



Lernidee Trains & Cruises

The Legendary Silk Road

13 Nights

29 March 2019 & 03 October 2019



Summary

Experience the fascination of the diverse cultures in three of the countries along Central Asia's Silk Road while travelling in the comfort of your private train. You start your journey in Almaty, "the father of the apple", and travel to the Uzbek oasis of Tashkent, to Samarqand and to Khiva, where a tale from 1001 Nights – preserved in stone – awaits you, to romantic Bukhara in the middle of the Kyzylkum Desert, to the ruins of the ancient cities of Merv and Nisa, and finally to Turkmenistan's capital of Ashgabat. You have the opportunity to experience the region's cultures, peoples, and delicious cuisine along this otherwise quite inaccessible section of Central Asia's Silk Road, while enjoying the amenities of private train travel: all the makings of your very own 1001 Nights tale.

Overview

Country:	Kazakhstan, Turkistan, Uzbekistan, Samanid Empire, Turkmenistan
Cities:	Almaty, Turkestan, Tashkent, Tamerlane, Samarqand, Khiva, Bukhara, Samanid, Merv, Ashgabat
Duration:	14 days /13 nights
Port of departure:	Almaty
Starting Price:	\$ 3580

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Day 1: Almaty

Upon arrival to Almaty, meet greet and transfer to hotel

Day 2: Almaty – “The Father of Apples”

In the morning, enjoy a city sightseeing tour of Almaty visit: the Zenkov Russian Cathedral

Enjoy a special welcome lunch in the typical yurts and return to Almaty to board your special train "Registan"

Day 3: Nomad's Pilgrimage Center: Turkestan

In the morning, arrive in the city of Turkestan in Kazakhstan.

Visit the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi built in 1394 (UNESCO World Heritage Site) with its dome hall, monumental mosque and well house - one of the most important buildings of the Timurids Architecture.

Then your Private Train will travel on to Tashkent in Uzbekistan, the border formalities are handled easily in your cabin

Day 4: Tashkent, the Green Oasis

Today your Private Train arrives in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan at the foot of the Tien Shan Mountains

On your sightseeing tour you'll experience the green oasis of the Steppe: the Madrasah Kukeldash, the Kavoij and Amir Timur monuments and the opera

In the evening attend Tashkent's famous Navoi Opera or a concert in the Tashkent Philharmonic Hall

Afterwards your Private Train departs for Shakhrisabz

Day 5: Shakhrisabz, home of Tamerlane

Today you will experience a folklore performance in the unique tradition of this region and get to know the inhabitants in their authentic everyday life

Next you will follow the Great Silk Road and arrive in the green city, the birthplace of Tamerlane

In Shakhrisabz (UNESCO-World Heritage Site) you'll tour the monumental memorials of the barbaric Mongol Prince and also have the opportunity to watch the thriving bustle of this lively town.

In the evening depart on your Private Train to Samarqand

Day 6: Samarqand—Intersection of Cultures

Experience the historical prominence of Samarqand, the most beautiful city in the world in Tamerlane's time: the grave city Shah-e-zende ("the living Shah"), the excavation sites of Afrosiab and the Registan Square present an impressive collection of Central Asian architecture

Day 7: Samarqand, the Magnificent

Today, visit a silk carpet factory and an Uzbek craftsman's family, see paper manufactured from mulberry bark, the observatory of Ulug Beg, the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque and the palace-like Gur Emir Mausoleum

Day 8: From Samarqand to Khiva

Day at leisure until your Private Train departs for Khiva around noon

Day 9: A Fairy Tale of 1001 Nights

In the morning, you will go to the Southern border of the seven river lands, in the oasis of Khiva

When you stand before the mighty city wall of Khiva with its gates and bastions of clay bricks you are in another world:

Around the Kalta Minor Minaret life still pulses today as it did in old times. On a tour you see palaces, mosques, minarets, mausoleums and Koranic schools, examples of oriental and medieval architecture.

Enjoy lunch in the atmosphere of the former Summer Palace of the Emir

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**Day 10: Bukhara, the Noble**

Situated in the middle of the Kyzyl Kum desert, Bukhara features about one thousand monuments, which recall the halcyon days of the Great Silk Road

In the old city (UNESCO-World Culture Heritage) visit the Kaljan Minaret and the Labi-Hauz Ensemble

In front of the Nasreddin-on-the-donkey monument you'll listen to some anecdotes about him.

Enjoy dinner in the courtyard of a Madrasah with musical accompaniment, local dances and a presentation of colorful national costumes

Day 11: Mausoleum of the Samanid

Today, you'll experience Bukhara in an all-day tour program

In the morning, visit to the magnificent Mire-e-Arab Madrasah and the most beautiful and precious building in Central Asia, the Samanid Mausoleum. Then, take a tour through the fortress Ark. You'll see there the coronation hall and visit the summer residence of the last Emir

In the evening your train departs for Mary/Merv

Day 12: Merv, the Ancient Pearl of the East

In the early morning your Private Train will arrive at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Merv with its gigantic walls and ramparts in the desert and the impressive ruins of old buildings such as the Mausoleum of Sultan Sanjar, the Virgin Fortress (Kis Kale), the cold room and other mausoleums.

Afterwards you will board your Private Train to Ashgabat.

Day 13: Former Royal City of Nisa and today's Capital Ashgabat

Today you'll visit the old Parthian city of Nisa.

In the afternoon, you'll take a city tour and become acquainted with today's capital Ashgabat, with the unmistakable handwriting of the Turkmenbashi, the leader of the Turkmen: Hollywood-like scenes of the "nouveau riche"

In the afternoon Ashgabat's National Museum shows you ruins of ancient Nisa

Enjoy a farewell dinner in the evening

Day 14: Ashgabat - An epic journey comes to an end!

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Prices Include

Round trip transfer: airport – pier – airport

7-night accommodation on full board basis

5-night accommodation in hotels

All transfers and bus tours according to itinerary

Sightseeing tours/guided walks in Almaty, Tashkent,

Samarqand, Khiva, Bukhara and Ashgabat

Traditional welcome in the train stations of Bukhara, and Samarqand

Lunch/dinner with an Uzbek and a Turkmen family as well as in a Madrasah with folklore

Wine and Vodka tasting

Log book with information about the Silk Road

Porter service at all railway stations

Local travel guides

Prices Exclude

Round trip ticket (economy class)

Airport taxes

Travel insurance

Gratuities

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Starting price per person sharing double compartment in \$ US

Compartment Habibi	3580
Compartment Ali baba	5420
Compartment Aladin	6390
Compartment Sultan	10020
Compartment Kalif	10180

- Possibility to board the train from Ashgabat

Payment facilities available with CFC

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

CODE: HIGHLIGHTS-SUM18-TRAINS – LERNIDEE TRAIN OUT OF ALMATY

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