

Best of the Stans

KAZAKHSTAN ● KYRGYZSTAN ● TAJIKISTAN ● UZBEKISTAN

The Offer

Trace the footsteps of explorers and merchants along the ancient trade routes of the Silk Road on this 19-day small-group tour. Travel deep into the heart of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to discover well-preserved traditional cultures, awe-inspiring historical sites and dramatic landscapes.

Your adventure begins with a flight to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital, to join a guided city tour that showcases the majestic Ala-Too Square and Manas Monument. Venture to Bokonbaevo to feel the echoes of nomadic culture with a traditional eagle-hunting experience. You'll then be warmly welcomed by local families to bake bread and learn the secrets of Central Asian dishes, such as Lagman (stir-fried beef noodles).

The route continues as you climb into the high mountain peaks that surround Kyrgyzstan's Karakol, and explores the vivid red sandstone of the Jeti-Oguz Gorge. Travel on to Almaty, Kazakhstan, where the yellow towers of Zenkov Cathedral reflect tsarist-era Russian architecture. Then board a flight to Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital, before travelling towards the centuries-old cities of Tajikistan. Discover the ancient citadel of Khujand, dive into the history of Istaravshan and stand in awe before the majestic, UNESCO-listed, reclining Buddha at Dushanbe's Museum of Antiquities.

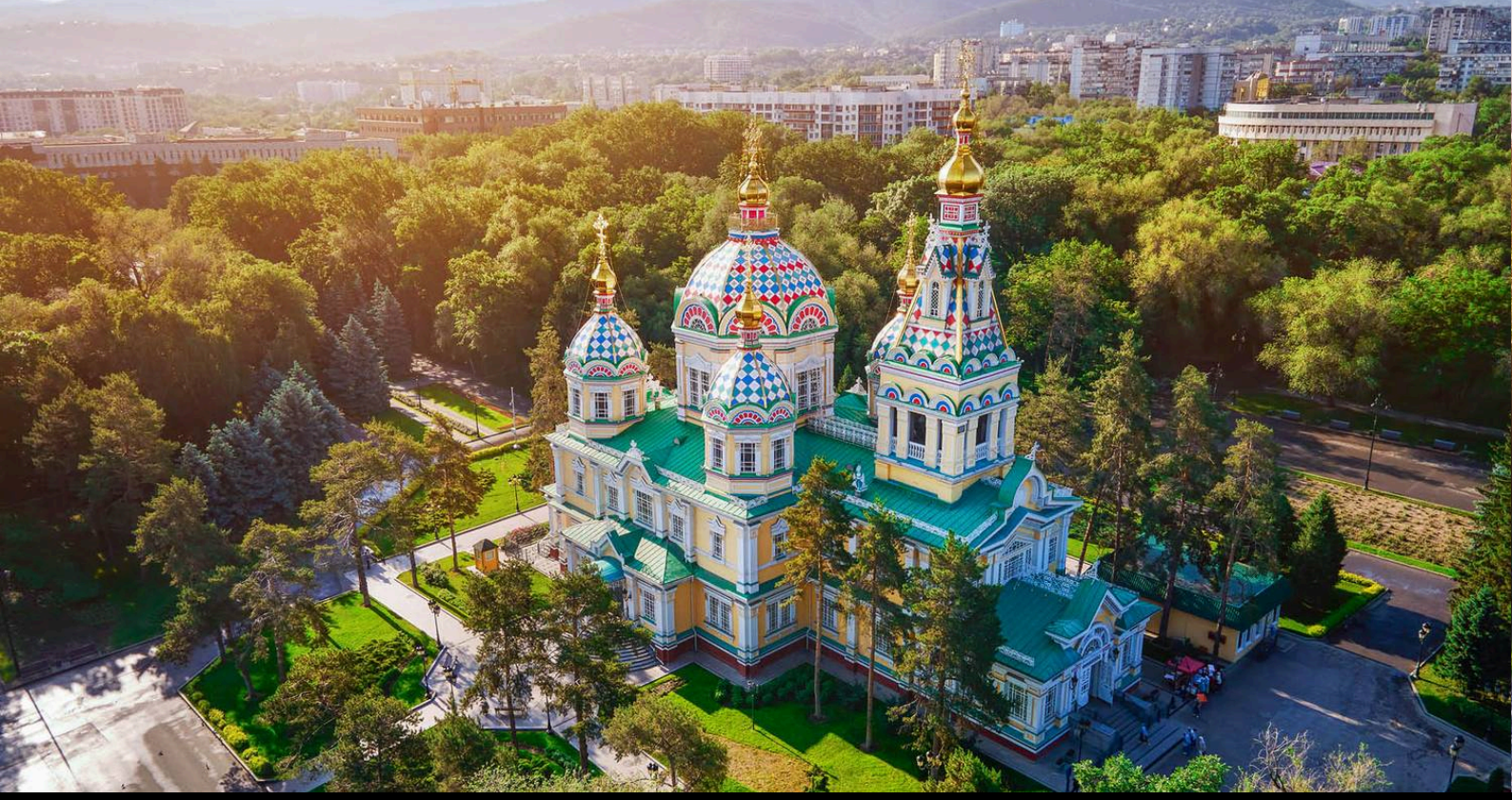
After crossing the border, immerse yourself in Uzbekistan's historic turquoise brilliance of Samarkand's Registan Square, Bukhara's Poi Kalon complex and wander through the ancient Tok-i Zargaron bazaar. Your journey concludes with your return to Tashkent for your flight home.

This small-group tour includes return international full-service Emirates flights, an internal flight, 16 nights accommodation, 21 meals, English-speaking tour guides and more.

