

15 Days Beyond the Roads - Afghanistan Off-Road Journey

Afghanistan | 15 days / 14 nights | From USD 1,999 per person

Embark on an extraordinary 15-day overland adventure through some of Afghanistan's most remote and spectacular landscapes. Designed for travelers seeking a deeper connection with the country, this journey ventures beyond the main routes, linking Kabul, Bamyan, Chaghcharan, the legendary Minaret of Jam, Herat, and Mazar-i-Sharif. Travel through rugged mountain corridors, remote valleys, historic villages, and ancient Silk Road landscapes while discovering remarkable archaeological and architectural treasures. From the dramatic highlands of central Afghanistan to the cultural richness of Herat and the historic heritage of the north, this expedition combines off-road exploration, ancient history, breathtaking scenery, and authentic local encounters into one unforgettable journey through Afghanistan's lesser-traveled heart.

ROUTE

Kabul > Ghazni > Bamyan > Band-e-Amir > Yakawlang > Chaghcharan > Jam > Herat > Maymana > Mazar-i-Sharif > Samangan

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kabul - The Starting Point: Discover Kabul's cultural heritage with visits to the National Museum and historic Babur Gardens before beginning the overland expedition.
- Ghazni - Echoes of a Medieval Capital: Explore historic monuments and architectural treasures from Ghazni's influential Islamic past.
- Bamyan & Band-e Amir - Ancient Heritage and Natural Wonders: Visit the legendary Buddha niches of Bamyan and experience the spectacular blue lakes of Band-e Amir National Park.
- Yakawlang & Chaghcharan - Into the Remote Highlands: Travel deep into central Afghanistan through rugged plateaus, remote villages, mountain valleys, and dramatic landscapes far from the main tourist routes.
- Minaret of Jam - A Hidden Masterpiece: Discover the extraordinary 12th-century Minaret of Jam, rising dramatically from a remote mountain valley.
- Herat - Timurid Art & Architecture: Admire the magnificent Great Mosque of Herat and explore the historic Herat Citadel, reflecting centuries of Persian and Timurid heritage.

DAY BY DAY (15 DAYS)

Day 1: Arrival in Kabul

- Pickup from Kabul International Airport
- Hotel transfer, check-in, and tour orientation
- Optional visit to a local tailor for traditional Afghan clothing
- Explore the historic bird market and Mandawi Bazaar
- Visit selected cultural landmarks, including Shah-Do Shamshira Mosque and the Ethnographic Research Museum, subject to timing
- Visit the Shrine of Sakhi and enjoy views from Bibi Mahro Hill
- Overnight in Kabul

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 2: Explore Kabul

- Visit the National Museum of Afghanistan
- Explore Darul Aman Palace
- Visit Babur Gardens or Chihilston Garden, depending on preference
- Enjoy panoramic views of Kabul from Toop Hill
- Explore local streets and traditional markets
- Visit Qargha Lake and continue to the scenic Paghman Valley and its historic palaces
- Overnight in Kabul

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 3: Kabul to Ghazni

- Begin the overland journey south toward historic Ghazni
- Explore Ghazni's famous minarets and Islamic monuments
- Discover remnants of the city's medieval heritage
- Overnight in Ghazni

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 4: Ghazni to Bamyan

- Depart Ghazni and travel toward the Bamyan highlands
- Journey through rugged mountain terrain and remote valleys
- Scenic stops along the route
- Arrival in Bamyan and hotel check-in
- Overnight in Bamyan

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 5: Explore Bamyan Valley

- Visit the monumental Buddha niches of Bamyan
- Explore surrounding caves and archaeological remains
- Discover the dramatic landscapes of the Bamyan Valley
- Experience local culture and village life
- Overnight in Bamyan

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 6: Band-e Amir National Park

- Full-day excursion to Band-e Amir National Park
- Explore the spectacular chain of deep-blue lakes
- Enjoy walking, photography, and scenic viewpoints
- Experience the peaceful highland environment
- Return to Bamyan
- Overnight in Bamyan

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 7: Bamyan to Yakawlang

- Depart Bamyan for Yakawlang
- Off-road journey through remote highland landscapes
- Travel across rugged plateaus, valleys, and traditional villages
- Scenic stops and local encounters along the way
- Overnight in Yakawlang

