

world.
JOURNEYS



**FABLES OF THE
SILK ROAD**

2025

FABLES OF THE SILK ROAD

Explore the cultural diversity and wonderful scenery of the 'Five Stans' of Central Asia. This varied landscape is home to traditional villages, ancient towns and glorious cities with time-worn trading routes. Vast armies, marauding Mongolian hordes, philosophers, explorers and traders have travelled these roads in times past. Visit Uzbekistan's architecturally stunning cities of Bukhara, Khiva and Samarkand, see the canyons and lakes of Kazakhstan, the mountains and culture of Kyrgyzstan, the natural way of life in Tajikistan and the ancient desert city of Merv in Turkmenistan.

27 DAYS • HOSTED JOURNEY

COUNTRIES Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

DEPARTS 18 September 2025

YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

- Discover the stunning and diverse landscapes of "off the beaten path" Kazakhstan
- Visit ancient mosques and Orthodox churches, and experience the warm hospitality of the Kyrgyz people
- Explore Central Asia's largest oriental bazaar at Payshanba in Khujand, Tajikistan
- Follow in the footsteps of Tamerlane through the mighty cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent in Uzbekistan
- A World Journeys host to guide you every step of the way

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

Experience traditional cuisine

Taste delicious specialties produced by locals in a traditional yurt.

Chat with exceptional artisans in Fergana

See how the magnificent and colourful Khan-Atlas silk is produced. Learn about the natural dye process and its cultural importance.

Vibrant markets and bazaars

Spend time exploring the array of fresh food and exquisite handicrafts available at the markets.

Beautifully preserved medieval town of Khiva

Explore this remarkable town, its magnificent Juma mosque and caravanserai.



Traditional folk dancer in Khiva, Uzbekistan



FABLES OF THE SILK ROAD

ⓑ BREAKFAST Ⓛ LUNCH ⓓ DINNER

– SEPTEMBER 2025

THU 18 ALMATY ⓑ ⓓ

Arrive early morning and transfer to the hotel for check in. Later this morning explore Almaty with its backdrop of the snowcapped Zailiysky Alatau. Visits include Zenkov Cathedral, Republic Square and Central Mosque. After some time at leisure, enjoy a traditional falconry experience with dinner and music.

FRI 19 ALMATY > CHARYN CANYON > KOLSAI LAKES > SHATTY ⓑ Ⓛ ⓓ

Drive to Charyn Canyon, a unique natural wonder formed around 12 million years ago. Picnic lunch before continuing to the Kolsai Lakes to check in to your simple guest house.

SAT 20 KOLSAI LAKES > KAINDY LAKE > ALMATY ⓑ Ⓛ ⓓ

Arrive at stunningly beautiful Kaindy Lake. Explore and enjoy lunch before returning to Almaty.

SUN 21 ALMATY > BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN) ⓑ ⓓ

Visit Kok-Tobe Hill on the outskirts of town for panoramic views over Almaty. This evening fly to Bishkek.

MON 22 BISHKEK > KAJISSAY ⓑ ⓓ

Drive to Kajissay on the southern shores of Issyk-Kul Lake, stopping en route at the Burana Tower.

TUE 23 KAJISSAY > DZHETY OGUZ > KARAKOL ⓑ Ⓛ ⓓ

Visit Dzhety Oguz gorge to enjoy a waterfall walk and lunch at a yurt camp. Continue to Karakol and visit a mosque and 19th century wooden Orthodox church before checking in to your hotel.

WED 24 KARAKOL > ALTYN ARASHAN > KARAKOL ⓑ

ⓐ Climb aboard a military 4WD vehicle for the drive to Alтын Arashan gorge to visit the thermal wells. Return to Karakol for overnight.

THU 25 KARAKOL > CHOLPON-ATA > BISHKEK ⓑ ⓓ

Drive along the northern shores of Issyk-Kul to Bishkek, visiting Ruh-Ordo historic centre in Cholpon-Ata en route.

FRI 26 BISHKEK > OSH > FERGANA (UZBEKISTAN) ⓑ ⓓ

Morning flight to Osh for a short visit. Cross into Uzbekistan and drive to Fergana Valley. Local specialty dinner in a chayhana (tea room).

SAT 27 FERGANA > MARGILAN > FERGANA ⓑ ⓓ

Morning sightseeing in Fergana, known for its gardens, artisan craftsmen and kaleidoscopic bazaars. Continue to Margilan to see how the traditional Khan-Atlas silk fabric is produced. Tonight enjoy traditional national cuisine.

SUN 28 FERGANA > RISHTAN > TASHKENT ⓑ ⓓ

Drive across the Kamchik Pass, stopping at Rishtan, famous for its blue glazed pottery. En route to Tashkent explore ancient Kokand, once an important trade centre on the Silk Road.

MON 29 TASHKENT > KHUJAND (TAJIKISTAN) ⓑ ⓓ

Drive to the Uzbek-Tajik border and to Khujand. Visit the museum and the city's 7th-century fortification, then explore Payshanba oriental bazaar, the largest in Central Asia.

TUE 30 KHUJAND > ISTARAVSHAM > ISKANDERKUL ⓑ ⓓ

Drive to Iskanderkul via Istaravshan. Visit the ancient fortress of Mug Tapa, explore the Khazrati Shoh complex, then continue to Iskanderkul Lake, named after Alexander the Great, with its springs, lakes and waterfalls.

– OCTOBER 2025

WED 1 ISKANDERKUL > PENJIKENT > SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN) ⓑ ⓓ

Depart for Penjikent, the birthplace of Abu Abdallah Rudaki, the father of Persian poetry. Visit the Museum of Rudak and the excavated remains at Penjikent. Proceed to Samarkand.

THU 2 SAMARKAND ⓑ Ⓛ ⓓ

Explore the glorious city of Samarkand, its observatory, necropolis and the huge Bibi Khanym Mosque, built by Tamerlane. After a traditional Plov lunch, visit the famous mausoleum of Tamerlane and spectacular Registan Square.

FRI 3 SAMARKAND > BUKHARA ⓑ ⓓ

Visit the paper mill in Konigil and this afternoon transfer to the station for the high-speed train to Bukhara.

SAT 4 BUKHARA ⓑ ⓓ

A full day to explore this wonderful medieval city. Visit Samonid's Mausoleum, the Ark Citadel, the Minaret Kalan Complex, trading domes and the architectural wonder of Lyabi-Hauz.

SUN 5 BUKHARA > MARY (TURKMENISTAN) ⓑ ⓓ

Drive to the border at Farab and continue to Mary, an oasis city in the Karakum Desert.

MON 6 MARY > MERV > ASHGABAT ⓑ ⓓ

Transfer to Merv, one of the main cities of the ancient Silk Road and a World Heritage site. Return to Mary, visiting the museum before an evening flight to Ashgabat.

TUE 7 ASHGABAT ⓑ ⓓ

Visit the beautiful, World Heritage fortress of Old Nisa, at the foot of the Kopet Dag Mountains, the earliest of the Parthian Empire capitals. Visit Arkadash stud farm, home of the famous Akhal-Tekke horses, one of the oldest breeds in existence. Return to Ashgabat, visit the Russian market and see the rare collection of handmade Turkmen carpets at the National Museum.



Shah-I-Zinda necropolis, Samarkand

**WED 8 ASHGABAT > DASHOGUZ > KUNYA
URGENCH > KHIVA (UZBEKISTAN)** ③ ④

Morning flight to Dashoguz. Drive to Kunya Urgench, the ancient capital of Khorezm, which was part of the Achaemenid Empire. Visit the mosque, the gates of the caravanserai, the fortress, mausoleum and minaret. Lunch in Dashoguz before we cross the Uzbek border for Khiva.

THU 9 KHIVA ③ ④

Full day exploration of the beautifully preserved, medieval town of Khiva. Wander the fabled Ichon-Qala (inner walled city) and visit the old citadel, the Emir's Palace, the magnificent Juma Mosque and the caravanserai.

**FRI 10 KHIVA > AYAZ-KALA
> TOPRAK-KALA > NUKUS** ③ ④

Travel to the ancient fortress of Ayaz-Kala, one of the largest surviving castle fortresses of the Khorezm region. Visit Toprak-Kala before travelling to Nukus. Visit the Igor Savitsky Museum, with the world's second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art.

SAT 11 NUKUS > TASHKENT ③ ④

This morning is at leisure until our flight to Tashkent.

SUN 12 TASHKENT ③ ④

Explore Uzbekistan's 2,000-year-old capital, where Soviet-style architecture contrasts with traditional mud-walled houses. Visit the Khast-Imam Islamic complex, the Museum of Applied Arts, the History Museum and Amir Timur Square. Later explore the Tashkent metro, where each station is uniquely decorated. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

MON 13 TASHKENT

Arrangements end after this morning's breakfast when you transfer to the airport for your onward flight.



Traditional Uzbek bread

Departs 18 September 2025

Twin *per person*

Single *per person*

Tour Cost

\$13,295

\$15,390

INCLUDED

- A World Journeys host
- Accommodation in 4 star hotels (or best available)
- Transfers, sightseeing, and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Transport by air, road and train as per the itinerary
- Meals as indicated ③ ④ ⑤
- Gratuities

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to start/from end of tour
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Visas (we will supply documentation to support your visa applications)

GRATUITIES

In the countries we are visiting, tipping is customary. For a hassle-free journey, tipping is included and will be handled by the World Journeys host for all group activities.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Prices are in Australian dollars. A non-refundable deposit of \$3,000 per person is required, with the balance due 16 May 2025. As cancellation fees apply, travel insurance is mandatory. Please refer to World Journeys' terms and conditions and our Health and Medical Requirements at www.worldjourneys.com.au/terms

PLEASE NOTE

The nature of this region requires at times journeys on uneven roads and accommodation in 'best available' hotels. Packing a positive outlook and 'going with the flow' will ensure you enjoy this fascinating destination all the more.

WELCOME BACK

If you have travelled on one of our Hosted Journeys before, we would like to welcome you back with a saving of \$400 per couple or \$200 for a single traveller.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL