

ESSENCE OF CENTRAL ASIA - 2026

8 Days/7 Nights

Highlights:

Uzbekistan (Tashkent & Chimgan)

- Khast-Imam Complex & Barak Khan Madrasah
- Chorsu Bazaar & Tashkent Metro (ornate stations)
- Independence Square & Amir Timur Square
- Excursion to **Chimgan Mountains & Charvak Lake** (chairlift ride included)

Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek & Ala Archa)

- Scenic hike at **Ala Archa National Park** with alpine meadows & snow peaks
- Ala-Too Square (Changing of Guards)
- Osh Bazaar & Kyrgyz felt handicrafts
- Oak Park & Opera & Ballet Theatre

Kazakhstan (Almaty & Medeo)

- Road journey from Bishkek to Almaty (steppe & mountain landscapes)
- **Medeo Ice Rink & Shymbulak Ski Resort** (cable car ride included)
- Panfilov Park & Zenkov Cathedral (wooden, built without nails)
- Arbat Street walking tour – cafes, crafts, & performers

Itinerary:

DAY 1	Arrival in Tashkent, Uzbekistan	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available • Arrival in Tashkent: Land at Tashkent International Airport, where our friendly guide will warmly welcome your group and assist with transfers. • Transfer to Hotel: Enjoy a comfortable ride to your centrally located hotel, passing through Tashkent's bustling streets and modern skyline. • Check-In: Settle into your well-appointed hotel room, designed for comfort and relaxation after your journey. • Evening at Leisure: Take time to explore nearby cafes or relax at the hotel, perhaps sampling Uzbek tea and samosa pastries at a local teahouse. • Overnight: Spend the night at your hotel in Tashkent.
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DAY 2	Tashkent City Tour (Breakfast & Dinner)	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available • Breakfast at the Hotel: Start your day with a hearty breakfast featuring Uzbek specialties like plov, fresh bread, and local yogurt. • Full-Day Tashkent City Tour: Discover the vibrant blend of old and new in Uzbekistan's capital. In the Old City, visit the sacred Khast-Imam Complex, home to the ancient Quran of Caliph Uthman and the elegant Barak Khan Madrasah. Wander the bustling Chorsu Bazaar, brimming with spices, dried fruits, and traditional Uzbek crafts. Explore the opulent Tashkent Metro, known for its ornate stations with chandeliers and mosaics. In the New City, stroll through Independence Square with its grand fountains and monuments, admire the Amir Timur Square with its equestrian statue, and view the iconic Hotel Uzbekistan and the historic Romanov Palace (now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). • Dinner: Enjoy a group dinner at an Indian restaurant. • Overnight: Return to your hotel for a restful night in Tashkent.
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DAY 3	Tashkent to Chimgan Mountains & Charvak Lake	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available	• Breakfast at the Hotel. • Full-Day Excursion: Journey approximately 2 hours to the majestic Chimgan Mountains, part of the Western Tian Shan range. Enjoy a guided tour with options for hiking or a chairlift ride to scenic viewpoints, soaking in the crisp mountain air and panoramic vistas. Continuing to Charvak Lake, a stunning turquoise reservoir surrounded by rugged peaks. Relax on the beach, take a boat ride, or enjoy a lakeside picnic (optional activities at own expense). • Return to Tashkent: Head back to the city in the evening, reflecting on the day's natural beauty. • Overnight: Spend the night at your hotel in Tashkent.
DAY 4	Tashkent to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available	• Breakfast at the Hotel: Enjoy breakfast before checking out of the hotel. • Transfer to Airport: Transfer to Tashkent International Airport for a short flight to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (flight ticket not included). • Arrival in Bishkek: Land at Manas International Airport, where your Kyrgyz guide will greet you and assist with transfers. • Transfer to Hotel: Enjoy a comfortable ride to your centrally located hotel, passing through Bishkek's wide boulevards framed by the majestic Tian Shan Mountains. • Check in at the hotel. • Overnight: Spend the night at your hotel in Bishkek, resting up for an exciting adventure.

