ALONG CENTRAL ASIA’S SILK ROAD

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan & Kazakhstan

April 16-May 2, 2020

17 days for $7,094 total price from San Francisco
($6,495 air & land inclusive plus $599 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 small group journey along the ancient Silk Road. Encounter a mélange of culture and religion, art and architecture that conjures tales of trade and treasure, intrigue and empire.

Begin in the showpiece Turkmen capital, Ashgabat, with a tour of the National Museum of History and the UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa. Uncover Khiva's storied past with a tour of the Itchan Kala, another UNESCO treasure. In ancient Bukhara, watch silk weavers at work and visit the home of a Sufi miniaturist, where we enjoy lunch. Continue on to legendary Samarkand and witness its treasures, including a visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane's tomb. Next is Uzbekistan's fascinating capital, Tashkent, with its treasured 8th-century Quran, Chorsu Bazaar, and a visit to a renowned ceramicist's studio. Conclude the tour in Russian-accented Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, ascending a mountain for panoramic views.

With space for only 24 guests on this departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your place on this memorable tour of Central Asia!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth, Director of Travel

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

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Along Central Asia’s Silk Road departing April 16, 2020. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: The Commonwealth Club, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105. For reservations and information, please call (415) 597-6720, fax (415) 597-6729, or e-mail travel@commonwealthclub.org.

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 a Business Class upgrade
I/We request a single room (limited availability)
Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Along Central Asia’s Silk Road, April 16-May 2, 2020, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.
Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________________ Date __________

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.
☑ Please use the credit card information below to sign me up or renew my membership.
☑ I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

Method of Payment ☑ Check ☑ American Express ☑ Discover ☑ MasterCard ☑ VISA
Account # ____________________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date ____________
Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
Thursday, April 16: Depart U.S. for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Friday, April 17: Arrive Ashgabat
Upon arrival in the Turkmen capital late tonight, we transfer directly to our hotel.

Saturday, April 18: Ashgabat
After time to rest this morning and have lunch on our own, we meet our tour director and fellow travelers at a welcome briefing. Then we begin our journey along the Silk Road with a panoramic tour of this showpiece city known for its 543 white marble buildings and monuments to the glories of the Turkmen. We tour the well-regarded National Museum of History and the Turkmen Carpet Museum, then enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Sunday, April 19: Ashgabat/Nisa
This morning we experience our first Central Asia bazaar, where locals come from both the city and surrounding desert to sell their wares, including large hand-woven carpets. Next we visit an Akhal-Teke horse stud farm for a demonstration by these “Golden Horses,” the national symbol of Turkmenistan, followed by lunch at the farmhouse. Later we visit the UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa, ancient capital of the Parthian Empire dating to the 3rd century BCE. B,L,D

Monday, April 20: Ashgabat/Kunya-Urgench/Khiva, Uzbekistan
We fly this morning to Dashoguz, Turkmenistan, whose environs host the ancient capital of the Khorezm, and where we visit the ruins of the once monumental Izmukshir Fortress. From here we continue to the Uzbek border crossing then travel on to Khiva. B,L,D

Tuesday, April 21: Khiva
We get a taste of Khiva’s storied past as a major Silk Road trading post on a morning tour of the Itchan Kala, the “inner city” whose entirety is a UNESCO site. Here we see the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret – enormous, stout, and unfinished; Kunya Ark citadel; the immense Madrasah of Muhammad Rahim Khan, with its tiled façade; the double-domed Pakhlavan Mahmoud

Cover photo: Samarkand’s Registan has served as the city’s public square since antiquity.
Mausoleum; and the Hunarmand artisans workshop. This afternoon: Islam Khoja minaret, Khiva's tallest; Juma Mosque, with its 200 wooden pillars; and 163-room Tash Hauli Palace. B,D

Wednesday, April 22: Khiva/Bukhara This morning we journey through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara, with lunch en route. Upon arrival in this ancient city of Silk Road commerce and religious piety, we visit the Chor Minor madrassah, with its four minarets. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. B,L,D

Thursday, April 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: embroidered skull caps, turbans, and heavy fur hats; 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 – the Uzbek national dish. Touring continues this afternoon at the Poi Kalyan religious center; the massive earthen Ark of Bukhara Fortress, which served as an active fort from its 5th-century origins until 1920; and the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum. B,L

Friday, April 24: Bukhara/Gijduvan This morning we head outside the city to the nearby village of Gijduvan to visit the Narzullaev Ceramics Workshop, where seven generations of potters have been fabricating bowls and plates using traditional methods, designs, and colors for more than a century. We continue on to Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace, a jumble of Russian and Bukharan influences and the summer residence of the last emir of Bukhara. After lunch at a local restaurant, we return to Bukhara. B,L,D

Saturday, April 25: Bukhara/Samarkand Today, we call on one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Central Asian Muslims: the Memorial Complex of Naqshbandi. The 14th-century Sufi theologian who mentored the emperor Timur and whose mausoleum is now considered the “Central Asian Mecca,” Naqshbandi founded the world's largest order of Sufi Muslims. Next, we travel by train to Samarkand, legendary stop on the Silk Road and one of Central Asia’s oldest continuously inhabited cities. Upon arrival early this evening, we enjoy dinner together then get our first glimpse of vast Registan, the mosaic-tiled public square flanked by three ornate madrassahs that have stood here for centuries. B,L,D

Sunday, April 26: Samarkand Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan left their marks on Samarkand, as did Tamerlane (Timur), who made it capital of his Islamic empire in the 14th century; he or his descendants built many of the historic buildings and monuments we see here today. Our touring begins at Registan Square, once and current heart of the city. 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

Monday, April 27: Samarkand Our discovery of this crossroads of culture continues today at the Shakhi Zinda necropolis and temple complex, whose 20-plus buildings date from the 11th to 19th centuries; the Afrasiyab Museum, a huge archaeological site and museum of the city's history; and 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory. This evening we pay a visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane's resting place. We dine together at a local restaurant then make a last stop to see Registan lit up for the evening. B,L,D
Tuesday, April 28: Samarkand/Jizzakh/Tashkent
En route by motorcoach today to the Uzbek capital, we stop at Jizzakh to visit Jilanuti Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. We continue on to Tashkent, arriving early this afternoon. B,L,D

Wednesday, April 29: Tashkent
A morning tour of Uzbekistan’s capital 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 8th-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

gondola and enjoy panoramic views of the city and surrounding Tian Shan mountains. Late this afternoon, we attend a falconry demonstration and learn about this ancient nomadic practice before our farewell dinner this evening. B,L,D

Saturday, May 2: Depart for U.S.
Very early this morning we depart for the airport for our connecting flight to the U.S. B

Your Tour Price Includes
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
• 15 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
• Educational lectures
• Additional Commonwealth Club representative at 20 guests
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Due to strict visa restrictions, no new reservations can be accepted within 95 days of the tour.

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

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 lines, 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 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 unattainable 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 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.

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. CST #307797-73-40
The Commonwealth Club CST #209689-40

JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO CENTRAL ASIA!
Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests

The Commonwealth Club
110 The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105

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