

**The Silk Road Express - Eastbound**  
**13 days – 12 nights**  
**Ashgabat, Merv, Bukhara, Khiva, Samarkand, Shahrissabz, Tashkent, Turkistan, Almaty**  
**Adventure, Culture, History**

**This program may be operated for individuals or for groups**  
**This is a suggested itinerary**

*The armies of the great conquerors of Antiquity passed through these oasis-cities. Cyrus the Great, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane, among others. From the Caspian Sea to the mythical peaks of the Tien Shan, the countries of Central Asia have been richly spiced by the history and cultures that have forged them, leaving a delicious flavor that we will have occasion to taste.*

**Day 1: Ashgabat [Turkmenistan]**

Presentation at the airport and flight with stopover to Ashgabat. Upon arrival of your flight to Ashgabat airport, reception by our representative in the country and transfer to the hotel. The participants of this wonderful journey that is about to begin, will arrive during the day to Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan, also known as “Vegas of Kara Kum”. [D]

**Day 2: Ashgabat [Turkmenistan]**

We will begin the journey discovering this remote and Hollywood desert city with a panoramic tour that will take us from the Tolkuchka Bazaar, a typical oriental bazaar, one of the largest in Central Asia, where you can buy from camels to valuable carpets or high quality silver jewelry . We will go to Nisa Partaunissa, the capital of the Partias, which had its flourishing time in the third century B.C. After lunch, we will visit the National Museum. Transfer to the railway station and accommodation in our respective cabins. Dinner and night aboard the Orient Silk Road Express. [B/L/D]

**Day 3: Merv [Turkmenistan]**

In the morning, the train arrives in Merv, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The region is rich in immense cotton plantations, that are irrigated by the waters of the Murgab River. Visit the archaeological site of Merv, that once, was one of the most civilized cities in Central Asia, called the Pearl of the East. We will see the mausoleum of Sultan Sanjar and Kys Kala, a curious castle without windows. Lunch is served in the picturesque inner courtyard at the home of a local family. Once the table talk is finished, we will board our Orient Silk Road Express train to Bukhara. Dinner and night on board. [B/L/D]

**Day 4: Bukhara [Uzbekistan]**

Crossing the dry plains of the Kyzyl Kum desert, we arrive at Bukhara, located in the middle of this “Red Sands” desert. With its wealth of monuments of traditional oriental architecture, Bukhara is one of the jewels within the legendary Silk Road. We will visit the bazaar, the Kalyan minaret with its almost 50 meters high, the Lyabi-Hauz square surrounded by medresas and tea houses. We will see the small monument to Nasreddin, the local “Quijote”, who is well known throughout the Muslim world. Early dinner at a medresa, an old Koranic school, today converted, where a magnificent dance and folk music show awaits us with a presentation of colourful national costumes. At the end of dinner and the show, we will go to the hotel to rest. [B/L/D]

**Day 5: Bukhara [Uzbekistan]**

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day of visits through the streets of old Bukhara, which is like a large museum that preserves its ancient eastern face. Visit of the citadel of Ark, residence of the Emirs of Bukhara and the mausoleum of Ismael Samani (10th century) the oldest Muslim monument in the country. In the afternoon, we will see the mediere of Mir I the Arab and the Summer Palace of the last Emir, a palace with an eclectic mix of European and Eastern style. We finish the tour by visiting, what

is probably, the only mosque for women, a Sufi complex and pilgrimage center located about 15 km away on the outskirts of the city. We return aboard our train. Dinner and night at the hotel. [B/L/D]

#### **Day 6: Bukhara - Khiva [Uzbekistan]**

Breakfast at the hotel. You have the morning at your disposal. Around noon, the train leaves in the direction of Khiva, crossing the desert of Kyzyl Kum. Dinner and night aboard the Orient Silk Road Express. [B/L/D]

#### **Day 7: Khiva [Uzbekistan]**

Breakfast on board. We will arrive in Urgench and from here, we will go to the inspiring city of Khiva. City-museum, that has preserved its architecture almost intact and allows us to get an excellent idea of how the cities of Central Asia should have been before been invaded by hordes that destroyed them and the passing of time. The inner city, Ichan Kala, has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Stroll through its intricate alleys, visiting the most prominent mosques and minarets among which are the Juma Mosque, decorated with 218 wooden columns and the sumptuous Tosh Khovi Palace, as well as the Islam Chodja minarets and the truncated Kalta Minor, of turquoise tiles and that could have been the greatest of all. Visit of the summer residence of Toza Bog (1893-1913) where we will also have lunch. Continue aboard our Orient Silk Road Express train towards Samarkand. Dinner and night on board. [B/L/D]

