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UZBEKISTAN & MORE

GOLDEN EAGLE: REPUBLICS OF THE SILK ROAD (TASHKENT TO ALMATY) (TOUR CODE: 14211)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
Tashkent to Almaty	12 Oct 26 - 23 Sep 27	Luxury Cultural Rail	Rail Journeys

A captivating journey through the lands where civilization first emerged and where influential religious and political ideologies were born.

Highlights

- Discover the 4,000-year-old art of *Golden Eagle* hunting at Lake Issyk-Kul
- Learn a new craft in a traditional Kyrgyz bread making class
- Evening drinks reception on the beautifully lit Registan Square, Samarkand
- Explore the historic, UNESCO honoured, cities of Khiva, Bukhara and Smarkand
- Enjoy ceramics demonstration from local master professional in Rishtan

Journeying aboard the Golden Eagle, travel through a fascinating patchwork of countries, stitched together by a shared history of Sovietisation, yet fiercely independent in identity. From the magnificent mosques and bustling bazaars of Uzbekistan to the breath-taking verdant expanse and ethereally tranquil landscapes of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, this incredible 14-day adventure is your invitation to one of the world's greatest train journeys.



INCLUSIONS

- Five-star pre and post hotel accommodation (where applicable)
- Private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle train
- 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 - on and off the train
- Luggage porterage throughout the journey

ITINERARY

Day 1 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Arrive at Tashkent Airport, where you are met and transferred to the five-star Hyatt Regency Hotel (or similar).

On your first evening in Tashkent, 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



TASHKENT TRAIN STATION

Day 2 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Today - explore Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, a city that blends modern Soviet-style architecture with deep-rooted tradition, having been largely rebuilt after the devastating earthquake of 1966. The tour begins in the atmospheric Old Town, where narrow streets are lined with traditional homes and centuries-old religious buildings.

The day continues with visits to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts, offering further insight into the city's diverse cultural heritage. Later this afternoon, board *the Golden Eagle*, and settle into your elegant en-suite cabins. This evening, guests will gather for a Welcome Dinner onboard, the perfect start to the journey.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

Day 3 Kokand Rishtan Margilan, Uzbekistan

Kokand, one of the most ancient cities in Uzbekistan, served as a crucial trading post on the Silk Road. Highlights of the

tour today include the majestic Palace of Khudayar Khan, often called the Pearl of Kokand, and the Jami Mosque, the city's most impressive mosque.

Later, travel by coach to Rishtan, home to Uzbekistan's world-famous ceramic industry. Here, uncover the secrets of this ancient craft from renowned local artisan Rustam Usmanov. You'll witness the magic of pottery in action during a close-up demonstration by a master craftsman and gain insight into the meticulous artistry involved in decorating these exquisite ceramics.

The final stop in the Fergana Valley is a visit to the ancient city of Margilan, renowned for its silk production, which many consider the finest in Central Asia. Here, you will visit a local family who have been producing silk for generations using traditional methods. You will explore the whole process of making silk from the mulberry trees used to feed the silkworms to hand weaving the colourful ikat fabric on traditional looms.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



PALACE OF KHUDAYAR KHAN

Day 4 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. The touring programme 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 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 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'.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN

Day 5 Nukus, Uzbekistan

Nestled in the enchanting north-west of Uzbekistan, the city of Nukus boasts a captivating setting, surrounded by three magnificent deserts: the Kara Kum, Kyzyl Kum, and Ustyurt. Here, a pristine and untouched landscape unfolds before your eyes, adorned with endless stretches of sandy vistas, enchanting dunes, and towering peaks that beckon adventure.

The voyage through Nukus leads to the extraordinary Igor Savitsky State Museum of the Fine Arts, a true hidden gem in this remote oasis. Aptly 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. Prepare to be mesmerised by the artistic treasures that await, promising a unique experience that will leave a lasting impression.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


