

Best of Central Asia Tour – Fall 2025

Price: USD 7,160 per person. Deposit: USD 500. Payment can also be made in EUR or CHF. Single supplement available for USD 1,100 and required for solo travelers.

Guaranteed departures on the following dates in 2025:

Aug 22 – Sep 16 | Sep 12 – Oct 7 | Sep 19 – Oct 14 | Sep 26 – Oct 21 | Oct 3 – Oct 28 |



Kalpak Travel's Best of Central Asia Tour brings together the most fascinating aspects of culture and nature from five countries in one amazing journey. You will visit modern and historic capitals, and see firsthand the cultural treasures and traditions of the nomadic people who migrated across this region, and also those who settled in its cities. Enjoy the captivating mix of contemporary architecture and Soviet-era style in the modern metropolises of [Almaty](#), [Ashgabat](#), [Bishkek](#), [Tashkent](#), and [Dushanbe](#). You'll be captivated by magnificent Silk Road cities of [Samarkand](#), [Bukhara](#), and [Khiva](#), where the Golden Age of Islam flourished and the medieval Timurid Empire left a lasting legacy. Immerse yourself in the diversity of Central Asia's cultures and breathtaking landscapes on an unforgettable journey along the Silk Road and beyond.

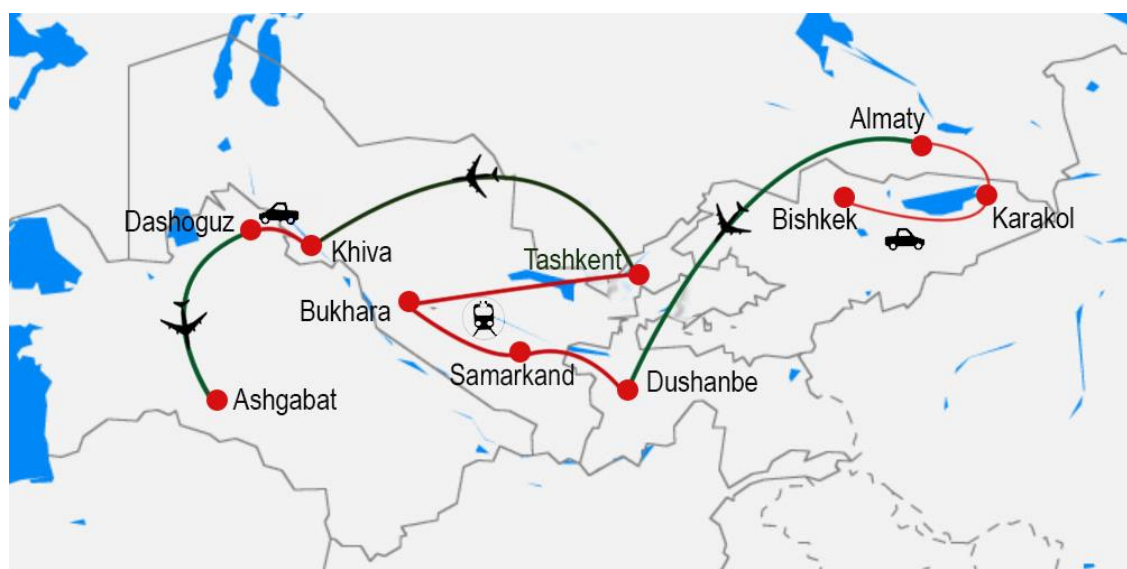
Highlights

- Combine the cultural highlights and natural beauty of Central Asia in a single tour.
- Sleep in traditional yurts and experience Kyrgyz nomadic culture firsthand.
- Gaze upon the alpine lakes of Kyrgyzstan ([Issyk Kul](#) and [Song Kul](#)) and Tajikistan.
- Marvel at Registan Square and other architectural wonders of ancient [Samarkand](#).
- Wander the bustling streets of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of [Khiva](#) and [Bukhara](#).
- Shop in authentic oriental bazaars for everything from hand-woven silks to spices.
- Feast on a barbecue next to Turkmenistan's burning gas crater known as "[The Gate of Hell](#)".
- Explore futuristic [Ashgabat](#) with its iconic white marble buildings.

Itinerary Overview

- Day 1: Arrival in Bishkek.
- Day 2: Bishkek city tour.
- Day 3: Bishkek – Burana – Chon Kemin (after Sep 25) / Kochkor (before Sep 25).
- Day 4: Kochkor – Song Kul / Chon Kemin – Kochkor.
- Day 5: Song Kul – Tamga / Kochkor – Tamga
- Day 6: Tamga – Barskoon – Jety Oguz – Karakol (c. 150 km, 4-5 h)
- Day 7: Karakol region.
- Day 8: Karakol – Charyn Canyon – Almaty (400 km, 7-8h)
- Day 9: Almaty city tour.
- Day 10: Almaty – Dushanbe (flight, 10:10 am – 12:00 pm). City tour.
- Day 11: Dushanbe city tour.
- Day 12: Dushanbe – Iskander Kul – Penjikent.
- Day 13: Penjikent – Seven Lakes – Samarkand (290km, 7h)
- Day 14: Samarkand city tour.
- Day 15: Samarkand city tour.
- Day 16: Samarkand – Bukhara (train, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm).
- Day 17: Bukhara city tour.
- Day 18: Bukhara city tour. Train to Tashkent (3:45 pm – 7:50 pm).
- Day 19: Tashkent city tour.
- Day 20: Tashkent – Khiva (flight, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm).
- Day 21: Khiva city tour.
- Day 22: Khiva – Dashoguz (c. 2 h) – Ashgabat (flight, 4:00 pm – 4:50 pm).
- Day 23: Ashgabat city tour.
- Day 24: Ashgabat city tour. Transfer to Darvaza (OPTIONAL, 280km, 4h).
- Day 25: Departure from Ashgabat OR Darvaza – Ashgabat (280km, 4h).
- Day 26: Departure from Ashgabat.

Map



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Bishkek

Welcome to Kyrgyzstan! Most flights arrive early in the morning. Upon arrival, you'll transfer to the hotel for check-in, giving you time to rest, refresh yourself, and enjoy breakfast after your long flight. In the afternoon, we'll embark on a walking city tour of Bishkek. Bishkek, the charming capital of Kyrgyzstan, has a relatively short history. Established as a Russian garrison named Pishpek in the late 19th century, it developed into a city during the Soviet era. Known for its lush greenery, Bishkek boasts tree-lined boulevards and numerous parks. Our orientation tour of Bishkek today includes visits to Oak Park and Ala-Too Square.

B-Hotel 3 or similar*

Day 2: Bishkek

After breakfast, we'll venture out to the Ala Archa National Park, situated just 30 km from Bishkek. Our time here will be spent exploring the picturesque trails and admiring the majestic mountain scenery. Following our visit to Ala Archa, we'll head to the Ata Beyit Memorial Complex, where Chinghiz Aitmatov (the renowned Kyrgyz writer) and his father, along with 138 other Kyrgyzstanis who lost their lives in the purges of 1938, are laid to rest. Ata Beyit also serves as a memorial to the 1916 Kyrgyz uprising against Russian rule. In the afternoon, you'll be free to explore the vibrant sights and sounds of Osh Bazaar, where you can immerse yourself in the bustling atmosphere and browse a variety of local goods. Alternatively, delve into Kyrgyzstan's rich history and culture with a visit to the National Museum, where fascinating exhibits await. If you prefer to unwind and take it easy, you can also enjoy some leisure time, exploring the city at your own pace.

B-Hotel 3 or similar*

Day 3: Bishkek– Burana – Kochkor / Chon Kemin

Our first stop will be Burana Tower near the town of Tokmok, 80 km east of Bishkek. Burana's 11th-century minaret is the only remaining building from the ancient city of Balasagun, once the capital of the mighty Karakhanid Empire. You can walk up the winding staircase and enjoy a wide view of the scenic Chuy Valley. There is also a small open-air museum of *balbals*, carved stone figures often found around ancient burial mounds.

