



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



*The five Stans of Central Asia are among the least visited countries in the world. This is the Ancient Silk Road (or at least the heart of that route.) For centuries, caravans laden with fine silks and goods from China were brought to the bustling bazaars of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. But more than goods were exchanged. Ideas, art, architecture and spiritual beliefs were also shared and adopted by new peoples. Take the time to explore in-depth this historical and culturally rich area of the world with a small group of like-minded companions.*

*During the pandemic, Turkmenistan closed its borders (as did all the other “Stans.” It has taken two year for Turkmenistan to reopen. We have been waiting at Coda Tours for the reopening of Turkmenistan to offer our 5 Stans trip again. We are thrilled to be going in 2024.*

**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

<i>Day 1: Tue, Apr. 30 Depart USA</i>	<i>Day 14: Mon, May 13</i>	<i>Samarkand</i>
<i>Day 2: Wed, May 1 Transit in Istanbul</i>	<i>Day 15: Tue, May 14</i>	<i>Drive Samarkand</i>
<i>Day 3: Thu, May 2 Arrive in Almaty</i>	<i>to Bukhara</i>	
<i>Day 4: Fri, May 3 Almaty Tour</i>	<i>Day 16: Wed, May 15</i>	<i>Bukhara</i>
<i>Day 5: Sat, May 4 Fly Almaty to Bishek</i>	<i>Day 17: Thu, May 16</i>	<i>Drive to Khiva via</i>
<i>(evening)</i>	<i>desert</i>	
<i>Day 6: Sun, May 5 Drive to Issyk-kul</i>	<i>Day 18: Fri, May 17 Khiva</i>	
<i>Day 7: Mon, May 6 Karakol Day-Trip</i>	<i>Day 19: Sat, May 18</i>	<i>Drive Khiva to</i>
<i>Day 8: Tue, May 7 Issyk-kul   Bishkek   Osh</i>	<i>Nukus</i>	
<i>Day 9: Wed, May 8 Osh   Fergana City</i>	<i>Day 20: Sun, May 19</i>	<i>Khunya-Urgench  </i>
<i>Day 10: Thu, May 9 Fergana Valley: Margilan,</i>	<i>Tashauz   Ashgabat</i>	
<i>Rishtan, Khujand</i>	<i>Day 21: Mon, May 20</i>	<i>Merv   Mary  </i>
<i>Day 11: Fri, May 10 Khujand   Tashkent</i>	<i>Ashgabat</i>	
<i>Day 12: Sat, May 11 Tashkent City Tour</i>	<i>Day 22: Tue, May 21</i>	<i>Ashgabat</i>
<i>Day 13: Sun, May 12 Tashkent to</i>	<i>Day 23: Mon, May 22</i>	<i>Departure flights</i>
<i>Samarkand on Fast Train</i>	<i>to USA</i>	



## HIGHLIGHTS

- *Coda Tours signature small group size*
- *Coda Tours signature comprehensive sightseeing programs*
- *Coda Tours signature inclusive meal plan*
- *Coda Tours signature best available accommodations*
- *UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Samarkand, Merv, Khiva, Bukhara, Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, Shakhrisabze, Bukhara, Khiva Old Town, Kutlug-Timur Minaret, Merv*
- *City Tours of Almaty, Tashkent, Bishek, Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva*
- *Natural wonders of the Tien Shan Mountains, Fergana Valley, Lake Issyk-kul,*

## 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.*

## KAZAKHSTAN

### **Day 3 – Arrive in Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

*Arrive in Almaty, seated among the majestic Tien Shan mountains. Settle in and get to know fellow travellers.*

*(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: Dinner*

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### **Day 4 – Almaty Tour | Fly to Bishek, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Bishek, Kyrgyzstan, arriving before dinner. Transfer to the hotel and check in. Dinner is at the hotel.

