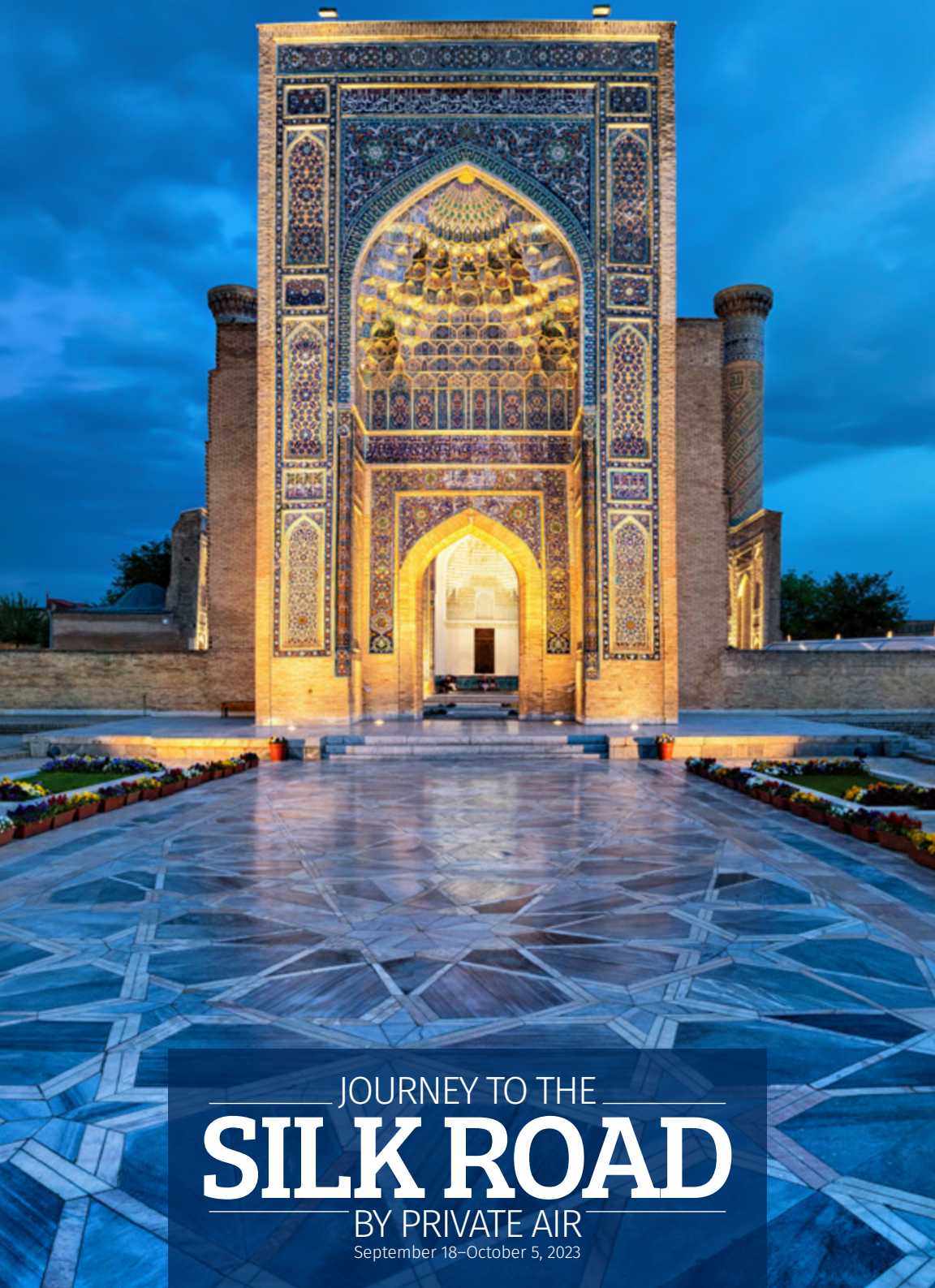




WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils



JOURNEY TO THE
SILK ROAD
BY PRIVATE AIR
September 18–October 5, 2023

DEAR COUNCIL TRAVELERS,

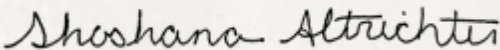
I am delighted to present to you an opportunity to trace the path of traders, explorers, and emperors along the fabled Silk Road, with most of the **travel aboard a comfortable and convenient private plane**. Begin appropriately in **Venice**, Marco Polo's home where many expeditions originated; visit a plethora of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** that were important stops along Silk Road routes in **Georgia** and **Uzbekistan**; and conclude in **Istanbul**, terminus for many Silk Road caravans.

