



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 an experienced Byroads Escort – a true travel professional with a genuine passion for travel and 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 3SEP27 - BISHKEK

Arrival in Bishkek begins the journey. Transfer from the airport to your hotel, settle in and take some time to relax before meeting up with your group in the evening. The adventure through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan starts here.

DAY 2: SAT 4SEP27 - BISHKEK

The morning begins with an early drive to Ala-Archa National Park for a wander through the stunning Tian Shan, or 'Heavenly Mountains'. Dramatic mountain scenery provides an exciting introduction to the natural beauty of Kyrgyzstan. In the afternoon, a guided walking tour of Bishkek reveals the city's highlights, including Victory Square, Osh Bazaar, Hero Monument and Oak Tree Park. (B)

DAY 3: SUN 5SEP27 - BURANA AND SHABDAN

The road leads away from Bishkek this morning towards the rural village of Shabdan. En route, explore the 10th-century Burana Tower and the remains of the ancient city of Balasagun, reminders of a fascinating past. There's also an option to see a traditional horseback game of Buzkashi, an energetic and colourful spectacle. In Shabdan, enjoy time for an easy stroll through the Tien Shan Mountains and take in the peaceful rural surroundings. (BD)

DAY 4: MON 6SEP27 - BOKONBAEVO AND KARAKOL

The impressive Lake Issy-Kul dominates today's journey as you follow its southern shore. The second-largest mountain lake in the world, it is surrounded by spectacular scenery and soaring mountains. Lunch is at a traditional yurt before the journey continues to an unforgettable golden eagle hunting exhibition, where an ancient tradition comes vividly to life. Later, arrive in Karakol and check-in to your accommodation for the next two nights. (B)

DAY 5: TUE 7SEP27 - KARAKOL

Karakol's fascinating history and culture fill the day. An early visit to the Przewalski Museum reveals the story of the man who named the native horse of Central Asia and who also explored and charted much of China and Mongolia. The fairytale-like Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox church follows, before you cover up and enter the unusual Dungan Mosque, built in 1899. Later, the road heads to Jety Oguz, where the spectacular 7 Bulls Rock and its stunning surroundings provide a memorable mountain backdrop. (B)

DAY 6: 8SEP27 - CHOLPON ATA AND BISHKEK

After breakfast, the lengthy drive back to Bishkek follows the northern shores of Lake Issy-Kul. En route, the open-air Petroglyph Museum at Cholpon Ata offers a fascinating glimpse into the distant past. Also known as 'The Stone Garden', this outdoor museum contains an extensive collection dating back more than 4000 years. Arrive back in Bishkek in the late afternoon for your final stay in the capital. (B)

DAY 7: 9SEP27 - OSH AND FERGHANA

The journey continues with an early flight to the ancient city of Osh, located in the famed Ferghana Valley. Here, venture into the sacred mountain of Sulaiman Too and explore the Sulaiman Too National Historical and Archaeological Museum. After lunch, cross the border into Uzbekistan and drive to the nearby city of Ferghana. Along the way, stop to watch the making-of-silk process at a local Ferghana establishment and gain an insight into a traditional craft of the region. (B)

DAY 8: FRI 10SEP27 - RISHTAN, KOKAND AND TASHKENT

Rishtan is the first stop today, famous for its ceramics and the skill of its local artisans. Be enthralled watching them at work before continuing to Kokand. Here, stroll through the last Khan's residence, Khudayarkhan's Palace, also known as 'The Pearl of Kokand'. The Djuma Mosque follows, 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)

ITINERARY

DAY 9: SAT 11SEP27 - TASHKENT

Tashkent's rich character unfolds today, beginning with a guided visit around the extensive Khast Imam Complex, with its madrasa and two 16th-century mosques. The traditional Chorsu Bazaar is next, a lively and fascinating place where almost anything can be found to purchase. An amble through the excellent Museum of Applied Arts provides another glimpse into Uzbekistan's artistic traditions, followed by a ride on the famed Tashkent Metro. (B)

