

UZBEKISTAN

Central Asia

'The Golden Road to Samarkand'

18 DAYS

13-30 SEPTEMBER 2011

£3695

LAND ONLY, per person twin sharing



Journey to the heartland of the ancient Silk Road and to the oasis cities of Central Asia associated with Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and Tamerlane. Today Uzbekistan is a young nation, a melting pot of different cultural ethnic groups. Travel along the Silk Route that once saw camel caravans laden with silk and spices. Our trip begins in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. Visit the historic old walled town of Khiva with its fantastic architecture and magnificent Bukhara. Continue along the Silk Route by the Royal Road to legendary Samarkand. Throughout we explore its rich cultural and architectural inheritance, visiting museums and important archaeological and historic sites, wandering through bustling markets, meeting artisans in their homes and workshops who produce exquisite textiles and crafts. Our visits include suzani embroiderers, papermakers, gold thread embroiderers, jewellers, carpet weavers, woodcarvers, ceramicists, natural dyers and weavers of silk and ikat as well several local markets. Opportunity in Bukhara for a fabulous Master Class in suzani embroidery. Join us on a tour of a lifetime!

Day 1 Tue, Sep 13: Group international flight from London Heathrow to Tashkent accompanied by Lesley Robin, can be booked with our travel agency or you can make your own independent air arrangements to meet up with the group. For your comfort our **rooms have been reserved from 12noon today** due to our very early arrival in Tashkent tomorrow morning. TASHKENT – HOTEL GRAND ORZU

Day 2 Wed, Sep 14: Flight arrives Tashkent around 5am when we will be met by our tour escort Raisa Gareeva who will accompany us throughout our time in Uzbekistan. Morning to rest after our overnight flight. After an early lunch, orientation sightseeing by bus includes a visit to the Fine Arts Museum with exquisite suzani embroideries and other traditional crafts. Evening special welcoming dinner in the private studio and workshop of one of the finest ceramic artists in the country. TASHKENT – HOTEL GRAND ORZU (B,L,D)

Day 3 Thu, Sep 15: Visit the Museum of Applied Arts displaying a great range of folk art as well as contemporary art. Visit the Uzbek Puppet Theatre. Afternoon flight to Khiva, the most remote and intact of Central Asia's Silk Road cities. KHIVA – HOTEL MALIKA (B,L,D)

Day 4 Fri, Sep 16: A full day exploring this museum city that houses the most homogenous collection of architecture in the Islamic world and the historic old walled town with its narrow streets. Visit a family of woodcarvers, a carpet weaving cooperative and a silk weaving workshop. Evening dinner with folk music and dance. KHIVA – HOTEL MALIKA (B,L,D)

Day 5 Sat, Sep 17: A full day's drive across the immense Kyzyl Kum Desert (its name meaning 'Red Sand' and divided between Uzbekistan, Kazakstan and Turkmenistan) to Bukhara, the most complete example of a medieval city in Central Asia with its mosques and minarets. Our hotel is situated in an historic neighbourhood providing an opportunity to walk and visit the nearly metalsmiths and small workshops for painting, musical instruments and embroidery. Due to a limited number of rooms, single accommodation may not be available for our 5 nights in Bukhara. BUKHARA – HOTEL SALOM INN (B,L,D daily)

Day 6 Sun, 18: A full day's walking tour of Bukhara includes visits to the Fortress Ark where the Emirs once lived, Ismail Samani Mausoleum, a masterpiece of 10th century Islamic architecture, Chashma Ayub – the Spring of Job, mosques, medressahs (a place where learning or studying is done) dating back to the 17th century and the nearby covered markets. Dinner at a local chef's house where we learn about traditional cuisine. BUKHARA – HOTEL SALOM INN (B,L,D)



Day 7 Mon, Sep 19: Morning excursion to the Summer Palace with its fine collection of costumes, silver, Ming china and Bukharan textiles. Afternoon visit Sadbarg Centre which focuses on the education and training of young people in the traditional crafts of sewing, weaving and gold silk embroidery using ecological natural fabrics. BUKHARA – HOTEL SALOM INN (B,L,D)

