



Through the Heart of Central Asia

Countries: Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan

Tour length: 10 days / 10 nights

Itinerary: Bishkek – Burana Tower – Issyk-Kul Lake - Karakol - Djety-Oguz gorge - Bishkek - Tashkent Samarkand - Bukhara –Tashkent

Step into a world of contrasts on this unforgettable journey through **Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan**.

The warm hospitality of **Kyrgyz mountain villages**, every stop reveals a new facet of Central Asia's untamed beauty. Wander through the legendary Silk Road cities of **Samarkand** and **Bukhara**, where turquoise domes gleam beneath the sun.

Whether admiring the artistry of ancient madrasahs, hiking through stunning mountain valleys, or sharing tea with local families, this journey immerses you in the history, nature, and cultures that shaped the heart of the Silk Road.

2026

Day	Tour itinerary
Day 1	<p>Bishkek, arrival We arrive in Bishkek early in the morning and transfer to the hotel for rest after the flight. Later we begin a full-day discovery of the city. 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. Dinner, rest and overnight. 🍴🍷 breakfast, dinner</p>
Day 2	<p>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. Dinner, rest and overnight. 🍴🍷 breakfast, dinner</p>
Day 3	<p>Issyk-Kul - 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. 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. Free afternoon. Dinner, rest and overnight.</p>

 *breakfast, dinner*

Karakol & Jety-Oguz Gorge.

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.

Day 4

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 "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.

Dinner, rest and overnight.

 *breakfast, dinner*

Karakol – Bishkek by road, 403 km.
Bishkek – Tashkent by evening flight.

8:00 we return to Bishkek, arriving in the afternoon. Upon arrival – a perfect chance to explore the **lively Osh Bazaar**, where stalls overflow with fragrant spices, dried fruits, textiles, and handicrafts.

Day 5

After lunchtime, transfer to the airport. Flight to Tashkent.

Upon arrival accommodation. Dinner, rest and overnight.

 *breakfast, dinner*

Tashkent

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.

Day 6

For lunch, we head to the legendary Central Asian Plov Center — "**Besh Kozon**", where master chefs cook up to ten tons of plov every day in giant cauldrons. Watch as rice, meat, and spices are layered to perfection, then enjoy your serving of this beloved Uzbek dish — rich, fragrant, and unforgettable.

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. Dinner, rest and overnight..

 *breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Tashkent – Samarkand by morning train, 2hrs.

After breakfast transfer to the railway station. Train to Samarkand.

Upon arrival 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.

Day 7

After lunch, we visit the **Bibi-Khanyim 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. Dinner, rest and overnight.

 *breakfast, dinner*

Day 8

Samarkand - Bukhara by evening train, 1,5hrs.

This morning we dive deeper into Samarkand's history and culture. We begin at the **Afrosiab Museum**

and nearby archaeological site, which reveal the ancient roots of the city long before the Timurid era. Then we visit the **tomb of Saint Daniel**, a unique pilgrimage site venerated by Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike.

Later, we explore the **Khujum carpet factory** and a **silk paper workshop**, where age-old crafts are preserved and practiced with pride. Finally, we stroll through the bustling **Siab Bazaar**, a lively market brimming with spices, dried fruits, nuts, and handicrafts – the perfect place to experience the flavors and energy of modern Samarkand.

In the evening we transfer to the railway station and take a morning train across the steppe to **Bukhara**. Dinner, rest and overnight.

 *breakfast, dinner*

Bukhara.

After breakfast we begin exploring this legendary Silk Road city, a place that once rivalled great cultural capitals of the Islamic world. Highlights include the **Ismail Samani Mausoleum**, a masterpiece of early Islamic architecture; the **Chashma Ayub Mausoleum**, linked to the legend of the Prophet Job; and the bustling **local bazaar**.

Tea party in a tea house - tasting of tea with various spices and traditional Bukhara sweets.

Day 9

We continue to **Bolo Khauz Mosque**, the mighty **Ark Citadel** with its Zindan prison, and the **Po-i-Kalyan Complex** with its soaring minaret, madrasa, and mosque. Our tour also covers the **Miri Arab Madrasa**, the **Magoki Attori Mosque**, and **Ulugbek Madrasa**. 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 settle into our hotel for rest.

In the evening, enjoy the **Folk Show** with dinner at Nodir Devon Begi Madrassah.

Rest and overnight.

 *breakfast, dinner*

Bukhara – Tashkent by evening train, 4hrs. Tashkent, departure

After breakfast, proceed to the railway station. Train to Tashkent.

Day 10

Upon arrival – free time.

Dinner.

Transfer to airport. Departure from Tashkent.

 *breakfast, dinner*

Optional tour or activities we can add in:

Folklore Show in Bishkek -

Dinner/Lunch with culinary master class in a local guest house in Samarkand -

Visiting of El Merosi Theatre in Samarkand -

Tashkent - Tandiriy Restaurant

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 Bishkek is included**; check-in at other hotels is at 14:00, check-out at 12:00.
- ✓ Meals – daily breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 10 dinner as per the program.
- ✓ Entrance fees to the monuments and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- ✓ Services of English-speaking local guides for sightseeing.
- ✓ Folk Show at Nodir Devon Begi Madrassah.
- ✓ Tea-tasting in Bukhara.
- ✓ Comfortable air-conditioned transportation throughout the tour, including all airport–hotel–airport transfers.
- ✓ Railway transfer from Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara – Tashkent (economy class).
- ✓ Flight ticket Bishkek – 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.
- ✗ Meals not mentioned above.
- ✗ Medical expenses and travel insurance.
- ✗ Porterage at hotels, railway stations, and airports.
- ✗ Tips for guides and drivers.

Accommodation

City	Hotels 4-5*
Bishkek	Orion 5* or similar
Issyk Kul	Raduga Hotel
Karakol	Karagat 4* or similar
Tashkent	Hyatt Regency 5* or similar
Samarkand	Hilton Samarkand Regency 5* or similar
Bukhara	Wyndham Bukhara 4* or similar