

# MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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## Central Asia Tour

26 Day Conducted Tour

for only **\$9,575** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and levies

This comprehensive tour includes all of the following:

- Air fares from Sydney into Almaty, Kazakhstan and out of Tashkent, Uzbekistan with the award winning Asiana Airlines, plus four flights within Central Asia. Asiana Airlines is considered by many to be one of the world's best airlines.
- A three week land, air and high speed train tour of Central Asia, visiting the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Very good accommodation, mainly 3 to 4½ star, or the best available in the remote areas.
- A stopover in Seoul, South Korea in each direction.
- Nearly all meals, all entrance fees, transfers and transport.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main guides and drivers.
- Services of local tour guides, a national tour guide for most of the time in Central Asia and an Australian tour escort.



If you don't have a travel partner but wish to travel at twin share rates we will try to assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an additional cost of \$1375.

For passengers from Melbourne and Brisbane we can arrange return domestic flights to Sydney. Please contact our office for prices.

***Tour departs Australia 12<sup>th</sup> April  
and returns 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018***

## **Itinerary for Central Asia Tour**

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### **12.04.18 Sydney – Seoul, South Korea**

Depart Sydney at 9.15am on Asiana Airlines flight OZ 602, arriving in Seoul at 6.40pm. Upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Best Western Incheon Hotel or similar

### **13.04.18 Seoul - Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**(B)** Today is at leisure at our airport hotel. For those who wish there is an optional tour to the demilitarized zone of Korea. We travel to the Korean Demilitarized Zone to see the border that divides North and South Korea. Learn about the troubled history of the country, from the time of the Korean War to modern day. We visit the Dorasan Train Station, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aggression Tunnel, Imjingak Memorial and Freedom Bridge. We also look across the DMZ into North Korea from the Dora Observatory.

Lunch is at a local restaurant, before returning to the hotel and then heading for the airport for our flight to Kazakhstan.

The price for the **DMZ optional tour is \$190 per person**, including lunch.

All passengers depart Seoul at 6.10pm on flight OZ 577, arriving in Almaty at 9.55pm.

Upon arrival in Almaty we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: Otrar Hotel or similar

### **14.04.18 Almaty, Kazakhstan – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

**(B/L/D)** In times gone by, Kazakhstan was one of the most important countries for Tzarist Russia and the Soviet Union. Almaty is the former capital of Kazakhstan and the current architectural richness of the city is due to the construction of its buildings during the Soviet era. The Soviet architecture has been successfully preserved in the city. We enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, including Panfilov Park and its monument, dedicated to the 28 heroes of the Panfilovets, who died in 1941 while confronting the Nazi tanks near Moscow. Located in the centre of the park is the majestic sacred Zenkov Wooden Cathedral. We also visit the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan, which is one of the largest museums in Central Asia and includes a miniature replica of the country's chief archaeological treasure, the Golden Man, which is a warrior's costume made of 4000 gold pieces, many finely decorated with animal motifs.

After an included lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Green Bazaar, which is one of the biggest market places in Almaty.

Later we are transferred to the airport for our one hour flight to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Upon arrival we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Park Hotel or similar

### **15.04.18 Bishkek – Chon Kemin, Kyrgyzstan**

**(B/L/D)** This morning we have an early breakfast and then commence a 2½ hour drive to Chon Kemin Gorge, a popular tourist destination renowned for its beautiful, unspoiled nature. On our way to Chon Kemin we will stop in the town of Tokmok to enjoy buzkashi (ulak tartish) horse game. Afterwards we visit Burana Tower and the

remains of the medieval city of Balasaghyn. We enjoy an included lunch with a local Kyrgyz family, then continue onto to Kemin. Upon arrival we check in to the guest house and proceed to Chon Kemin Gorge for a guided exploration of the beauty of the area, enjoying the wonderful landscapes, nature and some fresh air. For those who wish to have a horseback ride, Chon Kemin is a great place to experience this. Dinner will be served in the guesthouse restaurant.

