Along Central Asia’s Silk Road
September 12-28, 2024

17 days for $8,394 total price from San Francisco
($7,595 air & land inclusive plus $799 airline taxes and fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for the Commonwealth Club
Dear Club Travelers,

We invite you to join us on an exclusive 17-day tour to experience the great Silk Road cities of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

Begin in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, with a comprehensive city tour and a yurt-making demonstration. En route to Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, stop at Tamgaly Gorge to see the Tamgaly Petroglyphs, then ascend a mountain for panoramic views. In Uzbekistan's fascinating capital, Tashkent, witness its treasured 8th-century Quran and Chorsu Bazaar. Uncover Khiva's storied past with a tour of the Itchan Kala, a UNESCO treasure. In ancient Bukhara, watch silk weavers at work and visit the home of a Sufi miniaturist. Conclude the tour in legendary Samarkand with a visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane's tomb, before a brief return to Tashkent.

Space is limited to only 24 guests, and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Reserve today!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth, Director of Travel

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COMMONWEALTH CLUB RESERVATION FORM: ALONG CENTRAL ASIA’S SILK ROAD

To reserve your place on tour, please call The Commonwealth Club at (415) 597-6720 or e-mail travel@commonwealthclub.org. Please have the information outlined below available to share with a Commonwealth Club representative.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to The Commonwealth Club’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: The Commonwealth Club
110 The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105

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ALONG CENTRAL ASIA’S SILK ROAD • SEPTEMBER 12-28, 2024

I/We would like to request __________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name ________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _____

Full Passport Name ________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _____

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________________ State ________________________ ZIP _______________

Phone (______)__________________________________ I am a member of the _____________________ Council.

E-mail(s) _______________________________________ Badge Name(s) __________________________________

Please book my/our air from ___________________________ I/We request an air upgrade to Business Class ❑

I will share a room with ___________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

We require membership in the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:

❑ I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.

❑ I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.
Along Central Asia’s Silk Road

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Traveling the ancient Silk Road connecting East and West, we encounter a mélange of culture and religion, art and architecture that conjures tales of trade and treasure, intrigue and empire. On this exciting small group journey, we relish the exotic – and embrace the humanity we share with the welcoming people of Central Asia.

Thursday, September 12: Depart U.S. for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Friday, September 13: Arrive Bishkek

Upon arrival in the Kyrgyz capital late tonight, we transfer directly to our hotel.

Saturday, September 14: Bishkek

After time to rest and have lunch on our own, we meet our tour directors and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead. Then we take a panoramic tour of this former Soviet republic’s largest city. Tonight, we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Sunday, September 15: Bishkek/Burana

We travel east this morning to the village of Burana, whose 11th-century tower is the sole remaining remnant of the ancient Silk Road city of Balasagun. We then enjoy lunch in the home of Kyrgyz family. Next: a yurt-making demonstration in this country where the nomadic lifestyle is still practiced. B,L,D

Monday, September 16: Bishkek/Almaty, Kazakhstan

En route to Almaty this morning, we stop at Tamgaly Gorge to see the Tamgaly Petroglyphs that date to the Bronze Age. We enjoy a picnic lunch in this archaeological landscape then continue on to Almaty. B,L,D

Tuesday, September 17: Almaty

Almaty has a decided Russian flavor, as we see on this morning’s tour. We begin at Panfilov Park and the adjacent Holy Ascension Cathedral. Next, we visit the Museum of Kazakh Musical Instruments, showcasing unique national instruments. Then we head outside the city to ascend Kok Tobe mountain by gondola to enjoy panoramic views of Almaty and the surrounding Tian Shan mountains. Late this afternoon, we attend a falconry demonstration. B,L

Small Group Tour Highlights

- Bishkek yurt-making demonstration
- Tamgaly Petroglyphs UNESCO site
- Falconry demonstration
- Visits with local artisans
- Uzbek folklore performance
- Visits to Central Asian bazaars
- Regal Registan Square
- Lunches with local families
- Embassy briefings

Avg. High (°F)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
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<tr>
<td>Almaty</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khiva</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samarkand</td>
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Along Central Asia’s Silk Road

