



PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Single-Departure Journeys

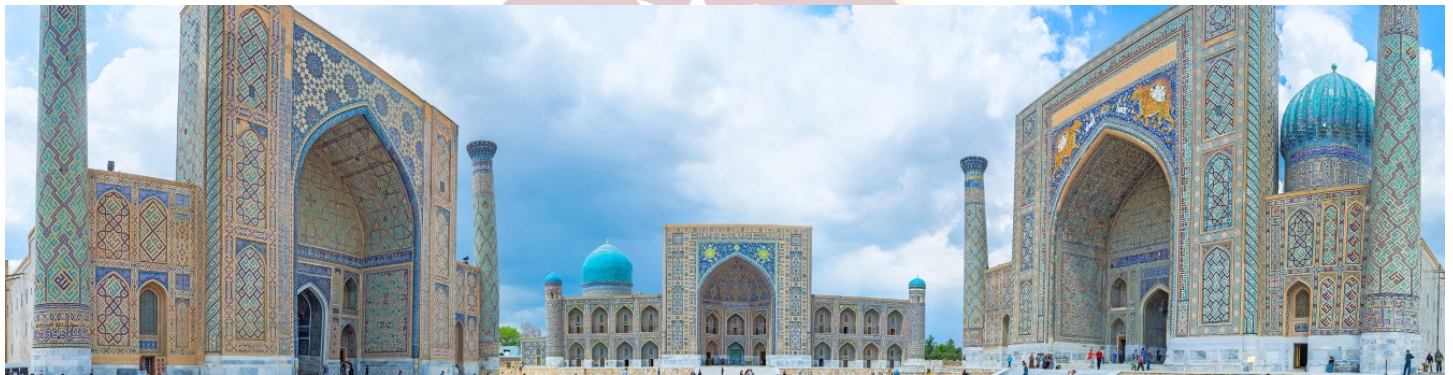
The Silk Road (Eastbound) / 21 nights Moscow-Beijing

Tour Dates

2016: September 19-October 10
2017: September 22-October 13

Price

Starting from \$24,595



Dive into the ancient history and gorgeous landscapes along the route of the Silk Road on the Golden Eagle Luxury Train. Taking you through Russia, various countries in Central Asia, and China, this journey over twenty two days is sure to astound you. Along the way, you will see ornate Russian architecture mixed with Islamic mosques and crumbling ruins. Modern oasis cities rise out of the desert and stun you with their grandeur. Destinations such as the ancient city of Khiva, the Terracotta Warriors of Xian, and the Great Wall of China are only some of the awe-inspiring sights along this tour. All of this is framed by luxury rail, providing you with comfortable accommodations, fine dining, lounge areas, language lessons, guided tours, and superb service.

Price Details

Prices in US Dollars

Silver Class (Twin)	Silver Class (Single)	Gold Class (Twin)	Gold Class (Single)	Imperial Class (Twin)	Imperial Class (Single)
\$24,595	\$35,895	\$30,795	\$44,595	\$43,995	On Request

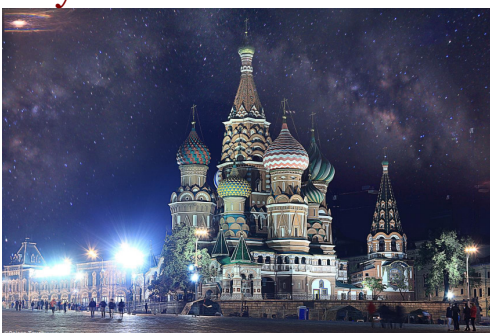
Itinerary

Day 1: Moscow

Arrive in Moscow where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Baltschug Kempinski hotel, located at the heart of Moscow. With magnificent views of the Kremlin, Red Square, and St. Basil's Cathedral, and the indulgence of this outstanding accommodation, your adventure is steeped in extraordinary luxury from the beginning. On this first night, you will enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel and meet your fellow travelers. A whirlwind of indulgence, adventure, and unforgettable experiences lies in the 21 days ahead of you.

