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, madressahs 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 19th 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 Shahrhisabz, 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/Shahrhisabz/ Samarkand  Drive to Shahrhisabz 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 madressahs; the Amir Timur Mausoleum and the Bibi Khanum Mosque, as well as the Uleg Beg Observatory, the Afsaabl History Museum and the jewel-like mausoleums of the Shahi-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 madressah, 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 Niranjan Date

Tour Cost
Double Occupancy  $7,995
Single Supplement  $380

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

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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Based on accommodation in a single supplement room

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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.

Shahrissabz Dorussiadat Mausoleum, courtesy of Wikipedia and Alaexis

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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Linda Heslegrave, Martin Randall Travel (Canadian Office)
Phone: 647.382.1644  E-mail: canada@martinrandall.ca