

Title CBT tour program/excursion: Over the mountains and deserts of unforgettable East

Destinations: Uzbekistan + Kyrgyzstan

Regions: Tashkent - Samarkand - Setyab village - Aydarkul Lake - Bukhara - Tashkent - Bishkek – Ala Archa – Bishkek - Burana - Chon Kemin - Issyk Kul lake northern shore - Karakol - Jeti Oguz - Issyk Kul southern shore - Kochkor - Son Kul - Suusamir - Bishkek

Duration: 14 days / 13 nights

Season: April-May, September-October

Summary:

Central Asia ... An ancient and boundless country, full of natural contrasts. Ancient cities with their mysterious mosques, minarets, and the modern capital. Noisy bazaars, immediately behind which quiet streets begin. Impressive contrast of deserts and flowering oases with turquoise smooth lakes. Blooming gardens and a boundless starry sky. In the Asiatic, the burning sun and the piercing night coolness. Choose from the usual routine and find yourself in the middle of a completely different, extraordinary world.

Day by day description:

Day 1: Tashkent

Meeting at the Islam Karimov Tashkent International Airport. Today you will have a short city tour over the Tashkent city. Tashkent has been the **capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan** since 1930. It is a city that appeared more than 2200 years ago at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road. Tashkent today is a modern cultural and business center. The city is divided into two parts: old and new. Your excursion will pass through both old and new parts of the city. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 2: Tashkent - Samarkand (290 km, train transfer)

Morning transfer to Samarkand with high-speed-train "Afrosiab". Today you will get acquainted with the astonishing collection of ancient monuments of the city, which was located on the Great Silk Road. Samarkand is the **most famous city in Central Asia**, which history dates back more than 2500 years. In the 14th and 15th centuries, when Samarqand was ruled by the Timurid Dynasty, it was one of the world culture centers. The turquoise domes of Samarqand are among the world's most evocative architectural symbols. Besides you will visit the famous **Siab bazaar**. It is Samarkand's largest and oldest bazaar, one of the largest and oldest bazaars in Uzbekistan and Central Asia. The area of the bazaar exceeds seven hectares. The Siab Bazaar is one of the most visited places of the city. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 3: Samarkand - Sentyab village (200 km, car transfer)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the village of Sentyab village, located in the picturesque Nurata Mountains, **away from noisy motorways and big cities**. Here you can walk in nature, participate in the preparation of traditional dishes. It gives an excellent opportunity to relax from the city bustle and get acquainted with the life of the Uzbek mountain village. Also, you can have **walk-tour to the petroglyphs (ancient stone patterns)** (9 km) with a local guide. Overnight in a guesthouse „Gulmurod“.

Day 4: Sentyab village - Yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari" (140 km, car transfer)

After early breakfast, you will walk to the mountain or to the lake Fazilmund (20 km, with a local guide). After a **picnic** by the lake, we will return to Sentyab and then will be transferred to the yurt camp. On the way, you can have a good chance to familiarity with the flora and fauna of the **Kyzylkum desert** (translated from Turkic means "red sands"). After accommodation in a yurt camp, you will have a little rest and enjoy the **traditional dinner around the fire that is accompanied by singing akyns**. Overnight in yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari".

Day 5: Yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari"

In the early morning, you can move on camels to the **anchorage of shepherds** to get acquainted with the life of local residents (2 hours of travel, with a local guide). Here, near the yurt camps for tourists are given the opportunity **to feel like a nomad** - massage in the Middle Ages. In addition, you will try a real nomadic meal of meat, drink kumys and you will be offered a camel ride through the most picturesque places of the oasis. Then you can enjoy the dinner by the fire. Overnight in yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari".

Day 6: Yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari" - Aydarkul Lake - Bukhara (250 km, car transfer)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the **Aidarkul Lake**, located in the Kyzylkum desert. Aydarkul is called a geographical miracle, a "turquoise sea in the sands". You will have enough time to swim and fish. Also here on the shore of a beautiful lake you will have a **picnic and taste the freshly baked fish**. In the evening you will be transferred to Bukhara. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 7: Bukhara - Tashkent (550 km, flight)

After breakfast, you will have a wonderful 6 hours' sightseeing in Bukhara. "While all over the world light falls on the ground from above, in Bukhara it comes from the earth!" Bukhara, "the Pearl of the Orient", is one of the most ancient cities of the East. Present time Bukhara is given a name as a "**Book of architecture**" where monuments built in different periods (from the 9th to 20th cc) are presented. Walking in Bukhara from one monument to the other you can see the development of architectural forms and décor. During the excursion, you will have a shortstop and visit a famous **tea house "Spices of the Silk Road"**. This unique cafe surprises you with a huge variety of delicious tea made from herbs and oriental spices. Evening flight to Tashkent. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 8: Tashkent - Bishkek – Ala Archa – Bishkek (45 km*2)

Morning flight to Bishkek. Your guide will pick you up at Manas International Airport and accompany you to the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, just a 30-minute drive from the airport. The first half of the day is dedicated to a guided tour of Bishkek. In the afternoon you will visit **Ala Archa gorge**. It is a Natural Park. At the Soviet Time, only V.I.P. people had permission to go for a walk here. The Ala Archa gorge is on a spur of the Tien Shan mountain range. It is just 45 km from Bishkek. You can have a short hiking tour to see a panoramic view of the gorge. Afterward, you return to Bishkek. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 9: Bishkek – Burana – Chon Kemin

Today you will be transferred to **Chon Kemin gorge**. On route to the gorge, you will visit Burana Tower (an 11th-century minaret) and an open-air museum of Balbals (stone warriors). After an interesting excursion and climbing on the top of the tower, you will transfer to Chon Kemin gorge. In the afternoon you will have 3 hours of **horse riding**. Your route will go high in the mountains and you will even ride horses through a mountain forest. On the top, you will see the panorama view of the gorge. The night will be in a homestay.

Day 10: Chon Kemin – Issyk Kul lake northern shore – Karakol

Today you will drive to the celestial Issyk Kul Lake, the second largest alpine lake in the world (1608m.above sea level). The lake is called "**the pearl of Central Asia**". For more than 1 500 years local people considered the lake to be a sacred one. You can come up to the lake and see mountains all around it. Today you will drive along the whole northern shore and arrive at Karakol town. Also, you will visit today a place with **ancient stone patterns – petroglyphs**. In Karakol, you will visit the Dungan mosque. It was built in Chinese style without using a single nail. It will be followed by the visit of an old wooden Orthodox Church. The night is in a guesthouse.

Day 11: Karakol – Jeti Oguz – Issyk Kul southern shore – Kochkor

Today we will drive to Jeti Oguz gorge. It's famous for its red rocks formations that have a name Seven Bulls – Jeti Oguz. Also, you will see there the Broken Heart Mountain. If you want it is possible to go on a top of a mountain (20 minutes) to see a panorama view of the gorge. Then we continue our trip, breaking in Bokonbaeva village, where you will meet a **local eagle-hunter**. He hunts hares and

foxes with the help of eagles (a traditional way of nomadic hunting). When we arrive at Kochkor village you will meet a family who will show you **how to make national woolen felt carpets**. The night is in a homestay.

Day 12: Kochkor – Son Kul

After breakfast, we start our drive to the second largest lake in Kyrgyzstan – Son Kul Lake. This lake is surrounded by mountains and it is the highest alpine lake in Kyrgyzstan, situated at an altitude of 3013 meters above sea level. **Kyrgyz nomads** started to come to this wonderful area with their families for rest and relaxation. Herders of the Naryn region come to the lake to use it as a pastureland. After our arrival, you will be free to explore and enjoy the virgin nature of the lake and its surroundings. Overnight is in nomadic collapsible dwellings - yurts.

Day 13: Son Kul – Suusamir – Bishkek

After meeting with locals, you will drive to the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek city. The road to the city goes through the southern part of Kyrgyzstan. During your transfer be prepared for amazing views of impressive mountains and gorges. Today you will see panoramic views of Tue Ashuu pass which is more than 3000 meters high! This road is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Kyrgyzstan. You will have many photos stops so that you will remember this day. Fantastic roads, amazing views, nomads, high mountains; ensure your memories of Kyrgyzstan will last a lifetime. Overnight is in a hotel.

Day 14: Bishkek - Departure

Transfer to the airport. Home flight.

Level of difficulty:

This tour is suitable for both children and adults.

Conditions.

If you have some specific sicknesses you need to bring own first aid kit with necessary medicaments.

It is necessary to bring warm clothes and trekking boots.

List of included services:

- Transport for transfers and excursions
- Double / Twin room accommodation in hotels
- Yurt accommodation at the Aydarkul Lake ("Kyzylkum Safari") and at Son Kul Lake
- Guesthouse accommodation in Sentyab village („Gulmurod") and in Karakol
- Homestay in Chon Kemin and in Kochkor
- Breakfasts at the hotels
- FB during the accommodation in Sentyab village and in yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari"
- English speaking accompanied guide service in Uzbekistan and in Kyrgyzstan
- Local guide service in Sentyab village and yurt camp "Kyzylkum Safari"
- Kamel riding in Aydarkul and horse riding in Chon Kemin
- Entry fees for museums and excursions
- Visiting a famous tea house "Spices of the Silk Road" in Bukhara
- RW Tickets for high-speed train
- Mineral water during the tour

Name and contact details of the tour operator company:

"TES TOUR" in Uzbekistan and "TRAVEL EXPERTS" in Kyrgyzstan

3 pictures

