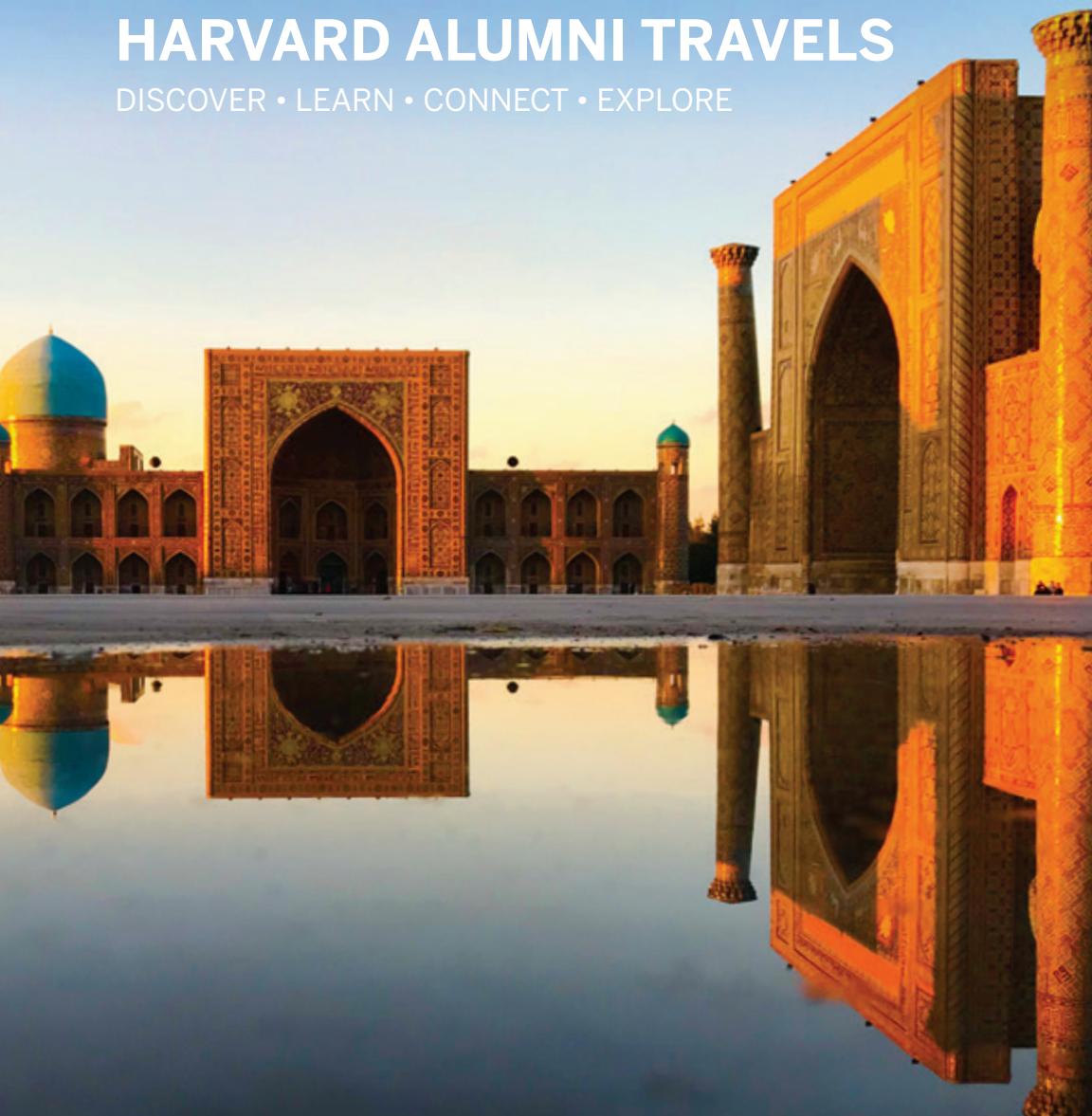


2020

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE



Silk Road Odyssey: The Five 'Stans

Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Uzbekistan

Tajikistan • Turkmenistan

October 5-23, 2020

with Alexandra Vacroux, PhD,

Executive Director of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies





Caption

Join a modern-day exploration of Central Asia's fabled "Five 'Stans" — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan — admiring their historic treasures and meeting the hospitable people who live and work in these ancient, exotic lands. Trace the path of the great camel caravans along the Old Silk Road, admiring the vaulted portals of the mosques and *madrassahs*, their domes cloaked in sky-blue ceramic tiles. Discover five different UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the historic Old Towns of the fabled Uzbek oases, Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. Wander the fabulous bazaars and step into the past on the streets of Silk Road trade centers crowned with complex Persian architecture. Along the way, tour a traditional Kazakh falcon farm, learn about Uzbekistan's education system during a specially arranged visit to a private school, attend an engaging performance of the Kyrgyz *Epic of Manas*, and meet with representatives of a Tajik NGO.

