

New
Uzbekistan
University

WELCOME TO TASHKENT:

A JEWEL OF
CENTRAL ASIA



Howdy, Visiting Student!

Welcome to Uzbekistan, the vibrant city of Tashkent! This brochure is here to help you get settled in quickly and make the most of your time here—both in terms of productivity and enjoying your downtime!

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Tashkent City Map (by Ilya Birman)



Ancient, Soviet, Modern Tashkent

Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, is a vibrant metropolis situated at the crossroads of ancient Silk Road trade routes. With a population of over 3 million, the city is a unique multinational center that truly embodies cultural diversity.

According to the Uzbekistan State Statistics Committee (Goskomstat) data from January 1st, 2024, the city's demographic composition is remarkably diverse:

- Uzbeks: **65.5%**
- Russians: **15.3%**
- Tajiks: **8.7%**
- Kazakhs: **4.2%**
- Other nationalities: **6.3%**

The historical center of the city preserves centuries of rich history. At Amir Temur Square, where a monument to General Kaufman once stood, now rises a statue of the great Central Asian ruler. The architectural landscape is a fascinating blend of cultures, featuring:

- Ancient madrasahs
- Historic mosques
- Orthodox and Catholic churches
- Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Synagogues





This religious and cultural diversity highlights the city's remarkable tolerance and openness. The devastating earthquake of 1966 became a pivotal moment in Tashkent's development. Parts of the city were almost completely rebuilt, with modern quarters like Chilanazar emerging, featuring wide avenues and green boulevards.

The educational potential of Tashkent is truly impressive. According to official statistics:

- Over **50 higher education institutions**
- Approximately **120,000 university students** annually
- More than **15 international branch campuses**
- **8 national research universities**

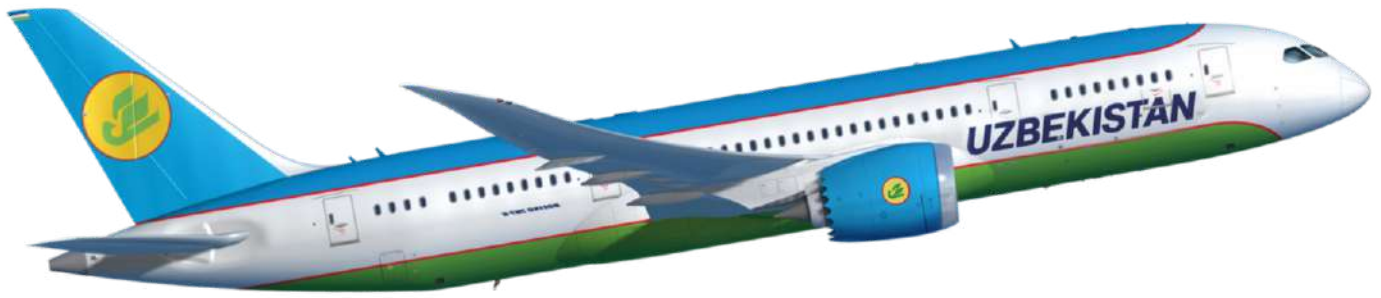
Modern Tashkent is a dynamically developing metropolis where ancient traditions harmoniously blend with innovative technologies. The new financial center, international hotels, wide boulevards, and modern shopping centers coexist with historical monuments and traditional bazaars.

Safety and comfort are hallmarks of the city. The presence of law enforcement in public spaces creates a calm atmosphere for residents and tourists alike.

Key highlights of Tashkent:

- A multicultural hub with over **130 ethnic groups**
- Strategic location in **Central Asia**
- Rich historical **heritage**
- Rapidly developing **economic center**
- Significant **educational** and **cultural** potential

The city continues to develop, maintaining its unique identity as a crossroads of civilizations, where past and present exist in harmonious unity.

