



# ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS

The Legendary Silk Road by Private Train  
Kazakhstan · Uzbekistan · Turkmenistan







## ITINERARY ALMATY – ASHGABAT

**DAY 1. ALMATY** Meeting your tour guide at the airport, transfer and hotel check-in. Overnight: Rahat Palace Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2. ALMATY** City tour of Almaty with Zenkov Russian Orthodox Cathedral and Central Mosque. Welcome lunch in a traditional yurt. Boarding of private train in the afternoon. Overnight on board. Meals included: breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D).

**DAY 3. TURKESTAN** Sightseeing tour including the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. Overnight on board. (BLD)

**DAY 4. TASHKENT** City tour of Tashkent with Kukeldash Madrasa and the typical Kazakh mudbrick houses. Visit to Tashkent's famous Navoi Opera or concert in the Tashkent Philharmonic Hall (schedule permitting). Overnight on board. (BLD)

**DAY 5. SHAKHRISABZ** Bus drive into the mountains and traditional folklore presentation in a village. Sightseeing tour in Shakhrisabz. Uzbek wine tasting in the restaurant car. Overnight on board. (BLD)

**DAY 6. SAMARQAND** City tour including the Necropolis of Shah-e-Zinde, excavation sites of Afrosiyob and Registan Square. Overnight: Registan Plaza (or similar). (BLD)

**DAY 7. SAMARQAND** Visits to a silk carpet manufactory, a family of craftsmen, Ulugh Beg Observatory, the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight: Registan Plaza (or similar). (BLD)

**DAY 8. SAMARQAND** Free time. Train journey continues around noon. Overnight on board. (BLD)

**DAY 9. KHIVA** Sightseeing in Khiva and lunch in the former Emir's Summer Palace. Overnight on board. (BLD)

**DAY 10. BUKHARA** City tour of Bukhara's old town (UNESCO World Heritage) and folklore show in a madrasa courtyard including traditional music and local dances. Overnight: Hotel Asia Bukhara (or similar). (BLD)

**DAY 11. BUKHARA** Mire-e-Arab Madrasa, Samanid Mausoleum and Ark Citadel. Overnight on board. (BLD)

**DAY 12. MERV** Visit to the remains of Merv (UNESCO World Heritage). Lunch with a local family. Overnight: Hotel Ashgabat (or similar). (BLD)

**DAY 13. ASHGABAT** Nisa and city tour of Ashgabat including the National Museum. (BLD)

**DAY 14. ASHGABAT** Transfer to the airport.

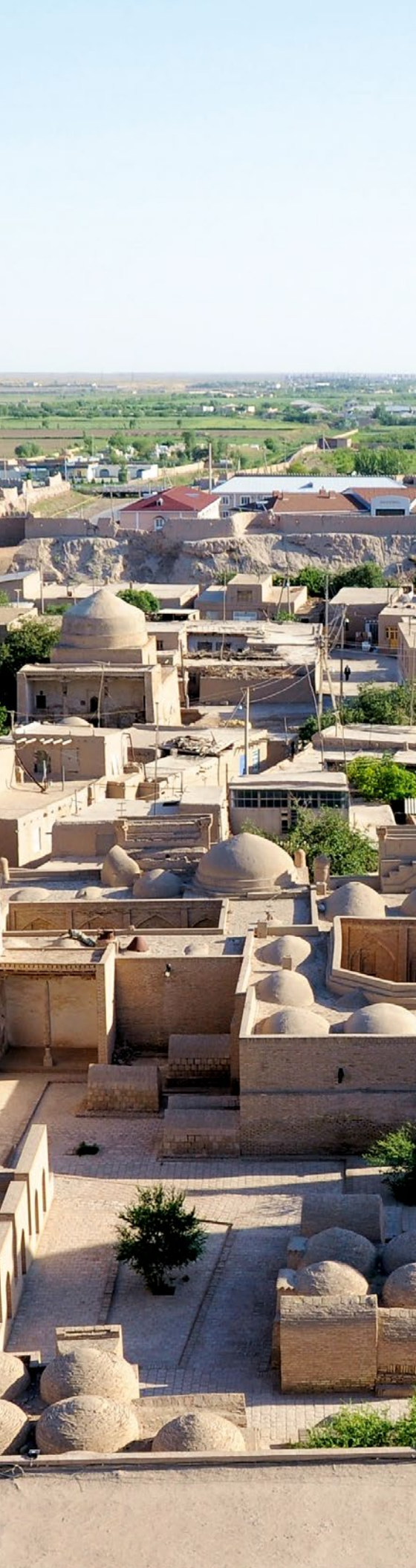
## ITINERARY ASHGABAT – ALMATY

**DAY 1.** Ashgabat **DAY 2.** Ashgabat (BLD) **DAY 3.** Merv (BLD) **DAY 4.** Bukhara (BLD) **DAY 5.** Bukhara (BLD) **DAY 6.** Bukhara (BLD) **DAY 7.** Khiva (BLD) **DAY 8.** Samarqand (BLD) **DAY 9.** Samarqand (BLD) **DAY 10.** Shakrisabz (BLD) **DAY 11.** Tashkent (BLD) **DAY 12.** Turkestan (BLD) **DAY 13.** Almaty (BLD) **DAY 14.** Transfer to the airport

Highlights are the same as of reverse direction.







