

# KYRGYZSTAN & UZBEKISTAN

*Contrast two of Central Asia's most Fascinating Countries*

**18 DAYS - STARTING BISHKEK 27 SEPTEMBER 2020**







## KYRGYZSTAN & UZBEKISTAN

### Trip Outline

Lying at the heart of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan share much in common however they offer very different holiday experiences. Kyrgyzstan, with its dramatic mountain scenery and large population of nomadic shepherds contrasts with the spectacular Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva whose ancient turquoise mosques etch the desert skyline.

In Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital we visit the Ala Too and Victory Squares, the White House and Hero Monument and take a stroll in the nearby Ala-Archa National Park. In the mountainous countryside, home to rare animals such as the snow leopard we travel around the Issyk-Kul Lake and gaze on petroglyphs dating from the 2nd Millennium BC. In Karakol we visit the Russian Orthodox Church and the Dungan mosque. Lush summer pastures are home to local yurt dwelling shepherds and we watch a demonstration of the Golden Eagle hunting. Back in Bishkek we fly to the ancient Osh, dominated by Sulaiman Too, a large mountain in the city centre, protected by UNESCO due to its cultural and spiritual significance.

We cross into Uzbekistan to Ferghana city and visit silk and carpet centres and on our way to Tashkent we stop at a ceramic centre, the Khudayarkhan's palace and Juma Mosque. In Tashkent we ride the metro, visit the State Museum of Applied Arts and explore the fabulous Chorsu food bazaar. The high speed train then brings us to legendary Samarkand, whose history dates back over 2,500 years. Here we discover the most celebrated sights including the madrassas and mosques of the magnificent Registan. A short drive away is World Heritage-listed Shahrisabz where we explore the palace ruins of the conqueror Timur and visit nearby Konigil, known for its ancient paper making workshop.

Next comes Bukhara, one of the great Silk Route cities of central Asia and two days allows ample time to see the principal sights and make our own discoveries. A long drive across the steppe is ancient Khiva, once a slave-trading Khanate and the most intact of our three ancient cities. Within its baked mud brick walls we visit a wonderful carpet and textile workshop and see some stunning vernacular architecture, exploring a number of mosques, madrasas and mausoleums. Finally a flight from nearby Urgench returns us to Tashkent and the end of our Central Asian adventure.



### Tour Highlights

- Ala-Archa National Park
- Issyk-Kul Lake
- Cholpon Ata Petroglyphs
- Preshevalsky Museum - Karakol
- Trinity Russian Orthodox Church
- Dungan Mosque - Karakol
- Seven Bulls of Jety Oguz
- Golden Eagle Hunting Exhibition
- Hastim Imam Square - Tashkent
- Applied Arts Museum
- Samarkand Registan
- Ulugbek's Observatory - Samarkand
- Shah-I-Zinda Complex
- Konigil Silk Paper Mill
- Urgut Local Market
- Shahrisabz
- Fortress Ark - Bukhara
- Emir's Royal Residence
- Tuda-Kal & Gazelle Reserve
- Labi Khaus Complex - Bukhara
- Uzbek Cooking Class
- Kalta-minor Minaret
- Khiva Tash Hauli Palace
- Historic Juma Mosque - Khiva

### Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads and will be your host on this tour. Steve has more than 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He started work in travel as an expedition leader, taking travellers overland across Africa, Asia and South America. He has also worked with a number of well-known Australian travel companies designing and operating holidays to some of the world's most fascinating destinations.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing his guests to some of the world's most interesting places. With Byroads you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions, however there is still time to wander and make your own discoveries. Throughout the tour a local guide provides a wealth of information and shares their extensive local knowledge.

