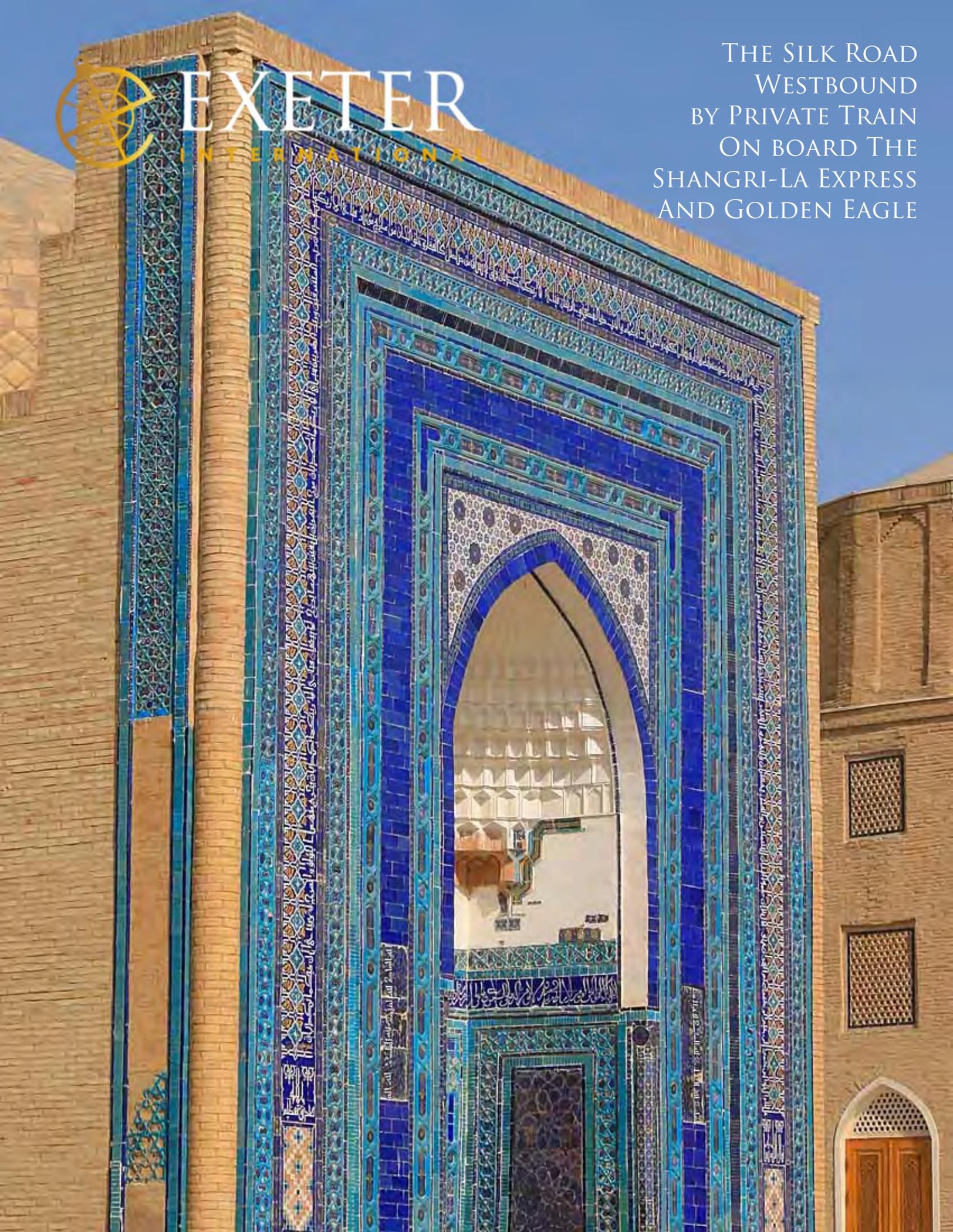




EXETER  
INTERNATIONAL

THE SILK ROAD  
WESTBOUND  
BY PRIVATE TRAIN  
ON BOARD THE  
SHANGRI-LA EXPRESS  
AND GOLDEN EAGLE





## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

DAY 1	BEIJING
DAY 2	BEIJING
DAY 3	BEIJING – THE GREAT WALL
DAY 4	BEIJING & XIAN
DAY 5	XIAN
DAY 6	DUNHUANG
DAY 7	DUNHUANG
DAY 8	TURPAN
DAY 9	CROSSING INTO KAZAKHSTAN
DAY 10	ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
DAY 11	TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
DAY 12	SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN
DAY 13	BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN
DAY 14	MERV, TURKMENISTAN
DAY 15	ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN
DAY 16	KHIVA, UZBEKISTAN
DAY 17	KARA KUM DESERT, TURKMENISTAN
DAY 18	VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA
DAY 19	MOSCOW
DAY 20	MOSCOW
DAY 21	MOSCOW



