



THE OLD SILK ROAD



THE OLD SILK ROAD

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF CENTRAL ASIA

19 DAYS

MAJESTIC CULTURES UNVEILED



DEPARTS FROM:
BISHKEK



MAX GROUP SIZE:
14 PEOPLE



PHYSICAL LEVEL
MODERATE

Discover the allure of the ancient Silk Road, a symphony of contrasts and history. Embark on a Byroads adventure through Kyrgyzstan's mountain peaks and Uzbekistan's storied cities, unravelling the tales of nomadic heritage and Silk Road wonders.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Ala-Archa National Park
- Shabdan and Tien Shan Mountains
- Golden Eagle Hunting Exhibition
- Seven Bulls of Jety Oguz
- Holy Trinity Russian Church
- Dungan Mosque, Karakol
- Przewalski Museum
- Cholpon Ata Petroglyphs
- Hastim Imam Square, Tashkent
- Applied Arts Museum
- Tashkent Metro
- The Registan, Samarkand
- Ulugh Beg Observatory
- Shah-I-Zinda Complex
- Konigil Silk Paper Mill
- Shahrissabz
- Fortress Ark, Bukhara
- Emir's Royal Residence
- Laub-I Hauz Complex
- Kalta Minor Minaret
- Khiva Tash Khauli Palace
- Historic Djuma Mosque, Khiva

MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by either Steve or Bronny – two experienced travellers with a genuine passion for people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly – and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: FRI 15AUG25 - BISHKEK

Arrive at Bishkek Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

DAY 2: SAT 16AUG25 - BISHKEK

Start the day with an early drive to Ala-Archa National Park for a morning's wander through the stunning Tian Shan or 'Heavenly Mountains'. In the afternoon, take a guided walking tour of Bishkek and see the highlights, including Victory Square, Hero Monument and Oak Tree Park. (B)

DAY 3: SUN 17AUG25 - BURANA AND SHABDAN

This morning, leave Bishkek for the rural village of Shabdan. En route, explore the 10th-century Burana Tower and the remains of the ancient city of Balasagun. There's an option to see a traditional horseback game of Buzkashi. In Shaban there is time for an easy stroll through the Tien Shan Mountains. (BD)

DAY 4: MON 18AUG25 - BOKONBAEVO AND KARAKOL

Today, follow the southern shore of the impressive Lake Issy-Kul, the second-largest mountain lake in the world. Stop for lunch at a traditional yurt and journey onwards to witness an unforgettable golden eagle hunting exhibition. Check-in to Karakol accommodation for the next two nights. (B)

DAY 5: TUE 19AUG25 - KARAKOL

Rise early and visit the Przewalski Museum, which is dedicated to the man who named the native horse of Central Asia. (He also explored and charted much of China and Mongolia.) Marvel at the fairytale-like Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox church, then cover up and enter the unusual Dungan Mosque, built in 1899. Later, drive to Jety Oguz and view the spectacular 7 Bulls Rock and its stunning surroundings. (B)

DAY 6: WED 20AUG25 - CHOLPON ATA AND BISHKEK

After breakfast, embark on the long drive back to Bishkek, following the northern shores of Lake Issy-Kul. En route, stop and wander the open-air Petroglyph Museum at Cholpon Ata. This outdoor museum, also known as 'The Stone Garden', has an extensive collection dating over 4000 years. Arrive back late afternoon for your final stay in Bishkek. (B)

DAY 7: THU 21AUG25 - OSH AND FERGHANA

Take an early flight to the ancient city of Osh, located in the famed Ferghana Valley. Venture into the sacred mountain, Sulaiman Too, and explore the Sulaiman Too National Historical and Archaeological Museum. After lunch, cross the border into Uzbekistan, and drive to the city of Ferghana, stopping to watch the making-of-silk process at a local Ferghana establishment. (B)

