



# Moghul Caravan

Days	Northbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
35	Delhi to Tashkent	India + Pakistan + China + Kyrgyzstan + Uzbekistan	6,207 km	●●●●●



Follow in the footsteps of Babur, great grandson of Tamerlane, last of the Timurid Dynasty of Central Asia and founder of the Moghul Empire. Discover the highlights of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva as well as the stunning landscapes of Kyrgyzstan and northern Pakistan. Travelling across five countries, mountain ranges, remote valleys and great deserts you will encounter lands of ancient wonder and history.

# Itinerary

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## Day 1: Delhi

The adventure begins – join your Tour Leader and fellow travellers this evening as final preparations are made for your departure. Please meet your Tour Leader at 5:00pm for your Welcome Meeting as detailed on your Joining Instructions.

## Day 2: Delhi

We begin our journey in Delhi and explore Old and New to discover its place in history and contemporary India. Old Delhi was built in the 17th century by the Moghul rulers and is home of the Red Fort and Jami Masjid Mosque. The bazaars of Chandi Chowk still offer up exotic treats before turning into tree lined avenues and the grand government buildings of New Delhi.

Sightseeing - Walking tour of Old Delhi, and city tour of New Delhi

Meals - Breakfast

## Day 3: Shekawati

No visit to India is complete without a visit to Rajasthan and we travel to Shekawati, known for its beautifully painted havelis which date back to the 18th century. After breakfast, we drive to an open gallery of India, Mandawa, a town situated in the heart of the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan.

Sightseeing - Mandawa sightseeing

Meals - Breakfast

## Day 4: To Jaipur

This morning we explore more of Mandawa before heading south to Jaipur.

Sightseeing - Mandawa fort and famous Havelis, Optional activity - cooking demonstration and dinner with a local family

Meals - Breakfast

## Day 5: Jaipur

Jaipur, the 'Pink City' where we venture to the Amber Fort, positioned imposingly above the city and offering up a myriad of intricately decorated rooms and a stunning view out over Moatha Lake. We also visit the City Palace and Jai Singh's observatory purported to be based on the one designed by Ulug Bek in Samarkand 100 years before.

Sightseeing - Amber Fort, City Palace, Jantar Mantar Observatory

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 6: Agra

Our journey through India continues to the centrepiece of the nation, and the capital in the time of the Moghuls, Agra. The Taj Mahal, a striking monument to love by Shah Jahan is not to be missed.

Sightseeing - Walking tour of Old Agra and Agra Fort

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 7: Agra and to Delhi

This morning, witness the surreal views of the Taj Mahal at sunrise, sparkling in the glittering rays of the Indian sun. Taj Mahal is an extravagant display of love, built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Sightseeing - Taj Mahal, Optional Activity: Bollywood dance show

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 8: Depart to Amritsar

This morning we head to New Delhi railway station to board the train north to Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs and we are dazzled by the Golden Temple.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 9: To Lahore

We visit to Harmandir Sahib, known as the Golden Temple, the holiest site of Sikhism. Then we cross the border and journey on to Lahore.

Sightseeing - Golden Temple

Meals - Breakfast & Lunch

### Day 10: Lahore

Once the capital of the Moghul empire Lahore today boasts some remarkable architecture of this period, most notably the Lahore Fort, the Shalimar Gardens and the impressive Badshahi Mosque. We go to watch the infamous sunset flag lowering ceremony at Wagha, a display of cooperation or rivalry between the two nations. You can decide.

Sightseeing - Lahore Fort, Shalimar Gardens, Badshahi Mosque, and flag lowering ceremony at Wagah Border

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 11: Islamabad

We journey to Islamabad and en-route we will visit Khewra Salt mine, the second largest mine in the world discovered by Alexander's troop in 320 BC.

Sightseeing - Khewra Salt Mine

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 12: Islamabad

Today we have the opportunity to visit the ancient archaeological site of Taxila, now recognised by UNESCO and situated on the Grand Trunk Road.

Sightseeing - Taxila Museum and Archaeological Site, Margala Hills

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 13: Skardu

Travelling north we board a scenic flight to Skardu, the gateway to the Karakoram mountains. Located on the Indus River, we explore the surrounding picturesque valleys and mingle with climbers who have come to attempt the summit of the infamous K2.

*\*There is a possibility that our plans will be altered due to adverse weather. If our flight to Skardu is cancelled, we will drive up the Karakorum highway, stopping overnight in Naran and then resuming our journey from Gilgit.*

Sightseeing - Shigar Valley, City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 14: Skardu

We spend another day exploring this region with a visit to the Skardu Bazaar and time to enjoy Khapulu Valley.

