

## 15D EXPLORE THE 4 STAN'S B601

(KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, UZBEKISTAN & TAJIKISTAN)

### Day 1, Wed: Tashkent - Almaty 17:00

Arrival to Tashkent airport is at 17:00, transit and flight for Almaty is at 19:00. 21:30 local time arrival is to Almaty airport. Your guide will meet you at the airport and accompany to Almaty city. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

### Day 2, Thu: Almaty

Today you will have a city tour. You will visit the Green Bazaar, where it is impossible to refrain from shopping. Then the tour will continue in one of the oldest Almaty parks - Panfilov Park, where one of the most beautiful wooden building in the world - Zenkov Cathedral is located. Next destination is the Kok-Tobe hill where the tallest TV tower in the world is located (if to count from the sea level) and where you will get by the picturesque winding mountain road. In Kok-Tobe Park you can stroll along the winding paths of the park, admire the magnificent panorama of the city from the special observation deck and visit the shop of national souvenirs. The tour ends with the short ride from the top of the hill to the center of the city by the famous Almaty cableway. Transfer to the hotel.



### Day 3, Fri: Almaty – Charyn Canyon – Almaty

Today you will have a day trip to Charyn Canyons. It is one of the unique natural monuments of Kazakhstan. The canyon is about 12 million years old and surprises with its vertical cliffs, reminding the ancient castles, created by wind, sun and rain. It will take about 3 hours to reach the canyon. Meanwhile, you will hear a lot of interesting about the history and nature of the region, about Kazakh people, their life and traditions as well as have a lunch in a local cafe. And as soon as you see Charyn Canyon you will forget about this long way at once - so much you will be impressed with the beauty and splendor of the canyon. You can admire the grand panorama and then have a walk through the maze of the Castles Valley with its inaccessible walls overhanging you. Night is in the hotel.



**Day 4, Sat: Almaty – Bishkek**

Today we will have a transfer to Bishkek city. The distance from Almaty city to Bishkek is 230 km. It will take about 4 hours for the transfer. On the way you will pass a border control. This entire day is dedicated to a guided tour of Bishkek. It includes visiting Pobeda Square (Victory Square), Duboviy Park (Oak Park), Central Ala-Too Square, National Philharmonic, and many others places of interest. You will spend the night in a hotel.



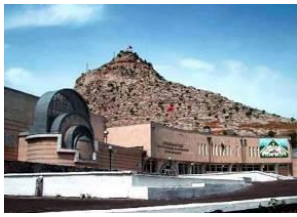
**Day 5, Sun: Bishkek – Ala Archa – Bishkek**

Today we will visit Ala Archa gorge. It is a Natural Park. At the Soviet Time only V.I.P. people had permission to go for a walk here. The Ala Archa gorge is on a spur of the Tien Shan mountain range. It is just 45 km from Bishkek. You can have a short hiking tour to see a panoramic view of the gorge. Afterwards we return to Bishkek and you will visit our Asian Bazaar! We will show it to you today and you will be able to take a lot of dynamic photos of bustling local life. This bazaar is a noisy and colorful tapestry of fabrics, produce, and people selling and buying goods. Night is in a hotel.



**Day 6, Mon: Bishkek – Osh**

In the morning we will transfer you to the airport for a flight to the city of Osh. In Osh city you will have a walk and will get to visit a famous and special place – Suleiman Mountain. Suleiman Too (Solomon’s Mountain) is situated in the city center and it is considered a place of pilgrimage for local Muslims, because according to the legend, biblical prophet Solomon (Suleiman, in the Koran) was buried at the foot of it. It is not a real city tour without visiting our Asian Bazaar. We will show it to you today and you will be able to take a lot of photos there. Night is in a hotel.



