



Golden Eagle Silk Road Express

CHINA & MORE

GOLDEN EAGLE SILK ROAD EXPRESS: THE GRAND SILK ROAD

(TOUR CODE: 14777)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
Beijing to Tashkent	21 Sep 2026	Luxury Cultural Rail	Rail Holiday Packages

Experience a 22-day Grand Silk Road journey, blending luxury and adventure aboard two private trains. Travel from Beijing through Central Asia, with six nights on the Silk Road Express and twelve on the Golden Eagle, visiting Xi'an, Dunhuang, Samarkand and more.

Highlights

- Visit Xi'an's ancient city walls and the Great Mosque, one of the oldest and largest in China
- Witness the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors—6,000 life-sized figures standing guard over the tomb of China's first emperor, unearthed only 40 years ago
- Experience the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, often referred to as the "Cave of a Thousand Buddhas"
- Visit the Atlas Silk and Carpet Workshop, to learn the ancient tradition of hand-weaving exquisite silk and carpets
- Enjoy a breathtaking flight demonstration of Golden Eagle hunting, a 4,000-year-old time-honoured Kyrgyz nomadic tradition

Embark on a captivating 22-day journey aboard two private trains through the heart of the ancient Silk Road. The Grand Silk Road Voyage combines luxury and adventure as you travel from Beijing to Central Asia's stunning landscapes. Enjoy six nights on the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express and twelve nights on the renowned Golden Eagle, visiting destinations like Xi'an, Dunhuang, Kashgar and Samarkand. Explore UNESCO sites, ancient cities, and vibrant cultures while experiencing exceptional rail luxury. From the Gobi Desert's dunes to Lake Issyk-Kul, indulge in world-class dining, luxurious accommodations and expert-guided exploration on this unforgettable voyage.



INCLUSIONS

- 2-night hotel stay in the Four Seasons Beijing (or similar)
- 6-nights private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express
- 1-night hotel stay in the Ritz-Carlton Almaty (or similar)
- 12-nights private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle train
- Freshly prepared meals on board
- Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants
- Inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages from standard bar list
- Cabin attendant service including evening turndown
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Experienced Tour Management team
- Services of a UK-registered Doctor and medical facilities on board
- Expertly guided off-train excursions
- Luggage portage throughout the journey
- All gratuities

ITINERARY

Day 1 Beijing

You will be met upon arrival at the airport in Beijing and will be transferred to the centrally located Four Seasons, Beijing (or similar) hotel for a two-night stay. In the evening, enjoy a welcome reception dinner, where you can meet your fellow travellers ahead of this highly anticipated journey.

Dinner



Day 2 & 3 Beijing

Enjoy walking along a restored section of the Great Wall at Badaling, one of the most significant structures in human history. As you explore this majestic wonder, take in sweeping views of the surrounding countryside before returning to Beijing for an afternoon of leisure. In the evening, savour a traditional Peking Duck dinner at a renowned local restaurant—an authentic taste of Beijing’s culinary heritage.

Discover the grandeur of imperial Beijing with a full-day tour of its most revered sites: the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Summer Palace. Each offers a glimpse into China’s rich dynastic history, from the grandeur of ancient emperors to the intricate beauty of imperial gardens. Alternatively, explore modern Beijing’s architectural marvels, including the Olympic Village, CCTV Tower, and National Museum. That evening, board the opulent Golden Eagle Silk Road Express and settle in for a special welcome dinner as your adventure begins in style.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4 Xi'an

Step back in time as you visit Xi'an's ancient city walls and the Great Mosque, one of the oldest and largest in China. A highlight of your day will be the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors—6,000 life-sized figures standing guard over the tomb of China's first emperor, unearthed only 40 years ago. These intricate statues are considered one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. Enjoy an evening of Tang Dynasty cuisine, music, and dance, immersing you in the vibrant cultural traditions of Xi'an.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



TERRACOTTA WARRIORS, XI AN

Day 5 Journey onboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express

Today is yours to relax and enjoy the luxurious amenities of the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express. Take in panoramic views from the Observation Car, which features the largest train window in China, or unwind in the lounge with a fine selection of wines and cocktails. Revel in the experience of luxury rail travel, with every detail carefully designed for your comfort and enjoyment.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Dunhuang

The Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are a testament to China's rich Buddhist heritage.

