Central Asia  
(Tour Code : TAS8JU)

8D7N Uzbekistan “Jewel of Silk Road”

(Uzbekistan Top 3 Silk Road Ancient Cities - KHIVA * BUKHARA * SAMARKAND)

Day 1, Wed:  SINGAPORE ➔ TASHKENT
Depart from Singapore to Tashkent.

Day 2, Thu:  ARRIVE TASHKENT (B/L/D)
Arrive in Tashkent at about 0320hrs. Check in hotel and have a good rest After breakfast, start exploring Tashkent. The history of Tashkent is almost 2000 years old, and for this period the city passed a long way from small settlement to the metropolitan center. Now, Tashkent is one of the most important industrial, financial and cultural centers not only in Uzbekistan but also all over Central Asia. Visit Khast Imam Square – the holy heart of Tashkent and the least Russified or Sovietized part of the city. On the square is the Barak Khan Madrassah founded in the 16th century by a descendent of Tamerlane who ruled Tashkent for the Shaybanid dynasty; Tillya Sheikh Mosque, formerly Tashkent’s main place of worship. Built by Mirza Akhmed Kushbegi in 1856, the mosque is a peaceful place with some attractive carved pillars and painted ceilings; Kafal Shashi mausoleum, the grave of a local doctor, philosopher and poet of Islam who lived from 904 to 979. Then, continue to Chorsu Bazaar one of the busiest and famous marketplaces in Tashkent to buy jewelry, pottery, ceramics, costumes, souvenirs, spices and much more. This traditional market is centrally located in the old town of Tashkent. Then explore the old part of Tashkent: the Museum of Applied Arts built at the end of the 19th c. by the local craftsman; Independence Square, Amir Temur Square, Opera House Square. Take ride through the most beautiful stations of the Tashkent metro. Hotel: Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace 4* / Radisson Blu 5* or similar.

Day 3, Fri  TASHKENT ➔ URGENCH – KHIVA (B/L/D)
Have an early light breakfast at hotel. Transfer to airport for flight to Urgench, and drive (50min) to Khiva. Walking tour of Ichan Kala UNESCO (a museum in the open under UNESCO protection), architectural complex surrounded by the large fortress wall with four gates. There are more than 60 architectural monuments: palaces, mosques, madrassahs, minarets and mausoleums inside the inner town, including madrassah and minaret of Islam Khodja (XX c.), Mukhammed-Amin-Khan madrassah (XIX c.), Kaita Minor minaret (XIX c.), Pahlavan Mahmud mausoleum (XIX c.), Kunya-Ark fortress (XIX-XX c.), Tash-Khuali palace (XIX c.), Djuma mosque (XVIII c.). Hotel : Asia Khiva 3* / Bek Khiva 3* (best available hotels) or similar.

Day 4, Sat:  KHIVA – BUKHARA (B/L/D)
Depart for Bukhara through the Kyzyl-Kum desert (450 km, 7-8 hrs drive). It is the 16th largest desert in the world. Its name means Red Sand in Turkic languages. Hotel : Omar Khayam / Minorai Kalon / Divan Begi Boutique or similar.
Day 5, Sun: **BUKHARA (B/L/D)**
Breakfast at hotel. Bukhara is an ancient city in the central Asian country of Uzbekistan. It was a prominent stop on the Silk Road trade route between the East and the West, and a major medieval center for Islamic theology and culture. It still contains hundreds of well-preserved mosques, madrassas, bazaars and caravanserais, dating largely from the 9th to the 17th centuries. Architectural heritage of Bukhara is really very rich – caravanserais and trading domes, public baths and big pools, defensive walls and city gates, khanakas and mausoleums, mosques and madrassahs, individual structures and big complexes. Decorative methods, splendor designs and original ideas of architects strike the imagination of anyone: Samanids mausoleum, the burial place of the Samanids (9th-10th cc.) is a masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. The building boasts no colorful facades and paintings, but claims its fame as being the first Muslim mausoleum in Central Asia; Chashma-Ayub shrine (XIV-XVI cc.) known as a curative source; Bolo-Khauz mosque including mosque (XVIII c.), minaret (1914-17) and basin; the Citadel Ark – highest point in the city; Poi-Kalyan Ensemble, the symbol of the city; visiting trading domes consists of three trading centers: Tok-i-Zargaron (1570) – Jeweler’s bazaar, Tok-i-Tilpak Furushon – Cap Maker’s Bazaar, Tok-i-Sarrafon – Moneychanger’s Bazaar; Ulugbek’s madrassah (XV c.) and Abdulaziz-khan madrassah (XVII c.); Liabi-Khauz Complex: Nodir-Divan-beghi madrassah (XVII c.), Kukeldash madrassah (XVI c.), Khonako (XVII c.); Magoki-Attari mosque (XII c., XVI c.); Chor Minor, a colorful madrassah with four peculiar looking towers, which was used as a library for students.
Hotel: Omar Khayam / Minorai Kalon / Divan Begi Boutique / similar.

Day 6, Mon: **BUKHARA – SAMARKAND (B/L/D)**
Breakfast at hotel. Depart for Samarkand, is a city in Uzbekistan known for its mosques and mausoleums. It’s on the Silk Road, the ancient trade route linking China to the Mediterranean (300 km, 4-5 hrs drive). Samarkand has witnessed a lot of upheavals during the times of Alexander the Great (Macedonian), the Arabic Conquest, Ghengis-Khan Conquest and lastly Tamerlane’s. Hence, Samarkand’s culture was developed and mixed together with the Iranian, Indian, Mongolian and a bit of the Western and Eastern cultures. In the afternoon start to explore the city: Gur Emir mausoleum (gravest of Tamerlane and his descendants, 15c); Observatory of Ulugbek (Ulugbek, Timur the Great’s grandson, was the founder of the unique constructions of the observatory (1428-1429): Silk paper center to see ancient tradition of paper production.
Hotel: Grand Samarkand Boutique / Sultan Boutique / similar.
Day 7, Tue: SAMARKAND → TASHKENT (B/L/D)
Breakfast at hotel. Continue to visit Registan Square (meaning “sandy place”) It is an official centre of Samarkand since Tamerlane the Great’s time. The Square is surrounded by the Ulugbek’s madrassah (1417-1420), the Sher-Dor madrassah (1619-1636) and Tilla-Kori madrassah (1646-1660); Mosque Bibi-Khanum (named in honour of Timur’s eldest and favorite wife); Siab bazaar, a colorful main farmers’ market; Necropolis Shakhhi-Zinda and ensemble of mausoleums of the 11th-19th centuries (According to the legend, the ensemble was erected around the grave of Kussam, a son of Abbas and cousin of Mohammed). Transfer to the railway station for high-speed train “Afrosiab” for Tashkent
Overnight at Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace 4*/ Radisson Blu 5*

Day 8, Wed: TASHKENT → SINGAPORE (B)
Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport for flight back to Singapore. We hope that you have had enjoyed your holiday with Hong Thai Travel!

Notice:
1. During international or local festive season, arranged accommodation might subject to change.
2. Tour groups may be merged and sequence of itinerary is subjected to changes without prior notice.
3. Above stated hotels are based on local standards
4. Should the hotels be fully booked, alternate hotels of similar class will be selected.
5. Should there be any discrepancies with the English/Chinese itinerary; the English version shall prevail.
6. Hotel rooms are arranged by the hotels, hence Hong Thai Travel is not responsible for the difference in room types.
7. Tour is fully conducted in English.
8. Tour Fare does not include Photo & video charges at monuments,