

# MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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## Central Asia Tour

26 Day Conducted Tour

for only **\$9,275** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and levies

This tour is great value as the price includes all of the following:

- Air fares from Sydney into Almaty, Kazakhstan and out of Tashkent, Uzbekistan with Asiana Airlines, plus four flights within Central Asia. Asiana Airlines is considered by many to be one of the world's best airlines and in 2013 was inducted into the Hall of Fame of 'Global Traveller' as it was awarded the 'Best Airline for Onboard Service' and 'Best Airline for Flight Attendants' for 10 consecutive years.
- A 22 day land, air and high speed train tour of Central Asia, visiting the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Very good accommodation, mainly 3½ 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 guides and drivers.
- Services local tour guides, a national guide and if there are 12 or more participants, there will be 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 passenger, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an additional cost of \$1365.

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

***Tour departs Australia 6<sup>th</sup> October  
and returns 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016***

*We try harder to find you the best travel deal*

## **Itinerary for Central Asia Tour**

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

### **06.10.16 Sydney - Seoul, South Korea**

Depart Sydney at 10.30am on Asiana Airlines flight OZ 602, arriving in Seoul (Incheon Airport) at 7.00pm. Upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Central Park Hotel Songdo / Best Western Incheon Hotel or similar

### **07.10.16 Seoul - Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**(B)** This morning is at leisure. In the afternoon we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Kazakhstan. Depart Seoul at 6.10pm on OZ 577, arriving in Almaty at 10.05pm. Upon arrival in Almaty we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: Otrar Hotel or similar

### **08.10.16 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. We also visit the Museum of National Musical Instruments named after Ykylas. It was opened in the 1980's and contains many types of Kazakh national musical instruments most ancient of which are dated to the 17th century. 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

### **09.10.16 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

**10.10.16 Chon Kemin – Kochkor Village - Issyk Kul – 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.

Afterwards we continue on to Balykchy, where we have some time to enjoy Issyk Kul Lake and the wider area. 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

**11.10.16 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

**(B/L/D)**

We have a relaxed morning 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

**12.10.16 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).

Upon arrival in Tashkent we will obtain our Uzbekistan visa. Please be prepared as this process is often time consuming. 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: Lotte City Hotel Tashkent or similar

**13.10.16 Tashkent - Khujand, 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 ½ 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. Urunhodlaev. We have an included lunch at a local restaurant. Our last stop for today is the Fortress of Temur Malik. We are then transferred to the hotel for a chance to have a rest, before dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Feruz Hotel Khujand or similar

**14.10.16 Khujand – Istaravshan - Khujand, Tajikistan**

**(B/L/D)**

Breakfast is at the hotel. Proceed to 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 have a 1½ hour drive to Istaravshan. Upon arrival we visit the Khazrati Shah architectural complex, which consists of Khazrati Shah Mausoleum, the grave of brother of Kusam ibn Abbas, Khudayar Valami Mausoleum and the mosque Namazgah. We then proceed to the ancient settlement of Mug Teppe. It is said the city was founded by Cyrius the Great in the north-east boundary of the Persian Empire. Afterwards we return to Khujand and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Feruz Hotel Khujand or similar

**15.10.16 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: Lotte City Hotel Tashkent or similar

**16.10.16 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.  
Accommodation: Kheivak or Malika Khiva Hotel or similar

### **17.10.16 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 of 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: Kheivak or Malika Khiva Hotel or similar

### **18.10.16 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 Fhraddeen 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 Fhraddeen 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 Timur. 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 Timur 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

**19.10.16 Dashoghuz – Darwaza – Ashgabat**

**(B/L/D)** Today we set off on a long 600km drive to Ashgabat. En route we stop at 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. Before going off road we will board Russian 4WD 10 seater minivans, which will transport us 1.7kms through the desert. 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

**20.10.16 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

**21.10.16 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**(B/L/D)** Our full day of sightseeing will commence with the Turkmenbashi Ruhy Mosque, which is one of the biggest mosques in Central Asia. Our visit includes the family mausoleum of the first president of Turkmenistan. This will be followed with a visit to Ertugrul Gazy Mosque which was constructed as a present for the nation from the Republic of Turkey. This unique complex consists of the mosque itself, a madrassah, cultural centre with library, assembly hall for 250 seats and a park. 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

**22.10.16 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

**23.10.16 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

**24.10.16 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

**25.10.16 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

**26.10.16 Samarkand – Shakhrisabz - Samarkand**

**(B/L)** After breakfast we will be driven in a number of motor vehicles to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Temur the Great (Tamerlane). The drive will take us through the Kitab

mountain range, making the trip shorter and far easier than by bus. We will arrive in Shakhrisabz and commence our sightseeing of Tamerlane's Ak Saray Palace, Dar us Saadat and Dar ut Tilawat complexes. Lunch will be at a local restaurant, after which we will drive back to Samarkand. Upon arrival in Samarkand 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. Afterwards we return to the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior or similar

