

THE THREE STANS

KYRGYZSTAN, KAZAKHSTAN, TAJIKISTAN

7 May 2027



14 Day Small Group Hosted Tour
From your Front Door & Back Again





THE THREE STANS

KYRGYZSTAN, KAZAKHSTAN, TAJIKISTAN

Journey deep into the heart of Central Asia, where ancient nomadic traditions, sweeping mountain landscapes, and rich heritage come together in three remarkable nations: *Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan*. This comprehensive adventure offers an immersive experience of cultures, history, and natural wonders that remain beautifully preserved and refreshingly authentic.

Our journey begins in **Bishkek**, Kyrgyzstan's vibrant capital framed by dramatic mountain peaks. Here, leafy boulevards, Soviet-era architecture, and lively local bazaars set the tone for the region's rich contrasts. From the city, we travel into the peaceful **Chong-Kemin Valley**, a protected natural area known for its pristine forests, vast alpine meadows, and warm rural hospitality. This tranquil valley offers a glimpse into traditional Kyrgyz life, where centuries-old customs still shape everyday rhythms.

Continue to **Bokonbayevo**, nestled along the southern shore of the legendary **Lake Issyk-Kul**, the world's second-largest alpine lake. Here we experience the nomadic spirit, staying in a traditional yurt, learning about eagle hunting, and witnessing the craftsmanship behind felt-making and other cultural practices that have been passed down through generations.

Our exploration then leads to **Karakol**, a town rich in cultural diversity and architectural charm. We will discover its unique blend of Russian, Dungan, and Kyrgyz influences through its colourful wooden mosque, historic Orthodox church, bustling market, and welcoming local community. The surrounding **Tien Shan mountains** add a striking natural backdrop, making Karakol one of Kyrgyzstan's most captivating stops.

Crossing into Kazakhstan, we are treated to some of the region's most spectacular scenery. Along the route, we visit **Charyn Canyon**, where towering red cliffs rise like ancient fortresses. Take in this natural wonder, tracing the dramatic shapes and marveling at the intricate textures etched by centuries of wind and water, feeling the raw power and beauty of the landscape around us.

Arriving in **Almaty**, a modern and stylish city framed by snow-capped peaks, we dive into this vibrant city exploring historic and contemporary landmarks, and soak in the atmosphere of one of Central Asia's most dynamic cities. Renowned for its tree-lined streets and panoramic viewpoints, Almaty offers a perfect balance of comfort and adventure.

Our journey concludes in **Dushanbe**, the elegant capital of Tajikistan, where Persian-inspired architecture meets Soviet-era heritage in a captivating cityscape. Here, history and culture take centre stage, from museums and traditional handicrafts to the warm hospitality that defines Tajik life. It's a graceful end to a journey filled with diverse landscapes, welcoming communities, and unforgettable cultural encounters across the Three Stans.



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Kyrgyzstan

- **Bishkek:** Explore the lively capital, from Ala-Too Square to the bustling Osh Bazaar.
- **Ala Archa National Park & Chong-Kemin National Park:** Two distinct and stunning natural reserves offering unique experiences.
- **Kyrgyz Culture:** Visit a traditional **carpet workshop**, learn **yurt making** in Kyzyl Tuu Village, and witness a **golden eagle hunting** demonstration.
- **Skazka Canyon:** Marvel at dramatic orange and red rock formations.
- **Barskoon Gorge:** Admire one of the region's most remarkable natural wonders.
- **Karakol:** Discover the charm of this historic city visiting the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Dungan Mosque and N.M Przhevalsky Museum.
- **Home-cooked dinner with local family:** Experience the warmth and hospitality of the Kyrgyz people .

Kazakhstan

- **Charyn Canyon:** Explore striking geological formations and unique natural landscapes.
- **ZenKov Cathedral:** See one of the tallest wooden buildings in the world.
- **Big Almaty Lake:** Take in the pristine alpine lake in the Tian Shan Mountain.

