

# MARIONOWENTRAVEL

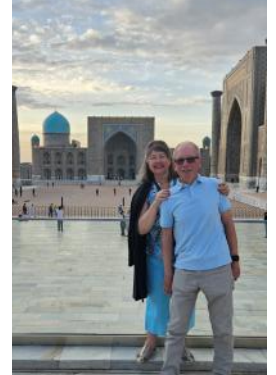
## HOT OFF THE PRESS!

I haven't got a new newsletter ready just yet, but we simply had to share these little snippets with you.

I have been working hard on some exciting new departures which are now ready to be offered...

### 14th May 2027 – Uzbekistan

Our brand-new departure to Uzbekistan is now on sale, with full details shown overleaf. Kamilla, our wonderful guide this year, has already been requested – she is superb and will take very good care of everyone. The country is safe, fascinating and incredibly clean. Our group enjoyed the tour immensely – you simply must go!



### 12th September 2027 – Romania

A brand-new tour is also available to Romania, with details overleaf. If you enjoy culture, history, beautiful scenery and the chance to see bears in their natural habitat, this may be just up your street. Flights fit nicely from Humberside too. I do hope you will join me.

### The Galápagos Islands – An Exclusive Opportunity for 2028

See more details overleaf. We currently have prices lower than departures in 2027 if confirmed before **3rd July**. The lowest cabin grades are limited, and Emma has a brochure with her if you would like a glimpse.

Our office will be closed for you to visit us on **2nd–3rd July** as we visit the stunning *Regent Seven Seas Grandeur* in Holyhead – we cannot wait to share this beautiful ship with those of you travelling along with us! Telephones on as normal.

We're also posting **daily offers on Facebook**, so please do like and follow our page.

Enjoy the read, if there is anything you would like to book please do not hesitate to telephone. Alternatively, you can call or email me – we could even arrange a FaceTime or teams meeting. Remember, our special departures always sell quickly, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure.

Until then, enjoy every moment of your holiday, make wonderful memories and travel safely. Thank you, as always, for your continued support – we can't wait to welcome you on another adventure soon.

Marion X

Book today TEL: **01482 212525** Monday-Saturday 9am to 5pm

Call in person Monday—Friday 9am to 3.45pm **23 Portland Street, HULL, HU2 8JX**

email: [team@marionowentravel.com](mailto:team@marionowentravel.com)

[www.marionowentravel.com](http://www.marionowentravel.com)



# MARIONOWENTRAVEL

## The Galápagos Islands – An Exclusive Opportunity for 2028

I am delighted to report that our special departure to the Galápagos Islands is now available!

### Departure Date: 9th June 2028

Flights are with KLM via Amsterdam, connecting directly to Quito, Ecuador.

We have two exceptional options available: We will all flying out together.

### Exploring the Galápagos – 11 Days

- 1 night in Quito pre & post the cruise
- 7-night expedition cruise
- Overnight flight home

From **£8,749 per person** sharing a twin/double cabin

From **£12,985** for a solo cabin

### Ultimate Galápagos – 18 Days

- 1 night in Quito pre & post the cruise
- **14-night expedition cruise**
- Overnight flight home

From **£13,679 per person** sharing a twin/double cabin

From **£21,310** for a solo cabin

The expedition ship carries a maximum of just **96 guests**, creating a wonderfully intimate atmosphere. Apart from a couple of suites, all cabins are the same size, with pricing differences based primarily on their position on the ship.

This is no ordinary cruise. National Geographic photographers and experts travel with us throughout the journey. There is no need to worry about underwater cameras or capturing every moment yourself – they take photographs and videos and share them with guests. Of course, if you would like to improve your own photography skills, they are also on hand to offer tips and guidance.

All crew members and expedition leaders are either Galápagan or Ecuadorian, bringing an incredible depth of local knowledge and passion to the experience.

#### Your price includes:

- Return flights
- All accommodation
- All meals and drinks on board
- Experienced expedition leaders
- National Geographic certified photographers
- Excursions and exploration equipment
- An unforgettable wildlife and nature experience

The lower-grade cabins are limited in number, and the deposit required to secure your place is just **15%**, giving you plenty of time to save towards your balance.

