

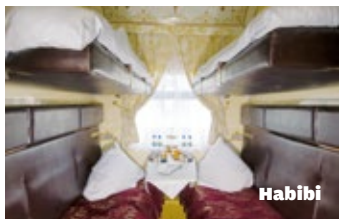


Samarkand

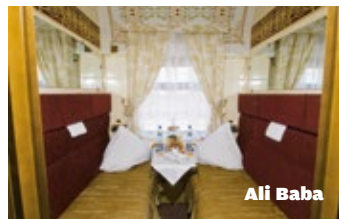
# The Legendary Silk Road

## First class tour by private train

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime rail journey of 3,200 km as you explore some of the most remote parts of the world. You'll travel through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan along the legendary Silk Road from Almaty to Ashgabat or the reverse direction. This exotic rail journey features a combination of train and hotel accommodation, enabling you to explore magical cities like Samarkand in more depth. The mix of guests on board comprises various nationalities and the on board announcements will reflect this. Your sightseeing excursions will be conducted in English only within an English speaking group. The train was extensively refurbished in 2013 offering a high standard of safety, service and comfort and is air-conditioned while moving.



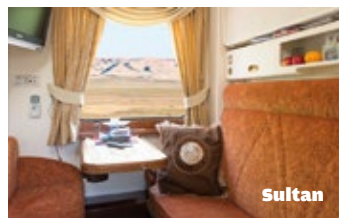
Habibi



Ali Baba



Aladdin



Sultan



Kalif



### On board accommodation

#### Habibi

Compartments accommodate 4 guests (mixed sexes) with two lower and two upper berths, each 0.67 by 1.84 metres. There is a small table under the window. A toilet with wash basin is located at each end of the carriage which has 9 compartments.

#### Ali Baba

Ali Baba compartments accommodate 2 guests with two lower berths, each 0.67 by 1.84 metres. There is a small table under the window and additional luggage stowage. A toilet with wash basin is located at each end of the carriage which has 9 compartments.

#### Aladdin

Compartments accommodate 2 guests with two lower berths, each 0.67 by 1.84 metres. There is a small table under the window and additional luggage stowage.

Each car has 8 compartments. There is a shower with toilet and washbasin at each end of the compartment.

#### Sultan

This category accommodates two guests in an upper (0.8 by 1.74 metres) and lower (1.10 by 1.84 metres) berth. Each compartment has a larger table, armchair and an ensuite bathroom with WC, wash basin and integrated 'wet room' style shower. Each carriage has 6 compartments.

#### Kalif

Kalif, the train's grandest accommodation, accommodates two guests in an upper (0.8 by 1.74 metres) and lower (1.12 by 1.84 metres) berth. Each compartment has a larger table, armchair, safe, ensuite bathroom with WC, wash basin and separate shower cabin. Each carriage has 4 Kalif compartments.



uzbekistan, folk dancers

# The Legendary Silk Road

## First class tour by private train - 14 days/13 nights

### Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodation on board the Orient Silk Road Express private train
- 1 night Almaty, 2 nights Samarkand, 1 night Bukhara, 2 nights Ashgabat in 3.5 & 4-star hotels
- All meals from breakfast on day 2
- Arrival/departure coach transfers on days 1 and 14
- Tour Manager
- Doctor on board
- Comprehensive sightseeing as specified in **English**

### Day 1 Almaty

Arrive Almaty. Join your coach transfer to your hotel. Overnight Almaty hotel.

### Day 2 Almaty

This morning you have a walking tour of Kazakhstan's capital, framed by the foothills of the Tian Shan mountain range. You'll see the Ascension Cathedral - one of the largest wooden buildings in the world. After lunch in a yurt restaurant, board your train to unpack and relax before dinner. **BLD**

### Day 3 Turkestan

Your morning is spent travelling through the glorious steppes before arriving in the sacred city of Turkestan. Visit the magnificent Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi - Kazakhstan's greatest architectural monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight on board. **BLD**

### Day 4 Tashkent

Morning arrival in Uzbekistan's lively capital, Tashkent, with its mix of modern, Soviet and medieval architecture. You will visit caravanserais, fortresses and madrasahs. Evening departure and overnight on board. **BLD**

### Day 5 Shakhrisabz

Today you explore Shakhrisabz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the birthplace of

Timur, the 14th century Mongol conqueror. His palace of this once mighty city stands in ruins in the bustling market town. Enjoy a folklore performance in a small village and meet some of the locals before boarding your train for an Uzbek wine tasting in the dining car. Overnight on board. **BLD**

### Day 6 Samarkand

During Timur's reign Samarkand was considered to be the world's most beautiful and prestigious city. Today you will visit magnificent Registan Square, necropolis of Shah-i-Zinda and the excavation site of Afrosiyab. Overnight Samarkand hotel. **BLD**

### Day 7 Samarkand

Another day to soak up this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll watch Uzbek craftsmen skilfully weave silk carpets and see the Ulugbek Observatory, Bibi Khanum Mosque and impressive Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand hotel. **BLD**

### Day 8 Samarkand to Khiva

After breakfast, you have some free time to stroll through the city before your noon departure. Overnight on board. **BLD**

### Day 9 Khiva

Once the main slave market of Central Asia, Khiva retains the air of a thriving medieval oriental town. Your walking tour takes you through the winding streets, past mosques, palaces and mausoleums. After lunch at the old Summer Palace of the Emir, you board your train. Overnight on board. **BLD**

### Day 10 Bukhara

Bukhara's history dates back to the 9th century and the Old Town has changed little in two centuries. This city-museum has a thousand monuments, each a legacy to the days of the caravan trade. At the 500-year-old Lyab-i-Hauz with its pool shaded by 700-year-old mulberry trees, you watch local dances and listen to exotic Uzbek tunes. Overnight Bukhara hotel. **BLD**

### Day 11 Bukhara

You will see the Mir-i-Arab Madrasah and the Samanid Mausoleum, regarded by many as the most beautiful and precious building in Central Asia. Continue to the ancient Ark Fortress and learn about its bloodthirsty history. Board your train this afternoon. Overnight on board. **BLD**

### Day 12 Merv

At daybreak, your private train draws into the ancient oasis of Merv. In the 12th century this was one of the largest cities in the world. Today, you walk among the ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage Site and enjoy lunch in the courtyard of a local family. Overnight Ashgabat hotel. **BLD**

### Day 13 Ashgabat

Your day begins at the site of ancient Nisa and continues to the modern city of Ashgabat where you visit the National Museum. Reminisce with your fellow travellers this evening at a farewell dinner. Overnight Ashgabat hotel. **BLD**

### Day 14 Ashgabat

Your epic rail journey concludes today with a coach transfer to the airport. **B**

### Great Silk Road Adventure

Ask about our 16-day Great Silk Road Adventure departing 14 Sep 2019, visiting Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan & Tajikistan.

## Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2019/2020

| Departures                        | Habibi |     | Ali Baba |       | Aladdin |       | Sultan |       | Kalif |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----|----------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                   | Quad   | Sgl | Twn      | Sgl   | Twn     | Sgl   | Twn    | Sgl   | Twn   | Sgl   |
| <b>Westbound: Almaty-Ashgabat</b> |        |     |          |       |         |       |        |       |       |       |
| 28 Mar 2019                       | 5508   | n/a | 8338     | 11538 | 9831    | 13646 | 15415  | 23569 | 15662 | 24077 |
| 3 Oct 2019                        | 5877   | n/a | 8708     | 11908 | 10200   | 14015 | 15785  | 23938 | 16031 | 24446 |
| 2 Apr 2020                        | 5646   | n/a | 8354     | 11554 | 9785    | 13600 | 15154  | 23308 | 15385 | 23800 |
| 8 Oct 2020                        | 6185   | n/a | 8985     | 12277 | 10462   | 14385 | 15985  | 24385 | 16215 | 24877 |
| <b>Eastbound: Ashgabat-Almaty</b> |        |     |          |       |         |       |        |       |       |       |
| 9 Apr 2019                        | 5508   | n/a | 8338     | 11538 | 9831    | 13646 | 15415  | 23569 | 15662 | 24077 |
| 15 Oct 2019                       | 5877   | n/a | 8708     | 11908 | 10200   | 14015 | 15785  | 23938 | 16031 | 24446 |
| 14 Apr 2020                       | 5646   | n/a | 8354     | 11554 | 9785    | 13600 | 15154  | 23308 | 15385 | 23800 |
| 20 Oct 2020                       | 6185   | n/a | 8985     | 12277 | 10462   | 14385 | 15985  | 24385 | 16215 | 24877 |