



CASPIAN ADVENTURE

ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS



★ ITINERARY PAGE 5

★ PRICING & INCLUSIONS PAGE 26



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CONTENTS

- 3 Trip Map, Overview & Highlights
- 5 Day by Day Itinerary
- 26 ... Tour Dates & Pricing
- 27 ... Inclusions & Terms
- 29 ... Cabin Classes
- 35 ... Essential information
- 37 ... Recommended Reading

ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Established as one of the leading, independent and family owned luxury train specialists, our focus is on well thought through private and personally selected rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the rail journeys we offer as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

The Luxury Train Travel Company is a trading name of Headseast Ltd, a UK based, independent, family owned travel company. We operate several brands in addition to The Luxury Train Travel Company including [“The Latin America Travel Company”](#) [“The Trans-Siberian Travel Company”](#) and [“The China Travel Company”](#). Our clients come from all over the world.



ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS | CASPIAN ADVENTURE

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

The Luxury Train Travel Company.

THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY

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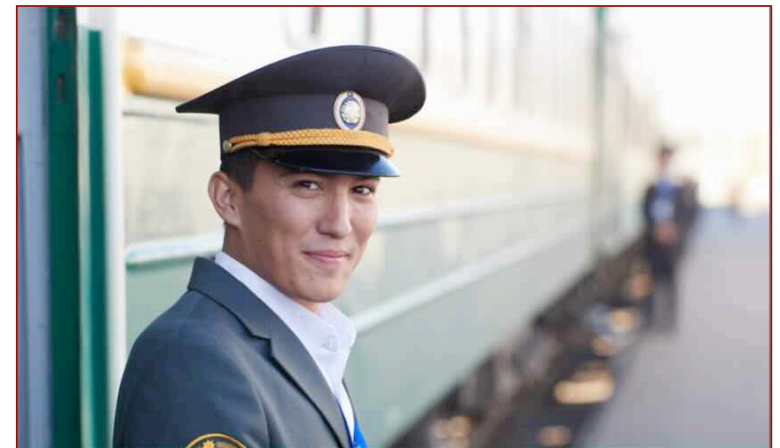
AKTAU •
ARAL SEA •
KHIVA •
BUKHARA •
SHAHRIZABZ •
SAMARKAND •
TASHKENT •
LAKE ISSYK-KUL •
BISHKEK •



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CASPIAN ADVENTURE

- ✓ 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Itchan Kala Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand, Shahrizabz
- ✓ 3 Central Asian Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
- ✓ Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan, known as the second largest mountain lake in the world
- ✓ Excavations of ancient Afrosiyob town in Samarkand
- ✓ The making of traditional art objects: silk and carpets
- ✓ Ulug Bek observatory in Samarkand
- ✓ Full of atmosphere: meetings with local families, traditional baking of bread, impressions of local handicraft tradition
- ✓ Spectacular nature: Karakum and Kysilkum deserts, Tian Shan mountain range, Lake Issyk-Kul

15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS STARTING AKTAU



DETAILED ITINERARY

The following pages detail your itinerary day by day. All our trips are tried and tested and, between us, we have visited most destinations and accommodation. We like to offer our clients the greatest flexibility possible with their trip so if there are any pre or post tour experiences you'd like to add please do not hesitate to contact us.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate all the pre planning you helped us with.

It was a trip of a lifetime experienced by few. Personally I feel privileged to have experienced this part of the world.

Thanks again for all you did for us."

Gail & Cathy Schuneman



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1

AKTAU

- **Arrival in this remote part of Kazakstan with time to settle in & relax.**

Embark on a truly unique journey, venturing into untouched landscapes filled with both awe-inspiring and mysterious sights. Begin with the largely dried-up Aral Sea, home to a haunting ship graveyard, and explore the eerie necropolis of the Mangyshlak Peninsula, featuring ancient underground meditation halls.

From there, follow the legendary Silk Road to discover the vibrant highlights of Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara, where history and culture converge. Conclude your adventure at the breathtaking Issyk-Kul Lake, all experienced aboard our special train tour, blending extraordinary destinations with the romance of rail travel.

Depending on your flight connection, arrival in Aktau during the day and transfer to your hotel. Your room is ready for check-in around 3pm. The rest of the day is free to relax.

Note: If extra nights are required pre-trip we recommend asking us to book them through the train operator as they do not confirm the actual hotels until around 6 weeks before the start of the trip.

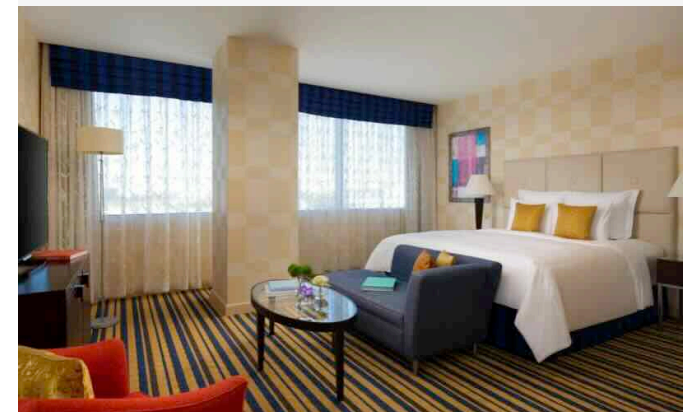
 **Meals Included:** None Today.

OVERNIGHT

RENAISSANCE BY SULO



Luxury accommodations by the Caspian Sea, featuring modern rooms, fine dining, a spa, and excellent facilities for leisure travellers.



*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 2

AKTAU

- Explore a remote necropolis, unique city, and relax on sandy beaches.

For those that didn't arrive yesterday, should your flight arrive early in the morning, you will be taken to the hotel, where your room is already ready for check-in. Enjoy your delicious buffet breakfast!

In the morning you drive to a necropolis that is little known in the Western world, located in desert-like surroundings, and hardly ever visited by foreigners! The outing continues with a tour of the somewhat bizarre city - despite having two hundred thousand inhabitants, there are no street names!

A stroll through the city ends at one of the small sandy beaches with a stop in a typical pub.

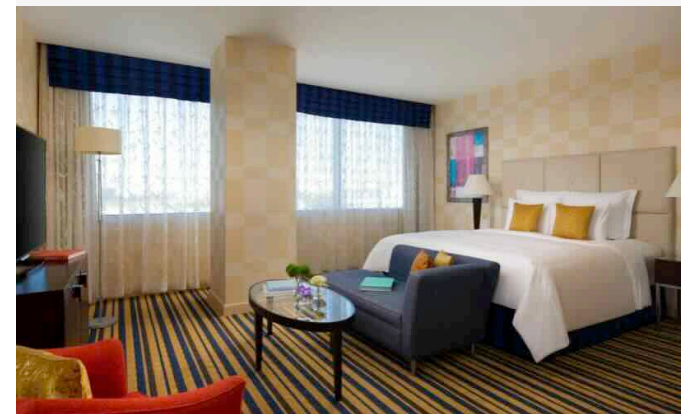
 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

RENAISSANCE BY SULO



Luxury accommodations by the Caspian Sea, featuring modern rooms, fine dining, a spa, and excellent facilities for leisure travellers.



*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

KHIVA



ARAL SEA



KHIVA



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 3

CASPIAN SEA

- Explore Kazakh nature, enjoy tea & snacks, train journey to Uzbekistan.

Today you have a nature excursion to explore some of Kazakhstan's most remarkable landscapes. Visit the mysterious Valley of Balls, where unique spherical rock formations create a surreal and otherworldly atmosphere. Continue to the legendary Sherkala Mountain, often referred to as the "Lion's Fortress," a striking natural wonder steeped in myths and history. Finally, take in the Jurassic tones of Kokkala, a region that transports you to ancient times with its rugged and colorful terrain.

In the afternoon, board your private train, where you'll enjoy a traditional Kazakh tea ceremony accompanied by delicious nomadic snacks. Relax in the comfort of your cabin as the train journeys through picturesque landscapes and crosses the border into Uzbekistan.

Spend the night onboard, immersed in the tranquility of the rolling scenery, preparing for the next chapter of your adventure.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



AKTAU - KUNGRAD



DAY 4

ARAL SEA

- Visit Moynaq's ship graveyard & learn its historical background.

In the morning you have a bus excursion from Kungrad to Moynaq, located approximately 90 kilometers away. Once a thriving fishing port and one of the most important in the USSR, Moynaq now stands as a haunting reminder of ecological disaster. As you approach, the sight of abandoned ships stranded in the desert sands greets you—a poignant remnant of the once-vast Aral Sea.

From a panoramic hill, take in the full extent of this stark landscape. The dry, sandy expanses and the ghostly ship graveyard stretching to the horizon are a sobering testament to one of the worst cases of environmental damage in human history.

Your guide will provide in-depth commentary about the site, offering a vivid depiction of its past glory as a bustling port and the catastrophic impact of environmental mismanagement. This visit is not only an eye-opening experience but also a chance to reflect on the profound consequences of ecological neglect.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



KUNGRAD - KHIVA



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

LIFE ON BOARD



LIFE ON BOARD



LIFE ON BOARD



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 5

KHIVA

- **Khiva's preserved medieval architecture & enchanting 1001 Nights charm.**

Today, step into the enchanting oasis of Khiva, a city that feels like a fairy tale from the pages of 1001 Nights. As you approach the mighty town walls, constructed from ancient mud bricks, their gates and bastions evoke a sense of stepping back in time to a world of legends and wonder.

Your sightseeing tour of Khiva offers an opportunity to immerse yourself in its exotic atmosphere. Wander through its labyrinth of narrow streets and open courtyards, surrounded by some of the most exquisitely preserved examples of medieval oriental urban architecture. Admire the grandeur of its intricately adorned palaces, majestic mosques, towering minarets, and solemn mausoleums. Explore the madrassas, historic Muslim schools where scholars once studied theology and science, offering a glimpse into the city's intellectual past.

Every corner of Khiva tells a story of its rich history as a vital stop on the Silk Road. The city's remarkable ensemble of structures, preserved almost perfectly over the centuries, makes it a living museum of Central Asian culture and craftsmanship. This unforgettable experience will leave you captivated by the beauty and history of one of the world's most unique urban treasures.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



KHIVA - BUKHARA



DAY 6

BUKHARA

- **Bukhara's stunning architecture, dances, & vibrant cultural traditions.**

Nestled in the heart of the Kyzylkum Desert, Bukhara is a city steeped in history, boasting over a thousand architectural monuments that serve as a living testament to the golden age of the Great Silk Route. Once a thriving hub of trade and culture, Bukhara was renowned for its bustling caravanserais, where exotic spices, luxurious furs, and fine silk were stored and exchanged, connecting merchants and travellers from across Asia and Europe.

Today, Bukhara's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers an extraordinary glimpse into its illustrious past. The towering Kalyan Minaret, almost fifty meters high, stands as an enduring symbol of the city, admired for its intricate brickwork and historic significance. Nearby, the Lyab-i Hauz Ensemble, entered around a tranquil pond, reflects the city's timeless charm and provides a serene space to experience its vibrant culture.

As part of your visit, step into the courtyard of a traditional madrasa to witness a captivating performance of local dances. The colourful costumes, paired with evocative music, bring the rich traditions of the region to life. This harmonious blend of history, culture, and artistry makes Bukhara an unforgettable destination on any journey through Central Asia.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

