

CENTRAL ASIA “5 STANS” 19 DAYS ITINERARY – 2023

**KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN,
TAJIKISTAN**

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL TO ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN) AUGUST 20, SUNDAY

Welcome to Kazakhstan! Upon arrival to Almaty airport, we will meet you and transfer to hotel for rest after flight. It takes about 20 min. of driving to the hotel. After we check in to hotel and have a short rest, we will



have a Welcome dinner at one of local restaurants where we'll provide a short introduction about Kazakhstan – the largest country of Central Asia with majestic mountains and plains, glaciers, and deep rivers, lakes and deserts, boundless steppes and the woods adjoin. Such variety of landscapes causes existence of rich natural world. Besides natural sights the country has a lot of rich history which is imprinted in numerous monuments: the remains of ancient settlements, barrows, petroglyphs, mausoleums and mosques being important shrines of Muslim culture. Kazakhstan – is a country of most ancient civilization of Eurasian continent, homeland of nomad tribes, a significant part of Great Silk Road – 870 mi. The republic contains 27 thousand monuments of antiquity. Leading industries of Kazakhstan are: metallurgy, chemical and mechanical engineering. Oil processing and production of building materials are also developed industries of Kazakhstan. After dinner today we'll overnight at a hotel in Almaty.

✓ *Dinner*

DAY 2 – ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

AUGUST 21, MONDAY

After breakfast at hotel, we have a full day of sightseeing ahead. Today we visit: Panfilov Park, Zenkov Wooden Cathedral, St. Nicholas Cathedral, National Musical Instruments Museum, Central State Museum, Almaty's Green Bazaar and have a Panoramic view at observatory. Almaty is a name of "the southern capital" of Kazakhstan. It is the largest city of country which was state capital during the period 1927 – 1997. Almaty is located in southeast part of Kazakhstan near border with Kyrgyzstan at heights from 670 to 1100 m. The main sight of Almaty is Panfilov Park named in honor of Panfilov's 28 guardsmen, stretched in northeast part of the city covering near 18 hectares. Located in center of park is majestic Holy Ascension Cathedral. Behind Panfilov park, we come visit to one of biggest market places of Almaty – the Green Bazaar. It is a fine example of a true Asian bazaar. Next we will visit the Museum of National Musical Instruments named in honor of Ykylas Dukenov, People's Composer. It was opened in 1980s and contains many types of Kazakh national musical instruments most ancient of which are dated to 17th century. In the southern part of the city we visit Central State Museum – place to see unique archaeological finds telling history of Kazakhstan since the most ancient times to the present. Museum displays over 120 thousand exhibits. Before dinner excursion to falcon farm with a short show program. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll overnight at a hotel in Almaty.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 3 – ALMATY – BISHKEK – 170 MI. (KAZAKHSTAN/KYRGYZSTAN)

AUGUST 22, TUESDAY

Today after breakfast at the hotel we depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via newly built highway. En route which will take approximately 3 hours we will enjoy beautiful landscape. Soon we will welcome you to Kyrgyzstan. On the way we will provide short information about Kyrgyzstan. Republic located in northeast of Central Asia, crossed by two of the world's major mountain ranges: Tien Shan and Pamir. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with strong continental climate, 93% of its territory is located at over 350 meters above sea level. In the afternoon we will arrive to the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek. Check in to the hotel for a short rest and have lunch at local restaurant. For the second part of the day we will have a sightseeing of Bishkek - visit Central Museum, Panfilov park, the local bazaar. After dinner at one of the local restaurants followed by a folk show program, today we will overnight in Bishkek.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



DAY 4 – BISHKEK – ISSYK KUL – 165 MI. (KYRGYZSTAN)

AUGUST 23, WEDNESDAY

After breakfast at hotel we'll transfer to the Issyk Kul Lake, the pearl of Kyrgyzstan. En route we'll visit Burana Tower located in the city of Tokmok, 50 mi. from Bishkek. Today we'll have lunch in Kyrgyz family in Tokmok city. After a lunch break we'll continue on driving to

