



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# The Silk Road: Empires of Central Asia

MAXIMUM OF  
**JUST  
12  
GUESTS**

Ceiling detail,  
Kunya Urgench

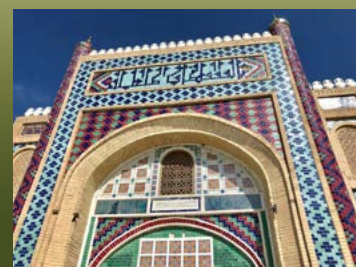
May 21-June 6, 2021 (17 days | 12 guests)  
with archaeologist Aleksandr Naymark

*"I truly enjoyed the...  
ancient ruins while  
learning about  
the cultures of  
Central Asia."*

- Edith, California

*Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.*

© operator





Cover: (top) Kunya Urgench, Turkmenistan, one of the major cities of the Great Silk Road; (bottom, left to right) Samarkand, a performance in Uzbekistan, Khiva, Bukhara.

## Highlights:

- Travel and learn with AIA lecturer and host Aleksandr Naymark, who will accompany you on daily excursions and give a series of lectures, as well as with professional local guides and a tour manager who will meticulously handle all travel arrangements.
- Visit eight UNESCO World Heritage sites: Turkmenistan's Merv, Nisa, and Kunya Urgench; and Uzbekistan's old Khiva (Itchan Kala), Desert Castles of Ancient Khorezm (Ellik Kala), Bukhara, Shahrisabz, and Samarkand.
- Explore the archaeological site of Anau, inhabited from the Neolithic through medieval periods; the ancient Zoroastrian center of Gonur-Depe; and Paikent, whose fortress walls date back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- Discover fascinating museum collections, including Ashgabat's National Museum of History and Ethnography, Bukhara's Museum of National Crafts, and Samarkand's Afrosiab History Museum.
- Stroll through old town shops and bazaars, tour a silk carpet factory, and enjoy a costume show and performances of traditional music and dance.
- Admire stunning religious monuments and artifacts, such as the partially-preserved Uthman Koran (written on deerskin in the 7<sup>th</sup> century), considered by Sunni Muslims to be the world's oldest Koran.
- Maximum of just 12 guests!



- # Overnight Stays
- Itinerary Stops
- ✈ International Flights
- ✂ Internal Flights

Retrace the fabled Silk Road through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan with archaeologist Aleksandr Naymark, following in the footsteps of silk traders who left China as early as 200 B.C. in great camel caravans for the 5,000-mile trek to the Mediterranean. This was also the road of Alexander the Great and Marco Polo, extending across vast deserts, mountains, and plains. Like the adventurers and merchants who have gone before us, we can anticipate breathtaking sights and a lively exchange of ideas and cultures along our route.

## Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer & Host

Hofstra University in New York. Born in Tashkent and schooled in Moscow, Aleksandr returned to Central Asia as a member of an archaeological expedition at the age of 14. Two years later he enrolled in Tashkent University's archaeology program, and in 1982 he graduated from Moscow University with an M.A. in Archaeology and an M.A. in Methods of Historical Source Studies. For eight subsequent years he worked in the Moscow Museum of Oriental Art, taking part in its Caucasian expeditions and directing its Central Asian expeditions. Between 1974 and 1991 Aleksandr participated in 31 historical excavations, 26 of which were in Central Asia; on eight of them he served as Director.

In 1991, Aleksandr immigrated to the United States, and the next year he enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he earned a dual degree in Central Eurasian Studies and Art History. From 1997 to 1999, Aleksandr was a Horstman Fellow affiliated with the Eurasia Department of the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin. Since 1999 Aleksandr has been teaching at Hofstra University. He also taught as a guest lecturer at Humboldt University, Berlin, and at Columbia University, New York; and he held the Shama Fellowship at Oxford University three times. Aleksandr has authored more than one hundred publications on Central Asian archeology, art, and numismatics. He recently started a new archaeological project on Yerkurgan, the site of the capital of Sogdian Nakhshab principality, in modern Uzbekistan.

**Dr. Aleksandr Naymark** is an archaeologist and Professor of Fine Arts, Design, Art History at



# Itinerary

B= Breakfast • L= Lunch • D= Dinner



Left, Anau, Turkmenistan. Above, Merv, Turkmenistan

## Friday, May 21, 2021 - Depart home

Depart home on independent flights to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

## Saturday, May 22 - Ashgabat, TURKMENISTAN

Arrive at Ashgabat International Airport (ASB) late this evening where you will be met and transferred to our elegant hotel in the heart of the city. *Overnight at the Oguzkent Hotel (or similar) for two nights.*

## Sunday, May 23 - Ashgabat: AM at leisure, PM city tour | Welcome dinner

Enjoy a leisurely morning to rest and adjust to the time difference. Gather in the early afternoon for an introductory lecture followed by a city tour of Ashgabat. In spite of its location on a trade route, Ashgabat never achieved the status and influence of other Silk Road cities like Khiva or Bukhara. Originally known as Konjikala, the city was destroyed by Mongols in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Russians built a fortress on the site in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ashgabat was a prosperous, flourishing city. The city was leveled by an earthquake in 1948, but recently has seen a boom in new construction. Our exploration of the city includes a visit to the National Museum of History and Ethnography, featuring exhibits of ancient artifacts, weapons, carpets, jewelry, and the country's flora and fauna. This evening gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, featuring a musical performance. (B,D)

## Monday, May 24 - Nisa | Anau | Fly to Mary

This morning, visit the site of the ancient Parthian Kingdom of Nisa, 15 miles outside of Ashgabat. Though Nisa was ruled by a succession of dynasties in the past two thousand years, it remained an important center in the ancient world until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the Mongols sacked it. Today, archaeological work continues at Nisa, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2007. On the way back to Ashgabat, see the Kipchak Mosque, a \$100-million-dollar mosque that accommodates 10,000 people and is capped by a golden dome. Continue to the ruins of Anau, a site that was occupied from the Neolithic (ca. 4500 B.C.) to the medieval period (marked by the ruins of a 15<sup>th</sup>-century mosque), and where a Bronze Age town (2300 B.C.) was recently discovered. Catch a short evening flight from Ashgabat to Mary. Check-in to our hotel in Mary's center and gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the Mary Hotel for two nights.* (B,L,D)

## Tuesday, May 25 - Gonur-Depe | Mary

Today, make a full-day trip in 4x4 vehicles to the ancient town of Gonur-Depe, which was uncovered by Soviet archaeologists in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and is still undergoing excavation. Bronze Age ruins include strong fortress walls, and later occupation by Zoroastrians left behind a palace, a fire temple, and a necropolis. Return to Mary and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

## Wednesday, May 26 - Merv | Mary | Fly to Ashgabat

After an early breakfast at the hotel, take a morning excursion to the fertile oasis of Merv. Formed from the rich silt at the mouth of the Murghab River where it soaks into the Kara Kum (Black Sands) Desert, the oasis was an early Bronze Age center. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Merv was the center of several succeeding civilizations, and

*"The archaeological sites are the things that caused me to select this tour. The great buildings and ensembles of architectural interest were such a thrill that I will never forget."*

- Charles, New York





Bukhara, Uzbekistan

© Adam Jones

became an important way station on the Great Silk Road between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, when it was sacked and burned by the Mongols. The ruins of Merv were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999 because of the wealth of ongoing information they offer regarding the evolution of urban centers. Afterwards, visit the Museum of History and Ethnography, housed in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century merchant's house, with displays of artifacts from Merv and Gonur-Depe as well as from other Turkmen archaeological sites. Take an afternoon flight back to Ashgabat and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at the Oguzkent Hotel (or similar).* (B,L,D)

#### **Thursday, May 27 - Fly to Tashauz | Kunya Urgench | Khiva, UZBEKISTAN**

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Tashauz, in northern Turkmenistan. Drive to Kunya Urgench to visit the site of the ancient capital of Khorezm, which was razed by both Genghis Khan and Tamerlane.

