



TURKMENISTAN & MORE

GOLDEN EAGLE: JEWELS OF THE SILK ROAD (TOUR CODE: 13978)

STARTS AND ENDS

Ashgabat to
Almaty

TRAVEL PERIODS

29 Sep 24 & 10 Sep 25

EXPERIENCE

Luxury
Cultural
Rail

TRAVEL STYLE

Rail Journeys

Embark on a mesmerising journey from Ashgabat to Almaty, traversing the ancient lands where civilization originated and pivotal religious and political ideologies were born.

Highlights

- 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 Samarkand

Travel onboard the Golden Eagle, and travel through three of the captivating 'Stans', each bearing the marks of Soviet influence yet distinct in their independence. From the magnificent mosques and bustling bazaars of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to the breath-taking verdant expanse and ethereally tranquil landscapes of Kazakhstan, this incredible 8-day adventure is your invitation to one of the world's greatest train journeys.



INCLUSIONS

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

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Ashgabat

Arrive at Ashgabat Airport.

The capital of Turkmenistan is known as the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'. 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 and the Soviet city built after the devastating earthquake of 1948.

Upon arrival - guests will be taken to board the *Golden Eagle*. Once settled into your cabin, lunch will be served in the Restaurant Cars. This afternoon guests will have the opportunity to explore Ashgabat and highlights on today's panoramic city tour includes visits to the National Museum, Wedding Palace and Kipchak Mosque. Dinner served onboard the Golden Eagle.

Lunch, Dinner



Day **2**

Ashgabat & Darvaza

A further morning of touring in Turkmenistan features a visit to nearby Nisa, an ancient settlement of the Parthians, and was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.

The *Golden Eagle* departs Ashgabat at lunch and makes a scheduled stop tonight at Ichoguz. Guests will 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



DARVAZA | CREDIT: ANDREAPETO

Day **3**

Khiva

Today, the Golden Eagle travels towards Urgench, from where guests will transfer 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 Persia. 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, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



KHIVA | CREDIT: ANDREAPETO

Day **4**

Bukhara

Bukhara is quite simply outstanding. The highlight of this wonderful tour is a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara. The touring programme today will also transport guests to the grandeur of Poi-Kalyan Square, home to the iconic Kalyan Mosque, a living relic of traditional Islamic design. Stroll through the mosque's large maksura rooms, pillar-

domed galleries, and deeply recessed niches.

Immerse yourself in the lively pulse of the city as you explore the bustling Trading Domes of Bukhara and gather at Lyabi-Hauz Square, a vibrant social hub cocooned by a pool and embraced by the soothing shade of mulberry trees and local tea rooms. You will 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 the train departs.

Breakfast, Dinner



KALYAN MOSQUE, BUKHARA

Day 5

Samarkand

More so than any other town, just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up evocative images of the Silk Road. 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, 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.

Prepare for an unforgettable evening in Samarkand that will leave an indelible mark on your memory. As the sun sets and night descends upon this ancient city, you will be whisked away to the illuminated Registan Square, where an extraordinary spectacle unfolds. From your prime front-row seats, you'll be treated to a dazzling light show that weaves the rich tapestry of Samarkand's history and significance.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



SAMARKAND

Day **6**

Tashkent

Tashkent is the capital city of Uzbekistan - today, guests will 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 and here in a small library guests will be privileged to see one of Islam's most sacred relics – the world's oldest Koran. This is followed by a visit to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts.

Tonight, savour a Farewell Dinner aboard the Golden Eagle as you embark on an overnight journey to the final destination, Almaty.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



TASHKENT TRAIN STATION

Day **7**

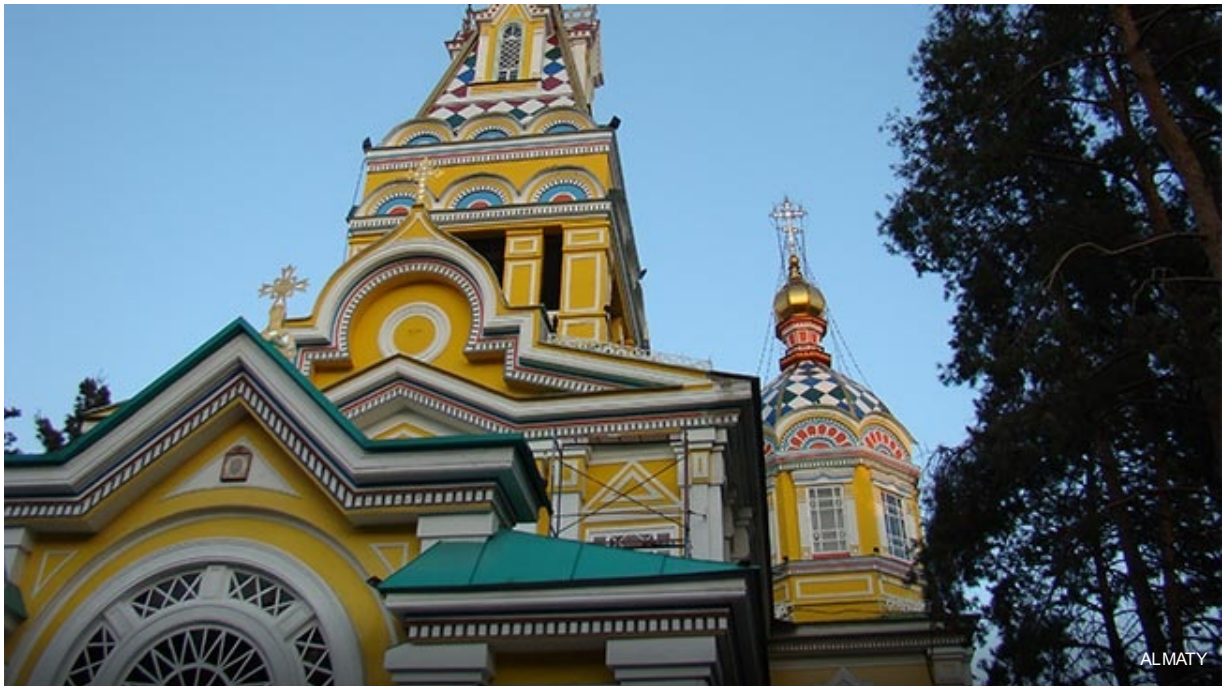
Almaty

This morning, arrive into Almaty, the final destination and bid farewell to the *Golden Eagle*. Today, take a tour of Almaty 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.

Overnight stay for one night at the Ritz-Carlton, Almaty (or similar).

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 8

Almaty

Following breakfast you will be transferred to Almaty Airport for your onward flight.

Why not extend your stay in Almaty with additional nights to explore more of the city and surrounding region at your leisure?

Breakfast



ACCOMMODATION

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
- Drinks in the Bar Lounge Car included from the Standard Bar List

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 your 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:

- 29 September, 2024 - 06 October, 2024
- 10 September, 2025 - 17 September, 2025

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.),
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package