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Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Republics of the Silk Road (Almaty to Samarkand)

13 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Fourteen days from Almaty to Samarkand aboard the *Golden Eagle*, through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan - the westbound run of the Republics of the Silk Road, and the one that finishes where the Silk Road is most famous rather than passing through.

The route takes in Lake Issyk-Kul and a private nomadic games festival, the Fergana Valley crafts towns of Kokand, Rishtan and Margilan, then the great walled cities: Bukhara, Nukus with its improbable avant-garde collection, Khiva, and a detour into Tajikistan for Dushanbe. The last three nights are spent on the ground in Samarkand, which is the right amount of time for it.

Journey highlights

- A privately arranged nomadic games festival at Lake Issyk-Kul - horseback wrestling, eagle hunting and ordo
- Ceramics at Rishtan and a silk-weaving family workshop at Margilan, in the Fergana Valley
- The Ark fortress and the Kalyan Mosque at Bukhara, with a barbecue on the station platform
- The Igor Savitsky Museum at Nukus - the "Louvre in the Sands", 100,000 works in a desert city
- Khiva, a complete walled city and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The Kohi Navruz Palace at Dushanbe, built as a teahouse and finished as something rather grander
- Three nights in Samarkand - Registan by day and again for the illuminated light show, the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, the Ulugh Beg observatory and a plov lunch cooked by a local chef

One departure in 2027: 12 to 25 September.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

ALMATY

Arrive at Almaty and transfer to a five-star hotel in the centre. Kazakhstan's former capital is a leafy, low-rise city under the Tien Shan, and easy to like on first acquaintance. This evening there is a champagne reception to meet your fellow travellers and the tour management team, followed by the welcome dinner.

DAY 2

ALMATY

A guided tour of the city this morning: Panfilov Park with its Second World War memorial, and the Zenkov Cathedral, built entirely of wood without a single nail. Almaty takes its name from *alma*, apple, and the orchards still run right up to the city limits. In the afternoon you board the *Golden Eagle* and settle into your cabin, with the welcome dinner on board.





DAY 3

LAKE ISSYK

Issyk-Kul runs 180 kilometres long and 60 wide, the second largest alpine lake in the world. Its name means "warm lake" - depth, salinity and geothermal activity keep it from freezing despite the snow on the peaks around it.

A cultural festival is arranged privately for the group on the shore: traditional steppe sports passed down through generations. Archery is familiar; horseback wrestling, hunting with golden eagles and ordo, played with animal bones, are not. Music, dance, costume and craft demonstrations fill out the programme. Afterwards there is an optional visit to the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs before dinner on board.

DAY 4

BISHKEK

Bishkek began as a caravan stop and spent the 20th century as a Soviet capital, which is largely what you see: Ala-Too Square, built in 1984 for the 60th anniversary of the Kirghiz SSR, and the parks around it with their statues of Marx and Engels and the Memorial to the Red Guards. Afterwards the train continues, crossing into Uzbekistan overnight.





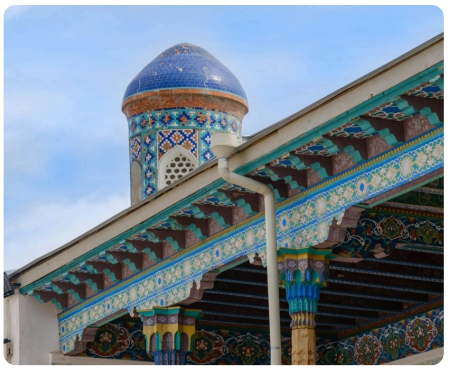
DAY 5

TASHKENT

Tashkent was largely rebuilt after the 1966 earthquake, giving it broad avenues and monumental architecture over a much older core. The tour starts in the Old Town at the Khast-Imam Complex, a centre of Islamic scholarship, then the Museum of Applied Arts - housed in the lavishly decorated former residence of the Russian diplomat Alexander Polovtsev - Independence Square, and the Railway Museum.

