



Dear alumnae & friends:

Professor Stephen Jones is leading Mount Holyoke alumnae on a custom-designed journey into the heart of Central Asia along the legendary Silk Road from western China to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. We follow the footsteps of the caravans of traders from one rich oasis city-state to another, just as some of the world's greatest conquerors have, including Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane, and leaders of the former Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China.

The fabled names of these ancient city-states stir the imagination and sense of adventure. Chang'an (modern day Xi'an), Urumqi, Turpan, Kashgar, Bishkek, Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara beckon us. We experience the rich multicultural heritage and see the monuments contributed by the spread of Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Manichaeism, and other religions.

While much of our daily sightseeing will revolve around the historic sites and ancient cultures, we will experience contemporary cultures as well. Professor Jones' knowledge of east/west relations in the post-Soviet period will provide a keen insight into long-forgotten places, which are having an increasingly important impact on today's world stage and on our lives.

This trip provides a rare opportunity to see how the east has met west over the span of two millennia right up to today.

Sincerely,

W. Rochelle Calhoun '83  
Executive Director

P.S. This unique program has been custom designed for Mount Holyoke and such opportunities do not often present themselves. If you are interested in visiting this part of the world, this is your chance to travel with Stephen Jones and fellow alumnae.



*Rejistan, Samarkand*

## Mount Holyoke Study Leader

**Stephen F. Jones** has been a member of Mount Holyoke's faculty for nearly 20 years, teaching courses on post-Soviet Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Georgia. He is widely published and has appeared repeatedly on the McNeil-Lehrer News Hour, the BBC World Service and National Public Radio. In addition, Dr. Jones regularly briefs the CIA and the U.S. State Department on developments in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. He enthusiastically looks forward helping bring the issues of Central Asia into focus for you.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL AT (800) 451-4321**

## The Main Program and Uzbekistan Extension Include:

- Lectures by Mount Holyoke professor Stephen Jones.
- Accommodations in 5 star deluxe hotels where possible and best available hotels elsewhere, with one night in a very clean and comfortable traditional yurt camp.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday starting with breakfast on June 24.
- All transportation and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary including gratuities to drivers and guides.
- Flights from Beijing to Xian, Xian to Urumqi, Urumqi to Kashgar, and on the extension, flights from Bishkek to Tashkent and Bukhara to Tashkent.
- Transportation between airports and hotels with luggage handling for those traveling on program dates.
- A Siemer & Hand tour manager and highly experienced Chinese and Uzbek national tour escorts, plus local guides.

### General Information

■ PROGRAM COST EXCLUDES: Airfare to Beijing and home from Bishkek or Tashkent; airport/hotel transfers for those not traveling on program dates; airport and departure taxes; meals not listed as included; charges for items of a personal nature including laundry, beverages, and excess baggage charges; independent travel arrangements; travel and accident insurance; and passport and visa fees. ■ TOUR SIZE: The main program cost is based on a minimum of 15 participants. The Uzbekistan optional extension cost is based on a minimum of 12 participants. The Beijing optional extension cost is based on a minimum of 7 participants. If these minimum numbers are not met or there are extreme currency fluctuations, or fuel surcharges, a supplemental fee may be required. ■ DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT: Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$1,000 per person. Final payment for all land and air costs is due by April 19, 2008, and must be paid by check. ■ CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$275 per person, will be made if Siemer & Hand Travel is notified on or before April 19, 2008. No refunds will be granted after that date. All cancellations must be in writing. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. ■ HEALTH: All participants must be in good health. This

program is active and involves walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs and time spent at high elevation. Most locations are not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require special medical attention or other accommodation must be reported at the time of your reservation.

■ TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel insurance is strongly recommended. To protect for the following three conditions, insurance must be purchased within 14 days of your initial tour deposit: 1) a pre-existing condition pertaining to you, a travel companion, or an immediate family member; 2) unforeseeable events or their consequences, including cancellations by an airline, cruise line, or tour operator as a result of financial insolvency; and 3) terrorist act(s) which occur in your departure city or in a city which is a scheduled destination for your trip and within 30 days of the scheduled departure date. ■ RESPONSIBILITY: A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc. and Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College for loss of property, injury, illness, or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request.

■ SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL, INC.: Seller of fine travel programs since 1959. www.siemerhand.com  
CST 1004239-10

### Registration

Please make check payable to and mail to: Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111

Enclosed is my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Life Along the Ancient Silk Road**. Or, charge my deposit to:

MasterCard  Visa  Diners Club  American Express  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Signature as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Name As it appears on your passport \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name As it appears on your passport \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I/we request trip cancellation insurance covering the full trip cost. By purchasing the coverage now, I am also protected for the three conditions stated under Travel Insurance in the General Information section. Multiply the full program cost (including any non-refundable air) by .055 for each traveler for a total premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

#### Accommodations:

- I wish to have single accommodations at an additional cost of \$995 (subject to availability)
- I wish to participate in the optional extension to Uzbekistan
- I wish to have single accommodations on the optional extension to Uzbekistan at an additional cost of \$495 (subject to availability)
- I wish to participate in the optional extension to Beijing
- I wish to have single accommodations on the optional extension to Beijing at an additional cost of \$495 (subject to availability)
- I will share accommodations with: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am willing to share with another participant: (shares cannot be guaranteed)

I/We have read the General Information section and agree to the terms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Highlights of Life Along the Silk Road...

- Travel with professor Stephen Jones, a Central Asia expert
- See the remarkable army of Terracotta Soldiers in Xi'an
- Explore the Bezeklik Caves in Turpan, Buddhist cave temples carved into a cliff face
- Shop for leather goods, musical instruments and fresh spices at Kashgar's Sunday morning bazaar
- Travel from China to Kyrgyzstan and stay in a yurt camp at the caravansary Tash Rabat
- See the architectural wonders of UNESCO Sites Samarkand and Bukhara
- See Beijing and enjoy exclusive access to private areas of the Forbidden City: tour by pedi-cab, and see the Great Wall

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL AT (800) 451-4321

Photo this page: China's Great Wall Cover photo: A caravan on China's Silk Road

## BRING A FRIEND AND SAVE

Because a memorable trip can be even more special when shared with friends, we are pleased to offer a savings of \$150 per person to you and to any of your friends that join you on this trip, even if they register at a later date. (Please note that friends must reside at different addresses.)



### Alumnae Association of Mt. Holyoke College

Mary E. Woolley Hall  
50 College Street  
South Hadley, MA 01075-1486

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# Mount Holyoke

## Life Along the Ancient Silk Road

Led by Professor Stephen Jones

June 22 – July 3, 2008

With an Optional Extension to Uzbekistan

July 3 – 9, 2008



*Kashgar Market*



*Uyghur dancer*



*Terracotta army, Xi'an*



*Typical Yurt*



*Mosque at Samarkand*

## ITINERARY

**June 22, Depart U.S.**

**June 23, Arrive Beijing**

You are escorted to your hotel.

PENINSULA PALACE HOTEL

**June 24 & 25 Xi'an**

Fly to Xi'an. See the Terra Cotta Warriors and Ming Dynasty City, dine in a local restaurant and mingle with local people. See the treasures in Shaanxi History Museum, Big Goose Pagoda, Great Mosque and Muslim quarter. TWO NIGHTS

HYATT REGENCY

**June 26, Urumqi**

Fly to Urumqi. Meet the curator and visit Xinjiang Regional Museum. Experience the rich ethnic mix of the Grand Bazaar. SHERATON

URUMQI HOTEL

**June 27, Urumqi to Turpan**

See rich agriculture and fascinating landscapes en route to Turpan. Explore the ruins of Gaochang and Bezeklik Caves. OASIS HOTEL