Activity Level 4: 

UP FOR A CHALLENGE

This trip is rated as rigorous touring due to the substantial distances covered; the length of some bus rides; the extensive walking and stair climbing required; and the overall shortcomings of the tourism infrastructure. The itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Many streets are made of packed dirt, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases with tall uneven steps. Some sites and hotels may not offer elevators. Border crossings may require crossing a relatively long distance by foot while managing your own bags — up to about a half-mile. To fully enjoy this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least two miles a day; flexibility and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are highly recommended as well. In true expedition style, some delays or changes in the itinerary are likely.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT [ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel)

Study Leader



Alexandra Vacroux holds a PhD in Government from Harvard University where she is currently executive director

of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Her scholarly work addresses many Russian and Eurasian policy issues and she teaches popular courses on the comparative politics of Eurasia and post-Soviet conflict. She is an active member of the bilateral Working Group on the Future of U.S.–Russia Relations, and co-chairs the Davis Center's long-running Comparative Politics Seminar. While living in Moscow for more than a decade in the 1990s, she was consultant to the Russian Privatization Agency, president of the American brokerage for the Brunswick Warburg investment bank, and member of the board of United Way Moscow. She also served as research associate at the Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR), a Russian think tank associated with the New Economic School. As a commentator, she has been praised as "refreshing," "straightforward," and "quick and to the point." She has appeared on stations ranging from WBUR, Fox News Radio, China Central TV, Hromadske TV (Ukraine), and speaks regularly at community forums at home and abroad.



Trip Sampling

LAND & RAIL

HMSC COLOMBIA: FROM BOGOTA TO CARTAGENA

MAR 12-23, 2020

Jeffrey Quilter

DETROIT, THE MOTOR CITY: THEN & NOW

MAY 14-18, 2020

Alice DeLana

HMSC ZAMBIA & NAMIBIA

MAY 30-JUN 15, 2020

Richard Wrangham & Elizabeth Ross

HMSC NATIVE AMERICAN VOICES

MAY 31 – JUN 8, 2020

Philip Deloria

LANDSCAPES OF PEACE: THE LEGACY OF WWI IN BELGIUM & FRANCE

JUN 15-23, 2020

R. Nicholas Burns

THE HOLY LAND: ISRAEL & PALESTINE

SEP 6-16, 2020

Peter Machinist

HBS INCREDIBLE BHUTAN

OCT 5-19, 2020

KUMANO KODO: THE SACRED SITES & PILGRIMAGE ROUTES OF THE KII MOUNTAINS OF JAPAN

NOV 6-14, 2020

Gavin H. Whitelaw

CRUISES

MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECES: CADIZ TO NICE ON *SEA CLOUD II*

APR 16-25, 2020

Joseph Greene

SAILING ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES ON *SEA CLOUD II*

JUN 27-JUL 9, 2020

Timothy J. Colton

CRUISING ALASKA'S GLACIERS & THE INSIDE PASSAGE ON *LE SOLEAL*

JUL 29-AUG 5, 2020

Harvey Fineberg & Mary Wilson

CELTIC CLASSICS ON THE IRISH SEA ON *SEA CLOUD II*

AUG 8-16, 2020

Catherine McKenna

ADRIATIC ODYSSEY: VENICE TO CATANIA ON *SEA CLOUD II*

OCT 4-12, 2020

Lino Pertile

SICILY BY SAIL: CATANIA TO NAPLES ON *SEA CLOUD II*

OCT 11-19, 2020

Diana Sorensen

NEW YEAR'S GALAPAGOS ON *ORIGIN*

DEC 26, 2020 – JAN 4, 2021

James Costa

RIVERS & LAKES

ELBE RIVER CRUISE ON *ELBE PRINCESSE II*

MAR 31 – APR 11, 2020

Thomas F. Kelly

THE PEARLS OF THE PO: FROM VENICE TO PARMA ON *LA VENEZIA*

MAY 9-17, 2020

Joyce Chaplin

GREAT JOURNEY THROUGH EUROPE: THE RHINE RIVER AND SWITZERLAND

JUL 17-27, 2020

Christie McDonald

ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS: VIENNA TO NUREMBERG ON *AMAVIOLA*

DEC 6-14, 2020

Sue Schopf

FAMILY ADVENTURES

GREECE FAMILY ODYSSEY: THE PELOPONNESE ON *RUNNING ON WAVES*

JUN 18-27, 2020

James Simpson

JAPAN FAMILY ADVENTURE (TOKYO, KYOTO & HIROSHIMA)

JUN 27 – JUL 8, 2020

Ted Gilman



HARVARD
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H | B | S ALUMNI TRAVEL

HMSC
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SCIENCE & CULTURE



Left: caption. Right: caption.

