

19 Day Central Asia of Five Stan Tour (Tour Code: CAS)

Almaty – Bishkek – Ala-Archa National Park – Bishkek – Osh – Khujand – Dushanbe – Penjikent – Samarkand – Bukhara – Merv ancient city – Mary – Ashgabat – Dashoguz – Khiva – Urgench – Tashkent

The Five Stans of Central Asia in 19 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. This is the best itinerary to visit Central Asia and its impressive historical monuments and nature's beauty, taste traditional food and enjoy the unique local culture of hospitality. Explore the best of Central Asia in one tour!



Day 01, 02 Sep: Sydney or Melbourne – Hong Kong
CX110, 02 SEP. SYDNEY – HONG KONG 07:40/15:10
CX134, 02 SEP. MELBOURNE – HONG KONG 07:24/14:55)
CX681, 02 SEP. HONG KONG – ALMATY 16:25/20:20
Depart Sydney or Melbourne to Almaty on Cathay Pacific Airways via Hong Kong and arrive in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the evening. Upon arrival, you are met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Check in the hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Almaty.
Accommodation: Grand Mildom 4* or similar

Day 02, 03 Sep: Almaty (B.D)
Breakfast at hotel. Full day sightseeing in Almaty. Visit: Panfilov Park, Zenkov Wooden constructed Cathedral, St Nicholas Cathedral, National Musical Instruments Museum, Central State Museum, Almaty's Green Bazaar, Panoramic view at observatory. Next visit is Kok-Tobe hill with TV tower. Short ride from the top of the hill to the center of the city by the famous Almaty cableway. Transfer to the hotel. Stay overnight in Almaty
Accommodation: Grand Mildom 4* or similar

Day 03, 04 Sep: Almaty "Korday" land border – Bishkek (from Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan) (B.D)
Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via a newly built highway (270km-4h). En-route watch the natural landscapes. Afternoon arrive to Bishkek. Check into the hotel. Lunch at the local restaurant at your own expense. In the afternoon, sightsee Bishkek. Visit the Central Museum, the Panfilov Park and the bazaar. Have dinner at a local restaurant. Stay overnight at hotel in Bishkek.
Accommodation: Plaza Hotel 4* or similar

Day 04, 05 Sep: Bishkek – Ala Archa Gorge – Bishkek – Osh (evening flight) (B.L)
After breakfast morning transfer to Ala Archa National Park. The Ala Archa Gorge is on a spur of the Tian Shan mountain range, it is located 45 km from Bishkek. You can have a short hiking tour to see a panoramic view of the Gorge. You can also have a hiking to the small waterfall. You are transferred to the airport near Bishkek for further flight to Osh. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel.
Accommodation: Classic Hotel 4* or similar

Day 05, 06 Sep: Osh – "Kyzyl-Bel" land border – Khujand (road transfer, 340 km) (*from Kyrgyzstan to Tajikistan*) (B.D)
Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning - short city tour in Osh. Visit the Central bazaar and Central Square. In the afternoon, visit Suleiman Mount, one of the main shrines of the Islamic world in Central Asia. Further transfer to the border with Tajikistan. At 16:00 (Kyrgyz time = 15:00 Tajik time) – Border formalities. Meet the Tajik guide and driver and further transfer to Khujand. Accommodation at the hotel on arrival.
Accommodation: Parliament Hotel 4* or similar

Day 06, 07 Sep: Khujand – Dushanbe (road transfer, 310 km) (B.D)
In Khujand visit the following monuments: Museum of archeology and fortification and Payshanba Bazaar, one of the interesting places here, which attracts people with various sounds and tastes. In the afternoon, transfer to Dushanbe and have your hotel on arrival. Enjoy your dinner and stay overnight in Dushanbe.
Accommodation: Atlas Hotel 4* or similar

Day 07, 08 Sep: Dushanbe (B.D)
After breakfast transfer to visit the following sites: Tajikistan United Museum, including exploring the famous Buddha in Nirvana – one of the most valuable exhibits of museum. Also visit Botanical Garden and Oriental Bazaar. In the afternoon, transfer 30 km out of the city to visit the ruins of the ancient Hissar Fortress of 18th century; two plain madrasahs of 18th and 19th centuries and mausoleum of 16th century. Return to the hotel and stay overnight in Dushanbe.
Accommodation: Atlas Hotel 4* or similar

Day 08, 09 Sep: Dushanbe – Penjikent – "Jarteppa" land border – Samarkand (road transfer, 475 km) (B.D)
Breakfast at the hotel. You are transferred to Samarkand via Penjikent. On arrival in Penjikent visit the ancient settlement of Sarazm (UNESCO Heritage site). Further transfer to the border. After border formalities meet the Uzbek guide and proceed driving to Samarkand. And check into hotel in Samarkand. Have your dinner and stay overnight in Samarkand.
Accommodation: Grand Samarkand Hotel 4* or similar