## CLASSIC HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites:
  - Turkestan: mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi
  - Historical centre of Shakhrisabz
  - Samarkand: crossroads of cultures
  - Historical centre of Bukhara
  - Itchan Kala: the inner town of the ancient Khiva oasis
  - Pearl of the East: ruins of ancient Merv
  - The old Parthian city of Nisa

## OUR UNIQUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Excavations of ancient Afrosiyob
- Ulugh Beg observatory: formerly one of the most prestigious observatories of Central Asia
- Registan: the most beautiful square of the Orient
- Meals in extraordinary places: lunch in a former Emir Summer Palace, folklore show in a madrasa courtyard and lunch with a local family
- Spectacular nature: deserts of Karakum and Kyzylkum and the Tian Shan Mountains
- Get to know traditional handicraft: silk, carpets and paper

## YOUR ADVANTAGES

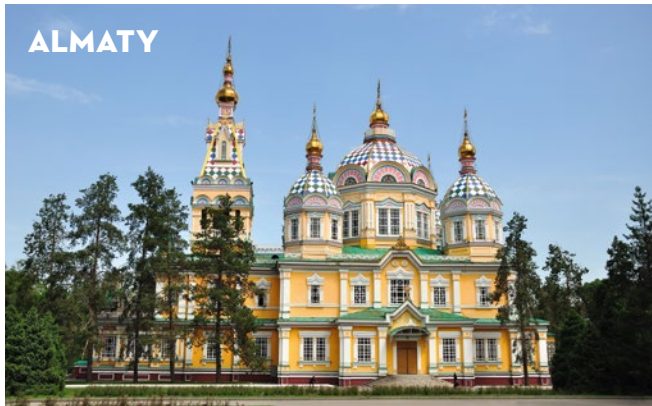
- Five different compartment categories to choose from, catering to every need and budget
- Three-fold tour guide system, guaranteeing a perfectly organised and secured journey
- Thanks to your comfortable private train: no long and exhausting bus tours on bumpy streets
- Entertaining and informative: daily lectures about countries, people and cultures
- Culinary highlights: tasting of regional delicacies, all freshly prepared by our chefs on board
- Alternating hotel nights and overnights in train compartment—large luggage can safely be left on board
- Doctor on board

## HOTELS EN ROUTE

City	Overnights · Hotel*	Rating
Almaty	1 · Rahat Palace	• • • •
Samarkand	2 · Registan Plaza	• • • •
Bukhara	1 · Asia Bukhara	• • • •
Ashgabat	1 · Hotel Ashgabat	• • •

\* These hotels are examples. Other hotels of equal standard could be used.





## ALMATY

**Kazakhstan's biggest city** mirrors the country's ascending aspirations and reflects a lot of its past under the Russian influence. The Zenkov Cathedral is the second largest wood building in the world and among the most visited places, while the seven mosques of the city have all been built after the independence. The modern part of Almaty resembles western cities and impresses with its backdrop of the Tian Shan mountain range.



## ASHGABAT

**The capital of Turkmenistan** surprises with its eclectic architectural mixture and its location in the Karakum Desert. Here, you will see the magnificent white marble Palace of Turkmenbashi, the National Museum and the independence monument. Experience the atmosphere of a traditional bazaar or go for a ride on the unique indoor Ferris wheel—whatever you do, it's impossible to miss the omnipresent golden statues of the Turkmen head of state.



## BUKHARA

**The city also bears the by-name Sherif—the noble one.** It has preserved its ancient oriental appearance in its extensive, unparalleled collection of authentic architecture. Situated in the midst of Kyzylkum Desert, Bukhara boasts about 1,000 historic monuments evoking the golden age of the legendary Silk Road.



## SAMARQAND

**Once deemed the most important and the most beautiful city in the world,** its giant Registan Square is certainly among the most notable architectural ensembles in Central Asia. But it is also a centre of local craftsmanship, where you can watch how silk rugs are being made and how to manufacture paper from mulberry bark.



## KHIVA

**Like a tale from Arabian Nights** carved in stone, the city was once one of the ancient Silk Road's most prominent oases. Its palaces, mosques, minarets, mausoleums and madrasas represent one of the best-preserved clusters of medieval oriental urban architecture.



## MERV

**The great city of Merv** was destroyed by Genghis Khan's son Tolui in 1221, but its ruins are still nothing but stunning. The initial impression here is one of disbelief: gigantic walls and ramparts, simply standing in the middle of the desert next to the imposing ruins of ancient buildings such as the Tomb of Sultan Sanjar, the Maidens' Castle, the historical ice houses and even more tombs.





## MORE JOURNEYS ON THE SILK ROAD IN CENTRAL ASIA AND ANCIENT PERSIA

For all of those who cannot get enough of the Silk Road we offer even more journeys: focus on Uzbekistan when joining our roundtrip from and to Tashkent, travel from Uzbekistan to the Caspian Sea, experience five Central Asian countries in just one trip or explore the traces of the Silk Road in Iran.



### EXPLORE UZBEKISTAN

**10 days:** Uzbekistan's most significant cities, their unique sights and hidden gems are waiting for you on this tour following the Central Asian Silk Road. Tashkent, Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara seem to come right out of the tales of 1001 nights!



### FROM TASHKENT TO THE CASPIAN SEA

**15 days:** After enjoying the romantic cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva in Uzbekistan, your journey continues on through rather unknown regions in Kazakhstan. Experience spectacular and mostly unexplored sights off the beaten path, like the almost dried-out Aral Sea with its haunting ship graveyard and Mangyshlak Peninsula with its similarly ghostly necropolis featuring eerie underground meditation halls.



### FROM ASHGABAT TO ALMATY INCLUDING KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

**15 days (from 2018):** This journey makes you familiar with the manifold cultures of 5 countries along the legendary Silk Road and with countless places that made history, among them no less than 7 UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are richly endowed with history and culture, but large areas here are even now still quite uncharted.



### DISCOVER IRAN WITH THE PERSIAN EXPLORER

**13 days:** Explore 3,000 years of history, 2,700 miles of rail tracks and 7 UNESCO World Heritage sites with the exclusively chartered Persian Explorer private train. In addition to Iran's well-known highlights such as Shiraz, Persepolis and Isfahan, you will also visit hidden gems like Sari on the Caspian Sea, Mashhad, Kerman and Bam.



## THE ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS PRIVATE TRAIN

The Orient Silk Road Express offers the best possible comfort for travelling the legendary Silk Road. Most of the train's wagons, including several sleeping cars and a restaurant car, were completely refurbished in 2013. The comfortable restaurant cars serve freshly prepared regional dishes and offer bar service in the evening. The train is air-conditioned while moving.



### HABIBI

Each Habibi compartment provides sleeping space for up to four guests, with berths arranged two on each side of the compartment, one above the other, and a table in the middle below the window. Each car has nine compartments; combined toilet and washing facilities are located at both ends.



### ALI BABA

The Ali Baba compartment features two comfortable lower beds measuring 27.5 x 74.8 in./67 x 184 cm. There is a table below the window and various options to stow belongings or luggage. Each car in the Ali Baba category has nine compartments; combined toilet and washing facilities are located at both ends.





### ALADDIN

This category features two lower beds (27.5 x 74.8 in./67 x 184 cm), a small table and storage space. Each car has eight compartments and one shower facility. Guests in this category receive one bathrobe per compartment; combined toilet and washing facilities are located at both ends of each car.



### SULTAN

This category features two beds, with an upper berth measuring ca. 31.6 x 68.5 in./ca. 80 x 174 cm and the lower one a more generous ca. 43.3 x 72.4 in. (ca. 110 x 184 cm). The compartment also offers comfortable seating, a larger table and a small closet. Each compartment has its own lavatory equipped with toilet, washing basin and integrated shower with shower curtain. Every car of this category contains only six compartments.



### KALIF

This category features two beds, with an upper berth measuring ca. 31.6 x 68.5 in./ca. 80 x 174 cm and the lower one a more generous ca. 44 x 72.4 in./ca. 112 x 184 cm. Each compartment features closet, safe and en-suite bath with separate shower cabin. Every car of this category, offering the highest level of comfort available on the Silk Road, contains only four compartments and offers space for a maximum of just 8 guests.



## FURTHER JOURNEYS IN OUR TRAIN COLLECTION

Tsar's Gold on the Legendary Trans-Siberian Railway

Persian Explorer in Iran

African Explorer—Southern Africa by Private Train

Rovos Rail—Epic Journey through Africa

The Royal Al Andalus—Portugal and Spain

Continental Classic Express—Southeast-Europe

## UNIQUE RIVER JOURNEYS IN OUR CRUISE COLLECTION

Majestic Mekong—Cruises in Laos and Thailand

Magical Myanmar—Cruises on the Irrawaddy

Amazing Amazon—River Cruises through Brazil

Russia's Magnificent Rivers—Volga, Lena and Yenisei

European Waterways—Portugal, Sweden and Scotland

