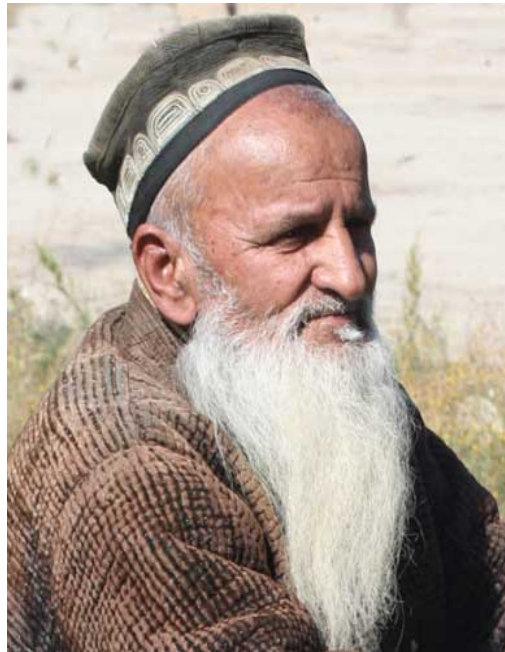


# Pamir Highway

Gorno-Badakshan, Whakan, Fan Mountains • Discovery • 22 Days

*Join us as we explore the legendary Pamir Highway from Tajikistan's mountainous heartland to Samarkand's 'Golden Road'. On this itinerary we get away from the 'standard' routes to discover remote regions and stunning landscapes. Mountains and seriously big rivers are highlights on this journey into the headwaters of the mighty Amu Darya River and the knot of great mountains beyond the Hindu Kush. We enjoy the hospitality of local Pamiri homestays and the opportunity to experience Pamiri culture. Our itinerary will take us to the Wakhan corridor, Dushanbe, Iskandarkul Lake in the Fan mountains, Samarkand and Tashkent.*



## Pamir Highway TRIP DETAILS

### 2010 Departures

#### Escorted Small group

- 07th Aug—28th Aug

**Trip Price :** NZD8995pp

#### Private Departures

- June
- July
- September

**Trip Price :** Price on application

**Trip Length:** 22 Days

**Activity Type:** Discovery

#### Link:

From Journey to the West  
To Great Silk Road  
West Asia Explorer

#### • ROUTE

**Includes Kashgar, Sarytash, Murghab, Yamchun, Khorog, Dushanbe, Iskandarkul Lake, Samarkand, Tashkent**

This is a 4x4 road journey that involves some long days on rough roads in remote alpine regions; initially at altitudes of above 3000m. The trip involves simple home-stay accommodation while in remote regions, day excursions to places of cultural and scenic interest, moderate day or part day treks and a few museums and cultural monuments.

#### • GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size for this departure is 8 people. SRA leaders accompany groups of 6 or more otherwise our groups are accompanied by local English speaking professional guides.

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

#### • ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses on twin share basis.

Single room supplement To be confirmed

#### • INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.

## Itinerary at a Glance :

### 07-Aug-10 Kashgar

Arrive Kashgar from URC Transfer to hotel. PM relax.

### 08-Aug-10 Kashgar

Today we will be out and about at the Kashgar Sunday market. Our plan is to go first to the farmer's livestock market and conclude at the general bazaar. After lunch we plan to explore the labyrinth of the old city lanes for an hour or so and wind up back at the hotel by mid-afternoon. This evening we will prepare for departure to the Pamir. Overnight hotel

### 09-Aug-10 to Sary Tash (480km, approx 10hrs)

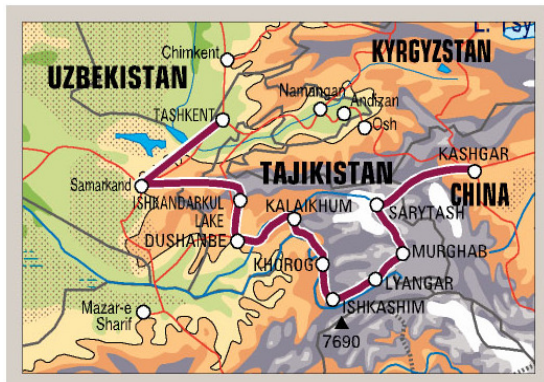
We have a very early start to day for the 280km drive to the China-Kyrgyzstan border in order to arrive and complete exit formalities before 11am. Be prepared for a protracted process. Once clear of border formalities continue 200km to Sary Tash Overnight Sary Tash homestay (3000m asl)

### 10-Aug-10 to Murghab (250km, approx 5 hrs).

Cross the broad Kyzylsu Pamir from Sarytash to climb the Kisilart Pass (4336m) to reach the Tajikistan border descend to Karakol lake then cross Uy Bulak Pass(4232m) Overnight Murghab Guesthouse (3630m).

### 11-Aug-10 to Bulunkul (145km 4-5 hrs)

Today we track west into Gorno- Badakshan (GBO) from Murghab across the wide Pamir to climb Njzatash Pass (4314m) and continue towards Alichur and eventually to the turn off to Bulunkul and Yashilkul lakes. Overnight Bulunkul homestay. (3719m)



### 12-Aug-10 Bulunkul

We have a full day to explore around Yashikul where there are good part day and full day trek options. Overnight Bulunkul homestay

### 13-Aug-10 to Lyangar (130km 6 hrs)

Today return to the main route and take the secondary road south across the Khargush pass (4344m) into the headwaters of the Pamir River and descend to Langar at the confluence of the Pandzh river (Amu Dara) beneath Peak Engles and Peak Karl Marks. Overnight Lyangar homestay (2810m).

### 14-Aug-10 Lyangar

We plan an excursion into the hills above the village where there are Scythian era petroglyphs and spectacular views across the Whakan Corridor to the peaks of the Hindu Kush. Overnight Lyangar homestay

### 15-Aug-10 to Yamchun (40km 2-3 hrs )

Plenty of sightseeing today as we make the short journey down the Whakan Corridor to Vrang and Yamchun. At Vrang there are Buddhist temple caves and an ethnographic museum and at Yamchun is a Zoroastrian fire temple, the virtually impregnable Zamri Otashparast. Overnight Yamchun homestay

### 16-Aug-10 to Khorog (188km 7-8 hrs)

Today we continue down the Whakan Corridor to Iskhakshim and Khorog. There are a few monuments, the fortress of Kah-Khan along the way as well as several hot spring sanatoria. Overnight in Khorog guesthouse (2200m)

### 17-Aug-10 Khorog

Rest day today in Khorog, centre of the GBAO. This pleasant little city with its population of around 30,000 has a Botanical Garden, museum, bazaar, spring of Nosiri Khusrav, and gemstone manufacturers. Overnight Khorog Guest house.

### 18-Aug-10 To Poi Mazar

Drive from Khorog down valley following the twists and turns of the Pandzh River valley. At Vanj River turn upstream and follow the Vanj River to Poi Mazar; overnight homestay.

### 19-Aug-10 At Poi Mazar

Today continue up valley to the road end and trek to the terminal of the RGS Glacier. Spend the day amongst the peaks of the High Pamir. Return to Poi Mazar; overnight homestay.

### 20-Aug-10 to Kalaikhum

Return down valley to rejoin the Pamir Highway and follow the Pandzh as it winds around the international border with Afghanistan. Overnight at Kalaikhum homestay.

### 21-Aug-10 to Dushanbe

Today we climb away from the Pandzh valley to the Khaburabat Pas (3252m) and follow the broad Obikhingou River valley to Tavildara and continue on the main road to Kosomolabad and Kofarnikhon to reach Dushanbe late afternoon. Overnight hotel "Tajikistan" in the center of the city

### 22-Aug-10 Dushanbe

An easy day around the city today. City tour in Dushanbe on foot to visit National museum of antiquity, private museum of musical instruments, Bazaar, art saloon. PM free time. Overnight Dushanbe hotel.

### 23-Aug-10 To Iskandarkul ( 170km, 6-7hrs)

Today we are off to Iskandarkul Lake via Anzob pass (3372m). Our route will take us through the valleys of Tajikistan's Western Pamir Mountains along the main road. We turn off into the hills to climb 24km up a side valley to reach the lake. Overnight and dinner at Iskandarkul Lake 'alpinist base'.

### 24-Aug-10 Iskandarkul Lake

Day trek at Iskandarkul. Overnight the same camp.

### 25-Aug-10 Iskandarkul to Samarkand

Depart Iskandarkul Lake for a full day on the road via Ayni and Penjikent to Samarkand. Complete border formalities and continue to Samarkand overnight Samarkand hotel.

### 26-Aug-10 Samarkand

Full day sightseeing in Samarkand. Overnight Samarkand hotel

### 27-Aug-10 to Tashkent

AM depart for Tashkent. PM short sightseeing programme in Tashkent. Overnight Tashkent hotel

### 28-Aug-10 Tashkent and Depart

Transfer to airport and departure