



The Silk Road by Private Train On board The Golden Eagle

A Private, Historical and Cultural Tour from
Moscow to Almaty with your English-speaking guides

Day 1, Moscow

Arrival in Moscow where you will be met and transferred to the luxurious five-star Marriott Royal Aurora hotel (or similar) located in the heart of this vibrant city for a two-night stay. Enjoy a welcome reception dinner at your hotel, whilst you meet your fellow travelers and anticipate the epic 13 day voyage that lies ahead.

Day 2, Moscow

A morning city tour of Moscow takes you to Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might. Here you will see an eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil's Cathedral with its magnificent onion-domed spires, the grandeur of The Kremlin and the somber and evocative site of Lenin's tomb.

Day 3, On Board

This morning board the luxurious *Golden Eagle*. Spend the day exploring the train, getting to know your fellow travelers and settling into your modern, stylish cabins. This evening enjoy dinner in one of the beautifully designed restaurant cars as your rail adventure eastwards to Almaty in Kazakhstan begins.

Day 4, Volgograd, Russia

Standing on the banks of the Volga, Stalingrad, as the city was known in Soviet times, was the dramatic scene of one of the most important Second World War battles. The Russians heroically turned back the Nazi advance here to alter the course of the war. You will visit the poignantly sobering Mamayev Kurgan war memorial, followed by the informative diorama and absorbing museum visit. In the evening enjoy a beautifully prepared dinner on board the train.

Day 5, Kara Kum Desert, Turkmenistan

Today, enjoy a relaxing day onboard as you travel across the vast expanses of the Kara Kum desert. As well as experiencing the unique landscape, you can take the opportunity to chat to fellow passengers and maybe take your first Russian language lesson.

Day 6, Khiva, Uzbekistan

Crossing into Uzbekistan the train travels towards Urgench, where you will transfer to the ancient city of Khiva, founded 2,500 years ago. As one of the Silk Road's most important

trading posts and now a World Heritage Site, it lies at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia. A truly magnificent sight to behold, it rises out of the desert to reveal a wealth of impressive architecture. Stepping back in time, discover its impressive mosques, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.

Day 7, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

In dramatic contrast to Khiva, you will arrive in Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan - the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'. Situated between the Kara Kum Desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range, its fountains, golden domes and towering modern buildings appear strangely incongruous in this desert setting.

Day 8, Merv, Turkmenistan

Early morning sees the train arriving in Mary, where you transfer to the ancient and mainly unrestored city of Merv. Once an important stopping point on the Silk Road, it claims to have briefly been the largest city in the world during the twelfth century. 1794 saw the demise of Merv, after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended on for its water. After your fascinating exploration return to the train for dinner.

Day 9, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Bukhara is quite simply outstanding. Like Khiva, UNESCO backed the renovation of much of the city for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999. The highlight of this wonderful tour is a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara - the despotic and ruthless leaders who ruled until Soviet times. You will then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named, Palace of the Moon and Stars.

Day 10, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Founded in the 6th Century BC, Samarkand's stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia. Today you will visit some of its most significant sites including Registan Square, the refined elegance of the beautifully proportioned Bibi Khanum Mosque and the Ulag Beg observatory, one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories built in 1428. Before dinner visit the illuminated and awe-inspiring Registan Square before returning to the train for a late evening departure.

Day 11, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Today you arrive in the capital city of Uzbekistan and spend the morning touring this modern Soviet-style city which was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake of 1966. Re-board the train for lunch as you head towards Kazakhstan and Almaty. This afternoon gives you the opportunity to relax with friends or listen to one of the informative lectures designed to give a greater insight into this fascinating region.

Day 12, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Just before lunch the train arrives in Almaty - the largest city in Kazakhstan. This beautifully verdant city derives its name from 'Alma' meaning 'apple'. Just a short distance from the city, apple orchards thrive in abundance. Surrounded by the majesty of the Tien Shen Mountains, enjoy a traditional lunch in a Kazak 'yurt', a dwelling place of this region's nomadic people. Transfer from the Golden Eagle to the 5 star Inter-Continental Hotel (or similar).

Day 13, Almaty

After breakfast, transfer to the Almaty International Airport for your onward flight home.

Price:

Silver Class

\$14,395.00 per person, double occupancy.
\$20,795.00 single occupancy

Gold Class

\$17,795.00 per person, double occupancy
\$24,995.00 single occupancy.

