

SECRETS OF THE SILK ROAD

in 'THE FIVE STANS' - 2024

UZBEKISTAN – TAJIKISTAN – TURKMENISTAN – KAZAKHSTAN – KYRGYZSTAN
24 DAYS | 20 AUGUST - 12 SEPTEMBER 2024



Think Samarkand – with its Paleolithic origins, invaded by Alexander the Great, conquered by Genghis Khan, and ruled by Tamerlane. This is just one of the many secrets to be unveiled within these five former Soviet republics of Central Asia, collectively and colloquially known as 'The Five Stans'. Located in one of the most diverse regions of the world, they're comprised of spectacular mountains and valleys, scorched deserts and seemingly endless steppes. The ancient trade routes that connected these areas were responsible for cultural, economic, intellectual and religious exchanges from the Orient to the Mediterranean and became known as 'The Silk Road' due to the predominate trade in silk from ancient China to the west and to Europe. Follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo, but do it in style with a

modicum of luxury, when our tour seeks out the oases, modern cities and some of the oldest towns in the world containing ancient mosques, citadels, mosaic-rich mausoleums, madrassahs and alluring bazaars, all contributing to the tapestry of the Silk Road. Every day presents an opportunity to spend time with the local people and absorb their history, their age-old traditions and their different ways of life while enjoying their towering mountain ranges, their fertile valleys, their crystal clear alpine lakes and undoubtedly, their unique cuisine!



EXCLUSIVE TOUR FEATURES

- View the ruins of what was Central Asia's largest Mosque, Bibi-Khanam, in Samarkand
- Full day excursion to Penjikent in Tajikistan
- Visit the ruins of the ancient caravanserai Rabati Malik near Bukhara
- Enjoy Folklore Shows in Bukhara and Bishkek
- Meet a local Uzbek family and taste their traditional dishes in Khiva
- Take in all of the Central Asian UNESCO sites, e.g. 'Ancient Merv' and 'Old Nissa' in Turkmenistan
- View & visit fabulous Mosques, Madrassahs, Mausoleums, Minarets, & Museums
- Drive to Issyk Gorge and picnic on the shores of the turquoise Lake Issyk
- Visit Almaty's State Historic Museum with its 'Golden Man' and model of a Saka period burial mound
- Full day excursion to Issyk Kul Lake and the Open Air Petroglyphs below the Kungey Alatau Mountains

FEATURES AND INCLUSIONS

- A special hand-crafted itinerary with included sightseeing, scenic drives, excursions and leisure time
- Local English-speaking Tour Managers in each region visited throughout the tour
- Escorted from Tashkent to Bishkek by EuroVista's experienced Tour Leaders Ken Bowie and Paul Leigh
- 23 nights in 4 & 5 star hotels especially selected for their style, comfort and location
- Daily breakfasts (B)
- 13 lunches including a special lunch with an Uzbek family in Khiva, picnics on the shore of Issyk Lake and in the Ala Archa National Park and one in each of our recommended local restaurants in Tashkent, Penjikent (Tajikistan), Bukhara, Turkmenabat, Mary, Dashoguz, Almaty, Bishkek, Tokmok and Issyk Kul Lake (L)
- 14 dinners including a 'cooking class' dinner with a local family in Bukhara, a farewell dinner in Bishkek with a Kyrgyz folklore show and one in each of our recommended local and hotel restaurants in Tashkent, Samarkand (2), Bukhara, Mary, Ashgabat, Khiva, Almaty (3), Issyk Kul Lake, and Bishkek (D)
- 5 Economy Class flights during the tour to alleviate unnecessary long driving days
- Ride the pride of Uzbekistan Railways, the 250kph Afrosiab Train, from Tashkent to Samarkand
- Air-conditioned motor vehicles for 'on ground' transportation and sightseeing
- All sightseeing, entrance fees and excursions as described in the itinerary are included in the price
- A 'No Tipping' policy which takes care of hotel portage (1 piece of luggage per person), hotel and restaurant service charges and taxes plus gratuities, including gratuities for local guides and the end-of tour gratuities traditionally given to the Tour Manager and Driver.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tue 20 August

Arrival Tashkent (2 nights)

On arrival at Islam Karimov, Tashkent's International Airport you'll be met by our representative and privately transferred to our hotel centrally situated in the new part of the capital of Uzbekistan.

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency (or similar)

Day 2 - Wed 21 August

Tashkent – Sightseeing

Tashkent is the biggest city in Central Asia and it's known the world over as a city of friendship. After a leisurely breakfast we'll commence our full day tour in



the old part of the city including the Khast Imam Architectural Complex, the mediaeval Kukeldash Madrassah and

Tashkent's most well-known market, the impressive Chorsu Bazaar. We'll enjoy an included lunch before visiting the city's new area where we'll explore the

Independence Square, the Amir Timur Square, the Museum of Applied Arts of Uzbekistan and the Alisher Navoi Theatre, the home of Uzbekistan's National Opera and Ballet. Tonight's dinner is in a local restaurant. (BLD)

Day 3 - Thu 22 August

Tashkent – Samarkand (3 nights)

We start the day with an early breakfast before we're transferred to Tashkent's Main Railway Station to board our Afrosiab (a high-speed fast train) for our journey to Samarkand. We'll depart at 08:00 and the 344 kilometre trip, in business class seats, will take about 130 minutes. On arrival in Samarkand we'll check into our hotel and the afternoon and evening is ours to do with as we wish. (B)

Accommodation: Grand Samarkand Superior (or similar)

Day 4 - Fri 23 August

Samarkand – Sightseeing

Samarkand is close to the birthplace of the legendary conqueror Amir Timur (also known as Tamerlane) and it boasts the biggest Mausoleums, Madrassahs and Mosques in Central Asia. This morning's agenda takes in the Gur Emir, the Mausoleum where Amir Timur and all



his family are buried and the Bibi-Khanam Mosque, which, built by the eldest wife of Tamerlane as a gift to her

husband, was the biggest Mosque ever built in Central Asia. Our next stop is in Registan Square with its world famous complex of three Madrassahs and the Golden Dome Mosque. Close by is the Siyob Bazaar, a unique place where we can get acquainted with the life of the Samarkand people and spend some time for lunch. This afternoon our first visit is to the Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis, a holy site and cemetery established over 1000 years ago. It has been expanded over the centuries and now houses the remains of a great number of people, both famous and unknown, including the graves of members



of the Timur dynasty and the grave of Kusam ibn Abbas, purported to be a cousin of the Prophet Muhamed. Our sightseeing day

finishes with a visit to the Ulegh Beg Observatory, an incredible structure built in the 15th century for studying astronomy, and then we'll return to Registan Square where there'll be free time to browse in the bazaar before returning to our hotel for dinner. (BD)

Day 5 - Sat 24 August

Samarkand – Excursion to Penjikent (Tajikistan)

After breakfast we'll leave our hotel at 08:00 and a 60 minute drive will bring us to the Uzbekistan-Tajikistan border at Jartepa. Here we'll complete Passport & Customs control on both sides, cross the border (a walk of around 100 metres), then meet our local Tajik guide and take a 40 minute drive to Penjikent, 30 kilometres east of the crossing. In Penjikent we'll first visit the Rudaki Museum, a museum of local history featuring frescoes from the ancient city of Penjikent. Afterwards we'll visit the Central Bazaar followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Penjikent was a major Sogdian city dating back to the 5th century but was destroyed by Arab conquerors in the 8th century. After lunch and a short drive we'll visit these ancient ruins before a late afternoon arrival back at the Jartepa border crossing.

We'll complete Passport and Customs formalities then, later in the evening, we'll be back at our hotel in Samarkand in time for dinner. (BLD)

Day 6 - Sun 25 August

Samarkand – Bukhara (3 nights)

The ceramics of Gijduvan are internationally famous thanks to Abdulla Narzullaev, Master of Ceramics of Gijduvan. En route to Bukhara we'll visit the Narzullaev family's house-museum-workshop to see how this beautiful pottery is created. Photo opportunities abound as we travel the 278 kilometres from Samarkand to Bukhara so we'll stop for views of cotton fields, a cotton factory and at the ruins of the ancient Caravanserai Rabati Malik, a 'motel' for traders built along the Great Silk Road. On arrival in the fairy-tale city of Bukhara, an oasis that the Silk Road merchants never missed, we'll have time to relax before dinner in our hotel. (BD)

Accommodation: Asia Bukhara (or similar)

Day 7- Mon 26 August

Bukhara – Sightseeing

Bukhara is unlike any other city in Uzbekistan and today its architectural wonders beckon to us! Along with our local guide we spend the whole day amongst them. There's so much to see! Our first stop this morning is in Samani Park where we'll visit the Samanid Mausoleum, the oldest preserved building of Central Asia. It was completed in 905 for Ismail Samani (the founder of the Samanid dynasty), and contains his grave along with the graves of his father and grandson. Next we'll visit the Chashma-Ayub (Well of Job) Mausoleum where, legend has it; Job struck the rock with his staff and created a spring of pure water with healing powers. Old Bukhara is



a fascinating area of the city and here we'll visit the Poi Kalon, an ensemble of striking buildings including the

Kalon Minaret (built in 1227 and over 46 metres high), the Emir Alim Khan Madrassah, the Kalon Mosque (started in the 12th century, finished in the 16th century and boasts 288 domes) and the Mir-i-Arab Madrassah. This Madrassah is still a fully functioning Madrassah today, and in the Soviet era was the only one allowed to maintain teaching and was therefore the Islamic centre of the Soviet Union. We'll browse through the Taqi (Trading Domes) before enjoying an included lunch in a



local restaurant and then resume our tour by visiting the Kukeldash Madrassah and the Lyab-i-Hauz ensemble to admire the reflection of the

blue domes of its Mosque in its adjacent pond. We'll see the Madrassah of Nadir Divanbegi which is special because its mosaics depict animals instead of the much more common geometrical shapes. While in this area we'll also see the Madrassahs of Magok-i-Attari, Ulugbek and Abdulaziz Khan. Our afternoon exploration concludes with a visit to the Registan ensemble and one of the city's oldest structures, the Ark, a massive white Citadel which has protected the entrance to Old Bukhara for nearly 15 centuries and now houses several museums, a mosque and old stables. Close by is the Bolo-Hauz Mosque with its towering intricately carved wooden pillars...definitely worth a visit before we relax and enjoy a Folklore Show which also features the National Costumes of Uzbekistan. Tonight's dinner is a special occasion when we're invited to a local house to learn about preparing and cooking 'plov' (a dish of lamb and rice) which then becomes the main course for our evening meal! (BLD)

Day 8 - Tue 27 August

Bukhara – At Leisure

Today we have the whole day to do as we wish. We can use our new-found knowledge of this cosmopolitan city to further explore it, re-visit sites from the previous day, shop in the Bazaar or relax pool-side in our hotel. The choice is ours. (B)

Day 9 - Wed 28 August

Bukhara – Turkmenabat – Mary (1 night)

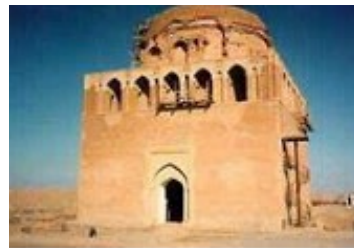
The border crossing between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is at Farap, a 75 minute drive from Bukhara. We'll arrive at approximately 09:00 and after completing Passport and Customs formalities (a process of up to 3hrs) we'll meet our Turkmen Guide and coach. We'll continue to our included lunch stop at a local restaurant in the city of Turkmenabat, Turkmenistan's second largest city located at the hub of an intersection between 3 roads of the Great Silk Road, leading to Bukhara, Khiva and Merv. After lunch our afternoon drive includes photo-stops for camels and sand dunes before arriving in the city of Mary late afternoon with time to freshen up before dinner in a local restaurant. (BLD)

Accommodation: Hotel Mary (or similar)

Day 10 - Thu 29 August

Mary – Merv – Ashgabat (3 nights)

A short drive this morning brings us to the UNESCO site known as the State Historical and Cultural Park, or – 'Ancient Merv' where we'll find the oldest and most completely preserved oasis cities built along the Silk Roads in Central Asia. This huge archaeological site contains the remains of population centres spanning 4000 years, from the Bronze Age (2500-1200 BC) and Iron Age (1200-300 BC) to the 15th and 16th centuries AD. While here we'll visit the Gyz Gala & Oglan Gala, the Complex of Askhabs, the Gawur Gala & Erk Gala, the Mausoleum of Soltan Sanjar and the Mausoleum of Muhammed Ibn Zeyd before we return to Mary and our included lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon we'll explore Mary by first visiting the United Museum of Mary and the Orthodox Church, followed by a short walking tour where many photo opportunities arise when we pass the main Mosque of Mary, the Central Library of Mary, the Kemine Theatre and the Ruhiyet Palace Convention



Centre. Early this evening we'll join a 40 minute flight taking us to Ashgabat, the capital and largest city of Turkmenistan. On arrival later this evening we'll first enjoy an included dinner in a local restaurant before checking into our



hotel located in the foothills of the Kopetdag Mountains, just a few minutes' drive from the centre of Ashgabat. (BLD)

Accommodation: Hotel Yyldyz (or similar)

Day 11 - Fri 30 August

Ashgabat – Sightseeing

Ashgabat was completely destroyed by a major earthquake in 1948 and was then rebuilt in the Soviet style of the era. After independence from the Soviets in 1991 a major re-construction took place, the result of which is a brand new city with a jumble of lavish golden-domed palaces, Bellagio fountains, neon-lit monuments and Stalinist ministries of state, 80% of which are constructed of white marble! We'll spend a full day sightseeing in and around the city including a morning visit to the Memorial Complex which is home to



Ruhy Mosque (the largest Mosque in Central Asia) and the UNESCO site of Old Nissa is also on the agenda before we take time for lunch. This afternoon we'll pursue more photo opportunities when we stop by the Monument of Independence, the Arch of Neutrality, the Monument of Constitution & Unity and the Alem Culture & Entertainment Centre which houses the world's largest indoor Ferris wheel. (B)

Day 12 - Sat 31 August Ashgabat – At Leisure

Today we can follow our instincts and fill in the day in any way we choose. Relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel or venture into the bazaars and shopping malls...it's up to us... (B)

Day 13 - Sun 01 September Ashgabat – Koneurgench – Dashoguz – Khiva (2 nights)

This morning we'll rise before the sparrows as we have a very early flight from Ashgabat to Dashoguz. After a 50 minute flight and an early morning arrival at Dashoguz Airport we'll drive to the city of Koneurgench, the ancient capital of Khorezm, and the UNESCO site of the Koneurgench State Historical and Architectural Reserve. Here we'll visit the ancient Mausoleums of Turabek



Khanum, Soltan Tekesh and Il-Arslan along with the Kutlug Timor Minaret before driving back to Dashoguz and our included lunch at a

local restaurant. This afternoon we'll cross back into Uzbekistan via the border crossing situated about 20 minutes south-east of Dashoguz. After completing Passport and Customs formalities on both sides a further short drive will see us in the city of Khiva where we'll have time to relax and freshen up before partaking of an included dinner at a local restaurant. (BLD)

Accommodation: Hotel Asia Khiva (or similar)

Monuments dedicated to the victims of the Earthquake, victims of Patriotic Wars and victims of World War II. An inside visit to the Turkmenbashi

Day 14 - Mon 02 September Khiva - Sightseeing

Khiva is an open-air museum and since 1969 its walled inner town, Ichan Kala – the oldest part of the city – has been protected by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. This morning's sightseeing in Ichan Kala will include the Kunya Ark (Old Fortress), the Pakhlavan Mahmud Architectural Complex, the Islam-Khodja Complex (with its 56.6 metres tall Minaret), the Tash-Khauuli Palace and Harem, the Juma Mosque and the Muhammad Amin-



khan Madrassah, among its 60 or so historical sites.

Lunch today is rather special when we join a local Uzbek family in their home to get acquainted with their

customs and to taste their national specialties. After lunch our sightseeing continues when we view the Kalta-Minor Minaret, the Kheivak Well, the Allakuli-Khan Madrassah and the Allakuli-Khan Caravanserai. There's time to relax in the late afternoon before we venture out to find our own interesting eateries for our evening meal. (BL)

Day 15 - Tue 03 September Khiva – Tashkent (1 night)

This evening we fly from Urgench Airport to Tashkent so we have the whole day in Khiva for us to do as we wish. Opportunities abound to complete further sightseeing, shop in the TIM Allakuli-Khan or relax in our hotel. We'll be collected from our hotel in the late afternoon for our 50 minute drive to the airport. The 90 minute domestic flight arrives in Tashkent in the late evening and on arrival we'll be transferred to our hotel. (B)

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency (or similar)

Day 16 - Wed 04 September Tashkent – Almaty (4 nights)

