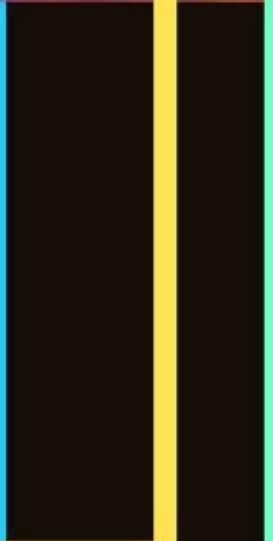
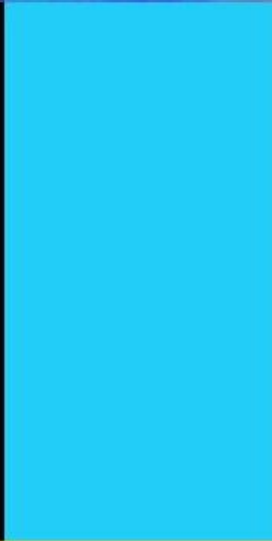




# THE SILK ROAD EXPEDITION





*For centuries the Silk Road was the thread that linked east and west. From as early as 200BC the silk merchants of Xian, China's ancient capital, set off with their camel caravans on the long trek to distant Constantinople. They skirted the Gobi and the ferocious Taklamakan deserts, and crossed 'the Roof of the World', over the Pamirs and the Karakorams. This tour allows you to follow in their footsteps, to trace the legendary route taken by Marco Polo from west to east, with the inclusion of exotic places. This outstanding and in-depth expedition along the northern path of the Silk Road features Central Asia's most historic, dramatic and splendid scenery, and offers opportunities to experience local cultures in some of the oasis towns populated by minority peoples. Conditions of travel have improved since the Italian's day, but in some of the more remote places, where accommodation is comfortable but simple, a spirit of adventure is required.*





# Silk Road UNESCO World Heritage Sites

*Silk Road successfully listed as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 2014!*

- ***Mogao Caves, Dunhuang, Gansu Province***
- ***Qocho (Gaochang) City Ruins, Turpan, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region***
- ***Yar City Site of Bashbaliq City (Jiaohe Ruins), Turpan, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region***
- ***Beshbalik City Ruins, Jimsar County, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region***
- ***Great Wall at Badaling Pass, Beijing***
- ***Forbidden City, Beijing***
- ***Temple of Heaven, Beijing***
- ***Terra Cotta Warriors, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province***
- ***Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province***
- ***Terra Cotta Warriors, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province***
- ***Great Wall at Jiayuguan Pass, Gansu Province***

# Quotation Sheet

<b>Tour Name:</b>	Silk Road Expedition 2024
<b>CTS Tour Code</b>	N/A
<b>Period:</b>	Oct. 2024
<b>Number of Passengers:</b>	10-20pax
<b>Number of Rooms &amp; Room Type</b>	N/A
<b>Date of Finished</b>	V1 Draft 1/May/2023

## Program

Day	City	Program	Meals	Hotel
1 Oct. 2024	Beijing	Arriving Beijing, welcome by guide and transfer to city. Check in at hotel, Rest of day free at leisure		Great Wall Hotel (5 star)
2 Oct. 2024	Beijing	Tian'anmen Square, Palace Museum-Forbidden City, Hutong Tour by Rickshaw: local family & Tea Ceremony, Bell and Drum Tower Peking Opera at Liyuan Theater	B/L/D	Great Wall Hotel (5 star)
3 Oct. 2024	Beijing	Mutianyu Great Wall with two-way cable car Temple of Heaven	B/L/D	Great Wall Hotel (5 star)
4 Oct. 2024	Beijing	Summer Palace with Dragon Boat Walk into National Olympic Center: Water Cube and Bird Nest (outside venue) Lama Temple Peking Duck Farewell Dinner (VIP room reserved)	B/L/D	Great Wall Hotel (5 star)
5 Oct. 2024	Beijing Xi'an	Morning transfer to railway station to take bullet train to Xi'an by <a href="#">G655 0943/1538</a> (western Lunch box prepared) Arrive in Xi'an, meet the guide and transfer to hotel Hotpot dinner	B/L/D	Titan Times Hotel (5 star-)
6 Oct. 2024	Xi'an	Museum of Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Factory of Duplicated Terra Cotta Warriors Lunch at museum, Enjoy Tang Dynasty Dancing Show with Dumpling Dinner	B/L/D	Titan Times Hotel (5 star-)
7 Oct.	Xi'an	Ancient City Wall with cycling, Provincial Museum-(Shaanxi History museum)	B/L/D	Titan Times Hotel

2024		Big Wild Goose Pagoda plus Bell Tower and Drum Tower Square Moslem Quarter		(5 star-)
8 Oct. 2024	Xi'an Lanzhou Xiahe	Morning transfer to railway station to take bullet train to Lanzhou by <a href="https://www.12306.cn">D2685 0900/1143</a> Arrive in Lanzhou, meet the guide and transfer to Xiahe Xiahe Nick-named 'Little Tibet' Arrive in Xiahe, and check in hotel	B/L/D	Jiusheng International Hotel (3 star) Local best
9 Oct. 2024	Xiahe Lanzhou	Labrang Monastery, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery outside of that province. Also visit the Sangke grasslands, where Tibetan nomadic farmers herd their yaks and visit a local family in their camp. Drive back to Lanzhou, Visit White Pagoda Hill Park with its 80ft high Buddha, and the Yellow River Mother Statue. Gansu Provincial Museum Check in hotel	B/L/D	Legend Hotel (4 star)
10 Oct. 2024	Lanzhou Wuwei	Bus drive to Wuwei(270KM-5hours) Lei Tai Han Tombs, Wen Temple and Tiantishan Grottoes Check in hotel	B/L/D	Hampton by Hilton Wuwei Liangzhou (4 star)
11 Oct. 2024	Wuwei Zhangye	Bus drive to Zhangye(240KM-4hours) Giant Buddha Temple and Wooden Tower Check in hotel	B/L/D	Huachen International hotel (4 star)
12 Oct. 2024	Zhangye Jiayuguan	Danxia National Geological Park Bus drive to Jiayuguan in the Gobi Desert (230KM-4hours), Jiayuguan Pass, Overhanging Great Wall, First Fire Tower of the Great Wall, Wei-Jin Art Gallery Check in hotel	B/L/D	Jiayuguan Hotel (4 star)
13 Oct. 2024	Jiayuguan Dunhuang	Yulin Grottoes, Bus drive to <b>Dunhuang</b> (380KM-6hours), a strategic staging post on the Silk Road and once the western most point of China with the Great Wall extended to reach it and fortified to protect the city. This city is regarded as an ancient treasure house of Buddhist murals and sculpture with the Mogao Caves Check in hotel	B/L/D	Grand Sun Hotel Dunhuang (4star)
14 Oct. 2024	Dunhuang	This morning depart from the hotel to begin tour to the <b>Mogao Caves</b> , an art gallery in the desert. The caves are lined with Buddhist frescoes and sculpted figures, said to	B/L/D	Grand Sun Hotel Dunhuang

		<p>be the finest examples of Buddhist art in the world. Mixing Indian and Chinese styles, they are a remarkable record of Silk Road civilisation.</p> <p>Among other caves to see and explore, stop to see the pavilion housing the Sleeping Buddha a 50 foot long horizontal, serenely reposed statue and certainly the most famous 'The Library' Cave that produced a huge treasure of documents – dating from 406 to 1002, a solid mass of 1000s of scrolls – they stood to a height of nearly 10 feet. They had been stored away and the cave walled up in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and had remained intact. It was not opened until 1900 when discovered by Aurel Stein.</p> <p>Visit of <b>Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Moon Lake</b>, set in an amphitheatre of sand dunes. For the adventurous, the optional ascent of these sand 'mountains' by camel offers truly breath-taking vistas.</p>		(4star)
15 Oct. 2024	Dunhuang Liuyuan Turpan	<p>Morning visit City Museum, after lunch, take bullet train to Turpan by <a href="#">D2701 1547/1920</a></p> <p>Arrive in <b>Turpan</b>. This city is located within a depression some 80metres below sea level making the climate extremely dry but despite this the oasis town has been famous for its agriculture for centuries – particularly their melons and vineyards. The fertile oasis commanded the northern route and was an important stop for the rich caravans that passed through. The city was conquered in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century by an heir to the Chaghatai Khanate loyal to Tamerlane the Great. The population was converted to Islam and then began the building of the mosques and minarets of today.</p> <p>Check in hotel</p>	B/L	Shuangcheng Hotel (4 star)
16 Oct. 2024	Turpan	<p>Today one of your first visits would be to the <b>Bezeklik Caves</b> whose walls are adorned with Buddhist frescoes, and the legendary <b>Flaming Mountains</b>, then see the underground <b>Tombs of Astana</b>. One of the key points along the Silk Road, the ancient city of <b>Gaochang</b> was also a sanctuary of world religious culture. Xuanzhuang, a well-known Buddhist monk in the Tang Dynasty stopped here and delivered lectures on his way to India.</p> <p><b>The ancient city of Gaochang</b>, and the <b>ancient city of Jiaohe</b>, are the best-preserved ruins of the ancient cities in China. These two cities were added to the World Heritage List on June 22, 2014.</p>	B/L/D	Shuangcheng Hotel (4 star)

