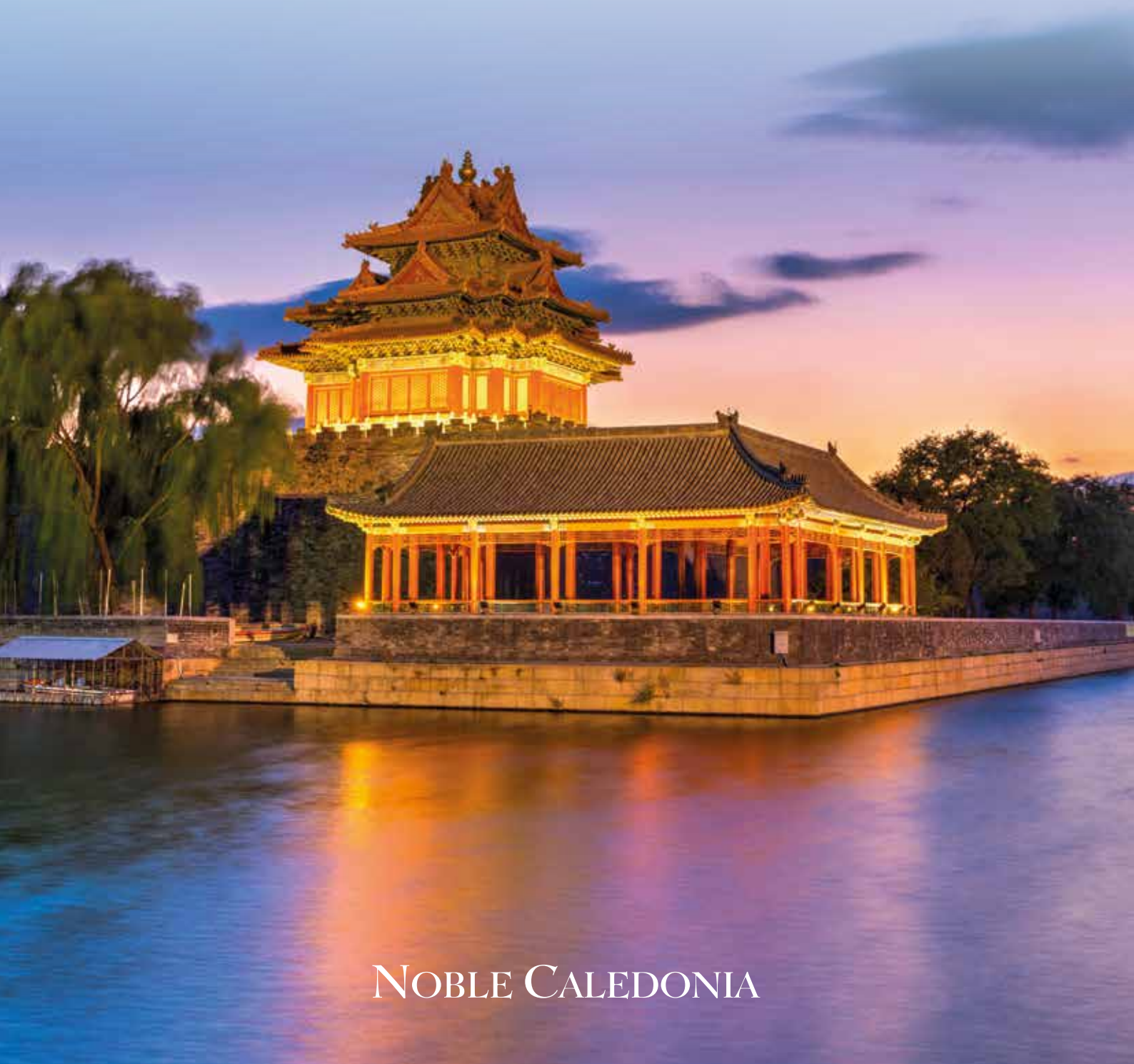


JOURNEYS THROUGH CHINA BY PRIVATE TRAIN

ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE SILK ROAD EXPRESS

SEPTEMBER 2026; APRIL & SEPTEMBER 2027



NOBLE CALEDONIA



DEAR TRAVELLER

We are delighted to have joined forces with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains, the world's leading operator of luxury 'rail cruises', to bring you some of the most spectacular private rail journeys through China aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express. Travelling by private train is a unique way to absorb the rich culture and cinematic landscape of a country and Golden Eagle Luxury Trains have carefully designed a range of itineraries which combine iconic cities with stunning scenery and include a good balance of both relaxation and exploration.

