



*The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024*



FULL ITINERARY

Day 1 – Depart the USA

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Depart the USA on any regularly scheduled flight to Almaty, Kazakhstan. We recommend flying Turkish Air (Star Alliance) because of the easy connections that can be made in Istanbul to Central Asia. Any airline of your choice that will get you to Almaty, Kazakhstan is acceptable.

USA / ALMATY (ALA)

Day 2 – Transit in Istanbul

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Arrive Istanbul (or other connecting city) for connecting flights to Almaty.

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

KAZAKHSTAN

Day 3 – Arrive in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Arrive in Almaty, seated among the majestic Tien Shan mountains, at 04:35 am. Early check in at the hotel. Enjoy a late breakfast at the hotel. Rest until late afternoon when we depart for a panoramic view of the city on Kok Tobe Hill, followed by our Welcome Dinner.

(The Inter-Continental Hotel has been reserved from May 1 due to early arrival of flights. Coda Tours will arrange additional nights and private transfers if you arrive before May 1.)

This evening we will gather for a Welcome Dinner with fellow travelers.

Hotel: Hotel Inter-Continental ★★★★★

Room: Deluxe

Meals: Welcome Dinner

Day 4 – Almaty Tour | Fly to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Friday, May 3, 2024

The morning is at leisure. Check out of the hotel and depart for lunch. Tour the city built on the site of an old Silk Road oasis town. Today's exploration includes highlights of the city such as Panfilov Park which contains Zenkov Cathedral, a wooden Orthodox church built at the turn of the 20th century, and the Central State Museum, featuring exhibits that detail the development of Kazakhstan. We will also stop at Zeelyoni Bazaar which is filled with fruits, meats, cheeses and anything else you can imagine.

Fly this evening from Almaty to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: KC 109 17:35 – 18:25 (timing subject for a change), arriving before dinner. Transfer to the hotel and check in. Dinner is at the hotel.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency ★★★★★

Room: Deluxe

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

KYRGYZSTAN

Day 5 – Bishkek

Saturday, May 4, 2024

After breakfast, depart for a visit to the Osh bazaar, the Historical Museum, the State Museum of Fine Arts and have lunch at a local restaurant. Then, see the President's House and the changing of the guards, Alatoo Square, and the street painters of Oak Park.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency ★★★★★

Room: Deluxe

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

Day 6 – Lake Issyk-kul

Sunday, May 5, 2024

We depart early this morning to Lake Issyk-kul. En route, visit the ruins of a caravan town. See the Burana Tower, dating from the 10th-12th centuries, one of the only remaining watchtowers from the Silk Road. Stop for lunch in the village of Tamchi before arriving at the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul, the world's second-highest altitude lake in the world after Lake Titicaca.

Enjoy a demonstration of national horseback riding games near the Burana Tower (1 hour). Horseback riding games played a vitally important role for Kyrgyz people. The main aim of these games was to teach children to ride horses professionally. Nowadays it is an entertainment. We have a chance to watch various kinds of traditional Kyrgyz horseback riding games (Ulak Tartysh, Kyz Kuumai, Tyiyn Enmei, etc).

Hotel: Karven Four Seasons Resort ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 – Karakol Day Trip

Monday, May 6, 2024

This morning, take an excursion to Karakol, the fourth largest city in Kyrgyzstan, located near the border of China. See the impressive Russian Orthodox Church and the Dungan Mosque, built in traditional Chinese style for the Chinese Muslims who migrated here during the 1930s and '50s. Lunch is at a Dungan family home before an afternoon tour of the Historical Museum and Monument.

Hotel: Karven Four Seasons Resort ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch at Dungan family, Dinner in hotel

Day 8 – Lake Issyk-kul | Bishkek | Osh

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Drive from Lake Issyk-kul to Bishkek. Upon arrival, tour the city before continuing to the airport for our flight to Osh. Kyrgyzstan's second-largest city, Osh is located in the lush Fergana Valley, which spans three of the five Stans. Overnight in Osh.

Hotel: Jannat Osh ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

UZBEKISTAN

Day 9 – Osh, Kyrgyzstan to Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

This morning we ascend the UNESCO site of Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, one of the holiest Islamic sites in Central Asia.

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

Driving from Osh to Fergana Valley takes you through picturesque landscapes, winding mountain roads, and vibrant cultural towns. The route offers breath-taking views of the Kyrgyz and Uzbek countryside, with opportunities to explore charming villages and historical sites along the way.