**This is one of the world's truly special destinations. Everyone who returns from the Galápagos comes back absolutely raving about the experience.**



Book today TEL: **01482 212525**

Monday-Saturday 9am to 5pm



Call in person Monday—Friday 9am to 3.45pm **23 Portland Street, HULL, HU2 8JX**

email: [team@marionowentravel.com](mailto:team@marionowentravel.com)

[www.marionowentravel.com](http://www.marionowentravel.com)

# MARIONOWENTRAVEL

Exclusive departure 14th May 2027

Jules Verne



## DISCOVER UZBEKISTAN with MARIONOWENTRAVEL

### Journey Along the Golden Road to Samarkand

#### OVERVIEW

- Flight 1nt
- Tashkent 1nt
- Khiva 2nts
- Bukhara 3nts
- Samarkand 3nts
- Tashkent 1nt

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Ancient Silk Road Cities
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Dinner in a Local Home
- Exclusive Marion Owen Travel Tour

#### INTRODUCTION

Join us on this private Marion Owen Travel tour as we journey along the Golden Road to Samarkand. Located at the crossroads of the ancient Silk Road, Uzbekistan is well-known for its magnificent historical architecture; beautiful mosques and madrassas, alongside Soviet modernism, a thriving arts and crafts scene, rich traditional culture, and the sincere hospitality of locals. Experience Uzbekistan's Silk Road Cities, and delve into the rich cultural heritage, from metropolitan Tashkent to Khiva's Old-Town with its towers and cupolas, across the Kyzylkum Desert to beautiful Bukhara, and into exotic Samarkand. Experience the magical realms of 'Arabian Nights' alongside the contrast of modern Central Asia on an adventure that will leave a lifetime of memories, all in the the company of our local expert guides.

#### ITINERARY

DAY 1 Overnight flight from London Heathrow to Tashkent.

DAY 2 Early morning transfer to your hotel. Afternoon city tour of the Navoi Theatre, Chorsu market and Independence Square. Optional evening performance at the Navoi Theatre (pre-bookable). Overnight at the 4-star Hampton by Hilton Tashkent. (B, D)

DAY 3 Fly to Urgench and transfer to your hotel in Khiva. Afternoon walking tour of the city includes Old Khiva's city walls, the Kunya Ark, minarets, a mausoleum and Tash-Khauli Palace. Two nights at the 3-star Asia Khiva Hotel or similar. (B, D)

DAY 4 Day at leisure in Khiva, perhaps stroll in the atmospheric Old Town; or take an optional tour of its ancient fortresses (bookable locally, approx. \$60). (B, D)

DAY 5 Travel by road to Bukhara (7 hrs, including barbecue lunch stop) across the Kyzylkum ('Red Sand') Desert. Three nights at the 3-star Devon Begi Hotel, Latifa Begim Hotel or similar. (B, L)

DAY 6 Walking tour of the madrassas, Maghoki Arrar Mosque, and tea houses of Lyabi-Khauz Square; and through the Trading Domes to Poi Kalyan Square and the Mir-i-Arab madrasah. A short drive in the afternoon takes you to Ismail Samani Mausoleum, stroll to Prophet Job's Well and Bukhara's old citadel, the Ark Fortress. (B, D)

DAY 7 Morning tour to the 19th-century Emir's Palace, continuing to Char Minar.

Afternoon free to explore medieval Bukhara, perhaps finding the 15th-century Silk Road caravanserai courtyard. (B, D)

DAY 8 Travel by road (5 hrs) to Samarkand. Afternoon tour of Bibi-Khanym Mosque and the three madrassas which frame Registan Square, an amazing ensemble of ornately tiled arches, domes, and pillars. Three nights at the 3-star Grand Samarkand Superior, Zarafshan Parkside or similar. (B, D)

DAY 9 Morning tour to Gur Emir mausoleum (Tamerlane's tomb), the Ulug Beg Observatory – the work of his grandson, and the Shah-i-Zinda (Living King) complex. Afternoon free. Evening Unique Experience dinner. (B, D)

DAY 10 An intriguing introduction to local speciality products, with morning visits to see the Khujum factory's hand-crafting of silk carpets, and the Meros workshop's mulberry tree paper-making. Afternoon free. (B, D)

DAY 11 Morning at leisure or take an optional tour to the palaces of Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane (bookable locally, approx. \$60). Afternoon transfer to board the high-speed Afrosiyob train to Tashkent. Overnight at the Hampton by Hilton Tashkent. (B, D)

DAY 12 Return flight (arriving later the same day). (B)

"A memorable tour which covered amazing and wonderful sites, and a superb guide."