Hotel: Hotel Inter-Continental ★★★★★

Room: Deluxe

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

### **Day 5 – Bishkek Tour**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

After breakfast, depart for a visit to the petroglyphs, thought to date to the Neolithic Age (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC). We also visit the Osh bazaar and have lunch at a local restaurant. Then, see the President's House and the changing of the guards, Alatau Square, and the street painters of Oak Park.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency ★★★★★

Room: Deluxe

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 6 – Drive to 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 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 8 – Lake Issyk-kul | Bishek | Osh Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

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

Hotel: TBD ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **UZBEKISTAN & TAJIKISTAN**

### **Day 9 – Osh, Kyrgystan to Fergana Valley (Uzbekistan & Tajikistan) Wednesday, May 8, 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: TBD ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 10 – Fergana Valley: Sulaiman, Margilan, Rishtan, Khujand Thursday, May 9, 2024**

Enjoy the splendors of the Fergana Valley, spanning three of the five Stans. Ascend the UNESCO site of Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, one of the holiest Islamic sites in Central Asia. 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: TBD ★★★★★

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

### **Day 12 – Tashkent Tour**

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### **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

### **Day 13 – Fast train from Tashkent to Samarkand**

#### **Sunday, May 12, 2024**

After an early breakfast, transfer via high-speed train (afrosiyob) to Samarkand and the UNESCO site of Shakhrisabze, the birthplace of Tamerlane, stopping en route at Sharif Baba's. See the ruins of Ak Saray (White Palace), built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Hotel: Grand Samarkand Superior ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 14 – Samarkand Tour**

#### **Monday, May 13, 2024**

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, with the exception of Tamerlane's, which is a slab of solid jade reportedly from Mongolia.

Hotel: Grand Samarkand Superior ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 15 – Drive from Samarkand Bukhara**

#### **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

Our drive to Bukhara this morning, we stop at Rabat Malik caravansarai ruins and Gijduvan where we visit pottery works. Visit of Sitara-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 Asia 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

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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 Asia Bukhara ★★★★★

Room: Standard

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 17 – Drive Bukara to Khiva via the Kizilkum Desert**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

Travel through the Kizilkum desert to Khiva, believed to be founded at the place where Shem, son of Noah, discovered water in the desert. Shem's joyful shout of "Hey va!" gave Khiva its name. This is a 6-7 hour journey.

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

## **TURKMENISTAN**

### **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 Torak-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

### **Day 20 – 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



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*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 21 – Merv | Mary | 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Tour**

**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*

## **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)*

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- *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**

<b>The Five Stans</b>	<b>Rate per person</b>
<i>Double Occupancy</i>	<i>\$8,395</i>
<i>Single Occupancy</i>	<i>\$10,495</i>
<b>Intra-tour flights (subject to change until ticketed)</b>	
<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.

### **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!*



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### 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](http://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.

### 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

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

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

## ***The Five Stans of Central Asia***

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*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.*

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**ACCOMMODATIONS**



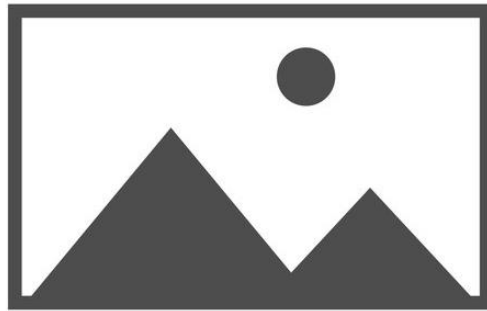
*Hotel Inter-Continental, Almaty ★★★★★*



*Hyatt Regency, Bishkek ★★★★★*



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



*TBD, Fergana City ★★★★★*



*Hotel Hyatt Regency, Tashkent ★★★★★*



*Grand Samarkand Superior ★★★★★*

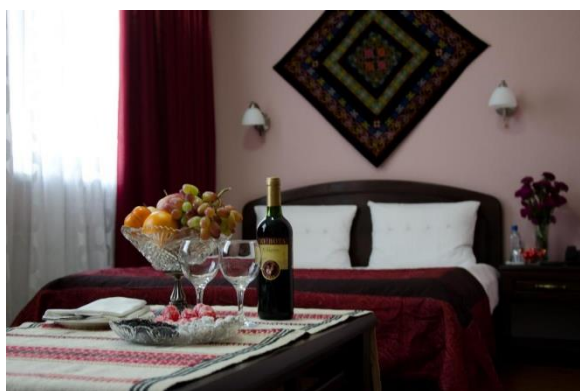
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*Hotel Asia Bukhara* ★★★★★



*Hotel Asia Khiva* ★★★★★



*Jipek Joli Hotel, Nukus* ★★★★★



*Oguzkent Hotel* ★★★★★