Hotel: Asia Fergana ★★★★★
Room: Standard
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

TAJIKISTAN

Day 10 – Fergana Valley: Margilan, Rishtan – Khujand, Tajikistan
Thursday, May 9, 2024

Enjoy the splendors of the Fergana Valley, spanning three of the Five Stans. In the Uzbek portion of the valley, visit Margilan and Rishtan, villages specializing in silks and ceramics. Cross the border into Tajikistan for an overnight in historic Khujand.

Hotel: Khujand De Lux ★★★★★
Room: Standard
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 – Drive from Khujand, Tajikistan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Friday, May 10, 2024

Drive this morning from Khujand to the tree-lined boulevards of Tashkent for check-in at the hotel and a remainder of the day at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Hyatt Regency ★★★★★
Room: Deluxe
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

UZBEKISTAN

Day 12 – Tashkent Tour
Saturday, May 11, 2024

Tour Tashkent, stopping at the Tillya Sheikh Mosque to view the Uthman Koran, considered by Sunni Muslims to be the oldest Koran in the world. It is believed to have been written 19 years after the death of Mohammed. It is inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Continue to the Old City, Hast Imam Complex and Barak Khana. Before lunch, visit the master-apprentice pottery school called Akbar House. Then, explore Mustaqlik Square, the Museum of Applied Arts, and Amir Timur Square.

Hotel: Hotel Hyatt Regency ★★★★★
Room: Deluxe
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

Day 13 – Fast train from Tashkent to Samarkand

Sunday, May 12, 2024

After an early breakfast, transfer via high-speed train (Afrosiyob) to Samarkand. Begin the day at Registan, Central Asia's most authentic square and the centrepiece of Samarkand. This "sandy" place has always been the center of ancient Samarkand and a public square and marketplace. Visit Gur-Emir Mausoleum, the final resting place of Tamerlane. The interior has been restored and is brilliant in gold leaf and fresh tile. The heavily gilded central dome opens over the set of tomb markers resembling sarcophagi. All are marble, except for Tamerlane's, which is a slab of solid jade reportedly from Mongolia.

Hotel: Hotel Movenpick Bukhara ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 – Samarkand | Shakhrisabz | Samarkand

Monday, May 13, 2024

Today we visit the UNESCO site of Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane, stopping en route at Sharif Baba's. See the ruins of Ak Saray (White Palace), built in the 14th century.

Hotel: Hotel Movenpick Bukhara ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 – Drive from Samarkand to Bukhara

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Our drive to Bukhara this morning, we stop at Rabat Malik caravanserai ruins and Gijduvan where we visit pottery works. Visit of Sitora-i-Mokhikhosa, the summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara. There is a unique collection of Suzzane embroidery. Continue to Bukhara for check-in and dinner.

Hotel: Hotel Wyndham Bukhara ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16 – Bukhara

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Spend the day exploring Central Asia's most ancient living city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town is a treasure trove of beautiful, historic buildings and ancient sites. We explore on foot and by coach. Among our stops are: Bolo Hauz Mosque, Ismail Samani Mausoleum, Chashmai Ayub and Ark Citadel. In the afternoon, visit the Magokki Attori Mosque, the Trading Domes and Ulugbeg and Abdulazizkhan madrassahs. Stop at a teahouse for a tea-ceremony and oriental sweets tasting during the day.

Hotel: Hotel Wyndham Bukhara ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

Day 17 – Drive Bukara to Khiva via the Kizilkum Desert

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Embark on an expedition across the arid expanse of the Kizilkum desert, en route to Khiva, a legendary city steeped in history. Khiva is reputed to have emerged at the very spot where Shem, the illustrious son of Noah, stumbled upon a life-giving oasis amidst the desolate sands. It was the resounding cry of Shem's jubilant exclamation, "Hey va!" that bestowed upon Khiva its evocative name. The voyage from the desert's heart to Khiva typically spans a duration of six to seven hours, offering ample time to soak in the mystique of this ancient realm.

Hotel: Hotel Asia Khiva ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 18 – Khiva

Friday, May 17, 2024

This museum town is a walk-through life as it was led hundreds of years ago. Our tour includes the monuments of the UNESCO site Old Town (Ichon Qala). The Old Town still resembles that experienced by caravans on the Silk Road. Enjoy the sunset and amazing views from the city walls platform before dinner.

Hotel: Hotel Asia Khiva ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 19 – Drive Khiva to Nukus

Saturday, May 18, 2024

This morning, drive to Nukus, Uzbekistan making stops at the ancient fortresses Ayas-Kala and Toprak-Kala. On arrival, enjoy lunch and then visit the Igor Savitsky Museum, the richest collection of Russian avant-garde art outside of the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg.

