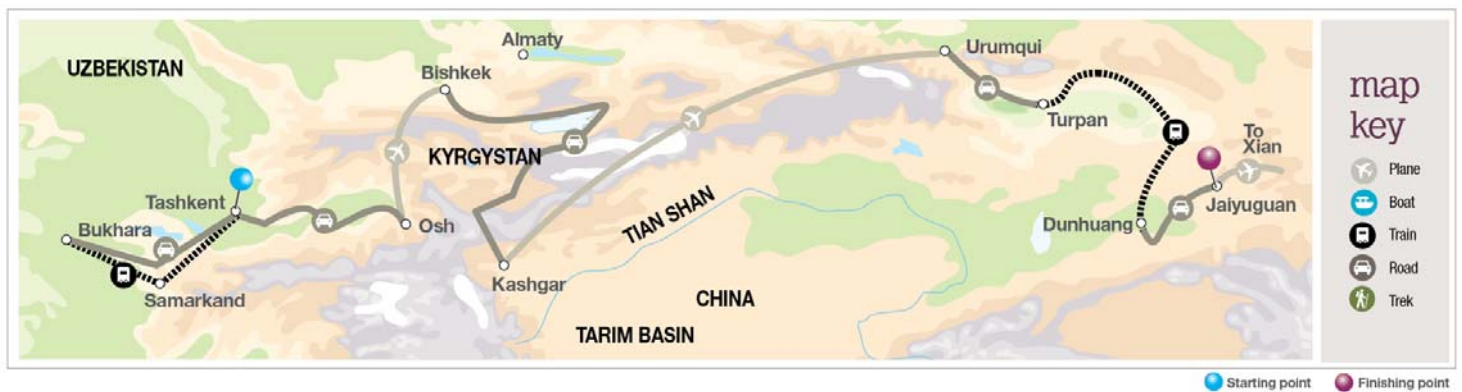


# Great Silk Road

Explore the world's greatest land trade route from Bukhara and Samarkand to Tashkent, Bishkek, Kashgar, Turpan, Dunhuang and Xian on this relaxed **touring style** journey following in the footsteps of Marco Polo. We complement the stunning ancient cityscapes and diverse cultures along Central Asia's 'golden road' with time to explore and walk in Kyrgyzstan's contrastingly green Issykul region. We feature China's western regions beyond the shadow of the Great Wall and conclude in Xian.

Visit Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Ferghana, Bishkek, Issykul Lake, Karakol, Kochkar, Tash Rabat, Kashgar, Turpan, Jaiyuguan, Dunhuang, Xian.

Length of trip	<b>27 days</b>	Sightseeing and Entry fees	<b>Included</b>
Accommodation	<b>Hotels.</b>	Maximum Group	<b>12</b>
Meals included	<b>Yes</b>	Commences	<b>Tashkent 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012</b>
Travel Style	<b>Tourist coach, 2 trains 3 domestic flights.</b>	Concludes	<b>Xian 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012</b>
COST	<b>NZ\$9,500</b> based on twin share. Single Rm Sup NZ\$895 <i>(prices subject to change)</i>	Escort	<b>SRA tour leader for more than 6 travellers. Local English speaking escort for 6 or less travellers.</b>



Let your memory be your travel bag

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn



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 :

### Tue, 21 August 2012 Arrive Tashkent

Met at airport and transferred to hotel

### Wed, 22 August 2012 to Samarkand

Sightseeing in Tashkent this morning; afternoon drive to Samarkand.

### Thur, 23 August 2012 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

### Fri, 24 August 2012 Samarkand

Morning visit to mausoleum of Imam al Bukhari (short drive from Samarkand) and history Museum

### Sat, 25 August 2012 to Bukhara

Morning depart for drive to Bukhara via Gijduvan. Visit ceramic family workshop en route.

### Sun, 26 August 2012 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.

### Mon, 27 August 2012 Bukhara

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

### Tue, 28 August 2012 Tashkent

Return to Tashkent by train. Sightseeing this afternoon in Tashkent.

### Wed, 29 August 2012 to Ferghana

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

### Thur, 30 August 2012 to Osh, fly to Bishkek

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

### Friday, 31 August 2012 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.

### Sat, 1 September 2012 to Issyk-Kul

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

### Sun, 2 September 2012 to Karakol

Return to the Lake and drive to Karakol. Sightseeing will include Prezhevskiy's Museum, Dungan Mosque and Orthodox Church.

### Mon, 3 September 2012 Karakol

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

### Tue, 4 September 2012 to Jety Oguz

Drive to Jety Oguz Valley, easy walk to the Valley of Flowers, overnight in yurt camp.

### Wedn, 5 September 2012 to Karakol

Continue driving along the southern shore of the lake to Kochkor. Overnight at village homestay.

### Thur, 6 September 2012 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.

### Fri, 7 September 2012 to Kashgar

Full day's drive via the Torugart Pass to Kashgar.

### Sat, 8 September 2012 Kashgar

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

### Sun, 9 September 2012 Kashgar

This morning to the Sunday Bazaar. Afternoon at leisure to explore the streets of the old town. Evening flight to Urumqi

### Mon, 10 September 2012 to Turpan

Morning visit the Ethnological Museum before driving to Turpan.

### Tue, 11 September 2012 Turpan – train to Dunhuang

Visit Jiaohe Ancient City, Toyuk Valley and Emin Minaret. Transfer to station for overnight train to Dunhuang.

### Wed, 12 September 2012 Dunhuang

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

### Thur, 13 September 2012 Dunhuang to Jaiyuguan

Morning at Dunhuang, after lunch drive across the Gobi Desert to Jaiyuguan.

### Fri, 14 September 2012 Jaiyuguan

Visit the Fort at the western end of the Great Wall. Afternoon transfer to the airport for flight to Xian.

### Sat, 15 September 2012 Xi'an

Visit Terra Cotta Army, City Wall, Muslim Bazaar and the Great Mosque. Farewell dinner tonight

### Sun, 16 September 2012 Xi'an

Transfer to airport for departure flight

## Explore more :

### INDUS SILK ROUTE

*CONCLUDE the Great Silk Road itinerary in Kashgar on Sun 9th Sept and join Indus Silk Route itinerary:*

Follow the footsteps of trade caravans and pilgrims over the Khunjerab Pass to the Hunza valley. Continue to Skardu, fly to Islamabad and conclude in Lahore.

DURATION - 16 days

### PAMIR HIGHWAY

*CONCLUDE the Pamir Highway itinerary in Dushanbe 19th August. Transfer from Dushanbe to Tashkent on 20th Aug and join the Great Silk Road itinerary.*



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