Jewels of the Silk Road on the Golden Eagle: Baku to Almaty

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Overview

The Highlights

- Explore four of the magnificent ‘Stans’ on board the luxurious *Golden Eagle* luxury train with all meals, drinks, gratuities, included;

- Take in the 2,500 year-old city of Khiva, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site;

- View Samarkand’s Registan Square, beautifully lit at night;

- Visit Lake Issyk-Kul, nestled in the heart of the Kyrgyz mountains;

- Enjoy a private showcase of traditional sports, such as horseback wrestling and hunting with

Golden Eagles;

- Tour includes transfers, luggage handling, meals, excursions and gratuities.

The Tour

Embark on this incredible 9-day journey on the *Golden Eagle* luxury train. This adventure travels through Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, offering a fascinating blend of ancient history and natural beauty.

The tour begins with the UNESCO World Heritage cities of Baku, Khiva and Bukhara. You'll explore the fabled city of Samarkand, the modern capital of Tashkent, and the serene landscapes of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. Here, you will experience a privately arranged cultural event showcasing traditional nomadic sports and games. The journey comes to an end in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Itinerary

Day 1: Baku, Azerbaijan

Arrive at Baku Airport, where you are met and transferred to the five-star Four Seasons Baku hotel (or similar).

On your first evening in Baku, you will be invited to our exclusive Welcome Dinner. Specially selected international wines are included with dinner, as with all meals during the tour.

Day 2: Khiva, Uzbekistan

Following breakfast, we take a morning flight onboard our private plane to Urgench, gateway to the extraordinary desert city of Khiva. Founded 2,500 years ago, Khiva became one of the Silk Road's most important trading posts as it lies at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A truly magnificent sight to behold, it rises out of the desert to reveal a wealth of impressive architecture. Stepping back in time, we discover its impressive mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within the city's ancient walls.

Day 3: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Today, we arrive in Bukhara and begin with a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara. Following, we visit Poi-Kalyan Square. Stroll through the mosque's large pillar-domed galleries and deeply recessed niches, and you will be transported to a bygone era.

Immerse yourself in the lively pulse of the city as we explore the bustling Trading Domes of Bukhara and gather at Lyabi-Hauz Square.

This evening, weather permitting, we will enjoy a barbecue on the station platform before our train departs.

Day 4: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up images of the Silk Road, more so than any other town. Founded in the 6th century BC, Samarkand’s stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia, and is particularly noted for its architectural remains from the 14th to the 17th century, when it flourished as the fabled capital of the Mongol empire of Timur and his successors.

Today we will visit some of its most significant sites, including Registan Square, the refined elegance of the beautifully proportioned Bibi Khanum Mosque, and the Ulag Beg observatory, one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories built in 1428.

Before dinner, we will return to the now illuminated and awe-inspiring Registan Square for an incredible light show that weaves the rich tapestry of Samarkand's history and significance.

Day 5: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Today we arrive in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. We spend time touring this modern Soviet-style city, which was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake of 1966.

Our tour begins in the Old Town with a visit to the Khast-Imam Complex, where we are privileged to view one of Islam’s most revered relics — the Uthman Qur’an, widely regarded as the world’s oldest surviving manuscript of the Qur’an.

The tour continues with a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts, followed by time in Independence Square, a symbol of modern Uzbekistan.

Day 6: Onboard & Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Enjoy a more leisurely day of scenic rail travel, as we traverse the wide-open landscapes of Uzbekistan before crossing the border into Kyrgyzstan.

In the late afternoon, we arrive in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, where we disembark for a short introductory tour of the city.

Our guided sightseeing reveals Bishkek’s distinctive Soviet-era character. We visit Ala-Too Square and stroll through several of the city’s leafy parks.

Day 7: Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Today, we enjoy an extended visit to the magnificent Lake Issyk-Kul, a true natural wonder nestled in the heart of the Kyrgyz mountains. Stretching over 170 kilometers in length and up to

70 kilometers wide, it is recognized as the second-largest alpine lake in the world.

Immerse yourself in the rich nomadic heritage of Kyrgyzstan with a privately arranged cultural event along the lake's shores. Enjoy a captivating display of traditional sports and games such as archery, horseback wrestling, hunting with majestic Golden Eagles, and "Ordo", a strategic game played with cow kneecaps.

After the festival, there will be the option to visit the outdoor Museum of the Petroglyphs before returning to the train.

