**Along Central Asia’s Silk Road**

17 days for $6,394 total price from Boston, New York, Washington, DC

($5,895 air & land inclusive plus $499 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.

Looking much as it did in centuries past, Samarkand’s Registan has served as the city’s public square since antiquity.

**Day 1: Depart U.S. for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**Day 2: Arrive Ashgabat**  Upon arrival in the Turkmen capital late tonight, we transfer directly to our hotel.

**Day 3: Ashgabat**  After time to rest this morning, we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome briefing. Lunch is on our own 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 then enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.  

**Day 4: Ashgabat/Nisa**  This morning we head outside the city to visit the UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa, ancient capital of the Parthian Empire dating to the 3rd century BCE. After exploring this age-old site, we travel on to an Akhal-Teke horse stud farm where we have the opportunity to watch a demonstration of the power and grace of these animals. This afternoon, we visit the Turkmenbashi Ruhy Mosque and the Turkman Carpet museum. Tonight we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.  

**Day 5: Ashgabat/Khiva, Uzbekistan**  We fly this morning to Dashoguz, Turkmenistan, where we see the Yzmukshir Fortress, which dates back to the Parthian Empire some two thousand years ago. After touring, we continue to the Uzbek border crossing then travel on to Khiva.  

**Day 6: 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 Madrassah of Muhammad Rahim Khan, with its tiled façade; the double-domed Pakhlavan Mahmoud 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. Tonight, we travel to a lakeside yurt camp, where we enjoy sunset cocktails followed by dinner and a local folklore performance.  

**Day 7: Khiva/Bukhara**  This morning we board a high-speed train for the journey through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara (approx. 4 ½ hours), with lunch on board. 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.

**Your Small Group Tour Highlights**

White marble city of Ashgabat  •  UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa  •  Historic walled city of Khiva  •  Visits with local artisans  •  Extensive Bukhara touring  •  Petroglyphs at Sarmishsay Gorge  •  Home-hosted lunch in Bukhara  •  Desert excursion and yurt camp overnight  •  Legendary Samarkand  •  Central Asian bazaars in six cities  •  Private visit to Gur Emir Mausoleum  •  Tashkent touring, including world’s oldest Quran  •  Russian-accented Almaty

**Day Itinerary Hotel  Rating**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Itinerary</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Depart U.S. for Ashgabat</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Ashgabat</td>
<td>Nusay Hotel</td>
<td>Sup. First Class</td>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>Khiva</td>
<td>Hotel Asia Khiva</td>
<td>First Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Bukhara</td>
<td>Hotel Zarargan Plaza</td>
<td>First Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Aydar Lake</td>
<td>Oxus Resort Yurt Camp</td>
<td>Not Rated</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Samarkand</td>
<td>Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior</td>
<td>First Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Tashkent</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Tashkent Sup. First Class</td>
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<td>InterContinental Almaty Sup. First Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Depart Almaty for U.S.</td>
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Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.
Day 8: 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 6th-century origins until 1920; and the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum, whose spring water is believed to have healing powers. B,L,D

Day 9: Bukhara/Sarmishsay/Aydar Lake We set out today on a thrilling overnight excursion, boarding 4x4 vehicles through the Kyzylkum Desert bound for Aydar Lake. We stop first in Giijduvan to visit a renowned ceramicist, then see some of the 4,000-plus Bronze Age petroglyphs at Sarmishay Gorge. We continue on to Nurata, where we enjoy a home-hosted lunch with a local family, then pass through the Nurata Mountains to Aydar Lake and our yurt camp, an eco-resort set within the endless steppe. After settling in, we explore our surroundings from atop the two-humped Bactrian camels of Central Asia. B,L,D

Day 10: Aydar Lake/ Samarkand This morning we visit the remote mountain village of Uhum, where we meet with a local family in their home. Then we travel on to Samarkand, legendary stop on the Silk Road. This afternoon we take an orientation tour of one of Central Asia’s oldest continuously inhabited cities – some 2,500 years. As the sun begins to set, we stop at vast Registan, the massive earthen public square flanked by three ornate madrassahs that have stood here for centuries. B,L,D

Day 11: 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 is free to explore as we wish. B,L,D

Day 12: Samarkand Our discovery of this crossroads of culture continues today at the Shakkh Zinda necropolis and temple complex, whose 20-plus buildings date from the 11th to 19th centuries; the A明晰iyah Museum, a huge archaeological site and museum of the city's history; and 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory.

