



### “The Five Stans” of Central Asia, 2019

**Countries:** Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Tajikistan - Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan

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

**Best time to travel:** September - November

**Itinerary:** Astana - Almaty - Bishkek - Ala-Archa Gorge - Bishkek - Dushanbe - Khujand - Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara - Mary - Ashgabat

The Five Stans of Central Asia in 15 days: amazing travel itinerary through the five former USSR republics of Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Tajikistan - Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan, also known as the Stans, includes the main tourist attractions and must-visit destinations at the centre of the Silk Road. It is the best itinerary to visit Central Asia and its impressive historical monuments and nature's beauties, taste traditional food and enjoy the unique local culture of hospitality!

Explore the Best of Central Asia in one tour!

Day	Tour Program, 2019
<b>Day 1</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	<p><b>Astana: to Kazakhstan</b> Arrival in Astana early in the morning. Check-in at the hotel (after 06:00). After breakfast starts Astana city tour starts with National Museum - the biggest museum in Kazakhstan Then visit Hazret Sultan mosque - designed as Oriental palace, it can fit 10,000 visitors - and stroll to Palace of Peace and Reconciliation - a 62 meters of long and 62 meters of high pyramide. The final destination of the tour is Baiterek - 97 meters tower - the main symbol of Astana. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Ibis Hotel 3* / Kazzhol Hotel 4*</i></p>
<b>Day 2</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	<p><b>Astana - Almaty (train 702, 19:14-08:48 +1).</b> Breakfast at the hotel. 10:00 - check-out from the hotel. Meet the guide at the lobby. Guided tour includes: Orthodox Church; Water Green Boulevard, EXPO - the first hi-tech museum in Kazakhstan, situated in a tall spherical building ; Khan Shatyr Shopping and Entertainment center. Transfer to the railway station in the evening.</p> <p>19:14-08:48 - high speed train to Almaty. Overnight in train.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: night train (4-birth compartment)</i></p>

<p><b>Day 3</b> <b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Almaty, arrival at 08:48.</b> <i>Arrival in Almaty in the morning.</i></p> <p>Breakfast at the local cafe.</p> <p>Almaty guided city tour:: Panfilov Park, Zenkov Cathedral, the Memorial of Glory and Eternal Flame, Green bazaar.</p> <p>The tour continues with Square of the Republic, Monument of Independence and State museum. Climb Kok-Tobe hill with the tallest TV tower in the world. Short ride from the top of the hill to the city center by the famous Almaty cableway. At 17:00 visit “Sunkar” Falcons’ Farm to watch the show with hunting birds(optional). Arrival in Almaty. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Kazakhstan Hotel 3* / Kazzhol Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 4</b> <b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Almaty - “Korday” border point - Bishkek (road transfer, 250 km): from Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan</b></p> <p>After breakfast transfer to Bishkek via “Korday” border checkpoint. Check-in at the hotel at 14:00. Bishkek City tour: Pobeda Square (Victory Square), Duboviy Park (Oak Park), Central Ala-Too Square, the National Museum of History, National Philharmonic and Osh Bazaar. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Art Hotel 3* / Plaza Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 5</b> <b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Bishkek - Ala-Archa Gorge - Bishkek (road transfer, 80 km).</b></p> <p>After breakfast starts guided tour to Ala-Archa gorge - a National Park in 45 km from Bishkek. Take a short hiking tour to see a panoramic view of the gorge and the waterfall. Return to Bishkek.</p> <p>Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Art Hotel 3* / Plaza Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 6</b> <b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Bishkek - Dushanbe (local flight): from Kyrgyzstan to Tajikistan</b></p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport. Take a flight to Dushanbe (flight YK 749).</p> <p>Half day Dushanbe city tour includes Museum of National Antiquities, Botanical garden, Somoni monument, Building of a national spirit, Stroll Rudaki Prospect.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Atlas B&amp;B Hotel 3* / Lotus Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 7</b> <b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>Dushanbe.</b></p> <p>After breakfast continue exploring Dushanbe: tour to Hissor town (23 km from Dushanbe) to see ancient fortress of Hissor. Visit Madrassah Kuhna and Museum of Tajik Way of life and Mausoleum of Sufi saint Mahdumi Azam.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Atlas B&amp;B Hotel 3* / Atlas Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 8</b> <b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>Dushanbe - Khujand - “Oybek” border point - Tashkent (road transfer, 475): from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan</b></p> <p>Morning drive to Khujand via “Istiklol” tunnel (4 hours drive). In Khujand visit Museum of archeology and fortification and Payshanba Bazaar.After lunch transfer to the border checkpoint “Oybek”. Arrival at border by 17:00. Border pass. Meet and greet your guide in Uzbekistan and transfer to Tashkent (1,5 hour drive).</p> <p>Overnight at the hotel</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Rohat Hotel 3* / Ramada Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 9</b> <b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Tashkent.</b></p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.Tashkent city tour: Khast-Imam Square, Barak-Khan Madrasah, Kafal-al-Shashi Mausoleum, Kukeldash Madrasah; after lunch visit Museum of Applied Arts, Independence Square, Amir Timur Square. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Rohat Hotel 3* / Ramada Hotel 4*</i></p>

