



## The Five Stans of Central Asia

*Five Nations, One Legendary Journey*

**Country:** Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan

**Tour length:** 15 days / 14 nights

**Itinerary:** Ashgabat - Darwaza gas crater - Bukhara - Samarkand - Penjikent - Samarkand - Tashkent - Bishkek - Burana Tower - Issyk-Kul Lake - Karakol - Charyn canyon - Almaty

**Discover the Five Stans — Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan — on one unforgettable journey across the heart of the Silk Road.**

From the white-marble boulevards of Ashgabat and the fiery Darwaza gas crater to the blue domes of Samarkand, the mountain lakes of Kyrgyzstan and the dramatic canyons of Kazakhstan, this adventure brings you the very best of Central Asia in just one trip.

Along the way you'll explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites, wander through ancient cities, taste authentic local cuisine and experience the warm hospitality that unites the region.

Five countries. Countless memories. One epic adventure.

### Guaranteed arrival dates in 2026:

**Group #1: 10.04-24.04.2026**

**Group #2: 16.05-30.05.2026**

**Group #3: 14.08-28.08.2026**

**Group #4: 11.09-25.09.2026**

**Group #5: 09.10-23.10.2026**

**Group №6. 22.12.2026-05.01.2027**

## Guaranteed arrival dates in 2027:

**Group #1: 09.04-23.04.2027**

**Group #2: 14.05-28.05.2027**




**Group #3: 13.08-27.08.2027**

**Group #4: 10.09-24.09.2027**

**Group #5: 08.10-22.10.2027**

**Group №6. 22.12.2027-05.01.2028**

## 2026-2027

Day	Tour itinerary
Day 1	<p><b>Ashgabat, arrival</b></p> <p>Arrive in Ashgabat early in the morning, where you'll be greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel for check-in and rest.</p> <p>After breakfast, meet your local guide and set out to explore the dazzling capital of Turkmenistan. Wander through the lively <b>Sunday Bazaar</b>, see the graceful <b>Akhal-Teke horses</b>, and admire the striking <b>Ertogrul Ghazi Mosque</b>. Continue to Ashgabat's landmarks, from the <b>Lenin Monument</b> and <b>Independence Park</b> to the monumental <b>Rukhnama</b> and the futuristic <b>Neutrality Arch</b>. Don't miss the giant <b>Ferris Wheel</b> and the <b>Magtymguly Monument</b>, symbols of the city's blend of tradition and modernity.</p> <p>Return to the hotel in the evening. Overnight in Ashgabat.</p> <p> <i>breakfast</i></p>
Day 2	<p><b>Ashgabat, round trip to Darwaza gas crater</b> by road, 600 km</p> <p>After breakfast, continue your discovery of Ashgabat with visits to the <b>Earthquake Monument</b> and the <b>Soviet War Memorial Complex</b>.</p> <p>After lunch, set out on an exciting drive through the Karakum Desert to one of Central Asia's most extraordinary sights — the <b>Darvaza Gas Crater</b>, famously known as the "Door to Hell." Arrive before sunset to watch the fiery crater come alive as night falls. Enjoy a traditional <b>barbecue dinner</b> under the desert sky, with unforgettable views and photo opportunities of the glowing flames.</p> <p>Afterwards, return to Ashgabat with a slower night drive, arriving at your hotel around midnight. Overnight in Ashgabat.</p> <p> <i>breakfast, dinner</i></p>
Day 3	<p><b>Ashgabat - Mary</b> by morning flight <b>Mary - Merv ancient city - "Farap" land border - Bukhara</b> by road, 385 km</p> <p>After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a morning flight to <b>Mary</b>. Upon arrival, drive to the ancient oasis city of <b>Merv</b>, once one of the great centers of the Silk Road and now a <b>UNESCO World Heritage Site</b>. Explore the impressive ruins and learn about the city's fascinating past.</p> <p>Later, continue by road to the <b>Farap land border</b> with Uzbekistan. After completing border formalities, meet your Uzbek guide and driver and transfer onwards to the legendary city of <b>Bukhara</b>.</p> <p>Check in at your hotel on arrival. Rest and overnight in Bukhara.</p> <p> <i>breakfast</i></p>

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## Bukhara

### Day 4

After breakfast, begin your guided sightseeing tour of **Bukhara**, one of the most atmospheric Silk Road cities. Highlights of the morning include the **Ismail Samani Mausoleum**, the unique **Chashma Ayub Mausoleum**, the elegant **Bolo-Khauz Mosque**, and the mighty **Ark Citadel**, once the residence of Bukhara's rulers. Continue to the iconic **Po-i-Kalyan Complex** with its towering minaret and visit the beautiful **Ulugbek** and **Abdulaziz-Khan Madrasahs**.

After lunch, stroll through the historic **Lyab-i Hauz Ensemble**, the **Kukeldash** and **Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasahs**, and the bustling **domed bazaars** where silk, spices, and handicrafts have been traded for centuries.

