



PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Single-Departure Journeys

A Taste of the Silk Road (Eastbound) / 12 nights Moscow-Almaty

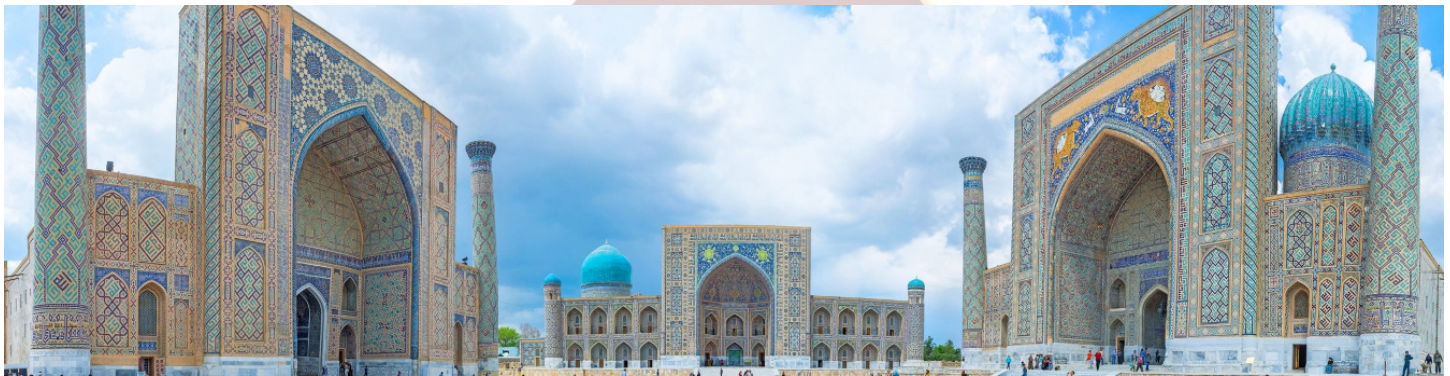
Tour Dates

2016: September 19-October 1

2017: September 22-October 4

Price

Starting from \$16,995



Dive into the ancient history and gorgeous landscapes along a portion of the Silk Road on the Golden Eagle Luxury Train. Taking you through Russia and various countries in Central Asia, this twelve-night journey 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. The ancient city of Khiva, the ruins of Merv, and the modern city of Ashgabat are only some of the awe-inspiring destinations 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)
\$16,995	\$24,995	\$20,595	\$30,995	\$33,995	On Request

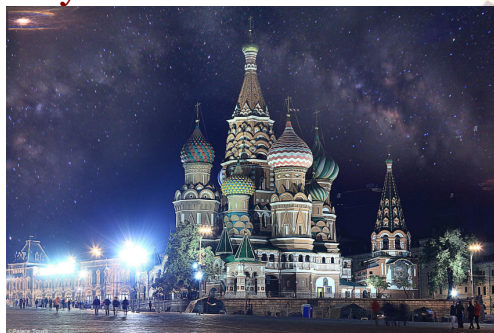
Itinerary

Day 1: Moscow

Arrive in Moscow where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Baltshug 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 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.

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 Ulag 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



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Tour Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan and an impressive city that has been reconstructed multiple times throughout history. The city was rebuilt in 1219 after Genghis Kahn 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. 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: Almaty

After breakfast, transfer to the Almaty International Airport for your flight home. If you would like to extend your journey, contact Palace Tours for more information.



A Taste of the Silk Road (Westbound) / 12 nights

Almaty-Moscow

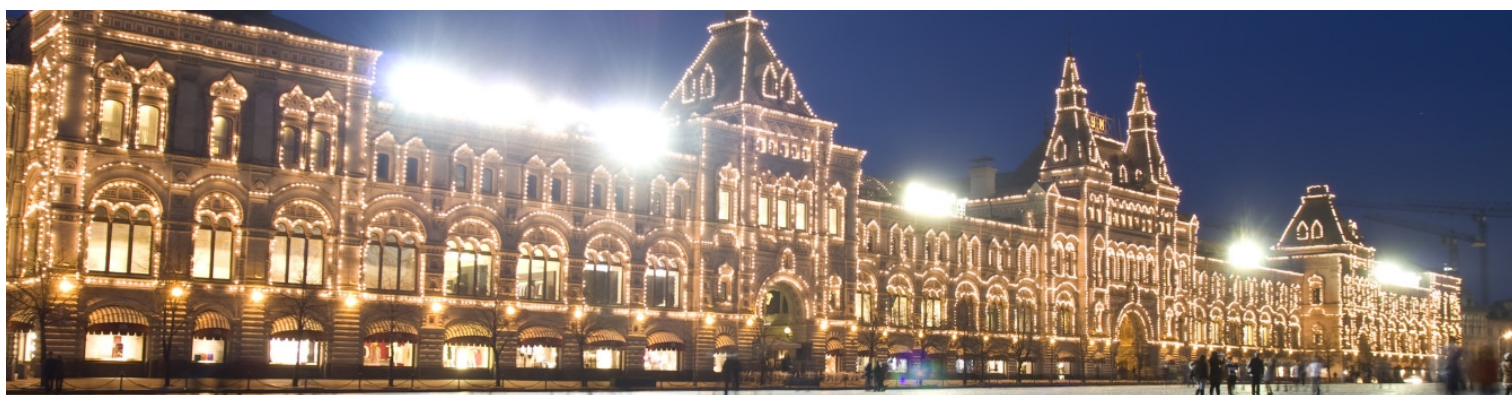
Tour Dates

2016: October 1-October 13

2017: October 4-October 16

Price

Starting from \$16,595



Starting in Almaty, the westbound journey along the Silk Road takes you from Kazakhstan through various countries in Central Asia (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 7. The Golden Eagle Luxury Train is your home on this incredible journey through thousands of miles and history.

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: Almaty	Arrive in Almaty, transfer to the five-star InterContinental hotel.
Day 2: Almaty	Tour the city. Highlights include the Zenkhov Cathedral and a cable car ride
Day 3: Tashkent	Tour the city. Visit the Old Town and see the world's oldest Koran.
Day 4: Samarkand	Tour the city, visiting Registan Square and the Ulag Beg observatory.
Day 5: Bukhara	Tour the city and surrounding area.
Day 6: Merv	Explore the crumbling remains of Merv.
Day 7: 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 8: Khiva	Tour this ancient city.
Day 9: Kara Kum	Enjoy a day on board the train.
Day 10: Volgograd	Tour the city, learning about World War II.
Day 11: Moscow	Arrive in Moscow, check into the five-star Baltshug Kempinski hotel.
Day 12: Moscow	Tour the city, stay overnight.
Day 13: Moscow	You will be transferred to the airport in the morning. If you would like to extend your stay, contact Palace Tours.

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