This sprawling complex, often referred to as the "Cave of a Thousand Buddhas," boasts over 500 caverns carved into the cliffs of the Gobi Desert. Dating back to the 4th century, these caves house an extraordinary collection of Buddhist art, including thousands of statues and murals that depict scenes from Buddhist mythology and history.

As you're exploring the caves, you will be treated to a mesmerizing performance by local folk artists, their music and dance adding to the spiritual ambiance. After a delightful lunch, embark on a camel trek along the historic Silk Road.

Your journey culminates at Crescent Lake, a breathtaking natural wonder. Nestled amidst the towering sand dunes of the Gobi, this crescent-shaped oasis is a testament to the desert's enduring beauty. Despite facing countless sandstorms over millennia, the lake's crystal-clear waters continue to flow, a symbol of resilience in the harsh desert environment.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7

Golmud

This morning, delve into the rich history of the Silk Road with a special lecture at the Hilton Qinghai-Golmud, followed by lunch in the hotel's elegant surroundings. The afternoon offers the choice of visiting the surreal Chaerhan Salt Lake or joining a guided tour through the city, where modern life meets ancient traditions.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 8

Hotan

Spend a relaxed morning on the train before arriving in Hotan, a city steeped in Silk Road history.

Visit an exclusive Atlas Silk and Carpet workshop, where you will witness artisans crafting intricate textiles using traditional techniques. Each piece is entirely handmade, dyed with natural plant dyes and woven with unparalleled skill. In the evening, explore the ancient city of Yotkan by night—a captivating look into the history of this former Buddhist kingdom.

Return to the train for a farewell dinner, marking the close of this unforgettable leg of your journey.

Day **9**

Kashgar & Almaty

In Kashgar, one of the most important trading hubs on the Silk Road, you will visit the Apak Khoja Tomb and the charming old town, where the atmosphere of centuries past still lingers. Explore the unique Gaotai folk houses and the rich cultural tapestry of the region.

After a delightful lunch at a local restaurant, take a private flight to Almaty, Kazakhstan's vibrant city, where you will spend a luxurious night at the Ritz-Carlton Almaty.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **10**

Almaty & Golden Eagle private train

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.

Your morning city tour includes a visit to Panfilov Park, where you visit the unique Zenkhov Cathedral which was built entirely of wood, and Independence Square.

That evening, step aboard an icon of the rails, the *Golden Eagle private train* and settle in for a special welcome dinner as your adventure continues.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ALMATY

Day 11 Lake Issyk-kul & Bishkek

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, be treated to 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 of afternoon sightseeing. Here, visit the Ala-Too Square, built in 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



CITY OF BISHKEK

Day 12 Tashkent

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

Your 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 Qur'an. This is followed by a visit to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 13 Bukhara

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. Today's touring programme will also transport you 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. Later, 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, Lunch, Dinner



KALYAN MOSQUE, BUKHARA

Day **14** Merv

From 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 year 1794 saw the demise of Merv, after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended on for its water.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



MERV, TURKMENISTAN

Day **15** Ashgabat & Darvaza

Ashgabat, 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. 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 your visit include a visit to the National Museum and Kipchak Mosque.

The *Golden Eagle* makes a scheduled stop at Ichoguz, where you'll have the option to leave the train and make a short journey to the famous burning gas crater at **Darvaza**, 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 16 Khiva

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 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, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 17 Shahkrisabz

Believed to be the birthplace of Amir Timur, the military prodigy who modelled himself on Genghis Khan and used similar violent methods to conquer and control his Empire, visit the UNESCO-honoured statue of Amir Timur and his Ak-Saray Palace. This majestic palace in Shahkriyabz 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.