Hotel: Jipek Joli Hotel ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

TURKMENISTAN

Day 20 – Nukus - Khunya-Urgench | Tashauz | Ashgabat

Sunday, May 19, 2024

This morning, transfer to the border of Turkmenistan for crossing formalities before continuing to Khunya-Urgench, the ancient capital of Khorezm, razed by Genghis Khan and Tamerlane. Nearby is the UNESCO site of Kutlug-Timur Minaret. Next, visit Tashauz and see the local market before our flight to Ashgabat.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: each person will have to manage his own luggage crossing the border from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan. No vehicles are allowed to transfer us a distance of around 10–15-minute walk over unpaved ground.)

Hotel: Oguzkent Hotel ★★★★★

Room: Standard

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 21 – Ashgabat | Mary | Merv | Ashgabat
Monday, May 20, 2024

An early morning departure flight will take us to Mary and continue to Merv (ancient Marghiana), one of the main cities along the ancient Silk Road and believed, at one time, to be the largest city in the world. The entire ancient city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its beautiful monuments bear witness to glorious days passed. The most famous is the Sultan Sanjar mausoleum, dating to the 12th century. Other places of interest include the important archaeological site of Kyz Kala. On return to Mary, time-permitting, visit a museum before an evening flight to the Turkmen capital Ashgabat. Enjoy dinner in the city.

Hotel: Oguzkent Hotel ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 22 – Ashgabat
Tuesday, May 21, 2024

We plan to visit the \$100 million Kipchak Mosque (local scheduling permitting) before lunch. Then, the Russian Bazaar in the afternoon. Take some time to rest and prepare for departures home. This evening we gather for a Farewell dinner to celebrate this epic journey through the Stans.

Hotel: Oguzkent Hotel ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 23 – Departure flights to the USA
Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Transfer to the airport for departing flights.

Meals: Breakfast

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

INCLUDED

- *Twenty-one (21) hotel nights in 3-4-5 ★ Luxury Accommodations*
- *Breakfast daily in the hotels; lunch and dinner daily except Day 3 (no lunch); Day 11 (no dinner)*
- *Private transportation in comfortable busses (type is determined from number of travelers)*
- *Sightseeing excursions and entry fees, as stated in the itinerary*
- *Professional, English-speaking National Guides to accompany us in each country.*
- *Professional, English-speaking local guides*
- *Coda Tour Representative, with minimum participation*
- *Pre-departure assistance and Information Portfolio from Coda Tours*

NOT INCLUDED

- *International airfare and baggage fees*
- *Intra-tour airfare (quoted separately)*
- *Trip Cancellation & Interruption insurance (highly recommended)*
- *Passport and visa fees; a visa is required for American and Canadian Passport Holders to enter Uzbekistan (multiple entry – e-visa), Tajikistan (e-visa) and Turkmenistan (requiring you send your passport to a passport agency as arranged by Coda Tours.) No visas are required for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.*
- *Gratuity for national and local guides, drivers, hotel & restaurant staffs*
- *Personal meals, transfers, drinks, telephone, gifts, and expenses not outlined in the itinerary.*
- *Any optional sightseeing excursions or additional visits not outlined in the itinerary.*

INTRA-TOUR AIRFARE

Intra-tour flights are at an additional cost and are outlined below. Coda Tours will book these on your behalf. Note that some airlines have very restricted baggage weight limits. LIMIT YOUR LUGGAGE TO 1 PIECE AND PREFERABLY to less than 35lbs

Almaty/Bishkek

Tashauz/Ashgabat

Ashgabat/Mary/Ashgabat

TOUR RATES

The Five Stans	Rate per person
<i>Double Occupancy</i>	<i>\$8,995</i>
<i>Single Occupancy</i>	<i>\$10,895</i>
<i>Intra-tour flights (subject to change until ticketed)</i>	
<i>Economy Class</i>	<i>\$300 approx.</i>

Note: Single occupancy rates can be avoided if matched with another single traveler. If no share is available, the single rate will apply. Rates are based on current rates of exchange at the time of publishing and are subject to change until final payment has been made. Rates are also based on a minimum participation which, if minimum participation is not met, may need to be revised.

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE

You may arrive early or depart later. Coda Tours will arrange your additional hotel nights and transfers, if needed. However, we prefer that all travellers arrive and depart together. Therefore, we recommend booking Turkish Airlines through (IST) to Almaty (ALA) and return from Ashgabat (ASB). Coda Tours can arrange airfare or accommodations as needed.

We recommend booking at least 7 months in advance if you want to use Frequent Flyer Miles. Please contact Coda Tours if you wish us to quote you the best available fares for coach or business class.