# ITINERARY STARTS IN BISHKEK

**SUN 27 & MON 28 SEP: BISHKEK** – Sunday is simply an arrival day and we will plan to meet up in the evening. The following day we begin with an easy walk in the nearby Ala-Archa National Park with its snow-capped peaks and then return to the city to visit the main sights including the Ala Too and Victory Squares, the White House, Oak Tree Park and the Hero Monument. (B)

**TUE 29 SEP: BISHKEK–BURANA-ISSYKUL-CHOLPON ATA** – We stop this morning at an archaeological museum in a caravan town dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> Century before continuing to the Issykul Lake. The mountains of this wild and unique environment are home to rare animal species including snow leopard and wild boar. We visit the open air Petroglyph Museum with displays dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, before reaching the lakeside town of Cholpon Ata. (B)

**WED 30 SEP: CHOLPON ATA–KARAKOL** – After breakfast we our drive around the lake to the trekking region of Karakol situated at 2200m. Here we visit the Preshevalsky Museum dedicated to the memory of an early explorer renowned for his work on the regions flora and fauna. Later we visit the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox church of the late 19th century and the Dungan mosque. (B)

**THU 1 OCT: KARAKOL-BOKONBAEVO-BISHKEK** – First stop today is Jety Oguz with its famous red rocks and spectacular countryside. The summer pastures are home to nomadic shepherds who graze their cattle and live in yurts. Later, at the lakeside village of Bokonbaevo we witness a demonstration of the Golden eagle hunting before returning to Bishkek for the evening. (B)

**FRI 2 OCT: BISHKEK-OSH-FERGHANA** – A short flight brings us to Osh, an ancient city in the Fergana Valley - a centre for merchants and traders for millennia. We visit the main sights which include UNESCO declared Sulaiman Too, a large religious mountain in the centre of the city with its reconstructed mosque originally built by Babur in the 1400's, We visit the mausoleum of Asaf ibn Burhia and the Sulaiman Too National Historical and Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon we cross into Uzbekistan to the city of Ferghana where we witness a demonstration at a nearby silk factory - from harvesting the silkworm cocoon, to spinning, dying, weaving and carpet making. (B)

**SAT 3 OCT: FERGHANA–TASHKENT** – Following breakfast we depart for Tashkent, stopping first in Rishtan, famous for its ceramics and in Kokand where we visit the Khudayarkhan's palace and the Juma mosque. The palace complex, surrounded by a carved stone wall consisted of seven courtyards and 119 rooms. We arrive in Tashkent in the late afternoon. (B)

**SUN 04 OCT: TASHKENT** – We explore new and old Tashkent today, visiting the fabulous Khast Imam complex and the excellent Museum of Applied Arts. We'll also take a ride on the metro, comparable only to Moscow's celebrated subway system, and explore the Chorsu Bazaar. (B)

**MON 05 OCT: TASHKENT-SAMARKAND** – We take the fast train to Samarkand, arriving two hours later. We then spend the rest of the day seeing the highlights of this stunning city, including the Registan complex, Gur Amir mausoleum, the Shah-I-Zinda complex, the bazaar and more. (B)

**TUE 06 OCT: URGUT-KONIGIL-SAMARKAND** – Driving southwest from Samarkand we reach the village or Urgut, known particularly for its excellent ceramics and large market. We visit a local workshop before continuing to nearby Konigil, where the ancient art of papermaking can still be seen. We return to Samarkand in the afternoon, with ample time to explore further. (B)

**WED 07 OCT: SHAHRISABZ-SAMARKAND** – Today we drive over the Pamir-Alay mountains to the World Heritage town of Shahrisabz - the birthplace of Timur. It contains several impressive Timurid monuments including the White Palace built in 1380. (B)

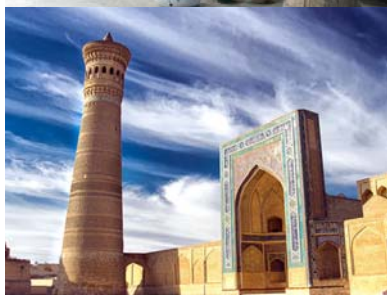
**THU 08 OCT: SAMARKAND-BUKHARA** – Enroute today we stop to visit the remains of the 11<sup>th</sup> century Ribat-I Malik Caravanserai and the ancient reservoir at Sardoba before arriving in Bukhara mid-afternoon, where we visit the Chor Minar and Lyabi Hauz. (B)