#### **Day 8: Samarkand [Uzbekistan]**

Samarkand was the capital of the empire of Tamerlane and has some of the most outstanding architectural wonders of Central Asia. We will have occasion to admire it. Visit the Shadi - Zinda complex and Registan Square, a true marvel of oriental architecture, flanked on three sides by the Ulugbek, Sherdor and Tilla Qori medresa. The interior and exterior of the medresa is decorated with tiles, mosaics and marble. In the Plaza de Parandazha, the Uzbek women burned their veils and began a new era for them (1917). Free time in the afternoon to make purchases. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

#### **Day 9: Samarkand [Uzbekistan]**

Today, we will see how the famous silk carpets are made and we will how the manufacture of the paper is made, based on the bark of the mulberry tree. Visit the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque, built between 1399-1405 by Tamerlan for his wife, who has Chinese origin. We will also visit the Gur Emir Mausoleum, sepulcher of Tamerlan, with its immense Turkish dome of about 20m in diameter. Lunch at a local restaurant. Finally, visit of Afrosiyob, 7th century and the Ulug Bek observatory with its impressive 15th century sextant 63 metres long. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

#### **Day 10: Shahrisabz [Uzbekistan]**

Early in the morning we will arrive at Shahrisabz, a small provincial town located in a fertile valley and surrounded by the mountains of the imposing Pamir, where we will visit the Tamerlane mausoleum. The name in Farsi means "green city." The ceremonies of fire or shamanistic worship, rituals and myths that have been forgotten elsewhere, are still preserved. Caravans of the Silk Road and the armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and Tamerlan made their way through the narrow mountain passes. The experience of a representation of folklore brings us closer to the unique traditions of this region. In the afternoon, continue aboard our train Silk Route Express towards Tashkent. Uzbek wine tasting and dinner on board. [B/L/D]

#### **Day 11: Tashkent [Uzbekistan]**

We will arrive in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan in the morning. Tashkent was one of the basic cities of the Silk Road, but little or nothing remains of it after the 1966 earthquake. The new Tashkent resembles a city in Eastern Europe, with its large avenues, parks and apartment blocks. We will visit the Kudeldash Medresa, the monuments of the Soviet era and the opera. Train departure in the direction of Kazakhstan. Dinner and night aboard the Orient Silk Road Express train. [B/L/D]

### Day 12: Turkistan [Kazakhstan]

After breakfast and lunch on board, we will arrive at Turkistan in the afternoon. Customs formalities will be carried out comfortably in your cabins. We will visit the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, in Yasawi, built between 1389 and 1405. In this partially unfinished building, we can observe how the Persian architects experienced architectural and structural solutions, which they later used in Samarkand. Later, on board our train again, we will cross the great plain north towards Almaty. Tomorrow we will say goodbye to our friendly on-board staff that has made our stay on board very pleasant. Dinner and last night aboard the Orient Silk Road Express train. [B/L/D]

### Day 13: Almaty [Kazakhstan]

We will arrive in Almaty, the old capital of Kazakhstan, after lunch. Hotel accommodation. In the afternoon, a short panoramic visit will show us wide avenues and parks of the city. Visit the Orthodox Cathedral of Zenkov, one of the tallest buildings in the world built entirely of wood. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a special Farewell Dinner in a yurt, the traditional tent of nomads in the region. At the indicated time, the transfer to the airport will be made. [B/L/D]

[D]] = Dinner] | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

#### Your Tour includes:

- Transfers as required
- 12 nights' accommodation:
  - Almaty 1 night
  - Registan Train 8 nights
  - Samarkand 2 nights
  - Bukhara 1 night
- Meals:
  - Breakfast daily
  - Lunch daily
  - 11 dinners
  - 1 farewell dinner
- 1 welcome drink
- Doctor on board
- Daily cleaning service
- Each car has 2 hostesses (they work in shifts)
- Tea and coffee are served free throughout the trip
- Bed linen is changed once during the trip
- Tea, coffee and 1 bottle of mineral water during meals
- The Parthian city of Nisa
- Tour Kyrk-Qyz-Qala or fortress of the virgins
- Sufi order women's mosque
- Tour the great Ark fortress