After a leisurely breakfast, we have free time to take a last look around Tashkent. Perhaps a museum or bazaar, or maybe a relaxing dip in the hotel pool, before transferring to the airport for our 2:20pm flight to Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, and former capital under Soviet rule. It was then called Alma Ata – 'city of apple trees'. After our late afternoon arrival, there's free time before enjoying an included dinner in our hotel. (BD)

Accommodation: Hotel Rixos Almaty (or similar)

Day 17 - Thu 05 September

Almaty – Sightseeing

This morning we begin with our city tour of Almaty, which is set in the foothills of the Trans-Ili Alatau Mountains, and has a population of 1.4 million. Although Astana



became the capital in 1997, and was renamed Nur Sultan in March 2019, Almaty remains the commercial and cultural centre. We'll see the Presidential

Palace & Park, Republic Square, Monument of Independence, Abai Square and Palace of the Republic. We also visit the Historic Museum before our included lunch at a local restaurant. We then visit Panfilov Park, with its Great Patriotic War Memorial, as well as Zenkov's Orthodox Cathedral, made entirely from timber, and which claims to be the second tallest wooden building in the world. Tonight we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. (BLD)

Day 18 - Fri 06 September

Almaty – Issyk Gorge Excursion

Today's excursion will reveal the peaks, valleys and lakes of the Trans- Ili Alatau Mountains. Before departing Almaty, a visit to the State Historical Museum will explain the history and culture of the Saka period, and of the 1969 discovery of a 3rd and 4th century BC burial mound containing the skeleton of 'the Golden Man'. Many artifacts, ceramics, and weapons of the period were recovered, and are also on display. We'll also see a model of a Saka burial mound. From there,



our 2 hour drive climbs 1756 metres above sea level to the beautiful turquoise Lake Issyk, where we have time to soak up the majestic views, whilst enjoying our especially prepared picnic lunch. After taking time to breathe in the mountain air, and take a stroll along the lake shore, we return to Almaty, where dinner tonight is again included at a local restaurant. (BLD)

Day 19 - Sat 07 September

Almaty – At Leisure

(or an *Optional Excursion to Charyn Canyon*)

We're free to make our own plans today, with the opportunity to explore more of Almaty's, and indeed Kazakhstan's, historical and cultural secrets. Perhaps a visit to the Green Bazaar, which specializes in a huge variety of foods, including spices, herbs, vegetables, nuts, fish, sweets and horsemeat? Maybe a look in at the Kazakh Museum of Folk Musical instruments or a cable car ride up Kok-Tobe hill, which provides a great view over the city? On the way, check out the cafes and restaurants for more local cuisine to help in the choice of a suitable eatery for lunch and dinner. (B)

Optional Excursion to Charyn Canyon

The Almaty Region is famous for its spectacular scenery and the Charyn Canyon (200 kms from Almaty) is no



exception. So, today we have an opportunity to join a private optional excursion to hike this unique Canyon with its myriad

photo opportunities. The price is NZD90.00 per person for the full day and includes a guide, coach transport to and from the Canyon and a picnic lunch. The excursion will only operate with a minimum of 10 participants so please express your interest in joining at the time you make your tour booking.

Day 20 - Sun 08 September

Almaty – Bishkek (1 night)

This morning we leave Almaty and follow mountain foothills to Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, about 4 hours and 230 kilometres away, and settled just north of the nearby Tian Shan – Heavenly Mountains – range. The border crossing to Kyrgyzstan takes about an hour, assisted by our local guide. We will arrive in time for lunch in a local café before beginning our city tour. Sights include a visit to the Manas Monument, a tribute to the national hero of the Kyrgyz people in the vast Ala-Too Square, and an excursion to the Soviet era Frunze Museum. We wander around Ala-Too Square to see the changing of the Guard of Honour, Independence Monument, and various Government buildings and fountains, followed by the Old Square to see Parliament Buildings, and the only surviving Lenin Monument in Central Asia. We finish with a visit to Victory Square, built in 1984 to commemorate the victory over Nazi

Germany 40 years earlier. After checking into our hotel, there is time to relax before this evening's included dinner. (BLD)

Accommodation: Hotel Orion (or similar)

Day 21 - Mon 09 September

Bishkek – Tokmok – Issyk Kul Lake (1 night)

After breakfast, today's journey takes us through amazing scenery into the mountains, to 'the Pearl of Central Asia', and the world's second largest saline lake, Issyk Kul. After 75 kilometres we visit the 11th century Burana Tower, a minaret which is among the few remnants left of the ancient city of Balasagun, one of the capitals of the Kharakhanid State, and an important trading point on the Great Silk Road. After exploring these city ruins, and visiting a small museum dedicated to the Kyrgyz civilization, we have lunch in nearby Tokmok, at the unlikely named Hawaii Café! We then continue to the remote Issyk Kul Lake, which means 'Warm Lake' in the Kyrgyz language, although that mainly refers to the fact that it doesn't freeze over in the sub-zero winters. There's plenty of time to take a walk and absorb the scenic Tian Shan mountain views, or maybe a refreshing lake swim, before dining in our lakeside hotel. (BLD)

Accommodation: Hotel Karven (or similar)

Day 22 - Tue 10 September

Issyk Kul Lake – Bishkek (2 nights)

After breakfast this morning, we check out and transfer to a local boat for a cruise on picturesque Issyk Kul Lake, which, although second only to the Caspian Sea in size



for saltwater lakes, is just a fraction of its size, and far less saline. No river outlet exists, although subterranean leakage is suspected. Take in

the stunning mountain scenery, and look for signs of deer, various migratory ducks, and maybe a lynx? Local farmers may be seen herding their horses, as they have done for centuries. After lunch in a local café, we begin our return to Bishkek, stopping to visit the open air



Petroglyphs Museum below the Kungey Alatau Mountains, which dates to the Sak-Usun period, as far back as 800 BC.

We'll return to

Bishkek in time to choose a local restaurant for our evening meal. (BL) *Accommodation: Hotel Orion (or similar)*

Day 23 - Wed 11 September

Bishkek – Excursion to Ala Archa National Park

On our last full day of this amazing journey, we again venture into nearby mountains, and drive 40kms to Ala Archa National Park, popular for alpine sports, hiking,



and picnics. The 200 square kilometre park contains some 50 mountain peaks, ranging from 1500 metres at the park entrance, to 4895

metres at the highest peak, as well as more than 20 glaciers, plus forests, river gorges, waterfalls and springs. Enjoy your picnic lunch here amidst this scenery, and look for the local fauna, which includes roe deer, wild goats, marmot, trout, and snow leopards. No wonder this is a favourite tourist destination in Kyrgyzstan, for foreigners and locals alike! Tonight we mark the end of our Silk Road tour in style, with a farewell dinner in a local restaurant, including a Kyrgyz Folklore Show! (BLD)

Day 24 - Thu 12 September

Departure Bishkek/Flight to Tashkent

All good things must come to an end and after 23 wonderful days, it's time to bid farewell to this amazing journey. Our tour ends after breakfast with private transfers to Bishkek International Airport for our flight to Tashkent to connect with onward journeys. Guests who remain in Tashkent and stay at the EuroVista hotel will receive a complimentary transfer to Tashkent Airport on the day of their departure. (B)

Note: The above itinerary is subject to change necessitated by any change in Community regulations as well as changes by Government and/or local operators and natural circumstances beyond our control.

TOUR PRICES

24 DAYS FOR LESS THAN NZ\$613 PER DAY

CODE: KPST BEGINS: TUE ENDS: THU

Prices are twin-share per person:

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Begins</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Price NZ\$</u>	<u>Sgl Supp NZ\$</u>
001	Aug 20	Sep 12	\$14699	\$4090

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Bed & Breakfast

Prices Per Person Per Night

Tashkent – Hotel Hyatt Regency **Twin NZ\$343** **Single NZ\$652**

Once your booking is made you'll receive a confirmation invoice via email (or normal post if you prefer) requesting a non-refundable deposit per person due on or before 7 days from the date of invoice which, once paid, will guarantee your participation.

DEPOSITS REQUIRED

Due to the nature of this trip and all of the group arrangements that need to be pre-booked, a \$1500 non-refundable deposit will be required at the time of booking.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOUR

(Please also read the TERMS & CONDITIONS following this information)

FLIGHTS

Airfares are not included in the tour price as there are many and varied options available in the market place. However, our recommended flights to and from Tashkent (from New Zealand or Australia) are with Korean Air through Seoul as their flights arrive in Tashkent in the late evening of Tuesday 20 August 2024 and depart Tashkent in the late evening of Thursday 12 September 2024. If you would like us to assist with obtaining the best prices for these flights or alternative flights to suit your needs please advise Paul at EuroVista Holidays when booking your tour...

