



22 day Across the Stans—A Cultural Journey

Visiting - Uzbekistan , Turkmenistan , Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

DAILY SUMMARY

Day 1 : Depart Home / Guangzhou
Day 2 : Guangzhou
Day 3: Guangzhou / Tashkent
Day 4: Tashkent
Day 5 : Tashkent / Samarkand
Day 6 : Samarkand
Day 7 : Samarkand / Penjakent
Day 8 : Penjakent/7 Lakes/ Samarkand
Day 9 : Samarkand / Gijduvan/Bukhara
Day 10 : Bukhara
Day 11 : Bukhara/Mary
Day 12 : Mary/Ashgabat
Day 13 : Ashgabat/Darvaza
Day 14 : Darvaza/Dashoguz/Khiva
Day 15 : Khiva/Urgench/Tashkent
Day 16 : Tashkent/Bishkek
Day 17 : Bishkek/Ala Archa/Bishkek
Day 18 : Bishkek/Issykul
Day 19: Issykul/Almaty
Day 20: Almaty
Day 21: Almaty/Guangzhou
Day 22: Arrive Home

INCLUSIONS / EXCLUSIONS

Minimum / Maximum tour participants	Minimum 20 /Maximum 30
Accommodation	Mix of local 4-5 properties and 1 night in Yurt Camp near Darvaza Crater
Flights + Train	International economy flights with China Southern Airlines Internal economy flights also included (3 in total) Train journey included with baggage delivery service (in the case of unforeseen circumstances we will notify passengers if we need to change to an equivalent airline for international flights)
Gratuities	Included
Meals	Daily breakfast including meals as mentioned. 2 bottle of drinking water provided daily
Transfers	Private and pubic transfers as specified in itinerary
Admission Fees	As mentioned in itinerary
Guides / Tour leader	English speaking guides throughout tour and 1 tour leader escort for the group
Special Notes	Turkmenistan - Letter on invitation and compulsory PCR COVID test included upon arrival. However, VISA on arrival to be paid in person, approximately 75USD in CASH
Travel Insurance	Not included. We strongly recommend taking out insurance cover which includes adequate cover for medical COVID-19

ALL IN PRICING

Based on per person, twin share

Dep	Ret	Normal price	Early Bird Price	Early Bird Expiry
30 Mar 2027	20 April 2027	\$14,180	\$13,580	30 Sep 2026

Important –

Once tour has confirmed numbers we will request a secondary deposit of \$5000 per person

Based on departure from Melbourne,/Sydney for other cities please enquire

For single supplement pricing \$2100 extra on top of package

FIRST 10 PROMOTION IS BACK!

First ten people to join an escorted tour departing in 2026 is entitled to a further \$200 discount!

*Terms and conditions apply. Please visit our website for full details

save up to \$200 off your next tour with our
[welcome back program]

This is our way of saying Thank You and rewarding customers who have been on multiple tours with Friendly Travel.

The program works as follows :

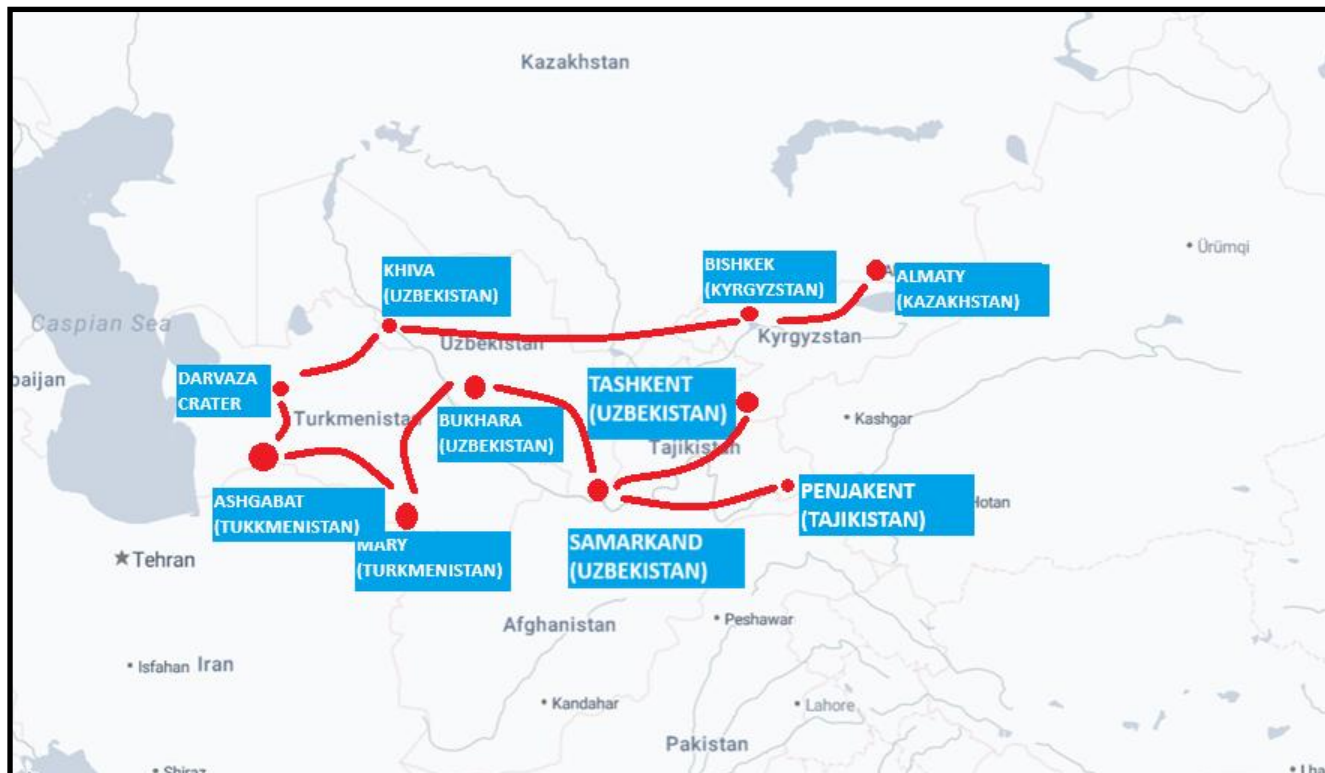
1. Register for any future Friendly Travel organised tour by paying the initial deposit
2. We will then apply a further discount based on the number of tours you have completed in the last 36 months (from the date you registered)
3. The discount table is calculated as follows (capped at a maximum \$200 per person)
4. Other conditions apply with full details on our website friendlytravel.com.au.

