FOLLOW THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD
From the Great Wall of China to the Walls of Constantinople
20 days - Private Train & First Class Hotels

October 1st 2021

www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au
October 1st: To BEIJING Join your flight today to China’s capital, Beijing. On arrival you are transferred to your centrally located 5 star hotel. Overnight: First Class hotel.D

October 2nd: BEIJING Today we are introduced to the ancient (and modern) city of Beijing – highlights include the Temple of Heaven as well as the famous Tiananmen Square. For centuries to the doors the former Emperor’s Palaces have been closed to the public. Today the glorious halls and mysterious temples of the Forbidden City are open for us. A traditional Chinese dinner of Peking Duck tonight. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 3rd: BEIJING - Great Wall of China The Great Wall of China is the 8th Wonder of the World; today you can experience it up close, both on foot and from a cable car. Construction began in the 7th century BC with sections of the 1,500 mile long wall dating from the 3rd century BC, and most from the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644). On the way back to our Beijing hotel, we visit the famous Ming Tombs (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Sacred Way. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 4th: To XIAN On the tracks today. We join China’s high speed bullet train, taking our reserved First Class seats for our journey at 300kph from China’s modern capital, to her to historic capital, the walled city of Xian. On arrival we are transferred to our 5 star centre hotel. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 5th: XIAN – Entombed Warriors This morning there is a city sightseeing tour of Xian, including the 7th Century Wild Goose Buddhist Pagoda and the 14th Century Great Mosque. The afternoon is free for the markets or, for the more athletic, a bicycle ride around the city walls – 14 kilometres. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 6th: XIAN Yet another wonder of the world today – the Entombed Warriors of Xian. 8,000 life size soldiers, and 130 chariots with 520 horses, stand guard over the grave of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, since 210–209 BC. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 7th: To ALMATY We skip the next bit of the Silk Road today, as there is no train. Instead, we join our international flight to Almaty in Kazakhstan where, on arrival, we are transferred to our centrally located hotel. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 8th: ALMATY This morning we enjoy a sightseeing tour of this green metropolis city at the foot of the mighty Ile Alatau Mountains. Highlights include the Zenkov Russian Orthodox Cathedral, built entirely of wood, the Wedding Palace, the Almaty Circus, and the Central Mosque. After a Kazakh welcome lunch, we board our private train, the Orient Silk Road Express. Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express.[B,L,D]

October 9th: TURKESTAN We arrive after breakfast in the city of Turkestan and visit the 1394 Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, one of the most significant examples of Timurid architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards our private train continues its journey, crossing the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan border towards Tashkent. Border formalities are completed in the comfort of our compartment. Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express.[B,L,D]

October 10th: TASHKENT Our private train, the Orient Silk Road Express, arrives in the early morning at Uzbekistan’s capital, Tashkent. During our city sightseeing of this green oasis in the steppe, we see the Madrassa Kukeldash, the Kavoj and Tamerlane’s birthplace, where we visit the brutal Mongol leader’s great palace. Back on board, we head for the magical city of Samarkand. Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express.[B,L,D]

October 12th: SAMARKAND On arrival in Samarkand we settle into our First Class hotel for a 2 night stay. During the rule of Tamerlane, Samarkand was considered the world’s most beautiful city, and it still speaks of all the magic of 1,001 Nights. Today we learn why. It is also historically important, as the site where many Uzbek women burned their veils (burkhas) in 1917, with the arrival of the Soviet system. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 13th SAMARKAND Our day’s sightseeing in this fascinating city includes a tour of a silk carpet manufactury, a visit to an Uzbek craftsman’s family to see paper being made from mulberry bark, stops at the Ulug Beg Observatory and the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque, and viewing the interior of the palace-like Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 14th: SAMARKAND The morning is yours to explore Samarkand or spend as you please. We re-board the Silk Road Orient Express at noon and depart for Khiva. Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express.[B,L,D]

October 15th: KHIVA Today we visit the oasis of Khiva, an exotic fairy tale from 1001 Nights – in stone. Its palaces, mosques, minarets, mausoleums, and madrassas (Muslim religious schools) represent one of the best preserved ensembles of medieval oriental urban architecture in the world. Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express.[B,L,D]

October 16th: BUKHARA On arrival in Bukhara (also called Sherif - the noble one) we transfer to our First Class hotel and then commence our city sightseeing of just a few of its thousand architectural monuments recalling the golden age of the Great Silk Route, including the almost fifty-metre tall Kalyan Minaret. Exotic spices, furs, and especially silk were stored and traded then in the city’s caravanserais. The Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 17th: BUKHARA This morning we continue to explore Bukhara’s ancient oriental architecture - the splendid Mir-e-Arab Madrassa, the Samanid Mausoleum, and the massive Ark Citadel. Our private train continues its journey in the evening. Overnight on board the Orient Silk Road Express.[B,L,D]

