



SILK ROAD WEEK



IN ZHEJIANG

SILK ROAD WEEK  
#2021SilkRoadWeek  
JUNE 18-24, 2021





**Aleppo** (Syria)    **Alexandria** (Egypt)    **Almaty** (Kazakhstan)    **Baku** (Azerbaijan)  
**Balkh** (Afghanistan)    **Bam** (Iran)    **Bamiyan** (Afghanistan)    **Beijing** (China)  
**Bukhara** (Uzbekistan)    **Bursa** (Turkey)    **Chennai/Madras** (India)  
**Derbent** (Russian Federation)    **Dunhuang** (China)    **Ephesus** (Turkey)  
**Fatehpur Sikri** (India)    **Ganja** (Azerbaijan)    **Granada** (Spain)  
**Gyeongju** (Republic of Korea)    **Hamedan** (Iran)    **Hangzhou** (China)  
**Herat** (Afghanistan)    **Isfahan** (Iran)    **Istanbul** (Turkey)    **Jeddah** (Saudi Arabia)  
**Karakorum** (Mongolia)    **Kashghar** (China)    **Magas** (Russian Federation)  
**Mashhad** (Iran)    **Moscow** (Russian Federation)    **Muscat** (Oman)    **Nara** (Japan)  
**Palmyra** (Syrian Arab Republic)    **Paris** (France)    **Qazvin** (Iran)    **Quanzhou** (China)  
**Samarkand** (Uzbekistan)    **Shakhrisabz** (Uzbekistan)    **Singapore** (Singapore)  
**Tashkent** (Uzbekistan)    **Tehran** (Iran)    **Ürümqi** (China)    **Valencia** (Spain)  
**Venice** (Italy)    **Xi'an** (China)    **Yazd** (Iran)  
& **Zanzibar** (United Republic of Tanzania)



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum



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SILK ROAD WEEK  
#2021SilkRoadWeek  
JUNE 18-24, 2021



## #2021SilkRoadWeek

June 18-24,2021

Honoring UNESCO's Silk Road Programme, Silk Road Week is an annual event first introduced and organized by China National Silk Museum and the International Association for the Study of Silk Road Textiles (IASSRT) and the Chinese Museums Association's Committee of Museums along the Silk Road, in 2020.

In its second edition, Silk Road Week 2021 is hosted by the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the People's Government of Zhejiang, with the theme of "The Silk Roads: Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development" in Hangzhou, China. The event features a vast array of museum-led activities, including: exhibitions, performances, reports, book releases and seminars, celebrating the anniversary of the inscription of the Silk Road – from Chang'an to the Tianshan Corridor -, onto UNESCO's list of World Heritage, in June 2014.



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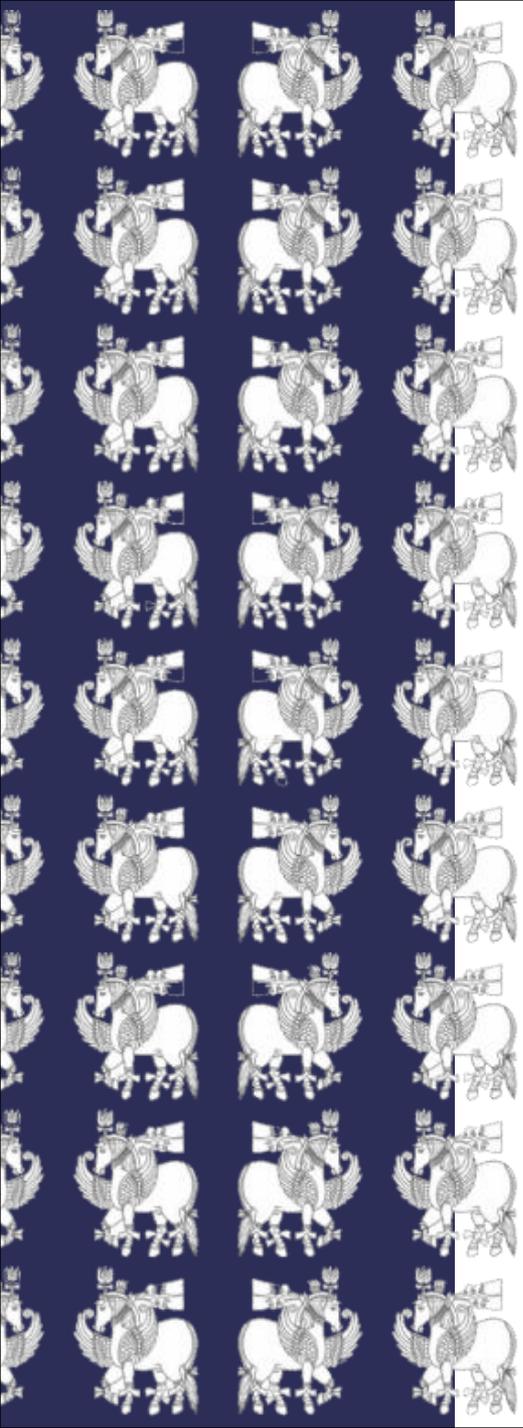


This year, **GSHA** (Global Sports Heritage Association), **MUSEUMVIEWS** and **IMWD** (International Museum Workers Day) celebrate the heritage & histories of various sports – *football (cuju), martial arts, equestrian sports, archery, wrestling, horse polo, board games, weight lifting, etc.* - whose foundations may be found along the Silk Road.

Likewise, we celebrate new sporting practices and traditions that are adapted by countries along the ancient Silk Road.

“We honor UNESCO’s Silk Road Programme since its mission, as we understand it, is a call to humanity to unite and thrive.” *Homa Taj Nasab | Founder GSHA, MuseumViews, IMWD*





Lead by **GSHA** (Global Sports Heritage Association), **MUSEUMVIEWS** & **IMWD** (International Museum Workers Day) honor and celebrate all 46 cities on UNESCO's Silk Road Programme registry as they relate to sporting tradition and **Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development** - the theme of this year's #2021SilkRoadWeek.



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**PARIS  
BUKHARA  
BAM  
MAGAS  
BEIJING  
HERAT  
JEDDAH**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
#2021SilkRoadWeek  
JUNE 18-24, 2021

■ **DAY 1**



IN ZHEJIANG



JEDDAH

HERAT



MAGAS



BEIJING

BAM



PARIS 2024



PARIS



BUKHARA

# PARIS FRANCE

PARIS, the home of UNESCO, is itself on UNESCO's Silk Road Programme registry.

As the city prepares to host Olympics 2024, Paris promises to center its efforts on gender equality and youth.

"Whether we are a female journalist or a female minister or a female leader, today, if we want to advance the (women's) cause, we need to push it forward with determination, ambition, conviction, because it can change people's way of thinking," Sports Minister Roxana Maracineanu in The Associated Press.



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# BUKHARA UZBEKISTAN



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A UNESCO World Heritage site, BUKHARA (Buxoro) is the fifth largest city in Uzbekistan.

According to Encyclopædia Iranica, its name is possibly derived from the Sogdian βuxārak ("Place of Good Fortune").

Though football is the most popular sport in Uzbekistan, the country is home to International Kurash Association (IKA, est 1998). KURASH is a form of wrestling native to Central Asia.

Nigina Sharipova (born Bukhara 1995) is an Uzbekistani sprinter. She competed in the women's 100 metres event at the 2016 Summer Olympics



# BAM IRAN

In 2004, the Citadel of the ancient city of BAM and its cultural surroundings were inscribed un to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites registry. BAM's origins can be traced back to at least the Achaemenid Empire (6-4 centuries BC).

Since 2011, the city's Shahrdari Bam Women's Football Club has won 7 championships of Kowsar Women's Football League, Iran's primary women's league. Crowned last in July 2020.

In 2015 for the first time in Iranian women's football history a national team qualified for the top continental competition with Under20 and the Under17 teams qualifying for the Asian Championships, in China.



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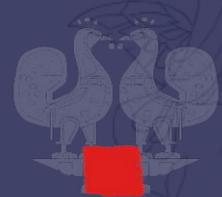


# MAGAS RUSSIA

MAGAS is the capital of modern day Republic of Ingushetia, in the Russian Federation, which starting from the 6th century, became an important center for trade along the Silk Road.

MAGAS means “sun city” in the Ingush language.

Newly built Sports Hall of Fame in Magas and Palace of Sports (in nearby Nazran) bode well for the future of sports. Palace of Sports (in the nearby Nazran) is named after Russian wrestling champion Berd Evloev (Берд Аржбэриевич Евлоев, 1888-1952).



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# BEIJING CHINA



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The capital of the People's Republic of China, BEIJING is the world's most populous national capital city, with over 21 million residents.

Beijing is also home to Professional sports teams & federations, including: China Baseball League; Chinese Basketball Association; Women's Chinese Basketball Association; Chinese Super League; China League One; China League Two; Chinese Women's National League

In 2008, Beijing hosted Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. And, in 2022, it will host the Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games. Beijing is the first ever city to host both Summer and Winter Olympics; and the first ever to host both Summer and Winter Paralympics.



# HERAT AFGHANISTAN

The history of the ancient city of HERAT dates back to at least the Achaemenid Persian Empire (ca. 550-330 BC).

“Khorasan, and Herat above all, was filled with learned and matchless men. Whatever work a man took up, he aimed to and aspired to bring it to perfection.” Babur, the Founder of the Mughal Dynasty

The Lions of Afghanistan (nickname for Afghanistan women's national football team) operates under the guidance of Afghanistan Football Federation. Team Herat won Afghanistan's Women's Football League in 2020.



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# JEDDAH SAUDI ARABIA



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“Bride of the Red Sea”, JEDDAH is a major port and urban centre on the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula overlooking the Red Sea. It is an ancient trading city that also acts as a vital gateway to Mecca, situated on the maritime trade route connecting the Mediterranean with India, the Arabian Peninsula and South East Asia. (UNESCO)

In December 2019, Jeddah Eagles won Jeddah Women's Football League, the first women competition organized by the Saudi Arabia Football Federation.

In the same year, Department of Women's Football Development established in Saudi Arabia. And, in November 2020, the Kingdom's first women's league was founded. (FIFA)





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**VALENCIA  
ALMATY  
MASHHAD  
BAKU  
PALMYRA  
XI'AN  
DERBENT**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
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JUNE 18-24, 2021

■ **DAY 2**



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PALMYRA

ALMATY

VALENCIA

DERBENT

MASHHAD

BAKU

VALENCIA, the “Medina al-Tarab”(City of Sand), is one of the oldest cities in Spain.