Day 8 Tue, Sep 20: Our morning's visits include the Craft Centre housed in an old caravan sarai where we see demonstrations of many Uzbek crafts including miniature painting, woodcarving, puppet making and jewellery. Visit Akhmad Arabov, a well-known suzani embroiderer. The afternoon is free to wander the old trading domes which are now daily bazaars filled with textiles... carpets, suzani embroideries, silk ikat, hats and traditional dress. BUKHARA – HOTEL SALOM INN (B,L,D)

Day 9 Wed, Sep 21: This morning a Master Class in suzani embroidery has been arranged at the UNESCO School of Carpet Weaving and Natural Dyes. Suzanis were traditionally made by Central Asian brides as part of their dowry and presented to their husband on the day of the wedding. The name is derived from Persian meaning 'needle'. Chain, satin and buttonhole stitches are the primary stitches used as well as couching. Zarina Kendjaeva, a skilled embroiderer will demonstrate and explain the traditional techniques and designs used and fabric, threads and needles provided so that you can make your own sample piece. Later visit a collector and textile expert as well as the workshop of a traditional jeweller. **BUKHARA – HOTEL SALOM INN (B,L,D)**

Day 10 Thu, Sep 22: We continue tracing the Silk Route to legendary Samarkand along the Golden Road stopping in Gizhduvan, an important ceramic centre. Visit a family of potters who grind their own glazes using a mule-driven grinding wheel. After a home-hosted lunch drive to Shafrikan and visit a suzani artist. Arrive in Samarkand early evening, our base for the next 4 nights. **SAMARKAND – MALIKA PRIME HOTEL (B,L,D)**

Day 11 Fri, Sep 23: Samarkand, resonant with romantic legend was conquered by Alexander the Great, the Mongol Genghis Khan and above all, Tamerlane. It has been called many names from the Mirror of the World to the Pearl of the East and the Jewel of Islam. Morning excursion to Gur Emir where Tamerlane is buried and visit a silk paper making workshop that uses techniques little changed over the centuries. Afternoon explore Samarkand visiting Registan Square and the medrassahs, the mausoleums of Shah-i-Zinda with its exquisite blue tilework, the Bibi-Khanum mosque and a nearby market. Dinner at the home and studio of Valentina Romanenko, a talented suzani designer. **SAMARKAND – MALIKA PRIME HOTEL (B,L,D)**

Day 12 Sat, Sep 24 & Day 13 Sun, Sep 25: Saturday full day excursion to Shakhrisabz, birthplace of Tamerlane where our visits include the Ak Saray White Palace, the Jehangir mausoleum and the Kok-Gumbaz mosque. Later we meet silk embroiderers in their workshop. Sunday drive to the busy weekly market in Urgut, a small town at the foot of Zarafshan Mountains where people come from the surrounding countryside to buy and sell and enjoy food freshly made at little stalls. There are smithies and tin workers, old and new crafts including suzanis, carpets, jewellery and ceramics. Afternoon visit a silk carpet weaving workshop using traditional patterns. **SAMARKAND – MALIKA PRIME HOTEL (B,L,D daily)**

Day 14 Mon, Sep 26: Begin our day with a visit to a medieval observatory created by Tamerlane's learned grandson. Drive to Tashkent through the mountainous countryside with stops to photograph en route. Evening attend a performance at the Navoi Opera and Ballet Theatre. **TASHKENT - HOTEL GRAND ORZU (B,L,D)**

Day 15 Tue, Sep 27: Depart for Kokand situated in Ferghana Valley. The valley is unique as many traditional craftspeople can still be found working in the small Uzbek villages. Visit the Khan's palace museum, mosques and medrassahs. Continue to Rishtan, one of the most important ceramic centres in Central Asia since ancient times, where we visit the private studio of a Master ceramic artist and learn about the traditional floral designs of the region. **FERGHANA – HOTEL CLUB 777 (B,L,D)**

Day 16 Wed, Sep 28: After breakfast we take a walking tour of Ferghana. Drive through a landscape of mulberry trees to Margilan, known for its Fergana style of architecture and a major centre for silk production using distinctive colours and patterns. See the age-old method of silk production and meet Masters of their craft. Visit Jodgorlick silk weaving factory to see all processes of silk weaving as well as a workshop for velvet ikat. Visit the studio of Salijon Akhmedaliev for traditional wood block printed cloth. **FERGHANA - HOTEL CLUB 777 (B,L,D)**



Day 17 Thu, Sep 29: Flight to Tashkent. Visit the vibrant Chor-Su market situated in the Old City. This evening we come together for our farewell dinner. **TASHKENT – HOTEL GRAND ORZU (B,L,D)**

Day 18 Fri, Sep 30: Rooms are reserved until 12noon today. Our early morning international flight departs Tashkent and arrives back the same day at Heathrow Airport.

B – Breakfast L – Lunch D – Dinner

TOURS WITH THE EMBROIDERERS' GUILD: Our in depth travel programs are researched and organised by Lesley Robin. They provide an opportunity for a cross-cultural exchange where we go behind the scenes to discover a country through the richness of embroidery, textiles and crafts, often visiting self-help projects. We visit places of special interest and choose, wherever possible, locations and places to stay that reflect the culture. Our guides are highly knowledgeable and bring an intimate experience to our travels. These are more than just tours, they are journeys of discovery creatively and personally.

TOUR DIRECTOR, LESLEY ROBIN: This is a new tour for the Guild with Lesley whose interest in textiles began in the 70s when she settled in Dharamsala (Western Himalayas), exiled home of the Dalai Lama of Tibet. She lived there for 20 years and helped set up projects with local weavers using natural dyes and handspun yarn. Her knowledge of eastern culture, Hinduism and Buddhism and her interest in the textile heritage and crafts of the Indian sub-continent is a result of her extensive travels throughout the region and beyond. She is delighted to be accompanied by Raisa Gareeva on this trip of a lifetime!

UZBEKISTAN TOUR ESCORT: Raisa was born in Bukhara, Uzbekistan and graduated from Bukhara University with a Masters Degree in Russian and English. For many years she worked with Intourist, the state-run travel company of the former USSR. After the USSR collapsed Raisa started her own innovative travel company. Raisa is truly a "gem" and her relationship with the craftspeople of her country, her knowledge and life experiences are phenomenal.



Contact Annie Franz at the Embroiderers' Guild for further information: Tel: 020 8943 1229 ext.36



BOOKING FORM

UZBEKISTAN TOUR: with the EMBROIDERERS' GUILD September 13-30, 2011

Surname Full Name (as on passport)

Nationality Date of Birth

Place of Birth (City & Country)

Passport No. Place of Issue

Date of Issue Date of Expiry

Address for Correspondence:

Telephone (day): Telephone (home):

Email:@.....

I shall be accompanied by: (optional)

Please reserve me a place in a SINGLE room (please note supplement applicable. Single rooms are NOT guaranteed in Bhukara where we stay for 5 nights) YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

Please indicate if you would like CTT Group Ltd to book your international group flight from the UK as per the tour itinerary. Return flight London-Tashkent-London to be confirmed (see flight information on IMPORTANT NOTES sheet) YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

Indicate if you are joining locally and arranging your international flights independently YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

Also indicate if you require *airport transfers* if you are arriving/departing independently in Tashkent (additional cost per transfer between airport & hotel: £20 per person) YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS DURING THE TOUR – Please supply minimum 1 person's contact details:

NAME & ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:

NAME & ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:

I have read the Conditions of Booking and I agree on behalf of all persons listed above by whom I am authorised to make this agreement

Signed: Date:

Deposit(s) @ £500 per person £.....

Cheque (payable to CTT Group Ltd) enclosed for total: £.....

We accept payment by Debit Cards such as Switch. We also accept payment, subject to a handling charge, by American Express (3.5% handling charge), and by Visa or Mastercard (2.5% handling charge).

MAESTRO/VISA/MASTERCARD/AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD NO:
Valid From: Valid To: 3 Digit Security Code (on reverse):

Issue No. (MAESTRO)

Cardholder's Signature:

CTT Group Ltd, 33 Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN1 1PN

Contact Details: Hilary Crundwell on 01892 673435 Email: hilary@ctgrouptravel.co.uk

IMPORTANT NOTES

PASSPORTS: Passports need to be valid for 6 months beyond trip dates with sufficient pages for your visa. A visa is required for Uzbekistan... visa details will be sent at a later date. Visa fee **not** included in trip price.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION: After receipt of your booking form and deposit you will then be sent pre-departure details covering health, clothing, obtaining Uzbek visa etc.

FINAL PAYMENT: Final payment is due 9 weeks before departure (26th July 2011).

