

Meet the Stans Video – Tajikistan Notes

Poorest & most lawless of CA countries

80% in poverty - \$5 per month?

Lots of nice cars despite poverty

Major drug transit route. Dushanbe

How many kilos did the car cost.

Not much of a drug squad

Went on a sting raid with drug agency

45 year old mother of six sold to undercover officer 1.5 kilo

Needed money, no work asked \$100 for it. Probably going to get a lot more.

Multiple busts - 5 years for 100 grams. 10-15 years this time

1 million men left Tajikistan to find work. Women left behind with not much work available

Carpet factory - putting pictures in carpets. - major political figures with families.

\$1000 per carpet.

Man riding a bear in center of city Makes money showing bear on street.

Recently captured drugs:

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Box with 7.5 kilos

151 kilos in one raid

500kgs in store room

worth \$150 million on streets of London.

They will burn it.

Very professional with good training.

People miss Soviet rule because of poverty. Weren't poor under Soviets. Regret that Soviet Union collapsed. Tajikistan lost almost everything they had.

Emerging Tajik national identity

Western culture hasn't hit Tajikistan yet. Met man at top of Tajik music charts.

Travel to the mountains through suburbs of Dushanbe. Lots of nice houses. New Tajiks

General Kasimov controlled area during civil war. Went by in White Jaguar.

Talked about British comedy with driver - Mr. Bean

Impressive mountain range. Clear, clean water. 93% mountainous.

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**Mountains impossible to control, bandits smugglers through there.
Guide was in Red Army against the Taliban in Afghanistan.**

Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 - Five year civil war

Huge mineral deposits. Visit huge gold mine in northern Tajikistan

British Astonian? son of owner.

€500k profit per month. Slow process to get the gold out.

Silver and Gold Brick worth €20k

Armed guards

Talk to General about Football federation

100k people killed - economy destroyed -

**Led ex-Commies against Islam. Jaguar was gift from president for
preventing a coup.**

gun in car -

Worry about drugs and militants crossing from Afghanistan.

Stop for food and drink. Look at reservoir provides water for

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan.

**Bust of Lenin at restaurant = tourist attraction - chinese taking
pictures.**

Armed escort from Tajik army base.

Fix the van - not any transport - can't get it started to show border -

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get it going

Head for Afghan border

Past house of local drug dealer.

Young Tajik Soldiers protect Tajik border.

keep heroin and militants from crossing border.

barracks - no heaters - \$5 per month income - temptations high

no refrigerator - not much food.

lots of vodka - drunk - drive on bad road - drink more vodka "vodka
terrorism"

Simon poured as much out as he could.

hospitality and friendly in Tajik - so close to violence - arrive at
garrison