

15d14n Exploring Central Asia

(KKU15)

KYRGYSTAN: BISHKEK / ISSYK KUL / KARAKOL

KAZAKHSTAN: ALMATY / CHARYN CANYON

UZBEKISTAN: TASHKENT / BUKHARA / SHAKHRISABZ / SAMARKAND



MEAL PLAN

39 PLANNED MEALS

13 BREAKFASTS

13 LUNCHESES

13 DINNERS



Samarkand

DAY 1 SINGAPORE ✕ BANGKOK ✕ TASHKENT

Welcome to a unique experience!

- Assemble at Changi Airport for tour flight to Uzbekistan via Bangkok.

During winter period (Oct 20 - Mar 21):

- Arrival into Tashkent airport, transfer to hotel for overnight stay and catch the next day early morning flight to Kyrgyzstan.

DAY 2 TASHKENT ✕ BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN)

- On arrival, transfer onto a short flight to Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan.

- On arrival, embark on a city tour of Bishkek, visiting Pobeda (Victory) Square, Duboviy (Oak) Park, Central Ala-To Square, History Museum and National Philharmonic.
- After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the busy and colourful **Asian Bazaar** where you can purchase tapestry of fabrics and local produce.
- Drive out of the city to visit **Ala Archa Gorge** (45 km), a natural park located on a spur of the Tien Shan Mountain range.
- Embark on a short hiking tour to see **panoramic views of the gorge**. (Comfortable walking shoe with good grip and walking stick is highly recommended)
- Dinner at local restaurant.
- Check-in hotel for the night.

Lunch | Dinner



Issyk-Kul Lake



Karakol

DAY 4 ISSYK KUL 🚗 KARAKOL

- After breakfast, drive approximately 2 hours to **Karakol city**.
- En-route visit to the open-air **Petroglyph's Museum** (dating back to 800 B.C.) These petroglyphs were made 2000 years ago by local shamans. The images are primitive long horned ibex, horses, camels and snow leopards. There are several thousands of petroglyphs here, providing a glimpse into the world of the Iron Age.
- On arrival in Karakol, visit the **Dungan Mosque**. Completed in 1910, the mosque was built to serve Karakol's community of Dungans (Chinese Muslims who fled persecution in the 1880s). Designed by a Chinese architect, the building is constructed entirely without nails and much of its imagery, including a wheel of fire, reflects the Dungans' pre-Islamic, Buddhist past.
- Visit an old wooden **Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity**.
- Dinner and overnight in guest-house. (The guest house is a family-owned business consisting of about 15 rooms, located at the foot of the Tien-Shan Mountains in Karakol).

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 5 KARAKOL 🚗 BISHKEK

- After breakfast, depart for **Jetti Oguz Gorge** ("seven bulls") that is famous for its red rocks formations. Here you'll also see **Broken Heart Mountain**.
 - Plenty of photo-taking opportunities while hiking up to the mountain (20 mins) to see the breath-taking panoramic views. (walking stick is recommended)
 - Lunch at a local café or picnic en-route.
- Note: Meal will be simple due to lack of facilities in this rural mountain region.*
- Continue towards **Bokonbayevo Village** where we will meet the local eagle-hunter. There are still some people in the village who continue this ancient way of hunting. They train the eagles and hawks when they

are still young and every winter, they go with them to the mountains for hunting. Here you will learn many interesting facts about this way of hunting and you perhaps try keeping the bird on your hand?

- Return to **Bishkek** for dinner and the night

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 6 BISHKEK 🚗 ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

- Depart for **Almaty** (approximately 4 hours' drive), the largest city in **Kazakhstan**. (Crossing of border may take some time). Almaty was the capital of Independent Kazakhstan from 1991 to 1997. From 2007, the capital moved to Astana. Since then Almaty has been referred as the southern capital of Kazakhstan. Almaty remains the major commercial centre of the country. It's the largest, most developed, and most ethnically and culturally diverse city.
- After lunch, embark on a city tour of **Almaty**, visiting the **Ascension Cathedral** – the second highest wooden building in the world, **Square of 28 Panfilov Heroes and Museum of Musical Instruments**.
- In the evening, drive to **Kok-Tobe mountain** (the highest point of the city) to enjoy panoramic view of Almaty.
- Dinner and overnight in Almaty.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 7 ALMATY 🚗 CHARYN CANYON 🚗 ALMATY

- Set off early morning for a day excursion to the **State National Natural Park of Charyn**. (200km from Almaty)
- En route, stop for simple lunch at **Kokpek Village**. **Charyn Canyon** is considered to be the largest canyon in the world after the famous Colorado one in America. It is also an amazing creation of nature that exists for millions of years; picturesque and very diverse in geomorphologic aspects. The height of steep mountainsides reaches



Almaty

150- 300m. Numerous ravines and gullies make dense rambling net. Wind and water created stunning "Castles Valley". All along the valley you are surrounded by towers of fantastical forms, built of sedimentary rocks of about 12 million years old. Enjoy panorama of these architectural wonders and majestic castles carved by the hands of God. (Comfortable walking shoe with good grip and walking stick is highly recommended)

- Drive back to Almaty for dinner and the night.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 8 ALMATY CITY TOUR 🚗 ALMATY ✈️ TASHKENT

- Start the day with Almaty city tour and visit the **main square of Almaty** to learn more history of the city.
- Drive to **Medeo Ice Stadium** located in the mountains. Medeo sits 1,691 meters above sea level, making it the highest skating rink in the world. The mountain valley was named in honor of Medeo, a wanderer who lives in the last century and established his own **aul** (village) in this picturesque site.
- Continue to visit the "**Hawks nursery**" – a place where people train hawks, eagles, golden eagles to hunt together with them. Your guide will explain the amazing traditions of Kazakh hunting with hawks
- Return to city for dinner
- After dinner, transfer to Almaty International Airport for our flight to **Tashkent**.
- On arrival **Tashkent**, check-in hotel for the night.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Ascension Cathedral



Burana Tower

DAY 10 TASHKENT 🚆 BUKHARA

- After breakfast, transfer to Tashkent train station to take the new bullet train to **Bukhara**.
- On arrival, embark on a city tour, visiting **Citadel Ark (4th c BC)**, **Bolo-Khauz Mosque**, **Samanides Mausoleum** and **Chashma Ayub**.
- Visit **Nodir Devonbegi Madrasah**, **Lyabi-Khauz Complex**, **PoyiKalon Ensemble (Pedestal of the Great)** – the religious heart of sacred Bukhara which consists of **Minaret Kalon**, **Kalon Mosque** and **Miri Arab Madrasah**.
- This evening, enjoy folklore show at **Nodir Devonbegi Madrasah** along with traditional dinner.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 11 BUKHARA

- Explore the outskirts of Bukhara City and visit **The Memorial Complex of Bakhauddin Naqshband**, the patron saint of Bukhara – Sheikh Bakhauddin Naqshbandiy.
- Continue to **Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Complex** – the summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara.
- Return to the city for lunch at a local restaurant.
- In the afternoon, visit the **trade domes (Coumpol Bazaar)** – trading points that consist of **Toki Saraffon** (the Dome of Money changers), **Toki-TelpakFurushon** (the Dome of Cap makers), **Toki Zargaron** (the Dome of jewelers) and **Tim Abdullakhan** (the Centre of silk).
- Dinner at local house with **Master-class on traditional Uzbek pilaf cooking**.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 12 BUKHARA 🚆 SHAKHRISABZ 🚆 SAMARKAND

- Depart to **Samarkand** via **Shakhrisabz**, the birthplace and home town of Central Asia's foremost conqueror – the Great Amir Timur.
- On arrival in Shakhrisabz, visit **Ak Saroy Palace**, **Dorut Tilavat Seminary (The House of Contemplation)**, **Kok Gumbaz Mosque (Blue Dome)**, **Dorus Saodat** – the memorial complex of the eldest son of Amir Timur and the **Friday Mosque**.
- On our way to Samarkand, picture stop at **Shaitan Zhiga** (The Plateau of Demons). It is an extensive plateau of granite slabs stretching from the creeks of Miran-kul. The rocks look like sculptures of demons frozen in eternal dance.
- On arriving Samarkand, transfer to local restaurant for the dinner.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 13 SAMARKAND

- After breakfast, embark on a city tour, visiting the famous Registan Square (consisting **Madrasah Ulugbek**, **Madrasah Sher-Dor** and **Madrasah Tillya-Kori**), **Gur Emir Mausoleum** – Tamerlane's Tomb and **Bibi Khanum Mosque**
- Enjoy shopping at the eastern **Siyob Bazaar** for dried fruits, local sweets and souvenirs.
- Dinner at a local house.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 14 SAMARKAND 🚆 TASHKENT

- Continue with more sightseeing tour of Samarkand, visiting architectural complex **Shakh-i-Zinda**, **Ulugbek Observatory** and **Afrosiyob Museum**.
- In the afternoon, proceed to Samarkand Railway Station. Catch high-speed train back to **Tashkent**. (Train timing subject to change basing on exact day of travel)
- On arrival, transfer to local restaurant for dinner.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 15 TASHKENT ✈️ BANGKOK ✈️ SINGAPORE

- After breakfast, transfer to airport for your flight to Bangkok for immediate connection for your flight back to Singapore

We hope that you have had an enjoyable vacation with Dynasty Travel and look forward to bring you to your next holiday destination.

🍽️ Breakfast

Note:

The sequence of the itinerary is subject to change without prior notice. During major conferences, fairs and festivals, accommodation may be located outside the city or in an alternate city without prior notice.



Khazrat Imam Complex

DAY 9 TASHKENT

- Begin the day with city tour of **Tashkent**, starting with the old part of Tashkent.
- Visit **Khazrati Imam Complex**, where the world famous Quran of Caliph Uthman – Ottoman and gold hair of Prophet Muhammad is preserved.
- Take a walk through the famous **Chorsu Bazaar** where you can pick up some local produces and souvenirs.
- After lunch, continue to explore the new part of Tashkent.
- Visit the **Independence Square**, **Amir Temur Statue**, and **Monument of Courage**, **Museum of Applied Arts**, **Alisher Navoi Opera** and **Ballet Theatre Square**.
- Experience a ride in the **Tashkent Metro** with your guide.
- Dinner at local restaurant.

🍽️ Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner