

14 Days, 13 Nights (The Silk Road and 3 Stans)

WINTER SCHEDULE

OCTOBER - MARCH

Day	Starting Place	Day plan	Afternoon plan	Evening plan	Ending place	Accommodation	
1	Tashkent Uzbekistan	8am – Start of tour TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Visit Chorsu Bazar, the largest bazaar in Tashkent. Have lunch at the food bazaar where a huge variety of local food are sold. Visit the Khast Imam Library to see one of the world's oldest Quran, the Samarkand Kufic Quran. Ride the Tashkent Metro, the biggest metro system in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the World. Visit to Hotel Uzbekistan and Amir Timur Statue.		Travel to Samarkand (4 hours) Arrive in Samarkand	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse	
2	Samarkand Uzbekistan	SAMARKAND WALKING TOUR Visit to Bibi Khanum Mosque and Siab Bazaar Visit to Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis and cemetery, and Mausoleum of Islam Karimov Visit to the Registan Mosque and Madrasah Complex				Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
3	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Travel to Bukhara by train (3 hours) Arriva in Bukhara	BUKHARA WALKING TOUR Walk the streets and alleyways of the Silk Road city of Bukhara Visit to Bukhara Synagogue, one of the last traces of Bukhara's once-thriving Jewish community.			Bukhara Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
4	Bukhara Uzbekistan	BUKHARA WALKING TOUR Visit to Chor Minor Madrasah and abandoned madrasahs located nearby. Visit to Ark of Bukhara, Bukhara's oldest building dating back to the 5 th Century Visit to Kalyan Mosque, 15 th -century mosque – one of the largest in Central Asia.		Travel to Andijan by Sleeper Train (14 hours)	TRAIN Uzbekistan	TRAIN	
5	TRAIN Uzbekistan	Arrive in Andijan Visit to Bogishamol Amusement Park, a Soviet-era theme park. (Seasonal) Travel from Andijan to Osh by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (1 hour) Visit to Suleiman Too Cave complex		Arrive in Osh for homestay	Osh Kyrgyzstan	Homestay	
6	Osh Kyrgyzstan	Travel from Borbash to Toktogul Lake by private-hire van (7 hours)	Arrival in Toktogul Walk along Toktogul Lake, often said to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the country.		Toktogul Kyrgyzstan	Guesthouse	
7	Toktogul Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Bishkek by private-hire van (7 hours)	Drive along M41, often referred to as one of the most scenic highways globally, and pass through the Ala Bel and Tor Ashu Mountain Passes. Arrival in Bishkek	BISHKEK WALKING TOUR Visit Ala-Too Park to view the Brutalist Structure built by the Soviet Union. Visit Panfilov Park, a park built during the Soviet Times, and ride the attractions there.	Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	Guesthouse	
8	Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Ala Archa National Park by private-hire vehicle (1 hour) Hike at Ala Archa National Park	Travel to Shabdan by private-hire vehicle (3 hours) Stop at Burana Tower, a 9 th -century tower near Tok Mok Arrival in Shabdan	HOMESTAY IN SHABDAN VILLAGE	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Homestay	
9	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN SHABDAN VILLAGE Explore & hike at Kok Moinok Canyon, Ak Tuz Geysir, Ak Say Canyon, Chon Kemin River, Orto-Sai Reservoir, and Ala-Too Mountains. <i>(Easy & Moderate hikes of not more than 1 hour each)</i>				Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
10	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Watch nomadic games (Kok Boru), Eagle Hunting and boxing matches (if in season) Visits to schools, farms, bazaars, and local villages. Horse riding (optional US\$25) & Hotspring (optional US\$10)				Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
11	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN SHABDAN VILLAGE	Travel to a yurt stay by Lake Issy Kul (2 hours) Arrive at the yurt stay Explore & hike along Lake Issy Kul	OVERNIGHT AT YURT STAY	Lake Issy Kul Kyrgyzstan	Yurt Stay	
12	Lake Issy Kul Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Bishkek by private-hire vehicle (3 houts)	Travel to Almaty by bus (6 hours) Cross the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border.	Arrive in Almaty	Almaty Kazakhstan	Guesthouse	
13	Almaty Kazakhstan	Travel to Charyn Canyon by private-hire van (4 hours)	Hike and picnic in Charyn Canyon, a Canyon that is often compared to the Grand Canyon. Travel to Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes by private-hire van (3 hours)	Arrival at Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes	Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Kazakhstan	Guesthouse	
14	Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Kazakhstan	Morning hike at Kolsai & Kaindy lakes (2 hours) Return to Almaty by private-hire van (2 hours)	ALMATY WALKING TOUR Walk along Abay Street and see street musicians perform. Visit the Zenkov Orthodox Cathedral and Zenkov Park Visit to Green Bazaar Head up Kok Tobe to enjoy panoramic views of the city.		Almaty Kazakhstan		
			5 PM - Tour ends				