Established over thirty years ago by Tim Littler, we have been associated with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains for many years. Tim and his team meticulously design and research their unique itineraries with the ultimate aim to seamlessly blend the excellent onboard experiences with fascinating off-train excursions. Journeys include an array of cultural and scenic highlights with the choice to travel through the heart of ancient China between Beijing and Urumqi, traversing a captivating landscape of Imperial capitals, desert oases, and ancient cities including Beijing, Xi'an, Dunhuang, Hotan and Kashgar. Alternatively join an epic journey that begins in Beijing's Imperial grandeur, traverses the historical treasures of Luoyang and Xi'an, and ventures into the spiritual and natural wonders of Chengdu, Xining, Dunhuang, and Lhasa. Whichever itinerary you select, there will be a diverse collection of included guided tours available and at the beginning and end of each journey, there are hotel stays included in the iconic cities where you will be based at five-star, centrally located hotels.

The Golden Eagle Silk Road Express is a luxurious hotel-on-wheels and whilst on board you can enjoy a 'room with a view' that constantly changes. No matter which of the fascinating itineraries you choose, you can be assured of first-class service, welcoming and well-appointed cabins, fine dining, a convivial atmosphere, and elegant surroundings. With decades of experience, the attentive staff members on board are dedicated to ensuring every moment of your journey is enjoyable. From the skilled bar car and restaurant car staff, each team member is meticulously trained to cater to your every need. When you embark on a journey with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains, your experience is elevated by the presence of a dedicated cabin attendant and these consummate professionals are committed to your comfort and well-being, ensuring that your time on board is an exceptional experience.

Culinary excellence is an important part of the onboard experience, and you can expect an array of exquisite dining adventures, where the culinary team prepares sumptuous meals inspired by the regions you traverse. The onboard chefs source ingredients from local markets and take influence from regional culinary traditions. Guests can watch the daily morning parade, as locally sourced, seasonal supplies are loaded onto the train. All food and drinks on board are included, featuring a curated selection of wines and beverages that perfectly complement the meals.

We hope you enjoy browsing through this collection of remarkable journeys and that we can look forward to welcoming you on board the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express.



Tim Cochrane
Managing Director



Golden Eagle Silk Road Express in the desert



Golden Eagle Silk Road Express

GOLDEN EAGLE SILK ROAD EXPRESS

We are delighted to be working with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains in offering a selection of cabins aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express which was specially built to cater for the demands of today's most discerning traveller. Accommodating a maximum of just 80 guests, the luxurious Golden Eagle Silk Road Express has been carefully designed with comfort and enjoyment in mind and provides the ideal base for a series of spectacular private rail journeys combining vibrant cultures and legendary landscapes that have inspired travellers for centuries. On board, the spacious and comfortable cabins, the high-quality dining and the attention to detail of the staff combine to create what is effectively a rolling luxury hotel.



Observation car



Superior Double, (night)



Superior Double, (day)



Superior Twin, (day)

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

The luxurious cabins and suites with their refined and distinctive design, offer the perfect sanctuary from which to admire the most breathtaking landscapes as they unfold before your eyes. Each cabin blends the ornate design of the Orient with the grandeur of a bygone era, providing an exquisite home as you embark on an adventure along the ancient Silk Road. Unpack just once and settle into your well-appointed cabin. Your cabin attendant will be on hand to look after all of your needs.

SUPERIOR CABINS

The superior cabins, with private en-suite facilities, offer 11 square metres of thoughtfully designed space. Each of the cabins provides comfortable daytime seating with two single sofas, perfect for unwinding as you take in the scenery, and each evening the cabin is transformed into a modern and luxurious bedroom with a choice of two single beds or a large double bed. Every detail has been curated for your comfort, with features including a Dyson hairdryer, smart toilet, minibar, full-length wardrobe, and a cosy sofa chair. A 2.5 square metre en-suite bathroom completes the experience, offering modern luxury within a setting of timeless design.