DAY 6

KOKAND



A day in the Fergana Valley, and one of the best on the journey. Kokand was a major Silk Road trading post: you see the Palace of Khudayar Khan, the Pearl of Kokand, and the Jami Mosque. Rishtan is Uzbekistan's ceramics town, where a master potter demonstrates the craft and you see the workshops behind it. At Margilan, a family who have made silk for generations take you through the whole process - mulberry leaves, silkworms, dyeing, and ikat woven on traditional looms.



DAY 7

BUKHARA

Bukhara was restored with UNESCO support for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999. The centrepiece is The Ark, the fortress from which the Emirs ruled until the Soviet era, and Poi-Kalyan Square with the Kalyan Mosque - vast pillar-domed galleries and deep recessed niches, still very much in use. There is time at the Trading Domes and at Lyabi-Hauz Square, shaded by mulberry trees around its pool, and a visit out of town to the Emir's Palace of the Moon and Stars. Weather permitting, a barbecue on the station platform before departure.

DAY 8

NUKUS



Nukus sits in the remote north-west, surrounded by the Kara Kum, Kyzyl Kum and Ustyurt deserts. Its Igor Savitsky State Museum of Arts is known as the "Louvre in the Sands": more than 100,000 works, including the largest collection of Soviet avant-garde art outside Russia, which survived because nobody in Moscow was paying attention to Karakalpakstan.



DAY 9

KHIVA

Khiva was founded over 2,500 years ago at the crossroads of the routes linking Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia, and it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It rises out of the desert as a single walled ensemble - mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets, all within the walls.

DAY 10

DUSHANBE

An afternoon in the Tajik capital on the Varzob River. The Museum of National Antiquities first, then the Kohi Navruz Palace, which began life as a teahouse and became a palace of chandeliers and carved halls - a local guide explains how, and who made it. Then the Ismoil Somoni Monument to the first king of the Tajiks, Independence Square and the Mekhrgon Bazaar. This evening the resident pianist plays on board as the train crosses back into Uzbekistan.





DAY 11

SHAHRISABZ

Shahrisabz is believed to be Timur's birthplace, and you visit his statue and the UNESCO-listed Ak-Saray Palace, which took more than twenty-five years to build and still carries its mosaics and Qur'anic calligraphy, including the inscription dating it to 1395-96.

In the late afternoon you arrive in Samarkand and say goodbye to the *Golden Eagle*. First stop is the Gur-e Amir Mausoleum, under its azure dome, where Timur is buried. Then check in to a five-star hotel for three nights, with a dine-around at the hotel tonight.

DAY 12

SAMARKAND



Registan Square is the jewel, and you start there, followed by the Bibi Khanum Mosque. Then Siab Bazaar, the city's largest market, for spices, bread and produce; the Meros paper mill, where you can try the centuries-old process yourself; and plov cooked by a local chef, which is as close to a national institution as a dish gets here. After dark you return to Registan, illuminated, for the light show - from front-row seats.



DAY 13

SAMARKAND

The morning covers the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, a corridor of 9th-century-onward mausoleums whose tilework is the best in the city, and the Ulugh Beg Observatory of 1428, built by an astronomer who happened also to be a Timurid ruler. Then Afrasiab, where the museum holds the 7th-century frescoes from the Palace of Varkhuman.

DAY 14

SAMARKAND



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Samarkand deserves longer if you have it, and we are happy to add nights or extend into the rest of Uzbekistan.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Sep 12, 2027	Imperial Suite	**$138,000**	**$69,700**
	Gold Class	**$61,200**	**$36,600**
	Silver Class	**$42,400**	**$28,300**
	Imperial Suite Early Bird	**$137,750**	**$69,450**
	Gold Class Early Bird	**$60,950**	**$36,350**
	Silver Class Early Bird	**$42,150**	**$28,050**

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

EARLY BIRD FARES

Book early, pay less

Plan ahead and you'll pay less for exactly the same journey. Every cabin on this tour has an Early Bird fare. Look for it in the booking calendar, right next to the regular fare: it is labelled "<cabin> Early Bird".

