



## 20 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 beauties, taste traditional food and enjoy the unique local culture of hospitality. Explore the best of Central Asia in one tour!*



**Day 01, 14 Oct: Sydney or Melbourne – Guangzhou**

**CZ0302, 14 OCT. SYDNEY – GUANGZHOU 22:10/05:30 (15 OCT.)**

**CZ0344, 14 OCT. MELBOURNE – GUANGZHOU 22:00/05:00 (15 OCT.)**

Depart Sydney or Melbourne to Almaty on China Southern Airlines and arrive in Guangzhou the next morning.

**Day 02, 15 Oct: Guangzhou – Urumqi – Almaty (Kazakhstan)**

**CZ6886, 15 OCT. GUANGZHOU – URUMQI 08:10/13:30**

**CZ6011, 15 OCT. URUMQI – ALMATY 20:30/19:20**

Connect your flight in Guangzhou on China Southern Airlines to Almaty, Kazakhstan via Urumqi. 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 03, 16 Oct: 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. Overnight in Almaty

**Accommodation: Grand Mildom 4\* or similar**

**Day 04, 17 Oct: 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 in to the hotel. Lunch at the local restaurant at your own expense. Afternoon sightseeing Bishkek. Visit: the Central Museum, the Panfilov park, the bazaar. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight at hotel in Bishkek.

**Accommodation: Plaza Hotel 4\* or similar**

**Day 05, 18 Oct: 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 Tien 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. Transfer to the airport near Bishkek for further flight to Osh. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel.

**Accommodation: Classic Hotel 4\* or similar**

**Day 06, 19 Oct: 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 07, 20 Oct: 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. Accommodation at the hotel on arrival, dinner and overnight.

**Accommodation: Atlas Hotel 4\* or similar**

**Day 08, 21 Oct: 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; Botanical garden; Oriental Bazaar. In the afternoon, transfer 30 km out of the city to visit the ruins of the ancient Hissar Fortress of 18<sup>th</sup>

century; two plain madrasahs of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and mausoleum of 16<sup>th</sup> century. Return to the hotel and stay overnight in Dushanbe.

Accommodation: Atlas Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 09, 22 Oct: Dushanbe – Penjikent – "Jarteppa" land border – Samarkand (road transfer, 475 km) (B.D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer 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 team and proceed driving to Samarkand. Accommodation at the hotel, dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Grand Samarkand Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 10, 23 Oct: 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 sepulcher), Rukhabad Mausoleum (from the outside); In the afternoon: Bibi-Khanym Mosque, Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis, Ulugbek Observatory. Overnight at the hotel in Samarkand.

Accommodation: Grand Samarkand Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 11, 24 Oct: 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, domed shopping arcade. Accommodation at the hotel in Bukhara.

Accommodation: Alexia Suite Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 12, 25 Oct: Bukhara (B.D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Continuation of 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), Ulugbek Madrasah. In the afternoon, transfer 4 km from Bukhara and visit the out-of-town sites: Sitora-i Mokh-i Khosa Palace, Baha-ud-Din Naqshbandi Complex. Return to Bukhara and stay overnight at the hotel in Bukhara.

Accommodation: Alexia Suite Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 13, 26 Oct: 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 "Farap" (2-hours drive from Bukhara). Border formalities. Meet Turkmen guide and driver on the border. Visit the ancient city of Merv (UNESCO heritage site). Transfer to the hotel and stay overnight in Mary.

Accommodation: Margush Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 14, 27 Oct: Mary – Ashgabat (morning flight) (B.D)**

Breakfast at the hotel and further transfer 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: Yyllyz Hotel 5\* or similar

**Day 15, 28 Oct: 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, kutlugTimur Minaret, TurabekHanum Mausoleum. After sightseeing return to Dashoguz. Transfer to border check point at Dashoguz. Border formalities on both sides. Continue to Khiva. Arrival to Khiva, check into the hotel. Dinner at local restaurant. Stay overnight in Khiva.

Accommodation: Bankir Khiva Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 16, 29 Oct: 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 AllakulikhanMadrassah, Muhammad Amin Khan Madrassah, Kalta Minor, Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, IslomKhoja Minaret, Juma Mosque, Toshhovli and other monuments are located. Dinner at local restaurant. In the evening transfer to the airport in Urgench for flight to Tashkent by HY 1058 21:10/22:40 PM hrs. Arrival at Tashkent, transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Tashkent.

Accommodation: Ramada Hotel 4\* or similar

**Day 17, 30 Oct: Tashkent Sightseeing – Departure (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 airport for your flights to Urumqi, Xinjiang, China by China Southern Airlines.

**Day 18, 31 Oct: Tashkent – Urumqi**

**CZ6030, 31 OCT. TASHKENT – URUMQI 01:35/07:05**

Depart from Tashkent to Urumqi on China Southern Airlines and arrive in the morning. You will be at leisure in Urumqi by yourselves.

Accommodation: Mercure Urumqi Hualing Hotel\*\*\*\*\* or similar

**Day 19, 01 Nov: Urumqi – Guangzhou – Sydney or Melbourne (B)**

**CZ6895, 01 NOV. URUMQI – GUANGZHOU 10:45/16:05**

**CZ0325, 01 NOV. GUANGZHOU – SYDNEY 21:00/09:25 (02 NOV.)**

**CZ0321, 01 NOV. GUANGZHOU – MELBOURNE 21:00/09:45 (02 NOV.)**

After breakfast, you are transferred to airport for your flights homeward to Sydney or Melbourne via Guangzhou.

**Day 20, 02 Nov: Sydney or Melbourne Arrival**

You arrive in Sydney or Melbourne in the morning. Your unforgettable Five Stan Countries tour ends.

**Tour price:** \$7,980 per person, twin or double share

**Single supplement:** \$1,270

**Tour price includes:**

1. China Southern Airlines economy class air-ticket Sydney or Melbourne – Guangzhou – Urumqi – Almaty//Tashkent – Urumqi – Guangzhou – Sydney or Melbourne with airport tax and fuel surcharge;
2. Accommodation at the hotels of 4\* (mentioned below, or in 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. 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 (*minibuses or coaches* - depending on the number of tourists in a group);
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).

**Tour price doesn't include:**

1. Visa fees to Turkmenistan;
2. Travel insurance;

3. In Turkmenistan: tourist fee per night, charged in the hotels at departure 2 USD/per person/per night (obligatory);
4. Any meals or services not mentioned in the itinerary.

**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 Kazakhstan.

**2. 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).

**3. 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).

**4. 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 send 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 of in any country, where there is Turkmenistan Embassy, in Ashgabat airport or at the consular department on the border.