

22 DAY FLY & TOUR PACKAGE

# SILK ROAD DISCOVERY

**\$5699**

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KAZAKHSTAN • KYRGYZSTAN • TAJIKISTAN • UZBEKISTAN • CHINA

## THE OFFER

Travel the centuries old trade route that connected the East and West through Asia's highest peaks, across vast deserts, creating cosmopolitan cities in its wake through Central Asia and beyond. Discover the unique architecture of iconic Samarkand; witness the dramatic alpine peaks of Karokol; and delve into Kyrgyz culture at a traditional yurt camp. If you're seeking a trip rich in history, eye-opening experiences, backdropped by stunning landscapes the Silk Road Discovery is for you!

Take in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China on this 22 day fly and tour package through Central Asia. Tour Russian influenced Almaty, the picturesque alpine city of Karakol, Central Asia's greenest city Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's oldest city Osh, and so many more. Witness diverse landscapes from the red-washed rock formations of Charyn Canyon, the turquoise waters of Big Almaty Lake, to the picturesque mountain ranges of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Visit incredible landmarks including Registan Square, Gur Emir, Ulug-Bek Madrasah, the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square and more. This once-in-a-lifetime package includes all international and internal flights, 18 nights quality hotel accommodation, one night in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt camp, 36 meals including two traditional dinners with local families, English-speaking tour guides, transport by air-conditioned vehicles and much more.

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# THE ITINERARY

### Day 1 Australia - Guangzhou, China

Today depart from either Sydney, Melbourne, \*Brisbane, \*Adelaide or \*Perth for Guangzhou, China! Fly with China Southern Airlines.

Please note travellers ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide will have an overnight stopover in Guangzhou and complimentary stopover accommodation will be provided by the airline so travellers may rest before flying onwards to Almaty, Kazakhstan the next day.

Please note travellers ex Perth will depart very early on Day 2 (approx 12am to 1am departure). Therefore these travellers will not have an overnight layover in Guangzhou on the outbound flight and will fly directly to Almaty via Guangzhou and Urumqi arriving on Day 2. Overnight accommodation in Guangzhou will be provided to Perth travellers on the return flight from Beijing to Perth at the end of the tour in place of this arrangement.

**Overnight: Airport Hotel (Arranged by Airline), Guangzhou, China**

**Meals included: In-Flight**

### Day 2 Guangzhou, China - Almaty, Kazakhstan

Today fly from Guangzhou, China to Almaty, Kazakhstan, via Urumqi in the far northwest corner of China. Upon arrival into Almaty this evening, transfer to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Hotel Otrar, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Meals included: In-Flight**

### Day 3 Almaty Sightseeing Tour

This morning set out on a city tour of Almaty. Almaty is a southern capital of Kazakhstan and also the largest city of 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 like a mirror - Peak Sovetov (4317 m), Peak Ozorhiy (4110 m) and Peak Tourist (3954 m). In the evening 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: Hotel Otrar, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 4 Almaty, Kazakhstan - Charyn Canyon - Karakol, Kyrgyzstan (approx. 400km day)

Today proceed to the next country of the tour – Kyrgyzstan. This morning head towards the amazing Charyn Canyon. The canyon is considered as the Grand Canyon of Kazakhstan. The dramatic erosion made by the river Charyn has created an impressive landscape. The site is also known as the Valley of Castles. It has a peculiar bright red colour and rock formations that resemble castles. It's spectacular during the day and also at night under a star-lit sky. Afterwards cross the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border and then after all border procedures carry onto Karakol along the picturesque Karkara Valley, famous for its mountain flowers that attract many bee-keepers. 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: Hotel Karagat, Karakol, Kyrgyzstan**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 5 Karakol City Tour - Bokonbayevo (approx. 120km day)

The atmosphere of Karakol town will take you a hundred years back and give you an impression of Tsarist Russia. This morning head out on a city tour to visit the Old Russian Style houses (1870 – 1910), Russian Orthodox Church (1886) and Dungan Mosque (1899) made out of wood with no nails. After transfer to Jeti-Oguz Gorge. Here you will have an opportunity



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to admire fantastic rock formations made of red sandstone and 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 the famous Kyrgyz flat bread and enjoy a traditional dinner. Tonight you will sleep in a traditional Yurt home and get in touch with the Kyrgyz national lifestyle. All yurts are brightly decorated and each yurt sleeps 4-5 people. Toilet and shower facilities are outside of the yurts and high quality national cuisine is served. A traditional yurt (from the Turkic languages) or ger (Mongolian) is a portable, round tent covered with skins or felt and used as a dwelling by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia.

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

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 6 Bokonbayevo - Kara Khanids – Bishkek – Sightseeing Tour (approx. 280km day)

Today travel onwards to the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek. On the way stop at Kara Khanids Minaret from the 12 century – also known as Burana tower. 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), petroglyphs (stone carvings) and a small museum.

Afterwards continue to Bishkek. Bishkek is the capital and the 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 country. 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 be culminated by dinner with a folklore show. Artists will demonstrate their national musical instruments and techniques of playing.

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

**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 7 Bishkek – Osh - Sightseeing Tour

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Osh (approx. 1 hour flight). 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 four headed Suleiman Mountain. This mountain is located in the centre of Osh and is a unique historical and architectural monument. The mountain is also known as x. The site is still a popular place for local Muslims, with stairs leading up to the highest peak with a small mosque originally built in 1510. The mountain is included in the World Heritage list of UNESCO.

Visit the bright Osh Bazaar and Historical Museum and a local bread bakery. Get hands on with a local baker to learn how lepyoshka 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.



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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: Hotel Sunrise, Osh, Kyrgyzstan**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 8 Osh, Kyrgyzstan - Khujand, Tajikistan – Sightseeing Tour (approx. 370km day)

Today travel to Tajikistan (border crossing at Kyzyl-Bel). Upon arrival in the second largest city of Tajikistan, Khojand, you will visit the mausoleum of the century Sheikh Muslihiddin - the ruler of Khojand, a poet who lived in the 12th century, the Historical Museum, which is located in a citadel and the largest bazaar in Tajikistan - Payshanba. Afterwards enjoy dinner and an evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Hotel Firuz, Khujand, Tajikistan**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 9 Khujand – Istaravshan - Dushanbe (approx. 350km day)

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

**Overnight: Hotel Atlas, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 10 Dushanbe Sightseeing Tour

In the Tajik language the name of the capital is translated as “Monday”, it was named as originally it had a popular market on

Mondays. Areas around Dushanbe were known as a centre of cotton and silk production during the Soviet period. Although the name of the city is rather new its historical past dates back as far as three thousand years. Archaeologists have dug out 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, main mosque, old synagogue, Russian Orthodox Church, Rudaki Park and the Shah-Mansur Bazaar. You will also take a trip to Hissar Fortress - ruins of an 18th century fort in the Emirate of Bukhara.

**Overnight: Hotel Atlas, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 11 Dushanbe – Penjikent – Sightseeing Tour (approx. 230km day)

Your destination today is Penjikent, a town that is very famous in tourist circles for its sights, monuments of architecture, 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. Visit the Rudaki Museum, as well as the old town of Penjikent.

**Overnight: Hotel Sughd, Penjikent, Tajikistan**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner**

### Day 12 Penjikent, Tajikistan - 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 B.C. 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 13 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. It was founded over 2700 years ago. Shakhrisabz is the hometown of Tamerlane and everything in Shakhrisabz is linked with his name. Afterwards continue onwards to Bukhara. The history of Bukhara stretches back millennia. Humans have inhabited the region around Bukhara for at least five millennia, and the city has existed for half that time. Located on the Silk Road, the city has long served as a centre of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion. The town 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 14 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 15 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. Khiva - the city museum is unique in its beauty and known as 'The Pearl of Khorezm Oasis'. 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 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 that it is not just a museum, but also a living city.

**Overnight: Hotel Malika Kheivak, Khiva, Uzbekistan**  
**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner**

### Day 16 Khiva Sightseeing Tour

This old town is like a daylight museum from tales of 1001 nights. Since 1990 it has been a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Behind every corner and gate there are new scenes, whether it be the mosques; inner squares, minarets

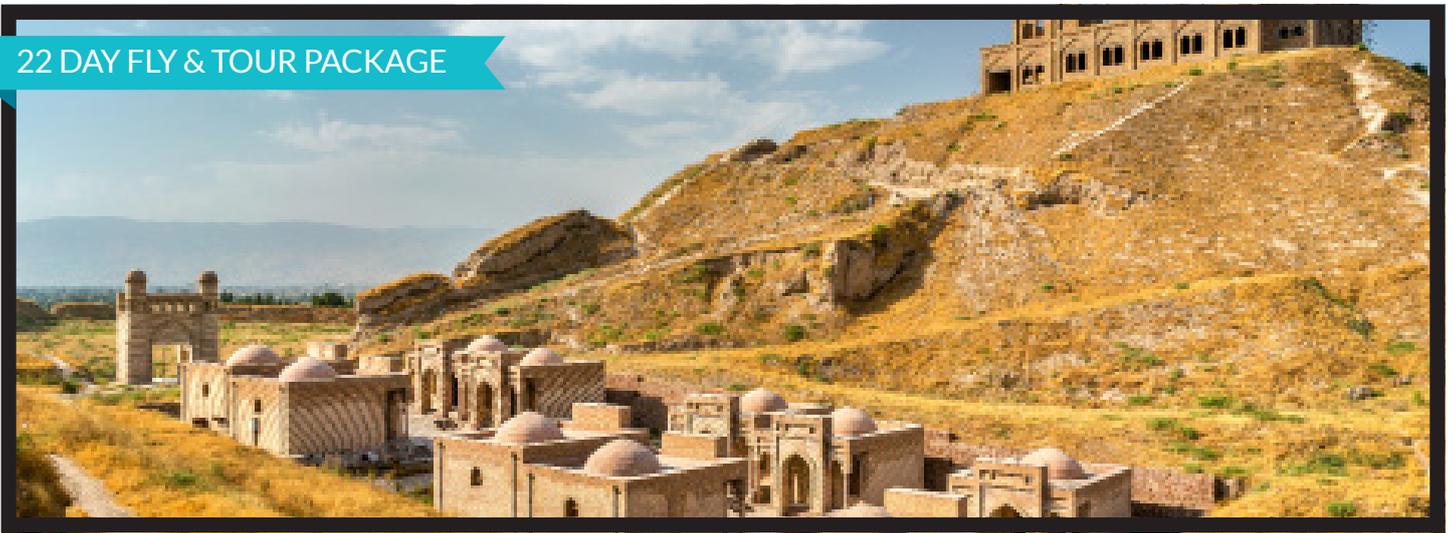


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sparkling in the sun, ornamented carved wooden doors or small workshops, where the inhabitants still follow traditional craftsmanship. Khiva has still preserved the fabulous atmosphere of an ancient, oriental city. Today you will visit the old town 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 and visit 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 many more breathtaking sights that you will never forget. Everywhere within this old town you will find 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 17 Khiva - Tashkent - City Tour

This morning fly onwards to the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent 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 through the capital of Uzbekistan, 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 18 Tashkent, Uzbekistan - Beijing, China

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 an interesting art museum before transferring to Tashkent Airport for your overnight flight to Beijing, China.

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

### Day 19 Arrive Beijing, China - Beijing Zoo

Early this morning, arrive into Beijing and visit Beijing Zoo to see giant pandas. Afterwards transfer to the hotel for an early check in.

Tonight, take the opportunity to attend an optional large scale dramatic musical, "The Golden Mask Dynasty" (not included).

**Overnight: Friendship Hotel or similar, Beijing, China**  
**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 20 Great Wall of China

After breakfast, on the way to the Great Wall, stop at a Jade Museum to learn the history of jade. In Chinese, jade is pronounced as "Yu" and it has a history in China of at least four thousand years. Observe the skilled artisans at work as they create their intricate designs. Afterwards take a scenic drive through the countryside and mountains to reach China's most renowned monument—the Great Wall. You will visit the less-touristy and more original Juyong Pass, avoiding other sections which are the most accessible and consequently most crowded. The Great Wall meanders through China's northern mountain ranges from the Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert - a distance of more than 3500 miles.

In the afternoon, take the opportunity to join an optional tour (not included) to see Beijing's 700 year old Hutong's (narrow lanes) area by old fashioned pedicab. You will also visit a local family living in a courtyard style home to experience the local customs including a delicious home-cooked dinner. The optional tour also includes a visit to Shichahai, a historic scenic area consisting of three lakes (Qianhai, meaning Front Sea; Houhai,



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meaning Back Sea and Xihai, meaning West Sea), surrounding places of historic interest and scenic beauty and remnants of old-style local residences, Hutong and Courtyard.

**Overnight: Friendship Hotel or similar, Beijing, China**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch**

### **Day 21 Tiananmen Square - Depart Beijing, China - Australia**

This morning visit Tiananmen Square, one of the largest public squares in the world. Afterwards make a stop at Tongrentang to learn more about the traditional Chinese medicines before transferring to Beijing Capital Airport for your return flight back to Australia.

Please note: Perth travellers will have a long overnight layover in Guangzhou, therefore complimentary overnight accommodation will be provided by the airline.

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

### **Day 22 Arrive in Australia**



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# TOUR INCLUSIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the cultural and natural wonders of Central Asia
- Visit Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China
- Visit the historic cities of Silk Road
- See beautiful wooden Russian buildings on a city tour of Almaty
- Visit the picturesque Big Almaty Lake in Kazakhstan
- Enjoy a Sunkar 'birds of prey' show
- 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 traditional Kyrgyz Yurt camp
- Visit Kara Khanids, a Minaret from the 12 century
- Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Bishkek - believed to be the greenest city in Central Asia
- Visit Ala-Too Square, the main square of the country
- Enjoy a Kyrgyz folklore, a demonstration of national instruments and techniques of playing
- Explore Osh, located on the silk road and the oldest city in Kyrgyzstan on a city tour
- Visit the bright Osh Bazaar and Historical Museum and a local bread bakery
- Visit the workshop of Zakir Aka, a maker of handmade knives for almost 60 years
- Learn the cooking techniques of Central Asia's most famous meals with an Uzbek family
- Visit the 12th century Sheikh Muslihiddin mausoleum

- Visit the 7th century city of Istaravshan, founded by the Persian King, Cyrus the Great
- Travel along the picturesque Varzob Gorge in Tajikistan
- Visit the Museum of Antiquities, home to the UNESCO protected reclining Buddha in Dushanbe
- Visit the excavation site of Old Penjikent and Rudaki Museum
- Explore the fabled city of Samarkand, an icon of the Silk Road
- See Registan Square, Gur Emir and Ulug-Bek Madrasah
- Visit Shakhrisabz - one of most ancient cities in Central Asia
- See Poi Kalan with the 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
- Visit Khiva - known as 'The Pearl of Khorezm Oasis'
- Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Khiva, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Enjoy a discovery tour through the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent
- See adorable Giant Pandas at Beijing Zoo
- Visit a local Jade Museum and see artisans at work
- Walk along the iconic Great Wall of China
- Visit impressive Tiananmen Square in Beijing
- Learn about traditional Chinese medicine at 'Tongrentang' in Beijing

### FLIGHTS

- Return international flights (economy class) ex SYD/MEL/\*BNE/\*ADL/\*PER
- 1 way international flight from Tashkent, Uzbekistan to Beijing, China
- 1 internal flight in Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek to Osh
- 1 internal flight in Uzbekistan: Khiva to Tashkent

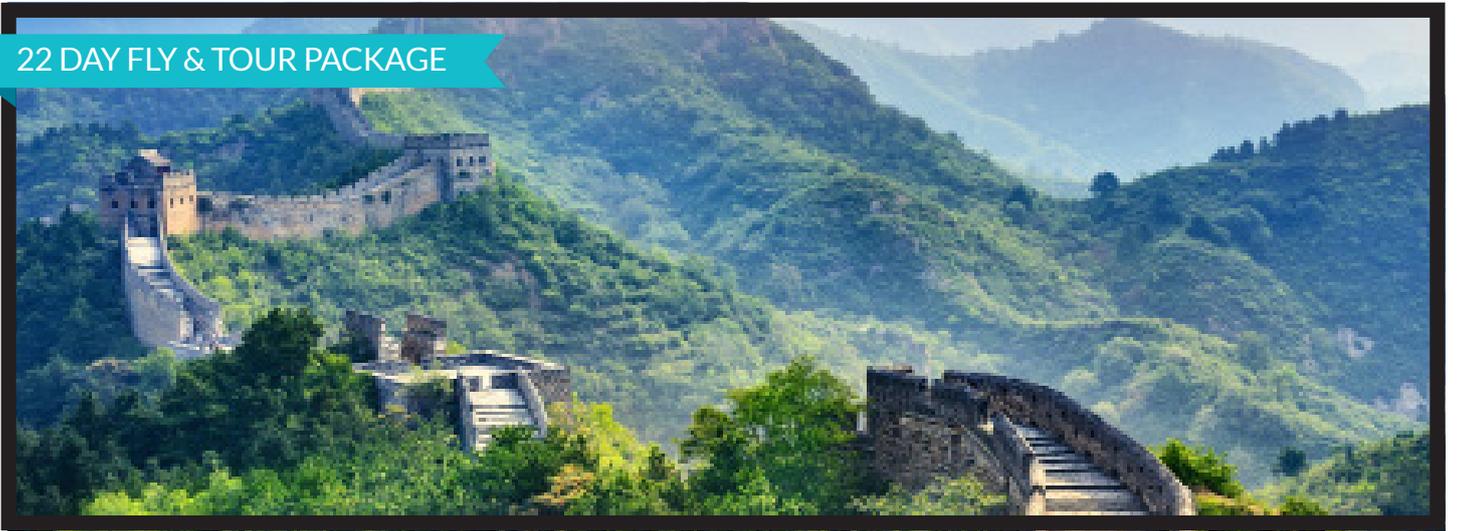


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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### ACCOMMODATION

- 18 nights quality hotel accommodation
- 1 night in a traditional Kyrgyz Yurt

### DINING

- Enjoy 36 meals including 2 traditional dinners with local families

### TOUR ESSENTIALS

- English speaking tour guides
- Airline taxes and surcharges

### TRANSPORT

- Transportation by private A/C vehicles

### TRANSFERS

- Return airport transfers



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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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## 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 25th October 2019.

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

## Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$860 applies.

## Departure Dates (2019)

June: 7

September: 6

October: 25

## Departure Cities

Sydney, Melbourne, \*Brisbane, \*Adelaide or \*Perth

## Interstate Surcharges

\*Brisbane: \$150 per person

\*Adelaide or \*Perth: \$250 per person

## FLIGHTS

### Full Service Airline(s) Used International flights

- China Southern 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

Not available.

### Stopover Packages

Not available.

### Flight Class Upgrades

Not available.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Accommodation Used

3-4 Star Hotel (self-rated):

- Guangzhou, China: Airport Hotel (Arranged by China Southern Airlines)
- Almaty, Kazakhstan: Hotel Otrar
- Karakol, Kyrgyzstan: Hotel Karagat
- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: Hotel Plaza or Ambassador Hotel
- Osh, Kyrgyzstan: Hotel Sunrise
- Khujand, Tajikistan: Hotel Firuz
- Dushanbe, Tajikistan: Hotel Atlas
- Penjikent, Tajikistan: 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
- Beijing, China: Friendship Hotel / Plaza Hotel or Feitian Hotel

### Traditional Yurt Camp:

(No star rating)

- Bokonbayevo: Almaluu Yurt Camp
- Please note:** Accommodation/rooms offered 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

3 people (subject to availability).

### 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

No discounts apply for 3rd person travelling. Full price applies, subject to availability.

**Please note:** Triple shares may be required to share existing bedding.

### 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 12, maximum group size 20 per vehicle.

### Optional Tours / Activities

- Beijing: Day 19: The Golden Mask



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Dynasty 330 RMB (approx. \$66 AUD)

- Beijing: Day 20: Tour 700 year old Hutong with Dinner 300 RMB (approx. \$60 AUD)

**Please note:**

- prices are based on per person, are subject to availability, time permitting and weather conditions, and are payable direct to the tour operator in the currency specified.
- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

## EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (Tourist visas for China and Tajikistan are strict requirements however visas are not required for Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan if travelling on an Australian passport).
- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary.
- Gratuities/tipping:
- \* Recommended at \$1 USD per person per day (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - Days 2 to 18).
- \* Mandatory at \$12 AUD per person per day (China - Days 19, 20 and 21).
- 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 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.

#### Beijing, China

Beijing has a temperate and continental monsoon climate, with four distinct seasons and big differences in temperature between day and night. The seasons: summer in Beijing is hot and humid, while winter is cold and dry. Spring and autumn are short and cool. The coldest month is January at an average of -4°C, and the hottest month is



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July at an average of 26°C.

## 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:

36 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.

### Gratuities / Tipping:

#### Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (Day 2 to 18)

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour and are optional. The recommended tip for the tour leader and driver is \$1 USD per person per day, which can be collected whilst on tour.

#### China (Days 19 to 21)

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The mandatory tip for the tour leader and driver is \$12 AUD per person/per day where tour or transfer services are provided, which will be collected whilst on tour (this will include day of arrival and departure).

### 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.

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.

This has only been announced as of January 2019 and more information will be available on their official website come February 2019 - <https://mfa.uz/en/consular/visa/>

### Tajikistan

E-visa required and the price is \$50USD (subject to change). 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>

### China (Double Entry required)

A double entry tourist visa for China is a strict requirement if travelling on an Australian Passport. You will be able to start your visa application process once you receive your final travel documentation approximately 6 weeks prior to departure.

TripADeal offers a fast, secure and easy service to obtain a Visa for this China - This visa can take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Alternative you may apply directly through the Chinese Consulate in Australia.

**Important:** Please start arranging your visa at least 3 weeks prior to departure to account for any delays due to consulate operating hours.



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**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 per 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.



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