



Across the Steppes and Silk Road

3 Stans Discovery Tour: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan

Countries: Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan

Tour length: 14 days / 13 nights

Itinerary: Almaty - Charyn Canyon - Kolsay Lakes - Kaindy - Karakol - Djety-Oguz gorge – Skazka - Bokonbaevo village - Kochkor - Bishkek - Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara – Khiva – Tashkent

From the boundless **steppes of Kazakhstan** to the emerald **valleys of Kyrgyzstan** and the timeless **cities of Uzbekistan** — this journey reveals the heart of Central Asia.

Travel through dramatic canyons, crystal-clear alpine lakes, and mountain villages where ancient nomadic traditions are still alive.

Continue along the **legendary Silk Road** to the blue-domed masterpieces of **Samarkand and Bukhara** — cities that once dazzled merchants and scholars from every corner of the world.

A perfect blend of **nature, culture, and history**, this adventure offers an unforgettable look at the landscapes and peoples that define the spirit of Central Asia.

Guaranteed arrival dates in 2026:

Group #1: 09.05 – 22.06.2026

Group #2: 30.05 – 12.06.2026

Group #3: 22.08 – 04.09.2026

Group #4: 19.09 – 02.10.2026

Group #5: 10.10 – 23.10.2026

Guaranteed arrival dates in 2027:

Group #1: 08.05 – 21.06.2027




Group #2: 29.05 – 11.06.2027

Group #3: 21.08 – 03.09.2027

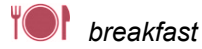
Group #4: 18.09 – 01.10.2027

Group #5: 09.10 – 22.10.2027

2026-2027

Day	Tour itinerary
Day 1	<p>Almaty, arrival</p> <p>We arrive in Almaty early in the morning and transfer to the hotel for rest after the flight. Later we begin a full-day discovery of Kazakhstan's largest city, set against the backdrop of the snowy Tien Shan mountains. Our first stop is the colorful Green Bazaar, followed by a stroll through Panfilov Park, home to the striking wooden Zenkov Cathedral and the moving Memorial of Glory and Eternal Flame.</p> <p>Next, we ride up to Kok-Tobe Hill, crowned by the city's TV tower, where sweeping views over Almaty open before us. We descend by the famous cableway and continue into the mountains. At Medeo, the world's highest skating rink, we pause before ascending by cable car to Shymbulak Ski Resort, reaching 3,200 meters for breathtaking alpine panoramas. Return to the hotel in the evening. Overnight in Almaty.</p> <p> <i>breakfast</i></p>
Day 2	<p>Almaty - Charyn Canyon - Kolsay Lakes by road, 440 km</p> <p>After breakfast, we set out eastward toward one of Kazakhstan's most breathtaking natural wonders — Charyn Canyon. Often called the “little brother” of the Grand Canyon, this spectacular gorge stretches for more than 150 km. Within two hours, we reach the famous Valley of Castles, where centuries of wind and rain have sculpted the sandstone cliffs into shapes resembling ancient fortresses. We'll walk down into the canyon for about 40 minutes until we reach the Charyn River, surrounded by vivid red and orange walls — a perfect spot for photos and quiet admiration.</p> <p>Lunch will be served at a cozy café near the canyon, offering a chance to relax before we continue our journey to the Kolsay Lakes — a pristine mountain paradise nestled in the northern Tien Shan range. On arrival in the late afternoon, you'll be greeted by fresh mountain air and serene alpine scenery. Check into a welcoming guesthouse, enjoy a home-style dinner, and rest after a day filled with adventure and stunning landscapes.</p> <p> <i>breakfast, lunch, dinner</i></p>
Day 3	<p>Kolsay Lakes - Kaindy - "Kegen" land border - Karakol by road, 250 km</p> <p>After breakfast, we check out and set off to Kaindy Lake, a mystical place formed after a powerful earthquake in 1911. A landslide created a natural dam, flooding a spruce forest whose ghostly trunks still rise from the turquoise water. This hauntingly beautiful “sunken forest” must be seen to be believed.</p> <p>We walk from the slope down to the lake for breathtaking views, or, alternatively, ride on horseback (optional, arranged by locals). On the way back, we stop at a village home for a hearty, homemade lunch. In the afternoon we continue to the Kegen border. After crossing into Kyrgyzstan and completing formalities, we drive to Karakol, a charming town at the foot of the Tien Shan mountains. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p> <i>breakfast, lunch</i></p>
Day 4	<p>Karakol & Jety-Oguz Gorge</p> <p>This morning we discover Karakol's cultural gems. We start at the colorful Dungan Mosque, built entirely of wood without a single nail, then step into the wooden Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Our final stop is the museum of Nikolay Przhevalsky, the Russian explorer who mapped much of Central Asia.</p> <p>Later we drive into the mountains to the famous Jety-Oguz Gorge (“Seven Bulls”), where dramatic red cliffs rise above the lush spruce forests. Here we admire the striking rock formations known as the</p>

