

CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN | KYRGYZSTAN | UZBEKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN | TURKMENISTAN

JOURNEY TO THE SILK ROAD

Discovering THE 5 STANS OF CENTRAL ASIA
Journey to the ancient crossroads of Asia and explore 5 fabled Silk Road countries

JOURNEY TO THE SILK ROAD Discovering THE 5 STANS OF CENTRAL ASIA PREMIUM PROGRAM

Journey to the ancient crossroads of Asia and explore 5 fabled Silk Road countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

ITINERARY

16SEP/ Day 01 – Manila Airport Meals on Board
Group assemble at NAIA Terminal for final debriefing, airline check -in, immigration checking and final boarding.

16SEP/ Day 02, Tashkent - Almaty /D
Arrival to Tashkent airport is at 17:00, transit and flight for Almaty is at 19:00. 21:30 local time arrival is to Almaty airport. Your guide will meet you at the airport and accompany to Almaty city. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

17SEP/ Day 03, Almaty B/L/D
Today you will have a city tour. You will visit the Green Bazaar, where it is impossible to refrain from shopping. Then the tour will continue in one of the oldest Almaty parks - Panfilov Park, where one of the most beautiful wooden building in the world - Zenkov Cathedral is located. Next destination is the Kok-Tobe hill where the tallest TV tower in the world is located (if to count from the sea level) and where you will get by the picturesque winding mountain road. In Kok-Tobe Park you can stroll along the winding paths of the park, admire the magnificent panorama of the city from the special observation deck and visit the shop of national souvenirs. The tour ends with the short ride from the top of the hill to the center of the city by the famous Almaty cableway. Transfer to the hotel.

18SEP/ Day 04, Almaty – Charyn Canyon –Kolsay Lake- Almaty B/L/D
Today you will have a day trip to Charyn Canyons. It is one of the unique natural monuments of Kazakhstan. The canyon is about 12 million years old and surprises with its vertical cliffs, reminding the ancient castles, created by wind, sun and rain. It will take about 3 hours to reach the canyon. Meanwhile, you will hear a lot of interesting about the history and nature of the region, about Kazakh people, their life and traditions as well as have a lunch in a local cafe. And as soon as you see Charyn Canyon you will forget about this long way at once - so much

you will be impressed with the beauty and splendor of the canyon. You can admire the grand panorama and then have a walk through the maze of the Castles Valley with its inaccessible walls overhanging you. Transfer to Kolsai Lake . Hiking, take a picture. Back to Almaty. Night is in the hotel.

19SEP/ Day 05, Almaty – Bishkek B/L/D
Today we will have a transfer to Bishkek city. The distance from Almaty city to Bishkek is 230 km. It will take about 4 hours for the transfer. On the way you will pass a border control. This entire day is dedicated to a guided tour of Bishkek. It includes visiting Pobeda Square (Victory Square), Duboviy Park (Oak Park), Central Ala-Too Square, National Philharmonic, and many others places of interest. You will spend the night in a hotel.

20SEP/ Day 06, Bishkek – Ala Archa – Bishkek B/L/D
Today we will visit Ala Archa gorge. It is a Natural Park. At the Soviet Time only V.I.P. people had permission to go for a walk here. The Ala Archa gorge is on a spur of the Tien Shan mountain range. It is just 45 km from Bishkek. You can have a short hiking tour to see a panoramic view of the gorge. Afterwards we will have transfer to Chon Kemin (108 km, 2 H), during the road we will visit Burana tower, back to Bishkek. Diner on arrival. Overnight at hotel.

21SEP/ Day 07, Bishkek – Osh B/L/D
In the morning we will transfer you to the airport for a flight to the city of Osh. In Osh city you will have a walk and will get to visit a famous and special place – Suleiman Mountain. Suleiman Too (Solomon's Mountain) is situated in the city center and it is considered a place of pilgrimage for local Muslims, because according to the legend, biblical prophet Solomon (Suleiman, in the Koran) was buried at the foot of it. It is not a real city tour without visiting our Asian Bazaar. We will show it to you today and you will be able to take a lot of photos there. Night is in a hotel.

