



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Along Central Asia's Silk Road

October 19-November 4, 2021

17 days for \$6,694 total price from Washington, DC
(\$6,095 air & land inclusive plus \$599 airline taxes and fees)



Odysseys Unlimited
is a six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's
World's Best Tour
Operators award



**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

Join us on an exclusive 17-day journey to experience the great Silk Road cities of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Krygyzstan.

Begin with a panoramic tour of Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Travel east to Burana, where you continue along the ancient Silk Road to see the "balbal" stones dating from the 6th to 10th centuries and enjoy lunch in the home of a local family. Travel next to Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, where you ascend a mountain for panoramic views; then visit Uzbekistan's fascinating capital, Tashkent, with its treasured 8th-century Quran and Chorsu Bazaar. Uncover Khiva's storied past with a tour of the Itchan Kala, another UNESCO treasure. In ancient Bukhara, watch silk weavers at work and visit the home of a Sufi miniaturist. Continue on to legendary Samarkand and witness its treasures, including a visit to the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamerlane's tomb. Conclude your journey back in Tashkent with a farewell dinner.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days prior to departure. Book risk-free today!

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA RESERVATION FORM: ALONG CENTRAL ASIA'S SILK ROAD

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person(s) on **Along Central Asia's Silk Road**, departing **October 19, 2021**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.**

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request a Business Class upgrade)

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

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Along Central Asia's Silk Road, October 19-November 4, 2021**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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 at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

Along Central Asia's Silk Road

17 days for \$6,694 total price from Washington, DC

(\$6,095 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.



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 tour directors and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead. Then we take 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 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 En route to Almaty this morning, we stop at Tamgaly Gorge to see the Tamgaly Petroglyphs that date to the Bronze Age. We enjoy a picnic lunch in this archaeological landscape then continue on to Almaty. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Almaty 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. 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

Small Group Tour Highlights

Bishkek yurt-making demonstration • Tamgaly Petroglyphs UNESCO site • Falconry demonstration • Tashkent touring • Visits with local artisans • Uzbek folklore performance • Lunches with local families • Legendary Samarkand • Visits to Central Asian bazaars • Regal Registan Square

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Bishkek		
2-4	Bishkek	Hyatt Regency Bishkek	Sup. First Class
5-6	Almaty	InterContinental Almaty	Sup. First Class
7-8	Tashkent	Hyatt Regency Tashkent	Sup. First Class
9-10	Khiva	Hotel Asia Khiva	First Class
11-12	Bukhara	Hotel Minorai Kalon	First Class
13-15	Samarkand	Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior	First Class
16	Tashkent	Hyatt Regency Tashkent	Sup. First Class
17	Depart Tashkent for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.



Almaty's Ascension Cathedral, which we visit on Day 6

crafts, including embroidery, jewelry, ceramics, and carpets. 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 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 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 Pakhlavan Mahmoud Mausoleum then visit the Islam Khoja minaret, followed by the Juma Mosque. Late afternoon we attend a performance of the Khiva Puppet Theatre. *B,L,D*

Day 10: Khiva We begin today at the turquoise-tiled Kalta Minor minaret. We continue on to Kunya Ark citadel; the immense Madrassah of Muhammad Rahim Khan. 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. Upon arrival, 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 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 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. Touring continues 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 visit the Memorial Complex of Naqshband, 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. We then board the train for Samarkand, a legendary stop on the Silk Road. Tonight, we get our first glimpse of Samarkand's vast Registan. *B,L,D*

Day 14: Samarkand Our touring today begins at Registan Square, where we join in a calligraphy workshop. We continue to 15th-century Bibi-Khanym mosque, and Siyob Bazaar, the city's largest market. This afternoon we visit a historic winery for a tour and tasting. *B,L*



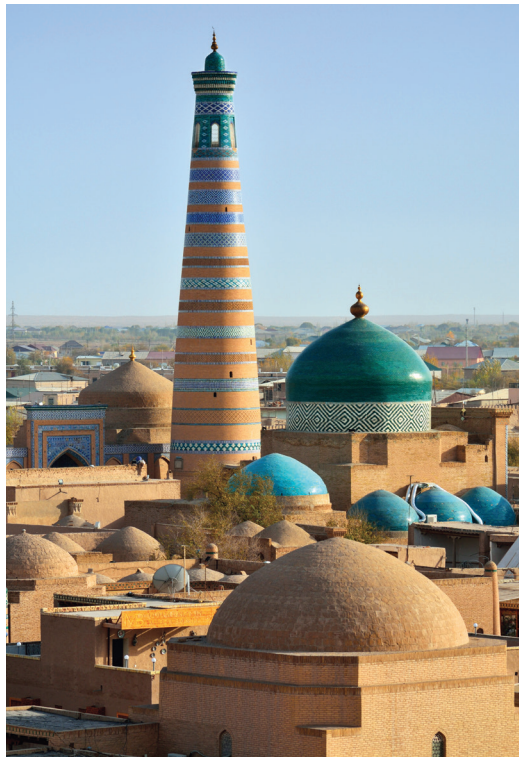
YOU WILL HEAR IT FOR YOURSELVES, AND IT WILL SURELY FILL YOU WITH WONDER.”

– MARCO POLO

Day 15: Samarkand Our discovery of this cross-roads of culture continues today at 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. This evening, we visit the Gur Emir Mausoleum, Tamarlane’s resting place, before dinner at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*

Day 16: Samarkand/Tashkent We return today to the Uzbek capital, passing through Jilanuti Pass, the “Gates of Tamerlane” passage between the Nuratin and Turkestan hills. After time for lunch on our own we 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 today we depart for the airport for our flights home.



Cityscape of Khiva, historic Khorezm



Typical Kyrgyz yurts

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 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: October 19, 2021

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$6,694
Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco	\$6,994
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Dallas, Philadelphia	\$7,194
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle, Tampa	\$7,294
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$5,595

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 is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,195. Your \$500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days from departure. All 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 (upgrade is 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.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

For further information, contact VMFA Member Travel at 804-340-1519



VMFA Member Travel
200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220-4007

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GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-85 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by 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 are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases 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. VMFA 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 line(s), 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.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour 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 or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: 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 fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, 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, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: *The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided approximately 90 days prior to departure.*



**JOIN US FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE VMFA TOUR
TO CENTRAL ASIA!**

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days before departure