Number of tours join in the last 36 months

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 (or more)
\$50	\$75	\$100	\$125	\$150	\$175	\$200

Discount applied for each tour

Map of Journey



Special notes -

This itinerary is suited for adventurous travellers who are in good physical condition and excited to explore exotic and culturally diverse destinations. As we journey through, some parts of the itinerary may change unexpectedly, so a flexible approach is important.

Please also keep in mind that local standards and accommodations may differ from what you're used to.

With a positive attitude, an open mind, and a sense of adventure, you'll be well prepared to enjoy this unforgettable experience.

We also advise that women bring a scarf for travelling through this region to cover their head when going inside places of worship.

Darvaza Crater experience -

Our group will be staying one night nearby the Darvaza crater. Accommodation will be in traditional "Yurts" each with two single beds and basic amenities.

Restrooms are shared and no shower facilities until the day after when you check in.

This type of accommodation is generally what is available when visiting Darvaza crater.

You will be transported in air conditioned 4WD jeeps from Ashgabat to Darvaza which is a few hours drive.

Barbecue dinner or meal box will be provided for this



Daily Itinerary

DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
1	DEPART HOME/ GUANGZHOU This evening, we board our flight with China Southern Airlines bound for Guangzhou.	N/A	As per flight
2	GUANGZHOU Your flight in Guangzhou arrives early in the morning at around 5am. Instead of a long stopover to wait for a connecting flight, we will arrange for a local Guangzhou guide to pick you up allow you some time to shop and dine before we fly off to Tashkent tomorrow.	<i>Voco Guangzhou or similar</i>	As per flight Lunch Own Dinner
3	GUANGZHOU / TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN) After breakfast, enjoy a bit of time for shopping before we head back to the airport for our flight bound for Tashkent. Welcome to Uzbekistan. Your local guide will be on hand for a meet and greet and assist with dinner and check in at a local restaurant.	<i>Hotel Hyatt Regency or similar</i>	Breakfast Own Lunch Dinner
4	TASHKENT After breakfast explore the leafy streets of Uzbekistan's capital and its Old City, providing us with a fascinating picture of Islamic architecture throughout the history of one of Central Asia's most culturally rich countries. First, see Khast-Imom Complex, site of the famous nearly 1,500-year-old Quran of the 3rd Caliph, Othman. Then, explore the beautiful Madrasah of Barak-Khan, Tilla Sheikh Mosque, the Mausoleum of the Saint Abu Bakr Kaffal Shashi, and the Islamic Institute of Imam al-Bukhari. Afterward, take in a whole different picture at Soviet-style Chor-Su Bazaar and Mustaqilik Square.	<i>Hotel Hyatt Regency or similar</i>	Breakfast Lunch Dinner



Guangzhou Stopover



Mustaqilik Square, Tashkent



Barak-Khan, Tashkent

Daily Itinerary

DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
5	<p>TASHKENT / SAMARKAND (TRAIN)</p> <p>This morning, we take a fast train for to Samarkand.</p> <p>*Your luggage will be transported separately for comfort.</p> <p>Upon arrival we shall explore the historic town of Samarkand, a highlight of any journey on the Silk Road. A crossroad at the heart of Central Asia since 7th century B.C., when it was known as ancient Afrasiab, Samarkand offers a rich history reflected in its magical monuments and winding streets. We start our discovery with Gur-Emir Mausoleum (Tamerlane's Tomb), Registan Square, known as one of the noblest public squares in the world. Later, we visit Bibi Khanum's Mosque and Siyob Bazaar, a fascinating market sitting under the shadow of the mosque.</p>	<p><i>Hotel Kohinur Plaza Samarkand or similar</i></p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>
6	<p>SAMARKAND</p> <p>In the morning we shall experience Shahi Zinda royal necropolis, first constructed more than 1,000 years ago, with mosques and mausoleums continually added from the 11th to 19th centuries. The result is a fascinating cross-reference of diverse and historic architecture. Later visit the Afrosiab Museum, where intricate wall murals provide us with a vivid picture of what houses used to look like. Experience Ulugbek's Observatory, built by Tamerlane's grandson, a king who is one of the most renowned astronomers in history. Built in the 1400s, it was later destroyed, with its ruins only being rediscovered 100 years ago. We also visit Konigil Village and Meros traditional paper mill, where paper is made from mulberry bark.</p>	<p><i>Hotel Kohinur Plaza Samarkand or similar</i></p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>
7	<p>SAMARKAND / PENJAKENT (TAJIKISTAN)</p> <p>After breakfast, we transfer to the Uzbekistan and Tajikistan border Jartepa, to cross through immigration procedures.</p> <p>Welcome to Tajikistan!</p> <p>Begin with a visit to Sarazm, a UNESCO-listed proto-urban settlement dating back over 5,000 years. It is one of the oldest settlements in Central Asia and showcases early urban planning, metallurgy, and trade connections.</p> <p>Continue to the ruins of ancient Panjakent, often referred to as the "Pompeii of Central Asia." Dating back to the 5th–8th centuries, this once-thriving Sogdian city reveals the remains of houses, temples, and a citadel. Excavations have uncovered remarkably preserved wall paintings depicting scenes of mythology, daily life, and Zoroastrian rituals.</p> <p>Continue to the Rudaki Museum, dedicated to Abu Abdallah Rudaki, considered the father of Persian literature. The museum houses artifacts from the ancient city, including murals, ceramics, and everyday objects, offering deeper insight into Sogdian civilization.</p> <p>Visit the lively local bazaar, where you can experience authentic daily life. Stalls overflow with fresh fruits, spices, bread, and traditional sweets. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, sampling Tajik specialties such as plov, shashlik, or manty.</p>	<p><i>Hotel Rudaki Plaza Penjakent or similar</i></p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>