### UNIQUE EXPERIENCE DINNER IN A LOCAL HOME

Learn to cook the traditional Uzbek dish 'Pilov' in a local home in Samarkand. Meet with the family who live here to learn about daily life. A popular dish throughout Central Asia with variations in different regions 'Pilov' usually combines rice with onion and carrots, plus mutton, beef or lamb cooked slowly in layers. THIS IS FABULOUS!

11  
NIGHTS

FROM  
£3275

2027 – Friday to Tuesday

May 14	May 25	£3275
--------	--------	-------

Supplements per person  
 Travelling Solo: Single Supplement £545  
 Optional Activities  
 Navoi Theatre Performance £30  
 Optional travel from your door

### AT A GLANCE

- Includes flights, transfers, sightseeing
- 10 nights hotel accommodation
- 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 9 dinners
- Itinerary as described
- Local representative & expert local guides
- Marion Owen Travel Tour Manager

#### Provisional flight details

London Heathrow - Tashkent	18:00	05:55
Tashkent - Urgench	07:00	08:30
Tashkent - London Heathrow	11:10	14:50

To secure your place, please contact  
**Marion Owen Travel : 01482 212525** or  
**Call in person to 23 Portland St, HULL**  
**Office hours Mon to Fri 9am to 3.45pm**  
 The deposit is £350 per person. Balance  
 payment is due 91 days prior to departure.

Notes: On arrival you have access to your room, time to knapp before a late breakfast. The programme includes walking tours, with some inclines and steps, areas in the Old Towns are cobbled. Shah-I-Zinda monument (day 9) involves many steps. Travel between the cities by road, whilst being a classic way to experience the country, involves some long journeys with only limited opportunities for comfort breaks. On Day 11 luggage will travel by road to Tashkent and will be waiting at the hotel upon arrival.



### JULES VERNE

Created for travellers who feel the world is best experienced together, our journeys are guided by passionate local experts and shaped by signature Jules Verne moments - those unexpected encounters and shared experiences that make a place, and the people you meet along the way, truly unforgettable. You won't just see the destination - you'll feel part of it. This is a repeat tour of May 26 for those who missed the opportunity.

# MARIONOWENTRAVEL

## Timeless Romania – 12 September 27

### Bucharest & Transylvania

Join Marion on this super itinerary

steeped in history & culture

£1887pp 2 sharing ~ Solo's £2196pp



#### Your itinerary ....DAY 1 Fly from Humberside via Amsterdam to Bucharest

Start your Romanian adventure with a flight to the country's historic capital, Bucharest, where you'll be greeted at the airport by your friendly local tour manager. You'll then head to your centrally located hotel for check in before enjoying the rest of the day at leisure.

#### DAY 2 -Included Bucharest tour and travel to Sibiu via Cozia Monastery

Once you've had breakfast this morning, head further into the Romanian capital for a morning's sightseeing. Often referred to as 'Little Paris', the city is known for its elegant Belle Epoque architecture, and you'll be introduced to its distinctive character along the way. The tour will start at the spectacular Palace of the Parliament, the world's largest administrative building, and your guide will outline the country's modern history as you explore its marbled halls.

Next, head to Bucharest's old town and take in trendy Strada Lipscani, a warren of cobblestone streets and Art Nouveau buildings, which has been a centre point of the city since the 15th century. You'll also see the National Bank of Romania and Old Princely Court, a palace first established by Vlad the Impaler, before taking in the St. Nicholas Russian Church, with its characteristic onion domes. Finish this morning's sightseeing at the Curtea Veche Church, Bucharest's oldest religious building, and enjoy a few hours at leisure to explore more of the Old Town.

This afternoon, board a coach for your onward journey to Transylvania, visiting Cozia Monastery, one of Romania's oldest and most significant religious sites, on the way. Afterwards, continue to your Sibiu-based hotel for check in, where you'll be served a three-course dinner.

#### DAY 3 Included walking tour of Sibiu and optional ASTRA National Museum excursion.

Get ready for the day with breakfast at the hotel and join your tour manager for an insightful walking tour of Sibiu's historic centre. Numbering amongst Romania's most elegant medieval towns, this former European Capital of Culture is a sprawl of Saxon architecture, decorative bridges, and vast communal squares.