About half a mile south of the town lie the remains of the UNESCO-listed old city, including the 11<sup>th</sup>-century Kutlug-Timur Minaret, which was for many years the tallest in Central Asia. Also admire the domed hall of the Turabek Khanym Mausoleum, built for the daughter of one of the leaders of the Golden Horde. Continue on to the ancient Silk Road oasis of Khiva, crossing en route the Turkmen-Uzbek border, where we will change motor coach and driver. (Be prepared for lengthy administrative procedures at the border.) Arriving in Khiva, we check-in to our hotel and have dinner. *Overnight at the Hotel Asia Khiva for three nights.* (B,L,D)

#### **Friday, May 28 - Khiva walking tour**

Spend the day exploring Khiva on foot. Today the living city is part museum town, part re-creation of life hundreds of years ago. Khiva's Old Town (Itchan Kala), a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been extensively preserved and restored, and highlights of our walking tour include Tash Hauli Palace, once the home of the khan and his four legal wives; the 9<sup>th</sup>-century Juma (Friday) Mosque, with an unusual wooden ceiling and 115 carved wood columns; and the Kunya Ark (Old Fortress), originally built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as the khan's fortress and residence. The evening is at leisure, and our local guide will offer suggestions for dinner. (B,L)

#### **Saturday, May 29 - Ellik Kala | Khiva**

Set out today on a survey of UNESCO World Heritage-listed Desert Castles of Ancient Khorezm. Drive into the desert surrounding Khiva to visit some of these ancient citadels in the region called Ellik Kala (Fifty Citadels). This chain of adobe fortresses guarded palaces, homes, warehouses, and sanctuaries dating from 2,000 years ago through medieval times. Return to Khiva where the balance of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

#### **Sunday, May 30 - Drive to Bukhara**

Depart this morning for Bukhara, driving (approximately six hours) across long stretches of the Kyzyl Kum (Red Sands) Desert, once crossed by Silk Road camel caravans and comprised of dunes and saxaul bushes. Stop en route to view the Amu Darya River, which loosely parallels the Uzbek-Turkmen border, and have a boxed lunch. Arrive in Bukhara and check-in to our hotel, located in the old town. This evening we gather and walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. *Overnight at the Devon Hotel for three nights.* (B,L,D)

#### **Monday, May 31 - Bukhara walking tour**

Spend the day exploring the old town of Bukhara: a UNESCO World Heritage site, Central Asia's most ancient living city, and an excellent place to explore on foot. Begin at Labi-Hauz Plaza, at the center of the old town, and visit the nearby 16<sup>th</sup>-century Kukeldash Madrassah, the largest Koranic school in Central Asia. Continue on to Poi Kalon, also known as the Bukhara Forum, whose 12<sup>th</sup>-century assembly includes the Kalon Mosque and Minaret and the Mir-i-Arab Madrassah, surrounding an open plaza teeming with merchants and local vendors. Near the Kalon Mosque is the Ark Citadel, the original fortress of Bukhara, likely dating back two thousand years or more. The current structure has been built and rebuilt on the same site throughout its history. Also visit the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, the 10<sup>th</sup>-century resting place of the founder of the Samanid Dynasty, which was buried under shifting desert sands and not re-discovered until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

*"Turkmenistan is very untouristed, with wonderful archaeological sites and an amazing desert. Khiva is simply a magical place, while Paikent is well off the beaten track, and historically accurate."*

