

DRAFT
TourMagination
Great Trek Tour 2010
with John Sharp
May 23-June 3, 2010

Day	Day/Wk	Month/Day	Itinerary	Lodging
1	Sunday	May 23	Tour departs Chicago or Toronto on an overnight flight to Istanbul, Turkey via Europe	
2	Monday	May 24	Early morning arrival in Europe and connect on to Istanbul with arrival in late afternoon.	Richmond Hotel Istanbul, Turkey
3	Tuesday	May 25	Visit Golden Horn, area of ancient city of Constantinople; St. Sophia's Mosque and museum; Blue Mosque and an ancient underground cistern. Visit and dialogue with an Orthodox Church leader, see old Christian and traditional Jewish quarters, as well as the Bulgarian steel church.	Richmond Hotel Istanbul, Turkey
4	Wednesday	May 26	See Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent; Topkapi Palace; Kariye Museum; Enjoy an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus; walk through Egyptian Spice Bazaar. Evening flight from Istanbul to Tashkent the capital of Uzbekistan.	
5	Thursday	May 27	Early in the morning we'll arrive in Tashkent, where trekkers spent the winter of 1880-81. On our city tour we'll catch glimpses of Tashkent's 2,000-year history, including Independence Square. During dinner in a Kirgiz <i>dzurta</i> , Dilaram Inoyatova will speak to us about Great Trek Mennonites.	Markaziy Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
6	Friday	May 28	Today we will travel the Silk Road to Samarkand, <i>Pearl of the East</i> , one of the oldest cities of Central Asia. In Tamerlane's capital we will visit Tamerlane's Mausoleum, Ulugbek's Observatory, madrassahs, minarets and a silk carpet factory.	The Regal Palace Hotel Samarkand
7	Saturday	May 29	We travel to Serabulak, where villagers shared their mosque with Mennonites during the winter of 1881-82. At the Kyk-Ota Mosque we will speak with the imam and his villagers about their uncommon Muslim hospitality. Then it's on to Bukhara, dinner and our hotel.	Amelia Luxury Boutique Hotel Bukhara
8	Sunday	May 30	Today we will visit the Citadel of Bukhara where Mennonite leaders petitioned the khan, see the Kalan Minaret, the Ismaill Samani Mausoleum and ancient madrassahs and mosques. We'll shop in the domed Silk Road markets, and enjoy an evening cultural show in an ancient caravansari.	Amelia Luxury Boutique Hotel Bukhara

9	Monday	May 31	Today will be a traveling day through the Kyzyl-Kum Desert to the old walled city of Khiva, one of the most remote cities of the Silk Road. In the comfort of our air-conditioned bus, we will read of their cantankerous camels, skilled guides, sandstorms, illnesses, the birth of a baby, the Great September Comet of 1882 and more. We'll have a few hours to explore the city or to rest.	Hotel Malika Khiva
10	Tuesday	June 1	We will visit the quiet village of Ak Metchet where some 40 Mennonite families settled. Villagers and students dressed in their best will welcome us. We will hear the story of the devastating 1934 deportation of Mennonites. We'll go to the ill-fated Lausan settlement along the Amu Darya River, and enjoy a rustic lunch overlooking the river.	Hotel Malika Khiva
11	Wednesday	June 2	We will return to Khiva to visit the Ichan-Kala Mennonite museum exhibit, and the khan's palaces which Mennonite craftsmen helped to build. We will take a flight to Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital and have a leisurely afternoon for shopping, walking, resting or swimming in the hotel pool. Over our evening farewell dinner with local cuisine, we will share reflections of our Great Trek experience.	Markaziy Hotel Tashkent
12	Thursday	June 3	Very early Thursday morning we will depart Tashkent for Istanbul and our return flight to Chicago or Toronto.	

October 20, 2009