

**ESCORTED
TOUR**

The Five Stans of Central Asia

Turkmenistan Uzbekistan Tajikistan
Kyrgyzstan Kazakhstan

17 April – 11 May 2026

This exclusive, escorted tour will allow you to explore the Five Stans all once members of the old USSR but are now independent nations each with a history, culture and landscape, shaped by centuries of trade along the ancient Silk Road pioneered by Marco Polo. The scenery is diverse, ranging from deserts to multi coloured and stunning mountains.

Turkmenistan is known for the gleaming white marble city of Ashgabat and where you get to meet their universally renowned horse breed Akhal-Tekkes (Golden Horse)

Uzbekistan is renowned for its magnificent Silk Road cities, a treasure trove of Islamic architecture and ancient history. Cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, boasting stunning mosques, madrasas, and mausoleums.

Tajikistan, like Kyrgyzstan is famous for its stunning mountain scenery and nomadic heritage while Almaty in Kazakhstan, the largest and wealthiest of the Five Stans was a key city on the Silk Road and today is one of the most popular cities in the whole region. You will get to experience, a night in a traditional yurt, cook and eat a meal with a local family. Workshop visits that create a wide range of their arts from gold embroidery to handmade paper.

The opportunity to ride a horse and watch a Golden Eagle perform the ancient art of hunting.

This exclusive and fascinating escorted tour is an adventure into the past.



APRIL 2026

Friday 17 AUCKLAND - DUBAI

Depart Auckland on an evening Emirates flight to Dubai.

Saturday 18 DUBAI - ASHGABAT

On arrival early morning a day room is reserved for you to rest and relax. This afternoon we enjoy a Dubai City Tour before a late night departure on Emirates for Ashgabat.

Sunday 19 ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan) D

On arrival, transfer to our hotel, an early check-in is included. Rest of morning free to rest. This afternoon a tour of the country's Capital that includes the Old Nisa fortress, National Carpet Museum and the Park of Independence. Welcome dinner tonight.

Monday 20 ASHGABAT B L D

Today visit Arkadash stud farm, a chance to take a close look at the "winged" Akhal-Tekkes, and even take a ride on them. We continue to on to visit the largest mosque in Turkmenistan.

Tuesday 21 ASHGABAT - DASHOGUZ - KHIVA (Uzbekistan) B D

This morning we fly to Dashoguz, then drive to the border crossing into Uzbekistan and continue by coach to Khiva, which is thought to date back more than 2,000 years.

Wednesday 22 KHIVA B

Khiva is made for walking. It is compact. This tour takes in all the major sights of the Ichan Kala - the citadel - including the truncated Kalta Minor minaret, the Kunya Ark and the Madrassah Rakhimkhon. This afternoon we continue to the Friday mosque and Tashauli Palace, including the harem.

Thursday 23 KHIVA - BUKHARA B L D

Today, a full day drive to Bukhara across the famous KyzylKum desert ["Red sands"]. The road more or less follows the path of the Great Silk Road with photo stops to see the desert flora and fauna.

Friday 24 BUKHARA B L

A day exploring fabulous Bukhara. This incredible city is one of the most famous names in medieval Islam and is home to hundreds of registered monuments. On today's tour, visit some of the main highlights before exploring workshops to see block printing, metal chasing, suzani embroidery, carving and miniature painting.

Saturday 25 BUKHARA - SAMARKAND B D

Another half day tour of Bukhara with an excursion to visit Sitara-i-Mokhikhosa, the summer residence of the former emir of Bukhara. We continue onto visit the famous Mausoleum of the Sufi spiritual leader in the 14th Century, before boarding our train to Samarkand.





Sunday 26 SAMARKAND B D

On the city tour of Samarkand visit the famous Registan Square, for centuries the heart of Samarkand. Three beautiful madrassahs: [higher education centers] built in 15th/17th centuries; the Tillya-Kori Madrasah and Sher-Dor Madrasah. Later see the grandest structure of Amir Temur's times - the chief Friday Mosque called Bibi-Khanum, the Silk Road bazaar and Shahi Zinda necropolis. We have included a visit to the Bagizagan winery with wine degustation.

Monday 27 SAMARKAND B D

Start the day at Konigil village to visit a paper-making workshop. Samarkand has been famous as a center of a high-quality paper manufacture. You can take part in the unique process of hand-made paper production: cleaning tree branches from the bark, polishing paper with a stone and painting it. Afternoon at leisure.