Registan Square, Samarkand



Ruins of Panjakent



Plov, typical Tajik dish

Daily Itinerary

DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
8	<p>PENJAKENT / 7 LAKES / SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)</p> <p>This morning, we take a tour to Seven Lakes (Haft Kul) which are located in the Fan Mountains, about 60–70 km from Penjikent. The drive takes approximately 1.5–2 hours each way, following a winding mountain road along a river gorge.</p> <p>Each lake sits at a different altitude, and every one has its own color and character—from deep blue and violet to bright turquoise and green. Along the way, you will pass traditional villages where locals still follow a simple mountain lifestyle. Later this afternoon, we cross the Tajikistan-Uzbekistan border to cross back into Uzbekistan.</p>	<i>Hotel Kohinur Plaza Samarkand or similar</i>	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
9	<p>SAMARKAND / GIJDUVAN / BUKHARA</p> <p>In the morning, we make our way to Bukhara - a major city in central Uzbekistan, renowned as one of the most important trading hubs along the ancient Silk Road. En route, visit the Rabat-i Malik Caravanserai and pay visit to a pottery workshop in Gijduvan, where you will observe the full process of traditional Gijduvan ceramics. Proceed to Bukhara and upon arrival we check in to our hotel and if time permits, a bit of time to rest up before evening dinner. Tonight, enjoy an optional folk show at the Madrassah Gowkushan.</p>	<i>Hotel Shahrison Bukhara or similar</i>	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
10	<p>BUKHARA</p> <p>Dive into the Historic Centre of Bukhara today, which offers winding streets and ancient structures reminiscent of Arabian Nights. On our full-day sightseeing tour, we will see the highlights and hidden gems of this one-of-a-kind city. As we walk through the old town, we visit Poi Kalon minaret and mosque, as well as Aziz Khan and Ulugbek madrassahs. Later we make our way to Tim Abdullah and Tilpak Frushan covered markets, Mohgaki Attari mosque, Lyabikhauz (the city pond), madrassah Nadirkhon Devanbegi and Chor minor. In the afternoon after lunch, we continue to explore some of the city's most outstanding monuments, including Arg Fortress, Zindan (the prison), Balakhauz mosque, Ismail Samanid mausoleum and Job's Spring where legend has it that Prophet Job. This evening, take part in an unforgettable dinner feast. We will also walk through the narrow lanes of the old Jewish quarter with a visit to the house of miniature master Davlat Toshev, a Sufi painter known for his excellent miniatures who has exhibited his work in many parts of Europe.</p>	<i>Hotel Shahrison Bukhara or similar</i>	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
11	<p>BUKHARA / MARY (TURKMENISTAN)</p> <p>Early this morning, we transfer approximately 1.5–2 hours to the Uzbekistan–Turkmenistan border (Farap/Alat). We will then proceed with border crossing formalities on both sides. After crossing, meet your Turkmen guide and driver and proceed to Mary (approx. 3.5–4 hours).</p> <p>*Please note, today will involve a fair of driving in the bus</p> <p>Upon arrival, we shall have a lunch at a local restaurant and afterwards, visit the ancient site of Merv, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, once one of the greatest cities of the Silk Road.</p>	<i>Hotel Mary or similar</i>	Breakfast Lunch Dinner



Haft Kul (7 lakes)



Bukhara, Uzbekistan



Merv, Mary

Daily Itinerary

DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
12	<p>MARY / ASHGABAT</p> <p>Today, we will take a domestic flight to Ashgabat - the capital and largest city of Turkmenistan. Once here, we visit the famous Tolkuchka Bazaar, the largest and most traditional markets in Central Asia where practically anything can be bought here from toys to camels. It is also referred to as the Sunday Bazaar. This is followed by an exploration of a UNESCO site of the epic Parthian Fortresses of Nisa, one the most important cities of the vast Parthian Empire. At its peak, the Parthian Empire was a rival of Rome, and stretched from Turkey to Afghanistan. At the unique Carpet Museum, we admire a stunning collection of tribal carpets ranging from medieval to modern times. Next stop is the National Museum of Turkmenistan, home to archaeological treasures from across the country. We will also admire some of Ashgabat's most impressive modern monuments and statues that flung in the city.</p>	<i>Sport Hotel Ashgabat or similar</i>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>
13	<p>ASHGABAT / DARVAZA</p> <p>After breakfast, we travel inland through the Kara Kum desert with its moving sands and sparse vegetation of saksaul, acacia and kandym bushes. We eventually arrive into the village of Bokurdak, located about 100 km from Ashgabat. Drive to Darvaza crater - this crater is located in the heart of Turkmenistan's Karakum Desert and is often referred to as the 'Door to Hell'. For overnight, we will stay in an overnight Yurt Camp nearby Darvaza area.</p> <p>Special notes on today -</p> <p><i>* The group will be staying one night nearby the Darvaza crater. Accommodation will be in traditional "Yurts" each with two single beds and basic amenities. Restrooms are shared and no shower facilities until the day after when you check in.</i></p> <p><i>This type of accommodation is generally what is available when visiting Darvaza crater.</i></p> <p><i>You will be transported in air conditioned 4WD jeeps from Ashgabat to Darvaza which is a few hours drive. Barbecue dinner or meal box will be provided for this day</i></p>	<i>Yurt Camp Near Darvaza or similar</i>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>
14	<p>DARVAZA / DASHOGUZ / KHIVA (UZBEKISTAN)</p> <p>Breakfast at the yurt camp and we drive to the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan border point at Dashoguz for border formalities.</p> <p>A short drive passing river scenery and villages gets us to the legendry oasis of Khiva. We enjoy a one night stay in this historic town, famous home of the majestic Ichan-Kala the most popular UNESCO World Heritage Site in Central Asia.</p>	<i>Hotel Kamil Palace Khiva or similar</i>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>



