

# Samarkand & Silk Road Cities of Uzbekistan

## April 21 – May 1, 2015



### Discover the Silk Road!

For centuries the Silk Road, the main trade route through Central Asia between China and the West, brought wealth and sophistication to the cities through which it passed.

Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Tashkent in today's Uzbekistan retain abundant reminders of those fascinating times. Impressive mosques, madrassahs (religious schools) and mausoleums covered in glossy turquoise tilework feature beautiful designs of calligraphy or carpet-like foliage and flowers rivaling those found in Iran (Persia). This architectural style is called Timurid, after Timur ("the Lame", aka Tamerlane, 1336 - 1405). Samarkand was his capital and he brought the finest artisans and materials from across his vast empire to rebuild and adorn it.

Uzbekistan has been independent since 1991 but was formerly part of the Soviet Union and imperial Russia. Before that, these cities were individual khanates, notorious for their ruthless rulers. The 19<sup>th</sup> century "Great Game" between Britain and Russia is the source of numerous tales of high adventure.

We will visit all four of Uzbekistan's UNESCO World Heritage sites: the historic centres of Samarkand and Bukhara; Khiva's Ichon Qala; and Shakhrisabz, Timur's home town. We will find an intriguing mix of new and old. In the heart of modern cities domed bazaars, little changed from Silk Road days, sell handmade crafts, including rugs and embroidery, and most women wear colourful traditional dress. An unforgettable journey!

### Tour Itinerary & Highlights

**Day before departure** An optional Islamic art study day in London will be offered. Contact the Coordinator for details.

**Day 1 Depart London Heathrow**  
Overnight flight to Tashkent.

**Day 2 Tashkent**

Early morning arrival. The hotel room is available. Free time. After lunch visit the Fine Arts Museum and Independence Square.

**Day 3 Tashkent/Khiva**

Walking tour of the old town and Chorsu Bazaar, visit the Amir Timur Museum. Evening flight to Urgench and drive to Khiva.

**Day 4 Khiva**

Full day walking tour of the walled Ichon Qala, including the Harem of the Tash Hauli Palace with its very fine tilework.

**Day 5 Khiva/Bukhara**

Drive to Bukhara across the Kuzil Kum ("red sand") desert with glimpses of the Amu Darya (Oxus) River.

**Days 6 & 7 Bukhara**

Visits to the city's highlights, including the Kalyon Minaret, medieval trading domes, massive Ark fortress and the Lyabi Hauz complex centred on a tranquil pool.

**Day 8 Bukhara/Shakhrisabz/Samarkand**

Drive to Shakhrisabz and tour its sights, including the Ak Serai (White Palace) and Dorut Tilovat. Continue to Samarkand.

**Days 9 & 10 Samarkand**

Visit the iconic Registan and its three madrassahs; the Amir Timur Mausoleum and the Bibi Khanum Mosque, as well as the Uleg Beg Observatory, the Afrasiab History Museum and the jewel-like mausoleums of the Shah-i-Zinda. Some free time.

**Day 11 Samarkand/Tashkent/London Heathrow**

Drive from Samarkand to Tashkent. Late afternoon flight to London. Evening arrival.

**Martin Randall Travel does not accept bookings from anyone who would be aged 81 or over at the time of the tour.**

**This trip begins and ends at London Heathrow airport. Flight schedules can change – it is recommended that participants plan to be in London for at least 24 hours before departure and after return.**

**This trip involves considerable walking, often on uneven surfaces.**

### Photos

- Sher Dor madrassah, Samarkand, 1872 painting by Vasily Vereshchagin, courtesy of Wikipedia
- Selling bread, Siyob Bazaar, Samarkand, courtesy of Wikipedia and Yoshi Canopus
- The Chor Minor, Bukhara, courtesy of Wikipedia and NiranjanDate

### Hotels

Tashkent	Ramada Tashkent	1 night
Khiva	Madrassah Mukhammad Hotel	2 nights
Bukhara	Omar Khayam Hotel	3 nights
Samarkand	Hotel Malika Prime	3 nights

### Tour Resource Person

**Professor James Allan** is an expert in Islamic art and architecture and Middle Eastern archaeology. He studied Arabic at Oxford, where he also completed his doctorate, and then worked as a field archaeologist. He spent the rest of his career as a curator at the Ashmolean Museum and as a lecturer for the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford. He was President of the British Institute of Persian Studies 2002 - 2006.