SUPERIOR CABINS SPECIFICATIONS

- Sleeps 1 or 2 with either 2 Single Beds (190 cm x 75 cm) or 1 Large Double Bed (190 cm L x 170 cm W)
- Cabin Size (535 cm L x 205 cm W) (11 sqm)
- Bathroom Size (2.5 sqm)
- Wardrobe (80 cm x 70 cm x 202 cm)
- Single Sofa Chair
- Remote controlled air-conditioning, heating and humidifier
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Private en-suite bathroom with smart TOTO toilet and full power shower
- Bathrobes, slippers, Dyson hairdryer and luxury toiletries provided
- Personal safe and fridge
- Towels and linens changed every third day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin available at all times
- Complimentary drinks from the Bar Lounge Car included (excluding Premium Wine List)
- Laundry service included



Superior Twin



Superior Twin Restroom



Unparalleled dining experience

HAN DYNASTY SUITE

The two Han Dynasty suites offer an expansive 22.2 square metres of space to provide the ultimate in comfort and elegance. Each suite features a spacious full length wardrobe, large double bed, double sofa, dressing table, separate living room, a table for in-cabin dining, remote controlled air-conditioning, in-cabin Wi-Fi, USB ports, power sockets and a safe. The 5.2 square metre en-suite bathroom features a bathtub, shower, double sinks and a smart toilet. Guests occupying Han Dynasty suites will receive private car and guide options in selected cities for off-train excursions in some destinations, a complimentary laundry service aboard the train and room upgrades to the next available category at hotels which are featured in the itinerary.

- Sleeps 2 in a large double bed (190 cm L x 170 cm W)
- Separate living room (475 cm x 205 cm) with double sofa
- Remote controlled air-conditioning, heating and humidifier
- Recessed lighting and wardrobe
- Dressing table
- Dining Table
- Personal safe
- Private en-suite bathroom (5.2 sqm) with smart TOTO toilet, deluxe bathtub and double sink
- Bathrobes, slippers, Dyson hairdryer provided
- Luxury toiletries and amenities provided, including Hermès, Aesop and Bvlgari
- Complimentary built in minibar and fridge
- Wardrobe (62 cm x 35 cm x 204.5 cm)
- Towels and linens changed every third day or daily on request
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water available at all times
- In-cabin dining available on request
- Complimentary drinks from the Bar Lounge Car included (excluding Premium Wine List)
- Private car and guide options in selected cities for off-train excursion programme
- Laundry service included



Han Dynasty Suite (night)



Han Dynasty Suite Lounge



Bar Lounge Car



Restaurant Car, Eastern style



Lounge Car



Restaurant Car, Western style



Dining

YOUR DINING

Dining on board is a special experience. There are two dining cars on board and the Western-style restaurant car, with its sophisticated yet warm atmosphere, offers the option for banquet dining. Here, five-star service meets silver-service tradition, with steward service and liveried wait staff committed to delivering an impeccable experience. Whether you are dining alone or in the company of fellow travellers, each moment is tailored to your desires. For those who prefer a more intimate setting, the Chinese-style restaurant car offers booth seating with an ambience of elegance and serenity. Designed to reflect the local culture, this space provides an authentic backdrop for tasting the finest local dishes, meticulously prepared by the expert chefs.

Each morning enjoy a bountiful breakfast in one of the two beautifully appointed restaurant cars offering a wide selection of fruit, cereals, orange juice and cold plates. Alternatively enjoy a cooked breakfast brought to your table by the waiting staff, all complemented by tea and coffee. A selection of local Chinese dishes are also available at breakfast. For lunch and dinner you will enjoy fine food, great wines and attentive service. The meals are skillfully prepared by the Executive Chef and their onboard restaurant team using the very best ingredients, locally sourced wherever possible. The culinary experience on offer reflects the very

essence of the countries you will travel through, as well as international cuisine. Vegetarian and other dietary options are also available. Lunch and dinner are accompanied by an excellent choice of wines from around the world along with bottled water, beer and soft drinks. Meals are a convivial affair with the freedom to dine with whomever you please in a single sitting.

LIFE ON BOARD

The social heart of the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express is the Bar Lounge Car, a place where you can enjoy expertly crafted cocktails and fine wines as you get to know your fellow travellers. For a more tranquil experience, retreat to the Observation Car with its stunning panoramic window where you can relax and watch the ever changing scenery or perhaps read a novel to while away the time. The Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars also host an entertaining and enlightening range of activities and it is here that the Tour Manager will organise a programme of activities for the journey ahead. Daily itineraries detailing train arrival and departure timings and information on the following day's excursions and activities will be provided. As evening falls, you can enjoy the sound of the resident pianist playing on the world-renowned Bösendorfer piano.

ANCIENT CHINA BY PRIVATE TRAIN

A JOURNEY BETWEEN BEIJING & URUMQI ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE SILK ROAD EXPRESS

20TH SEPTEMBER TO 2ND OCTOBER 2026*; 1ST TO 13TH APRIL & 10TH TO 22ND SEPTEMBER 2027



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its ancient Buddhist art. This 'Cave of a Thousand Buddhas' is a spiritual oasis that has inspired pilgrims and artists for centuries.

Witness the Apak Khoja Tomb, considered the holiest Muslim site in Xinjiang.

Visit the awe-inspiring Terracotta Army – a life-sized army of soldiers, chariots, and horses, buried with China's First Emperor to protect him in the afterlife. This UNESCO site, often hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World, offers a mesmerising insight into ancient Chinese beliefs and artistry.

Learn the ancient tradition of hand-weaving exquisite silk and carpets at the Atlas Silk and Carpet Workshop.

Delight in an authentic Tang Dynasty dinner, where the ambiance is enhanced by a captivating performance of traditional music and dance, evoking the grandeur of ancient Xi'an.

Here is a remarkable journey through the heart of ancient China, where history, culture, and natural beauty converge on an extraordinary route aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express. This exclusive itinerary traverses a captivating landscape of Imperial capitals, desert oases, and ancient cities, transporting guests through Beijing, Xi'an, Dunhuang, Hotan, Kashgar, and beyond. Along the way, you will encounter the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors, walk the revered Great Wall, and explore the majestic Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site adorned with exquisite Buddhist art.

On board the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express, experience unparalleled luxury with spacious en-suite cabins, world-class cuisine, and refined service. From the floor-to-ceiling windows of the observation car, take in sweeping vistas of China's diverse landscapes, from the verdant valleys surrounding Xi'an to the ethereal sands of the Gobi Desert. At each stop, the expert guides will bring each site to life, sharing tales of emperors, traders, and pilgrims who once journeyed along these fabled paths. This meticulously planned journey promises to be a luxurious and enriching adventure into China's timeless heritage.



Forbidden City, Beijing



Ancient ruins at Gaochang

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Urumqi, China. Fly by indirect scheduled flight.

Day 2 Urumqi. Arrive today and transfer to the Conrad Urumqi for an overnight stay. This city is the cosmopolitan capital of Xinjiang, home to numerous ethnic groups and brimming with the vibrant energy of East meets West. Join your fellow travellers for an exclusive welcome reception and dinner this evening.

Day 3 Urumqi to Turpan. After a restful morning in Urumqi, we board the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express, our luxurious home for the next leg of the journey. Settle into your elegant suite before enjoying a welcome lunch in the dining car, as we begin our journey eastwards in true comfort towards our first stop of Turpan.

Day 4 Turpan. This morning we explore the Ancient City of Gaochang, an ancient Silk Road outpost that once served as a vital trading hub. After lunch, we marvel at the Karez irrigation system, an engineering marvel that has provided water to this arid region for centuries. We then visit Jiaohe Ruins, an ancient city carved from rock, whose unique architecture reflects the ingenuity of its former inhabitants.



Crescent Lake, Dunhuang

Day 5 Kashgar. Today, we delve into Kashgar, a city that has long been a melting pot of cultures, religions, and architecture. Our exploration begins with a visit to the Apak Khoja Tomb, a stunningly adorned mausoleum considered the holiest Muslim site in Xinjiang. Wander through the Old Town, where narrow alleys and traditional homes provide a glimpse into local life, and explore the Gaotai folk houses, an area steeped in history and tradition. A wonderful lunch in a local restaurant introduces us to the diverse flavours of Uyghur cuisine before we return to the train to continue our eastward journey.

Day 6 Hotan. We step back in time with a tour of Yotkan Ancient City. Once the heart of the Buddhist Kingdom of Khotan, this ancient city flourished along the Silk Road, its temples and cultural centres revealing Hotan's rich legacy as a nexus of trade and spirituality. Enjoy an exclusive visit to Hotan's Atlas Silk and Carpet Workshop. Here, witness master artisans create intricate silk fabrics and carpets using time-honoured techniques passed down through generations.

Day 7 Golmud. Our day in Golmud includes an enlightening lecture at the Hilton Qinghai-Golmud on the Silk Road's history, highlighting its role as a bridge between East and West. You may also choose to explore the Chaerhan Salt Lake, a surreal landscape of salt flats and mineral deposits, or enjoy a guided tour through Golmud's vibrant city streets, before we re-board the train.

