

THE FIVE STANS BY PRIVATE JET

Our journey of Central Asia's Five Stans and beyond is made effortless, thanks to our business class private jet. Cross the remote frontiers of Central Asia during explorations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Choose from a range of optional, included tours that illuminate the history and culture of each region, and enjoy private performances and exclusive access. Travel with our expert Tour Manager, Tour Doctor and local guides in a group of up to 60 guests.



A JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Singapore – Almaty – Lake Issyk-Kul
– Samarkand – Panjakent – Bukhara –
Ashgabat – Singapore

14 Days

Departing 17 September 2028

Day 1 Singapore

Join your private transfer from Singapore's airport to our hotel. Get to know your Tour Host Team and fellow guests during a Welcome Dinner this evening.

Day 2 Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Returning to the airport after a morning at leisure, we board our private jet for the flight to Almaty. On arrival, we transfer to The Ritz-Carlton, Almaty. Enjoy time at leisure before dinner and acquaint yourself with the amenities of our luxurious hotel.

Day 3 Almaty

Explore this ancient city, which grew to become one of the region's trade, craft and agricultural centres between the 10th and 14th centuries. First, we absorb Kazakhstan's rich history and culture, including gold artefacts and archaeological treasures, at the Central State Museum. Within the grounds of Panfilov Park, we also look upon the grand Ascension Cathedral, before enjoying private access to the Museum of Kazakh Musical Instruments. Browse the fascinating exhibits here and stay for a performance by local folk musicians.

Following lunch, head out on a Your World experience:

- ★ Ascend to Small Almaty Gorge by cable car and see the Medeu Sports Complex, the world's highest-altitude outdoor speed skating rink, nestled within the mountains at 1691 metres. Close by, Shymbulak invites you to admire its scenic setting, where spruce trees beautify alpine hills.
- ★ Alternatively, visit the Almaty Museum of Arts, a private institution dedicated to modern and contemporary art. Housed within a striking edifice, the many galleries here showcase the works of prominent local and international artists.

Enjoy the authentic local cuisine of one of the city's restaurants this evening.

Day 4 Almaty, Lake Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan)

Following breakfast, choose how to spend your morning with one of these Your World experiences:

- ★ Witness a falconry demonstration at Sunkar Falconry Center. Due to habitat loss and poaching, these graceful birds of prey reached the brink of extinction in the 1980s. A breeding and rehabilitation facility here has since seen their numbers soar, with many successfully released into the wild. Enjoy this entertaining and educational avian demonstration and meet several of the facility's falcons, golden eagles, and owls.
- ★ Visit Arba Wine at the foot of the Tien Shan mountains. Take a behind-the-scenes look at the wine cellar and production facilities, then sample some of the locally produced reds and whites. A drive then brings you to Issyk Lake, a picture of tranquillity amid forested surroundings. Take a walk around the lake, admiring its clear blue waters ringed by the spruce forests that scale its adjacent hillsides.

This afternoon, we again board our private jet for the short flight to Lake Issyk-Kul, across the border in Kyrgyzstan. On arrival, we admire the skills of Kyrgyz horse riders during a special dinner, arranged just for our group. While here, we also enjoy a folk performance and see how yurts are assembled. For the next two nights, we stay at Baytur Resort & Spa.

Day 5 Lake Issyk-Kul

After breakfast, we head to a nearby valley and immerse ourselves further in Kyrgyz culture. During a full day, we witness games that highlight hunting and horsemanship prowess; craft demonstrations; a performance of the epic musical, *Manas*; and cooking classes and demonstrations. Upon our return, choose to dine at our hotel or a local restaurant.

Day 6 Lake Issyk-Kul, Samarkand (Uzbekistan)

Further your appreciation of the region today with a Your World experience:

- ★ Browse the many petroglyphs at Cholpon-Ata's open-air museum. The sprawling lakeside site features hundreds of individual rock carvings depicting long-horned ibex, horses, camels and snow leopards.
- ★ Take a boat ride on Lake Issyk-Kul, the world's second-largest alpine lake, and absorb sights of the snow-covered Tien Shan Mountains.
- ★ Develop a greater appreciation for the flavours of Kyrgyzstan during a cooking class with a leading local chef. Then enjoy the results during lunch.

Our private jet then delivers us to Samarkand, once one of the key sites along a critical route linking China with the Mediterranean. On touching down, we check into the Hilton Samarkand Regency. Then enjoy some free time for independent exploration. Tonight, the Gur-e-Amir, mausoleum of the conqueror Tamerlane, opens its doors for us after it has closed to the public. Admire the architecture which served as inspiration for the Taj Mahal. During our visit, we also marvel at the structure's grand facade and blue-tiled dome illuminated at night. Enjoy the cuisine of Uzbekistan during dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 7 Samarkand

One of Central Asia's longest inhabited cities, Samarkand marks the crossroads of Eastern and Western cultures. The city's grand mosques reflect its tradition as a centre for ancient arts and crafts. Registan Square is the city's symbolic centrepiece and home to its most recognisable landmarks, the madrassahs of Ulugh Beg, Sher-Dor, and Tilya-Kori. From here, we walk through the Old Town to Bibi-Khanym Mosque, one of the world's largest mosques. We then seek out Shah-i-Zinda, a complex of more than 20 mausoleums and other buildings built between the 11th and 19th centuries. Dine this evening at Emirhan Restaurant, with views of the impressive Bibi-Khanym Mosque. As dusk descends, nearby Registan Square is lit up in vibrant colours, as part of an elaborate sound and light show. We take in this grand spectacle before returning to the Hilton Samarkand Regency.

