Traveling Exhibitions

Journey along the most celebrated trade route in human history and experience the evocative sights, sounds, and artifacts of the Silk Road.

Stamp your passport as you experience four ancient cities during the golden age of the Silk Road—the legendary trade route that spanned from the far reaches of China through the cities and empires of Central Asia and the Middle East. Discover the goods and materials travelers exchanged, as well as the technologies, religions, music, literature, and ideas that spread along the Silk Road.

CURATED BY: Mark Norell, Division Chair and Curator-in-Charge, Division of Paleontology

“Succeeds with compelling vividness.”
—The New York Times
Hands-on interactives include an astrolabe, a digital map of the Silk Road, and a music listening station.

Immersive dioramas and models include the interior of a dhow trading ship and a night bazaar.

Passport stations invite visitors to collect stamps at each stop along the journey.

Remarkable artifacts and objects represent treasures transported along the Silk Road.

Richly colored silk exhibit walls and impressive models enrich the experience.

Exhibition Themes:

Xi’an
Here, in China’s Tang Dynasty capital, learn how silk is produced, see a re-created loom, and discover the diverse culture’s musical instruments and Buddhist artifacts.

Turfan
Visit a bustling night bazaar, and find out how an innovative irrigation system transformed this oasis into a rich agricultural center.

Samarkand
Explore the interactive Silk Road map and animated storybook while visiting this merchant hub.

Baghdad
In this intellectual center, the study of architecture, mathematics, and astronomy flourished. Discover glassblowing techniques, a water clock, and use an astrolabe to navigate the stars.

Trading by Sea
Maritime trade eventually eclipsed the land route. Explore a re-created dhow ship, and discover how cultural exchange spurred new creativity.

“Definitely take some time to visit this exhibit.”
—Wired.com

FIND OUT MORE:
amnh.org/traveling
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SPECIFICATIONS:

VENUE GALLERY SIZE:
7,000 – 8,000 ft²

VENUE CEILING HEIGHT:
12 ft recommended

CONSERVATION + SECURITY:
Moderate – High

STANDARD RENTAL LENGTH:
14 – 16 weeks

EXHIBITION CREDITS:

Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in collaboration with the ArtScience Museum, Singapore; Azienda Speciale Palaexpo, Roma, Italy; and Codice. Idee per la cultura srl, Torino, Italy; the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, Australia; and Art Exhibitions Australia; and the National Museum of Natural Science, Taichung, Taiwan and United Daily News, Taipei, Taiwan.

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