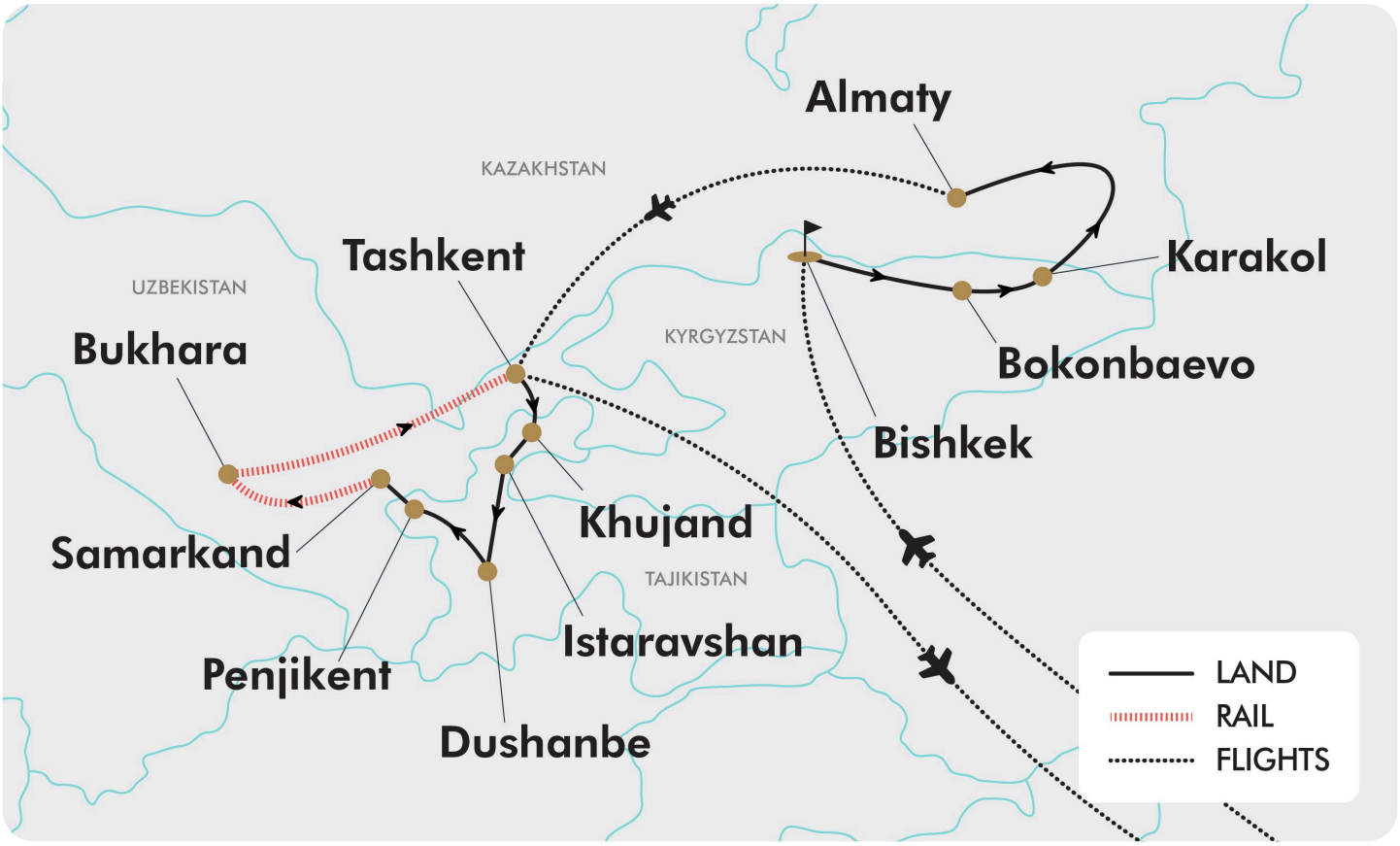
Want more? Add extra days pre or post-tour with Arrive Early and Stay Behind options available, or add a 5th Stan to the mix, Turkmenistan, with our

Ultimate 5 Stans package

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The Map


Almaty
KAZAKHSTAN
Tashkent
Karakol
UZBEKISTAN
Bukhara
KYRGYZSTAN
Bokonbaevo
Bishkek
Khujand
Samarkand
TAJIKISTAN
Istaravshan
Penjikent
Dushanbe
LAND
RAIL
FLIGHTS



The Itinerary

Day 1 Depart Australia (or New Zealand)

Today depart Australia or New Zealand for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Fly with award winning Emirates to Dubai, and their partner airline FlyDubai for the 4 hour onwards to Bishkek.

Please note:

- *Due to the limited flight options between Australia and Bishkek, most travellers will have a layover of over 8 hours in Dubai. Affected travellers will be provided complimentary transit accommodation and transfers so they may relax in comfort until their onward flight.*

Meals included: In-Flight

Day 2 Arrive Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Early this morning arrive into Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Here you will be met and transferred to your hotel accommodation where an early check in will be provided so you may rest after your flight.

Bishkek is the largest city in Kyrgyzstan, as well as the modern cultural, political and economic centre of the republic. It is a calm city with wide streets and beautiful houses with its original, measured rhythm of life. Coming to Bishkek, the first thing that attracts attention is that the city is literally immersed in greenery. A huge number of parks makes the air unusually fresh and clean. It is generally accepted that there are more trees for each resident than in any other city in Central Asia.

The remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Garden or similar, Bishkek
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3 Bishkek Sightseeing Tour

Step back in time as we explore Bishkek, a city where echoes of the past meet the vibrancy of the present. Our journey begins at the majestic Ala-Too Square, the heart of the capital. Here, witness the captivating changing of the Guard of Honor, a ceremonial display of national pride. We'll discover the larger-than-life Manas Monument, a tribute to Kyrgyzstan's legendary hero, before taking in the surrounding symbols of freedom and governance, including the Independence Monument and the historic government buildings. We'll then stroll to Old Square, where you'll be transported to the Soviet era as we stand before the remarkably preserved Lenin Monument—a rare sight in modern Central Asia. The tour concludes with a deeper dive into the nation's past at the Museum of History, followed by a poignant visit to Victory Square to honor those who shaped this country's destiny.

This evening, attend a welcome dinner to meet your travel companions and enjoy a traditional folk show.

Overnight: Hotel Garden or similar, Bishkek
Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 4 Bishkek - Burana Tour - Bokonbaevo

Today travel onwards to Bokonbaevo. On the way stop at Burana Tower, a 11th century minaret built by the Turkish Karakhanids dynasty. Nowadays it's a museum complex which includes the tower itself, reconstructions of mausoleums found onsite, remains of the citadel, a collection of balbals (grave stones used by nomadic Turkic peoples), and petroglyphs (stone carvings), as well as a small museum.



