

Cornell University

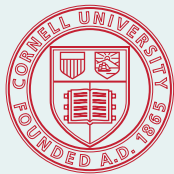
Along Central Asia's Silk Road

October 13-29, 2025

17 days from \$7,794 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC
(\$6,995 air & land inclusive plus \$799 airline taxes and fees)



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Alumni & Friends of Cornell Alumni Travel



Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Join us on an exclusive 17-day tour to experience the great Silk Road cities of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

Begin in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, with a comprehensive city tour and a yurt-making demonstration. En route to Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, stop at Tamgaly Gorge to see the Tamgaly Petroglyphs, then ascend a mountain for panoramic views. In Uzbekistan's fascinating capital, Tashkent, witness its treasured 8th-century Quran and Chorsu Bazaar. Uncover Khiva's storied past with a tour of the Itchan Kala, a UNESCO treasure. In ancient Bukhara, watch silk weavers at work and visit the home of a Sufi miniaturist. Conclude the tour in legendary Samarkand with a visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane's tomb, before a brief return to Tashkent.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Book today!

Warmly,

Cornell Alumni Travel

CORNELL RESERVATION FORM: ALONG CENTRAL ASIA'S SILK ROAD

To reserve your place on tour, please call **Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited's office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**

Attn: Special Interest Groups

One Newton Place

275 Washington Street, Suite 300

Newton, MA 02458

ALONG CENTRAL ASIA'S SILK ROAD • OCTOBER 13-29, 2025

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

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) _____

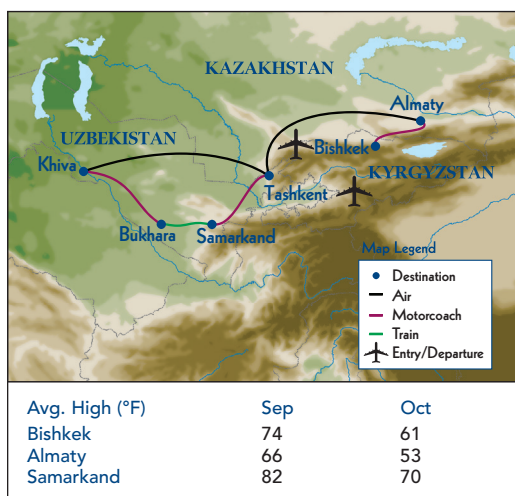
Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to Business Class

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Along Central Asia's Silk Road

17 days from \$7,794 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC
 (\$6,995 air & land inclusive plus \$799 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 unfamiliar – and embrace the humanity we share with the people of Central Asia.



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 directors 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 Bishkek. 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 11th-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 6th to 10th 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 This morning we tour Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city and cultural and commercial center. We begin at Panfilov Park and the adjacent Holy Ascension Cathedral, an example of early 20th-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. We have free time this afternoon before dinner at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*

Physical Activity Level

2 Easy/Moderate

Walk 1-3 miles daily, often on uneven terrain; western-style toilets not always available; long days of travel via motorcoach (most notably between Khiva and Bukhara); some hotels do not have elevators

Your Tour at a Glance

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.



Poi Kalyan, a religious complex located in Bukhara, at sunset

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 8th-century Uthman Quran, brought to Tashkent by Tamerlane. Next: Chorsu Bazaar, under whose massive green dome locals purchase everything from produce to clothing. 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 Mahmud 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 begin today at the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret. 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 Tash Hauli Palace; and the Hunarmand artisans' workshop. Tonight, we dine on a rooftop terrace overlooking the city, where we enjoy a sunset cocktail party followed by dinner with a local folklore performance. *B,D*

Day 11: Khiva/Bukhara This morning we journey by train through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara. Upon arrival in this ancient city of the Silk Road commerce and religious piety, we visit the 15th-century

Poi Kalyan religious complex. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. *B,L,D*

Day 12: Bukhara Today begins with a walking tour of the 16th-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. Touring continues this afternoon at the Chor Minor madrassah, with its four minarets; the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum; and the massive 5th-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 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 14th 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 14th 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 15th-century Bibi-Khanym mosque, and Siyob Bazaar, the city's largest market.



TRAVELING—
IT OFFERS YOU A HUNDRED
ROADS TO ADVENTURE, AND
GIVES YOUR HEART WINGS!”

— IBN BATTUTA

This afternoon we visit a historic winery for a tour and tasting. Dinner tonight is on our own. *B,L*

Day 15: Samarkand Our discovery of this cross-roads of culture continues today at the Afrasiyab Museum, a huge archaeological site and museum depicting the city's 2,500-year history; 15th-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 11th to 19th centuries.



Uzbek performer in costume

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.

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
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

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: Samar- kand/Tashkent

We return today to the Uzbek capital. After arriving in Tashkent early this afternoon, we have time for lunch on



Khiva's city walls foundations date to the 10th century

Tour Departs: October 13, 2025

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York, Washington, D.C.	\$7,794
Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco	\$8,094
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Dallas, Philadelphia	\$8,294
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Minnesota, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle, Tampa	\$8,394
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$6,495

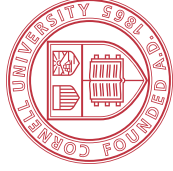
Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$799, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,495. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$4,995 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time



Cornell University

Cornell Alumni Travel
Office of Alumni Affairs
130 East Seneca Street, Suite 400
Ithaca, NY 14850-4353

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Not included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$40-\$15 per traveler, per day); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by 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 are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Responsibility: The liability of Cornell Alumni Travel, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrong, full, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Cornell Alumni Travel and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be 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. We 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 us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own as well as keep pace with the tour group. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. 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 or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Cornell Alumni Travel and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: 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 2 1/2 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 fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, 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.**

Please Note: While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this role, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.

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JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE
CORNELL ALUMNI TOUR
TO CENTRAL ASIA!

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*

