



Agora



Walk and Talk Manual



Introduction

Cool ideas emerge when humans gather together and exchange ideas.

Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier's *CRISPR* breakthrough came during a casual conversation while walking through the streets of Puerto Rico during a conference.

Richard Feynman, Niels Bohr, and others would take walks around Los Alamos to discuss the Manhattan Project's problems.

And John Nash developed his *Nash Equilibrium* concept partly through conversations and game-playing sessions with fellow Princeton graduate students.

At Agora, we intend to create our own form of "intellectual walks," furthering fulfilling our role as a knowledge lab. And so we introduce Agora's *Walk-and-Talks*.

A walk-and-talk is a mobile salon where a small group walks together on Sunday mornings, engaging in casual, side-by-side conversations and discussions of any intellectual sort.

The walks take place in the greenery of the city: gardens, parks, and streets free of noise pollution. This way, we hope to make our walks accessible for everyone.

Through regular participation, everyone can develop deep conversations with all other participants.



Participant Selection & Rules

We don't have strict selection criteria. Anyone can register for our walk&talks.

But these are what we expect in our *walkers and talkers*:

- **Flexible participants** who don't complain when plans change
- **Strong conversationalists** since talking is central to the experience
- **Consistent attendance** since meaningful conversations and friendships require time to develop across multiple walks
- **Individual participants** rather than couples to create opportunities for people who should know each other to meet

And some rules too:

- **No absence without early notice:** If you miss a session without notifying anyone at least 24 hours prior, you will not be allowed for the next 3 sessions. If you miss a total of 3 sessions without notifying, you will earn an ultimate ban.
- **No cursing during walks:** This is self-explanatory.
- **No eating during walks:** It may not be comfortable for other members. Drinks are welcome.



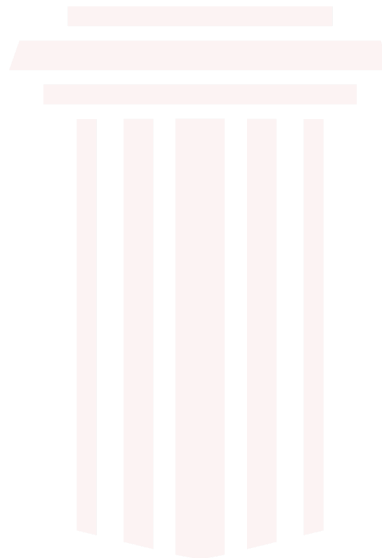
Duration and Distance

Sunday morning walks typically run 2-4 hours, covering approximately 4-6 kilometers depending on pace and terrain. This timeframe fits within a Sunday morning schedule and just offers enough to hold intellectual talks.

Key distance guidelines:

- Average walk: 4-6 km
- Duration: 2-4 hours, including breaks
- Pace that enables easy shoulder-to-shoulder conversation

Start times usually vary, but are typically at 8:00-9:00 AM. During cold weather, the start time will be pushed by a few hours.





Post-Walk Gatherings & Documentation

Gatherings

After the walks, we gather again for coffee or light refreshments to wrap up. This allows us to take memorable pictures, have a strong morning espresso, and help smaller coffee shops in Tashkent from going bankrupt.

Documentation

Documentation is also important. Great to capture memories and promote our social media:

Worth collecting:

- Shared photo album for community building
- Route library with details for repeat use
- Simple attendance tracking
- Collecting suggested topics for post-walk discussions

Avoid:

- Recording conversations (undermines intimacy)
- Extensive social media posting (respect privacy)
- Burdensome administrative systems (we all hate it)



Weather & Route Selection

The weather will definitely affect our sessions, but we will choose routes accordingly, too.

In Tashkent's cold weather, we choose routes that go into the inner streets of the city, while avoiding channels or lakes.

The routes in case of hot weather (30°C+) will often be nearby water bodies, like rivers, channels, anhar, and lakes. We also recommend taking umbrellas, getting a water bottle for hydration, and using sunscreen to protect.