DAY 8: FRI 22AUG25 - RISHTAN, KOKAND AND TASHKENT

First, visit Rishtan, famous for its ceramics. Be enthralled watching the local artisans at work. In Kokand, stroll through the last Khan's residence, the Khudayarkhan's Palace, also known as 'The Pearl of Kokand'. Next, visit the Djuma Mosque, a stunning 18th-century architectural masterpiece renowned for its elaborate ornamentation and exquisite wooden features. Arrive in Tashkent, the capital city, in the late afternoon and check-in for a two-night stay. (B)

DAY 9: SAT 23AUG25 - TASHKENT

Be guided around the extensive Khast Imam Complex with its madrasa and two 16th-century mosques. Immerse yourself in the delights of the traditional Chorsu Bazaar, where almost anything can be found to purchase. Amble through the excellent Museum of Applied Arts and take a ride on the famed Tashkent Metro. (B)

DAY 10: SUN 24AUG25 - SAMARKAND

Take the high-speed train to Samarkand among locals and tourists. Upon arrival, explore the Ulugh Beg Observatory, built in 1420 to study astronomy. Tour the Registan, a stunning Islamic architectural masterpiece, covered in blue tiles of every hue. After, roam around the Mosque of Bibi Khanum before settling into the hotel for your three-night stay. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 11: MON 25AUG25 - KONIGIL & SAMARKAND

Wander the exquisite Shah I Zinda Complex, admiring the astonishing tile work of its mausoleums. Travel to nearby Konigil, enjoy local tea, and witness the ancient art of silk paper making. On your return to the hotel, stop and be entertained whilst learning the secrets of making Uzbek rugs. (B)

DAY 12: TUE 26AUG25 - SHAHRISABZ & SAMARKAND

Take a full-day excursion over the Pamir-Alay Mountains to the World Heritage town of Shahrisabz, the birthplace of Timur. En route, visit a local rural family to share tea and bread, and witness the weaving of local kilims. At Shahrisabz, wander through the extensive grounds and marvel at the grandeur of the Ak-Saray Palace and the Timur mausoleum. Return to Samarkand for one final night. (B)

DAY 13: WED 27AUG25 - BUKHARA

Drive to Bukhara and stop to explore the remains of the Ribat-I Malik Caravanserai. Built in the 11th-century, this large construction had lodging rooms, storerooms and stables around an internal courtyard. Its massive portal, the only entrance to the caravanserai, has now been partially restored. Arrive in Bukhara mid-afternoon and be guided through its fabulous old quarter, then settle in for your three-night stay, just metres from ancient Lyab-i Hauz. (B)

DAY 14: THU 28AUG25 - BUKHARA

Marvel at the Mausoleum of Ismail Samani, built before 943 AD, an ornate wonder nestled within a lovely park. Next, try photographing the expansive walls of The Ark before entering and exploring this ancient citadel. Investigate other highlights, including Ulugh Beg Madrasa and the Kalyan Complex and Minaret. Tonight, enjoy local hospitality and a special evening meal. (BD)

DAY 15: FRI 29AUG25 - BUKHARA

Enjoy a free day to relax or wander the covered bazaars, craft centres and teahouses of old Bukhara. There's plenty to see – and to buy. Explore the local ancient hammam, where you can opt for an unforgettable traditional bath-house experience. (B)

DAY 16: SAT 30AUG25 - KHIVA

Drive the long road across the Kyzyl-Kum Desert to the UNESCO-listed, walled city of ancient Khiva. Upon arriving in the late afternoon, take an orientation walk through the Itchan Kala, a walled city that will transport you back in time to the magical world of 1001 Arabian Nights. (B)

DAY 17: SUN 31AUG25 - KHIVA

Explore Kunya Ark, the Madrasa of Muhammed Amin Khan, and the mausoleum of Pahlavan Mahmud. Wander through the remarkable Djuma Mosque, with its covered courtyard designed for the rugged climate of Central Asia. With 212 columns, carved between the 17th and 18th centuries, it's a sight to behold.