Until 20 September: Kochkor

From Burana we will continue driving about two hours to the mountain village of Kochkor, where we will arrive just in time for dinner. After enjoying your meal, you will see a demonstration of how *shyrdak* (traditional felt carpets) are made. Kochkor is located at an altitude of almost 1,800 m, so this stop will help you acclimatize for the ascent to lake Song Kul on the following day.

Overnight at Nomad Lodge or similar

After 20 September: Chon Kemin

From Burana, we will drive further into the mountains to our guesthouse in the beautiful Chon Kemin Valley. It is less than two hours' ride, so we will arrive just in time for dinner. Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Kemin Guesthouse (single/twin room with private bathroom)

Day 4: Kochkor – Song Kul / Chon Kemin – Kochkor

It is only possible to visit Song Kul until the end of September, as later in the season the lake becomes inaccessible due to snow. In its place, we offer the scenic mountain valley of Chon Kemin. See below for the different itineraries for today, depending on your selected departure.

Until 25 September: Kochkor – Song-Kul

In the morning we will learn how *boorsok* (deep fried bread, a speciality of Kyrgyzstan) is made and we will eat it for breakfast. Ready for the day, we will start our ascent towards the mountain lake of Song Kul. The lake is not very far from Kochkor, but due to bad road conditions, it is still quite a long and bumpy ride (c. 3 hours). Song Kul is at an altitude of 3016 m above the sea level. Nomads spend the summer months on the *jailoo* (summer pasture) with their animals. We will arrive in time for lunch, which will be served in the yurt camp. You will have free time in the afternoon to walk to the lake shore (about 3 km) or to horse ride and observe nomadic life. We will also watch a match of Kok Boru – an exhilarating spectacle of traditional horsemanship.

Overnight in a yurt (2 people in a yurt, shared western toilets outside, simple shower)

After 25 September: Chon Kemin – Kochkor

In the morning we will learn how *boorsok* (deep fried bread, a specialty of Kyrgyzstan) is made and we will eat it for breakfast. Ready for the day, you can walk into the village and observe the lives of local people; or opt for a short horse ride into the surrounding hills. We will also have a chance to watch a match of Kok Boru – an exhilarating spectacle of traditional horsemanship. After lunch, we will drive for about two hours through the mountains to the village of Kochkor. Before dinner, you will see a demonstration of how *shyrdak* (traditional felt carpets) are made. Dinner will be in a family guesthouse and you will spend the night in a simple hotel.

Overnight at Nomad Lodge or similar

Day 5: Song Kul / Kochkor – Tamga

After breakfast, we will drive to Issyk Kul, the pearl of Kyrgyzstan and the second-largest mountain lake in the world. At an altitude of 1,600 m, it is a popular beach destination for locals. It's only a short distance on from Kochkor to Issyk Kul, but we will have several interesting stops along the way. Our first stop is in the village of Kyzyl Tuu, where we will meet a yurt maker and learn more about this traditional nomadic dwelling. Many people in this village are involved in the yurt-making business. Near Bokonbayevo, we will meet an eagle hunter, who will show us his eagle and give a short demonstration for us. At Skazka (Fairytale) Canyon, named for its surreal landscape of unique rock formations, we'll take a leisurely one-hour walk to immerse ourselves in its natural wonders. From here, it then takes just half an hour to reach our destination, a yurt camp near the shore of Issyk Kul. We will have dinner and spend the night in the yurt camp.

Overnight in a yurt (2 people in a yurt, shared bathroom facilities)

Day 6: Tamga – Barskoon – Jety Oguz – Karakol (c. 150 km, 4-5 h)

Today, we will journey further east along Issyk Kul's southern shore towards the town of Karakol, pausing at several points of interest, starting with Barskoon Gorge. Here, amidst a picturesque blend of fir trees and vibrant bushes of barberry, mountain ash, and sea-buckthorn, we will enjoy breathtaking views of Issyk-Kul and its surrounding peaks. We will break for lunch at a scenic spot en route. Here there are two intriguing monuments to Yuri Gagarin, commemorating his visit to the south shore after his historic space flight. Continuing from Barskoon, we'll ascend towards the Kumtor gold mine, reaching the beautiful Arabel Plateau at an altitude of almost 4000 m. Afterwards, we'll venture into the side valley of Jety Oguz, renowned for its distinctive red rock formations known as the Seven Bulls and The Broken Heart, each of which is steeped in fascinating legends. You'll have

the opportunity to explore these formations while our guide shares the stories behind their names. Finally, we'll check-in at the hotel and enjoy dinner with a Uighur family.