- Anne, Ontario



© Yunuskhuja Tuygunkhujaev



©Alaexis



© Shuhrataxmedov

## Tuesday, June 1 - Paikent | Bukhara

This morning we visit the Bukhara Oasis and site of the ancient city of Paikent (Poykent), whose 15-foot-thick fortress walls date back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Conquering Arabs destroyed Paikent in 706 B.C. Tour the small museum with one of the archaeologists working at the site (schedule permitting). Afterwards, drive a short distance outside of the city to visit the Summer Palace of the last Emir of Bukhara. Called “the Palace of Moon and Stars,” the Summer Palace is something of a showpiece, as it was a refuge for emirs from the city. Explore its Museum of National Crafts and admire the vivid *suzani*, or embroidered coverlets, for which Uzbekistan is known. Return to central Bukhara for lunch at a local restaurant and some time at leisure. This evening, attend a costume show in the teahouse of a local madrassah, with a traditional dinner afterward. (B,L,D)

## Wednesday, June 2 - Shahrisabz | Samarkand

Depart Bukhara this morning and drive to Samarkand, stopping along the way in Shahrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane. In Shahrisabz we have lunch and see the ruins of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Aq Saray (White Palace), one of Tamerlane’s most ambitious projects and today a UNESCO World Heritage site; Dorut Siadat (“Seat of Might and Power”), built by Ulug Bek as a mausoleum for his favorite son; and Kok Gumbaz (“Blue Dome”), a 15<sup>th</sup>-century mosque that was recently restored for the city’s 2,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Continue on to Samarkand and visit the Afghan-Uzbek Silk Carpet Factory, where we learn about the process of dying and weaving the carpets. This evening, check-in to our hotel and get settled before gathering for dinner. *Overnight at the [Hotel DiliMah Premium Luxury](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

## Thursday, June 3 - Samarkand walking tour

Set out this morning to explore perhaps the most well-known of Silk Road towns: Samarkand, a fabled oasis on the fringes of the Kyzyl Kum Desert, which has been settled since the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Tamerlane made it his capital city and gathered the finest architects, builders, and artisans of the time to enhance its beauty. Modern Samarkand is built on the ruins of ancient Afrosiab. We visit Registan Square, Samarkand’s centerpiece and most recognizable landmark, where three emblematic madrassahs (Ulug Bek, Tillya-Kori, and Shir Dor) frame the square. In its reconstruction, the square maintains the majesty that it radiated through the ages. Not far away is the Gur-Emir Mausoleum, the final resting place of Tamerlane. It was originally built for his grandson, after the latter’s death at the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Wander the row of tombs and mausoleums collectively called Shah-i-Zinda (“place of a living king”) stretching from modern Samarkand to the dusty slopes at the edge of what was ancient Afrosiab. Pay a visit to the remains of Ulug Bek’s Observatory, one of the most advanced observatories of the ancient world; and stop at the Bibi Khanum Mosque, built to be the largest mosque in the Islamic world. This evening we attend a performance by a local dance troupe before dining at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

From left to right: Bukhara, Uzbekistan; Aq Saray (White Palace) in Shahrisabz, Uzbekistan; an old façade in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Below, Merv, Turkmenistan

*“I particularly enjoyed the experience of sharing two weeks together in a new and fascinating land, having an amazingly complex and rich history, with...fellow travelers who were...interested in learning at a much deeper level about the new land and people around them.”*

- Robert, Hawaii



© operator





Nisa, Turkmenistan

#### **Friday, June 4 - Samarkand: Institute of Archaeology & Afrosiab History Museum | Drive to Tashkent**

Check out of our hotel this morning and pay a visit to the Institute of Archaeology to meet with a local archaeologist (schedule permitting). Afterwards, drive just outside of the city to the Afrosiab History Museum, located on the site of ancient Afrosiab where excavations began under Russian rule in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and still take place today). The Museum's collection includes pottery and tile found among the excavated walls of the ancient city. Drive to Tashkent, arriving in time for dinner. *Overnight at the [Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