<p><b>Day 10</b> <b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Tashkent - Samarkand (morning railway transfer).</b> Transfer to the railway station and take bullet "Afrosiab" train to Samarkand (2-hours ride). Guided Samarkand city tour on arrival: Registan Square (Ulugbek Madrasah, Sher-Dor Madrasah, Tilla-Qori Madrasah), Gur-e Amir Mausoleum (Tamerlane's sepulcher), Rukhabad Mausoleum (from the outside); after lunch: Bibi-Khanym Mosque, Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis, Ulugbek Observatory. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: City Hotel 3* / Grand Samarkand Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 11</b> <b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Samarkand - Bukhara (road transfer, 280 km).</b> After breakfast transfer to Bukhara.</p> <p>Lunch on arrival to Bukhara. Bukhara guided tour: Lyab-i Hauz Architectural Ensemble, Kukeldash Madrasah, Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah, domed shopping arcade.</p> <p>Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Fatima Hotel 3* / Devon Begim Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 12</b> <b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Bukhara.</b> Breakfast at the hotel. Continue discovering Bukhara: visit Ismail Samani Mausoleum, Chashma Ayub Mausoleum, Bolo Khauz Mosque, Ark Citadel, Po-i-Kalyan Complex (Kalyan Minaret and others), Ulugbek Madrasah.</p> <p>After lunch drive 4 km from Bukhara and visit the out-of-town sites: Sitara-i Mokh-i Khosa Palace, Baha-ud-Din Naqshbandi Complex. Return to Bukhara. Overnight at the hotel.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Fatima Hotel 3* / Devon Begim Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 13</b> <b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Bukhara - "Farap" border point - Mary (road transfer, 380 km): from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan</b> Early breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan border "Farab" (2-hours drive from Bukhara). Border pass. Meet and greet your Turkmenistan guide. Transfer to Mary town. En-route visit the ancient city of Merv (UNESCO heritage site).</p> <p>Overnight at the hotel</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Mary Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 14</b> <b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>Mary - Ashgabat (morning flight).</b> After breakfast transfer to the airport and take a flight to Ashgabat.</p> <p>Take Ashgabat city tour on arrival: . Visit Ertogrul Gazy Mosque, Independence Park, Neutrality Arch, Ahalteke horse stables, National Museum, Nissa (UNESCO heritage site) and Turkmenbashi Mosque-Mausoleum.</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Ak-Altyn Hotel 3* / Grand Turkmen Hotel 4*</i></p>
<p><b>Day 15</b> <b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>Ashgabat.</b> Transfer to the airport. Flight back home.</p>

### Cost of the tour in USD per person for 2019:

Group	1 pax	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax	8 pax	10 pax	12 pax	Supplement for single accommodation
Hotels 3*	4601	3125	2343	2071	1892	1884	1777	420
Hotels 4*	5034	3421	2634	2361	2191	2184	2067	690

#### Cost includes:

- Accommodation at the hotels of 3\* or 4\* (mentioned below, or in similar, but of the same category) in double/twin rooms with breakfasts, including **early check-in** at the hotel in Almaty **on day 1 - check-in after 06:00**. *Check-in at other hotels - at 14:00; check-out - at 12:00;*
- Services of English-speaking local guides (separate guide in each country);
- Entrance fees at museums and historical parks mentioned in the program, including a fee to the cable car in Kok-Tobe;
- Train tickets for high-speed premium service night train from Astana to Almaty (economy class, 4-birth compartment);
- Train tickets for high-speed premium service train «Afrosiab» from Tashkent to Samarkand (economy class);
- Internal air flight from **Mary to Ashgabat**;
- Transportation services on comfortable air-conditioned vehicles (*sedan cars* or *minibuses* - depending on the number of tourists in a group);
- Mineral water for each day of the tour;
- Visa invitation to Turkmenistan, including Letter of Invitation, State Registration and Travel Pass (obligatory for all foreigners).

