6 Jun 2025

Dear Oasis Traveller

This is our second update about your Central Asia trip and covers the following:

* Turkmenistan visa
* Tajikistan visa
* Azerbaijan/Iran
* Tents and personal luggage
* Dietary requirements

**Turkmenistan visa**

As our planned entry date is close to the country’s Independence Day celebrations, our partner in Turkmenistan recommend that we start the process of applying for our Letters of Invitation (LOIs) as early as possible to give us the best chance of obtaining them. LOIs are required in advance in order to obtain the visa.

Our Turkmenistan agent will apply for your LOI on your behalf and this is included in your trip price (you will need to pay for the actual visa on arrival in Turkmenistan, currently the cost is US$119 for UK passport holders and US$89 for all other nationalities). The below documentation and information are needed to your start your LOI application - **please send us this by 12th June.**

**Scans**

|  |
| --- |
| 1.       Passport (the full page that clearly shows all text, photo, signature, bar code). **Note**: Please remember your passport must be valid for at least 6 months AFTER your trip finishes. |
| 2.       One recent passport-sized photo |
| **Scans must be of the following quality and format, otherwise they will not be accepted by the authorities:** |
| ·         *Quality: the documents must look sharp and clear in electronic format, not checkered, glossy or blurry; scans must be delivered to us in JPEG or PDF format and must be minimum 250KB and maximum 1MB in size* |
| ·         *Black and white scans are not accepted by the State Migration Services* |
| ·         *Scans of paper passport copies are not accepted; they must be scans of originals* |
| ·         *The whole photo page of the passport must be scanned, and to avoid any confusion, it is best if the scan simply shows all four edges of the page* |
| ·         *The original size of passport-sized photo scans must be 3x4 cm minimum and cannot be a Photoshop version of the photo from the passport scan (we will have to print them out on colour photo paper, as if we received real original photos from you); a digital passport-sized photo is best* |
| ·         *If you do not have access to a scanner, a digital photo made with a digital camera or smart phone could be acceptable as well, as long as the quality is as described above, and there is no flash/gloss/shine, making any part of the scan unclear* |

**Information**

Please fill in and return the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EN** | **Last name** | **First name(s)** | **Any other name(s) used before (e.g. before marriage)** | **Name of highest educational institution completed** | **City and country of that institution** | **Occupation** | **Place of work** |
| **Eg.** | *Smith* | *John William* | *None* | *Cambridge University* | *Cambridge, UK* | *Archaeologist* | *The National Trust for Scotland* |
| **01** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **02** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EN** | **Previous visits to Turkmenistan (dates, purposes)** | **Marital status** | **Full name, date of birth and citizenship of spouse** | **Full name(s), date(s) of birth and citizenship of child(ren)** | **E-mail address** | **Home address** |
| Eg. | *15 Mar 2012; tourism* | *Married* | *Louise Volker; 10 Nov.1981, UK* | *1. Thomas Volker, 1 Jan.2005; UK 2. Emily Volker, 10 May 2015; UK* | [*smith\_john@gmail.com*](mailto:smith_john@gmail.com) | *48 Barry Road, Carnoustie, Scotland* |
| **01** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **02** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Tajikistan**

Many nationalities do not require a visa however, everyone will need to apply for a GBAO permit for our journey along the Pamir Highway.

* If you can get a visa in advance, then you can apply for the GBAO permit at the same time – please tick the applicable box on the online application to get them together.
* If you do not need a visa, then you will get the GBAO permit in advance – please see notes below about this.

You can check if you need a visa here: <https://www.consular.tj/visa-system-with-foreign-countries.aspx>.

UK passport holders do currently require an e-visa. You should now apply for this online along with your GBAO permit.

Some Tajikistan visa approvals come through quickly but most take a few weeks, often with requests for further information and sometimes they are rejected. There seems to be little rhyme or reason behind who gets asked for more info and who doesn’t. Our Tajikistan agent can provide a Letter of Invitation (LOI) to assist with getting your visa approved for an additional fee of US$25.

