CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE



GROUP TOUR · 13 DAYS

Highlights tour of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

Almaty – Tashkent · Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

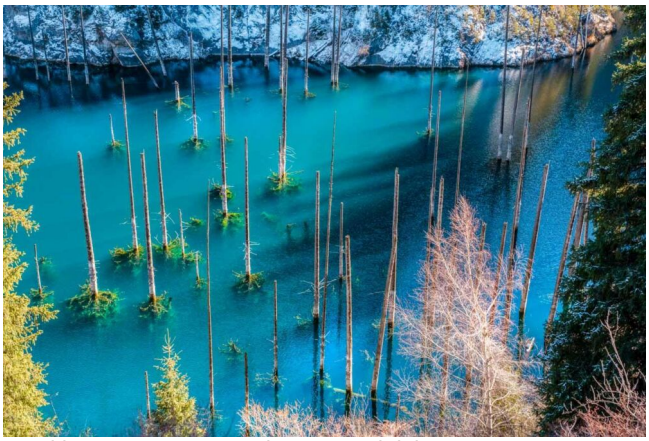
Duration 13 days, 12 nights	Start and end Almaty – Tashkent	Best time to visit Apr–Jun, Aug–Oct
Group tour from $2,570 per person	Tour type Culture, Hiking, Multi-country, Nature, Silk Road	Difficulty Easy
Flights and train A flight and 2 train journeys included	Departures 6 guaranteed dates	

Prices and dates valid for 2027 departures. Issued 26 November 2026.

Tour highlights

Set off on a group journey across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, where snow-capped peaks, turquoise lakes and ancient Silk Road cities await. Begin in Almaty, Kazakhstan's leafy former capital, before venturing into the dramatic red rock formations of Charyn Canyon. Continue to the alpine Kolsay Lakes, often called the "Pearls of the Tian Shan", and the submerged forest of Kaindy Lake, where sunken spruce trees rise from crystal-clear water. Crossing into Kyrgyzstan, explore Karakol, the red cliffs of Jeti-Oguz Gorge and the fairy-tale rock formations of Skazka Canyon. The journey continues with a taste of nomadic life in Bokonbaevo village, home to Kyrgyzstan's eagle-hunting traditions, and a felt-making master class in Kochkor before arriving in Bishkek. From there, fly to Uzbekistan for the heart of the Silk Road: the vibrant streets of Tashkent, the majestic monuments of Samarkand and the beautifully preserved old town of Bukhara. An optional 14-day version adds the walled city of Khiva.

Difficulty: Easy. Easy sightseeing tour with optional moderate sections: the walk of about 40 minutes down into Charyn Canyon to the river (and back up) and the walk down the hillside to Kaindy Lake. Several long road days of 200–440 km, one land border crossing (Kegen) and the Shymbulak cable car up to about 3,200 m.



Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan 7-day tour with lakes



Car driving in Charyn Canyon

Where you'll stay

Night 1	**Almaty**	Grand Sapphire Hotel or similar
Night 2	**Kolsai Lakes**	Alban Guesthouse or Taushelek Guesthouse or similar
Nights 3–4	**Karakol**	Green Yard Hotel or similar
Night 5	**Kochkor**	Nomad Lodge Hotel or Bagysh Hotel or similar
Night 6	**Bishkek**	Bishkek Boutique Hotel or similar
Night 7	**Tashkent**	Human Hotel or similar
Nights 8–9	**Samarkand**	Arba Hotel or similar
Nights 10–11	**Bukhara**	Rangrez Hotel or similar
Night 12	**Tashkent**	Human Hotel or similar
Optional extension	**Khiva**	Khiva Residence Hotel or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Almaty - Arrival & City & Mountain Tour

Arrive in Almaty in the early morning and transfer to the hotel for some well-deserved rest after the flight. Later, begin your introduction to Kazakhstan's largest city, beautifully situated beneath the snow-capped peaks of the Tien Shan.

