

The Silk Road Umrah Trip

Samarkand
Al Madinah Al Munawarah
Makkah AL Mukkaramah
Cairo & Al Menya
Istanbul

Uzbekistan
Saudi Arabia
Saudi Arabia
Egypt
Turkey

Day 1: October 22 (Tuesday)

- **3:00 PM:** Meet at Los Angeles Airport International Terminal at Turkish Airlines. Proceed to the Check-in Counters to check in with the group (Flight Number TK10). Obtain two boarding passes for the two flights to Samarkand.
- **5:15 to 5:30 PM:** Gather at the gate. Please note that some gates may take about 40 minutes to reach. Allow sufficient time for security checks.
- **For wheelchair and special assistance passengers:** Consider additional check-in and security times. Special assistance passengers should inform us of their needs and requests at the time of reservation.
- **7:25 PM:** Departure to Istanbul.

For Denver Group:

- **3:30 PM:** Meet at Denver International Airport at Turkish Airlines. Proceed to the Check-in Counters to check in with the group (Flight Number TK10). Obtain two boarding passes for the two flights to Samarkand.
- **5:30 to 6:00 PM:** Gather at the gate.
- **For wheelchair and special assistance passengers:** Consider additional check-in and security times. Special assistance passengers should inform us of their needs and requests at the time of reservation.
- **7:35 PM:** Departure to Istanbul.

- **Be sure to check other cities for departure times and gathering details.**

Day 2: October 23, 2024 (Wednesday)

- **6:45 PM:** Local time in Istanbul, arrive at Istanbul Airport. Proceed through security (no immigration process). Only change terminals and gates; no luggage transfer is required.
- **Transit:** You have 3 hours and 5 minutes before your next flight.
Check arrival and transit times for other cities and gather accordingly.
- **9:50 PM:** Departure to Samarkand on a Turkish Airlines flight.
- **Hotel:** You'll have a late arrival at 04:40 AM (after midnight). Check-in at the hotel in Samarkand.

Day 3: October 24, 2024 (Thursday)

- **4:40 AM:** Arrival in Samarkand. Transport to the hotel.
- **7:00 AM:** Breakfast at the hotel.
- **2:00 PM:** Begin your sightseeing tour:
 - **Registan Square:** Explore distinctive Persian architecture and the three madrasahs (Islamic schools) in Registan Square, regarded as the hub of the Timurid Renaissance.
 - **Mausoleum of Shaybanids:** Visit this historical site.
 - **Sher-Dor Madrasah and Tilya-Kori Madrasah:** Explore these architectural gems.
 - **Chorsu Trading Dome:** Discover the vibrant market atmosphere.
 - **Ulugh Beg Madrasah:** Continue your exploration of Samarkand's rich history.
- **Proceed to Amir Temur Mausoleum (Guri Amir Complex):**
 - This mausoleum honors the Turco-Mongol conqueror Timur (also known as Tamerlane). It occupies an essential place in the history of Central Asian architecture and influenced later Mughal tombs.

Day 4: October 25, 2024 (Friday)

- **Breakfast at the hotel.**
- **9:00 AM:** Depart by bus to the Mausoleum of Imam al-Bukhari, one of the main sites in Uzbekistan. This visit is to one of the three main shrines in Samarkand.
- **Noon:** Attend Friday prayer at Imam Bukhari Masjid.
- **1:30 PM:** Proceed to the Rukh Abad Mausoleum:
 - Built by order of Amir Timur in 1380.
 - Erected over the grave of Islamic theologian and mystic Sheikh Burhaneddin Sagaradzhi.
 - Sheikh Burhaneddin Sagaradzhi significantly contributed to spreading Islam among the nomads of Eastern Turkestan.
 - The exact date of his death is not established, but it is known that he died in China.
 - According to Sagaradzhi's will, his son Abu Said brought his remains to Samarkand.
- **3:30 PM:** Lunch.
- **4:00 PM:** Visit the Shah-i-Zinda Ensemble:
 - Includes mausoleums and other ritual buildings from the 11th to 15th and 19th centuries.
 - The name "Shah-i-Zinda" means "The living king."
 - Legend connects it to Qutham ibn Abbas, a cousin of Prophet Muhammad (AS), who is buried here. He came to Samarkand during the Arab invasion in the 7th century to preach Islam.
- **6:00 PM:** Stop by The Bibi-Khanym Mosque:
 - One of the most important monuments in Samarkand.
 - In the 15th century, it was one of the largest and most magnificent mosques in the Islamic world.
 - Considered a masterpiece of the Timurid Renaissance.
 - Major parts of the mosque were restored during the Soviet period.

- **Return to the hotel. Prepare your luggage**
- **10:30 PM:** luggage collection.

Day 5: October 26, 2024 (Saturday)

- **1:30 AM:** Depart for Samarkand Airport.
- **5:40 AM:** Flight TK373 departs for Istanbul. Check in your luggage to Al Madinah and obtain two boarding passes for the connecting flights.
- **8:55 AM:** Arrival in Istanbul (local time). Transit time is 3 hours and 40 minutes.
- **12:35 PM:** Flight TK108 departs for Al Madinah.
- **4:05 PM:** Arrival in Al Madinah Al Munawarah. Our meet and assist team will be there to transfer you to the hotel. On the bus, you'll receive a dinner box.
- Enjoy your stay and prayers at Al Masjid Al Nabwai.

Day 6: October 27, 2024 (Sunday)

- **4:30 AM:** Attend the Fajr Prayer at Al Masjid Al Nabawi.
- **6:30 AM:** Enjoy an extended breakfast (available until 10:30 AM).
- **Prayers at Al Masjid Al Nabawi:** Take time to engage in prayers and reflection.
- **Al Rawdah Al Sharifah:** We will attempt to book a prayer session here based on availability (details will be announced).
- **9:30 PM:** After Isha Prayer, join a night tour to special historical sites in Al Madinah Al Munawarah:
 - **Uhud:** Explore this significant site.
 - **Saidna Salman Al Farsi Farm:** Learn about its historical importance.
 - **Thaniyât Al Wedaa:** Discover its significance.
 - **Masjid Al Jumaa:** Visit this mosque.
 - **Masjid Al Osbah and Masjid Al Ghamam:** Explore these places of worship.
 - **Arees Well of Water and Ghars Well of Water:** Learn about their history and significance.

Day 7: October 28, 2024 (Monday)

- **Enjoy Prayer at Masjid Al Nabawi.**
- **8:00 AM:** Meet at the lobby of Al Madinah Al Munawarah Hotel for the morning tour in Madinah:
 - **Uhud:** Explore this historical site.
 - **Qibaa Masjid:** Visit this mosque.
 - **Trench Battle Site and Seven Mosques:** Subject to local rules, explore these significant locations.
 - **Zi Al Qiblatain Masjid:** Discover its history and significance.
- **Enjoy the 5 daily prayers at Al Masjid Al Haram.**
- **4:30 PM:** Gather with the group leader and Imam to refresh your information about the program.
- **Prepare your luggage:** It will be collected for smoother preparation to go to Makkah the following morning.

- **8:30 PM:** Meeting with the Imam(s) for Umrah preparation and a Q&A session.
- **11:30 PM:** Collect your luggage in preparation for Makkah the next morning.

Day 8: October 29, 2024 (Tuesday)

- **Fajr Prayer.**
- **Breakfast:** Enjoy your morning meal.
- **Brief Meeting with the Group Leader.**
- **6:30 AM to 8:00 AM:** Breakfast.
- **8:00 AM:** Collect your luggage.
- **8:30 AM:** Perform Ihram at the hotel.
- **9:00 AM to 9:45 AM:** Check out.