### ROMtravel Coordinator

**Anne Lindsey** is a past Co-Chair of ROMtravel, past President of ROM Reproductions and an experienced ROM traveller. Her interests include archaeology, art and cuisine. She has coordinated trips to Sicily, the Dalmatian Coast and Tuscany & Umbria.



### Tour Cost

<b>Double Occupancy</b>	<b>\$7,995</b>
<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>\$ 380</b>

**International flight costs between London and Uzbekistan are included.**



Ismail Samani Mausoleum, Bukhara, courtesy of Mary Williamson



Women in Samarkand, courtesy of Mary Williamson



The Registan and its three Madrasahs, Samarkand, courtesy of Wikipedia and Stomac



Tilework at the Timurid Mausoleum, Samarkand, courtesy of Mary Williamson

# Terms & Conditions

## Samarkand & Silk Road Cities of Uzbekistan

### April 21 – May 1, 2015

#### Tour Cost

- Double Occupancy:** \$7,995 per person  
**Single Supplement:** \$380 (double room for single occupancy)  
**Tour cost includes flights to/from London Heathrow/Tashkent, but NOT flights to/from North America/London Heathrow airport.**

#### Tour Cost Includes

- Economy class air transportation to/from London Heathrow/Tashkent; and Tashkent to Urgench.
- Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person.
- Ground transportation in a comfortable air conditioned bus for transfers and excursions as per itinerary.
- 9 nights accommodation, double occupancy, with private facilities.
- Meals: all meals (9 breakfasts; 10 lunches; 9 dinners) including water, tea/coffee, and wine or beer (when possible). Bottled water on the bus daily.
- All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.
- All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotels, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic tour; all hotel and local taxes.
- Services of James Allan (Tour Resource Person), a ROMtravel Coordinator, and a Martin Randall Travel escort.
- English-speaking local guides.
- Pre-trip orientations, a travel handbook, and a post-trip reunion.
- Services of Flight Centre and Martin Randall Travel.

#### Not Included

- Flights to/from North America/London Heathrow airport.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g., laundry, telephone calls, internet access.
- Airline baggage fees where applicable.
- Meals, snacks, and beverages unless specified.
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption and Out of Province Health Insurance.
- Visa costs.

#### Costs

All prices quoted herein are in Canadian dollars and are based on rates, fees and taxes as of April 4, 2014. Costs are subject to change without notice. If the total price of the travel services is increased and the cumulative increase, except any increase resulting from an increase in retail sales tax or federal goods and services tax, is more than 7 percent, the customer has the right to cancel the contract and obtain a full refund. Note that the itinerary may be subject to change without notice.



Kalon Ensemble, Bukhara, courtesy of Wikipedia & EuyasikWiki

#### ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of the Royal Ontario Museum. Individual annual membership is \$97; family annual membership is \$149 (if both partners join the tour, only one needs to be a member). Non-resident family annual membership (outside L/M postal zones) is \$102. Prices are subject to change without notice.

#### Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over-subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

#### ROMtravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the Trip Handbook unless you advise NOT to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMtravel and the Travel Agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

#### Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$900.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption and Out of Province Health Insurance are also payable at this time. The balance of payment, \$7,095.00, and single supplement of \$380.00, if applicable, are due on February 24, 2015. If for any reason, any travel service provider is unable to provide the service for which it was contracted, your remedy lies against that provider and not with Flight Centre. In the event that payment has been made to Flight Centre by credit card you agree that you will not seek to chargeback your payment to Flight Centre. If the credit card is declined, you guarantee that you will settle any amounts owing to Flight Centre via money order or cash within two working days of notification by Flight Centre of declined charge.

#### Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made. Martin Randall Travel and/or ROMtravel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