Start with a visit to the lively Green Bazaar, followed by a walk through Panfilov Park, home to the impressive wooden Zenkov Cathedral and the Memorial of Glory and Eternal Flame.

Continue to Kok-Tobe Hill, one of Almaty's most famous viewpoints, offering spectacular panoramic views across the city and surrounding mountains. Descend by cable car before continuing into the mountains to Medeo, renowned as one of the world's highest skating rinks.

From Medeo, take the cable car up to Shymbulak Ski Resort, reaching an altitude of around 3,200 metres. Enjoy breathtaking alpine scenery before returning to Almaty in the evening.

Overnight in Almaty.

Overnight	**Almaty** · Grand Sapphire Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast

DAY 2

Almaty - Charyn Canyon - Kolsay Lakes

After breakfast, depart Almaty and travel east towards one of Kazakhstan's most spectacular natural attractions, Charyn Canyon.

Often compared to the Grand Canyon, Charyn stretches for more than 150 kilometres and is renowned for its dramatic landscapes. Explore the famous Valley of Castles, where wind and water have carved the sandstone into impressive towers, cliffs, and fortress-like formations.

Take a scenic walk down into the canyon, approximately 40 minutes, until reaching the Charyn River. Surrounded by striking red and orange rock walls, the area offers excellent opportunities for photography and quiet appreciation of the landscape.

Enjoy lunch at a cosy café near the canyon before continuing to the Kolsay Lakes, a tranquil mountain destination nestled in the northern Tien Shan.

Arrive in the late afternoon and settle into a welcoming guesthouse. Breathe in the fresh mountain air, admire the peaceful alpine surroundings, and enjoy a homemade dinner before relaxing for the evening.

Overnight at a guesthouse near Kolsay Lakes.

Overnight	**Kolsai Lakes** · Alban Guesthouse or Taushelek Guesthouse or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Almaty – Charyn Canyon Charyn Canyon – Kolsai Lakes

DAY 3

Kolsay Lakes - Kaindy Lake - Kegen Border - Karakol

By road, approximately 250 km. After breakfast, check out and continue to the extraordinary Kaindy Lake, famous for its mysterious submerged spruce forest.

The lake was created following a powerful earthquake in 1911, when a landslide formed a natural dam and flooded the surrounding forest. Today, the weathered tree trunks rising dramatically from the turquoise waters create an unforgettable and almost otherworldly scene.

Walk down from the hillside to the lake to enjoy the views, or, as an optional experience arranged locally, make the journey on horseback.

On the return journey, stop at a local village home for a hearty homemade lunch. Continue towards the Kegen border, where you will complete the necessary crossing formalities before entering Kyrgyzstan.

From the border, continue by road to Karakol, a charming town located at the foot of the Tien Shan mountains.

Overnight in Karakol.

Overnight	**Karakol** · Green Yard Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Kolsai Lakes – Lake Kaindy Lake Kaindy – Karakol (250 km)

DAY 4

Karakol - Jety-Oguz Gorge - Karakol

Today, discover the cultural and historical highlights of Karakol.

Begin with a visit to the colourful Dungan Mosque, a remarkable wooden structure built without the use of nails. Continue to the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral, another beautiful example of the town's distinctive architectural heritage.

The morning concludes with a visit to the museum dedicated to Nikolay Przhevalsky, the renowned Russian explorer whose expeditions contributed greatly to the mapping and study of Central Asia.

Later, head into the mountains to explore the spectacular Jety-Oguz Gorge, meaning "Seven Bulls." The gorge is famous for its dramatic red sandstone formations rising above dense green spruce forests.

Admire the legendary rock formations known as the Seven Bulls and the Broken Heart, while enjoying the striking contrast between the red cliffs and surrounding mountain scenery.

Return to Karakol and check into the hotel for a relaxing evening.

Overnight in Karakol.

Overnight	**Karakol** · Green Yard Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Karakol – Jeti Oguz Jeti Oguz – Karakol

DAY 5

Karakol - Skazka Canyon - Bokonbaevo - Kochkor

By road, approximately 250 km. After breakfast, continue along the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul, one of Kyrgyzstan's most spectacular natural landscapes.