Imperial Suite

\$27,795.00 per person, double occupancy
\$38,995.00 single occupancy.

**Special promotional pricing is being offered on the October 15th departure. Book now and save!

Prices are per person for the fully inclusive tour Moscow to Almaty. Air-fare is not included.

Prices are subject to change until deposit is received.

Eastbound: Moscow to Almaty (2012)

September 21 – October 3

October 15 – October 27

General Information:

A full passport with at least six months validity from the start of the tour is required along with a visa for every country you visit.

Subject to bookings, this tour may also be operated in the reverse direction on the same dates or cancelled.

A deposit in the amount of \$2,500.00 per person is required on all Silver Class cabins, a deposit in the amount of \$3,000.00 per person is required on all Gold Class bookings and a deposit in the amount of \$5,000.00 per person is required on all Imperial Suite bookings.

The Train Tour Price Includes:

Accommodations:

Moscow

Two (2) nights at the Marriott Aurora or similar; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

Golden Eagle

One Silver or Gold Class Cabin or Imperial Suite for Nine (9) nights on board the Golden Eagle. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included daily.

Almaty

One (1) night at the InterContinental Hotel or similar; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

Imperial Suites:

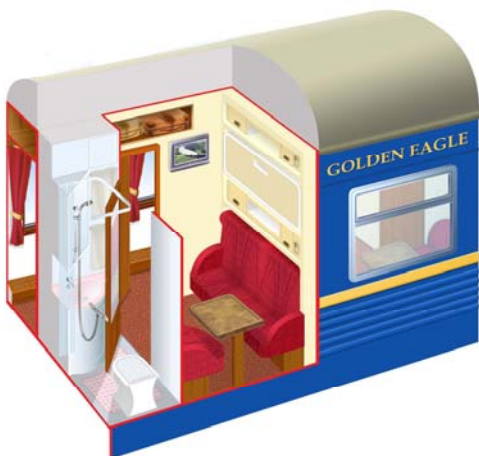
The Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available onboard the *Golden Eagle* measuring 120 square feet and benefit from their own large and luxurious fixed double bed as well as a dedicated lounge area with dressing table. Suite facilities include private en-suite facilities with power shower and underfloor heating, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD screen and two large picture windows. Guests will also benefit from a dedicated butler service, a selection of complimentary drinks from the premium bar list, included laundry service and room upgrades to the next available category at our selected hotels as per the itinerary.

Gold Class Cabins:



Gold Class Cars are purpose-built, new carriages designed for the 21st century to offer top-class comfort and service, which equals the best luxury trains in the world today. Each carriage has five twin compartments, all fitted with one upper berth and one lower berth that converts to a sofa seating for daytime travel. Each compartment offers 77 square feet of space and features its own private shower and toilet facilities and has a wardrobe, audio system, DVD/VCR with the latest flat, plasma screens and air conditioning with individual climate control by remote handset.

Silver Class Cabins:



The Silver Class Carriage provides complete comfort for our passengers. These newly added cabins are slightly smaller than Gold Class Cabins offering 60 square feet, but still have modern en-suite facilities with a smaller shower area. The sleepers are modern air

conditioned cars built in Germany. They are cozy and comfortable, and provide an ideal method of transport for the remote areas of Russia that you will visit. Each car has six twin compartments, all fitted with one upper berth and one lower berth that converts to a sofa seating for daytime travel.

There is ample space for luggage storage and for suitcases in a recess above the corridor area. Clothes hangers are provided and the cars are well appointed with mirrors, bedside table, reading lamps and space for the storage of small items.

The Tour Includes:

- *All meals.
- *Wine, beer and soft drinks provided with Lunch and Dinner.
- *Experienced tour representatives throughout the tour.
- *Russian Interpreters able to speak English, German, French and Italian.
- *Comprehensive off-train sightseeing program as detailed in the itinerary. Please note that all touring is with fellow-passengers at all times.
- *A doctor who travels with the train throughout the tour.
- *Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water throughout the tour from your car attendant.

The Tour Does Not Include:

- *Travel cancellation insurance.
- *Charges of a personal nature on the train or at the hotels (laundry, telephone, bar account, etc.)
- *Visas (as required) or Excess Baggage Charges, Airport Departure Taxes, Vaccination or Medical Costs.

Options and Extensions:

Please contact Exeter International for tour extensions and options in Russia. All tour extensions are on a private customized basis.

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