The Itinerary

Continue to the Southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake. Issyk-Kul is one of the largest mountain lakes in the world. Issyk-Kul Lake is located in the Northern Tien Shan at an altitude of 1608 m. The Lake has long been attractive for its natural and climatic conditions and unique beauty, and is also considered the pearl of Kyrgyzstan due to the mountain-sea climate, clean air, an abundance of solar heat, healing mineralized lake water and numerous hot springs.

Along the way, enjoy a stop to witness an Eagle hunting demonstration where you will learn more about the tradition of falcon hunting and its history.

Tonight arrive at a semi-nomadic yurt camp where you can take part in a baking class to make famous Kyrgyz flat bread followed by a traditional dinner. Tonight you will sleep in a traditional Yurt home. All yurts are brightly decorated and sleep four to five people - toilet and shower facilities are outside of the yurts. A traditional yurt (as it's known in Turkic languages) is a portable, round tent covered with skins or felt and used as a dwelling by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia.

Please note:

- As yurt accommodation is on a shared basis (4-5 people per Yurt) private rooms are not provided. This applies to both twin share and solo travellers.

- All yurts have been designed in the traditional nomadic way but have beds on wool carpeted floors (there are no bed frames).

- Toilet and shower facilities are outside of the yurts

- Exploring Central Asia does at times require covering some long distances. This also includes travelling on roads not built to the same standard we may be used to, however your driver and guide are professionals and will do everything they can to ensure a comfortable journey throughout.

An approximately 300 kilometre day.

Overnight: Almaluu Traditional Yurt Camp, Bokonbaevo
Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 5 Bokonbaevo - Karakol - Karakol City Tour

Today depart Bokonbaevo and travel onwards to Jeti-Oguz Gorge. Here you will have an opportunity to admire fantastic rock formations made of red sandstone, as well as local pastures which have long been used by shepherds to graze flocks of sheep and herds of horses.

Continue onwards to Karakol, located at the crossroads of Central Asia, the city of Karakol in eastern Kyrgyzstan is a fascinating gateway to the region's diverse history, cuisine, and nature. Many unique cultures contribute to the town's culinary history and cultural heritage: Kyrgyz, Tatar, Russian, Dungan, Uyghur, Kalmyk, Uzbek, and more. And with both the Tian Shan Mountains and Lake Issyk-Kul nearby the city is blessed with amazing natural beauty.

On arrival enjoy a city tour. A visit to Karakol town is like stepping back in time a hundred years to an age of Tsarist Russia. On this tour visit old Russian style houses (1870–1910), Russian Orthodox Church (1886) and Dungan Mosque (1899) made out of wood with no nails.



The Itinerary

Tonight enjoy dinner with an ethnic Uighur family to taste the national cuisine of Lagman. Lagman is a traditional Uighur dish made of pulled noodles, meat and vegetables. You will be able to see and help with the process of making and cooking Lagman.

An approximately 170 kilometre day.

Overnight: Hotel Green Yard or similar, Karakol
Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 6 Karakol - Almaty, Kazakhstan

This morning, depart Karakol for the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border, where you will enter Kazakhstan. After border formalities, make a stop at the Charyn River to observe the beginning of the Charyn and Moon Canyons.

You'll continue to Almaty, the former capital and largest city of Kazakhstan. Located in southeast Kazakhstan at the foot of the Zailiyskiy Alatau branch of the Tian Shan Mountains, this modern city has evolved into Central Asia's cultural and artistic hub with an abundance of great restaurants and museums.

Please note: Arrival time in Almaty will be dependent on how long the border crossing takes. This can be unpredictable and will be assessed on the day. This is an approximately 430-kilometre travel day.

Overnight: Hotel Uyut or similar, Almaty
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Almaty Sightseeing Tour

Almaty is a sunny, cozy city surrounded by greenery with wide streets, beautiful buildings, numerous parks, squares and fountains. It is no coincidence that the beautiful city at the foot of the emerald ridges of the Tien Shan is called the “garden city”.

In the spring, when the southern outskirts are buried in the bloom of apple, apricot, and cherry orchards, the city becomes like a fairy tale. The magnificent green outfit and the majestic panorama of the mountains make the city of Almaty unlike other cities.

Today discover the heart of Almaty's beauty on a journey through its most iconic sights. Wander through the lush Panfilov Park to behold the stunning Zenkov Cathedral, a vibrant wooden masterpiece with an interior that will leave you speechless. Then, get a taste of local life at the bustling Green Bazaar (closed Mondays), a feast for the senses. We'll explore the grand Republic and Abay Square before taking to the sky on a cable car ride up Kok-Tobe Mountain. From this incredible observation deck, you'll witness unforgettable views of the city sparkling below, a perfect end to an unforgettable day.

Overnight: Hotel Uyut or similar, Almaty
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 Almaty - Tashkent, Uzbekistan

This morning transfer to the airport and fly onwards to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan and among the five largest cities in Central Asia.



The Itinerary

Tall modern buildings, historical buildings, ancient mosques are hiding here, and modern shopping centres mix with traditional oriental bazaars and markets. It is worth noting that many of the old buildings were restored - in 1966 after a powerful earthquake partially destroyed many of them, and the appearance of the renewed city has changed significantly since then.

Upon arrival, immerse yourself in the modern heart of Tashkent with a tour of the city's New Town. Our journey begins at Independence Square (Mustaqilliq Maidoni), a powerful symbol of Uzbekistan's sovereignty and the nation's main public space, surrounded by the grand administrative buildings of the Senate and Cabinet. From there, we'll visit the magnificent Navoi Theatre Square, home to the State Academic Grand Theatre. A true architectural masterpiece, the building was designed by the acclaimed Soviet architect Alexei Schusev, who also created Lenin's Mausoleum. The tour concludes with a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts, housed in a beautifully decorated former palace, offering a stunning collection of traditional Uzbek craftsmanship.

Overnight: Hotel Al Anvar or similar, Tashkent
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9 Tashkent Sightseeing

Today step back in time as we explore the enchanting Old Town of Tashkent, a place steeped in history and spiritual significance. Our journey begins at the magnificent Kukeldash Madrasah, a truly living monument that continues to serve as a Koran school today. From there, we'll enter the sacred heart of the city at Khast-Imam Square. Prepare to be mesmerised by a stunning ensemble of architectural wonders, including the serene Barak Khan Madrasah, the striking Tillya Sheikh Mosque, and the humbling Kaffal Shashi Mausoleum, which stands as a testament to simple, elegant brickwork.

