

PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

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

13 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

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Overview

Journeying aboard the Golden Eagle, we will travel through the magnificent “Five Stans” – a fascinating patchwork of countries, stitched together by a shared history of Sovietisation, yet fiercely independent in identity. From the magnificent mosques and bustling bazaars of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to the breath-taking verdant expanse and ethereally tranquil landscapes of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, this incredible 14-day adventure is your invitation to one of the world’s greatest train journeys.

ALMATY – LAKE ISSYK-KUL – BISHKEK – TASHKENT – KHIVA – DARVAZA – ASHGABAT – MERV – BUKHARA – DUSHANBE – SHAHRIZABZ – SAMARKAND – MARGILAN – ANDIZHAN – OSH – KOKAND – TASHKENT

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the 4,000-year old art of *Golden Eagle* hunting at Lake Issyk-Kul
- Learn a new craft in a traditional Kyrgyz bread making class
- Evening drinks reception on the beautifully lit Registan Square, Samarkand
- See the Darvaza Burning Gas Crater light up the night sky in the Kara Kum desert
- Explore the historic, UNESCO honoured, cities of Khiva, Merv, Bukhara and Samarkand

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

ALMATY

Arrive at Almaty Airport, where you are met and transferred to the stylish five-star Intercontinental Hotel.

On your first evening in Almaty, you will be invited to a champagne drinks' reception before our exclusive Welcome Dinner.

Specially selected international wines are included with dinner, as with all meals during the tour.

DAY 2

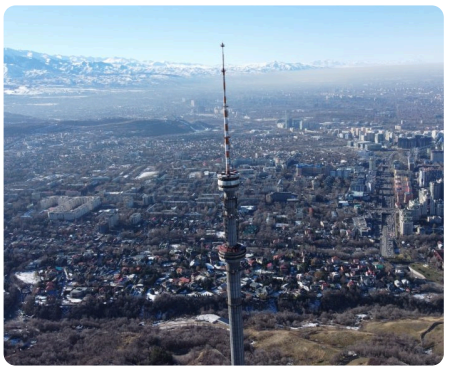
THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

Almaty is the largest city in Kazakhstan and is notable for its wide tree-lined boulevards.

Surrounded by the majesty of the Tien Shan Mountains, this beautiful city derives its name from 'alma' meaning 'apple'. Just a short distance from the city, apple orchards thrive in abundance.

Our morning city tour includes a visit to Panfilov Park, where we visit the unique Zenkhov Cathedral which was built entirely of wood, and Independence Square.

This afternoon board our private train, the *Golden Eagle* and settle into well-appointed en-suite cabins. Tonight we enjoy a Welcome Dinner.





DAY 3

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

This morning, we will enjoy a guided tour of the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs at Lake Issyk-Kul, a sacred site used by the Saka priests for sacrifices and other rites to the sun god. Some of the petroglyphs date from the Bronze Age with later engravings dating to the 10th century. Following this, we are treated to breathtaking flight demonstration of Eagle Hunting, a 4,000-year-old art. You will learn the story of eagle hunting, the characteristics of the Golden Eagle and the fascinating details of this Kyrgyz nomadic tradition.

Originally a caravan rest stop serving the travellers that came through the area along the Great Silk Road, Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, is the location of our afternoon sightseeing. Here we will visit the Ala-Too Square, built 1984 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic in Kyrgyzstan and a city tour of the local parks, rich in Soviet history, including statutes of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and the Memorial for the Red Guards.

DAY 4

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN



This afternoon we arrive in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. We spend time touring this modern Soviet-style city, which was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake of 1966.

Our tour of the city includes the Old Town, where traditional homes and religious buildings line the narrow streets.

In a small library here we will be privileged to see one of Islam's most sacred relics – the world's oldest Koran. This is followed by a visit to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts.



DAY 5

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

Today, we travel to the ancient city of Khiva, founded 2,500 years ago.

As one of the Silk Road's most important trading posts and now a World Heritage Site, it lies at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia.

A truly magnificent sight to behold, it rises out of the desert to reveal a wealth of impressive architecture.

Stepping back in time, we discover its impressive mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.

DAY 6

ASHGABAT



The *Golden Eagle* makes a brief scheduled stop at Ichoguz, where we have the option to leave the train and make a short journey to Darvaza's famous burning gas crater, a spectacular sight best seen at night. Located in the middle of the Kara Kum desert where the area is rich in natural gas, the 70-metre wide crater is known by the locals as the 'Door to Hell' and has been burning for over 40 years. A unique experience that is not to be missed.

Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan is known as the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'. Situated between the Kara Kum desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range, Ashgabat is a relatively modern city built upon the ruins of the Silk Road city of Konjikala. The Soviet city was largely rebuilt after the devastating earthquake of 1948.

The city's extravagant fountains, golden domes and towering modern buildings appear strangely incongruous in this desert setting. Highlights on our visit include a visit to the National Museum and Kipchak Mosque.



DAY 7

MERV

From Mary we transfer to the ancient and mainly unrestored remains of Merv.

Once an important stopping point on the Silk Road, it claims to have briefly been the largest city in the world during the 12th century.

1794 saw the demise of Merv, after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended on for its water.

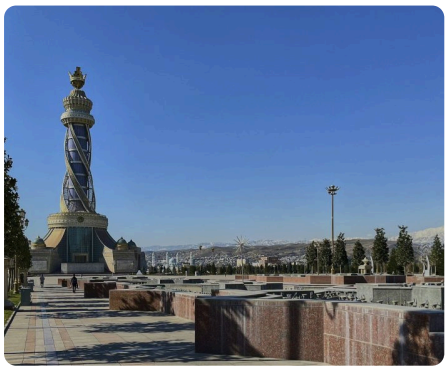
DAY 8

BUKHARA

Bukhara is quite simply outstanding. Like Khiva, UNESCO sponsored the renovation of much of the city for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999. The highlight of this wonderful tour is a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara – the despotic and ruthless leaders who ruled until Soviet times.

We then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named 'Palace of the Moon and Stars'. This evening, weather and time permitting, we will enjoy a barbecue on the station platform before our train departs.





DAY 9

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

This morning, we visit the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, situated on the Varzob River and its opulent Kohi Navruz Palace. Enjoy a guided tour with a local expert guide, who will tell the fascinating story of the teahouse-turned palace.

You will explore each beautiful hall decorated with breathtaking chandeliers, while learning about each of the artists and designers that worked incredibly hard to build and decorate this majestic palace. After the tour, we will enjoy tea and local delicacies in the palace before returning to the Golden Eagle to continue our journey.

DAY 10

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN



Believed to be the birthplace of Amir Timur, the military prodigy who modelled himself on Genghis Khan and used similar violent methods to conquer and control his Empire, we visit the UNESCO-honoured statue of Amir Timur and his Ak-Saray Palace. This majestic palace in Shahrizabz took over a quarter of a century to build, and was originally decorated with colourful, highly detailed mosaic but also included delicate calligraphic inscriptions from the Qur'an. Amid the decorative facing, there is an inscription showing the date 798 (1395 – 1396 AD) which was when the building was completed.



DAY 11

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

Just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up evocative images of the Silk Road, more so than any other town. Founded in the 6th century BC, Samarkand's stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia and is particularly noted for its architectural remains from the 14th to the 17th century, when it flourished as the fabled capital of the Mongol empire of Timur and his successors.

Today, we will visit some of its most significant sites including Registan Square, the refined elegance of the beautifully proportioned Bibi Khanum Mosque and the Ulag Beg observatory, one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories built in 1428. Before dinner we will return to the now illuminated and awe-inspiring Registan Square.

DAY 12

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN



This morning, we visit the ancient city of Margilan, famous for its production of silk, considered by many as the best in Central Asia. Here we will visit the Yodgorlik Margilan Factory which is considered the best and only one of its kind in Uzbekistan. Producing 6,000 metres of silk per month, the factory has preserved a manual and traditional method of silk production. We will explore the whole process of making silk from the mulberry trees used to feed the silkworms to the hardworking staff hand weaving the colourful ikat fabric on traditional looms.

Our next stop is the town of Andizhan, dating back to the 9th century. The city is renowned as the birthplace of Zahiruddin Babur in 1483. He was a descendant of Amir Timur, who was once the ruler of this area. During our short visit we explore the Jami Madrasah and mosque, one of the biggest religious complexes in the region, decorated with beautiful geometric patterns of pandjara and Islamic inscriptions.

Late afternoon we arrive in Osh, a popular destination for Muslim pilgrimages as it is home to the sacred Sulayman Mountain, visible from all areas of the city and named in honour of the Qur'anic Prophet Solomon. Our *Freedom of Choice* touring options include a walking tour of the city, taking in spectacular Soviet mosaics, murals, and public art, plus a visit to some of the major architectural sites and monuments honouring World War Two soldiers and Chernobyl victims. Alternatively, you can enjoy a traditional bread making class. Bread is an important part of the local diet and across Kyrgyzstan it not only varies by its shape, but also by its taste, and the unique way in which it is baked.



DAY 13

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

Kokand is the main transportation junction in the Fergana Valley and is located at the crossroads of the two main ancient trade routes. It is known that each of the Khanates of Turan had their own impressive palace. One of these architectural monuments is the citadel of the last Kokand Khan, Khudayar Khan.

Today, we will visit the Khudayar Khan Fortress and its remaining buildings and courtyards, the best way to understand not only the history of the buildings but also the lives and times of Khudyar Khan, his wives and his family. We will also have an opportunity to visit the museum displaying jewellery, clothing and metal-ware.

This evening we enjoy our Farewell Dinner on board the Golden Eagle as we return to Tashkent.

DAY 14

THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRAIN

After breakfast on board the Golden Eagle, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Tips & Travel Guide

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

The *Golden Eagle*, comprising three categories of cabins, featuring state-of-the-art amenities and en-suite facilities, is the only private train of its kind operating in these regions of the world.

RELAXING ON BOARD

Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by as you get to know fellow passengers in the social heart of the *Golden Eagle*, the Bar Lounge Car.

DINING ON BOARD

Our beautifully designed Restaurant Cars provide a wonderful venue to enjoy the sumptuous meals prepared by our Executive Chef and his highly skilled onboard restaurant team.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Aug 30, 2027	Silver Class	**$42,400**	**$28,300**
	Gold Class	**$61,200**	**$36,600**
	Imperial Suite	**$138,000**	**$69,700**
	Silver Class Early Bird	**$42,150**	**$28,050**
	Gold Class Early Bird	**$60,950**	**$36,350**
	Imperial Suite Early Bird	**$137,750**	**$69,450**
Sep 23, 2027	Silver Class	**$42,400**	**$28,300**
	Gold Class	**$61,200**	**$36,600**
	Imperial Suite	**$138,000**	**$69,700**
	Silver Class Early Bird	**$42,150**	**$28,050**
	Gold Class Early Bird	**$60,950**	**$36,350**
	Imperial Suite Early Bird	**$137,750**	**$69,450**

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
Silver Class	**$28,300**	**$28,050** save $250	**$28,150** save $150
Gold Class	**$36,600**	**$36,350** save $250	**$36,450** save $150
Imperial Suite	**$69,700**	**$69,450** save $250	**$69,550** 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-of-The-Silk-Road 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 Republics of the Silk Road and which countries does it cross?

It is a 13-night, 14-day journey across the five Central Asian republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. The route runs Almaty, Lake Issyk-Kul, Bishkek, Tashkent, Khiva, Darvaza, Ashgabat, Merv, Bukhara, Dushanbe, Shahrizabz, Samarkand, Margilan, Andizhan, Osh, Kokand and back to Tashkent.

Where does the journey begin and end?

It begins in Almaty, Kazakhstan, where you are met at the airport and transferred to a five-star hotel, and ends in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where you are transferred to the airport after breakfast on board on day fourteen. It is a one-way itinerary, so book an arrival flight into Almaty and a departure flight from Tashkent.

What is the eagle hunting demonstration at Lake Issyk-Kul?

On day three, after a guided tour of the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs at Lake Issyk-Kul, you see a flight demonstration of eagle hunting, a 4,000-year-old Kyrgyz nomadic art. A local handler explains the story of the tradition and the characteristics of the golden eagle itself. The petroglyphs at the site range from the Bronze Age to the 10th century.

What is the Darvaza burning gas crater?

The train makes a scheduled stop at Ichoguz, from which there is the option of a short journey to the Darvaza crater in the middle of the Kara Kum desert. The 70-metre-wide crater sits in gas-rich ground and has been alight for more than 40 years, which is why locals call it the Door to Hell. It is at its most spectacular seen at night.

Which UNESCO Silk Road cities does the journey visit?

The itinerary takes in the historic, UNESCO-honoured cities of Khiva, Merv, Bukhara and Samarkand, plus Shahrizabz with its UNESCO-listed Ak-Saray Palace and statue of Amir Timur. Few itineraries reach all of them in one journey, and the private train is what makes the distances between them manageable.

What will I see in Samarkand?

Samarkand was founded in the 6th century BC and is noted for architecture from the 14th to 17th centuries, when it was the fabled capital of Timur's empire. The touring includes Registan Square, the beautifully proportioned Bibi Khanum Mosque and the Ulug Beg observatory, one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories, built in 1428. An evening drinks reception on the illuminated Registan Square is a highlight.