Marvel at the stunning turquoise tiles of the Kalta Minor Minaret before getting lost in the labyrinth of the magnificent Tash Khauli Palace. (B)

DAY 18: MON 1SEP25 - TASHKENT

Take the morning at leisure for your final adventures in the ancient city. Head to the bazaars, stop by the handicraft workshops or maybe wander out the west gate to visit the nearby Isfandiyar Palace. In the afternoon, drive to Urgench for the evening flight to Tashkent. (B)

DAY 19: TUE 2SEP25 - TASHKENT

Breakfast concludes your tour. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can organise a transfer on request. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, 2 domestic flights, private minibus, and high-speed train

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 18 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

MEALS

- ✓ 18 breakfasts, 2 dinners

TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites



GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

There are no direct flights from Australia or New Zealand to Central Asia. The most popular routes are via the UAE, Qatar, or Turkey. You can book your flights online or via your travel agent.

Your arrival transfer is included in your tour cost – however, your departure transfer is not. We can organise one upon request.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Ashu Guest House

A charming family-run guest house decorated in the traditional Kyrgyz style. It boasts an indoor swimming pool and elevated restaurant, serving homemade Kyrgyz food.



Volida Boutique Hotel

In the heart of historic Bukhara this cozy retreat with classic Uzbek decor and bright, inviting rooms offers warm service, delicious breakfasts, and it's the perfect place to unwind and explore.



Malika Kheivak Hotel

Perfectly located within the old walled city, beside the Islam Khoja Minaret, this boutique hotel is filled with character and features comfortable rooms.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
15 August 2025	USD 4495	USD 575
Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.		

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

Breakfast is included daily. There is also a wonderful dinner at a family-run guest house in Kyrgyzstan, and one also at a family home in Bukhara. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals are inexpensive, and US 25-30 per day will cover additional meals, drinks and snacks.

DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you need to book your visa.

VISAS

Currently Australians and New Zealanders do not require tourist visas for visiting Kyrgyzstan or Uzbekistan.

Other nationalities should check with Byroads.

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?

There are two ways to book:

Online
(available 24/7)

Postal booking
form (below)



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au



Uzbekistan





UZBEKISTAN

DISCOVER LEGENDARY SILK ROAD CITIES

12 DAYS

UZBEKISTAN UNVEILED



DEPARTS FROM:
TASHKENT



MAX GROUP SIZE:
14 PEOPLE



PHYSICAL LEVEL
MODERATE

Delve into the history of Uzbekistan, where ancient madrassahs, mosques, and caravanserais await. Embark on a Byroads adventure through Uzbekistan's storied cities, marvelling at some of the world's most stunning Islamic architecture and unravelling the wonders of the Old Silk Road.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Khast Imam Complex
- Hastim Imam Square, Tashkent
- Applied Arts Museum
- Tashkent Metro
- Chorsu Bazaar
- Afrosiyob high-speed train
- The Registan, Samarkand
- Ulugh Beg Observatory
- Mosque of Bibi Khanu
- Shah-I-Zinda Complex
- Konigil Silk Paper Mill
- Shahrisabz
- Ak-Saray Palace
- Timur mausoleum
- Fortress Ark, Bukhara
- Emir's Royal Residence
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- Kalta Minor Minaret
- Khiva Tash Khauli Palace
- Historic Djuma Mosque, Khiva

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ITINERARY

DAY 1: TASHKENT

Arrive at Tashkent Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

DAY 2: TASHKENT

Be guided around the extensive Khast Imam Complex with its madrasa and two 16th-century mosques. Immerse yourself in the delights of the traditional Chorsu Bazaar, where almost anything can be found to purchase. Amble through the excellent Museum of Applied Arts and take a ride on the famed Tashkent Metro. (B)

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Take a full-day excursion over the Pamir-Alay Mountains to the World Heritage town of Shahrissabz, the birthplace of Timur. En route, visit a local rural family to share tea and bread, and witness the weaving of local kilims. At Shahrissabz, wander through the extensive grounds and marvel at the grandeur of the Ak-Saray Palace and the Timur mausoleum. Return to Samarkand for one final night. (B)

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ITINERARY

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DAY 12: TASHKENT

Breakfast concludes your tour. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can organise a transfer on request. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, 1 domestic flights, private minibus, and high-speed train

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 11 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

MEALS

- ✓ 11 breakfasts, 1 dinner

TICKETS

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GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

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- Visa
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- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Navruz Hotel Tashkent

The stylish Navruz Hotel has a restaurant, swimming pool, fitness centre and bar. The property features a garden, as well as a terrace and it's just a short drive to many of Tashkent's finest sites.



