

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2016

Splendours of Uzbekistan

THE JEWEL OF CENTRAL ASIA

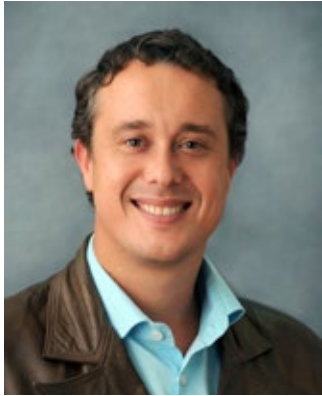
with Julian Droogan
15 September – 01 October 2016 (17 days)



R
Renaissance
Tours

Splendours of Uzbekistan

THE JEWEL OF CENTRAL ASIA



TOUR LEADER

Dr Julian Droogan is a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at Macquarie University where he teaches in Asia-Pacific Studies, issues of Religion and Politics and International Studies.

Julian has written books and papers on archaeology, Asian history and culture as well as the role of religion in modern politics and international relations. Julian's tours combine a focus on the art and archaeology of a region with a love of its religious, artistic and architectural heritage, while also paying attention to the dynamic forces at play in the modern world. Julian is also a visiting lecturer at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Central Asia is a fascinating blend of ethnicities and cultures, encompassing extremes of landscape from arid deserts to fertile oases, from vast steppes to majestic mountain ranges. For over two millennia, migratory tribes travelled across its vast territory in a heady mix of conquest, destruction and construction. At the crossroads of the ancient Silk Road, Central Asia absorbed many religions, including Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Nestorianism and Islam, and many cultures as wide ranging as Greek, Persian, Turkish and Chinese.

This tour focuses on Uzbekistan, the undoubted jewel of Central Asia and the repository of the region's most impressive treasures. During the reign of the terrifying tyrant Tamerlane (Amir Timur) in the late 14th century, Transoxiana, as the area of Uzbekistan was known, became the cradle of one of history's largest empires and the birthplace of some of the most arresting architecture in the Islamic world. Travel across the vast territory of today's Uzbekistan and explore the architectural legacy of Timur and his successors in the romantic oasis cities of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand - ancient citadels strung across the desert like rare pearls, their turquoise tiled mosques, madrassahs and minarets dazzling in the distance. Discover a rich tradition of arts and crafts, such as intricately embroidered *suzanis*, exquisite silk Ikat weavings, hand woven silk carpets, miniature paintings, tribal jewellery and distinctive ceramic ware.

At a glance...

- Begin and end in the ancient – and modern – Silk Road trading city of Tashkent
- See the renowned Russian avant-garde art collection in the Savitsky Museum, Nukus
- Stay in the historic oasis towns of Khiva and Bukhara
- Follow 'the golden road' to Samarkand
- Visit Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane and second capital of the Timurid Empire



Itinerary

Thu 15 Sep 2016

Sydney – Seoul

Morning departure from Sydney on Korean Airlines to Seoul. Late afternoon arrival and overnight at Seoul Airport hotel. **D**

Fri 16 Sep

Seoul – Tashkent

Morning at leisure.

After lunch, transfer to the airport for an afternoon flight to Tashkent on Korean Airlines. After immigration and customs formalities, transfer to your hotel.

The capital of Uzbekistan and the largest city in Central Asia with a population of 2.3 million people. For centuries Tashkent has stood at the crossroads of the ancient trade route along the Silk Road.

B L D-in flight

Sat 17 Sep

Tashkent

Welcome briefing and introductory talk.

Depart the hotel for a full day tour of Tashkent. Drive to Amir Timur Square, with its imposing statue of Uzbekistan's post-Soviet hero, Tamerlane. Continue past Independence Square, the largest city square of the former Soviet Union. Visit the State Art Museum of Uzbekistan, largely formed from the collections of Prince Romanov and other private collectors, nationalized after the Bolshevik Revolution. Today the Museum houses an excellent collection of Uzbek and Russian painting, and also a fine collection of textiles, jewellery, wood carvings and ceramics. Lunch with the locals at a popular Plov (Pilau) restaurant.

