

Orient : 14D13N The Legendary Silk Road: From Almaty to Tashkent by Orient Silk Road Express (3-Stans)

Price per person
from
MYR24290



Tour Itinerary

Day 1:- Arrival in Almaty

You arrive in Almaty and are transferred to your centrally located hotel. Rest at leisure.

Overnight: Rahat Palace Hotel or similar

Day 2:- Almaty – The Father of the Apple

In the morning, you enjoy a sightseeing tour of this green metropolitan city at the foot of the mighty Ile Alatau Mountains. You see the imposing, built entirely of wood, the Wedding Palace, the Almaty Circus, and the Central Mosque. At midday you are served a Kazakh welcoming lunch in a traditional yurt. You depart aboard your private train in the afternoon. Porter service guarantees the transfer of your large luggage directly to your train compartment. You are welcomed aboard the train with a drink or refreshment and a short informative talk.

Overnight: On board train

Day 3:- Out in the Country: A Day at Lake Issyk-Kul

As the morning sun find its way into your compartment, you see that you are arriving at the greater I area. You immediately realize that you are now in the midst of great natural beauty. Your first stop in this lush region is Cholpon-Ata, where you enjoy a boat ride on Lake Issyk-Kul, one of the largest lakes in the world. The breathtaking views of this enormous lake make you feel as if you're at sea. After your day by the lake, you are ready for the comfort of your private train. Once on board, you depart for Bishkek. A nightcap and good conversation prepare you for the next day's adventure.

Overnight: On board train

Day 4:- The City of Bishkek

Today you find yourself in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital and largest city. Like Almaty, it is situated at the foot of a mountain range, the Tian Shan. You now begin to realize that Central Asia will never let you down. There is so much to see here, that you already have the feeling that you'll be back again. Your guide takes you through the city, explaining everything clearly as you go. You visit the National Historical Museum then take a ride outside the city to the Ala Archa National Park. As the sun sets, you are ready to board your private train for Turkestan.

Overnight: On board train

Day 5:- Turkestan – Center of Nomad Pilgrimage

You arrive in Turkestan after having breakfast on board. You visit the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, which was built in 1394 and is one of the most significant examples of Timurid architecture (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Afterwards your private train continues its journey, crossing the Kazakh-Uzbek border towards Samarqand. Border formalities are completed in the comfort of your compartment.

Overnight: On board train

Day 6 :- Samarqand – Crossroads of Cultures

Today is spent visiting the sights of this famous historic city, which during the rule of Timur was considered the world's most beautiful and prestigious city. The Necropolis of Shah-e Zinde (the living Shah), the excavation sites at Afrosiab (with a museum tour), and Registan Square are certainly among the most notable architectural ensembles in Central Asia. It is also historically important, as the site where many Uzbek women burned their veils (paranjas) in 1917, to signal their arrival in a new era.

Overnight: Registan Plaza Hotel (or similar)

Day 7:- Samarqand

Your day in this fascinating city includes a tour of a silk carpet manufactory, a visit to an Uzbek craftsman's family to see paper being made from mulberry bark, stops at the Ulug Beg Observatory and the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque, and viewing the interior of the palace-like Gur Emir Mausoleum.

Overnight: Registan Plaza Hotel (or similar)

Day 8:- Travelling through time

After breakfast your train is on its way into the past. The Greek heritage has been preserved in this inaccessible mountainous region and cultural influences of the Bactrians and the Kushan Empire also survive here. Fire worship and shamanism are still practiced here in the form of rituals and myths seldom found elsewhere. Trade caravans once travelled through these narrow mountain gorges and the armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Timur (or Tamerlane) also passed by here. A traditional ceremony offers you first-hand insight into the region's unique folklore. Your journey then continues along the Great Silk Road aboard your train to the green city of Shakhrisabz, the birth place of Timur. Your sightseeing here includes the monumental architecture of the brutal Mongol ruler's great palace from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In the evening you depart for Bukhara on your private train. On board you are invited to a tasting of Uzbek wines.

Overnight: On board train

Day 9 :- Bukhara, the Noble One

Located in the middle of the Kyzylkum Desert, Bukharahas some one thousand architectural monuments recalling the golden age of the Great Silk Route. Exotic spices, furs, and especially silk were stored and traded then in the city's caravanserais. In Bukhara's Old Town (UNESCO World Heritage), you see the almost fifty-metre tall Kalyan Minaret and the Lyab-I Hauz Ensemble by the pond. In a madrassa courtyard you watch a performance of local dances, and a presentation of colourful national costumes with musical accompaniment.

Overnight: Hotel Asia Bukhara (or similar)

Day 10:- The Samanid Mausoleum

Bukhara, which also bears the by-name Sherif (the noble one), has preserved its ancient oriental countenance in its extensive, unparalleled collection of authentic architecture. In the morning, we drive you to the splendid Mir-e-Arab Madrassa and the Samanid Mausoleum, one of Central Asia's most beautiful architectural treasures. Afterwards you tour the massive Ark Citadel, a city within a city that was once the seat of government of Bukhara's former rulers. There you view the Throne Room, after which you visit the last emir's Summer Residence.

Overnight: Hotel Asia Bukhara (or similar)

Day 11:- Bukhara

The morning is yours to explore Bukhara or spend as you please. Your train departs for Khiva in the west around noon.

Overnight: On board train

Day 12 :- Khiva

Today you will visit the oasis of Khiva, a fairy tale from 1001 Nights – in stone. Standing at the mighty town wall with its gates and bastions of mud brick you feel transported into another world. On your sightseeing tour of the oasis you have a chance to take in its exotic atmosphere. Its palaces, mosques, minarets, mausoleums, and madrassas (Muslim religious schools) represent one of the best preserved ensembles of medieval oriental urban architecture in the world.

Overnight: On board train

Day 13:- Tashkent – The Green Oasis

Your private train arrives in the early morning at the Uzbek capital of Tashkent. On your sightseeing tour of the city you are able to have a look at this green oasis in the steppe and see the Madrassa Kukeldash, the Kavoj and Amir Timur monuments, and the typical Kazakh mud brick houses. You end your day, and your journey, with a farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight: Hotel Grand MIR (or similar)

Day 14:- Return Home

Your flight home departs in the morning, marking the end of a very special journey.

Tour Prices

| Departure Dates (Train+hotel+transfer) | Habibi (Max 2-4 persons) shared toilet facilities on train | Ali Baba (Max 2 person) shared toilet facilities on train | Aladdin (Max 2 persons shared toilet & shower facilities on train | Kalif (Max 2 persons cabin category toilet & shower facilities on train |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| 28 Mar - 10 Apr 2024 (Almaty - Tashkent) | RM 24,290 | RM 37,810 | RM 41,640 | RM 68,040 |

What's included

Destination: Kazakhstan , Kyrgyzstan , Uzbekistan

Departure Location: Almaty

Return Location: Tashkent

Additional Information: **Tour Deal:** ~ Book and deposit by 31 Oct 2023. Enjoy Flight Credit for 2024 package **Flight credit value earned on cabin category booked. And to be utilised to purchase air ticket:** : ~ Habibi cabin enjoy RM1,000 flight credit : ~ Ali Baba cabin enjoy RM1,500 flight credit : ~ Aladdin cabin enjoy RM 2,500 flight credit : ~ Kalif cabin enjoy RM 4,000 flight credit : ~ We regret that due to the intricate logistics of this tour, itinerary changes are sometimes unavoidable

Price includes:

- ~ 7 nights' on the private train according to the booked category
- ~ 6 nights' hotel
- ~ Expert Tour Director, Group Guide and English speaking local guides
- ~ All excursions and sightseeing as per itinerary, including all entrance fees
- ~ Meals stated as per itinerary
- ~ Local culinary specialities prepared freshly on board
- ~ Porters at all stations
- ~ Entertaining and enlightening lectures on history and culture of the region
- ~ Doctor on board
- ~ Return airport transfer
- ~ COMPLIMENTARY Travel Insurance
- ~ COMPLIMENTARY Turkmenistan Visa – for Malaysian passport holder only

Price does not include:

- ~ International air ticket
- ~ Visa fees (if required)
- ~ Gratuity (Recommended US\$200 per person)
- ~ Personal expenses
- ~ Other items not mentioned

- Suitable for Adventure travellers who seek for soft adventure and comfort.
- Central Asia is vast and distances are huge, therefore opting to travel on the private Silk Road Orient Express makes perfect sense.
- The majority of journeys are undertaken at night so you wake up in your next destination ready for a day's sightseeing
- Our package combines both overnight on board the train and hotels.
- We offers a choice of 3 accommodation categories on board train from Ali Baba to Aladdin and Kalif while a comfortable hotel stay in the cities where we stop.
- Every day a guided land excursions at the most interesting places along the route are included.

Cancellation Policy

- ~ Up to 92 days prior to departure: 15% of total price
- ~ Between 91 and 42 days prior to departure: 45% of total price
- ~ Between 41 and 11 days prior to departure: 80% of total price
- ~ 10 and less days prior to departure/ no-show: 90% of total price