ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Uzbekistan Highlights

COUNTRY(IES)	Uzbekistan
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	A/C minibus, domestic flight & train
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 16
DURATION	8 days
STARTS	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
ENDS	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
MEALS	Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 1

TOUR ROUTE MAP **8 Days**



ROUTE: **Shkent** (Start) → **Tashkent** → **Khiva** → **Bukhara** → **Samarkand** → **Shkent** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Tashkent, Old Urgench, Ichan-Qala fortress in Khiva, Bukhara, the incredible Registan Square in Samarkand

Itinerary

DAY 1 — Arrive in Tashkent, transfer to hotel

Land at Tashkent International Airport and travel directly to your hotel. The source supports the airport transfer and initial impressions of the capital but does not identify any included sightseeing after arrival. The remainder of the time is therefore reserved for settling in, with the city's urban layout and architecture forming the background to the transfer before later scheduled experiences start.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrive at Tashkent International Airport**
  You arrive at Tashkent International Airport in Tashkent, Uzbekistan to begin your Uzbekistan Highlights Tour. This marks your first introduction to the country's capital city.
- **Drive to Tashkent Airport to Hotel**
  A road transfer from Tashkent International Airport into central Tashkent, Uzbekistan takes you to your hotel. You settle into the city ready for the journey ahead.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Tashkent hotel	None	Single room supplement (UZSGUH)

DAY 2 Tashkent City Tour, fly to Urgench

This day explores Tashkent’s cultural, historical, and civic landmarks before transitioning deeper into Uzbekistan’s Silk Road heartland. Visits to the Hast-Imam Complex and ChorSu Bazaar reveal the city’s religious heritage and everyday life, while Independence Square and Amir Temur Square reflect its national identity and modern history. The Applied Arts Museum offers insight into traditional craftsmanship and regional design. In the afternoon, travel continues by air to Urgench, followed by a drive to Khiva, marking a shift from the capital to one of Central Asia’s most preserved historic cities.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Hast in Imam Complex – Tashkent**
  You visit the historic Hast-Imam Complex in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, home to several important Islamic monuments and madrasahs. This atmospheric religious centre showcases traditional architecture and sacred texts.
- **Explore ChorSu Bazaar in Tashkent**
  You explore ChorSu Bazaar in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, a sprawling market packed with spices, fresh produce and local crafts. The bustling atmosphere gives you a vivid taste of daily life in the capital.
- **Explore Independence Square in Tashkent**
  You continue to Independence Square in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the main ceremonial plaza of the capital. Monumental fountains and monuments reflect the country's modern history and national identity.
- **Explore Amir Temur Square in Tashkent**
  You stop at Amir Temur Square in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, dominated by a statue of the famous conqueror. This central square is a popular gathering place framed by grand city landmarks.
- **Explore Applied Arts Museum in Tashkent**
  You visit the Applied Arts Museum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, housed in a beautifully decorated mansion. Inside you discover fine examples of Uzbek embroidery, ceramics, woodcarving and traditional design.
- **Drive from Tashkent to Tashkent Domestic Airport**
  A road transfer from central Tashkent, Uzbekistan takes you to the Tashkent domestic airport for your onward flight. You leave the city streets behind as you head toward the departures terminal.
- **Travel from Flight Tashkent to Urgench**
  A short domestic flight departs from Tashkent, Uzbekistan and heads to Urgench in the west of the country. This connection links the capital with the Khorezm region for your stay in nearby Khiva.
- **Drive from Urgench to Khiva**
  A road transfer from Urgench, Uzbekistan takes you across the flat Khorezm plains to the ancient city of Khiva. You travel toward the old walled oasis where you will spend the night.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Khiva hotel	Breakfast

DAY 3 Khiva & Urgench sightseeing, fly to Bukhara

This day is centred on Khiva’s remarkably preserved old town before continuing onward to another key Silk Road city. Time in Ichan-Qala Fortress reveals a dense holdings of mosques, madrasas, minarets, and palaces that reflect centuries of Khorezm history within its city walls. Free time allows you to explore Khiva at a relaxed pace, absorbing its atmosphere and architectural detail. Later, travel continues with a drive to Urgench Airport and a flight to Bukhara, marking the transition to the next chapter of the journey.

ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Ichan-Qala Fortress and Monuments – Khiva**
  You explore the UNESCO-listed Ichan-Qala Fortress in Khiva, Uzbekistan. Inside the walls the visit takes in the Kunya-Ark, the Saveed Alauddin Mausoleum, the Arab Mukhamadkhan Madrasah, the Og-Masjid Mosque, the Madrasah of Hodjan Berdi-biya, Shirgazikhan, Abdullakhan, the Juma Mosque, the Allakulikhan Madrasah, the Tosh-Khovli Palace, the Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum and finally the Minaret of Islom-Khoja. This compact old town gives a remarkable insight into Silk Road history and traditional desert architecture.
- **Free Time in Khiva**
  You have free time in Khiva, Uzbekistan to revisit favourite corners of the Ichan-Qala or relax in a café. The peaceful streets and mudbrick walls make this one of the most atmospheric cities in the country.
- **Drive from Khiva to Urgench Airport**
  A road transfer from Khiva, Uzbekistan returns you to nearby Urgench Airport for your evening flight. You leave the walled city behind as you cross the Khorezm region once more.
- **Travel from Flight Urgench to Bukhara**
  A domestic flight departs from Urgench, Uzbekistan and carries you southeast toward Bukhara. This quick hop replaces a long drive across the Kyzylkum desert.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bukhara hotel	Breakfast

DAY 4 Bukhara sightseeing

Spend the day among Bukhara’s religious buildings, royal architecture, trade domes and the Lyabi Khauz area. The city’s Silk Road heritage provides the setting before the evening shifts towards living culture with dinner and a folklore performance at Nodir Devan Begi Madrasah. Historic surroundings and traditional performance come together naturally at the close of the day.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Mausoleum of the Samanid Dynasty in Bukhara**
  You visit the Mausoleum of the Samanid Dynasty in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, one of Central Asia's finest early Islamic buildings. Its intricate brickwork and compact design make it a highlight of the city.
- **Explore Ark Fortress in Bukhara**
  You explore the Ark Fortress in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, the ancient citadel that once housed emirs, officials and soldiers. From its walls you gain a sense of the city's strategic importance on the Silk Road.
- **Explore Chashma in Ayub Mausoleum – Bukhara**
  You stop at the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, associated with the prophet Job and a sacred spring. The unusual cone-shaped dome stands out among the city's many monuments.
- **Explore Kalon Ensemble in Bukhara**
  You visit the Kalon Ensemble in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, a majestic complex centred on the Kalon Mosque and towering minaret. This heart of the old city showcases classic Timurid and later architecture.
- **Explore Miri in Arab Madrasah – Bukhara**
  You admire the façade of the Miri-Arab Madrasah in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, facing the Kalon Mosque across the main square. Its turquoise domes and ornate tilework are among the city's most photographed sights.
- **Explore Magoki in Attori Mosque – Bukhara**
  You visit the Magoki-Attori Mosque in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, partly sunken below street level and layered with history. The building reveals pre-Islamic and Islamic influences in its stones and brickwork.
- **Visit Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan Madrasahs – Bukhara**
  You explore the paired Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan Madrasahs in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, standing opposite each other on a busy square. Their contrasting decoration reflects different eras of Islamic art and education in the city.
- **Explore Bukhara Trade Domes in Bukhara**
  You wander through the historic trade domes in Bukhara, Uzbekistan where merchants once sold silk, jewellery and spices. Today the vaulted passages still house stalls and workshops in the old city.
- **Explore Lyabi Khauz Complex in Bukhara**
  You relax around the Lyabi Khauz complex in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, a leafy pool framed by madrasahs and old houses. This central square is a favourite evening gathering spot for locals and visitors alike.
- **Explore Chor in Minor Madrasah – Bukhara**
  You visit the quirky Chor-Minor Madrasah in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, recognisable by its four small turquoise-capped towers. The peaceful courtyard offers a quieter corner of the city to explore.
- **Dinner and Folklore Show – Nodir Devan Begi Madrasah – Bukhara**
  In the evening you enjoy dinner and a folklore show at Nodir Devan Begi Madrasah in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. Traditional music, dance and costumes bring local culture vividly to life in this historic setting.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bukhara hotel	Breakfast,Dinner