After lunch explore the charming area of Old Tashkent. Drive to the restored Barak-Khan Complex, with striking blue tiled domes and decorative Iwans (entrance portals), built during the 16th century when the Shaybanid Dynasty (the Uzbeks) replaced the Timurid Dynasty. Visit the Hast Imam library to see an 8th century manuscript Quran written in the territory of modern Iraq in Kufic script. It is believed by local Uzbek Muslims to have belonged to the third Caliph, Uthman ibn Affan and is the oldest Quran in the world.

Evening at leisure. **B L**

Sun 18 Sep

Tashkent

Morning visit to the Chorsu Bazaar, centre of daily life in the heart of old town. The Bazaar comprises a unique complex of trade halls crowned with interrelated domes. Everything from exotic dried fruits, fresh herbs, handmade cheese and freshly-killed meat to colourful handicrafts is for sale.

Afterwards, explore the impressive Tashkent Metro, which opened in 1977 in honour of 60th anniversary of the USSR. Each station has its own unique architectural features made of semi-precious materials including marble, granite, glass, ceramics and carved alabaster.

After lunch, visit to the Museum of Applied Arts, with its vast collection of Uzbek traditional crafts including handmade embroidery, skull-caps (tyubeteyka), jewellery and carpets, ranging from the beginning of the 19th century to the present. The museum is housed in the former residence of Russian diplomat A. A. Polovtsev, which was built at the end of 19th century in the Uzbek national style.

Evening at leisure. **B L**

Mon 19 Sep

Tashkent – Nukus

Following a very early breakfast, transfer to the domestic terminal for flight to Nukus. Transfer to Hotel for check-in.

After light refreshments at hotel, drive to the Igor Savitsky Museum (Karalpak Museum).

This remarkable museum, opened in 1966, is located in the most remote region of Uzbekistan and houses an enormous collection, including antiquities from Khorezm traditional Karakalpak folk art, Uzbek fine art and, uniquely, the second largest collection of Russian avant-garde in the world (after the Russian Museum in St Petersburg). Lunch at Museum. After lunch, free time to further explore the Savitsky Museum on your own. **B L D**

Tue 20 Sep

Nukus – Khiva

Morning departure by coach to Khiva (200km, 3.5hrs). Along the way, see remains of a Zoroastrian Tower of Silence (Chilpak Kala). Visit the archaeological sites of Toprak Kala, 3rd century capital of ancient Khorezm and Ayaz Kala, with its three mud-brick fortresses, dating from the 4th century BCE to the 7th century AD. Abandoned for 1,300 years, the Kalas (fortresses) were rediscovered in the 1940s by the Russian archaeologist S.P. Tolstov.

Late afternoon arrival in Khiva and hotel check in. Dinner at Art Café. **B L D**

Wed 21 Sep

Khiva

Full day walking tour of Khiva, an "open air museum" consisting of two parts, *Dichan Kala* the outer town, and *Ichon Kala*, the inner town protected by 2.2 km long sloping brick wall, with foundations laid in the 10th century. Visit Kunya Ark Citadel, residence of Khivan Khans founded in 1680s with further buildings added in the 19th and 20th centuries. Visit the 19th century Kalta Minar or Short Minaret, one of the most ambitious projects of the ruling Khan, intended to be the tallest minaret in the Islamic world. Its construction was abandoned at 26 metres because of the Khan's death.



Museum of Applied Arts, Tashkent © Jean-Pierre Dalbéra/Flickr

Visit the Djuma Mosque and Minaret, originally constructed in the 10th century, in typical Arabic mosque architectural style. Today's building was constructed in the 18th century. The main hall has over 200 wooden columns, earlier columns are decorated in Kufic and Naskh inscriptions, while the later in the typical Khivan floral-vegetative pattern. Later explore the majestic Pahlavan Mahmud Mausoleum (14th/19th cent.) with its dazzling turquoise dome. The Mausoleum is the shrine of Khiva's patron saint and gifted poet, soldier, furrier, professional wrestler and healer of diseases, Pahlavan Mahmud. Lunch in a restaurant inside the walled city.

After lunch, visit the Islam Khodja ensemble originally built in the 11th/12th centuries and reconstructed in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. It consists of the smallest Madrassah and the tallest Minaret, the city's symbol, ringed with stripes of lustrous blue tiles. Then visit the most ancient architectural structure in Khiva, the 14th century Sheikh Said Allauddin Mausoleum.