In May 1981, The College Mayor of the Art Silk (est. c. 1494) was declared a historic-artistic monument of national character.

Valencia is also the home of the Asociación Española de Rugby League; Valencia CF is one of the most successful football clubs in Europe and La Liga; it is the only city in Spain with two American Football teams in LNFA Serie A; Valencia is among (with Barcelona, Porto & Monte Carlo) the only European cities ever to host F1 Grands Prix on public roads in the center of cities; Europrobasket Basketball Academy Europe is the World leader in Professional Tryouts, Training, Combines and Camps. The facility is the largest and most technologically advanced basketball facilities in Europe.

# VALENCIA SPAIN



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# ALMATY KAZAKHSTAN

ALMATY is one of the most ancient cities in Central Asia as its establishment date back to the Bronze Age (1000–900 BC).

The most popular sports in Kazakhstan include football, basketball, ice hockey, bandy, & boxing.

In 2011, Almaty (& Nur-Sultan) hosted the Asian Winter Games.

*“The number of female athletes on our national teams in Olympic sports is 46%. Female employees represent 59% of the NOC administration, including the overwhelming majority in leadership positions.”* Timur Kulibayev, NOC Kazakhstan President, on the national committee’s commitment to gender-equality in sports.



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# MASHHAD IRAN

MASHHAD the capital of Razavi Khorasan Province situated on a natural corridor that runs along the borders of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan between two mountain belts.

Razavi Khorasan Women's Futsal Team is under the guidance of Iran women's national futsal team which is controlled by Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI), a FIFA member since 1948.

By 2020 the Iran Rugby Federation had 12,000 registered players; 7,000 of those women. There are 31 provinces in Iran, and 29 provinces play rugby.



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# BAKU AZERBAIJAN

BAKU is the capital of, and largest city in, Azerbaijan as well as the largest city on the Caspian Sea and of the Caucasus region.

Among many sporting events and traditions in Azerbaijan, the city is home to Baku City Circuit, a motor racing street circuit with a lap of 6.003 kilometres (3.730 mi), making it the third-longest circuit on the Formula One calendar.

The circuit hosts the annual SOCAR Azerbaijan Grand Prix, est. 2017.



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XI'AN is one of the oldest cities in China, the oldest prefecture capital and one of the Chinese Four Great Ancient Capitals.

China is the home of CUJU, the 2000 year-old original form of contemporary football (soccer). It is therefore inevitable that modern football has become one of the most well supported contemporary sports in China.

Xi'an Wolves Football Club, and Shaanxi Chang'an Athletic Football Club, based in Xi'an, are examples of professional Chinese football clubs that currently participate in the China League One.

# XI'AN CHINA



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# PALMYRA SYRIA

The origins of the ancient city of PALMYRA dates back to date back to the Neolithic period ( 12,000 BC).

The city was a thriving economic centre whose merchants established colonies along the Silk Road and operated throughout the Eastern Roman Empire.

Football, basketball, swimming, and tennis most popular sports in Syria.

UNICEF has introduced a program to reintegrate War-affected Children Back to Community through sports in Syria with the belief that “Participation in sports improves children’s learning and skills development after years of conflict and hardship.”



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# DERBENT RUSSIA

The oldest city in Russia with historical documentation dating to the 8th century BCE, DERBENT is also one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

Dagestan is home to a of Russian Olympians and athletes from the worlds of Boxing, Wrestling, Martial Arts, and Mixed Martial Arts.

Ranked among the greatest in Mixed Martial Arts, a native of Dagestan, Khabib Nurmagomedov is the first Muslim to win a UFC title. He has also been ranked as the #1 lightweight of all time.



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**ISTANBUL  
TASHKENT  
YAZD  
NARA  
MUSCAT  
HANGZHOU  
BALKH**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
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■ **DAY 3**



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BALKH



YAZD



MUSCAT



TASHKENT



NARA

HANGZHOU

ISTANBUL

# ISTANBUL TURKEY



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ISTANBUL, the capital of and the largest city in Turkey, was founded in 657 B.C. along the Bosphorus strait which lies in both Europe and Asia.

In 2010, Istanbul was designated European Capital of Culture. And, since 2000, the city's sports facilities have been built or upgraded to bolster the city's, so far, unsuccessful bids for the Summer Olympic Games.

Established in 2005, Istanbul Park or Racing Circuit has been called "the best race track in the world" by former Formula One Chief Executive Bernie Ecclestone. The venue of Turkish Grand Prix, also has also hosted World Touring Car Championship and the European Le Mans Series.

Istanbul Sailing Club, est 1952, has been the venue for races & other sailing events including F1 Powerboat World Championship.



# TASHKENT UZBEKISTAN

TASHKENT, the capital of Uzbekistan, was founded 5-3rd centuries B.C. The city's location in the center of Eurasian continent allowed it to play a key role in the transcontinental system of the Great Silk Roads.

One of the highlights of Tashkent's cultural history is that the first demonstration of a fully electronic TV was made public by Soviet engineer Boris Grabovsky, in 1928 .

Prior to Uzbekistan's Independence, the country was part of the Soviet football, rugby union, basketball, ice hockey, & handball national teams. Since Independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has founded its own football, rugby union, basketball & futsal national teams.