Start the day in the city's central point, Grand Square, a baroque plaza surrounded by museums and pavement-side restaurants. From here, you'll walk to the neighbouring Small Square, where you'll be introduced to the city's origins with views of its traditional Saxon architecture. This open-air hub is nestled on the edge of Sibiu's upper town and offers scenic views of the lower town from its famous Bridge of Lies. While here, take a moment to admire the colourful merchant houses, some of which are more than 900 years old, with their distinctive 'eye-shaped' roofs. Finish the morning's visit with a stop at Sibiu's Lutheran

Evangelical Cathedral, one of Transylvania's best-known and most impressive Gothic structures.

This afternoon, you'll be free to find lunch and explore further under your own steam.

Alternatively, you can enjoy an optional excursion to the ASTRA National Museum Complex for an introduction to the traditional practices, architecture and crafts of rural Transylvanian communities. Nestled in the nearby Dumbrava Forest, this 96-hectare site is Europe's largest ethnographic museum and is home to a collection of over 400 thatched cottages, windmills and monuments.

This evening, return to the hotel and find dinner locally.

**DAY 4** After breakfast, board your coach for the next leg of your journey through the Transylvanian countryside, soaking up unobstructed views of hilltop villages and fortified estates as you go. This morning, you'll visit the farming town of Hamba, where you'll have the chance to tour a traditional apiary. Accompanied by a local beekeeper, learn about the farm's bees and taste a number of local honey varieties produced in the surrounding countryside. Next, head to Biertan, a charming village that's home to a UNESCO-listed fortified church. Built in the 15th century, this magnificent hilltop building is one of the most impressive Gothic bastions in the country and is one of the Transylvania's great churches.

Your final stop today will be Sighișoara, the birthplace of the infamous Vlad Țepeș, and your tour manager will lead you on a walking tour of the city's UNESCO-listed medieval citadel. Entering through the famously well-preserved city walls, you'll see the town's vast Clock Tower, which has protected the town from invasion for more than 800 years. Inside the citadel, you'll find a colourful collection of cobbled streets and authentic medieval buildings leading to your second great church of the day, Biserica din Deal (the Church on the Hill). Occupying its hilltop position, this vast Gothic building is visible from almost anywhere in the city, and you'll have the chance to explore its cloisters and gardens. The church is also home to Transylvania's only ancient crypt, and you can learn about the region's nobility on your visit.

This evening, you'll check into your hotel, where you can enjoy a three-course dinner and the rest of the night at leisure.

#### **DAY 5 Included Transylvania excursion and walking tour of Brasov**

Wake up in Sighișoara this morning and have breakfast at the hotel before driving deeper into Transylvania towards the alpine city of Brasov.

On the way, you'll stop in charming Viscri, a quiet enclave of Transylvanian Saxons known for its traditional farmstead buildings, and it is also home to one of King Charles III's international properties. It's here that you'll delve deeper into the region's strong Saxon roots, and you can also take in the UNESCO-listed fortified church, a relic of the village's early Saxon settlers, which crowns the surrounding skyline.

Drive further south into the Transylvanian Alps, soaking up some truly spectacular views of the Carpathian Mountains as you go. This afternoon, you'll arrive in one of Romania's most enchanting medieval cities, elegant Brașov, which further showcases the region's fascinating Saxon heritage. After checking into your final hotel, join your tour manager for a walking tour of the city's major attractions. You'll start at the largest Gothic church in Eastern Europe, Brașov's impressive Black Church, and you'll have the chance to see its magnificent 4,000-pipe organ, the largest mechanical instrument in the country. From here, continue through the city's delightful central plaza and café-lined streets to the First Romanian School Museum, a historic education centre which taught the national language, culture and religion for almost 300 years.

This evening, enjoy another three-course dinner at the hotel and return to the Black Church for an organ concert.

### **DAY 6 Included visits to Libearty Bear Sanctuary and Bran Castle**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before travelling to the Carpathian town of Zarnesti, the gateway to some of Romania's most unspoilt landscapes, for a visit to the Libearty Bear Sanctuary. This ethical bear conservation centre is the largest of its kind in Europe and aims to provide a safe, natural habitat for brown bears rescued from captivity. Upon arrival, join an expert local guide for a tour of the sanctuary, and venture out onto its woodland paths for your chance to see the resident brown bears in the wild. Keep an eye on the trees, as these fascinating creatures are known to climb, and you might even spot some roaming the forest or swimming in its nearby pools.