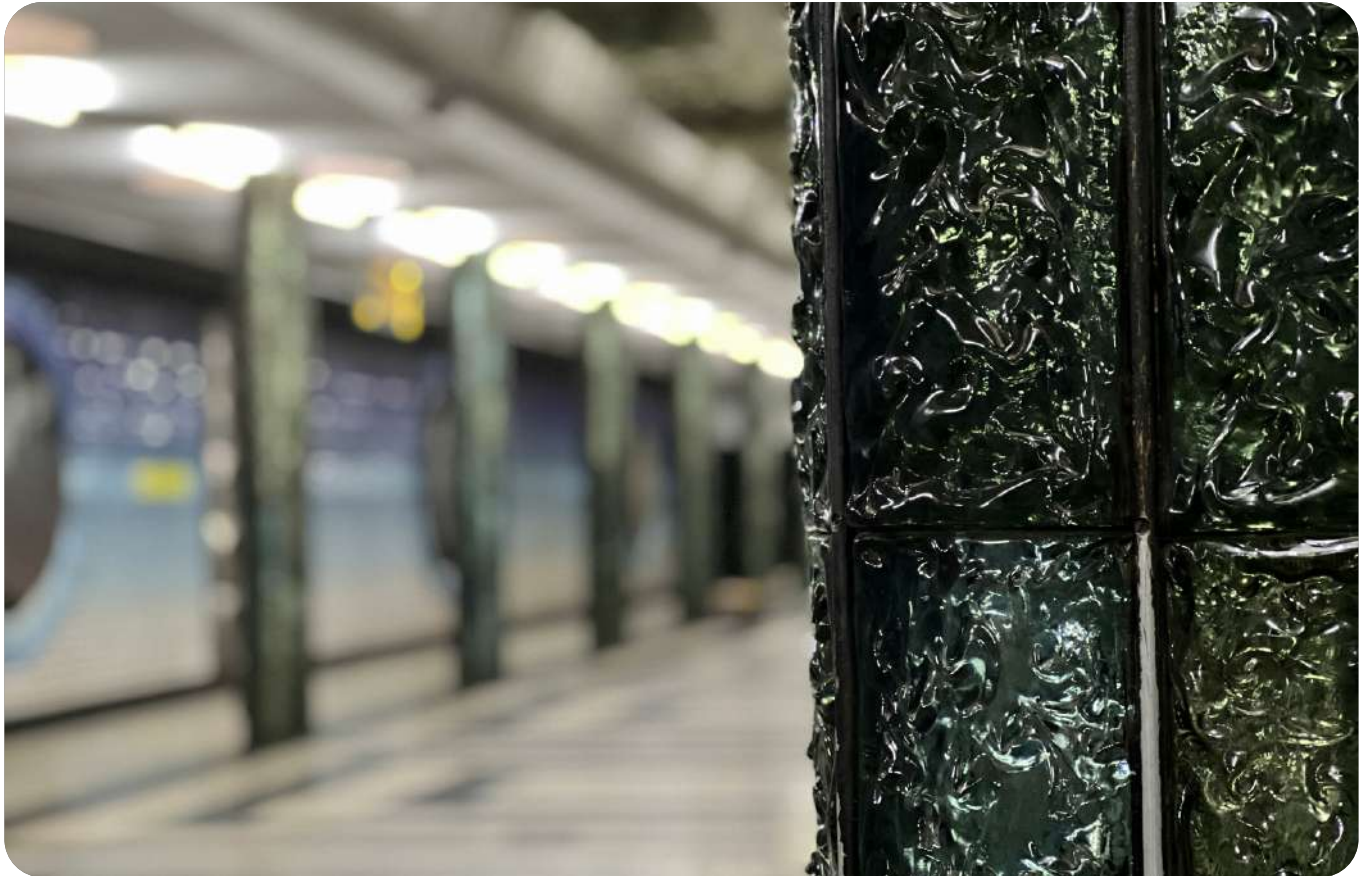


From the Airport

Tashkent Islam Karimov International Airport (TAS) offers direct flights to various destinations, including major airports like New York, London, Istanbul, Moscow, Astana, Almaty, Bishkek, Munich, Dubai, Delhi, Seoul, Baku, Tel Aviv, Frankfurt, Beijing, Shanghai, to name but a few, making it an easy entrance point to Uzbekistan. TAS is located about 8 km south of the city center (approximately 20 minutes by car without traffic). The new metro circle line currently under construction will soon connect the airport to the city.

At the moment, the most convenient way is to take a taxi from the airport. You can either use a ride-hailing app like Yandex.Taxi or Uber, or take the official Taxi Airport Tashkent taxi at the airport. The journey to the New Uzbekistan University typically takes around 15-30 minutes, depending on traffic. Taxi Airport Tashkent desk stands at the exit of the arrivals terminal. You come to the desk and provide your address. Manager calculates the cost and tells the amount to pay in cash in UZS or with a bank card. You get the receipt indicating the address and the amount paid, and take the first taxi in line. Approximate cost of the ride will be 2 -7 USD depending on your destination in the city and type of car.