### **Day 7, Tue: Osh – Duslik – Kokand**

In the morning you will transfer you to the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. Crossing the border and transfer to Kokand city. Upon arrival to Kokand you will have city tour of Kokand. Here we will visit Khudayar Khan Palace, historical monument of architecture that perfectly mixed all kinds of traditional arts and crafts, Modari Khan Mausoleum, built for the mother of ruler of Kokand Umarkhan, and Norbutabi Madrasah which was the greatest spiritual school in Kokand in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After excursions we will depart to Rishtan town in order to visit private pottery workshop. Here craftsmen from ancient times preserved a special technology of making pottery and pass from generation to generation. Then you will be transferred to your hotel. Night is in a hotel.



### **Day 8, Wed: Kokand - Border – Khujand B**

Breakfast is at the hotel. Transfer to Tajik border and crossing it. Tajik guide will meet you on the border and you will drive Khujand city. It is the second largest city of Tajikistan. It is situated on the Syr Darya River at the mouth of the Fergana Valley. The population of the city is 149,000. It is also the capital of the northernmost province of Tajikistan, now called Sughd. You will visit in the afternoon a Cultural Palace of Khujant. At this place the first president of Tajikistan was chosen. In addition, we will go to see Central Mosque that is situated in the middle of the city. Night is in a hotel.



### **Day 9, Thu: Khujand – Seven lakes – Penjakent B**

We will drive today to the Fannsky Gory (Fann Mountains). The road to the lakes goes over pass Shahrston (3 378 m). They are one of Central Asia's most popular hiking areas. You will do a day trip to the Seven Lakes (Marquzor Lakes), about 60 km south of Panjakent. At this place you will have time to go for short hiking. There road goes along a gorge where 7 lakes are located. They are situated on different altitudes and have different colors. Then we will drive to Penjakent. The city of Penjakent ("five villages") is located in Khujand area of Tajikistan in a picturesque Zeravshan river valley. Quite

possibly the five villages started the history of this remarkable city which originated in the 5th-8th centuries AD. The ruins of this ancient city were found only in the last century. Today the tourists can see the remains of dwelling houses and office buildings, the citadel with the palace, the house of craftsmen, and fire worshipers church. Night is in a hotel.



### **Day 10, Fri: Penjikent – Jartepa – Samarkand B**

In the morning you will drive to the Tajik-Uzbek border Jartepa. Cross the border and transfer to Samarkand. Samarkand is situated in the valley of the river Zerafshan. It is the second largest city of Uzbekistan and is of the same age as the city of Babylon or Rome. Today you will visit its most outstanding sights such as Registan square, Shakhi-Zindeh, Mausoleum Guri Emir and Bibi Khanum Mosque. Registan Square, a complex of three fascinating Madrasahs dating back to 15-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, is the main highlight of Samarkand that no person can stop admiring its beauty and majesty. Architectural complex of Shakhi-Zindeh represents a big collection of mausoleums dating back to 11<sup>th</sup>-15 centuries being a part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Bibi Khanum Mosque was built in honor of favorite Tamerlane's wife, after his successful campaign in India. Overnight is at the hotel.



### **Day 11, Sat: Samarkand – Bukhara (train) B**

Today you will continue exploring Samarkand city. You will visit Ulughbek observatory, built in 15<sup>th</sup> century by Ulughbek, one of the most famous Samarkand rulers and scientists. Working in observatory, Ulughbek created in 1437 the “Zidji Guragoni” catalog, which had information about 1018 celestial bodies. Unfortunately, he was killed by order of his own son. After it you can walk along the local Broadway surrounded by souvenir shops, teahouses, sweets and workshops. Then you can visit national bazaar Siab, oriental bazaar, where it is easy to find Uzbek traditional handmade products and local sweets. Also, you will see carpet factory, a unique handmade carpet factory where over 400 women sew carpets without using traditional techniques. Afternoon transfer to Bukhara is by train. Night is in a hotel.