We will make every effort to keep itineraries as described and to find suitable replacements if needed. However, we reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary without prior notice in response to unforeseeable events and safety concerns. We also reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary should we deem that a certain activity is beyond the capability of any of our travelers.

14 Days, 13 Nights (The Silk Road and 3 Stans)

SUMMER SCHEDULE

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

Day	Starting Place	Day plan	Afternoon plan	Evening plan	End place	Accommodation	
1	Tashkent Uzbekistan	8am – Start of tour TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Visit Chorsu Bazar, the largest bazaar in Tashkent. Have lunch at the food bazaar where a huge variety of local food are sold. Visit the Khast Imam Library to see one of the world's oldest Quran, the Samarkand Kufic Quran.		Travel to Samarkand (4 hours) Arrive in Samarkand	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse	
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3	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Travel to Bukhara by train (3 hours) Arriva in Bukhara	BUKHARA WALKING TOUR Walk the streets and alleyways of the Silk Road city of Bukhara Visit to Bukhara Synagogue, one of the last traces of Bukhara’s once-thriving Jewish community.		Bukhara Uzbekistan	Guesthouse	
4	Bukhara Uzbekistan	BUKHARA WALKING TOUR Visit to Chor Minor Madrasah and abandoned madrasahs located nearby. Visit to Ark of Bukhara, Bukhara’s oldest building dating back to the 5 th Century Visit to Kalyan Mosque, 15 th century mosque – one of the largest in Central Asia.		Travel to Andijan by Sleeper Train (14 hours)	TRAIN Uzbekistan	TRAIN	
5	TRAIN Uzbekistan	Arrive in Andijan Visit to Bogishamol Amusement Park, a Soviet-era theme park. (Seasonal) Travel from Andijan to Osh by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (1 hour) Visit to Suleiman Too Cave complex		Arrive in Osh for homestay	Osh Kyrgyzstan	Homestay	
6	Osh Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Bishkek by plane (1 hour) Arrive in Bishkek	BISHKEK WALKING TOUR Visit Ala-Too Park to view the Brutalist Structure built by the Soviet Union. Visit Panfilov Park, a park built during the Soviet Times, and ride the attractions there. Visit to Brutalist-style National Library of Kyrgyzstan & Postal Centre Dinner at Dungan Restaurant to sample Dungan cuisine		Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	Guesthouse	
7	Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Ala Archa National Park by private-hire vehicle (1 hour) Hike at Ala Archa National Park	Travel to Shabdan by private-hire vehicle (3 hours) Stop at Burana Tower, a 9 th -century tower near Tok Mok Arrival in Shabdan	HOMESTAY IN SHABDAN VILLAGE	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Homestay	
8	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN SHABDAN VILLAGE Explore & hike at Kok Moinok Canyon, Ak Tuz Geysler, Ak Say Canyon, Chon Kemin River, Orto-Sai Reservoir, and Ala-Too Mountains. <i>(Easy & Moderate hikes of not more than 1 hour each)</i>				Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
9	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Watch Nomadic Eagle Hunting and boxing matches (if in season) Visits to schools, farms, bazaars, and local villages. Horse riding (optional US\$25) & Hotspring (optional US\$10)				Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
10	Shabdan Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN SHABDAN VILLAGE	Travel to a yurt stay by Lake Issy Kul (2 hours) Arrive at the yurt stay Explore & hike along Lake Issy Kul	OVERNIGHT AT YURT STAY	Lake Issy Kul Kyrgyzstan	Yurt Stay	
11	Lake Issy Kul Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Bishkek by private-hire vehicle (3 houts)	Travel to Almaty by bus (6 hours) Cross the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border.	Arrive in Almaty	Almaty Kazakhstan	Guesthouse	
12	Almaty Kazakhstan	Travel to Charyn Canyon by private-hire van (5 hours)	Arrive in Charyn Canyon OVERNIGHT CAMPING Hike into Charyn Canyon, a Canyon that is often compared to the Grand Canyon. (4 kilometre-hike, 1.5 hours) Campfire building, outdoor dinner and camping in Charyn Canyon	Charyn Canyon Kazakhstan	Camping		
13	Charyn Canyon Kazakhstan	CAMPING Outdoor breakfast and hike out of Charyn Canyon. (4 - kilometre hike, 1.5 hours) Travel to Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes by private-hire van (3 hours)	Arrival at Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Hikes at Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes (3-kilometre hike, 1 hour)	Post-camping & hike rest at a lodge near Kolais & Kaindy Lakes	Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Kazakhstan	Guesthouse	
14	Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Kazakhstan	Return to Almaty by private-hire van (3 hours)	ALMATY WALKING TOUR Walk along Abay Street and see street musicians perform. Visit the Zenkov Orthodox Cathedral and Zenkov, and Green Bazaar Head up Kok Tobe to enjoy panoramic views of the city. 5 PM - Tour ends		Almaty Kazakhstan		

