

Exclusive Duke departure – May 11-27, 2021

# Along Central Asia's Silk Road

**17 days from \$6,494 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC**  
 (\$5,895 air & land inclusive plus \$599 airline taxes and fees)

Traveling the ancient Silk Road route 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.

## Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Bishkek yurt-making demonstration • Tamgaly Petroglyphs UNESCO site • Russian-accented Almaty • Falconry demonstration • Tashkent touring, including world's oldest Quran • Historic Silk Road gem of Khiva • Visits with local artisans • Uzbek folklore performance • UNESCO site of Bukhara • Lunches with local families • Legendary Samarkand • Visits to Central Asian bazaars • Regal Registan Square

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.

### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

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

**Day 3: Bishkek** After time to rest and have lunch on our own, we meet our tour director and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead. Then we take our first steps along the Silk Road, with a panoramic tour of this former Soviet republic's largest city. Tonight, we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

**Day 4: Bishkek/Burana** We travel east this morning to the village of Burana, whose 11<sup>th</sup>-century tower is the sole remaining remnant of the ancient Silk Road city of Balasagun. We walk among the surrounding "balbal" stone statues dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries 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*

**Day 5: 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, where tonight we dine at our hotel. *B,L,D*

**Day 6: Almaty** Kazakhstan's largest city and cultural and commercial center, 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, an example of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Russian Orthodox architecture. 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*

**Day 7: 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. After checking in at our hotel, we have free time this afternoon before dinner at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*

**Day 8: 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 7<sup>th</sup>-century Uthman Quran, brought to Tashkent by Tamerlane. Next: Chorsu Bazaar, under whose massive green dome locals purchase everything from produce to clothing.

Tour membership limited to 24 Duke alumni, family, and friends

Tonight, we attend a performance of ballet, classical music, or opera at the national opera house. *B,L*

**Day 9: 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, with its 200 wooden pillars. Late afternoon we attend a performance of the Khiva Puppet Theatre. *B,L,D*

**Day 10: 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, with its tiled façade; the 163-room Tah Hauli Palace; and the Hunarmand artisans' workshop. 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. *B,D*



Typical Kyrgyz yurts

evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Jewish merchant. *B,L,D*

**Day 12: Bukhara** Today begins with a walking tour of the 16<sup>th</sup>-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 complex, the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum, and the massive 5<sup>th</sup>-century earthen Ark of Bukhara Fortress. *B,L*

**Day 13: Bukhara/Gijduvan/Samarkand** This morning we call on a sacred pilgrimage site: 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. After lunch here, we board the train for



YOU WILL HEAR IT FOR YOURSELVES, AND IT WILL SURELY FILL YOU WITH WONDER.”

– MARCO POLO

Samarkand, legendary stop on the Silk Road. Tonight, we get our first glimpse of vast Registan, the mosaic-tiled public square flanked by three ornate madrassahs that have stood here since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. *B,L,D*

**Day 14: 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>-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*

**Day 15: 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; 15<sup>th</sup>-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, whose 20-plus buildings date from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This evening, we visit the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamarlane's resting place. After dinner at a local restaurant, we make a last stop to see Registan lit up for the evening. *B,L,D*

**Day 16: Samarkand/Tashkent** We return today to the Uzbek capital, passing through Jilanuti Pass, the "Gates of Tamerlane" passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. After arriving in Tashkent early this afternoon, we have time for lunch on our own then visit the studio of renowned ceramicist Akbar Rakhimov. Tonight, we toast our adventure along the Silk Road at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

**Day 17: Depart for U.S.** 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
- 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 an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- 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)



Cityscape of Khiva, historic Khorezm

### Tour Departs: May 11, 2021

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

Boston, New York, Washington, DC \$6,494

Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco \$6,794

Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Dallas, Philadelphia, Raleigh-Durham \$6,994

Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle, Tampa \$7,074

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 airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$599, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add \$1,195. Your \$500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. All 2021 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.**



THE SMALL GROUP TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

### *Important Information About Your Tour*

## General Terms and Conditions

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

### Tour Prices

Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2021, 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; immunizations and inoculations; 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 and is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 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)*

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	Full refund
94-65 days:	25% of tour price
64-45 days:	50% of tour price
44-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

*For Africa's Wildlife, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization, Southeast Asia Odyssey*

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	Full refund
94-65 days:	50% of tour price
64-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package, should you or your travel companion cancel your participation during the tour. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

## Pre-Departure

After reserving your tour, you will receive pre-departure mailings that include a detailed itinerary, visa requirements, and reading list. We will send your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers) two to three weeks before departure.

## Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We will endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign

hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

## 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](http://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. In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure.

## 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, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) 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, Inc. 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 and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

## 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 or Duke University (DUKE), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. (OU), as tour operator, is strictly limited. As operator, OU purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under their control. OU serves 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 and OU are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that maybe 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.

OU 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 OU 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.



THE SMALL GROUP TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

### DUKE TRAVELS RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_ person(s) 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 send, with completed reservation form, to: Duke Travels, Box 90572, Durham, NC 27708. For more information, please call Duke 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 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.