Metro, Public Transit and Transit Card

The heartbeat of Tashkent is its public transport system, particularly the metro. To navigate the city with ease, the metro is your best friend with trains arriving every five minutes. The metro stations are about a 20-minute walk apart. The metro operates from 5 AM until midnight, giving you plenty of time to explore.

The network boasts four lines, but for most travelers, the first three will be your go-to routes: Chilonzor (the red line), O'zbekiston (the blue line), and Yunsobod (the green line). There's a new outer circle line under construction that will connect Tashkent's suburbs and even the airport!

Buses complement the transport system. They're perfect for those shorter trips or for getting you from the metro to your final destination, especially since distances in Tashkent can be quite long.

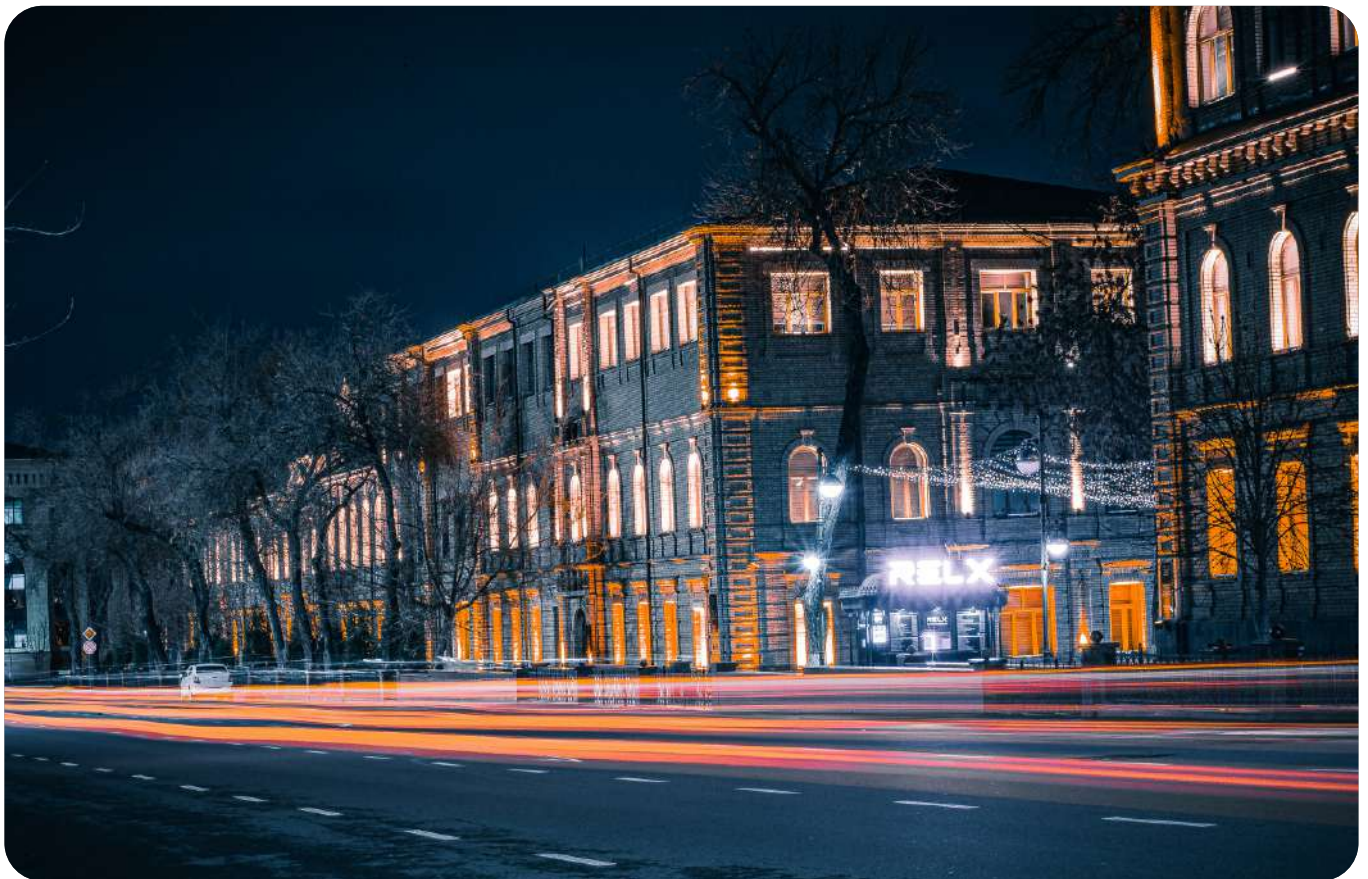
Whether you're hopping on the metro or catching a bus, a single ticket costs only 1,700 som with a card or 2,000 sum with a single ride ticket. The metro itself is a tourist attraction! Each station is uniquely designed, showcasing stunning architecture and art that reflect Uzbekistan's rich culture. See the short [Tourist Guide to Tashkent Metro](#)