DAY 5 Bukhara to Samarkand

Explore sites around Bukhara including the Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Summer Palace and the mausoleum complexes of Bakhoutdin Naqshbandi and Chor-Bakr. Afterwards, leave the city and travel east towards Samarkand along the historic Silk Road. Stop at Rabat Malik Caravanserai, a reminder of the merchants and travellers who once moved between Central Asia’s great trading centres, before continuing through Uzbekistan’s open landscapes.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Sitorai Mokhi in Khosa Summer Palace – Bukhara**
  You drive out to the Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa summer palace near Bukhara, Uzbekistan, former residence of the last emir. The blend of European and oriental design reflects changing tastes at the end of the emirate era.
- **Explore Mausoleum of Bakhoutdin Naqshbandi in Bukhara**
  You visit the Mausoleum of Bakhoutdin Naqshbandi near Bukhara, Uzbekistan, an important pilgrimage site for Sufi followers. The tree-shaded complex offers a calm spiritual atmosphere outside the busy city.
- **Explore Chor in Bakr Necropolis – Bukhara**
  You explore the Chor-Bakr Necropolis close to Bukhara, Uzbekistan, a vast cemetery of domes, courtyards and family tombs. Walking its lanes gives insight into centuries of religious and social history in the region.
- **Drive from Bukhara to Samarkand via Rabat Malik Caravanserai**
  A road journey begins from Bukhara, Uzbekistan as you travel toward Samarkand, breaking the trip at an historic caravanserai. The long drive crosses central Uzbekistan's desert plains and farming districts.
- **Explore Rabat Malik Caravanserai in Central Uzbekistan**
  You stop to visit Rabat Malik Caravanserai in central Uzbekistan, an 11th-century wayside inn on the old Silk Road. Its monumental portal and crumbling walls hint at the scale of trade that once passed through here.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Samarkand hotel	Breakfast

DAY 6 Samarkand Sightseeing

This day is dedicated to Samarkand’s golden age as a centre of power, science, and art along the Silk Road. Visits to Registan Square and Bibi-Khanym Mosque reveal the monumental scale and decorative mastery of the Timurid era, while Ulugbek Observatory highlights the city’s historic role in astronomy and scholarship. The Shakhi-Zinda necropolis and Gur Emir Mausoleum offer insight into dynastic legacy, spiritual tradition, and architectural symbolism. The experience concludes at the Central Samarkand Bazaar, where everyday life continues amid the city’s historic core.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Registan Square in Samarkand**
  You begin your Samarkand sightseeing at Registan Square in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, framed by three magnificent tiled madrasahs. This iconic ensemble is one of Central Asia's most famous architectural landmarks.

- **Explore Bibi in Khanym Mosque – Samarkand**
  You visit the remains of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, once one of the largest mosques in the Islamic world. Its soaring portal and reconstructed dome still impress despite centuries of damage.
- **Explore Ulugbek Observatory in Samarkand**
  You explore Ulugbek Observatory in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where the 15th-century ruler-astronomer measured the stars with remarkable accuracy. The museum explains how this hilltop site advanced medieval science in the region.
- **Explore Shakhi in Zinda Necropolis – Samarkand**
  You walk through the Shakhi-Zinda Necropolis in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, a narrow avenue lined with dazzling tiled mausoleums. The richly decorated tombs belong to nobles and holy figures from different eras.
- **Explore Gur Emir Mausoleum (Shrine of Tamerlane) in Samarkand**
  You visit the Gur Emir Mausoleum in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, final resting place and shrine of Tamerlane. Its ribbed turquoise dome and ornate interior mark it as one of the city's most important monuments.
- **Explore Central Samarkand Bazaar in Samarkand**
  You browse the central bazaar in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where stalls overflow with dried fruits, nuts and colourful textiles. The lively market scene contrasts with the city's grand historical sites.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Samarkand hotel	Breakfast