Accommodation: Hotel 78 or similar

Day 7: Day around Karakol

Karakol was founded as a Russian military outpost in 1869. It grew in the 19th century after explorers came to map the peaks and valleys separating Kyrgyzstan from China. In the 1880s, Karakol welcomed a significant number of Dungans, Chinese Muslims seeking refuge from conflicts in China. After breakfast, we will tour the town's most interesting sights. The tour includes the Dungan Mosque, built in 1904; and the wooden Russian Orthodox Church, which has stood on this site since 1869. After the short city tour, we will drive about half an hour to Yrdyk village to visit the small Dungan Museum, and learn about the Dungan community. Lunch will be served at a Dungan family's house. We will also visit the museum of Russian explorer Przhevalsky, and the local market of Karakol. Dinner will be at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel 78 or similar

Day 8: Karakol – Charyn Canyon - Almaty (400 km, 7-8 h)

It's time to depart from Kyrgyzstan and drive through southern Kazakhstan towards Almaty, its former capital. It is a very long ride and partly on bad roads. About halfway between Karakol and Almaty, we will stop for a picnic lunch at one of Kazakhstan's most famous natural attractions, Charyn Canyon. The canyon is often compared to the Grand Canyon, although it is much smaller in size, with a total length of 80-90 km. We will explore the section of the canyon known as the Valley of Castles because of its distinctive rock formations, which stretch for 3 km and descend to a depth of 100 m. We will walk 3 km down to the river and have our lunch in a scenic spot. We will arrive in Almaty in time for dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Kazzhol Park 4 or similar*

Day 9: Almaty City Tour

Almaty served as the capital of Kazakhstan for 70 years until 1997, and it remains a pivotal center for business and education in the country. Today, our city tour starts with a visit to Panfilov Park to see the memorial dedicated to Soviet soldiers who served in WWII Soviet soldiers, and a leisurely stroll to experience local life. Additionally, we'll explore Almaty's iconic Zenkov Orthodox Cathedral, renowned for its unique wooden construction and stunning architecture. At Green Bazaar, you will get the chance to meet and engage with local Kazakhs as you browse for fresh fruits and vegetables. We will also have the chance today to visit the house museum of Dinmukhamed Kunayev, the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, who played a pivotal role in the social, economic, and cultural development of the country. This is a unique opportunity for you to have a glance inside an authentic Soviet apartment and understand how the Soviet elite used to live. We will then head back to the hotel. In the evening, we will meet again in the hotel lobby and take the cable car to Kok Tobe Hill, from where you will have an impressive view of the city at dusk. Dinner will be in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Kazzhol Park 4 or similar*

Day 10: Almaty – Dushanbe (flight)

In the morning, we will transfer to the airport for our flight from Almaty to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, which departs at 10:10 am and will arrive at 12:00 pm. Upon arrival, our local Tajik guide will greet us at the airport and escort us into the city. We will then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant as we begin to explore Dushanbe. Originally, Dushanbe was a small village centered on a market which took place every Monday. The Persian word *Dushanbe* means Monday, so this is how the city got its name. It

was during the Soviet period that Dushanbe became the industrial center of Tajikistan and eventually capital city it is today. We will visit the Museum of Antiquities with its 13m-long sleeping Buddha, then tour the marvelous modern Navruz Palace.