#### **Saturday, June 5 - Tashkent: City tour | Farewell dinner**

Spend the morning exploring highlights of Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital city. A major caravan crossroads, it was taken by the Arabs in A.D. 751 and by Genghis Khan in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Today, it is a mixture of wide, tree-lined boulevards, 20<sup>th</sup>-century Soviet buildings, and traces of the old city with mud-walled houses, narrow winding lanes, mosques, and madrassahs. Start at the Museum of the History of the People of Uzbekistan, founded in 1876, which features an archaeological exhibit containing fragments of mural paintings from the Afrosiab settlement and stone sculptures from the Fergana Valley. Drive past Independence Square on the way to Old Town Tashkent. Stroll through a labyrinth of 19<sup>th</sup>-century mud-walled houses to Hast Imam Square, where can be found some of the city's oldest monuments, including the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Qaffal Shashi Mausoleum and Baraq-Khan Madrassah, plus the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Tilla Sheikh Mosque, which houses the Uthman Koran, considered by Sunni Muslims to be the world's oldest Koran. Continue on to the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Kukeldash Madrassah, part of an ensemble that marked the center of the old town. After lunch enjoy some time at leisure before gathering for a festive farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

#### **Sunday, June 6 - Tashkent | Fly home**

Take an early morning transfer to Tashkent International Airport (TAS) for flights homeward. (B)

## **Air Arrangements & Transfers**

Airfare from/to home is not included in the tour price. Please contact MIR Corp. at (toll free) (855) 691-7903 for assistance with making your flight arrangements. Individual airport transfers on arrival in Ashgabat (ASB) and departure from Tashkent (TAS) will be provided on program arrival and departure dates. If you choose to arrange your flights independently, please check with AIA Tours before booking non-refundable airline tickets. Three economy-class flights within the program (Ashgabat/Mary/Ashgabat, Ashgabat/Tashauz) are included in the price of the program. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

## **The AIA & the AIA Tours Program**

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.



**For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact AIA Tours at:**

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**P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608**





## Tour Prices per person (15 nights)

**Double Occupancy** (10-12 participants) .....\$7,945

**Double Occupancy** (7-9 participants) .....\$8,445

**Single Supplement** (limited availability) .....\$945

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required.  
With fewer than 7 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

### Prices Include:

- Leadership of **AIA Lecturer/Host Aleksandr Naymark**
- Services of a professional **Tour Manager** and local **English-speaking guides** throughout
- **Fifteen nights' accommodations** in first-class and best available hotels as indicated in the itinerary
- **Most meals**, including breakfast daily, 13 lunches, and 12 dinners, all with bottled water, tea, and coffee
- Two of the dinners will be **special welcome and farewell dinners** including beer and wine
- **Individual airport transfers** on the group arrival and departure dates
- Transportation by private, **air-conditioned motor coach** for overland travel days with bottled water available; **three flights** within the program; transportation by **4x4 vehicles** for the day trip to Gonur-Depe
- **Entrance fees** to all sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary
- **All gratuities** to drivers, local guides, Tour Manager, porters, and waiters for included meals
- **Baggage handling** at hotels and airports (where available)
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list

**Prices Do Not Include:** Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals other than those listed in the itinerary; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; beverages except as noted above; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS-Passenger Account-AIA SilkRoad5/21." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

**Participant Cancellation Fees:** All requests for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 90 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

**Note:** Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions are available upon confirmation or request and can be viewed online at [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org).

Photos (from top): Uzbek man, Samarkand, Khiva, statue in Khiva, Samarkand

## What to Expect

This program is strenuous, and you must be in good physical health to participate. There will be long drives on some days, and some very early morning departures from the hotels to make the most of the cooler morning air during site visits and avoid excess time exposed to mid-day heat. Our hotels and vehicles will be air conditioned. In late May/early June, the weather is somewhat dry with the possibility of occasional rain. Average daytime temperatures are in the mid 80s to mid 90s F however, in recent years, especially in Turkmenistan, temperatures are sometimes higher. Nighttime temperatures tend to range from the mid 60s to mid 70s F.