Option 1:

- **10:00 AM:** Buses will be ready for our trip to Makkah Al Mukkaramah.
 - On the bus, you'll have a lunch bag with plenty of snacks, fruits, fresh vegetables, water, and juices.
- **10:30 to 10:45 AM:** Stop at the Miqat (Abyar Ali) to make the intention.
- **11:15 AM:** Back on the bus. We'll use the AL HIJRAH road (also known as the OLD ROAD OF MADINAH or PROPHETS ROAD).
 - Along this road, we'll visit important places like Al Rawhaa well of water.
 - Our Imam(s) will explain the significance of these places.
 - The most important stop will be at Badr city to visit the Badr cemetery of the 14 companions and see the surrounding sights.
- **Approximately 4:30 PM:** Arrival in Makkah Al Mukkaramah. Check into the hotel.
 - Your luggage will be delivered to your room.
- **10:00 PM:** Perform the arrival Umrah.
- Back to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Option 2:

- Perform your Ihram at the hotel and ride the train directly to Makkah according to the train departure time and availability.
 - **(Note: Extra train charges and transportation will apply if you choose this option.)**

Day 9: October 30, 2024 (Wednesday)

- **Breakfast after Fajr Prayer.**
- **Enjoy your prayers at Al Masjid Al Haram.**

Day 10: October 31, 2024 (Thursday)

- **Breakfast.**
- **8:30 AM:** Bus departs with the group leader, Imam, and guides for Mazarat (Zyarat) (Sightseeing) to historical places in Makkah Al Mukkaramah:
 - **Jabal Al-Nur:** Explore this significant mountain.
 - **Jabal Thawr:** Visit this historical site.
 - **Al Maalaea:** Discover its significance.
 - **Arafat:** Explore the area.
 - **Jabal Al Rahma:** Learn about its history.
 - (Subject to local rules)
- **Optional:** Perform another Umrah based on your choice.
- **10:00 PM:** Prepare your luggage for final departure.
- **8:30 PM:** Gather for the Al Taief City Tour:
 - **Masjid Al Abbas:** Visit this mosque.
 - **Addas Farm:** Explore this location.
 - **Rose Factory:** Learn about rose production.
 - Enjoy a light lunch.
- On the way back, you can stop at Qarn Almanazel Miqat if you want to perform another Umrah (based on personal preferences and availability).
- Return to Makkah.
- **9:30 PM:** Optional Umrah.

Day 11: November 1, 2024 (Friday)

- **Fajr Prayer.**
- **Breakfast.**
- Attend the **Friday Prayer at Al Masjid Al Haram.**

Day 12: November 2, 2024 (Saturday)

- **Fajr Prayer.**
- **Breakfast.**
- **7:30 AM:** Collect your luggage.

Day 13: November 3, 2024 (Sunday)

- **Breakfast at the hotel.**
- **Full-day tour:**
 - Visit the impressive **pyramids of Cheops, Chephren, Myrcenes, and the Sphinx at Giza.**
 - Continue to visit the **Egyptian Museum.**
 - Lunch included.
- Return to the hotel and overnight.

Day 14: November 4, 2024 (Monday)

- **Breakfast at the hotel.**
- **Drive to Minya:**
 - Visit the area of **Beni Hassan**, which houses **well-preserved ancient Egyptian tombs**.
 - Explore the **Bahnasa village Area**, known for its approximately **5000 SAHABA (Prophet companions)**—also referred to as the second Baqee.
 - Lunch will be served at a local restaurant.
- Transfer back to Cairo for an overnight stay.

Day 15: November 5, 2024 (Tuesday)

- **Breakfast at the hotel.**

Option 1:

(Half-day tour):

- Visit the worship places of several prominent Islamic scholars:
 - **Imam Shafie**
 - **Imam Laith Bin Saad**
 - **Imam Al Saiouti**
 - **Imam Ibn Hagar Al Askalani**
 - **Omar Ibn AL Fared**
 - **Ibn Ataa Allah Al Sakandari**
 - **Saida Nafisa**
 - **Imam AL Shatibi**
 - **Imam Zailaie**
 - **Imam Ibn Daqeeq Al Eid**
 - **Imam Kamal Ibn Al Humam**
 - **Imam Warsh**
- **Option 2:**
- (Half-day tour):
 - Visit:
 - **Citadel of Salah El Deen Al Ayoubi**
 - **Amr Ibn Al-As Masjid**
 - **Imam Alrefaie Mosque and Sultan Hassan Mosque**
 - **Al-Azhar Mosque**
 - **Khan AlKhalili**
 - Lunch in between.
- Return to the hotel and **prepare your luggage**

- **10:00 PM:** Collect your luggage.