Overnight: Hotel Al Anvar or similar, Tashkent
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10 Tashkent - Khujand, Tajikistan

This morning, your Central Asian adventure takes a new turn as we cross the border into the breathtaking landscapes of Tajikistan.

Upon arrival in the ancient city of Khujand, we'll dive straight into its rich history. Our first stop is the serene Mausoleum of Sheikh Muslihiddin, a tribute to a 12th-century ruler and poet whose legacy is etched into the city's soul. We will then journey through time at the Historical Museum, nestled within the city's ancient citadel, offering a fascinating glimpse into Khujand's past. The tour culminates at Payshanba Bazaar, Tajikistan's largest and most vibrant market. Here, you can immerse yourself in a world of sights, sounds, and smells, a perfect opportunity to experience the true heartbeat of Tajik daily life.

An approximately 165 kilometre day.



The Itinerary

Overnight: Hotel Sogdiyon or similar, Khujand
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11 Khujand - Istaravshan - Dushanbe

Today's drive to Dushanbe is a highlight in itself, featuring stunning views of the Fan Mountains as we pass through the Varzob Gorge and Istiklol Tunnel.

We'll break up the journey with a visit to the ancient city of Istaravshan, a town founded by Cyrus the Great. Explore this historic town, including the Mosque of Shohi-Zinda and the ruins of Mug Teppe.

The trip concludes with a scenic drive to Dushanbe, including a few stops in local villages for an authentic glimpse into the daily life of the Tajik people.

An approximately 305 kilometre day.

Overnight: Hotel Atlas or similar, Dushanbe
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12 Dushanbe Sightseeing

In the Tajik language, the name of Dushanbe is translated as “Monday”. It was so named as it originally had a popular market on Mondays. Areas around Dushanbe were known as a centre of cotton and silk production during the Soviet period. Though the name of the city is rather new, its historical past dates as far back as three thousand years. Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of Greek-Bactrian settlements, a settlement from the Kushan period, a Shishi Khon village and other medieval settlements.

Today, we'll explore the best of Dushanbe, a city where ancient history and modern life beautifully intersect. Our tour begins at the magnificent Museum of Antiquities, a true cultural treasure. Here, you'll come face-to-face with the crown jewel of the collection: a spectacular 14-meter-long reclining Buddha, the largest in Central Asia and a UNESCO-protected masterpiece.

From there, we'll delve into the city's diverse spiritual landscape, visiting the impressive main mosque and the serene Russian Orthodox Church. We'll then enjoy a relaxing stroll through Rudaki Park, the lush green heart of the city, before immersing ourselves in the vibrant atmosphere of the Mehrgon Bazaar, a feast for the senses with its colourful stalls and bustling energy.

Our day concludes with a short trip outside the city to the legendary Hisor Fortress. Dating back to the 18th century, this former palace of the Emirate of Bukhara offers a fascinating glimpse into the region's royal past and provides a perfect end to a day of exploration.

Overnight: Hotel Atlas or similar, Dushanbe
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13 Dushanbe - Penjikent - Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Today depart Dushanbe and travel onwards to Samarkand in Uzbekistan.

Along the way, visit the town of Penjikent which is very famous in tourist circles for its sights, monuments of architecture, as well as a wonderful recreation area on the coast of Zaravshan River. Penjikent is one of the most ancient cities of Central Asia, the venerable age of which is 5500 years. The name of the city in Tajik is translated as "Five villages". On arrival in Penjikent, visit



The Itinerary

the excavation site of Old- Penjikent - the 5th century "Pompeii" of Central Asia with its former palaces and necropolises, then visit the Rudaki Museum, as well as the old town of Penjikent.

Afterwards cross the Uzbek/Tajik border and finish the day in Samarkand. The historic town of Samarkand is a crossroad and a melting pot of world's cultures. Founded in the 7th century B.C. as ancient Afrosiab, Samarkand received its most significant development in the Timurid's period from the 14th to the 15th centuries.

Overnight: Hotel Asia Samarkand or similar, Samarkand
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14 Samarkand Sightseeing

Today, prepare to step into a legend as we explore the fabled city of Samarkand, a magnificent crossroads of the Silk Road. Our journey begins at the iconic Registan Square, for centuries the beating heart of this ancient city. You will be awe-struck by the breathtaking beauty of its three towering madrasahs: the 15th-century Ulug-Bek Madrasah, the 17th-century Tillya-Kori Madrasah with its stunning gold leaf interior, and the equally magnificent Sher-Dor Madrasah with its intricate tilework and lion mosaics.

Next, we'll visit Gur-e-Amir, the mausoleum of the legendary conqueror Tamerlane. This architectural masterpiece is a true jewel of Islamic art, with its exquisite blue dome and intricate designs, a perfect tribute to the medieval East.

Our final stop is the village of Koni-Gil, where we'll witness a fascinating, centuries-old craft in action at a silk-paper manufacture. Here, you'll see the delicate process of how high-quality paper is made from the bark of mulberry trees, a tradition that was once a closely guarded secret of the Silk Road.

To cap off an incredible day, you will be invited to a special dinner at the National House. This is more than just a meal; it's an authentic cultural experience where you will be fully immersed in the local atmosphere and savour the rich, traditional flavours of genuine Uzbek cuisine.

Overnight: Hotel Asia Samarkand or similar, Samarkand
Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner

Day 15 Samarkand - Bukhara

This morning depart Samarkand and take a high speed train to Bukhara, one of the greatest

trading centres at the Silk Road.

The history of Bukhara stretches back millennia. Humans have inhabited the region around Bukhara for at least five millennia, and the city exists for half that time. Located on the Silk Road, the city has long served as a centre of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion. The town is also known as an open- air museum of mosques, madrasahs and minarets. It was the first oasis that caught eyes of invading Arab armies. In its 2500 year history it constantly changed hands from one ruler to another.

Upon arrival, immerse yourself in the living history of Bukhara with a guided tour of some iconic landmarks. Our journey begins at the magnificent Poi Kalon Complex, a stunning architectural ensemble that has stood for centuries. You'll be captivated by the



The Itinerary

soaring Kalon Minaret, known as the "Tower of Death," a majestic symbol of the city. We'll also explore the massive Kalon Mosque and the serene Mir-i-Arab Madrasah, two masterpieces of Islamic architecture that still function today. From there, we'll wander through the ancient Tok-i Zargaron trade domes, where Silk Road merchants once haggled for goods, and discover the hidden beauty of the Magok-i Attari Mosque, a site of deep historical and spiritual significance.

