

Help Sheet to Design a Tour for a Group Interested in Post-Soviet Politics and Government in Central Asia

The basics:

Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were under Russian and then Soviet rule from the late 18th century until 1991. So both have very new governments. In Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov ruled from 1991 until his death in 2016. In Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev ruled from 1991 until he stepped down in March 2019 (and he still has a lot of power in the government).

How to research the topic:

Look up the history of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan after their independence from the Soviet Union. Also, look up the first president of each country to see their impact and the way they are celebrated in their respective countries.

Planning your itinerary:

Be sure to look up sites named after Nazarbayev and Karimov. Also, look for the wing of history museums devoted to modern times and political buildings that are open to the public. Visit some of these as part of your program.

Travel from place to place:

In planning your itinerary, you can take short regional flights to get to or from big cities that are far apart (e.g. from Nur-Sultan to Almaty or Tashkent). Be sure to check on Kayak.com or some other site to see if there are flights between cities that you want to visit. You don't want to waste time on travel from place to place, so find direct flights. You must somehow strike a balance in your itinerary so that your travelers can see as many places as possible but not so many places that they spend all their time traveling without enough time to see things.