

14-Day Afghanistan Grand Heritage & Cultural Tour

Afghanistan | 14 days / 13 nights | From USD 1,749 per person

Embark on an extraordinary 14-day journey through Afghanistan with Nawi Saadi Travel & Tourism, exploring the country's remarkable history, ancient civilizations, Islamic architecture, UNESCO heritage sites, traditional bazaars, cultural landmarks, and breathtaking mountain landscapes. This comprehensive journey begins and ends at Kabul International Airport, taking you from the historic streets of Kabul to the spectacular lakes of Band-e-Amir, the remote Minaret of Jam, the cultural treasures of Herat, the historic city of Kandahar, and the ancient lands of Mazar-e-Sharif and Balkh.

ROUTE

Kabul > Bamyan > Band-e-Amir > Yakawlang > Firuzkuh > Jam > Chisht-e-Sharif > Herat > Kandahar > Mazar-i-Sharif > Balkh

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore historic Kabul and its traditional bazaars
- Experience the spectacular landscapes of Hajigak Pass
- Discover the UNESCO heritage of Bamyan
- Explore the breathtaking blue lakes of Band-e-Amir
- Travel through remote central Afghanistan
- Visit the legendary Minaret of Jam
- Discover the historical heritage of Ghor and Chisht-e-Sharif
- Explore the Silk Road and Timurid heritage of Herat
- Visit Herat's Friday Mosque, Citadel, Musalla Complex, and historic bazaars
- Experience the cultural heritage of Kandahar
- Discover the legacy of Ahmad Shah Durrani and Mirwais Hotak
- Explore ancient Balkh and Bactrian civilization
- Visit the Blue Mosque of Mazar-e-Sharif
- Experience Afghan markets, handicrafts, carpets, gemstones, and traditional culture
- Enjoy professional guiding, accommodation, transportation, meals, permits, and organized travel services

DAY BY DAY (14 DAYS)

Day 1: Arrival in Kabul & Kabul City Tour

- Welcome to Afghanistan!
- Upon arrival at Kabul International Airport, our professional tour guide and driver will welcome you and transfer you to your hotel.
- After check-in, your guide will provide a short briefing about the tour, local customs, and the journey ahead. Depending on your arrival time, breakfast or lunch will be arranged.
- You will have time for currency exchange and a visit to a local tailor shop where you can explore traditional Afghan clothing and, if desired, arrange a local outfit.
- Begin your Kabul experience at Bibi Mahro Hill, home to the famous Afghan flag and offering panoramic views over the capital.
- Continue to Mandawi Bazaar and the Bird Market, one of the most atmospheric areas of Kabul. Explore traditional shops, street traders, bakeries, butchers, fresh and dried fruit sellers, and local businesses while experiencing an authentic glimpse into everyday life.

- Continue with a walk around Pul-e-Khishti Mosque, Nadir Pashtun Wat, Chahar Chatta Bazaar, and Pul-e-Bagh-e-Omumi.
- The day concludes with a visit to the historic Shah-Do-Shamshira Mosque, associated with an early Islamic legend concerning the arrival of Islam in Kabul.
- Overnight: Kabul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 2: Kabul to Bamyan | Ancient Heritage & Mountain Landscapes

- After breakfast, depart Kabul for Bamyan on a scenic approximately 4-hour drive.
- The journey takes you through spectacular mountain landscapes and across the fascinating Hajigak Pass, reaching approximately 3,700 meters above sea level.
- Enjoy several stops at picturesque viewpoints and rest areas for photography and refreshments.
- Upon arrival in Bamyan, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism authorities.
- Visit the historic Bamyan Valley and the ruins of the famous Buddha Statues, once among the tallest standing Buddha figures in the world. The Great Buddha was approximately 55 meters high, while the Small Buddha measured approximately 38 meters. Although destroyed in 2001, their monumental niches remain an important symbol of Afghanistan's ancient cultural heritage.
- Continue to the ruins of Gholghola City, known as the City of Screams, an ancient fortified settlement associated with the Ghaznavid period and later destroyed during the Mongol invasion.
- Visit the ruins of Zuhak City (Red City), an ancient fortress traditionally associated with the early medieval period.
- Overnight: Bamyan

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 3: Band-e-Amir National Park | Blue Lakes

