

# Great Silk Road

Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China • Touring • 27 Days

*Explore the world's greatest land trade route from Bukhara and Samarkand to Tashkent, Bishkek, Issyk-Kul, Karakol, Kashgar, Turpan, Jiayuguan, Dunhuang and Xian on this relaxed journey following in the footsteps of Marco Polo. In Kyrgyzstan we explore the picturesque Issy-Kul region, take some easy walks and enjoy a yurt stay out on the Kyrgyz steppe. Our China itinerary commences at historic Kashgar; ancient trade hub on the Silk Road and site of the legendary Sunday market. We include the old Silk Road oasis of Turpan and Dunhuang as well as Jiayuguan, site of the most western extent of the Ming dynasty great wall and conclude in Xian; ancient Chang'an where Emperor Qin Shihuang's great tomb and its army of terracotta warriors was constructed.*



## Great Silk Road TRIP DETAILS

### 2010 Departures

#### Escorted Small group

- 24th Aug - 19th Sept

**Trip Price :** NZD9500pp

#### Private Departures

- April
- May
- September
- October

**Trip Price :** Price on application

**Trip Length:** 27 Days

**Activity Type:** Touring

**Link:** From Pamir Highway  
To Indus Silk Route

## WHATS INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

### • ROUTE

**Itinerary includes Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Ferghana, Bishkek, Issykul Lake, Sememovskoe Gorge, Karakol, Kochkor, Tash Rabat, Kashgar, Turpan, Jiayuguan, Dunhuang, Xian.**

We travel by comfortable air conditioned coach or van and stay in quality tourist class hotels and guesthouses with ensuite rooms. There are a few long days but plenty of breaks are provided. Sightseeing is arranged to avoid the heat of the day and includes a mix of monuments and opportunities to meet local people. In Kyrgyzstan we are at altitude of 3000m for 2 nights and one day. On the Torugart Pass route the road is unpaved - this is our only really long day.

### • GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. SRA leaders accompany groups of 6 or more otherwise our groups are accompanied by local English speaking professional guides.

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

### • ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite) on twin share basis. During our programme in Kyrgyzstan we include a Yurt stay experience for two nights on common share basis. Single room supplement NZ\$795 To be confirmed

### • INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.



To BOOK or ENQUIRE

In New Zealand Ph 0800 349 739. [info@silkroad.co.nz](mailto:info@silkroad.co.nz)

In Australia Ph 1800 786 302 [silk\\_rd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:silk_rd@bigpond.net.au)

## Itinerary at a Glance :

24 Aug-10 Arrive Tashkent  
Met at airport and transferred to hotel.

25-Aug-10 Tashkent to Samarkand  
Sightseeing in Tashkent this morning; afternoon drive to Samarkand.

26-Aug-10 Samarkand  
Sightseeing today to including a visit to Reghistan Square, Bibi Khanum Mosque and bazaar, Gur Emir mausoleum, the observatory of Ulug bek, Afrasiab Museum and Shakhi Zinda

27-Aug-10 Samarkand  
Morning visit to mausoleum of Imam al Bukhari (short drive from Samarkand) and history Museum.

28-Aug-10 Samarkand to Bukhara  
Morning depart for drive to Bukhara via Gijduvan. Visit ceramic family workshop en route.

29-Aug-10 Bukhara  
Full day city sightseeing tour will include a visit to the key sites in Bukhara including the Ark fortress, Minaret Kalyan (great minaret), Trade Domes, Labi Hauz complex and Chashmai Ayub. Evening folk show at Nadir Divan Begi Madrassah.

30-Aug-10 Bukhara  
Continue sightseeing including a visit to the Summer Palace of last Emir of Bukhara, Chor Bakr and Uzbek "Tandir" (bakery).

31-Sep-10 Tashkent  
Return to Tashkent by train. Sightseeing this afternoon in Tashkent.

01-Sep-10 Tashkent to Ferghana  
Morning drive from Tashkent via Angred Valley and over the 2267m Kamchik Pass to the Ferghana Valley. Afternoon visit Rishtan Ceramics and Silk weaving factory

02-Sep-10 Ferghana Osh Bishkek  
Depart Ferghana to the Kyrgyz border, afternoon sightseeing in Osh, and evening flight to Bishkek.

03-Sep-10 Bishkek  
Full day to explore Bishkek including the History Museum. After lunch visit Ala Archa National Park in the central Kyrgyz Ala-tau. Short walk in the pine forests.

04-Sep-10 Bishkek to Issyk-Kul  
Morning visit to the colourful Osh Bazaar before departing to drive to Issyk-Kul. En route visit Burana Tower and petroglyphs.

05-Sep-10 Issyk-Kul to Semenovskoe Gorge  
Drive to Semenovskoe Gorge where we overnight in yurts. Walk in the gorge and watch Kyrgyz national horse games show.

06-Sep-10 to Karakol  
Return to the Lake and drive to Karakol. Sightseeing will include Prezhevsky's museum, Dungan Mosque and Orthodox Church.

07-Sep-10 Karakol  
Full day visit to Altyn-Arahsan - we use 4WD truck to drive into the valley. Plenty of walking and photo opportunities.

08-Sep-10 Karakol to Kochkor  
Visit Jety Oguz Gorge. Easy walk in the gorge and picnic lunch before driving along the southern shore of the lake to Kochkor. Overnight at homestay.

09-Sep-10 to Tash Rabat Gorge  
Visit the felt museum before driving via the 3035m Dolon pass to Naryn. After lunch continue to the 15th century Tash Rabat caravanserai where we overnight in yurts.

10-Sep-10 Naryn to Kashgar  
Full day's drive via the Torugart Pass to Kashgar.

11-Sep-09 Kashgar  
Full day sightseeing including a visit to Abakhoja, Mosque, Eidkah and Bazaar. Dinner in the Orchard this evening

12-Sep-10 Kashgar  
This morning to the Sunday Bazaar. Afternoon at leisure to explore the streets of the old town. Evening flight to Urumqi

13-Sep-10 Urumqi to Turpan  
Morning visit to Museum and South mountain pasture. Afternoon drive to Turpan, transfer to Hotel.

14-Sep-10 Turpan - train to Dunhuang  
Visit Jiaohe Ancient City, Toyuk Valley and Emin Minaret. Transfer to station for overnight train to Dunhuang.

15-Sep-10 Dunhuang  
Early morning arrival at Liuyuan, depart for one hour drive across the desert to Dunhuang. Visit Mogao Caves and late afternoon visit the Sand Dunes.

16-Sep-10 Dunhuang to Jaiyuguan  
Morning at Dunhuang, after lunch drive across the Gobi Desert to Jaiyuguan.

17-Sep-10 Jaiyuguan  
Visit Fort at the western end of the Great Wall. Afternoon transfer to the airport for flight to Xian.

18-Sep-10 Xi'an  
Visit Terra Cotta Army, City Wall, Muslim Bazaar and the Great Mosque. Farewell dinner tonight

19-Sep-10 Xi'an Transfer to airport for departure flight