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The Silk Road and the 3 Stans Itinerary

Day 1: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Walking tour of Tashkent, to get up and close with the sights of the city, as well as get a glimpse of life in the Uzbek Capital.

Day Activities:

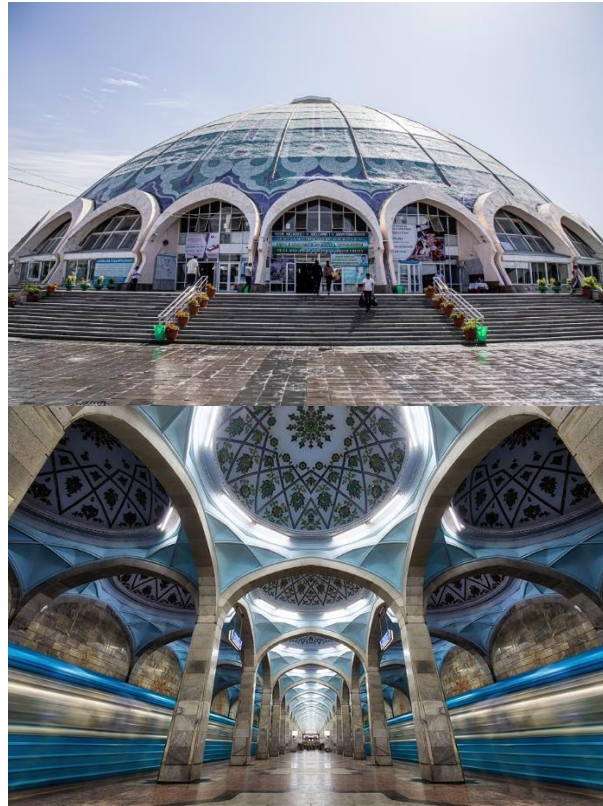
- Ride the **Tashkent Metro**, as well as other forms of public transportation in Tashkent.
- Visit **Chorsu Bazaar**, the largest bazaar in Tashkent.
- Have lunch at the **Chorsu Food Bazaar** with a variety of local foods.
- Visit the **Khast Imam Library** to see one of the world's oldest Qurans, the Samarkand Kufic Quran.

Evening:

Travel to Samarkand by train (4 hours).

Transportation: Metro, Bus, Taxi, Train

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Samarkand.



Day 2: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Walking tour of Samarkand, the ancient capital of the Timuride Empire. A city filled with ancient Silk Road-era monuments awaits you.

Activities:

- Samarkand Walking Tour.
- Visit to the 15th-century **Bibi Khanum Mosque**.
- Visit to and lunch at the **Siab Bazaar**.
- Visit to UNESCO World Heritage site of **Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis & Cemetery**, and the **Mauseleum of Islam Karimov**, the late Uzbek leader.
- Visit to **Registan Mosque and Madrasah Complex**.