6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save $250

per person

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save $150

per person

INSIDE 3 MONTHS

Regular fare

the Early Bird fare closes

CABIN	REGULAR DOUBLE (PP)	EARLY BIRD, 6+ MONTHS AHEAD	EARLY BIRD, 3–6 MONTHS AHEAD
Imperial Suite	**$69,700**	**$69,450** save $250	**$69,550** save $150
Gold Class	**$36,600**	**$36,350** save $250	**$36,450** save $150
Silver Class	**$28,300**	**$28,050** save $250	**$28,150** save $150

Double fares per person, two sharing. The saving depends on the cabin's regular price per person: $250 / $150 on journeys from $8,000, $150 / $100 from $5,000, and $50 on shorter trips. It's the same cabin, the same itinerary and everything included as before. The only difference is the price. Early Bird fares are limited to the cabins on each departure and close automatically. If you already know your dates, now is the time to book.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/golden-eagle-republics-silk-road-almaty-samarkand for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Booking & Payment

- **Deposit:** 30% of the total tour cost is due at the time of booking. The deposit is non-refundable.
- **Final payment:** the balance is due no later than 125 days before departure.
- Bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking.
- Fares are per person. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and due dates.

Cancellation

- **125 days or more** before departure: 30% of the total tour cost (the deposit)
- **Less than 125 days** before departure: 100% of the total tour cost

Changes

- **Date change:** free of charge, subject to availability, when requested 125 days or more before departure; after that, a fee of 15% of the total tour cost applies.
- **Cabin upgrade:** only the fare difference between cabin categories applies.
- **Cabin downgrade or passenger name correction:** free of charge up to 35 days before departure; within 35 days, EUR 500 per change.

Changes or cancellation by the train operator

If the train operator cancels or materially changes a departure, you will be offered a new date or an amended booking, a credit toward a future journey, or a refund of the amounts paid.

All cancellation, change, or update requests must be submitted in writing by email to travel@palacetours.com. A request takes effect only once we have received and processed it, and we will confirm the outcome to you in writing. Timeframes are calculated by reference to local time and business days at the destination; a request received outside business hours is treated as received on the next business day.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance, including cancellation cover, from the moment you pay your deposit. For information on available plans, please visit www.palacetours.com/insurance.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Golden Eagle Republics of the Silk Road journey from Almaty to Samarkand?

> The journey lasts 14 days and 13 nights. You spend 1 night in a five-star hotel in Almaty, 9 nights aboard the Golden Eagle private train and the final 3 nights in a five-star hotel in Samarkand, so the trip ends with unhurried time in the most famous city on the Silk Road.

Which countries and cities does the Almaty to Samarkand itinerary visit, and in what order?

> The route runs westbound through four republics: Almaty (Kazakhstan), Lake Issyk-Kul and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), then Tashkent, the Fergana Valley towns of Kokand, Rishtan and Margilan, Bukhara, Nukus and Khiva (Uzbekistan), a detour to Dushanbe (Tajikistan), and finally Shahrisabz and Samarkand back in Uzbekistan.

When does the 2027 Republics of the Silk Road departure run?

> There is one departure in 2027, running from 12 to 25 September. It starts with arrival in Almaty on 12 September and ends with an airport transfer in Samarkand on 25 September. Availability and the exact fare for each cabin grade are shown in the departure list on this page.

How much does the Golden Eagle Almaty to Samarkand journey cost?

> Fares start from around USD 28,050 per person sharing a cabin, with sole occupancy from around USD 42,150. The price depends on the cabin grade you choose, and the exact fare for each departure and cabin is shown on this page, since rates can change.

What cabin grades are available on the Golden Eagle for this journey?

> Three grades are offered: Imperial Suite, Gold Class and Silver Class. The Imperial Suite is about 120 square feet with a king-size bed, a sitting area and two large windows, while Gold Class is about 77 square feet and sleeps two as a lower double or as bunks. Every cabin is en-suite with individually controlled air conditioning.

What extra benefits come with the Imperial Suite on the Golden Eagle?

