

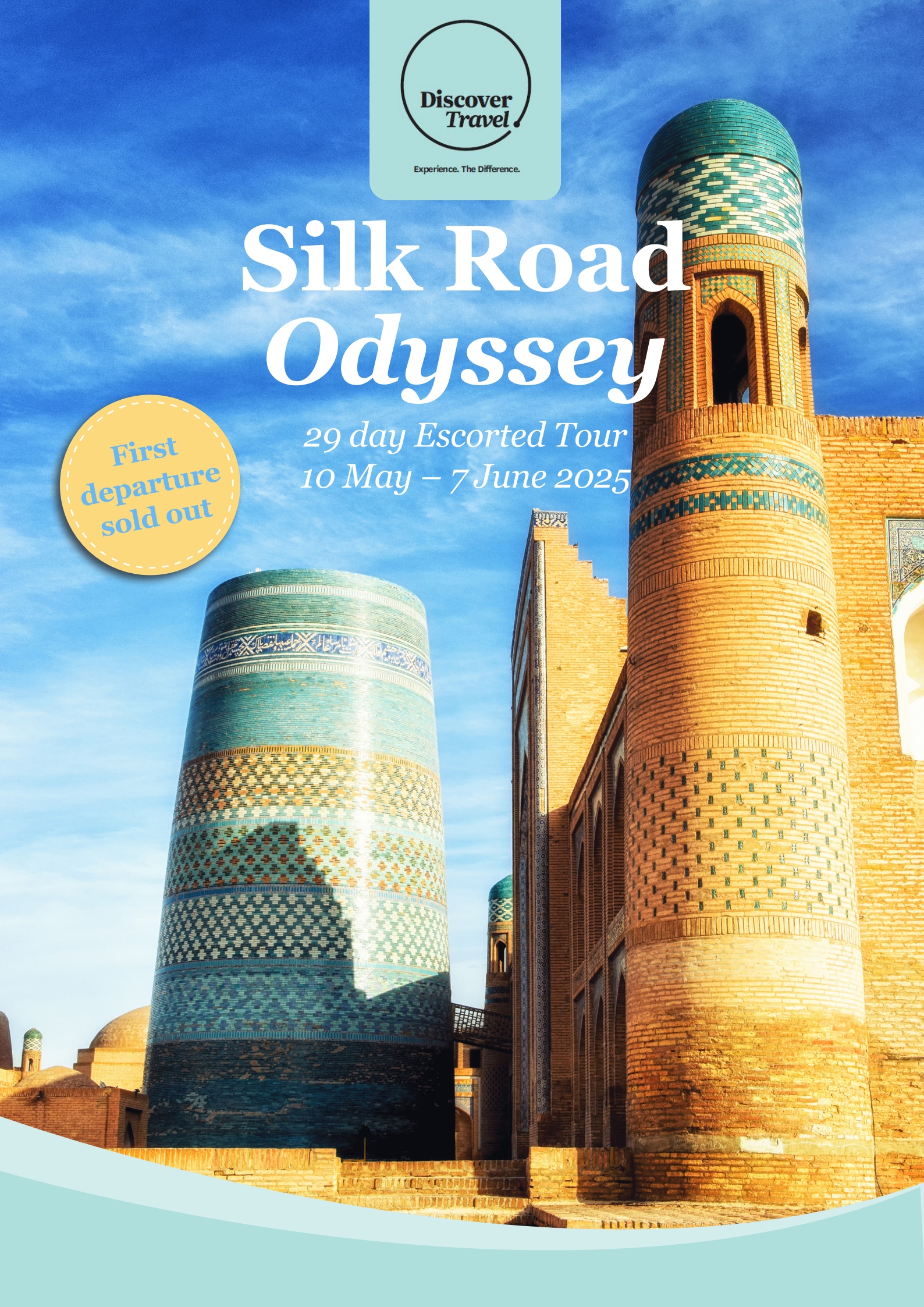


Experience. The Difference.

Silk Road Odyssey

*29 day Escorted Tour
10 May – 7 June 2025*

*First
departure
sold out*





I am the current co-owner of Scarborough Fare in Sumner with my son Ben and wife Colette. Prior to this I had a 20 odd year stint in the travel industry, owning a travel agency in Christchurch. My most recent overseas trip was a 2 week camping/cycling down the Rhein River from Basel – Koblenz which was great fun. I also love exploring New Zealand on my Royal Enfield Himalayan motorbike or 73 VW Kombi van.

Lyndon Haddon

Discover the Silk Road

Explore the cultural diversity and wonderful scenery of the Five 'Stans' of Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan.

This varied landscape is home to traditional villages, ancient towns and glorious cities with time worn trading routes. Vast armies, marauding Mongolian hordes, philosophers, explorers and traders have travelled these roads in times past. Visit Uzbekistan's architecturally stunning cities of Bukhara, Khiva and Samarkand, see the canyons and lakes of Kazakhstan, the mountains and culture of Kyrgyzstan, the natural way of life in Tajikistan and the ancient desert city of Merv in Turkmenistan.