### **27.10.16 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. 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: Lotte City Hotel Tashkent or similar

### **28.10.16 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 (29.10.16).

### **29.10.16 Seoul**

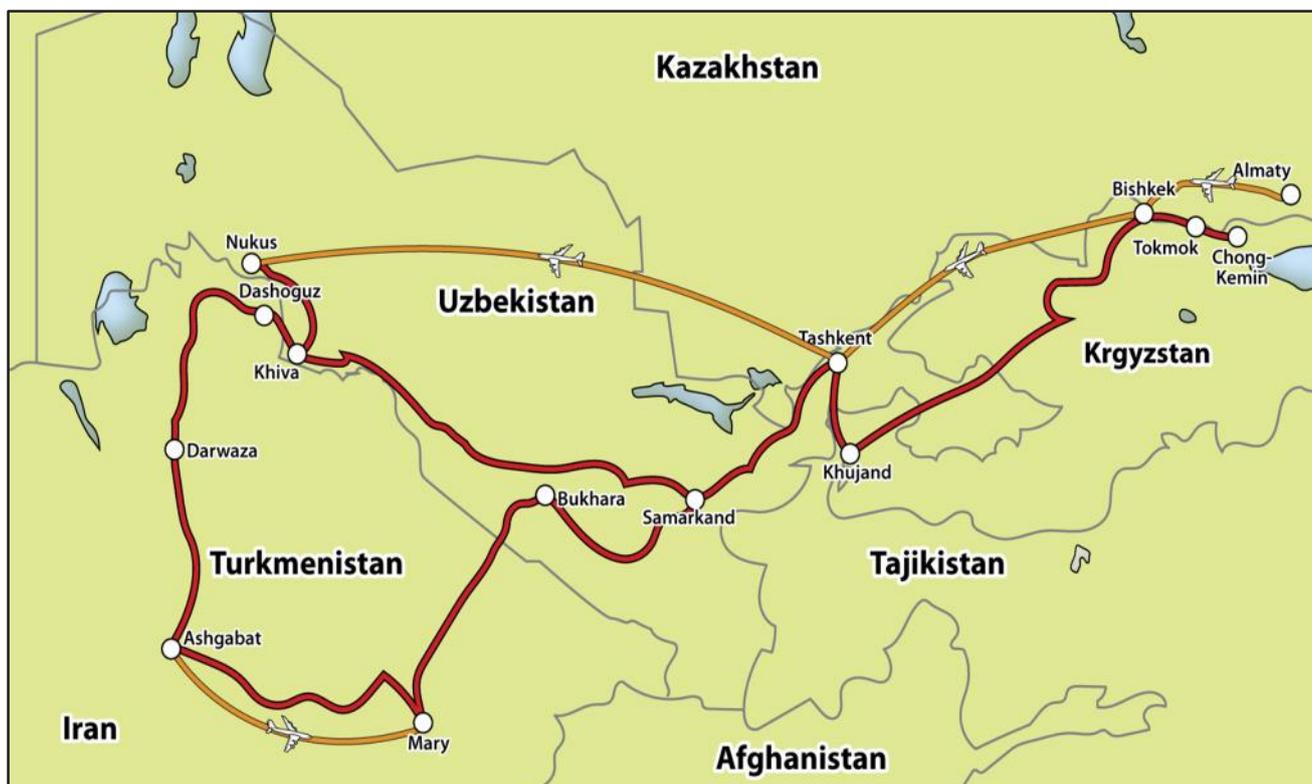
**(L)** Upon arrival in Seoul (Incheon Airport), we are met and taken on a morning tour of Seoul. We visit Gyeongbok Palace, which was originally established in 1395 as a royal palace of the Chosun Dynasty. However in the war in 1592, most of the buildings were destroyed by fire and it was not reconstructed for 273 years. It was rebuilt under Emperor Kojong 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: Best Western Seoul Garden Hotel or similar

### 30.10.16 Seoul - Sydney

**(B/L)** This morning we check out of the hotel and visit Namdaemun market, followed by Seoul Tower, which opened in 1980 and is 236 metres high, offering panoramic views of Seoul and the surrounding area. Lunch today is at a local restaurant. Afterwards we 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. In the late afternoon we are transferred to the airport for our flight home. Depart Seoul at 8.20pm on OZ 601, arriving in Sydney at 8.20am the next morning (31.10.16).

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



## **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 8 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.

**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. All of these visas can be obtained upon arrival into the country. The current cost for these visas are as follows; Uzbekistan (multiple entry) USD \$90, Tajikistan USD \$45 and Turkmenistan USD \$77. Two passport photos are required to accompany each application, except for Uzbekistan which requires none. 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 that prices tend to increase on a regular basis.

**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. 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 legally 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 defacto 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

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**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.**