Typical Turkmenistan Bazaar



Darvaza Gas Crater



Khiva, Uzbekistan

Daily Itinerary

DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
15	<p>KHIVA / URGENCH / TASHKENT (FLIGHT)</p> <p>An exciting day ahead as we start with a walking tour of Khiva as we go back in time at Ichan-Kala, the largest remaining preserved walled city in Central Asia. The fabled inner town of old Khiva is home to more than 50 monuments and 250 traditional dwellings. Our exploration starts with visits to Kalta Minor, a stunning half-built minaret that has become a symbol of the city, and Kunya Arg, an imposing fortress dating to the 17th century. From here, we have a grand view of the city's monuments and Rakhimkhon madrassah. We continue to explore some of Khiva's most fascinating sites, including the Hunarmand workshops, the mausoleum of Pakhalavan Makhmud with its unique tilework, the imposing Islam Khodja minaret, Khiva Museum, Friday Mosque with its collection of 212 wooden columns, and Tashauli, the harem quarters of the last Khan of Khiva. Following our tour, we have some free time to explore this legendary city. We also experience the newly renovated, Nurullah Bey's Palace, which was the residence of the last Khan of Khiva from 1910 to 1920. Today, we will have an early dinner and then transfer to Urgench International Airport for domestic flight to Tashkent.</p> <p>* Please note, today will be a long day with a late finish (almost 12AM) when we arrive to Tashkent</p>	Hotel Hyatt Regency or similar	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
16	<p>TASHKENT / BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN) (FLIGHT)</p> <p>After breakfast, we make our way to the airport for our flight to Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, where a cordial welcome awaits us. Bishkek was originally called Pishpek and was later renamed Frunze in honour of a major political organizer of the Civil War born in Pishpek. It finally became Bishkek in 1991.</p> <p>At this fourth Stan, we will stay here for the next two nights.</p>	Novotel Hotel Bishkek or similar	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
17	<p>BISHKEK / ALA ARCHA / BISHKEK</p> <p>Discover the best of Bishkek, a modern city with vast squares, crowded bazaars and impressive administrative centers. Our tour includes Oak Park, Central Square, Statue of Manas, and Victory Square. We will also visit the National Historical Museum. This enormous example of socialist realist architecture was once devoted to Vladimir Lenin. After the breakup of the USSR, two of its three floors were replaced with exhibits that reflected Kyrgyzstan's new status as an independent state. Luckily for visitors, one floor of the original museum has been preserved, along with a huge centerpiece statue of Lenin leading the revolutionary masses.</p> <p>On our return to Bishkek, we visit Ala Archa Canyon – 40 min drive one way, one of the most scenic regions of the Kyrgyz Mountains. A traditional dinner awaits us back in the city.</p>	Novotel Hotel Bishkek or similar	Breakfast Lunch Dinner



Kalta Minor Minaret, Khiva



Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Daily Itinerary

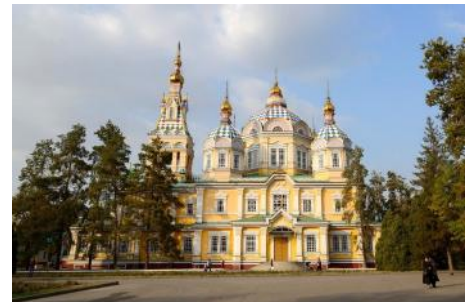
DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
18	<p>BISHKEK / ISSYKUL</p> <p>Today, we drive from Bishkek to Cholpon Ata which is a long drive, around 3.5 hours away. This scenic drive takes us along the shores of beautiful Lake Issyk-Kul (1607m), the tenth largest lake in the world by volume. Although it is surrounded by snow-capped peaks, the lake never freezes, which made it a popular recreational destination during Soviet times.</p> <p>Enjoy a short excursion to Balasagun, a Silk Road city founded in the 10th century by the Karakhanids, whose empire spanned from China to the Aral Sea. The most impressive of the city remnants found here is the Tower of Burana, a 25-meter (82 foot) brick tower against a scenic mountain backdrop. We will also explore the ruins of a cathedral, mosque and madrassah, as well as a unique collection of Turkic tombstones dating from the 6th to 10th century and a small archaeological museum.</p> <p>At the lakeside town of Cholpon-Ata, we will see unique petroglyphs dating back 1,900 to 2,800 years. These carvings are from the time of the Saka-Usun people, who pre-dated the arrival of the Kyrgyz. We will also visit a small museum featuring many artifacts from the region.</p>	<i>Baytur SPA resort or similar</i>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>
19	<p>ISSYKUL / ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)</p> <p>Learn about local traditions in the Issykul region during a morning visit with nomads in their traditional yurts. We then continue on our journey to the last country of the 5 Stans, Kazakhstan. Our scenic route takes us to an elevation of 1,756 meters before we arrive at the check post for immigration formalities. After we cross the border, we'll make our way to Almaty, which was the capital of Kazakhstan until 1997. En route to Almaty, we will discover the main symbol of Kazakhstan, the tomb of the Golden Man, where more than 4,000 gold ornaments dating back to 4th century BC were found. Upon arrival into Almaty, the remainder of the day is free time.</p>	<i>Novotel Almaty or similar</i>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>
20	<p>ALMATY</p> <p>A unique day ahead as we explore the colonial and Soviet splendor of Almaty. The city's Russian name, Alma-Ata, means "father of apples", as this region is thought to be the ancestral home of this famous fruit. Almaty was the capital of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, and then of the new republic until 1997, when it was moved to Astana. Our tour starts with a visit to charming Panfilov Park before heading to the Zenkov's Holy Ascension Cathedral, completed in 1907 and remaining the second tallest wooden church in the world. Next stop is the Central Mosque, built in 1999 as the largest mosque in Kazakhstan. At the Central State Museum, we see highlights such as excellent displays of Scythian art and a hall dedicated to the nomadic tribes of the region.</p> <p>Our dinner tonight includes typical Kazakh favourites as we celebrate our journey through the 5 STANS on this tour.</p>	<i>Novotel Almaty or similar</i>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Dinner</p>



Burana Tower, Balasagun



Tomb of the Golden man, Almaty



Zenkov's Holy Ascension Cathedral, Almaty

Daily Itinerary

DAY	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION	INCLUDED MEALS
21	<p>ALMATY / GUANGZHOU</p> <p>After a fascinating cultural adventure on this 5 Stans tour, we are transferred to the airport for our departure flight bound for Guangzhou. After a few hours of transit we reboard our flight with China Southern Airlines bound for home.</p>	N/A	Breakfast As per flight
22	<p>ARRIVE HOME</p> <p>Your flight arrives home this morning and from everyone here at Friendly Travel, we sincerely thank you for choosing to visit the STANS with us!</p>		As per flight



Booking Terms and Conditions

Can also be found at - <https://www.friendlytravel.com.au/booking-terms-and-conditions/>

Friendly Travel Service Terms and Conditions

Updated 9 June 2022

Friendly Travel Pty Ltd – ABN 85 005 441 252 – ACN 005 441 252

Mailing Address - PO BOX 1089 GREYTHORN VIC 3104

These Booking Conditions set out the terms on which you contract with us for the arrangement and delivery of travel arrangements for your trip. By making a booking with us, you acknowledge that you have read, understood and agree to be bound by these Booking Conditions. We reserve the right to change these Booking Conditions at any time prior to you making a booking request.

“You” and “Your” means all persons named in a booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date). “We”, “us”, “our” and “Friendly Travel” means Friendly Travel Pty Ltd.

YOUR HOLIDAY CONTRACT

The first named person on a booking request ("Lead Traveller") promises that s/he is authorised to request a booking subject to these Booking Conditions by all persons named in the booking request and by the parents or guardians for any party member who is under 18 when the booking request is made. The Lead Traveller is responsible for making all payments due under a booking by all party members. The Lead Traveller must be at least 18 when the booking is requested. After we receive your booking request and all appropriate payments (see "Payments" below), if the arrangements you wish to book are available, we will issue a confirmation invoice. A binding agreement will come into existence between us when we email your confirmation invoice to the 'Lead Traveller' or the travel agent through whom the booking was requested. We reserve the right to decline any booking at our discretion.

OUR SERVICES

The services we provide to you are limited to (a) the arrangement and coordination of your travel arrangements; and (b) the delivery of travel arrangements which we directly control (if any). This includes (often significant) work undertaken prior to travel to arrange and coordinate the delivery of your travel arrangements.

YOUR DETAILS

Passenger names must be provided exactly as per passport, including middle names, at the time of booking. A copy of your passport is required at the time of booking. Any spelling corrections made after a deposit is paid must be sent in writing. If you do not advise the correct information and we have to re-issue airline tickets or other documentation, then you will be responsible for any fees charged (such as airline cancellation charges or re-issue fees) in addition to our own reasonable administration fees.

YOUR OBLIGATION TO CHECK DETAILS

Please check your invoice carefully as soon as you receive it. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on the invoice or any other document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets). We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits. but you must meet any costs involved in doing so. If you wish to change or cancel any arrangements later, you may have to pay an amendment or cancellation charge (See "Amendments by You" & "Cancellations by You" below).

PRICES

Prices and services are subject to availability of tour, airline, and specific economy airfare. Prices may differ once a preferred booking class is sold out. Prices stated are in Australian Dollars (\$AUD) and are current at the time of publication. The most up to date pricing is available on our website. The price includes international flights and taxes (where tour specifies it is flight inclusive), accommodation, transportation and other inclusions as per the published itinerary. We reserve the right to correct any obvious errors in rates quoted or calculated, or any omissions made at any time during your booking. Any verbal quote given is an indication only of the final price and is subject to confirmation in writing. Costs associated with passports, vaccinations, insurance, meals (other than those stipulated), emergency evacuation costs, gratuities (outside of our tour package price), and all items of a personal nature are not included.

AMENDMENTS BY YOU

Our tour package prices indicated in our brochures and/or website are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary may incur additional airline ticket costs. Arrangements such as transfers, accommodation, etc. outside the set group arrangements/dates are at an additional cost. Arrangements such as transfers, accommodation etc. outside the set group arrangements/dates are at an additional cost and are not covered by the Amendment Fee. Please consult our staff with regards to the fees.

PRICE SURCHARGES

We reserve the right to surcharge the cost of your booked travel arrangements prior to final balance of payment for circumstances beyond our control such as currency devaluation, fuel or air fare surcharges, airline schedule changes, minimum passengers requirements or the imposition of new or amended Government charges.

We will not surcharge for currency fluctuations once full payment has been received by us.

PAYMENTS

You are required to pay a deposit of \$400 per person (or full payment if booking within 60 days of commencement of your travel arrangements) to Friendly Travel or your travel agent within three days of you making your booking request. Please note that we may not hold any services for you until we receive payment of your deposit, meaning that services may become unavailable or prices may increase, in which case you will be responsible for paying the increased price, and we will not be responsible if services become unavailable. Friendly Travel reserves the right to request a partial payment of the final balance more than 60 days prior to departure (eg. airfare portion/cruise payment) in the event that tickets need to be issued by our office or by our operators overseas due to ticketing time limits. Normally a partial payment of the final balance will be stipulated by our staff or in the tour brochure/website.

The final balance of the travel arrangements is due no later than 60 days prior to the confirmed tour commencement date. If we do not receive all payments due in full and on time, we are entitled to assume that you have cancelled your booking, and cancellation fees will apply (See "Cancellations by You" below).

Early payment offer: We require full payment (per person) at the time of booking and before the final date of the offer which is specified on the website/brochure. Our "WELCOME BACK" offer can also be applied in addition to this discount. Friendly Travel will also honour any further advertised offers after payment and will refund to you the difference within 60 days of departure. Full cancellation penalties will apply if you decide to cancel after making full payment (See "Cancellations by You").

Card Processing Fees: Please note that any pay-

ments made by credit or debit card are subject to the following processing fees (this is subject to variance and our staff will advise at time of payment) :

Visa/Mastercard Credit card - 1.2%,
Visa/Mastercard Debit card – 1.2%
American Express – 2.3%
International Credit card– 3.3%

AMENDMENTS BY US

Prior to travel: Occasionally, we may need to make amendments or modifications to the itinerary and its' inclusions and you acknowledge our right to do this. If we become aware of a significant change to your itinerary or its inclusions prior to the commencement of your trip (where the trip can still proceed), then we will notify you within a reasonable time and any price variations if applicable.

During travel: You acknowledge that the itinerary, modes of transport, accommodation and/or the trip's inclusions may need to change during your trip due to local circumstances beyond our reasonable control, including road conditions, poor weather, changes in transport schedules, and/or vehicle breakdowns. You agree that we have the right to pass on any costs we incur for alternative arrangements we put in place for your benefit in these circumstances.

General: To the fullest extent permitted by law, we will not be responsible for any omissions or modifications to the itinerary or the inclusions due to Force Majeure or other circumstances beyond our control happening after we have accepted your booking. This includes any loss of enjoyment or distress caused by omissions or modifications. If you are entitled to any compensation for any modifications or omissions, then you agree it will be reduced by the value of any alternative services we provide which you accept. We will not be responsible to you for any other expenses or loss you incur resulting from any amendment or change to the itinerary or its inclusions.

CANCELLATIONS BY YOU

Cancellations must be made in writing to Friendly Travel and are subject to the following cancellation charges (cancellations are also dependent upon other additional charges imposed for air/rail/cruise tickets as referred to below) from the date the written cancellation is received:

* More than 60 days prior to departure - loss of initial deposit and cancellation fees associated with applicable partial payments

* Between 59 and 31 days prior to departure - 50% of total cost

* Within 30 days prior to departure or 'no show' - 100% of total cost

Following the commencement of your tour, no refunds will be made for any services which you choose not to use or which you cannot use for any reason other than a reason within our control. If you are not fully and validly vaccinated against Covid-19 in the destination(s) where services are to be provided, and particular suppliers refuse to provide you with travel arrangements, then you agree you will not be entitled to any refund for those arrangements. We will not be responsible to you for any loss or expenses you incur (including loss of enjoyment or the costs of alternative arrangements) if you are denied services in these circumstances.

Regrettably, cancellation charges and fees cannot be waived. There can be no exceptions. Please note that employees of any overseas or local companies outside of Friendly Travel are not authorised to give any guarantees or agreements to customers in respect of refunds or any other matters.

Please note special groups, extensions & custom tours may have differing cancellation fees, these will be communicated in writing at time of booking.

Booking Terms and Conditions

Also located at - <https://www.friendlytravel.com.au/booking-terms-and-conditions/>

ILLNESS (COVID-19) OR VACCINATION STATUS PREVENTING TRAVEL

If due to any illness, suspected illness or failure to satisfy any required tests (such as a PCR or rapid antigen test in relation to Covid-19 or vaccination requirements):

- * an airline or other common carrier refuses you carriage; or
- * a hotel or vessel refuses to accommodate you; or
- * we or our suppliers (acting reasonably) exclude you from the trip and you are consequently prevented from commencing or continuing your trip, then:

- if you have already commenced your trip, we will provide you with reasonable assistance to arrange alternative travel arrangements or to continue the trip. This will be at your cost.

- if you have not commenced your trip then we regret we will not be in a position to provide such assistance.

In either of the above scenarios we will not be liable to refund the cost of your trip (or any part of it) because we would have already paid (or committed to pay) suppliers and we would have already performed significant work preparing for the delivery of your trip and servicing your booking. We will not be responsible for any loss or other costs you incur in connection with your booking (for example, airfares and visa expenses) if you are prevented from commencing or continuing your trip in these circumstances.

We highly recommend you take out travel insurance which covers you in such situations.

CANCELLATIONS OR RESCHEDULING BY US

In these Booking Conditions, the term Force Majeure means an event or events beyond our control and which we could not have reasonably prevented, and includes but is not limited to, (a) natural disasters (including not limited to flooding, fire, earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption), adverse weather conditions (including hurricane or cyclone), high or low water levels; (b) war, armed conflict, industrial dispute, civil strife, terrorist activity or the threat of such acts; (c) epidemic, pandemic; (d) any new or change in law, order, decree, rule or regulation of any government authority (including travel advisories and restrictions).

Force Majeure - Prior to travel: If in our reasonable opinion we (either directly or through our employees, contractors, suppliers, or agents) consider that your travel arrangements cannot safely or lawfully proceed due to a Force Majeure Event then we at our discretion may elect to:

* reschedule your travel arrangements (in whole or in part); and/or

* cancel your travel arrangements (in whole or in part), in which case our contract with you will terminate (in whole or in part).

If we cancel any of your travel arrangements, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other for the cancelled arrangements. However, we will refund payments attributable to the cancelled travel arrangements less: (a) unrecoverable third-party costs and other expenses incurred by us for the cancelled travel arrangements; (b) overhead charges incurred by us relative to the price of the cancelled travel arrangements; and (c) fair compensation for work undertaken by us in relation to the cancelled travel arrangements until the time of cancellation and in connection with the processing of any refund.

Force Majeure - During travel: If due to Force Majeure we cancel travel arrangements after your trip has commenced, we will provide you with a refund of recoverable third-party costs for cancelled travel arrangements only.

Force Majeure - General: If we provide you with any alternative services or assistance where travel

arrangements are cancelled or rescheduled due to Force Majeure, then you agree the amount to be refunded to you will be reduced by the value of these services and assistance.

You acknowledge that the terms in this section are reasonably necessary to protect our legitimate business interests. We strongly encourage you to purchase travel insurance that adequately responds to cancellation and rescheduling risks associated with Force Majeure events.