Tuesday 28 SAMARKAND - PENJIKENT [Tajikistan] B L D

After breakfast cross the border at Jartepa then continue to the beautiful Seven Lakes located in the west of the Fann Mountains; each of them has its own colour, which varies from calming turquoise to mesmerizing purple. Enjoy a picnic before continuing to Penjikent.

Wednesday 29 PENJIKENT - DUSHANBE B LD

On the drive to Dushanbe you will visit picturesque Varzob gorge. The Gorge follows the Varzob River before climbing steeply over the Annzob Pass (3,373 m) to get to the Capital City.

Thursday 30 DUSHANBE B D

This morning visit the center of the city, the local bazaar and Botanical garden. Later a visit to the Cultural palace "Kohi Navruz" [Subject to permit], and witness the traditional architecture of Tajik people with woodcarving, painting and mosaic arts. In the afternoon an excursion to see the ancient fortress of Hissor - one of the most precious historical sites of Tajikistan.

MAY

Friday 01 Dushanbe -TASHKENT [Uzbekistan] B D

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Tashkent. We arrive in the afternoon with free time before dinner.

Saturday 02 TASHKENT B D

Tashkent is one of the oldest and largest cities in Central Asia. The tour explores the capital by going back in time visiting the old town including the oldest market in Tashkent and Kukeldash Madrasah. In the afternoon we visit Independence Square in the heart of Tashkent and the Tashkent Metro decorated with local marble and granite like an underground palace.

Sunday 03 TASHKENT - BISHKEK [Kyrgyzstan] B D

A free morning before transferring to the airport for your flight to Bishkek the Country's Capital. Upon arrival transfer to your city hotel and enjoy a leisurely afternoon.





Monday 04 BISHKEK CITY TOUR – NARYN B L D

The day starts with a walking tour of Bishkek which includes the main Ala Too Square to watch the ceremony of the changing of the Guard of Honor, Manas Monument (national hero of the Kyrgyz people) and the Old Square with Parliament House. On the drive to Naryn a visit to the “Burana” Architectural complex. It is the ruins of a medieval city Balasagyn, which was one of the most developed cities during the golden ages of the Great Silk Road.

Tuesday 05 NARYN – TASHRABAT – NARYN B L D

A day excursion to visit the ancient Tash-Rabat caravanserai (a 15 century medieval inn for merchants and travelers on the Great Silk Road). It is a stone fortress situated in the beautiful Kara Koiun gorge at a height of 3500m. Today, lunch is in a local family yurt– a special experience before returning to Naryn.

Wednesday 06 NARYN – BOKONBAYEVO/ TAMGA B L D

Today’s journey is to the second highest alpine lake in the world (1607m), Lake Issyk Kul. Enroute visit the handicraft center in the village of Kochkur. Then

on to Kyzyl Tuu the village where 70% of villagers are engaged in the production of yurts. Here, you will visit a local family and their open-air wooden yurt workshop, where you can participate in the process of yurt installation. Tonight in Tamga village accommodation is in a yurt. (Private Toilet/ Shower facilities. Singles will need to share a yurt).

Thursday 07 BOKONBAYEVO (TAMGA) – JETY OGUZ – KARAKOL B L D

The drive to Karakol city continues along the shore of Lake Issyk Kul, here you will meet up with “Berkutchi” – Golden Eagle hunter and watch the process of hunting. Next, visit Djety Oguz canyon, (2200m) known for its rocky outcrops. Arrival at Karakol and a city-tour which includes the Dungan Mosque, which looks like a Mongolian Buddhist.

Friday 08 KARAKOL – “Kegen” - Almaty [Kazakhstan] B L D

Today’s drive is to the Kyrgyzstan/ Kazakhstan border. After border formalities continue to Charyn Canyon for lunch and have the opportunity to walk into the canyon. We then continue on to Almaty.

Saturday 09 ALMATY [Kazakhstan] Victory Day B D

This morning, we visit the National Park in the Ili Alatau Mountains, where the altitude ranges from 600 to 5,000 metres. Medeo, located at an elevation of 1,690 metres, is the highest skating rink in the world. We then continue to Kok Tobe Park to enjoy a scenic cable car ride with magnificent panoramic views of the city.





After lunch, we explore the bustling Green Bazaar and enjoy the Victory Day celebrations at Central Park. Farewell dinner tonight.

