



## The Silk Road by Private Train On board The Golden Eagle

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

### **Day 1, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Arrival in Almaty where you will be met and transferred to the Intercontinental hotel (or similar) located in the heart of the city for a one-night stay.

### **Day 2, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

The city is set to host the 2011 Asian Winter Games after a failed bid to win the Winter Olympics in 2014. Beautifully set in a valley in the foothills of the Tien Shen Mountains, you will have lunch in a traditional Kazak 'yurt', a traditional dwelling place of the nomadic people of this region. Following your tour of Almaty, you will board the *Golden Eagle* this evening, and after settling into your cabin, will enjoy your first dinner onboard.

### **Day 3, Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

Today you spend a relaxing morning on board the train, socializing or maybe taking in one of the lectures and lessons on offer to give you a greater insight into this fascinating region. After lunch you arrive in the capital city of Uzbekistan and spend the afternoon touring this pleasant, modern, Soviet-style city, which was rebuilt after a devastating earthquake leveled it in 1966. After visiting the Museum of Fine Arts you have dinner on the train as it departs for Samarkand.

### **Day 4, Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

Many words have been used to describe this jewel of the Islamic world, 'the Paris of the Muslim World' and 'Rome of the East'. Its admirers includes; Marco Polo, Tamerlane and Alexander the Great. Founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, its architecture gives an indication of its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia. You spend the day visiting the many fabulous buildings including the Bibi Kharum Mosque, the Ulag Beg observatory and the awe-inspiring Registan Square. Dinner is near the illuminated Registan Square, after which you return to the train for a late evening departure.

### **Day 5, Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

Traversing the Kyzylkum desert during the night you awake to the splendour of Uzbekistan's largest oasis city, Bukhara. Smaller than other cities in the country, it is perhaps just as, if not more, impressive as the larger Samarkand. Like Khiva UNESCO funded the renovation of much of the city for its 2,500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1999. The highlight of your tour includes a visit to The Ark, the fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara, rulers infamous for their cruelty,

and who survived into Soviet times. Lunch is within one of the city's many medressehs (beautifully-tiled Islamic schools). You then travel out of the city to visit the Emir's Palace of the Moon and Stars.

### **Day 6, Merv, Turkmenistan**

You arrive into Mary in the morning and transfer by bus to the ancient city of Merv. Once an important stop on the Silk Road, it is claimed that Merv was briefly the largest city in the world in the twelfth century before Merv was left to 'die' in 1794 after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended upon for water. On your tour you visit at least one of the five walled cities contained within the 50-square mile area.

### **Day 7, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

You arrive in the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum', the capital city of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat. A huge modern folly in the desert land which is a monument to the recently deceased President Sapamurat Turkmenbashi. Situated between the Kara Kum Desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range the scenery that forms the backdrop to the city is one of extremes.

### **Day 7, Khiva, Uzbekistan**

You cross back into Uzbekistan for your afternoon arrival in Urgench and transfer to this 2,500-year old city. Khiva was once one of the most important trading centres at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia. Its former wealth is evident in the fabulous buildings, mosques, bazaars and minarets that are within the walled city and which have been restored with the support of UNESCO since 1991 for the city's 2,500th anniversary celebrations. Lunch is in the city and dinner on board the train.

### **Day 8, Kara Kum, Uzbekistan**

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 9, Volgograd, Russia**

Situated on the banks of the Volga River, Stalingrad (as the city was known in Soviet times) was the scene of probably the most important battles in World War II. The Russians finally turned back the Nazi advance to the Caucasian oil fields in Baku at this city and turned the course of the Second World War. You visit the sobering Mamayev Kurgan war memorial, followed by the excellent diorama and museum. Tonight is your final evening on board the *Golden Eagle* and you mark the occasion with a farewell banquet.

### **Day 10, Moscow, Russia**

You arrive into Moscow late afternoon and transfer to the five-star Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel in the heart of the city for a two night stay.

### **Day 11, Moscow, Russia**

Your city tour of Moscow, principally 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 sombre and evocative site of Lenin's tomb. At

the conclusion of your city tour, your final evening is spent saying your goodbyes to your fellow traveling companions at the Farewell Dinner.

**Day 12, Moscow, Russia**

Following breakfast in the hotel, you will be transferred to Moscow airport to begin your journey 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.

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

Prices are subject to change until deposit is received.

**Westbound: Almaty to Moscow (2012)**

April 1 – April 13

October 3 – October 15

**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:*

**Almaty**

**One (1) night** at the InterContinental Hotel 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.

**Moscow**

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

### **Imperial Suites:**

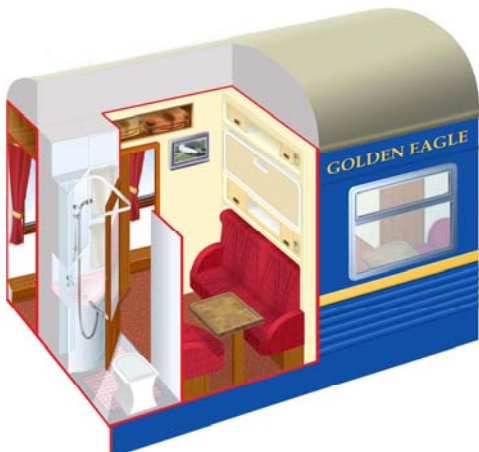
The Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available onboard the *Golden Eagle* measuring 120 square feet and benefit from their own large and luxurious fixed double bed as well as a dedicated lounge area with dressing table. Suite facilities include private en-suite facilities with power shower 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.

**Exeter International**

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