#### Cost does not include:

- International flights;
- Flight from **Bishkek to Dushanbe** - from **150 USD**/per person (subject to change)
  - *The flight is available only on **Sundays (YK 749)**;*
- Visa invitations to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan - *please, require our operators to get more information on the necessity of visa invitations;*
- Visa fees to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan;
- Meals (except breakfasts at the hotels);
- In Turkmenistan - tourist fee per night, charged in the hotels at departure 2 USD/per person/per night (obligatory).

#### Additional costs (upon request):

- Supplement for a place is shared 2-birth compartment in Astana-Almaty train (recommended) - **35 USD**/per person;
- Supplement for visit of the Falcon's farm in Almaty (recommended) - **20 USD**/per person;
- Visa invitation to Kazakhstan - **65 USD**/per person (*if necessary*);
- Visa invitation to Kyrgyzstan - **55 USD**/per person (*if necessary*);
- Visa invitation to Uzbekistan - **45 USD**/per person (*if necessary*);
- Group visa to Kyrgyzstan (can be issued by our company for a group of 4+ tourists) - **70 USD**/per person (*if necessary*);
- Supplement for meals on half board basis - **280 USD**/per person/for the whole tour (*optional*);
- Supplement for meals on full board basis - **480 USD**/per person/for the whole tour (*optional*).

### Additional information:

#### Hotels

We choose the most conveniently located and reputable hotels for our customers to stay at. The list of the hotels we offer is below. However, due to seasonal conditions and group size this list is subject to change.

**Hotels 3\*** - inexpensive yet cozy private hotels, with traditional national interiors in many of them, providing all the necessary facilities for comfortable stays; notable for very warm hosting and home-like atmosphere;

**Hotels 4\*** - very comfortable hotels providing excellent facilities and services; mainly located in or near city centers.

The tour comes with the following accommodation:

Itinerary Point	Hotels 2-3*	Hotels 4*	№ of nights
Astana	Ibis Hotel 3* or similar	Kazzhol Hotel 4* or similar	1 night + early check in after 06:00
Almaty	Kazakhstan Hotel 3* or similar	Kazzhol Hotel 4* or similar	1 night
Bishkek	Discovery Hotel 3* or similar	Plaza Hotel 4* or similar	2 nights
Dushanbe	Atlas B&B Hotel 3* or similar	Atlas Hotel 4* or similar	2 nights
Tashkent	Samir Hotel 3* or similar	Ramada Hotel 4* or similar	2 nights
Samarkand	City Hotel 3* or similar	Grand Samarkand Hotel 4* or similar	1 night
Bukhara	Fatima Hotel 3* or similar	Devon Begim Hotel 4* or similar	2 nights
Mary	Mary Hotel 4* or similar	Mary Hotel 4* or similar	1 night
Ashgabat	Ak-Altyn Hotel 3* or similar	Grand Turkmen Hotel 4* or similar	1 night

### Transportation:

The means of transportation used during the tour are the following:

**Car /minivan /van /minibus /bus** - used for all the road transportation depending on the group size.

**Train** - 2 train rides:

- Premium service high-speed night train Tulpar of **Astana-Almaty** destination. The train is new and offers tourists accommodation in 4-berth compartments and 2-berth compartments (more comfortable option).

- Premium service high-speed train Afrosiab of **Tashkent-Samarkand** destination.

#### Transportation services in Kazakhstan:

- ▶ Sedan car for 3 seats (for a group of 1-2 tourists)
- ▶ Mercedes Sprinter / Hyundai Starex / Mitsubishi Delica minibuses for 10 seats (for groups of 3-7 tourists)
- ▶ Minibus for 18 seats (for groups of 8-14 tourists)
- ▶ Bus for 45 seats (for groups of 15+ tourists)

#### Transportation services in Kyrgyzstan:

- ▶ Toyota Sequoia jeep or Mitsubishi Delica minibus (for a group of 1-2 tourists)
- ▶ Mercedes Sprinter minibus for 17 seats (for a group of 3-9 tourists)
- ▶ Mercedes Sprinter minibus for 17 seats + 1 car for luggage (for a group of 10-12 tourists)

#### Transportation services in Tajikistan:

- ▶ Sedan car (for a group of 1-2 tourists)
- ▶ Hyundai Starex minibuses (for groups of 3+ tourists; 4-5 persons per each minibus)

#### Transportation services in Uzbekistan.

- ▶ Daewoo Lacetti sedan car (for a group of 1-2 tourists)
- ▶ Hyundai Grand Starex minibus (for a group of 3-5 tourists)
- ▶ Toyota Hiace minibus (for a group of 6-9 persons)
- ▶ Mitsubishi Rosa minibus (for a group of 10-14 persons)

#### Transportation services in Turkmenistan:

- ▶ Toyota Avalon sedan car (for a group of 1-2 tourists)
- ▶ Toyota Sienna minibus (for groups of 3-4 tourists)
- ▶ Toyota Hiace minibus (for groups of 5-9 tourists)
- ▶ Bus for 45 seats (for groups of 10+ tourists)

## Visa to Kazakhstan:

Currently citizens of many countries do not need visa to Kazakhstan. Please, require our operators for visa information for the citizens of a particular country, as visa rules depend on nationality.