Taxis are very affordable, widely used, especially convenient if you use Yandex or Uklon apps. In most cases you get the car in 5 minutes time to bring you anywhere in the city.

Hotels and Hostels

- [Zahid Inn](#)
- [Orion hotel Tashkent](#)
- [Shodlik Palace](#)
- [National Hostel](#) - Near NewUU, special discount rates apply
- [Real Tashkent Hostel](#) -Near NewUU
- [Art Hostel](#) in historic location

When planning your stay, it's always a good idea to check recent reviews and book in advance to secure the best rates. Websites like Hostelworld, [Booking.com](#), or Airbnb can provide additional options and up-to-date information on prices and availability.



Medical Services and Pharmacies

Pharmacies in Uzbek are called “Dorixona” and in Russian “Apteka”. There are pharmacies literally on every corner.

Police, Ambulance and FireFighters phone: 112

There are many modern state owned and private hospitals and clinics in Tashkent. Check your health insurance to ensure that it covers medical services in Uzbekistan, as this can significantly affect your out-of-pocket expenses. Many private hospitals and clinics offer high-quality care and may have English-speaking staff, making them a convenient choice for expatriates and travelers.



EATING OUT



1. Plov Lounge is known for its delicious plov (Uzbek rice dish), this modern eatery has a vibrant atmosphere. Abdulla Qodiriy, 25/1 [Plov Lounge on TripAdvisor](#)
2. Bek Cafe - quality Uzbek food, a lot of barbeque and meat. Busy place in the evenings. Mirzo Ulugbek, 9 [Bek Cafe on TripAdvisor](#)
3. Shashleek. A barbecue restaurant offering traditional Tashkent shashlik, located in the Eco Park area and wedding plov on Fridays. The menu features minced and chunk shashlik made from beef, chicken, and lamb. Uzbekiston Ovozi Street 49 TS1 [Ecopark Shashleek on TripAdvisor](#)
4. Ozbegim restaurant is a great choice for experiencing national cuisine in Uzbekistan. Good choice of national dishes, and the interior has a unique, museum-like quality. If you have just one night in Tashkent, consider visiting this place for a memorable taste of local cuisine and hospitality. Ozbegim Restaurant Mahatma Gandhi St. 14
5. Syrovarnya restaurant is a place where you can meet trendy locals and foreigners. Great choice for a Sunday brunch. Major hotels are located nearby. High quality European menu. Shakhrisabz, 31B metro Amir Temur xiyoboni
6. Besh Qozon plov and national restaurant to try national cuisine. Glinka ko'chasi 41 A [Besh Qozon](#)
7. Zakhid Kebab - a chain of national restaurants with barbeque, steak and Turkish menu. One of the restaurants is close to metro station Kosmonavtlar and located in a green area with open terrace.
8. Safia Cafe & Bakery chain of shops known for its exquisite desserts, cakes and bakery. Here, you can indulge in a variety of delicious cakes, baked goods, and both European and traditional pastries. [Safia Cafe & Bakery chain](#)
9. Cake Lab. A sweet spot for dessert lovers, offering a variety of cakes, pastries, and coffee in a cozy environment. [Cake Lab chain](#)
10. Chef Burger and Burger Embassy: Chef Burger and Embassy Burger chains are known for their delicious, juicy burgers that come with a variety of toppings and sauces. Their restaurants offer a casual dining experience, making it a great place for young people to enjoy a quick meal with friends. [Chef Burger](#), [Burger Embassy](#)
11. Chaikof Cafe is a popular spot in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, known for its cozy atmosphere and diverse menu. It often features a mix of Russian and European cuisine, along with a selection of desserts and beverages, making it a great place for coffee, casual meals, or gatherings with friends. Cuisine: A blend of Russian, European, and local dishes, with options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. [Chaikof on Tripadvisor](#)



Tourist attractions, historical spots and cultural venues

Food and souvenirs markets

Don't be shy to bargain at any market, this is socially approved behavior and would not hurt anyone's feelings.