In Moscow, you may choose to attend a performance at the renowned Bolshoi Theatre. (Tickets must be pre-booked and are subject to schedule and availability) If you would like to extend your stay in Moscow, contact Palace Tours for the chance to explore more of the city.

Day 2: Moscow



Spend the day touring Moscow and its best attractions. Visit the Kremlin, standing impressively along the Moscow River, and learn about its role as a spiritual, historical, and political heart of the city. Here, see treasures of Tsars past in the Armoury Chamber: the Imperial Crown of Russia, the Orloff Diamond, and the ivory throne of Ivan the Terrible. You will also visit Red Square, which is framed by St Basil's Cathedral and its onion-domed spires, the elaborate façade of the GUM department store, and the poignancy of Lenin's tomb.

The *Freedom of Choice* touring option provides the opportunity to instead travel outside of Moscow to Sergiev Posad. Here, one of the most beautiful monasteries in Russia, dating back to the 14th century, draws admiration as the spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox Church. It is currently home to over 300 monks. In this town, you will also find the State Tretyakov Gallery, the National Museum of Fine Art.

Day 3: Board the Golden Eagle

Your anticipated journey on the Golden Eagle Luxury Train finally arrives when you board the train in the morning. Your arrival, however, is not without fanfare. At the Moscow Kazansky Station, you are greeted in the Imperial Waiting Room with a glass of Russian Champagne and canapes as you mingle with the other passengers, anticipation and energy rising with every passing minute. 30 minutes before your departure, attendants escort you to Platform 1 where a military brass band announces your arrival to the Golden Eagle. On selected departures, the Golden Eagle train will be hauled by a Russian steam locomotive for the first leg of the journey. There will be an opportunity to photograph the locomotive at the station.

Once on board, the luxury and style of the Golden Eagle will astound you. Settle into your private cabin, and dine in one of the beautiful restaurant cars to start this adventure to Beijing.

Day 4: Volgograd

Your first stop along your journey is Volgograd, located in the south of Russia and perched on the Volga River. You may better recognize this city as Stalingrad- its name in Soviet Times. It was the scene for the most important, as well as largest and bloodiest, battle in World War II. The Mamayev Kurgan war memorial and museum commemorate the heroic Russians who

altered the course of the war when they halted the Nazi advance into Russia. Return to the train after a sobering and meaningful day.

Day 5: Karakum

The Kara-Kum Desert stretches out in all directions during this relaxing day on board the train. Spend time admiring the landscape from your cabin or the social heart of the Golden Eagle, the Bar Lounge Car. You may also choose to participate in Russian language lessons, becoming closer connected with the destinations along this journey.

Day 6: Khiva

Step out onto the streets of Khiva, one of the most important trading posts on the Silk Road. This city was founded 2,500 years ago and is now a World Heritage Site. An oasis of history and culture, this city is rich with impressive architecture dating back to ancient times. Mosques, madrassas, bazaars, and minarets prove its timelessness and position at the crossroads of Mongolia, Russia, China, and Persia. Take a moment to appreciate the uniqueness of this coveted experience.



Day 7: Ashgabat



Rising out of the sand, and sitting between the Kara Kum and Kopet Dag mountain range, is the modern city of Ashgabat, known as the "Las Vegas of the Kara Kum." This city is your next stop along the Silk Road, as it was built on the ruins of the ancient Silk Road city of Konjikala. Russians took over the surviving village in the 19th century, but an earthquake in 1948 devastated the city's rapid expansion. Now, Ashgabat is a bustling metropolis. The city does not seem to fit in with its barren desert surroundings, as it is characterized by elaborate

fountains, golden domes, modern towers, and the world's highest concentration of white marble buildings. Highlights include visits to the National Museum and Kipchak Mosque.