Day 16: November 6, 2024 (Wednesday)

- **01:00 AM:** After midnight, transfer to Cairo Airport for your flight to Istanbul.
 - Assistance through airport departure formalities.
- **05:20 AM:** Flight departure from Cairo to Istanbul on Turkish Airlines Flight #693.
- **08:50 AM:** Arrival in Istanbul.
 - Transfer to the hotel.
 - Rest and relax after your travels.
- **Explore Istanbul:**
 - Istanbul is a city that seamlessly blends the history and cultures of the East and West.
 - Take in the vibrant atmosphere, unique architecture, and bustling streets.
 - No formal excursions are planned for arrival day, so feel free to explore the city at your own pace.
 - Wander through the streets of Istanbul, a city spanning two continents.
- **5:00 PM:** Tour to the **Grand Covered Bazaar** and **Egyptian Bazaar**
 - **Grand Covered Bazaar:**
 - Explore this labyrinth of streets and passages.
 - More than 4,000 shops await you.
 - Each trade has its area:
 - The goldsmiths' street.
 - The carpet sellers.
 - Turkish arts and crafts, including hand-painted ceramic plates, hand-honed copperware, brassware, trays, water ewers, onyx items, and meerschaum pipes.
 - Note: The Grand Bazaar is closed on Sundays.
- **11:00 PM:** Return to the hotel.

Day 17: November 7, 2024 (Thursday)

- **8:30 AM:** Gather at the lobby.
- **9:00 AM:** Join our historical tour with a knowledgeable local guide:
 - Explore the **Hippodrome of Constantinople:**
 - Scene of ancient chariot races.
 - Features four monuments:
 - The **German Fountain of Wilhelm II.**
 - The **Obelisk of Theodosius.**
 - The **Bronze Serpentine Column.**
 - The **Column of Constantine.**
- Visit the **Hagia Sophia Museum:**
 - Ancient basilica built by Constantine the Great in the 4th century.
 - Reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century.
 - An architectural marvel.

- (St. Sophia closed on Monday, replaced with Underground Cistern)
- Explore the **Blue Mosque**:
 - Built in the 17th century by architect Mehmet.
 - Known for its magnificent interior decoration of blue Iznik tiles.
 - (Visit not possible on Friday due to limited access during Friday Prayer)
- Discover the **Topkapi Palace Museum**:
 - Great palace of the Ottoman sultans (15th to 19th centuries).
 - Houses an exquisite collection of precious gems, jewelry, sultans' thrones, robes, miniatures, the Holy Mantle, and the Chamber of Sacred Relics.
 - (Harem not included in the program; visit requires extra entrance fee)
- Visit the **Sultans Tombs**:
 - Five tombs of Ottoman Sultans within the graveyard at St. Sophia.
 - Beautiful ceramic panels from the 16th century.
 - Display of prince robes and a small piece from the Kaaba covers.
 - (Sultans Tombs closed on Monday, replaced with Little Hagia Sophia Mosque)
- **5:00 PM**: Return to your hotel. Tour ends.

Day 18: November 8, 2024 (Friday)

- **Fajr Prayer.**
- **6:00 AM**: Collect your luggage.
- **6:30 AM**: Breakfast.
- **8:00 AM**: Bus departs for Istanbul Airport.
- **10:00 to 10:30 AM**: Check-in.
- **01:50 PM**: Flight departs from Istanbul to Los Angeles
- **Denver Flight Departs at 2:30 PM**
- **(Please check updates for other cities).**
- **05:00 PM**: Local time in Los Angeles arrival.