Sightseeing - Skardu Bazaar and Khapulu Valley

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 15: To Gilgit

This morning we head to the bustling Gilgit, an important trading centre on the Silk Road and today the custom of exchange continues at the bazaar.

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 16: Hunza Valley

We move on to the spectacular Hunza Valley and witness the most dramatic views from the Karakoram Highway with many snow-capped mountains including the imposing Rakaposhi at a massive 7788m.

Sightseeing - Gilgit Bazaar

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 17: Hunza Valley

Duikar view point provides spectacular views across this mountain range. Baltit Fort sits at the foot of the Ulter Glacier with views of the Hunza Valley.

Sightseeing - Baltit Fort and Duikar view point

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 18: Cross the Khunjerab Pass into China

We pass huge glaciers before crossing the Khunjerab pass into China, the highest point of our journey. Before crossing the border we pause in Sost, our last stop in Pakistan to stock up on snacks for the road. The locals will tell you that dried apricots, which the area is famous for, are great for helping with the elevation gain we'll be experiencing.

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 19: Tashkurgan and to Kashgar

To the legendary Silk Road town of Kashgar, nestled between the Tien Shan to the north, the Pamir to the west and the Karakorum to the south and the largest desert in Asia, the Taklamakan to the east.

Sightseeing - Tashkurgan city tour and Karakul Lake

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 20: Kashgar

Step back in time at the Sunday Market where trade continues in a time-honoured tradition, it is an absolute awakening for all your senses and an incredible experience.

Sightseeing - Sunday Market, City tour, and City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 21: Over the Irkeshtam Pass to Sary Tash

Beyond Kashgar lie the high passes of the Tien Shan Mountains, gateway to Kyrgyzstan and the fabled cities of Central Asia. We follow the Silk Road over the Irkeshtam Pass to Sary Tash where we will spend the night getting to know some of the locals in a homestay.

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 22: Sary Tash to Osh

This morning we travel further into Krygyzstan. Strategically located at the western gateway of the Fergana, Osh prospered during the time of the Silk Road until destroyed by Mongol armies in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Sightseeing - Osh sightseeing including Central Square, Russian Orthodox Church and Suleiman Mountains

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 23: Osh to the Fergana Valley

Leaving Krygyzstan at Dostuk we travel into Uzbekistan and to the rarely visited oasis of Fergana Valley. With stunning scenery, distinctive architecture and traditional crafts from silk weaving and wood carving to pottery and knife making this makes for a worthwhile stop.

Sightseeing - Osh Bazaar

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 24: Fergana

Explore the delightful market town of Margilan, where the friendly locals still dress in traditional costume. Margilan is also the home of ambr, a silk fabric which threads are dyed before wickerwork at the loom. You can see this process from its very beginning at the Yodgorlik Silk factory, hand made from cocoon to fabric as it has been for thousands of years. With hardly a tourist in sight take pleasure in the sights, sounds and aromas of the most interesting bazaar in the Fergana Valley.

Sightseeing - Margilan city tour including Silk Factory

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 25: Depart to Tashkent

Continuing our journey we make our way on to the Uzbek Capital of Tashkent stopping en route at one of the country's most ancient cities, Kokand before continuing on to Tashkent.

Tashkent is one of the oldest and largest cities in Central Asia, the Uzbek capital since 1930, and very much a showpiece of Soviet and post-soviet architecture.

Sightseeing - Kokand city tour

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 26: Tashkent

Tashkent cleverly juggles its cultural and historical past, the Soviet era's impact and modern day lifestyles.

Get amongst the hyper-activity of the Chorsu Bazaar found in the unique complex of trade halls crowned with magnificent blue domes. This is one of the oldest and largest Bazaar's in central Asia. Gather around one of the steaming street kitchens and sample some Plov, the king of Uzbek cuisine.

Sightseeing - Tashkent city tour

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 27: Tashkent and Samarkand

This morning we board the Afrosiab train to 'Golden' Samarkand. All the splendours gone before are outdone by the turquoise sparkling domes of Samarkand, the fabled city built by Tamerlane and his grandson Ulug Bek. We have two days to explore this remarkable city of which much has been said and written about. The Registan ensemble is one of the most spectacular architectural delights of Central Asia and we explore the madrassahs and minarets of the city at leisure.

Sightseeing - Samarkand City Tour including Registan Square

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 28: Samarkand

Tamerlane set out to make Samarkand the richest city on earth by pillaging and destroying all other cities and removing their wealth and skilled traders bringing them back with him. Today it retains its beauty as it was intended with its huge buildings, azure topped domes and minarets.

You can dive deep into the melting pot of cultures and ancient history in this majestic and beautiful city, make sure you are armed with a camera to capture it all!