Accommodation: Ashu Guest House or similar

**16.04.18 Chon Kemin – Kochkor Village - Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

**(B/L/D)** After breakfast we have a 2½ hour drive to Kochkor village, a previous Silk Road settlement where travellers would pitch their tents. Today it is known as a handicraft centre and one of the most authentic locations which has successfully preserved the ancient customs of the Kyrgyz nation. We will meet the local people of this beautiful countryside and learn about their ancient traditional craft skills, including the making of felt carpet ‘shyrdak’. The local people will also demonstrate the daily activities and we have a chance to enjoy a folklore show with traditional musical instruments. We then have a 3½ drive to return to our hotel in Bishkek. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Park Hotel or similar

**17.04.18 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

**(B/L/D)** We have a relaxed start today, with our touring commencing at 10am. Our tour of Bishkek will include Ala Too Central Square, the Parliament building, the statue of Vladimir Lenin and the Central History Museum that portrays the life and history of the Kyrgyz people from their nomadic existence. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Our tour today concludes with a visit to the Fine Arts Museum. We will have an early dinner today to get some rest before tomorrow’s early morning flight.

Accommodation: Park Hotel or similar

**18.04.18 Bishkek - Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**(B/L/D)** After an early breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Tashkent. Onboard the plane we will be handed two Uzbekistan Customs Declaration Forms. Please identically complete these forms on the flight (when exiting Customs, one will be kept by the authorities and the other must be retained by the passenger). Once through these formalities our luggage is loaded on the bus and our tour guide will treat us to some good coffee at JUM Café which is located just outside the airport. Tashkent is a green, wide-avenue city which was re-built in the 1960’s following the devastating earthquake of 1966. It was the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union. We spend the morning at the Applied Arts Museum. The wealthy Tsarist diplomat Alexander Poloztsev, a connoisseur of Oriental architecture and decorative patterns invited local master artisans to decorate his private mansion. It now houses a splendid collection of ikat fabrics, suzani, ceramics, metal work, carved wood, carpets and national garments. It is an excellent introduction to the applied arts we will see during the tour. Afterwards we visit Khazret Imam Complex, where we will be able to see one of the first editions of the Koran in the world. It was written in the 7<sup>th</sup> century by order of Uthman ben Affan.

After lunch we visit Kukeldash Madrasah, a significant architectural sight of the 16th century, followed by Chorsu Bazaar. We then transfer to our hotel for some free time. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Ichan Kala Hotel Tashkent or similar

**19.04.18 Tashkent – Khujand – Bahoriston, Tajikistan**

**(B/L/D)**

Today we drive to the border to enter Tajikistan. Another Uzbekistan Customs Declaration form will be distributed by our tour guide, so please have this form ready prior to leaving the hotel. We will each require two complete forms, one which we have retained from our previous days entry and a newly completed form, both of which will be retained by authorities at the border crossing. Please note that an overnight bag is required for this visit, as our main luggage will be placed in secure storage within our Tashkent hotel. The drive to the border will take about 1½ hours. We will be assisted by our tour guide through Customs formalities, although please be prepared for a slow pedestrian crossing at the border, which includes a 1½ kilometre walk across ‘No Man’s Land’ between the two border controls. We will likely be required to carry our own luggage for this walk so remember to pack light. Time delays and inconvenience at border crossings are unfortunately unavoidable in Central Asia. Please think of this as a unique cultural experience of visiting Central Asia. Once we enter Tajikistan we will be met and travel approximately one hour to the city of Khujand to commence our sightseeing tour. We will first visit the Payshanba Bazaar, which is one of the most crowded bazaars in Tajikistan. We also visit Sheikh Muslihiddin Mosque and Mausoleum and Arbob Palace named after S. Urunchodlaev. We have an included lunch at a local restaurant. Our last stop for today is the Fortress of Temur Malik, before a 30 minute drive to our hotel in the nearby area of Bahoriston for a chance to have a rest. This evening we enjoy an included dinner.  
Accommodation: Bahoriston Hotel or similar

**20.04.18 Bahoriston - Khujand – Bahoriston, Tajikistan**

**(B/L/D)**

This morning after breakfast visit the Monument to Lenin, Khujandi poet, the Orthodox Church of Maria Magdalena and Kayrakkum Hydro Power Station, which was built in 1968. After an included lunch in Khujand we return to our hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. This evening we enjoy an included dinner.  
Accommodation: Bahoriston Hotel or similar

