



Uzbekistan



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A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE

# Inside Uzbekistan

A National Geographic Journey Along the Silk Road

National Geographic correspondent Gary Shteyngart travelled across Uzbekistan, visiting Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. He turned his journey along the Silk Road into a feature exploring the country's history, culture and transformation.

**Swipe through to read some of his key impressions →**

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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GROWTH

# UZBEKISTAN'S TOURISM BOOM

Uzbekistan has one of the world's fastest-growing tourism economies, receiving some 12 million international travelers last year, up from scarcely two million a decade ago.

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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RESORT & SPA

TRANSFORMATION

# A NEW TOURISM ERA

Uzbekistan is undergoing a major tourism transformation, with new hotels, entertainment destinations and large-scale tourism developments emerging across the country.

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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SILK ROAD

# THE SILK ROAD IS BACK

Uzbekistan is in the middle of an aggressive tourism push, leaning on the Silk Road as its strongest tourism brand.

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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TASHKENT

# TASHKENT: THE NEW FACE OF UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent is experiencing a building boom, with new high-rises, hotels and entertainment destinations emerging across the capital.

SOURCE • NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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GETTING AROUND

# THE SILK ROAD, RECONNECTED

Fast trains now link Tashkent with Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, with each city only a few hours' train ride from the next.

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SAMARKAND

# SAMARKAND: THE HEART OF THE SILK ROAD

Samarkand is described as “the jewel of the East,” once an intellectual seat of the Islamic world and today home to preserved mosques and madrassas.

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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BUKHARA

# BUKHARA: AN ANCIENT TRADING HUB

Bukhara is described as a quieter mercantile hub with a labyrinthine old town and a burgeoning arts scene.

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KHIVA

# KHIVA: A LIVING SILK ROAD

Khiva is billed as a “living museum” for its UNESCO-protected walled fortress of Itchan Kala.

SOURCE • NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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TASHKENT

# THE SPIRIT OF THE SILK ROAD LIVES ON

At Tashkent's Chorsu Bazaar, a marketplace for perhaps 2,000 years, the silk and spices once traded along the Silk Road can still be found today.

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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DEVELOPMENT

# UZBEKISTAN'S TOURISM TRANSFORMATION

Across Uzbekistan, sprawling tourism developments are emerging, including Silk Road-themed hotels, restaurants and water parks.

SOURCE • NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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SAMARKAND

# A NEW SILK ROAD MUSEUM

This spring, the Uzbek government announced plans for a new Silk Road Museum a few blocks from the Gur-e-Amir, showcasing archaeological finds, traditional crafts, and more on a 22-acre campus—roughly the size of New York’s sprawling American Museum of Natural History.

SOURCE • NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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SAMARKAND

# SILK ROAD SAMARKAND

Silk Road Samarkand is a four-year-old \$580 million resort development featuring hotels and the Eternal City complex. Eternal City reimagines a Silk Road oasis town with restaurants, boutiques and performance spaces inspired by Timurid architecture.

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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REFLECTION

# NEWLY ACCESSIBLE. STILL ENCHANTING.

“Right now, they remain in a near perfect balance: newly accessible, still enchanting.”

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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REFLECTION

# UZBEKISTAN: STILL ENCHANTING

“Uzbekistan’s Silk Road cities are proof that a place can keep accruing beauty long past its heyday.”

SOURCE · NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC