

Understanding the ancient Silk Roads

Saturday 27 January, 10.30–17.00
BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum



Painting originating from Cave 17, Mogao Grottoes, Dunhuang, China. Tang Dynasty, AD 851–900.

Welcome to a special study day presented in collaboration with *History Hit Live* and Peter Frankopan, acclaimed author of *The Silk Roads: a new history of the world*. The day is part of the programme accompanying the reopening of the Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia (Room 33) which will be open all day.

10.00 **Registration**

10.30 **Introductory talk**

Peter Frankopan, University of Oxford

11.15 **Changing perceptions of goods and peoples on the early Silk Road**

Michael Scott, University of Warwick

12.00 Tea break (refreshments provided in the foyers outside the lecture theatre)

12.20 **From Buddhism to Nestorian Christianity: the importance of the Silk Roads in the movement of ideas and religions across Central Asia**

Frances Wood, SOAS Research Associate and formerly British Library

13.00 **The Sasanian empire, 'the Silk Road' and new archaeological evidence for trade and movement across the frontiers of Late Antiquity**

St John Simpson, Curator, British Museum

13.30 Lunch break (lunch not included)
The British Museum film *Conserving Vulture Peak* will play in the theatre

14.20 **Buddhist art along the Silk Roads: the British Museum's Dunhuang and Xinjiang collections**

Yu-Ping Luk, Curator, British Museum

14.50 **Iran and the Mongols**

Ladan Akbarnia, Curator, British Museum

15.20 Coffee break (refreshments provided in the foyers outside the lecture theatre)

15.40 **The Sogdians: middle men of the Silk Roads**

Diana Driscoll, independent researcher

16.10 **How much?! Money matters on the Silk Road**

Helen Wang, Curator, British Museum

16.40 **Q&A and closing remarks**