Along Central Asia’s Silk Road
Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan & Kazakhstan
October 4-20, 2022

17 days for $7,294 total price from San Francisco
($6,695 air & land inclusive plus $599 airline taxes and fees)
COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL

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. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days prior to departure. Book risk-free today!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth, Director of Travel

COMMUNIWEALTH 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

ALONG CENTRAL ASIA’S SILK ROAD • OCTOBER 4-20, 2022

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 ___________

Home Phone (______)_________________________ Cell Phone (______)___________________________

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

17 days for $7,294 total price from San Francisco
($6,695 air & land inclusive plus $599 airline taxes and fees)

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.

Tuesday, October 4:  Depart U.S. for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Wednesday, October 5:  Arrive Bishkek
Upon arrival in the Kyrgyz capital late tonight, we transfer directly to our hotel.

Thursday, October 6:  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

Friday, October 7:  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

Saturday, October 8:  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

Sunday, October 9:  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

Monday, October 10:  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

Cover photo: Samarkand’s Registan has served as the city’s public square since antiquity.

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

Day  | Itinerary  | Hotel            | Rating
---  | ---------- | ----------------- | ----
1    | Depart U.S. for Bishkek |
2-4  | Bishkek    | Hyatt Regency Bishkek | Sup. First Class |
5-6  | Almaty     | InterContinental Almaty | Sup. First Class |
7-8  | Tashkent   | Hyatt Regency Tashkent | Sup. First Class |
9-10 | Khiva      | Hotel Asia Khiva   | First Class |
11-12| Bukhara    | Hotel Minorai Kalon | First Class |
13-15| Samarkand  | Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior | First Class |
16   | Tashkent   | Hyatt Regency Tashkent | Sup. First Class |
17   | Depart Tashkent for U.S. |

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Along Central Asia’s
Silk Road

Cover photo: Samarkand’s Registan has served as the city’s public square since antiquity.

Tour membership limited to 24 guests
Tuesday, October 11: 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. 

Wednesday, October 12: 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.

Thursday, October 13: Khiva We continue our exploration of this 1,500-year-old city at the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret – enormous, stout, and unfinished. 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 barbecue dinner and folkloric performance.

Friday, October 14: Khiva/Bukhara This morning we journey by train through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara, with lunch on board. Upon arrival in this ancient city of 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.

Saturday, October 15: 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 at the Poi Kalyan religious complex, the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum, and the massive 5th-century earthen Ark of Bukhara Fortress.

Sunday, October 16: 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.

Monday, October 17: Samarkand Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan left their marks on Samarkand, as did Tamarlane (Timur), who made it capital of his Islamic empire in the 14th century. Our touring today begins at Registan Square, once and current heart of the city, where we join in a calligraphy workshop. We continue to Bibi-Khanym mosque dating to the early 15th century and once one of the Islamic world’s most magnificent houses of worship; and Siyob Bazaar, the city’s largest market. After lunch together at a local restaurant, we visit the Khovrenko Winery, which has been in operation since 1868. We enjoy a tour of their small museum dedicated to wine.
production in Uzbekistan, followed by a tasting featuring several varieties, including the dessert wines for which they are known. Then the remainder of the day is free to explore Samarkand as we wish. *B,L*

**Tuesday, October 18: Samarkand** Our discovery of this crossroads of culture continues today at the Afrasiyab Museum, a huge archaeological site and museum depicting the city’s 2,500-year history; 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory, one of the finest in the Islamic world; and the Meros Paper Mill, where artisans craft traditional handmade paper. 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*

**Wednesday, October 19: Samarkand/Tashkent** We return today to the Uzbek capital, passing through Jilanuti Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. We arrive in Tashkent in time for lunch on our own, then visit the studio of ceramicist Akbar Rakhimov, whose work has been exhibited worldwide. We have time here to watch this master and his family at work creating finely sculpted ceramics pieces, and to peruse their museum. Tonight, we toast our adventure along the Silk Road at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

**Thursday, October 20: Depart for U.S.** Early today we depart for the airport for our flights home.

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“Don’t choose a path, choose traveling companions.”

– Uzbek Proverb

**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 local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
- Commonwealth Club representative at 15 guests
- Educational lectures
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

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**Tour Departs: October 4, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles</td>
<td>$7,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston, New York, Washington, DC</td>
<td>$6,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver, Portland, Seattle</td>
<td>$7,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Only (transfers not included)</td>
<td>$5,895</td>
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</tbody>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $599, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add $1,295. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $4,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

**Contact Club Travel at**

415-597-6720  
travel@commonwealthclub.org  
www.commonwealthclub.org/travel
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; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; 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: full refund; 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 the 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. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. 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 a prepaid 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 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 email 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 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 2(2) months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flights 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 reservations, 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 airline reservations, 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.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided approximately 115 days prior to departure.