- Today is dedicated to one of Afghanistan's most spectacular natural attractions.
- Travel to Band-e-Amir National Park, famous for its extraordinary deep-blue lakes surrounded by dramatic cliffs and high mountain landscapes.
- Enjoy a full day of hiking, sightseeing, photography, and exploring the lakes. Band-e-Amir sits at an elevation of approximately 2,916 meters above sea level and is renowned for its series of naturally formed blue lakes.
- After exploring Band-e-Amir, continue toward Yakawlang District, positioning the group for the following day's journey.
- Overnight: Yakawlang District

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 4: Yakawlang to Firuzkuh | Through Central Afghanistan

- After breakfast, depart Yakawlang for Firuzkuh, the provincial capital of Ghor Province.
- The approximately 8-hour journey takes you through remote mountain landscapes, traditional communities, valleys, and spectacular natural scenery.
- Enjoy stops along the way for photography, refreshments, and lunch.
- Arrive in Firuzkuh and check in to your accommodation.
- Overnight: Firuzkuh

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 5: Minaret of Jam & Chisht-e-Sharif | Ghor Heritage

- Begin the day early with a journey from Firuzkuh toward the extraordinary Minaret of Jam.
- Standing approximately 65 meters high, the Minaret of Jam rises dramatically from a remote valley along the Hari Rud, surrounded by towering barren mountains.
- Built during the Ghurid period, the minaret is one of Afghanistan's most remarkable surviving examples of medieval Islamic architecture. Its fired-brick structure is decorated with intricate geometric designs and an

important Quranic inscription.

- Enjoy hiking and sightseeing around the Minaret of Jam, taking time to appreciate its remote setting and architectural details.
- After the visit, continue toward Chisht-e-Sharif District.
- The journey through this remote part of Ghor offers spectacular scenery and a unique opportunity to experience one of Afghanistan's least-visited historical landscapes.
- Overnight: Chisht-e-Sharif

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 6: Chisht-e-Sharif to Herat

- After breakfast, continue the journey from Chisht-e-Sharif toward Herat.
- This is an approximately 8-hour road journey through the scenic landscapes of western Afghanistan.
- Upon arrival in Herat, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism authorities and check in to your hotel.
- The evening is reserved for rest and preparation for the following day's extensive Herat sightseeing program.
- Overnight: Herat

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 7: Explore Herat | Silk Road & Timurid Heritage

- After breakfast, begin a full day of exploration in historic Herat.
- Visit the magnificent Masjid-e-Jami (Friday Mosque), one of Afghanistan's greatest examples of Islamic architecture. The mosque incorporates centuries of architectural development, including important Ghurid and Timurid elements.
- Explore the historic Citadel of Herat, traditionally associated with Alexander the Great and later developed by successive Afghan and regional dynasties. The citadel has witnessed some of the most important chapters of Herat's history.
- Walk through the Old City of Herat, where traditional bazaars and historic streets reflect the city's importance as a major Silk Road center.
- Visit the historic Chahrsuq, or Four Bazaars, where the main traditional market routes meet. Explore covered bazaars and traditional shops that preserve the atmosphere of historic Herat.
- Where accessible, visit the historic neighborhood associated with Herat's Jewish Afghan community, including surviving synagogue and bathhouse sites.
- Continue to the historic caravanserais around Chahrsuq, which once served merchants and travelers along the Silk Road.
- Visit the historic Malan Bridge, associated with the medieval heritage of the region.
- Continue to the spectacular Musalla Complex, commissioned under Queen Gawhar Shad during the Timurid period. Explore the surviving monuments, including the mausoleums and remaining minarets that preserve the memory of Herat's extraordinary Timurid architectural heritage.
- The final major visit is the Shrine of Khwaja Abdullah Ansari, the celebrated Sufi poet, scholar, and philosopher associated with Herat.
- Inside the shrine complex, see the remarkable Haft Qalam Stone (Seven Pens Stone), a distinctive black-marble sarcophagus dating from the Timurid period.
- Overnight: Herat

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 8: Herat to Kandahar | Across Western Afghanistan

- After breakfast, depart Herat for Kandahar on an approximately 8-hour road journey.
- Travel through Farah and Helmand Provinces, passing traditional villages, mud-brick houses, local bazaars, mosques, and changing landscapes.
- Several stops will be made along the route for photography, refreshments, and lunch.
- Arrive in Kandahar and transfer to your hotel.
- Overnight: Kandahar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 9: Explore Kandahar | Durrani & Afghan Heritage

