Explore four UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Turkmenistan’s Parthianian Fortress of Nisa, whose ruins show its place as a barrier to Roman expansion, and Kunya-Urgench, site of the ancient capital of Khorezm; as well as Uzbekistan’s Shakhrisabze, with its collection of exceptional monuments, and the historic center of Bukhara.

Learn about Turkmenistan's Akhal-Teke horse - one of the oldest cultured horse breeds in the world - during a ranch tour and discussion with the estate owner; and witness a presentation of traditional Kazakh falconry at a falcon-breeding farm on the outskirts of Almaty.

Discover the wide-ranging collection of Igor Savitsky in Nukus, which includes folk art, regional fine art, and the second largest collection of Russian avant-garde in the world.

Examine critical moments in Kyrgyzstan’s struggle for independence during a conversation with revolution veterans at the Ata-Beit Memorial that commemorates victims of Stalinist repression.

Meet with governmental officials and local citizens from various sectors of society to discuss current affairs and everyday life in the region.
Included: All accommodation, hotel taxes • Meals per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) • Arrival transfers for flights arriving on June 11 or early morning of June 12 and departure transfers for flights departing on June 27, 2014 • All land transportation per itinerary including economy class air from Ashkhabad to Tashauz and private motor coach throughout the itinerary • Special cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees • Welcome and farewell receptions • Services of a tour manager throughout the land program • Gratuities to tour manager, guides and drivers • Comprehensive pre-departure packet

Not Included: Trip cancellation/interruption/baggage insurance • Round trip airfare from/to your home city. (Our tour operator MIR Corporation can assist with reservations) • Passport and visa fees • Personal items such as telephone calls, alcohol, laundry, excess baggage fees and items not specifically noted as included

Air Arrangements: Program rates do not include international airfare. Because there are a number of flight options available, there is no group flight for this program. Recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.

What to Expect: This trip is moderately active due to the substantial distances covered and the extensive walking and stair climbing required; parts of the tour will not always be wheelchair accessible. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day (with or without the assistance of a cane) and stand for an extended period of time during walking tours and museum visits. Flexibility and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are highly recommended as delays or changes in the itinerary may occur.

Reservations and Payments: Please mail the completed registration form with check (payable to MIR Corporation-Trust) or credit card information to Princeton Journeys, Office of the Alumni Association of Princeton University, John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, NJ 08542 or fax to (609) 258-5561. Balance of payment for all land and air costs is due by March 9, 2014, 90 days prior to departure. Payment of balance due by check only. Space is limited. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt, subject to availability.

Cancellations and Refunds: All cancellations must be made in writing to Princeton Journeys and the following cancellation charges will apply: Cancellations received 91 or more days before departure, deposits paid or due in full of $1,000 per person; those received 61 days to 90 days before departure, 50% of land tour cost per person; those received 60 or fewer days before departure, no refund. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the full tour for any reason at all. Princeton Journeys and our tour operator MIR Corporation reserve the right, without penalty, to withdraw the tour announced (i.e., cancel a tour). Our tour operator MIR Corporation reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in a tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from a tour at any time at his/her own expense, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interest of the health, safety, or general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant, and subject only to the requirement that the recoverable cost of unused services and accommodations be refunded, if any.

Note: Neither Princeton Journeys nor our tour operator MIR Corporation accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in connection with this tour. It is recommended that you not purchase international flights until instructed by the tour operator.

Single Travelers: Prices are based on double occupancy; single rates are available. We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate. However, shared accommodations cannot be guaranteed and a single supplement rate will apply if no roommate is found.

Insurance: As a service to its travelers, the Office of the Alumni Association of Princeton University automatically provides its travelers basic medical coverage under a group travel insurance policy. It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic insurance with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

Responsibility: Please see http://alumni.princeton.edu/learntravel/journeys/terms/ for the University Disclaimer and other terms and conditions of travel with Princeton Journeys. A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Princeton Journeys and the Tour Operator for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request. A signed release of liability/assumption of risk agreement is required for trip participation.
Itinerary

June 10-11  Depart USA · Arrive Ashkabad, Turkmenistan
Depart the U.S. and travel to Ashkabad, capital of Turkmenistan. Sofitel Oguzkent Hotel (Meals in flight)

June 12-13  Ashkabad
After a group welcome and orientation, explore the city, including the marble monuments of President Palace Square. Visit the ruins of Parthian Nisa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where an archaeologist will guide the group. Learn first hand about Turkmenistan’s Akhal-Tekke horse, one of the oldest cultured horse breeds in the world, while touring a working ranch with its owner. Sofitel Oguzkent Hotel (2B, 2L, 1D)

June 14-15  Kunya-Urgech, Uzbekistan · Nukus
Take a morning flight to continue to UNESCO-listed Kunya-Urgech, site of the ancient capital of Khorezm, before driving to Nukus. Enjoy an exclusive private tour of the incredible Savitsky Art Museum, repository of thousands of Soviet-banned avant-garde Russian art pieces. Rahnamo Hotel (2B, 2L, 2D)