Other cancellations

Minimum Numbers: Friendly Travel reserves the right to cancel or vary a tour prior to departure due to insufficient numbers. We will advise you no less than 60 days prior to your tour commencement if minimum numbers have not been achieved.

If we cancel your travel arrangements for reasons other than Force Majeure, you will be offered (at your election) a refund of all funds paid, or the offer of a trip of substantially equal quality if appropriate. We will not be responsible to you for any other expenses or loss you incur if your travel arrangements are rescheduled or cancelled whether or not due to Force Majeure.

If we cancel your travel arrangements, neither party will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund.

CANCELLATION DUE TO GOVERNMENT OR PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

If you are ordered into a period of quarantine by a government or public health authority as a mandatory directive for any reason and this requires you to cancel or amend your travel arrangements with us within 75 days of your departure date, Friendly Travel will not be liable for any third-party costs, cancellation fees or prepaid arrangements such as (but not limited to) airfares and cruise ship bookings.

We will not be responsible for any additional cost incurred to you while on tour if you are instructed by a government or public health authority to enter into a period of quarantine or to return home early, this includes any extra accommodation costs or amendments to your onward travel arrangements.

Friendly Travel will endeavour to recover as much of your funds as we can on your behalf, or negotiate a credit for future use, should a disruption to your tour arrangements occur due to a government or public health authority directive.

Friendly Travel highly recommends you investigate and secure travel insurance options that best suit your individual circumstances, including any applicable to pre-existing medical conditions and world events.

JOINING YOUR TOUR

Airline schedules from different cities vary so travellers from some cities may need to make their own way to another capital city to join the tour or may require pre or post-tour accommodation, a stopover or have a lengthy transit en-route to their destination. Any cost for accommodation, transportation (including but not limited to airport transfers) or meals incurred will be at the passengers' own expense. Our reservations team can assist with any of these additional services. If you have booked a land only option, please email a copy of your flight schedule before time of full payment to allow us time to organise with our tour leader and local company.

REFUSAL OF CARRIAGE

Friendly Travel retains the right to remove customers from our group tours for reasons that impact on the enjoyment or safety of other tour members, such as, but not limited to, the physical, medical or mental inability of customers to undertake the

arrangements of the tour, unsocial or unruly behaviour, or the carriage of prohibited substances and materials. You will not be entitled to any refund for unused services and you will be responsible for any additional costs you incur.

HOTELS

Hotel descriptions featured on our website are based on current hotel guides provided by suppliers. Any facilities described are subject to change at any time. Maps and photographs are included for general information only and may not necessarily reflect actual routings, location or services. Friendly Travel has made reasonable enquiries to verify that the descriptions and details are accurate but does not warrant that they are. We reserve the right to substitute hotels, vessels and other forms of accommodation with properties or vessels of a comparable or higher standard.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is strongly encouraged that you are adequately insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a suitable level of health and fitness to undertake the trip of your choice. If you suffer from a medical condition which may reasonably be expected to increase your risk of needing medical attention, or which may affect the normal conduct of the trip, then you must advise us at the time you make your booking request.

We may request you to provide an assessment of your medical condition from a qualified medical practitioner. If the assessment indicates that you will require special assistance from personnel which we cannot reasonably provide, then we may cancel your booking. Provided you notified us of your medical condition at the time you made your booking request, we will provide you with a full refund of payments made. If you fail to notify us at that time or if you fail to provide a medical assessment within a reasonable time of our request, then this will be considered a cancellation by you.

We reserve the right to cancel your booking if any changed or non-disclosed medical conditions mean that you will require special assistance which we cannot reasonably provide. We strongly suggest that your travel insurance policy includes comprehensive cancellation coverage.

VACCINATIONS

For tours departing after 1 June 2023—Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters are highly recommended, but no longer requested by Friendly Travel unless it is a requirement by local authorities and/or suppliers (including but not limited to airlines, cruise ships and buses).

Booking Terms and Conditions

Also located at - <https://www.friendlytravel.com.au/booking-terms-and-conditions/>

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & VISA PROCESSING

A passport with a minimum of six months validity and at least 2 blank pages upon return to Australia is required for customers travelling to all countries on our tours. If a visa fee is required for Australian passport holders we will advise you of the additional cost and assist you with obtaining the visa. For Non-Australian passport holders, we suggest that you contact the relevant Embassy/Consulate with regards to obtaining the visa. Friendly Travel cannot guarantee that any visa will be issued by the relevant authority and accepts no responsibility if a visa application is refused. Any cancellation fees or other expenses incurred by the customer due to the refusal of a visa will be entirely the customer's liability. We recommend that you review information provided by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prior to making your booking by calling 1300 555 135 or by visiting their website www.dfat.gov.au for the latest information. We strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with the latest Government Consular advice and information.

Late Bookings: If a booking is made within 60 days prior to departure it is considered a late booking. Late bookings may incur additional fees including any applicable urgent visa processing fees. Friendly Travel does not process visa applications for bookings made less than 30 days prior to departure but customers are entitled to apply for their own visas.

ROOM SHARING

In the situation of two independent travellers who agree to travel with each other on tour, we request that both make communication before paying the tour deposit and advise us in writing of willingness to travel together.

There may be a situation in which you will need to pay a single supplement if your partner(s) decide to cancel.

Outside 60 days of departure date

If a partner decides to cancel, then the cancellation policy applies to the cancelling partner plus fees. The person who did not cancel has a choice of either paying any additional single passenger supplement (if applicable) to continue travelling or if they decide to cancel, they will have their initial deposit refunded.

Within 60 days of departure date

If a partner decides to cancel, then the full cancellation policy applies to them. The remaining passenger can continue to travel at no penalty however if they decide to cancel as well, the cancellation policy will also apply.

Decision to split whilst on tour

In the circumstance where both room sharing participants agree to seek their own room whilst on tour, responsibility for any additional fees will be divided equally between participants and is also subject to hotel availability.

