

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 - Tour starts TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Visit Chorsu Bazar, the largest bazar in Tashkent. Have lunch at the food bazar 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 by train (4 hours) Arrival 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)	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 Tashkent by Sleeper Train (7 hours)	TRAIN Uzbekistan	TRAIN
5	Train Uzbekistan	Morning arrival in Tashkent TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Ride the Tashkent Metro, the biggest metro system in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the World. Dinner at the Central Asian Plov Centre, where the national rice dish, Plov, is cooked in large open air wood stoves. Visit to Magic City amusement park. Visit to Friendship of Nations building. Visit to Hotel Uzbekistan and Amir Timur Statue.			Tashkent Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
6	Tashkent Uzbekistan	Travel to Andijan by train (6 hours)	Arrival in Andijan Visit to Bogishamol Amusement Park, a Soviet-era theme park. Travel from Andijan to Borbash by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (3 hours)	Arrival in borbash village HOMESTAY IN BORBASH VILLAGE	Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
7	Borbash Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN BORBASH VILLAGE Explore nearby canyons, waterfalls, rivers, and mountains. Visits to schools, farms, bazaars, and local villages. Watch nomadic games (Kok Boru) and boxing matches (if in season) Learn how to prepare local food, such as Plov and Mantiy. Yurt stay with local family in a valley near Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Horse riding (optional US\$15)			Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Yurt stay
8	Borbash Kyrgyzstan				Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
9	Borbash Kyrgyzstan				Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
10	Borbash 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
11	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
12	Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	BISHKEK WALKING TOUR Visit Osh Bazaar, the biggest bazaar in Kyrgyzstan. Ride the Bishkek trolley bus, one of the world's largest trolley bus systems.	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. 5 PM - Tour ends		Almaty Kazakhstan	

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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 bazar in Tashkent. Have lunch at the food bazar 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) Arrival in Samarkand	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse	
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3	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Travel to Bukhara by train (3 hours)	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
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5	Train Uzbekistan	Morning arrival in Tashkent TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Ride the Tashkent Metro, the biggest metro system in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the World. Dinner at the Central Asian Plov Centre, where the national rice dish, Plov, is cooked in large open air wood stoves. Visit to Magic City amusement park. Visit to Friendship of Nations building. Visit to Hotel Uzbekistan and Amir Timur Statue.				Tashkent Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
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7	Borbash Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN BORBASH VILLAGE Explore nearby canyons, waterfalls, rivers, and mountains. Visits to schools, farms, bazaars, and local villages. Watch nomadic games and boxing matches (if in season) Learn how to prepare local food, such as Plov and Mantiy. Yurt stay with local family in a valley near Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Horse riding (optional US\$15)				Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
8	Borbash Kyrgyzstan					Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Yurt Stay
9	Borbash Kyrgyzstan					Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
10	Borbash Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Osh by private-hire van Travel from Osh to Bishkek by plane	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 National Mosque of Kyrgyzstan, a Turkish-influenced mosque. Dinner at a Dungan restaurant to sample Dungan cuisine. The Dungan people who's origins traces back to ancient China, and their cuisine is heavily influenced by both Central Asian and Chinese cultures.		Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	Guesthouse	
11	Bishkek Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Almaty by bus (7 hours) Cross the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border.	Arrive in Almaty	1. Walk along Abay Street and see street musicians perform.	Almaty Kazakhstan	Guesthouse	
12	Almaty Kazakhstan	Travel to Charyn Canyon by private-hire van	Arrive in Charyn Canyon 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 Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes	Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Kazakhstan	Guesthouse	
14	Kolsai & Kaindy Lakes Kazakhstan	Return to Almaty by private-hire van (3 hours)	ALMATY WALKING TOUR Visit to Zenkov Eastern Orthodox Cathedral Visit Green Bazaar, Almaty's largest bazaar, and the nearby Uyghur neighborhood Head up Kok Tobe to enjoy panoramic views of the city.			Almaty Kazakhstan	
		5 PM - Tour ends					

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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:

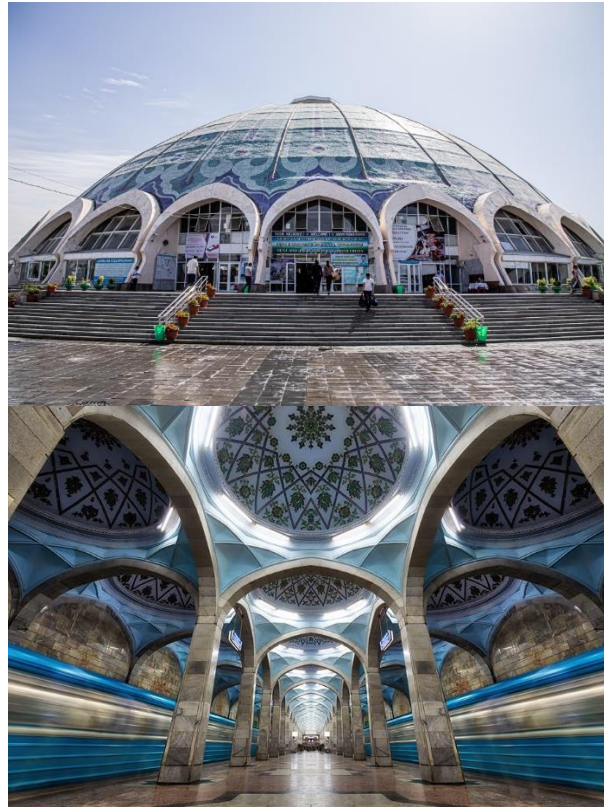
- Ride the **Tashkent Metro**, as well as other forms of public transportation in Tashkent.
- Visit **Chorsu Bazaar**, the largest bazaar in Tashkent.
- Have lunch at the **Chorsu Food Bazaar** with a variety of local foods.
- Visit the **Khast Imam Library** to see one of the world's oldest Qurans, 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 Temuride 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 Tashkent by Sleeper Train (7 hours).

Transportation: Train

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Samarkand.



Day 5: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Enjoy more of Tashkent, including a ride on its impressive metro system and a taste of local cuisine, and visits to key city landmarks.

Morning:

Arrival in Tashkent by sleeper train

Activities:

- Continue the **Tashkent Walking Tour**.
- Ride the **Tashkent Metro**, the biggest metro system in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the world.
- Have dinner at the **Central Asian Plov Centre**, where the national rice dish, Plov, is cooked in large open-air wood stoves.
- Visit **Magic City Amusement Park**.
- Visit **Hotel Uzbekistan**, the premier hotel built by the Soviets in a brutalist style and **Amir Timur Statue**.

Transportation: Train, Taxi

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Bukhara.



Day 6: Tashkent to Borbash, Kyrgyzstan

Travel to Andijan for a glimpse of Soviet-era entertainment before crossing into Kyrgyzstan. Experience local life in Borbash village, a village in the fertile Ferghana Valley, with a homestay.

Morning:

Travel to Andijan by train (6 hours)

Afternoon:

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

Travel from Andijan to Borbash by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (3 hours)

Transportation: Taxi, Train, Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Homestay in Borbash village.



Days 7 & 8: Borbash, 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 Borbash village.
- Explore **canyons, valleys, hills, lakes** and other beautiful geographical formations of the region.
- 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.
- In winter, watch **Kok Boru**, a nomadic game played on horseback.
- **Horse riding** (2 hours) to a scenic viewpoint.

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Homestay in Borbash village.



Day 9: Kara Koi, Kyrgyzstan

Experience an authentic yurt stay nestled deep in the Kyrgyz high mountains, The yurt, deeply connected to Kyrgyz culture, offers a unique and immersive experience into the local way of life.

Activities:

- **Short hike (1-2 hours) at Kara Koi National Park** in Southern Kyrgyzstan.
- Visit to **live shooting range** and try shooting real rifles and ammunations with Soviet weapons dating back to World War II.
- Travel through valleys home to shepherds and grazing livestock.
- **Yurt stay experience** in a traditional Kyrgyz nomadic yurt.

Transportation: Taxi, Train, Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Homestay in Borbash village



Summer Trip Day 10: Borbash 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 10: Borbash to Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan

Travel from Borbash 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 11: 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:

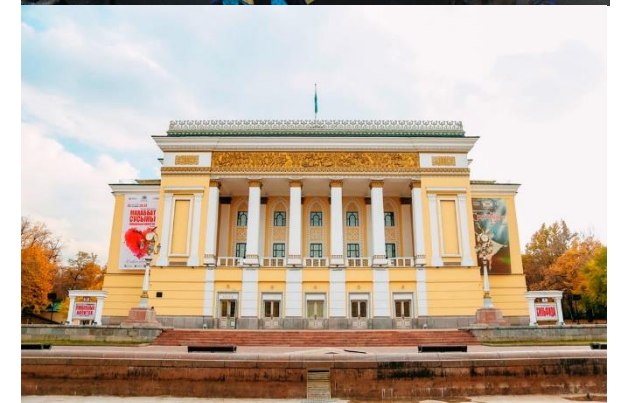
- Travel to Almaty, Kazakhstan by bus. (7 hours)

Evening:

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

Transportation: Trolley bus, taxi, Bus

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Almaty



Winter Trip Day 11: Toktogul to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Travel from Toktogul 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: Homestay in Toktogul



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 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 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 Lakes.



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



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