		Enjoy the banquet of local fruits and check in hotel		
17 Oct. 2024	Turpan Urumqi	<p>First visit would be to the <b>Emin Minaret</b>, one of the finest buildings on the Silk Road begun in 1777. It is the largest extant old tower in Xinjiang and the only Islamic tower among the hundred famous towers in China. Then, inspect the remarkable 2000-year-old <b>Karez underground irrigation system</b>. A series of wells and linking underground channels used gravity to bring ground water to the surface from far off sources – sources themselves that were filled with water melt from distant glaciers. The system is known from Persia and may have been introduced here from the west.</p> <p>After lunch, bus transfer to Urumqi (190KM-3 hours) Arrive in <b>Urumqi</b>, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, is just like a piece of emerald embedded at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains. As home to 49 minority ethnic groups, this graceful prairie city is an important stop along the ancient Silk Road, leading to Central Asia and even as far as Europe.</p> <p>Check in hotel</p>	B/L/D	Zhong He Hotel (4 star)
18 Oct. 2024	Urumqi	<p>Morning escape to the tranquility of <b>Tian Chi (Heavenly Lake)</b>, in Tianshan Tianchi National Park is a scenic highlight about 1.5 to 2 hours out of Urumqi. The lake itself is about 3 kilometers long and averages about 600 or 700 meters wide (2 miles by less than half a mile)</p> <p>Visit the <b>Xinjiang Autonomous Region Museum</b>, where some 1,000-year-old mummies are housed. No visitor should miss the <b>Erdaoqiao International bazaar</b>. In this teeming market, you can buy anything from herbal medicines to carpets, from a cradle to a camel.</p> <p>Enjoy dinner with minority dancing in the evening</p>	B/L/D	Zhong He Hotel (4 star)
19 Oct. 2024	Urumqi Kashgar	<p>Morning transfer to airport to take flight to Kashgar</p> <p>Arrive in <b>Kashgar</b>, a fabled city for its position on the Northern Silk Road, where the Taklamakan Desert meets the Tian Shan Mountains. The faces that you see in the streets reflect its history as a crossroads from Central Asia to China, India and the Mediterranean. The old city, once an example of a preserved Islamic city, survived</p>	B/L/D	Qiniwak Hotel (4 star)

		<p>until 2009. The Chinese new name for the city is 'Kashi'</p> <p>Meet the guide and transfer to hotel for little break before dinner</p> <p>No visitor to Kashgar should miss the <b>Sunday bazaar</b>-the world's largest Sunday Bazaar. In this teeming market, you can buy anything from herbal medicines to carpets, from a cradle to a camel. (It is available Sunday only)</p> <p>Morning visit the <b>Tomb of Abakh Khoja</b>, known as the 'fragrant concubine' and the vast <b>Id Kah Mosque</b>. As the biggest mosque in China, it is a group of old Islamic constructions with strong ethnic style and religious features.</p> <p>Take a typical Uygur style meal, then walk through the <b>old town</b>, a warren of twisting alleys and white-washed walls.</p>		
20 Oct. 2024	Kashgar	<p>Day excursion to beautiful <b>Lake Karakul</b>, in the shadow of Mt. Kongur and Muztagh Ata. Karakul has an area of 380 sq km and lies at the altitude of 3914 metres above sea level. It's the highest lake in the world excluding those in Tibet and even Titicaca lake - the biggest alpine lake in the world is located on lower altitudes. (200KM-4 hours)</p> <p>Back to Kashgar in late afternoon</p>	B/L/D	Qiniwak Hotel (4 star)
21 Oct. 2024	Kashgar Urumqi Shanghai	<p>Take morning flight to Urumqi, arrive in Urumqi, and take connecting flight to Shanghai/ Or one flight from Kashgar to Shanghai, stopover Urumqi (at least one meal on board)</p> <p>Arriving Shanghai, welcome by guide and transfer to hotel to check in</p> <p>Rest of day free at leisure</p>	B	Equatorial Hotel (4 star)
22 Oct. 2024	Shanghai	<p>Sightseeing Pudong district, Shanghai Tower lift to top floor, Walk on bund, Old Town, Yu Yuan Garden Walk in French Concession Acrobatic show.</p>	B/L/D	Equatorial Hotel (4 star)
23 Oct. 2024	Shanghai Suzhou	<p>Day tour to Suzhou Arrive in Suzhou, Dubbed the "Venice of the East" for its canals &amp; romantic water towns. Garden of Humble Administration, Silk Factory Panmen Gate, Enjoy Boat on Grand Cannel</p>	B/L/D	Equatorial Hotel (4 star)

		Drive back to Shanghai Farewell Dinner at Xian Qiang Fang restaurant		
24 Oct. 2024	Shanghai Home	Transfer to airport for the departure flight to home(>2 hours arrive at the airport before departure time) <a href="#">End of Service</a>	B	

Suppliers' Cost	2024 Tour Package (with twin shared accommodation)	10-14Pax+1FOC
		15-19pax+1FOC
		20pax or more +1FOC
Single Supplement		
<b>Cost includes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room upgrade for tour leader whenever and wherever possible FOC</li> <li>Red wine and fruits for tour leader FOC</li> <li>Official visa invitation letter from CTG</li> <li>English map of Beijing and China</li> <li>Birthday Cake and birthday gift for client who has birthday when travelling in China</li> <li>Hotel accommodation in each city with BBF daily(except the arrival date)</li> <li>Service of professional English-speaking guide in each city</li> <li>Luxurious tourist bus with air-conditioning with the service of professional driver</li> <li>Meals as specified on itinerary</li> <li>Escorted sightseeing; Attractions and Cultural Shows Admissions as specified on itinerary</li> <li>Ground transportation as specified on itinerary</li> <li>Domestic flight ticket: Kashagar/Urumqi, and Kashgar/Urumqi/Shanghai in economy</li> <li>Bullet train ticket: Beijing/Xi'an,Xi'an/Lanzhou, and Liiyuan/Turpan( 2<sup>nd</sup> class)</li> <li>Travel agent liability insurance of CTG and government tax</li> </ol>	
<b>Cost excludes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International airfare to/from China, visa-processing fees, travels insurance.</li> <li>Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, excess luggage fees, telephone charges, room service and laundry charges</li> <li>Gratitude to the guides, drivers and porters in China</li> <li>Cost of one national guide</li> <li>Electronic visa from CTG is available for single enter China from Beijing and Handling Fee(Visa Guide)</li> </ol>	
<b>Note</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotels and flights listed in our programs are subject to change due to un-foreseen reasons and we reserve the right to use similar hotels and flights.</li> <li><b>Health requirements</b>-Clients should take into account all international travel risks and familiarize themselves with health requirements applicable to the areas they intend to visit. The client is solely responsible for checking the safety and security conditions, vaccination, and other health requirements of governments in countries visited or transited. Travelers to Tibet are required to provide a doctor's certificate stating that the he/she is fit to travel and his/her blood pressure and heart condition are normal. This is a necessary requirement because of the possible effect that the very high altitude may have on certain people.</li> <li><b>Luggage allowance</b>-In accordance with regulations of the General Administration of</li> </ol>	

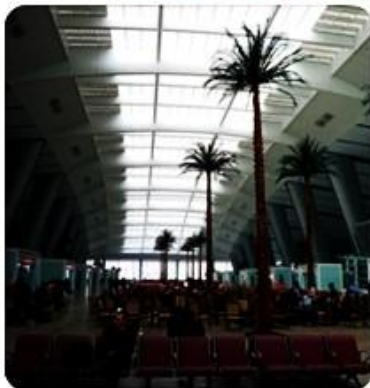
Civil Aviation of China, the free baggage allowance within China is **20kg** for the economy class, **30kg** for the business class, and **40kg** for the first class, plus limited carry-on luggage. Excess baggage charges are the sole responsibility of the client. Regulations within China specify that all suitcases must have a locking device attached. Failure to follow this regulation may result in refusal by airport staff to load suitcases onto the aircraft.

### Selected Hotel Information

City	Hotel Name	Standard	Contact Information
Beijing	Great Wall Hotel <a href="http://greatwallsheraton.com/">http://greatwallsheraton.com/</a>	5 Star	Address: No 1 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 100004 China T: 86-10-6505 2277
Xi'an	Titan Times Hotel <a href="http://en.titantimeshotel.com/">http://en.titantimeshotel.com/</a>	5 star-	Address: 360 North Section, Huancheng West Road, Xi'an City, China Tel: 86-29-88626666
Xiahe	Jiusheng International Hotel <a href="https://ca.trip.com/hotels/xiahe-hotel-detail-1070469/jiusheng-international-hotel/">https://ca.trip.com/hotels/xiahe-hotel-detail-1070469/jiusheng-international-hotel/</a>	3 star Local best	Address: No. 29 Renmin West Street, Labuleng Town, Xiahe, Gansu, 747100, China Tel: +86 941 722 1111
Lanzhou	Legend Hotel <a href="http://legend.hotellanzhou.cn/">http://legend.hotellanzhou.cn/</a>	4 star	Address: No.529,Tianshui North Road, Chengguan District, Lanzhou Tel: +86-931-8532888
Wuwei	Hampton by Hilton Wuwei Liangzhou <a href="https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/hakwuhx-hampton-wuwei-liangzhou/">https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/hakwuhx-hampton-wuwei-liangzhou/</a>	4 star	Address: Building B2, Phase 2 of Wanjiangui, Wuwei, 733000, China Tel: +86-935 623 9999
Zhangye	Huachen International hotel <a href="http://zyhcdjd.net.xb-cloud.com/">http://zyhcdjd.net.xb-cloud.com/</a>	4 star	Address: No.20,Dongda Street, Zhangye Tel: +86-936-8257777
Jiayuguan	Jiayuguan Hotel <a href="https://hotels.ctrip.com/hotel/439615.html">https://hotels.ctrip.com/hotel/439615.html</a>	4 star	Address: No.1,Xinhua North Road, Jiayuguan Tel: +86-937-6226983
Dunhuang	Grand Sun Hotel Dunhuang <a href="https://hotels.ctrip.com/hotel/12227.html">https://hotels.ctrip.com/hotel/12227.html</a>	4 star	Address: No. 5 Shazhou North Road, Dunhuang Tel: +86-937-8829998 Grand Sun Hotel Dunhuang
Turpan	Shuangcheng Hotel <a href="https://hotels.ctrip.com/hotel/5753968.html?semredirect=T&amp;allianceid=4897&amp;sid=1314700&amp;relatedate=2&amp;oid=alad5753968">https://hotels.ctrip.com/hotel/5753968.html?semredirect=T&amp;allianceid=4897&amp;sid=1314700&amp;relatedate=2&amp;oid=alad5753968</a>	4 star	Address: No.1088,Gaochang District, Turpan Tel: +86-995-7698888
Urumqi	Zhong He Hotel <a href="http://www.xjzhhotel.com/">http://www.xjzhhotel.com/</a>	4 star	Address: No.499,Beijing Sorth road,Xinshi District,Urumqi Tel: +86-991-3337888
Kashgar	Qiniwak Hotel <a href="http://hotels.ctrip.com/pic-r30996747/1371635.html">http://hotels.ctrip.com/pic-r30996747/1371635.html</a>	4 star	Address: No.144 Seman Road, Kashi 844000, China Tel: (0998)280888
Shanghai	Paradise Jinjiang Hotel <a href="https://www.agoda.com/paradise-hotel/hotel/shanghai-cn.html?cid=-142">https://www.agoda.com/paradise-hotel/hotel/shanghai-cn.html?cid=-142</a>	4 Star	Address: 2558 Chang Yang Road, Yang Pu District, Shanghai, China People's Republic of China Tel:(0086-21)35129898



*Bullet Train in China*





*Beijing - Capital of China*



**Beijing (Peking)** is one of the great cities of the world and famous for its long history and splendid culture. It has been the capital for the last 700 years and is the second largest city in China. Its long history has endowed the city with countless historic and scenic spots. Beijing is filled with great monuments, palaces, temples and reminders of the past glory of imperial China.

Situated in the northeast of China, it is the center of national politics and culture and the hub for international communication. It has an overall population of 10,855,000 and covers an area of 16,808 square kilometers at an elevation of 43.5 m above sea level. The climate in Beijing is seasonal with cold, dry winters and hot summers.

Beijing is a tourist city famed for its picturesque scenery. Autumn is the peak season, when the weather is dry and cooler. You can visit the largest and best-preserved ancient palace, the Imperial Palace, the most well preserved royal garden, the Summer Palace, and the world-famous Great Wall. The Imperial Palace represents the crystallization of ancient Chinese architecture. The Summer Palace has a concentration of the best of ancient buildings, as well as styles of gardening, and is a virtual museum of traditional Chinese gardening. The Great Wall, a huge project that began more than 2,000 years ago, winds its way along the mountains and valleys bordering northern China and approaches quite close to Beijing.



Today, with its magnificent Tiananmen Square, its network of cloverleaf road junctions and its skyline of high-rises, Beijing has taken on a new look, blending classical grace with hi-tech modernity. The grand, magnificent Tiananmen Square stands harmoniously in the vicinity of crisscrossing cloverleaf junctions and serried skyscrapers. Simple, classical tradition synchronizes perfectly with contemporary civilization: Beijing, this ancient city, has taken on a brand-new look.



Beijing is the host city to the 2008 Olympic Games. Under the theme of "Green Olympics, Hi-Tech Olympics and People's Olympics, great changes are taking place in Beijing. We are seeing not only high-speed economic development but also enhanced friendship between the Chinese people and people around the world.



## Introduction to Xi'an



*THE TWO CHINESE CHARACTERS “西安” IN THE NAME XI'AN LITERALLY MEAN “WESTERN PEACE”. DURING THE ZHOU DYNASTY, THE AREA WAS CALLED FENGHAO, WITH THE PORTION OF THE CITY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE FENG RIVER CALLED FENG AND THE PORTION ON THE EAST CALLED HAO. IT WAS RENAMED CHANG'AN, MEANING “PERPETUAL PEACE”.*

**Xi'an** is the capital of the Shaanxi province, and a sub-provincial city in the People's Republic of China. One of the oldest cities in China, with more than 3,100 years of history, the city was known as Chang'an before the Ming Dynasty. Xi'an is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, having held the position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, and Tang. Xi'an is the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army.



Since the 1990s, as part of the economic revival of interior China especially for the central and northwest regions, the city of Xi'an has re-emerged as an important cultural, industrial and educational centre of the central-northwest region, with facilities for research and development, national security and China's space exploration program. It's now one of the most populous metropolitan areas in inland China with more than 8 million inhabitants, including urban parts of Xianyang (Weicheng and Qindu districts).

Xi'an lies on the Guanzhong Plain in central China, on a flood plain created by the eight surrounding rivers and streams. The Wei River provides potable water to the city. The city borders the northern foot of the Qinling Mountains to the south, and the banks of the Wei River to the north. Hua Shan, one of the five sacred Taoist mountains, is located 100 km away to the east of the city. Not far to the north is the Loess Plateau.

Long holidays are usual during Spring Festival, Labor Holiday (May 1–3), and National Holiday (October 1–7). The number of travellers is often greater during Summer (May–August), although the most pleasant season for visiting Xi'an is Autumn.

View of the city from the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda Because of the city's many historical monuments and a plethora of ancient ruins and tombs in the vicinity, tourism has been an important component of the local economy, and the Xi'an region is one of the most popular tourist destinations in China.



The city has many important historical sites, and some are ongoing archaeological projects, such as the Mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang and his Terracotta Army. There are several burial mounds, tombs of the Zhou Dynasty kings located in the city. Xi'an also contains some 800 royal mausoleums and tombs from the Han Dynasty, with some of them yielding hundreds of sculpted clay soldiers, and remains of sacrificial temples from the Han era. The city has numerous Tang Dynasty pagodas and is noted for its history museum and its stele forest, which is housed in an 11th-century Confucian temple containing large stone tablets from various dynasties.

# Lanzhou Travel Guide

On a map of China with a scale of 1:260,000,000, draw a circle at a radius of 90 mm (3.54inches) to include all China in it, and you will find that the center of this circle is Lanzhou, the capital city of northwest Gansu Province. Lanzhou is not only the geometrical center of China but also a center in the northwest in terms of transportation, telecommunication and the Silk Road Tourism Ring. Covering an area of 1631.6 square kilometers (629.96 square miles), Lanzhou is home to a population of 3.14 million, including Han, Hui, Bao'an, Dongxiang, Tibetan, Yugu and Sala and more.



With mountains in the south and north of the city and the Yellow River flowing from the east to the west, Lanzhou is a beautiful modern city with both the grand beauty of northern cities and the prettiness of southern cities. The Landscape along the Yellow River should not be missed, as Lanzhou is the only provincial city through which the Mother River runs. Whether you choose to roam along the River, to cross the First Bridge over the Yellow River, or to have a cup of eight auspicious teas at the Watermill Park, you will be impressed by Lanzhou with its harmonious combination of the modern and the old.

