Along Central Asia’s Silk Road

17 days for $6,794 total price from Seattle
($6,195 air & land inclusive plus $599 airline taxes and fees)

Traveling the ancient Silk Road connecting East and West, we encounter a mélange of culture and religion, art and architecture that conjures tales of trade and treasure, intrigue and empire. On this exciting small group journey, we relish the alluring—and embrace the humanity we share with the welcoming people of Central Asia.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

White marble city of Ashgabat • UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa • Historic walled city of Khiva • Visits with local artisans • Extensive Bukhara touring • Home-hosted lunch in Bukhara • Legendary Samarkand • Central Asian bazaars in five cities • Visit to Gur Emir Mausoleum • Tashkent touring, including world’s oldest Quran • Russian-accented Almaty

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Day 2: Arrive Ashgabat

Upon arrival in the Turkmen capital late tonight, we transfer directly to our hotel.

Day 3: Ashgabat

After time to rest this morning and have lunch on our own, we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome briefing. Then we begin our journey along the Silk Road with a panoramic tour of this showpiece city known for its 543 white marble buildings and monuments to the glories of the Turkmen. We tour the well-regarded National Museum of History and the Turkmen Carpet Museum then enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 4: Ashgabat/Nisa

This morning we experience our first Central Asia bazaar, where locals come from both the city and surrounding desert to sell their wares, including large hand-woven carpets. Next we visit an Akhal-Teke horse stud farm for a demonstration by these “Golden Horses,” the national symbol of Turkmenistan, followed by lunch at the farmhouse. Later we visit the UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa, ancient capital of the Parthian Empire dating to the 3rd century BCE. B,D

Day 5: Ashgabat/Dashoguz/Khiva, Uzbekistan

We fly this morning to Dashoguz, Turkmenistan, whose environs host the ancient capital of the Khorezm, and where we visit the ruins of the once monumental Izmukshir Fortress. From here we continue to the Uzbek border crossing then travel on to Khiva. B,L,D

Day 6: Khiva

We get a taste of Khiva’s storied past as a major Silk Road trading post on a morning tour of the Itchan Kala, the “inner city” whose entirety is a UNESCO site. Here we see the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret – enormous, stout, and unfinished; Kunya Ark citadel; the immense Madrassah of Muhammad Rahim Khan, with its tiled façade; the double-domed Pakhlavan Mahmoud Mausoleum; and the Hunarmand artisans workshop. This afternoon: Islam Khoja minaret, Khiva’s tallest; Juma Mosque, with its 200 wooden pillars; and 163-room Tash Hauli Palace. B,D

Day 7: Khiva/Bukhara

This morning we journey through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara, with lunch en route. Upon arrival in this ancient city of Silk Road commerce and religious piety, we visit the Chor Minor madrasah, with its four minarets. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. B,L,D

Day 8: Bukhara

We visit the Chor Minor madrasah, with its four minarets. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. B,L,D

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Day 14: Bukhara

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Day 16: Bukhara

This morning we visit the Chor Minor madrasah, with its four minarets. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. B,L,D

Day 17: Depart for home

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Avg. High (°F) Oct Nov
Almaty 61 47
Bukhara 72 57
Samarkand 71 59

Traveling the ancient Silk Road connecting East and West, we encounter a mélange of culture and religion, art and architecture that conjures tales of trade and treasure, intrigue and empire. On this exciting small group journey, we relish the alluring—and embrace the humanity we share with the welcoming people of Central Asia.

Exclusive UW departure – October 5-21, 2020

Looking much as it did in centuries past, Samarkand’s Registan has served as the city’s public square since antiquity.

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Day 8: Bukhara Today begins with a walking tour of the 16th-century Lyab-i Hauz religious complex. We continue to the domed Tāki-Telpak Furushon bazaar known for its headgear: embroidered skullcaps, turbans, and heavy fur hats; then on to a bazaar where we watch silk weavers at work. Next, we return to the Old Jewish Quarter to visit the home of a Sufi miniaturist, where we learn about his craft and enjoy a traditional lunch of plov — lamb and rice — the Uzbek national dish. Touring continues this afternoon at the Poi Kalyan religious center; the massive earthen Ark of Bukhara Fortress, which served as an active fort from its 5th-century origins until 1920; and the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum. B,L,D

Day 9: Bukhara/Gijduvan This morning we head outside the city to Sitorai Mohi-Khosa Palace, a jumble of Russian and Bukharian influences and the summer residence of the last emir of Bukhara. We continue on to the village of Gijduvan to visit the Narzullaev Ceramics Workshop, where seven generations of potters have been fabricating bowls and plates using traditional methods, designs, and colors for more than a century. After lunch at a local restaurant, we return to Bukhara. B,L,D

Day 10: Bukhara/Samarkand Today, we call on one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Central Asian Muslims: the Memorial Complex of Naqshband. The 14th-century Sufi theologian who mentored the emperor Timur and whose mausoleum is now considered the “Central Asian Mecca,” Bahauddin Naqshband founded the world’s largest order of Sufi Muslims. Next, we travel by train to Samarkand, legendary stop on the Silk Road and one of Central Asia’s oldest continuously inhabited cities. Upon arrival early this evening, we enjoy dinner together then get our first glimpse of vast Registan, the mosaic-tiled public square flanked by three ornate madrassahs that have stood here for centuries. After dinner, we return to Bukhara. B,L,D

Day 11: Samarkand Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan left their marks on Samarkand, as did Tamerlane (Timur), who made it capital of his Islamic empire in the 14th century; he or his descendants built many of the historic buildings and monuments we see here today. Our touring begins at Registan Square, once and current heart of the city. We continue to 15th-century Bibi-Khanym mosque, and Siyob Bazaar, the city’s largest market. This afternoon we visit an historic winery for a tour and tasting. B,L

Day 12: Samarkand Our discovery of this crossroads of culture continues today at the Shakhi Zinda necropolis and temple complex, whose 20-plus buildings date from the 11th to 19th centuries; the Afrasiyab Museum, a huge archaeological site and museum of the city’s history; and 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory. This evening we pay a visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane’s resting place. We dine together at a local restaurant then make a last stop to see Registan lit up for the evening. B,L,D

Day 13: Samarkand/Tashkent We travel by motorcoach today to the Uzbek capital, passing through Jilanuti Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. We continue on to Tashkent, arriving early this afternoon. B,L,D

Day 14: Tashkent A morning tour of Uzbekistan’s capital begins in the Old City at the Khazrati Imam Complex of mosques and madrassahs. Here we see the world’s oldest surviving Islamic holy book, the 8th-century Uthman Quran, brought to Tashkent by Tamerlane. Next: Chorsu Bazaar, under whose massive green dome locals purchase everything from produce to clothing. Tonight we attend a performance of ballet, classical music, or opera at the national opera house. B,L

Day 15: Tashkent/Almaty, Kazakhstan At the Museum of Applied Arts this morning, we see fine examples of Uzbek crafts, including embroidery, jewelry, ceramics, and carpets. Later, we visit the studio of renowned ceramicist Akbar Rakhimov. Then we transfer to the airport for our flight to Almaty. B

Day 16: Almaty Kazakhstan’s largest city and cultural and commercial center, Almaty has a decided Russian flavor, as we see on this morning’s tour. We then ascend nearby Kok Tobe mountain by gondola and enjoy panoramic views of the city and surrounding Tian Shan mountains. Late this afternoon, we attend a falconry demonstration and learn about this ancient nomadic practice before our farewell dinner this evening. B,L,D

Day 17: Depart for U.S. Very early this morning we depart for the airport for our connecting flight to the U.S. B

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 15 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 36 meals: 15 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next UW/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)

Cityscape of Khiva, historic Khorezm

We can’t say enough about how well Odysseys puts together a tour. Our guides were outstanding!”
– Eric, ’68, and Sara Loken

For reservations call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free (888) 370-6765 M-F, 9:00AM-7:00PM, Eastern Time
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2021, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations and inoculations; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
For all tours (except as noted)

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<th>Prior to departure</th>
<th>Charge</th>
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<tr>
<td>95 days or more:</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-65 days:</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-45 days:</td>
<td>50% of tour price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44-30 days:</td>
<td>75% of tour price</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-0 days:</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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For Africa’s Wildlife, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Southeast Asia Odyssey, Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization, Southern Africa Odyssey

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Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If because of low participation Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure
After reserving your tour, you will receive pre-departure mailings that include a detailed itinerary, visa requirements, and reading list. We will send your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers) two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers
We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We will endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation
We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement.

Please note that no changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information
Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our travel partners: for international tours – your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender; for domestic tours – your full name as it appears on the accepted form of government-issued photo identification that you plan to use, date of birth, and gender. In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport (international tours) or other form of government-issued photo identification (domestic tours) than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents
A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all international tours in this catalog. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Smoking
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.
Health and Medical Issues
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance if you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that a number of our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the University of Washington Alumni Association (UWAA) reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, UWAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. In addition, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and UWAA reserve the right to decline to accept the trip application of any prospective traveler who, in the opinion of Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. or UWAA, is incapable of successfully completing the trip. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Responsibility
The liability of Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. It serves only as an agent for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within its control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. See also the UWAA’s Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement form which you have to sign as a condition of your going on this trip. This form is sent to all participants upon placing a tour deposit and needs to be returned within 30 days after receipt or at least 60 days before the beginning of the trip, whichever is sooner. This document can be found at www.UWalum.com/tours or by emailing uwaatour@uw.edu.
**UW ALUMNI TOURS RESERVATION FORM**

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, along with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. For more information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tour Name</th>
<th>Departure Date</th>
<th>Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up ☑</th>
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Full Passport Name ______________________________________ Date of Birth ___________ Gender ______
Full Passport Name ______________________________________ Date of Birth ___________ Gender ______
Address __________________________________________________________
City _____________________ State ________ ZIP __________
Home Ph. (_____) ___________ Cell Ph. (_____) ___________
E-mail __________________________________________________________ Badge Name(s) ________________

Please book my/our air from __________________________ I/we request an air upgrade to ___________________
I will share a room with __________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ☑
I/we request an upgrade to tent category ________ (for Africa’s Wildlife only)

**Please Note:** UWAA Membership: While you do not have to be a UW grad to join this tour, we ask that one person, per reservation, join the UW Alumni Association. Member dues help support our travel program, making these tours possible. UWAA membership details are available at www.UWalum.com

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for this trip and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions:

Signature __________________________________________________________________________ Date __________

**Method of Payment**

☑ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account # ______________________ Security Code _______ Exp. Date __________
Name of Cardholder ____________________________________________________________
Signature ________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.