

Uzbekistan: Bukhara to Khiva Route Information End of March 2016 – Subject to Rapid Change

The table below summarises features I noted on the road across the Kyzyl Kum desert between Bukhara and Khiva. References to the 'Prescotts' are to the '[Pedalling Prescotts](#)', who did the reverse journey in early 2015. There are only a couple of updates on this sheet to their excellent guide to the desert stretch, which you can find [here](#).

Approximate km from Bukhara*	Feature(s)	Comment
0-50	A380 Highway Leaving Bukhara	Road very poor on exit of city. Gradually improves. Lots of shops etc.
50-90	A380 Towards Gazli	Desert begins. Road gradually improves. One service area at around 70km.
90-108	A380 Gazli	New road surface starts (27/03/16) – major works at Gazli. After Gazli, perfect road surface right across the desert stretch.
108	Gazli. Motel / Chaikhana – Overnight Accommodation	After the main road bends at Gazli, look for trees on east side (maybe 1km after bend). First building rents beds for approx \$6 a night (charged by the hour). Chaikhana where Prescotts stayed is in the same row of buildings, nearest to Khiva.
150	Police Checkpoint and shops	Look for industrial buildings on west side of road. Couple of shops and little chaikhana. Probably no sleeping.
163	Possible Small Chaikhana	On east side of road. Not obvious if open or not
171	Workshop and small shop	On east side. Possible mechanical assistance.
173-183	Diversion	Traffic is put on old road (nasty). Ignore diversion and ride the new road; couple of piles of sand to avoid, but all rideable.
193	Chaikhana and Shop	On east side. Look for big communications mast
210-220	Diversion	Same as diversion above; new road is all rideable, just not open yet. Note chaikhana below is in the middle of this section
213	Chaikhana	On crest of small hill, west side of old road – other buildings with it. Decent shashliks. V friendly. Cook thinks he speaks English
238	Chaikhana and Shop	Both sides of road. This is where Prescotts note a police checkpoint. Checkpoint has moved (see below). Big comms mast.
267	Police Checkpoint and Chaikhana(s)	New Police checkpoint on top of hill. Brand new chaikhana (which, I was told, does accommodation) immediately on Khiva side. Another being built on Bukhara side.
272	Chaikhana	West side. Small chaikhana with drinks, ice cream etc
322	Chaikhana – decent overnight option	West side next to mobile phone mast, overlooking Amu Darya river. Stayed here no problems (approx \$8 for bed in room with bike). Good food, nice people, warm, no running water.

332	Possible small chaikhana and abandoned buildings	Possible overnight stay (or wild camp in buildings). But very close to border, and I saw an army patrol in area.
335	4 chaikanas and police checkpoint	Both sides of road. Prescotts stayed in the one nearest to Khiva. Current police checkpoint at bottom of hill Khiva side, but will move very soon to new building.
337	New police checkpoint	Currently deserted, but sure it will be occupied very soon; appears ready to move in.
348	Railway bridge	First bridge over road since Bukhara; marks the end of the desert. Plenty of shops, cafes etc after this.
350	Motel, shops, cafe	Possibly a good place to recover or prepare for crossing the desert, depending on direction. Most locals on the road don't seem to know it exists. But it does.
354	Turning to Khiva	Shortest route to Khiva (Prescott route) turns off here. Road is awful for first 20 or so kms (in the rain at least); no shops or facilities until after this stretch (approx 3km after bridge over Amu Darya). Strongly suggest continuing on the nice smooth main road, and approaching Khiva via Urgench (will add about 10km, but probably saves two hours). I ended up at Urgench anyway, having wasted masses of time and effort. And then I had to spend two more hours cleaning the bike...

*Actual mileages will obviously vary depending on where in Bukhara you stay, and what route you take out of town.

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