In the evening, enjoy dinner at a traditional local home and taste Uzbekistan's most beloved dish — **plov (pilaf)**. Return to the hotel for overnight.



*breakfast, dinner*

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## Bukhara - Samarkand by road, 280 km

### Day 5

After breakfast, continue exploring Bukhara with visits outside the city: the ornate **Sitorai-Mokhi-Khosa Palace**, the summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara, and the spiritual **Bahautdin Naqshbandi Complex**, dedicated to the founder of the Naqshbandi Sufi order.

After lunch, drive to **Samarkand**, the dazzling capital of Tamerlane's empire. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and take an evening walk at the breathtaking **Registan Square**, where you can enjoy the enchanting light show. Overnight in Samarkand.



*breakfast*

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## Samarkand

### Day 6

Breakfast at the hotel. Today is dedicated to exploring the legendary city of **Samarkand**, one of the crown jewels of the Silk Road. Begin at magnificent **Registan Square**, framed by the three grand madrasahs: **Ulugbek**, **Sher-Dor**, and **Tilla-Qori**. Visit the awe-inspiring **Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum**, the resting place of Tamerlane, and view the **Rukhabad Mausoleum** from outside.

After lunch, continue to the grand **Bibi-Khanym Mosque**, stroll through the atmospheric **Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis**, and end the day at the fascinating **Ulugbek Observatory**, once one of the most advanced in the medieval world.

Return to the hotel. Overnight in Samarkand.



*breakfast*

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## Samarkand, day trip to Tajikistan by road, 120 km

### Day 7

After an early breakfast, depart for a full-day excursion to **Tajikistan**, once the heart of ancient Sogdiana. Cross the border and meet your Tajik guide and driver before continuing to **Penjikent**. Here you'll explore the **Sarazm ruins**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** dating back over 5,500 years, visit the **Rudaki Museum**, and wander through the lively **local bazaar**.

Later, journey into the **Fann Mountains** to discover the famous **Seven Lakes**, a chain of stunning alpine lakes where the colors shift with the changing light — from deep blue to shimmering turquoise. Today you'll visit six of them, pausing for a traditional lunch at a local family home near the fourth lake.

In the afternoon, return to the border with Uzbekistan and drive back to your hotel in **Samarkand**. Overnight in Samarkand.

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 *breakfast, lunch*

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Day 8

**Samarkand - Tashkent** by morning train

This morning, transfer to the train station for your scenic journey on a train from **Samarkand to Tashkent** (08:05–11:54).

Upon arrival in **Tashkent**, the vibrant capital of Uzbekistan, enjoy a guided walk through the city center. Tashkent is a fascinating blend of wide modern boulevards, Soviet-era landmarks, and a charming Old Town with winding alleys and bustling bazaars. It's a city where ancient traditions meet a forward-looking spirit.

In the afternoon, enjoy some free time to relax or explore on your own.

Overnight in Tashkent.

 *breakfast*

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Day 9

**Tashkent - Bishkek** by afternoon flight

Breakfast at the hotel. Begin the day with a sightseeing tour of **Tashkent**, a city that carries both the energy of modern Central Asia and the charm of its historic past. Visit the elegant **Minor White Mosque**, the grand **Independence Square**, and the lively **Amir Timur Square**. Don't miss a ride on the **Tashkent Metro**, famous for its beautifully decorated stations, often compared to underground art galleries.

After lunch, transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to **Bishkek**, the laid-back capital of Kyrgyzstan. Surrounded by the snow-capped Tian Shan mountains, Bishkek is known for its leafy parks, Soviet-era boulevards, and welcoming atmosphere.

On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in and overnight in Bishkek.

 *breakfast*

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Day 10

**Bishkek**

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning meet your local guide and head out of the city to **Ala-Archa National Park**, a stunning alpine gorge in the Tian Shan mountains. Enjoy the crisp mountain air, beautiful views, and an easy hike surrounded by pine forests and rocky peaks.

Return to Bishkek in the afternoon for a city tour. Visit **Ala-Too Square**, watch the **changing of the guard** at the flagstaff, and see the **statue of Lenin**, the **Freedom Monument**, and the grand **Monument to Manas the Great**, Kyrgyzstan's legendary hero.

Overnight in Bishkek.

 *breakfast*

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Day 11

**Bishkek - Burana Tower - Issyk-Kul Lake** by road, 280 km

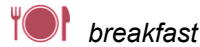
Breakfast at the hotel. Depart Bishkek with your guide and driver, traveling towards the magnificent **Issyk-Kul Lake**, the second-largest alpine lake in the world. On the way, stop to explore the ruins of the ancient city of **Balasagyn** and climb the **Burana Tower**, a remnant of the Silk Road era.

Continue the drive through mountain landscapes until you reach the shores of Issyk-Kul. Check into your lakeside hotel and rest, with time to enjoy the scenery.

