

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## CASPIAN ODYSSEY: GOLDEN EAGLE

### PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends. You should have at least one (1) blank visa page in your passport for each country that requires a visa on your journey and a minimum of two (2) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

Please ensure that you allow enough time for visa processing and submit your visa applications so that you receive your passport and visas in time for your trip. It may take up to three (3) months to process all the visas required for your journey.

Holders of Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into **Georgia** and **Kazakhstan**.

#### Armenia

Holders of U.S. passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Armenia.

**A tourist visa is required for Canadian passport holders for entry into Armenia.** There are currently two options available as outlined below.

**Visa on Arrival:** A tourist visa can be obtained on arrival at most international airports and land border crossings with Georgia. The current fee for a single-entry visa valid for 21 days is 3,000 Armenian drams (USD \$6 subject to change without notice). This fee can be paid in cash in U.S. dollars.

**Electronic Visa (eVisa):** To apply for an eVisa visit <https://evisa.mfa.am>. Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Armenia. The current fee for a single-entry visa valid for 21 days is 3,000 Armenian drams (USD \$6 subject to change without notice).

#### Georgia

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Georgia.

#### Azerbaijan

**An electronic visa (eVisa) is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Azerbaijan and must be obtained prior to departure.** To apply for an eVisa, visit <https://evisa.gov.az/en/>. The current fee for a single-entry visa is \$20, plus a \$5 service charge (subject to change without notice.) Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Azerbaijan. Please be aware that eVisas are valid for 90 days after issuance. Therefore do not apply for your eVisa too far in advance.

Make certain to check the validity of your visa when it is returned to you. Visas cannot be extended once in Azerbaijan. A valid visa is required to depart Azerbaijan or you will be denied permission to leave the country until you pay a substantial fine and secure an exit permit from the State Migration Service in Baku. It is not possible to pay the fine at the airport or any other border crossing.

Please note that U.S. citizens of Armenian ancestry (or with Armenian last names) have had their visa applications denied by the Government of Azerbaijan. Additionally, travelling to the region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding occupied areas via Armenia without the consent of Azerbaijani authorities could make you ineligible for future travel in Azerbaijan.

## Turkmenistan

**A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Turkmenistan and must be obtained prior to departure.** A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to a Turkmenistan consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer additional assistance in the visa process.

A letter of invitation from the Turkmenistan State Migration Service (SMS) must be submitted with your visa application. A&K will assist you in obtaining this invitation letter. In order to begin this process, please email a clear, full-color photograph or scan of your passport showing the full page including the two digital lines at the bottom of the page to A&K at: [operations@abercrombiekent.com](mailto:operations@abercrombiekent.com). The SMS requires at least 15 working days to process the certified letter of invitation which will then be forwarded to you by A&K so that you may apply for your tourist visa.

**Turkmenistan Immigration Card:** In addition to a tourist visa, visitors are also required to purchase an immigration card on arrival. The current fee is USD \$14 (subject to change without notice.) The fee must be paid in cash and can be paid in U.S. dollars. Two (2) passport-size photos and photocopy of your passport are also required. You must carry this card with you for the duration of your stay in Turkmenistan, and then return it to customs authorities on departure.

If you are asked to provide contact information for your local tour operator, please use:

### **ABERCROMBIE & KENT EUROPE**

St. George's House  
Ambrose St.  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL50 3LG  
United Kingdom  
Telephone: 011 44 1242 547 900

## Uzbekistan

**A tourist visa is required for U.S. and passport holders for entry into Uzbekistan and must be obtained prior to departure.** There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends an electronic visa.

**Electronic Visa (eVisa):** To apply for an eVisa visit <https://e-visa.gov.uz/main>. The current fee for a single-entry visa is USD \$20 (subject to change without notice.) Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Uzbekistan.

**Visa Stamp:** A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to an Uzbek consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process.

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**Holders of Canadian passports** are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Uzbekistan.

## Kazakhstan

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Kazakhstan.

## COVID-19 COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Turkmenistan currently has no COVID-19 vaccination or pre-arrival testing requirements for U.S. and Canadian residents. However, all travellers must complete a Health Declaration form on arrival and take a government-administered COVID-19 PCR test (approximately USD \$45 payable on site). Guests who tests positive for COVID-19, will be subject to mandatory quarantine in a government facility for three to seven days.

## VACCINATIONS

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Kazakhstan if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it.

If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

## STAY HEALTHY ON THE ROAD

Outside major cities, medical facilities are limited. Elderly travelers and those with existing health problems may be at risk from inadequate medical facilities.

## CASH & CREDIT CARDS

The countries visited on this journey are still by and large cash economies. Credit cards are not widely accepted except at large hotels and restaurants catering to international visitors.

When travelling in Central Asia, it is suggested that you use U.S. dollars in excellent condition and small denominations (\$20 or less) to pay for your purchases. Banknotes with a serial date prior to 1990 will not be accepted. Exchange only a small amount of currency for small, same-day purchases such as souvenirs (many souvenirs can be purchased with U.S. dollars). ATMs exist in larger cities.

## PACKING LIST

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to find and manage your luggage for you.

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather (or level of air-conditioning) requires. Cotton and other light fabrics are comfortable choices for summertime. Spring and autumn temperatures dictate medium-weight clothing selections. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Cathedrals, mosques, churches, and other religious sites require conservative dress. Arms, legs and shoulders should be covered – no shorts. This applies to both men and women. For women, barebacked, low-necked dresses or tops or short skirts, are not considered appropriate attire. When visiting mosques, wear or carry a pair of socks, since shoes must be removed before entering. Women must cover their heads with a scarf.

## Clothing

Casual slacks

Walking shorts

- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels and non-slip soles
- Lightweight raincoat and umbrella
- Sweater or fleece jacket
- Brimmed hat or visor for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Swimwear/cover-up

Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Sun block and lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Smartphone
- Charging cables for electronics
- Global travel adapter

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars):

	<b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>
Local Guides	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added