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Samarkand.



Day 3: Samarkand to Bukhara, Uzbekistan

We'll travel to Bukhara in the morning from Samarkand. A train ride that slashes through miles and miles of the picturesque Uzbek landscape. Once, in Bukhara, we'll visit some of the cities centuries-old jewels.

Morning:

Travel to Bukhara by train (3 hours)

Activities:

- Walking tour of the tight alleyways of the ancient Silk Road city of Bukhara.
- Visit **the Bukhara Synagogue**, the centre of the once-thriving Uzbek Jewish community.
- Visit Carpet workshops, where carpets are manufactured by hand

Transportation: Train, Taxi

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Bukhara.



Day 4: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Discover Bukhara's downtown core, home to numerous centuries-old monuments dating back to the Silk Road. End the day with an overnight train journey back to Tashkent.

Day Activities:

- Bukhara Walking Tour.
- Visit **Chor Minor Madrasah** and nearby abandoned madrasahs.
- Visit **Ark of Bukhara**, Bukhara's oldest building dating back to the 5th Century.
- Visit **Kalyan Mosque**, a 15th-century mosque, one of the largest in Central Asia.

Evening:

Travel to Andijan by Sleeper Train (14 hours).

Transportation: Train

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Bukhara.



Day 5: Andijan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Wake up onboard the sleeper train and arrive in the border town of Andijan. Cross the Uzbek – Kyrgyz border and explore the southern city of Osh and experience local life through a homestay

Morning:

Arrival in Andijan by sleeper train

Morning:

Travel to Andijan by train (6 hours)

Afternoon:

- Visit Bogishamol Amusement Park, a Soviet-era theme park.

Travel from Andijan to Osh by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (1 hour)

Transportation: Taxi, Train, Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Homestay in Osh, Kyrgyzstan



Summer Trip Day 6:

Osh to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Head north from Osh to the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, home to numerous Soviet-era brutalist-style buildings and monuments.

Morning:

Travel to Bishkek by plane from Osh (1 hour)

Activities:

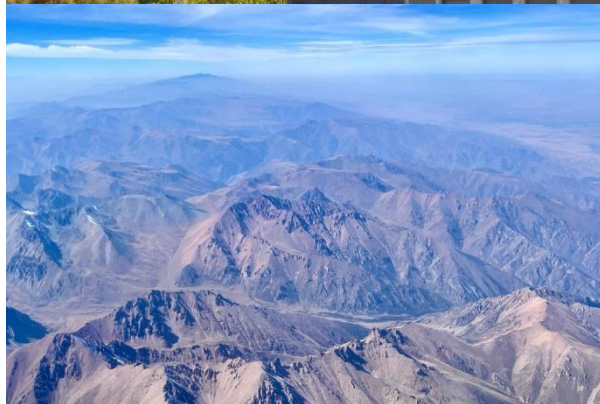
- Explore Ala-Too and Panfilov Parks and Soviet-era Brutalist structures, such as the Kyrgyz Parliament & the National Library.

- Tour the National Mosque of Kyrgyzstan with Turkish influences.

- Enjoy a Dungan dinner, sampling cuisine blending Central Asian and Chinese flavors.

Transportation: Private-hire van, flight, taxi, trolley bus, marshrutka

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Bishkek



Winter Trip Day 6: Osh to Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan

Travel from Osh to Toktogul, enjoy a scenic walk along the picturesque Toktogul Lake, and stay overnight at a guesthouse.

Morning and afternoon:

Travel to Toktogul from Borbash. (6 hours)

Activities:

- Travel along the **M-41**, regarded as one of the most scenic highways in the world.
- Short hike (1 hour) along the shores of **Lake Toktogul**.

Transportation: Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Homestay in Toktogul



Summer Trip Day 7: Ala Archa National Park & Shabdan

Venture into the wilderness of the Kyrgyz mountains overlooking Bishkek with a visit and hike at the Ala Archa National Park. In the late afternoon, we'll head eastwards into the Kyrgyz countryside to our homestay in Shabdan.