Single Room

If, by choice or circumstance, a single room is required, then a single room surcharge will apply. While all endeavours will be made to provide you with a single room, if for whatever reason your single room is not available, then you will be provided with a refund for the applicable dates.

SEATBELTS

Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in certain parts of the world and therefore the local people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason local operators may or may not have seatbelts in vehicles or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. As such, customers acknowledge that seatbelts may not be available and therefore travel at their own risk. Customers warrant that they shall not make any claim howsoever arising for injury or damage in respect of, arising from or

contributed to by the absence of seatbelts and hereby release Friendly Travel from all such claims.

INDEPENDENT SERVICES

We are not responsible for any additional activities or excursions which are not included in the booked itinerary or which we sell as agent for the principal operator. Any advice or recommendation made by a guide or local representative does not make us responsible.

SHOPPING

Shopping can be fun and entertaining, especially in local markets. However, Friendly Travel, its staff and employees are neither qualified nor permitted to ensure or guarantee the quality or value of any goods purchased or the suitability of any retail outlets visited and the security of using a credit card to purchase such goods. In all cases the purchasing of goods and the use of a credit card for those transactions is entirely at the customer's own risk and at all times the customer must use their own discretion. Leisure activities and services undertaken during free time is at the customer's own discretion.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that travel involves personal risks which may be greater than those present in your everyday life. This could be as a result of the adventurous nature of your trip or the visiting of destinations which present geographical, political or cultural risks and dangers. You should consult guidance issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) applicable to the destinations within your itinerary. You acknowledge that your choice to travel is made having had the benefit of DFAT guidance, and you accept any additional personal risks associated with your travel. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we disclaim any liability for these risks.

RESPONSIBILITY

Services supplied by independent suppliers: Where a third party over whom we have no direct control (Independent Supplier) is the supplier of travel arrangements that form part of your trip, you acknowledge that our obligations to you are limited to taking reasonable steps to select a reputable Independent Supplier and arranging for them to provide those travel arrangements to you. Independent Suppliers over whom we have no direct control include but are not limited to airlines, railway and cruise operators, hoteliers, independent transport companies (ie. vehicles not operated by us) and common carriers. We act as an intermediary only and you will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Independent Supplier. Any disputes between you and the Independent Supplier are to be resolved between you and them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we will not be responsible to you for any loss, damage, personal injury or delay attributable to the actions or omissions of an Independent Supplier.

Services we directly supply: To the extent only that we are the principal supplier to you of travel arrangements or other services which we control, then we will provide those travel arrangements and services with reasonable skill and care. We will only be responsible for our employees in the course of their employment, and for our agents and suppliers (where we are not the supplier's agent or an intermediary for an Independent Supplier) if they were carrying out the work we had asked them to do. We will not be responsible for any loss, damage, claim or expense caused by the acts or omissions of yourself, of any other third party not connected with the provision of the travel arrangements or services, or due to an event of Force Majeure. While we endeavour to meet scheduled arrival and departure times, we cannot guarantee this. We will not be responsible for any loss or additional expenses you incur for any missed connections/services attributable to delays.

General liability limitation: You acknowledge that travel arrangements or services which comply with local laws and regulations will be deemed to have been properly performed, even if this would not be

considered the case in Australia. Australian Consumer Law and corresponding legislation in State jurisdictions in certain circumstances imply mandatory conditions and warranties into consumer contracts ("Consumer Warranties"). These Booking Conditions do not exclude or limit the application of the Consumer Warranties. Other than the Consumer Warranties, we disclaim all warranties. To the fullest extent permitted by law, our maximum liability to you under these Booking Conditions, in tort (including negligence) or at law is limited to arranging for the travel arrangements to be resupplied or payment of the cost of having the travel arrangements resupplied.

COMPLAINTS

At Friendly Travel we are committed to ensuring that we deal with complaints and/or feedback effectively and efficiently. Should the customer not be satisfied with any aspect of their arrangements they must immediately inform the Tour escort or local guide who will endeavour to resolve the issue at the time. If you wish to lodge a complaint or submit feedback to our customer relations team you can also email Friendly Travel (sales@friendlytravel.com.au).

AIRLINES

Airlines featured in this brochure do not by virtue of their endorsement represent themselves either as contracting with any purchaser of a holiday from Friendly Travel, or as having any legal relationship with such a purchaser. Frequent flyer miles may not be accrued on some packaged fares. Pre-flight seat allocation may not be available. If seat allocation, additional baggage, airport assist services or medical clearance is required and is permitted by the airline, this is to be booked by the traveller directly with the airline and additional fees incurred at the time of arranging these services is payable by the traveller. For details, contact our office. Schedule changes or flight cancellations are subject to the airlines policy and are outside Friendly Travel control.

PRIVACY

We are collecting your personal information so that we can process your booking. We will also keep you up to date with other Friendly Travel offers and product information that may be of interest to you if you have consented to this. You can opt out of receiving information at any time if you choose to do so. You understand that Friendly Travel may post images or photos taken during tours via our company website and social media outlets and also may use comments for future advertising and publicity material. By signing our booking form you consent for us to use your photographic/video likeness in our advertising material and acknowledge you will not be entitled to any payment or other compensation. If you do not consent to the use of your image or likeness, please advise us in writing or email (sales@friendlytravel.com.au) prior to the commencement of your tour

AGENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the travel agents' responsibility to ensure that all invoice and itinerary details and documentation issued by Friendly Travel are correct and that the customer is aware of amendment and cancellation conditions and other provisions of these Booking Conditions. It is also the agent's responsibility to provide copies of valid passports at time of deposit. If the agent fails to satisfy these obligations, you must make any claims against the agent and you hereby release Friendly Travel from all such claims.

LAW OF CONTRACT

This contract is governed by the laws of the state of Victoria and any legal action arising therefrom shall be litigated only in the appropriate court in that state having jurisdiction in that claim.

To make a booking please fill out our booking form at

www.friendlytravel.com.au/online-booking-form alternatively you can call (03) 9326 9899 or email sales@friendlytravel.com.au