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# YAZD IRAN



絲綢之路周  
SILK ROAD WEEK



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China  
Silk  
Heritage  
Association

Founded in 400 A.D., the historical city of YAZD is recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

*"It is a good and noble city, and has a great amount of trade. They weave there quantities of a certain silk tissue known as Yasdi, which merchants carry into many quarters to dispose of."* The Travels of Marco Polo (1272)

A popular sport in Yazd is Pahlevani and Zurkhaneh Rituals, also enlisted onto UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Pahlevani combines martial arts, calisthenics, strength training & music; and, Zurkhaneh ("house of strength") is a traditional gymnasium where exercises for competitions take place.



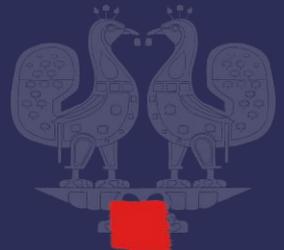
# NARA JAPAN

From 710-794, NARA was the capital of Japan during the Nara period as the seat of the Emperor before the capital was moved to Kyoto.

Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara is listed on UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The city is home to Nara Club (奈良クラブ) football club founded in 1991. Since 2015, Nara Club play in the Japan Football League, an affiliate of Asian Football Confederation.

NARA is also home to Bambitious Nara professional basketball team that competes in the second division of the Japanese B. League.



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# MUSCAT OMAN

The history MUSCAT, the capital of Sultanate of Oman , dates back to at least the 1st century AD. The city has been a strategic centre of trade and exchange along the historic maritime Silk Roads since the 2nd century AD.

Today, Oman has a great reputation for organizing world class regattas. This year, the country is set to host 2021 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 World Championships, November 16-21, 2021.

“In a major push to bring more women into sports administration and boost women sports, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has made it mandatory for all sports associations in Oman and the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) to have one elected woman board member.” (Muscat Daily, Feb. 2021)



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# HANGZHOU CHINA



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The port city of Hangzhou, the capital and most populous city of Zhejiang Province, has been a strategic hub along the Silk Roads since ancient times. Its location on the East China Sea has made 'the House of Silk' a natural centre for trade, since the Three Kingdoms period (220-280 CE) when it became one of the largest ports in China.

Hangzhou is home to the China National Silk Museum, the largest silk museum in the world. CNSM is a co-founder and co-organizers of the annual Silk Road Week.

In 2022, Hangzhou will host the multi-sport XIX Asiad (the 19th Asian Games), September 11-25.

45 nation members of the Olympic Council of Asia are expected to compete in 40 sports, consisting of 61 disciplines.



# BALKH AFGHANISTAN



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BALKH is an ancient city, with a 2500-year long history, situated on the plain between the Hindu Kush Mountains and the river Oxus in the north of Afghanistan. Known by Arab conquerors as Umm-al-belad, the 'mother of cities', Balkh lay on the major Silk Road routes that ran between east and west (UNESCO).

Female athletes in Balkh have expressed interest in engaging in sports such as football, but due to lack of facilities, they play (futsal) in small local gymnasiums.

Efforts are made by groups such as Balkh Women's Sports Committee to help advance female athletes' access to support and funding.





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**VENICE  
SINGAPORE  
GYEONGJU  
QUANZHOU  
SAMARKAND  
TEHRAN  
KARAKORUM**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
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JUNE 18-24, 2021

■ **DAY 4**



IN ZHEJIANG



KARAKORUM



GYEONGJU



SINGAPORE



TEHRAN



VENICE

QUANZHOU



SAMARKANDD

Founded in the 5th century and spread over 118 small islands, VENICE became a major maritime power in the 10th century. The city of Venice and its lagoon situated in the Veneto Region of Northeast Italy are listed on UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

Voga alla Veneta ("Venetian-style rowing") is the most Venetian sport that embodies a technique invented in the Venetian Lagoon. Regatas are held throughout the year with culminating event of "Regata Storica" which occurs on the first Sunday of September each year.

*"There are more than 25 rowing clubs around the city and throughout the islands of the lagoon, each with a personality as distinctive as any individual Venetian you might meet (Smithsonian Mag)."*

# VENICE ITALY



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# SINGAPORE SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE's name is derived from ancient Sanskrit meaning Lion City. The Kingdom of Singapura was founded in 1299, and was colonized by the British circa 1824. Singapore became independent as the Republic of Singapore in 1965.

The 162 year-old Singapore Botanic Gardens is one of three gardens, and the only tropical garden, to be honoured as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Despite its size, the country has dominated swimming championships, particularly in the Southeast Asia Games.

The island is also home to ONE Championship, the biggest Mixed Martial Arts promotion in Asia.



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHENJING



# GYEONGJU SOUTH KOREA

The second largest city by area in South Korea, GYEONGJU was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Silla (57 BC – 935 AD).

Often referred to as "the museum without walls," the city's treasure including Seokguram grotto, Bulguksa temple, Gyeongju Historic Areas, & Yangdong Folk Village are designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

From among the different and ancient forms of Korean martial arts, Hanmudo (한무도) has its root in Girimsa Buddhist Temple in Gyeongju. It was developed into a modern training system for the general public, in the 1980s.



