

The background of the poster is a composite image. The top half shows a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a clear blue sky. A caravan of camels is silhouetted against the golden light of the setting or rising sun. A large, flowing piece of fabric, possibly silk, is draped across the scene, with a hand visible at the top, holding it. The bottom half of the poster features a collage of cultural elements: a man in a white shirt playing a stringed instrument, a man with a beard holding a circular object, and a woman in traditional, ornate attire.

SILK ROAD
ARTS FESTIVAL 

絲綢之路 藝術節

09.10-08.11.2009

www.silkroadfestival.gov.hk



康樂及文化事務署主辦
Presented by the Leisure and
Cultural Services Department

「絲綢之路」文化藝術之旅

The Silk Road – a journey of cultural wonders



「絲綢之路」一詞，最早是

十九世紀七十年代，由德國著名地理學家李希霍芬提出來的，主要是指連貫中國與中亞、西亞的商旅之路。至於絲路的範圍，經過中外學者的不斷考證，至今仍眾說紛紜，有人說東起長安（今西安），也有人說是洛陽；至於西方的終點，同樣爭論不休。撇開學術上的歧見，陸地上的絲綢之路通常是指東起中國長安，向西穿過甘肅省狹長地帶，經過敦煌，中間再分成南、中、北三條路線西行至中亞、西亞，直至東羅馬帝國首都君士坦丁堡（今伊斯坦堡）。

「絲綢之路藝術節」是擷取絲綢之路的地理及歷史文化上的概念，以構築一場充滿特色的文化藝術之旅。藝術節以中國西安為旅程的起點，讓觀眾欣賞古代絲路興盛時期——唐代的古典樂舞，以及從印度傳入、後來與中原音樂互相融合的中國佛樂。接著穿越塔克拉玛干沙漠，到達中亞，吉爾吉斯坦的天山牧歌、北面的哈薩克斯坦，以至西部阿塞拜疆的木卡姆靈韻同時響起。鄰國格魯吉亞服飾亮麗的女舞者款擺登場，男舞者聞風而至。接著旅程到達中東，大家可欣賞古波斯（即今伊朗一帶）的鼓樂，以及融合波斯及印度的不同「格札爾」元素的即興音樂。及後，東地中海音樂與來自不同文化的旋律展開對話，重塑馬可亨羅的傳奇，為這次藝術之旅添上一抹絢麗的色彩……

The term “Silk Road” first came into use in the 1870s when German geographer Ferdinand von Richthofen employed it to describe the trade route between China and Central and Western Asia. Since then, academics have continued to argue over which areas the ancient thoroughfare covered, where it began – some propose Chang’an (now Xian), while others argue it was Luoyang – and where it ended. Most other people still regard Chang’an as the origin of the Silk Road on land. From there, it extended westward, through a narrow strip of Gansu Province to Dunhuang. It then split into three – the northern, central and southern routes – traversing Central Asia, Western Asia, and on to Constantinople (now Istanbul), the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire.

Inspired by the Silk Road’s rich history and cultural diversity, the Silk Road Arts Festival offers Hong Kong audiences an exciting journey through exotic lands, with a superb showcase of traditional and contemporary performances by top international and local artists. The adventure starts from Xian. This is heralded by 7th century Tang Dynasty songs and dance and later by soul-cleansing Buddhist music, brought to the Central Plains from India. Traversing the Taklamakan Desert, the artistic discovery tour reaches Central Asia. There, the striking sounds of the Tianshan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan await, along with the Azerbaijani form of music known as *mugham*. Setting off once more, the trail leads to a lively dance spectacular featuring colourfully clad Georgian dancers and their amazing footwork. Moving over to the Middle East, the drum music of Persia (today’s Iran and its environs) and a cross-cultural fusion of Persian and Indian *ghazal* offer contrasting artistic encounters. The journey then proceeds further west, enabling eastern Mediterranean music to meet up with creative forces from various lands in a tribute to Marco Polo, whose travels from Europe to China bring the expedition full circle. What better way than this innovative festival to evoke the sights, sounds and images down the ages of the legendary route called the Silk Road...