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Orient Silk Road Express





UZBEKISTAN & MORE

THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD ODYSSEY: ALMATY TO TASHKENT

(TOUR CODE: 13523)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
Almaty to Tashkent	13 Oct 26 - 11 Apr 28	Cultural Rail	Rail Journeys

Embark on a Silk Road Odyssey in Central Asia aboard the comfortable Orient Silk Road Express. This is not just a trip; it's a tale of discovery, woven with the threads of unique experiences that promise to make your adventure truly magical.

Highlights

- Explore 5 awe-inspiring UNESCO World Heritage sites over a span of 15 days
- Experience the unique splendor of Registan Square, hailed as one of the world's most beautiful squares
- Enjoy a traditional folklore performance set within the historic walls of a madrasa
- Stroll through the captivating streets and bustling markets of Khiva and Bukhara

Embark on a mesmerizing 15-day journey through the heart of Central Asia as you trace the footsteps of ancient traders and explorers along the Legendary Silk Road. This extraordinary adventure takes you from the vibrant landscapes of Kazakhstan, weaving through the cultural tapestry of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. This meticulously crafted route invites you to explore the enchanting cities of Almaty, Bishkek, Samarkand, Dushanbe, Bukhara, Khiva and Tashkent, each boasting a rich history and a unique blend of traditions. This is an immersive expedition that unveils the treasures of the Silk Road, where every stop promises to be a gateway to a bygone era of discovery and cultural exchange.



INCLUSIONS

- Experience comfort with 7 nights in well-appointed mid-range and comfort hotels, featuring double rooms with bath or shower facilities - in Almaty, Bishkek, Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent
- Enjoy a 7-night stay aboard the Orient Silk Road Express
- Indulge in delicious meals throughout the journey, as specified within the itinerary.
- Enjoy a tasting experience featuring vodka and wine.
- Immerse yourself in a comprehensive excursion and sightseeing program, inclusive of entrance fees.
- Immerse yourself in local culture with a visit to an Uzbek family.
- Receive a warm welcome with traditional folklore at the train stations in Bukhara and Samarkand.
- Accompanied by a bilingual tour guide throughout the train journey and an English-speaking tour guide for off-train tours.
- Benefit from seamless Airport transfers at the start and end of your itinerary
- Doctor available on the train for the well-being of guests.

ITINERARY

Intro Map

The Legendary Silk Road Odyssey: Tashkent to Almaty



Day 1 Arrive in Almaty

Arrival in Almaty is contingent on your flight connection, with transfer to a centrally located hotel during the day. Check-in for your room is available around 3 pm.

*Overnight in **Rahat Palace** (or similar).*



Day 2 Almaty – "Father of Apples"

Should your flight arrive early in the morning, you will be escorted to a comfortable hotel where your room is prepared for check-in. Delight in a delicious breakfast!

Following a relaxing morning, your afternoon rendezvous awaits with tour guides and fellow travelers. The journey commences with a remarkable visit to Medeo, home to the world's highest ice-skating rink. Travel to Shymbulak Mountain Resort to experience its crisp alpine air and spectacular mountain scenery. The day concludes with a welcome dinner, offering the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow travellers.

*Overnight in **Rahat Palace** (or similar)*

Breakfast, Dinner


ALMATY

Day 3 Almaty - journey on the train begins

Embark on a city tour in the morning, exploring notable landmarks such as the Russian Orthodox wooden cathedral, wedding palace, circus, and the central mosque (viewed from the outside). Savour a local yurt restaurant lunch. In the afternoon, commence your journey aboard the Orient Silk Road Express, where a welcome drink and a brief lecture await you on board.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express.***

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS

Day 4 Issyk Kul Lake (Kyrgyzstan)

This morning, you will arrive at the stunning Issyk Kul Lake. A visit to the Center of Nomadic Culture will provide you with a deeper understanding of the region before allowing time for a leisurely walk or a refreshing swim in the waters of Issyk Kul. Following a boat excursion on the lake, the train sets its course toward Bishkek.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express**.*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



LAKE ISSYK KUL

Day **5**

Bishkek

Following breakfast on board, you will arrive in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek. Embark on a comprehensive tour to explore its numerous attractions. Renowned for its lush greenery, Bishkek boasts approximately 100m² of green space per inhabitant, making it one of the greenest cities globally. The itinerary includes a visit to Ala-Archa National Park.

*Overnight in **Damas International Hotel** (or similar).*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



BISHKEK

Day 6 Day onboard the train

Following breakfast, the train departs. Indulge in a leisurely day filled with informative lectures as your special train journeys towards Samarkand.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express**.*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7 Samarkand

Today, immerse yourself in the wonders of Samarkand, a city historically celebrated as the most beautiful and significant under Timur's rule. Explore the burial town of Shah-i-Zinda, also known as "The Living King," along with the excavation sites of Afrasiyab, featuring a guided museum tour.

Registan Square stands out as the most impressive architectural ensemble in Central Asia, surrounded by three grand madrasas. The enormous and splendid portals, adorned with captivating decoration and vibrant colours, create a mesmerizing scene. Against the backdrop, mosque domes shimmer like those in a Middle Eastern fairy tale.

Your next two nights in Samarkand will be spent in a hotel, allowing you to further absorb the city's rich heritage.

*Overnight in **Hotel Grand Samarkand** (or similar).*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



REGISTAN SQUARE

Day 8 Samarkand

Today's itinerary includes a visit to a silk carpet manufactory and an Uzbek artisan family specialising in crafting paper from mulberry tree bark. You will explore the Ulugh Beg Observatory and witness the ruins of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque. Delve into the palace-like Gur-i-Amir mausoleum complex, where you can explore the interior and view the tomb of Timur. Known as both a renowned builder who transformed his capital into a paradise and a feared conqueror, Timur's legacy is encapsulated within this historic site.

*Overnight in **Hotel Grand Samarkand** (or similar).*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



GUR EMIR MAUSOLEUM

Day 9 Day onboard the train

Following breakfast, the train resumes its journey. Today's adventure includes a captivating folklore show, showcasing the unique traditions of a region that appears to have frozen in time. Following the performance, the journey proceeds to

Shahrisabz, the birthplace of Timur.

In the evening, guests will board the train for the travel to Dushanbe, continuing your exploration of Central Asia's rich cultural tapestry.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express**.*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



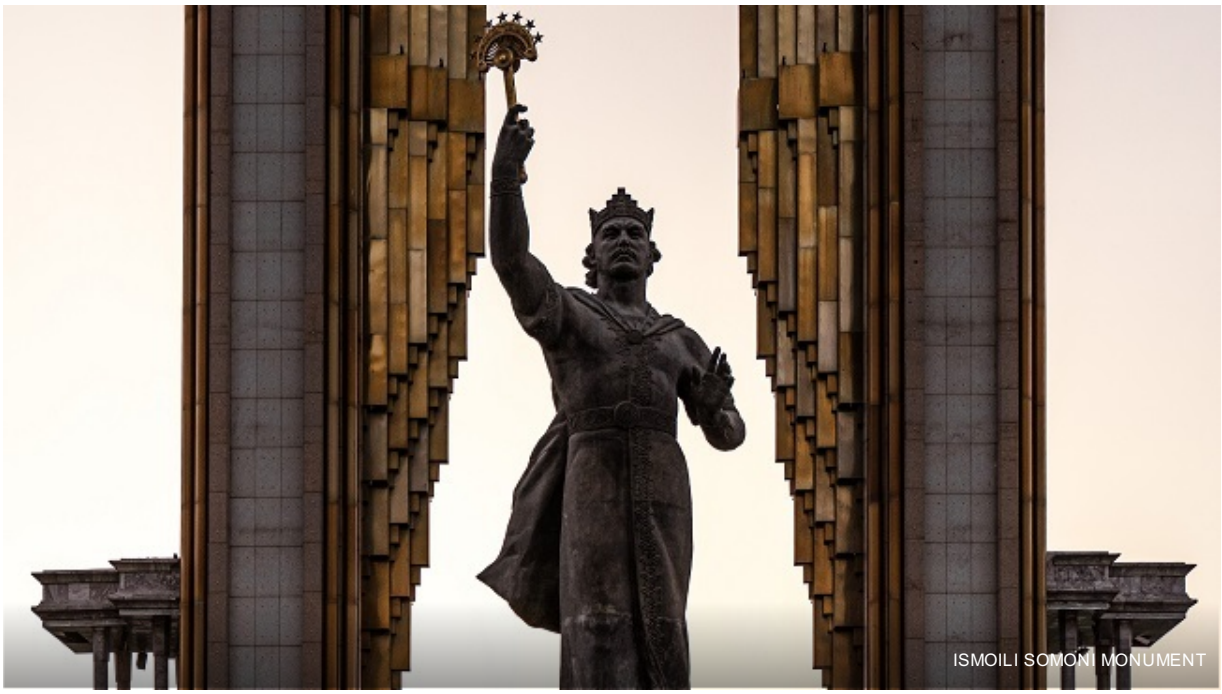
SHAHRISABZ THE BIRTHPLACE OF TIMUR

Day 10 Dushanbe

Upon your morning arrival in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, embark on a comprehensive tour to explore numerous sights. Take in the scenic beauty of the city's parks, with a relaxing visit to Rudaki Park providing a countryside respite. In the late afternoon, you will rejoin the train, setting course for the next destination, Bukhara, as you continue your journey through the diverse landscapes of Central Asia.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express.***

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ISMOILI SOMONI MONUMENT

Day 11 Noble Bukhara

Nestled in the heart of the Kyzylkum Desert, Bukhara boasts around one thousand monuments, reminiscent of the grandeur of the Great Silk Road. Within the old town, marvel at the towering Kalyan minaret, reaching almost 50 meters in height, and the enchanting Lab-i Hauz ensemble by the pond. Engage with the tales and legends of Nasreddin as you stand before his monument.

In the courtyard of a madrasa, immerse yourself in a vibrant folklore show featuring music, local dances, and a display of colourful national costumes. Your night unfolds in the comfort of a mid-range hotel in Bukhara, a city that continues to narrate the tales of its storied past.

*Overnight in **Hotel Asia Bukhara** (or similar).*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



FOLKLORE SHOW IN BUKHARA

Day 12 Bukhara

Today's journey unfolds with a full-day exploration of Bukhara, a city that stands as a vast and authentic architectural museum, preserving its timeless Middle Eastern charm. In the morning, be captivated by the magnificent Mir-i-Arab and the unparalleled Samanid Mausoleum, considered the most valuable building in Central Asia. The day continues with a tour through the formidable Ark, a colossal fortress that was once the epicenter of Bukhara's governance, offering a glimpse into the city's historical and cultural legacy.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express**.*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



SAMANID MAUSOLEUM IN BUKHARA

Day 13 Khiva

Today, venture into the enchanting Khiva Oasis, a setting reminiscent of the renowned tales from 1001 Nights. As you stand before the formidable city wall, adorned with gates and bastions crafted from clay bricks, you'll feel as though you've stepped into another world. Life around the Kalta Minor Minaret continues to pulsate today much as it did in ancient times. Embark on a captivating walking tour, where the well-preserved ensemble of palaces, mosques, minarets, mausoleums, and madrasas unfolds, showcasing medieval Middle Eastern town planning at its finest.

Your night will be spent aboard the train, continuing your immersive journey through this captivating region.

*Overnight onboard the **Orient Silk Road Express.***

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



KHIVA

Day 14 Arrive in Tashkent

In the early afternoon, the Orient Silk Road Express pulls into Tashkent. Embark on a city tour, exploring key landmarks

such as Kukeldash Madrasah, the Kavoj and Amir-Timur monuments, and the distinctive clay houses that characterise the city.

Following a farewell dinner, you will retire for the night in a comfortable mid-range hotel, concluding your memorable journey through the diverse and rich landscapes of Central Asia.

*Overnight in **Inspira Hotel** (or similar).*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



AMIR TIMUR MONUMENT IN TASHKENT

Day 15 Return

Say your farewells to newfound friends as you make your way to the airport for your departure.

ACCOMMODATION

The Orient Silk Road Express

UPGRADE AVAILABLE

Aladdin (Two lower beds with shared washroom/shower facilities)

This category features two lower beds (67 x 184 cm), a small table and storage space. Each car has nine compartments - Guests in this category receive one bathrobe per compartment; shared toilet and washing facilities located at both ends.

Room Upgrades

Kalif

This category features two beds, with an upper berth measuring 80 x 174 cm and the lower one is 112 x 184 cm. Each compartment features a closet and en-suite bath with separate shower cabin. Every car in this category is limited to four compartments and offers space for a maximum of just 8 guests.



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to Book Now or Contact Us for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2026 Departure dates:

- 13 Oct - 27 Oct 2026

2027 Departure dates:

- 13 Apr - 27 Apr 2027
- 12 Oct - 26 Oct 2027

2028 Departure dates:

- 11 Apr - 25 Apr 2028

Excluded

1. **Visa Fees (if required):** The cost associated with obtaining a visa is not covered in the package. This includes any fees charged by the relevant authorities for processing and issuing the visa necessary for your travels. Travellers are advised to plan accordingly so your Agent can initiate visa processes well in advance of your intended travel dates.
2. **Invitation Letter for Kazakhstan (if required):** While the package includes assistance with the invitation letter for Kazakhstan, it's important to note that any processing time required for the issuance of this letter is not accounted for in the package.
3. **Gratuities:** Gratuity or tips for services rendered, such as those provided by tour guides, drivers, or hotel staff, are not included. Travellers may choose to express their appreciation through gratuities at their discretion.
4. **International Flights:** The package does not cover the cost of international flights to and from the destination. Travellers are responsible for booking and securing their own international flights for the specified travel period.
5. **Personal Expenses:** Any personal expenses incurred during the trip, such as meals not included in the package, additional excursions, shopping, or other personal activities, are not covered. Travellers should budget accordingly for these discretionary expenses.
6. **Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is not included and is recommended.