HOTEL ASIA BUKHARA



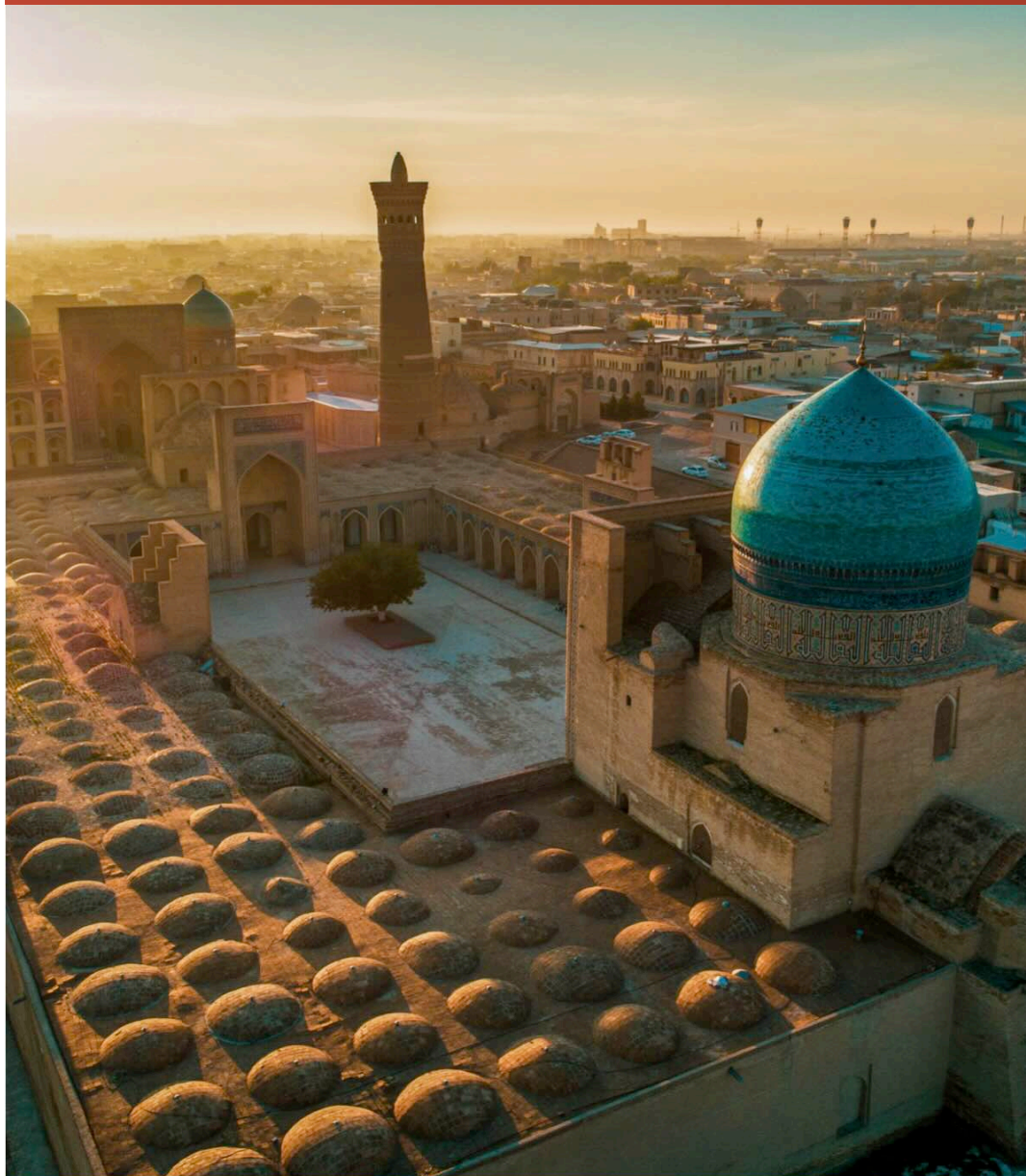
Set in the old town, this warm hotel is a 2-minute walk from scenic Lyab-i Hauz square and 2 km from the Ark of Bukhara.



*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

BUKHARA



BUKHARA



BUKHARA



DAY 7

BUKHARA

- Bukhara's Mir-e-Arab Madrassa, Samanid Mausoleum & Ark Citadel.

Bukhara, often referred to by its esteemed by-name "Sherif" (meaning "the noble one"), stands as a testament to the enduring charm of ancient oriental culture, encapsulated in its unrivalled collection of authentic architectural marvels. This historic city has managed to preserve its unique character, drawing visitors into a journey through time.

Your day in Bukhara begins with a visit to the magnificent Mir-e-Arab Madrassa, an iconic symbol of Islamic learning and architectural splendour. Its striking facade and intricate mosaics are a visual delight and a reflection of the city's rich heritage. Next, you'll explore the exquisite Samanid Mausoleum, an architectural masterpiece renowned as one of Central Asia's most stunning monuments. This 9th-century structure, with its distinctive brickwork and symmetrical design, holds a special place in the annals of Islamic art and architecture.

In the afternoon, the tour takes you to the imposing Ark Citadel, an ancient fortress that once served as the centre of governance for Bukhara's rulers. This sprawling complex, essentially a "city within a city," offers fascinating insights into the political and cultural history of the region. From its massive walls to its historic courtyards, the Ark Citadel stands as a living relic of Bukhara's illustrious past, inviting you to uncover the stories of its former glory.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



BUKHARA - SHAHRIZABZ



DAY 8

SHAHRIZABZ

- Enjoy regional folklore, visit Shahrizabz & travel onward to Samarkand.

Today offers a truly enchanting experience as you immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of the region with a traditional folklore performance. This captivating showcase of music, dance, and storytelling embodies the timeless spirit of the local people, offering a glimpse into traditions that have been passed down through generations. The vibrant costumes, evocative melodies, and graceful movements create a mesmerising atmosphere, leaving you with a deeper appreciation of the region's enduring cultural identity.

Following this, continue to the historic city of Shahrizabz, a place steeped in history and famously known as the birthplace of Amir Timur (Tamerlane), the great conqueror. As you explore this ancient city, you will encounter monumental landmarks such as the Ak-Saray Palace, the remnants of Tamerlane's grand summer palace, and other significant architectural treasures that narrate tales of glory and ambition.

As evening falls, your adventure takes a new direction as you board the train bound for Samarkand, another jewel of Central Asia. As the train glides through the scenic landscapes, you can relax and reflect on the day's remarkable experiences, preparing for the wonders that await you in Samarkand.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



SHAHRIZABZ - SAMARKAND



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

SAMARKAND



SAMARKAND



DUSHANBE



DAY 9

SAMARKAND

- **Shah-i-Zinda, Afrasiyab, Registan Square & historical women's liberation site.**

Today you discover the necropolis of Shah-i-Zinda, the Afrasiyab excavation site (with a museum tour), and Registan Square are certainly among the most notable architectural ensembles in Central Asia. It is also historically important, as the site where many Uzbek women burned their veils (paranjas) in 1917, to signal their arrival in a new era.

Did you know? In the 14th century, the conqueror Tamerlane (Timur) made Samarkand the capital of his vast empire. Under his rule, the city flourished as a centre of learning and culture, attracting artisans and scholars from across Eurasia to contribute to its grandeur.

The Ulugh Beg Observatory in Samarkand was one of the most advanced astronomical observatories in the Islamic world. Built in the 15th century by the ruler and scientist Ulugh Beg, it was equipped to observe the stars and contributed significantly to the medieval understanding of astronomy.

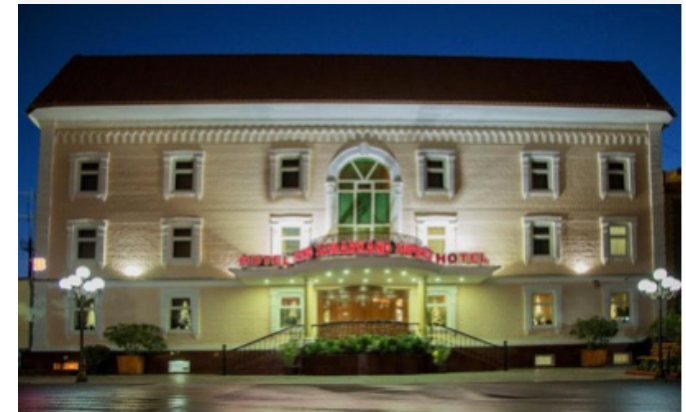
 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

GRAND SAMARKAND



Set in the heart of Samarkand, this comfortable hotel offers Uzbek and European cuisine, a garden and free Wi-Fi in public areas.



*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 10

SAMARKAND

- **Silk carpets, mulberry paper, observatory, mosque & Gur Emir Mausoleum.**

Your day in this captivating city begins with a visit to a silk carpet manufactory, where master weavers craft intricate patterns by hand, showcasing a centuries-old tradition. Next, visit an Uzbek craftsman's family to witness the unique process of making paper from mulberry bark, a skill passed down through generations.

The tour continues at the Ulug Beg Observatory, a 15th-century centre of astronomical study, highlighting Ulug Beg's scientific legacy. You'll also explore the Bibi Khanum Mosque ruins, once one of the grandest mosques in the Islamic world, reflecting Tamerlane's ambitious vision.

Finally, marvel at the stunning Gur Emir Mausoleum, where Tamerlane rests. Its richly decorated interior exudes opulence, offering a fitting conclusion to your exploration of the city's extraordinary history and culture.

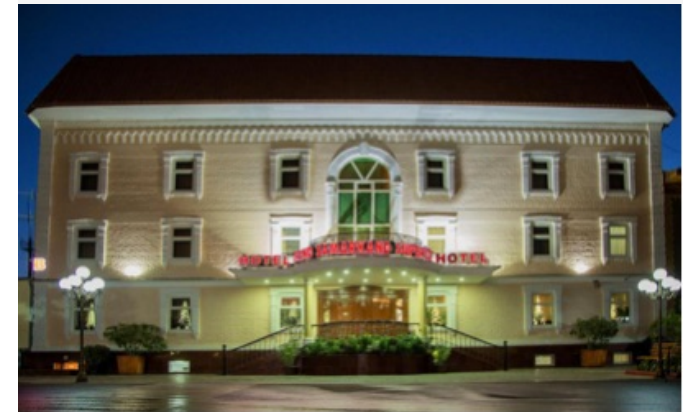
 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

GRAND SAMARKAND



Set in the heart of Samarkand, this comfortable hotel offers Uzbek and European cuisine, a garden and free Wi-Fi in public areas.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

LIFE ON BOARD



LIFE ON BOARD



LIFE ON BOARD



DAY 11

TASHKENT

- **Arrive in Tashkent, explore madrasa, monuments & traditional houses.**

In the morning, your private train arrives in Tashkent, the vibrant capital of Uzbekistan and a fascinating blend of ancient heritage and modernity. After settling in, you embark on a sightseeing tour that introduces you to some of the city's most iconic landmarks.

The journey begins with a visit to the Kukeldash Madrasa, an impressive 16th-century Islamic school that stands as a testament to Tashkent's rich architectural and cultural history. Its intricate brickwork and serene courtyards provide a glimpse into the city's spiritual and educational past.

Next, you'll visit the Kavoj and Amir Timur monuments, honouring two pivotal figures in Uzbek history. The monuments, set against the backdrop of Tashkent's bustling cityscape, celebrate the legacy of Amir Timur, a great conqueror and visionary ruler, and Kavoj, a local hero known for his contributions to Uzbek folklore and culture.

The tour also takes you through neighbourhoods lined with typical Uzbek mud-brick houses, offering an authentic look at traditional Uzbek living. These homes, built with time-honoured techniques, showcase the resourcefulness and artistry of the local people, providing a deeper connection to the everyday life and culture of the region.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

CROWNE PLAZA TASHKENT



Upscale hotel located in the heart of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Spacious rooms and suites with two on-site restaurants.



*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 12

ON THE TRAIN

- Depart for Kyrgyzstan by train, relax and enjoy the journey.

After breakfast, your private train departs from Tashkent, embarking on a scenic journey to the breathtaking Issyk Kul Lake in Kyrgyzstan, one of the largest alpine lakes in the world. As the train winds through the diverse landscapes of Central Asia, you'll have the perfect opportunity to unwind and enjoy the comforts of the journey.

This day is all about relaxation and taking in the ever-changing scenery from the comfort of your cabin or the train's lounge car. Rolling plains give way to rugged mountains, while glimpses of traditional villages and pristine nature create a captivating backdrop. Whether you choose to read, chat with fellow travellers, or simply gaze out the window, the journey offers a sense of tranquility and anticipation.

As the train approaches Kyrgyzstan, the landscapes become increasingly dramatic, hinting at the natural beauty awaiting you at Issyk Kul Lake. The leisurely pace of the day allows you to recharge and prepare for the adventures ahead, while enjoying the unique experience of traveling through one of the most scenic regions of Central Asia.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



TASHKENT - ISSYK KUL LAKE



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS JOURNEY

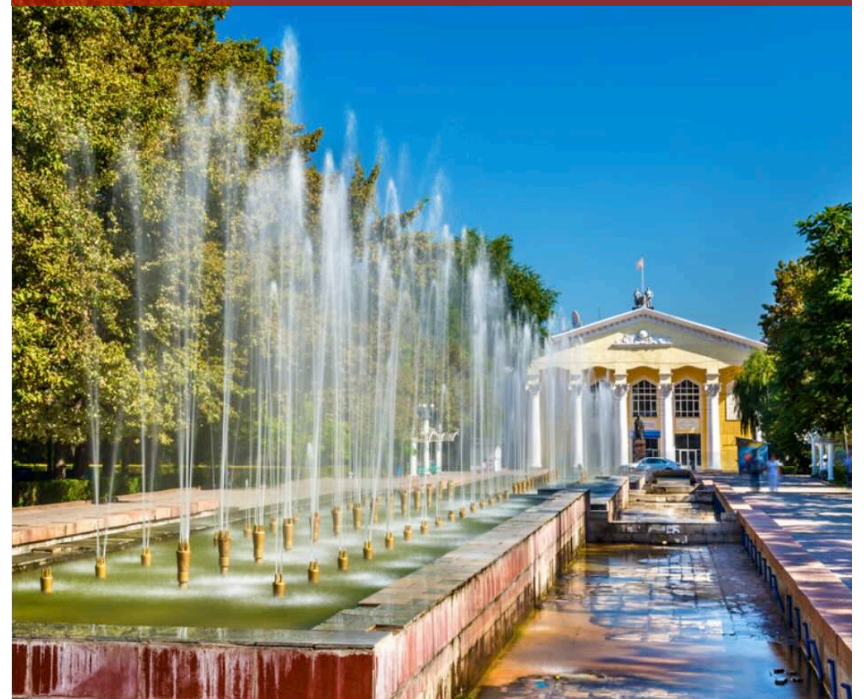
ISSYK KUL



KYRGYZSTAN



BISHKEK



DAY 13

ISSYK KUL LAKE

- Arrive at Issyk Kul Lake, explore, swim, boat & journey to Bishkek.