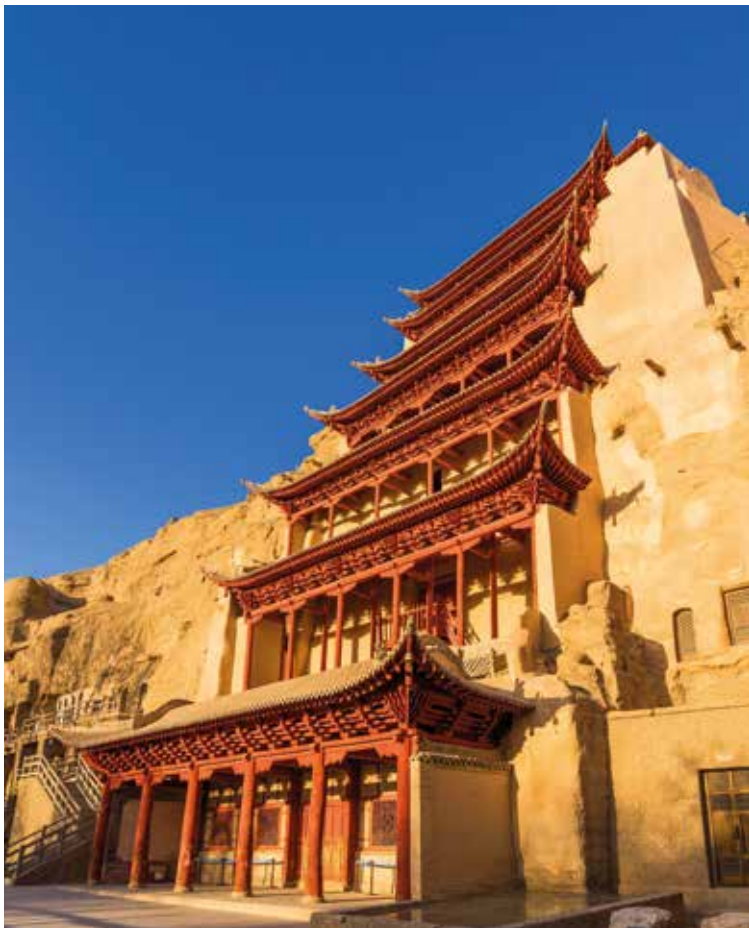
Day 8 Dunhuang. Arriving in Dunhuang, we explore the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its ancient Buddhist art. This "Cave of a Thousand Buddhas" is a spiritual oasis that has inspired pilgrims and artists for centuries, adorned with vibrant murals and statues that date back over a thousand years. Local folk artists serenade us with music, adding an atmospheric touch to our journey through this sacred complex. After lunch we will embark on a camel trek along the Silk Road to the enchanting Crescent Lake, an oasis nestled among towering dunes. This tranquil crescent-shaped lake has endured millennia of desert winds and remains a cherished symbol of resilience and beauty.

Day 9 On Board the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express & Xi'an. Today is a day of leisure as we traverse the Chinese landscape aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express. Take in the panoramic scenery from the observation car's floor-to-ceiling windows, the largest of any train in China, or unwind in the bar car. This evening we arrive into Xi'an and delight in an authentic Tang Dynasty dinner, where the ambiance is enhanced by a captivating performance of traditional music and dance, evoking the grandeur of ancient Xi'an.

Day 10 Xi'an. In Xi'an, we explore the ancient city walls and the historic Great Mosque, one of China's oldest and largest mosques, blending Islamic and Chinese architectural styles. Later, we visit the awe-inspiring Terracotta Army – a life-sized army of soldiers, chariots, and horses, buried with China's First Emperor to protect him in the afterlife. This UNESCO site, often hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World, offers a mesmerising insight into ancient Chinese beliefs and artistry. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner aboard the train.

Day 11 Beijing. Disembark in China's capital city this morning and bid farewell to the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express. We will enjoy a comprehensive tour of Beijing's historic heart which reveals the grandeur of China's ancient dynasties. Explore the Forbidden City, the sprawling Imperial palace where emperors ruled for nearly 500 years. Stroll through Tiananmen Square, a place of great historical significance, before discovering the Summer Palace, a serene retreat adorned with beautiful gardens, temples, and lakes. Alternatively, delve into Beijing's modern allure with a tour of contemporary landmarks: marvel at the architectural feats of the Olympic Village and the iconic "Bird's Nest" Stadium, glimpse the striking design of the CCTV Tower, and explore the National Museum for a modern-day perspective on China's cultural evolution. Afterwards we will transfer to the Four Seasons Hotel Beijing, for a two night stay in five-star comfort.

Day 12 Beijing. Our day begins with a morning visit to the Great Wall at Badaling, one of the most iconic symbols of ancient China. Here, you can walk along a beautifully restored section, soaking in the breathtaking views and imagining the historical figures who once guarded this marvel.