Your tour highlights

- The stunning and diverse landscapes of Kazakhstan
- Ancient mosques and Orthodox churches in Kyrgyzstan
- Wonderfully intricate architecture in Uzbekistan
- The biggest oriental bazaar in Central Asia at Payshanba, Tajikistan
- Follow in the footsteps of Tamerlane through the mighty cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent
- The history of the Karakum Desert in Turkmenistan
- Dzhety-Oguz Gorge in Kyrgyzstan
- Traditional cuisine, including regional specialties made by locals in a yurt
- Chat with exceptional artisans in Fergana
- See how the magnificent Khan Atlas silk is produced
- Vibrant markets and bazaars with fresh produce and exquisite handicrafts
- The medieval town of Khiva with its magnificent mosque and caravanserai



Your Tour Itinerary

MAY 2025

Sat 10 Depart Christchurch/Auckland

Sun 11 Dubai > Almaty

Arrive Dubai, transfer to hotel and check-in for Day Room use. Optional Dubai city sightseeing later in the day before evening transfer to the airport for your flight to Almaty.

Mon 12 Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Arrive in the early hours and check into your hotel. Later this morning explore Almaty with its backdrop of the snowcapped Zailiysky Alatau. Visits include Zenkov Cathedral, Republic Square and Central Mosque. After some time at leisure, enjoy a traditional falconry experience with dinner and music. (D)

Tue 13 Almaty > Charyn Canyon > Kolsai Lakes > Shatty

Drive to Charyn Canyon, a unique natural wonder formed around 12 million years ago. Picnic lunch before continuing to the Kolsai Lakes to check in to your simple guest house. (B,L,D)

Wed 14 Shatty > Kaindy Lake > Almaty

Arrive at stunningly beautiful Kaindy Lake. Explore and enjoy lunch before returning to Almaty. (B,L,D)

Thu 15 Almaty > Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

Visit Kok-Tobe Hill on the outskirts of town for panoramic views over Almaty. This evening fly to Bishkek. (B,D)

Fri 16 Bishkek > Kajissay

Drive to Kajissay on the southern shores of Issyk-Kul Lake, stopping en route at the Burana Tower. (B,D)

Sat 17 Kajissay > Dzhety Oguz > Karakol

Visit Dzhety Oguz gorge to enjoy a waterfall walk and lunch at a yurt camp. Continue to Karakol and visit a mosque and 19th century wooden

Orthodox church before checking in to your hotel. (B,L,D)

Sun 18 Karakol > Altyn Arashan > Karakol

Board a Military 4WD vehicle for the drive to Altyn Arashan gorge to visit the thermal wells. Return to Karakol for overnight. (B,D)

Mon 19 Karakol > Cholpon-Ata > Bishkek

Drive along the northern shores of Issyk-Kul to Bishkek, visiting Ruh-Ordo historic centre in Cholpon-Ata en route. (B,D)

Tue 20 Bishkek > Osh > Fergana (Uzbekistan)

Morning flight to Osh for a short visit. Cross into Uzbekistan and drive to Fergana Valley. Local specialty dinner in a chayhana (tea room). (B,D)



Wed 21 Fergana > Margilan > Fergana

Morning sightseeing in Fergana, known for its gardens, artisan craftsmen and kaleidoscopic bazaars. Continue to Margilan to see how the traditional Khan-Atlas silk fabric is produced. Tonight enjoy traditional national cuisine. (B,D)

Thu 22 Fergana > Rishtan > Tashkent

Drive across the Kamchik Pass, stopping at Rishtan, famous for its blue glazed pottery. En route to Tashkent explore ancient Kokand, once an important trade centre on the Silk Road. (B,D)

Fri 23 Tashkent > Khujand (Tajikistan)

Drive to the Uzbek-Tajik border and to Khujand. Visit the museum and the city's 7th-century fortification, then explore Payshanba oriental bazaar, the largest in Central Asia. (B,D)

Sat 24 Khujand > Istaravshan > Iskanderkul

Drive to Iskanderkul via Istaravshan. Visit the ancient fortress of Mug Tapa, explore the Khazrati Shoh complex, then continue to Iskanderkul Lake, named after Alexander the Great, with its springs, lakes and waterfalls. (B,D)

Sun 25 Iskanderkul > Penjikent > Samarkand (Uzbekistan)

Depart for Penjikent, the birthplace of Abu Abdallah Rudaki, the father of Persian poetry. Visit the Museum of Rudak and the excavated remains at Penjikent. Proceed to Samarkand. (B,D)

Mon 26 Samarkand

Explore the glorious city of Samarkand, its observatory, necropolis and the huge Bibi Khanym Mosque, built by Tamerlane. After a traditional Plov lunch, visit the famous mausoleum of Tamerlane and spectacular Registan Square. (B,L,D)

Tue 27 Samarkand > Bukhara

Visit the paper mill in Konigil and this afternoon transfer to the station for the high-speed train to Bukhara. (B,D)

Wed 28 Bukhara

A full day to explore this wonderful medieval city. Visit Samonid's Mausoleum, the Ark Citadel, the Minaret Kalan Complex, trading domes and the architectural wonder of Lyabi-Hauz. (B,D)

Thu 29 Bukhara > Mary (Turkmenistan)

Drive to the border at Farab and continue to Mary, an oasis city in the Karakum Desert. (B,D)



Meet your fellow travellers

Meet Lyndon and your fellow travellers at our social evenings held prior to departure, and receive detailed tour information, as well as hints and tips for your travels.