June 16  Khiva
 Appreciate Khiva’s highlights, including the Tash Hauli Palace; the 9th-century Dzhuma Mosque with its unusual wood ceiling; and the 5th-century Kunya Ark, the original residence of the khans. Hotel Asia Khiva (B, L, D)

June 17-18  Kyzyl Kum Desert · Bukhara
Spend a day driving to Bukhara through the austere Kyzyl Kum Desert. On the next day, admire the Lyabi-Hauz Plaza, explore the Kalon Mosque and Minaret, and walk the old Jewish Quarter. Visit the Ark Citadel and the lovely 10th-century Ismael Samani Mausoleum. Meet with a Bukharan architect for a look into the city’s historic architectural renovation. Dine at a former madrassah and enjoy a performance by local artists. Sasha & Son B&B (2B, 2L, 2D)

June 19-20  Shakhrisabz · Samarkand
Stop in Tamerlane’s hometown, UNESCO-listed Shakhrisabz, on the way to glorious Samarkand. Inspect stately Registan Square, the Bibi-Khanum Mosque, the Shah-i-Zinde mausoleum complex, and astronomer-king Ulug Bek’s medieval observatory. Visit a workshop where hand-crafted paper is made according to 8th-century traditions and take in a performance by a local dance troupe. Registan Plaza (2B, 2L, 2D)

June 21-22  Khujand, Tajikistan · Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Continue overland to Tajikistan and the country’s second-largest city, Khujand. Enter the Historical Museum of Sogdiana through a reconstructed medieval city gate. In Tashkent, observe craftspeople decorating lacquer boxes, carving elaborate Koran stands and painting miniatures. View the Uthman Koran, considered by Sunni Muslims to be the oldest Koran in the world, and meet a sixth-generation ceramics master at his private studio. Khujand Grand Hotel, Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace (2B, 2L, 2D)

June 23-24  Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
In the Kyrgyz capital, learn about the history and culture of the region’s nomadic people at the State Historical Museum. Meet with locals who participated in the April 7, 2010 revolution and together visit the “Ata-Beit” Memorial complex to pay respects to fallen Kyrgyz heroes. Enjoy dinner with a performance of selections from the treasured poem, the Epic of Manas. Hyatt Regency Bishkek (2B, 2L, 2D)
Study Leader: Serguei Oushakine

Oushakine is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Slavic Languages and Literatures and Director of the Program in Russian and Eurasian Studies, and will serve as Princeton Study Leader for this Journey. Professor Oushakine has conducted fieldwork in the Siberian part of Russia, as well as in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. His research is concerned with transitional processes and situations: from the formation of newly independent national cultures after the collapse of the Soviet Union to post-traumatic identities and hybrid cultural forms. His first book The Patriotism of Despair: Loss, Nation, and War in Russia focused on communities of loss and exchanges of sacrifices in provincial post-communist Russia. His current project explores Eurasian postcoloniality as a means of affective reformatting of the past and as a form of retroactive victimhood.

June 25-26

Almaty

Drive to Almaty, Kazakhstan’s largest city via the dramatic Small Almaty Gorge. Get to know the highlights of Almaty, including the pastel wooden Zenkov Cathedral. Observe a demonstration of traditional Kazkah falconry outside the city. Toast the five-country journey at a farewell dinner. Intercontinental Almaty Hotel (2B, 2L, 2D)

June 27

Depart for Home

After breakfast, depart for homeward flights, most of which arrive in the US on the same day. (B)
Please mail the completed registration form with check (payable to MIR Corporation-Trust) or credit card information to Princeton Journeys, John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, NJ 08542 or by fax at (609) 258-5561. Balance of payment for all land and air costs is due by March 9, 2014, 90 days prior to departure. Payment of balance due by check only. Space is limited. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt, subject to availability.

The enclosed non-refundable deposit of $ _________ ($1,000 per person) to hold ________ place(s).

☐ Enclosed check, payable to MIR Corporation-Trust
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

________________________________________________________________________________________
Credit card number       Exp date   CCV
________________________________________________________________________________________
Signature of cardholder
________________________________________________________________________________________
Full name #1 (as listed in passport)       Date of birth
________________________________________________________________________________________
Full name #2 (as listed in passport)       Date of birth
________________________________________________________________________________________
Mailing address (no PO boxes please)
City     State   Zip
________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone (Home)     (Work)    Email
________________________________________________________________________________________
Please note preferences:
☐ I am traveling alone and prefer a single room wherever available at the single supplement rate ($1,295).
☐ I will share accommodations with _______________________________________________________
☐ I would like to share with a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker (shares are not guaranteed)

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the tour price. Roundtrip economy class airfare from New York is approximately $2,217 including taxes, as of September 2013, subject to change without notice.

Please send me a recommended air itinerary and fare estimate between _________________ and Ashgabat/Ashkhabad in:
☐ Business class ☐ Economy class

For more information, contact Princeton Journeys by phone at (609) 258-8686 or by email at journeys@princeton.edu