

Republics of the Silk Road: Tashkent-Almaty

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Overview

The Highlights

- Grand trek across Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan
- The most stylish, comfortable way to see sights rarely seen by Western travelers
- Samarkand's Registan Square, with its stunning three madrasas
- Khudayar-Khan Fortress, built by the last Khan of Kokand, Uzbekistan
- Shahrizabz, birthplace of Tamarlane the conqueror
- Ancient city of Margilan, world-famous for its silk production

- Open-air Museum of Petroglyphs at Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, a sacred site used by Saka priests for sacrifices and other rites to the sun god
- Kohi Navruz Palace in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan
- Visit Zenkov Cathedral in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- All meals, wine and beer with lunch & dinner, off-train tours, and gratuities included

The Tour

The Republics of the Silk Road is a fascinating rail journey through Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Travel in comfort aboard the [Golden Eagle](#) luxury train while exploring these Southern Republics of the former Soviet Union.

Watch [Lonely Planet's short video](#) explaining why they have named the Central Asian Silk Road one of the top regions to visit.

Itinerary

Day 1: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Arrive at Tashkent Airport, where you are met and transferred to the five-star JW Marriott hotel (or similar).

On your first evening in Tashkent, you will be invited to a champagne drinks' reception before our exclusive Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Today you explore Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

Your tour begins in Old Town, and continues with visits to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts.

Later this afternoon, you board the *Golden Eagle* and settle into your private ensuite cabin.

This evening, gather for a Welcome Dinner onboard — the perfect start to our journey.

Day 3: Kokand, Margilan, and Rishtan, Uzbekistan

Visit the ancient city of Kokand and explore various sites, such as the majestic Palace of Khudayar Khan (the Pearl of Kokand), and the Jami Mosque, Kokand's most impressive Mosque.

Continue by coach onto Rishtan. Here, you will discover the secrets of the techniques of the

ancient craft from prominent local artisan Rustam Usmanov. Witness the magic of pottery in action during a close up demonstration by a master professional at work.

Your final stop in the Fergana Valley is a visit to the ancient city of Margilan, famous for its production of silk, considered by many as the best in Central Asia. Here, you will visit a local family who have been producing silk for generations using traditional methods.

Day 4: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Today, you arrive in Bukhara and begin with a visit to The Ark, followed by a visit to Poi-Kalyan Square.

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

You then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named 'Palace of the Moon and Stars'.

Day 5: Nukus, Uzbekistan

Your voyage through Nukus today leads to the extraordinary Igor Savitsky State Museum of the Fine Arts, a true hidden gem in this remote oasis. Nicknamed the 'Louvre in the Sands,' this extraordinary museum houses Central Asia's most extensive art collection, featuring a staggering 100,000 avant-garde masterpieces and crafts from the Karakalpak region.

Day 6: Khiva, Uzbekistan

Today, you travel to the ancient city of Khiva.

As one of the Silk Road's most important trading posts and now a World Heritage Site, it lies at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia.

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

Day 7: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

This afternoon you visit Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, situated on the Varzob River.

First, explore the Museum of National Antiquities, followed by the opulent Kohi Navruz Palace. Enjoy a guided tour with a local expert guide.

Continue your touring program with more historic sites of Tajikistan's largest city. Your visit the Ismail Samani monument, before going onwards to the Independence Square and Mekhrgon Bazaar for a taster of local life in Dushanbe.

Day 8: Shahrisabz, Uzbekistan

Today's visit is to the UNESCO-honored statue of Amir Timur and his Ak-Saray Palace.

This majestic palace in Shahrizabz took over a quarter of a century to build, and was originally decorated with colorful, highly detailed mosaic but also included delicate calligraphic inscriptions from the Qur'an.

Day 9: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Today we will visit some of Samarkand's 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, you will return to the now illuminated and awe-inspiring Registan Square for a light show that weaves the rich tapestry of Samarkand's history and significance.

Day 10: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Spend the morning continuing to explore Samarkand, with a visit the famous necropolis Shakh I Zindah, a stunning collection of mausoleums dating back to the 9th century.

From here, travel to ancient settlement of Afrasiab to visit a museum which houses ancient artifacts collected during the excavation of the city.

Return to the train for lunch and continue our journey through Uzbekistan towards the Fergana Valley.

Day 11: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Arrive in Bishkek today, where you will visit the Ala-Too Square.

Following, a city tour of the local parks, rich in Soviet history, including statues of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and the Memorial for the Red Guards.

Day 12: Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Today, you will enjoy an extended visit to the magnificent Lake Issyk-Kul, a true natural wonder nestled in the heart of the Kyrgyz mountains.

You are invited to immerse yourself in the rich nomadic heritage of Kyrgyzstan with a privately arranged cultural event along the lake's shores. A captivating display of traditional sports and games that have been passed down through generations.

This day promises a unique and authentic insight into the cultural heart of the region, offering memories that will linger long after your journey ends.

After the festival there will be the option to visit the outdoor Museum of the Petroglyphs before

returning to the *Golden Eagle* for dinner.