**June 28 & 29 Turpan to Kashgar**

Explore centuries-old ruins at Jiaohe. See Songgu Minaret and the 2,000-year-old underground irrigation system. Fly from Urumqi to Kashgar. Explore exotic streets and the famous Sunday bazaar selling livestock, handicrafts, and spices. See Id Kah Mosque, largest in China. Dine with a local family. TWO NIGHTS

TAXINAN BARONY HOTEL

**June 30, Kashgar to Tash Rabat**

Cross Torugart Pass to Kyrgyzstan. Spend a night in a comfortable yurt camp at Tash Rabat Caravansary. TASH RABAT YURT CAMP

**July 1, Tash Rabat to Bishkek**

See Issyk Kul, explore ancient Balasagyn with its 148' minaret. TWO NIGHTS

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL

**July 2, Bishkek**

Stroll in interesting neighborhoods, visit the museum and experience a traditional dinner with folk music.

**July 3, Bishkek to Tashkent or to USA**

Fly to Tashkent, Uzbekistan on the optional extension, or to the USA.

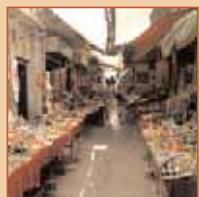


## THE SILK ROAD

The Silk Road was a braided array of trade routes that for centuries was the primary link between Western and Eastern cultures. Periodically geography funneled the various paths of the Silk Road through fertile oases. At these strategic points magnificent city-states evolved into some of the most sophisticated and cosmopolitan cultural centers. They were centers of learning and places where a dozen languages would be heard in the marketplaces.

Bukhara, Samarkand, Kashgar, Turpan and other city-states flourished as the cities taxed the lucrative caravans that passed through their hands. But trade was not all the Silk Road carried; ideas, religions, philosophies and technologies also traveled the 5,000 mile route and were extremely significant to the development of the modern world. Architecture, and a myriad of religions including Buddhism and Islam, traveled east and west long before Marco Polo's historic 13th-century journey as one of the first Europeans to traverse the entire Silk Road.

European nations greatly benefited from superior technologies China had developed. Ironically, Europe's exploitation of Chinese innovation – gunpowder changing the balance of power, the astrolabe, compass, map-making skills and the tiller and rudder mechanism leading to the development of maritime trade – led to the decline of the Silk Road's importance.



### XIAN

Known as Chang'an at the time of the Silk Road, Xian was an Imperial City. Still surrounded by its ancient walls, Xian is best known for the legions of terra cotta warriors guarding

the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. This discovery ranks as one of the 20th century's greatest archaeological finds, with life-size individually modeled figures numbering in the thousands. **By special arrangement we have the unique opportunity to see newly discovered digs that are currently not open to the public.** Viewing these new excavations gets us close enough to sense the human scale of each individual soldier.

### URUMQI

Urumqi is set in a green oasis pinned in by soaring snow-capped peaks, a vast salt lake



and sand dunes of the Zunggar Basin. The northern branch of the Silk Road passed through this valley, and taxes on Silk Road trade turned this garrison center into a rich and cosmopolitan city. Urumqi is perhaps best known today for its colorful mix of about 40 ethnic groups and a wonderful museum housing *The Beauty of Loulan*, and several other mummies whose attire attest to the diversity and wealth found along the Silk Road. **By special arrangement the curator will greet our group and show us the highlights of the museum.**



### TURPAN

Turpan is one of the most fascinating cities along the Silk Road. An oasis 505 feet below sea level, the city's 2,000-year-old irrigation system still supports renowned orchards. One of Turpan's greatest treasures is the 130-foot tall Songgu Tower, borrowing its style from distant cultures.

We visit the historic settlements of Jiaohe and Gaochang, both garrison towns that thrived as artistic and spiritual centers for Buddhism and Manichaeism. We also explore Bezeklik Caves in the Flaming Mountains. Some Buddhist paintings still richly adorn the cave wall, reflecting a distinctly Indo-Persian style uncommon in this region.