What is there to see in Khiva?

Khiva was founded 2,500 years ago and was one of the Silk Road's most important trading posts, at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia. Now a World Heritage Site, it rises out of the desert as a

What does the Bukhara day include?

Bukhara was substantially renovated under UNESCO sponsorship for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999. The highlight is The Ark, the fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara who ruled until Soviet times. You then travel out of the city to the Emir's enchantingly named Palace of the Moon and Stars. Weather and time permitting, a barbecue is held on the station platform before the train departs.

What is Merv?

Merv, reached by transfer from Mary in Turkmenistan, is an ancient and largely unrestored Silk Road site. It claims to have briefly been the largest city in the world during the 12th century. Its decline came in 1794, when the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam on which the population depended for water. Seeing it unreconstructed is part of its power.

What happens in Dushanbe?

On day nine you visit the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, on the Varzob River, and its opulent Kohi Navruz Palace. A local expert guide tells the story of the teahouse that became a palace, and you walk through halls decorated with remarkable chandeliers, learning about the artists and designers who built and decorated it. Tea and local delicacies are served in the palace before you rejoin the train.

What is the silk factory visit in Margilan?

Margilan is famous for silk that many consider the best in Central Asia. You visit the Yodgorlik factory, the only one of its kind in Uzbekistan, which produces 6,000 metres of silk a month using entirely manual traditional methods. You follow the whole process, from the mulberry trees that feed the silkworms to the hand weaving of colourful ikat fabric on traditional looms.

What cabin categories are available on the train?

Three categories are offered: Silver Class, Gold Class and Imperial Suite. All have en-suite facilities and state-of-the-art amenities, and 24-hour cabin attendant service is included. Gold Class cabins are 77 square feet (7 square metres) and well proportioned; Imperial Suites are the most spacious. The exact fare for each category and departure is shown on this page.

How large is an Imperial Suite?

Imperial Suites measure 120 square feet (11.1 square metres), the largest cabins on the train. Each has a large double bed of about 6ft 2in by 5ft, a lounge area with dressing table, an en-suite bathroom with a power shower and underfloor heating, individual air conditioning, a wardrobe, a DVD and CD player with LCD screen, a stocked minibar, a safe, a small library and two large picture windows.

What is included in the tour price?

Included are five-star pre- and post-tour hotel accommodation, your private en-suite cabin, 24-hour cabin attendant service, an experienced tour management team, a UK-registered doctor with medical facilities on board, arrival and departure transfers, all gratuities on and off the train, luggage porterage, all meals per the itinerary with a generous drinks allowance, the Gala Caviar dinner, and the guided excursions with Freedom of Choice options.

Is there a doctor on board?

> Yes. A UK-registered doctor travels with the train and medical facilities are carried on board, which matters on a 14-day route that crosses remote desert and mountain country far from major hospitals. An experienced tour management team travels with you as well. Comprehensive travel insurance is still strongly recommended for this itinerary.

What are the dining and drinks arrangements on board?

> Meals are prepared by the executive chef and his team and served in the Restaurant Cars, with authentic dining experiences in local restaurants along the way. A generous drinks allowance is included, with international selections served at lunch and dinner, and a Gala Caviar dinner is part of the programme. The Bar Lounge Car is the social heart of the train between excursions.

When do the departures for this journey run?

> Departures are loaded for the 2027 season, from late August into late September, which is the most comfortable time of year for Central Asia: warm days, cool evenings and the harvest in full swing. The full list of bookable dates, with the fare for each cabin category, is shown in the departures section of this page.

What is the lead-in fare and what does it cover?

> The lead-in fare is from about 28,300 dollars per person sharing a cabin. It covers the hotel nights, your cabin on board, all meals per the itinerary with the drinks allowance, all excursions, transfers and gratuities on and off the train. The fare varies by cabin category and departure, and the exact fare for each date is shown on this page.

Is there a single occupancy fare?

> Yes. A single-occupancy fare is available from about 42,400 dollars for the journey, depending on cabin category and departure date. Single cabins on a private train of this kind are strictly limited, so they should be requested as early as possible. The exact single rate for your chosen date is confirmed in writing before you book.

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

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message https://wa.me/17864080610, and a travel specialist or our AI assistant will help. A non-refundable deposit of 30 percent confirms your cabin, with the balance due 125 days before departure. Every departure listed on this page is bookable directly, and we confirm the fare in writing before any payment is taken.

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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