IS THIS TOUR RIGHT FOR YOU?

This is an extraordinary tour across the 5 Stans of Central Asia and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But, it may not be for everyone. Accommodations in this part of the world will range from opulent 5-star, like in Almaty & Ashgabat, to comfortable 4-star hotels, such as Samarkand. Driving distances can be quite long. Comfort stops are made as needed. Long lines and waits may also be encountered at border crossings. It is possible that we may have to walk with our own bags between border crossings. There will also be some very early morning departures. If you are able and willing to experience these conditions in order to explore a fascinating region of the world, we look forward to traveling with you!

RESTRICTIONS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN CENTRAL ASIA

*The countries on this tour, and especially Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, have very strict regulations concerning the importation of pharmaceutical drugs. Baggage checks are infrequent, but possible. You must carry prescription medications in their original labelled packaging and carry a copy of the prescription from your doctor. Note that some pain relievers such as Tramadol and Hydrocodone that are common in the US are **prohibited** in Turkmenistan. If you have concerns about your medications, please ask us. Note that even if there is no customs check entering the country, you may be asked about your medications upon exiting the country as well.*

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A valid passport is required for international travel and must be valid for 6 months after the return date of travel and have two blank pages available per country visited. A tourist visa is required for Uzbekistan (apply online at visa.mfa.uz), Tajikistan (<https://www.visa.gov.tj/index.html>) and Turkmenistan.

Coda Tours will apply for a Letter of Invitation certified by the Government of Turkmenistan. This will allow you to apply for a visa at the Embassy in Washington D.C. There is an \$80 fee for the Letter of Invitation. Coda Tours will provide instructions for sending your passport to Washington D.C. We will attempt to send the entire group's passports at the same time for group processing by our visa processing company. You must expect to be without passport for approximately 3 weeks once it is sent to Washington D.C.

If you are flying through Turkey or Russia and plan to enter either of those countries, you will require a visa for that stay as well. Please contact us with any questions you have about the visas.

The 5 Stans of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024

HEALTH

No immunizations are required for travel on this tour. However, the Center for Disease Control suggests that all travellers make sure they are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

Only Covid-19 vaccination certificates may be required. No pre-trip testing is required.

ATTIRE / WEATHER

<i>Average Temperature</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>
<i>Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</i>	<i>44°</i>	<i>65°</i>
<i>Almaty, Kazakhstan</i>	<i>52°</i>	<i>72°</i>
<i>Tashkent, Uzbekistan</i>	<i>57°</i>	<i>81°</i>
<i>Ashgabat, Turkmenistan</i>	<i>62°</i>	<i>86°</i>

Coda trips are casual at all times. There is no need for a jacket or tie. Pack for a variety of weather. Bring a light jacket or sweater. Jeans, khakis and shorts are fine for daily wear. Comfortable shoes are a must. Hotels offer laundry service but it can be expensive.

MINIMUMS

All departures and rates are guaranteed on a minimum number of participants. A Coda Tour Manager will accompany a tour also based on a minimum number of participants. This tour can be operated as a Private Tour or customized and repriced based on a final itinerary.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

A portfolio of pre-departure information will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to departure.

*The 5 Stars of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024*

ACCOMMODATIONS



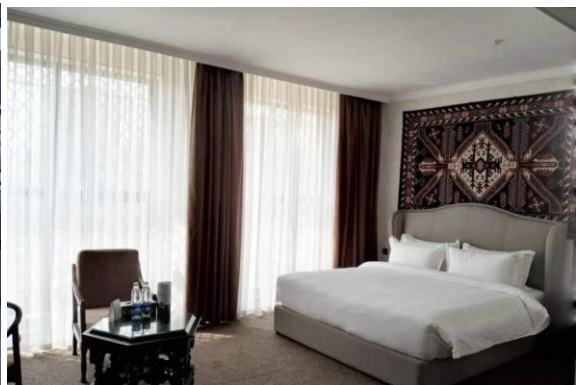
Hotel Inter-Continental, Almaty ★★★★★



Hyatt Regency, Bishkek ★★★★★



Karven Four Seasons Resort, Issyk-kul ★★★★★



Hotel Jannat Osh ★★★★★



Asia Fergana ★★★★★



Hotel Khujand De Lux ★★★★★

*The 5 Stars of Central Asia
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
April 30 – May 23, 2024*



Hotel Hyatt Regency, Tashkent ★★★★★



Movenpick Samarkand ★★★★★



Hotel Wyndham Bukhara ★★★★★



Hotel Asia Khiva ★★★★★



Jipek Joli Hotel, Nukus ★★★★★



Oguzkent Hotel ★★★★★