Sightseeing - Ulug Bek Observatory and Afrosiab, City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 29: Bukhara via Shakhrisabz

A spectacular drive through the Zerafshan Mountains takes us to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane. Beside the ruined entrance towers of his Ak-Serai Palace, the pretty market town offers a relaxed atmosphere with traditional homes, teahouses and mosques.

Continuing across the Kyzyl Kum Desert we find the mud-brick monuments of Bukhara, arriving late afternoon.

Sightseeing - Shakhrisabz sightseeing

Meals - Breakfast & Lunch

## Itinerary (cont.)

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### Day 30: Bukhara

Once known as 'holy' Bukhara, it was historically home to more than 2000 mosques. Today Bukhara's monuments are some of the oldest on the Silk Road; the Ark Fortress, Samanid Mausoleum and the Kaylan Minaret – one of Central Asia's tallest and so impressive that even Genghis Khan ordered it be spared from destruction during the Mongol invasions.

Sightseeing - Bukhara city tour

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 31: Bukhara

Take your time here to explore the Old Town and enjoy some of the many chaikhana (tea-houses) in Lyabi-Hauz, one of the most peaceful and interesting people-watching places in town.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and free time

Meals - Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 32: Khiva

Our journey draws to a close with a memorable visit to Khiva, a living museum of beauty where we stay within the city walls and imagine the inhabitants of times gone by.

Meals - Breakfast & Lunch

### Day 33: Khiva and to Tashkent

Khiva is made for walking. It is compact, well looked after, lived in and basks in a beautiful desert light. Today we embark on a walking tour that takes us to all of the major sights. This afternoon we board an overnight train to Tashkent.

Sightseeing - Walking city tour

Meals - Breakfast

### Day 34: Tashkent

Although much of the Old City was lost to an earthquake, Tashkent still retains some of its ancient treasures. Visit the Madrasah Kukeldash - an Islamic School that sits beside the 15th century Jume Mosque, the Museum of Applied Arts where the colourful building is an attraction in itself, see the statue of the 14th century national hero, Amir Temur (Tamerlane) on horseback in Amir Temur Square,

For amazing views of the city make your way up the Tashkent TV tower which is the highest building in Central Asia.

Sightseeing - City Exploring and free time

### Day 35: Tashkent

Our adventure has drawn to a close. Say farewell to your travelling companions and tour leader before departing your hotel this morning.

Meals - Breakfast

## Itinerary (cont.)

### Journey Summary

Day 1	Delhi - journey begins	
Day 2	Delhi	
Day 3	To Shekawati	
Day 4	To Jaipur	
Day 5	Jaipur	
Day 6	To Agra	
Day 7	To Delhi	
Day 8	Train Delhi to Amritsar	Morning and early afternoon onboard train
Day 9	To Lahore (Pakistan border crossing)	
Day 10	Lahore	
Day 11	To Islamabad	
Day 12	Islamabad - day trip to Taxila	
Day 13	To Naran	
Day 14	To Gilgit	
Day 15	Hunza Valley	
Day 16	Hunza Valley	
Day 17	Hunza Valley	
Day 18	To Tashkurgan (China border crossing)	
Day 19	To Kashgar	
Day 20	Kashgar	
Day 21	To Sary Tash via Irkeshtam Pass (Kyrgyzstan border crossing)	
Day 22	To Osh	
Day 23	To Fergana (Uzbekistan border crossing)	

## Itinerary (cont.)

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Day 24	Fergana Valley	
Day 25	To Tashkent	
Day 26	Tashkent	
Day 27	To Samarkand	
Day 28	Samarkand	
Day 29	To Bukhara	
Day 30	Bukhara	
Day 31	Bukhara	
Day 32	To Khiva	
Day 33	Khiva and depart to Tashkent	Mid afternoon departure
Day 34	Arrive Tashkent	Early morning arrival
Day 35	Tashkent - journey concludes	

## What's included

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### Group size

15 maximum



### Meals

33 breakfasts  
4 lunches  
3 dinners



### Transfers

All transfers including to and from the airport.



### Accommodation

33 hotel / guesthouses (twin share)  
1 train (shared 4-berth)

*Optional single supplement available for hotel stays  
on this journey – prices available on request.*



### Sightseeing

Comprehensive schedule of sightseeing with certified Local Guides. You'll have a generous sprinkling of free time to relax or explore on your own.



### Expertise

An experienced Tour Leader accompanies the whole journey to keep your adventure on track. Local Guides are native to each destination and as certified professionals will share their immense knowledge with you. 24/7 support is available in the office and on the ground.

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## Contact Us

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### Client enquiries and reservations

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