DAY 7 Samarkand sightseeing, train to Tashkent

This day explores Samarkand’s spiritual heritage and traditional craftsmanship before returning to the capital. Visits to the Tomb of Saint Daniel and the Afrasiyab Museum reveal layers of religious tradition and the city’s ancient foundations. The experience continues in the Samarkand region with a visit to Koni Ghil Village, where traditional paper-making techniques are preserved and demonstrated. In the afternoon, you travel to Samarkand Railway Station and board the train to Tashkent, concluding the journey through Uzbekistan’s historic heartland.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Tomb of Saint Daniel in Samarkand**
  You visit the Tomb of Saint Daniel on the outskirts of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, revered by several religious traditions. The long sarcophagus and riverside setting make this a quietly atmospheric stop.
- **Explore Afrasiyab Museum in Samarkand**
  You explore the Afrasiyab Museum in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, which displays finds from the ancient settlement that predated the modern city. Remarkable wall paintings and artefacts reveal life here more than a thousand years ago.
- **Explore Koni Ghil Village Paper Workshop in Samarkand Region**
  You drive out to Koni Ghil village near Samarkand, Uzbekistan to see traditional paper-making from mulberry bark. The small workshops and waterwheels show how local crafts are being revived in the countryside.

- **Drive from Samarkand to Samarkand Railway Station**
  A short road transfer from your hotel in Samarkand, Uzbekistan takes you to the railway station. Here you board the high-speed train back toward the capital.
- **Train from Samarkand to Tashkent**
  A high-speed train journey departs from Samarkand, Uzbekistan and runs across the plains toward Tashkent. The smooth ride links two of the country's most important cities in just a few hours.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Tashkent hotel	Breakfast

DAY 8 Tashkent, free time, transfer to airport

This final day in Uzbekistan allows time to enjoy Tashkent at your own pace before departure. Free time offers the chance for last-minute exploration, shopping, or relaxation in the capital. You then transfer from your hotel to Tashkent International Airport, marking the end of your journey through Central Asia. Departures take place according to individual onward travel arrangements.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Tashkent**
  You have free time in Tashkent, Uzbekistan for last-minute sightseeing, shopping or relaxing at your hotel. This is your final chance to enjoy the capital before departure.
- **Drive from Tashkent Hotel to Tashkent International Airport**
  A road transfer from your hotel in Tashkent, Uzbekistan takes you back to Tashkent International Airport. You leave the city centre behind as you head for your departing flight.
- **Depart from Tashkent International Airport**
  Your tour concludes with departure from Tashkent International Airport in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. You check in for your onward flight carrying memories of the country's historic cities and landscapes.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
N/A	Breakfast

INCLUDED

- All accommodation in 3 & 4-star hotels as stated in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Domestic flights from Tashkent to Urgench and Urgench and Bukhara
- Train between Samarkand and Tashkent
- Professional English-speaking local tour guides at each site
- Dinner with folklore show at Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah in Bukhara
- Entrance fees to various sites
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Tipping kitty
- Visa support letter for Uzbekistan visa

EXCLUDED

- International Flights (available on request)
- Uzbekistan tourist visa costs
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guide & driver
- Any other items not mentioned above

Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

No additional options available for this tour.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

We use good quality hotels rated at the Uzbekistan 3 and 4-star level on this tour. Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

2 Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. In Uzbekistan we do not use any public tourist buses or overnight coach journeys as we know that people don't sleep on board and end up very tired for the following few days.

In addition to road transportation, this tour also features 2 short internal flights between Tashkent/Urgench and Urgench/Bukhara and we make use of the high-speed Afrosiyob Train between Samarkand and Tashkent.

3 Transfers

Our Uzbekistan tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Tashkent airport, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers. Our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Tashkent airport.

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

4 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, except on some Escorted Tours, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to book your flights for you. Our ATOL (UK flight sales license - No. 10467) protects all holidays booked together with a flight from the UK.

Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from. Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour whether you book your flights independently or through us. Our Uzbekistan tours start and finish in Tashkent airport (TAS).