NUKUS

Day 6 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

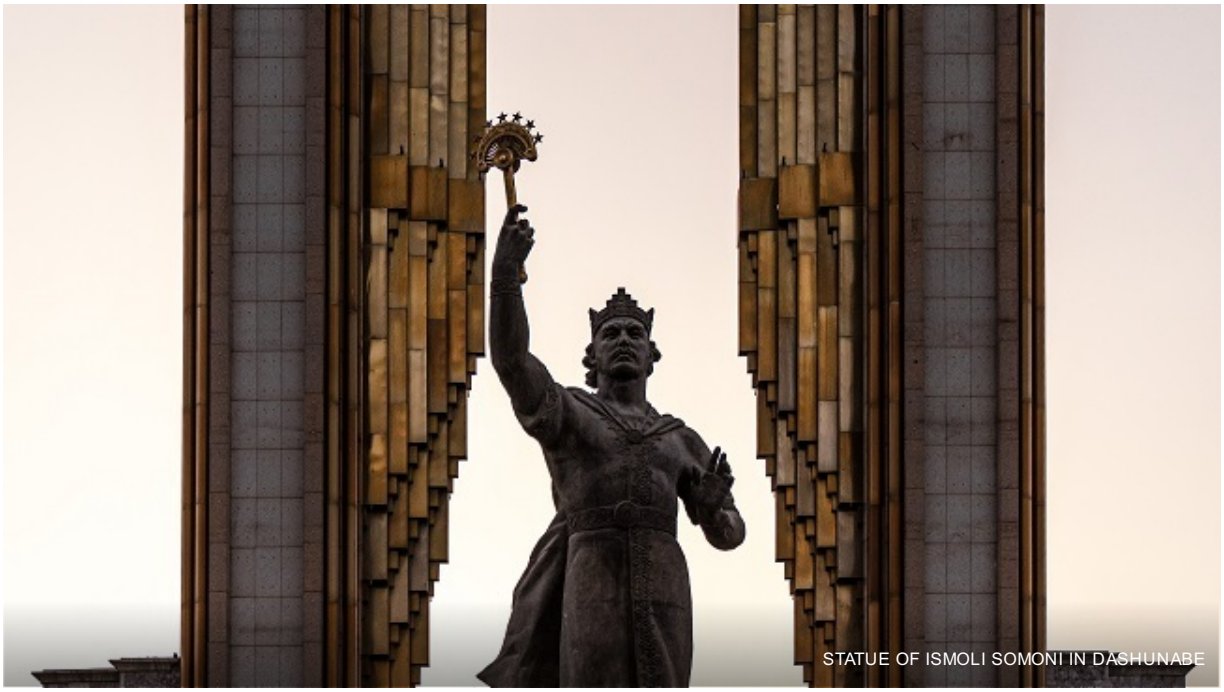
Day 7

Dushanbe, Tajikstan

This afternoon - visit Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, situated on the Varzob River. First, explore the Museum of National Antiquities, housing exhibits of history and regional art, before the main highlight of the city: 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.

Continue the touring programme with more historic sites of Tajikistan's largest city. Visit the Ismail Samani monument, recognising the first King of Tajiks, before going onwards to the Independence Square and Mekhrgon Bazaar for a taster of local life in Dushanbe.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



STATUE OF ISMOLI SOMONI IN DASHUNABE

Day 8 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



GUR-E AMIR

Day 9 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.

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



REGISTAN SQUARE, SAMARKAND

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 artefacts collected during the excavation of the city, including the famous frescoes from the Palace of Varkhuman, which date back to the 7th century.

Return to the train for lunch and continue your journey through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to the next destination – Kyrgyzstan.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



SAMARKAND

Day 11 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

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 sightseeing this afternoon. 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 statutes of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and the Memorial for the Red Guards.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



CITY OF BISHKEK

Day 12 Lake Issyk-kul

Today, 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 kilometres in length and up to 70 kilometres wide, it is recognised as the second-largest alpine lake in the world. Its name, meaning “warm lake”, reflects its remarkable resistance to freezing – the result of a unique combination of depth, mineral richness, and geothermal activity beneath its surface. Framed by towering, snow-capped peaks, the lake offers a serene beauty.

This morning, you're 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 experience is a celebration of steppe culture in all its vibrant detail – from music and dance to intricate costumes and demonstrations of time-honoured crafts. It is a rare and enthralling glimpse into a way of life that continues to flourish in the highlands of Central Asia. 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.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


LAKE ISSYK-KUL

Day 13 Almaty, Kazakhstan

Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan, is distinguished by its wide, tree-lined boulevards and stunning backdrop of the snow-capped Tian Shan Mountains. The city's name derives from alma, meaning "apple," a fitting tribute to the orchards that flourish just beyond its borders.

This morning's city tour features Panfilov Park, home to the remarkable Zenkhov 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, everyone comes together for a Farewell Dinner at the hotel, a memorable finale.

Overnight stay in **Almaty** (hotel to be confirmed).

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


ALMATY

Day 14 Almaty

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

Breakfast

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
- 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

2026 Departure dates:

- 12 Oct - 25 Oct, 2026

2027 Departure dates:

- 30 Aug - 12 Sep, 2027
- 23 Sep - 06 Oct, 2027

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