

21 DAY CULTURAL ODYSSEY

# BEST OF THE STANS

\$5799

PER  
PERSON  
TWIN  
SHARE

TYPICALLY \$9999

SAMARKAND • DUSHANBE • ALMATY • KHIVA • SEOUL

## THE OFFER

A centuries-old trade route passing through vast deserts and across towering mountain ranges; the Silk Road is home to some of Central Asia's most spectacular cities and landscapes. On this 21 day tour, the diverse history, culture and natural beauty of this exotic region is yours to uncover.

Take in the best of 'the Stans' - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - as you make your way through the historic cities, villages and landscapes of the great Silk Road. Enjoy a day in Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan; witness dramatic rock formations in Charyn Canyon; go horse riding at a Kyrgyz yurt camp; and admire the Russian-influenced architecture of Karakol on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul. Journey to the iconic city of Samarkand, home to the Registan Square; ignite your senses with a stroll through Osh Bazaar; see Poi Kalon and Kalon Minaret on a city tour of Bukhara; explore UNESCO listed Khiva; visit the Museum of Antiquities in Dushanbe - and so much more! With return international flights aboard five-star carrier Asiana Airlines, two additional flights, 17 nights hotel accommodation and a night in an authentic yurt, as well as a stopover in vibrant Seoul, this is a journey three thousand years in the making!

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**Trip**  
**aDeal**  
Est. 2011

Offer available for a limited time or until sold out. TRIP A DEAL PTY LTD: 50149240433

## 21 DAY CULTURAL ODYSSEY | BEST OF THE STANS



### THE ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Australia - Seoul, South Korea

Today depart from either Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane for Seoul, South Korea. Fly with Asiana Airlines. Upon arrival in Seoul, complimentary stopover accommodation will be provided by the airline, allowing you to rest before flying onwards to Almaty, Kazakhstan tomorrow.

Please note: Customers travelling from Melbourne or Brisbane will fly via Sydney and will be required to be at the airport early in the morning.

**Overnight: Airport Hotel (provided by airline), Seoul, South Korea**

**Meals included: In-Flight**

#### Day 2 Seoul, South Korea - Almaty, Kazakhstan

Enjoy today at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight from Seoul to Almaty, Kazakhstan. Upon arrival in Almaty this evening you will be transferred to the hotel.

**Overnight: Plaza Hotel, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast; In-Flight**

#### Day 3 Almaty Sightseeing Tour

This morning set out on a city tour of Almaty, the southern capital of Kazakhstan and largest city in the country. During the city tour you will see beautiful wooden Russian buildings - Zenkov Cathedral, the ex-assembly house of Czar officers and an apparel shop (1903 - 1908). You will visit the 28 Panfilov's Guardsmen Park, Zenkov Cathedral, Museum of History and Republic Square.

In the afternoon continue onwards to the picturesque

Big Almaty Lake, where the turquoise surface reflects the surrounding peaks almost like a mirror. This evening you will experience a Sunkar show where you will learn about birds of prey - how they are used for hunting, their history, lifestyle and organic traits. Five to seven species of birds take part in the show.

Afterwards enjoy dinner and return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Plaza Hotel, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast; Dinner**

#### Day 4 Almaty Free Day

Today enjoy the day at leisure to either relax or explore Almaty. Alternatively, you can take the opportunity to join an optional activity (not included).

**Optional Activity: Half Day Madeo Gorge & Kok-Tobe Tour - \$110 per person**

Today travel to picturesque Medeo Gorge, which is located 25km from Almaty and has an altitude of over 2000m. It hosts the highest mountain skate ring in the world, as well as the largest skiing resort of the region. On the way stop by a dam which protects the city from avalanches and mudslides, which have been known to cascade from the slopes. Take a cable car trip to the top to enjoy an amazing panorama of Tien-Shan Mountains. Later return to Almaty to enjoy a cable car trip at Kok-Tobe recreational area to witness a panorama of Almaty and surroundings.

**Overnight: Plaza Hotel, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

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#### Day 5 Almaty - Charyn Canyon, Kazakhstan - Karakol, Kyrgyzstan (approx. 400km day)

This morning head towards the amazing Charyn Canyon, often described as the Grand Canyon of Kazakhstan. The dramatic erosion made by the river Charyn has created an impressive landscape of red-coloured rocky formations that resemble castles, leading the canyon to be nicknamed the Valley of Castles. It's spectacular during the day, as well as under a starlit sky.

