

MEDIA RELEASE
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GYPSIES MAKE WAVES ON THE GREAT SILK ROAD!

Global Gypsies have added a nautical twist to the epic journey along the Great Silk Road. Not only have they divided the marathon overland adventure into two separate tours, but they will be traversing the second half of the ancient trade route by both land *and* sea.

Retracing the footsteps of Alexander the Great, Marco Polo and Genghis Khan, the Gypsies completed the first leg of the Silk Road through China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in 2013. Next year they will finish the odyssey by crossing the former Ottoman Empire on terra firma and then travelling on to Athens by sea.

The Silk Road has a fascinating history. Centuries ago, spices, fabrics, hand-made goods, livestock, pottery, ceramics and dried fruits from China were transported thousands of kilometers across rugged deserts and mountain ranges by wayfaring merchants. Using camels, donkeys and horses travelling in convoys, or 'caravans', the treks could take months with intermittent stops in 'caravanserais', or local inns. When the precious goods arrived in Mediterranean ports, they were sold to merchants eager to obtain the exotic wares of the Orient for their European customers.

The new Gypsies' tour will bring this vibrant history to life. On "*Silk Road Safari – Part 2*", the group will meet up in Van, eastern Turkey, travel overland for two weeks to the Turkish coast, spend a week sailing through the Aegean islands on a private 32m yacht, stay two nights on Mykonos and conclude the 3000+ km journey in Athens.

En-route they'll visit such history-book destinations as Mt Ararat, Diyarbakir, Urfa, Kayseri, Cappadocia, Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) and Ankara (Turkey's modern-day capital); tour museums, mosques markets, World Heritage sites and scenic attractions; enjoy a bevy of cultural activities; meet local people and be steeped in history. Also included in the package are airport transfers, internal flights, ground and sea transport, entries to attractions, Pre-Departure Workshop and Pre-Departure Kit.

Taking place from September 20 – October 16, 2015, "*Silk Road Safari - Part 2*" will be escorted by former Tour Guide of the Year, Jeremy Perks, and partner Jan Barrie with local English-speaking guides. Unlike the merchants of centuries past, the modern day nomads will travel in a combination of planes, coaches, boats, ferries and trains, stay in quality accommodation and enjoy delicious meals.

The 27-day adventure costs \$10,999 per person (twin/share) and numbers are strictly limited. The safari is a joint project with Coates Wildlife Tours who will be assisting with air fares, visas and optional post-tour activities.

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