Cover photo: Ancient Bukhara, whose historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tour membership limited to 24 guests
Wednesday, September 18: Almaty/Tashkent, Uzbekistan  We fly this morning to the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, where this afternoon we visit the Museum of Applied Arts, housing fine examples of Uzbek crafts, including embroidery, jewelry, ceramics, and carpets. We have free time this afternoon before dinner at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*

Thursday, September 19: Tashkent  Our morning tour begins in the Old City at the Khazrati Imam Complex of mosques and madrassahs. Here we see the world’s oldest surviving Islamic holy book, the 7th-century Uthman Quran, brought to Tashkent by Tamerlane. Next: Chorsu Bazaar, under whose massive green dome locals purchase everything from produce to clothing. Tonight, we attend a performance of ballet, classical music, or opera at the national opera house. *B,L*

Friday, September 20: Tashkent/Urgench/Khiva  Very early this morning, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Urgench, then continue on to Khiva. We get a taste of Khiva’s storied past as a major trading post along the Silk Road as we begin exploring the Itchan Kala, the “inner city” whose entirety is a UNESCO site. We start at the double-domed Pakhlavan Mahmoud Mausoleum then visit the Islam Khoja minaret, followed by the Juma Mosque. Late afternoon we attend a performance of the Khiva Puppet Theatre. *B,L,D*

Saturday, September 21: Khiva  We begin today at the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret. We continue on to Kunya Ark citadel; the immense Madrassah of Muhammad Rahim Khan. Tonight, we enjoy a small group highlight as we travel through the desert to a lakeside yurt camp, where we have a sunset cocktail party followed by a traditional barbeque dinner and folkloric performance. *B,D*

Sunday, September 22: Khiva/Bukhara  This morning we journey by train through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara. Upon arrival in this ancient city of the Silk Road commerce and religious piety, we visit the 15th-century Poi Kalyan religious complex. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. *B,L,D*

Monday, September 23: Bukhara  Today begins with a walking tour of the 16th-century Lyab-i Hauz religious complex. We continue to the domed Taki-Telpak Furushon bazaar known for its headgear then on to a bazaar where we watch silk weavers at work. Next, we return to the Old Jewish Quarter to visit the home of a Sufi miniaturist, where we learn about his craft and enjoy a traditional lunch of plov – lamb and rice. Touring continues this afternoon at the Chor Minor madrassah, with its four minarets; the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum; and the massive 5th-century earthen Ark of Bukhara Fortress. *B,L*

Tuesday, September 24: Bukhara/Gijduvan/Samarkand  This morning we visit the Memorial Complex of Naqshband, burial site of the founder of the world’s largest order of
Sufi Muslims. Next: the Narzullaev Ceramics Workshop, where potters have used traditional methods for more than a century. We then board the train for Samarkand, legendary stop on the Silk Road. Tonight, we get our first glimpse of Samarkand’s vast Registan. B,L,D

Wednesday, September 25: Samarkand
Our touring today begins at Registan Square, where we join in a calligraphy workshop. We continue to 15th-century Bibi-Khanym mosque, and Siyob Bazaar, the city’s largest market. This afternoon we visit a historic winery for a tour and tasting. B,L

Thursday, September 26: Samarkand
Our discovery of this crossroads of culture continues today at the Afrasiyab Museum, 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory, and the Meros Paper Mill. We join a local family in their home for lunch then explore the Shakhi Zinda Necropolis and temple complex. This evening, we visit the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane’s resting place, before dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D

Friday, September 27: Samarkand/Tashkent
We return today to the Uzbek capital, passing through Jilanuti Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. After time for lunch on our own we visit the studio of renowned ceramist Akbar Rakhimov. Tonight, we toast our adventure along the Silk Road at a farewell dinner. B,D

Saturday, September 28: Depart for U.S.
Early today we depart for the airport for our flights home.

Your Tour Price Includes
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
• 14 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
• 36 meals: 15 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Commonwealth Club representative at 15 guests
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Educational lectures including US Embassy and/or Consulate visit
• Private motorcoach transportation
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Khiva’s city walls foundations date to the 10th century.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for changes associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Eligibility: We require membership in the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a national membership. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit commonwealthclub.org/membership or call (415) 597-6720.

Insurance: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement. You will be sent information about insurance upon registration.

Responsibility: The liability of the Commonwealth Club, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line(s), and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own air arrangements, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests

JOIN COMMONWEALTH CLUB ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO CENTRAL ASIA!