

The Silk Road – revisited! Last studied in 2016, this theme is a perpetual favorite. Join us as we study silk, spice, traders, camels, forts, dhows, roads, the BRI Initiative, Buddhism, central Asian cities and so many other interesting topics all associated with the Silk Road. Here are a few possible topics. Please feel free to develop your own.

- ❖ What is the Silk Road?
- ❖ The Sogdians: Traders of the Silk Road
- ❖ Marco Polo
- ❖ Geography of the Silk Road
- ❖ New Silk Road - the Belt & Road Initiative
- ❖ Wealth & Power of City States
- ❖ Linking the Indian sub-continent to the Silk road – The Uttarapath or Grand Trunk Road
- ❖ Mongolian nomads
- ❖ Religions Along the Silk Road
 - Buddhism
 - Christianity
 - Islam
- ❖ An Indian City Along the Silk Road
- ❖ Slaves on the Silk Road
- ❖ Maritime Silk Road – what are trade winds?
- ❖ Maritime Silk Road - ships & routes
- ❖ Zheng He – Chinese Mariner and more
- ❖ The Spice Islands
- ❖ Dumplings & Noodles
- ❖ Changes in trade goods over time

- ❖ Ibn Battuta and his journey on the silk road
- ❖ Spices of the Silk route
- ❖ Silk - the most jealously guarded secret in history
- ❖ The Han Dynasty and the Silk Road
 - The Xuanquan Posthouse and its Manuscripts – what do they tell us about this major postal and relay station
 - The Yumenguan Pass of the Great Wall
- ❖ Legendary cities: Samarkand, Bukhara & Merv
- ❖ Legendary cities: Xian, Dunhuang, Kashgar, Urumqui
 - Pick one or do several
- ❖ Major routes: Xian to Kashgar
- ❖ Major routes: The Steppes in Central Asia
- ❖ Technological developments spread by the Silk Road
 - Glassmaking
 - Irrigation
 - Paper / books
 - Guns / gunpowder
- ❖ Why did the Silk Road fall out of favour?
- ❖ What goods flowed East on the Silk Road
- ❖ Caravanserai & Caravans – transportation & accommodation
- ❖ The First Silk Road Era 100 BCE to 250 CE
- ❖ The Modern Silk Road – contemporary trade flows between the East and the West
- ❖ Project Mausam - India's effort to revitalize the ancient Indian Ocean Maritime Spice Route