1. **Chorsu Bazaar:** One of the oldest and most famous markets in Tashkent, Chorsu Bazaar is a bustling hub where you can find fresh produce, spices, dried fruits and nuts. The market is also a great place to purchase handmade crafts, textiles, and ceramics.
2. **Eski Juva Market:** This market is known for its lively atmosphere and a wide range of products. You can find fresh fruits, vegetables, and local delicacies here, as well as souvenirs such as traditional clothing, carpets, and handicrafts. It's a great place to experience local culture and cuisine.
3. **Samarqand Darvoza Market:** Located near the city center, this market features a mix of food stalls and shops selling various goods. You can find fresh produce, meats, sweets, and spices, along with souvenirs like ceramics, textiles, and traditional Uzbek crafts.
4. **Alay Bazaar:** A vibrant market that specializes in fresh fruits, vegetables, and local delicacies. Alay Bazaar is a great place to sample traditional foods and buy regional products. You can also find handmade crafts and textiles from local artisans.



Parks near New Uzbekistan University

Ecopark Yashnobod district, 15-minute walk from university.

Modern, eco-friendly park with walking paths, cycling tracks, and picnic areas.

Jogging, cycling, yoga, and family outings.

Playgrounds, benches, restrooms, and a café.

Botanic Park

Mirzo-Ulugbek district, 20-minute drive.

Large botanical garden with diverse plant collections.

Nature walks, bird watching, and photography.

Greenhouse, visitor center, benches, and shaded areas.

Central Tashkent Amusement Park

Right next to the university

Amusement rides, carousels, and a Ferris wheel.

Fun rides, arcade games, and paddle boating.

Food stalls, restrooms, children's play area, and seating.



One day tours

1. **Samarkand Day Trip:** Visit one of Uzbekistan's most famous cities, known for its stunning architecture and historical significance. Explore the Registan Square, Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, Bibi-Khanym Mosque, and the ancient observatory of Ulugh Beg. Enjoy local cuisine at a traditional restaurant.
2. **Bukhara Day Trip:** Discover the ancient city of Bukhara, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Highlights include the Ark Fortress, Bolo Hauz Mosque, the historic trading domes, and the beautiful Kalyan Minaret. Take a stroll through the old town and savor local dishes like plov.
3. **Chimgan Mountains:** For nature lovers, a trip to the Chimgan Mountains offers stunning landscapes and outdoor activities. Enjoy hiking, horseback riding, or taking a cable car ride for panoramic views. You can also visit the nearby Charvak Reservoir for relaxation by the water.
4. **Shahrisabz:** Explore the birthplace of Timur (Tamerlane) in Shahrisabz, where you can visit the Ak-Saray Palace ruins, Dor-us-Siadat Complex, and the Kok-Gumbaz Mosque. This city is rich in history and offers a glimpse into Uzbekistan's past.
5. **Tashkent to Termez:** Visit Termez, located near the Afghan border, known for its archaeological sites and historical significance on the Silk Road. Explore sites like the Archaeological Museum, Buddhist Stupa of Zurmala, and the ancient fortress of Qori Kurgan.
6. **Syrdarya River and Khazarasp:** Take a scenic trip to the Syrdarya River area and visit Khazarasp, a historic town with beautiful river views. You can enjoy a picnic by the river, explore local markets, and learn about traditional crafts in the region.

These day trips provide a fantastic opportunity to experience the diverse culture, history, and natural beauty of Uzbekistan while being based in Tashkent.



Museums and historical sites

Notably many museums in Tashkent have their mobile apps or AR, to enhance immersive experiences and provide more information to the visitors.

• **Center of Islamic Civilization:** The Centre for Islamic Civilisation, a striking neo-Timurid building with a large turquoise dome, is under construction in Tashkent's Old City. The iwans are beautifully decorated, reflecting Uzbekistan's rich artistic heritage. Once completed, the centre will house a library, exhibition halls featuring ancient manuscripts and Islamic art, and conference spaces.

A short walk north leads to the Hazrati Imom Complex, home to Tashkent's key historical sites. The complex includes the Hazrati Imom Mosque, Muiy Muborak Madrasah—where the oldest known Qur'an is kept—Baroq Khan Madrasah, and Tillya Sheikh Mosque.

