

Tour to Pamir Highway

Duration: 9 days

You will visit: Dushanbe, Kalai-Khumb, Khorog, Ishkashim, Langar, Murgab, Ak Baital pass, Tokhtamysh pass, Savnov, Khichez, Rushan

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1: Dushanbe – Kalai-Khumb (370 km, 8 h)

After having breakfast, we will start our journey towards the Pamir Mountains by taking Highway M41 through Tavildara and Khaburabad pass (or Kulyab region). As we travel, you might observe a more traditional way of dressing and bearded individuals, but do not worry as the locals are still incredibly friendly and hospitable. Our route includes crossing over the Khaburabad mountain pass before arriving at Kalai-Khumb, situated on the Panj River. We will spend the night at a hotel in the area.

Day 2: Kalai-Khumb – Khorog (240 km, 6 h)

Our route follows the course of the Panj River, a tributary of the powerful Amu Darya River. As we travel, you'll have the opportunity to observe Afghanistan on the right bank of the river. Our journey continues to Khorog, a cozy mountain town nestled in a valley and serving as the capital of the autonomous Gorno-Badakhshan region. Khorog is located at an altitude of 2,000 meters and is spread irregularly on the slopes of the lively Gunt River. A few kilometers downstream, the Gunt merges with the Panj, which serves as the border with Afghanistan. While you're in Khorog, be sure to check out the Botanic Garden and local museum. You'll spend the night at the hotel.

Day 3: Khorog – Ishkashim (120 km, 4-5 h)

Start your day by visiting the renowned Garam Chashma mineral hot spring and the Kuhi Lal ruby mines in Khorog, where Badakhshani rubies were extracted as early as the 14th century. Later, head towards Ishkashim, a quaint town situated at the mouth of the Wakhan corridor, which is famous for being the spot where the Great Game of the 19th century concluded. As you travel up the north side of the river, relish the breathtaking views of the Pamirs to the left and the Hindu Kush to the right, with several snow-capped peaks towering above 6,000 m. Spend the night at the guesthouse.

If you're fortunate enough to arrive in Ishkashim on a Saturday, make sure to check out the Tajik-Afghan market on the Afghan side. No Afghan visa is required to access the market.

Day 4: Ishkashim – Langar (140 km, 6-7 h)

Embark on a journey from Ishkashim to Langar, and make a pit stop at the historical Kah-Kaha fortress on the Silk Road in Namadgut. Next, pay homage to the revered Sufi scholar, theologian, poet, and traveler, Sufi Muborak-Kadami Wakhani, at the Museum dedicated to his life and works. Be sure to check out the stone pillar with a hole near his house, which Wakhani famously used to create a solar calendar, as well as the building adorned with his inscriptions and decorations. The itinerary also includes a visit to the Buddhist Stupa in Vrang, Bibi Fatima Zahra's sacred hot springs, and the ruins of the Yamchun Fortress— once

guardians of the Pamir branch of the Great Silk Road, dating back to the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. End your day with a restful overnight stay at a cozy homestay.

Day 5: Langar – Murgab (240 km, 6-7 h)

Begin your day by visiting the petroglyphs, which consist of over 600 rock carvings created by ancient people and are located in an open-air setting. Next, head to the Khargush, the origin of the Amu Darya River. En route, traverse the Khargush Pass (4344 m) and Nayza-Tash (4137 m). Finally, reach Murgab and spend the night at a homestay.

Day 6: Murghab – Ak Baital pass – Tokhtamysh pass – Savnov (300 km 7-8 h)

Today's journey offers breathtaking views of mountains and glaciers as we make our way to the Ak Baital Pass, also known as The White Horse Pass, which sits at an altitude of 4655m and is considered the highest pass in the former USSR. It is truly "The Roof of the World" and a hidden gem in this dry landscape. As we travel along the main road towards Barchidev, we will cross the Jalang valley, pass through Tokhtamysh, and reach the village of Kudara. We will also stop for a picnic and visit some traditional yurts along the way. Finally, we will descend to the famous and stunning Bartang Gorge before settling in for the night at a homestay.

Day 7: Savnov - Khichez (150 km 5-6 h)

Start your day with breakfast and take in the breathtaking sight of Lyapnazar peak (5989 m). Continue your journey with a transfer down to Bartang lake. Upon arrival at Khichez village in the Bartang valley, indulge in exploring the area by taking a leisurely walk around the picturesque Khichez valley. Rest for the night at a homestay.

Day 8: Khichez – Rushan – Kalai-Khumb

After having breakfast, we will travel to Kalaihumb town. Along the way, we will take a break for lunch and have dinner at a guesthouse. During our trip, we will visit the historic settlement of Karon, which is situated on the mountaintop of Zogik, with an elevation of 1700 meters above sea level, located one kilometer to the east of Ruzvai village in the Darvaz district of GBAO. We will spend the night at the hotel.

Day 9: Kalai-Khumb – Dushanbe (280 km, 7-8 h)

Begin your day with a nourishing breakfast before embarking on a scenic drive towards Dushanbe through the majestic Khobu-Robot pass, which stands at an altitude of 3252 meters. This route offers breathtaking views of the magnificent Badagshon mountain range. Stop for a satisfying lunch along the way. Upon arriving in Dushanbe, transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Inclusions

- Transport throughout the tour (4WD);
- Accommodation based on double/twin room (8 nights, with breakfast);
- Full-board (lunches and dinners);
- Service of an English-speaking guide for the whole duration of the tour;
- Entrance fees to sights as per itinerary;
- GBAO permit.

Exclusions

- Transfers airport pick-ups and drop-offs;
- Letter of Invitation and consular fees for Tajikistan tourist visa;
- International flight tickets before and after the tour;
- Hotel charges for additional services;
- Tips are not included (driver, guide);
- Travel insurance;
- All other charges and services not mentioned under “Inclusions”.

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