## DAY 1 BEIJING

Upon arrival at Beijing Airport, you will be met and transferred to the five-star Regent Hotel, which is located in the historical center of the city. This luxurious Beijing hotel is minutes from the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Wangfujing shopping street, the Oriental Plaza and picturesque hutongs (old lanes).

We host an exclusive welcome dinner in an authentic Peking Duck restaurant, giving you the opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and look ahead to your 21-day voyage of a lifetime. The banquet will be complemented by specially selected international wines, as with all our meals, along with a glass of local rice wine also known as 'firewater' as befitting this special occasion.

## DAY 2 BEIJING

In our touring program of the Imperial City, we visit Tiananmen Square and explore the magnificently restored Forbidden City, which was built in the early 14th century and was home to the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Our cultural exploration continues at the Temple of Heaven. Built during the Ming Dynasty to offer sacrifices to the heavens, it is the grandest of the four great temples situated in Beijing. Here we experience enchanting displays of traditional dancing, singing and the delicately precise ancient art of calligraphy. We will also explore the small 'hutong' lanes of old Beijing by rickshaw and visit a local family in a traditional courtyard house.

Please note the Beijing touring program is subject to change.



## DAY 3

### BEIJING & THE GREAT WALL

During our stay in Beijing we devote time to the most awe-inspiring site in the whole of China – The Great Wall. This amazing edifice is perhaps the most evocative symbol of Chinese skill and precision. Originally built to protect the Chinese Empire from raids by nomadic tribes, it is the world's longest man-made structure in the world and part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.

We have the privilege of walking along a portion of the wall at Badaling – the perfect opportunity to take some memorable photographs with your fellow guests.

This afternoon we depart Beijing and travel to Xian on the exhilarating high-speed railway line. Travelling at speeds of up to 300kms per hour (190 miles per hour) the bullet train will cover the distance of 1,144kms (710 miles) in a time of approximately 5 hours and 40 minutes. Tonight we stay at the centrally located Sofitel Xian.

## DAY 4

### BEIJING & XIAN

Following breakfast at the hotel we will admire Xian's historical ancient city walls and experience the bustling street culture of the Muslim Quarter.

This afternoon, we will have several hours to explore the world-famous Terracotta Warriors, discovered by peasants only 40 years ago. The 6,000 terracotta figures and their horses are one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century.

Alternatively, as part of our Freedom of Choice program we will offer a visit to the Han Yangling Museum. This tomb, dating back 2,000 years with its adjoining museum, is one of China's best kept secrets.



## DAY 5 XIAN

Today we will board the *Shangri-La Express* for the next stage of our journey across China. A welcome dinner of authentic Chinese cuisine is served on board in the Restaurant Cars, as we travel towards Dunhuang.

Imperial Suite and Gold Class passengers will be accommodated in the private en-suite Diamond Class cabins on board the *Shangri-La Express*, whilst Silver Class will be allocated Heritage Class cabins, which have shared shower and toilet facilities. Upgrades for Silver Class passengers to Diamond Class are available at an extra charge and subject to availability. A waitlist will be in operation for upgrades based on 'date of booking' order. Ask the Reservations Department for details.

## DAY 6 DUNHUANG

Following a leisurely morning onboard, we arrive in the small oasis city of Dunhuang. This afternoon we explore the vast natural beauty of the Gobi Desert by camel. Here we discover Crescent Lake. Hidden amongst towering sand dunes, it has sustained life in this region for millennia.

We stay for one night at the Silk Road Dunhuang hotel and tonight we experience dinner and a local folk performance in this magical setting.

## DAY 7 DUNHUANG

We wake early this morning to experience sunrise over the magnificent sand dunes, before we visit the fascinating Magao Thousand Buddha Cave Complex. This impressive site contains almost 500 grottoes, carved between 700 and 1,700 years ago. Inside we will see an amazing collection of beautiful sculptures and murals depicting the evolution of Buddhist religious art over this 1,000 year period.