Visit Skazka Canyon, or the "Fairytale Canyon," where centuries of wind and water erosion have transformed colourful red and yellow clay into dramatic towers, ridges, and castle-like formations. Some formations are even said to resemble sections of the Great Wall of China.

Continue to Bokonbaevo village, where you will have the opportunity to meet local eagle hunters and witness a traditional falconry demonstration. This ancient Kyrgyz tradition has been passed down through generations and remains an important part of the region's cultural heritage.

Enjoy lunch during the journey before continuing towards Kochkor, a welcoming village renowned for its traditional felt handicrafts.

Arrive in Kochkor in the evening, followed by dinner and a relaxing overnight stay.

Overnight in Kochkor.

Overnight	**Kochkor** · Nomad Lodge Hotel or Bagysh Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Karakol – Skazka Canyon Skazka Canyon – Bokonbaevo Bokonbaevo – Kochkor (250 km)

DAY 6

Kochkor - Bishkek

By road, approximately 200 km. Begin the day by discovering one of Kyrgyzstan's most distinctive traditional crafts with a felt-making master class in Kochkor.

Local artisans will introduce you to the traditional techniques used to create colourful shyrdaks, the famous Kyrgyz felt carpets. Learn about the craftsmanship, patterns, and symbolism behind these intricate designs, with the opportunity to experience the process yourself.

After the workshop, depart for Bishkek, arriving in the afternoon.

Overnight in Bishkek.

Overnight	**Bishkek** · Bishkek Boutique Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Kochkor – Bishkek (200 km)

DAY 7

Bishkek - Tashkent by evening flight

Evening flight. After breakfast, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Bishkek.

Begin with the Monument to Manas, dedicated to the legendary hero of Kyrgyz epic tradition. Continue to Ala-Too Square, the city's main central square, where you can witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard.

Visit the State Historical Museum to discover more about Kyrgyzstan's rich and complex history, followed by stops at monuments dedicated to important historical figures, including Kurmanjan-Datka and Lenin.

Take a relaxing walk through leafy Oak Park, known for its sculptures, green spaces, and Fine Arts Gallery.

In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for your evening flight to Tashkent. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, check in, and relax.

Overnight in Tashkent.

Overnight	**Tashkent** · Human Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Bishkek – Tashkent (flight)

DAY 8

Tashkent - Samarkand train

Evening train. Today, explore Tashkent, Uzbekistan's vibrant capital, where historic neighbourhoods and modern city life come together.

Begin at Khast-Imam Square, the spiritual heart of the city, surrounded by historic madrasahs, mosques, and mausoleums. Continue to the colourful Chorsu Bazaar, where you can experience the lively atmosphere of local trade while browsing stalls filled with spices, fresh produce, dried fruits, textiles, and handicrafts.

After lunch, visit Independence Square and Amir Temur Square, two of the city's most prominent public spaces.

A highlight of the day is a ride through the Tashkent Metro, famous for its elaborately decorated stations, each with its own distinctive artistic character.

In the evening, board a comfortable train to Samarkand, the legendary jewel of the Silk Road. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and enjoy a well-earned rest.

Overnight in Samarkand.

Overnight	**Samarkand** · Arba Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Tashkent – Samarkand (train)

DAY 9

Samarkand - The Heart of the Silk Road

After breakfast, dedicate the day to discovering the magnificent city of Samarkand, one of the most celebrated destinations of the ancient Silk Road.

Begin at the spectacular Registan Square, surrounded by three magnificent madrasahs: Ulugbek, Sher-Dor, and Tilla-Qori. Their richly decorated façades and intricate tilework make Registan one of the most impressive architectural ensembles in Central Asia.

Continue to the Gur-e Amir Mausoleum, the final resting place of Tamerlane and members of his dynasty. Admire its elegant turquoise dome and richly decorated interior.

After lunch, visit the monumental Bibi-Khanym Mosque, once among the largest mosques in the Islamic world.