Mogao Caves, Dunhuang

In the afternoon, enjoy time at leisure to explore Beijing's lively mix of ancient traditions and modern vibrancy. This evening, we gather for a dining experience at a celebrated Peking Duck restaurant. This Beijing speciality, cherished for centuries, is expertly prepared and carved at your table, offering a delectable insight into Chinese culinary mastery.

Day 13 Beijing to London. Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

*Please note that the 2026 departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Beijing to Urumqi. Full itinerary can be viewed on our website.



Apak Khoja Tomb, Kashgar



Terracotta Warriors



Chaerhan Salt Lake, Golmud



Pavilions at the Great Mosque, Xi'an

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

CATEGORY	PRICE
Superior Cabin	£15,995
Han Dynasty Suites	On Request
Superior Cabin for sole occupancy	£25,495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Urumqi & two nights hotel accommodation in Beijing • Eight nights aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express Train • All meals • All drinks aboard the train (excluding premium wines) and with included lunches & dinners off the train • Excursions • Hotel Porterage • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, China visa.

Important Information: Please note that all bookings (including those made by Commodore Club members) are subject to a 10% deposit, except where the booking is made within 90 days of departure, in which case full payment will be required at the time of booking. Please also note that nonstandard cancellation fees terms apply to bookings for this holiday. Please contact us for further information.

VOYAGE TO THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

A EPIC JOURNEY FROM BEIJING TO TIBET
ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE SILK ROAD EXPRESS

9TH TO 22ND APRIL & 17TH TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2027



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Traverse the Tanggula Mountain Pass, the highest point of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway at an astonishing 16,640 feet above sea level.

Visit the legendary Great Wall at Badaling, one of mankind's greatest architectural triumphs.

Explore UNESCO-listed gems including the Mogao Caves, Longmen Grottoes and Shaolin Temple – the Cradle of Kung Fu.

Experience the world-renowned Terracotta Warriors, a vast subterranean army featuring over 6,000 intricately detailed life-sized soldiers, horses, and chariots.

This journey through China's ancient heartlands and mystical highlands aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express blends cultural immersion with breathtaking landscapes. The meticulously planned itinerary, inspired by the Silk Road and Qinghai-Tibet Railway, begins in Beijing's Imperial grandeur; traverses the historical treasures of Luoyang and Xi'an, and ventures into the spiritual and natural wonders of Chengdu, Xining, Dunhuang, and Lhasa. With private cabins, gourmet dining, and expert-guided excursions, this adventure offers a seamless blend of comfort and discovery, culminating in the spiritual capital of Tibet.

Starting in Beijing, explore the Forbidden City and Great Wall, before travelling to Luoyang, home to the UNESCO-listed Longmen Grottoes and Shaolin Temple, the cradle of Kung Fu. In Xi'an, marvel at the Terracotta Warriors, a testament to China's first emperor. Journey to Chengdu to meet adorable pandas and savour Sichuan's spicy cuisine, then continue to Xining, the gateway to the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. In Dunhuang, uncover the Mogao Caves' ancient Buddhist art, a Silk Road jewel. The tour peaks in Lhasa, where the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple offer profound spiritual encounters at the roof of the world.



Giant Panda, Chengdu



Sichuan Opera Theatre



Temple of Heaven, Beijing

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Beijing, China. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Beijing. Arrive today and transfer to the Four Seasons Hotel Beijing for a two night stay in five-star comfort. This evening, we will enjoy a welcome dinner, an opportunity to meet with your fellow travellers prior to the journey ahead.

Day 3 Beijing. Today, we can marvel at the legendary Great Wall at Badaling, one of mankind's greatest architectural triumphs. Wander along this beautifully restored section, taking in the breathtaking vistas of the rugged hills and countryside that stretch to the horizon. Returning to Beijing in the afternoon, enjoy time at leisure to relax or explore the city's rich tapestry of culture at your own pace. This evening, we gather for a special dining experience: a traditional Peking Duck feast at one of Beijing's most celebrated restaurants, offering an authentic taste of the capital's proud culinary traditions.

Day 4 Beijing. Today, immerse yourself in the splendour of Imperial Beijing with a full-day exploration of its most iconic ancient landmarks: the vast expanse of Tiananmen Square, the timeless majesty of the Forbidden City, and the tranquil beauty of the Summer Palace, with its ornate pavilions and lakeside gardens. Alternatively, choose to visit modern Beijing, with its architectural masterpieces such as the Olympic Village, the striking CCTV Tower, and the world-class National Museum. This evening, step aboard the luxurious Golden Eagle Silk Road Express and enjoy a welcome dinner in the dining car.