Day 13: Almaty, Kazakhstan

This morning's city tour of Almaty features Panfilov Park, home to the remarkable Zenkov Cathedral, an architectural masterpiece built entirely of wood without the use of nails, as well as a visit to Independence Square, the city's central gathering place.

Later this evening, come together for a Farewell Dinner at your hotel, a memorable finale to our journey.

Day 14: Almaty, Kazakhstan

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport in Almaty for your onward flight.

Reverse itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Almaty, Kazakhstan

Arrive at the Almaty Airport, where you are met and transferred to the stylish five-star Ritz-Carlton hotel (or similar).

On your first evening in Almaty, you will be invited to a champagne drinks' reception before the exclusive Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Almaty, Kazakhstan

This morning, enjoy a guided city tour introducing Almaty's rich history and cultural heritage. Highlights include a stroll through Panfilov Park, home to an impressive Second World War memorial, and a visit to the remarkable Zenkov Cathedral.

This afternoon, board the *Golden Eagle*, where you can settle into your private ensuite cabin and begin your luxury rail journey in earnest.

This evening, gather on board for a Welcome Dinner, marking the start of an unforgettable adventure.

Day 3: Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Today, you will enjoy an extended visit to the magnificent Lake Issyk-Kul, a true natural wonder nestled in the heart of the Kyrgyz mountains.

You are invited to immerse yourself in the rich nomadic heritage of Kyrgyzstan with a privately arranged cultural event along the lake's shores. A captivating display of traditional sports and games that have been passed down through generations.

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memories that will linger long after your journey ends.

After the festival there will be the option to visit the outdoor Museum of the Petroglyphs before returning to the *Golden Eagle* for dinner.

Day 4: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

This afternoon you will arrive in Bishkek. Originally a caravan rest stop serving the travelers that came through the area along the Great Silk Road, Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, is the location of our afternoon sightseeing.

Here we will visit the Ala-Too Square, followed by a city tour of the local parks, rich in Soviet history, including statues of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and the Memorial for the Red Guards.

Following your tour, rejoin the train and continue your journey towards Tashkent.

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.

Your tour begins in the Old Town with a visit to the Khast-Imam Complex, followed by a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts, housed in the richly decorated former residence of Imperial Russian diplomat Alexander Polovtsev. You will then have time in Independence Square, a symbol of modern Uzbekistan.

You also visit the Railway Museum, offering insight into the pivotal role rail travel has played in the region's development.

Day 6: Khiva, Uzbekistan

Today, you travel to the ancient city of Khiva.

As one of the Silk Road's most important trading posts and now a World Heritage Site, it lies at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia. A truly magnificent sight to behold, it rises out of the desert to reveal a wealth of impressive architecture.

Stepping back in time, you will discover its impressive mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.

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Day 8: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Today, you arrive in Bukhara and begin with a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara. Following, you will visit Poi-Kalyan Square.

Immerse yourself in the lively pulse of the city as you explore the bustling Trading Domes of Bukhara and gather at Lyabi-Hauz Square. You then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named 'Palace of the Moon and Stars'.

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

Day 9: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

This afternoon you visit Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, situated on the Varzob River.

First, explore the Museum of National Antiquities, followed by the opulent Kohi Navruz Palace. Enjoy a guided tour with a local expert guide.

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From here, travel to ancient settlement of Afrasiab to visit a museum which houses ancient artifacts collected during the excavation of the city.

Return to the train for lunch and continue our journey through Uzbekistan towards the Fergana Valley.

Day 13: Margilan, Rishtan and Kokand, Uzbekistan

This morning, visit the ancient city of Margilan, famous for its production of silk, considered by many as the best in Central Asia. Here you will visit the Margilan Factory which is considered the best of its kind in Uzbekistan.

From Margilan, you continue onto Rishtan, which is home to Uzbekistan's world-famous ceramic industry. Here you will discover the secrets of the techniques of the ancient craft from prominent local artisan Rustam Usmanov.

Kokand is one of the most ancient cities of Uzbekistan and served as a critical trading post on the Silk Road. Highlights of your touring here includes the majestic Palace of Khudayar Khan (the Pearl of Kokand), and the Jami Mosque, Kokand's most impressive Mosque.

This evening, you will enjoy a Farewell Dinner on board the *Golden Eagle* as you return to Tashkent where you stay for a one-night at the five-star JW Marriott hotel (or similar).

Day 14: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

After breakfast in your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

Dates & Prices

2026 Dates

September 29 - October 12

October 12 - October 25

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Silver Class	\$26,900	\$40,400	25%
Gold Class	\$34,900	\$57,400	25%
Imperial Suite	\$63,400	\$125,500	25%

All prices are per person.

2027 Dates

April 29 - May 12

August 30 - September 12

September 12 - September 25

September 23 - October 6

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Silver Class	\$28,300	\$42,400	25%
Gold Class	\$36,600	\$61,200	25%
Imperial Suite	\$69,700	\$138,000	25%

All prices are per person.

More

Four visas are required for this journey (for U.S. citizens); please allow six weeks for this process. Visa requirements vary depending on citizenship. Please inquire.

Latest News: Click [here](#) for owner Owen Hardy's blog on improvements on the *Golden Eagle*.