SINGLE ROOMS: Due to a limited number of rooms at Salom Inn (Bukhara), single accommodation may not be available for these nights. If this occurs, a refund of £170 for the 5 Bukhara overnights will be made. The supplement pays for privacy, not necessarily for better accommodation.

Should you require assistance with any arrangements additional to the itinerary please let us know.

TOUR PRICE

£3695: (LAND ONLY) per person, twin sharing
£431: SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS: International airfare is NOT included in the Land Arrangements of the trip price. This tour begins & ends in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. See Booking Form for group flight details. You can also arrange your own independent flights.

The price of the flights to travel to Tashkent is not yet out for Oct 2011. Based on this year's prices with Lufthansa the fare would be around £600. We do not expect there to be much difference from this but further flight information will be released in October this year. In the meantime do not delay in reserving your place on this unique trip by calling Hilary Crundwell on 01892 673435.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS ONLY

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

Transport: Sightseeing as per itinerary & road travel by private bus, flights within Uzbekistan.

Accommodation: Accommodations based on twin bedded rooms, double occupancy sharing a room with shower/bath are in small private hotels. THE RIGHT IS RESERVED TO SUBSTITUTE HOTELS OF SIMILAR CATEGORY SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY.

Meals: All meals are included as specified on the itinerary include tea/coffee and mineral water only. Bottled water is freely available on the bus at all times.

Guides: The services of Tour Director Lesley Robin throughout and local guides where applicable.

Baggage: Baggage handling for maximum 2 bags not to exceed 51lbs.

Gratuities, Taxes & Service Charges: All necessary tips to hotels and restaurant personnel, baggage porters, housekeeping, etc in connection with the services provided.

Entrance Fees & Camera Fees: To all monuments/museums are included and camera fees for 1 camera only where applicable.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

passports, Uzbekistan visa fee, inoculations, excess baggage charges, meals not specified as included, medical expenses, personal items e.g. alcoholic beverages, room service, laundry charges, phone calls, travel insurance, etc.

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 18 PERSONS
RESERVE EARLY**

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Making your booking

Please fill in the booking form and send it to us together with the deposit or full payment if booking within 9 weeks of departure. Provided the holiday is available we will make all arrangements and send you confirmation of your booking and all relevant details. It is from then on that a firm contract exists between you and CTT Group Ltd T/A CT Group & Incentive Travel, on the basis of the itinerary sent to you. If the holiday is not available, we will return your deposit or full payment. Once we have confirmed your booking, your deposit is non-returnable except in the special circumstances mentioned below. We will send you a final invoice about 11 weeks before departure and this will show any surcharges due. You must pay the amount due within 10 days of the invoice date. We may otherwise treat the booking as cancelled and apply our cancellation charges. We send you your tickets about 10 days before you go.

What your money buys

The holiday price includes: If requested with us at the time of booking, economy class air travel, at the lowest quoted fare; sometimes if seats in this category are no longer available, we will have to charge a supplement. Twin or double-bedded room with private bath or shower at the named hotels or substitutes of the same standard. Meals as specified. Meetings, transfers and surface transportation by car, bus or train. Holiday prices cover only the services and duration shown on each itinerary. Check-out time from rooms is generally 12 noon. Where, for reasons of force majeure, altered services are taken or the duration of the holiday is extended, we reserve the right to pass on additional costs in full. Excluded are all expenses of a personal nature such as drinks or laundry. Group tours are based on a minimum number of persons travelling. We must regretfully reserve the right not to operate any tour on which there are insufficient bookings 8 weeks before departure. Full payment, including your deposit, will be refunded.

Your luggage and belongings

Your free baggage allowance on flights is one suitcase weighing up to 23kg per person and one piece of hand luggage to be taken into the aircraft cabin.

Airlines and Seating

We are able to quote for upgrades to World Traveller Plus and to Business Class on some British Airways flights. Reserving your actual seat can only be done by you personally once you have received your ticket (or e-ticket).

Delays at Point of Departure

The scheduled airlines we use will generally provide meals and accommodation to passengers already checked-in in the event of extended delays. The CTT Group t/a CT Groups and Incentives and or The Embroiderers' Guild cannot be held responsible for any alterations that are necessary as a result of any delays caused directly or indirectly to the international flights for reasons within or outside of theirs or the carriers control.