*There will be a significant amount of walking (including on uneven ground, up hills, and on very old paved flooring), a lot of stairs (some steep with tall, uneven steps), and you may have to stand for some long periods on hard surfaces in hot weather.* To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least two to three miles a day, unassisted, keeping up with fellow travelers. Note that for our border crossing into Uzbekistan there is no portage service, and for 0.6 miles you will have to walk and trundle your own luggage (including hand baggage), so we advise you not to travel with more than you can handle independently under such conditions.

All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions. If the Tour Manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you.

While the accommodations are as comfortable as possible for the region, they will vary from four-star properties to relatively basic, simple hotels. It is important to keep in mind that facilities in Central Asia are generally not up to most North American travelers' standards. Services are improving, but the infrastructure is not yet fully developed and you may encounter problems with plumbing, bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, variety of locally-available foods, availability or quality of public restrooms, etc. Flexibility, a sense of humor, enjoyment of group travel, and a willingness to accept cultural differences and local standards of amenities are essential components to the full appreciation of this trip.

*Complete pre-departure details, including what to bring with you, what to expect, and more current weather information, will be sent to participants.*





Archaeological Institute of America Tours  
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## The Silk Road: Empires of Central Asia



May 21-June 6, 2021 (17 days | 12 guests)  
with archaeologist Aleksandr Naymark

*"The sights in the famous historic cities of Khiva,  
Bukhara, and Samarkand were unforgettable!"*

