

Northern Afghanistan - 7 Days of Discovery

Afghanistan | 7 days / 6 nights | From USD 1,149 per person

Discover Afghanistan with Nawi Saadi Travel & Tourism. Experience Afghanistan's rich history, breathtaking landscapes, ancient civilizations, vibrant bazaars, and warm local culture on a carefully planned 7-day journey through Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh, Bamyan, and Band-e-Amir.

ROUTE

Kabul > Mazar-i-Sharif > Balkh > Bamyan > Band-e-Amir

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the historic capital of Kabul
- Experience traditional Afghan bazaars and local culture
- Visit the Blue Mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif
- Discover ancient Balkh and Bactrian heritage
- Explore the Bamyan Valley and Buddha niches
- Visit the historic ruins of Gholghola and Zuhak
- Experience the breathtaking lakes of Band-e-Amir
- Travel through the spectacular Hindu Kush mountain landscapes
- Discover Afghan handicrafts, carpets, gemstones, and traditional art
- Enjoy professional local guides, transportation, and organized travel services

DAY BY DAY (7 DAYS)

Day 1: Arrival in Kabul & Kabul City Tour

- Upon arrival in Kabul, our professional tour guide and driver will welcome you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. After check-in, your guide will provide a short briefing about the tour and the days ahead.
- Depending on your arrival time, we will arrange breakfast or lunch, followed by currency exchange and a visit to a local tailor shop where you can experience traditional Afghan clothing.
- We then begin exploring Kabul, starting with Bibi Mahro Hill, home to the famous Afghan flag and offering panoramic views over the city.
- Continue to Mandawi Bazaar and the Bird Market, followed by a walk around Pul-e-Khishti Mosque, Nadir Pashtun Wat, Chahar Chatta Bazaar, and Pul-e-Bagh-e-Omumi. These areas provide an authentic glimpse into Kabul's daily life, local traditions, markets, and culture.
- 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: Three daily meals and drinking water; arrival/departure meals depend on timing

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 2: Kabul to Mazar-e-Sharif by Flight

- After breakfast, transfer to Kabul Airport for your flight to Mazar-e-Sharif, one of northern Afghanistan's most important cultural and historical cities.
- Upon arrival, our team will assist with registration at the relevant tourism department before transferring you to your hotel for check-in.
- Visit the magnificent Blue Mosque (Shrine of Hazrat Ali), the architectural and spiritual landmark of Mazar-e-Sharif.

- Later, explore the city center and traditional bazaars. Walk through Banjara Bazaar, meet local people, and experience the atmosphere, culture, and everyday lifestyle of Mazar-e-Sharif.
- Overnight: Mazar-e-Sharif

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

Day 3: Balkh: Journey Through Ancient Bactria

- Today, travel to Balkh, one of the oldest continuously inhabited regions of the world and a remarkable center of ancient civilizations, religion, scholarship, and culture.
- A short drive takes us to the historic Balkh District, where we explore some of its most important archaeological and cultural landmarks.
- Visit Masjid-e-Haji Piyada (Nuh Gunbad Mosque), one of the earliest surviving Islamic monuments in Afghanistan, dating to the 9th century.
- Continue to Khwaja Abu Nasr Parsa Mosque and the Tomb of Rabia Balkhi, remembered as one of the earliest and most celebrated female poets of Persian literature.
- Explore the ruins of Bala Hisar-e-Balkh, traditionally associated with the ancient history of Balkh and Alexander the Great.
- Visit the area associated with Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi (Rumi), the renowned Sufi poet and philosopher who was born in Balkh.
- The tour continues to Burj-e-Ayaran, an impressive remnant of the ancient city's defensive structures.
- After exploring Balkh, return to Mazar-e-Sharif.
- Overnight: Mazar-e-Sharif

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

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 4: Mazar-e-Sharif to Bamyan Overland

- Today begins an unforgettable overland journey toward Bamyan, passing through some of Afghanistan's most spectacular mountain landscapes.
- The journey takes approximately 12 hours, with the route crossing the Hindu Kush and passing through the famous Salang area and mountain passes.
- Continue through the beautiful Dara-e-Ghorband, following the Ghorband River and passing through Sia Gird District, traditional villages, local bazaars, and mountain communities.
- There will be several stops along the way for photography, refreshments, and lunch, allowing you to enjoy Afghanistan's dramatic scenery and rural landscapes.
- Arrive in Bamyan in the evening and check in to your hotel.
- Overnight: Bamyan

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

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 5: Bamyan & Band-e-Amir

- After breakfast, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism department before beginning a full day of exploration in Bamyan.
- Visit the Bamyan Valley and the remains of the famous Buddha Statues, once among the tallest standing Buddha figures in the world. The Great Buddha measured approximately 55 meters, while the Small Buddha measured approximately 38 meters. Both monuments were destroyed in 2001, but their niches remain an important symbol of Afghanistan's cultural heritage.
- Continue to the ancient ruins of Gholghola City, also known as the City of Screams, a historic fortified settlement associated with the Ghaznavid period and later destroyed during the Mongol invasion.
- In the afternoon, travel to the spectacular Band-e-Amir National Park, famous for its extraordinary deep-blue lakes surrounded by dramatic limestone cliffs.
- Enjoy hiking, sightseeing, photography, and the peaceful natural surroundings of the Band-e-Amir lakes before returning to Bamyan.

- Overnight: Bamyān

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

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 6: Bamyān to Kabul & Kabul Heritage Tour

- After breakfast, depart Bamyān for Kabul on a scenic approximately 4-hour journey, passing through the spectacular Hajigak Pass and surrounding mountain landscapes.
- Along the route, make a stop at the historic ruins of Zuhak (Red City), an ancient fortress traditionally associated with the Hephthalite period and later destroyed during the Mongol invasion.
- Continue toward Kabul with stops at scenic viewpoints for photography and refreshments.
- After lunch in Kabul, visit the beautiful Bagh-e-Babur (Babur's Garden), the historic Mughal garden associated with Emperor Babur.
- Our final visit of the day will be Ziarat-e-Sakhi (Sakhi Shrine), an important religious and cultural site in Kabul.
- Overnight: Kabul

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

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 7: Kabul Shopping & Departure

- After breakfast, visit Chicken Street, one of Kabul's best-known traditional shopping areas and a popular destination for visitors looking for Afghan handicrafts and souvenirs.
- Browse a variety of traditional products, including Afghan handmade carpets and rugs, gemstones, calligraphy, miniature artworks, handicrafts, antiques, and decorative pieces.
- Depending on your flight schedule, there may be an opportunity to visit additional attractions or markets in Kabul.
- After lunch, our team will transfer you to Kabul International Airport for your return flight.

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 1,149 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. Hotel names, room occupancy and availability are confirmed in your quotation. 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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