Volida Boutique Hotel

In the heart of historic Bukhara this cozy retreat with classic Uzbek decor and bright, inviting rooms offers warm service, delicious breakfasts, and it's the perfect place to unwind and explore.



Malika Kheivak Hotel

Perfectly located within the old walled city, beside the Islam Khoja Minaret, this boutique hotel is filled with character and features comfortable rooms.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
22 August 2025	2950 USD	395 USD
Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.		

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

Breakfast is included daily. There is also a wonderful dinner at a family home in Bukhara. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals are inexpensive, and US 25-30 per day can cover additional meals, drinks and snacks.

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Online
(available 24/7)

Postal booking
form (below)



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au

BYROADS TOUR

BOOKING FORM

Tour name: Start date:

Room type: ☐ Twin ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Sharing with:

Full name: Date of Birth:

Email: Mobile:

Postal address:

Emergency contact (Name and phone number):

Nationality: Passport No:

Issue date: Expiry date:

Any medical, dietary or other special requests?

Travel insurance provider:

Policy No:

Emergency assistance phone no:

PAYMENT DETAILS

The tour deposit is due at the time of booking. The final balance payment is due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. All payments must be made via direct bank deposit to Byroads.

Acc Name: Byroads Pty Ltd

BSB: 034-605

Acc number: 697336

DECLARATION

I have read and I understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure, and agree to abide by the Standard Booking Conditions attached to this booking form. I also confirm that I am fit to travel.

Signature:

Date:

BYROADS TOUR

BOOKING CONDITIONS

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 is payable on all tours. This deposit must be paid to Byroads, and each participating client must complete the Byroads Booking form. You agree to accept these conditions when paying a deposit for your tour and completing the Booking Form. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and completed booking form have been received. These Booking Conditions form the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

PAYMENT

All payments must be made directly to Byroads by bank transfer.

FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- Cancellation up to and including 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- From 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- From 44 to 31 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilized.

CANCELLATION BY BYROADS – Prior to Travel

If, for any reason, Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure, or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded, less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

AMENDMENTS

Up to and including 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation may incur a fee of \$50 per change per file. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements may incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment may incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the tour's content. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

If Byroads is forced to cancel your travel arrangements after your trip has commenced due to reasons outside of its control, it will provide you with a refund of recoverable third-party costs only.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operate soft adventure tours. All participants must have a reasonable degree of physical fitness and be healthy. Before travelling with Byroads, you must familiarise yourself with any health requirements applicable to the areas you will be travelling. This includes obtaining any compulsory vaccinations or medical tests that may be required for entry into your country of travel.

You are responsible for having the correct entry and exit documents for your visiting countries. Byroads will assist in providing up-to-date information but is not responsible for any changes that may be made by governments.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the tour is adventurous and that participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes can present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from foreign government departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However, you must acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made considering this information, and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Ensure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement in many countries. Upon booking, visa requirements will be advised once Byroads has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours, and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, etc. or any other incidental expenses.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance to cover you for the duration of your tour. This should include full cover for any medical expenses and repatriation if required. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance when you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances that can lead to your need to cancel your tour. If you rely on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or bank, you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate coverage. You must provide the policy number, insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads before your documents are issued.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

(i) Any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) You release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of, or in connection with, your participation in a tour;

(iii) Any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty) is excluded.

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar tour to an equivalent value or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss (however it arises) or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia, govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria.