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CENTRAL ASIA GROUP TOURS 2027-2029

Central Asia Small Group Tour 2027-2029

Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Uzbekistan • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan

DURATION	COUNTRIES	CITIES	PRICE
16 days	5	7	$4,490 / person

ROUTE

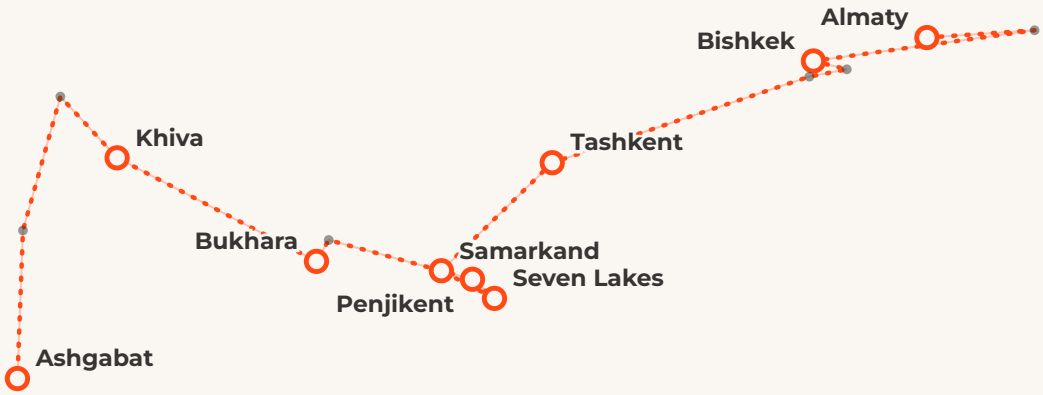
Almaty → Bishkek → Tashkent → Samarkand → Seven Lakes → Penjikent → Bukhara → Khiva → Ashgabat

Details & booking

www.orexca.com/central-asia/tours/central-asia-small-group-tour.htm

TOUR AT A GLANCE

Central Asia Small Group Tour 2027-2029



An amazing, action-packed route in the heart of Asia! In just 16 days, you will see the greatest historical monuments and unforgettable natural beauty of 5 countries! Along with this, you will get acquainted with the unique Asian cultures of peoples who once were farmers, highlanders, and nomads.

KAZAKHSTAN	Day 1–2	Almaty
KYRGYZSTAN	Day 3–4	Bishkek
UZBEKISTAN	Day 5–7	Tashkent, Samarkand
TAJIKISTAN	Day 8	Seven Lakes, Penjikent
UZBEKISTAN	Day 9–13	Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva
TURKMENISTAN	Day 14–16	Ashgabat





ITINERARY · 16 DAYS

Kazakhstan

DAYS 1–2

DAY 1

Almaty – Arrival (Kazakhstan)

Upon arrival in Almaty, check into the hotel at noon. After your flight, take some time to rest and recharge before embarking on your sixteen-day Central Asia Group Tour. Spend the night at the hotel.

Meals: none



Charyn Canyon

DAY 2

Almaty – Charyn Canyon – Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Start your second day on the Central Asia Small Group Tour with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. Your tour guide and driver will be waiting to meet you at your hotel in Almaty. Leave Almaty and make your way to Charyn Canyon, taking in the breathtaking views of the Altai Mountains and quaint villages en route (220 km, 3-4 hours). Arrive at Charyn Canyon in time for a scenic picnic lunch. Take a hike through this stunning canyon, characterized by towering mountains reaching up to 300 meters and the picturesque "Valley of Castles" stretching over 2 kilometers. Return to Almaty in the late afternoon. Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: breakfast, picnic-lunch

Kyrgyzstan

DAYS 3–4



Bishkek

DAY 3

Almaty – border – Bishkek (Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan)

After breakfast at the hotel, your guide will meet you in the lobby for a sightseeing tour of Almaty. Visit Park of 28 Panfilov Guardsmen, where you'll learn more about the city's history and see one of the largest wooden buildings in the world, Zenkov Cathedral. Visit the Memorial of Glory and the Eternal Flame, dedicated to the soldiers who died for the country's independence. Continue to Republic Square and Almaty City Museum. Shop for sweets and souvenirs at the famed Green Bazaar. Lunch.

Depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via a newly built highway enjoying the nature landscapes on the way (250 km, 4 h.). Pass border control and arrive in Bishkek, then transfer to hotel. Overnight in Bishkek your Central Asia Group Tour third night.

Meals: breakfast, lunch



Burana Tower

DAY 4

Bishkek – Burana – Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

Breakfast at the hotel on the fourth day of your Central Asia Group Tour. Begin your day with a city tour of Bishkek's impressive examples of Soviet urban planning and architecture: Oak Park, Ala Too Square, Manas Statue, the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Philharmonic Hall, and Victory Monument.

Transfer to Don Aryk village for lunch with local Kyrgyz family at their home. After lunch, local women will demonstrate the construction of a yurt, and you can even take part in it! Then drive to Burana Tower, part of the ancient city of Balasagun (11-13th centuries) and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to Bishkek. Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: breakfast, lunch

Uzbekistan

DAYS 5–7



Tashkent

DAY 5

Bishkek – Ala Archa – Tashkent (Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan)

Your Central Asia small group tour continues with a scenic drive to the stunning Ala-Archa National Park (40km). After a delicious breakfast, your guide will meet you and take you to this breathtaking alpine gorge. Hike through the park, admiring the snow-capped peaks as you make your way to Ak-Sai Waterfall and the banks of the Ala-Archa River. After an energizing picnic lunch, return to Bishkek for your late afternoon flight to Tashkent (1h 10min). Upon arrival in Tashkent, you'll be transferred to your hotel for a comfortable and well-earned night's rest.

Meals: breakfast, picnic-lunch



Tashkent

DAY 6

Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

Day six of your Central Asia Small Group Tour. Your guide and driver will pick you up from your hotel to begin Tashkent city tour. Your private tour will include: Excursion to the Old City, including the architectural complex Hast-Imam (15th century). Walking through the Islamic Civilization Center and Zarqaynar street. Visit to Chorsu Bazaar, one of the oldest markets in Central Asia, where you can sample or buy sweets, fruits and souvenirs. Take a ride on the Tashkent Metro. Each station is decorated with ceramic tiles and murals depicting a unique theme. Walk through Amir Timur Square and Independence Square, admiring the paintings for sale on 'Broadway' Drive. Drive to Sacred Heart Cathedral. Visit the Museum of Applied Arts, an informative collection of Uzbekistan's finest handicrafts housed in an ornately decorated villa. Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: breakfast



Samarkand

DAY 7

Tashkent – Samarkand (Uzbekistan)

On your 7th day of Central Asia Small Group Tour, your driver will transfer you to the railway station in the morning for a train journey to the stunning city of Samarkand (310km, 2-3h). You will visit Gur Emir, and the impressive Registan Square, with its three Madrasahs dating back to the 15th to 17th centuries. Take in the beauty of Bibi Khanum Mosque and stroll through the multi-level complex of Siab Bazaar, where you can find souvenirs and sample local sweets, fruits, and the famous Samarkand bread. Explore the impressive Shakhi-Zinda, a 15th-century burial complex, and walk the imposing pathway to see its blue-domed tombs. End the day with a visit to the Ulugbek Observatory, where you can view the remains of a 14th-15th-century sextant and tour the Ulugbek Museum. After a full day of exploration, rest and relax at your hotel. This is just one of many exciting experiences you'll have on your Central Asia Small Group Tour.

Tajikistan

DAY 8



Seven Lakes

DAY 8

Samarkand – border – Seven Lakes – Penjikent (Uzbekistan/Tajikistan)

Begin your 8th day on your Central Asia Group Tour with a delicious breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the Uzbekistan-Tajikistan border crossing at Jartepa (50km). After passing through customs and passport control, your local Tajik guide and driver will be waiting for you on the Tajikistan side to take you to the breathtaking Seven Lakes (90km). Located in the Fann Mountains, each of the Seven Lakes boasts its own unique color, ranging from turquoise to purple. Take in the natural beauty of this special place and enjoy your lunch at a guest house near the fourth lake. Continue your journey to the charming city of Penjikent, where you'll spend the night at a hotel. Embark on an exciting and unforgettable journey through Central Asia with this group tour.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Uzbekistan

DAYS 9–13



Sarazm

DAY 9

Penjikent – border – Samarkand (Tajikistan/Uzbekistan)

Have breakfast and start a tour to ancient Penjikent, the ruins of a town founded by the Sogdians in the 5th century and abandoned by Arabs in the 8th century. In old Penjikent you'll get to see the foundations of houses, a citadel with Zoroastrian fire temples, the remains of the city bazaar and other excavated ruins. In the newer part of Penjikent, visit a local bazaar, mosque, and the Rudaki Museum. Drive to the Jartepa border crossing (30 km, 40 min) via Sarazm, a UNESCO World Heritage Site founded in the 4th century BC. After crossing the border, you'll continue your group tour in Uzbekistan, with your driver meeting you at the border to take you to your hotel in Samarkand. Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: breakfast, lunch



Bukhara

DAY 10

Samarkand – Gijduvon – Bukhara (Uzbekistan)

After breakfast at hotel, free time. Group tour of Central Asia continues with a drive from Samarkand to Bukhara via Gijduvan ceramic center and pottery master-class, before having lunch.

Drive to Bukhara and on the way visit the Emir's Summer Residence at Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa (19th century). This is a unique site combining Oriental and Russian architecture (please note that no English-speaking guide is provided here). Check-in to the hotel in Bukhara. In the evening, there is a National show at Nadir Divan-Begi Madrasah with dinner. Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner



Bukhara

DAY 11

Bukhara (Uzbekistan)

Begin the morning with a city walking tour led by your local guide. Your private tour will include the Lyabi-Hauz Ensemble, Magoki-Attori Mosque and the Trade Domes (15-16th centuries) that serve today as a tourist bazaar. Continue your excursion to Poi Kalyan Ensemble, including the Kalyan Minaret, Kalyan Mosque and Miri-Arab Madrasah. Visit Ulugbek and Abdulazizkhan Madrasahs. Discover the Ark Fortress and museum in Bukhara. Next site is the Bolo-Khauz Mosque with a pond. Last site is the mausoleum of Ismail Samani. Finish your 6-hour walking city tour. Free time in the evening. Overnight at the hotel in Bukhara.

Optional Activity: Immerse yourself, literally, in centuries-old traditions at the Bozori Kord Hammam, a traditional Turkic bathhouse. Opened in the 14th century, it's been in operation ever since.

Meals: breakfast



Khiva

DAY 12

Bukhara – Khiva (Uzbekistan)

Breakfast. In the morning depart Bukhara and drive to Khiva (480 km, 7-8 h*). Today we will have an overland transfer from Bukhara to Khiva through Kyzylkum desert. Caravans on the Great Silk Road carrying porcelain and spices used the same route for hundreds of years. Arrival in Khiva, the "museum under the open sky" late in the afternoon. After check-in, free time to discover Khiva during your Central Asia Small Group Tour. Overnight in a hotel located inside or near Ichan-Kala, the historical center of Khiva and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

*As the cafés and restaurants on the way are basic and offer limited menus, you may wish to take a packed lunch on this trip.

Optional Activity: In the evening, take a masterclass on cooking "tukhumbarak" (egg dumplings) a classic Khivan cuisine. Dinner is included. Price is 25 USD per person, with a minimum of 4 persons required.

Meals: breakfast



Khiva

DAY 13

Khiva (Uzbekistan)

After breakfast at the hotel, take a walking tour around Itchan-Kala with a local guide in your Central Asia Small Group Tour. Start with Kunya-Ark Khan's castle and the inner citadel of Ichan Kala, before continuing to the following sites: Kalta Minor Tower, the tallest minaret in Central Asia; Muhammad Amin-Khan, the biggest medieval madrasah in Khiva and Mukhammad Rahimkhan Madrasah; Juma Mosque, with 212 wooden columns and a minaret 32.5 m high; Tash-Hauli with its high battlements, towers and fortified gates; Necropolis of Pahlavan Mahmud, the cultic center of Ichan Kala; residence of Islam Khodja, vizier of the last khan. Overnight at the hotel in Khiva.

Meals: breakfast

Turkmenistan

DAYS 14–16



Kunya-Urgench

DAY 14

Khiva – border – Kunya Urgench - Darvaza (Uzbekistan/Turkmenistan)

After your morning breakfast, you'll travel with your driver to the Turkmenistan border point, which is approximately an hour away. You'll have to pass through customs, and transportation may not be available in the transit zone. Once you pass border control, your Turkmenistan guide will meet you, and together you'll embark on a 100km drive to Kunya-Urgench. In Kunya-Urgench, you'll visit the Tyurabek-Khanym and Sayit Ahmed Mausoleums, Kutlug Timur Minaret, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum of Khorezmshakh, and Kyrk Molla Hill. You'll enjoy a picnic lunch while exploring the area.

