

 AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

EXPEDITIONS

Along the Ancient Silk Road

JOURNEY THROUGH UZBEKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN WITH MUSEUM EXPERTS

April 15 – 29, 2013 and September 16 – 30, 2013



EXPLORE CENTRAL ASIA WITH ART HISTORIAN & GEOLOGIST BRUCE LOEFFLER
(APRIL) OR ANTHROPOLOGIST IAN TATTERSALL (SEPTEMBER)



Your Study Leaders



Bruce Loeffler, a Geologist and Art Historian, is an enthusiastic and gifted educator who has led many AMNH groups across the globe and looks forward to returning to Central Asia in April. Dr. Loeffler has degrees in chemistry (undergraduate), art history (M.A.), and geology (Ph.D.) and taught at Colorado College in Colorado Springs and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

“We will explore the history of the Silk Road: the exchange of commodities and its impact on the West and East, and the equally-important exchange of ideas, culture, and religious beliefs. We will also see spectacular deserts and mountains, and discuss global warming, desertification and the geology and ecology of deserts, as well as Plate Tectonics, which produced the tallest mountains in Central Asia, whose east-west orientation shaped the East-West trade route.”



Ian Tattersall, Curator Emeritus in the Division of Anthropology at the Museum, accompanies the September departure. He is an expert on physical anthropology and human evolution, and has lectured on many educational expeditions throughout the world. He is trained in geology as well as in archaeology and anthropology, and is a writer for both the scientific and popular press.

“The republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have fabled histories, and the names of ancient market towns such as Samarkand, Tashkent and Bukhara radiate the romance of an exotic and mysterious time and place, even as the newly independent nations to which they belong struggle with the complex realities of the post-Soviet world. Our tour has been designed to echo the vast sweep of Central Asia, to reflect its unique landscapes and cultures, and to capture its extraordinary resonance. I do hope that you will join us on this very unusual journey.”

“We loved seeing a part of the world that is definitely off the beaten track. Get there before the whole world sees it!”

AMNH Expedition Travelers, April 2012

EXCEPTIONAL INSIGHT

ENGAGE YOUR MIND

YOUR ADVENTURE

Expedition Highlights

The exotic sights and sounds at the heart of Eurasia have long drawn adventurous souls. It is here that ancient kingdoms arose on the sites of oases along the lucrative caravan routes of the silk and spice trade between the empires of the East and West. Some, such as Samarkand and Bukhara, have persisted over the centuries, retaining some of their former glory. Others, like Merv and Afrosiab, overrun by invading armies, have slowly receded into the desert.

In Samarkand, discover the legacy of Tamerlane (Timur the Great) who gathered the finest architects, builders and artisans of the time to enhance its beauty. Venture outside the city to the observatory of Uleg Bek, his grandson who was one of the most sophisticated astronomers of the 15th century, and stop at Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Timur.

From the heart of the old town to the Kalyan Mosque and its imposing minaret, spend two full days exploring Bukhara, Central Asia's most ancient living city. Drive across the Kyzyl Kum Desert along the ancient Silk Road to the walled city of Khiva. See well preserved examples of Islamic architecture including the carved wooden pillars at the Dzhuma (Friday) Mosque.

Cross into Turkmenistan and head to Kunya-Urgench, the ancient seat of Central Asian civilization. Outside the capital of Ashkabat explore the ruins of the five ancient cities of Merv whose remains continue to provide information about the evolution of urban centers, and Nisa archeological site, the capital of the Parthian Empire. History provides insight into the present as you dine in the home of an Uzbek family, meet a local artist, observe silk carpet weaving, and discover the cultural diversity along the ancient Silk Road.