- After breakfast, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism authorities.
- Begin your Kandahar experience with a visit to the historic Old Bazaar, where the traditional market streets meet around the central square.
- Explore traditional shops, local markets, and the atmosphere of one of Afghanistan's most historically significant cities.
- Visit the Shrine of the Cloak of the Prophet, one of Kandahar's most important religious landmarks.
- Continue to the Mausoleum of Ahmad Shah Durrani, founder of the Durrani Empire and a pivotal figure in Afghanistan's history.
- Visit the Tomb of Mirwais Hotak, the influential Ghilzai leader associated with Kandahar's independence from Persian rule in 1709.
- Explore Chihilzina (Forty Steps), a historic rock-cut monument overlooking the Kandahar plain and associated with the Mughal period.
- Conclude the day with visits to the historic Red Mosque and the shrine of Baba Wali Kandahari.
- Overnight: Kandahar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 10: Kandahar to Kabul | Scenic Road Journey

- After breakfast, depart Kandahar for Kabul on an approximately 10-hour road journey.
- Travel through Zabul, Ghazni, and Wardak Provinces, experiencing the changing landscapes of southern and central Afghanistan.
- Enjoy several stops at scenic viewpoints and rest areas for photography, refreshments, and lunch.
- Arrive in Kabul in the evening and check in to your hotel.
- Overnight: Kabul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 11: Kabul to Mazar-e-Sharif by Flight | Blue Mosque & City Tour

- After breakfast, transfer to Kabul Airport for your flight to Mazar-e-Sharif.
- Upon arrival, complete the required registration with the tourism authorities and check in to your hotel.
- Visit the magnificent Blue Mosque (Shrine of Hazrat Ali), the architectural and spiritual landmark of Mazar-e-Sharif.
- Continue with a walk through the city center and traditional bazaars.
- Explore Banjara Bazaar, experiencing local commerce, traditional products, and everyday life in one of northern Afghanistan's most important cities.
- Overnight: Mazar-e-Sharif

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

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

Day 12: Balkh | Journey Through Ancient Bactria

- After breakfast, travel to Balkh, one of the world's great ancient cultural centers.
- Explore the history of ancient Bactria, a region that became an important center of trade, religion, scholarship, and civilization across different periods of Afghan history.
- Visit Masjid-e-Haji Piyada (Nuh Gunbad Mosque), one of Afghanistan's earliest surviving Islamic monuments.
- Continue to Khwaja Abu Nasr Parsa Mosque and the Tomb of Rabia Balkhi, one of the most celebrated early female poets of Persian literature.
- Explore the ruins of Bala Hisar-e-Balkh, associated with the ancient history of Balkh.
- Visit the historic area associated with Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi (Rumi), the celebrated Sufi poet and philosopher born in Balkh.
- Continue to Burj-e-Ayaran, a surviving part of the ancient city's defensive structures.
- After exploring Balkh, return to Mazar-e-Sharif.
- Overnight: Mazar-e-Sharif

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 13: Mazar-e-Sharif to Kabul by Flight | Kabul Heritage

- After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Kabul.
- Upon arrival, begin exploring some of Kabul's most important historical landmarks.
- Visit the iconic Bagh-e-Babur (Babur's Garden), the historic Mughal garden and final resting place of Emperor Babur. Explore the garden, its historic architecture, the marble mosque associated with the Mughal period, and Babur's tomb.
- Continue to Bala Hissar, Kabul's historic high fortress overlooking the city. The fortress has played an important role throughout Afghanistan's history and was associated with several Afghan and Mughal rulers.
- Conclude the day with a visit to Ziarat-e-Sakhi (Sakhi Shrine), an important religious and cultural landmark of Kabul.
- Overnight: Kabul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

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

Day 14: Kabul Shopping & Departure

- After breakfast, enjoy your final opportunity to explore Kabul, depending on your flight schedule.
- Visit Chicken Street, one of Kabul's best-known traditional shopping destinations.
- Browse a wide selection of Afghan handicrafts and souvenirs, including handmade carpets and rugs, gemstones, calligraphy, miniature artworks, antiques, decorative pieces, and traditional crafts.
- Depending on your departure time, additional sightseeing or shopping can be arranged.
- Enjoy lunch before our professional team transfers you to Kabul International Airport for your return flight.
- After an unforgettable 14-day journey across Afghanistan, filled with ancient heritage, breathtaking landscapes, cultural encounters, historic architecture, and unique experiences, your journey with Nawi Saadi Travel & Tourism comes to an end.
- Departure: Kabul International Airport

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

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 1,749 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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