## Visa to Kyrgyzstan:

Currently foreign citizens have an opportunity to obtain e-visa to Kyrgyzstan here: <http://www.evisa.e-gov.kg/>  
This web site started its work on September 1, 2017 - here foreign citizens will be able to receive e-visa to Kyrgyzstan.  
This is the link for obtaining of a group visa: <http://www.evisa.e-gov.kg/group Visa step 1.php?lng=en&n=1>

Please, note, that citizens of many countries do not need visa to Kyrgyzstan. Please, require our operators for visa information for the citizens of a particular country.

## Visa to Tajikistan:

Currently the foreign citizens have an opportunity to obtain Tajikistan visa on-line on the official web here: [www.evisa.tj](http://www.evisa.tj).  
Visa invitation from the MFA of Tajikistan is not necessary. Cost of visa online is 50 USD/per person and cost of the GBAO permit is 20 USD/per person.

Please, note, this program does NOT require the necessity of GBAO permit.

## Visa to Uzbekistan:

1) The citizens of the following countries do not need visa to Uzbekistan up to 30 days: Japan, Indonesia, Israel, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Turkey.

2) The citizens of the following countries can obtain visa on-line, visa invitation is not required: <https://e-visa.gov.uz/>:

Austria	People's Republic of China (including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China)	Monaco
Belgium	Republic of Croatia	Montenegro
Great Britain	Republic of Finland	Kingdom of the Netherlands
Germany	Hungary	New Zealand
Spain	Republic of Greece	Kingdom of Norway
Italy	Kingdom of Denmark	Sultanate of Oman
Latvia	Republic of Estonia	Republic of Portugal
France	Republic of India	Romania
Switzerland	Ireland	Republic of San Marino
Thailand	Iceland	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Czech Republic	State of Kuwait	Republic of Serbia
Poland	Republic of Lithuania	Slovak Republic
Australia	Liechtenstein	Republic of Slovenia
Republic of Albania	Luxembourg	Kingdom of Sweden
Andorra	Republic of Macedonia	United Arab Emirates
Republic of Bulgaria	Republic of Malta	United States of America
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Vatican
Canada		

The citizens of listed countries can also get visa to the **Embassy of Uzbekistan** in any country, where it is located.

3) Citizens of all other countries can get visa to Uzbekistan only on the basis of preliminary issued visa invitation. The visa invitation is being issued by our company on the basis of the following documents of yours:

- filled-in application form (sample of the application form is being send beforehand);
- scanned copy of your passport of good quality;
- employment verification letter;
- scanned copy of international flights' tickets or official information on the flights' reservation.

After receiving of these documents we apply to the MFA of Uzbekistan for visa invitation issuance. The process of visa invitation issuance takes **13-15 days**. On the basis of the visa invitation it will be possible to get visa at the embassy of Uzbekistan in any country, where there is Uzbekistan embassy, or in Tashkent airport on arrival.

*Visa issuance on the border is not possible!*

## Visa to Turkmenistan:

Citizens of all foreign countries, intending to enter Turkmenistan, are obliged to have visa. Visa to Turkmenistan can issued only on the basis of preliminary issued visa invitation. The visa invitation is being issued by our company on the basis of the following documents of yours:

- filled-in application form (sample of the application form is being send beforehand);
- scanned copy of your passport of good quality;
- a photo of good quality (size 3:4).

After receiving these documents we apply to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan for visa invitation issuance for our tourists. The process of visa invitation issuance takes about 3 weeks. On the basis of the visa invitation a tourist can get Turkmenistan visa at the embassy of in any country, where there is Turkmenistan Embassy, in Ashgabat airport or at the consular department on the border.

### CONTACTS

Booking: [booking@discoveryrussia.com](mailto:booking@discoveryrussia.com)  
General inquiries: [info@discoveryrussia.com](mailto:info@discoveryrussia.com)

Reach us from Australia **+61 2831 0 7667**  
Reach us from the USA: **+1 (646) 751 78 53**  
Reach us from New Zealand: **+64 428 07 471**  
Reach us from Canada: **+1 888 644 87 34**  
Reach us from the UK: **+44 203 608 28 59**