Morning:

Travel to Ala Archa National Park (1 hour)

Activities:

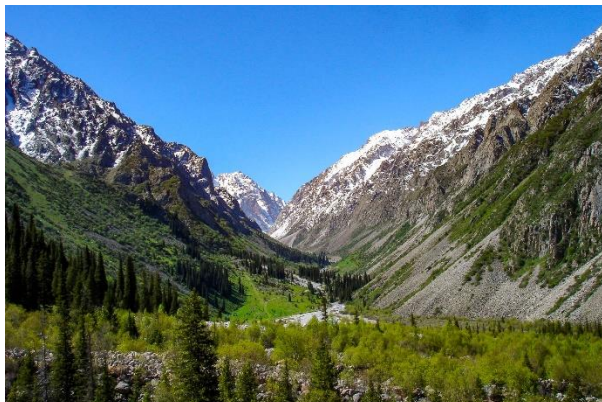
- Hike at Ala Archa National Park (8 kilometres, 3 hours)

Morning:

Travel to Ala Archa National Park (1 hour)

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Homestay in Shabdan



Winter Trip Day 7: Tokgotul to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Travel from Tokgotul to Bishkek via the scenic M41 highway, passing through stunning mountain passes. Explore Bishkek's parks and Soviet-era landmarks.

Morning and afternoon:

Travel to Bishkek from Toktogul. (6 hours)

Activities:

- Travel along the M41, regarded as one of the most scenic highways, and travel through Too Ashu & Ala Bel mountain passes.
- Explore Ala-Too and Panfilov Parks and Soviet-era Brutalist structures, such as the Kyrgyz Parliament & the National Library.
- Tour the National Mosque of Kyrgyzstan with Turkish influences.
- Enjoy a Dungan dinner, sampling cuisine blending Central Asian and Chinese flavors.



Transportation: Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Bishkek

Winter Trip Day 8: Ala Archa National Park & Shabdan

Venture into the wilderness of the Kyrgyz mountains overlooking Bishkek with a visit and hike at the Ala Archa National Park.

Morning:

Travel to Ala Archa National Park (1 hour)

Activities:

- Hike at Ala Archa National Park (8 kilometres, 3 hours)

Morning:

Travel to Shabdan (3 hours)

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Homestay in Shabdan



Summer Trip Days 8 & 9 / Winter Trip Days 9 & 10: Homestay in Shabdan, Kyrgyzstan

Immerse yourself in Kyrgyz culture while staying in a local Kyrgyz village and with visits to local schools, farms, and bazaars.

Activities:

- **Homestay experience** with a local family of farmers and bakers in Shaban village
- Explore & hike at **Kok Moinok Canyon, Ak Tuz Geyser, Ak Say Canyon, Chon Kemin River, Orto-Sai Reservoir, and Ala-Too Mountains** (*Easy & Moderate hikes of not more than 1 hour each*)
- Explore places of local life, like **villages, bazaars, cattle markets, communal banya, and schools**
- Partake in **local events and celebrations (weddings, religious events)** – if available
- Watch **Eagle Hunting and Kok Boru** (in winter), a nomadic game played on horseback
- **Horse riding** (2-4 hours) in the Chuy Region

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Homestay in Shabdan village.



Summer Trip Day 10 / Winter Trip Day 11: Issy Kul Lake & Yurt Stay

Experience an authentic yurt stay nestled by the turquoise waters of Lake Issy Kul, The yurt, deeply connected to Kyrgyz culture, offers a unique and immersive experience into the local way of life.

Morning:

Travel from Shabdan village to yurt stay near Tong. (3 hours)

Activities:

- Hike along **Lake Issy Kul**, the largest lake in Kyrgyzstan.
- Traditional hot spring near Kadji-Say (Optional US\$10)
- **Yurt stay experience** in a traditional Kyrgyz nomadic yurt.

Transportation: Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Yurt Stay along Lake Issy Kul



Summer Trip Day 11 / Winter Trip Day 12:

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to Almaty, Kazakhstan

Explore Bishkek's Osh Bazaar, then travel by bus to Almaty, Kazakhstan, crossing the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border. Enjoy an evening walk along Almaty's vibrant Abay Street.