Tajikistan

- **Dushanbe:** Elegant capital of Tajikistan where we will be greeted by its mix of **Persian and Soviet-era** architecture, modern buildings, and lush green spaces. Known for its tree-lined avenues, colorful bazaars, and rich cultural heritage, Dushanbe offers a captivating **blend of history and modernity**.

THE THREE STANS

7 - 20 MAY 2027

FRI 7 Home – Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

Today marks the start of our thrilling adventure through the heart of Central Asia! We depart from New Zealand and board our flight to **Bishkek**, the vibrant capital of Kyrgyzstan. Meals provided in flight.

SAT 8 Arrival in Bishkek

Upon arrival, we will be warmly welcomed by our local English-speaking guide and transferred to our hotel for some relaxation after the journey.

SUN 9 City Tour of Bishkek

(B) (D)

Today, we dive into the rhythm of Bishkek with a city tour that reveals the capital's artistic soul and lively urban character.

Our city tour of Bishkek starts at the **Historical and Applied Arts Museum**, where a beautifully curated collection of artworks and cultural artifacts offers insight into the heritage of the region.

We will then visit **Ala-Too Square**, the central hub of the capital and a key site for national events and gatherings. Take time to walk through the square and appreciate the surrounding government buildings and notable monuments.

Our journey continues into the buzz of **Osh Bazaar**, one of Central Asia's most vibrant markets. Explore its lively stalls showcasing fresh produce, local spices, traditional crafts, and a wide selection of everyday goods. It's the perfect place to soak up local flavour and capture the everyday life of Bishkek.

Later, enjoy free time to relax or continue exploring at your own pace. You may wish to take a leisurely stroll soaking up the energy of the city's vibrant nightlife.





MON 10 Ala-Archa National Park (B) (D)

We start the day exploring the breathtaking **Ala-Archa National Park**, a serene alpine retreat set deep within the **Tian Shan peaks**.

As we enter the park, the landscape opens into a tapestry of fragrant juniper forests, glacial streams, and dramatic, snow-capped peaks that rise sharply against the sky. It's a place where nature feels close and powerful, and every turn in the trail reveals another striking view.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy at your own pace, whether you choose to simply relax and soak in the tranquillity, or take a gentle walk to discover more of the park's pristine scenery. Ala-Archa offers a refreshing pause from the city and an inviting chance to reconnect with the wild beauty of Kyrgyzstan.

TUE 11 Chong-Kemin National Park (B) (D)

Our day unfolds as we set off for **Chong Kemin**, a serene valley framed by magnificent mountains and lush fir forests. Dotted with small villages and wide stretches of farmland, this peaceful region offers a gentle retreat into rural Kyrgyz life.

Upon arriving at our accommodation, we will be warmly welcomed with true Kyrgyz hospitality. After settling in, we take some time to relax and recharge.

In the afternoon, we enjoy a leisurely stroll through the surrounding villages, where we can observe the simple yet profound way of daily life of locals. We marvel at the stunning natural beauty around us, where towering mountains and lush fir forests create a truly picturesque backdrop. We meet local villagers and discover their daily routines in farming, caring for animals, and mastering traditional crafts.

As evening falls, we immerse ourselves in one of Kyrgyzstan's most treasured traditions, a **performance of the epic poem Manas**. Recited by skilled storytellers known as Manaschi, this centuries-old oral masterpiece is brought to life through powerful voice with traditional instruments. Listening to Manas is more than entertainment, it is a unique cultural and spiritual experience that offers a window into the history, values, and identity of the Kyrgyz people.

WED 12 Scenic Journey to Bokonbayevo (B) (D)

This morning, we embark on a scenic journey to Bokonbaeyvo, following the stunning southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake and taking in the sweeping lake and mountain views.