This morning you will reach the breathtaking Issyk Kul Lake. A visit to the Center of Nomadic Culture will bring you closer before you have time for a walk, or perhaps a small swim in the Issyk Kul. After a boat trip on the Issyk Kul, your train makes its way to Bishkek.

Did you know? Issyk-Kul is the second largest saline lake in the world, after the Caspian Sea, measuring about 182 kilometres (113 miles) long and 60 kilometres (37 miles) wide. Despite being surrounded by snow-capped mountains and located at an altitude of over 1,600 meters (5,249 feet), Issyk-Kul never freezes. This is due to its slight salinity and the geothermal activity beneath its surface, which keeps the water relatively warm.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT



ISSYK KUL LAKE - BISHKEK



DAY 14

BISHKEK

- **Arrive in Bishkek, tour city, explore Ala Archa & a farewell dinner.**

After your final breakfast on the private train, bid farewell to the friendly staff as you arrive in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. A city tour highlights Bishkek's charm, from its Soviet-era architecture to its green spaces—boasting 100 square meters per capita, making it one of the world's greenest cities.

In the afternoon, venture to the stunning Ala Archa National Park, nestled in the Tian Shan mountains. Enjoy its dramatic gorges, rushing rivers, and serene landscapes, perfect for a short hike or quiet reflection.

The day concludes with a festive farewell dinner, celebrating your journey with local Kyrgyz cuisine and the memories made along the way.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

PLAZA HOTEL BISHKEK



In a leafy area this polished hotel has a restaurant, bar and a terrace. A spa has an indoor pool, a sauna and a gym.



*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 15

🇪🇺 END

- Today your Caspian Adventure ends leaving wonderful memories.

After breakfast, a transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Note: If extra nights are required post-trip we recommend asking us to book them through the train operator as they do not confirm the actual hotels until around 6 weeks before the start of the trip.

🍴 **Meals Included:** Breakfast.



Josie Dawson & Friends

"We had the best time, with plenty of laughs, trying to learn the languages, we loved the Train ride, so many amazing sights, sounds and people.

You were always so helpful and prompt in sending us your replies."

2026 Autumn

CASPIAN ADVENTURE - DATES & PRICES PER PERSON IN GBP

Starts in Aktau on the 17th September 2026 and finishes in Bishkek on the 1st October 2026 - Guided in: English • French

* All Dates Subject To Availability - Many Trips Sell Out Long In Advance *

CABIN	HABIBI (4 BERTH*)	ALI BABA	ALADDIN	KALIF
TWIN	£ 3,740*	£ 5,790	£ 6,390	£ 10,560
SINGLE	£ N/A*	£ 7,570	£ 8,600	£ 15,450

*Based on 4 people sharing a cabin. If there are 3 people in a 4 berth cabin then the price is £ 4,580 per person. Single supplement for hotels only is £ 585 per person.

** The prices for this tour are as listed below in GB Pounds. We can quote and accept payment in US Dollars, Singaporean Dollars, Australian Dollars, Canadian Dollars and more. **Contact us** for a confirmed quote in your preferred currency.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ✓ 7 overnights on the private train according to the booked category
- ✓ 6 overnights in hotels
- ✓ All meals according to program (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
- ✓ Sightseeing program including all entrance fees according to program
- ✓ Transfers to and from all airports and train stations according to program
- ✓ Multi-lingual Lernidee Tour Director
- ✓ Experienced local guides for a maximum of 26 guests per group
- ✓ Doctor on board
- ✓ Traditional welcome in the train stations of Bukhara and Samarkand
- ✓ Wine and Vodka tasting

NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

- ✗ International Airfare to the start and from the finish of this trip
- ✗ Visas (ask us for advise about these).
- ✗ Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment.
- ✗ Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The tour may be cancelled if the minimum number of participants required for a trip is not met. It is rare this happens and if it does you will be offered a date / trip change or refund of the deposit (any decision is taken outside 60 days before the trip start date). Note there may be no refund for additional services such as flights or other travel arrangements you have made separately.
- We require all clients to take out travel / trip cancellation and to have valid medical insurance for all our trips.
- Due to the intricate logistics of this tour, itinerary changes are sometimes unavoidable.
- On booking a **non-refundable deposit** of 15% of the total tour price plus any international flights we are booking for you. Full payment is required 90 days before the trip start date.
- International flights, tips, beverages, visa fees and any services not mentioned are not included in the price.
- **Cancellation conditions:**
 - 92 or more days prior to departure: 20% of total price
 - 91 to 42 days prior to departure: 45% of total price
 - 41 to 11 days prior to departure: 80% of total price
 - 10 and less days prior to departure: 90% of total price
 - Any part of the program that is missed because of late arrival is non-refundable.

WHY BOOK THROUGH US ?

EXPERIENCE ✓

We have been arranging luxury train tours since 2008 and have long relationships with key providers.

PRICE PROMISE ✓

In most cases we will offer to match any bona fide, like for like quote for your trip from another agent or operator.

INDEPENDENT ADVICE ✓

We give open and impartial advice and it is important to us that you book the right rail trip for you.

PEACE OF MIND ✓

We are members of ABTA and most trips are protected by our IPP cover and ATOL bonding.



"I just wanted to say thank you for organising our wonderful holiday. All went smoothly and we were well taken care of. Thank you for the seamless organisation."

Kristopher Forbes



"The trip was great. Everything was smooth. This was very important to me as a solo female traveller. I felt safe and secure at all times. It was a well-balanced and organised trip. I really appreciated the effort that went into the trip."

Sarah Orozco



"You are amazing! Thank you so much for the fast response to my initial email, and the rapid answer to any questions I had, no matter how stupid they were! Your organisation was a great choice for me... I would highly recommend it."

Rachael Klein



"The booking process was very efficient. We appreciate you answered all our questions and presented a good plan. The trip itself was a wonderful old world Africa experience on the train – loved it."

Paige & Hugh Christensen



"It was the best trip we've ever taken! It was amazing! I cannot say enough about it. The ease of train travel, and guides were all pleasant surprises."

Lawrence & Conner Dudley



"We appreciated how easy it was to talk with you on the phone, person-to-person. This was very helpful. It's nice to meet people with similar interests and goals. We thank you and your company for everything you did to create a memorable train experience."

Bethany Leblanc



"You made booking flights and everything else very simple. You always provided excellent service, and responded to our inquiries promptly. Thanks for your attention to detail towards your customers."

Tania & Arthur Lindsey



"I can't tell you how much we appreciate all the pre planning you helped us with. Thanks again for all you did for us."

Gail & Cathy

KALIF CABINS



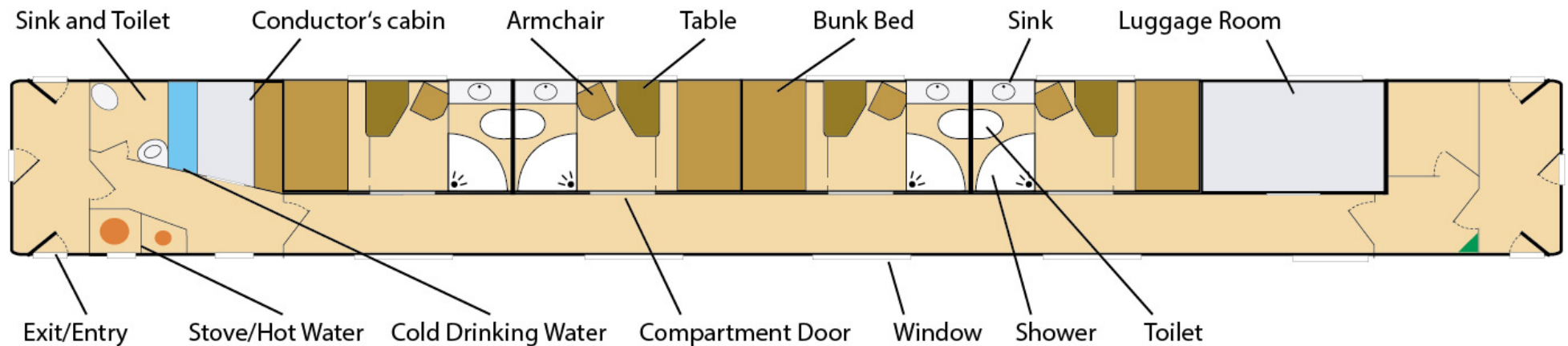
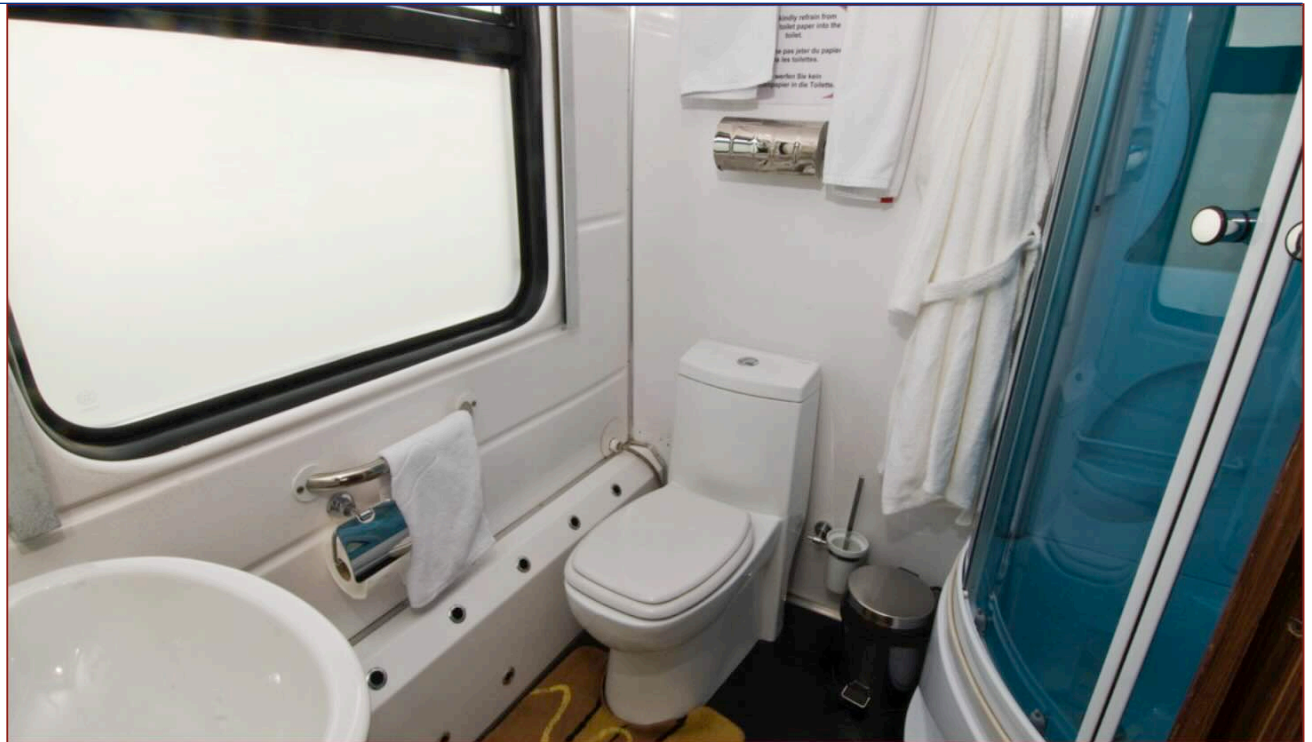
THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD TRAIN CABIN CLASSES

KALIF CABINS

The Orient Silk Road Express' grandest accommodation. The Kalif category features two beds, upper and lower (31.6 × 68.5 in/80 × 174 cm and 44 × 72.4 in/ 112 × 184 cm).

Each compartment includes a closet, safe and private bathroom with a separate shower cabin. Each car in this category is limited to four compartments and a maximum of just eight guests.

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin.