Day 09, 10 Sep: Samarkand (B.D)
After breakfast, start the guided sightseeing tour around Samarkand: visit Registan Square (Ulugbek Madrasah, Sher-Dor Madrasah, Tilla-Qori Madrasah), Gur-e Amir Mausoleum (Tamerlane's sepulchre), Rukhabad Mausoleum (from the outside); In the afternoon, visit Bibi-Khanym Mosque, Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis and Ulugbek Observatory. Saty overnight at the hotel in Samarkand.
Accommodation: Grand Samarkand Hotel 4* or similar

Day 10, 11 Sep: Samarkand – Bukhara (road transfer, 280 km) (B.L)
After breakfast transfer to Bukhara. On arrival, have your lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, start sightseeing tour in Bukhara. Visit the following sites: Lyab-i Hauz Architectural Ensemble, Kukeldash Madrasah, Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah and domed shopping arcade. Have accommodation at the hotel in Bukhara.
Accommodation: Alexia Suite Hotel 4* or similar

Day 11, 12 Sep: Bukhara (B.D)
Breakfast at the hotel. Continue the guided sightseeing tour in Bukhara. Visit Ismail Samani Mausoleum, Chashma Ayub Mausoleum, Bolo Khauz Mosque, Ark Citadel, Po-i-Kalyan Complex (Kalyan Minaret and others) and Ulugbek Madrasah. In the afternoon, transfer 4 km from Bukhara and visit the out-of-town sites: Sitora-i Mokh-i Khosa Palace and Baha-ud-Din Naqshbandi Complex. Return to Bukhara and stay overnight at the hotel in Bukhara.
Accommodation: Alexia Suite Hotel 4* or similar

Day 12, 13 Sep: Bukhara – "Farap" (border point) – Merv – Mary (*from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan)* (road transfer, 380 km) (B.D)
Early breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Uzbek – Turkmen border "Farab" (2-hour drive from Bukhara). Have your border formalities. Meet Turkmen guide and driver on the border. Visit the ancient city of Merv (UNESCO Heritage Site). Then you are transferred to hotel and stay overnight in Mary.
Accommodation: Margush Hotel 4* or similar

Day 13, 14 Sep: Mary – Ashgabat (morning flight) (B.D)
Breakfast at the hotel and you are transferred to the airport for flight to Ashgabat. Upon arrival, start your sightseeing program in Ashgabat. Visit Ertogrul Gazy Mosque, Independence Park, Neutrality Arch, Ahalteke horse stables, National Museum, Nissa (UNESCO heritage site) and Turkmenbashi Mosque-Mausoleum.
Accommodation: Yyldyz Hotel 5* or similar

Day 14, 15 Sep: Ashgabat – Dashoguz (morning flight) – "Shavat" land border – Khiva (road transfer, 70 km) (*from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan)* (B.D)
Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning transfer to the airport and fly to Dashoguz. Arrival at Dashoguz, transfer to Kunya-Urgench (120km, 1.5h driving). Sightseeing tour in Kunya-Urgench, visit: Portal of Caravansaray, Mamur Minaret, II Arslan Mausoleum, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum, Academy of Horezm, kutlug Timur Minaret and TurabekHanum Mausoleum. After sightseeing, return to Dashoguz. You are transferred to border check point at Dashoguz. Have border formalities on both sides. Continue to Khiva. Arrival to Khiva, check into the hotel. Enjoy your dinner at a local restaurant. Stay overnight in Khiva.
Accommodation: Bankir Khiva Hotel 4* or similar

Day 15, 16 Sep: Khiva – Urgench (road transfer, 35 km) – Tashkent (evening flight) (B.D)

Breakfast at hotel. Full day sightseeing of Khiva: Ichan Qala fortress – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where monuments Allakulikhan Madrassah, Muhammad Amin Khan Madrassah, Kalta Minor, Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, IslomKhoja Minaret, Juma Mosque, Toshhovli and other monuments are located. Have dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner, you are transferred to the airport in Urgench for flight to Tashkent by HY 1058 21:10/22:40 PM. Arrival at Tashkent, transfer to the hotel. Stay overnight in Tashkent.
Accommodation: Ramada Hotel 4* or similar

Day 16, 17 Sep: Tashkent (B.D)
Breakfast at the hotel. Start your guided sightseeing tour around Tashkent: Khast-Imam Square, Barak-Khan Madrasah, Kafal-al-Shashi Mausoleum, Kukeldash Madrasah; In the afternoon, visit Museum of Applied Arts, Independence Square, Amir Timur Square. After dinner, you are transferred to hotel for another night.
Accommodation: Ramada Hotel 4* or similar

Day 17, 18 Sep: Tashkent – Shanghai (B)
MU6038, 18 SEP. TASHKENT – SHANGHAI (PVG) 20:20/05:50 (19 SEP.)
In the afternoon, you are transferred to airport and depart from Tashkent to Shanghai on China Eastern Airlines and fly overnight.

Day 18, 19 Sep; Shanghai – Sydney or Melbourne (L)
MU561, 19 SEP. SHANGHAI (PVG) – SYDNEY 20:20/09:00 (20 SEP.)
MU737, 19 SEP. SHANGHAI (PVG) – MELBOURNE 20:30/09:00 (20 SEP.)
Arrive in Shanghai in the morning. Upon arrival, start your visit to the Bund. The area along the river faces the modern skyscrapers of Lujiazui in Pudong. The Bund usually refers to the buildings and wharves on this section of the road, as well as some adjacent areas. This region has a significant European influence, with the style of many structures most comparable to that of European cities, particularly Gothic, Baroque, Neoclassical, Romanesque, After lunch in the afternoon, you will be transferred to Maglev train station and will get the opportunity to experience this high-speed wonder from Shanghai city to Shanghai Pudong airport. In the airport check in your flight and fly overnight to your destination.

Day 19, 20 Sep: Sydney or Melbourne Arrival
You arrive in Sydney or Melbourne in the morning. Your unforgettable Five Stan Countries tour ends.

Tour price: $7,850 per person, twin or double share
Single supplement: $1,270

Tour price includes:
1. Cathay Pacific Airways economy class air-ticket Sydney or Melbourne – Hong Kong – Almaty and China Eastern Airlines economy class air-ticket Tashkent – Shanghai – Sydney or Melbourne with airport tax and fuel surcharge.
2. Accommodation at the hotels of 4* or 5* mentioned in the itinerary or similar, but of the same category in double/twin rooms with breakfasts.
3. Meals as mentioned in the itinerary.
4. Services of English-speaking local guides (separate guides in each country).
5. Sightseeing with entrance fees at museums and historical parks mentioned in the program.
6. Economy class air-tickets for internal flights from Bishkek to Osh, from Mary to Ashgabat, from Ashgabat to Dashoguz and from Urgench to Tashkent.
7. Transportation services on comfortable air-conditioned vehicles: Transportation services in Kazakhstan: Mercedes Sprinter / Huyndai Starex / Mitsubishi Delica minibuses of 18 seats for groups of 8-14 tourists and coach for a group of 15+ tourists. Transportation services in Kyrgyzstan: Mercedes Sprinter minibus for a group of 6 – 10 tourists and Mercedes Sprinter minibus - 2 vehicles for a group of 11-13 tourists and 3 vehicles for 14+ tourists. Transportation services in Tajikistan: Huyndai Starex minibuses for groups of 6+ tourists, 5 persons per each minibus and more minibuses will be used if there are more people. Transportation services in Uzbekistan: Toyota Hiace minibus for a group of 6-9 persons, Mitsubishi Rosa minibus for a group of 10-14 persons and Golden

Dragon coach for a group of 15+ persons. Transportation services in Turkmenistan: Toyota Hiace minibus for groups of 6-9 tourists and coach of 45 seats for groups of 10+ tourists.
8. Mineral water for each day of the tours.
9. Gratuities to guides and drivers.
10. Visa invitation to Turkmenistan, including Letter of Invitation, State Registration and Travel Pass (obligatory for all foreigners).
11. Sightseeing, lunch and high-speed train ticket to airport in Shanghai.

Tour price doesn't include:

1. Visa fees to Turkmenistan (USD80).
2. Travel insurance.
3. In Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan: tourist fee per night, charged in the hotels at departure USD2 per person, per night (obligatory).
4. Any meals or services not mentioned in the itinerary.
5. Migration tax at the border, on arrival into Turkmenistan: USD14 per person.
6. PCR test on arrival USD31 per person for entry into Turkmenistan.
7. Bank at border takes USD4 per receipt in Turkmenistan.

(All USD must be in cash)

Important note for all travelers:
Please bring only cash USD for your local expenses in Central Asia, no EURO and no credit cards are accepted in these countries (only in Almaty, Bishkek and Dushanbe, it is possible to cash money via ATM).

Visa Information:

1. Visa to Kazakhstan:
The citizens of Australia, the UK and the USA do not need visa to enter Kazakhstan.
2. Visa to Kyrgyzstan:
The citizens of Australia, the UK and the USA do not need visa to enter Kyrgyzstan.
3. Visa to Tajikistan:
Australian citizens can enter Tajikistan visa-free for stays up to 30 days but must register with local authorities within 10 working days and need a special permit (GBAO) for the Pamir region (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast).
4. Visa to Uzbekistan:
Australian citizens can enter Uzbekistan visa-free for stay up to 30 days for tourism but must register with local authorities if staying three or more days (often handled by hotels).
5. 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:
1) Completed application form (sample of the application form will be sent beforehand);
2) Scanned copy of your passport of good quality;
3) A photo of good quality (size 3:4).
After receiving these documents, our Turkmenistan ground operator will 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 in any country, where there is Turkmenistan Embassy, in Ashgabat airport or at the consular department on the border.