Please note:

- The group may be split across multiple trains, based on train ticket availability.

- In the unlikely scenario that it is not possible to get train tickets, a bus transfer will be provided.

Overnight: Hotel Iman or similar, Bukhara
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 16 Bukhara Sightseeing

This morning, your senses will come alive with a visit to a bustling oriental bazaar, where vibrant colours and the intoxicating smells of spices and local delicacies create an unforgettable atmosphere. Our journey through Bukhara's enchanting streets continues as we explore its most beautiful architectural ensembles. We'll step into the history of the powerful Ark Citadel, a fortress-palace that has stood for centuries. From there, we'll visit the peaceful Samanid Mausoleum and the unique Chor Minor Madrasah, with its four striking minarets. We'll gather at Lyabi-Hauz Square, the heart of Old Bukhara, before visiting the mystical Mausoleum of Chashma Ayub and the stunning Bolo-Hauz Mosque. Our walk will also take us through ancient caravanserais, including the Nugai and Akhmadjon, where Silk Road traders once rested.

Afterwards you will be treated to a special folklore show at the Nadir Divan Begi Madrasah. This magical evening includes captivating music and a unique puppet master performance, where you'll gain an appreciation for the intricate, centuries-old art of puppet-making.

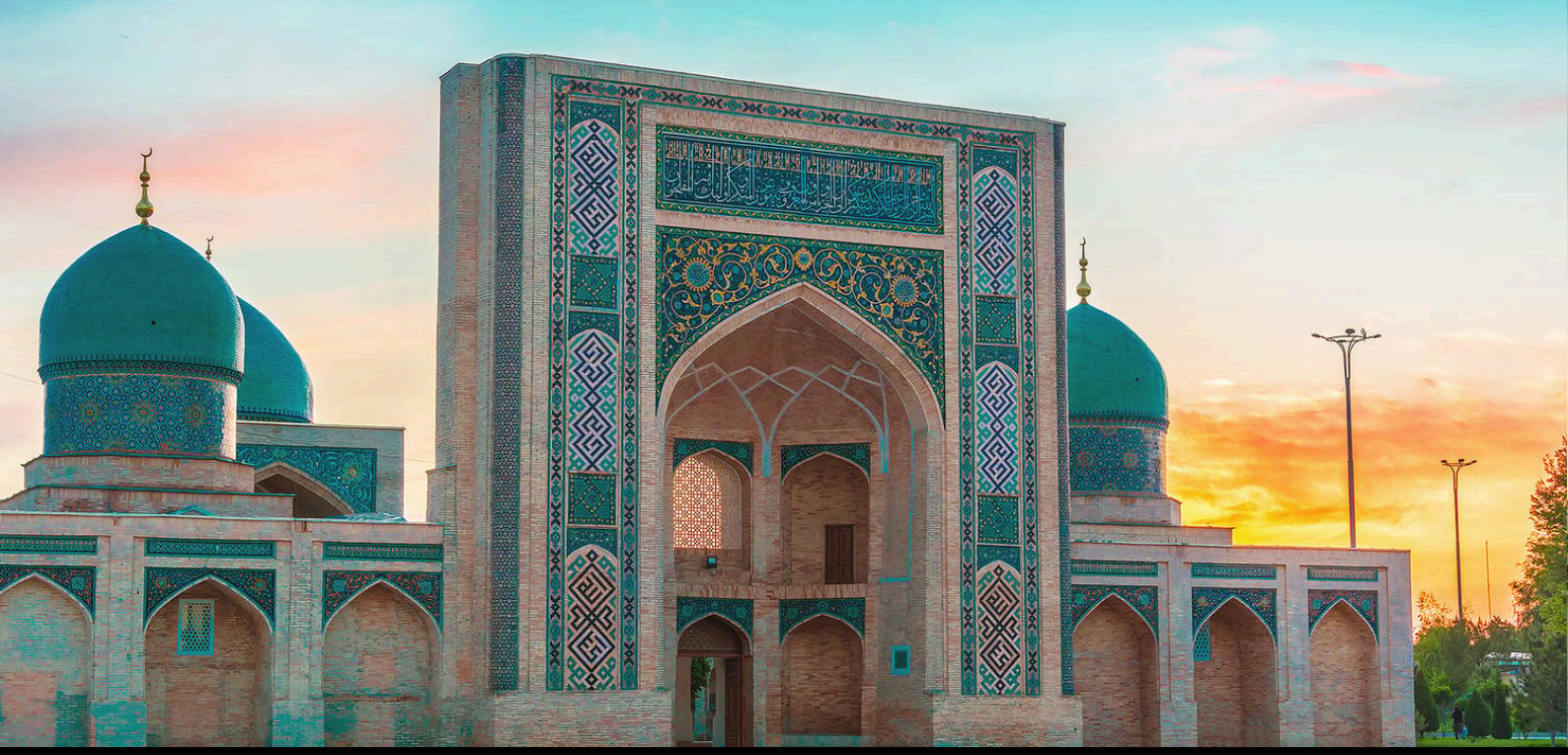
Overnight: Hotel Iman or similar, Bukhara
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 17 Bukhara to Tashkent

Enjoy the morning at leisure before taking the high speed train back to Tashkent this afternoon.

On arrival check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Please note that in the unlikely scenario it is not possible to get train ticket, an alternative will be a bus transfer will be provided.



The Itinerary

Overnight: Hotel Al Anvar or similar, Tashkent
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 18 Tashkent, Uzbekistan - Australia or New Zealand

Today check out of the hotel and you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home after the trip of a lifetime!