> Imperial Suite guests receive a complimentary minibar, laundry service and beverages from both the standard and premium lists. There are also private car and guide options in selected cities, and the en-suite bathroom has a full power shower and underfloor heating.

What is included in the price of the Republics of the Silk Road tour?

> The fare covers all accommodation, 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 13 dinners, a generous beverage allowance with meals, arrival and departure transfers, luggage porterage, guided excursions in every city, the private nomadic games festival, the Registan light show, a tour management team, an onboard doctor and all gratuities on and off the train.

What is not included in the Almaty to Samarkand journey?

> International flights to Almaty and home from Samarkand are not included, and neither are visas, travel insurance or items of a personal nature. Our travel specialists can help you plan flights that fit the arrival and departure days of the tour.

What happens at the private nomadic games festival at Lake Issyk-Kul?

> On day 3 a cultural festival is arranged just for the group on the shore of Issyk-Kul, the second largest alpine lake in the world. You watch traditional steppe sports such as archery, horseback wrestling, hunting with golden eagles and ordo, a game played with animal bones, along with music, dance, costume and craft demonstrations.

What will I see in the Fergana Valley on this journey?

> Day 6 is spent in the Fergana Valley. At Kokand you visit the Palace of Khudayar Khan and the Jami Mosque, at Rishtan a master potter demonstrates Uzbek ceramics, and at Margilan a silk-weaving family shows the whole process from mulberry leaves and silkworms to ikat woven on traditional looms.

Why is the Igor Savitsky Museum at Nukus on the itinerary?

> The Savitsky State Museum of Arts in Nukus is known as the Louvre in the Sands. It holds more than 100,000 works, including the largest collection of Soviet avant-garde art outside Russia, which survived because the remote desert region of Karakalpakstan escaped official attention.

What is special about Khiva and Bukhara on this Silk Road train journey?

> Khiva is a complete walled city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, with mosques, madrassas and minarets packed inside its walls. In Bukhara you visit The Ark fortress, Poi-Kalyan Square with the Kalyan Mosque, the Trading Domes and Lyabi-Hauz Square, and weather permitting there is a barbecue on the station platform before departure.

How much time do I get in Samarkand at the end of the tour?

> You spend three nights in a five-star hotel in Samarkand. The touring covers the Gur-e Amir Mausoleum, Registan Square by day and again for the illuminated light show from front-row seats, the Bibi Khanum Mosque, Siab Bazaar, the Meros paper mill, a plov lunch by a local chef, the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis, the Ulugh Beg Observatory and the Afrasiab museum.

Is there a doctor on board the Golden Eagle during the journey?

> Yes. A UK-registered doctor travels with the train and there are medical facilities on board. An experienced tour management team also accompanies the group throughout, and 24-hour cabin attendant service is provided.

How much deposit is required to book this Golden Eagle journey, and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 30 percent of the tour price confirms your cabin and is non-refundable. The balance is due 125 days before departure, and bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and the dates they fall due.

Can children travel on the Republics of the Silk Road journey?

> Children can be booked, with child rates in two bands based on age at departure: under 5, and 5 to 11. Please contact us before booking so we can confirm cabin arrangements and the applicable fare for your family.

Can I travel alone on the Almaty to Samarkand journey?

> Yes. Solo travellers can book a cabin for sole occupancy, with fares starting from around USD 42,150. The exact single fare for each cabin grade is shown on this page, and our specialists can confirm availability.

Do I need visas for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on this trip?

> Visas are not included in the fare, and requirements depend on your nationality. Because the route crosses four countries, please check the entry rules for each one for your passport well before travel. Our team can point you to the right guidance once you book.

Can I add extra nights before or after the Golden Eagle Silk Road journey?

> Yes. Samarkand deserves longer if you have it, and we are happy to add nights there or extend your trip into the rest of Uzbekistan. We can also add nights in Almaty before the journey begins.

How do I ask a question or book the Golden Eagle Republics of the Silk Road journey?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. The departure list on this page is bookable directly, showing the current fare and availability for each cabin grade.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

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