Day 8: Merv

Transfer to the ancient remains of Merv, which lie to the west of the city of Mary. Merv's ruins tell of its once important position as an oasis city along the Silk Road. In the 12th century it was briefly the largest city in the world and has a history stretching back to the 3rd millennium BC. In 1794, the city collapsed when the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam that its citizens relied on for water and life. Now a World Heritage Site and archeological park, you can wander its remains and contemplate its history.

Day 9: Bukhara

Your first stop in Uzbekistan is the ancient city of Bukhara, renovated in 1999 during its 2,500th anniversary. These ancient cities have lined your trip thus far, but they are not any less impressive than the previous. Bukhara is known for The Ark, a great fortress that was once the residence of the despotic leaders who ruled until the Soviet era, starting in 1920. Now a tourist

attraction, it houses museums detailing its extensive history.

Later, travel a few miles north of the city to the Palace of the Moon and Stars, the summer residence of Bukhara's emirs. You will see a conglomeration of Bukhara and Russian architecture and explore the museums, enchanted by divine pottery, needlework, and stained glass. In the evening, if time and weather permit, gather on the station platform for a barbecue before departing on the train.

Day 10: Samarkand

Explore Samarkand's legacy that potentially stretches back to the Paleolithic era. From being a famous stop on the Silk Road, containing architectural remains from the 14th to 17th century, and serving as the capital of the great Mongol empire of Timur and his successors, Samarkand's history as one of the greatest cities of Central Asia comes to life around you. Become entranced by the remarkable mixture of Islamic and Turko-Mongol architecture, buildings dominated by rich blues and golds, and the detailed motifs of gardens throughout the city.

During your tour of the city, you will visit the heart of the city, the noble Registan Square, the elegant Bibi Khanum Mosque, and Ulugh Beg observatory, built in 1428 as one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories. Return to the Registan Square before dinner, now illuminated as night falls.

Day 11: Tashkent



Tour Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, an impressive city that has been reconstructed multiple times throughout history. The city was rebuilt in 1219 after Genghis Khan left it destroyed, and developed as a stop on the Silk Road. Most recently, the city experienced a devastating earthquake in 1966 and has since been restored in Soviet styles.

Your day in Tashkent takes you through the streets of the Old Town, the Railway Museum, and the

Museum of Applied Arts. Tucked in a small library, nestled within narrow streets lined by traditional homes and religious buildings, is one of the most sacred relics of Islam: the world's oldest Koran. This experience, along with each stop in Tashkent, will be fulfilling, intriguing, and thought-provoking.

Day 12: Almaty

Your destination in Kazakhstan is its largest city: Almaty, deriving its name from "alma" meaning "apple." Known for wide, tree-lined boulevards and thriving apple orchards, and cradled in the foothills of the breathtaking Tien Shan Mountains, Almaty offers a wide range of attractions. A city tour takes you through sights such as Panfilov Park and the Zenkhov Cathedral, built entirely of wood. Later, you will venture out of the city to the Chimbulak resort and take a cable car ride, giving you a picturesque view of Almaty and the mountains.

Day 13: Cross the Border into China

Today you will cross the border from Kazakhstan into Alashankou in Xinjiang, China. At the border in Druzhba (also known as Dostyk), say a final goodbye to the Golden Eagle. After your patience through the 5 hour border crossing, you will be rewarded with the Shangri-La Express, a private luxury train. Take time to settle into your comfortable cabins as your journey along the Silk Road route in China begins. For a fitting welcome into China, enjoy a special dinner in the restaurant cars to get your first taste of fine, authentic, Chinese cuisine. The Shangri-La Express provides you with one of the most luxurious train experiences in China. Relax on board in the piano bar, watch the incredible scenery drift by, and dine on fine cuisine made from local ingredients.

Day 14: Turpan

The Flaming Mountains, with striking red sandstone and gullies and trenches carved into the sandstone, create a grand backdrop to your first official stop in China: Turpan. An important city along the Silk Road, this city sits in a fertile oasis in the desert. A tour into the underground irrigation system leaves you fascinated with the impressive network responsible for maintaining the area's rich orchards and vineyards for centuries. Another stop on your tour is the Museum of Turpan, where you will lose yourself in the 5,000 artifacts that each tell a part of the region's history. You will also see the Ancient Mummy exhibition that holds secrets from 3,200 years ago. Your final stop is the ruins of the sand fortress city of Jiaohe. This once imposing fortress stood atop a plateau and was a significant trading route on the Silk Road. The city flourished from 108 BC until the 13th century, when a devastating raid by Genghis Kahn left the inhabitants to abandon their city to its decay.

Day 15: Dunhuang

Find paradise in the oasis city of Dunhuang, where you will visit the Magao Thousand Buddha Cave Complex. Sculptures, ancient grottoes, and murals depicting the 1,000 year evolution of Buddhism abound in this site. You will spend the night at the Silk Road Dunhuang hotel and eat dinner and watch a local folk performance.

Day 16: Dunhuang



This morning provides a special surprise, as you wake early to admire the sunrise over the rolling sand dunes before breakfast. Then, your journey takes an even more adventurous turn as you explore the Gobi desert by camel. Appreciate the uniqueness of this opportunity and discover the hidden gems of this beautiful landscape. The sudden spark of color and life of the Crescent Lake sits hidden within the dunes. This lake is an important oasis in the barren landscape and has sustained life for a thousand years.

Day 17: Xi'an



Your next highly anticipated stop along this journey is Xian, where you will see sights such as the famed Terracotta Warriors. These 6,000 figures and their horses were discovered by peasants only 40 years ago and are one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

As part of the Freedom of Choice itinerary, you may choose to alternatively visit the Han Yangling Museum. This museum connects to an impressive network of tombs, burial pits, and ceremonial sites dating back 2,000 years. You will stay overnight at the Sofitel Xian hotel, and be enchanted by a Tang Dynasty Dinner, and a Music and Dance Show of traditional, ancient entertainment.

Day 18: Xi'an

After breakfast at the hotel, you will take a cycle through the city, admiring its historical architecture. Your journey will take you into the Muslim Quarter. Delve into its bustling culture and visit the Great Mosque. Depart Xi'an on the Shangri-La Express.

Day 19: Beijing

Your last day on board luxury train comes to a close as you wind your way to the capital of China, Beijing, after traveling an immense 7,000 miles. Bid your final goodbyes to the train crew and luxury rail and transfer to the five-star Regent Hotel, your home for the next three nights. Centrally located, your hotel gives you close access to some of Beijing's top destinations: the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Wangfujing shopping street, the Oriental Plaza, and picturesque old lanes, or hutongs.

Day 20: Beijing

A full day lies ahead of you as you wake in luxury at your hotel. A comprehensive tour of the Imperial City takes you to its best sights, starting with Tiananmen Square. Then, explore the restored Forbidden City in the center of the city. It was built in the early 14th century and was a magnificent residence for the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Continue on to the Temple of Heaven, the grandest of four great temples situated in Beijing. It was built during the Ming Dynasty for sacrifices to the heavens. Here, presentations of traditional dancing, singing and the delicate art of calligraphy will captivate you. You will also venture into the traditional "hutong" lanes by rickshaw and connect with a local family in a traditional courtyard house.

Alternatively, the Freedom of Choice program provides multiple touring options. Tour Cuandixa, an ancient village tucked in the mountains about 56 miles (90kms) to the west of Beijing. You will see more than 500 preserved courtyard houses that date back to the Ming and Qing dynasties. Another option brings you to the Hutong Chinese Cooking School, where you can learn the art of cooking authentic Chinese Cuisine in a traditional courtyard home

Day 21: Beijing

Today, the highly famed and anticipated Great Wall awaits. Dedicating the whole day to this magnificent feat of Chinese precision and skill, you will learn about its history and walk along the coveted path of this iconic symbol. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it was originally built to protect the Chinese Empire from raids by nomadic tribes and is the longest man-made structure in the world. Spend some time walking along the wall- a perfect opportunity for unforgettable memories and photographs.