Daily Itinerary

DAY 1-2 | DEPART HOME | TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

Depart the U.S. on individual flights bound for Tashkent, traveling overnight and arriving in the evening of the next day. Upon arrival, transfer to our centrally located hotel. [Tashkent Palace \(Meals aloft\)](#)

DAY 3 | TASHKENT

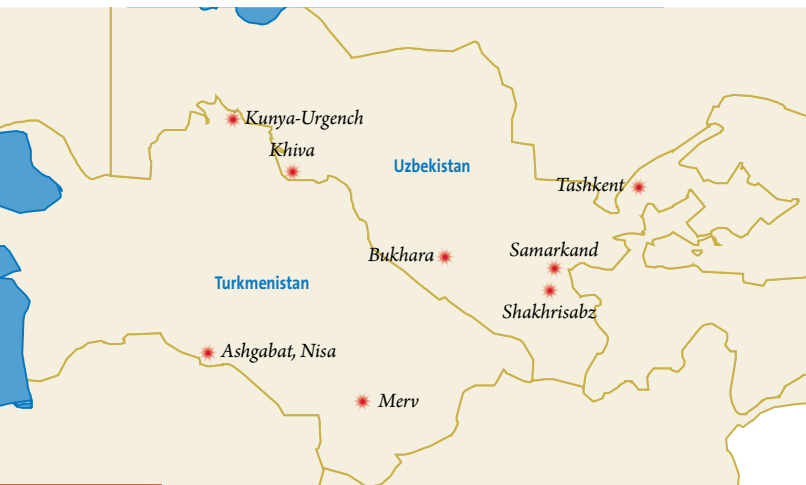
This morning, embark on a tour of Uzbekistan's capital. Visit the Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts and view the antique suzani (silk embroidery) and other textiles of the museum. Then explore the Chorsu bazaar, the Kukeldash Madrasa, and the Barak-Khan Madrasa, a 16th century Islamic seminary which housed the Sunni Mufti of Central Asia. Late this afternoon, take a ride on Tashkent's subway, built by the Soviet's to rival Moscow's legendary underground. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening in the home of a well known ceramic artist. [Tashkent Palace \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 4 | TASHKENT | SAMARKAND

Depart early this morning for Samarkand. This fabled Silk Road oasis has been settled since the 6th century B.C.E. Tamerlane (known in Uzbekistan as Timur the Great) made it his capital city in the 14th century and gathered the finest architects, builders and artisans of the time to enhance its beauty. Upon arrival in the city, visit the Registan, a huge public square bordered by three magnificent madrasas. [Registan Plaza Hotel \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 5 | SAMARKAND

Begin your exploration of Samarkand with a visit to Gur-Amir, the tomb of Timur the Great. Then, walk through the old part of town to the massive Bibi Khanum Mosque, begun in 1399 by Timur in honor of his wife. Its sheer size pushed the limits of technology at the time, and it is said that 90 elephants were needed to haul the precious stones from India for its construction. Later, venture beyond Samarkand to the necropolis of Shakh-i-Zinda and to the observatory of Uleg Bek, Timur's grandson who was one of the most sophisticated astronomers of the 15th century. [Registan Plaza Hotel \(B,L\)](#)



RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

DAY 6 | SHAKHRISABZ

Depart this morning for Bukhara, stopping at Shakhrisabz en route. The birthplace of Timur, Shakhrisabz reached its zenith in the 14th and 15th centuries. Visit the Ak-Sarai Palace and the Jehongir Mausoleum, the burial place of Timur's son. Continue on to Bukhara, arriving in the early evening. [Hotel Emir \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 7 | BUKHARA

Spend the day exploring Central Asia's most ancient living city, whose historic center has been a World Heritage Site since 1993. Begin at Lyabi-Hauz Plaza, in the heart of the old town, and continue by foot to the Kalyan Mosque and its imposing minaret. Explore the Ark Citadel, the original fortress of Bukhara, and visit the former home of a wealthy merchant to learn about Uzbek traditions. For dinner this evening, enjoy a performance by the Uzbek Folklore Ensemble under the stars in the courtyard of the Divan Begi Madrasa. [Hotel Emir \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 8 | BUKHARA

After breakfast, visit the Summer Palace of the last Emir of Bukhara. Returning to town, enjoy an unscheduled afternoon to explore the city on your own. [Hotel Emir \(B,D\)](#)