**FRI 09 & SAT 10 OCT: BUKHARA** – Like Samarkand, there is much to see and do here and we spend our time exploring its most celebrated sights including the Ishmael Samani Mausoleum, Bukhara ark and the Kalon complex. There's also time for a hamam, to haggle for a carpet or just roam the back streets of this ancient city. (2B)

**SUN 11 OCT: BUKHARA-KHIVA** – It's a long drive today northwest across the vast steppe to the remote ancient mud brick town of Khiva, arriving late afternoon. (B)

**MON 12 & TUE 13 OCT: KHIVA** – The old quarter of Khiva is UNESCO listed and contains some fine monuments, notably the Juma Mosque. There are also some wonderful craft workshops including a carpet weaving and suzani (embroidered textile) project, where original plant dyes and ancient designs are still employed. We spend our time exploring the mosques, madrasa, minarets, bazaars and workshops of this amazing old city before flying back late Tuesday afternoon to Tashkent. (2B)

**WED 14 OCT: TASHKENT** – Our tour ends today. Taxis can be easily arranged at the hotel to take you out to the airport. Extra nights are also available. (B)





## Prices & Inclusions

### 18 Days Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan Tour

**Price in US Dollars: USD 4160 (per person twin-share)**

**Single Supplement: USD 845**

**Price includes:** Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local tour guides, arrival transfer, all transportation on tour, flights Bishkek to Osh and from Urgench to Tashkent, 17 nights hotel accommodation and meals as indicated.

**Not Included:** Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), international flights, additional meals, drinks, departure transfer, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips.

**Transportation:** Our transport is in a comfortable air-conditioned minibus or coach, train and plane.

**Accommodation:** Contrary to popular opinion, Central Asian hotels are fine. Rooms can be a little small and 4\* hotels might be considered closer to 3\* by international travellers, but we've selected what we think are some of the best hotels in the country, in terms of their character, service and location.



Modern 3\* hotel in Bishkek



Breakfast in Karakol



Comfort in the Ferghana Valley



Stylish in Tashkent



The best location in Khiva



Courtyard Hotel in Bukhara

**Food and drink:** Breakfast is included each day. Elsewhere, we enjoy the great variety of local food on offer. Beer, wine, vodka, soft drinks, tea, coffee and bottled water is all widely available.

**Group size:** Maximum 16

**Additional Expenses:** Food is not expensive in Kyrgyzstan or Uzbekistan. You should allow US\$5-\$10 for a light lunch and around US\$15-\$20 for dinner. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour guide, driver and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

**Bookings:** Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

**Travel on Q** (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: [travel@travelonq.com.au](mailto:travel@travelonq.com.au)

**Currency:** Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in United States Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

**Flights and Transfers:** There are no direct flights from Australia or NZ to Central Asia and a stop-over en route is often required. Air Astana fly from Bangkok to Bishkek and from Tashkent back to Bangkok. There are also other options via the middle east. An arrival transfer is included however the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request. Travel on Q will be able to assist you with your flights and advise you on your best options.

**Extra Nights in Bishkek & Tashkent:** Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour however you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure rooms are available.

**Visas for Australian & NZ citizens:** As of January 2019 Uzbekistan visas are no longer required for Australian and New Zealand passport holders. Visas are not required for Kyrgyzstan.

**Documentation:** Upon receipt of final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

**What Next?** Don't miss out! Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at [www.byroads.com.au](http://www.byroads.com.au).