Issyk Kul Lake through Boom Gorge. Issyk Kul is one of the largest mountain lakes in the world and the most beautiful lake in Kyrgyzstan. It is located in the north-east part of the republic between two ridges of the Northern Tien Shan: Kungey Ala-Too and Terskey Ala-Too at the height of 1609 m. above sea level. Excursions will also include visiting petroglyphs of Paleolithic era and local museum in Cholpon-Ata. Upon arrival we'll check into the hotel and have dinner at one of the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Issyk Kul Lake.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 5 – ISSYK KUL – CHOPON-ATA – GRIGORIEVKA GORGE – BISHKEK– TASHKENT (KYRGYZSTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 24, THURSDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll transfer to Grigorievka Gorge. Grigorievka Gorge is located 45 mi. from the city of Cholpon-Ata. Gentle slopes of a valley are covered with a dense fir forest. Length of a valley is 25 mi. The Grigorievka Gorge is considered to be one of the most picturesque in Issyk Kul area. Today we'll have a relaxing day in the nature. After lunch at local restaurant we'll return to Bishkek and transfer to the airport for flight to Tashkent by HY778 at 18:40 (subject to change). Welcome to Uzbekistan! Upon your arrival to Tashkent airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check. En route short introduction about Uzbekistan – one of the economically developed states of the Central Asian region, occupying a bit more than 11% of the territory of Central Asia. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the cotton growing, silk production, fruit and vegetable production and irrigation construction. Overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 6 – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 25, FRIDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll visit old part of the city: Khast Imam Complex which displays unique Osman Koran thought to be the world's oldest Koran. Chorsu bazaar is one of the oldest, biggest bazaars of Tashkent. Madrasah Kukeldash – is a significant architectural sights of the 16th century. After lunch we will continue on to modern part of the city: Independence Square called Mustakillik, the main square of Tashkent, flanked by largest public buildings and walls of fountains. A. Navoi theatre square built in 1947 by Japanese prisoners in World War II. Visits to museum of Amir Timur and museum of Handicraft Art will end our excursion of Tashkent, and we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight at a hotel in Tashkent.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 7 – TASHKENT – SAMARKAND – 190 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 26, SATURDAY

After breakfast we will take a train to world famous Samarkand located 190 mi. from Tashkent. The road to Samarkand passes through Syrdarya and Jizzakh provinces and takes approximately 3 hours. We will arrive to Samarkand in the afternoon, check in to a hotel and have lunch. After short rest we'll start our excursion of Samarkand by visiting Paper Mills Factory where we'll have a presentation of paper production from mulberry tree, Afrasiab Museum, Ulugbek's observatory – dated to 1428 - 1429 – known as biggest observatory of the East with best equipment to the time. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll transfer to a hotel for overnight in Samarkand.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 8 – SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 27, SUNDAY

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Samarkand. Visit heart of the city – Registan Square which played a great role in commercial and scientific life of the time. Gur Emir Mausoleum - mausoleum for the males of Timurid dynasty, a real masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. Shaki Zinda Necropolis in the northern outskirts of Samarkand. Bibi-Khanum Mosque construction of which started in 1399 after



Victorian campaign of Timur to India. Central bazaar of Samarkand – Siab where we'll taste famous round bread (non) made only in Samarkand. After this long day, we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight in Samarkand.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 9 – SAMARKAND – BUKHARA – 172 MI. (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 28, MONDAY

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart Samarkand for Bukhara. Stop on the way at the ruins of medieval monument Caravanserai Rabat-i-Malik. Continue driving to Bukhara via Gijduvan where we'll visit Abdulla's pottery house where we'll be offered short presentation and a cup of tea. Upon arrival to Bukhara, we'll accommodate at the hotel. Visit Chor Minor memorial. Today we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and will overnight in Bukhara.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 10 – BUKHARA (UZBEKISTAN)

AUGUST 29, TUESDAY

After breakfast we'll have a full day of sightseeing of this ancient city. Bukhara is one of most historically rich cities on the Great Silk Road attracting attention of thousands of people with its unique heritage. Today we'll visit: Samanid dynasty mausoleum known to be one of the best architectural samples of the Samanid period (875 - 999). Chashma Ayub Mausoleum – legend says of the Prophet Job. Bolo – Khauz Mosque. The Ark Fortress – Citadel is the most ancient memorial of Bukhara, on archeological matter dated to the 3rd century B.C. Kalon Complex – consists of minaret, Mosque and Madrasah both of which are still active. Magoki Attori Mosque. Ulugbek and Abdulazizi Khan madrasahs. Next we'll visit the most popular place of Bukhara – reservoir Lyabi Khauz, complex built in 1620 by khans' dignitary Nodir Devan Begi. We'll end the day with a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Today we'll overnight in Bukhara.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 11 – BUKHARA – FARAB – TURKMENABAT – MARY – 290 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/ TURKMENISTAN)

