

### ENTRANCE REQUIRMENTS

US and Canadian tourists must carry proof of citizenship. A valid signed passport with an expiration date at least **six months beyond the tour return date** and **one blank page for entry stamp** is required. Proof of a return ticket is also required.

**COVID REQUIREMENTS:** There are NO Covid-related requirements for Türkiye or Uzbekistan.

**VISAS:** No visas are required for Americans 55 and older or any Canadians visiting Uzbekistan. However, a tourist visa is required for **all foreigners visiting Türkiye**. Your visa application must be submitted within three months of travel. [Follow this link to complete your visa application online](#). Some things to keep in mind as you fill out your application:

- At the bottom of the Personal Information page, you must check off that you have "read and accept the

provisions of the Türkiye Entry Commitment and Information Form"

- You may **add a second person** to the same application. It will prompt you to do this once you have filled out the information for the first traveller.
- Once you verify your information, it will not be possible to make any changes. After submitting your personal information, **you will receive a confirmation email** from "noreply@evisa.gov.tr". In this email there is a button to approve your email address and then you will be **redirected to make your payment**. If you do not respond to the confirmation e-mail within 1 hour, your application will be cancelled.
- The visa fee for Canadians is \$60 USD; for Americans it is \$50 USD (plus a small service fee).

The turnaround period for the e-visa is ~2 business days. **Once you have received your**

**visa, please send a copy to**  
[office@tourmagination.com](mailto:office@tourmagination.com)

## CURRENCY, ATM MACHINES & CREDIT CARDS

**CASH:** Türkiye's monetary unit is the Lira, while Uzbekistan's is the Som. No other currency is accepted in either country. It is forbidden to change money in any location other than at banks and at the airport. US dollar bills used for exchanged should be clean and crisp, and in denominations of \$20 or less.

If you want to check current rates at the time of travel a good website to use is <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>. You will be given opportunity upon arrival in each country to exchange USD for local currency or withdraw funds from an ATM.

**ATMs:** In Türkiye ATMs are available in main centers. In Uzbekistan ATMs are only available occasionally so it safest not to rely on them. Check with your bank for more specific details about using ATMs such as the network your bank supports, PIN numbers, etc. To discourage thieves, it is best to not visit ATMs unaccompanied.

**CREDIT CARDS:** Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in Türkiye (American Express and other American cards are not likely to be accepted.) Credit cards can be used for cash advances at ATMs in Türkiye or Uzbekistan. In Tashkent, Visa and MasterCard are accepted in larger stores and restaurants but in smaller stores and throughout the rest of Uzbekistan, cash is preferred over credit cards.

Credit cards should be protected by **RFID-blocking sleeves** so they cannot be scanned, and your payment information stolen. You can find RFID-blocking sleeves at most luggage stores. Do not use your credit card in

questionable shops and never let your card out of your sight. Non-essential cards can be left at home. It is recommended to bring your driver's license in case you are asked for additional photo ID, and your health card in case of an emergency.

Before leaving home, **we encourage you to consult with the bank that has issued the credit cards and debit cards you will be using as you travel.** Today banks have a variety of fraud detection systems so we advise you to be sure you will be able to use your cards. You should also have an out-of-country contact phone number available in case any cards are lost or stolen.

## LANGUAGE

The official language in Türkiye is Turkish, but English is widely spoken in tourist centers. The official language of Uzbekistan is Uzbek, and English is not widely spoken except in major tourist centers.

## COMMUNICATION

**Internet:** There will be opportunity to access the internet while on tour. Most hotels and some buses may have Wifi available.

**Phone:** North American cell phones are not automatically equipped to make international calls. If you plan to use your cell phone on tour, please check with your wireless service provider for direction regarding international calling.

## TIME ZONES

Türkiye is 7 hours and Uzbekistan is 10 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Therefore, when it is 8:00 p.m. in Turkey and 11:00 p.m. in Uzbekistan it is 1:00 p.m. (EST) in Pennsylvania and Ontario.

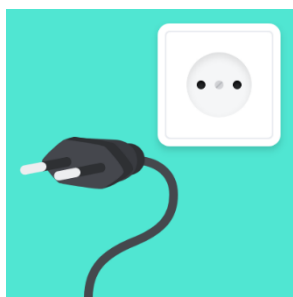
## CLIMATE

Expect sunny, hot days. Daily high temperatures in Türkiye will likely range

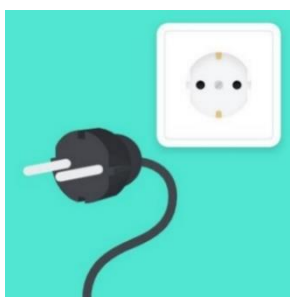
between 70-75°F or 21-24°C. In Uzbekistan you can expect daily high temperatures in the range of 75-85°F or 24-29°C. Evenings will cool off. There is a very small chance of rain at this time of year.

### ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The electrical current in Türkiye and in Uzbekistan is 220 volt – 50 Hz, whereas in Canada and United States it is 110 volts, 60 Hz. Multi-voltage appliances (shavers, hairdryers, curling irons, etc.) are generally available at larger department stores. Wall outlets in these countries take Continental-type plugs, with **two round prongs** ("type C"/"type F").



Type C



Type F

Converters and adapters should be available for you to purchase at major department stores, electronic shops or stores that specialize in selling luggage. But before you purchase a converter, be sure to check the label on your appliance. Some appliances never need a converter. **If the label states 'INPUT: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz' the appliance can be used in all countries in the world.** This is common for chargers of tablets/laptops, cameras, cell phones, and toothbrushes.

### CLOTHING AND CUSTOMS

Plan to take a variety of casual clothing that is easy-care, comfortable and doesn't show the dirt. A good pair of walking shoes is highly recommended. **Sunscreen, sunglasses and hats are essential** to protect against the sun, and lightweight, light-coloured long sleeve

shirts are also recommended for the same purpose.

Türkiye and Uzbekistan are conservative societies. It is not appropriate for men to wear shorts. When entering an Islamic religious site you may be required to remove your shoes. There are no special clothing requirements for visiting these sites except that you should take care to dress modestly, covering most parts of your body including arms and legs. Women don't need to cover their heads but the gesture is noticed and appreciated when visiting holy sites.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography inside some religious monuments and in airports, railway stations, government buildings or near military installation may not be allowed. If in doubt, ask your local guide. Please also note that there is a fee for photography in most sightseeing places (not included in your tour price).

### WATER PURITY

It is advisable to drink only pure, bottled drinking water, which is readily available for drinking and brushing teeth, and **not** the tap water. Maintaining health is a major concern for travelers, and it is relatively easy to follow the rule: *"If it has been cooked or boiled or you can peel it, you can eat it, otherwise forget it."* Eating yogurt daily for two weeks before traveling is recommended as it may strengthen your immune system.

### MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS

Although there are no required vaccinations for entry, please make sure you are **up to date on your routine vaccinations.**

It is highly recommended that each participant **seek the counsel of their personal physician and/or a travel clinic prior to their departure**

for an individual health assessment to determine if there are other vaccinations or medications recommended for your travel destination. Show your doctor your tour itinerary so they can see where you will be travelling. If you get inoculations, have them recorded on an International Inoculation Certificate. Please take your doctor's advice!

We suggest you **plan ahead for getting your vaccinations**. Some may require more than one injection. Note that some vaccinations should not be given during pregnancy or to people with allergies. Discuss this with your doctor.

Information about immunizations and travel clinics is available from the following:

#### **USA**

##### **Centers for Disease Control**

1-800-311-3435, [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

##### **Travel Clinics in USA**

[www.cdc.gov/travel/travel\\_clinics.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/travel_clinics.htm)

##### **Passport Health USA**

1-800-499-7277, [www.passporthealthusa.com](http://www.passporthealthusa.com)

(list of all travel clinics in US and will do telephone consultation with travel health specialist)

#### **CANADA**

##### **International Association for Medical Assistance for Travellers (IAMAT)**

(416) 652-0137, [www.iamat.org](http://www.iamat.org)

##### **Travel Doctors Group**

[www.tmvc.com.au](http://www.tmvc.com.au)

##### **Health Canada's Travel Medicine Program**

for list of travel medicine clinics, (613) 957-8739

##### **Health Canada's web site**

[www.TravelHealth.gc.ca](http://www.TravelHealth.gc.ca)

It is advisable to take along enough prescription medicine for the whole tour and a **written prescription** from your doctor for

each medicine. If any of your medicines contain habit-forming drugs or narcotics, take precaution to avoid misunderstanding by properly identifying all drugs. Do not remove the drugs from their original containers and carry only the necessary quantity. These safeguards could save you considerable trouble.

#### **PROTECTING YOURSELF**

Before you leave on your tour remove any unnecessary cards from your wallet and leave them at home. Photocopy your passport ID page and any credit or debit cards (both sides) that you plan to take with you. Keep a copy (or more) separate from your wallet for quick reference should your cards be lost or stolen. Leave a photocopy with friends or family at home.

Pickpockets are more common here than in North America, especially in public spaces like airports and train stations. Carry billfolds in the front inside pocket of a jacket or front pants pocket as opposed to your back pocket. Consider a money belt (obtainable at AAA stores, for example) for excess cash. Beware of a common pickpocket ploy which is to announce that pickpockets have been observed in the area. People instinctively touch their pockets to check and the pickpockets then know where you keep your valuables.

Don't leave cash or valuables in your room or on the bus.

You may consider **registering your travels with your government**. This will allow your government to notify you in case of an emergency abroad, a personal emergency at home, or a natural disaster or civil unrest. You can register for this free service online through your government website.

- [Canadians](#)
- [Americans](#)

## OTHER ITEMS TO BRING

An extra memory card and a good supply of spare or rechargeable batteries for your

photographic or video equipment are recommended.