In the afternoon, you'll take a four-hour drive to the Darvaza Gas Crater, located in the middle of the Karakum Desert (280 km, 4-5h). You'll set up camp and enjoy the magnificent ring of fire by night, which is approximately 80 meters in diameter and 30 meters in depth. A delicious fire-cooked meal will be served for dinner near the burning gas crater, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, camp style BBQ Dinner



Ashgabat

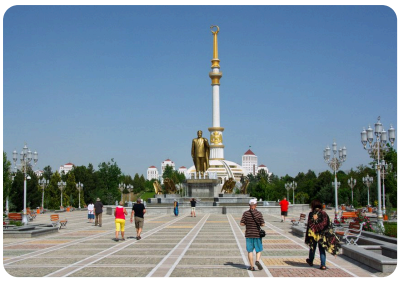
DAY 15

Darvaza – Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)

Begin your day by witnessing the stunning desert sunrise before indulging in a camp-style breakfast. Afterward, you'll visit the mud crater before embarking on a scenic drive to Ashgabat, which spans 280 kilometers and takes approximately four hours to complete. Along the way, you'll have the opportunity to take photos of the majestic sand dunes and graceful camels.

Upon arrival in Ashgabat, check-in to hotel and start a sightseeing tour of the capital city, which has been recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for having more white marble buildings than any other city in the world. You'll visit the Old Nissa archaeological site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Spiritual Mosque, which is one of the largest mosques in Central Asia. Other notable stops include the National Museum of History, the Monument of Neutrality, Presidential Square, Ertugrul Gazi Mosque, and the recently built Independence Park. A delicious dinner will be served, overnight in Ashgabat.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ashgabat

DAY 16

Ashgabat – departure (Turkmenistan)

Your Central Asia Small Group Tour comes to a close with check-out from the hotel at noon. Enjoy some free time before your transfer to Ashgabat International Airport for your departure. We hope you had an unforgettable journey and look forward to welcoming you back for another adventure in the future.

Meals: Breakfast

WHAT YOU GET

Includes

Price includes

- ✓ Accommodation based on double/twin room sharing, with breakfast, 14 nights
- ✓ All road transfers including airport and train station (2 persons in sedan, 3-8 persons in minivan)
- ✓ Local English-speaking escort guide on days 2-5, 8-9 and 14-15
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide for the city tours in Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva
- ✓ Entrance fees to sights as per itinerary
- ✓ Yurt construction show in Don Aryk village on day 4
- ✓ Gijduvan pottery master class
- ✓ National folklore show and dinner in Bukhara
- ✓ Economy-class tickets for flights from Bishkek to Tashkent
- ✓ Economy-class tickets for Tashkent-Samarkand train
- ✓ Meals as designated in the program
- ✓ 1L bottle of water per person per day
- ✓ Trekking tent in Darvaza or shared Yurt (includes sleeping mat, sleeping bag and pillow, 1 night)
- ✓ Transfers SUV/4WD in Darvaza
- ✓ Visa support letter for Turkmenistan tourist visa.

Price does not include

- – Tour leader to accompany the group for the whole duration of the tour
- – Meals not indicated in the program
- – Hotel charges for additional services
- – Personal travel insurance
- – International flight tickets before and after the tour
- – All visas, e-visas and visa support letters to Central Asia countries
- – Tips are not included (driver, guide, porter)
- – All other charges and services not mentioned under “Inclusions”.

Departure dates

04 APR 2027	11 APR 2027	18 APR 2027	25 APR 2027	02 MAY 2027	09 MAY 2027
16 MAY 2027	23 MAY 2027	30 MAY 2027	06 JUN 2027	13 JUN 2027	20 JUN 2027
27 JUN 2027	04 JUL 2027	11 JUL 2027	18 JUL 2027	25 JUL 2027	01 AUG 2027

All departures: **$4,490** per person · More dates on the website

Reserve your place online

www.orexca.com/central-asia/tours/central-asia-small-group-tour.htm

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