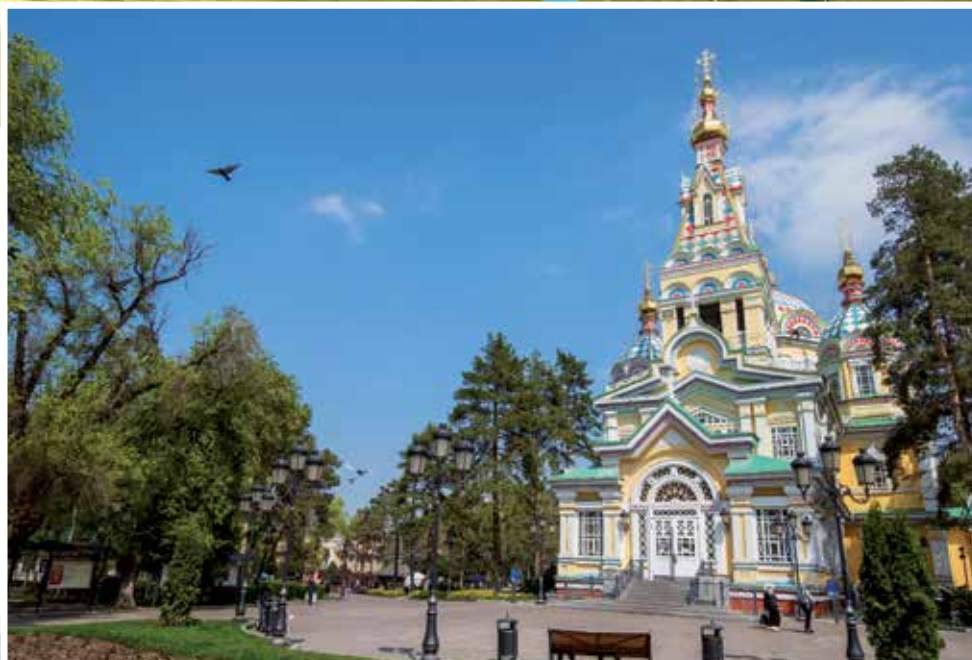
Sunday 10 ALMATY – DUBAI – Auckland

An early morning start as we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

