



CENTRAL ASIA

23 NIGHTS

CONTENTS

TOUR OVERVIEW _____ 3-4

TOUR PRICE _____ 5

DAILY ITINERARY _____ 6-19

OPTIONAL EXTENSION _____ 20-23

MAPS _____ 24

YOUR SPOT _____ 25

Central Asia

**Sunday May 18 - Thursday June 10 2025 | 23 nights
Plus optional 6 night extension**



TOUR OVERVIEW

Embark on an extraordinary expedition through the heart of Central Asia's captivating 'Stans,' where vibrant cultures, ancient cities, and awe-inspiring landscapes converge along the fabled Silk Road. This remarkable journey takes you across Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, with the option to extend your adventure into the distant lands of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Together, these destinations offer a rich mosaic of history, tradition, and natural splendour that has long enchanted travellers.

Your adventure begins in Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat, a city renowned for its strikingly modern architecture, sheathed in gleaming marble. This futuristic city, with its opulent design, provides a fascinating contrast to the timeless traditions of the region, setting the scene for the cultural wonders to come.

In Uzbekistan, you'll tread the legendary Silk Road, wandering through cities of immense historical significance: Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. These storied places, with their turquoise-domed mosques, bustling bazaars, and echoes of bygone empires, offer a glimpse into the grandeur of the past. From the splendour of Samarkand to the historic charm of Bukhara's mosques and madrasahs, and the intricate blue mosaics of Khiva, Uzbekistan promises a warm welcome and unforgettable memories. In Bukhara, you'll also be privileged to witness the lively Silk and Spice Festival, a vibrant celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage.

Tajikistan awaits with its rugged, untouched beauty. From the ancient ruins of Panjakent to the capital, Dushanbe, the country's dramatic landscapes offer a sense of discovery and adventure. You'll explore the majestic Iskanderkul Fan Mountains and the Fergana Valley, renowned for its ethnic diversity, exquisite craftwork, and thriving silk production.

Your main tour concludes in Uzbekistan's dynamic capital, Tashkent. Rebuilt after a devastating earthquake in the 1960s, this city is a testament to the resilience of the Soviet era, with its Brutalist architecture and bustling modern life.

For those wishing to delve further into the enigmatic charm of Central Asia, an optional extension will take you into the breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural tapestries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, ensuring your journey ends on a truly unforgettable note.

Central Asia

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Plus optional 6 night extension

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ✓ International economy class airfare (on Uzbekistan airlines (direct) or Turkish airlines via Istanbul)
- ✓ The services of an experienced tour manager
- ✓ All accommodation - double/twin clean middle class hotels
- ✓ Meals as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Transfers, guided tours and entrance fees as detailed in the itinerary
- ✓ All transportation including car/bus, train and flight tickets as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ All tips for local guides and drivers
- ✓ Folk Show in Bukhara
- ✓ Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- ✗ Airline taxes
- ✗ Travel Insurance (optional)
- ✗ Any private expenses (for ex. alcohol drinks)
- ✗ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ✗ Hotel portorage
- ✗ Filming fees for production photos and video cameras
- ✗ Expenses for excess baggage

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- The Great Silk Road, an ancient network of trade routes, a vital connection between East and West.
- Ancient cities with winding alleyways that have remained untouched for centuries, dating back over two millennia and rich in history and culture.
- Numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites amidst the stunning desert and mountain landscapes of Central Asia.
- Bustling bazaars full of energy, showcasing exquisite craftsmanship, renowned for producing fine silk and cotton fabrics.
- Tashkent, a showcase of 1960s Soviet urban planning, blending modernity with historical charm.
- A variety of local dishes and delicious specialties.
- Wine Tasting: a local wine tasting session in Samarkand - Enjoyment of the flavours of the region.
- Tea tasting and ceramics workshop.
- Silk and Spice Festival in Bukhara.
- Folk Show: Experience an authentic open-air folklore show in Bukhara, celebrating Central Asian culture

Extend your journey with the option to continue the tour to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

- Dinner in a Yurt
- The scenic landscapes of wooded slopes, lakes and waterfalls
- Eagle hunting demonstration
- The spectacular Charyn Canyon

TOUR PRICE

Main tour - Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

Twin share per person €7,490

Single supplement €1,490

Optional extension - Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

Twin share per person €3,490

Single supplement €290

The prices listed are in EUR and include international flights departing from Frankfurt International Airport to Turkmenistan. Return flights will be from Uzbekistan for those on the main tour, or from Kyrgyzstan if you opt for the tour extension.

