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9 DAYS Afghanistan



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TEL: +604-2632141 FAX: +604-2638336
EMAIL: tour@airbornetours.com

DAY 1 DEPART for KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Check in for your flight to **Kabul, Afghanistan.**

DAY 2 ARRIVE KABUL (2N) (D)

Arrival in the capital Kabul and briefing. **Afternoon tour of the city** will include a visit to the **hills of Bibi Mahru, Sakhi Shrine, Babur's Garden and British Cemetery.**
Afghan Logistics & Tours Guest House

DAY 3 KABUL / PANJSHIR VALLEY / KABUL (B, L, D)

We will spend the day exploring the incredible **Panjshir Valley**, described as the most beautiful place in Afghanistan by locals. The river has a narrow and extremely fertile flood plain and is famous for its fruit. However, the sides are steep mountains hence its excellent defense qualities.

When Afghanistan was on the tourist trail, the Panjshir's proximity to Kabul combined with its astonishing natural beauty made it most people's first destination in the country after the capital. It was also conveniently accessed from Pakistan by journalists covering the Russian and Taliban wars when its geographical situation, and the brilliance of its mujahedeen commander, made it unconquerable. Massoud defeated the Russians here 15 times, and so comprehensively that they stopped trying to capture it. Murdered by Al-Qaeda operatives two days before 9/11, Massoud is revered today as a national hero. We will stop to view the **tomb of Ahmed Shah Massoud**, the Lion of Panjshir and Afghanistan's most universally revered Mujahedin commander as well as stopping off at a local fish restaurant on the banks of the Panjshir River.

Afghan Logistics & Tours Guest House

DAY 4 KABUL / BAMIAN (3N) (B, L, D)

We will fly to **Bamian**, the capital of the Hazarajat – home of the Hazara and one of the most peaceful places in Afghanistan. Undoubtedly one of the country's highlights, the Bamian Valley was once on a major trading route and was an important centre for Buddhism.

Although the Taliban famously destroyed the giant Buddhas in 2001, there is still much to see in the area, not least the Buddha niches, which are still an awesome sight to behold. We will look at the **hillsides containing many caves in which monasteries and Buddhist carvings were once situated.** There will be time to wander through the friendly bazaar in the centre of town.

Later in the afternoon, we'll head for **Darya Ajdhahar**, the so-called Valley of the Dragon. Here there is a massive rock formation which is alleged to be the remains of a dragon that persecuted the villagers until Hazrat Ali, cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed, killed it. The story is reminiscent of St George and the Dragon and is a wonderful spot to take in the late afternoon sun.

Noorband Qala hotel 3*

DAY 5 BAND-e AMIR (B, L, D)

A two-hour journey west takes us to the extraordinary chain of lakes at **Band-e Amir**. Set in the middle of a barren mountain landscape, the lakes are astonishingly beautiful with the watercolor varying from turquoise to deep blue-black from lake to lake. Don't assume that photographs of the lakes have had their color touched up - they really are these colors, tinted by the mineral salts in the springs that feed the lakes. For those who are feeling active, there is the opportunity to do a good walk around the cliff edge; for those after a more relaxed day, it is simply a great spot to take in this natural wonder, which in any other country would be teeming with visitors. It is truly a world-class destination and a highlight of any trip to the region.

Noorband Qala hotel 3*

DAY 6 BAMIAN (B, L, D)

Our final day in Bamiyan allows for two leisurely visits to some lesser known but equally impressive sites in the nearby countryside. First, we drive the short distance to the base of **Shar-e Zohak**. This imposing fortress at the eastern entrance to the Bamiyan Valley has been used by various commanders over the past two millennia and although largely destroyed by Genghis Khan's forces, it is still a great place to explore on foot. In particular, the summit gives a truly spectacular 360o view over the surrounding area.

Later we'll head for the **Shahr-e Gholgola**, another fortress that saw its glory destroyed in the face of the Mongol invasion of the 13th century. History tells us that in 1221 Genghis had destroyed Balkh and sent his teenage grandson with an army to capture Bamiyan. The people of Bamiyan resisted and Genghis's grandson was killed. Genghis besieged and destroyed Gholgola in revenge. Today its ruined remains overlook the central Bamiyan valley and provide superb views over the Buddha niches and the surrounding countryside.

Noorband Qala hotel 3*

DAY 7 **BAMIAN / KABUL (1N)** (B, L, D)
Morning flight back to Kabul.
An afternoon in Kabul to visit **Shah-e-Doh Shamsira Mosque, OMAR land mine museum and the Kabul Museum.**
Afghan Logistics & Tours Guest House

DAY 8 **DEPART KABUL** (B)
Time for shopping on **Chicken Street** before transfer to airport for flight home.

DAY 9 **ARRIVE HOME**

TOUR FARE (ALL IN):
TWIN SHARE – RM12,999pp
Single sup – RM1,500
Departure date: 05 October 2020

Inclusions

- All accommodation
- Transport / Transfers
- Guide and security
- 2 internal flights within Afghanistan (Kabul – Bamian / Bamian – Kabul)

Exclusions

- Flights to Afghanistan
- Afghanistan Visa (approx. RM450per person and have to appear in person at the embassy in KL)
- Insurances

Flights

EMIRATES

06 Oct	EK343	Kuala Lumpur – Dubai	0210 – 0455
06 Oct	EK640	Dubai – Kabul	1050 – 1430
12 Oct	EK641	Kabul – Dubai	1620 – 1845
12 Oct	EK344	Dubai – Kuala Lumpur	2115 – 0840+1day

Accommodation

We do not and cannot offer a uniform accommodation standard on our itineraries. We consider comfort, location, design, character, historical interest and whether the money we spend will go into the pockets of the local community when we make our choices of where to stay.

Transport

When we choose our vehicles and drivers we take into consideration the road conditions, the length of journey and the competence of the man behind the wheel (not a laughing matter in a country that should be the setting for a live action version of the Wacky races).Your comfort and enjoyment of the journey is the first priority.

Guides

On this trip you will be accompanied by an English speaking guide and Tour Manager. This allows for greater security and means that there will always be someone on hand to help or assist you even if the other team leader is busy arranging something. Sometimes we also hire local guides. If we are a large group, we may wish to split into smaller groups for city tours to allow greater flexibility and keep a lower profile. An extra local guide allows us to do that.

Security

Trips to Afghanistan do create dangers all of their own and whilst we want you to have as much freedom as possible we must state that the tour leader has the final word with regards to changes in the itinerary for safety reasons. Whilst the route we have chosen passes through areas that we consider to be stable things can change and we may have to alter the route or cancel sections of the trip at short notice. If there is an extra expense incurred due to the change of itinerary then you may be asked to bear part of that cost.