Our agent can also help should your application be rejected. In this case you would need to make another online visa application (including payment for the visa) and pay a fee of US$50 to our agent.

You have 2 options:

1 - Just get the LOI to start with and hope that is enough. If you are granted the visa, then you just need to pay the $25 locally for the LOI. However, if you don't get the visa, then you can pay another $50 to help expedite the process. You would then pay $75 to our local agent when you get there. We find this second stage always works, but often isn't needed, it’s a bit of a lottery with Tajik visas.

2 - From the start, commit to $75 and expect a smoother process

You can also apply without an LOI but if you are asked for one, it may be difficult to then add it to your application.

Please advise us if you would like our agent to provide a Letter of Invitation and visa support by **16th June**.

You should apply for your e-visa here: [www.evisa.tj](https://www.evisa.tj/index.evisa.html)

If you have asked for an LOI ($25), please wait until you receive it from us and upload it with your application. If you want to add the extra expediting service (extra $50), then please send us your Application ID immediately after completing your application so that our agent can follow it up from their end.

The following information will help you complete the form:

* GBAO Permit: Yes
* Purpose of visit type: Tourism
* Entry: Single
* Date of arrival: 29th August (will be later but allows us leeway to be early)
* Address in Tajikistan: Green House Hostel, Khusravi Dehlavi 98a, Dushanbe, 734024

**GBAO permit for those who do not need a visa** – we will apply for this in advance through our Tajikistan agent. The cost of the permit is $20, payable in cash to our agent when you get to Dushanbe .

**Azerbaijan / Iran**

We will start applying for Iran visas later this month and start to finalise our route travelling that way. Please look out for our next update about this.

**Tents and personal luggage**

The general plan is for 2 people to share a 3 person dome tent. However, you are welcome to bring your own tent if you wish (meaning you don't need to share if you don’t want to). But if you do plan to bring your own tent, please do let us know so we can manage the number of our own tents. If you do bring your own, you will be responsible for your it throughout the trip (so if it needs repairs or replacing during the trip, you’ll be responsible for that, as we may not have had enough spares for you). Your Tour Leader will of course assist with sourcing repairs or a new tent for you if it does come to that.

Please note that although the truck is roomy with lots of storage areas, there is a limit to space for your personal luggage and we will be full with food stocks as well as all the kitchen equipment, spare parts & tools etc.  So, 80 litre backpacks and holdalls are the best form of carrying your luggage which will be stored in lockers, along with a small day pack (40ltr max). Backpacks and holdalls that have a rigid frame as well as suitcases are impractical on the truck, will not fit in your locker, and should not be brought. If you bring excess luggage above the recommended amount then you will need to post it home from your joining city.

**Dietary Requirements** (eg.Vegetarians / Vegans / Coeliacs / Gluten & Lactose intolerance etc.)

We will do our best to help facilitate dietary requirements or intolerances whenever possible, but also within reason. Whilst on the truck, everybody takes turns in cooking for the group as part of a small cook-group and while it is perfectly possible and normal to cook for both vegetarian and meat eaters, catering for more than that split is difficult.

In general, in the past we have found that vegans have really struggled with the available food options at times, particularly in Central Asia.

If there is anything in particular you require in your diet or because of an allergy or intolerance, or would miss from home, it would be best to bring these with you, as these cannot be purchased with normal Local Payment funds due to the high cost of these specialised and often imported foods. This includes things like gluten free pastas. Additionally, you may be able to find items like this when we get to big towns or cities.

Because we will be cooking communally in a shared outdoor kitchen, it is hard, if not impossible, to prevent against some cross contamination. So, if you have severe allergies to certain food products you must tell us as soon as possible so that we can consider the implications and advise you further.

It must be remembered that the variety of dishes available to vegetarians may not be the same as available to meat eaters. When eating out in local restaurants and hotels, bear in mind that vegetarianism or food allergies / intolerances, are still not widely known about or understood by many local people. Eg. vegetarians may be offered or served fish or chicken in error. Most large towns and cities, or areas used to tourists, will often have more choice but please be aware that it will probably not be as varied as you are used to when eating out at home.