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

On arrival at Tashkent Airport you'll be met by our representative and a private transfer from Tashkent Airport to our tour hotel is included in your tour price. Please advise us of your arrival details into Tashkent at least 30 days before your departure from your home country.

Note: It's possible for this tour to be 'fully escorted' from New Zealand. If this should interest you please contact Paul at EuroVista. M: 021 936855 E: paul@eurovista.co.nz

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfares (to and from Tashkent) and departure taxes
- Visa costs
- Travel Insurance (**Compulsory**)
- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry etc.
- All other expenses not expressly mentioned in the programme

TRIP AVAILABILITY

This tour is a unique tour organised by EuroVista for 2024 and in accordance with the EuroVista 'small-group' philosophy space is limited and availability is on a 'first come – first served' basis. If you'd like to join us please ensure you book early to guarantee that you'll be coming with us!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – SECRETS OF THE SILK ROAD 2024

Due to factors associated with international travel it is unrealistic to expect prices to remain stable - particularly when they are dependent on foreign currency exchange rates. Prices for this tour are based on costs and exchange rates as at 28 August 2023. Should these costs or exchange rates alter or additional fuel surcharges, taxes and other charges or levies imposed by any government or its agencies, be added, a surcharge may be made on the price of your tour at the time of final payment.

Deposits and Payments

Due to the nature of this trip and all of the group arrangements that need to be pre-booked, a \$1500 non-refundable deposit will be required at the time of booking. Final payment is due on or before 20 May 2024.

Late Bookings

Payment in full is required at time of booking for reservations made on or after 20 May 2024. If a reservation cannot be confirmed, all funds will be refunded.

Cancellation by Passenger

Cancellations for tours and additional services must be received in writing and the following fees (indicated as a percentage of the total price) will apply if the cancellation is received in our office within these designated time periods:

1. Up to & including 20 May 2024 – Non-refundable Deposit
2. Between 21 May and 25 June 2024 – 60%
3. Between 26 June and 13 July 2024 – 75%
4. Between 14 July and 03 August 2024 – 90%
5. Between 04 August and 20 August 2024 – 100%

We strongly recommend Travel Insurance to cover cancellation charges. There is no refund for unused services or land arrangements if they are missed

Cancellation by EuroVista

EuroVista will operate this tour once the minimum number of 12 paying passengers is attained. EuroVista reserves the right to cancel this tour should it not attain the minimum number of paying passengers. EuroVista Holidays also reserves the right to cancel this tour in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control. Should this occur EuroVista Holidays will treat this contract as at an end, refund all monies including your deposit, and will then be under no further liability. EuroVista Holidays Ltd is not responsible for the costs of other travel arrangements affected due to our cancellation of this tour.

Included In Our Tour Price

All coach/rail travel, airport/hotel/airport transfers, accommodation, sightseeing, admissions, taxes and

all gratuities for services provided by EuroVista, portage of one bag per person at hotels providing this service (**except at airports and ALL railway stations**), services of Tour Escorts, Local Tour Leaders, Drivers, and meals (as indicated in the itinerary).

Not Included In Our Tour Price

Airport taxes, airfares (except where specified), lunches and dinners (except where specified), drinks, laundry, passport and visa fees, excess baggage and all items of a personal nature are not included in the tour price.

Smoking

In the interests of other passenger's comfort there is no smoking on our vehicles.

Refunds and Amendment Fees

No refunds will be made on services that are voluntarily un-availed (including, but not limited to, missed meals and sightseeing). The Company also regrets that no refunds will be made for withdrawal from a tour (due to illness or any other reason) after the tour has commenced.

Passports/Visas

Visa-free entry to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan is available for Australian & New Zealand passport holders. A single entry visa is required for Tajikistan for Australian & New Zealand passport holders (this can be purchased electronically).

Australian and New Zealand passport holders can obtain a Turkmenistan visa and pay a Migration Fee at the border for a total of approximately USD73.00pp. A signed national passport (valid for 6 months beyond the period of stay) is required for all 5 countries.

Note: These visa requirements are correct as at 31 August 2023. We will endeavor to notify you of any changes if and when they become necessary.

Health Requirements

Vaccinations may be required. Please contact your Travel Agent or your local health department.