MONDAY-TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 5-6
**USA/Almaty,
Kazakhstan**

Depart USA bound for Almaty, Kazakhstan. Most flights arrive late on Tuesday night or very early on Wednesday morning. Upon arrival, transfer to a five-star hotel in the city center for a three-night stay. *Intercontinental Almaty Hotel or similar (in flight)*

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 7-8
Almaty

After an introductory lecture, begin exploring Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan. Start with a visit to Panfilov Park and candy-colored Zenkov Cathedral, one of the few surviving czarist-era buildings left in the city. Admire the traditional instruments on display at the delightful Museum of Musical Instruments, and enjoy a breathtaking cable-car ride up to Kok-Tobe Hill with fantastic views of the city. Outside of Almaty, visit the Olympic-sized Medeo Sports Complex, set in the foothills of the gorgeous Zailiysky Alatau Mountains, and attend a demonstration of traditional Kazakh falconry at a falcon farm, where hunters put the beautiful birds through their paces. *Intercontinental Almaty Hotel or similar (2B, 2L, 1D)*

FRIDAY-SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 9-10
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Fly to Bishkek, the capital of neighboring Kyrgyzstan. Visit some of the city's beautiful green parks and buildings, including Victory and Oak Parks, Ala Too Square, and the Statue of Manas, commemorating Kyrgyzstan's mythical hero. Meet with a local who participated in the Kyrgyz Revolution of 2010, and together visit the Ata Beii Memorial Complex to pay respects to fallen Kyrgyz heroes and leaders. Admire UNESCO-listed Burana Tower, one of the only existing Silk Road watchtowers in Kyrgyzstan, and attend a lively demonstration of Kyrgyz horse games, followed by lunch with a village family. Enjoy dinner with a traditional performance of selections from the Kyrgyz tale *The Epic of Manas*, a UNESCO Masterpiece of Cultural Heritage. *Hyatt Regency Bishkek or similar (2B, 2L, 2D)*

SUNDAY-MONDAY,
OCTOBER 11-12
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Fly to the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, and explore its fascinating mix of ancient and modern sights. Enjoy a privately guided tour of the Museum of Applied Arts, displaying hundreds of colorful fabrics,

ceramics, jewelry, and carpets, then make a stop at the Courage Monument, commemorating the survivors of a major earthquake in 1966. Admire Independence Square and the Shahid Memorial Complex, dedicated to those killed during Stalin's purges in 1938. After a lunch with specially invited local guests, stroll through some of Tashkent's oldest remaining monuments, including Khast Imam Square, the 16th-century Kukeldash *Madrasah*, and Chorsu Bazaar. By special arrangement, view the Uthman Koran, considered by Sunni Muslims to be the oldest Koran in the world, and visit the private studio of a sixth-generation Uzbek ceramicist whose family has revived the lost art of natural dye use. *Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace or similar (2B, 2L, 2D)*

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 13
Khujand, Tajikistan

Cross the Uzbek/Tajik border and continue to Khujand, Tajikistan's second largest city, founded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC. Visit the remains of the 10th-century Timurmalik Fortress, the poet Muslihiddin's memorial complex, and the Historical Museum of Sogdiana with its reconstructed medieval gate. During dinner this evening, meet with



representatives of a local NGO and hear their experiences of living and working in Tajikistan. *Hotel Khujand Deluxe or similar* (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 14-15

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

After a morning stroll through Khujand's exciting Panshanbe Bazaar, drive back into Uzbekistan and on towards the fabled Silk Road oasis of Samarkand. Applaud the unsurpassed majesty of the blue-tiled Registan, the city's centerpiece and most recognizable landmark. Admire Tamerlane's Bibi Khanum Mosque and Gur-Emir Mausoleum; the row of 15th-century tombs and mausoleums called Shah-i-Zinda; and Ulug Bek's remarkable medieval observatory. Visit a private kindergarten for an opportunity to meet with children, teachers, and administrators to discuss Uzbekistan's education system. Tour a workshop where hand-crafted paper is made according to traditions handed down from the 8th century, and enjoy dinner in a private family home. *Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior or similar* (2B, 2L, 2D)

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16-18

Bukhara

Depart for Bukhara, Central Asia's most ancient living city

and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour the 12th-century Kalon Assembly with its masterful 150-foot minaret. Nearby is the Ark Citadel, the original fortress of Bukhara, where you'll meet its Senior Scientific Advisor in charge of ongoing renovations. Discover the infamous Zindan Prison where two of Britain's finest Great Game players were imprisoned, and the 10th-century Ismael Samani Mausoleum with its 16 different styles of brickwork. Explore Bukhara's old Jewish Quarter, where more than 2,500 prosperous Jewish families lived before the mid-19th century, and enjoy dinner and a performance by local artists in a *madrassah*. Visit the luxurious Summer Palace of the Last Emir and its Museum of National Crafts, admiring the vivid *suzani* embroidery that Uzbekistan is known for. *Hotel Devon or similar* (3B, 3L, 3D)