Morning:

- Explore **Osh Bazaar** in Bishkek, the city's largest market

Afternoon:

- Travel to Almaty, Kazakhstan by bus. (7 hours)

Evening:

- Evening walk along **Abay Street** in Almaty.

Transportation: Trolley bus, taxi, Bus

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Almaty



Summer Trip Day 12: Charyn Canyon, Kazakhstan

Travel from Almaty to Charyn Canyon, hike its stunning landscapes, and camp overnight, enjoying an outdoor dinner and campfire under the stars.

Morning:

Travel to Charyn Canyon, Kazakhstan. (4 hours)

Activities:

- Hike (4 kilometres – 1.5 hours) at Kazakhstan's famed Charyn Canyon. This Canyon is often compared to the Great Canyon in the US.
- Set up campsite by the Charyn River.
- Overnight camping by the Charyn River.

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Overnight camping (tent) in Charyn Canyon.



Winter Trip Day 13: Charyn Canyon and Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes, Kazakhstan

Travel from Bishkek to Almaty, hike Charyn Canyon, explore Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes, and return to Almaty.

Morning:

Travel to Charyn Canyon, Kazakhstan (4 hours)

- Hike (4km, 1.5 hours) at **Charyn Canyon** to the Charyn River and back.

Afternoon:

Travel from Charyn to Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes (2 hours)

- Hike (45 minutes for each lake) along the turquoise shores of Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes, Kazakhstan's other famed natural wonders.
- Ride a Soviet-built 4-by-4 all-terrain vehicle (known as "loaf") to the lakes.

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Guesthouse at Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes



Summer Trip Day 13: Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes, Kazakhstan

Start with an outdoor breakfast, hike out of Charyn Canyon, then travel to Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes for more scenic hikes. End the day at a nearby guesthouse.

Morning:

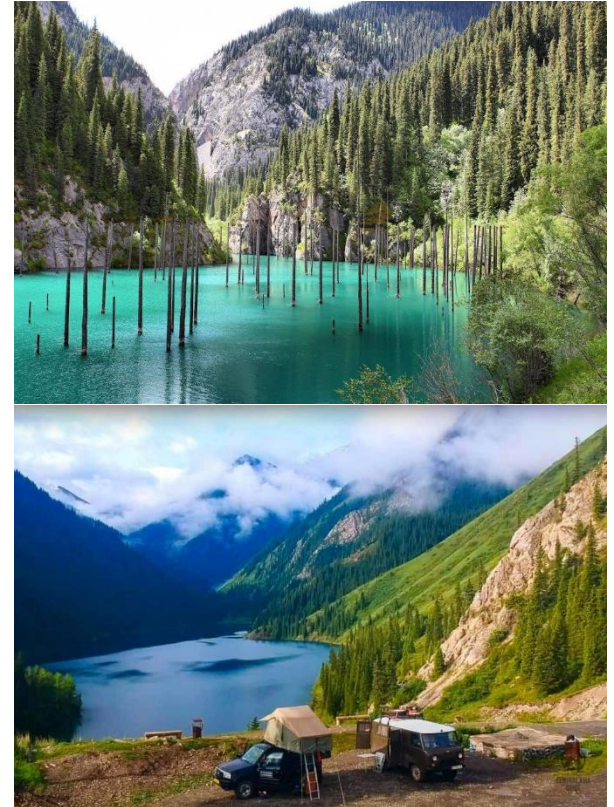
Travel to Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes, Kazakhstan. (2 hours)

Activities:

- Hike (45 minutes for each lake) along the turquoise shores of Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes, Kazakhstan's other famed natural wonders.
- Ride a Soviet-built 4-by-4 all-terrain vehicle (known as "loaf") to the lakes.

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Guesthouse at Kolsai & Kaindy



Day 14: Return to Almaty, Kazakhstan

In Almaty, explore the city with a walking tour, visiting landmarks and head to Kok Tobe for panoramic city views. The tour concludes at 5 PM.

Morning:

Travel to Almaty, Kazakhstan (2 hours)

Activities:

- Almaty walking tour: visit **Abay Street**, **Zenkov Cathedral** and **Green Bazaar**.
- Head up **Kok Tobe** hill to enjoy panoramic views of the city.

Trip ends at 5pm on this day.

Transportation: Private-hire van, metro, taxi