22SEP/ Day 08, Osh – Duslik – Kokand B/L/D
In the morning you will transfer you to the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. Crossing the border and transfer to Kokand city. Upon arrival to Kokand you will have city tour of Kokand. Here we will visit Khudayar Khan Palace, historical monument of architecture that perfectly mixed all kinds of traditional arts and crafts, Modari

Khan Mausoleum, built for the mother of ruler of Kokand Umar Khan, and Norbutabi Madrasah which was the greatest spiritual school in Kokand in the 19th century. After excursions we will depart to Rishtan town in order to visit private pottery workshop. Here craftsmen from ancient times preserved a special technology of making pottery and pass from generation to generation. Then you will be transferred to your hotel. Night is in a hotel.

23SEP/ Day 09, Kokand - Border – Khujand-Dushanbe B/L/D

Breakfast is at the hotel. Transfer to Tajik border and crossing it. Tajik guide will meet you on the border and you will drive Khujand city. It is the second largest city of Tajikistan. It is situated on the Syr Darya River at the mouth of the Fergana Valley. The population of the city is 149,000. It is also the capital of the northernmost province of Tajikistan, now called Sughd. You will visit in the afternoon a Cultural Palace of Khujant. Transfer At this place the first president of Tajikistan was chosen. In addition, we will go to see Central Mosque that is situated in the middle of the city. Transfer to Dushanbe. Night is in a hotel.

24SEP/ Day 10, Dushanbe – Penjikent B/L/D

After breakfast drive to Penjikent through Anzob Tunnel. Lunch. Visit the ancient city of Penjikent which was former Sogdian city. Visit the excavation and walk in the ruins of Penjikent. Penjikent was destroyed in the 8th century by the Arab conquest. Penjikent is well known as the Pompeii of Central Asia. Visit Sarazm the ancient city (located 15 km west of Penjikent). The settlement consists of a hill 400-800 metres wide, stretching about 1,5 km from east to west situated on a terrace of the left bank of the river Zerafshan. The total area of the site is more than 100 hectares. In the northern and western parts there are now the villages of Sahibnazar and Gurach and in the north eastern part Avazali. Crops are grown in significant portion of this site. A part of Sarazm which remains undisturbed is about 30 hectares. Research gives ground for the opinion that the ancient settlement existed here for about one and a half millennia from 3,400 and 2,000 B.C. Numerous houses, religious buildings and places where excavated in Sarazm. A great number of articles made of copper, bronze, lead, silver and gold. Dinner. Accommodation in a hotel.

25SEP/ Day 11, Penjikent – Jartepa – Samarkand B/L/D

In the morning you will drive to the Tajik-Uzbek border Jartepa. Cross the border and transfer to Samarkand. Samarkand is situated in the valley of the river Zerafshan. It is the second largest city of Uzbekistan and is of the same age as the city of Babylon or Rome. Today you will visit its most outstanding sights such as Registan square, Shakhi-Zindeh, Mausoleum Guri Emir and Bibi Khanum Mosque. Registan Square, a complex of three fascinating Madrasahs dating back to 15-17th centuries, is the main highlight of Samarkand that no person can stop admiring its beauty and majesty. Architectural complex of Shakhi-Zindeh represents a big collection of mausoleums dating back to 11th-15 centuries being a part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Bibi Khanum Mosque was built in honor of favorite Tamerlane's wife, after his successful campaign in India. Overnight is at the hotel.

26SEP/ Day 12, Samarkand – Bukhara (train) B/L/D

Today you will continue exploring Samarkand city. You will visit Ulughbek observatory, built in 15th century by Ulughbek, one of the most famous Samarkand rulers and scientists. Working in observatory, Ulughbek created in 1437 the "Zidji Guragoni" catalog, which had information about 1018 celestial bodies. Unfortunately, he was killed by order of his own son. After it you can walk along the local Broadway surrounded by souvenir shops, teahouses, sweets and workshops. Then you can visit national bazaar Siab, oriental bazaar, where it is easy to find Uzbek traditional handmade products and local sweets. Also you will see carpet factory, a unique handmade carpet factory where over 400 women sew carpets without using traditional techniques. Afternoon transfer to Bukhara is by train. Night is in a hotel.

27SEP/ Day 13, Bukhara B/L/D

Today you will have a full day of sightseeing tour in the fascinating city of Bukhara. At first you will visit the most ancient citadel in Bukhara dating back to the 4th century named Citadel Ark which served as a palace for several dynasties of Bukhara Empire. Then you will see Samanids mausoleum, a real masterpiece of architecture of 9th -10th century. Then the tour continues to Chashma Ayub, meaning Job's well and Bolo-Hauz mosque, known also as the mosque of forty columns built in honor of Bukhara governor Abu-Fayud Khan. Then you have a chance to walk along the shopping domes and visit one of the

most famous madrasahs of Bukhara called Nodir Divan Begi which is also a part of Lyabi House Ensemble, famous central sightseeing of Bukhara. The tour will end with visiting Poi Kalon complex, the unique sample of architectural art of Bukhara. It consists of three structures built in the 12th - 16th centuries: Kalon minaret, Kalon mosque and Mir Arab Madrasah. Night is in a hotel.

28SEP/ Day 14, Bukhara – Mary – Merv – Ashgabat B/L/D
(Uzbekistan / Turkmenistan)

Leave the hotel at 06:30 to drive to Farap-Alat on the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan border (100 km, 1 h 30 min). Complete the border formalities on both sides, crossing the 1.5 km neutral zone (transportation may not be available). Meet your Turkmen guide and continue to Merv (300 km, 5 h 30 min), an ancient city that was a major center of international trade and crafts on the Silk Road. Merv is home to a historical park for you to discover, with sights such as the Sultan Sanjar Mausoleum, Major and Minor Kyz-Kala, Erk-Kala, Gyaur-Kala, and Keshk Fortress. Transfer to Mary Airport (40 km, 30 min) and then fly to Ashgabat. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for overnight. Duration: 14 hours, including 2 hours of sightseeing

29SEP/ Day 15, Ashgabat – Darvaza Gas Crater B/L/D
(Turkmenistan)

At 09:00, start a sightseeing tour of Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. Ashgabat is recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as having more white marble buildings than any other city in the world. During the tour, explore the archaeological site of Old Nissa (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Spiritual Mosque, one of the biggest mosques in Central Asia. Visit the National Museum of History, the Monument of Neutrality, Ertugrul Gazi Mosque, and Independence Park. In the afternoon, drive through the Karakum Desert to the famous Darvaza Gas Crater (280 km, 4 h). Free time to set up camp for the night, explore and photograph the area, and watch the sunset. Then enjoy a delicious fire-cooked dinner near the burning crater. Overnight in tents.

Duration: 10 hours, including 6 hours of sightseeing

30MAY/ Day 16, Darvaza Gas Crater – Khiva (Turkmenistan / Uzbekistan) B/L/D

Leave the camp at 09:00, driving through the Karakum Desert to the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan border crossing point at Dashoguz-Shavat (270 km, 4 h). After completing the border formalities on both sides, including crossing the 1.5 km neutral zone (transportation may not be available), meet your Uzbek driver to transfer to Khiva (60 km, 1 h). Upon arrival, check in to the hotel. Free time. Overnight at the hotel.

**01OCT/ Day 17, Khiva – Urgench – Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
B/L/D**

Breakfast and hotel check out (the hotel will store your luggage safely for the day). Spend the morning at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ichan-Kala Fortress. Highlights of the morning walking tour include the Mukhammad Amin Khan Madrasa, Mukhammad Rahimkhan Madrasa, Kalta Minor, Juma Mosque, Tash-Khovli Palace, Pakhlavan Makhmud Mausoleum, and Minaret of Islom Khodja. In the evening, there will be a masterclass on cooking tukhumbarak (egg dumplings, characteristic of Khivan cuisine). Farewell dinner. Transfer to Urgench Airport at 20:30 (30 km, 35 min). Your flight to Tashkent departs at 22:05 and arrives at 23:25 (1,093 km, 1 h 40 min). Transfer to the hotel in Tashkent for overnight.