ALADDIN CABINS

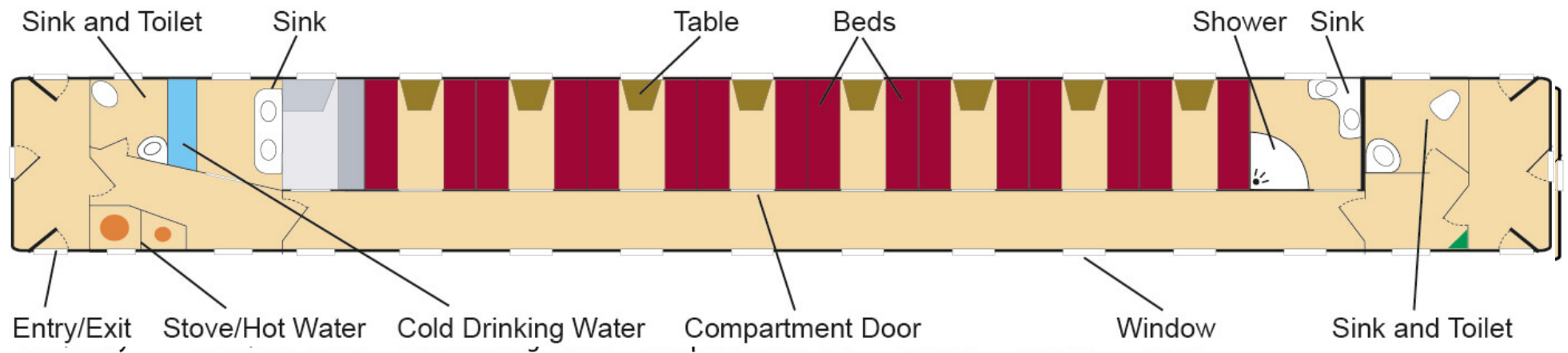


THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD TRAIN CABIN CLASSES

ALADDIN CABINS

This category features two lower beds (27.5 × 74.8 in/67 × 184 cm each), a small table and storage space. Each car has eight compartments and a shower, together with washroom facilities at both ends. Guests in this category also receive one bathrobe per compartment.

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin.

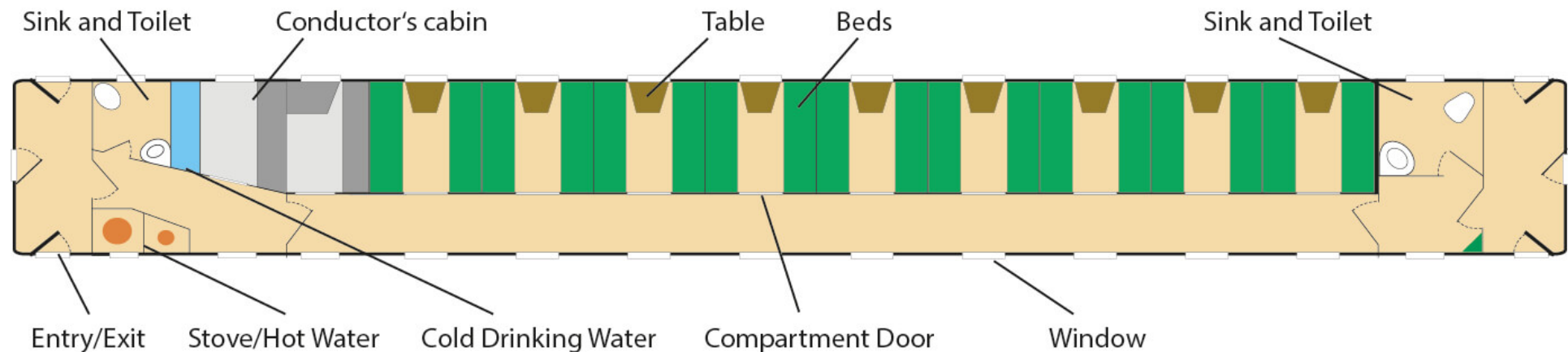


THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD TRAIN CABIN CLASSES

ALI BABA CABINS

This compartment has two lower berths (27.5 × 74.8 in/67 × 184 cm each), as well as a table and additional storage space. Each car has nine compartments, with washroom facilities at both ends.

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin.

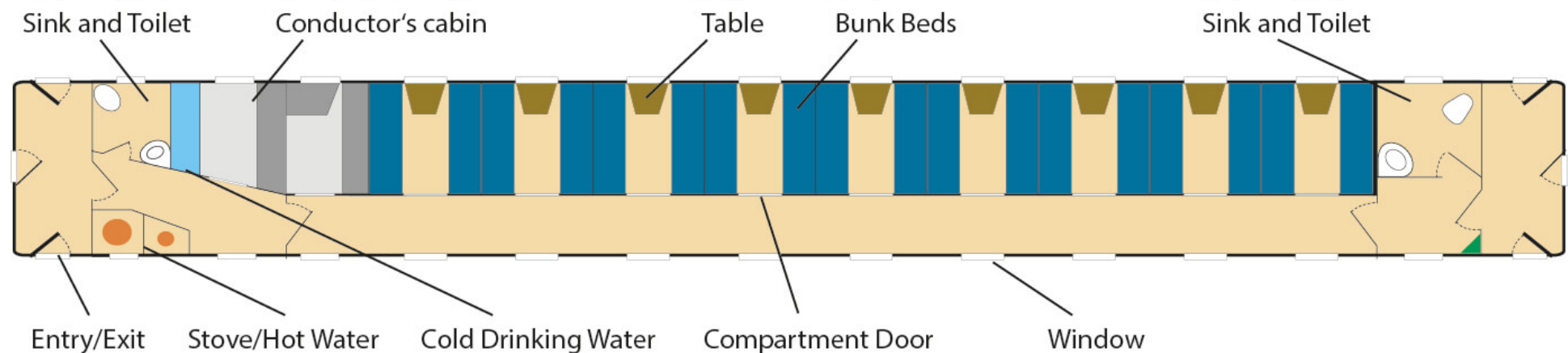


THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD TRAIN CABIN CLASSES

HABIBI CABINS

This compartment has sleeping berths (26.4 × 72.4 in / 67 × 184cm) for up to four guests. A table near the window separates lower and upper berths on either side. Each car has nine compartments, with washroom facilities at both ends.

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin.



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK ?

This train tour is an exclusive trip with very limited departures through the year. Consequently we strongly advise our clients to book as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment. This particularly applies to the higher level cabins which there is strong demand for.

CAN YOU OBTAIN & ADVISE ON THE VISAS FOR US ?

