Along Central Asia’s Silk Road

17 days for $6,894 total price from San Francisco
($6,295 air & land inclusive plus $599 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 exotic — and embrace the humanity we share with the welcoming people of Central Asia.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Bishkek yurt-making demonstration • Tamgaly Petroglyphs UNESCO site • Russian-accented Almaty • Falconry demonstration • Tashkent touring, including world’s oldest Quran • Historic Silk Road gem of Khiva • Visits with local artisans • Uzbek folklore performance • UNESCO site of Bukhara • Lunches with local families • Legendary Samarkand • Visits to Central Asian bazaars • Regal Registan Square

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 Odysseys Unlimited 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 this former Soviet republic’s largest city. 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 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. After checking in at our hotel, we have free time this afternoon before dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D

Day 6: Almaty Kazakhstan’s largest city and cultural and commercial center, Almaty has a decided Russian flavor, as we see on this morning’s tour. 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. After checking in at our hotel, we have free time this afternoon before dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D

Day 8: Tashkent Our morning tour begins in the Old City at the Khazrati Imam Complex of mosques and madrasahs. Here we see the world’s oldest surviving Islamic holy book, the 7th-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 Pahlavan Mahmoud 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 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 Madrasah of Muhammad Rahim Khan, with its tiled façade; the 163-room Tah Hauli Palace; and the Hunarmand artisans’ workshop. Tonight, we enjoy a small group highlight as we travel through the desert to a lakeside yurt camp, where we have a sunset cocktail party followed by a traditional barbecue dinner and folkloric performance. *B*D

**Day 11: Khiva/Bukhara** This morning we journey by train through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara, with lunch on board. Upon arrival in this ancient city of Silk Road commerce and religious piety, we visit the Chor Minor madrasah, with its four minarets. 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 miniatuist, where we learn about his craft and enjoy a traditional lunch of *plov* – lamb and rice – the Uzbek national dish. Touring continues this afternoon at the Poi Kalyan religious complex, 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 Nasrband, 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 madrasahs 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 Siyb Bazaar, the city’s largest market. This afternoon we visit a historic winery for a tour and tasting. *B.L*

**Day 15: Samarkand** Today we visit the Afrasiyab Museum, 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory, and the Meros Paper Mill. 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. 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,D*

**Day 16: Samarkand/Tashkent** We return today to the Uzbek capital, passing through Jilani Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratun and Turkestan hills. After arriving in Tashkent early this afternoon, we have time for lunch on 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. *B*
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2022, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations and inoculations; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation and is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to Cal Discoveries Travel. Refunds for
cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

**For all tours (except as noted)**

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<td>95 days or more:</td>
<td>Full refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-65 days:</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<td>64-45 days:</td>
<td>50% of tour price</td>
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<tr>
<td>44-30 days:</td>
<td>75% of tour price</td>
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<td>29-0 days:</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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**For Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Ethiopia:**

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<th>Cradle of Civilization, Journey through Vietnam, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos, Patagonian Frontiers</th>
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Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. Trip cancellation insurance is available from CAA and information will be sent after you reserve. You may research travel insurance online at [travelinsure.com/calalumni](http://travelinsure.com/calalumni). If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

**Pre-Departure**

After reserving your tour, you will receive pre-departure mailings that include a detailed itinerary, visa requirements, and reading list. We will send your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers) two to three weeks before departure.

**Required Information**

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov)), as well as for our international travel partners: your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender (for details, please visit [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov)). In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

**Travel Documents**

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all tours in this catalog. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you the appropriate information after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you are not a U.S. citizen,
please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

**Smoking**
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

**Health and Medical Issues**
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail 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 condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, the Cal Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. 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. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

**Air Transportation**
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 2½ 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 departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “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, the Cal Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

**Responsibility**
The liability of the Cal Alumni Association (CAA), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. CAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase 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 wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. CAA 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.
CAL DISCOVERIES TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, please complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Cal Discoveries Travel’s office. Once this request is received by Cal Discoveries Travel, 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, MasterCard, Discover, 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.

For questions, please call 510.900.8222 or email caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu.

Send to: Cal Discoveries Travel
Cal Alumni Association
1 Alumni House
Berkeley, CA 94720-7520

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Please sign me/us up

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

Full Passport Name__________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ______
E-mail ____________________________ Cal Class Year __________________

Full Passport Name__________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ______
E-mail ____________________________ Cal Class Year __________________

Address ____________________________ Badge Name(s) ____________________________
City ____________________________ State __________ ZIP __________

Primary Phone (_____) ____________________________ Cell Phone (_____) ____________________________

Please book my/our air from ____________________________ I/We request an air upgrade to ____________________________

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 assignment.

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

I/We request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for Machu Picchu to the Galapagos only) ❑

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category ________ (for Patagonian Frontiers only)

CAA MEMBERSHIP POLICY

One traveler per room, whether an alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association member at the time of departure to participate in Cal Discoveries Travel offerings. Payment of $60 for seniors 65 years and over and $75 for others establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association benefits. Memberships are for individuals only, and are non-refundable and non-transferable. A traveling pair and their children under 21 years of age may travel on one membership. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or, if you prefer, provide a VISA, MasterCard, or American Express number with expiration date for payment. You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.