Early evening enjoy sunset from the platform on the City Wall. Dinner at the national house. Overnight in Khiva. **B L D**

Thu 22 Sep

Khiva

Further exploration of Khiva. Morning visit to the local bustling bazaar, and the 19th century Tash Hauli Palace and Harem, the main palace of the Khivan Khans, with its ceramic tiles, carved marble and painted wood, it is the most striking example of architectural decoration in the city. Lunch and tea ceremony at Zaynab's family house. Afternoon and evening at leisure. **B L D**

Fri 23 Sep

Bukhara

After breakfast drive by coach to Bukhara, considered since ancient times to be a sacred city. Bukhara is Uzbekistan's fifth largest city, with a population of over 250,000. Travel across the Kyzyl-Kum (red sand) desert (480km, 8-9 hrs), stopping for a barbecue lunch at a Chai-Khana (tea-house). Check into your hotel, centrally located in the Old Town. Dinner at a local restaurant. **B L D**

Sat 24 Sep

Bukhara

Full day tour of Bukhara, continuously occupied for at least 5 millennia. Located on the Silk Road, the city has long been a centre

of trade, scholarship, culture and religion. Begin with the perfectly proportioned 9th/10th century Samanid Ismail Mausoleum, with its exquisitely patterned brickwork. Then visit the nearby 14th/16th century Chashma Ayub Shrine featuring a conical dome. Visit the most ancient archaeological complex in the city, the imposing 1st century Ark Citadel, rebuilt after it was largely destroyed by the Red Army in 1920. Opposite the Ark, see the 18th century Bolokhauz Mosque and its striking iwan, supported by twenty wooden columns with mushroom shaped, brightly painted stalactite capitals. Continue to the 12th/18th century Kaylan Square dominated by the Kaylan Minaret, the main symbol of city.

Break for lunch at Minzifa Café. After lunch, stroll through the central square, Lyabi-Hauz, built around a large pool. Visit the oldest preserved mosque in Bukhara, 10th century Magoki-Attori Mosque, built over an ancient Zoroastrian fire temple. Also visit the beautifully restrained 15th century Ulubek Madrassah and the larger, more lavishly decorated 17th century Abdulaziz Khan Madrassah, constructed on the Persian model with a large courtyard, divided by four iwans. Late afternoon, enjoy tea and oriental sweets at the Silk Rd teahouse.

Overnight in Bukhara. **B L D**

Sun 25 Sep

Bukhara

Morning drive approximately 4 km north of the city, to the old European style Summer Palace, once the sumptuous residence of the Bukhara Emirs, built in the second half of the 19th century. Today the palace houses a museum of decorative arts. Continue to the Bahauddin Nakshbandi Memorial Complex, one of the most important pilgrimage sites of Bukhara. At the heart of the complex is the mausoleum of the famous Sufi philosopher Bahauddin Naqshbandi. Drive on to visit the grave of a local Sufi sheikh, poet and a theologian Sayf ad-Din Boharzi (1190-1261), famous for the conversion of the Golden Horde's Khan Berke to Islam. Nearby is the 14th century Mausoleum of Boharzi's pupil, Buyan-Kuli-khan. Return to Bukhara for lunch (on own) and free time for exploring the old bazaars situated under the medieval trading domes. Dinner followed by folk performance. **B D**



Mon 26 Sep

Bukhara – Samarkand

Morning depart Bukhara and travel along the ancient Royal Road to Samarkand. En route see an impressive portal, the only remnant of the Rabat-i-Malik, a royal caravanserai. Drive to the Sarmish-Say Gorge, 30kms northeast of the city of Navoi, in the Karatau Mountain Range and see remarkable petroglyphs depicting hunting scenes and rituals. There are over 4,000 petroglyphs and pictographs scattered along the gorge over a distance of two kilometres. Most of them are approximately 6,000 - 4,000 years old. Lunch en route.

Continue to the ancient city of Samarkand, once conquered by three of history's greatest generals – Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and Amir Timur. Under Timur, Samarkand became the glittering capital of a vast empire. **B L D**

Tue 27 Sep

Samarkand

Full day tour of Samarkand. Visit the spectacular 15th/17th century Registan Square, framed by three madrassahs, Ulugh Beg Madrasah (1417–1420), Tilya-Kori Madrasah (1646–1660) and the Sher-Dor Madrasah (1619–1636), with their soaring entrance portals constructed in the distinctive Timurid architectural style. Visit the partial ruins of the gigantic early 15th century Amir Timur Mosque (Bibi-Khanyum Mosque). Lunch in a local restaurant.

After lunch explore the expansive territory of the Shah-I-Zinda Necropolis, with rows of richly decorated Mausoleums built during the 14th /15th centuries for various members of the Timurid Dynasty. The main mausoleum is said to be the grave of Prophet Muhammad's cousin, Kusama Ibn Abbas. According to legend, Ibn 'Abbas came to preach in Samarkand in 640, where he was ultimately beheaded by the Zoroastrians. During medieval times, a pilgrimage to the grave of "The Living King" was equated to Mecca hajj. According to a legend, water source at the grave possesses healing powers. Dinner at the national house. **B L D**

Wed 28 Sep

Samarkand

Morning drive in small cars over the Mountain to Shakhrisabz, birthplace of Amir Timur and the second capital of the Timurids,

after Samarkand. Visit the remains of the grandiose 14th/15th century Ak Sarai palace built by Timur. Visit the Dor as-Siadat burial complex, which includes a mausoleum for two of Timur's sons, Jahangir and Umar Sheikh and the Amir Timur crypt. Continue on to the Memorial Mosque, Kuk Gumbaz (the Blue Dome), an outstanding example of the Khorezm architectural style. Lunch in Shakhrisabz. Afternoon return to Samarkand. **B L D**

Thu 29 Sep

Samarkand

Morning drive to the stunning 14th century Gur-Emir Mausoleum with its exquisite ribbed dome decorated in brilliant azure tiles. Originally built for Timur's grandson, it inadvertently became Timur's own resting place (instead of Shakhrisabz). Continue to the Observatory of Timur's grandson and astronomer, Ulugh Beg. Built in the 1420s, it was considered to be one of the finest observatories in the Islamic world. The observatory was only rediscovered in 1908. Drive to Afrasiab, the ancient area of Samarkand, to visit the Museum featuring the remarkable mid-7th century mural paintings, Ambassadors' Painting, a rare example of Sogdian art discovered as recently as 1965. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the national house with music performance. **B D**

Fri 30 Sep

Samarkand – Tashkent – Seoul

Morning free. Farewell lunch and hotel check-out.

Afternoon transfer to Railway Station for the high speed train, *Afrosiyab*, to Tashkent.

Evening departure on Korean Airlines to Seoul. Overnight in flight. **B L**

Sat 01 Oct

Seoul

Morning arrive in Seoul and transfer to a nearby airport hotel. Day use of rooms until late afternoon return transfer to the airport for departure on Korean Airlines to Sydney. Overnight in flight. **B**

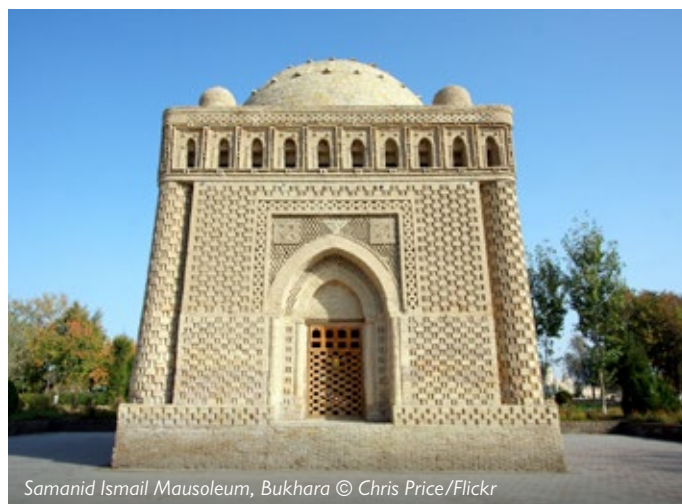
Sun 02 Oct

Arrive Sydney

Morning arrival in Sydney.



Needlework artist at the Registan, Samarkand © David Stanley/Flickr



Samanid Ismail Mausoleum, Bukhara © Chris Price/Flickr

Tour prices

Per person, twin share	AUD 9,250
Incl. economy class airfare	
Single supplement*	AUD 900
Reduction without international airfare and Seoul stopover	– AUD 2,000
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	15 July 2016

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AG1614

Fitness level Challenging

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Visas Qantas/Emirates

Australian and New Zealand passport holders require a visa for Uzbekistan. The visa will be pre-approved prior to departure from Australia and obtained at the airport on arrival in Tashkent. The cost of a single entry group visa is approx. USD 75 p.p.

If you are planning to extend your stay in Uzbekistan, you need to apply for a single individual visa for which the application fee is approx. USD 95 p.p.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located hotels (best available) with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Overnight at Seoul Airport hotel, 15 September incl. breakfast (B)
- Economy class flights Sydney – Seoul – Tashkent – Seoul – Sydney on Korean Air (23 KG luggage allowance)
- Taxes and fuel surcharges as at 01 August 2015
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on group flights
- Domestic flight Tashkent – Nukus in economy class incl. taxes (20 KG luggage allowance)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Comprehensive sightseeing, visits to museums and attractions with Julian Droogan and local guides including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)
- Day-use room at Seoul Airport hotel 01 October

Tour price does not include

- Visas for Uzbekistan (obtained on arrival, current cost approx. USD 75)
- Transfers on arrival and departure if not travelling on group flights
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone calls, laundry, taxis etc.
- Drinks with meals
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance

Important information

Please note that a good level of fitness and a sense of adventure are required for this tour. The tour includes the exploration of remote areas of Uzbekistan with basic tourist infrastructure.

Your hotels (best available in smaller towns)

Seoul – Hyatt Regency Icheon★★★★★

Tashkent – Miran International★★★★

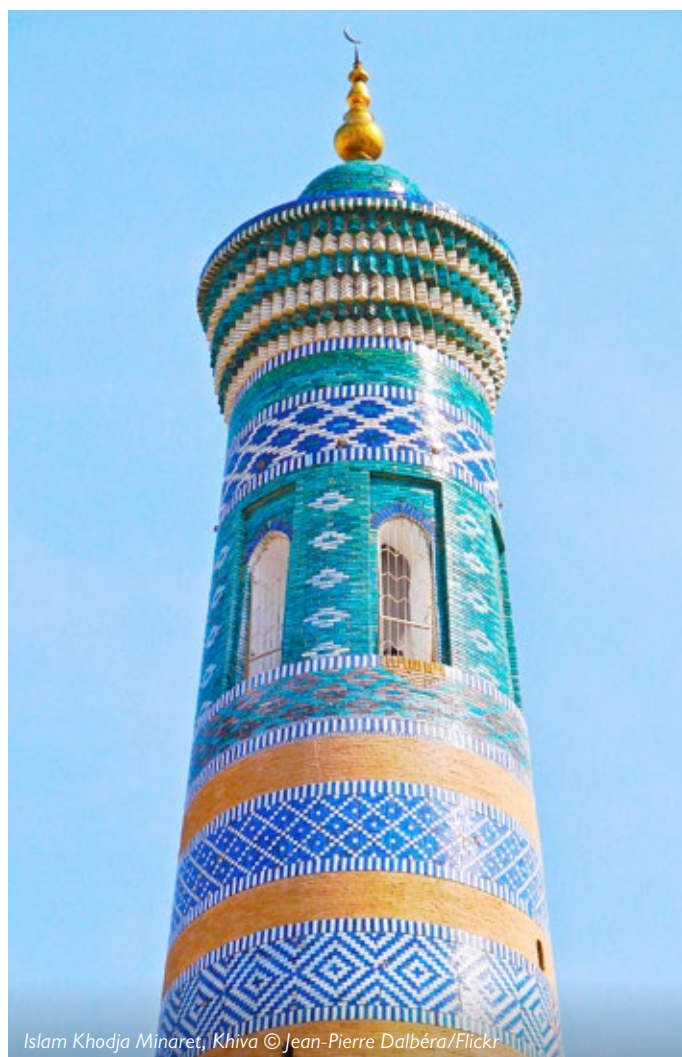
Nukus – Jipek Joli hotel★★★

Khiva – Asia Khiva★★★

Bukhara – Omar Khayyam★★★

Samarkand – Grand Samarkand Superior★★★★+

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted



Islam Khodja Minaret, Khiva © Jean-Pierre Dalbéra/Flickr

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

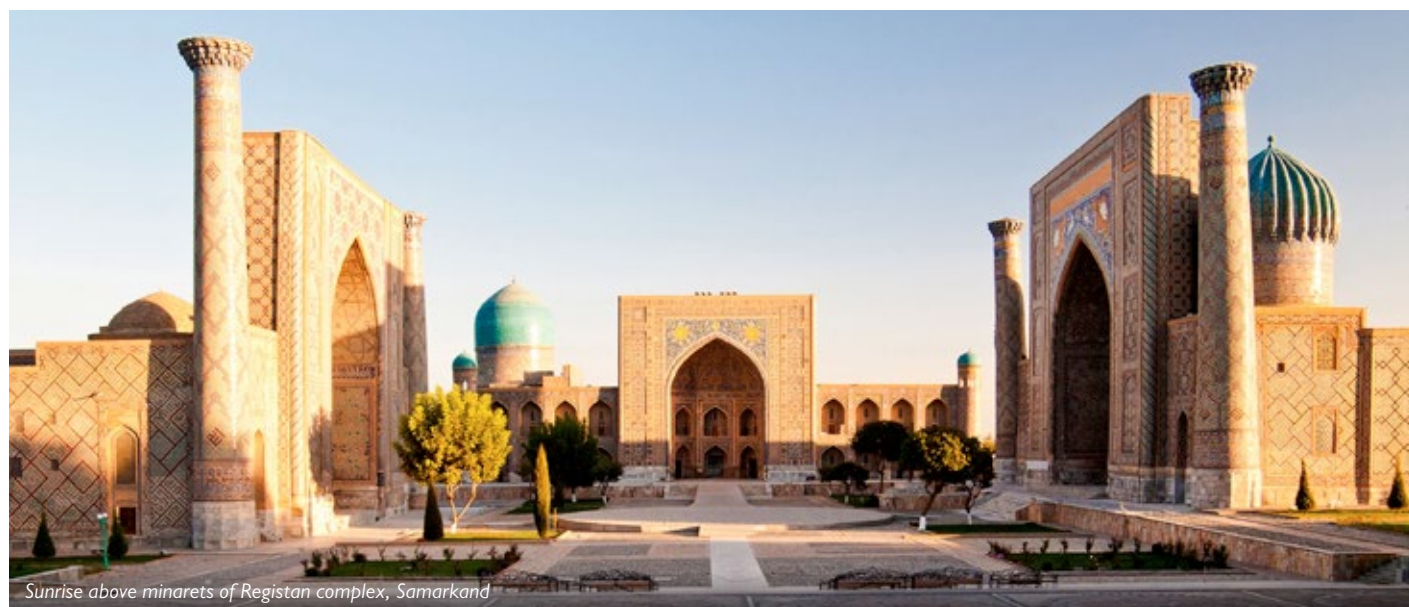
- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Sunrise above minarets of Registan complex, Samarkand



Islam Khodja Mosque Decor, Khiva © Jean-Pierre Dalbéra/Flickr



Renaissance
Tours

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fax (+61 2) 9299 5805

email info@renaissancetours.com.au

visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001

ABN 14 069 591 448

Travel agent

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

www.renaissancetours.com.au

Please return pages 1 and 2 to:

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia or info@renaissancetours.com.au

Toll free AU 1300 727 095 or NZ 0800 403 621 | Tel: +61 2 9299 5801 | Fax: +61 2 9299 5805

- Please complete, sign and return this Booking Form, along with a copy of page one of your passport (international tours only and deposit. NOTE: Flight bookings cannot proceed without passport copy. This is an airline security requirement.
- Complete credit card authority (if paying by credit card) OR forward a (deposit) cheque (made payable to Renaissance Tours).
- Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place on the tour(s) from Renaissance Tours.

Tour name

Tour code

Personal details – Passenger 1

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

☐ Yes

☐ No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist Renaissance Tours in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour. The information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE DECLARATION (Please tick)

I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

☐ MODERATE ☐ ABOVE AVERAGE ☐ CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Booking conditions

- ☐ I have read, understood and accept the **Booking Conditions** on page 3. I have enclosed the deposit and understand that the balance of the tour cost must be paid at least 60 days prior to departure (45 days prior for domestic tours) or my reservation may be cancelled.