Day 5 Luoyang & Xi'an. Awaken in the heart of China's ancient cradle as the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express arrives into Luoyang, a city with over 4,000 years of history and once the capital of 13 dynasties. Step into a world where time seems to stand still, surrounded by the delicate scent of blooming peonies, Luoyang's proud emblem, and the distant chime of temple bells. Our exploration begins at the awe-inspiring Longmen Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where more than 100,000 Buddhist statues and 60 stupas are masterfully carved into the limestone cliffs along the Yi River. Later, continue to the legendary Shaolin Temple, nestled at the foot of Mount Song, the spiritual birthplace of both Zen Buddhism and Kung Fu. Wander through historic courtyards where monks still train, their graceful martial arts performances breathing life into centuries of tradition. Back in Luoyang's charming old town, sample local specialities such as the famous water banquet dumplings, a delicious

reflection of the city's Silk Road heritage. As evening falls, we arrive in the ancient city of Xi'an, where a Tang Dynasty-style banquet of traditional cuisine, music, and dance awaits, an unforgettable celebration of the region's rich cultural legacy.

Day 6 Xi'an. Discover Xi'an's ancient city walls, one of the oldest, largest, and best-preserved defensive structures in the world. Stroll along the ramparts where Imperial guards once stood watch, and take in panoramic views of the old town, a captivating blend of ancient tradition and modern life. After lunch at a local restaurant, the highlight of the day unfolds with a visit to the world-renowned Terracotta Warriors. Discovered by farmers in 1974, this vast subterranean army, over 6,000 intricately detailed life-sized soldiers, horses, and chariots, was created to protect China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, in the afterlife. Wander through the vast excavation pits and marvel at the individuality of each warrior, from the folds of their armour to the expressions on their faces. This extraordinary archaeological site is a powerful testament to the ambition, artistry, and military might of ancient China and is widely regarded as one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century. After a day filled with awe and inspiration, we will return to the comfort of the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express, reflecting on the grandeur and mystery of Xi'an's rich Imperial past.

Day 7 Chengdu. As the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express glides into Chengdu, the vibrant energy of Sichuan's capital embraces us. After a sumptuous breakfast on board, our day of discovery begins at the world-renowned Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Here, amidst lush bamboo groves, the sight of these endearing animals sparks instant delight and offers a heartwarming glimpse into one of China's greatest conservation successes. Later, we gather at the Sichuan Opera Theatre, exclusively reserved for our group, where the magical world of traditional opera unfolds before us. In an intimate and atmospheric setting, performers in radiant silk costumes captivate with the ancient art of bian lian, the dramatic, lightning-fast face-changing technique that leaves audiences spellbound. Amidst fiery displays, haunting melodies, and graceful choreography, the spirit of Sichuan's rich artistic heritage is brought vividly to life, making for an unforgettable afternoon of cultural immersion.

Day 8 Xining. Spend a relaxing morning on board the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express travelling through the dramatic landscapes of the



Jokhang Temple

Qinghai Plateau, relax in your private cabin or enjoy the panoramic views from the observation carriage as the train approaches Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province. We first head to Kumbum Monastery, one of China's most sacred sites this architectural marvel captivates with its golden rooftops, intricate thangka paintings, and vibrant prayer halls. Our expert guide unveils the monastery's spiritual legacy, offering exclusive access to quieter corners for a moment to take in the serene ambiance. Following your visit, choose to delve into Qinghai's heritage at the Provincial Museum, home to fascinating exhibits spanning ancient Silk Road artefacts and Tibetan culture, or explore the vibrant Shui Jing Xiang Market – an aromatic, colourful celebration of local life. Later this afternoon, return to the comfort of the train, where your luxurious journey continues.