- Discover Lyab-i-Khauz ensemble
- Visit Bukhara
- Khiva minarets and madrasas
- Carpet manufacturing in Samarkand
- Visit of Samarkand
- Folkloric show in Shahrissabz
- Tashkent city tour
- Mausoleum of Kohja Ahmed Yasawi
- Sightseeing of Almaty
- A/C Registan Train in cabin of your choice
- Local transportation by A/C vehicle
- English-speaking guide
- Local guides for sites visited
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- All local taxes

#### Tour does not include:

- International airfares
- Any taxes related to airfares or airports
- Meals not mentioned under inclusions
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

#### Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
<b>First Class</b>		
Bukhara	Minzifa Hotel	4.5
Samarkand	Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior	4.5
Ashgabad	Oguzkhent Hotel	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking



**Tour Prices:**

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups. Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- **Airfare**  
We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares
- **Program**  
You may add or remove;
  - Trip days
  - Cities and sites
  - Meals
- **Other options**
  - The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
  - If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.
- **Quotation**  
Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

**Tour Code:** KZ03ASB20VT

**Departure dates 2021**

Train #	Ashgabad - Almaty
T04	12 April
T10	18 October

These dates may change and will be confirmed at time of booking

**Options:**

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

**Group Quotations**

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.

**Available Cabins:**

**Habibi (3 or 4 people per cabin)**

Sleeping car with 9 compartments each. The beds are 26x72 inches. Each compartment has 2 low beds and 2 upper beds, 220V nightstand and plug to recharge camera and mobile batteries. The compartment can be occupied by 3 or 4 people. The toilets (WC and washbasin) at both ends of the car.



**Alibaba (1 or 2 people per cabin)**

Sleeping car with 9 compartments each. The beds are 26x72 inches. Each compartment has 2 low beds and 2 upper beds, 220V nightstand and plug to recharge camera and mobile batteries. The compartment can be occupied for exclusive use guaranteed by a single person (something almost impossible on regular trains). The compartment can be occupied by 3 or 4 people. The toilets (WC and washbasin) at both ends of the car.



**Aladdin (1 or 2 people per cabin)**

Sleeping car with 8 compartments each. The beds are 26x72 inches. Each compartment has 2 low beds, nightstand and 220V plug to recharge camera and mobile batteries. The compartment can be occupied for exclusive use guaranteed by a single person (something almost impossible on regular trains). The toilets (WC and washbasin) at both ends of the car and shower cabin for use by all "Aladdin" passengers. Shifts will be established for the use of the shower. The cars have air conditioning while the convoy is in motion. Therefore, the windows of the "Aladdin" sleeping cars cannot be opened and will remain closed during the entire tour.



**Sultan (1 or 2 people per cabin)**

Sleeping cars with 6 compartments each. Each compartment has a low bed (43x72 inches) suitable even for 2 people if necessary, and an upper bed (31.5x68.5 inches), wardrobe, 220V plug to recharge camera and mobile batteries, also has TV and DVD. The compartment can be occupied for exclusive use guaranteed by a single person (something almost impossible to get on regular trains). Ecological WC, washbasin and shower (with curtain) for private use is inside the compartment. The cars have air conditioning while the convoy is in motion. Therefore, the windows of the "Sultan" dormitory cars cannot be opened and will remain closed throughout the tour.



**Caliph (1 or 2 people per cabin)**

Sleeping car with 6 compartments each. Each compartment consists of a low bed (47x72 inches) suitable even for 2 people if necessary, and an upper bed (80 x174), wardrobe, 220V plug to recharge camera and mobile batteries, also has TV and DVD. The compartment can be occupied for exclusive use guaranteed by a single person (something almost impossible to get on regular trains). Ecological WC, washbasin and shower (with screen) for private use inside the compartment. The cars have air conditioning while the convoy is in motion. Therefore, the windows of the "Caliph" sleeping cars cannot be opened and will remain closed throughout the tour.



**Restaurant car**

Meals on board the train will be served in the 2 spacious restaurant cars, where breakfast, lunch and dinner are served as part of the full board that every passenger of the "Registan or Orient Silk Road Express" enjoys on board. Part of the menu will consist of local cuisine, according to route, and Russian / international cuisine. Water, tea and coffee accompany each meal. There are two meal shifts established. At night they turn into a bar, where we can meet with your travel companions. Refreshing drinks, beer and wine are served.