**21.04.18 Khujand - Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**(B/L/D)**

This morning we have a one hour drive to the Tajik – Uzbek border. By this time our tour guide will once again have distributed to us two Uzbekistan Customs Declaration forms, please fill out both of these forms exactly the same as each other. When exiting Customs one will be kept by authorities and the other must be kept in a safe place by yourself (they must not be lost).  
After completing the border crossing formalities we will be transferred to Tashkent and have lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards we will visit the History Museum of Uzbekistan before being transferred to the hotel for check-in. There is some time at leisure to rest before an early dinner which will be organised outside of the hotel.  
Accommodation: Ichan Kala Hotel Tashkent or similar

**22.04.18 Tashkent – Nukus – Khiva, Uzbekistan**

**(B/L/D)**

This morning we take an early breakfast at 4.30am and check out at 5.30am. We will be transferred to Tashkent Airport for a morning flight to Nukus. Upon arrival we will be transferred to the Karakalpak State Museum of Art named after I.V. Savitsky, an obsessive collector credited with saving tens of thousands of avant-garde artworks from Soviet authorities who forced artists toward Socialist Realism in the 1930’s. The museum is in the parched hinterland of Uzbekistan, Nukus is home to one of the

world's largest collections of Russian avant-garde art, the history and life of which is the subject of a recent American made documentary 'The Desert of Forbidden Art'. Until now the museum has been chiefly known to journalists and art lovers. After the morning visit we will have lunch at a local restaurant and then drive approximately 3 hours to Khiva. Upon arrival we check in at the hotel and have some time to rest until dinner. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant in the old city. Please note our accommodation for the next two nights is quite basic. Accommodation: Malika Khiva Hotel or similar

### **23.04.18 Khiva, Uzbekistan**

**(B/L/D)** Once famous for its slave trade, fascinating history and architecture, Khiva is the most intact and the most remote of Central Asia's Silk Road cities. Life vibrates within the baked mud walls. The old town is only 26 hectares, however, it is packed with interesting buildings and wonderful craft studios. It is a place of extraordinarily carved wooden doors and magnificent tile work, a silk carpet workshop with unique silk carpets inspired by the designs of the tiles and doors, the workshop initiated by Christopher Aslan Alexander whose initial plan was to write a guidebook about Khiva, but he fell in love with this unbelievably fascinating place and decided to stay, eventually providing assistance to a local family of carpet weavers to revive the local carpet-weaving craft and establish a workshop in the centre of the old city. Today he is known as the author of a book called "A Carpet Ride to Khiva - Seven Years on the Silk Road". We will spend the day exploring Khiva and visiting the statue of Al Khwarizmy, the founder of Algebra, 19<sup>th</sup> century unfinished minaret of Kalta Minar and a madrassah of Muhammad Amin Khan which today houses a hotel. Also visit Kuhna Ark Citadel, Muhammad Rakhim Khan madrassah and Juma masjeed (Friday mosque), the unusual beauty of which will impress anyone who visits this traditional place of worship. Lunch today is at a local restaurant. Afterwards we continue our sightseeing of Ican Kala (inner city) with a visit to the rest of the sites such as Islam Khoja complex, Tash Khauli Palace and the mausoleum of Pahlawan Mahmud. For dinner tonight we will enjoy a cooking and bread baking master class at a restaurant in the Old City.