# BOOKING FORM



## Tour information

Tour: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Öate: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Öity: \_\_\_\_\_

Roomtype:  Twin  Double  Single

## Client information (as per passport) - Please attach passport copy

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No: \_\_\_\_\_ Issuedate: \_\_\_\_\_ Issued Öe: \_\_\_\_\_ ExpiryDate: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact NumberHome: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Ödress: \_\_\_\_\_

Any medical, dietary or special requests: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Öcontact: \_\_\_\_\_

## Travel insurance

Comprehensive Insurance is compulsory when travelling with Byroads.

- Purchased from Travel on Q. Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Have own insurance. Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_ Provider: \_\_\_\_\_
- Advise later

## Payment details

A. Paying by direct deposit:

travel Client Trust BSB: 062 033 Account: 10383350 Reference: Byroads TOQ *your name*

B. Paying by credit card:

Select Card:  AmericanExpress  MasterCard  Visa  Diners Club

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Number: [ ] Expiry date: [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] CVV: [ ][ ][ ]

## Declaration

I confirm that I am authorised to sign this form on behalf of all persons named above. I/we have read and understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure and agree to abide by the terms, conditions and responsibilities attached. All persons named on this form are fit to travel.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name :(please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In compliance with the government Privacy Act, we advise that we may use your personal details to send information about future tours. Please indicate if you wish to remain on our mailing list:  Yes  No

# BOOKING FORM

Byroads Travel is the operator of your tour. Byroads Travel (henceforth referred to as Byroads) is a registered trading name of Byroads Pty Ltd (ABN 88 615 738 746).

It travels with Travel on Q (Bonard Pty Ltd, ABN 40 059 566 184) acts as the sole booking agent for Byroads.

## RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A deposit is payable on all tours. The amount payable is stated in the Byroads brochure. This deposit must be paid to Travel on Q and accompanied by a signed booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and signing the Booking Form you accept these conditions.

Your Byroads tour will only be confirmed once the deposit and signed booking form have been received. This Booking Form forms the basis of your contract between you and Byroads.

Travel on Q is an agent of Byroads.

## PAYMENT

Payments may be made to Travel on Q by direct deposit or by credit card. If paying by credit card the following surcharges will be applied to the cost of your tour arrangements: 1.65% for Visa and MasterCard, 2.26% for American Express, and 3.85 % for Diners Club.

## FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

## CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- \*Cancellation up to 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- \*from 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- \* from 44 to 15 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- \*within 14 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilised.

## AMENDMENTS

Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation will incur a fee of \$50 per change per file, in addition to any change fees levied by Travel on Q, airlines, or any other service provider. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements will incur a fee, of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched,

any amendment will incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

## TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

## TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice. If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, all monies paid in respect of the tour will be refunded in full less any credit card fees collected.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather conditions such as floods or earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour after it has commenced. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads and Travel on Q shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operates soft adventure tours. All participants are required to be fit and healthy. Some of the hotels used by Byroads may not have lifts or porters so you must be prepared at times to carry your own suitcase. Before travelling with Byroads, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to areas through which you will be travelling.

## ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Australian passport holders must have at least 6 months validity on their passport after the date of return to Australia. Visas are

required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them. Travel on Q can assist with this process. Non Australian passport holders are asked to check passport and visa requirements at the time of booking.

## ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour includes hotel accommodation, transportation, transfers as specified, sightseeing and meals as indicated in the tour brochure. It does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls etc. or any other incidental expenses.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance including full cover for repatriation. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances. If on the first day of your tour you cannot provide evidence that you have purchased comprehensive travel insurance you will be required to purchase a policy before proceeding with your tour.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our trips as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

- (i) any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a trip, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;
- (ii) Travel on Q acts only as agent for Byroads and accepts no responsibility for the acts and omissions of Byroads or any of its associated service providers for any inaccuracies in information provided, negligence, loss, damage, omission, accident, detention, diversion or theft in regard to luggage or any personal belongings whatsoever.
- (iii) you release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of or in connection with your participation in a trip; and
- (iv) any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty), is excluded

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar trip to an equivalent value; or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss, however it arises, or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

## APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a trip or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts Victoria, Australia.