After your tour, head to the town of Bran, where you'll be greeted by views of its dramatic castle, which is said by some to have been the inspiration behind Bram Stoker's iconic novel, Dracula. Though these claims are often disputed, the building is a marvel of medieval architecture, and you can soak up its centuries-long history by exploring its narrow corridors, spiral staircases and regal courtyards.

This afternoon, return to Braşov for the rest of the day at leisure and find dinner at leisure before turning in for the evening.

### **DAY 7 Included excursion to Sinaia and transfer to Bucharest**

It's your final full day in Romania, and you'll have the chance to visit Sinaia, the elegant 'Pearl of the Carpathians', after breakfast at the hotel. This elegant alpine resort is a hub for snow sports in the winter and boasts some of the finest mountain vistas in all of Romania. Sinaia is also known for its refined architecture, and you'll have ample time in the town to soak up its alpine beauty.

While here, stop at the magnificent Peleş Castle, which is sure to be an unexpected highlight of your time in Transylvania. This exquisite neo-Renaissance building was built as a summer residence for King Carol I in the late 19th century and numbers amongst Romania's newest castles. The building was converted to a museum in the 1950s, and you can explore its opulent interiors and striking facades before continuing to Sinaia Monastery. This spiritual hub, still inhabited by a cohort of monks, is one of Eastern Europe's finest examples of traditional Byzantine architecture.

After some time to admire the two buildings, you'll continue south to Bucharest, returning to your first hotel for a final evening leisure. If you have any stops left on your wish-list in the Romanian capital, this is the perfect opportunity to tick them off under your own steam.

### **DAY 8 Return to the UK**

After a final breakfast at the hotel, you'll bid farewell to your Romanian hosts and transfer to Bucharest's airport for your return flight home.

### **Flights:**

**Humberside - Amsterdam**

**0610 - 0810 Amsterdam - Bucharest**

**0925 - 1300**

**Bucharest - Amsterdam**

**1810 - 2000 Amsterdam - Humberside**

**2130 - 2130**



## Your Hotels:

### What the price includes

- **Seven nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Bucharest (2 nights), Sibiu (2), Sighișoara (1), and Brasov (2)**
- **Seven breakfasts and three dinners**

**Hotel Capitol, Bucharest (nights 1 & 7)** Offering impressive views of the National Military Circle Palace and the Belle Epoque landmarks of bustling Calea Victoriei, this historic city-centre hotel places guests in the very heart of Bucharest. There is an elegant restaurant, which features classical décor and serves a variety of traditional Romanian specialities and international dishes. Guestrooms are cosy and include minibars, TVs, safes, and air conditioning.

**Ramada by Wyndham, Sibiu (nights 2-3)** This sleek modern hotel, based within walking distance of Sibiu's downtown area, is the ideal base from which to explore the city. There are two restaurants, serving international fare and regionally inspired cuisine, a sophisticated lobby bar, and a fitness suite. Colourful guestrooms boast panoramic views over the city and are equipped with TVs, tea/coffee-making facilities, mini-bars and air-conditioning.

**Mercure Sighișoara Binderbubi, Sighișoara (night 4)** Comprising elegant interiors, spacious terraces and traditional wellness facilities, this Sighișoara hotel embodies the city's Saxon heritage. Meals are served from the hotel's two restaurants, one of which is located on the hotel's ground floor, while the other is housed in an original wine cellar. There is also a lobby bar, sauna, plunge pool, and massage room. Guestrooms feature authentic Transylvanian décor and include tea/coffee-making facilities, safes, free Wi-Fi and mini-bars.

**Hotel Aro Palace, Brasov (nights 5-6)** Based in Brasov's medieval centre, this hotel promises exquisite views of the surrounding Carpathian Mountains and convenient access to the city's major attractions. There is an indoor swimming pool, a spa area, with saunas and treatment rooms, and a fitness suite. There's also a restaurant, which serves a combination of local Romanian food and European dishes, an elegant lounge area, and an Art Deco cocktail bar. Cosy guestrooms are tastefully decorated and furnished with TVs, safes, and free Wi-Fi.

*Please note: Should circumstances require, we reserve the right to accommodate you in a conveniently located, alternative hotel of a similar standard.*

**MARIONOWENTRAVEL** – TEL 01482 212525

Or visit in person Mon-Fri 9am – 3.45pm: 23 Portland Street, HULL, HU2 8JX  
email: [team@marionowentravel.com](mailto:team@marionowentravel.com)