Accommodation: Malika Khiva Hotel or similar

### **24.04.18 Khiva – Dashoghuz, Turkmenistan**

**(B/L/D)** Today we have an early start for the border crossing between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. We travel approximately 1½ hours to the border and are guided through the pedestrian border crossing by the tour guide. On the Turkmenistan side, we will be met by our local guide and we will drive 90kms to Kohne Urganch. Lunch is at a local restaurant, followed by a visit to the Mausoleum of Fähraddeen Razi, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. A small, almost square erection crowned with the 12-sided marquee, related to the scientist Fähraddeen Razi. We then proceed to the blue-tiled tent design Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum erected between 1172 and 1200, a mausoleum presenting an impressive semicubic structure covered with a high conic cupola. Turabeg Khanum Mausoleum is another mausoleum of the Princess Turabeg, daughter of the Golden Horde's Khan and the wife of the Governor of Gurganj (Kohne Urganch) Kutlugh Temur. We will then visit the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century mausoleums of Najm ad Deen Kubra and Sultan Ali. Our last historically important structure for today is Kutlug Temur Minaret from 1330, which is one of the tallest in Central Asia at 60 metres in height. Afterwards we travel on to Dashoghuz and check into the hotel. There is time for a short rest before an included dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Dashoghuz Hotel or similar

**25.04.18 Dashoghuz – Darwaza – Ashgabat**

**(B/L/D)** Today we set off on a long 600km drive to Ashgabat in a number of 4WD vehicles. En route we stop at Fortress Yzmykshir, the famous Darwaza Crater, otherwise known as the 'Gateway to Hell.' This natural gas sinkhole was discovered by Soviet geologists in 1971 while drilling for natural gas. The ground beneath the drilling rig collapsed, leaving a large hole with a diameter of 70 metres. To avoid poisonous gas discharge, it was decided that the best solution was to burn it off. Geologists had hoped that the fire would burn all the fuel in a matter of days, but the gas is still burning today. We will be provided with a lunch box as there are no other facilities to partake of a meal. After visiting the gas crater we continue the drive to Ashgabat, arriving in the evening.

Accommodation: Yyldyz Hotel or similar

**26.04.18 Ashgabat**

**(B/L/D)** Ashgabat is the capital city of Turkmenistan. Be amazed at this pristine white marble city. This morning after breakfast we enjoy a half-day visit to Tolkuchka. This bazaar is only open on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday and is the biggest and most colourful market of Ashgabat. It is one of the most impressive bazaars where we will feel the real essence of an oriental market, experiencing the interesting culture of Central Asian market traditions. We will then proceed to the Turkmen Carpet Museum and then visit a private horse stable with Ahalteke horses. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Accommodation: Yyldyz Hotel or similar

**27.04.18 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**(B/L/D)** Our day of sightseeing will commence with the Turkmenbashy Ruhy Mosque, which is one of the biggest mosques in Central Asia. Our visit includes the family mausoleum of the first president of Turkmenistan. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. We will then visit the Monument of Independence, the National Museum of Turkmenistan. This museum houses about 500,000 artefacts dedicated to the Bronze Age, Antiquity and middle age history of Turkmenistan. Other sections of the museum include nature, ethnography, military and jewellery sections. We then drive 14kms to Old Nisa, which is the Parthian capital inhabited from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Relics and findings have revealed a grandiose architectural complex consisting of ceremonial hall, treasure house and a few residences. Dinner will be at a local restaurant, which will be followed by a night city tour showing the illuminated monuments of Ashgabat.

Accommodation: Yyldyz Hotel or similar

**28.04.18 Ashgabat - Mary, Turkmenistan**

**(B/L/D)** Breakfast at the hotel before an early morning transfer to the airport for our short flight to Mary. Upon arrival we will begin our sightseeing in and around Mary, visiting ancient Merv, Sultan Sanjar mausoleum, Gavur Kala, Erk Kala and Kirk kiz Kala. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. We will then return to Mary and check into the hotel where we will have some leisure time to rest or explore. Dinner this evening will be in the hotel.

Accommodation: Mary Hotel or similar

**29.04.18 Mary – Turkmenabat – Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

**(B/L/D)** This morning after breakfast we will have a 260km drive to the Turkmen / Uzbek border via Turkmenabat. We will stop for lunch at a local restaurant in Turkmenabat and then continue our journey to the border. After crossing into Uzbekistan, we have a two hour drive to Bukhara. Upon arrival in Bukhara we check in to our hotel and then enjoy some time at leisure. You may choose to have a rest or be taken by the tour guide for a little walk around the Labi Havuz complex which is in the heart of old Bukhara, and have an opportunity to do some shopping. In the evening we will meet in the hotel lobby and be taken to a local restaurant for dinner.  
Accommodation: Komil K Boutique Hotel or similar