For your final night, your exclusive farewell dinner will take place in an authentic Peking Duck restaurant. In addition to the specially selected international wines that have followed you throughout your journey, dinner will also include a special glass of local rice wine, locally known as "firewater," to bring your adventure to a fitting close.

Day 22: Beijing

After breakfast, and an incredible journey stretching thousands of miles and thousands of years, you will be transferred to Beijing Airport for your departures.

The Silk Road (Westbound) / 20 nights

Beijing-Moscow

Tour Dates

2016: September 23-October 13

2017: September 26-October 16

Price

Starting from \$24,595



Starting in Beijing, the Westbound journey along the Silk Road takes you from China through various countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) and up into Russia where you will end in Moscow. The Westbound journey follows the itinerary and activities of the Eastbound rail, but there is an additional stop in Darvaza, Turkmenistan to visit the famous burning cave, the “Door to Hell,” on Day 15. This tour takes you on the Shangri-La Express in China and once you cross into Kazakhstan, board the Golden Eagle for the rest of the journey.

PALACE TOURS

Price Details

Prices in US Dollars

Silver Class (Twin)	Silver Class (Single)	Gold Class (Twin)	Gold Class (Single)	Imperial Class (Twin)	Imperial Class (Single)
\$24,595	\$35,895	\$30,795	\$44,595	\$43,995	On Request

Itinerary

Day 1: Beijing	Arrive in Beijing, enjoy a welcome dinner, and stay at the five-star Regent Hotel (or similar).
Day 2: Beijing	Tour Beijing. Highlights include Tienanmen Square and Forbidden City. Stay at the hotel.
Day 3: Beijing	Excursion to the Great Wall. Stay at the hotel.
Day 4: Beijing and Xi'an	Depart for and arrive in Xi'an; tour the city. Stay overnight at the Sofitel Xian hotel.
Day 5: Xi'an	Explore the city, and then board the Shangri-La Express. Enjoy a welcome dinner on board.
Day 6: Dunhuang	Arrive in Dunhuang and explore. Stay overnight at the Silk Road Dunhuang hotel.
Day 7: Dunhuang	Visit the Magao Thousand Buddha Cave Complex. Depart for Turpan.
Day 8: Turpan	Tour the area, including the fortress city of Jiaohe. Depart on the Shangri-La Express.
Day 9: Border Crossing	Arrive at the Chinese station of Alashankou. The border crossing will take approximately 5 hours, to Druzhba, the border station in Kazakhstan. Board the Golden Eagle.
Day 10: Almaty	Tour the city. Highlights include the Zenkhov Cathedral and a cable car ride
Day 11: Tashkent	Tour the city. Visit the Old Town and see the world's oldest Koran.
Day 12: Samarkand	Tour the city, visiting Registan Square and the Ulag Beg observatory.
Day 13: Bukhara	Tour the city and surrounding area.
Day 14: Merv	Explore the crumbling remains of Merv.
Day 15: Ashgabat, Darvaza	Tour the "Las Vegas of the Kara Kum." Then travel to Darvaza to see the crater, "The Door to Hell." Situated in the Kara Kum desert, this gas crater (best seen at night) has been burning for over 40 years.
Day 16: Khiva	Tour this ancient city.
Day 17: Kara Kum	Enjoy a day on board the train.
Day 18: Volgograd	Tour the city, learning about World War II.
Day 19: Moscow	Arrive in Moscow, check into the five-star Baltshug Kempinski hotel.
Day 20: Moscow	Tour the city, stay overnight.
Day 21: Moscow	You will be transferred to the airport in the morning. If you would like to extend your stay, contact Palace Tours.