



📍 Bukhara, Uzbekistan



UZBEKISTAN & MORE

GOLDEN EAGLE: REPUBLICS OF THE SILK ROAD (ALMATY TO SAMARKAND) (TOUR CODE: 16367)

STARTS AND ENDS

Almaty to
Samarkand

TRAVEL PERIODS

12 Sep 2027

EXPERIENCE

Luxury
Cultural
Rail

TRAVEL STYLE

Rail Journeys

A dazzling exploration of the lands where civilisation began, and the great religious and political ideologies were born.

Highlights

- Experience Registan Square's dazzling light show, showcasing Samarkand's rich history and heritage
- 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 the magnificent 'Stans' – 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 breathtaking 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*
- 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 portage throughout the journey

ITINERARY

Day

1

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Arrive at Almaty Airport, where you are met and transferred to a stylish centrally located 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 entirely of wood and Independence Square.

This afternoon board the *Golden Eagle* and settle into your well-appointed ensuite cabin. Tonight, guests will enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3 Lake Issyk-kul & Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

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



Day 4 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 this afternoon's 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.

Following your tour, rejoin the Golden Eagle and continue the journey, crossing into Uzbekistan as you travel onwards to the first destination in this historic Central Asian nation.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



BISHKEK

Day 5

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Today, 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 Museum of Applied Arts housed in the opulent former residence of the Imperial Russian diplomat, Alexander Polovstev, the culturally significant Independence Square and the Railway Museum.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

Day 6

Fergana Valley (Kokand Rishtan Margilan)

Kokand is one of the oldest cities in Uzbekistan, once serving as a vital trading post on the Silk Road. Today, your journey begins with a visit to the majestic Palace of Khudayar Khan, known as the Pearl of Kokand, followed by the impressive Jami

Mosque, the city's most magnificent mosque.

Continue your adventure through the Fergana Valley, stopping at the renowned ceramics hub of Rishtan. Here, tradition and artistry merge as we witness a captivating pottery demonstration, offering an inside look at the meticulous craftsmanship behind these stunning ceramics.

Next, head to Margilan, a city rich in history as a key crossroads for ancient trade routes. Step into the world of silk in this historic city, where you'll learn the ancient art of silk weaving. Visit a local workshop run by a family who has been producing silk for generations, where you'll observe the entire process — from feeding silkworms on mulberry leaves to hand-weaving the vibrant ikat fabric on traditional looms.

This day offers a deeply immersive experience, filled with rich cultural encounters and a journey through Uzbekistan's timeless artistic traditions.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **7**

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. Today's 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 guests 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. Guests will then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named 'Palace of the Moon and Stars'.

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

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN

Day 8

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 9

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



Day 10 Dushanbe, Tajikistan

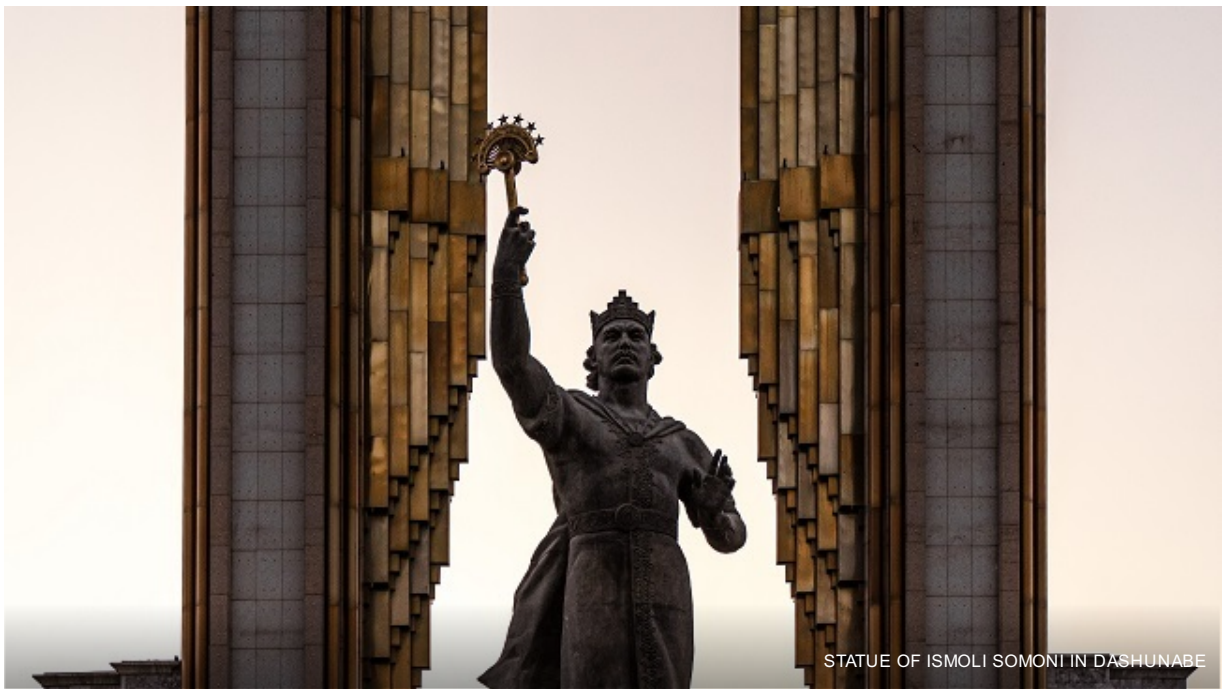
This afternoon, arrive in Dushanbe, the vibrant capital of Tajikistan, beautifully situated on the Varzob River. Our exploration begins at the Museum of National Antiquities, where exhibits showcase the region's rich history and artistic heritage.

The highlight of the city awaits at the opulent Kohi Navruz Palace. Enjoy a guided tour with a local expert, who will reveal the fascinating story of this palace — originally a teahouse — and introduce you to the artisans and designers whose extraordinary work brought its halls to life. Marvel at the breathtaking chandeliers, intricately decorated rooms, and the exquisite attention to detail throughout this majestic residence.

Touring continues with visits to Dushanbe's historic landmarks, including the Ismoil Somoni Monument, dedicated to the first King of the Tajiks, Independence Square, and Mekhrgon Bazaar, where the sights, sounds, and flavours offer a vivid taste of local life.

This evening, relax onboard the Golden Eagle, as the gentle melodies of our resident pianist accompany you on the scenic journey across the border into Uzbekistan, setting the tone for the next chapter of our Silk Road adventure.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



STATUE OF ISMOLI SOMONI IN DASHUNABE

Day 11 Shahrizabz, Uzbekistan

Believed to be the birthplace of Amir Timur, the formidable military strategist who modelled his empire on the methods of Genghis Khan, we visit the UNESCO-listed Ak-Saray Palace and the nearby statue of Timur. This majestic palace in Shahrizabz took over a quarter of a century to complete. Once adorned with vibrant mosaics and delicate Qur'anic calligraphy, the palace still bears the inscription 798 (1395–1396 AD), marking the date of its completion.

In the late afternoon, arrive in Samarkand, where you say farewell to the Golden Eagle train. Upon arrival, visit the Gur-e Amir Mausoleum, with its iconic azure dome, housing the tomb of Timur and serving as a testament to the grandeur of Timurid architecture.

Later, check in to a five-star hotel in Samarkand, setting the stage for an extended exploration of this legendary Silk Road city over the next two days. Tonight, enjoy a dine-around experience at the hotel, sampling a selection of gourmet dishes to conclude the day in style.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



GUR-E AMIR

Day 12 Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Just the mention of Samarkand instantly evokes vivid images of the Silk Road, more so than any other town. Founded in the 6th century BC, the city's stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important in Asia, particularly noted for architectural remnants from the 14th to the 17th century, when it flourished as the capital of the Mongol empire under Timur and his successors.

Today, the journey includes visits to some of the city's most significant sites, including Registan Square and the refined elegance of the beautifully proportioned Bibi Khanum Mosque.

There will also be the opportunity to explore the bustling Siab Bazaar, Samarkand's largest market, where a vibrant mix of spices, fresh bread, produce, meats, and traditional treats awaits. This lively market promises a shopping experience like no other, filled with excitement and colour.

The exploration continues at the Meros Paper Mill, offering a hands-on understanding of this ancient craft and its centuries-old techniques. To further immerse in local culture, a taste of Plov will be offered, prepared by a local chef. This dish, considered the essence of the region's identity, is a staple at social gatherings.

As the day draws to a close, an unforgettable evening awaits in Samarkand. As night falls over the ancient city, head to the illuminated Registan Square, where an extraordinary light show brings the rich history and significance of Samarkand to life, unfolding a mesmerizing spectacle before your eyes

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



REGISTAN SQUARE, SAMARKAND

Day 13 Samarkand, Uzbekistan

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, and the Ulug Beg Observatory, one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories, built in 1428.

From here, travel to the ancient settlement of Afrasiab to visit a museum housing artefacts collected during the excavation of the city, including the famous frescoes from the Palace of Varkhuman, dating back to the 7th century.

Enjoy a Gala Farewell Dinner tonight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **14** Samarkand, Uzbekistan

After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport 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

**Five-star pre and post tour hotel accommodation - where applicable.*

Departure dates:

- 12 Sep - 25 Sep, 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