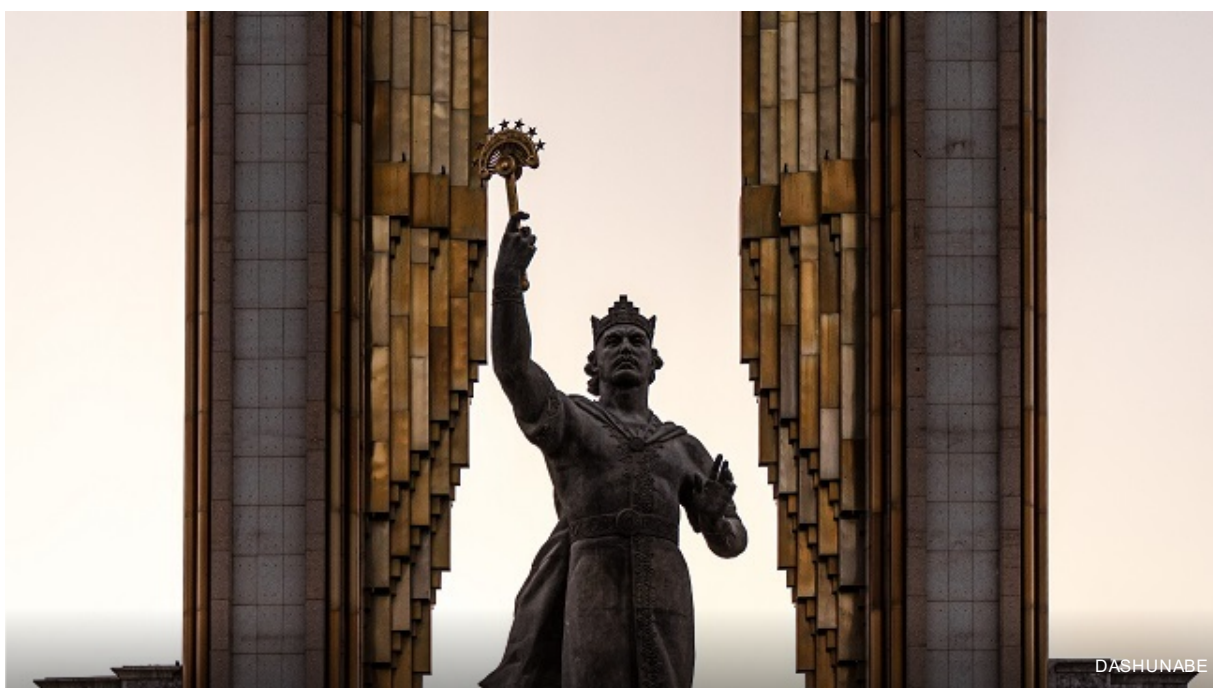
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **18** Dushanbe

This morning, visit Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, situated on the Varzob River and its 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, you will enjoy tea and local delicacies in the palace before returning to the *Golden Eagle* to continue your journey.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **19** Samarkand

Just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up evocative 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, 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



Day **20** Samarkand

Spend the morning continuing to explore Samarkand, with a visit to the famous necropolis Shakh-i-Zindah, a stunning collection of mausoleums dating back to the 9th century. From here, travel to the ancient settlement of Afrasiab to visit a museum which houses ancient artefacts collected during the excavation of the city, including the famous frescoes from the Palace of Varkhuman, which date back to the 7th century.

Later, return to the train for lunch and continue your journey through Uzbekistan towards the Fergana Valley.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **21**

Margilan, Rishtan & Kokand

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. Producing 6,000 metres of silk per month, the factory has preserved a manual and traditional method of silk production. You will 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.

From Margilan, continue by coach 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. Witness the magic of pottery in action during a close up demonstration by a master professional at work and get a behind-the-scenes look at the meticulous craftsmanship that goes into decorating these exquisite ceramics.