Following the fabled silk trade route by land involves long drives and restrictive, time-consuming commercial air travel. Traveling by train limits the time available to explore the most intriguing cities along the way. Having our own private aircraft allows us to **maximize the time spent at key points of interest** and historic outposts. Most stopovers are two to three nights to provide ample time to delve deep in each location. This is the perfect itinerary for a privately chartered aircraft!

We'll travel aboard a Canadian-built De Havilland Dash 8-400, the world's most advanced turboprop, significantly more efficient than aircraft with jet engines. Ours is configured with 72 Economy Class seats, but we are assigning two seats per person, so each of our **maximum 32 trip participants** will have both a window seat and a free seat next to them, with ample overhead storage and an armrest that can be raised to provide extra space and comfort. The seven on-tour flights average about one hour and 45 minutes in duration.

This unique and exciting program will likely fill quickly, so please reserve your space by contacting our office or using the enclosed form. We hope you will join this peerless exploration of a historically complex region amid truly stunning surroundings and world-class accommodations.

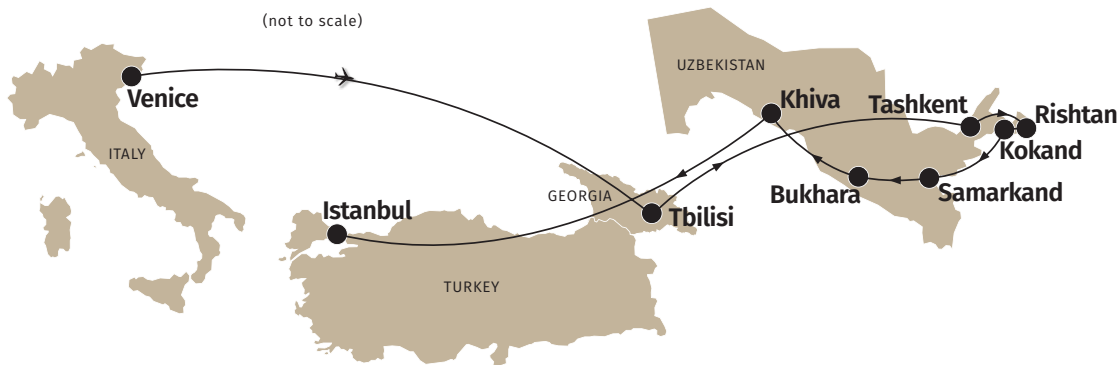
We look forward to traveling with you,



Shoshana Altrichter
Vice President of Travel
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Travel between cities and regions aboard a **comfortable and convenient private aircraft**, avoiding long, complicated drives and the hassle of commercial air travel.
- ◆ Take part in a unique wine making experience in Georgia and a hands-on ceramic workshop in Uzbekistan.
- ◆ Learn about the once-lost technique of creating Samarkand silk paper, which has been restored with a sustainable manufacturing method.
- ◆ Enjoy a performance by the National Instruments Academic Orchestra in Registan Square, Samarkand.
- ◆ See a special Dervish performance and enjoy local cocktails in a private underground cistern in Istanbul.



For this expedition, our aircraft will be used for eight comfortable on-tour flights ranging in duration from 45 minutes to 3 ½ hours, with most flights lasting just 90 minutes. Where private air terminals are available, we will efficiently and quickly move through security, customs, and immigration formalities without the long waits typical of public air terminals.