Please note

- Standard checkout time is 12:00 and luggage storage will be available for those with evening flights.
- *Due to the limited flight options between Tashkent and Australia, most travellers will have a layover of at least 6 hours in Dubai. Affected travellers will be provided complimentary transit accommodation and transfers so they may relax in comfort until their onward flight.*

Meals included: Breakfast; In-Flight

Day 19 Arrive Australia or New Zealand

Meals included: None



19-DAY TOUR PACKAGE | BEST OF THE STANS

Tour Inclusions

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover 4 countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan
- Explore the historic cities and villages of the Silk Road
- See Almaty's beautiful wooden Russian buildings on a city tour
- Learn about traditions and history during an eagle hunting demonstration
- Cook 'Lagman', a traditional Uighur dish, with an Uighur family
- Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Karakol, a city backdropped by stunning alpine peaks
- See the red sandstone rock formations of Jeti-Oguz Gorge
- Travel along the beautiful Issyk-Kul Lake
- Visit Burana Tower, a 11th century minaret built by the Karakhanids
- Explore Bishkek, 'the greenest city in Central Asia'
- Marvel at the centuries-old Sheikh Muslihiddin Mausoleum in Khujand
- Visit the city of Istaravshan, founded by the 7th Century Persian King Cyrus the Great
- Travel along the picturesque Varzob Gorge in Tajikistan
- Visit the Museum of Antiquities in Dushanbe, home to the UNESCO-listed reclining Buddha
- Take in the excavation site of old Penjikent and Rudaki Museum
- Explore Registan Square in the heart of the ancient Samarkand
- See Poi Kalon and Kalon Minaret on a city tour of Bukhara
- Tour through Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan

FLIGHTS

Return international full-service flights (economy class) with Emirates & FlyDubai, surcharges may apply. (Excludes Trip Only option)
One-way internal flight from Almaty, Kazakhstan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ACCOMMODATION

- 15 nights of hotel accommodation
- Overnight stay in a traditional Kyrgyz Yurt

DINING

- Enjoy 21 meals, including 2 traditional dinners with local families

ESSENTIALS

- English-speaking tour guides
- Airline taxes and surcharges

TRANSPORT

- Transportation by private air-conditioned vehicles

TRANSFERS

- Day 1: Airport to hotel (Excludes Trip Only option)
- Day 18: Hotel to airport (Excludes Trip Only option)

Important Information

**Please note: All information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current deal for up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Purchase Confirmation apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.*

Booking Information

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. You must complete the Passenger Information Form within 72 hours of purchase.
Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below.

Please note: All countries and territories have different entry requirements in relation to vaccinations, quarantine/isolation periods and travel restrictions. Due to the evolving nature, we would ask all of our customers to monitor, meet and adhere to the specific requirements of their intended destination(s) in the lead-up to and immediately before travel, as well as any requirements post-travel upon their return.

Our Policies

Cancellation and Refund Policy

By placing a booking with us, you acknowledge the following important information:

- **we act as your booking agent;** TripADeal is a booking services provider, and curates the Travel Offers available on our website. We act as your booking agent, and we receive payment for the Booking Services as part of the booking price, however, we do not provide any of the Travel Services (flights, accommodation, tours or other products or services) included in your booking – the Travel Services are provided by a number of third party Travel Suppliers.
- **each booking is unique;** our Travel Offers are made up of a variety of different components and are, during the booking process, uniquely tailored to suit your requirements, for example, departure dates and ports, flight and room upgrades, tour inclusions, etc.
- **changes/modifications to your booking may not be possible;** once your booking has been made, changes or modifications may not be possible, and where possible, may incur a fee. It is important to ensure that the information you provide during the booking process is accurate and up to date, and that you read the Travel Offer carefully before placing your order.
- **Travel Offers are a package;** our Travel Offers have been curated into package offerings and must be used as a package – individual components cannot be used independently of the full package offering.
- **our Travel Offers are generally non-refundable;** in order to provide great value Travel Offers, we work with a variety of Travel Suppliers to find the best deals – this often means the Travel Suppliers' offerings are non-refundable to ensure the best price. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as you make a booking with us.

To read more about our Cancellation and Refund Policy, please click here.

General Terms and Conditions

By placing your booking with us, you acknowledge and agree to our Terms & Conditions, Privacy Policy and Cancellation Policy.

Offer Essentials

This Travel Offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 26 October 2027. Minimum group size 8, maximum group size 20 per vehicle.

Departure Dates & Surcharges

See checkout for live dates and availability.

Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers, a mandatory single supplement of $1,000 applies.

Please note: Accommodation for single customers who are travelling on a tour or cruise package may be in a single room, depending on availability.

Child Policy

- No child discounts are offered. The full price applies to all children travelling with their parents.
- Valid for children 16 years old and over.

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors are allowed.

Flights

(Flight information for options excluding Trip Only)

Departure Cities

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane*, Adelaide*, Perth*, Auckland*

Departure City Surcharges

Brisbane, Adelaide & Perth: $200 per person
Auckland: $400 per person

International Flight(s)

Airline(s) Used
- Cabin Class: Economy Class
- Airlines: Emirates & FlyDubai (subject to availability).

Please note:
- *FlyDubai, Emirates low cost partner airline will operate the Dubai to Bishkek and Tashkent/Ashgabat to Dubai flights with meals & checked baggage included.*
- *We cannot accommodate one-way flights. Travellers must take all included flights within the package, and any flights intentionally forfeited will result in later flights being subject to cancellation.*

Internal Flight(s) Used

- Airlines: Air Astana (subject to availability).
- Cabin Class: Economy Class
- Route: Almaty, Kazakhstan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Important Information

Internal Flight Information

Baggage allowance per person:
1 x 23kg of checked baggage
1 x 7kg of carry-on baggage

Preferred Airline Surcharge

Not available

Arrive Early and Stay Behind Options

Fly out and return home up to 60 days pre and post your tour dates.

Arrive Early

Bishkek- From $300 per person, subject to availability.

Stay Behind

Tashkent - From $300 per person, subject to availability.

Please note:

Exclusions:

This fee does not include extra nights' accommodation, meals or airport transfers.

Cancellations & Changes:

Flight booking changes or cancellations after air tickets have been issued are not guaranteed and may incur additional fees and fare difference, subject to the airline cancellation and change policies. Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.

High-Season:

A high-season Arrive Early or Stay Behind can be purchased for an additional charge, subject to availability. For pricing, please refer to the cart.

+ 60 days:

You can fly out up to 60 days before your package's start date, and/or return home 60 days after your package's end date. Should you wish to fly out or return home for more than 60 days from the tour, please contact us to request availability. Additional costs may apply.