Along the way, we visit the town of **Kochkor** and explore a traditional Kyrgyz **wool carpet workshop**. Here, skilled artisans craft vibrant shyrdak and ala-kiyiz carpets, intricate pieces that beautifully reflect the patterns, stories, and craftsmanship of Kyrgyz culture.

As we continue to **Kyzyl Tuu Village**, famous for its long-standing **yurt-making** traditions. In this remarkable community, we will learn about the nomadic way of life and discover how yurts are constructed, from the shaping of wooden frames to the felt-making techniques that have been passed down through generations. It's a fascinating insight into the ingenuity and heritage of Kyrgyz nomads.

From here, we travel onward to **Bokonbayevo**, a region embraced by the soaring snow-capped peaks of the Terskei and Kungei Ala-Tau ranges.

Our stay at a yurt camp tonight blends the charm of traditional Kyrgyz nomadic living with the comforts of modern amenities, offering an authentic yet relaxed experience. We settle in and enjoy the remainder of our day at leisure, surrounded by the natural splendour of Issyk-Kul's southern shore.





THU 13 Issyk Kul - Karakol

(B) (D)

Leaving the southern shores of Issyk-Kul behind, we journey eastward to **Karakol**, a charming town on the eastern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake. Along the route, we immerse ourselves in some of Kyrgyzstan's most captivating natural and cultural highlights.

Our first stop is **Skazka Canyon**, also known as Fairy Tale Canyon. Famed for its striking red and orange rock formations sculpted into whimsical shapes, creating a surreal and enchanting landscape.

We then enjoy a special encounter with a **Berkutchi**, a traditional **Golden Eagle hunter**. We witness a demonstration of this ancient nomadic practice and learn about the deep connection between hunter and eagle, a partnership built on trust, skill, and generations of tradition.

We make our way to beautiful **Barskoon Gorge**, celebrated for its dramatic scenery and the **Tears of the Leopard waterfall**. Surrounded by lush greenery and framed by towering mountains, this picturesque gorge is often considered one of the Issyk-Kul region's most beautiful natural sites.

After exploring these remarkable landscapes, we continue to **Karakol**. On arrival, we settle into this welcoming town and enjoy the remainder of our day relaxing in its tranquil surroundings.



FRI 14 City Tour of Karakol

(B) (D)

Today we delve into the rich culture and natural beauty of Karakol. Our morning begins with a visit to the **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**, a striking example of Russian religious architecture that reflects the city's diverse heritage.

From there, we wander to the **Dungan Mosque**, an extraordinary fusion of Chinese and Islamic design, where delicate patterns and elegant arches showcase centuries of cultural exchange.

Then, we step into the world of exploration at the **N.M. Przhevalsky Museum**, dedicated to the legendary Russian naturalist and traveler whose pioneering work in Central Asia left a lasting legacy. As we move through the exhibits, we gain insight into the challenges and discoveries that shaped his remarkable journeys.

In the afternoon, we leave the city behind for a scenic hike through the **red sandstone canyon** to **Jety-Oguz Gorge**. Known for its unique rock formations and vivid red cliffs, the gorge offers breathtaking vistas at every turn, inviting us to marvel at the picturesque landscapes.

As the day winds down, we experience a slice of Kyrgyz life with a **home-cooked dinner hosted by a local family**. Sharing traditional dishes, stories, and laughter, we feel the warmth and hospitality of the Kyrgyz people, gaining a meaningful glimpse into their customs, traditions, and everyday life.



SAT 15 Almaty via Charyn Canyon (Kazakhstan) (B)(D)

This morning, we embark on an unforgettable journey from Kyrgyzstan into Kazakhstan, heading toward the vibrant city of **Almaty**.

The route winds through some of Central Asia's most dramatic landscapes with its unique geological features. A true highlight is **Charyn Canyon**, often referred to as the Valley of Castles, where towering red rock formations rise like ancient fortresses. We wander among these extraordinary shapes and marvel at the intricate patterns carved by nature.