Day 13: 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 Nuratins and Turkestan hills. We continue on to Tashkent, arriving early this afternoon. B,L

Day 14: Tashkent A morning tour of Uzbekistan’s capital begins in the Old City at the Khazrati Imam Complex of mosques and madrassas. 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. This afternoon we call on the studio of renowned ceramicist Akbar Rakhimov. After dinner at a local restaurant, tonight we attend a performance of ballet or opera at the national opera house. B,L,D

Day 15: Tashkent/Almaty, Kazakhstan At the Museum of Applied Arts this morning, we see fine examples of Uzbek crafts, including embroidery, jewelry, ceramics, and carpets. Then we transfer to the airport for our flight to Almaty. B,D

Day 16: Almaty Kazakhstan’s largest city and cultural and commercial center, Almaty has a decided Russian flavor, as we see on this morning’s tour. Highlights: Panfilov Park, Holy Ascension Cathedral, and the Museum of Kazakh Musical Instruments. Then we have free time for lunch and to explore Zeelyoni Bazaar, famous for Aydar Lake. We stop first in Gijduvan to visit a renowned ceramicist, then see some of the 4,000-plus Bronze Age petroglyphs at Sarmishay Gorge. 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 6th-century origins until 1920; and the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum, whose spring water is believed to have healing powers. B,L,D

Day 17: 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 accommodatios: 14 nights in Superior First Class and First Class hotels; 1 night in yurt camp
- 36 meals: 15 breakfests, 10 lunches, 11 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
- 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
- $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Duke/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)

This evening we pay a private 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

For reservations, call Duke Alumni Travels at (919) 684-2988

Tour Departure: May 11, 2020

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

- Boston, New York, Washington, DC $6,394
- Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco $6,694
- Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Dallas, Philadelphia, Raleigh-Durham $6,894
- Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle, Tampa $6,994
- Land Only (transfers not included) $5,395

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include all airline taxes, surcharges, and fees. Single travelers please add $1,195. All 2020 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business class upgrade on round-trip flights: $4,395 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are 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.
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2020, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included unless otherwise specified. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) unless otherwise specified, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

A minimum number of participants is required to secure the services of a Duke Alumni Travels representative (faculty or host). Every attempt will be made to find a Duke host who will join the program to add a uniquely Duke perspective to the experience. If this is important to you in making your decision to travel with this program, please call 1-919-684-3046 before making your final payment.
Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

For all tours (except as noted)

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<th>Prior to departure</th>
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<tr>
<td>95 days or more:</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<td>94-65 days:</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<td>64-45 days:</td>
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<td>44-30 days:</td>
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For Southeast Asia Odyssey,
Africa’s Wildlife

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<td>29-0 days:</td>
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Changes to Your Reservation
We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other 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 to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information
Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you passport information including the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program, as well as by our international travel partners: your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender (for further information, please visit tsa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents
A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all tours in this catalog. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.
Smoking
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited has a No Smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Health and Medical Issues
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our 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. 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 condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, Duke Alumni Association, Inc. and Odysseys Unlimited assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation
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 departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “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.

Responsibility
The liability of Duke Alumni Association, Inc., 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. Duke Alumni Association, Inc. 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. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.
DUKE ALUMNI TRAVELS RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person/people on the tour listed below. 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 mail deposit check to: Duke Alumni Travels, Box 90572, Durham, NC 27708. Or you may fax this form securely to (919) 660-0148. For more information, please call Duke Alumni Travels at (919) 684-2988. For trip information only, please contact Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., at (888) 370–6765.

Tour Name __________________________________________

Departure Date __________________________

Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up ☐

Full Passport Name_____________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ______

Full Passport Name_____________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ______

Address ________________________________________________

City ___________________________________________________ State __________ ZIP __________

Home Ph. (_____)(_____)__________Alternate Ph. (_____)(_____)__________

E-mail __________________________________________________ Badge name(s) ____________________________

Please book my/our air from ______________ I/we request an air upgrade to ______________

I will share a room with ______________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ☐

I/We request an upgrade to a thatched tent suite (for Africa’s Wildlife only) ☐

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) __________________________________________________________________________ Date __________

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 95 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.