If you're interested in a single occupancy room, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. For solo travellers open to sharing, let us know, and we'll do our best to match you with a suitable roommate.

GROUP SIZE Minimum 10, maximum 18

CUSTOM TRAVEL OPTIONS: We're happy to assist with any additional travel plans you may have before or after the tour. If you wish to depart from a different airport or upgrade to business class, we can make those arrangements for you. Just get in touch to discuss your preferences.

WOULD THIS TOUR SUIT ME?

To fully enjoy this tour, participants should possess a good level of fitness, as it will involve 2 to 3 hours of walking and 1 to 2 hours of standing during excursions. The walks may occasionally traverse uneven terrain, including slopes and stairs. Travelling in May and June represents the shoulder season, characterised by moderate temperatures, although one should be prepared for variations in weather conditions. Several days will involve spending a significant portion of the day on travel, albeit with scheduled stops for rest and exploration. It is important to note that certain segments of the Tajikistan portion of the tour reach altitudes of up to 2,700 metres, so you should assess whether such elevations are suitable for you.

With over 30 years of experience in organising tours in Central Asia, we draw on the best elements from previous expeditions to provide a comprehensive and hassle-free experience. All arrangements are thoughtfully managed for you, allowing you to focus entirely on the journey ahead.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

DAILY ITINERARY 1/7

Sunday May 18, 2025

Frankfurt to Ashgabat

Meals: D

Flight: 3 hours and 4 hours

Fly from Frankfurt and arrive in Ashgabat, the striking white-marbled capital of Turkmenistan. Known for its distinctive architecture and wide boulevards, Ashgabat feels like a city built for grand processions and spectacular displays.

Upon arrival, you'll have the day free to rest and unwind, followed by a welcome dinner in the evening.

Monday May 19

Sightseeing Ashgabat

Meals: B/D

Over the next two days, you'll delve into the sights of Ashgabat and its surroundings. During your city tour, you'll visit the Palace of Happiness, Independence Park, and various impressive monuments that dot the landscape. You'll also have the opportunity to explore the National Museum, where you can admire a remarkable collection of rare, handcrafted Turkmen carpets.

Tuesday May 20

Sightseeing Ashgabat

Meals: B/D

Continue your exploration of Ashgabat and its surroundings with a drive to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Old Nisa, the ancient Parthian capital dating back to the 3rd century, nestled at the foot of the Kopet Dag Mountains. You'll also visit the historic battleground of Geok Depe, where the Turkmen made their final stand against Russian forces. After a day filled with history, enjoy a relaxing afternoon at your leisure.

Wednesday May 21

Ashgabat to Khiva

Meals: B/D

Flight: 1 hour

Transition time: 3 hours

You will have an early morning flight to Dashoguz, followed by a drive to cross the border into Uzbekistan. Your journey will take you to the historic city of Khiva, where you'll spend the next two nights. To end your day, enjoy dinner on a terrace with stunning views of the ancient city of Khiva.



DAILY ITINERARY 2/7

Thursday May 22

Sightseeing Khiva
Meals: B/D

Not colonised by Russia until the late 19th century, this isolated desert town boasts an intact old town known as Ichan Kala, nestled within its historic walls. As you wander through the ancient heart of Khiva, you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time, discovering its winding alleyways, majestic minarets, and beautiful madrassahs.

Highlights of your exploration include the Tash Hauli Palace, renowned for its opulent interior adorned with intricate ceramic tiles, carved stone, and woodwork. This evening, enjoy a delightful dinner accompanied by captivating performances of traditional songs and dances from the Khorezm region.

Friday May 23

Khiva to Bukhara
Meals: B
Train: 7 hours

Travel by train from Khiva to Bukhara, which will occupy most of your day. While train schedules are still to be confirmed, departure is anticipated around 11:00 AM.

Bukhara remains largely untouched by the influences of the Russian/Soviet era, and its historic centre has preserved its charm for centuries. You'll spend the next four nights in this city, once known as the Eastern Dome of Islam, celebrated for its stunning architecture. This evening, you'll have free time to relax and explore at your leisure.

Saturday May 24

Sightseeing Bukhara
Meals: B/D

Spend the day discovering the enchanting medieval city of Bukhara. Highlights of your exploration will include the Ark, a fortress that has stood for 2,000 years, and the impressive Kalon Minaret, soaring nearly 50 meters high. Stroll through the serene Lyabi-Hauz plaza, the tranquil heart of the old town, and browse the charming covered market. Don't miss the 11th-century mausoleum of the founder of the Samanid dynasty, a true architectural gem.

In the evening, enjoy an open-air folklore show accompanied by a delightful dinner, immersing yourself in the local culture and traditions.

Sunday May 25

Bukhara
Silk and Spice Festival
Meals: B
Overnight: Bukhara

Today, you'll have a full day to revel in the lively annual Silk and Spice Festival, which celebrates Uzbekistan's cultural heritage while supporting local artisans and their crafts. The festival includes traditional music performances from various regions, exciting games and sports, and a diverse array of delectable local dishes.

This vibrant event also provides an excellent opportunity to find unique souvenirs, as some of the finest artisans from all over Uzbekistan gather to showcase their creations.

Please keep in mind that the exact dates for the Silk and Spice Festival have yet to be confirmed. If the festival does not coincide with your tour, we will arrange alternative activities for you to enjoy.



DAILY ITINERARY 3/7

Monday May 26

Bukhara Environs
Meals: B/D

Your exploration of the Bukhara region continues with a morning visit to the Chor Bakr necropolis, an ancient city of the dead set among rows of mulberry trees just outside Bukhara. You'll also have the opportunity to see the White Palace of Kagan, constructed by the last Emir of Bukhara to host Nicholas II of Russia, who, unfortunately, was unable to visit in 1917 due to other circumstances.

Additionally, you'll visit the Bokhoutdin Nakhshbandi complex, an important holy Islamic site, and the Emir's summer palace, known as Sitorai Mohi Hosa.

In the evening, enjoy a special dinner featuring traditional Bukhara cuisine in the welcoming atmosphere of a local family's home.

Tuesday May 27

Bukhara to Samarkand
Meals: B/D
Train: 7 hours

Travel by morning train to the storied city of Samarkand. Over the next two days, you'll have the opportunity to explore this strikingly beautiful and evocative city.

Highlights of your visit will include the Registan, a stunning complex of three madrasahs that is considered one of the most impressive sights in Central Asia. You'll also visit key landmarks from the era of Tamerlane, including his mausoleum, Gur-e-Amir, and the magnificent Bibi Khanym Mosque.

Other notable sites include the Shah I Zinda necropolis, which dates back to the 9th century, and the Ulugbek madrasah. To cap off your day, enjoy an enchanting evening light show at the Registan.

Wednesday May 28

Culinary Delights in Samarkand
Meals: B/L

Continue your exploration of Samarkand today with a delightful cooking class and lunch inside an Uzbek home, where you can immerse yourself in the local culinary traditions.

In the afternoon and evening, you'll have free time to further discover the city at your own pace or simply relax and unwind.

Thursday May 29

Samarkand
Meals: B/D
Overnight: Samarkand

Visit the Hovrenko wine factory, a historic establishment that has been producing wine since 1868. Following this, you'll enjoy a guided tour of a paper mill and a carpet factory, where you can learn about traditional craftsmanship. To top off your day, participate in a master class on baking Samarkand flatbreads, experiencing firsthand this integral part of local cuisine.



DAILY ITINERARY 4/7

Friday May 30

Transit to Panjakent

Meals: B/D

Transition time: 2.5 hours

Bid farewell to Samarkand this morning and embark on a drive to Panjakent, stopping en route at the Urgut Bazaar, famous for its vibrant handicrafts, fresh local produce, and unique antiques.

In Panjakent, you'll explore the UNESCO World Heritage site known as the Sarazm Important Bird Area, situated downstream on the lush tugay floodplains. Next, visit the Rudaki Museum, which showcases a vast collection of artefacts and serves as an introduction to the city's rich history from the 5th to the 8th centuries. Conclude your day by wandering the ruins of ancient Panjakent, once a bustling Sogdian trading city along the Silk Road, where remnants of its storied past await your discovery.

Saturday May 31

Iskanderkul Mountain Range

Meals: B/D

Transition time: 4 hours

Today, you'll drive to the stunning Iskander Kol Fan Mountains, where you'll stay near Iskanderkul Lake, located at an elevation of 2,159 metres above sea level and named after Alexander the Great.

In the afternoon, you have the option to take a short walk to a picturesque waterfall and Snake Lake, or you can enjoy some free time to soak in the breathtaking surroundings of the lake.

Please note that your accommodation for this night will be more basic than the previous hotels on the tour; however, the magnificent views of the lake and mountains will more than make up for it as you venture off the beaten path in Tajikistan.

Sunday June 1

Iskanderkul to Dushanbe

Meals: B/D

Transition time: 4 hours

Take a morning drive to Dushanbe, crossing the Anzob Pass at 2,900 metres above sea level. Originally a small market village named for the Persian word for 'Monday,' Dushanbe grew into an important industrial centre during the Soviet era.

In the afternoon, your tour will include the Arch of Rudaki and the grand monument to Ismoili Somoni, a towering gold-topped statue celebrated as a national hero. You'll also visit the Tajik National Museum of Antiquities and the Gurminj Museum of Musical Instruments, founded by renowned Tajik actor and musician Gurminj Zavkibekov to showcase his extensive collection of musical instruments from Badakhshan.

Spend the next two nights in Dushanbe to fully experience the city's rich culture and history.

Monday June 2

Sightseeing Dushanbe

Meals: B/D

In the morning, you'll visit the Kohi Navruz complex, initially designed to be the world's largest tea house. It now features extravagant meeting halls, a man-made lake, bowling alleys, a cinema, and restaurants.

Next, explore the Istiqlol Complex, highlighted by a 121-metre tower topped with a large crown, built to celebrate Tajikistan's 30th independence anniversary.

In the afternoon, drive to Hissar Fortress, the remains of the Bukhara Emirate's palace, known for its thick walls and historical significance along the Silk Road. You'll also visit the Old Medressa (Madrasai Kuhna) from the 16th century, the newer Medressa from the 17th century, and ancient caravanserais.



DAILY ITINERARY 5/7

Tuesday June 3

Dushanbe to Khujand

Meals: B/D

Transition time: 6 hours with stops

Today, you'll enjoy a scenic drive north through the stunning alpine lakes and pastures of the Fan Mountains, passing through the Shahrstan tunnel to reach Khujand.

On the way, visit the historic town of Istaravshan (Kiropolis), which has been around for over 2,500 years and is believed to be where Alexander the Great met his wife, Roxanna. You'll explore the Mazori Sharif mausoleum, the Kog Gumbazmadrasa from the 16th century, and the ruins of the ancient fortress Kuhi Mug.

You'll spend the next two nights in Khujand.

Wednesday June 4

Khujand

Meals: B/D

This morning, you'll embark on a city tour of Khujand, starting with the Palace of Khudoyar Khan, often referred to as the Pearl of Kokand. This palace, once home to the last ruler of the Kokand Khanate in the 19th century, was partially demolished during the Bolshevik Revolution.

You'll also explore various 18th-century buildings and monuments, including the Jami Mosque, the Mausoleum of Norbut-biya, the Madrasah Emir, and the Tomb of Dahma-i-Shahon.

Don't miss a visit to the nearby Panjshanbe Bazaar, Khujand's vibrant central market, and a stop at Arbob Palace, built in the 1950s in a Soviet architectural style.

Thursday June 5

Khujand to Kokand

Meals: B/D

Transition time: 3 hours

Take a morning drive to Dushanbe over the Anzob pass (2,900 metres above sea level). Once a small market village named for the Persian word for 'Monday' as Monday was market day, the city grew to be an important industrial centre during the Soviet era.

A tour of Dushanbe in the afternoon will include visits to the Arch of Rudaki and the monument to Ismoili Somoni, a giant superhero style statue topped in gold. Most modern Tajiks consider Ismoili Somoni to be the national hero of Tajikistan. You will also visit the Tajik National Museum of Antiquities and the Gurminj Museum of musical instruments which was established in 1990 by renowned Tajik actor and musician Gurminj Zavkibekov to showcase an extensive private collection of musical instruments from his native Badakhshan. Spend the next two nights in Dushanbe.

Friday June 6

Fergana

Meals: B/D

Transition time: 2 hours

On your way to Fergana, you'll stop in Margilan, the heart of Uzbekistan's silk industry—after all, you're travelling along the Silk Road. A visit to a silk factory will showcase the traditional methods of silk production that have sustained the local economy for centuries.

In Margilan, you'll also explore Kum Tapa Market, the largest market in the region, and perhaps even the whole country.

Along the route, you'll participate in a Fergana bread baking master class with tea tasting and visit a renowned ceramics workshop in Rishtan.



DAILY ITINERARY 6/7

Saturday June 7

Margilan to Tashkent

Meals: B/D

Train: 5 hours

You'll take a short drive from Fergana to Margilan, where you'll board a fast train to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. This scenic journey includes a remarkable 19-km tunnel that runs beneath the mountains.

Upon arrival in Tashkent, you'll have the evening free to relax and explore the city at your leisure. Please note that train schedules for the season were not finalised at the time this itinerary was published.