02OCT/ Day 18, Tashkent – departure -Doha (UZB)

B/L/D

Today you will visit Independence Square, which is the main square of the country and was erected as a symbol of victory over fascism in World War II. Then you will have a chance to walk along the local Broadway, a walking street between Independence Square and Amir Timur Square. Furthermore, you can take a ride on the famous Tashkent metro, among the most beautiful subways in the world. The first line was opened in 1977. Then you will visit the old part of the city, which includes Chorsu Bazaar, Kukaldash Madrasah, and the Hast Imam complex, which consists of several madrasahs, mosques, and mausoleums. The highlight of its exhibits is the Othman Quran, which is the world's oldest Quran copy, dating back to the 8th century. The Quran belonged to Othman Ibn Affan, the Third Caliph (of the four righteous Caliphs who succeeded the prophet Muhammad). Othman was killed by non-muslims in the 8th century. His blood spread over the Quran that you can still see on its pages. Evening flight home.

03OCT /Day 19 – Arrive Manila

PACKAGE COST PER PERSON USD 6,755.00

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- ✓ Roundtrip Airline Ticket Visa Turkish Airways
- ✓ Accommodation at 4-5 stars PREMIUM combination of International Hotel Chains and Local Brands on BB
- ✓ High Speed train from SAMARKAND-BUKHARA, BUKHARA-TASHKENT (ECONOMY 2ND CLASS)
- ✓ Interior Flights (BISHKEK-OSH (20KG), MARY-ASHGABAT (ECONOMY CLASS 20 KG) URGENCH-TASHKENT (ECONOMY CLASS 20 KG)
- ✓ Arrival Taxes in each country
- ✓ Meals on FULL Board at Hotels and Local Restaurants
- ✓ Services on High End Coaches /4WD Cars in Desert (Turkmenistan)
- ✓ Services of a Licensed English-Speaking Guides in Each Country
- ✓ Tours and Entrances as stipulated in the program
- ✓ Water allocation of 1L per day per person
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ Travel kit and Pre departure Briefing

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airline Taxes **(USD154.00)**
- Tipping for Guides /Drivers/ Hotels **(USD200.00)**
- Cost of Passport AND Visas
- Others Not mentioned in the Itinerary.

UZBEKISTAN PHP 1,500.00
 KYRGYZSTAN PHP 1,500.00
 TURMENISTAN PHP 8,000.00

FLIGHT DETAILS :

QR 935 16SEP 1 MNLDOH 0955 1420
 QR 377 16SEP 1 DOHTAS 1950 0120 17SEP
 QR 378 03OCT 4 TASDOH 0320 0520
 QR 928 03OCT 4 DOHMNL 0800 2220

HOTELS ; CITY 4*- 5* PREMIUM HOTELS

ALMATY- DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON 5* OR SIMILAR
 BISHKEK- SHERATON 5* OR SIMILAR
 OSH- SUNRISE 4* OR SIMILAR
 KOKAND- ASMALD PALACE 4* OR SIMILAR
 KHUJAND- PARLIAMENT PALACE 4* OR SIMILAR
 PENJIKENT- PENJIKENT PLAZA 4*OR SIMILAR

SAMARKAND- ROYAL HOTEL SAMARKAND 4*OR SIMILAR
 BUKHARA- MERCURE BUKHARA OLD TOWN 4* OR SIMILAR
 ASHGABAT- DIVAN HOTEL * OR SIMILAR
 DESERT- TENT
 KHIVA- BANKIR KHIVA 4* OR SIMILAR
 TASHKENT- INTERCONTINENTAL 5*

REQUIREMENTS

1. Passport valid 6 months prior to expiry
2. Passport size picture white background
3. VISA entry to: **UZBEKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TURKMENISTAN**
4. Filled up Passenger Information Sheet

BOOKING & PAYMENT CONDITIONS

1. A non-refundable deposit (if visa is granted) of \$500.00 is required upon submission of documents.
2. Fifty percent of tour cost is required on **July 15, 2024** in payment for Airline Ticket which is due for issuance on the said date and
3. FULL PAYMENT should be on **August 15, 2024**
4. **CANCELLATION FEE:** 50% of tour cost if cancelled within 3 weeks before the departure.

RATES, TOUR PROGRAMS & SCHEDULES are subject to change if conditions so demand. TLC Travel and Tours, reserves the right to postpone the departure if participants fall below the time. Tour fare is based on group departure therefore, non-endorsable, non re routable, with refunds, if any, is subject to cancellation and charges.

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