Estimated dates:

Your estimated departure, return, and arrival dates are all subject to availability and may vary. The confirmed schedule for all flights will be provided when you receive your flight tickets.
High season surcharges apply to flights departing between the below date ranges:

- 12th December 2026 - 18th December 2026
- 19th December 2026 - 3rd January 2027
- 4th January 2027 - 26th January 2027
- 19th March 2027 - 28th April 2027
- 19th June 2027 - 18th July 2027
- 11th September 2027 - 10th October 2027
- 10th December 2027 - 19th December 2027
- 20th December 2027 - 3rd January 2028

Stopover Packages

* Dubai
Includes:

- 2, 3 or 5 nights in 4-star accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Return airport transfers

For pricing, please refer to the payment cart at checkout.

- When a pre and post-tour stopover is chosen, the same stopover location must be chosen each way, due to the airline used.
- When selecting to Arrive Early for your tour in conjunction with a Stopover Package, your fly out date from home will take place before the stopover.
- When selecting to Stay Behind after your tour in conjunction with a Stopover Package, your stopover will take place before your final flight home.
- Stopover packages are subject to availability.
- In the event that a purchased stopover package and a purchased preferred airline upgrade are not compatible, you will have the option to receive a refund for the preferred airline upgrade or be offered an alternative stopover city option, e.g if you choose to fly with Singapore Airlines you cannot stopover in Dubai.
- Blackout dates apply to flights departing between the below date ranges:

2026
Christmas and New Years Eve - 18 December 2026 to 3 January 2027
2027
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (for Dubai): 21 - 26 October 2027 (dates are still tbc)
Christmas and New Years Eve - 20 December 2027 to 3 January 2028

Flight Class Upgrades

Business Class: For pricing, please refer to the payment cart at checkout.

Please note:

- *Flight upgrades are subject to availability and pricing changes (if we cannot fulfil your request, the upgrade cost will be refunded).*
- *On any upgrade purchase, short-haul flights and domestic flight sectors are not guaranteed.*

Outbound Flights

Please note: Due to flight scheduling and availability, some departures may occur on Day 0. Affected customers must be available to depart the day before. Flight times will be indicated on your final documents, issued 4-6 weeks before departure.

Missed Flights

If you fail to arrive for your outbound flight, you risk all flight and land arrangements in your destination being automatically cancelled by the airlines and land operator, respectively. Additional fees may apply to reinstate these services. If you miss your flight for whatever reason, please contact us as soon as possible to make arrangements.
Trip Only Option
If you choose to remove international flights from your package, your holiday may be shorter, as travel days for flights are not included in the Trip Only package. You will receive an email confirmation when minimum numbers have been met and the departure is guaranteed.
We recommend making further travel arrangements, such as flights, after you have received confirmation of a guaranteed departure.
TripADeal assumes no liability for financial losses incurred due to travel arrangements made prior to confirmation of guaranteed departure.
Note: The Trip Only Package does not include return international airfares or

Important Information

airport transfers. At the conclusion of the tour, you will be responsible for booking your own onward travel.
Click here for full Trip Only terms and conditions (see section 4.1).

Accommodation

Accommodation Used:

3 & 4-Star Properties (Self-Rated)

- Bishkek: Hotel Garden or similar
- Karakol: Hotel Green Yard or similar
- Almaty: Hotel Uyut or similar
- Tashkent: Al Anvar Hotel or similar
- Samarkand: Asia Samarkand or similar
- Bukhara: Hotel Iman or similar
- Dushanbe: Hotel Atlas or similar
- Khujand: Hotel Sogdiyon or similar

Please note: Accommodation/rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type and are subject to availability based on seasonality. In the instance a property is not available, a similar standard of accommodation will be provided. Properties will be confirmed and included in your travel pack, which you will receive 4-6 weeks before travel.

Accommodation Location

To ensure a comfortable and convenient experience for everyone, we've carefully selected hotels that best suit the size and specific needs of each group. While this means your accommodation may not be in the city centre, you can rest assured that our hotels are typically located near public transportation and a variety of local restaurants and attractions. Once your tour begins, your friendly driver or tour leader will be happy to help you get your bearings and offer assistance, should you need it.

Extra Nights

Not available.

Please note: If you are interested in booking additional nights of accommodation pre or post-tour, please wait until you receive your travel documentation approximately 4-6 weeks before departure for the confirmed list of hotels. If booking your own additional accommodation directly with the hotel, please be aware that you may be required to change rooms at the start/end of your tour.

Maximum Room Capacity

2 people.

Triple Share

Not available.

Bedding Configuration

Twin or double (subject to availability).

Exclusions

- Visa fees and requirements
- Domestic transfers and flights not stated in the deal offer
- Meals/beverages not stated in the deal offer
- Recommended gratuities/tipping
- Optional activities/tours
- Personal expenses
- Mandatory travel insurance (see below for further information)
- Any costs associated with an interruption to your tour as a result of an airline schedule change or cancellation

Please note: Return international flights and transfers to and from the tour are not included in the Trip Only option.

Gratuities / Tipping

Land

Gratuities (tips) are not included for the services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip is $5 USD per person per day. This covers the guide/leader and the driver and will be collected whilst on tour. Tipping for all services provided on tour is always a matter of personal discretion, however, please be aware that tipping is considered by many locals to be a part of their normal remuneration and they may approach you for payment and there is no need to be intimidated by the request.

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Other Important Information

TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

Tour Guide:

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on the history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction where they are guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves it at the end of the tour; they do not travel with the group.

Tour Leader:

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides at each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village and offer information on the place visited on the bus. However, they are not required to have specific art, architecture, or historical knowledge. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and, if caught doing so, can be fined.

Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Almaty is situated in a mountainous area that influences the climate of this city. Almaty has a warm continental climate with more rainfall than in the rest of the

Important Information

country. Especially in spring and early summer, there is much more rain. Summers are pleasant and make it a perfect time to visit. The winters are mild and pleasant. Most precipitation will be snow. You will most likely experience good weather with pleasant average temperatures during May, June, July, August and September. October will be slightly cooler.

