



HMSC SILK ROAD ODYSSEY: THE FIVE 'STANS

OCTOBER 5-23, 2020

TRAVELS TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: MIR CORPORATION (CST: #2082306-40. WST: #601-099-932)

ADMINISTRATION: Exclusively developed for the Harvard Alumni Association by Harvard Alumni Travels

PROGRAM RATES:

Per person double occupancy: \$8,695
Per person single occupancy: \$10,040

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS: All accommodation based on double occupancy per itinerary with breakfast daily, local service charge and tax (standard hotel check-in/out times apply unless otherwise noted): Almaty (3 nights); Bishkek (2 nights); Tashkent (2 nights); Khujand (1 night); Samarkand (2 nights); Bukhara (3 nights); Khiva (2 nights); Ashgabat (2 nights); arrival and departure airport transfers for those arriving and departing on the scheduled tour start and end dates; land transportation per itinerary by private air-conditioned vans or coaches; if schedules allow, train tickets for the high-speed express trains from Samarkand to Bukhara and from Bukhara to Khiva in economy class; internal airfare per itinerary in economy class (Bishkek-Tashkent and Dashoguz-Ashgabat) taxes included; all sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees per itinerary; local English speaking guides throughout itinerary; services of a professional tour manager throughout the land tour program; welcome and farewell dinners; meals as listed in itinerary; bottled water, choice of non-alcoholic drink, tea or coffee, local beer and wine included with group lunches and dinners; bottled water on buses during tour days and drives between cities; gratuities to tour manager, local guides, and drivers; baggage handling at hotels, airports and railway stations where available; \$200,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation Insurance.

PROGRAM COST EXCLUSIONS: International airfare between the U.S. and the start and end cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; 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 outside of group meals, telephone expenses, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.

PROGRAM SIZE: This tour, (exclusively developed for Harvard Alumni Association Travels), is limited to 28 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 12. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to cancel the program, levy a small group surcharge, and/or send the program without a Harvard study leader. We retain the right to add staff members and/or invited guests to any of our group departures regardless of the stated group-size limitation.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT:

To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person. Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form (to 617-495-0434). Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Deposits may be made by check, payable to Harvard Alumni Travels, or with a major credit card. 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 HAA from the participant. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: Cancellations received 91 days or more: \$1,000 per person deposit is non-refundable. Cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to departure: forfeit 50% of the total tour cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure: no refund.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance to cover unexpected trip interruptions, cancellations, and lost baggage. An application for trip cancellation insurance through our

recommended provider, Ripcord Rescue Insurance, will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation. The pre-existing medical conditions exclusion is waived if the insurance is purchased within 14 days of initial deposit. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels nor our tour operators, including their representatives, employees and agents, will take responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guests' dependents or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, cancellation or curtailment of the tour, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. Nor do they accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International airfare is not included in the cost of the program. Internal airfare per itinerary in economy class: Bishkek-Tashkent and Dashoguz-Ashgabat one-way with taxes is included. The tour operator can assist you with your air arrangements. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels 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.

WHAT TO EXPECT / PHYSICAL HEALTH: All participants must be in generally good health. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motor coaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

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 other 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. Bags may need to be carried during these crossings, rather than rolled, as the road/sidewalk surface is not always paved or smooth. 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. It is important to keep in mind that the countries of Central Asia are, in general, not up to the standards North American travelers expect. Services are improving in the region; nevertheless, you may encounter problems with plumbing, bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces and steps, variety of locally available foods, and availability and quality of public restrooms. In true expedition style, some delays or changes in the itinerary are likely.

Participants with medical issues and/or dietary restrictions must make them known to us well before departure, and impairments regarding mobility must be disclosed prior to booking. If you have any questions about the level of activity of this program or your ability to participate, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800.422.1636.

PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY: You will be provided with comprehensive pre-departure travel information, including specific suggestions for packing, a recommended reading list and amenities pack.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL & EVACUATION INSURANCE: As a service to our travelers Harvard Alumni Travels automatically provides basic emergency medical evacuation insurance. This policy has the following schedule of benefits: \$5,000 Accident/Sickness Medical Expense; \$200,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation (to the nearest appropriate facility based on medical necessity as determined by local attending physician) & Return of Remains; \$3,000 Emergency Reunion; \$5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment.

This insurance covers travelers for the Harvard-sponsored program dates, including optional group extensions, but not for any independent travel plans. You will receive detailed information on this coverage approximately 30 days prior to your departure. Should you also purchase the Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance offered to you at confirmation, it will provide you with

benefits which are additional to those stated above. This insurance is secondary to any insurance the traveler may already have.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY, PROGRAM, STAFFING, AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. We reserve the right to change a program's dates, staff (including study leader*), itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. Harvard Alumni Travels reserves the right to cancel the program, levy a small group surcharge, and/or send the program without a study leader. If Harvard Alumni Travels is unable to confirm a study leader or should the study leader cancel from this program, we reserve the right to operate the program regardless of Harvard representation. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect as of March 2019 and are subject to change.

*In the event of a cancellation by the Harvard study leader, we will attempt to notify all travelers as soon as possible. We will make every reasonable effort to find a replacement study leader, but our ability to do so will depend on the availability of appropriate lecturers and proximity to the departure date. If we are not able to provide an appropriate substitute we will make every reasonable effort to provide other educational opportunities or program enhancements to ensure a viable travel study experience. Please note that all participants are bound to the cancellation fee schedule and other terms and conditions of the program regardless of whether or not a replacement study leader is found

RESPONSIBILITY: The tour operator, its owners and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator and their respective, employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability therefore. Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator, assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness,

weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.

PERSONAL INFORMATION: All personally identifiable information provided by tour participants is strictly confidential. Personal information is not shared with third parties or made publicly available except under the following circumstances: Name, degree, home city, and email address*, may be included in the tour participant list that is distributed to tour staff and participants prior to departure; relevant information provided by tour participants to Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator is shared with the agents providing tour services in the destination. Per contractual agreement, the tour operator and its agents are prohibited to share or sell this information to other parties. *Please let us know if you would like to opt out of sharing your email address on the tour participant list.

APPEARING IN PHOTOS: Photos from Harvard trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by Harvard Alumni Travels or other travelers, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future Harvard Alumni Travels promotions; Harvard Alumni Travels will attempt to notify the traveler in advance, but no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Harvard Alumni Travels is not responsible

for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this document is subject to change.

QUESTIONS Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800.422.1636 or 617.496.0806, or email us at haatravels@harvard.edu