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Overnight at Issyk-Kul.



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**Issyk-Kul - Djeti-Oguz Gorge - Karakol** by road, 150 km

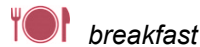
After breakfast, drive along the eastern shore of Issyk-Kul towards **Karakol**. En route, stop in **Cholpon-Ata** to see the open-air museum of **ancient petroglyphs** and later visit the museum dedicated to **Nikolay Prjevalsky**, the famous Russian explorer of Central Asia.

**Day 12**

Upon arrival in Karakol, enjoy a city tour: visit the colorful **Dungan Mosque** (19th century), a unique wooden structure built without nails in Chinese style, and the striking **Russian Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral**, also made of wood in the 19th century. Take a walk through the lively **central bazaar** to experience local life.

In the afternoon, transfer to the breathtaking **Djeti-Oguz Gorge**, where dramatic red cliffs form the famous “Broken Heart” and “Seven Bulls” rock formations. The lush green forests against the red sandstone mountains create unforgettable views.

Return to Karakol for hotel check-in and overnight.



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**Karakol - "Kegen" land border - Charyn canyon - Almaty** by road, 380 km

After breakfast, depart Karakol at 09:00 and drive to the **Kazakhstan border**. After completing formalities, continue your journey towards **Almaty**.

**Day 13**

On the way, stop to visit the spectacular **Charyn Canyon**, often described as the “little brother” of the Grand Canyon. Stretching 150 km in length and plunging up to 300 meters deep, the canyon offers breathtaking views. The most famous section is the **Valley of Castles**, where dramatic rock formations resemble ancient fortresses carved by nature itself.

Enjoy lunch en route and continue to Almaty, arriving in the evening. Check into your hotel and overnight in Almaty.



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**Almaty**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today enjoy a **full-day tour of Almaty**, Kazakhstan's largest and most vibrant city. Begin with the colorful **Green Bazaar**, then stroll through **Panfilov Park** to see the striking wooden **Zenkov Cathedral** and the moving **Memorial of Glory and Eternal Flame**.

**Day 14**

Next, ride up to **Kok-Tobe Hill**, crowned by the tallest TV tower in the world. Take in panoramic views of the city before descending by the famous **Almaty cableway**.

After lunch, head into the mountains: visit **Medeo**, the world's highest ice-skating rink, and continue to **Shymbulak Ski Resort**. Ride the cable car up to 3,200 meters above sea level for unforgettable alpine views.

Return to the hotel in the evening. Overnight in Almaty.



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**Almaty, departure**

**Day 15**

Breakfast at the hotel. At the scheduled time, transfer to **Almaty International Airport** for your departure flight.

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**Cost of the tour is 3595 USD upon twin sharing basis**  
*Supplement for single accommodation is 480 USD*

**Tour price includes:**

- ✓ Accommodation in the hotels listed below, or in similar hotels of the same category, in double/twin rooms with breakfast. Early check-in on Day 1 in Ashgabat is included; standard check-in time at other hotels is 14:00, check-out at 12:00.
- ✓ Meals: daily breakfasts at hotels, plus 2 dinners and 2 lunches as per the program.
- ✓ Entrance fees to the monuments and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- ✓ Services of English-speaking local guides for sightseeing.
- ✓ Comfortable air-conditioned transportation throughout the tour, including airport–hotel–airport transfers.
- ✓ Domestic flight from Ashgabat to Mary (economy class).
- ✓ Train from Samarkand to Tashkent (economy class).
- ✓ Domestic flight from Tashkent to Bishkek (economy class).
- ✓ Visa invitation letter for Turkmenistan.

**Tour price does not include:**

- International flight tickets.
- Pre-tour accommodation: USD 148 per night (single room) / USD 190 per night (double room).
- Post-tour accommodation: USD 110 per night (single room) / USD 130 per night (double room).
- Meals not specified in the itinerary.
- Medical expenses and travel insurance.
- Porter services at hotels, railway stations, and airports.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Visa fees (including mandatory Turkmenistan visa fee of USD 100–120 per person, and PCR test at Ashgabat airport – USD 42 per person).

## Accommodation

City	Hotels 3*
Ashgabat	<b>Sport Hotel 4* or similar</b>
Bukhara	<b>Rangrez Hotel 3* or similar</b>
Samarkand	<b>Arba Hotel 3* or similar</b>
Tashkent	<b>Human Hotel 3* or similar</b>
Bishkek	<b>Bishkek Boutique Hotel 3* or similar</b>
Issyk-Kul Lake	<b>Caprice Hotel or similar</b>
Karakol	<b>Green Yard Hotel 3* or similar</b>
Almaty	<b>Grand Sapphire Hotel 3* or similar</b>

## Transportation (by group size)

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

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

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*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.*



**CENTRAL ASIA  
GUIDE**

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