“Seven Bulls” and the “Broken Heart.” The vivid contrast of red sandstone and dark green woods makes this one of the most beautiful places in Kyrgyzstan. Return to Karakol for hotel check-in and rest.



Karakol - Skazka canyon - Bokonbaevo village - Kochkor village by road, 250 km

Day 5

After breakfast, we follow the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul toward the **Skazka (“Fairytale”) Canyon**. Shaped by wind and water over millions of years, the red and yellow clay has been sculpted into towers, castles, and ridges—some resembling the Great Wall of China. A short walk here feels like stepping into another world.

Continuing to **Bokonbaevo village**, we meet local eagle hunters and watch a traditional **falconry demonstration**, an ancient practice that has been passed down for generations. Lunch will be arranged on the way.

In the evening, we reach **Kochkor**, a village famous for its felt handicrafts and warm welcomes. Dinner and overnight in Kochkor.



Kochkor - Bishkek by road, 200 km

Day 6

This morning we immerse ourselves in Kyrgyz traditions with a **felt-making master class** in Kochkor. Skilled artisans demonstrate how colorful shyrdaks (felt carpets) are crafted, and we join in to learn about the symbolism behind their intricate designs.

Afterward, we return to Bishkek, arriving in the afternoon. The rest of the day is free: a perfect chance to explore the lively Osh Bazaar, where stalls overflow with fragrant spices, dried fruits, textiles, and handicrafts. It’s the ideal place to experience the rhythm of local life and perhaps pick up some souvenirs. Overnight in Bishkek.



Bishkek - Tashkent by evening flight

Day 7

After breakfast we set off on a **guided city tour** of Bishkek. We’ll begin with the Monument to Manas, the legendary hero of Kyrgyz epics, then head to Ala-Too Square to watch the solemn Changing of the Guard. At the State Historical Museum we trace the story of Kyrgyzstan, while statues of Kurmanjan-Datka and Lenin remind us of the country’s contrasting past. A walk through leafy Oak Park, dotted with sculptures and the Fine Arts Gallery, offers a pleasant pause.

In the afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our evening flight to Tashkent. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, check-in, and overnight.



Tashkent – Samarkand by evening train

Day 8

Today we discover Uzbekistan’s bustling capital, where old and new meet in surprising harmony. We’ll visit the spiritual heart of the city – Khast-Imam Square, home to ancient madrasahs and mausoleums, and wander through the colorful Chorsu Bazaar, alive with the aromas of spices, fresh produce, and handicrafts. After lunch, we’ll explore Independence Square and Amir Temur Square, wide spaces framed by impressive architecture. One highlight not to miss is the Tashkent Metro, famous for its ornate stations that feel like an underground art gallery.

In the evening, we take a comfortable train ride to Samarkand, the crown jewel of the Silk Road. Once there, we head straight to the hotel to rest and get ready for tomorrow’s discoveries.

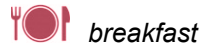


Samarkand

Day 9

After breakfast we set off to discover the treasures of **Samarkand**, one of the most dazzling cities of the Silk Road. Our tour begins at the iconic **Registan Square**, framed by three grand madrasahs – Ulugbek, Sher-Dor, and Tilla-Qori – each a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. We continue to the **Gur-e Amir Mausoleum**, the resting place of Tamerlane and his dynasty, with its turquoise dome and richly decorated interiors.

After lunch, we visit the **Bibi-Khanym Mosque**, once one of the largest in the Islamic world, and wander through the **Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis**, where vibrant blue-tiled mausoleums line a narrow medieval street. The day ends at the **Ulugbek Observatory**, where the great astronomer charted the stars centuries ago. Return to the hotel for overnight.



Samarkand – Bukhara by road, 280 km

After breakfast we depart for Bukhara, one of the most atmospheric cities along the Silk Road. The journey takes us across the Kyzylkum plains — once the route of ancient caravans linking oasis to oasis.