5 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. There's no point in us providing great guides if you've got to peer over 30-40 shoulders to see them! So, we won't ever put you in a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and just one guide. Instead, we set our Uzbekistan group departures to have a

maximum of 16 travellers.

In Uzbekistan we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking guide for all of the sightseeing tours. On departures where we have a minimum of 6 participants we'll also include a tour escort for the entire tour. Our local reps in some of the towns and cities en-route are also at your service. At Encounters Travel we try to use local guides and reps as much as possible. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

6 Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You will need to cover the cost of entrance to any other extra sites that you may wish to visit.

Camera Fees: Photography is restricted in various ways at different sites. Often flash photography is often forbidden to protect the exhibits and ancient pigments, and sometimes cameras are not allowed in at all. Please respect these rules as they are there partly for your benefit. Where camera fees are charged, these are not included in the tour price and must be paid locally.

7 Tipping

Tipping isn't common practice in Uzbekistan, however a tip for good service is always very much appreciated.

Throughout your tour you will have various tour guides and drivers and if you feel you've had good service you may wish to give them a small tip at the end of the time they spend with you. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget and your satisfaction with the service provided. We are often asked to provide a guide however:

Restaurants and taxis: Local markets and basic restaurants - leave the loose change. For more up-market restaurants we suggest 5% to 10% of your bill.

Local guides: Throughout your trip you may at times have a local guide in addition to your tour guide or tour leader. We suggest around GBP 1.50 / EUR 2.0 / USD 2 per person per day for local guides.

Drivers: You may have a range of private drivers on your trip. Some may be with you for a short journey while others may be with you for several days. We would suggest a higher tip for those more involved with the group however GBP 1.50 / EUR 2 / USD 2 per person per day is generally appropriate.

Tour guide: As a guideline we suggest around GBP 20-35 / USD 35-50 / EUR 25-45 per person for the whole tour, but this is ultimately up to you.

8 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination.
You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical

conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for Uzbekistan are Hepatitis A and Tetanus.

More information is available here: Uzbekistan

Malaria map - there is low risk malaria in some south eastern regions.

Yellow fever certificates are not required.

---

9 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

Most foreign nationals require a visa to enter Uzbekistan, however we will provide assistance with this. After confirming your reservation we'll ask you to complete a passenger manifest where you'll need to list various personal details. We'll then use this form to obtain a Visa Support Letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tashkent. This letter will then allow you to travel without first obtaining your visa and you'll be able to obtain a visa on arrival in Tashkent through payment of the appropriate fee (for most nationalities this is around $40, however this does vary dependning on your nationality - please contact us for more specific information).

The cost of the support letter is included in your tour price, however the cost of the actual visa on arrival is not.

---

10 Time

Uzbekistan Time is GMT plus 5 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed in Uzbekistan.

---

11 Money

The monetary unit in Uzbekistan is the Uzbekistani Som (UZS). 1 Som= 100 Tiyin.
Current Exchange rate UZS 1,000 (GBP 0.19) as at 11 July 2017 at 9:05pm. Bring enough cash for the duration of your stay. Travellers' cheques are not normally accepted. There are very few cash dispensers. US dollars are the most widely accepted foreign currency. Only change money through official exchange booths. It is illegal to change money on the black market, and harsh penalties will be imposed on those caught doing so. Damaged or marked bank notes will not be accepted at official exchange locations. You will need to complete a foreign currency declaration form when you arrive, and keep a copy yourself. You cannot leave with more foreign currency than you arrive with.

---

12 What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Uzbekistan. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips – you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

Luggage limits: There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before

travelling to the airport.

Clothing: Modesty rates highly in most of Uzbekistan, especially for women, so please ensure clothes are loose fitting and not too revealing. Loose shorts are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (your shoulders should remain covered). In local villages, and any mosques throughout the country, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

---

13 Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour between March and November starting on a Friday. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 16. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

---

14 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

---

15 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

---

16 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

---

17 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

---

18 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this

event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

---

19 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

---

20 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you’ll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!

- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

---

21 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

---

22 Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.