**30.04.18 Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

**(B/L)** Today will be spent visiting architectural wonders such as the 9<sup>th</sup> century Ismael Samani Mausoleum, a perfect cube made of baked bricks in a basket weave pattern. Other sites include the Chashma Ayyub (Prophet Job's spring), Bolo Hauz Mosque and Ark Citadel. Lunch will be at a local restaurant, after which we will continue the tour with a visit to Miri Arab madrasa which is still active, the Kalon Mosque and Minaret, which served as a beacon on the Silk Road. Visit covered bazaars of jewellers, hatters and money dealers and the Magoki Attari Mosque, which during the middle ages served as a mosque for Muslims and as a synagogue for Jews. The Labi Havuz complex will conclude our architectural visit of Bukhara. This evening enjoy an Uzbek traditional folklore music performance and a beautiful fashion parade of Uzbek textiles by a local designer while enjoying dinner within the old madrassah known as Nadyr Devan Beghy.  
Accommodation: Komil K Boutique Hotel or similar

**01.05.18 Bukhara - Samarkand**

**(B/L/D)** After an early breakfast we will depart at 7am for Samarkand, the heart of Central Asia. On the way to Samarkand we will have a brief stop at Mr. Abdullah Narzullaev's wonderful home-based ceramics workshop in the town of Ghijduvan, one of the finest and most well-known ceramic studios of Central Asia. In fact, he is gaining worldwide recognition. Upon arrival in Samarkand we have lunch at a local restaurant and then visit two outstanding examples of 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century architecture, the Guri Emir Mausoleum where Tamerlane himself, his mentor Mir Saeed Baraka, his sons and grandsons Ulugh Begh and Mohammed Sultan were buried. Followed by the ever-beautiful Registan Square which will conclude our sightseeing for today. We will make our way to the hotel for check in and later enjoy an included dinner.  
Accommodation: Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior or similar

**02.05.18 Samarkand**

**(B/L)** Today we visit Konigil Samarkand paper factory where we will witness the ancient art of Samarkand papermaking and observe how the secrets and techniques have been revived. We will then visit the Samarkand Silk Carpet factory that uses only natural dyes (onion skins, madder, roots, walnut shells, pomegranate etc). Observe demonstrations of the entire process of silk dyeing, design selection and weaving at the loom. Exquisite and quite unusual embroidered pieces are on sale here along with ikats and silk velvet ikats. After an included lunch at a local restaurant we return to the hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure.  
Accommodation: Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior or similar



**03.05.18 Samarkand - Tashkent****(B/L/D)**

We will commence today's activities with a visit to Bibi Khanum Grand Mosque, Siyab Bazaar, Ulug Begh's Observatory and the Shakhi Zindi Necropolis. Lunch will be at a local restaurant followed by an afternoon transfer to Samarkand Railway Station to catch the fast speed train to Tashkent. This train reaches speeds of up to 250 KPH. The journey is 320 km and will take 2 hours and 10 mins. Please note that on occasions the fast train is not in operation. In this situation your train trip will be replaced with the regular train service.

We will arrive in Tashkent in the evening and upon arrival drive to a local restaurant for dinner. We will then drive to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Ichan Kala Hotel Tashkent or similar

**04.05.18 Tashkent - Seoul****(B/D)**

After breakfast we will visit the Art Museum of Uzbekistan, the Monument of Courage and Independence Square. Later we are returned to the hotel for some free time. This will give us a chance to either rest, pack or do something independently. Prior to our evening flight to Seoul we will enjoy a farewell dinner together at a lovely restaurant in Tashkent which will hopefully galvanise fond memories of our time in Central Asia. Afterwards we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Seoul. Depart Tashkent at 10.20pm on flight OZ 574, arriving in Seoul at 8.50am the next morning (05.05.18).