---

## READ MORE

- [U.S. Department of State Türkiye travel information](#)
- [U.S. Department of State Uzbekistan travel information](#)
- [Government of Canada Türkiye travel advice](#)
- [Government of Canada Uzbekistan travel advice](#)
- [SHERPA travel requirements tool](#)

## SUGGESTED RESOURCE LIST

*Some people find it helpful and interesting to read books about the places they are going to visit. Although this list is not compulsory, we hope it will offer you worthwhile reading material as you prepare for your tour. – John Sharp*

### MENNONITE HISTORY:

- *Pilgrims on the Silk Road: A Muslim-Christian Encounter in Khiva* by Walter R. Ratliff, January, 2010. [This is the best and most recent book.]
- *Through the Desert Goes Our Journey*, by Walter Ratliff, DVD can be ordered from Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Through-Desert-Goes-Our-Journey/dp/B002G6K9WA/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1326918458&sr=8-7](http://www.amazon.com/Through-Desert-Goes-Our-Journey/dp/B002G6K9WA/ref=sr_1_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1326918458&sr=8-7)
- *Our Trek to Central Asia* by Franz Bartsch, 1993, CMBC Publications and Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, Winnipeg. [This is a contemporary account with a bias against Claas Epp, Jr.]
- *Journey of Faith in A Hostile World: Memoirs of Herman Jantzen, Missionary to Turkestan, Caucasus and Bulgaris, Refugee from Bolshevik Russia*, by Herman Jantzen, 2008, Peter Z. & Wilma Friesen. Printed iUniverse. [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com).
- *In the Wilds of Turkestan – an autobiography* by Hermann Jantzen, translated by Erica Jantzen, 2009, Waterpark Publishing, Waterloo. [This is a second translation of Jantzen's story.]
- *The Great Trek of the Russian Mennonites to Central Asia 1880-1884* by Fred Richard Belk, Scottdale: Herald Press, 1976. [While this may be useful, the research is dated with the focus on Claas Epp, Jr., who was not the most important Mennonite leader.]
- "Mennonite Colony in Turkestan," by J. Janzen, *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, 4 (October 1930): 282-289.
- "Great Trek from a Central Asian Point of View", by John E. Sharp, *Mennonite Weekly Review*, July 14, 2008.
- *Mennonite Historical Atlas*, by Schroeder and Huebert, Springfield Publishers, Winnipeg, 1990, 1996. [Maps in this atlas trace the journey from Samara and Ukraine to Ak Metchet.]

## HISTORY:

- *A Ride to Khiva: Travels and Adventures in Central Asia*, by Frederick Burnaby, 2007, New York: Cosimo, Inc.
- *Traces in the Desert: Journeys of Discovery across Central Asia*, by Christoph Baumer, 2008, New York: I.B. Taurus & Co. Ltd.
- *Uzbekistan: The Golden Road to Samarkand*, by Bradley Mayhew and Calum Macleod, 2008, Odyssey Illustrated Guide.
- *Tamerlane's Children: Dispatches from Contemporary Uzbekistan*, by Robert Rand, 2006, National Book Network.
- *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*, by Christopher I. Beckwith, 2009, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- *Taxi to Tashkent: Two Years with the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan*, by Tom Fleming, 2008, Universe Inc.
- *The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia*, by Peter Hopkins, 1994, New York: Kodansha America, Inc.

## MENNONITE NOVEL:

- *Our Asian Journey: A Novel*, by Wiebe, Dallas E., Waterloo, Ontario: Mlr Editions Canada, 1997. [While this is a novel, it is delightful and realistic.]

## WEBSITES:

- *Asianreise: Grandfather's Description of the Trip to Central Asia 1880*, by Jacob Klaassen, <http://ketiltrout.net/asienreise/>
- "Mennonite Millennial Madness: A Case Study" by Walter Unger, Direction, Fall 1999. <http://www.directionjournal.org/article/?1019>
- *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO)*, <http://www.gameo.org>, please see the following articles:
  - Epp, Claas, (1838-1913)
  - Jantzen, Hermann, (1866-1959)
  - Klaassen, Martin, (1920-1881)
  - Penner, Johannes K, (1850-1926)
  - Peters, Abraham, (1833-1882)
  - Toews, Jacob, (1838-1923)
  - Ak-Mechet, (Uzbekistan)
  - Am Trakt Mennonite Settlement, (Samara Oblast, Russia)
  - Apocalypticism
  - Asiatic Russia
  - Aulie-Ata Mennonite Settlement, (Kazakhstan)
  - Jung-Stilling, Johann Heinrich, (1740-1817)
  - Molotschna Mennonite Settlement, (Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine)
  - Soviet Central Asia



- General information about Uzbekistan - Its geography, people, and economy:  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uz.html>
- Travel information (Uzbekistan):  
<http://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/>  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/uzbekistan>