Single Rooms

A number of single rooms are available on request at time of booking. The single supplement must be paid with final payment. Please note: EuroVista Holidays contracts double rooms for single use in hotels.

However, where this is not possible we will provide standard single rooms. Standard single rooms are usually smaller and often only have one single bed.

Luggage Limits and Portage

Portage at hotels (where available) is limited to one piece of luggage per person (see exceptions above).

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for this tour and is not included in your tour price. We strongly recommend that you purchase adequate comprehensive insurance which includes coverage for medical expenses, loss/theft of luggage from hotel rooms or any form of transportation, land content and airfare charges that may occur due to cancellation, loss of deposit or strikes.

Important Information on Exclusion of Liability

1. EuroVista Holidays Ltd tours include the services of operators, such as hoteliers, airlines, cruise companies and other operators, who are not agents, servants or employees of EuroVista Holidays Ltd (herein after referred to as the 'Company'). We cannot and do not take responsibility for the conduct of these operators, their servants and agents or for any ramifications of that conduct. Our tours may include activities such as climbing, exploring, swimming and snorkelling. The passenger accepts that these activities involve varying degrees of risk.

2. By booking a tour, the passenger acknowledges and agrees that the Company and the other operator companies, will take all reasonable steps to provide an enjoyable experience, it accepts no responsibility for any loss of enjoyment by passengers due to circumstances beyond its control. The Company further accepts no responsibility for any death, injury, illness, damage, detention, delay (including mechanical breakdown) or any other loss/theft beyond its reasonable control and provides no warranties in addition to those set out under the Trade Practices Act 1974, and nothing herein restricts the passenger from exercising their rights and remedies pursuant to law.

3. No passenger will be permitted to embark or continue on tour if their mental or physical condition is, in the opinion of any representative of the Company, such as to render them incapable to care for themselves, or whereby they became a hazard to themselves or other passengers. The Company will not be responsible for expenses resulting in such persons being precluded from completing the touring holiday for any reason.

4. Your Travel Agent will forward deposits and other payments to us on your behalf, but your Travel Agent is not our agent for the purpose of receipt of monies. Receipt of deposits and subsequent payments by the Travel Agent does not constitute receipt of those monies by us and the Travel Agent has no authority expressed or implied to receive monies on our behalf. There is no liability on the part of the Company in respect to any monies paid to the passenger's Travel Agent unless and until the Company notifies the passenger (by way of a booking confirmation advice or payment receipt advice) that monies have been received by the Company.

5. The Company can cancel any ticket or booking or refuse to carry any passenger where payment has not been received by the Company within the specified time.

6. The airlines concerned are held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are aboard their aircraft and/or conveyances. The passengers' tickets, in use by the airline when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers using these tickets.

7. Itineraries are subject to alteration without notice and intended as a guide only. Alterations may come about due to road or weather conditions, strikes or other reasons beyond our control. Any additional expense incurred by the passenger is not the Company's responsibility. We strongly recommend that you have adequate insurance cover. The Company can give no guarantee as to exact arrival and departure times for carriers and operators used by the Company in the touring holiday and the Company will not be liable for failure to make connections with any other services or attractions beyond its control.

8. If for any reason the accommodation listed in this brochure becomes unavailable, we may substitute the listed property for another of similar standard. Occasionally this may not be possible and if the only accommodation available is of an inferior standard then a refund will be offered.

9. Should you have a complaint in respect of your tour, you should inform your Tour Escort immediately. If the matter cannot be resolved through the best efforts of your Tour Escort your complaint should be made in writing to the Company within 30 days of the completion of the tour.

10. Any claims or legal action in connection with the Company's provision of services to you will be governed by the laws of New Zealand. Any claim or legal action against the Company's suppliers is likely to be subject to the terms of your contract with them, and may be governed by the laws of other countries.

11. Every effort is made to ensure brochure accuracy at the time of going to press. However the Company cannot be held responsible for printing or typographical errors, or errors arising from unforeseen circumstances.

12. All touring holidays are operated by **EuroVista Holidays Ltd, PO Box 25358 St Heliers, Auckland, New Zealand**. Any correspondence arising should be mailed to this address. Special Note. Nothing in our website/brochure is intended to affect your rights granted by the Fair Trading Act 1986 or other consumer protection laws, which by law, may not be excluded.

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