DAY 5	Ala Archa National Park & Bishkek City Tour	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available • Breakfast at the Hotel. • Ala Archa National Park Excursion: Depart for the stunning Ala Archa National Park, 40 km south of Bishkek, nestled in the Tian Shan Mountains. Enjoy a guided hike along scenic trails in the Ak-Sai Gorge, suitable for all levels, with breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks, rushing rivers, and alpine meadows. Spot wildlife like marmots or ibex and capture photos of the dramatic glacier landscapes. • Return to Bishkek: Head back to the city for cultural exploration. • Bishkek City Tour: Discover Bishkek's vibrant blend of Soviet heritage and Kyrgyz culture. Visit Ala-Too Square, the city's heart, featuring the iconic Manas statue and the ceremonial changing of the guard. Wander through the lively Osh Bazaar, brimming with spices, fresh produce, and traditional Kyrgyz felt crafts. Explore the elegant Opera and Ballet Theatre and the serene Oak Park, a green oasis with sculptures and historic buildings. If open, visit the State Historical Museum for insights into Kyrgyzstan's nomadic past. • Dinner: Enjoy a group dinner at an Indian restaurant. • Overnight: Return to your hotel for a restful night in Bishkek.
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DAY 6	Bishkek to Almaty, Kazakhstan	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available • Breakfast at the Hotel. • Check-Out and Road Transfer to Almaty: 10:00 Check out of the hotel and embark on a scenic 4–5-hour drive (approximately 240 km) to Almaty, crossing the Kyrgyz Kazakh border. Enjoy views of rolling steppes, distant mountains, and quaint villages. Complete immigration formalities at the border (carry your luggage; porter assistance will not be available). • Arrival in Almaty & Check-in: 15:00 Arrive in Almaty and transfer to your centrally located hotel, for Check-in and rest after a long drive. • Evening at Leisure: Spend the evening at your leisure, discovering Almaty's vibrant atmosphere. Savor local Kazakh cuisine at a nearby restaurant or visit the iconic Kok Tobe Hill for panoramic city views via a scenic cable car (at own expense). Dive into the city's vibrant cafe culture or explore local markets for dried fruits, nuts, chocolates and Kazakh honey. • Overnight: Spend the night at your hotel in Almaty.
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DAY 7	Almaty City Tour & Medeo, Shymbulak Excursion	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available • Breakfast at the Hotel: Fuel up with a hearty breakfast to prepare for an exciting day. • Excursion Medeo & Shymbulak Ski Resort: Journey to Medeo, the world's highest-altitude outdoor ice-skating rink, nestled in a breathtaking mountain gorge at 1,691 meters above sea level. Admire the dramatic scenery and the rink's impressive architecture. Continue via cable car to Shymbulak Ski Resort, a year-round destination in the Tian Shan Mountains. Explore scenic trails, enjoy panoramic views from observation decks, or opt for optional activities (at own expense). • Return to Almaty: Descend back to the city for an afternoon of urban exploration. • Panfilov Park & Zenkov Cathedral: Visit the tranquil Panfilov Park, a green oasis in the heart of Almaty, home to the striking Zenkov Cathedral. This colorful, wooden Orthodox church, built without nails in 1904, is one of the city's most iconic landmarks, showcasing intricate architecture and vibrant frescoes. • Arbat Street Walking Tour: Stroll along the vibrant Arbat Street (Zhibek Zholy), Almaty's lively pedestrian thoroughfare. Enjoy street performers, local artisans, and cozy cafes, and browse souvenir shops for Kazakh handicrafts like felt rugs or traditional jewelry. Soak in the dynamic atmosphere of this cultural hub. • Dinner at an Indian Restaurant • Overnight: Return to the hotel for a restful night in Almaty.
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DAY 8	Departure from Almaty	 No image available  No image available  No image available  No image available
		• Breakfast at the Hotel. • Check-Out and Airport Transfer: Check out of the hotel and transfer to Almaty International Airport for your return flight. • End of Tour: Depart with cherished memories of your Essence of Central Asia tour.

Inclusions:

- 7 Nights' Accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Airfare
- Meals:
 - Daily breakfast at the hotels.
 - 03 dinners at Indian restaurants.
- All specified transfers as per the program.
- Cable car ride in Shymbulak and chairlift in Chimgan mountain.
- Guided sightseeing tours with an English-speaking guide.
- English-speaking escort guide in each city.
- Entrance fees to the Khast Imam complex in Tashkent.
- All transportation in air-conditioned vehicles.
- GST 5%

Exclusions:

- Entrance fees (unless part of inclusions)
- Photo & video charges.
- Tips & gratuities & any personal expenses.
- Any service not included in the inclusions or itinerary.
- € € TCS 5%

Tour Notes:

- This guaranteed departure tour ensures reliability and group camaraderie.
- Optional activities / entrances are at your own expense.
- Wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing for mountain excursions and varying climates.
- Respect local customs with modest attire at religious sites.
- Prepare for the border crossing by carrying luggage; porters will not be available.
- Valid passports and visas are required for international travel and borders.

Contents:

Payment Terms:

- A non-refundable 30% advance is required upon booking to confirm your reservation.
- The final 70% balance payment must be settled at a minimum of 20 days before the departure date. Please ensure timely payment to avoid cancellation

Cancellation Policy:

The following cancellation charges will apply based on the number of days before the departure date that your written cancellation is received:

- **45 to 21 days before departure:** 50% of the total package cost will be forfeited.
- **20 to 10 days before departure:** 75% of the total package cost will be forfeited.
- **Less than 10 days before departure, or "No Show":** 100% of the total package cost will be forfeited. (No refund will be provided).