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The capital, Bishkek, is located in the north, in the valley of the river Chuy, at an altitude ranging between 650 and 950m. Here, the climate is continental, with cold winters and hot summers, in which the days can be scorching, often around 35-36°C, but with dry air and lively breezes in the afternoon. Precipitation is moderate, the annual total around 450mm, with a minimum summer (when only rare showers occur to interrupt the sunny days), and a maximum in spring, between March and May.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

In Dushanbe, the climate is continental as well; winters are pretty cold, though not freezing, with an average in January of 3°C, while summers are hot and sunny: highs in July and August are around 35°C, but with peaks of 40°C. In winter, the temperature often drops below freezing at night, but it remains quite mild during the day; however, even here, cold waves may occur, with lows around -10°C, though less intense than in the rest of the country, because the mountains in the north partly protect the city. It receives about 600mm of rain or snow per year, most of which between November and May, with a maximum in March and April, of about 110mm per month, distributed in about 10 days per month, and a summer minimum (even here, from July to September it virtually never rains).

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tashkent features a Mediterranean climate with strong continental climate influences. As a result, Tashkent experiences cold and often snowy winters not typically associated with most Mediterranean climates and long, hot and dry summers. The city experiences two peaks of precipitation in the early winter and spring. The slightly unusual precipitation pattern is partially due to its 500m altitude. Summers are long in Tashkent, usually lasting from May to September. Tashkent can be extremely hot during July and August. The city also sees very little precipitation during the summer, particularly from June through September.

Weather

We always suggest referring to an online source for the most up-to-date weather information for your destination/s.

FLIGHTS

Seat Selection & Frequent Flyer Points:

We do not arrange seat selection. It is essential to highlight that some airlines do not allow pre-selected seats. We strongly suggest you contact the airline directly with seating allocation requirements and/or arrive at the airport earlier to arrange your seating. While we do not add frequent flyer member details to bookings, you can do this directly with the airline once you have your flight information.

Dietary Requests

Meal options and availability differ between airlines and routes therefore not all dietary requests can be accommodated. If your flight includes meals we will select the most suitable option available based on the dietary requirements you have specified. All meal requests are subject to airline approval and are not guaranteed, therefore we recommend preparing for your flight by bringing appropriate food for yourself, as required.

Passport Validity:

Customers must provide valid passport details either at the time of purchase or no later than 90 days before the departure date. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the booking. Customers will be responsible for any costs and fees incurred in this instance.

COACH TOUR

Travel

Exploring Central Asia does, at times, require covering some long distances. This also includes travelling on roads not built to the same standard we may be used to; however, your driver and guide are professionals and will do everything they can to ensure a comfortable journey throughout.

Meals:

For meals not included, the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify us of any dietary requests/requirements.

Cooking Classes

Speak with your guide regarding dietary requirements and any questions you may have when ordering food.

Please note: We will do our best to meet your requests/requirements; however, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

Luggage:

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on tour. You must carry your own luggage from the vehicle to the hotel room and back to the vehicle. The driver will assist with the uploading and unloading of bags from the vehicle.

OTHER

Mobility:

If you require wheelchair access please contact our friendly sales and service team to inquire on your behalf.

Fitness Level Required

Adventure (and spontaneity) create some of the best travel memories. Bear in mind, your home schedules and timings might not be adhered to on tour - it's all part of the fun!
A moderate level of fitness will be required. Expect a moderate pace of

Important Information

touring with a focus on guided tours that may include full days with extended activity, guided city tours or nature walks. You will require a general level of fitness for unassisted navigation of stairs and inclines, longer distances with possible periods of standing when visiting sites, walking on sloping, uneven ground or elevations. You will be responsible for your own luggage and have the ability to board all modes of transport without assistance.

Please note:

- *Many areas may be inaccessible to wheelchairs or mobility scooters, where the unassisted use of personal walking sticks and other aids may be required. Although some assistance may be available, every traveller should be self-reliant during all aspects of their travel.*
- *It is expected that every traveller must be self-reliant and able to undertake all aspects of their own travel. Please speak to your booking agent about your personal circumstances and any assistance requirements to ensure this tour is right for you.*
- *If you have any concerns, please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/ travel.*

Yellow Fever:

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate upon arrival.
You must check with your doctor well before leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

Sightseeing:

Please note: If entry to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary, where possible, may be adjusted, or a similar activity will be offered in its place (subject to availability).

Shopping:

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all your receipts.
Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from your Tour Guide/Leader. Please refer to our Terms and Conditions regarding shopping for further information.

Visas

Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan

Australian passport holders can travel to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan for up to 60 days without a visa.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has introduced a visa-free regime for a period of 30 days for citizens of Australia & New Zealand.

Tajikistan

Australians can enter Tajikistan under a new visa-free arrangement. The arrangement covers single-entry stays of up to 30 days.

Important:

- *Please start arranging your visa three weeks before departure to account for any delays due to consulate operating hours.*
- *Visa rules are subject to change. Please check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination/s you are visiting once you receive your travel documentation to ensure you have the most up to date information.*
- *It is your responsibility to be travel-ready and ensure that you are aware and comply with any destination or travel requirements, including the validity of all required travel documents.*
- *Passengers who are not Australian citizens must also check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required.*
- *It is also important to note that some areas of employment, such as journalism, government authorities and charity organisations, may have additional restrictions in applying for visas. This may, in turn, affect the type of application required.*

Travel Insurance

Embarking on your next trip is exciting, and while you hope the unexpected does not happen, it is best to be prepared. As a condition of purchasing this package, it is a requirement from our local suppliers that you have purchased travel insurance for the duration of your journey. You must present proof of travel insurance on arrival in Bishkek. Whether it's a potential medical emergency, a flight cancellation, a delayed suitcase, or an unforeseen event, it's important to ensure you're adequately protected. For more information or advice visit https://www.tripadeal.com.au/travel-insurance

Schedule Of Fees

Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- Changes - $100 per booking and any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/accommodation/other travel providers.

Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

- If the incorrect name has been provided, charges of $100 per booking and any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/accommodation/other travel providers.

Supplier Fees

In the event the tour package you have purchased is unable to proceed, and/or a

Important Information

Travel Supplier is unable to fulfil the tour due to external circumstances (Limitation of Liability e.g. a Force Majeure event), there may be a fee or amount of money that is withheld by our Suppliers and is unrecoverable. This may be due to non-refundable airline tickets, cancellation penalties with cruise cabins or unrecoverable payments with our land/ accommodation partners. If refunds are not available from Suppliers, we will endeavour to obtain a travel credit on the best terms available and communicate these outcomes to you. In the event we are unable to obtain a refund or travel service credit, or part thereof, this cost is passed on to the customer as a Supplier Fee.