Afterwards cross the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border. After all border procedures continue on to Karakol via the scenic Karkara Valley, famous for its mountain flowers that attract many beekeepers. Tonight enjoy dinner with an ethnic Uighur family to taste the national cuisine of Lagman. Lagman is a traditional Uighur dish made of pulled noodles, meat and vegetables. You will be able to see and help with the process of making and cooking Lagman.

Afterwards transfer to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Overnight:** Karagat Hotel, Green Yard Hotel or Amir Hotel, Karakol, Kyrgyzstan

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Dinner

#### Day 6 Karakol City Tour - Bokonbayevo (approx. 120km day)

A visit to Karakol town is like stepping back in time a hundred years to an age of Tsarist Russia. This morning head out on a city tour to visit old Russian style houses (1870 – 1910), Russian Orthodox Church (1886) and Dungan Mosque (1899) made out of wood with no nails.

After the tour, transfer to Jeti-Oguz Gorge. Here you will have an opportunity to admire fantastic rock formations made

of red sandstone, as well as local pastures which have long been used by shepherds to graze flocks of sheep and herds of horses.

Continue along the southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake. The lake sits in a hollow surrounded by the snowcapped peaks of Terskei and Kungei Ala-Tau Mountain ranges at an altitude of 1600m. Issyk-Kul Lake is 180km long, 60km wide and 700m deep. One hundred and thirty four streams and rivers flow into the lake but none flow out due to underwater tectonic activity.

Tonight arrive at a semi nomadic yurt camp where you can experience horseback riding and, in the evening, take part in a baking class to make famous Kyrgyz flat bread followed by a traditional dinner. Tonight you will sleep in a traditional Yurt home. All yurts are brightly decorated and sleep four to five people - toilet and shower facilities are outside of the yurts. A traditional yurt (as it's known in Turkic languages) is a portable, round tent covered with skins or felt and used as a dwelling by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia.

Please note:

- As yurt accommodation is on a shared basis (4-5 people per Yurt) private rooms are not provided. This applies to both twin share and solo travellers.

- All yurts have been designed in the traditional nomadic way with mattresses on wool carpeted floors (there are no bed frames).

**Overnight:** Almaluu Traditional Yurt Camp, Bokonbaevo, Kyrgyzstan

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Dinner

#### Day 7 Bokonbayevo - Burana Tower - Bishkek - Sightseeing Tour (approx. 280km day)

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Today travel onwards to the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek. On the way stop at Burana Tower, a 12th century minaret built by the Turkish Karakhanids dynasty. Nowadays it's a museum complex which includes the tower itself, reconstructions of mausoleums found onsite, remains of the citadel, a collection of balbals (grave stones used by nomadic Turkic peoples), and petroglyphs (stone carvings), as well as a small museum.

Afterwards continue to Bishkek, the capital and largest city in Kyrgyzstan. Located at the foothill of magnificent Kyrgyz Ala-Tau mountain range, Bishkek is a city of many green parks and marble-faced public buildings, combined with numerous Soviet-style apartment blocks and thousands of smaller privately built houses. It's laid out on a grid pattern, with most streets flanked on both sides by narrow irrigation channels that water the innumerable trees which provide shade during hot summers.

The city is believed to be the greenest in Central Asia with more trees per head of population than any other. Upon arrival enjoy a sightseeing tour and visit Ala-Too Square, the main square of the city. The square serves as a place for state events and celebrations and includes many monuments, open-air picture gallery, famous Oak Park, marble government buildings and theatres. Your evening in Bishkek will culminate in a delightful dinner and folklore show, where artists will demonstrate their national musical instruments and techniques of playing.

**Overnight: Plaza Hotel, Ambassador Hotel or Garden Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 8 Bishkek - Osh - Sightseeing Tour

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Osh

(approx. 1 hour). Osh is the oldest city in Kyrgyzstan (estimated to be over 3000 years old) and the second largest in the country. The town is situated at the crossroads of the ancient trading routes that became known as the Silk Road.

The age of the city can be judged by the rock drawings and inscriptions found on the northern slope of the Suleiman Mountain, a distinctive monument in the centre of Osh. The UNESCO listed mountain, also known as Sulayman Throne, is a popular place of pilgrimage for local Muslims, with stairs leading up to the highest peak with a small mosque originally built in 1510.

Visit the brightly coloured Osh Bazaar, Historical Museum, and a local bread bakery. Get hands on with a local baker to learn how lepyoshka (also known as tandyr nan) is made, including preparing the dough, shaping and decorating the circular loaves and placing them in the tandyr oven.

Afterwards visit the workshop of Zakir Aka, who has been making handmade knives for almost 60 years. This evening enjoy dinner with an Uzbek family. Your hosts will demonstrate and explain all the tricks of cooking some of Central Asia's most famous meals – such as Plov (or Pilaf).

**Overnight: Osh Nuru Hotel, Osh, Kyrgyzstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 9 Osh, Kyrgyzstan - Khujand, Tajikistan - Sightseeing Tour (approx. 370km day)

Today travel to Tajikistan (border crossing at Kyzyl-Bel). Upon arrival into Khujand, the country's second largest city, visit the mausoleum of Sheikh Muslihiddin - the 12th century poet and ruler of Khujand; and the Historical Museum, which is located in a citadel and the largest bazaar in Tajikistan - Payshanba.

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Afterwards enjoy dinner and an evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Hotel Firuz, Khujand, Tajikstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 10 Khujand - Istaravshan - Dushanbe (approx. 350km day)

Today drive onwards to the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, via the Varzob Gorge and the Istiklol Tunnel. On the way you will enjoy majestic views of the Fan Mountain ranges and emerald Iskandarkul Lake (2195m), which reflects the surrounding mountains. Stop in the ancient city of Istaravshan, founded by Persian King Cyrus the Great in the 7th century. You will visit the old town with its mosque of Shohi-Zinda and Mug Teppe, where a gigantic fortress once stood. Next travel on to Dushanbe with a couple of stops in local villages along the way. You will get the chance to be acquainted with the local people and see the day-to-day life of local farmers.

**Overnight: Hotel Atlas, Dushanbe, Tajikstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 11 Dushanbe Sightseeing Tour

In the Tajik language, the name of Dushanbe is translated as "Monday". It was so named as it originally had a popular market on Mondays. Areas around Dushanbe were known as a centre of cotton and silk production during the Soviet period. Though the name of the city is rather new, its historical past dates as far back as three thousand years. Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of Greek-Bactrian settlements, a settlement from the Kushan period, a Shishi Khon village and other medieval settlements.

The tour in Dushanbe will include the Museum of Antiquities,

home to the UNESCO protected reclining Buddha, the largest statue of Buddha in Central Asia; the main mosque; old synagogue; Russian Orthodox Church; Rudaki Park; and the Shah-Mansur Bazaar. You will also take a trip to the 18th century Hissar Fortress, a former palace from the Emirate of Bukhara.

**Overnight: Hotel Atlas, Dushanbe, Tajikstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 12 Dushanbe - Penjikent - Sightseeing Tour (approx. 230km day)

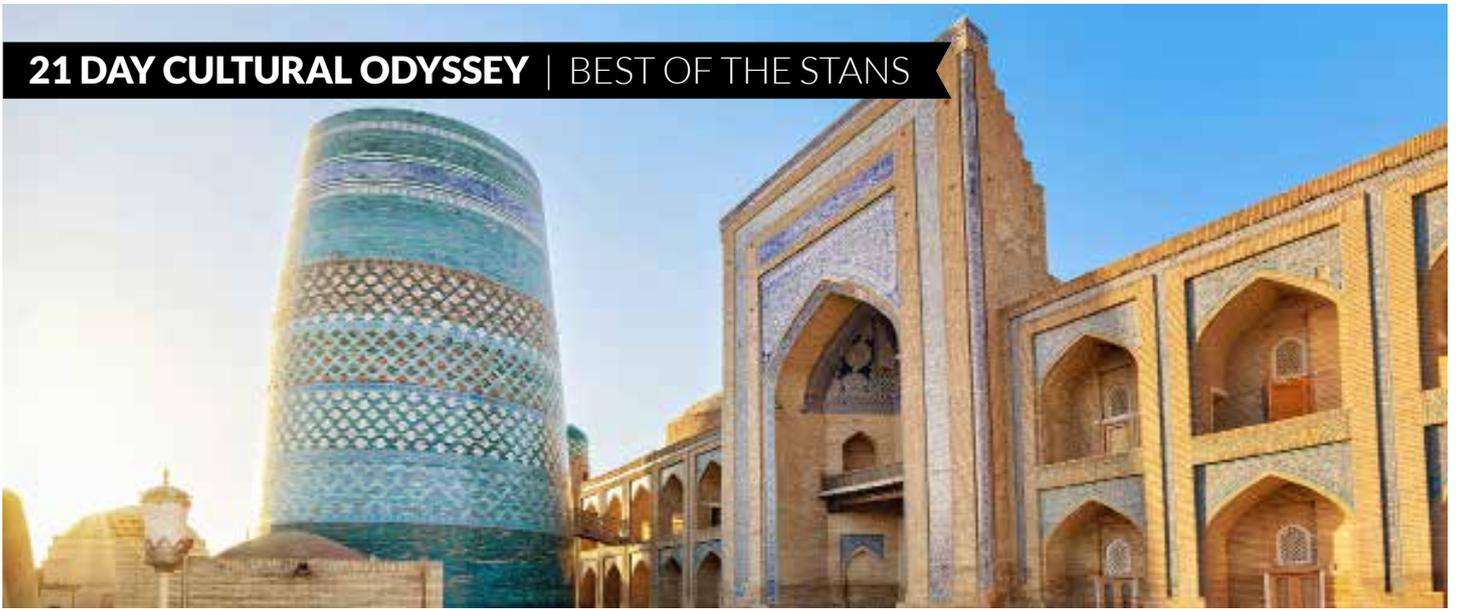
Your destination today is Penjikent, a town that is very famous in tourist circles for its architectural monuments, as well as a wonderful recreation area on the coast of the Zaravshan River. Penjikent is one of the most ancient cities of Central Asia, the venerable age of which is 5500 years. The name of the city in Russian is translated as Five Villages. After arrival in Penjikent, visit the excavation site of Old Penjikent, the 5th century 'Pompeii of Central Asia', with its former palaces and necropolises. Also visit the elegant Rudaki Museum, known for its display of textiles and costumes.

