience sleeping in a yurt or homestay. Dinner and overnight stay.

### **Day 19 : Murgab - Karakul Lake (124 km, 3/4 hrs)**

Cross the second-highest pass in the world at 4655m. Lunch and dinner at a guesthouse or 2-star hotel.

### **Day20: Karakul - Bulunkul (360 km, 7/8 hrs)**

Drive to Bulunkul village, experiencing the coldest area in Central Asia. Stay at Sulaimon Guest House on the shores of Bulunkul Lake.







Karakul Village



Murghab market



Karakul Village



Alichur Village









Murgab , 4000 mt elevation,



**Day 21: Bulunkul - Bartang (360 km, 6/7 hrs)**

Travel through GBOA to the beautiful Bartang Valley, reaching Khijez village.

**Day 22: Bartang Valley - Kalai-khum (300 km, 6/7 hrs)**

**Day 23: Kalaikhum - Rasht Valley - Dushanbe (310 km, 6/7 hrs)**

Pass through Rasht Valley, observing the construction of the largest Hydro Power Station in Central Asia - Roghun. Enjoy dinner in a local restaurant and overnight at a 4-star hotel.

**Day 24: Dushanbe**

**Day 25: Khujand ( 320km, 6/7 hrs)**

Embark on a scenic drive through the Fans Mountains to reach Khujand. Explore the picturesque landscapes and cultural highlights along the way. Dinner and overnight stay in Khujand.

**Day 26: Khujand - Border Pass to Uzbekistan - Tashkent**

On the final day, cross the border pass to Uzbekistan and return to Tashkent. Reflect on the incredible journey through Central Asia as you head back to Tashkent, marking the end of this memorable adventure. Enjoy a farewell dinner and overnight stay in Tashkent.

**Day 27: Tashkent**

**Day 28 Departure**





Nuran Zorlu, an Australian commercial and advertising photographer, boasts over two decades of industry expertise. A recipient of the AIPP Travel Photographer of the Year (NSW) award twice, his work has garnered acclaim in competitions like 'Head On' and 'Shoot the Chef.' As an esteemed photography teacher and judge in Australian competitions, Nuran's influence extends beyond his captivating visuals.

His travel photography, showcased in prominent exhibitions and publications, reflects his passion for exploring diverse cultures. Nuran has lectured on travel photography and history at esteemed institutions like the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney University, Cezayir Cultural Centre in Istanbul, and the 2016 Tehran International Book Fair. His images have adorned the walls of both NSW and Victorian parliament houses.

Born in Istanbul to Armenian parents, Nuran is multilingual, fluent in English, Turkish, Armenian, and a bit of Persian. Holding a degree in philosophy and sociology from Istanbul University, he possesses a profound love for the region's history. This unique blend of cultural insight and photographic prowess ensures that Nuran's travel photography workshops transcend mere technical lessons, offering an intimate understanding of the regions and their inhabitants.

Nuran's illustrated travel journal, "Persia to Iran," garnered attention on ABC radio and featured in a BBC World Service documentary. He conducts photography workshops in Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Central Asia and Iran, further enriching participants with his regional expertise.

Beyond photography, Nuran's passion for food adds a flavorful dimension to his tours. A connoisseur of local dishes and the best regional restaurants, he ensures participants not only capture moments but also savor the culinary delights each region has to offer. Join Nuran Zorlu on a journey where photography becomes a gateway to cultural understanding, and every frame tells a story of history, diversity, and delectable experiences





# Terms and Conditions

## HEALTH REQUIREMENT

The workshop is designed for people of all ages in good health and moderate fitness. Nuran Zorlu cannot accept responsibility for losses or extra expenses caused by, but not limited to, delays, changes in transportation services, weather, illness, injury, strike, quarantine, or other causes. Participants should be cautious during activities like hikes in National Parks, involving short steep descents and climbs. We will comply with National Parks' safety requirements, but participants need to be careful and inform us of any concerns about their capabilities before booking. Nuran Zorlu reserves the right to cancel any workshop, with a full refund. Participants must carry their camera equipment and water for activities.

## RESERVATIONS

Workshops are limited to a maximum of 5 participants, with a minimum of 5 required. Places will be confirmed based on receipt of payment or deposit. Contact Nuran Zorlu at [nuran@nuranzorlu.com](mailto:nuran@nuranzorlu.com) or call 0413 619 292 to book.

## PRICE

### DISCOVER CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN

8th May to 5th June 2024

Tour cost AUD 14.500

Single room Supplement AUD 1800

Deposit to secure your place AUD1500

## PRICE INCLUDES/EXCLUDES:

- Domestic flight Tashkent to Urgech
- Accommodation in 4star hotels or traditional homes.
- All breakfasts and 27 lunch or dinner
- Admission fees to museums and places in the itinerary.
- Comfortable AC/van, or 4wd on Pamirs, driver, gas, parking, bottled water in the vehicle.

The price does not include international airfare, tips, gratuities, and travel insurance.

## DEPOSIT & PAYMENT

- A deposit upon booking to reserve your place AUD 1500
- Final payment by 14 Jan 2024

## CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

- Deposits are refundable up to 90 days prior to the event.
- If canceling more than 90 days from the tour date, we will refund your deposit in full.
- If the tour is not full, and we have the minimum number of bookings, we will refund your deposit in full.
- If the tour is full, and you cancel within 90 days of the workshop date, we won't refund unless your place is filled by someone else.
- No part refunds for unused portions of tour services

## INSURANCE

Participants are advised to obtain their own insurance suitable for their needs.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Nuran Zorlu has limited responsibility and may organise programs from various suppliers. Nuran Zorlu is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure of any supplier. By participating, you agree that Nuran Zorlu shall not be liable for these failings.

These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of New South Wales, Australia. Participants must agree to the Acceptance of Risk Release before the workshop. In the absence of signing the release, attendance confirms acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.



Cultural discovery and photography tours with NURAN ZORLU

# **CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN**

*8th May to 5th June 2024*

**14.500 AUD**

( single person sup. 1800 AUD)

5 people only

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