

## SILK ROAD TRAVEL

*Disclaimer & recommendations: All the contacts with tour companies that follow have been gleaned from web sites and advertisements. They do not carry any personal recommendation.*

One traveller highly recommends Exodus, from UK which is well priced and uses 3 star but does not use luxury hotels [www.exodustravels.com](http://www.exodustravels.com). +1 888-937-4884

A further recommendation is for Eldertrek here in Toronto <https://www.eldertreks.com>

China: Bamboo (020 7720 9285; [bambootravel.co.uk](http://bambootravel.co.uk)) Lanzhou-Xinjiang High-speed Railway brings "High-speed Silk Road"

Western Mongolia Blue Wolf (00976 7042 2772; [bluwolftravel.com](http://bluwolftravel.com)); Steppes (0843 636 8408; [steppestravel.co.uk](http://steppestravel.co.uk)) can organise trips to the Mongolian Altai Mountains.

Xinjiang China Travel 8 Days Xinjiang Silk Road Highlights US\$1150

Old Road Tours can organise permits, transport and a guide for the Karakorum highway <https://www.oldroadtours.com>

Naturetrek (01962 733051; [naturetrek.co.uk](http://naturetrek.co.uk)) operates several bird and wildlife-themed tours in Kazakhstan.

In the Saddle (01299 272997; [inthesaddle.com](http://inthesaddle.com)) organises horse riding group trips in Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan homestays and yurt stays can be organised through CBT (00996 312 54 00 69; [cbtkyrgyzstan.kg](http://cbtkyrgyzstan.kg)).

Silk Road Tours (020 8728 2478; [silkroadtours.co.uk](http://silkroadtours.co.uk)) and Great Game (028 9091 3001; [greatgametravel.co.uk](http://greatgametravel.co.uk)) can arrange trips to Tajikistan.

Exodus (0845 863 9601; [exodus.co.uk](http://exodus.co.uk)) is offering occasional 11-night Uzbekistan overland tour visiting Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, with drives across the desert to see Alexander the Great's fortress at Nurata, and a night in a yurt. From £1,599 per person including flights, transfers, all accommodation, all breakfasts and some other meals.

Cox & Kings (020 7873 5000; [coxandkings.co.uk](http://coxandkings.co.uk)) has a 12-night tour of the Silk Route by privately chartered train, visiting historical sites in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. From £3,945 per person, including flights, transfers, excursions and full board on the train.

Ride World Wide (0183 782544; [rideworldwide.com](http://rideworldwide.com)) offers a 10-night riding holiday in Georgia, through forests and alpine meadows, visiting ruined churches, monasteries and Patara Dminisi. From £1,620 per person, including basic accommodation, most meals, guides, backup crew and internal transfers.

<https://www.traveltheunknown.com> South Caucasus: 11 May 2019 to 25 May 2019 - £ 2,595 05 Oct 2019 to 19 Oct 2019 - £ 2,595

Mir travel US\$7,495 Max 16 Travelers 18 days Tehran to Istfahan

Turkey has it all. Eldertreks can take you there [www.eldertreks.com](http://www.eldertreks.com)

I have been asked to lead a trip to **Uzbekistan with Worldwide Quest**

April 2019 12 days US\$4295pp Not included Round trip airfare (good priced flights with Turkish or Emirates), insurance.

**Craig Travel** Sep 24 – Oct 18 2019 \$7095 per person. Uzbekistan. Must be physically fit and active Must handle own luggage. Food reflects the local cuisine.

Philip Wood