Your Tour Itinerary (continued)



Fri 30 Mary > Merv > Ashgabat
Transfer to Merv, one of the main cities of the ancient Silk Road and a World Heritage site. Return to Mary, visiting the museum before an evening flight to Ashgabat. (B,D)

Sat 31 Ashgabat
Visit the beautiful, World Heritage fortress of Old Nisa, at the foot of the Kopet Dag Mountains, the earliest of the Parthian Empire capitals. Visit Arkadash stud farm, home of the famous Akhal-Tekke horses, one of the oldest breeds in existence. Return to Ashgabat, visit the Russian market and see the rare collection of handmade Turkmen carpets at the National Museum. (B,D)

JUNE 2025

Sun 1 Ashgabat > Dashoguz > Kunya Urgench > Khiva (Uzbekistan)
Morning flight to Dashoguz. Drive to Kunya Urgench, the ancient capital of Khorezm, which was part of the Achaemenid Empire. Visit the mosque, the gates of the caravanserai, the fortress, mausoleum and minaret. Lunch in Dashoguz before we cross the Uzbek border for Khiva. (B,D)

Mon 2 Khiva
Full day exploration of the beautifully

preserved, medieval town of Khiva. Wander the fabled Ichon-Qala (inner walled city) and visit the old citadel, the Emir's Palace, the magnificent Juma Mosque and the caravanserai. (B,D)

Tue 3 Khiva > Ayaz-Kala > Toprak-Kala > Nukus
Travel to the ancient fortress of Ayaz-Kala, one of the largest surviving castle fortresses of the Khorezm region. Visit Toprak-Kala before travelling to Nukus. Visit the Igor Savitsky Museum, with the world's second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art. (B,D)

Wed 4 Nukus > Tashkent
This morning is at leisure until our flight to Tashkent. (B,D)

Thu 5 Tashkent
Explore Uzbekistan's 2,000-year-old capital, where Soviet-style architecture contrasts with traditional mud-walled houses. Visit the Khast-Imam Islamic complex, the Museum of Applied Arts, the History Museum and Amir Timur Square. Later explore the Tashkent metro, where each station is uniquely decorated. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening before a late transfer to the airport. (B,D)

Fri 6 Tashkent > Dubai > NZ
An early departure to Dubai to connect with your onward flight to NZ

Sat 7 Arrive Christchurch/Auckland



***CONDITIONS:** Price – The price of \$19,495 per person is based on twin-share. Single Supplement – for those travellers wanting their own room, the tour price is \$22,995. Payments – the price quoted is for payment by direct bank transfer. Bank Transfer: 06 0801 0495605 02 – Discover Travel Worldwide Ltd, using 'SilkRoad2025' as a reference. VISA or Mastercard payments will incur a 1.5% convenience fee and American Express a 3% fee. To confirm your booking, a non-refundable deposit of \$2,000 per person and completed booking form is required. Final payment will be due no later than 3 February 2025. As cancellation fees apply, travel insurance is mandatory. Prices are based on a minimum group size of 10/maximum of 16 (excluding tour escort). Should the group size be less than 10, excluding tour escort, the tour will not proceed.

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Discover Travel

New Zealand owned and operated; Discover Travel is a premier boutique travel agency within the House of Travel Group. Specialising in travel to far-flung places, we have travelled extensively worldwide, returning regularly to ensure our knowledge is current. We aim to experience those places through your eyes and passionately share our knowledge of the destination with you. Our goal is to genuinely connect you with the location and its culture. Consequently, we like to think that our clients come home with the stories that everyone else misses.

Tour price from \$19,495

per person twin/double share*
\$22,995 per person in a single room*

Price includes:

- Economy class return airfares from Christchurch
- Accommodation in 4-star hotels (or best available)
- Transfers and transport by air, road and train as per itinerary
- Meals: 24 breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L), 25 dinners (D)
- Sightseeing and excursions with local guide where applicable as per itinerary
- Admissions to all excursions
- Gratuities/tipping for all group activities
- Tour escort

Not included:

Travel insurance (compulsory), any meals/beverages not specified, airport portage and items of a personal nature.

To secure your place:

Send your \$2,000 non-refundable deposit per person with completed booking form to Discover Travel.

For more details and to book:

Phone: 03 364 3400 or 0800 747 737
Email: ideas@discovertravel.co.nz
Mail: PO Box 2477, Christchurch

Please note:

The nature of this region requires at times journeys on uneven roads and accommodation in 'best available' hotels. Packing a positive outlook and 'going with the flow' will ensure you enjoy this fascinating destination all the more.



Experience. The Difference.