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 includes the majestic Palace of Khudayar Khan (the Pearl of Kokand), and the Jami Mosque, Kokand's most impressive Mosque.

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

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 22 Tashkent

Following breakfast aboard the Golden Eagle, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Golden Eagle Silk Road Express

UPGRADE AVAILABLE

LIFE ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE SILK ROAD EXPRESS

Step into a world of opulence aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express, where every detail of your accommodation has been crafted to offer the ultimate in luxury. Choose from two elegantly designed cabin classes: the Superior Cabin, configurable as a twin or large-size bed, or the Han Dynasty Suite, where lavish comfort takes centre stage.

Each cabin blends the ornate design of the Orient with the grandeur of a by-gone era, providing an exquisite home as you embark on a luxury adventure along the ancient Silk Road. Continue below to discover more about the refined elegance awaiting you onboard.

SUPERIOR CABIN

The Superior cabin on the *Golden Eagle* Silk Road Express offers an elegant retreat, blending comfort and style across 11sqm of thoughtfully designed space. By day, relax in two single sofas, perfect for unwinding as you take in the scenery. By night, the cabin transforms into your choice of twin single beds or a large double bed for restful slumber.

Every detail has been curated for your comfort, with features including a Dyson hairdryer, smart toilet, minibar, full-length wardrobe and a cosy sofa chair. A 2.5 sqm en-suite bathroom completes the experience, offering modern luxury within a setting of timeless design.

- Sleeps 1 or 2 with either 2 Single Beds (190cm x 75cm) or 1 Large Double Bed (190cm L x 170 cm W)
- Cabin Size (535cm L x 205cm W) (11sqm)
- Bathroom Size (2.5sqm)

- Wardrobe (80 cm x 70 cm x 202cm)
- Single Sofa Chair
- Remote controlled air-conditioning, heating and humidifier
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Private en-suite bathroom with smart TOTO toilet and full power shower.
- Bathrobes, slippers, Dyson hairdryer and toiletries provided (included Aesop and Bvlgari hair and body care products)
- Personal safe
- Built in mini bar and fridge
- Towels and linens changed every third day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin available at all times
- Complimentary drinks from the Bar Lounge Car included (excluding Premium Wine List)
- Laundry service available at an additional charge

Room Upgrades

Han Dynasty Suite

The Han Dynasty Suite on the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express is the epitome of luxury travel, offering an expansive 22.2 sqm cabin designed to provide the ultimate in comfort and elegance. Featuring a large double bed and a double sofa, this suite invites you to unwind in your own private sanctuary as you journey through the heart of the ancient Silk Road.

With a separate living room, a dressing table and a dining table for in-cabin dining, every detail has been thoughtfully crafted to ensure a truly indulgent experience. The 5.2 sqm en-suite bathroom features a bathtub, shower, and double sinks, combining modern convenience with timeless opulence. Premium amenities, including a Dyson hairdryer, smart toilet, minibar, and full-length wardrobe, ensure your every need is met as you travel in unparalleled style.

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 Han Dynasty Suite guests:

A private guide and chauffeured car service is included in many of the destinations that will be visited on your journey, however, in locations where there are a limited number of experienced and qualified tour guides available, you may be offered a shared car service among Han Dynasty Suite guests. Han Dynasty Suite guests will also benefit from 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 (190cm L x 170 cm W)
- Separate living room (475 cm x 205 cm) with double sofa
- Remote controlled air-conditioning, heating and humidifier
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Dressing table, dining Table and personal safe
- Private en-suite bathroom (5.2 sqm) with smart TOTO toilet, deluxe bathtub and double sink
- Bathrobes, slippers, Dyson hairdryer provided
- Luxury toiletries and amenities provided, including Hermès, Aesop and Bvlgari
- Complimentary built in minibar and fridge
- Wardrobe
- Towels and linens changed every third day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water available at all times
- In-cabin dining available on request
- Complimentary drinks from the Bar Lounge Car included (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.

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
- 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



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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

2026 departure:

- 21 Sep - 12 Oct, 2026

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