



UZBEKISTAN

GOLDEN EAGLE - REPUBLICS OF THE SILK ROAD (TOUR CODE: 12625)

STARTS AND ENDS

Almaty to
Tashkent

TRAVEL PERIODS

06 Oct 2023 - 18 Oct 2024

EXPERIENCE

Rail

TRAVEL STYLE

Rail Packages

A journey along the Silk Road, the land of lost borders, through a region which roves beyond its geographic boundaries and encompasses cultures spanning millennia.

Highlights

- Discover the 4,000-year-old art of *Golden Eagle* hunting at Lake Issyk-Kul
- Learn a new craft in a traditional Kyrgyz break making class
- Evening drinks reception on the beautifully lit Registan Square, Samarkand
- See the Darvaza Burning Gas Crater light up the night sky in the Kara Kum desert
- Explore the historic, UNESCO honoured, cities of Khiva, Merv, Bukhara and Smarkand

Follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo and seek out the fabled treasures of the Silk Road with this experiential voyage along one of the world's most iconic routes. Journeying aboard the opulently appointed Golden Eagle, step back in time to the grandeur of yesteryear and the mystical lands which have enchanted adventurers for millennia.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- Five-star pre and post hotel accommodation
- Private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle train – Silver Class Twin Cabin
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Freshly prepared meals on board
- Golden Eagle Gala Caviar dinner
- Generous drinks allowance, including international wines with lunch and dinner
- Expertly guided off-train excursions
- 24-hour cabin attendance service
- Experienced Tour Management team
- Services of a UK-registered Doctor and medical facilities on board
- All gratuities
- Luggage portage throughout the journey

Freedom of Choice Days

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Arrive at Almaty Airport, where you are met and transferred to the stylish five-star Intercontinental Hotel.

On your first evening in Almaty, you will be invited to a champagne drinks' reception before an exclusive Welcome Dinner. Specially selected international wines are included with dinner, as with all meals during the tour.

Dinner



Day **2**

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Almaty is the largest city in Kazakhstan and is notable for its wide tree-lined boulevards. Surrounded by the majesty of the Tien Shan Mountains, this beautiful city derives its name from 'alma' meaning 'apple'. Just a short distance from the city, apple orchards thrive in abundance.

The morning city tour includes a visit to Panfilov Park to visit the Zenkhov Cathedral which was built from wood using unique ancient techniques omitting nails.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

Lake Issyk-kul & Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

This morning, enjoy a guided tour of the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs at Lake Issyk-Kul, a sacred site used by the Saka priests for sacrifices and other rites to the sun god. Some of the petroglyphs date from the Bronze Age with later engravings dating to the 10th century.

Following this, you will be treated to a breathtaking flight demonstration of Eagle Hunting, a 4,000-year-old art. You will learn the story of eagle hunting, the characteristics of the Golden Eagle and the fascinating details of this Kyrgyz nomadic tradition.

Originally a caravan rest stop serving the travellers that came through the area along the Great Silk Road, Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, is the location for your afternoon of sightseeing. Here you will visit the Ala-Too Square, built 1984 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic in Kyrgyzstan and 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.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **4**

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

This afternoon you arrive in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. Spend time touring this modern Soviet-style city, which was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake of 1966. The tour of the city includes the Old Town, where traditional homes and religious buildings line the narrow streets.

In a small library here, you will be privileged to see one of Islam's most sacred relics – the world's oldest Quran. This is followed by a visit to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

Day 5

Khiva, Uzbekistan

Today, travel to the ancient city of Khiva, founded 2,500 years ago. 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 Iran. A truly magnificent sight to behold, it rises out of the desert to reveal a wealth of impressive architecture. Stepping back in time, discover its impressive mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



KHIVA, UZBEKISTAN

Day 6

Ashgabat & Darvaza Gas Crater, Turkmenistan

Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, situated between the Kara Kum desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range, Ashgabat is a relatively modern city built upon the ruins of the Silk Road city of Konjikala. The Soviet city was largely rebuilt after the devastating earthquake of 1948.