ITINERARY

Sept. 18	Depart U.S.	Overnight flights to Venice, Italy
Sept. 19	Venice, Italy	Arrival in Venice; check in to Belmond Cipriani
Sept. 20	Venice	Exploring the legacies of handmade velvet and costume making
Sept. 21	Venice → Tbilisi, Georgia	Flight to Tbilisi; traditional Georgian dinner and music performance
Sept. 22	Tbilisi	Two nearby UNESCO World Heritage sites and the old city center
Sept. 23	Tbilisi	Traditional Georgian winemaking and local silk handicrafts
Sept. 24	Tbilisi → Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Flight to Tashkent; Visit with president of the Academy of Arts
Sept. 25	Tashkent	Visit bazaar; ride Soviet-era metro; ceramic workshop; local fashion
Sept. 26	Tashkent → Fergana Valley	Ancient silk-making techniques and blue-dyed ceramic origins
Sept. 27	Kokand	Palace of Khudayar Khan; Kokand Bazaar; Jummi Mosque
Sept. 28	Kokand → Samarkand	Flight to Samarkand; Exploration of old city with Registan Square
Sept. 29	Samarkand	Traditional bakery; historic market; silk paper and carpet making
Sept. 30	Samarkand → Bukhara	Flight to Bukhara; Old city tour; Ark Citadel; panoramic views
Oct. 1	Bukhara	Local gardens; traditional calligraphy; visit to ancient Jewish quarter
Oct. 2	Bukhara → Khiva → Istanbul	Flight to Khiva; Ichan Kala citadel and minarets; flight to Istanbul
Oct. 3	Istanbul, Turkey	Hagia Sophia Museum; Blue Mosque; Private Dervish performance
Oct. 4	Istanbul	Topkapi Palace; spice market; Grand Bazaar; farewell dinner
Oct. 5	Return to U.S.	Transfer to airport for return flights to U.S.





HIGHLIGHT VISITS

VENICE

Already a powerful trade hub, it was from Venice that Marco Polo set off on his famous expedition to the east in 1271, returning in 1295 with stories about eastern cultures, peoples, traditions, and goods. Stay at the celebrated Cipriani hotel while visiting Marco Polo's house and the Doge's Palace. Also learn about the production of handmade velvet and the history of Venice's famous costume makers.



TBILISI

The Caucasian route of Silk Road trade, through Tbilisi, gained importance in the 6th century and continued through the 14th century. While visiting its important sites, learn about the long list of conquerors and rulers that have fought for control of this strategic location, try your hand in traditional Georgian wine making, and take part in local handicraft workshops.



TASHKENT

Tashkent is a large, sprawling city with a fascinating mix of ancient Islamic and modern Soviet history. Accompanied by a local food expert, explore the bustling Chorsu Bazaar, featuring a wide range of food, local produce, and crafts, giving us a sense of life at the height of the Silk Road trading days. Examine the combined legacies of European and Asian settlers and try your hand at traditional ceramics.



SAMARKAND

Samarkand has long been a central point for trade across the region, and was a substantial city with a citadel and strong fortifications, renowned for its craft production, several centuries before it was conquered by Alexander in 329 BCE. Explore the Old City, including iconic Registan Square; visit a traditional family bakery; and delve into local silk craftwork, including paper and carpet making.



BUKHARA

One of the most prosperous cities in Central Asia throughout the Middle Ages, Bukhara was famous not only for exchange between merchants, but also for culture, scholarship, and religious studies. It was particularly renowned for its textile industry, but also celebrated for gold embroidery and metal work, and many of these crafts are still practised in the city today.



KHIVA

Another historic center for education, science, and culture, best known for the imposing walls and grand gates of Ichan Kala, the fortified inner city, Khiva also boasts the most unique tiled minarets along the Silk Road. Be entertained by traditional giant puppets and local musicians before an exploration of the city's substantial outer walls, ancient mosque, and famously unfinished Kalta Minor minaret.



ISTANBUL

The legendary city formerly known as Constantinople was probably the most important center for East-West trade for well over 1,000 years. Visit the fabulous Hagia Sophia, a building that has influenced Western architecture since the 6th century. Also see the Blue Mosque, the Roman hippodrome, the opulent Topkapi Palace, and the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world.