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 8: Yakawlang to Chaghcharan

- Continue west through the remote central highlands
- Off-road journey across mountain passes and river valleys
- Discover rural communities and rarely visited landscapes
- Arrival in Chaghcharan
- Overnight in Chaghcharan

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 9: Chaghcharan to Jam

- Depart Chaghcharan toward the historic Jam Valley
- Journey through remote mountain terrain
- Visit the spectacular Minaret of Jam, a remarkable 12th-century architectural monument
- Explore the surrounding valley and archaeological landscape
- Overnight near Jam

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 10: Jam to Herat

- Continue west through scenic mountain and valley routes
- Journey toward the historic city of Herat
- Arrival and hotel check-in
- Evening at leisure
- Overnight in Herat

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 11: Discover Herat

- Visit the magnificent Great Mosque of Herat
- Explore the historic Herat Citadel
- Discover traditional bazaars and artisan workshops
- Experience Herat's rich Persian and Timurid heritage
- Overnight in Herat

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 12: Herat to Maymana

- Depart Herat and travel north toward Maymana
- Journey through changing landscapes and remote settlements
- Scenic stops along the route
- Arrival in Maymana
- Overnight in Maymana

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 13: Maymana to Mazar-i-Sharif

- Continue east toward Mazar-i-Sharif
- Travel through northern Afghanistan's diverse landscapes
- Arrival in Mazar-i-Sharif and hotel check-in
- Evening at leisure

- Overnight in Mazar-i-Sharif

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 14: Mazar-i-Sharif to Samangan & Kabul

- Depart Mazar-i-Sharif toward Samangan
- Visit the historic Takht-i Rostam Buddhist site
- Continue the journey south toward Kabul
- Scenic stops along the route
- Arrival in Kabul
- Overnight in Kabul

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 15: Departure from Kabul

- Hotel check-out and final preparations
- Transfer to Kabul International Airport
- Drop-off arranged according to your international flight schedule
- End of the Wild Central Route adventure
- Northern Silk Road Heritage: Journey through Maymana and continue to Mazar-i-Sharif to experience the remarkable Shrine of Ali and the region's historic atmosphere.
- Samangan - Ancient Buddhist Heritage: Visit Takht-i Rostam, an exceptional rock-cut Buddhist monument near Samangan, before completing the journey back to Kabul.

Meals: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private ground transport; domestic flight arrangements and cost to be confirmed

INCLUDED

- Accommodation: 3-4 Star Hotels
- Transportation: Private 4WD Vehicles
- Meals: 3 Daily Meals + Drinking Water
- Professional Tour Guide
- All Required Permits
- Letter of Invitation
- Entrance Fees to Listed Attractions
- Local SIM Card & Wi-Fi

NOT INCLUDED

- Visa Fees
- International Flights
- Personal Expenses, Shopping, Soft Drinks & Snacks
- Travel Insurance

GOOD TO KNOW

Season & group size

Spring and summer departures, with a maximum of 8 travellers. Dates and departure availability are confirmed by the Kabul team.

Price & booking

Advertised starting price: USD 1,999 per person. Request a written quotation for your dates, group and room arrangements. International flights, visa fees, insurance and personal expenses are excluded.

Domestic flights

Where a domestic flight appears in the itinerary, its schedule, availability and inclusion in the final price must be confirmed with the Kabul office before booking.

Permits & access

The package includes a letter of invitation and required local permits. Site visits, road journeys and activities remain subject to permissions, local access, weather and operating conditions. Confirm the final route before booking.

Accommodation & connectivity

Packages are based on 3-4-star hotels. Accommodation in remote areas must be confirmed for each overnight stop; do not assume the same hotel standard throughout. Local SIM and Wi-Fi access depend on coverage and availability.

FLIGHTS, AND CHANGING ANYTHING ON THIS ITINERARY

Flights are quoted on request. We hold IATA accreditation and can ticket any airline from Dubai alongside this itinerary.

Every itinerary here is a starting point. We rebuild any of it around your own dates, hotels, pace and budget, for couples, families or groups.

Prices are a lead-in fare and move with the season, the airline and the hotel chosen. Tell us your dates and we will confirm a firm quotation.

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