

The Great Silk Road Across China & Uzbekistan

FOLLOWING ANCIENT ROUTES OF TRADE AND CONQUEST

SMALL GROUP TOUR



19 Days

1 departure in 2010

September 12-30

Land Tour Cost

5-16 travelers \$6,895**

Single Supplement \$695

**Land tour cost includes internal flight costs which are subject to change; see the Descriptive Daily Itinerary for details.

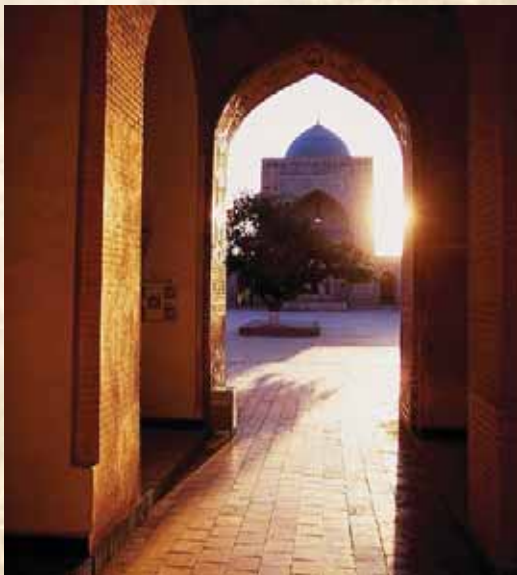
Stay a little longer... Combine this trip with additional time in Beijing or a visit to Shanghai or Xi'an. Contact us for details.

MIR Signature Features

- Inspect Turpan's ancient *karez* system, collecting the meltwater from the Tien Shan Mountains
- Explore the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves and their colorful frescoes
- Dine at a Bukharan *madrasah* as traditional dancers swirl past



Tethered in Turpan



Central Asian domes and arches

Navigate the old Silk Road in the footsteps of ancient traders and adventurers. Begin in Beijing, where jade and silks were readied for market, and follow the trail of the countless caravans through Western China and Central Asia, a fascinating region rich with layers of Chinese, Turkic, Indian and Persian cultures.

Days 1-3: Beijing, Dunhuang

Arriving in Beijing, pay a visit to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Fly to Dunhuang to experience the UNESCO-listed Mogao Caves, an incredible repository of Buddhist murals. Explore Crescent Moon Lake and take a short camel ride.

Days 4-8: Urumqi, Turpan, Kashgar In Urumqi, visit the Xinjiang Minority Peoples' Museum with its collection of local mummies. Inspect Turpan's ancient *karez* irrigation system, the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, begun in 366 AD, and the underground tombs of Astana. Fly to Kashgar to browse its unrivaled market.

Days 9-12: Tashkent, Samarkand Fly to Tashkent, and drive to fabled Samarkand, experiencing the majestic Registan,

the city's centerpiece, and Gur-Emir Mausoleum, the final resting place of Tamerlane.

Days 13-15: Shakhrisabze, Bukhara Pay a visit to Shakhrisabze, Tamerlane's birthplace, en route to Bukhara's UNESCO-listed Old Town. Visit Kukeldash Madrasah, built in 1568, and the Kalon Mosque and Minaret. Explore the Ark Citadel, dating back two thousand years. Shop the bazaar for traditional handicrafts, learn about city restoration projects and enjoy a performance by local artists.

Days 16-19: Khiva, Tashkent Continue overland to Khiva, another World Heritage Site. A walking tour includes the 9th century Dzhuma Mosque with its 115 carved wood columns. Visit the Kunya Ark, dating back to the 5th century. Fly to Tashkent and visit the capital's Alisher Navoi Theater, Shahid Memorial Complex and Independence Square before a farewell dinner.