OUR AIRCRAFT - DE HAVILLAND DASH-8



Our **DHC-8 400** aircraft is the world's most advanced turboprop boasting the lowest fuel consumption and CO2 emissions per passenger compared to similarly-sized aircraft, and when compared to the most efficient narrowbody jets, produces 50% lower emissions, all without compromising speed. Moreover, the DHC-8 400 is the first aircraft to meet the most recent and stringent noise emission standards, an achievement that reflects its low community noise footprint during take-off and landing. Finally, the aircraft's tactically flexible, able to use shorter runways, allows access to destinations not possible with larger aircraft.

The 72 Economy Class seats are configured in 2 by 2 seating with a single aisle. By limiting this expedition to just 32 participants, each traveler will enjoy having a window seat and a free seat next to them, with an armrest that can be raised to provide ample space and comfort.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

Per person, sharing	\$49,950
Per person, single	\$54,890

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including **16 nights deluxe hotel accommodations, and seven private on-tour flights** · Comprehensive program of lectures and presentations · Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates · **Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities** · Entrance fees and port charges · Welcome and farewell wine receptions · House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners · Complete packet of pre-departure information · Professional tour manager throughout the program

CARBON NEUTRAL

Criterion Travel will be purchasing carbon offsets to neutralize the impact of greenhouse gasses that are emitted as a result of operating this Silk Road Cities by Private Air program, with the proceeds helping to fund thoughtfully vetted environmental projects around the world.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately strenuous program that is at times busy and physically demanding. Daily programs can involve up to two miles of walking, often on uneven terrain. Stairs may not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Average high temperatures are likely to be in the low- to mid-70s, occasionally reaching into the 80s. As of publication, SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and aircraft crew. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by the World Affairs Council or Criterion Travel, our tour operator, local staff, and host country laws.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare to Venice and from Istanbul • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, or COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals

not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS

Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 32 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

An initial deposit of \$2,500 per person is required to reserve space on this program. A second deposit of \$5,000 per person is due by March 18, 2023 (six months prior to departure). These deposits are applied to final payment of the tour price. Final payment deadline is May 22, 2023 (120 days prior to departure). For those who register after May 22, 2023, full payment is due upon registration. The best way to reserve is by phone: (800) 942-5004 or (215) 561-4700 x209 or x231. You may also complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check to: World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, One Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$2,500 per-person initial deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Cancellations within 7 days of booking: Full refund of deposit (unless it is after the final payment date of May 22, 2023). Cancellations 7 days or more after booking but before March 18, 2023 (the second deposit due date): Initial deposit is

nonrefundable. Cancellations between March 18, 2023, and May 22, 2023 (final payment date): \$2,500 is refundable. Cancellations between May 22, 2023 and June 20, 2023 (90 days prior to departure), a 50% refund of total tour cost will be issued. After June 20, 2023 there will be no refunds. Cancellation by the World Affairs Council at any time: All payments will be refunded. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Note: Neither the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

JOURNEY TO THE SILK ROAD

BY PRIVATE AIR

September 18–October 5, 2023

To reserve a place, please contact the World Affairs Council:

Phone: (800) 942-5004 or (215) 561-4700 x209 or x231.

Fax: (215) 561-5660

Email: travel@wacphila.org

Mail: One Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Or complete the form online:

<https://wacphila.org/travel/silk-road-cities-by-private-air>

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL 1

E-MAIL 2

PAYMENT

Once a request is received, a Travel Counselor from Criterion Travel will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed and your reservation form is signed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Criterion Travel and include with the form.

I'd like to pay my deposit by credit card

--or--

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$2,500 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve _____ place(s) on **Journey to the Silk Road by Private Air**

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability) or I plan to share accommodations with:

_____ or I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of May 22, 2023, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

JOURNEY TO THE SILK ROAD

BY PRIVATE AIR

September 18–October 5, 2023

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Betty Hensellek

(Archaeological Institute of America) Archaeologist and art historian of Iran, Central Asia, and the Steppe.

OUR AIRCRAFT - DE HAVILLAND DASH-8



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