As we approach Almaty, the city appears at the foot of the majestic Tian Shan mountains. Here modern streets and bustling markets meet a rich cultural heritage, offering a fascinating blend of old and new.

On arrival, we check in at our accommodation and spend the evening at leisure, soaking in the city's lively spirit.

SUN 16 City tour of Almaty (B)(D)

Our day in Almaty begins at the vibrant heart of the city, where history and modern life collide. We take in the grandeur of **Republic Square** and the elegance of the **Abai Opera Theatre**, while the serene **Central Mosque** captivates us with its dazzling blue dome.

Then we dive into local life at the **Green Market**, alive with colours, rich aromas, and bustling everyday commerce. Continue to **Zenkov Cathedral**, one of the tallest wooden buildings in the world, a masterpiece of architecture that leaves us in awe. At the **Central State Museum**, we step back in time to explore the stories and artefacts that shaped Kazakhstan.

In the afternoon, we trade the city streets for soaring mountains. Perched at 2,735 metres above sea level, the **Astronomical Observatory** enjoys clear skies and ideal conditions for stargazing, offering a rare combination of scientific discovery and breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks.

As we arrive at **Big Almaty Lake**, a jewel nestled in the Tian Shan range, we will be surrounded by turquoise waters mirror the rugged peaks, creating a scene of pure alpine beauty. This perfect pause after the city's vibrant energy gives us a chance to capture beautiful photographs and breathe in the serene atmosphere.



MON 17 Fly to Dushanbe (Tajikistan) (B)(D)

Today we head to the airport for our flight to **Dushanbe**, the lively capital of Tajikistan. Stepping into the city, we will be greeted by a city where Soviet-era architecture meets modern buildings, and tree-lined avenues, colorful bazaars, and lush green spaces reflect its rich cultural heritage.

Upon arrival, we will check in and take some time to relax, refresh, and enjoy a moment of calm before beginning our exploration of Dushanbe in the morning.

TUE 18 City tour of Dushanbe (B)(D)

As the city awakens, we set out to discover the rich culture and history of Dushanbe on a city tour. We begin at the **Ismoili Somoni Monument**, a striking tribute to the founder of the Tajik state, then stroll through **Rudaki Park**, named in honor of the great Persian poet Rudaki. In the heart of the city, we pause to admire one of the **world's tallest flagpoles**, a proud symbol of Tajikistan's national identity.

We continue to the **Tajikistan State Museum**, where fascinating exhibits bring the country's history and culture vividly to life. From there, we visit **Victory Park**, a tranquil space dedicated to those who fought for Tajikistan's independence.

In the afternoon, we wander through the lively **Mehrgon Bazaar**, soaking in the sights, sounds, and scents while browsing local handicrafts, textiles, and fresh produce.

After exploring the city, enjoy some free time to relax, perhaps reflecting on the day's discoveries before we come together for our end-of-tour dinner.

WED 19 Dushanbe - Home (B)

After breakfast, we conclude our journey in Dushanbe and are transferred to the airport for our flight back to New Zealand, taking with us memories of the cities, landscapes, and experiences that have made this adventure unforgettable.



THE THREE STANS



You are invited to join us on our fully hosted small group tour, with a maximum number of guests is 18.

Based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand, we believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be rest assured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Team Members providing a relaxed and worry-free holiday from start to finish.



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14 DAYS • Fully Hosted from New Zealand with a YOURTours Host

COUNTRY: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan

DATES: 7 - 20 May 2027

Tour Inclusions:

- International flights ex Auckland
- Other departure locations available on request
- Flight upgrades available upon request
- Home Pick-up/drop-off. T&C's apply
- 4* Hotels Accommodation & Yurt Camp
- All gratuities to local guides and coach drivers
- Services of local English-speaking guides throughout
- All Meals as per itinerary
- All excursions and activities as per itinerary
- Twin Share: From \$10,995 per person
- Single: From \$12,995 per person