### Day 12, Sun: Bukhara B

Today you will have a full day of sightseeing tour in the fascinating city of Bukhara. At first you will visit the most ancient citadel in Bukhara dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century named Citadel Ark which served as a palace for several dynasties of Bukhara Empire. Then you will see Samanids mausoleum, a real masterpiece of architecture of 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> century. Then the tour continues to Chashma Ayub, meaning Job's well and Bolo-Hauz mosque, known also as the mosque of forty columns built in honor of Bukhara governor Abu-Fayud Khan. Then you have a chance to walk along the shopping domes and visit one of the most famous madrasahs of Bukhara called Nodir Divan Begi which is also a part of Lyabi House Ensemble, famous central sightseeing of Bukhara. The tour will end with visiting Poi Kalon complex, the unique sample of architectural art of Bukhara. It consists of three structures built in the 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> centuries: Kalon minaret, Kalon mosque and Mir Arab Madrasah. Night is in a hotel.



### Day 13, Mon: Bukhara – Tashkent (train) B

Today you will have a sightseeing tour in the surrounding area of Bukhara. First you will visit Bahauddin Naqshbandi complex, located few kilometers from Bukhara. It is a memorial complex of famous Sufi Leader and Philosopher, one of the Muslim pilgrimage places for all people of Islamic world. Sheikh Bakhauddin Nakshbandi was one of the spiritual masters of Amir Timur. Then you will drive to see the countryside residence of Bukhara Emirs named Sitorai Mohi Hosa complex. The palace is the sample of combination of various architectural styles. Emir named the palace on behalf of his wife who died young “Star - like and moon- like Palace”. After excursions you will have a train ride to Tashkent. Night is in a hotel.



### Day 14, Tue: Tashkent – Singapore

Today you will visit Independence Square, which is the main square of the country and was erected as a symbol of victory over fascism in World War II. Then you will have a chance to walk along the local Broadway, a walking street between Independence Square and Amir Timur Square. Furthermore, you can take a ride on the famous Tashkent metro, among the most beautiful subways in the world. The first line was opened in 1977. Then you will visit the old part of the city, which includes Chorsu Bazaar, Kukaldash Madrasah, and the Hast Imam complex, which consists of several madrasahs, mosques, and mausoleums. The highlight of its exhibits is the Othman Quran, which is the world's oldest Quran copy, dating back to the 8th century. The Quran belonged to Othman Ibn Affan, the Third Caliph (of the four righteous Caliphs who succeeded the prophet Muhammad). Othman was killed by non-muslims in the 8th century. His blood spread over the Quran that you can still see on its pages. Evening flight home.



### Day 15, Wed: Transit – Singapore

#### Price includes:

- Accommodation at mentioned hotels on double share basis
- Transportation per program in comfortable a/c transport with professional drivers
- 2 pax – Sedan (Lacetti Chevrolet)
- 4-8 pax – Minivan (Grand Starex, Toyota Hiace)
- 10-14 pax – Midibus (Mitsubishi Rosa, Sprinter)
- 15 and more pax – Big Bus (Yutong, Higer)
- Full board Halal meals
- Economy class air tickets: Bishkek – Osh (15 kg luggage)
- Economy class train tickets:
- Samarkand – Bukhara
- Bukhara – Tashkent
- Daily two bottles of 0.5l water per person
- Escort English guide in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and English or Bahasa speaking guide in Uzbekistan.
- Entrance fees to mentioned sights per program



**Price does not include:**

- Visa consular fees and processing expenses
- Photo and video charges at sights
- All lunches and dinners per program
- International air tickets to / out of Tashkent
- Tashkent – Almaty flight
- Travel Insurance
- Extras, not indicated in inclusions

**PS:**

- If mentioned hotels are overbooked or not available, we will give appropriate alternative.
- If there is no free seats in bullet train, we will replace by normal train.

Pax	(A)Price per person in Sin\$	(B)Price per person in Sin\$
2	4,900	5,100
6	3,300	3,750
10 and above	3,100	3,350

Cities	Hotel	Hotel
Almaty	Kazakhstan 3*	Kazzhol 4*
Bishkek	Discovery 3*	Plaza 4*
Osh	Sun Rise 3*	Classic 4*
Khujand	Firuz 4*	
Penjikent	Umariyon 3*	
Tashkent	Tourist Inn 3*	Milan 4*
Bukhara	Porso 3*	Omar Khayam 4*
Samarkand	Ideal 3*	Diyora 4*