### KASHGAR

Kashgar is the largest oasis city in Chinese Central Asia and home to the superb Muslim Abakh Khoja

Mausoleum. Kashgar's vibrant Sunday Market is an exotic mélange of ethnic commerce in livestock, colorful apparel, produce and spices. See the beautifully decorated Id Kah Mosque, the largest in China, attracting up to 10,000 worshippers for Friday prayers. Explore the handicraft street





with all sorts of hand-made items. We dine with a local family to experience the warm hospitality of the Uyghurs, and a troupe of musicians and dancers present a private performance of traditional song and dance.



### TASH RABAT

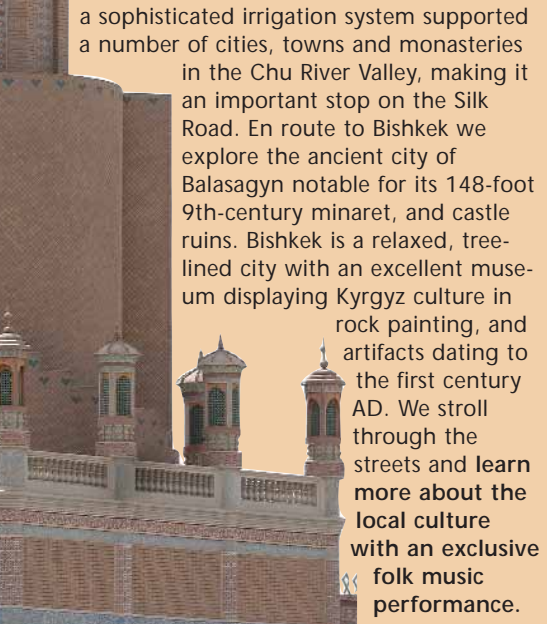
The Pamir Mountains, known as the "Roof of the World," were the most perilous natural obstacle on the Silk Road. Our journey over the Torugart Pass (about 10,000 feet) takes us from the relative sophistication of China to Kyrgyzstan, a step back in time. For one night we get a sense of life along the Silk Road with accommodations in a yurt camp set in a beautiful broad valley at the 10th-century caravansary of Tash Rabat. The traditional yurt camp is comfortable and clean, with western-style beds in the shared yurts. Shared bath facilities are separate from the yurt.

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### BISHKEK

Our westward journey skirts the alpine shores of the Lake Issyk Kul surrounded by the soaring peaks of the Tien Shan Mountains. Below the lake a sophisticated irrigation system supported a number of cities, towns and monasteries in the Chu River Valley, making it an important stop on the Silk Road. En route to Bishkek we explore the ancient city of Balasagyn notable for its 148-foot 9th-century minaret, and castle ruins. Bishkek is a relaxed, tree-lined city with an excellent museum displaying Kyrgyz culture in rock painting, and artifacts dating to the first century AD. We stroll through the streets and learn more about the local culture with an exclusive folk music performance.



### TASHKENT

Tashkent dates to the 5th century BC, and was probably the richest city in Central Asia into the 19th century. Today's Soviet city has lost its visible history but its significance to the Silk Road remains. It played an important role receiving goods from the Turkic Nomads from the west and exchanging them for goods from the Sogdians from the east. Its Khasti Imam Mosque houses the Uthman Koran, the oldest in the world, along with other 16th-century manuscripts. Walk the streets of the old town and visit the fascinating Bazaar.



### SAMARKAND

Samarkand, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been continually inhabited since 700 BC. Perhaps the most beautiful of the city's many monuments is Shahr-i-Zinda Tomb. The tin glazed majolica tile work is magnificent. We also see the ruins of the Bibi-Khanum Mosque, once the largest in Central Asia.

The Registan, a grand square flanked by three huge madrasah adorned with beautiful mosaics and gilded decorations, was a center of learning of mathematics, philosophy and religious law. View the three-story-tall sextant that in 1420 determined the coordinates of the sun so precisely that its calculation of the length of the year was within a minute of modern measurements.