The city's extravagant fountains, golden domes and towering modern buildings appear strangely incongruous in this desert

setting. Highlights on this visit include the National Museum and Kipchak Mosque.

The *Golden Eagle* makes a brief scheduled stop at Ichoguz, where you have the option to leave the train and make a short journey to Darvaza's famous burning gas crater, a spectacular sight best seen at night. Located in the middle of the Kara Kum desert where the area is rich in natural gas, the 70-metre wide crater is known by the locals as the 'Door to Hell' and has been burning for over 40 years. A unique experience that is not to be missed.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7

Merv, Turkmenistan

From the city of Mary, transfer to the ancient and mainly unrestored remains of Merv. Once an important stopping point on the Silk Road, it claims to have briefly been the largest city in the world during the 12th century. The demise of Merv came in 1794, after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended on for its water.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 8

Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Bukhara is quite simply outstanding. Like Khiva, UNESCO sponsored the renovation of much of the city for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999. The highlight of this wonderful tour is a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara – the despotic and ruthless leaders who ruled until Soviet times.

You then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named 'Palace of the Moon and Stars'. This evening, weather and time permitting, enjoy a barbecue on the station platform before the train departs.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



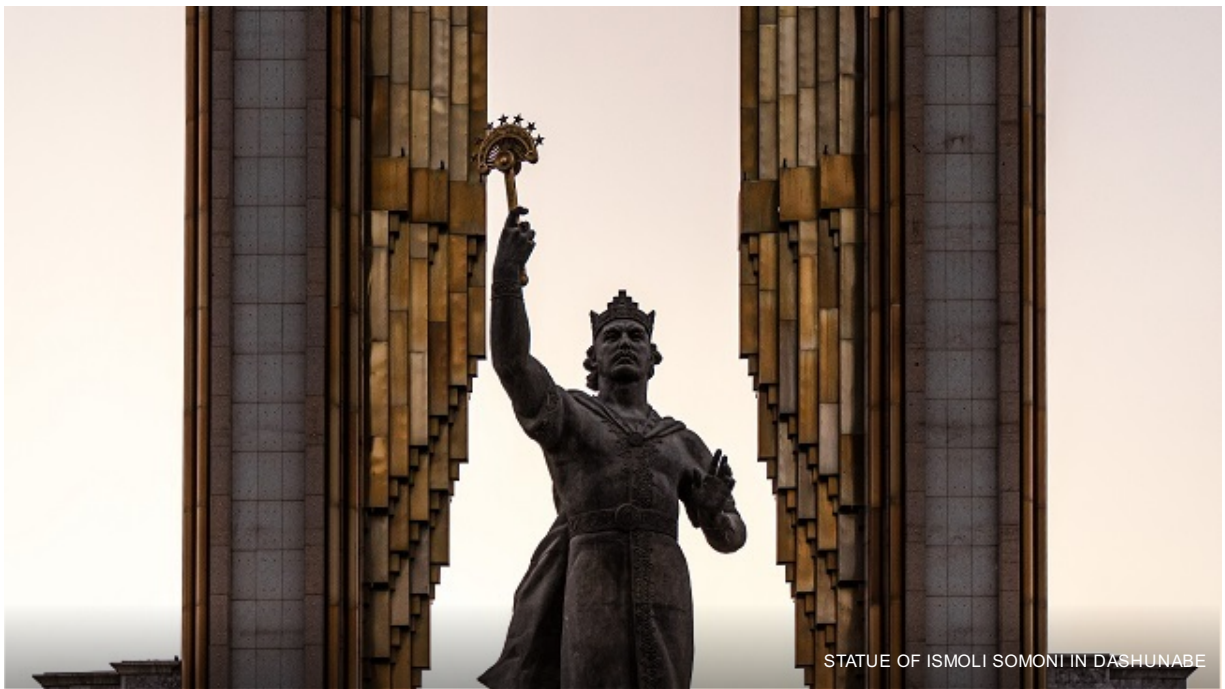
Day 9

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

This morning, visit the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, situated on the Varzob River and the opulent Kohi Navruz Palace. Enjoy a guided tour with a local expert guide, who will tell the fascinating story of the teahouse-turned palace. You will explore each beautiful hall decorated with breathtaking chandeliers, while learning about each of the artists and designers that worked incredibly hard to build and decorate this majestic palace.