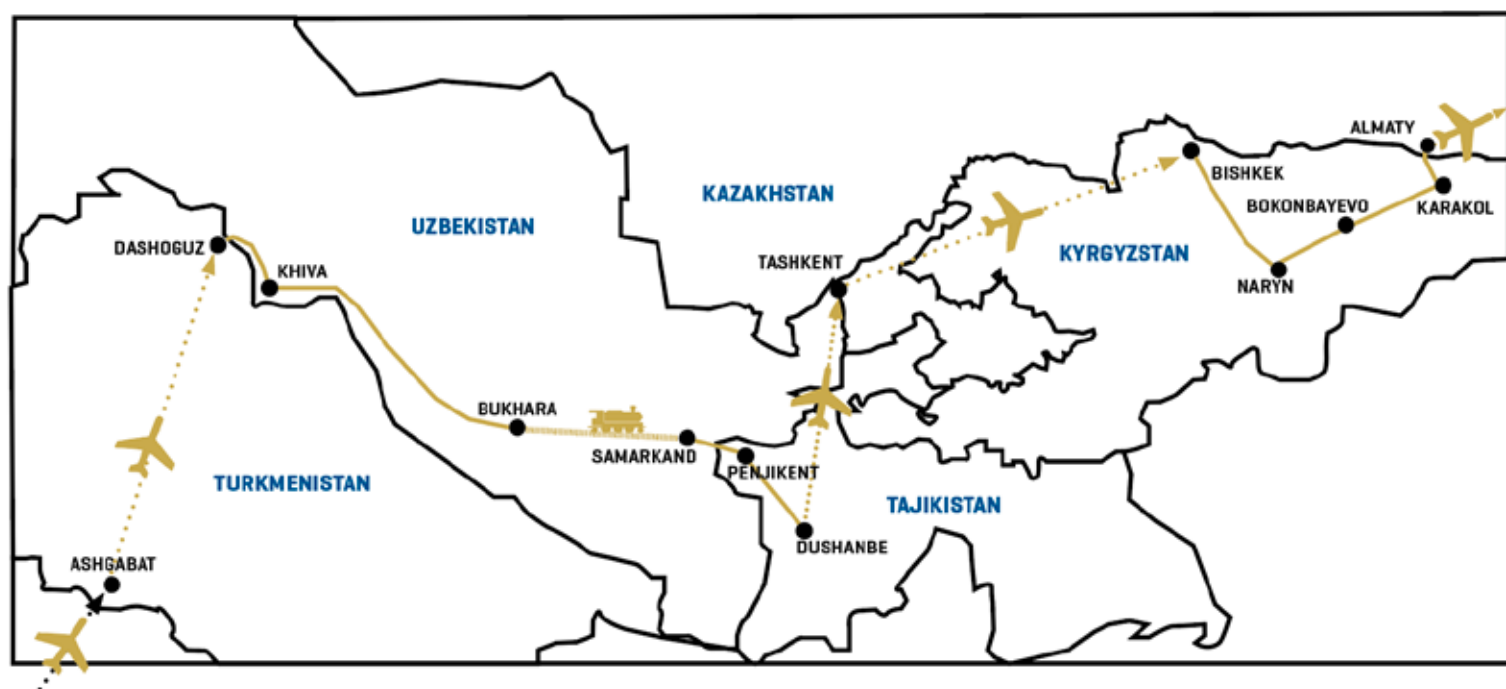
Monday 11 AUCKLAND

Arrive Auckland

Itinerary subject to change*



Almaty



COST per person* Ex Auckland

Twin	\$15,795
Single	\$ 17,997

Premium Economy	+\$3,833 [Auckland - Dubai - Auckland only]
Business Class	+\$10,259

Early Booking Discount - [If deposit paid by 01 August 2025]**\$150 per person****Previous International Tour Client Discount****\$100 per person**

* This is a cash / direct debit price. Credit cards incur a 1.5% fee

Itinerary and costs subject to change, airline and fuel charges and currency fluctuations prior to final payment.

Inclusions

- International economy airfares with Emirates Airlines Auckland-Dubai-Ashgabat // Almaty-Dubai-Auckland
- International economy airfares Penjikent - Tashkent - Bishkek
- Domestic economy airfare Ashgabat-Dashoguz
- Accommodation in 4 star hotels or best available
- 1 night Yurt stay with private facilities* [Yurt stay is twin share only. Single travellers will be required to share for this night.]
- Daily breakfast
- 18 Dinners and 11 lunches
- Transportation as per the itinerary
- English speaking professional guides in each country
- Entrance fees to museums and historical sites
- Visit local Uzbek House of Rakhmon Toshev – embroidered textile maker
- Bagizagan Winery with degustation menu
- Bread baking master class in Gijduvan and Khujand
- Eagle hunting show in Bokonbaevo
- Handmade paper construction demonstration
- Felt carpets making process demonstration in Kochkor
- Home hosted Yurt lunch
- Kyzyl Tuu village visit to see Yurt construction
- Invitation letter for visa to Turkmenistan
- Entertaining program at Kazakh ethno-village
- Dushanbe to Tashkent Flight
- Tashkent to Bishkek Flight
- Bukhara to Samarkand Train Journey
- Pukekohe Escort subject to 15 people travelling

Exclusions

- Items of a personal nature
- Travel Insurance is essential [please ask us for a quote]
- Airline and airport taxes [approx. \$400]
- Items not specified
- Turkmenistan visa fee [USD 90] to be paid by clients themselves on spot
- Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – visa free for New Zealand passport holders.
- Tips/Gratitude to Drivers & Guides

Booking Conditions

- A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 per person will secure a place on the tour
- Full payment is due no later than 14 January 2026

Cancellations and Refunds

- From the date of booking to 14 January 2026 – loss of deposit
- After 14 January 2026 – no refund

Documentation

- A current passport is required, valid six months beyond date of travel

Visas

- Turkmenistan visa fee [USD 90] to be paid by clients themselves on spot
- Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – visa free for New Zealand passport holders.

Tour at a Glance

This is a soft adventure tour designed to experience the best of the five stans. We will travel by comfortable coach through incredible scenery and historic cities.

Fitness and Mobility

To ensure the tour is enjoyable for you and others in the group, a good standard of fitness and mobility is required. Walking on cobble stoned streets and the ability to negotiate stairs is necessary. Border crossings can be unpredictable—be prepared to carry or wheel your luggage 200–300 metres, sometimes over gravel or uneven ground, and expect to spend some time on your feet.

Temperatures °c	Max	Min
Ashgabat	26	14
Bukhara	30	17
Samarkand	30	15
Tashkent	30	12
Almaty	28	11

Currency / Money

Turkmenistan	Turkmenistani Manat
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistani Som
Tajikistan	Tajikistani Somoni
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgystani Som

Luggage

It is essential you can manage your own suitcase. A bag with wheels is an advantage when travelling through airports.

Terms and Conditions

For full terms and conditions please visit our website www.pukekohetravel.co.nz/termsandconditions or ask our tour consultant for a copy

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend all clients purchase travel insurance to protect against cancellations, lost items, and delays that could lead to unexpected costs. Please ask us for a quote.

Note Pukekohe Travel reserves the right to correct errors and omissions contained within this brochure without recourse.

June 2025

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