

## Adventure of a lifetime...



Whether taking our walking treks through the stunning Fann mountains or our jeep treks across the rugged Pamir highway, Tajikistan offers you an adventure you'll never want to end.

In the Fann mountains you will trek through high passes, try some of the easier peaks and camp amidst summer pastures. Here, peaks of alpine proportions rise from valleys filled with wild flowers and azure lakes. This is wonderful country to trek through.

Let yourself be charmed by the desolate beauty of the Pamirs. Take our jeep trek up on the 'Roof of the World.' Bathe in natural hot springs and travel past stark glaciers and nomadic tribes.

Experienced mountaineers who are comfortable with glacier travel and roped snow and ice climbing techniques can get some serious altitude on the highest peak of the former Soviet Union. At 7,495m (24,590ft), Peak Communism (now renamed Somonion (Samanid) after the powerful 12th century Tajik Samanid dynasty) is a worthy challenge.

Beautiful and remote, Tajikistan has plenty to offer the mountaineer, the hiker and the independent traveller in search of remote locations and unusual cultural experiences. Most trips are suitable for anyone who is reasonably fit.



## Ethical tourism

Before declaring independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Tajikistan was a popular tourist destination within the USSR. A civil war from 1992 till 1997 prevented Tajikistan from opening itself up to a wider market.

Now that Tajikistan is getting back on its feet, a travel company is an excellent way to bring urgently-needed foreign money into the country. We are committed to putting long-term social and environmental benefit before short term gain.

- We try to use services (accommodation, restaurants, transport etc.) that are owned and run by members of the local community.
- We employ local people at fair wages and with good working conditions.
- We try to leave places cleaner than we find them, and to minimise the impact of our tours on the environment - from packaging to pollution.
- We will give you the information that you need to enjoy your trip in a culturally and environmentally responsible way.



You should not expect western standards of accommodation or travel in Tajikistan but you will find people who are genuinely welcoming. Also, the Tajik attitude to time is a little more relaxed than ours. You will have more fun if you bring your sense of humour and are willing to go with the flow.

Naturally we plan meticulously, but we cannot guarantee that your itinerary will run exactly as written. The trek leader will consult the group about any changes, and we do find that unexpected events make your traveller's tales exciting!

As with any developing country the political climate can change very rapidly. Our Dushanbe staff keep themselves informed about any changes in the security situation. We do our best to ensure your safety, keeping you informed and changing routes if necessary. However it is ultimately your decision to travel to Tajikistan, and your responsibility to be aware of the risks.

## A team you can trust

We aim to give you an adventure, but we also look after you every step of the way. Our experienced guides accompany you on the treks and you will not be left alone to deal with problems that occasionally occur.

The Great Game Travel Company was started by Michael Davis, who lives in Dushanbe with his wife Sharon and three children. Michael speaks Tajiki and has extensive local knowledge of Tajikistan.



Ashley Eves has worked as Marketing and Sales Director of several large companies. He has wide experience of international travel, much of this in the developing world. Ashley manages our UK Marketing and Sales operations.

Rick Allen has been climbing in the Himalaya for over 20 years, pioneering a number of difficult new routes on major peaks. He successfully led 4 clients to the summit of Everest in 2000. Rick speaks Russian and is very much at home in the mountains of Central Asia.



When we asked our clients what they enjoyed most about our tours they said:

'... the personal service, the care of the guide and of course the beautiful mountains of Tajikistan'

F Gassmann

'The trekking in the mountains, the enthusiasm of the people who organised and guided us'

W Rijks

'The first couple of days were hard but once I got into it, I enjoyed the scenery and the quietness. You know, coming from London and being away from everything, completely!'

K Cassidy

## Virgin territory

The Tajiks love guests and many of our clients have said that spending time with local people was the highlight of their trip. Visitors will almost certainly get to see the inside of a Tajik home and experience traditional hospitality.



We'd love you to see more of the Tajik people. So, we also offer home-stay trips in several different types of home, including a stay with a nomadic group.

Tajikistan has a rich cultural heritage. See the "Tajik Buddah", from the same civilisation as the Bamiyan Buddahs destroyed by the Taliban, and now the largest Buddah statue in Central Asia.

Visit the ancient Sogdian city of Penjikent. Established in the 5th-7th Century AD, Penjikent is known as the 'Pompeii of Central Asia.' Ancestors of the Sogdians still preserve their language and culture in the Pamirs.

Learn about the many writers and poets such as Persian classical poet Rudaki who was born and died in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan sits on the southern route of the Silk Road and the Pamirs lie at the junction of three great mountain ranges - the Hindu Kush, Tien Shan and the Karakorum. Together these form a great land mass known as the 'Roof of the World.' Many have been to the neighbouring countries of China and Pakistan but few to Tajikistan. Be among the first to discover this virgin territory.



## The Great Game Travel Company

We specialise in sending small groups on adventurous holidays in Tajikistan. This may include trekking, cycling, riding, rafting, mountaineering, painting, photography, or something tailor-made to suit you.

We will arrange transport, accommodation, and help in negotiating the bureaucratic hurdles which still make independent travel in Central Asia a challenge.

Why 'Great Game'? In the nineteenth century the great empires of Britain and Imperial Russia vied for pre-eminence along the mountainous border region which separated their spheres of influence. This 'Great Game' was played out over the passes and in the valleys of Central Asia and was captured dramatically in Rudyard Kipling's classic novel 'Kim'.

The Great Game Travel Company provides the opportunity for adventurous travellers of the 21st Century to explore the same mountains and extend the boundaries of their own experience.

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# Tajikistan

93% Mountains – 100% Adventure