MONDAY-TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 19-20

Khiva

Drive across long stretches of the Kyzyl Kum ("Red Sands") Desert to UNESCO-listed Khiva, the best preserved of the ancient caravan cities. Explore the city's atmospheric Old Town, or Ichon Qala, which has been extensively preserved and restored over several decades. Highlights include the Tash Hauli Palace, a former

residence of the Khivan khan, and the 10th-century Dzhuma Mosque with its 115 carved wooden columns. The khans had several residences, but the Kunya Ark dates back to the 12th century as the original residence. *Asia Hotel Khiva or similar* (2B, 2L, 2D)

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 21-23

Dashoguz • Ashgabat

Set out across the border towards the Turkmen town of Dashoguz, where you'll fly to the capital, Ashgabat. Get an introduction to Turkmen culture with a visit to the History and Ethnography Museum, displaying numerous artifacts and exhibits that tell the story of Turkmenistan through the ages. Tour a farm that specializes in breeding and raising the renowned Akhal-Teke horse, arguably the oldest breed of horse in the world. Outside of Ashgabat, explore the UNESCO-listed ruins of Nisa, capital of the ancient Parthian Kingdom, accompanied by a professional local archaeologist. Marvel at the enormous \$100-million-dollar Kipchak Mosque in the former Turkmen president's hometown, then toast your journey through the five 'Stans of Central Asia at a farewell dinner. *Oguzkent Hotel or similar* (2B, 2L, 2D)

Program Highlights

- Enjoy expert insights by Harvard Lecturer Alexandra Vacroux
- Witness a presentation of traditional Kazakh falcon hunting
- Enjoy a dinner of Kyrgyz delicacies with a special folk performance of selections from the *Epic of Manas*
- View the Uthman Koran in Tashkent, considered by Sunni Muslims to be the oldest Koran in the world
- Learn about the ongoing humanitarian projects of a local Tajik NGO
- Participate in an exclusive meeting with the Senior Advisor for Bukhara's Ark Museum



Caption

Cost

- \$8,695 per person double occupancy
- \$10,040 single occupancy
- GROUP SIZE: 12-28



SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International airfare is not included in the program cost. Internal airfare per itinerary in economy class is included (Almaty-Bishkek, Bishkek-Tashkent, and Dashoguz-Ashgabat). The tour operator can assist you with your air arrangements. Neither the Harvard Alumni Association nor the tour operator accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned.



Caption

Terms & Conditions

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS:

Lectures by Harvard study leader; accommodations and meals as listed in the detailed itinerary; private coach for all touring and transportation per the itinerary; train tickets for the high-speed express trains from Samarkand to Bukhara and from Bukhara to Khiva in economy class (subject to schedules and availability); internal flights in economy class from Almaty to Bishkek, Bishkek to Tashkent, and from Dashoguz to Ashgabat; group arrival and departure transfers if arriving / departing on the start / end dates; all sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees per itinerary; local English speaking guides; special cultural features as stated in itinerary; services of a tour manager throughout the program; special Welcome & Farewell receptions; bottled / purified water with meals; beverages, local beer and wine with lunches/dinners; all gratuities including to tour manager, local guides, drivers; baggage handling at the hotels and train station where available; \$200,000 medevac emergency evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS:

International airfare between the U.S. and the start and ending cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; independent travel arrangements, visa or passport fees; medical and trip cancellation/interruption insurance; evacuation costs; food or beverages not included in group meals; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT:

To reserve a space on any Harvard Alumni Travels program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800.422.1636 or 617.496.0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment, payable by check, is due July 7, 2020, 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS &

REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Harvard Alumni Travels from the participant. If cancellation is received 91 or more days before tour start, the cost of cancellation is the non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person. If cancellation is received 90-61 days before tour start, the cost of cancellation is 50% of land tour cost paid or due. If cancellation is received 60 days or less before tour start, there is no refund.

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Itineraries contained in this brochure are available at the time of printing and Harvard Alumni Travels and the Tour Operator reserve the right to change a program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at <https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/silk-road-odyssey-2020>. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800.422.1636 or 617.496.0806.

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Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of \$1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:

Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:

800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?

PROGRAM NAME START DATE

FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

SECOND PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

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CHECK (please enclose check) MASTERCARD VISA

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

I/WE CONFIRM THAT I/WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT [ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel).

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

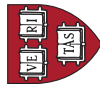
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