AUGUST 30, WEDNESDAY

After breakfast we'll continue with half a day of sightseeing in Bukhara, visiting: former summer palace of Bukhara Emir Said Olimkhan – last Emir of Bukhara Sitara – iMokhi – Khosa, Museum of Decorative- Applied Art. After lunch we say goodbye to Uzbekistan as we make our way to Turkmenistan border which is almost 1.5 hours of driving away. Upon arrival to the border at ~13.00-13.30 point we'll go through custom procedures. After you cross the wire border & passport check you will find a minibus (subject to be available) which will take you ~800 meters distance to Turkmenistan Customs. Upon arrival proceed with border passing, visa obtaining (if required) & customs procedures. After border passing formalities you need to walk around ~150meters to the next check point where you will find a minibus (subject to be available) which will take you ~600 meters to the last check point where you will find your Turkmenistan guide & transport waiting for you. After the last check point at the border zone you will drive ~280km & 4 hours to Mary via Turkmenabat crossing one of the biggest deserts in the world known as Garagum Desert which means "black sand". En route we will stop to visit some amazing sand dunes of Garagum Desert. Upon arrival in Mary accommodation & rest. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Mary.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 12 – MARY – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

AUGUST 31, THURSDAY

After breakfast, we will have a morning drive ~35 km & 35min to Bayramaly to have Sightseeing tour of Old Merv which was also known in the past with its title name: Mary Shahu Jahan-King of the World which for about 300 years became one of the biggest city in the World 8 years Capital of World Islamic Khalifat. Today's excursion at Old Merv will include: Gyz Gala & Oglan Gala (VI-VII), Complex of Askhabs (VIII-XIV), Gyaur Gala (IV BC), Erk Gala (VI BC), Soltan Gala (XI), Shrine & Pilgrimage Complex of Yusup Hemadani: famous scholar who was the founder of one of ways in Sufism whose tomb became a popular pilgrimage sites in Turkmenistan & even among surrounding countries like Iran & etc, Soltan Sanjar Mausoleum (XII), Ibn Zeid Mausoleum (XII). After Old Merv drive back to Mary. Lunch you will have at local restaurant. After lunch break proceed with Sightseeing in Mary visiting: Local United Museum of History, Ethnography, Flora & Fauna of Mary, Orthodox Church built by Russians at the end of XIX century, Regional Mosque of Mary Province, Central Theater of Mary, Convention & Conference Center "Ruhiet Koshgi", Central Park & Monument of Mollanepes-the National Classic Poet who lived in Mary in XVIII-XIXcc. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Mary for flight to Ashgabat by flight T5-134. Dep: 18.55 & Arr: at 19.35. (subject to change). Upon arrival transfer to hotel with en route stopping have dinner at local restaurant. Note: Passports & 2 colored photos required to be left at hotel reception for registration at the City Tourist Board (CTB) in Ashgabat. Upon arrival we'll be transferred to have dinner at local restaurant. Accommodate and overnight at a hotel in Ashgabat.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 13 – ASHGABAT – NISSA – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 1, FRIDAY

Today after breakfast we'll have a full day Sightseeing in/around Ashgabat. Today's sightseeing includes: Memorial Complex with Monuments for Victims of World War II, Patriotic Wars of XIXcc & Monument for the Victims of the Earthquake of 1948,