Day 9 Dunhuang. Today we discover one of the Silk Road's most awe-inspiring cultural treasures: the UNESCO-listed Mogao Caves. Set dramatically against the cliffs of the Gobi Desert, this labyrinthine complex, often referred to as the 'Caves of a Thousand Buddhas', houses over 1,000 years of Buddhist devotion. Inside, nearly 500 richly adorned grottoes, vivid murals and painted sculptures chronicle spiritual tales and cultural exchange from the 4th to the 14th centuries, forming one of the world's most remarkable collections of ancient art. Accompanied by an expert guide, we will step into a selection of the most exquisite chambers



Mogao Caves



Longmen Grottoes, Luoyang

to see the legendary artistry that has withstood the sands of time. The experience is made even more special with an exclusive live performance by local folk musicians and dancers, their graceful movements and soulful melodies adding further memories to the visit. Following a leisurely lunch, the afternoon's adventure continues with a camel ride across the sweeping dunes of the Gobi. As we ride along the very paths once travelled by Silk Road merchants, the golden sands unfold towards our final destination: Crescent Lake. The enchanting desert oasis, nestled like a jewel beneath towering dunes, has miraculously endured for millennia. Its pristine waters reflect the afternoon sun, offering a moment of quiet awe in the heat of the desert – a perfect conclusion to a day steeped in history, legend, and enduring beauty.

Day 10 Qinghai-Tibet Railway. After a final gourmet breakfast aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express, our journey continues aboard the legendary Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the highest railway in the world. A marvel of modern engineering and stretching over 1,900 kilometres from Xining to Lhasa, this iconic route offers a rare opportunity to travel through some of the most remote and dramatic landscapes on earth. Settle into your comfortable seat and watch as the scenery shifts from the edge of the Tibetan Plateau to sweeping grasslands and shimmering salt lakes, all framed by distant snow-capped peaks. Alternatively, guests may opt for a direct flight to Lhasa, allowing extra time to relax and begin acclimatising in the mystical capital of Tibet.

Day 11 Tanggula Mountain Pass & Lhasa, Tibet. Today we will traverse the Tanggula Mountain Pass, the highest point of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway at an astonishing 16,640 feet above sea level, where panoramic vistas of the Himalayan Mountain range and untouched valleys unfold beyond your window. After lunch on board, we arrive in Lhasa, Tibet's mystical and awe-inspiring capital, and check in to the luxurious St Regis Lhasa Resort for a two night stay. This afternoon, choose to delve into Tibet's spiritual heart with an optional guided tour. Begin at the Jokhang Temple, a 13th century sacred sanctuary that stands as the spiritual nucleus of Tibetan Buddhism. Afterwards, visit the Barkhor Market, Lhasa's oldest market, where stalls overflow with traditional crafts, prayer beads, and colourful thangka paintings. Alternatively, take time at leisure to absorb the sights and sounds of Lhasa at your own pace.

Day 12 Lhasa. We begin our full day of discovery in Lhasa with a visit to the serene Norbulingka, the Dalai Lama's Summer Palace. Established



Kumbum Stupa



Potala Palace, Lhasa

in the 1740s as a retreat from the summer heat, this "Jewel Garden" enchants with its meticulously landscaped grounds, lotus-filled ponds, and a sense of stillness that contrasts beautifully with the city's liveliness. Strolling through this peaceful oasis offers a moment of reflection amid Tibetan heritage and artistry. For lunch, savour authentic Tibetan cuisine, richly flavoured with local herbs and accompanied by the sounds of traditional folk music. This afternoon, we ascend to the majestic Potala Palace, an awe-inspiring 17th century architectural masterpiece that once served as the winter residence of the Dalai Lama. Rising 300 metres above the valley floor, its towering red and white façade dominates the Lhasa skyline. Inside, labyrinthine corridors lead to ornate chapels, golden stupas, and sacred relics, each step a journey through centuries of spiritual and political history. As evening falls, we gather for a farewell dinner, raising a glass to the unforgettable moments of this extraordinary journey through the heart of China and Tibet.

Day 13 Lhasa to Beijing. Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive today.



Qinghai-Tibet Railway



Norbulingka

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

CATEGORY	PRICE
Superior Cabin	£18,995
Han Dynasty Suites	£44,995
Superior Cabin for sole occupancy	£28,995
Han Dynasty Suite for sole occupancy	£88,995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Beijing and two nights hotel accommodation in Lhasa • Six nights aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express Train • Overnight aboard the Qinghai-Tibet Railway • All meals • All drinks aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express Train (excluding premium wines) and with included lunches & dinners off the train • Excursions • Hotel Porterage • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, China visa.

Please note: The high altitude of some of the destinations may affect some travellers and so you are advised to seek medical advice before booking.

Important Information: Please note that all bookings (including those made by Commodore Club members) are subject to a 10% deposit, except where the booking is made within 90 days of departure, in which case full payment will be required at the time of booking. Please also note that nonstandard cancellation fees terms apply to bookings for this holiday. Please contact us for further information.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Itinerary and accommodation is subject to change.
Booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Forbidden City Palace Moat, Beijing. Back cover image: Jokhang Temple, Lhasa.