

Help Sheet to Design a Tour for a Group Interested in Music and Dance

The basics:

Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan consist of Turkic peoples, so their music and dance has traditional Turkic styles with influences from nomadic life. Centuries under Russian/Soviet rule have also brought Russian influences to music and dance. In addition, Uzbekistan, in particular, more closely connected to the Silk Road, has been affected by Persian, Islamic, and Chinese traditions.

How to research the topic:

You will probably find it easier to break down the subject into parts. Look up “Uzbek dance” and “Uzbek music” and “Kazakh dance” and “Kazakh music.”

For the latter topic, check out part of a teacher-created lesson plan on Kazakh music:

<https://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/Kazakh%20Music-Kozimnin%20Karasireducedsize.pdf> . Not all of it is relevant to you, but start with page 4 and

look at the photos and then the explanations of how Kazakh music works (nomadic music, in particular).

Also, look at some of the short videos online of music and dance performances, noticing the type of instruments, the clothing, and the hairstyles.

Planning your itinerary:

Be sure to look up where you can see a music or dance performance. Also, check to see if there are musical instrument museums (You will find at least one.) or places with music conservatories (where you might find performances or speakers).

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.

Note on your presentation:

Do NOT take up too much time in your presentation showing videos. IF you have time, you can show 30 seconds or so of a well-chosen video that illustrates something you talked about.

Otherwise, don't do it!