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China National Silk Museum

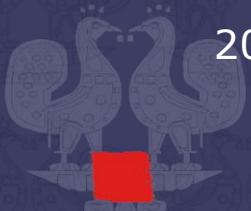
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# QUANZHOU CHINA

Located on the south-east coast of China, the city of QUANZHOU was one of the most important Chinese ports along the historic Maritime Silk Roads. Known as Zayton (or Zaitun) by traders arriving from the Arab world, the port was visited by the likes of Marco Polo, Friar Odoric of Pordenone, and Ibn Battuta who wrote about the port as one of the biggest harbours in the world, with ships of all sizes and provenances docking and setting sail, and a vibrant market in which merchants from across many different regions exchanged their wares (UNESCO).

Straits Sports Centre Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium in Quanzhou which was inaugurated in 2008.



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The historic town of SAMARKAND, located in a large oasis in the valley of the Zerafshan River, in the north-eastern region of Uzbekistan, is considered the crossroads of world cultures with a history of over two and a half millennia.

One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Central Asia, the entire city is listed on World Heritage List as 'Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures.'

"Samarkand Half Marathon is one of the biggest tourism projects in Uzbekistan. I would say that it's a cultural and tourist project, not just a sports event. Because the marathon occurs on the first Sunday of November, we make the tourist season longer, which is no doubt good." Mirkhan Sagitov, Organizer

# SAMARKAND AFGHANISTAN



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# TEHRAN IRAN

The 7,000 year-old capital of Iran, TEHRAN has the second-largest metropolitan area in the Middle East (after Cairo).

The city's proximity to Alborz mountain range and Mount Damāvand, in particular, make it ideal for winter sports. Damvand is the 12th most prominent peak in the world and the second most prominent in Asia after Mount Everest.

Tehran is home to 3 of the most popular ski resorts operating in Iran, including Tochal, Dizin, and Shemshak, all within one to three hours from the city of Tehran.



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Founded in 1220, KARAKORUM was the capital of the Mongol Empire between 1235 and 1260 and of the Northern Yuan in the 14–15th centuries.

Its ruins are part of the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape which is inscribed by UNESCO in the World Heritage List representing the development of nomadic pastoral traditions in the region, spanning more than two millennia.

Naadam sports festival, which has been organised for centuries in Mongolia and takes place over three days in the summer, consists of three Mongolian traditional sports, archery, cross-country horse-racing, and wrestling. The festival was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO, in 2010.

# KARAKORUM MONGOLIA



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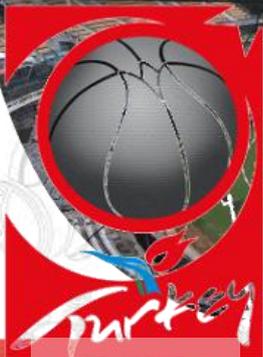
**ALEXANDRIA  
CHENNAI/MADRAS  
EPHESUS  
ISFAHAN  
GANJA  
DUNHUANG**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
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■ **DAY 5**



IN ZHEJIANG



DUANHONG

CHENNAI



ISFAHAN

ALEXANDRIA

GANJA

# ALEXANDRIA EGYPT



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Founded in c.332 BC by Alexander, known as 'the Macedonian' & 'the Great', ALEXANDRIA was a major centre of civilization in the ancient world, controlling commerce between Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean, and has continued throughout its long history to act as a vital crossing point for merchants and their trade on the maritime routes between Asia and Europe (UNESCO).

Alexandria Stadium, the oldest of the four major sporting venues in the city, was built in 1929.

Alexandria Sporting Club's basketball team is a three-time Egyptian Basketball Premier League champion. Established in 1890, it is one of the oldest club in Egypt, and in Africa.



# CHENNAI /MADRAS INDIA

CHENNAI or Madras, located on the Bay of Bengal, is one of the main cultural, economic and educational centres of south India.

37 miles south of Chennai, a group of some 40 ancient monuments & Hindu temples at Mahabalipuram (7th-8th centuries) are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Cricket, introduced in 1864 with the foundation of the Madras Cricket Club, is the most popular sport in Chennai. The city is home to M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, the second oldest cricket club in India, established 1916.

M.A. Chidambaram Stadium has served as venues for a number of ICC Cricket World Cups, including in 1987, 1996 and 2011 .



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# EPHESUS TURKEY

The three thousand year-old city of EPHESUS is famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis (completed around 550 BC), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Located in Izmir province, Ephesus is listed on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

The province's Izmir Halkapınar Sport Hall has served as host to a number of international (in their entirety, or segments) sporting events, including: European Seniors Fencing Championship (2006); Men's European Volleyball Championship (2009); FIBA World Championship (2010); and, Basketball World Cup (2011).



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# ISFAHAN IRAN



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

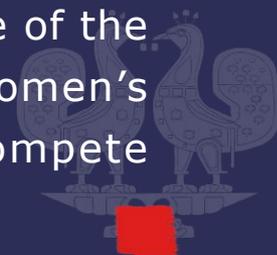
IN ZHEJIANG



*Esfahān nesf-e-jahān ast:* 'ISFAHAN is half (of) the world,' is the old Persian proverb. The city's Naqsh-e Jahan Square is one of the largest city squares in the world, and is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Commerce has always been central to the growth of Isfahan, to the extent that the Safavid Shah Abbas I (1588-1629) effectively re-routed the Silk Road through Isfahan and made the city his capital so that his empire would enjoy a trading monopoly. By the 17th century, the city attracted not only European merchants but also missionaries & mercenaries, as it became a religiously tolerant centre of mercantile and diplomatic activity in which merchants & travellers from a variety of cultures & religions rubbed shoulders (UNESCO).