DAY 9 | KYZYL KUM DESERT | KHIVA

The drive today follows the old Silk Road across long stretches of the Kyzyl Kum Desert, the same route once traversed by caravans of merchants carrying goods between Europe and the Far East. Arrive in Khiva this afternoon. [Hotel Azia-Khiva \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 10 | KHIVA

Today explore the walled city of Khiva by foot, including visits to the Tash-Hauli Palace, built for the reigning khan and his four wives; the Dzhuma (Friday) Mosque with its dramatic forest of carved wooden pillars; the Kunya Ark, the original residence of the khans; and the ancient well of Khievak. [Hotel Azia-Khiva \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 11 | KUNYA-URGENCH, TURKMENISTAN

After breakfast drive to the border with Turkmenistan, cross the border and head for the town Kunya-Urgench, the ancient seat of Central Asian civilization, which is located in present day Turkmenistan. Among the ruins you find the Turabeg Khanum Mausoleum, the Kutluk Timur Minaret, the tallest in Central Asia, and the Sultan Ali Mausoleum. In the evening fly to Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. [Sofitel Oguzkent Hotel \(B,L\)](#)

DAY 12 | ASHGABAT

Recently Ashgabat has seen a boom in new construction, initiated by the former president Saparmurat Niyazov and funded with oil and gas revenues. Today's tour includes visits to the new mosque, the local bazaar, and the Museum of Carpets and Textiles. In the afternoon, visit a farm of Akhal-Teken horses. [Sofitel Oguzkent Hotel \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 13 | MERV

Fly to ancient Merv for a full-day exploration of the ruins of its five ancient cities. The remains of Merv were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site because of the wealth of information they provide about the evolution of urban centers. Return to Ashgabat in the evening. [Sofitel Oguzkent Hotel \(B,L\)](#)

DAY 14 | NISA

This morning, visit the ancient ruined city of Nisa, the capital of the Parthian Empire, dating back to the 3rd century B.C.E. This evening, celebrate your journey to Central Asia with a festive farewell dinner. [Sofitel Oguzkent Hotel \(B,L,D\)](#)

DAY 15 | ASHGABAT | RETURN HOME

Return to the U.S. (B, Meals aloft)

Accommodations

Accommodations range from five-star hotels in Tashkent and Ashgabat to quaint locally run guesthouses in the heart of the old cities of Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva.



EXPEDITION RATES

Double Occupancy	\$5,995
Single Occupancy	\$6,645

Expedition rates are per person and are based on a minimum of 20 participants.

AIRFARE Airfare from your home to Tashkent and return from Ashgabat is not included. We offer competitive airfares on this program and will be pleased to assist you with your travel arrangements.

WHAT TO EXPECT The program features several long drives over occasionally bumpy roads, including an all-day drive across the desert from Bukhara to Khiva. There will be some early morning departures and late evenings. Much of the touring requires a good deal of walking, up to a mile at a time over uneven terrain.

INCLUSIONS Comprehensive educational program by study leader(s), professional on-site guides, and local experts; All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, R=reception, D=dinner); All ground transportation and flights within designated itinerary unless otherwise indicated; All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary; Pre-departure materials, including travel information; Entrance fees, airport and hotel taxes, port charges, and gratuities to housekeeping, porters, escorts, drivers, and guides; Welcome and farewell receptions; Potable water throughout the program; Transfers to and from airports for those arriving or departing according to the designated schedule; Baggage handling for one checked piece and one carry on piece per person; Professional tour management throughout.

EXCLUSIONS U.S. domestic or international airfare unless specified as included; Passport and visa expenses; Medical expenses and immunizations; Airport transfers and baggage handling for independent travelers; Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour; Excess baggage charges; Travel and trip cancellation insurance; Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of the included meals; Personal items such as telephone or internet, laundry, room service, alcoholic or other beverages not specified as included; Gratuities for ship or train staff unless otherwise specified; Gratuities for non-group services

The following is abridged; complete terms are available on request, at amnhexpeditions.org, and will be included in confirmation materials.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: The AMNH Expeditions are managed and operated by Academic Travel Abroad, a professional tour operator, hired as an independent contractor. ATA also may sub-contract with and appoint Tour Operators to operate AMNH Expeditions. The American Museum of Natural History provides the educational enrichment and the Study Leader for the tour. By registering for an AMNH Expedition, the participant waives and releases any claim against us for any loss, damage, injury, or death, and each participant is required to sign a confirmation of such waiver and release as a condition to participating in the tour.