**05.05.18 Seoul****(L)**

Upon arrival in Seoul (Incheon Airport), we are met and taken on a morning tour of Seoul. We visit Gyeongbok Palace, which was originally established in 1395 as a royal palace of the Chosun Dynasty. However in the war in 1592, most of the buildings were destroyed by fire and it was not reconstructed for 273 years. It was rebuilt under Emperor Kjong in 1868. The dynasty had to move to Deoksu Palace and Gyeongbok Palace lost its place as the royal palace. Gyeongbok Palace still keeps its gorgeous looks of 500 years of Chosun Dynasty's history by having many stately buildings. Gyeongbok means shining happiness. We also visit the National Folk Museum, which is located inside Gyeongbok Palace and has over 4,000 historical artifacts that were used in the daily lives of ordinary Korean people. Then proceed to Cheonggyecheon Stream for a walking tour of this urban renewal project in downtown Seoul. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Afterwards we are transferred to the hotel for check in. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: Fraser Place Namdaemun or similar

**06.05.18 Seoul - Sydney****(B/L)**

This morning we check out of the hotel visit Myeongdong, which is one of the primary shopping districts in Seoul, with many brand name shops and department stores lining the streets and alleys. We then visit Seoul Tower, which opened in 1980 and is 236 metres high, offering panoramic views of Seoul and the surrounding area. We enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant and then visit Namdaemun Market, which is the largest traditional market in Korea. Afterwards we are transferred to the airport for our flight home.

Depart Seoul at 8.00pm on OZ 601, arriving in Sydney at 7.40am the next morning (07.05.18).



**Note:** This tour consists of several border crossings by both land and air, resulting in significant waiting times. This is an unavoidable inconvenience when travelling to this part of the world.

Central Asia can be a very unique and challenging destination, with long and often tiring travel days and arduous border crossings. Most passengers will not find this experience to be a holiday, but more an adventure which gives a rare insight into the way of life of the local people, their religions and traditions.

Also note that parts of this itinerary are subject to change due to possible flight changes or other unforeseen circumstances.

**Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice**

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness, however there are others that are quite challenging. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

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**Tour Difficulty Level 5**

This tour rating typically involves a very active level of physical participation and requires a high level of physical activity to fully enjoy the touring experience. A tour level of this rating assumes you are able to ascend several flights of stairs with ease, get into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, boarding trains quickly with your luggage, walking distances of up to 2 kilometres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets and on some instances being capable of doing this with your own luggage (land border crossings etc). Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating. A level 5 tour rating is usually significantly more strenuous than the other ratings and can include rough terrain and isolated areas. Unfortunately this tour rating is not suitable for individuals who cannot walk unaided.



## Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Central Asia Tour

**Deposits and Payments** - A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 10 weeks prior to departure.

**Refunds and Cancellations** - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

**Airline Tickets** - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

**Insurance** - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

**Passports** - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for all Australian passport holders to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. For Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, visas can be obtained upon arrival into the country, however Turkmenistan requires a letter of invitation and pre-approval before departing on the tour. Macleay Valley Travel will assist in obtaining this. For Tajikistan an Evisa is required to be obtained before departing on the tour at <https://www.evisa.tj> at a current cost of USD \$50. The price for the Uzbekistan (multiple entry) visa is USD \$90 and the Turkmenistan visa is USD \$67. A visa is not required for Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Please note that the costs for the above mentioned visas are subject to change and we have found these prices can fluctuate.

**Basic Tour Price and Taxes** - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

**Not Included in the Cost** - Travel insurance and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

**Breakaway Fee** - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$55 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

**Booking through other Agents** - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

**Accreditation** - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

**Twin Share Bookings** - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

**Health and Fitness** - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. There are certain limitations with this tour whereby even with a companion The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

**Limitation of Liability** - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or de facto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes.

Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

## MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

**A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM**

Name of Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 1** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 2** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PostCode** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone / Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

**Single room / Twin beds / Double bed:** (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY

Any existing medical conditions – Passenger 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs – Passenger 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Extensions: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person and the health & fitness form.

**DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.**

**HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details and severity:\_\_\_\_\_
2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No  
If no, please provide details about these limitations:\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details:\_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them:\_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details:\_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details:\_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No  
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended):\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No  
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here:\_\_\_\_\_

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

**DISCLAIMER**

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

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

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Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

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