Accommodation: Hotel Serena 5 or similar*

Day 11: Dushanbe City Tour

After breakfast, we will head into the city center to continue our tour, one of the highlights of which is visiting the statue of Ismail Samani. This grand monument, adorned with gold and marble, commemorates the 1,100th anniversary of the foundation of the Samanid State, a Golden Age of the Tajik nation marked by the flourishing of science and the arts. From there, we will walk across Rudaki Park, which is dedicated to the great Persian poet, Rudaki, who lived under Samanid rule during the 10th century. Following lunch, you will have the option to either visit the local market or to explore the city at your leisure. Dinner will be in a lively Tajik restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Serena 5 or similar*

Day 12: Dushanbe – Iskander Kul – Penjikent (290 km, 7 h)

Today we will drive to Iskander Kul, a mountain lake named after Alexander the Great. Triangular in shape, it is nestled in the Fann Mountains at an altitude of 2,200 m. The route is a delightful one, winding its way through rugged mountain scenery. On the shore of the lake we will have lunch, then take a short hike to a nearby waterfall. It is a four-hour drive from Iskander Kul to reach the town of Penjikent, where we will arrive just in time for dinner. We will stay overnight in a hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Penjikent Plaza 3 or similar*

Day 13: Penjikent – Seven Lakes – Samarkand

Our day will start with a bumpy ride through the mountains to explore the area known as the Seven Lakes. This mountain valley isn't far from Penjikent, but the rough road conditions make the journey quite lengthy. We'll drive up to the sixth lake, enjoying scenic views despite the challenging terrain. It is then a short and easy hike of about two hours (there and back) to the seventh and highest lake, Hazorchashma. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and wander along the lake shore before hiking back down to the sixth lake. After returning to the main road, we will head west to Uzbekistan, making a stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ancient Samarkand before crossing the border. We will cross into Uzbekistan on foot and meet our Uzbek guide, continuing on to the much-fabled city of Samarkand, which we will reach in time for dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Kosh Hovuz 3 or similar*

Day 14: Samarkand City Tour

Sublime Samarkand, once the capital of the Timurid Empire, was ruled by Amir Timur (Tamerlane), one of history's greatest conquerors, until his death in 1405. His vast empire rivaled any, stretching across the Eurasian steppe. Timur governed with an iron fist, yet also patronized the arts and literature. Much of the architectural heritage from this period has been preserved. We will start the city tour with a visit to Bibi-Khanum Mosque, a structure which legend has it was gifted to Timur by his wife. We will also have time to explore Siyob Bazaar.

After lunch, we will visit Registan Square, the most famous landmark in Uzbekistan. The Registan was the focal point of medieval Samarkand and is framed by three beautiful madrassas (religious schools), Ulugbek, Sherdor, and Tillya Kori. We will complete today's city tour with a visit to Gur-e-Amir, the gilded mausoleum where Timur is buried.

Accommodation: Hotel Kosh Hovuz 3 or similar*

Day 15: Samarkand City Tour

After breakfast, we will continue exploring Samarkand. Our first stop will be the magnificent Shah-i Zinda, the tiled Timurid necropolis which was built around the grave of Qutham inn Abbas, a cousin of Prophet Muhammad and the patron saint of Samarkand. Following this, we'll visit Ulugbek's Observatory to learn about Emperor Ulugbek's remarkable contributions to medieval astronomy and mathematics. In the afternoon, you can dive into the rich history of ancient Samarkand at the Afrasiyab Museum, uncovering the story of Afrasiyab, the city tragically destroyed by the Mongols in the early 13th century; or spend the time between lunch and dinner at leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel Kosh Hovuz 3 or similar*

Day 16: Samarkand – Bukhara (train, c. 2 h)

After breakfast, we will transfer to the train station to catch the high-speed train to Bukhara (10:45 am – 12:30 pm) and then drive into Bukhara's old Town to check into the hotel and have lunch. In the afternoon we will have a walking tour of [Bukhara](#), one of the most important trading hubs on the Silk Road, as well as a respected center of theology and scholarship. The Old City (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) has been well preserved and is crammed full of minarets, mosques, and madrassas. Your guide will show you Bukhara's unmissable sights, including the Poi Kalon complex, the bazaars inside Bukhara's unique trading domes, and the Samanid Mausoleum, and as you wander the labyrinthine streets you'll soak up the city's atmosphere. Dinner will be in the Old Town.

