

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

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.

"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 recreated 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:

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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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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