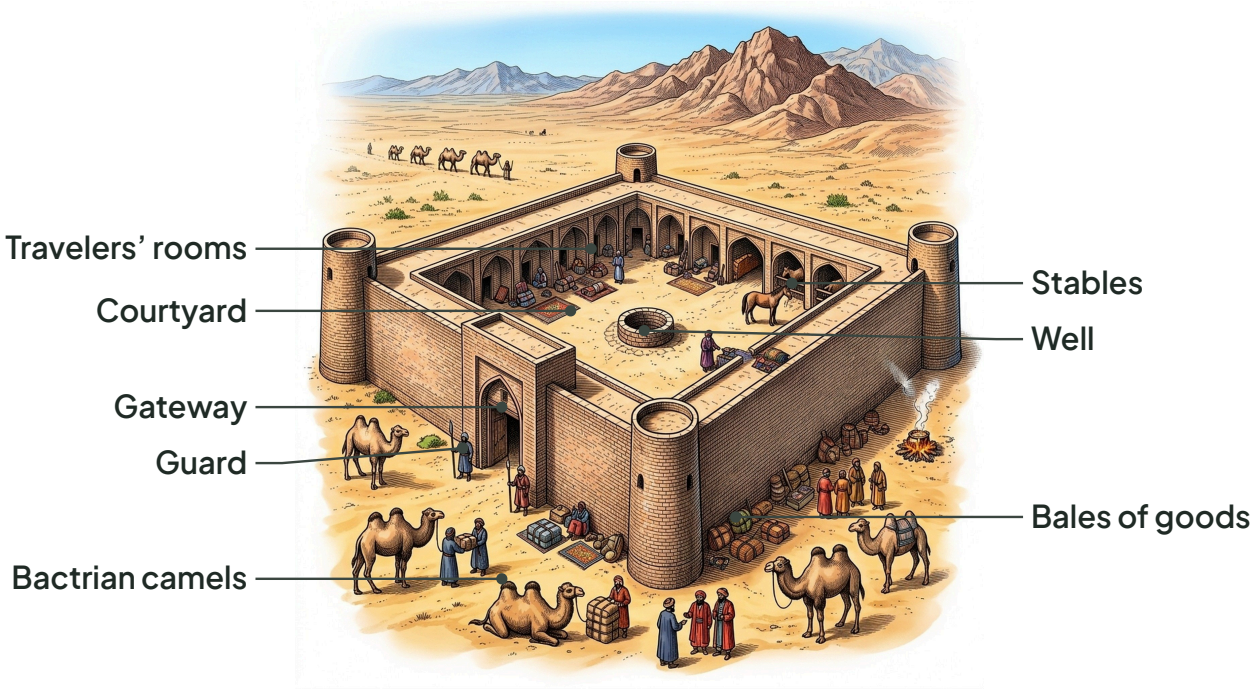
A CARAVANSERAI ON THE SILK ROAD

About 1300, in the time of the Mongol peace, a caravan has reached a caravanserai near Bukhara after a long day's walk. Caravanserais like this one stood along the roads of Central Asia and Persia. Travelers from many lands slept, ate, watered their animals and traded under one roof. Look closely at the walls, the animals and the people.



WHAT THE LABELS SHOW

Gateway The one tall arched entrance. Big enough for loaded camels, it was shut and barred at night to keep out thieves.

Courtyard The open space in the middle, where caravans unloaded, animals rested and merchants met, bargained and traded.

Well Water for people and animals, inside the walls. Travelers could fill their water bags before the next day's walk.

Travelers' rooms Rows of small arched rooms around the courtyard, where merchants slept and kept their goods safe for the night.

Stables Arched bays along the walls where camels, horses and donkeys were tied up, fed and watered.

Bactrian camels Two-humped camels, the main carriers on the roads of Central Asia, kneeling so their loads can be taken off.

Bales of goods Goods wrapped in cloth and tied with rope to keep out dust and rain, one bale hung on each side of a camel.

Guard A guard with a spear at the gate. The inn's high walls and guard protected travelers and their goods at night.