Sunday June 8

Sightseeing Tashkent

Meals: B/L/D

Today, you'll embark on a city tour of Tashkent, exploring key sights including Khast Imman Square and Chorsu Bazaar. You'll delve into the country's recent history at the Museum and Memorial for Victims of Political Repression.

Lunch will be enjoyed at a venue dedicated to the traditional Uzbek dish plov (a type of pilaf).

In the evening, you'll dine in a revolving restaurant situated 104 metres high in the Tashkent TV Tower, offering stunning views of the city.

You'll also see the Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theatre. If performances are scheduled, you may have the opportunity to attend a show.

Monday June 9

Continue Exploring Tashkent

Meals: B/D

You'll have the morning at your leisure, with an optional visit to the Tashkent Railway Museum, home to over a dozen historic steam locomotives.

Afterward, you can explore the Rakhimov family ceramics studio, where you'll see traditional craftsmanship in action.

In the evening, enjoy a special farewell dinner at a local restaurant, celebrating the memorable experiences of your journey.

Tuesday June 10

Back Home or Continue the Trip to Kazakhstan

Meals: B

Flights: 7 hours or 1,5 hours

If you are departing the tour to return to Frankfurt or continue your travels, you'll have a free morning before your afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight back.

An optional extension is available for those interested in spending an additional week exploring Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. You can find more details about this extension on the following pages.



24

2023

OPTIONAL EXTENSION 1/2

While you're in Central Asia, you may want to enhance your experience with an optional post-tour extension to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

This extension requires a minimum of 6 participants and will be led by the same tour manager, who accompanied the main Central Asia tour. It's a great opportunity to further explore the region's diverse cultures and landscapes.

Tuesday June 10

Tashkent to Almaty
Meals: B/D
Flight: 1.5 hours

At the conclusion of the main tour, you will depart Tashkent and take a flight to Almaty, Kazakhstan. Upon arrival, you'll have the afternoon free to relax or explore the city at your own pace.

Wednesday June 11

City Tour in Almaty
Meals: B/D

Spend the day exploring Almaty, starting with visits to the Central State Museum, the colourful Zenkov Cathedral, Republic Square, and the Central Mosque. You'll also take a ride on the aerial tramway to Kok Tobe Hill, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the city and its stunning mountain backdrop.

Thursday June 12

Charyn Canyon
Meals: B

Embark on a day trip to the breathtaking Charyn Canyon, a natural wonder 12 million years in the making. Carved by the Charyn River, this 80-km long canyon is often compared to the Grand Canyon in the US. The views are truly spectacular, and you'll have the option to take walks along the canyon's trails before returning to Almaty for the evening.

Friday June 13

Almaty – Bishkek
Meals: B/D
Transition time: 3 hours

Drive to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Upon arrival, you'll have the afternoon at leisure to relax or explore the city at your own pace.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION 2/2

Saturday June 14

City Tour in Bishkek

Meals: B/D

Today, enjoy a city tour of Bishkek, visiting the vibrant Osh Bazaar, Ala-Too Square, and Victory Square. In the evening, you'll head to the Supara Ethno Complex, where you can explore a village of seven traditional wood and felt Yurts. Experience a cultural performance and dine inside a Yurt, immersing yourself in the local Kyrgyz traditions.

Sunday June 15

Grigoryevka National Park

Meals: B/D

Set off on a day trip to Grigoryevka National Park, where you can walk through the beautiful Grigoriev Gorge, carved by the river, and enjoy the scenic landscapes of wooded slopes, lakes, and waterfalls. Afterwards, witness an eagle hunting demonstration, showcasing the ancient Kyrgyz tradition of working with birds of prey. (No cruelty to animals)

Monday June 16

Homebound

Meals: B

Flights: 6 hours and 3 hours

Depart Bishkek for Istanbul, then continue on to Germany, arriving at Frankfurt International Airport in the afternoon of Tuesday, June 16.



MAPS

MAIN TOUR: TURKMENISTAN, UZBEKISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN



EXTENSION: KAZAKHSTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

To secure your spot on the tour, we kindly request a deposit of €400. Please note that this deposit becomes non-refundable once the minimum number of participants is reached and the tour is confirmed.

We warmly invite you to click [here](#) to complete the online registration and make your €400 deposit, ensuring your place is secured. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to give us a call – we would be delighted to help. Thank you for choosing us, and we truly look forward to

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found [here](#), on the back of the paper registration form, or on the summary page when you complete an online registration.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

