



*Two thousand  
years ago*

the Silk Road trade routes crisscrossed Eurasia, from China to the ports of the Mediterranean, from the first millennium BC through the middle of the second millennium AD. Silk was already being sold in Europe in the fourth century BC, and many important scientific and technological innovations migrated along the Silk Road to the West: gunpowder, the magnetic compass, the printing press, mathematics, ceramic and lacquer crafts.

We follow a section of the route in Central Asia safeguarded by the Mongols, who succeeded the Chinese as guardians of the Silk Road.

We start in Tashkent, a two-thousand-year-old city, once ruled by Genghis Khan and later a part of the Russian empire.

In the Khorezm oasis of the Kara-Kum Desert is the ancient city of Khiva, the best preserved caravan stop of all. Khiva was once teeming with traders, resting in the caravanserai – the roadside inns. When we take you to see the Khan's Palace and the Friday Mosque, you can let your imagination complete the scene of how things once were.

“*In Xanadu did Kubla Khan  
A stately pleasure-dome decree.*”

*Kubla Khan, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1816*