This evening we enjoy our Farewell Dinner onboard the *Golden Eagle* as we head overnight to our final destination of Almaty.

Day 8: Almaty, Kazakhstan

This morning we arrive into Almaty, our final destination. We bid farewell to the *Golden Eagle* as we disembark at the station.

Today we will take a tour of the city, including a visit to Panfilov Park, located in the heart of the city, and home to the Zenkov Cathedral, a 19th-century Russian Orthodox Church made entirely of wood.

Following our tour, we transfer to the Ritz-Carlton Almaty hotel (or similar) for a one-night stay.

Day 9: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Following breakfast you will be transferred to Almaty Airport for your onward flight. Your journey's end.

Reverse itinerary

Day 1: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Arrive in Almaty, where you will be greeted upon arrival and privately transferred to your centrally located hotel for a one-night stay.

This evening, you are invited to a Welcome Dinner at the hotel to meet your fellow travelers and enjoy an introduction to the remarkable journey ahead.

Day 2: Almaty, Kazakhstan & On board

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of Almaty. Highlights include a visit to Panfilov Park and the Zenkov Cathedral.

This afternoon, you will board the *Golden Eagle*. After settling into your private cabin, begin your journey through the diverse landscapes of Kazakhstan before crossing the border into Kyrgyzstan.

As evening falls, a sumptuous Welcome Dinner will be served on board, accompanied by a selection of fine wines.

Day 3: Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Today, enjoy an extended visit to the magnificent Lake Issyk-Kul, the second-largest alpine lake in the world. Along the shore, experience a privately arranged cultural festival showcasing Kyrgyzstan's rich nomadic heritage.

Witness traditional sports and pastimes, including horseback wrestling, hunting with Golden Eagles, archery, and ordo, a strategic game played with cow kneecaps. Traditional music, dance, colorful costumes, and craft demonstrations provide a fascinating insight into the enduring culture of the Central Asian steppes.

Following the festival, there is an opportunity to visit the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs before returning to the train.

Day 4: On board

Enjoy a leisurely day onboard as the *Golden Eagle* journeys from Kyrgyzstan into Uzbekistan.

Relax in the comfort of your cabin or take in the ever-changing scenery from the Bar Lounge Car as
vast plains, rolling hills, and distant mountain ranges give way to the historic landscapes of Central Asia.

Day 5: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Today, you will explore Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. Your tour includes the historic Old Town, where traditional homes and religious buildings line narrow streets. Here, visit a small library housing one of Islam's most revered treasures – the Uthman Quran, believed to be among the world's oldest surviving Korans.

You will also visit the Railway Museum, showcasing the region's rich rail heritage, and the Museum of Applied Arts, renowned for its collection of traditional Uzbek craftsmanship, ceramics, textiles, and decorative arts.

Day 6: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Today, explore Samarkand's most iconic landmarks, including the spectacular Registan Square, the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, and the Ulugh Beg Observatory.

This evening, experience the magic of Samarkand after dark with a visit to the beautifully illuminated Registan Square. From reserved seats, enjoy a captivating light and sound show that brings to life the fascinating history, culture, and legacy of this legendary Silk Road city.

Day 7: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Bukhara is one of Central Asia's most remarkable Silk Road cities, renowned for its beautifully preserved historic center. Your tour includes a visit to The Ark, the former fortress-palace of the Emirs of Bukhara, and Poi-Kalyan Square.

You will also explore Bukhara's atmospheric Trading Domes and the charming Lyabi-Hauz Square, a lively gathering place shaded by mulberry trees.

This evening, weather permitting, enjoy a memorable barbecue on the station platform before the train departs.

Day 8: Kiva, Uzbekistan & Baku, Azerbaijan

Today, explore the ancient city of Khiva, one of the Silk Road's most important trading centers and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A walk through its historic streets offers an unforgettable glimpse into the splendor of a bygone age.

This afternoon, you will board a private charter flight to Baku, Azerbaijan's vibrant capital on the shores of the Caspian Sea, where we will enjoy an overnight stay and a Farewell Dinner at a five-star hotel.

Day 9: Baku, Azerbaijan

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward journey, bringing your remarkable adventure along the Silk Road to a close.

Dates & Prices

2027 Dates

October 7 - October 15
October 14 - October 22

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Silver Class	$16,800	$25,200	25%
Gold Class	$21,800	$36,400	25%
Imperial Suite	$49,050	$98,100	25%

All prices are per person.

More

Travel visas may be required for Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, depending on your nationality.