“Turkmenbashynyn Ruhý Metjidi”: the largest mosque in Central Asia & Mausoleum Complex of the tombs of Turkmenbasha (first President of Turkmenistan S. Nyýazow) and his parents with his brothers, Old Nissa- The Sanctuary of Parhian Kings. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break you will continue with a half day sightseeing in Ashgabat including: Museum of Turkmen Carpets, Park dedicated to Turkmen horses-the pride of Turkmen, Gulistan Bazar which is known as “Russian Bazaar” in public, Monument of Lenin which was erected in 1927 and was one those few monuments which survived the earthquake of 1948, making it the oldest standing monuments in Ashgabat, Ertogrul Gazy Mosque. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. After dinner break night driving city tour along the main avenues/streets of Ashgabat including one stop near Palace of Happiness to have colorful views of night lights of Ashgabat which makes it one of the spectacular cities of Central Asia. Overnight in Ashgabat.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 14 – ASHGABAT – DASHOGUZ (TURKMENISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 2, SATURDAY

Today after breakfast you will have another full day of sightseeing in Ashgabat which will include: Complex of Monuments of Oguz Han & Sons surrounded with largest in the world fountain complex. The complex includes 27 computerized fountains, with the statue of the founder of the Turkmen nation, Oguz Khan, installed on a central podium, Ashgabat’s famous “Altyn Asyr” Oriental Bazaar- Jygyldyk which is located in ~16km to the north of Ashgabat in its new location/complex built in 2011. After Bazaar drive to the Hippodrome of Ashgabat to watch the Horse Race which is free to enter for all which gives a chance to see & familiarize with the best horses of Turkmenistan: Turkmen Horses-Akhalteke which thought to be the rootstock of Arab, Thoroughbred and etc in motion and “horse crazy” people rooting for their favorite horses without any betting. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants in Ashgabat. After lunch break proceed with SS includes: National Museum of History. After Museum proceed with Sightseeing of Monuments of Archabil Shayoly (Berzengi) to have a close impression of the new part of Ashgabat with its modern buildings, monuments & parks which includes: Monument of Constitution, “Alem” Culture & Recreation Center, Arch of Neutrality: famous rocket & tripod style built monument symbolizing neutral status of Turkmenistan. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Ashgabat for flight to Dashoguz by flight T5- 113. Dep: 18.55 & Arr: at 19.45. (subject to change). Upon arrival transfer to have dinner at local restaurant. After dinner accommodation & rest. Overnight in Dashoguz.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 15 – DASHOGUZ – KUNYA – URGENCH – KHIVA – 184 MI. (TURKMENISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 3, SUNDAY

After breakfast we will have a morning drive ~110 km which will take 1,5 hours to Koneurgench-the capital of Khorezmshahs (III-XVI cc). The sightseeing of the Old City will include: Turabek Hanum Mausoleum (XIV), Kutlug Timur Minaret (XIV)-one of the tallest minarets in Central Asia, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum (XIII), Academy of Horezm (III-XIII), Il

Arslan Mausoleum (XII), Mausoleums of Najm Ed Din (XIII) & Soltan Ali (XVI) located near Dash Metjit/Medrese (XIX). After sightseeing of Koneurgench drive back to Dashoguz where you will stop for a lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break transfer to the border pass "Dashoguz-Shavat" located in ~15km from Dashoguz. Upon arrival proceed through passport control & customs procedures. After you come out



from the Turkmenistan Customs building you will walk ~100 meters to the next check point there will be a minibus (subject to be available) shuttling for ~1000 meters from Turkmenistan Customs to Real Wire Border located between Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan. After you crossing the wire border & last passport check in Turkmenistan side of the border at ~15.00 you will cross in to Uzbekistan & walk for around 200 meters to Uzbekistan Customs where you start again passport control & customs procedures. After you come out of Uzbekistan Customs building you need to walk around 100 meters to get through the last check point where you will find your guide welcoming you back to Uzbekistan. After border formalities on both sides we'll continue our way to Khiva. Upon arrival we'll accommodate in hotel in Khiva for rest and relaxation. Khiva is a fascinating place, walk through Ichan Kala – old walled city of Khiva, will give you an insight into the life led there from ancient days up to the present time. We'll have a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Overnight at a hotel in Khiva.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 16 – KHIVA – URGENCH – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 4, MONDAY