Accommodation: Hotel Alexia Suite or similar

Day 17: Bukhara City Tour

This morning we will visit a couple more sights near Bukhara. First is the Mausoleum of Bahauddin Naqshbandi, 15 km outside the city center. There are many orders in Sufism, all of which have been represented at different times in what is now Uzbekistan. The Naqshbandiyya order has a great and long-lasting influence, and this shrine complex is still a popular place of pilgrimage for Sufis. From here, we will continue to visit the summer residence of the last Emir of Bukhara, the Sitorai Mokhi Khosa, and then return to central Bukhara for lunch. In the afternoon, you will have the option to enjoy free time or to continue exploring the enchanting Old Town of Bukhara. The Ark Fortress, the 10th-century Samanid Mausoleum, and the Bolo Hauz Mosque are of particular interest. Dinner will be in the Old Town.

Accommodation: Hotel Alexia Suite or similar

Day 18: Bukhara – Tashkent (train, 4 h)

Today we will drive to a village near Bukhara to experience rural life in Uzbekistan. We will meet the Rustam family, who will show us around their home and village. We will take a walk in the village, meet local people, and see the cotton fields. We will prepare and have lunch together. In the afternoon, we will transfer to the train station to catch the modern high-speed train to Tashkent (3:45 pm – 7:35 pm), and then transfer to the city center for dinner and to check in at the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Lotte 4 or similar*

Day 19: Tashkent City Tour

With a population of over 3 million people, Tashkent is the largest city in Central Asia. Its history dates back to the first century BC when an urban settlement grew up around a major caravan crossroad on the Silk Road. Much of what you see today, however, dates from the late 20th or 21st centuries, as a devastating earthquake in 1966 destroyed much of the older city. Rebuilding Tashkent was a major Soviet infrastructure project, with laborers coming to work here from across the Soviet Union. We will start the day's sightseeing at the Monument of Courage, which remembers the victims of the earthquake. We will then walk to Independence Square, a symbol of freedom for

Uzbekistan's citizens, who declared their independence when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. At Amir Timur Square you will see the statue of the great conqueror. Next, we will drive to Chorsu Bazaar, Tashkent's blue-domed market, with its acres of spices, fresh produce, and traditional crafts. We will also visit the Old City to find the Khast Imom complex, which houses the historic holy Quran of Caliph Osman. Today's city tour will end at the Museum of Applied Arts, an ornate, rainbow-colored building which was originally built as the official residence of the Russian Ambassador.

Accommodation: Hotel Lotte 4 or similar*

Day 20: Tashkent - Khiva (flight, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm)

You will have free time this morning and then at 11:00 am transfer to Tashkent's domestic airport to catch the flight to Urgench (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm). It is a short drive from Urgench to the historic city of Khiva. We will arrive in time for an introductory walk around the walled city, known as the Ichan Qala, and dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Bankir 3 or similar*

Day 21: Khiva City Tour

Our walking tour of Khiva will begin after breakfast. Khiva is bursting with historical sites, and more than 50 of the monuments, plus dozens of traditional houses, are located within the Ichan Qala. Today you will have the chance to see them all. The entire citadel is protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As you walk through the enormous city gates, you will be confronted by a glistening beacon of Islamic design, the Kalta Minor. Our tour delves deep into all of Khiva's sites, including the elegant Juma Mosque with its forest of carved wooden pillars, and the Toshhovli Palace, the royal residence of the khans of Khiva.

Accommodation: Hotel Bankir 3 or similar*

Day 22: Khiva – Dashoguz (c. 2 h) – Ashgabat (flight, 4:00 pm – 4:50 pm).