**Overnight: Hotel Sughd, Penjikent, Tajikstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 13 Penjikent, Tajikstan - Samarkand, Uzbekistan - Sightseeing Tour (approx. 70km day)

After crossing the Uzbek-Tajik border this morning and being welcomed by your new tour guide, drive onwards to Samarkand. The historic city of Samarkand is a crossroad and a melting pot of cultures. Founded in the 7th century as ancient Afrosiab, Samarkand received its most significant



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development in the Timurid's period from the 14th to the 15th centuries. Today you will explore the fabled city of Samarkand, one of the most important sites of the Silk Road.

Visit Registan Square, which was for many centuries the heart of Samarkand. See three beautiful madrasahs: the Ulug-Bek Madrasah built in the 15th century; the Tillya-Kori Madrasah built in the 17th century and the Sher-Dor Madrasah, also built in the 17th century. Visit Gur Emir, a mausoleum of the Great Tamerlane. Dinner tonight will be at the National House of Shakhnoza. A visit to the National House (traditional restaurant) will plunge you into an atmosphere of local flavours where you will find real traditional Uzbek cuisine.

**Overnight: Hotel Majestik Palace, Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 14 Samarkand - Shakhrisabz - Bukhara - Sightseeing Tour (approx. 270km day)

Today depart along the ancient silk road enroute to the city of Bukhara. On the way visit Shakhrisabz, one of most ancient cities in Central Asia. Founded over 2700 years ago, it is the hometown of Tamerlane (Timur), a Turco-Mongol Persianate conqueror.

Afterwards continue onwards to Bukhara. The history of Bukhara stretches back millennia. Humans have inhabited the region around Bukhara for at least five millennia, though the city has existed for only half that time. Located on the Silk Road, it has long served as a centre of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion. The city is also known as an open-air museum of mosques, madrasahs and minarets. It was the first oasis that caught the eyes of invading Arab armies. In its 2500 year history it has constantly changed hands from one

ruler to another. Enjoy a guided tour and visit sites such as the architectural complex Poi Kalon with the Kalon Minaret, Kalon Mosque and Mir-Arab Madrasah, Toki Zargaron trade-domes and Magoki Attori Mosque.

**Overnight: Hotel Malika Bukhara or Minzifa Inn, Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 15 Bukhara Sightseeing Tour

This morning visit an oriental bazaar full of traditional colours and oriental smells. Continue with a walk through Bukhara to marvel at the most beautiful architectural ensembles of mosques and madrasahs, visiting the Ark Citadel, the Mausoleum of the Samanids, Chor Minor Madrasahs, Lyabi Khauz Square, the Mausoleum Chashma Ayub and Bolo Mosque. Afterwards enjoy a folklore show in Nadir Divan Begi Madrasah followed by an evening at leisure.

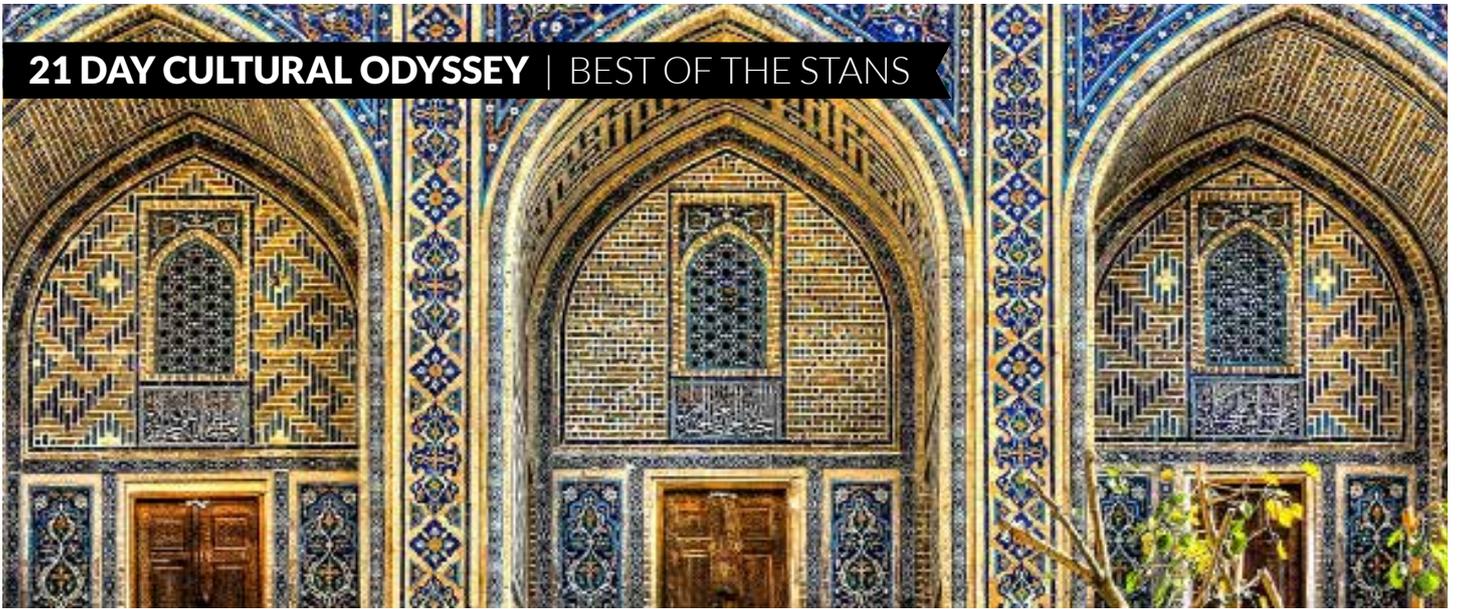
**Overnight: Hotel Malika Bukhara or Minzifa Inn, Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 16 Bukhara - Kyzylkum Desert - Khiva (approx. 470km day)

Today proceed onwards to Khiva via the Kyzylkum Desert (red sands) - the past route of invaders, nomadic hordes, armies of Persians, Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan. Enjoy a picnic lunch at Amudarya (Oxus River) and then continue to Khiva. Many important spiritual and cultural values came from the large scientific centres of astronomy, mathematics and medicine that operated in this area centuries ago. A valuable heritage of knowledge was left here by internationally famous

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scholars such as Beruni, Agakhi and Nadjmiddin. One can stroll through the narrow streets of Khiva, peeking into the small courtyards through the wooden carved doors. The life inside the gardens assures the visitor it is not just a museum, but also a living city.

**Overnight: Hotel Malika Kheivak, Khiva, Uzbekistan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner**

#### Day 17 Khiva Sightseeing Tour

This old town is like a daylight museum from tales of 'One Thousand and One Nights', and has been a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site since 1990. Behind every corner and gate there are fascinating scenes, whether it be the mosques; inner squares, minarets sparkling in the sun, ornamented carved wooden doors or small workshops, where the inhabitants still follow traditional craftsmanship. Khiva has still retained the atmosphere of an ancient, oriental city.

Today you will visit the old town of Khiva with the surrounding Kunya Ark fortress, Mohammed Amin Khan Madrasah, beautifully decorated Islamic Khodja Minaret, Palvan Kari Complex and Rafanek Madrasah. In the afternoon, continue your exploration with a visit to the Uch-Avliyo Mausoleum; Juma Mosque; the Tash-Hauli Palace, where a cobra is still guarding the gold treasures of the last Khan, Arab Mohammed Khan Madrasah; and more. Everywhere within this old town you will see fine, ornate wood carvings - an art that has been cultivated in Khiva since ancient times. Enjoy a beautiful panoramic view of the sunset from the Akshi Bobo Tower.

