Along Central Asia’s Silk Road

17 days for $6,594 total price from San Francisco
($5,995 air & land inclusive plus $599 airline taxes and fees)

Traveling the ancient Silk Road 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.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Day 2: Arrive Ashgabat Upon arrival in the Turkmen capital late tonight, we transfer directly to our hotel.

Day 3: Ashgabat After time to rest this morning and have lunch on our own, we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome briefing. Then we begin our journey along the Silk Road with a panoramic tour of this showpiece city known for its 543 white marble buildings and monuments to the glories of the Turkmen. We tour the well-regarded National Museum of History and the Turkmen Carpet Museum then enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 4: Ashgabat/Nisa This morning we experience our first Central Asia bazaar, where locals come from both the city and surrounding desert to sell their wares, including large hand-woven carpets. Next we visit an Akhal-Teke horse stud farm for a demonstration by these “Golden Horses,” the national symbol of Turkmenistan, followed by lunch at the farmhouse. Later we visit the UNESCO archaeological site of Nisa, ancient capital of the Parthian Empire dating to the 3rd century BCE. B,L,D

Day 5: Ashgabat/Kunya-Urgench/Khiva, Uzbekistan We fly this morning to Dashoguz, Turkmenistan, whose environs host the ancient capital of the Khorezm, and where we visit the ruins of the once monumental Izmukshir Fortress. From here we continue to the Uzbek border crossing then travel on to Khiva. B,L,D

Day 6: Khiva We get a taste of Khiva’s storied past as a major Silk Road trading post on a morning tour of the Itchan Kala, the “inner city” whose entirety is a UNESCO site. Here we see the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret – enormous, stout, and unfinished; Kunya Ark citadel; the immense Madrassah of Muhammad Rahim Khan; the double-domed Pakhlavan Mahmoud Mausoleum; and the Hunarmand artisans workshop. This afternoon: Islam Khoja minaret, Khiva’s tallest; Juma Mosque, with its 200 wooden pillars; and 163-room Tash Hauli Palace. B,D

Day 7: Khiva/Bukhara This morning we journey through the Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara, with lunch en route. Upon arrival in this ancient city of Silk Road commerce and religious piety, we visit the Chor Minor madrassah, with its four minarets. This evening we dine at Akbar House, the preserved home of a 19th-century Jewish merchant. B,L,D
Day 8: 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, 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 – the Uzbek national dish. Touring continues this afternoon at the Poi Kalyan religious center; the massive earthen Ark of Bukhara Fortress, which served as an active fort from its 5th-century-origins until 1920; and the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum. B,L,D

Day 9: Bukhara/Gijduvan This morning we head outside the city to the nearby village of Gijduvan to visit the Narzullaev Ceramics Workshop. We continue on to Sitorai Mokhi-Khosa Palace, a jumble of Russian and Bukharan influences and the summer residence of the last emir of Bukhara. After lunch at a local restaurant, we return to Bukhara. B,L,D

Day 10: Bukhara/Samarkand Today, we call on one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Central Asian Muslims: the Memorial Complex of Naqshband. The 14th-century Sufi theologian who mentored the emperor Timur and whose mausoleum is now considered the “Central Asian Mecca,” Naqshband founded the world’s largest order of Sufi Muslims. Next, we travel by train to Samarkand, legendary stop on the Silk Road and one of Central Asia’s oldest continuously inhabited cities. Upon arrival early this evening, we enjoy dinner together then get our first glimpse of vast Registan, the mosaic-tiled public square flanked by three ornate madrassahs that have stood here for centuries. B,L,D

Day 11: Samarkand Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan left their marks on Samarkand, as did Tamerlane (Timur), who made it capital of his Islamic empire in the 14th century; he or his descendants built many of the historic buildings and monuments we see here today. Our touring begins at Registan Square, once and current heart of the city. We continue to 15th-century Bibi-Khanym mosque, and Siyob Bazaar, the city’s largest market. This afternoon we visit an historic winery for a tour and tasting. B

Day 12: Samarkand Our discovery of this crossroads of culture continues today at the Shakhi Zinda necropolis and temple complex, the Afrosiyab Museum, and 15th-century Ulugh Beg Observatory. This evening we pay a private visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane’s resting place. We dine together at a local restaurant then make a last stop to see Registan lit up for the evening. B,L,D

Day 13: Samarkand/Jizzakh/Tashkent En route by motorcoach today to the Uzbek capital, we stop at Jizzakh to visit Jilanati Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. We continue on to Tashkent, arriving early this afternoon. B,L,D

Day 14: Tashkent A morning tour of Uzbekistan’s capital begins in the Old City at the Khazrat-e 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 15: Tashkent/Almaty, Kazakhstan At the Museum of Applied Arts this morning, we see fine examples of Uzbek crafts, including embroidery, jewelry, ceramics, and carpets. Later, we visit the studio of renowned ceramicist Akbar Rakhimov. Then we transfer to the airport for our flight to Almaty. B

Day 16: Almaty Kazakhstan’s largest city and cultural and commercial center, Almaty has a decided Russian flavor, as we see on this morning’s tour. Highlights: Panfilov Park, Holy Ascension Cathedral, and the Museum of Kazakh Musical Instruments. We then ascend nearby Kok Tobe mountain by gondola and enjoy panoramic views of the city and surrounding Tian Shan mountains. Late this afternoon, we attend a falconry demonstration and learn about this ancient nomadic practice before our farewell dinner this evening. B,L,D

Day 17: Depart for U.S. Very early this morning we depart for the airport for our connecting flight to the U.S. B

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 15 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 36 meals: 15 breakasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Cal Discoveries/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)
- Cal lecturer’s participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent on a minimum number of paying travelers

### Expenses Not Included

- Internal air travel (subject to availability)
- Land Only (transfers not included) $5,195

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $599, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add $1,195. All 2020 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $4,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2020, 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; 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. 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)**

**Prior to departure**  |  **Charge**
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95 days or more: | $200
94-65 days: | 25% of tour price
64-45 days: | 50% of tour price
44-30 days: | 75% of tour price
29-0 days: | No refund

**For Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Southern Africa Odyssey, Africa’s Wildlife**

**Prior to departure**  |  **Charge**
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95 days or more: | $200
94-65 days: | 50% of tour price
64-30 days: | 75% of tour price
29-0 days: | No refund

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. 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.

**Changes to Your Reservation**

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other 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 to your reservation can be made within 30 days of 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 www.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). 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 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. 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, Cal Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

**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, 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 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.

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.
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, Discover, or American Express number with expiration date for payment. You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.

Method of Payment

- Check
- American Express
- Discover
- MasterCard
- VISA

Account # ____________________________ Security Code __________ Exp. Date ________

Name of Cardholder ____________________________________________________________

Signature ____________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.

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