In the morning, we'll embark on our drive to the Turkmenistan border crossing of Shavat-Dashoguz (60 km, 1 h.). We'll aim to arrive at the border by 9:00 am when it opens, and will go through the formalities at both checkpoints, which typically takes around 2-3 hours. In Dashoguz we will have lunch and a short city tour, and in the afternoon we will take the domestic flight to Ashgabat. Upon arrival in the Turkmen capital, we will transfer to the hotel and then have dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Diwan 5 or similar*

Day 23: Ashgabat City Tour

After breakfast, we'll begin our city tour exploring the capital of Turkmenistan. Ashgabat has been rebuilt multiple times over its extensive history. Today, the city's opulent marble architecture, reflecting Turkmenistan's natural gas wealth, stands as a testament to its prosperity. In fact, Ashgabat holds a Guinness record for the world's highest density of white marble buildings, a feature you'll witness firsthand during today's city tour. Alongside this remarkable feat, the tour also showcases other world records set by the city. Highlights include visits to the National Museum of History, the Arch of Neutrality, and Independence Park. After dinner, we'll drive back to Ashgabat through the New City area, soaking in the breathtaking night illuminations.

Accommodation: Hotel Diwan 5 or similar*

Day 24: Ashgabat Region (optional: Darvaza 280 km , c. 4h)

After breakfast, we will drive to the Old Nisa fortress (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) – the earliest capital of the Parthian Empire. Located on an irregular pentagonal hill at the foot of the Kopet-Dag Mountains, Old Nisa is a beautiful landmark. 14 hectares in size, the fort accommodates two semi-excavated complexes from the Parthian period (III c. BC – III c. AD), thought to be a royal residence

and a temple complex. We will then drive back to Ashgabat, stopping en route at the Halk Hakydasy National Memorial Complex, which remembers the victims of WWII and catastrophic earthquakes. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. As today is Sunday, we will have the chance to visit Tolkuchka Bazaar, including the livestock section with camels. You will have free time in the afternoon and then an early farewell dinner at the hotel. (Most flights depart very early in the morning).

*Accommodation: Hotel Diwan 5*or similar*

Those guests who choose to visit Darvaza will drive in the afternoon to the Darvaza Gas Crater, situated in the heart of the Karakum Desert (270 km, 4h). Together, we'll savor a delightful fire-cooked dinner at the yurt camp, where we'll also spend the night. Please note: the journey to the gas crater is long and bumpy. We'll drive back to Ashgabat the following day using the same route. If you prefer not to visit Darvaza, you can leave Ashgabat on the following day and save 280 USD.

Overnight in a yurt camp (2 people per yurt, shared bathroom facilities)

Day 25: Ashgabat Departure OR Darvaza -Ashgabat

Transfer to Ashgabat Airport for your flight back home, or return to Ashgabat from Darvaza, with free time in the afternoon.

Day 26: Ashgabat Departure

Transfer to Ashgabat Airport for your flight back home.

Price includes

- All transfers, including airport pick-up and drop-off.
- Accommodation is based on two people sharing a double/twin room; breakfasts are included.
- Full board (all lunches and dinners)
- English-speaking local tour leader in each country / for groups of more than 6 people tour leader accompanying the group during the whole trip
- All entry fees as per the itinerary
- Train tickets Samarkand-Bukhara
- Economy class flight tickets Almaty-Astana, Astana-Tashkent, Tashkent-Dushanbe
- Visa support letters for the Turkmenistan tourist visa

Price does not include

- International air fares to and from Central Asia
- Hotel charges for additional services
- Consular fees for tourist visas
- Travel insurance (required)
- Personal expenses (e.g. souvenirs)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tips for guides and drivers (optional)

Important Information

- This is the Fall version of our bestselling tour to the “Five Stans”. We also have a Spring version (starting in Ashgabat), and a Summer version (including more mountains).
- All listed departures are guaranteed
- You can also opt to book the whole itinerary as a private tour. We can arrange extra nights before or after the trip, and suggest private tour extensions.
- We can advise and take care of all visas for you. For Turkmenistan, you can get a visa on arrival with a letter of invitation pre-arranged by us. Other countries are visa-free for most nationalities.
- A USD 500 per person deposit is required at the time of booking, and the balance is due 15 days prior to departure. Terms & Conditions: <https://kalpak-travel.com/terms-and-conditions/>
- Travel insurance is required
- We are happy to suggest flights to get to Central Asia and back home: please contact us
- See our [books recommendation on Central Asia & the Silk Road](#)
- Read more about [food in Central Asia](#)