Passports, Visas and Health

You must have a full British passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date and one blank page in your passport. If you do not travel on a British passport or do not meet these requirements or have any doubt as to your legibility to enter Uzbekistan then please contact us for further advice before confirming your booking.

Age and Health

We do not operate any age limit on our holidays. However if you are aged over 80, we do require that you should be travelling with a companion. In many of the countries in which we operate, medical facilities are poor, and if you do fall ill, appropriate treatment may be difficult to access. There are no formal health requirements except for those who have recently visited a Yellow Fever area. Recommended precautions will be advised with the confirmation of booking. All clients are themselves responsible to ensuring that they conform to the health regulations regarding vaccinations.

Surcharges – Our Policy

Our prices are based on tariffs, exchange rates and other costs as at 1st August 2010 and specifically on a rate of £1 = US \$1.45. The price of your holiday is subject to surcharges on the following items for increases in: transportation costs, e.g. scheduled airfares and any other airline surcharge which are part of the contract between airlines (and their agents) and the tour operator, government action such as increases in VAT or any other government imposed increases, currency in relation to adverse exchange rate variations, fuel for road vehicles. Even in these cases we will absorb an amount equivalent to 2% of the holiday price, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. Only amounts in excess of this 2% will be surcharged. If this means paying more than 10% on the holiday price, you will be entitled to cancel your holiday with a full refund of all monies paid except for any deposits paid to the airline which in some circumstances may be non refundable, and any premium paid to us for holiday insurance and amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel because of this, you must exercise your right to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on the invoice.

If you have to cancel

If you find you cannot take your holiday and have to cancel for whatever reason, your deposit will be forfeited. If you cancel, we must impose cancellation charges up to a maximum as follows: between time of booking and 70 days before departure loss of deposit, between 69 – 42 days before departure 30 %, between 41 – 28 days before departure 40%, between 27 – 14 days before departure 60%, between 13 – 7 days before departure 80% and between 6 days and departure 100%. Percentages are of total holiday cost. If you are obliged to cancel, you may with reasonable notice, transfer your booking to a third party who satisfies all the conditions required by a person taking that holiday, but you will be obliged to pay for any additional costs resulting from the transfer. Travel insurance is absolutely required to come on the tour. Please make sure it includes cancellation & repatriation (please ask if you need advice on travel insurance).

Alterations by ourselves

We will do our utmost to provide the holiday arrangements that have been confirmed, but we must reserve the right to modify or cancel any holiday, flight schedule, accommodation or arrangement if unforeseen circumstances arise. In such circumstances, we will inform you as soon as possible, and, should the change be such that it alters the nature of your holiday, we shall offer you the choice of an alternative holiday or a full refund of all monies paid to ourselves.

Our liabilities to you

We do not exclude or limit any liability to our clients which may arise from proven negligence by any person employed directly by us or by our suppliers and subcontractors, servants or agents of the same whilst acting in the course of their employment in respect of death, bodily injury or illness. If our suppliers are able to exclude or limit liability by virtue of any international convention we will claim the benefit of that exclusion or limitation. Such liabilities shall be subject to English law and all proceedings shall be within the exclusive domain of the English courts. We accept responsibility for ensuring that all parts of the holiday are supplied as described, and that all services shall reach a reasonable standard. These obligations and responsibilities shall be limited where international conventions in respect of air or sea carriers apply. Naturally we cannot assume responsibility for loss or expense due to war, riots, strikes, terrorist activities or natural disasters.

Complaints

If you have cause for complaint, it makes sense to sort out the problem on the spot, so that you can get on with enjoying the rest of your holiday. If the matter cannot be rectified, please write and tell us as soon as possible after you get back, and we will do our best to sort it out promptly. In the unlikely event that you are still unhappy ABTA's arbitration scheme may be called upon (details on request) may be called upon by either side to bring the matters to a speedy and amicable solution. This does not apply for claims which are solely or mainly in respect of physical injury or illness or the consequences there from. You may alternatively refer the matter to any court of law.

Debit, Credit and Charge Cards

We do accept payment by debit cards such as Maestro. We also accept payment by credit cards, subject to a handling charge of 3% (Visa, MasterCard's & American Express).

Consumer Protection

This package is protected by ATOL since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 5158. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. For further information, visit the ATOL website at <http://www.atol.org.uk>

CTT Group Ltd
33 Mount Pleasant
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN11 1PN