ELIGIBILITY AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: Participation is a benefit of AMNH membership. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit; however, all participants must be in good physical and mental health.

BASIS OF RATES: All prices are per person based on two sharing a room or cabin, and fares are quoted in U.S. dollars. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$600 per person is required to reserve space. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Full payment is required for reservations made after final payment date. Acceptable forms of payment are check or credit card.

CANCELLATION BY TRAVELER: Once confirmed, if you cancel 121 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of \$300 per person will be made. Cancellations that occur between 91 to 120 days prior to departure are subject to full forfeiture of the deposit. Per person charges for cancellations that occur between 61 to 90 days prior to departure are subject to forfeiture of 50% the expedition price. Per person charges for cancellations that occur less than 61 days prior to departure are subject to full forfeiture of the expedition price.

CANCELLATION BY AMNH EXPEDITIONS: We reserve the right to cancel any trip because of inadequate enrollment or because of good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or welfare of the participants. If we cancel an expedition prior to departure, you will receive a full refund of monies paid to us or a credit for future travel equivalent to the monies paid to us, or a combination thereof. If we cancel the trip in progress, you will receive a prorated refund based on the number of days not completed on the expedition.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: For your protection, trip cancellation and travel insurance is strongly recommended. Detailed information on the cancellation and travel insurance available through AMNH Expeditions will be provided with your reservation confirmation and is available online at amnhexpeditions.org. Certain policy protections are only available within 15–21 days of booking your tour, so please ask your reservations agent for details when you call. This insurance is at an additional cost.

SINGLE TRAVELERS: A limited number of single rooms are available at extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis, but availability cannot be guaranteed. We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The itineraries and study leader staff presented are subject to modification and change. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but alterations may still occur without allowance of refund.

California Sellers of Travel #2059002



The American Museum of Natural History, a world leader in scientific exploration, established AMNH Expeditions, the first museum educational travel program in the country, in 1953. The goal of AMNH Expeditions is to present educational travel programs that reflect past and current areas of interest and exploration by the American Museum of Natural History. The tours provide a combination of study, adventure, and leisure activities. "American Museum of Natural History Expeditions" is a registered service mark of the American Museum of Natural History.

Participation in AMNH Expeditions helps support the Museum's mission to discover, interpret, and disseminate – through scientific research and education – knowledge about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe.



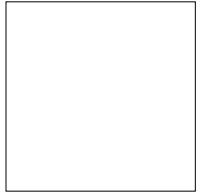
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AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY

EXPEDITIONS

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New York, New York 10024-5192



More details available online:
www.amnhexpeditions.org

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CENTRAL ASIA

ART HISTORIAN & GEOLOGIST BRUCE LOEFFLER
APRIL 15 – 29, 2013

ANTHROPOLOGIST IAN TATTERSALL
SEPTEMBER 16 – 30, 2013

UZBEKISTAN: Tashkent | Samarkand | Shakhrisabz | Bukhara | Kyzyl Kum Desert | Khiva
TURKMENISTAN: Kunya-Urgench | Ashgabat

Join us along the Ancient Silk Road, as we explore the wonders of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. In Tashkent, visit a 16th-century Islamic seminary, wander through the Chorsu bazaar, and view antique *suzani* (silk embroidery) and other textiles. Enjoy excursions to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Samarkand and Shakhrisabz, home to Tamerlane; the ancient cities of Bukhara and Kunya-Urgench; the ruins of the five cities of Merv; and the archeological site of Nisa, capital of the Parthian Empire. Discover the region's contemporary culture as you dine in the home of an Uzbek family, meet a local artist, observe silk carpet weaving, and marvel at modern Ashgabat.