Isfahan is home to Sanaye Giti Pasand Futsal, one of the best futsal teams in Asia. There are also both women's futsal team and women's volleyball team that compete nationally and regionally.



# GANJA AZERBAIJAN



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



GANJA is the second largest city in Azerbaijan, and the fourth largest in the Transcaucasus.

Due to its diverse cultural and natural heritage, the city offers the opportunities for intercultural and inter-religion dialogue among various communities and civilizations, where, to this day, Christians and Muslims live in peace and tolerance side by side (UNESCO).

Ganja Sports Complex, expected to be completed by 2022, is a two-storey facility with state-of-the-art large gym; swimming pool; a hall for international chess tournaments; schools for chess; wrestling; boxing and other sports, including bowling and shooting halls, as well as spaces for recreation and catering facilities.



# DUNHUANG CHINA



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHETIAN



Situated at a point of vital strategic and logistical importance, on crossroads of two major trade routes within the Silk Road network, DUNHUANG was one of the first trading cities encountered by merchants arriving in China from the west (UNESCO).

Dunhuan's history is reflected in the Mogao Caves (Qianfodong, 'the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas'), an astonishing collection of 492 caves that were dug into the cliffs just south of the city.

For the past 16 years, the province of Gansu has been host to an annual Ethnic Culture Tourism Art Festival and Traditional Sports Games which takes place in Huangcheng Town, in Sunan Yugu Autonomous County. Traditional ethnic minority sportsmen and sportswomen perform and compete in equestrian, camel racing, archery and related matches.





IN ZHEJIANG

**MOSCOW  
ALEPPO  
GRANADA  
HAMEDAN  
BAMIYAN  
KASHGAR**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
#2021SilkRoadWeek  
JUNE 18-24, 2021

■ **DAY 6**



IN ZHEJIANG



MOSCOW

GRANADA

ALEPPO



HAMEDAN

BAMIYAN

KASHGAR

MOSCOW, the capital and largest city of Russia, was founded in 1147.

A cultural hub of Europe, Moscow is the heart of the Russian visual & performing arts with 68 museums & theaters, 132 cinemas and 24 concert halls, including the legendary Bolshoi Theatre.

MOSCOW is also home to more than 60 sporting stadiums including Luzhniki Stadium which is 4th biggest in Europe. The city has hosted numerous regional and international events including UEFA Cup (1988-99); UEFA Champions League finals (2007-08); the Summer Olympics (1980); and, the FIFA World Cup in 2018.

HK CSKA Moscow has won more Russian championships, & European cups than any other team in history.

# MOSCOW RUSSIA



IN ZHEJIANG



# ALEPPO SYRIA

One of the world's oldest continually inhabited cities, ALEPPO has stood at the crossroads of trade routes across Syria since at least the 3rd millennium BC.

At the time of the Muslim Conquest 637 A.D., Aleppo had become a cultural centre, attracting philosophers, poets and intellectual luminaries from throughout the region, and, along the Silk Road.

By the 18th century, possibilities of long distance maritime transport grew to undermine the traditional caravan trains that had sustained Aleppo's pivotal position on the ancient trading routes across Syria.

The country's recent turbulent history has posed great challenges to its indigenous population, including athletes. However, it's noteworthy that Syria's only Olympics winner is Ghada Shouaa, a female heptathlete (1996 Summer Olympics.)



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHETANGS



# GRANADA SPAIN

Located at the western end of European Silk Roads, Spain has been the platform from which the land & sea routes met & extended to the American continent. It is the only country in Western Europe that can boast more than nine centuries of Eastern culture, while closing to the west the circle of silk, having started historically and geographically in China (UNESCO).

GRANADA, in the autonomous community of Andalusia, is home to Alhambra a UNESCO World Heritage Site which exhibits the country's long relationship with Eastern cultures.

In addition to Granada CF (La Liga), Fundación CB Granada (basketball team), and, traditional bullfighting ring, the city's proximity to Sierra Nevada Ski Station enables it to host international SKI championships including FIS Alpine World Ski Championships (1996).



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHETIAN 9



# HAMEDAN IRAN

Hamedan is believed to be one of the oldest Iranian cities, with manuscripts relaying its history in 1100 B.C.

The country's Cultural Heritage Organization lists no fewer than 207 sites of historical and cultural significance in Hamedan.

As is the case with most young Iranians, football/soccer is the region's most popular sport with wrestling and volleyball as close contenders.

Contemporary form of football was played in Iran at the end of the 19th century. In 1968, Iran hosted the AFC Asian Cup final matches between Iran, Burma, Israel and China.

Hamedan's football club, PAS Hamedan FC, was founded in 2007.



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



The mountainous region of BAMIYAN lies at the western end of the Hindu Kush mountains concurrent with the Himalayas.

With Buddhism rapidly expanding Westwards, in 1st-5th centuries, Bamiyan quickly grew into a major monastic centre, repeatedly mentioned in ancient Chinese texts of that era.

A decade after the tragic destruction of the monumental Bamiyan Buddha by the Tabliban in 2001, Swiss skier & journalist Christoph Zurchner founded the Bamiyan Ski Club in 2011. *“As a non-profit volunteer organization run by its members for its members, we strive to create events that are thrilling Afghan Ski Challenge each year. We have strong International & National team members but are always looking for new, fun, adventurous volunteers.”*

# BAMIYAN AFGHANISTAN



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



KASHGAR has served as a trading post and strategically important city on the Silk Road for over 2,000 years, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the World.