Continue to the atmospheric Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis, a remarkable complex of blue-tiled mausoleums arranged along a historic medieval passage.

End the day at the Ulugbek Observatory, where the celebrated astronomer Ulugbek studied and charted the stars centuries ago.

Return to the hotel for the evening.

Overnight in Samarkand.

Overnight	**Samarkand** · Arba Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast

DAY 10

Samarkand - Bukhara

By road, approximately 280 km. After breakfast, depart for Bukhara, one of the most atmospheric and historically significant cities of the Silk Road.

The journey crosses the vast Kyzylkum plains, landscapes once traversed by caravans travelling between the great oasis cities of Central Asia.

Upon arrival in Bukhara, begin exploring the historic old town, where ancient domes, mosques, madrasahs, and narrow streets preserve the atmosphere of a bygone era.

Visit the magnificent Po-i-Kalyan Complex, dominated by its famous minaret, which once served as a landmark for travellers approaching the city.

Continue to the Miri-Arab Madrasa, Magoki-Attori Mosque, and Ulugbek Madrasa, each reflecting Bukhara's long tradition of religious scholarship and architecture.

End the day at Lyabi-Hauz Square, a peaceful gathering place centred around a historic pool and shaded by mature mulberry trees.

Check into the hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Overnight in Bukhara.

Overnight	**Bukhara** · Rangrez Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Samarkand – Bukhara (280 km)

DAY 11

Bukhara - Heritage, Culture & Culinary Experience

After breakfast, continue your exploration of historic Bukhara.

Begin with the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, one of the finest surviving examples of early Islamic architecture, followed by the Chashma Ayub Mausoleum, associated with the ancient legend of the Prophet Job.

Explore the lively local bazaar before visiting the elegant Bolo-Khauz Mosque and the imposing Ark Citadel, the historic heart of Bukhara's rulers. Within the citadel area, discover the old Zindan prison, offering a glimpse into the more dramatic chapters of the city's past.

In the afternoon, venture beyond the city centre to the magnificent Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace, the former summer residence of the last emir of Bukhara.

Continue to the Mausoleum of Bakhouddin Naqshbandi, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Central Asia.

As evening approaches, enjoy a special cultural and culinary experience in a traditional Uzbek home. Take part in a plov master class, learning from local hosts how to prepare Uzbekistan's most famous dish. Afterwards, sit down together to enjoy a homemade dinner and experience the warmth of Uzbek hospitality.

Overnight in Bukhara.

Overnight	**Bukhara** · Rangrez Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12

Bukhara - Tashkent train

Afternoon train. After breakfast, enjoy a relaxed final morning in Bukhara.

Take some time to wander through the atmospheric old town and soak up the city's unique combination of historic architecture, traditional bazaars, and everyday local life. After check-out, enjoy a leisurely guided walk through the old streets and capture your final impressions of this remarkable Silk Road city.

In the afternoon, transfer to the railway station for a comfortable high-speed train journey to Tashkent.

Upon arrival, meet your driver and transfer to the hotel for check-in and an evening at leisure.

Overnight in Tashkent.

Overnight	**Tashkent** · Human Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Bukhara – Tashkent (train)

DAY 13

Tashkent - Departure

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before check-out by 12:00.

At the appropriate time, transfer to the international airport for your onward flight.

Your journey through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan comes to an end, leaving you with unforgettable memories of dramatic mountain landscapes, ancient Silk Road cities, vibrant local traditions, and warm Central Asian hospitality.

Meals	Breakfast

DAY
14

OPTIONAL

Optional 14-Day Programme - Khiva Extension

Total Price: USD 2,730 per person (shared basis). Single accommodation supplement: USD 395. Including economy-class flight ticket from Urgench to Tashkent.

Day 12 | Bukhara - Khiva
By road, approximately 460 km. After breakfast, leave Bukhara and embark on a scenic journey towards Khiva. The route takes us across the vast Kyzylkum Desert and alongside the Amudarya River, following landscapes that have connected the great Silk Road cities for centuries.

