Tristan's Expeditions: Afghanistan Tour

9 Day 9 Night Group Tour: $2950 per person (discounts available for couples and groups)

Included:

- Letter of Invitation (LOI) and Visa guidance
- Transfers to/from Kabul airport
- Premium Accommodation (Kyber and Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, Bam Hotel in Bamyan, Helal International Hotel in Herat, etc.)
- One custom-tailored set of traditional Afghani clothes
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day (starters, main courses, and one beverage plus water per meal), as well as snacks and water, juice, etc. throughout the day.
- All domestic transportation (car and driver, domestic flights)
- English speaking guides
- Foreign Entry permits (required for each province)
- Entrance fees for all touristic sites
- I will be there personally to help with anything you need.

Not Included:

- International flights
- Visa fees ($80 standard or $135 expedited processing)
- Travel Insurance (not required but always recommended)
- Souvenirs
- Additional Afghan clothing (one set is included)

Travel Route:

Kabul, Bamyan, Ghazni, Kandahar & Herat provinces

Day 1: Arrive in Kabul, the Capital of Afghanistan

- Arrive in the morning/early afternoon to Kabul airport and meet your guides, Tristan and Hewad
- Transfer to accommodation
- Visit the Kabul Bazaar
- Get fitted for traditional Afghan clothing
- Dinner at one of Kabul's famous restaurants (chance to meet one of Afghanistan's top celebrity chefs)

Day 2: Exploring Historic Kabul

- Visit the National Museum
- Pick up your traditional clothing
- Wander through Kabul's Bird Market
- Explore Babur's Garden and mausoleum, built during the Mughal Empire.
- Visit the Blue Mosque and Shah-Do Shamshira Mosque
- Sample delicious Afghan street food from a popular vendor
- 'Climb' to the top of Flag Hill, for views over the entire city for sunset

Day 3: Bamyan, The Ancient Spiritual Center

- Drive 5 hours to Bamyan province, one of the most historic regions of Afghanistan
- Traditional lunch in Bamyan city (Afghani Kabab (grilled meat or veg option) and 'Qabuli Palaw', sweet rice cooked with raisins, carrot, with veg or meat options and fresh afghani 'nan' bread)
- Visit the ruins of the Buddhas of Bamyan (remarkable monuments from 6th century Silk Road era, they were destroyed in 2001)
- View the Buddhas of Bamyan from a rooftop cafe
- Visit the historic town of Shahre Gholghola, known as the "City of Screams"
- Time permitting, explore 'Dragon Valley', known for its rock formations
- Evening 2hr Drive to Band-e-Amir for dinner, stargazing and check into hotel

Day 4: Band-e-Amir National Park

- Explore Band-e-Amir National Park, known for its 6 crystal-clear lakes and rugged mountains. You will have the morning and afternoon to hike around, take a boat tour, or use the paddle boats
- Enjoy a picnic lunch inside the national park
- Drive 5-6 hours back to Kabul, stop along the way for dinner, and arrive at night.

Day 5: Ghazni, Historical Home of the Ghaznavid Empire

- Drive 2 hour south of Kabul to the historic city of Ghazni
- Explore the citadel of Ghazni, a 2000 years fortress with panoramic views
- Visit the open-air Soviet Military Museum of Ghazni Province, where you can climb inside and on top of tanks and other military equipment.
- Wander the old town of Ghazni to see the traditional mud and timber homes
- Visit the greats Minarets of Ghaznavid Dynasty (time permitting)
- Drive further south to Kandahar (5 hours by car)

Day 6: Kandahar, the Cultural Capital of Afghanistan

- Explore the ‘Forty Stairs’ historical landmark, a rocky mountain cliff overlooking the city
- Visit the Shrine of Mirwais Khan Hotak, a Pashtun leader who helped Afghanistan achieve its independence from the Persian Empire
- Tour the Kandahar covered market
- Visit The Kirka Sharif (Shrine of the Cloak), and the Tomb of Ahmad Shah Baba

Day 7: Driving from Kandahar to Herat

- Long 8-10 drive through the desert of Southern Afghanistan
- Possibility to visit an Ostrich farm, depending on the farmer's schedule.
- Visit the Old City of Herat in the evening
- Tomb of Poet Khoja Abdullah Ansari (time permitting, if not, we will visit on Day 8)

Day 8: Exploring Herat, City of Arts and Sciences

- Exploring the citadel of Herat, a large castle from the time of Alexander of the Great
- Visit the Grand mosque of Herat, which is covered in mosaic tiles
- Visit the Minarets of Herat, decorated towers from the 15th century
- Visit the Museum of Resistance, dedicated to the soldiers of the Soviet-Afghan war of 1979-1980

Day 9: Kabul

- Fly back to Kabul from Herat
- Chicken Street Souvenir shopping
- Afghani dinner at a friend’s home in Wardak province, using traditional underground cooking methods (weather permitting)

Day 10: Depart

Payment and Refund Policy

A non-refundable advance payment of 20% of the total tour cost is required to confirm your reservation. In the event that the tour is canceled by the tour operator for any reason, or if unforeseen circumstances make it impossible for the tour to proceed as planned, the tour company will refund the full 20% advance payment to the client. However, if the cancellation is made by the client, the advance payment will not be refunded under any circumstance.