Today, Kashgar is home to Id Kah Mosque, one of China's largest mosques, built in c. 1442.

The region's sporting life is depicted in *Diamond in the Dunes*, a feature-length documentary about a Chinese-Muslim baseball team.

*"Muslim Uyghur and Han Chinese students at China's Xinjiang University live segregated lives, except on the baseball field. Lacking enough students from a single ethnic group, they need each other to play baseball. Diamond in the Dunes follows this team and their charismatic captain, Parhat Ablat, as they overcome ethnic differences and prepare for their only game of the season (IMDb)."*

# KASHGAR CHINA



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG





IN ZHEJIANG

**ZANZIBAR  
FATEHPUR SIKRI  
BURSA  
QAZVIN  
SHAKHRISYABZ  
ÜRÜMQI**

SILK ROAD WEEK  
#2021SilkRoadWeek  
JUNE 18-24, 2021

■ **DAY 7**



IN ZHEJIANG



ÜRÜMÇI



BURSA

QAZVIN



CECAFA SENIOR WOMEN CHALLENGE CUP  
TANZANIA 2019

SHAKHRISYABZ



CECAFA SENIOR WOMEN CHALLENGE CUP  
CHAMPIONS ZANZIBAR

FATEHPUR SIKRI

# ZANZIBAR TANZANIA



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHENGLING



An autonomous region of Tanzania, Zanzibar has been a gateway to East Africa, for centuries.

Zanzibar's old Stone Town is designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO as "an outstanding material manifestation of cultural fusion and harmonization".

Africans, Arabs, Indians, Persians, Portuguese, Dutch and English met and mingled at this turning point in trade on the Maritime Silk Road between Africa and Asia.

Football followed by basketball are the most popular sports among men and women. In 2019, the fourth edition of CECAFA (Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations) Women's Championship was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



# FATEHPUR SIKRI-INDIA



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



FATEHPUR SIKRI (“The City of Victory”) was an important halt for merchants on the routes across northern India, and stands as a testimony to the architectural achievements of the Mughal Empire in the late 16th century (UNESCO).

In addition to wrestling, swimming, kabaddi, and track-sports or water-sports, field hockey is popular and Uttar Pradesh has produced some of the finest players in India.

In recent years, cricket has become more popular than field hockey and the province boast of regularly having three or four players on the national side. Green Park Stadium in Kanpur, the only internationally recognised cricket stadium in Uttar Pradesh, has witnessed some of India's most famous victories



# BURSA TURKEY



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHETIAN



BURSA emerged as an important town in Classical Antiquity. Of major significance for the city's future was the inauguration of the silk industry in Byzantium under Emperor Justinian, as a result of which Bursa would eventually become a centre of silk production and trade (UNESCO).

The World Etnosport Confederation (WEC), a cultural festival organized by Etnosport, is a five day cultural festival which celebrates 12 categories of sports, and celebrates cultures of 16 countries from Anatolia, Central Asia and the greater Turkic world, as well as also Japan, West Asia, North Africa and elsewhere. The festivities include crafts, children's games, culinary creations.

The event's motto is "Pilavdan Dönenin Kaşığı Kırılınsın (Never Give-up)" and "shoot arrows, wrestle, ride horse,"



# QAZVIN IRAN



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



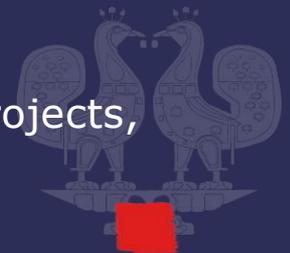
QAZVIN (Kazvin), located on the fertile plain at the southern foot of the Elburz (Alborz) Mountains, was founded in 270 A.D.

By the 18th century, the city was a major base for foreign trade of luxury goods, Chinese raw silk and Indian goods such as jewels, aromas, opium, and spices with the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Asia Minor (UNESCO).

To this day, Qazvin remains a center of textile trade, including cotton, silk & velvet, and leather.

Qazvin is primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Alamut Castle, and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

City officials plan to establish two winter sports projects, along the foot of the Elburz Mountains



# SHAKHRISYABZ UZBEKISTAN



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



SHAKHRISYABZ, located on the Silk Roads in southern Uzbekistan, is over 2000 years old and was the cultural and political centre of the Kesh region in the 14-15th centuries (UNESCO).

It is the birthplace of Timur the founder of the Timurid Dynasty (est. 1370).

Uzbekistan has a long history of fostering equestrian sports and wrestling games.

KURASH is the country's indigenous sport of the folk wrestling discipline, primarily practiced in the regions of Central Asia. The sport's objective is to hold the opponent by the towel around their waist, and throw them on their back, to the ground.



# ÜRÜMQI CHINA



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



ÜRÜMQI is situated at the heart of Uyghur Region of Xinjiang, in northwestern China. The city's name in local language means "fine pasture".

Situated along the ancient Silk Roads, the city became an important center for caravans on the Silk Roads traveling to the Ili River Valley from the main route across Turkistan region.

In 2005, the Xinjiang Silk Road Museum was opened in Ürümqi which gives a broad overview of Chinese civilization along the Silk Roads and local ethnic cultures (UNESCO).