Day 8 Samarkand

Determine the nature of your explorations today with a choice of Your World experience:

- ★ A short drive brings you to Ohalik Village, in the nearby Hisor Mountains. Enjoy an authentic experience as you are invited into the home of a local family for tea, and to learn about the daily lives of villagers. Then explore further during a short hike.
- ★ Alternatively, cross the border into Tajikistan and discover the city of Panjakent. While here, discover the ruins of Bunjikat and its archaeology museum. At the Rudaki Historical Museum, see displays of traditional costumes and textiles. You may also like to visit the Central Bazaar, as well as Sarazm, a fascinating archaeological site.

Return to the Hilton Samarkand Regency for dinner this evening.

Day 9 Bukhara

Today, a high-speed train delivers us to the oasis of Bukhara, whose World Heritage-listed city dates back more than 2,500 years. We begin our discoveries at the Lyabi Hauz Plaza, whose madrassahs are built around a central pool. At Magoki Attori Mosque, the city's oldest, we discover that the site also previously accommodated Buddhist and Zoroastrian temples. Following our visits, there will also be time to browse the stalls of the local bazaar. After dining at a local restaurant, we spend the first of two evenings at the Hotel Indigo Bukhara.

Day 10 Bukhara

We further appreciate Bukhara's history and grandeur today during a visit to the Ark Citadel, the fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara, who ruled here in earlier times. Then observe the contrasting architectural styles featured during visits to the Kalon Mosque and the Samani Mausoleum.

This afternoon, Your World experiences facilitate your own experience of Bukhara:

- ★ Visit the city's Jewish quarter and hear a devotional song performed a cappella by Bukharan Jews. These traditional melodies are sung in the Tajiki-Persian language.
- ★ You may prefer to head just outside the city, to the Palace of Moon-like Stars, the summer residence of the last Emir. Stroll the grounds and pavilions here before heading to the mausoleum built for the 14th-century Sufi mystic, Bahauddin Naqshband.

This evening, we make our way to the Shukhov Water Tower. From the structure's enclosed observation platform, we see across to the Ark Citadel, with panoramic views of Bukhara beyond. Afterwards, we enjoy a performance of traditional shashmaqom folk music and dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 11 Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)

Our journey through the Stans continues, as our private jet delivers us to the shimmering city of Ashgabat in Turkmenistan. Located between the Karakum Desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range, Ashgabat was completely redesigned in 1948 after being levelled by an earthquake. Today, the city glows, particularly at dawn and dusk, as it possesses the largest number of

marble buildings of any city in the world. For the next three nights, we enjoy the comforts of the Oguzkent Hotel. After some time at leisure, we take a drive across the city, whose many monuments and buildings sparkle at night. Choose from a selection of restaurants tonight.

Day 12 Ashgabat

Ashgabat offers us a choice of its natural and cultural aspects today during a Your World experience:

- ★ Take a long drive across the desert to the legendary Darvaza Gas Crater. Peer into its vast hollow, rich in natural gas, to see what the locals call the 'Door to Hell'. The gas burns brightly at night, giving the crater a fiery, other-worldly appearance. Your arrival back to the hotel will be a late one tonight, but the experience will be well worth it.
- ★ Explore some of the historic and cultural sites of Ashgabat and its surrounding areas. Discover the archaeological site of Nisa. Admire the grandeur of the Ertugrul Gazi Mosque, inspired by classical Ottoman architecture. Other key locations include the Arch of Neutrality, the Halk Hakydasy Memorial Complex, and Independence Park.

We dine at our hotel this evening.

Day 13 Ashgabat

On our final full day in Ashgabat, take the opportunity to explore further during a Your World experience:

- ★ Board a short commercial flight to the city of Mary, gateway to the nearby ancient city of Merv. At the History and Ethnography Museum in Mary, exhibits include historic artefacts, national costumes and Turkmenistan's recent history. Once the world's largest city, Merv was a key centre of trade along the Silk Road before succumbing to a Mongol invasion in the 13th century. The State Historical and Cultural Park here features well-preserved mosques, mausoleums and fortresses within the walled city.
- ★ Venture out of town to visit a horse stable where the prized Akhal-Teke are reared. Considered one of the world's rarest breeds, the Akhal-Teke are native to Turkmenistan and known for their athleticism, slender appearance and shimmering coat. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to a factory to see how the famed Bukhara hand-knotted rugs are designed and produced.

Following our respective experiences, we come together to celebrate our journey during a Farewell Dinner. During the evening, dancers in traditional costumes perform to folk music, making for a memorable end to our time in Central Asia.

Day 14 Singapore

Enjoy a final breakfast at our hotel. We are then transferred to the airport for our flight to Singapore, where our journey concludes.