Enjoy lunch en route before continuing to Khiva, one of Central Asia's best-preserved medieval cities. Upon arrival, step into the atmospheric old town, where ancient walls, turquoise domes, minarets, and narrow lanes create the feeling of an open-air museum.

The remainder of the day is at leisure. Take a leisurely stroll through the historic streets, browse local bazaars, discover traditional artisan workshops, or simply enjoy the unique atmosphere of this remarkable Silk Road city.

Overnight in Khiva.

Day 13 | Khiva - Urgench - Tashkent
By road, approximately 30 km. Evening flight. After breakfast, spend the morning exploring Ichan-Kala, the magnificent walled heart of Khiva and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Walk through the historic old town and discover some of its most remarkable architectural treasures, including the Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Kunya-Ark Fortress, Islam Hajji Minaret, Tash Khauli Palace, Juma Mosque, and Muhammad Aminkhan Madrasah.

After lunch, continue to the Avesta Museum, dedicated to the ancient Zoroastrian traditions and the history surrounding the Avesta, one of the world's oldest religious texts.

Later, transfer to Urgench Airport for your evening flight to Tashkent. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and relax after the journey.

Overnight in Tashkent.

Day 14 | Tashkent - Departure
After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the international airport for your onward flight.

Depending on your flight schedule, breakfast will be served at the hotel or a packed breakfast/lunch box will be provided for the journey.

Your unforgettable Central Asian adventure comes to an end, taking with you lasting memories of the mountains and landscapes of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the legendary Silk Road cities of Uzbekistan.

Overnight	**Khiva** · Khiva Residence Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Bukhara – Khiva (460 km) Khiva – Tashkent (flight)

What's included

Included

- Accommodation at the hotels listed below, or at similar properties of the same category, in double/twin rooms with breakfast. Early check-in on Day 1 in Almaty is included; check-in at other hotels is at 14:00, check-out at 12:00.
- Accommodation at the guest house in Kolsay (twin accommodation).
- Meals - daily breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners as per the program.
- Entrance fees to the monuments and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Falconry demonstration and felt-making master class in Kyrgyzstan.
- Services of English-speaking local guides for sightseeing.
- Comfortable air-conditioned transportation throughout the tour, including all airport-hotel-airport transfers.
- Railway transfer from Tashkent to Samarkand and from Bukhara to Tashkent (economy class). In the 14-day Khiva version: Tashkent to Samarkand only.
- Flight ticket Bishkek - Tashkent (economy class).
- Flight ticket Urgench - Tashkent (economy class) - 14-day Khiva version only.
- Note: tickets for high-speed trains are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed in advance.

Not included

- International flight tickets.
- Pre-tour accommodation: USD 110 per night (single room) / USD 130 per night (double room).
- Post-tour accommodation: USD 75 per night (single room) / USD 95 per night (double room).
- Meals not mentioned above.
- Medical expenses and travel insurance.
- Porterage at hotels, railway stations, and airports.
- Tips for guides and drivers.

Prices and dates

Valid for 2027 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
3 Stans in 13 days	**$2,570**	+ $370
3 Stans in 14 days with Khiva Extension	**$2,730**	+ $395

Same price on all departures. 20% deposit, balance 30 days before tour starting date.

Optional extras

- Pre-tour accommodation (1 night): double/twin room $130, single room $110
- Post-tour accommodation (1 night): double/twin room $95, single room $75

Guaranteed group departures

2027

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
10 Apr 2027	22 Apr 2027	Sat – Thu	Available
8 May 2027	20 May 2027	Sat – Thu	Available
29 May 2027	10 Jun 2027	Sat – Thu	Available
21 Aug 2027	2 Sep 2027	Sat – Thu	Available
18 Sep 2027	30 Sep 2027	Sat – Thu	Available
9 Oct 2027	21 Oct 2027	Sat – Thu	Available

Availability as of 26 November 2026. Check current availability on the tour page.

Book or ask a question

Choose a date or ask us anything about this tour. We usually reply within one working day.

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