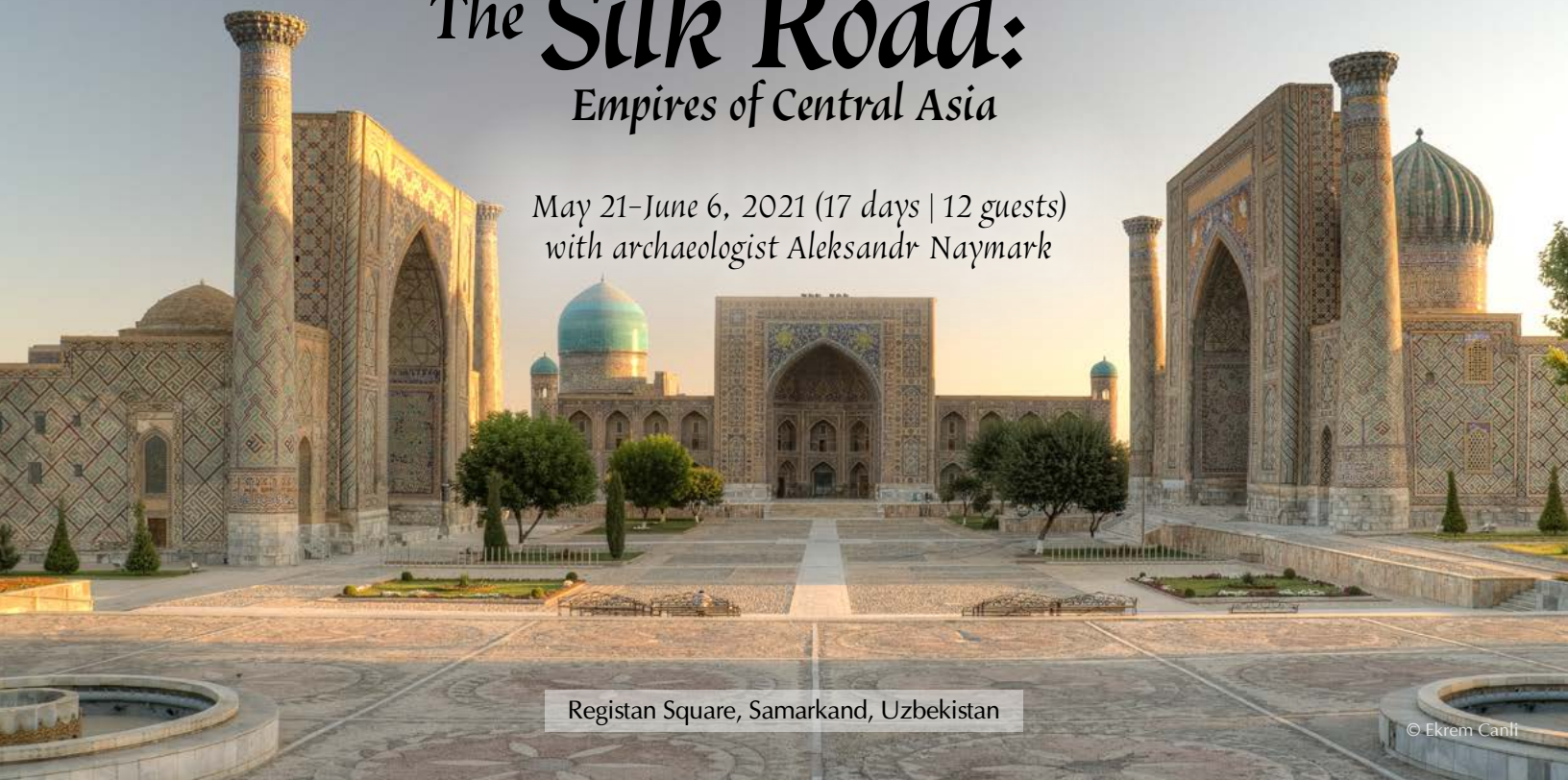
- John, Florida



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Registan Square, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

© Ekrem Canli





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RESERVATION FORM  
THE SILK ROAD: EMPIRES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org).

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(as it appears on passport)

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(as it appears on passport)

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City State Zip

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☐ I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this tour? ☐ eNewsletter ☐ mailing ☐ website ☐ friends/family ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

(Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

☐ Double (one bed) ☐ Twin (two beds) ☐ Single

☐ I will be sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

☐ Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

**RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:**

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

**DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):**

☐ Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA SilkRoad5/21 ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Already paid by phone

CC#

Exp. Date 3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and "submit" by email, mail, or fax to:

**AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938**

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By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout.

If submitting this form electronically, please check the following box:

☐ I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the Terms & Conditions.

Signature (participant #1) Time and Date

Signature (participant #2) Time and Date

Submit via email



## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator and/or its agents (collectively "Sponsors/Operator") do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities; airline, vessel, or other transportation companies; guides or guide services; local ground operators; providers or organizers of optional excursions; food service or entertainment providers; etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of force majeure; acts of God; acts of government; acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection, or revolt; bites from or attacks by animals, insects, or pests; strikes or other labor activities; criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof; sickness, illness, epidemics, or the threat thereof; the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof; overbooking or downgrading of accommodations; mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation; or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. In addition, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for their own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. **CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsors/Operator shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsors/Operator are not required to cancel any trip for any reason including, without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsors/Operator make the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. **LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark transportation vehicles, stand for extended periods, climb stairs, and step over raised thresholds all without assistance. **REFUNDS:** Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which a participant chooses not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country or aboard any transportation vehicle, including airplanes and cruise ships, is delayed or denied. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part unless trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, in which case the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsors/Operator, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsors/Operator are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsors/Operator, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Sponsors/Operator strongly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Sponsors/Operator and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsors/Operator will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. **RATES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsors/Operator upon notice to the participant. **FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** Any dispute or claim which refers or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant's option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsors/Operator will agree to binding arbitration in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, the arbitrator, and not any federal, state, or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL:** Both the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. State Department publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend (an) additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any participant at any time. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who is determined to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel. **APPEARING IN PHOTOS:** Photos from AIA Tours' trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by other travelers or tour lecturers/guides, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future AIA Tours promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.