#### Cancellations

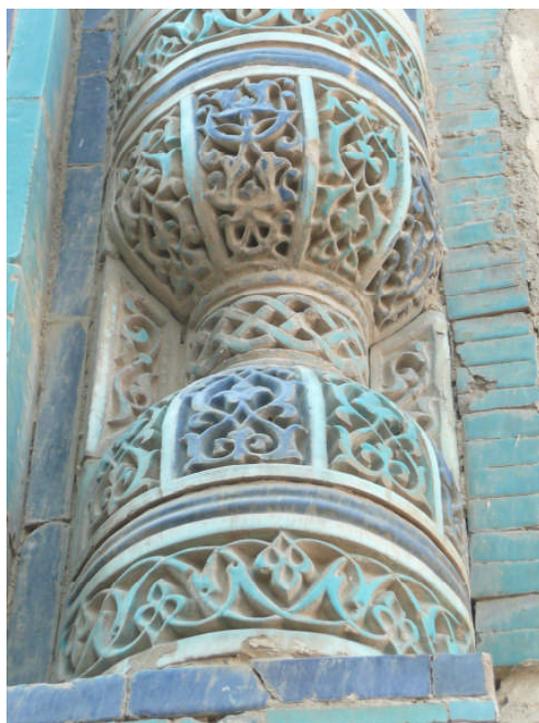
Should a confirmed participant cancel, notification must be received in writing by Flight Centre. Cancellation charges per person, when not covered by optional trip cancellation insurance, will be as follows:

Initial deposit of \$900.00:	Non-refundable
February 24 to March 23, 2015:	40% of tour cost is non-refundable
March 24 to April 6, 2015	60% of tour cost is non-refundable
April 7 to April 18, 2015	80% of tour cost is non-refundable
April 19, 2015 to departure:	100% of tour cost is non-refundable

No refund will be issued for unused services. No claim or refund will be considered unless submitted in writing and received by Flight Centre on behalf of the suppliers within 30 days of the termination of the tour. Martin Randall Travel may cancel the tour at any time up to eight weeks before departure if there are insufficient bookings for it to be viable. Martin Randall Travel would refund everything paid to them.

#### Documents

A passport valid for six (6) months after the return is required. Neither Flight Centre nor Martin Randall Travel nor ROMtravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Canadian, US and British citizens require a visa to enter Uzbekistan. It is your responsibility to obtain the visa. Information on how to do so will be provided.



Timurid Mausoleum, Samarkand, courtesy of Mary Williamson

## Insurance

Comprehensive insurance (medical, repatriation, loss of property and to afford protection against penalties caused by cancellation of trip due to injury, illness or death of tour participant or member of participant's family) is required. If providing your own insurance, Martin Randall Travel will request policy details. Flight Centre offers travel insurance, as outlined below, underwritten by Manulife Financial. The insurance premium is non-refundable after 48 hours and must be submitted at the time of deposit. HST is included in the quoted prices. The rates quoted below are subject to change until insurance policy is issued.

Based on accommodation in double occupancy room					
Age	Compre-hensive	Non-Medical	Age	Compre-hensive	Non-Medical
To 59	\$481.68	\$436.32	70-74	\$924.48	\$685.80
60-64	\$603.72	\$517.32	75-79	\$1,182.60	\$938.52
65-69	\$722.52	\$598.32	80	\$1,691.28	\$1,155.60

Based on accommodation in single supplement room					
Age	Compre-hensive	Non-Medical	Age	Compre-hensive	Non-Medical
To 59	\$498.96	\$453.60	70-74	\$954.72	\$716.04
60-64	\$625.32	\$538.92	75-79	\$1,221.48	\$977.40
65-69	\$748.44	\$624.24	80	\$1,747.44	\$1,203.12



Shahr-i Sabz Dorusiyat Mausoleum, courtesy of Wikipedia and Alaexis

## Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of the Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the tour, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this tour however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of the Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the tour. The applicant by applying to join the tour hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

## Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Flight Centre, Martin Randall Travel and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the tour. This Agreement is governed by, and is to be construed and interpreted in accordance with the Laws of the Province of Ontario and the Laws of Canada applicable in that Province. The parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Toronto, Ontario to resolve any disputes which may arise in relation to this Agreement and/or sale in general by Flight Centre to the client. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor Flight Centre nor Martin Randall Travel nor any affiliated or subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Martin Randall Travel and/or ROMtravel reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the tour or portions thereof. All tour services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors.



The Ark Fortress, Bukhara courtesy of Wikipedia and Stomac

**The Flight Shops, Inc. dba Flight Centre ("Flight Centre")**  
**TICO Registration # 50010020**  
**As agent of Martin Randall Travel**

**Organized by ROMtravel for**  
**The Department of Museum Volunteers**  
**Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Canada**

The Department of Museum Volunteers' ROMtravel Program was established to provide superior quality tour opportunities for members and to generate income for the Royal Ontario Museum.

### For further information, contact:

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