After the tour, enjoy tea and local delicacies in the palace before returning to the *Golden Eagle* to continue the journey.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



STATUE OF ISMOLI SOMONI IN DASHUNABE

Day **10** Shahrizabz, Uzbekistan

Believed to be the birthplace of Amir Timur, the military prodigy who modelled himself on Genghis Khan, today you will visit the UNESCO-honoured 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 colourful, highly detailed mosaic but also included delicate calligraphic inscriptions from the Qur'an.

Amid the decorative facing, there is an inscription showing the date 798 (1395 – 1396 AD) which was when the building was completed.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



GOLDEN EAGLE IMPERIAL SUITE

Day **11** Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up evocative images of the Silk Road, more so than any other town. Samarkand's stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia. 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, 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, return to the now illuminated and awe-inspiring Registan Square.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



REGISTAN SQUARE, SAMARKAND

Day 12 Margillan, Andizhan & Osh, Uzbekistan & Kyrgyzstan

This morning, visit the ancient city of Margilan, famous for its production of silk, considered by many as the best in Central Asia. Visit the Yodgorlik Margilan Factory which is considered the best and only one of its kind in Uzbekistan. Producing 6,000 metres of silk per month, the factory has preserved a manual and traditional method of silk production. Explore the whole process of making silk from the mulberry trees, used to feed the silkworms - to the hardworking staff hand weaving the colourful ikat fabric on traditional looms.

The next stop is the town of Andizhan. The city is renowned as the birthplace of Zahiruddin Babur in 1483. He was a descendant of Amir Timur, who was once the ruler of this area. During the short visit explore the Jami Madrasah and mosque, one of the biggest religious complexes in the region.

Late afternoon you arrive in Osh, a popular destination for Muslim pilgrimages as it is home to the sacred Sulayman Mountain, visible from all areas of the city and named in honour of the Qur'anic Prophet Solomon.

*Freedom of Choice touring options today include a walking tour of the city, taking in spectacular Soviet mosaics, murals, and public art, plus a visit to some of the major architectural sites and monuments honouring World War Two soldiers and Chernobyl victims. Alternatively, you can enjoy a traditional bread making class. Bread is an important part of the local diet and across Kyrgyzstan it not only varies by its shape, but also by its taste, and the unique way in which it is baked. **Please note, selection of your preferred tour will be done locally***

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



SULAYMAN MOUNTAIN

Day **13** Kokand, Uzbekistan

Kokand is the main transportation junction in the Fergana Valley and is located at the crossroads of the two main ancient trade routes. It is known that each of the Khanates of Turan had their own impressive palace. One of these architectural monuments is the citadel of the last Kokand Khan, Khudayar Khan.

Today, visit the Khudayar Khan Fortress and its remaining buildings and courtyards, the best way to understand not only the history of the buildings but also the lives and times of Khudayar Khan, his wives and his family. You will also have an opportunity to visit the museum displaying jewellery, clothing and metal-ware.

This evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner on board the *Golden Eagle* as you return to Tashkent.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



PALACE OF KHUDAYAR KHAN

Day **14** Tashkent, Uzbekistan

After breakfast on board the *Golden Eagle*, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

ACCOMMODATION

Golden Eagle

UPGRADE AVAILABLE

LIFE ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE

The Golden Eagle has been carefully designed with emphasis on your comfort, relaxation and enjoyment. In addition to our private en-suite sleeping cabins, we offer a beautifully appointed Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars.

The Golden Eagle, comprising three categories of cabins, featuring state-of-the-art amenities and en-suite facilities, is the only private train of its kind operating in these regions of the world.

SILVER CABIN

Silver Class cabins, which are more compact at 60 sq ft (5.5 sq metres), feature a small double lower bed and a single upper bed as well as DVD/CD player, LCD screen, safe, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe and large picture window.



The Silver Class cabins have private en-suite wet room with a washbasin, toilet and shower.

- Sleeps 2 in lower small double bed or bunk style
- Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Personal safe
- Private en-suite bathroom with 'wet-room' style shower and toilet
- Bathrobes, slippers, hairdryer and toiletries provided
- DVD/CD player with LCD screens
- Towels and linens changed every second day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water available at all times
- Laundry service available at an additional charge

Room Upgrades

Gold Cabin

At 77 sq ft (7 sq metres) Gold Class cabins are extremely well-proportioned and have everything from a private bathroom with separate power shower cubicle and underfloor heating to a DVD/CD player, LCD screen, safe, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, large picture window as well as featuring a double lower bed and a single upper bed.

Guests in Gold Class benefit from complimentary drinks off the Standard Bar List in the Bar Lounge Car.

- Sleeps 2 in either lower standard double bed or bunk style
- Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Personal safe
- Private en-suite bathroom with full power shower and underfloor heating
- Bathrobes, slippers, hairdryer and toiletries provided
- DVD/CD player with LCD screens
- Towels and linens changed every second day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin available at all times
- Drinks in the Bar Lounge Car included from the Standard Bar List
- Laundry service available at an additional charge



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

Imperial Suite

Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available onboard the Golden Eagle measuring 120 sq ft (11.1 sq metres) and benefiting from a large and luxurious double bed as well as a lounge area with dressing table.

Imperial Suite facilities include a private en-suite bathroom with power shower and the luxury of underfloor heating; individual air-conditioning; wardrobe; DVD/CD player with LCD screen; complimentary fully stocked minibar; safe; small library and two large picture windows to watch the world go by.

Exemplary service starts with a complimentary bottle of Dom Perignon champagne when you board the train to toast the start of your wonderful adventure.

A note for Imperial Suite guests:

A private guide and chauffeured car service is included in many of the destinations we visit on your journey, however, in locations where there are a limited number of experienced and qualified tour guides available, we may offer a shared car service among Imperial Suite guests. Imperial Suite guests will also benefit from the inclusion of drinks from the Standard and Premium Bar list in the Bar Lounge Car, a laundry service and room upgrades to the next available category at the hotels which are featured in the itinerary.

- Sleeps 2 in a large Double Bed (1.5m by 1.9m)
- Sitting area
- Remote controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe

- Dressing table
- Personal safe
- Private en-suite bathroom with full power shower and underfloor heating
- Bathrobes, slippers, hairdryer and toiletries provided
- Complimentary minibar
- DVD/CD player with LCD screens
- Towels and linens changed every second day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water available at all times
- In-cabin dining available on request
- Drinks from the Bar Lounge Car included from the Standard and Premium Bar List (excluding Premium Wine List)
- Private car and guide options in selected cities for off-train excursion programme
- Laundry service included



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The bar lounge car is the perfect location to relax and unwind as you watch the ever changing scenery pass by. Reminisce the day's adventures with fellow passengers over afternoon tea or perhaps challenge your friends to a game of cards before dinner.
- Throughout your journey the Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars will host a variety of entertaining and enriching activities such as Russian language lessons and engaging lectures on local history and culture from expert guest speakers.
- It is also here that our Tour Manager will organise a programme of activities for the journey ahead. Daily itineraries detailing train arrival and departure timings and information on the following day's excursions and activities will be provided, plus useful weather forecast and time zone information.
- As evening falls, enjoy the sounds of the resident pianist playing on the baby grand piano in the Bar Lounge Car. Each night the bar stays open until the last person leaves.
- Expect a relaxed and convivial atmosphere at mealtimes with the freedom to dine wherever, and with whomever, you please in a single sitting. An informal dress code is applied throughout the journey.
- Configuration and styles of Gold Class & Imperial Suite cabins vary with seating and sleeping arrangements. Requests for a preferred cabin arrangement will be noted, but cannot be guaranteed. Please ask for details.

Departure dates:

- 03 Apr 2024 - 16 Apr 2024
- 05 Oct 2024 - 18 Oct 2024

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing, and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc – unless specified in inclusions
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package