### BUKHARA

Bukhara, another UNESCO Site, was a major trading center on the Old Silk Road and three domed bazaars remain, still occupied by carpet vendors and other merchants. The richly decorated Sitorai-Mokhi-Khosa, the Palace of Moon and Stars, was the summer palace of khans. The 2,000-year-old Ark, or citadel, was the center of political life into the 20th century. Today it is a museum housing an extensive collection of decorative arts, jewelry, coins and weapons. The towering 12th-century Kalyan Minaret is decorated with beautiful glazed bricks. The mausoleum of Sultan Ismail Samani, founder of the last Persian dynasty, is an excellent example of pre-Muslim architecture with unusually beautiful brickwork.

## Optional Extension to Uzbekistan July 3 - 9

### July 3, Tashkent

Amble through old Tashkent, visit Khasti Imam Mosque's library, mingle with locals at the Bazaar and enjoy a traditional Uzbek dinner.

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

### July 4, Tashkent to Samarkand

See Muhammad al-Bukhari complex en route to UNESCO Site, Samarkand. See Registan, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, funerary complex of Shahr-i-Zinda, add observatory.

HOTEL PRESIDENT PALACE

### July 6 & 7, Bukhara

Drive to UNESCO Site Bukhara. See khans' summer palace, original caravansary, the Ark (fortress), museum, Registan square with madrasah, mausoleum of Sultan Ismail Samani and 12th-century Kalyan Minaret. Mingle with the locals at Laub-i-Hauz.

TWO NIGHTS OMAR KHAYAM HOTEL

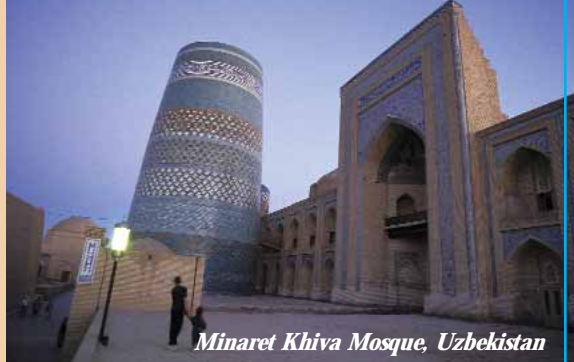
### July 8, Bukhara to Tashkent

Free time and a visit to the Bakhautdin Naqshbandi Mausoleum, founder of Naqshbandi Sufi Order. Fly to Tashkent for farewell dinner.

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

### July 9, Depart Tashkent

Fly to the USA.



*Minaret Khiva Mosque, Uzbekistan*



*Uyghur woman*

## Optional Beijing Pre-trip Extension June 20 - 23

June 19, Depart U.S.

June 20 - 23 Beijing

You are escorted to your hotel for dinner. Visit Tiananmen Square; tour the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, rural Sancha Village, Great Wall at Mutianyu, Temple of Heaven, and old Beijing by pedi-cab; and enjoy a delicious Peking Duck dinner. THREE NIGHTS PENINSULA PALACE HOTEL

ALL MEALS

## Pricing Information

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>MAIN PROGRAM LAND COST:</b> (Per person, based on double occupancy) . . . . .                | <b>\$5,595</b> |
| <b>SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:</b> (Singles are limited and subject to availability) . . . . .           | <b>\$ 995</b>  |
| <b>UZBEKISTAN EXTENSION LAND COST:</b> (Per person, based on double occupancy) . . . . .        | <b>\$2,795</b> |
| <b>EXTENSION SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:</b> (Singles are limited and subject to availability) . . . . . | <b>\$ 495</b>  |
| <b>BEIJING EXTENSION COST:</b> (Per person, based on double occupancy) . . . . .                | <b>\$1,295</b> |
| <b>EXTENSION SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:</b> (Singles are limited and subject to availability) . . . . . | <b>\$ 495</b>  |

For more information, please contact:  
Siemer & Hand Travel at (800) 451-4321

*Forbidden City, Beijing*