The city is also home to the state of the art Ürümqi Ice Sport Center which was completed in 2014 to mark the 13th China National Winter Games.

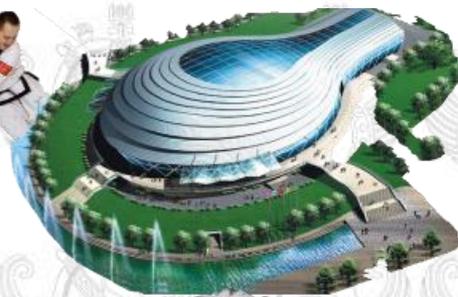




IN ZHEJIANG



PARIS 2024



## AFRICA (1.37B)

**Republic of Tanzania** (61M)

Zanzibar

**Egypt** (104M)

Alexandria

## ASIA (4.7B)

**China** (1.44B)

Hangzhou, Beijing, Quanzhou, Xi'an, Dunhuang, Ürümqi, Kashghar

**Japan** (126M)

Nara

**Republic of Korea** (53M)

Gyeongju

**Mongolia** (3.3M)

Karakorum

**Singapore** (5.9M)

Singapore

**UNESCO Silk Road Programme**

**46 cities / 21 countries (by population)**



丝绸之路博物馆  
SILK ROAD MUSEUM

丝绸之路博物馆



**ASIA** (4.7B - cont'd)

**India (1.39B)**

Chennai/Madras, Fatehpur Sikri

**Uzbekistan (34M)**

Bukhara, Tashkent, Samarkand, Shakhrisyabz

**Kazakhstan (19M)**

Almaty

**Afghanistan (39M)**

Bamiyan, Balkh, Herat

**Iran (85M)**

Mashhad, Bam, Yazd, Isfahan, Tehran, Qazvin, Hamedan

**Oman (5.2M)**

Muscat

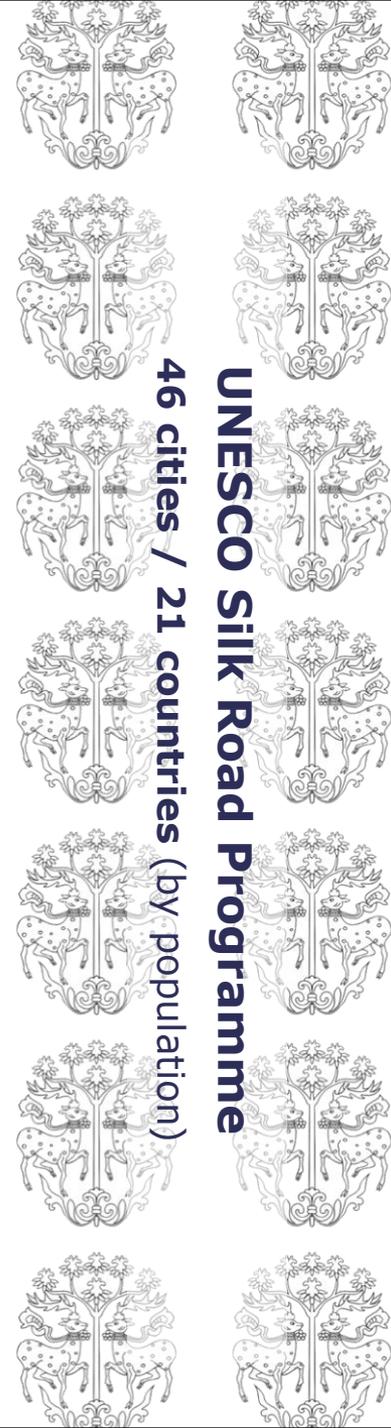
**Saudi Arabia (35M)**

Jeddah

**Syria (18M)**

Palmyra, Aleppo

UNESCO Silk Road Programme  
46 cities / 21 countries (by population)





**UNESCO Silk Road Programme**

**46 cities / 21 countries (by population)**

**EUROPE (0.75B)**

**Azerbaijan (10M)**

Baku/Baki, Ganja

**Russia Federation (146M)**

Derbent, Magas, Moscow

**Turkey (85M)**

Bursa, Istanbul, Ephesus

**Italy (60M)**

Venice

**Spain (46M)**

Valencia, Granada

**France (65M)**

Paris





## Until SILK ROAD WEEK 2022 ...

It has been a great experience and a pleasure, once again, to be invited by China National Silk Museum to join in the celebrations of SILK ROAD WEEK 2021.

As promised last year during SILK ROAD WEEK 2020, we continue to celebrate the sports heritage of cities and countries on UNESCO's Silk Road Programme registry. We also look forward to expanding our celebration in collaboration with GSHA Global Sports Heritage Association, continuing with the second GSHD Global Sports Heritage Day (February 22, 2022).

As an art historian and a museologist born on the ancient Silk Road, in West Asia, our Founder, Homa Taj, is very proud of her cultural heritage. *"We are passionate about the recent revival of Silk Road Studies since its mission, as we understand it, is a call to humanity to unite and thrive. A potent anti-dote to historic residues of divide and conquer."*



絲綢之路周  
SILK ROAD WEEK



中國絲綢博物館  
China National Silk Museum

IN ZHEJIANG



**MUSEUMVIEWS | GSHA | IMWD**

Homa Taj, BA, CMS, MSt., MPhil, DPhil!, Founder  
Frank J Cunningham, VP Global Development



SILK ROAD WEEK