



Celestial Mountains Tour Company

SILK ROADS TOUR

The Karakorum Highway

The Karakorum Highway stretches on 1300 km between Kashgar and Islamabad. The highway traces one of many paths of the ancient Silk Road between China and Pakistan at the Khunjarab Pass.

This is the highest paved international road in the world also known as a “Friendship Highway of China”



THE BASIC 10 DAY TOUR

DAY 1 Drive from Bishkek to Naryn via Son Kul (lunch).

Bishkek is not one of the largest cities of the world as London, Paris or Moscow, but, nevertheless, capital of the Kyrgyz Republic attracts visitors by its parks, museums, galleries and theatres.

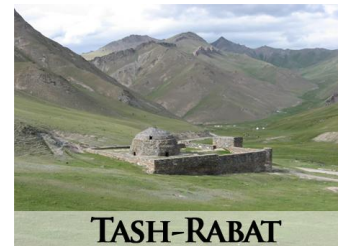
Lake Son-Kul is a beautiful lake located on a high-mountainous plateau (3016). In summertime shepherds bring their livestock to the pastures and establish yurts on the coast of the lake. A Yurt is the typical dwelling of nomads made from felt, wood and leather that as though symbolizes a life.



BISHKEK

DAY 2 Travel to Torugart/China via Tash Rabat.

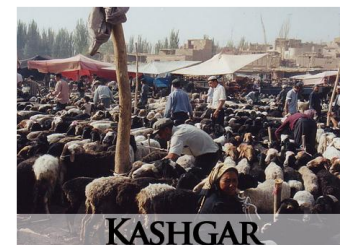
The Caravanserai Tash-Rabat (XI century) served as a fortress for travelers on the Great Silk Road. It represents carefully restored stone building. There are some theories that the caravan-sarai was not only place for rest and worship, but also could serve for protection of the caravans going to China or back, both against a bad weather and gangsters.



TASH-RABAT

DAY 3 City tour in Kashgar.

The trading town of Kashgar is a fabulous place to wander around. The main landmark is the famous Id Kah Mosque, with its surrounding square and bazaar and old town.



KASHGAR

DAY 4 Visit the famous Sunday market, in Kashgar.

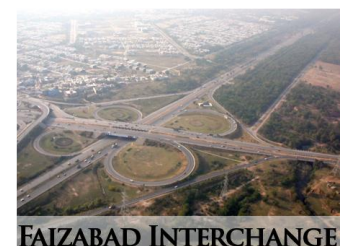
Every Sunday around 100,000 people gather in the enormous Kashgar Bazaar area. The traditional costumes and food give it an almost medieval feel and bring alive the legends of Silk Road.

DAY 5 Travel to Tashkurgan, via Lake Karakul. Visit stone city evening.

Karakul Lake “Black Lake” with deep blue water is considered to be one of the most beautiful places in Western China, nestled at altitude of 3000 m between two giant 7 thousand peaks.

Tashkurgan is located on the ancient Silk Road and the modern day Karakorum Highway.

Tashkurgan means “Stone Fortress or City” in Uighur, which is still stand on the edge of the town. Ptolemy (90 - 168 AD), mentioned a Stone Citadel in this area as a strong point on the road to China.



FAIZABAD INTERCHANGE

DAY 6 Travel over the Khunjerab pass, to Hunza (Karimabad) in Pakistan

Hunza is a mountainous valley in Pakistan with the main town - Karimabad which is popular tourist attraction because of its spectacular scenery of the surrounding magnificent peaks over 6-7 thousands meters. This is one of the



RAWAL LAKE, ISLAMABAD

most exotic places in Pakistan.

DAY 7 Time in Hunza, visit the Altit and Baltit forts

Baltit Fort, the larger of the two, lies on the slopes above the village and has been refurbished. Altit Fort is older and, although lower down the valley, it is perched on the crest of a cliff and has commanding views of the valley.

DAY 8 Free time in Hunza, optional trekking in the mountains above the village

Karimabad is basically a one street town perched on the hillside rising to the side of the main Karakoram highway. Tracks and waterchannels have been gouged into the side of the cliffs to bring water. Apricot orchards abound. The shops stock a variety of local handicrafts including woolen hats and waistcoats made from local Hunza wool.

DAY 9 Travel to Chilas or Besham, via Gilgit

Gilgit is on the confluence of two rivers and served as a major trading post as several routes over the surrounding mountains converged on this spot.

Besham is about halfway between Gilgit and Rawlpindi.

DAY 10 Onward travel to Islamabad

Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan, the area of the city is the site of the earliest human settlements in Asia. This is a quite young city built during 1960. It is a modern and well-organized city, home to Shas Faisal Masjid Mosque which is one of the largest mosques in the world.

Some of the possible variations are:

- Start in Bishkek or Islamabad
- Extended time in Kyrgyzstan — for example time in Bishkek, visit Lake Issyk Kul, Jety Oguz, Altin Arashan ... overnight stops in yurt camps at Son Kul and Tash Rabat
- Extended time in China — for example stopover at Lake Karakul or visit Yesingar, Yarkand and the Taklamakan Desert
- Extended time in Hunza — for example, trekking around Karimabad
- Karakoram Highway (Silk Route) Bishkek-Kashgar-Hunza-Islamabad