October 18th: MERV We farewell the Silk Road Orient Express this morning on arrival at the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site of Merv. Here are the remnants of what was once one of the world’s largest and most magnificent cities: gigantic walls and ramparts simply standing in the middle of the desert next to the imposing ruins of ancient buildings such as the Tomb of the Sultan Sanjar, and the Maiden’s Castle. We have lunch with a local family in their home’s picturesque courtyard. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 19th: NISA & ASHGABAT This morning we are transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight: First Class hotel.[B,L,D]

October 20th: To ISTANBUL (Constantinople) The traditional Silk Route further West requires passage through Iran, Iraq and Syria, so we bail out and take a flight to its historic terminus, Constantinople (Istanbul) where, on arrival, you transfer to your homeward flight or, if you choose to join your Tour Director on an 8 day Add-on tour of Istanbul, Troy and Gallipoli, we transfer to our First Class hotel.[B]
Although the term Silk Road (or Silk Route) was coined only in the 1870s by the German cartographer Ferdinand von Richthofen, there has been a trading route between China and Europe since the third century BC, with silk from the East being but one of the commodities traded. 1,500 years later Marco Polo may or may not have followed the route. We don’t have 20 years to spare to make the journey, so we commence with the high speed train from Beijing to Xian, then fly on to Almaty in Kazakhstan to join our private train, the Orient Silk Road Express, for a 13 day journey (6 nights spent on board) along the historic route through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. We skip the next section of the Silk Road - through Iran, Iraq and Syria - and fly on to finish our journey in Istanbul, ancient Constantinople, the terminus of the historic Silk Road.

FACT BOX:
DURATION: 20 DAYS
DEPARTURES: October 1st 2020
From SAU 21,250 pp twin share
Please see Cabins insert for more info.

ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS:
7 overnights on the private train according to the booked cabin category
5 overnights in First Class hotels
All meals according to program
Guided sightseeing and entrances as per itinerary
First class seats on the high speed Beijing to Xian train
Xian to Almaty economy class flight
Airport arrival and departure transfers

CHINA INCLUDED FEATURES:
6 nights bed and buffet breakfast in international 5 star hotels
All meals according to program
Guided sightseeing and entrances as per itinerary
First class seats on the high speed Beijing to Xian train
Xian to Almaty economy class flight
Airport arrival and departure transfers

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES:
From any Australian capital city to Beijing, and return from Almaty (Assumed to be a stopover in Istanbul, and from Almaty to Istanbul, journey is 7 nights)
ECONOMY CLASS: $2,600
BUSINESS CLASS: $5,900

FACT BOX:
DURATION: 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS
DEPARTURE: October 21st 2021
COST: SAU 4,900 per person twin share.

ISTANBUL, TROY & GALLIPOLI POST TOUR:
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS
OCT 21st ISTANBUL On arrival in Istanbul Airport from our Silk Road journey, we are transferred to our First Class city-centre hotel. [D]

OCT 22nd ISTANBUL Istanbul has a long and eventful history, reflected in its 3 names – Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul. Today we see modern Istanbul, the city spread across the two continents of Europe and Asia. [B,D]

OCT 23rd ISTANBUL We begin our exploration of the Byzantine and Ottoman city at the Hippodrome and nearby twin shrines of Hagia Sophia, the greatest church in Christendom for a millennium, and the Blue Mosque. We then visit the historic underground cisterns constructed under Emperor Justinian in the sixth century. Free time in the afternoon for the Spice Market, which has been selling spices from the East since mediaeval times. [B]

OCT 24th ISTANBUL This morning we visit the Topkapi Palace, the royal palace of the Ottomans, founded in 1459, just 6 years after the invasion of Christian Constantinople by the Turks. Since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War 1 it has served as a most important museum with fine art and ornamentation from the Ottoman era. The harem room is of more than appropriate interest to most tourists.

We spend the afternoon in Istanbul’s Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops. [B]

OCT 25th To GALLIPOLI By coach today we skirt the Sea of Marmara south-west into European Turkey towards the Dardanelles. Here is the town of Gallipoli situated on the peninsula of the same name. We all know it as Gallipoli. [B,D]

OCT 26th GALLIPOLI The “holy of holies” for Australians and Kiwis today. Our sightseeing today is a roll call of those places revered into our national psyche – Anzac Cove, Chunuk Bair, Lone Pine. Back to our Gallipol hotel tonight. [B,D]

OCT 27th TROY - ISTANBUL An Ancient history excursion today to Classical Troy, long believed to be a Greek myth until unearthed in the 1860s by the German archaeologist Dr Heinrich Schliemann. In the afternoon we make our way back to our Istanbul hotel. [B,D]

OCT 28th FAREWELL Our Turkish holiday ends this morning after breakfast. [B]

INCLUDES 7 nights in First Class hotels (best available in Gallipoli) with breakfasts, 5 dinners, all entrances and sightseeing per itinerary.
CABINS & COSTS
FOR THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD

ALADDIN CATEGORY CABIN:
This category features two lower beds (67cm x 184 cm), a small table and storage space. Each car has eight compartments and one shower facility. Combined toilet and washing facilities are located at both ends of each car.

