

THE 'STANS OF CENTRAL ASIA

October 9–22, 2027



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

KYRGYZSTAN • UZBEKISTAN • TAJIKISTAN

Optional Pre-Tour: Kazakhstan |
Optional Post-Tour: Turkmenistan

Dear Traveler,

Join us on a small group journey through the heart of Central Asia, visiting Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

Begin in Bishkek before heading into the mountain valleys of Chong Kemin for a full day of village traditions: horse games, yurt building, and a performance of the ancient Manas epic. From there, the journey continues through Uzbekistan's great Silk Road cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, with a day trip across the border into Tajikistan. Optional extensions in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are available for those who want the full five-Stan experience.

Space is limited and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Reserve today.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours



LIMITED TO 20 TRAVELERS



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Program Highlights

- Cultural lecture on Kyrgyz textile traditions, with *elechek* women's headdress demonstration
- Hunting demonstration with trained eagles in Kyrgyzstan
- Guesthouse stay in the Chon-Kemin Valley with village-based experiences, including *kok-boru* horse games, yurt setup demonstrations, and hands-on felt-making
- Traditional Manas epic performance by a trained *manaschi*, accompanied by *komuz* music
- Hands-on *boorsok* baking and shared meal with local family
- After-hours access to Gur-Emir Mausoleum in Samarkand
- Private, archaeologist-led visit to the Afrosiab Museum
- Paper-making workshop in Konigil, following 8th-century Samarkand traditions
- Cross-border day trip to Tajikistan, including Sarazm (UNESCO), one of Central Asia's earliest known settlements
- *Plov* cooking demonstration at a family-run establishment in Bukhara
- Archaeologist-led tour of the Ark Citadel in Bukhara
- Meeting with a local scholar in Khiva specializing in Khorezm history and inscriptions

For centuries, Central Asia lay along the trade routes linking China, the Middle East, and Europe. This in-depth tour follows those routes across Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, moving from mountain valleys where nomadic traditions run deep to Silk Road cities built by empires, scholars, and merchants. Begin in Bishkek and the Chon-Kemin Valley, where horse culture, felt-making, and the oral traditions of the Manas epic remain part of how people live. Continue to Uzbekistan's historic oasis cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, where madrassahs, bazaars, and old neighborhoods reflect the legacy of Timurid and Islamic scholarship. A cross-border day trip into Tajikistan adds archaeological depth at Panjakent and the ancient settlement of Sarazm. Lectures, expert-led visits, and meetings with local specialists provide context throughout.

Day-by-Day Itinerary Overview

Days 1–2 | October 9–10 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Arrive in Bishkek. City touring includes Osh Bazaar, the National History Museum, and a visit to an ethno-gallery to learn about Kyrgyz felt traditions, see a women's headdress demonstration, and taste a traditional local drink.

Days 3–4 | October 11–12 | Chon-Kemin Valley

Travel via Burana Tower to the countryside. Experience village life with demonstrations of *salbuurun* eagle-hunting, *kok-boru* horse games, felt-making, yurt setup, *boorsok* baking, and a Manas epic performance.

Day 5 | October 13 | Chon-Kemin Valley to Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Optional hiking or village visit before returning to Bishkek and flying to Tashkent.

Day 6 | October 14 | Tashkent

Explore Uzbekistan's capital, including the Center for Islamic Civilization, Chorsu Bazaar, and an optional visit to the Tashkent metro.

Days 7–8 | October 15–16 | Samarkand

Travel by fast train to Samarkand. Visit Registan Square, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, Shah-i-Zinda, Afrosiab Museum with an archaeologist, Ulug Bek Observatory, and a handmade paper workshop. After-hours access at Gur-Emir Mausoleum.

Day 9 | October 17 | Panjakent, Tajikistan (Day Trip)

Cross the border to Panjakent to visit Sarazm (UNESCO), Rudaki's mausoleum, and local bazaars before returning to Samarkand.

Days 10–11 | October 18–19 | Bukhara

Travel by train to Bukhara. Explore the historic center, including Labi-Hauz, Kalon Minaret, the Ark Citadel, Sufi sites, and enjoy a *plov* cooking demonstration.

Days 12–14 | October 20–22 | Khiva

Cross the Kyzyl Kum Desert to Khiva. Walk the UNESCO-listed Ichon Qala, visiting madrassahs, mosques, and meeting with local scholars. Depart from nearby Urgench.

Main Tour Package Price Per Person

8-20 passengers, \$7,495 per person, double occupancy

Plus internal air \$175 (per person, economy class, subject to change)

Single supplement \$950

Main Land Tour Price Includes

- Accommodations as noted in itinerary including breakfasts • 13 lunches, and 11 dinners. A few meals are not included so that you may enjoy a chance to experiment on your own
- Bottled water at group meals
- Restaurant tips for included meals
- Services of experienced, English-speaking local guides, drivers and other staff, including a Tour Manager (main tour only)
- Arrival/departure airport transfers, provided you arrive and depart on the tour start/end dates in the tour start/end cities
- Ground transportation throughout itinerary by private vehicle
- Guided sightseeing tours and entrance fees as outlined in itinerary
- Special events, excursions and cultural performances per the itinerary
- Baggage handling where available
- Gratuities to Tour Manager, local guides, drivers, porters and other service personnel (main tour only)
- Electronic pre-departure information and final bulletin that includes detailed packing suggestions, reading list links, country-specific information, travel tips and more
- Customized visa application and instruction kit (please note, visa fees are not included in the tour price)

Not Included in Land Tour Price

- Internal airfare (internal airfare is quoted separately and is subject to change by airlines)
- International airfare or taxes/fuel surcharges
- Meals not specified as included in the itinerary
- Single supplement charge, if requested or required
- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, email, laundry, alcohol, excess baggage, etc.)
- Visa/passport fees, airport departure fees
- Expenses incurred as a result of delay, modification or extension of a tour due to causes beyond tour operator's
- Travel entry pass to Turkmenistan payable on arrival, currently \$12-\$15, subject to change
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance (required for participation)



Optional Pre-Tour: Kazakhstan

October 7–9, 2027 | Almaty

Arrive early to explore Almaty at the foot of the Tien Shan Mountains. Visits include Panfilov Park, Zenkov Cathedral, the Central State Museum, the Green Bazaar, and the Almaty Museum of Arts before flying to Bishkek.

Pre-Tour to Kazakhstan Package Price Per Person

8 or more travelers, \$1375 per person, twin share

8 or more travelers, single supplement \$150

Plus internal air ticket Almaty-Bishkek, \$165 (per person, economy class, subject to change)



Optional Post-Tour: Turkmenistan

October 22–25, 2027 | Ashgabat

From Khiva, cross into Turkmenistan and fly to Ashgabat, a city known for its monumental architecture and museums. Explore Independence Park and the National Museum of Turkmenistan, which traces the country's history from antiquity to the present. Also stop in at an Akhal-Teke horse farm, where you will learn about Turkmenistan's prized breed, long associated with the region's history, state symbolism, and equestrian tradition.

Post-Tour to Turkmenistan Package Price Per Person

8 or more travelers, \$1695 per person, twin share

8 or more travelers, single supplement \$295

Plus internal air ticket Dashoguz-Ashgabat, \$105 (per person, economy class, subject to change)

For full trip details, including deposit, payment, cancellation policies and full terms & conditions of participation please see website: <https://nationaltrusttours.com/tour/the-stans-of-central-asia/>

For reservations and information, please contact MIR at 1-800-424-7289 or info@mircorp.com.

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