

Uzbekistan: Jewel of the Silk Road

ITAA Culture and Industry Tour—2018

A 13 Day Experience of Artisans, Culture, and Community

Led by Jana Hawley and Mary Littrell



Join us in May of 2018 for a 13 day exploration of one of the most unique sections of the Silk Road. While the silk road is really a network of routes that connect Europe to China, we believe that Uzbekistan serves as the jewel of the silk road with its rich mix of textiles, traditional crafts, architecture, and culture.

Participants will be immersed in the rich traditions and desert beauty of Uzbekistan including ancient mosques and madrassas, art museums, cultural ceremonies, and local community traditions. We will visit workshops of master artists in ikat dyeing and weaving, suzani embroidery, silk production, ceramics, miniature painting, and many other folk art traditions. Several leading apparel designers will welcome us to their studios. We will visit two famous weekly markets that are feasts for the eyes with ikat fabrics, embroidered hats, tassels, fringes, and vintage textiles. The tour will begin and end in the capital of Tashkent with its huge market offering foods from throughout the county, old-style cradles, and musical instruments. Visits will continue throughout the country to noted cities and towns including the Fergana valley, Margilan, Samarkand (a UNESCO world heritage site), Urgut, Bukhara, and Khiva.

Mary Littrell has traveled throughout Uzbekistan and has worked closely with artists and artist organizations in Uzbekistan for over fifteen years. In 2007, she guest curated the exhibition “Silk Road Artisans from Uzbekistan” in the Avenir Museum at Colorado State University, that also included Uzbek artist workshops in natural dyeing and embroidery. Both Jana and Mary work with Uzbekistan artists at the annual International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe. Both are experienced at leading tour groups in other countries including India, Guatemala, Peru, Morocco, Mexico, Bhutan, Turkey, El Salvador, and Thailand. We have secured the services of Salom Travel for internal arrangements.

The program cost is projected to be approximately \$3,000 plus airfare. Final cost will be determined by the number of participants. Interested members are expected to make their first deposit of \$500 by May 2017. If you are interested, please contact Jana Hawley by email at hawleyj@arizona.edu.