DAY 10: SUN 12SEP27 - SAMARKAND

The journey to legendary Samarkand is by high-speed train, travelling alongside locals and tourists. Upon arrival, the city's extraordinary history begins to unfold with a visit to the Ulugh Beg Observatory, built in 1420 to study astronomy. The magnificent Registan follows, a stunning Islamic architectural masterpiece covered in blue tiles of every hue. Afterwards, roam around the Mosque of Bibi Khanum before settling into the hotel for your three-night stay. (B)

DAY 11: MON 13SEP27 - KONIGIL & SAMARKAND

Samarkand's extraordinary architecture continues with a visit to the exquisite Shah I Zinda Complex, where the astonishing tile work of its mausoleums is a highlight. Travel to nearby Konigil, enjoy local tea and witness the ancient art of silk paper making. On the return to the hotel, stop to be entertained whilst learning the secrets of making Uzbek rugs and discover the skill and patience behind this traditional craft. (B)

DAY 12: TUE 14SEP27 - SHAHRISABZ & SAMARKAND

The road today crosses the Pamir-Alay Mountains on a full-day excursion to the World Heritage town of Shahrisabz, the birthplace of Timur. En route, a visit to a local rural family provides a chance 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 15SEP27 - BUKHARA

The journey to Bukhara begins with a stop to explore the remains of the Ribat-I Malik Caravanserai. Built in the 11th century, this large construction once provided 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 in the mid-afternoon and be guided through its fabulous old quarter before settling into your three-night stay, just metres from ancient Lyab-i Hauz. (B)

DAY 14: THU 16SEP27 - BUKHARA

Bukhara's remarkable history takes centre stage today. 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. Other highlights include Ulugh Beg Madrasa and the Kalyan Complex and Minaret. Tonight, enjoy local hospitality and a special evening meal. (BD)

DAY 15: FRI 17SEP27 - BUKHARA

Today is free to relax or wander through the covered bazaars, craft centres and teahouses of old Bukhara. There's plenty to see – and to buy – as you soak up the atmosphere of this ancient city at your own pace. Explore the local ancient hammam, where you can opt for an unforgettable traditional bath-house experience. (B)

DAY 16: SAT 18SEP27 - KHIVA

The long road across the Kyzyl-Kum Desert leads to the UNESCO-listed, walled city of ancient Khiva. The vast desert landscape makes this journey feel like a real adventure before the striking walls of Khiva come into view. Arriving in the late afternoon, take an orientation walk through the Itchan Kala, a walled city that seems to transport you back in time to the magical world of 1001 Arabian Nights. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 17: SUN 19SEP27 - KHIVA

Khiva's remarkable sights fill the day, including Kunya Ark, the Madrasa of Muhammed Amin Khan and the mausoleum of Pahlavan Mahmud. Wander through the extraordinary 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 is a sight to behold. The stunning turquoise tiles of the Kalta Minor Minaret provide another memorable highlight before you get lost in the labyrinth of the magnificent Tash Khauli Palace. (B)

DAY 18: MON 20SEP27 - TASHKENT

The morning is at leisure for your final adventures in the ancient city. There is time to head to the bazaars, stop by the handicraft workshops or perhaps wander out the west gate to visit the nearby Isfandiyar Palace. In the late afternoon, drive to Urgench for the evening flight to Tashkent. (B)

DAY 19: TUE 21SEP27 - TASHKENT

Breakfast brings this remarkable journey through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to an end. 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

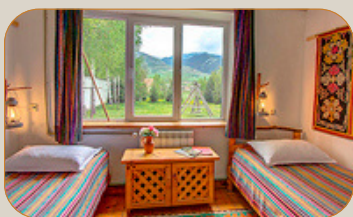
We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- 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
3 September 2027	*USD 4945	*USD 635
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.		

*Provisional 2027 Price

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?



BOOK ONLINE NOW
(available 24/7)

Or visit: www.byroads.com.au/portfolio_page/byroads-booking-form/



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