Visas (if required) can be quite complex so we recommend using a specialist visa agent and have an arrangement with [CIBT Visa Central](#) who offer a reliable service for all the visas you will need for your trip. Of course, we provide all the necessary documentation which must accompany your application.

ARE YOUR TOURS FINANCIALLY PROTECTED ?

Trips sold as packages to UK clients come with financial protection either through our ATOL if the trip includes a flight or insurances which comply with the UK package travel regulations for any trip that does not include a flight. In addition our ABTA membership means we must adhere to their strict code of conduct. Trips sold by us as an agent for train operator do not come with financial protection as even in the event of our insolvency your booking with the train operator would still exist and be honoured.

CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FOR US ?

Absolutely! Our ATOL license means that we can book international or indeed internal flights. We get particularly good access to the best deals on British Airways as we are an appointed operator. Just let us know which airports you want to fly from or to and we will be more than happy to give a quote.

IS THIS REGION SAFE TO TRAVEL IN ?

Many years back it had something of reputation but those times are long gone and the trip is now safe and trouble free for the vast majority of people. Your train is a private train so access is tightly controlled and our guides have your safety foremost in their minds throughout your trip with us.

CAN YOU BOOK FURTHER TRAVEL FOR US ?

Yes! We can offer excellent Moscow and St Petersburg programs as well as Trans-Siberian across Russia or to China. We also offer further rail adventures in Central Asia. Just ask us for details.

DO THE TRAINS HAVE PLUGS FOR RECHARGING?

The sockets in the train are standard two-pole Euro-plug sockets, but they are sometimes different in the hotels. If you want to be absolutely sure, you should bring along an Eastern European plug adaptor and one for China too, if necessary. Only Category III VI & V have sockets in the cabins - please check the voltage with your tour guide. Each carriage will have 220 V AC sockets available for charging. Mobile coverage is mostly good along the route. Check with your service provider for charges.

LUGGAGE & CLOTHING TO BRING

We strongly recommend travel bags rather than hard shelled suitcases for this trip as the latter are hard to handle and stow away on the train. The dress code is casual throughout the trip. We recommend sturdy shoes for excursions and you can expect chilly nights even in summer. When visiting churches you should dress modestly and women are expected to cover their heads with a scarf.

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

AIR CONDITIONING

The train is air-conditioned with some cabins being centrally controlled while the higher class cabins have their own independent systems. Note that the air-conditioning only works when the train is moving above 30km / hour.

CONDUCTORS

Each carriage has two dedicated conductors there 24 hours a day to look after you.

TIPPING

Tipping is always appreciated by our the people looking after you on the trip. Of course, any tipping is entirely up to you and should only be given for exceptionally good service. Final documents will include detailed information on who to tip as well as recommendations as to how much.

HOTEL CHECK-IN

Hotel check-in time is 2pm and check out by midday. Occasionally early check-in may be possible although this cannot be guaranteed.

MEDICAL & HEALTH

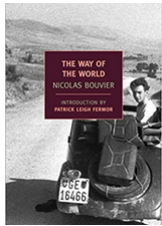
There are no particular vaccination requirements for this trip although we recommend you consult your doctor for final advice. The train will have a doctor on board. Fees are payable to the doctor and you will need to claim on your travel insurance after the trip.

TOILETS, WASHING & LAUNDRY

Small towels and sheeting is provided. Depending on your cabin class you will either have in cabin facilities or shared, end of carriage facilities. Opportunities for laundry are offered through the hotels and payable locally to them.

DINING CAR & DRINKS

Drinks are sold in both the dining car and by the conductors in your carriage. Payment is in Euros or US Dollars. Your conductor can provide you with hot or cold water. Drinks bought in the dining car are done so on a tab which is settled by you at the end of your trip. You must let us know of any dietary requirements before your trip starts.



THE WAY OF THE WORLD

NICHOLAS BOUVIER

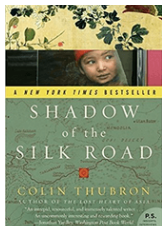
A well-written travelogue, both for its style, as well as its account of the regions traveled and their people. From the Balkans to Turkey, 2 artists bumble slowly across Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan in the early 50's: working, hanging around, trying to get by, trying to move on.



NEWS FROM TARTARY

PETER FLEMING

Peter Fleming travels from Beijing to Kashmir overland. The adventurous journey takes 7 months, and is related by Fleming with great wit and intelligence. Even though it does not touch on any 'Stan', it gives a real sense of how the Silk Road was before modernity arrived.



SHADOW OF THE SILK ROAD

COLIN THUBRON

The Silk Road from China to Turkey. This travelogue has none of the joyous travel spirit of Bouvier, the sheer love of adventure of Fleming or the unique intelligence of Byron. What it does have in abundance is stories of the lives of people he met along the way.



THE DAWN OF EURASIA

BRUNO MAÇÃES

Europe's fortunes are down, Asia is rising. It's the end of the end of history: democracy and human rights are no longer universal. A new multipolar world has China, Russia, Europe (and India) jostling for power in the Eurasian ecosystem. Where will the borderlands of Europe and Asia, caught in the middle, gravitate to?



GREAT GAMES, LOCAL RULES

ALEXANDER COOLEY

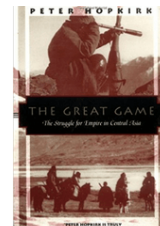
The most recent overview of Central Asia's regimes and their stance towards each other and the bigger powers surrounding them: China, Russia, and the US. Written by a recognized expert on the matter, this is the one to get for an informed view of present-day politics in the region.



THE NEW GREAT GAME

LUTZ KLEVEMAN

About the politics of oil this book criss-crosses the region from Tbilisi to Kashgar in attempt to ferret out the pipeline politics of the newly independent states post-9/11, with the US, Iran and China vying for a piece of the pie Russia could no longer gobble up alone.



THE GREAT GAME

PETER HOPKIRK

Probably the most popular book on Central Asia, and rightly so, this is the ultimate Great Game book. Reads like a spy novel, only that it actually all happened. A similar, equally gripping book by the same author is Setting the East Ablaze, about the Bolsheviks plot to bring communism to India through Central Asia.



GOODNIGHT, MISTER LENIN

TIZIANO TERZANI

Tiziano Terzani is a man who always turns up at the right place at the right time. In 1991, Terzani is floating down a river in Siberia when a call comes in: the Soviet Union no longer exists. He hops on a whirlwind tour of Central Asia and the southern Caucasus as the Russian colonial empire suddenly disintegrates. His mission: to find the corpse of Communism.