Sign here

Personal details – Passenger 2

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

☐ Yes

☐ No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

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Sign here

Booking form

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Travel details – Passenger 1

AIRFARE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FROM US?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Economy ☐ Premium Economy ☐ Business Class ☐ First Class

CITY OF DEPARTURE

☐ Sydney ☐ Melbourne ☐ Brisbane ☐ Perth ☐ Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐ Single ☐ If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

☐ Yes ☐ No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Travel details – Passenger 2 (only fill if different from Pax 1)

AIRFARE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FROM US?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Economy ☐ Premium Economy ☐ Business Class ☐ First Class

CITY OF DEPARTURE

☐ Sydney ☐ Melbourne ☐ Brisbane ☐ Perth ☐ Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐ Single ☐ If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Payment

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express. Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

AMOUNT ☐ CREDIT CARD ☐ CHEQUE ☐ CASH ☐ EFT

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY

Cardholder's name

☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Cardholder's number

SIGN

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name: Renaissance Tours

BSB: 062-032 / Account: 2800 4163

Swift code: CTBAAU2S (use for transfers from overseas)

Expiry (month/year)

DATE

Travel agent

Booking form

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FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

Most of our tours require a **MODERATE** level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (eg. remote rail), certain tours will require an **ABOVE AVERAGE** or **CHALLENGING** level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 m and above).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you are covered by travel insurance for domestic tours.

However, it is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.



Renaissance
Tours

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visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000
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ABN 14 069 591 448

1. TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. Once final payment is received, all prices (excluding air taxes) will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

2. PAYMENT

Your final payment is due 60 days before departure (45 days prior for domestic tours). Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

3. FLIGHT BOOKINGS AND FARES

Renaissance Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all flight prices are correct at the time that they are quoted. However, once a deposit is paid on an air fare, it guarantees that a booking is being held for you, it does not guarantee the fare and applicable taxes.

The fare and taxes can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid in full and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

4. CHANGES

a) Changes by You – Because of additional communication and other expenses, we reserve the right to charge an appropriate administration fee per amendment to your original booking. While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate changes and additional requests their availability cannot be guaranteed.

b) Changes by Us – While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract the Client accepts that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation.

If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will substitute the best alternative available and will refund the Client for any cost saving or charge the Client for any additional costs incurred. 'Force majeure' includes any event which Renaissance Tours or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type). Renaissance Tours is not liable for any penalty charges associated with 'supersaver' type connecting rail or air fares, in the event of a change to a holiday departure time, date or airport.

5. SUBSTITUTION OF CLIENT

If any member of the party is prevented from travelling because of the death, injury or serious illness of the passenger, close relative or friend, redundancy or jury service, it may be possible to transfer the booking to another suitable person (acceptable to Renaissance Tours) provided that written notice is given at least one calendar month prior to departure. An administration fee of \$100 + GST per person will be levied plus any costs imposed by our suppliers. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

6. CANCELLATION

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

International Tours

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

Domestic Tours

45 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

* Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for *force majeure* (as outlined in clause 4b) or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure for international tours and 45 days before departure for domestic tours. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees. No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

7. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

8. ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute a breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit.

9. LOCAL LAWS

All participants of the tours we operate are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Renaissance Tours of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

10. IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

If you have a complaint about any of the tour arrangements, you must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Renaissance Tours at the time so that they may use their best endeavours to rectify the situation. It is only if we are made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to put things right. Any complaints must be made in writing to Renaissance Tours within 28 days of the completion of the tour.

11. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All bookings are accepted on the understanding that the Client appreciates that travel does involve some risk and that they undertake all tours of their own volition.

i) Renaissance Tours accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with us not be supplied as described in the brochure(s) and not be of reasonable standard. In such a case, we will pay reasonable compensation if the Client's enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Renaissance Tours or our suppliers and the reason for the failure in the tour arrangements was the Client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour arrangements or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Renaissance Tours or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

ii) Our acceptance of liability to pay compensation pursuant to clause 11(i) is limited, in the case of air travel, rail travel, sea travel or hotel accommodation, to the amount set out in the provisions of, respectively, the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, the 1961 Berne Convention, the 1974 Athens Convention and the 1962 Paris Convention.

iii) Our acceptance of liability in clauses 11(i) and 11(ii) above is subject to assignment by the Client to Renaissance Tours of the Client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of Renaissance Tours which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory tour arrangements.