The Hazrati Imom Mosque, built in 2007 in a 16th-century style, features luxurious materials sourced from India and Turkey. Muiy Muborak Madrasah, originally a Sufi khanqah from the 16th century, now serves as a Qur'an library-museum housing the revered ancient Quran written on deerskin.

Baroq Khan Madrasah, dating back to the 16th century, was designed for local students and features lecture halls instead of rooms. Nearby, Tillya Sheikh Mosque, constructed in 1890 by a wealthy merchant, was once the largest mosque in Tashkent. Finally, the Tomb of Abu Bakr Kaffal, a 10th-century polymath, is located in the complex's northwestern corner. Uzbekistan will become a center that widely promotes the idea of “Third Renaissance – New Uzbekistan” and studies the achievements of the period of new revival on a scientific basis.

<https://en.tamaddun-cisc.uz/>





• **Mosaics of Tashkent** <https://mosaic.tashkent.uz/en/?page=1>

• **State Museum of History of Uzbekistan** • This museum showcases the rich history and culture of Uzbekistan from ancient times to the present. It features a vast collection of artifacts, including archaeological finds, historical documents, and traditional crafts. • [State Museum of History of Uzbekistan](#)

• **Museum of Applied Arts** • Housed in a beautiful building that was once the residence of a Russian diplomat, this museum displays a wide range of applied arts, including textiles, ceramics, metalwork, and woodwork, highlighting Uzbekistan's rich craftsmanship. • [Museum of Applied Arts](#)

• **Amir Timur Museum** • Dedicated to the life and legacy of Amir Timur (Tamerlane), this museum features exhibits on his empire, military campaigns, and the cultural achievements of the Timurid dynasty. • [Amir Timur Museum](#)

• **State Museum of Arts of Uzbekistan** • This museum houses an extensive collection of Uzbek and international art, including paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts. It showcases both contemporary and classical works. • [State Museum of Arts of Uzbekistan](#)

• **Navoi Theater Museum** • Located within the Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theater, this museum is dedicated to the performing arts in Uzbekistan and features exhibits related to theater, opera, and ballet. • [Navoi Theater Museum](#)

• **The Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan**, located in Tashkent, is a key institution for the study and promotion of the arts in the country. The Academy often hosts exhibitions showcasing the works of students, faculty, and renowned artists. These can include paintings, sculptures, textiles, and other forms of art. <https://art-academy.uz/en/>

The Art Gallery of Uzbekistan is a museum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Established after independence in 1991, it is one of the most visited modern museums in Uzbekistan. <https://nbu.uz/en/gallery/fine-arts-gallery-of-uzbekistan/>

Modern City

Amir Timur Square: A central square featuring a statue of Amir Timur (Tamerlane), surrounded by beautiful gardens and modern buildings. It's a popular gathering place and often hosts cultural events.

Tashkent TV Tower: This telecommunications tower stands at 375 meters and offers panoramic views of the city from its observation deck. It's one of the tallest structures in Central Asia.

Uzbekistan Hotel: A Soviet hotel that showcases late Soviet architecture, a convenient base for exploring the city.

Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theatre (under renovation): A stunning modern building that hosts opera and ballet performances. The theater itself is an architectural gem and a cultural hub in Tashkent.

Minor Mosque: A striking modern mosque known for its beautiful architecture, including a large dome and tall minarets. It's a peaceful place for reflection and prayer.

Eski Juva Market: A modern market that offers a mix of traditional Uzbek products and contemporary goods, providing visitors with an authentic shopping experience.

City Parks and Recreation Areas: Tashkent has several modern parks and recreational areas, such as Tashkent City Park, Babur Park, Botanical Garden, and many other parks, where you can enjoy outdoor activities.

Shopping Malls: Malls like Tashkent City Mall, Magic City, Samarkand Darvoza, Mega Planet offer a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment options, reflecting modern consumer culture in Tashkent.

International Business Center: A modern skyscraper that symbolizes Tashkent's growth as a business hub, featuring offices, conference facilities, and restaurants.





Currency

Uzbekistan's currency is the Uzbek som (UZS). The exchange rate of the Uzbek som against major currencies: 1 US dollar (USD) is about 13,000 UZS and 1 euro (EUR) is about 13,400 UZS (January 2025).

Exchanging currency in Uzbekistan to local soms is relatively straightforward. Foreign currencies, particularly USD and EUR, can be exchanged at banks, exchange offices, and even some hotels. However, it is important to be cautious and ensure using licensed exchange services to avoid scams or unfavorable rates.