After breakfast at hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing in Khiva: visit Ichan Kala – a UNESCO World Heritage Site including madrasah Muhammad Amin Khan, Kelta Minar, Kunya Ark, madrasah Muhammad Rakhimkhan. We'll have lunch at local restaurant and continue sightseeing program: visit Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Islam Khodja Minaret and Madrasah, Djuma Mosque and Minaret, Tash Hovli Palace. After dinner at the local restaurant we'll proceed to airport for a flight back to Tashkent leaving at 08:40PM and arriving at 10:10PM (subject to change). Upon arrival to Tashkent, we'll accommodate in hotel for overnight and rest.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 17 – TASHKENT – KHUJAND – 104 MI. (UZBEKISTAN/TAJIKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 5, TUESDAY

After early breakfast at the hotel in Tashkent today we'll head on to a one-day excursion of Tajikistan. We'll drive to the border check point Oybek and after border crossing formalities we'll continue on to city Khujand. Upon arrival we'll accommodate at the hotel after a long drive and start sightseeing. Khujand – the country's second largest city – situated in the north

of Tajikistan and is one of its most ancient, founded about 2300 years ago during the time of Alexander the Great. Standing in a favorable location in the Ferghana valley, Khujand prospered for a long time, becoming rich and building palaces, mosques, and citadels. In the 13th century it was conquered and destroyed by the Genghis Khan's army. We'll have a close city tour in second part of the day, and end the day with a dinner followed by a folk show program. We'll overnight in Khujand.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 18 — KHUJAND — OYBEK — TASHKENT — 104 MI. (TAJIKISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 6, WEDNESDAY

After breakfast at the hotel we'll continue sightseeing of Khujand, visit ancient part of Khujand: Timurmalik fortress, Archeology and History museums, Orient bazaar Panjshanbe – famous Panjshanbe city market is one of the most interesting sights of Khujand. Near the market we'll stop by Sheikh Muslihiddin Mosque and Mausoleum, Museum of Archaeology and Fortification. We'll have lunch at the local restaurant and in the afternoon transfer back to Tashkent. Once back to Uzbekistan, we'll have a rest at the hotel before making a long way back home. We'll have a Farewell dinner followed by a show program and return to hotel for overnight in Tashkent.

✓ *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 19 — TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

SEPTEMBER 7, THURSDAY

Today is the last day of the tour. We'll have breakfast at the hotel and arrange transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of tour. Thank you!

✓ *Breakfast*

PRICE — \$ 8700 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE
(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT — \$ 1125)

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES IN 2023:

START:

- March – 26
- April – 16
- April – 30
- May – 14
- May – 28
- August – 20
- September – 3
- September – 17
- October – 1
- October – 15

END:

- April – 13
- May – 4
- May – 18
- June – 1
- June – 15
- September – 7
- September – 21
- October – 5
- October – 19
- November – 2

HOTELS:

❖ Almaty (2 nights)	<u><i>Kazzhol Park or similar</i></u>
❖ Bishkek (1 night)	<u><i>Ramada or similar</i></u>
❖ Issyk Kul (1 night)	<u><i>Kapriz or similar</i></u>
❖ Tashkent (4 nights)	<u><i>Tashkent Palace or similar</i></u>
❖ Samarkand (2 nights)	<u><i>Diyora or similar</i></u>
❖ Bukhara (2 nights)	<u><i>Sasha and Son or similar</i></u>
❖ Mary (1 night)	<u><i>Mary or similar</i></u>
❖ Ashgabat (2 nights)	<u><i>Yulduz or similar</i></u>
❖ Dashoguz (1 night)	<u><i>Dashoguz or similar</i></u>
❖ Khiva (1 night)	<u><i>Asia Khiva or similar</i></u>
❖ Khujand (1 night)	<u><i>Parliament or similar</i></u>

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Letter Of Invitation;
- Hotel Accommodation (double room sharing);
- Full Board Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner);*
- Bottled water (1 lt per person per day);
- All Land Transfers with A/C;
- Internal Flights (Bishkek-Tashkent, Mary- Ashgabat, Ashgabat-Dashoguz, Urgench-Tashkent);
- Railway ticket (Tashkent-Samarkand);
- Accompany of guide/escort;
- Guided sightseeing;
- Entrance Fees;
- Show programs.

* Meals: Breakfast at the hotel. Lunch/Dinner consists of: 1 salad, 1 soup, 1 entrée, bread, tea.

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Tips in hotels, to the guides and drivers;
- Any extra expenses for additional services in hotels;
- Video and photo camera charges.