Later this afternoon we will rejoin the *Shangri-La Express* for our onward journey to Turpan.



## DAY 8

### TURPAN

Turpan is the location where the Flaming Mountains create a magnificent backdrop. We take a fascinating tour to the ancient underground irrigation system that has successfully fed the rich orchards and vineyards for centuries. We will visit the Museum of Turpan with its 5,000 artefacts detailing the rich history of the area and includes the Ancient Mummy exhibition with exhibits dating back 3,200 years.

Our final destination is the elegantly decaying sand fortress city of Jiaohe that was founded in 108 BC and became an important trading route along the Silk Road until it was abandoned in the 13th century following a raid by Genghis Khan.

## DAY 9

### CROSSING INTO KAZAKHSTAN

After a final breakfast on board the Shangri La Express, we pass through the dramatic mountain scenery before arriving at the Chinese border station of Alashankou. The border crossing takes approximately 5 hours, however our patience is rewarded as our private train, the *Golden Eagle*, awaits us in Druzhba, the Kazakh border station.

## DAY 10

### ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

Almaty is the largest city in Kazakhstan and is notable for its wide tree-lined boulevards. Surrounded by the majesty of the Tien Shan Mountains, this beautifully verdant city derives its name from 'alma' meaning 'apple'. Just a short distance from the city, apple orchards thrive in abundance.

Our city tour includes a visit to Panfilov Park where we have the opportunity to visit the Zenkhov Cathedral which was built entirely of wood. We'll also go out of the city to the Chimbulak resort, where a cable car ride will give you spectacular views of Almaty and the mountains.



## DAY 11

### TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent is the capital city of Uzbekistan and we spend time touring this modern Soviet-style city which was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake of 1966. Our tour of the city includes the Old Town, where traditional homes and religious buildings line the narrow streets and here in a small library we'll be privileged to see one of Islam's most sacred relics – the world's oldest Koran. This is followed by a visit to the Railway Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts.

## DAY 12

### SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN

Just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up evocative images of the Silk Road, more so than any other town. Founded in the 6th century BC, Samarkand's stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia and is particularly noted for its architectural remains from the 14th to the 17th century, when it flourished as the fabled capital of the Mongol empire of Timur and his successors.

Today we 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 we will return to the now illuminated and awe-inspiring Registan Square.



## DAY 13

### BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN

Bukhara is quite simply outstanding. Like Khiva, UNESCO sponsored 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.

We then travel out of the city to experience the Emir's enchantingly named, Palace of the Moon and Stars. This evening, weather and time permitting, we will enjoy a barbecue on the station platform before our train departs.

## DAY 14

### MERV, TURKMENISTAN

From the station at nearby Mary we transfer to the ancient and mainly unrestored remains 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 12th century.

1794 saw the demise of Merv, after the Emir of Bukhara destroyed the dam which the population depended on for its water.



## DAY 15

### ASHGABAT & DARVAZA, TURKMENISTAN

The Golden Eagle makes a brief scheduled stop at Ichoguz, where we have the option to leave the train and make a short journey to Darvaza's famous burning gas crater, a spectacular sight best seen at night. Located in the middle of the Kara Kum desert where the area is rich in natural gas, the 70-metre wide crater is known by the locals as the 'Door to Hell' and has been burning for over 40 years. A unique experience that is not to be missed.

The capital of Turkmenistan is known as the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'. Situated between the Kara Kum desert and the Kopet Dag mountain range, Ashgabat is a relatively modern city built upon the ruins of the Silk Road city of Konjikala and the Soviet city built after the devastating earthquake of 1948.

The city's extravagant fountains, golden domes and towering modern buildings appear strangely incongruous in this desert setting. Highlights on our visit include a trip to the National Museum and Kipchak Mosque.

## DAY 16

### KHIVA, UZBEKISTAN

From Urgench we travel 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, we discover its impressive mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within Khiva's ancient walls.



## DAY 17

### KARA KUM DESERT, TURKMENISTAN

Today, enjoy a relaxing day onboard as you travel across the vast expanses of the Kara Kum desert.

## DAY 18

### 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. We will visit the poignantly sobering Mamayev Kurgan war memorial, followed by an informative museum visit.

## DAY 19

### MOSCOW

Having travelled almost 7,000 miles (11,226km) from Beijing we arrive into Moscow, our final destination.

Included in our time spent in Moscow is two nights at the five-star Four Seasons Hotel Moscow. Located in the historic building of Moskva Hotel and occupying one of the most enviable addresses in the very heart of Moscow, the hotel is a short walk from the Kremlin, Red Square and the Bolshoi Theatre.



## DAY 20 MOSCOW

Our touring program of Moscow principally takes us to the grandeur of the Kremlin – the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow – and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber. We also visit Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia’s former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil’s Cathedral’s magnificent onion-domed spires, the beautiful facade of the world famous GUM department store, constructed in Tsarist times, and the somber and evocative site of Lenin’s tomb.

With our Freedom of Choice touring option you may instead wish to travel out of the city center to Sergiev Posad, home to one of the most beautiful monasteries in Russia and the historical and spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox Church or visit the famous State Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Fine Art).

## DAY 21 MOSCOW ONWARDS

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

Why not extend your stay in Moscow with additional nights to explore more of the city at your leisure or have time to take in a performance at the world-renowned Bolshoi Theatre? *Tickets need to be pre-booked and are subject to schedule and availability.*

# WHAT IS INCLUDED



Dates: April 13 – May 3, 2020  
October 1 – 21, 2020

Cost of the Program:

## **Silver Class**

\$26,295 per person, based on double occupancy

\$38,495 per person, based on single occupancy

## **Gold Class**

\$32,995 per person, based on double occupancy

\$46,795 per person, based on single occupancy

## **Imperial Class**

\$48,395 per person, based on double occupancy

On Request - single occupancy

Prices are per person for the fully inclusive tour Beijing to Moscow. Airfare is not included. Visa costs are additional.

Prices are subject to change until deposit is received.

## **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 \$3,500.00 per person is required on all Gold Class bookings and a deposit in the amount of \$6,000.00 per person is required on all Imperial Suite bookings.

## **The Golden Eagle/Shangri La Express Tour Price Includes:**

### **Accommodations**

#### **Beijing**

**Three (3) nights** at the Regent Hotel or similar; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

#### **Xian**

**One (1) night** at the Sofitel Xian or similar; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

#### **Dunhuang**

**One (1) night** at the Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel or similar; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

#### **Shangri-La Express**

**One Cabin for Three (3) nights** on board the Shangri-La Express. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included daily.

#### **Golden Eagle**

**One Silver or Gold Class Cabin or Imperial Suite for Ten (10) nights** on board the Golden Eagle. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included daily.

#### **Moscow**

**Two (2) nights** at the Four Seasons; Tax and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

#### **Shangri-La Express - China**

Modern comfort in an ancient country...the Shangri-La Express guarantees you good living even in the remotest places and is the perfect place from which to take in China's ever-changing scenery.

Meals are served in the train's spacious restaurant cars, where dedicated chefs serve a western breakfast followed by a wide range of authentic Chinese specialties at lunch and dinner, using only the finest local ingredients. As well as soft drinks, tea and coffee, meals are accompanied by a selection of wines from around the world.

Equally special is the unique ambience of the piano bar car, where the resident pianist is always happy to take requests. Staying open until the last person leaves, the bar is the perfect place to get to know your fellow passengers... or simply will away some time, reading or taking in the scenery while enjoying your favorite drink.

#### **Shangri-la Express Cabins**

The Shangri-La Express offers comfortable living with a choice of en-suite, double bed accommodation or traditional-style cabins, with a shared toilet and shower facility in each carriage and a twin bed arrangement. Toilet facilities are available at the end of each of the sleeping carriages. There is also a separate state-of-the-art shower car with individual compartments. Each compartment features a shower, mirror, hairdryer and changing area. Towels, robes and slippers are provided.

For Silk Road journeys, Imperial Suite and Gold Class passengers will be allocated Diamond Class cabins with en-suite facilities. Silver Class passengers will be allocated Heritage Class cabins with shared toilet and shower facilities.

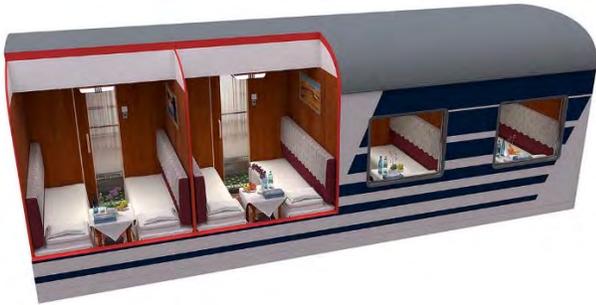
### **Diamond Class Cabins**

At 75 square feet, Diamond Class cabins are the most spacious compartments available on the Shangri-La Express, featuring a large double bed, individual desk with freestanding chair, a large picture window and a double wardrobe. Diamond Class cabins have a private en-suite wet room with washbasin, toilet and shower.



### **Heritage Class Cabins**

Heritage Class cabins are more compact, at 36 square feet, featuring two lower berth single beds, a large picture window and luggage storage above the door. Towels, robes and slippers are provided with our compliments, in addition to tea, coffee and mineral water, available from your cabin attendant throughout the day. Toilet and showering facilities are available at each end of the sleeping carriage. The shower room features a separate shower cubicle, hairdryer and separate changing area.



## Golden Eagle

Aboard your luxurious private train, you can expect well-appointed en-suite cabins, fine dining and elegant surroundings - no matter where you choose to explore. First-class service is included as standard, with a personal cabin attendant service, available at all times, to look after all of your needs.

## Golden Eagle Cabins

The Golden Eagle, comprising three categories of cabins, featuring state-of-the-art amenities and en-suite facilities, is the only private train of its kind operating in these regions of the world.

### 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. Imperial Suite facilities include a private en-suite bathroom with power shower and the luxury of underfloor heating; individual air-conditioning; wardrobe; DVD/CD player with LCD screen; complimentary fully stocked minibar; safe; small library and two large picture windows to watch the world go by.

Exemplary service starts with a complimentary bottle of Dom Perignon champagne when you board the train to toast the start of your wonderful adventure.

Imperial Suite guests will also benefit from the option of a private guide and car service in most of the places we visit along the route, the inclusion of drinks from the standard and premium bar list in the Bar Lounge Car, a laundry service and room upgrades to the next available category at the hotels which are featured in the itinerary.

Daytime View:



Nighttime View:



### **Gold Class Cabins:**

At 77 square feet, Gold Class cabins are extremely well-proportioned and have everything from a private bathroom with separate power shower cubicle and underfloor heating to a DVD/CD player, LCD screen, safe, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, large picture window as well as featuring a double lower bed and a single upper bed.

Guests in Gold Class benefit from complimentary drinks off the Standard Bar List in the Bar Lounge Car.

Daytime View:



Nighttime View:



### **Silver Class Cabins:**

Silver Class cabins, which are more compact at 60 square feet feature a small double lower bed and a single upper bed as well as DVD/CD player, LCD screen, safe, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe and large picture window. The Silver Class cabins have private en-suite wet room with a washbasin, toilet and shower.

Daytime View:



Nighttime View:



### **The Tour Includes:**

- Arrival and Departure Transfers.
- Expert Tour Managers throughout the tour.
- Hotel and Onboard Accommodation. Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train's public areas, you will find your hotel room or cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of 5 star standard or, in certain locations, the best available. Room upgrades are available on request and at extra cost.
- Welcome and farewell dinners.
- Route Guide, Itinerary and Information pack when you board the train.
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner daily.
- Drinks with Meals and from the Bar Lounge Car. A generous drinks allowance is included with lunch and dinner. For passengers travelling in Gold Class on board the Golden Eagle, drinks from the Standard Drinks List in the Bar Lounge Car are also included. For Imperial Suite guests, drinks from both the Standard and Premium Bar Lists in the Bar Lounge Car are included.
- Exceptional Onboard Service. You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide 24-hour housekeeping and bedding turndown services, with one attendant always on duty to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day.
- Comprehensive off-train touring. All touring is with other passengers on the train. Personal headsets are used for your comfort.
- A doctor who travels with the train throughout the tour.
- 24-Hour Service Attendant. Your car attendants provide 24-hour housekeeping and bedding turndown services, with one attendant always on duty to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day.
- Porterage throughout.
- All Gratuities.

### **The Tour Does Not Include:**

- Airfare.
- Optional Trip Cancellation Protection and Medical 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.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.  
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.*

**Exeter International**

[www.Exeterinternational.com](http://www.Exeterinternational.com)

111 South Dakota Avenue | Tampa, Florida 33606  
Phone: (813) 251-5355 | (800) 633-1008 | Fax: (813) 251-6685