## Yearly Climate Info – Lanzhou

<b>Average Data</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Average High (°F)	33/36	41/44	53/56	65/68	74/77	80/84
Average High (°C)	0/2	5/7	12/14	18/20	23/25	27/29
Average Low (°F)	8/12	16/20	29/33	40/43	49/52	55/59
Average Low (°C)	-13/-11	-9/-7	-2/0	4/6	9/11	13/15
<b>Average Data</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Average High (°F)	83/86	80/84	71/74	60/64	47/50	35/38
Average High (°C)	28/30	27/29	22/24	16/18	8/10	2/4
Average Low (°F)	60/64	58/62	50/54	38/42	24/28	12/16
Average Low (°C)	16/18	14/16	10/12	3/5	-4/-2	-11/-9

## Dunhuang Travel Guide



The national, historical city of Dunhuang is a renowned tourist city famous for the Mogao Caves. It is situated in the common boundary of Gansu Province, Qinghai Province and Xinjiang Province. Dunhuang, long ago referred to as 'Sha Zhou' (beautiful desert oasis), was the hub of middle and eastern silk routes in ancient times. In ancient times, Dunhuang was the center of trade between China and its western neighbors. At that time, it was the most westerly frontier military garrison in China. With the flourishing of trade along the Silk Road, Dunhuang was prompted to become the most open area in international trade in Chinese history. It provided the only access westward for the Chinese Empire and eastward for western nationalities. Today, as a reminder of this historical area, we are left with the Mogao Caves, Yangguan Pass, Yumenguan Pass and many wonderful Chinese poems depicting the time. Although what remains of the two Passes are crumbling walls, one can still experience the atmosphere of that time while visiting in person.

### Yearly Climate Info – Dunhuang

<b>Average Data</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Average High (°F)	28/32	38/42	54/58	68/72	79/82	86/90
Average High (°C)	-2/0	3/5	12/14	20/22	26/28	30/32
Average Low (°F)	3/7	10/14	24/28	37/41	47/51	55/59
Average Low (°C)	-16/-14	-12/-10	-4/-2	3/5	8/10	13/15
<b>Average Data</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Average High (°F)	90/93	88/91	78/82	64/68	45/48	30/34
Average High (°C)	32/34	31/33	26/28	18/20	7/9	-1/1
Average Low (°F)	59/63	57/60	45/49	31/35	20/23	7/11
Average Low (°C)	15/17	14/16	7/9	-0/2	-7/-5	-14/-12

# Jiayuguan Travel Guide

**Location:** located in the Gobi desert, at the middle of Hexi Corridor, 600 kms from Lanzhou, 5 - 6 hours away by bus from Dunhaung

**Neighboring Areas:** Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Qinghai provinces, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia Hui and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions

**Population:** 130,000

**Area:** 2,935 sq km

**Nationalities:** Han, Hui, Tibetan, Dongxiang, Yugu, Baoan, Hazake, Tu, Sala, Manchu, and Mongolian

**History:** historically, a small township engaged in local trading, catering to the needs of the military garrisons stationed at the fort; as a [Han](#) outpost and in 1372, during the Ming dynasty, a fortress was built to protect the last frontier of the Chinese empire

**Climatic Features:** warm variable zone, aridity climate with the frost-free period of 160 days

**Average Temperature:** January with temperature as low as - 21<sup>o</sup>C, August with temperature as high as 34<sup>o</sup>C; Sandstorm - March to May; Strong Wind - November and December; annually with the highest of 38.7<sup>o</sup>C and lowest of 0<sup>o</sup>C, annual and daily difference in temperature great.



## Yearly Climate Info – Jiayuguan

<b>Average Data</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Average High ( <sup>o</sup> F)	27/30	34/38	47/51	61/65	72/76	80/83
Average High ( <sup>o</sup> C)	-3/-1	1/3	8/10	16/18	22/24	26/28
Average Low ( <sup>o</sup> F)	3/7	10/13	23/26	35/39	46/49	54/57
Average Low ( <sup>o</sup> C)	-16/-14	-12/-10	-5/-3	2/4	8/10	12/14
<b>Average Data</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Average High ( <sup>o</sup> F)	83/86	81/85	71/75	58/62	41/45	29/33
Average High ( <sup>o</sup> C)	28/30	27/29	22/24	15/17	5/7	-2/0
Average Low ( <sup>o</sup> F)	58/61	56/59	46/49	33/36	19/22	7/10
Average Low ( <sup>o</sup> C)	14/16	13/15	8/10	1/3	-7/-5	-14/-12