SULTAN CATEGORY CABIN:
This category features two beds, with an upper berth measuring 80cm x 174 cm and the lower one a more generous 110cm x 184 cm. The compartment also offers comfortable seating, a larger table and a small closet. Each compartment has its own lavatory equipped with toilet, washing basin and integrated shower with shower curtain. Every car of this category contains only six compartments.

KALIF CATEGORY CABIN:
This category is the highest available on the Orient Silk Road Express, and has the same cabin layout as the Sultan category, except that each cabin has its own en suite bathroom. Each compartment features closet, safe and en-suite bath with separate shower cabin. Every car of this category, offering the highest level of comfort available on the Silk Road, contains only four compartments and offers space for a maximum of just 8 guests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CABIN CLASS</th>
<th>TWIN SHARE</th>
<th>SINGLE IN HOTELS TWIN ON TRAIN</th>
<th>SINGLE THROUGHOUT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aladdin</td>
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<td>$23,650</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Kalif</td>
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Costs are based US exchange rates at Aug 1st 2019 (AUD 1 = US$ 68 cents)

INCLUSIONS & COSTS:
We have a strictly limited allocation of cabins in the top 3 classes Aladdin, Sultan and Kalif on the Orient Silk Road Express. Tour costs do not include costs associated with arranging visas for the 5 countries visited, but Great Trains of Europe Tours is delighted to assist you with obtaining the necessary visas.

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES:
(based on airfares quoted as at 18th August 2019) From any Australian capital city to Beijing, and from Istanbul back to the same Australian city.

| Economy Class | $2,600 |
| Business Class| $5,800 |

PAYMENT DETAILS:
A deposit of $5,000 per person guarantees your seat (unless your preferred class of cabin is sold out prior), with the final payment due 6 months in advance.

Travel insurance is mandatory and Great Trains of Europe Tours will be delighted to quote for your travel insurance.

Direct deposit details for payments:
Bank: Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Queensland 4355 AUSTRALIA
BSB: 638 - 060
Account No: 11109734
Account Name: Great Trains of Europe Tours
Credit card payments attract a 1.5% merchant fee
BOOKING CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is a fully accredited travel agent and tour operator, providing the consumer protections of ATAS membership (# A12982). We are members of IATA (#9497).

COSTS: Costs are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at August 1st 2019.

The exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, up to the date of departure.

A deposit of $5,000 per person will guarantee a place (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 6 months before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to “Great Trains of Europe Tours” or by bank transfer as follows:

Heritage Bank, Toowoomba
BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34

Credit card payments attract a 1.5% merchant fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 180 days and 90 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content.

Full payment is due 6 months before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to “Great Trains of Europe Tours” or by bank transfer as follows:

Heritage Bank, Toowoomba
BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34

Credit card payments attract a 1.5% merchant fee.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: A baggage allowance of 20kgs per person applies to all tour members.

HOTELS: Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

OTHER IMPORTANT ADVICE: The tour will proceed if a minimum of 15 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be given a choice of (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or (iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour.

Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her/his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

CONTRACT: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.
One form per person, please.

Tour Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________ Departure Date: ____________________

PASSPORT DETAILS
Full name (as in passport): ______________________________________________________________________Preferred name: _____________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Passport No: ________________________________ Date of Issue: _____________________________________ Expiry Date: ________________________
Nationality: _________________________________ Date of Birth: ______________________________________
Ph. Home: (     ) ______________________________ Ph. Work: (     ) _____________________________________
Mobile: ____________________________________ Email: ____________________________________________

MEDICAL / DIET
Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?
 YES □ NO  If you answered YES, please outline briefly: ___________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance? □ YES □ NO

NEXT OF KIN (to be contacted in event of an emergency)
Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________
Ph. Home: (     ) ______________________________ Ph. Work: (     ) _____________________________________ Mobile: __________________________

TRAVEL INSURANCE
 Please provide me with travel insurance. □ I have a pre-existing medical condition.
 I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.
  Insurance Company __________________________________________ Policy Number _________________________

ACCOMMODATION
 Double □ Twin, sharing with ________________________________________________________________
 Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.
 Single Room □ Single occupancy of double sized room (surcharge) □ Non-smoking □ Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION
 Pre-Tour in ________________________________ (city) Date IN ___/___/___ Date OUT ___/___/___
 Post-Tour in ________________________________ (city) Date IN ___/___/___ Date OUT ___/___/___

FLIGHTS
 I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. or □ I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD
 I enclose a cheque, payable to “Great Trains of Europe Tours” for $ ________________________________ or
 I have deposited $ __________________ in the “Great Trains of Europe Tours” account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.
  BSB 636 – 060    Account Number 11109734    Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence. Heritage Bank customers please add S1 to account number.”

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature ____________________________________________________________________________________ Date _____________________________