**Overnight: Hotel Malika Kheivak, Khiva, Uzbekistan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 18 Khiva - Tashkent - City Tour

This morning fly to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan,

and enjoy a city tour on arrival. This wonderful city is a real embodiment of the modern elegance that is inherent in many world capitals. At the same time it remains an oriental city. Enjoy a discovery tour which will take you to ancient squares and buildings, as well as the modern part of the 2,000 year old city. Visit Kukeldash Madrasah, which still serves as a Koran School, the Khast-Imam Square with the beautiful Barak Khan Madrasah, the Tillya Sheikh Mosque and the Kaffal Shashi Mausoleum made of simple brickwork. Here you can also take a look at the Koran written by the third Caliph Osman (644 - 656). Afterwards transfer to the hotel for dinner and an evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Hotel City Palace, Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

#### Day 19 Tashkent, Uzbekistan – Seoul, South Korea

Today check out of the hotel and take a stroll through the huge Chorsu Bazaar which will let you experience the everyday life of Uzbekistan with all your senses. In the afternoon visit the interesting Museum of Applied Arts before transferring to Tashkent Airport for your overnight flight to Seoul, South Korea.

**Meals included: Breakfast;In-Flight**

#### Day 20 Seoul, South Korea - Australia

This morning arrive into Seoul, South Korea and transfer to the transit hotel. Enjoy time at leisure before departing for Australia later this evening.

**Day Use: Days Hotel and Suites Incheon Airport or similar (day use)**

**Meals included: In-Flight**

#### Day 21 Arrive in Australia

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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Discover 5 countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and South Korea

Explore the historic cities and villages of the Silk Road

Enjoy time at leisure in fascinating Seoul

See beautiful wooden Russian buildings on a city tour of Almaty

Enjoy a free day at leisure in Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan

Visit picturesque Big Almaty Lake in Kazakhstan

Witness dramatic rock formations in Charyn Canyon

Cook 'Lagman' a traditional Uighur dish with an Uighur family

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Karakol, a city backdropped by alpine peaks

See the red sandstone rock formations of Jeti-Oguz Gorge

Travel along the beautiful Issyk-Kul Lake

Enjoy horseback riding and flat bread making in a Kyrgyz yurt camp

Visit Burana Tower, a 9th century minaret built by the Karakhanids

Explore Bishkek, 'the greenest city in Central Asia'

Visit Ala-Too Square, the main square of Bishkek

Experience a demonstration of traditional Kyrgyz instruments and techniques

Tour historic Osh, the oldest city on Kyrgyzstan

Visit the colourful Osh Bazaar and Historical Museum

Learn the cooking techniques of Central Asia's most famous meals with an Uzbek family

Visit the workshop of Zakir Aka, maker of handmade knives for almost 60 years

Marvel at the centuries-old Sheikh Muslihiddin Mausoleum in Khujand

Travel along the picturesque Varzob Gorge in Tajikistan

Discover the city of Istaravshan, founded by Persian King Cyrus the Great in the 7th century

Visit the Museum of Antiquities in Dushanbe, home to the UNESCO protected reclining Buddha

Take in the excavation site of old Penjikent and Rudaki Museum

Visit the fabled city of Samarkand, an icon of the Silk Road

Explore Registan, the heart of the ancient Samarkand

See Gur Emir, Ulug-Bek Madrasah and more

Visit Shakhrisabz, one of most ancient cities in Central Asia

See Poi Kalon and Kalon Minaret on a city tour of Bukhara

Enjoy a folklore show in Nadir Divan Begi Madrasah

Follow the route of nomad hordes in Kyzylkum Desert

Tour Khiva, a UNESCO World Heritage site known as 'The Pearl of Khorezm Oasis'

See old town, Kunya Ark Fortress, Khodja Minaret and more

Witness a beautiful panoramic view from the Akshi Bobo Tower

Enjoy a discovery tour through Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan

Visit Khast-Imam Square, beautiful Barak Khan Madrasah and more

### FLIGHTS

Return international flights (economy class) ex SYD/MEL/BNE

Fly with 5-star Asiana Airlines

1 x internal flight in Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek to Osh

1 x internal flight in Uzbekistan: Khiva to Tashkent

### ACCOMMODATION

17 nights quality hotel accommodation

1 night in a traditional Kyrgyz Yurt

Day use in transit hotel in Seoul Airport

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# TOUR INCLUSIONS

## DINING

Enjoy 34 meals including 2 traditional dinners with local families

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## TOUR ESSENTIALS

English speaking tour leader and guides

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Airline taxes and surcharges

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## TRANSPORT

Transportation by private A/C vehicles

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## TRANSFERS

Return airport transfers

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

\*Please note: all information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current deal for up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Purchase Confirmation apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.

## BOOKING INFORMATION

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. The Passenger Information Form must be completed within 72 hours of purchase.

Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below.

On purchasing this Travel Offer you are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this Important Information.

*Please note: all additional charges are payable direct to your Travel Consultant in AUD (unless otherwise stated).*

## OFFER ESSENTIALS

Travel offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 15th October 2020.

This travel offer is priced for one person based on twin share.

## Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$760 applies.

## Departure Dates (2020)

Please see the TripADeal website for current departure dates.

## Departure Cities

Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane

## Surcharges

*Please note: dates/months with a \* or ^ incur a high season surcharge:*

*\* Flight High Season Surcharge: \$200 per person*

*^ Land High Season Surcharge: \$100 per person*

## FLIGHTS

### Full Service International Flights

Asiana Airlines plus any codeshare partners (subject to availability).

### Domestic Flights

- Bishkek to Osh: Air Manas, TEZ Jet or Avia Traffic
- Urgench (Khiva) to Tashkent: Uzbek Airways

*Please note: One way flights can not be accommodated. Travellers must take all included flights within the package, and any flights intentionally forfeited will result in later flights being subject to cancellation.*

### Arrive Early

Not available.

### Stay behind in Seoul, South Korea

\$200 per person, subject to availability

*Please note:*

- Customers will forfeit the day use transit accommodation on day 20 if purchasing this stay behind option.
- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Blackout dates apply between the below date ranges:
  - \* 28th March – 27th April 2020
  - \* 20th June – 19th July 2020
  - \* 17th September – 11th October

## Stopover Packages

Not available.

## Flight Class Upgrades

- Premium Economy: Not available.
- Business Class (International Sectors Only): Buy now for \$4899 per person

*Please note:*

- All Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are subject to availability (if we are not able to fulfill your business class request the upgrade cost will be refunded).
- On any upgrade purchase, short haul flights and domestic flight sectors are not guaranteed in a Premium or Business cabin; subject to aircraft configuration.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Accommodation Used

#### 3-4 Star Hotel (self-rated)

- Seoul, South Korea (day 1): Airport Hotel (provided by the airline)
- Almaty, Kazakhstan: Plaza Hotel Almaty
- Karakol, Kyrgyzstan: Karagat Hotel, Green Yard Hotel or Amir Hotel
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: Plaza Hotel, Ambassador Hotel or Garden Hotel
- Osh, Kyrgyzstan: Osh Nuru Hotel
- Khujand, Tajikstan: Hotel Firuz
- Dushanbe, Tajikstan: Hotel Atlas
- Penjikent, Tajikstan: Hotel Sughd
- Samarkand, Uzbekistan: Hotel Majestik Palace
- Bukhara, Uzbekistan: Hotel Malika Bukhara or Minzifa Inn
- Khiva, Uzbekistan: Hotel Malika Kheivak
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Hotel City Palace
- Seoul, South Korea (day 20): Days Hotel and Suites Incheon Airport or similar (day use)

#### No star rating

Traditional Yurt Camp:

- Bokonbayevo: Almaluu Traditional Yurt Camp

*Please note: Accommodation/rooms offered*



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.

## Extra Nights

Not available.

## Maximum Room Capacity

2 people.

## Child Policy

- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents.
- Valid for Children/infants 12 years old and over.

*Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed.*

## Triple Share

Not available.

## Bedding Configuration

2 x Single or 1 x Double/Queen (subject to availability).

## Adjoining / Interconnecting Rooms

Subject to availability and at the hotels discretion. Please enquire on booking if you require this option.

## GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 14, maximum group size 20 per vehicle.

## Optional Tours / Activities

- Day 4: Half Day Madeo Gorge & Kok-Tobe Tour - \$110 per person

*Please note:*

- prices are based on per person, are subject to availability, time permitting and weather conditions.
- The optional tours listed above must be purchased on checkout or over the phone prior to submitting your passenger information form (subject to availability)

- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

## EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (A tourist visa for Tajikistan is a strict requirement however visas are not required for Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and South Korea if travelling on an Australian passport).
- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary
- Recommended gratuities/tipping: \$4 USD per person per day (days 2 to 19).
- Optional activities/tours
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

*Please note: A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised BEFORE all details can be finalised.*

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

#### Tour Guide:

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

#### Tour Leader:

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required

to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

*Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.*

## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

### Almaty, Kazakhstan

Almaty is situated in a mountainous area which has an influence on the climate in this city. Almaty has a warm continental climate with more rainfall than in the rest of the country. Especially in spring and early summer months there is a lot more rain. Summers are pleasant and make it a perfect time to visit. The winters are soft and pleasant. most precipitation will be snow. During the months of May, June, July, August and September you are most likely to experience good weather with pleasant average temperatures. October will be slightly cooler.

### Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The capital Bishkek is located in the north, in the valley of the river Chuy, at an altitude ranging between 650 and 950m. Here the climate is continental, with cold winters and hot summers, in which the days can be scorching, often around 35-36°C, but with dry air and lively breezes in the afternoon. Precipitation is moderate, the annual total being around 450mm, with a summer minimum (when only rare showers occur to interrupt the sunny days), and a maximum in spring, between March and May.

### Dushanbe, Tajikistan

In Dushanbe the climate is continental as well; winters are quite cold, though not freezing, with an average in January



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

of 3°C, while summers are hot and sunny: highs in July and August are around 35°C, but with peaks of 40°C. In winter the temperature often drops below freezing at night, but it remains quite mild during the day; however, even here cold waves may occur, with lows around -10°C, though less intense than in the rest of the country, because the mountains in the north partly protect the city. It receives about 600mm of rain or snow per year, most of which between November and May, with a maximum in March and April, of about 110mm per month, distributed in about 10 days per month, and a summer minimum (even here, from July to September it virtually never rains).

## Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tashkent features a Mediterranean climate with strong continental climate influences. As a result, Tashkent experiences cold and often snowy winters not typically associated with most Mediterranean climates and long, hot and dry summers. The city experiences two peaks of precipitation in the early winter and spring. The slightly unusual precipitation pattern is partially due to its 500m altitude. Summers are long in Tashkent, usually lasting from May to September. Tashkent can be extremely hot during the months of July and August. The city also sees very little precipitation during the summer, particularly from June through September.

## FLIGHTS

### Seat Selection & Frequent Flyer Points:

At TripADeal we do not arrange seat selection. It is important to highlight that some Airlines do not allow pre-selected seats. We strongly suggest you contact the Airline directly with seating allocation requirements and or arrive at the airport earlier to arrange your seating. While we do not add frequent

flyer member details to bookings, you can do this directly with the Airline once you have your flight information.

### Passport Validity:

Customers are required to provide valid passport details either at the time of purchase, or no later than 45 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the booking. In this instance customers will be responsible for any costs and fees incurred.

## COACH TOUR

### Meals:

34 meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify TripADeal of any dietary requests/requirements.

*Please note: we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.*

### Luggage:

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the uploading and off-loading of the luggage from the coach.

## OTHER

### Fitness Level Required / Mobility:

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

*Please note: a basic level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.*

### Yellow Fever:

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home. It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

### Gratuities / Tipping:

#### Land (day 2 to 19)

- Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip is \$4 USD per person per day this covers the guide/leader and the driver, which will be collected whilst on tour.
- Tipping for all services provided on tour is always a matter of personal discretion, however please be aware that tipping is considered by many locals to be a part of their normal remuneration and they may approach you for payment and there is no need to be intimidated by the request.

### Sightseeing:

*Please note: In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary will be adjusted to ensure you do not miss out on the experience.*

### Shopping:

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all of your receipts.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from your Tour Guide/Leader.

Please refer to our Terms and Conditions in regards to shopping for further information.

## VISAS

### Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

Effective from 24th July 2012, Australian passport holders can travel to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan for up to 60 days without a visa.

### Uzbekistan

As of the 1st of February 2019, Uzbekistan introduces a visa-free regime for a period of 30 days for citizens of Australia & New Zealand.

### Tajikistan

An E-visa for \$50USD (subject to change) is required. The visa is valid for 45 days within a 90-day period from the entry date you fill in your application, and is valid for a single entry. You can apply as early as you like. You don't have to enter on the first day of entry, you can enter at a later date as well. Similarly, you can leave before the 45 days are up, you do not have to stay until the last day. Find more info and apply via this link <https://www.evisa.tj/index.evisa.html>

### South Korea

A tourist visa is not required for South Korea if travelling on an Australian Passport.

*Please note: Passengers who are not Australian citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and*

*charity organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.*

## INSURANCE

We are proud to offer a range of travel insurance products - please ask your Travel Consultant for more information.

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

### Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- 1st Change - \$100.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- 2nd Change - \$150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- Subsequent changes - \$250.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- Changes within 30 days of departure \$350.00 person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.
- Changes within 14 days of departure \$500.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

### Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

- If the incorrect name has been advised to TripADeal, charges of \$150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.