Banks typically offer competitive rates for currency exchange. It is advisable to compare rates before exchanging large sums of money. ATMs are also available in major cities and tourist areas, allowing visitors to withdraw cash in Uzbek soms directly. Check with your bank regarding international withdrawal fees and notify them of your travel plans to avoid any issues with card usage abroad. International major cards are widely accepted in Tashkent, while small and street sellers may accept only cash payments in local soms.

Social networks and websites

Official City Websites:

- Tashkent City Official Website: [Tashkent City](#) (Note: This may be available in Uzbek and Russian; use a translation tool if needed.)
- Uzbekistan Tourism: [Uzbekistan Tourism](#)

Local News Outlets:

- The Tashkent Times: [The Tashkent Times](#)
- UzDaily: [UzDaily](#)

Cultural and Community Centers:

- The British Council: [British Council Uzbekistan](#)
- American Center in Tashkent: [American Center Tashkent](#)

Local Services:

- Yandex.Maps: [Yandex.Maps](#)
- Google Maps: [Google Maps](#)

Language Learning Resources:

- Duolingo: [Duolingo](#)
- Babbel: [Babbel](#)

Precautions

Do not drink tap water, either boil it or get bottled water.

In Tashkent, as in many urban areas, pedestrians face various hazards that can impact their safety and comfort. Definitely do not read your smartphone while walking. Here are some key considerations regarding pedestrian hazards in the city:

1. **Uneven Pavements:** Many sidewalks may have uneven surfaces due to design. These irregularities can pose tripping hazards, especially for those with mobility issues or when navigating the area at night.
2. **Surprise Steps:** In most parts of Tashkent, including restaurants, banks, public offices,, there are sudden changes in elevation, such as unexpected steps or curbs. These can catch pedestrians off guard, particularly if they are distracted or not paying close attention to their surroundings.
3. **Aryks, or Irrigation and Drainage Systems:** Be aware that most streets and roads are bordered with aryks in Tashkent. Pedestrians should be cautious when walking near the edge of pavement or road.
4. **Construction Zones:** Sudden ongoing construction projects can create issues for pedestrians. It's important to watch for detours, barriers, and equipment that may obstruct pathways. Usually there is no sign or fence so you need to pay attention.
5. **Vehicle Traffic:** The interaction between pedestrians and vehicles can be dangerous. Use designated crosswalks and be vigilant for turning vehicles. Some intersections may lack clear signage or signals, increasing the risk of accidents.
6. **Bicycles and Scooters:** With the rise of shared bicycles and electric scooters, pedestrians should also be aware of these vehicles on sidewalks and shared paths. Riders may not always yield to pedestrians, so maintaining awareness is crucial.
7. **Street Vendors and Obstacles:** Street vendors and outdoor cafes can sometimes encroach on pedestrian pathways, narrowing the space available for walking. Be mindful of your surroundings and navigate around these obstacles carefully.
8. **Poor Lighting:** In certain areas of Tashkent, inadequate lighting can make it difficult to see hazards at night. Walking in well-lit areas is advisable, and using a flashlight or phone light can enhance visibility when needed.
9. **Weather Conditions:** Rain and snow can exacerbate existing hazards, making pavements slippery and increasing the risk of falls. In winter, ice can form on sidewalks, creating additional dangers.

To ensure safety while walking in Tashkent, it's essential to remain alert and cautious. Wearing appropriate footwear, being aware of your surroundings, and following local traffic rules can help mitigate these hazards.

Finally, drinking alcohol is not considered a social norm in Uzbekistan. The major religion is Islam, which traditionally discourages the consumption of alcohol. While some social gatherings may involve drinking, it is often limited and not a central aspect of socializing. Instead, hospitality is expressed through the sharing of non-alcoholic beverages and traditional foods.



If you read so far, we'd love to hear about your adventures in Tashkent! Your insights and stories can help fellow international students make the most of their time in this vibrant city. Whether you discovered a hidden gem, tried a delicious local dish, or encountered a unique cultural experience, sharing your journey can inspire others.

Please take a moment to provide feedback on this travel guide as well. Your suggestions and comments are invaluable in helping us improve and create even better resources for future travelers. Send us an email at o.budjko@newuu.uz.

We can't wait to hear about your experiences and hope you have an unforgettable time exploring Tashkent! Safe travels!