Day 10

Upon arrival, we step into the old town, where centuries of history seem to linger in every brick and dome. We'll begin our exploration with the majestic **Po-i-Kalyan Complex**, its elegant minaret once guiding weary travellers by torchlight. Nearby, we'll visit the **Miri-Arab Madrasa**, the **Magoki-Attori Mosque**, and **Ulugbek Madrasa**, each telling its own story of faith and learning. The day concludes at the tranquil **Lyabi-Hauz Square**, where mulberry trees shade the reflecting pool and local life unfolds around us.

In the evening, we check into our hotel and rest.

breakfast

Bukhara

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we continue our discovery of Bukhara, one of the most atmospheric cities on the Silk Road.

We'll start with the **Ismail Samani Mausoleum**, a masterpiece of early Islamic architecture, and the **Chashma Ayub Mausoleum**, associated with the legend of the Prophet Job. Then we'll wander through the **bustling local bazaar**, before visiting the elegant **Bolo-Khauz Mosque** and the mighty **Ark Citadel** with its old **Zindan prison** — echoes of the city's rich and sometimes dramatic past.

Day 11

In the afternoon, we head beyond the city to explore the **Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace**, once the lavish summer residence of the last emir, and the **Mausoleum of Bakhouddin Naqshbandi**, one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites in Central Asia.

As evening falls, we're welcomed into a **traditional Uzbek home** for a heartwarming culinary experience. Together with our hosts, we'll take part in a **plov master class**, learning how to prepare Uzbekistan's most beloved dish step by step — before sharing a delicious homemade dinner filled with laughter, aromas, and stories of local life.

Overnight at the hotel.



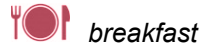
Bukhara - Khiva by road, 460 km

Day 12

After breakfast we set off on a long but scenic journey across the **Kyzyl-Kum Desert** and along the mighty **Amudarya River**. This vast landscape of golden sands and rippling dunes gives a real sense of the Silk Road's endurance.

We stop for lunch en route and continue our drive to **Khiva**, a perfectly preserved medieval city that feels like an open-air museum. On arrival, we have leisure time to wander its narrow streets, visit traditional

workshops, and browse local souvenir shops.
Overnight in Khiva.



Khiva - Urgench by road, 30 km

Evening flight to Tashkent by evening flight

After breakfast we explore **Ichan-Kala**, the walled inner city of Khiva and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its mudbrick walls, minarets, and madrassahs create one of the most atmospheric cities in Central Asia.

Day 13

Highlights include the **Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum**, the **Kunya-Ark Fortress**, and the tall **Islam Hajji Minaret**. After lunch, we visit the ornate **Tash Khauli Palace**, the **Juma Mosque** with its 200 carved wooden columns, the **Muhammad Aminkhan Madrasah**, and the **Avesta Museum**.

In the evening we transfer to Urgench for the flight to **Tashkent**. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, check-in and rest.



Tashkent, departure

Day 14

Early morning transfer to the airport for your international flight. Depending on flight time, breakfast or a lunch-box will be provided.



Cost of the tour is 2730 USD upon twin sharing basis

Supplement for single accommodation is 395 USD

A tailor-made version of this trip is available on request

Tour price includes:

- ✓ 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 (economy class).
- ✓ Flight ticket Bishkek – Tashkent (economy class).
- ✓ Flight ticket Urgench – Tashkent (economy class).

*** Tickets for high-speed trains are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed in advance.**

Tour price does not include:

- 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.

Accommodation

City	Hotels 3*
Almaty	Grand Sapphire 3* or similar
Kolsay Lakes	Alban / Taushelek guesthouse
Karakol	Green Yard 3* or similar
Kochkor	Nomad Lodge Hotel / Bagysh Hotel
Bishkek	Bishkek Boutique 3* or similar
Tashkent	Human 3* or similar
Samarkand	Arba 3* or similar
Bukhara	Rangrez 3* or similar
Khiva	Khiva Residence Hotel 3* or similar

Transportation (by group size)

Group size	Vehicle
1-2 travelers	Chevrolet Lacetti or similar
4 travelers	Hyundai Starex minivan for 6 seats
6-8 travelers	King Long minivan for 10 seats or similar
9-14 travelers	Eurise minivan for 18 seats or similar

We may occasionally adjust the order of visits and activities (museums and sites) if required due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be made with your comfort and overall experience in mind.