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## Xiahe Travel Guide



**Location:** located in the southwest of Gansu province and northwest of Gannan Tibetan Autonomous prefecture; in northeast edge of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

**Neighboring Area:** Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Qinghai provinces, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia Hui and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions

**Physical Features:** slopes down from northwest to southeast; average elevation of 2900-3100m with the highest of 4636m and lowest 2160m

**Population:** 150,000

**Urban Population:**

**Area:** 8687 sq km

**Nationalities:** Tibetan, Han and Hui

**History:** used to be the ley of Qiang in the spring and autumn period; once occupied by Xianbei, Tubo and Mongolian nationalities; named as Xiahe in 1928

**Climatic Feature:** temperate, semiarid climate in the north and cold, humid in the south; windy in spring and winter and rainy in summer and autumn; long frost period with the frost-free period only 56 days annually; total sunshine of 2296 hours

**Average Temperature:** annually average temperature of 2.6 centigrade degree with the highest of 28.4 and lowest of -26.7

**Rainfall:** 444mm annually

**Mountains:**

**Rivers:** Daxia River and Zhao River

**Specialties:** yak, Ganjia Sheep, Juema Pig, bezoar and aweto

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## Turpan Travel Guide



*Turpan is an old city with a long history. Traces have been found of humans living there, dating as far back as 6,000 years ago. The city was known as Gushi in the Western Han Dynasty (206BC-24AD); and in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), it got its name Turpan. Turpan means 'the lowest place' in the Uygur language and 'the fertile land' in Turki. Lying in the Turpan Basin, the elevation of most of the places in the area is below 500 meters (1,640 feet). Turpan is the city with the lowest elevation in China.*

*Occupying an area of 15,738 square kilometers (6,076.5 square miles), Turpan City Prefecture is located to the southeast of [Urumqi](#), the capital city of [Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region](#). The city belongs to Turpan Region together with Shanshan County and Tuokexun County. Turpan has a population of 250,000, made up of 21 different nationalities. Among these the Uygurs account for over 70% of the total number.*

*The city, which is also known as Huo Zhou (a place as hot as fire), is the hottest place in China. The annual average temperature is 14<sup>o</sup> C (57.2<sup>o</sup> F). It is reckoned that there are 152 summer days on average, and 28 really broiling days with the temperature above 40<sup>o</sup> C (104<sup>o</sup> F). Although the high temperature can be oppressive people can also get some benefits from it. The abundant sunshine gives the melons and grapes ideal conditions to grow. The fruit here is widely known for its high sugar content, especially the grapes. Turpan is praised as the 'Hometown of Grapes' and the Grape Valley is a good place to enjoy the grapes of hundreds of varieties. Apart from that, the locals are quite fond of sand therapy which has a history of hundreds of years in Turpan.*

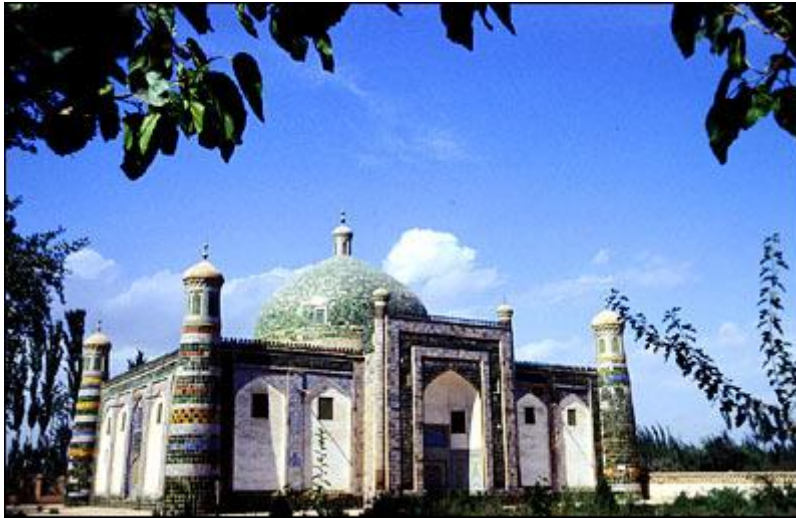


*People lie or sit under sheds, burying their bodies in hot sand about 50<sup>o</sup> C (122<sup>o</sup> F) to 60<sup>o</sup> C (140<sup>o</sup> F). It is said to be a good way to treat rheumatism and skin ailments. There is a [Sand Therapy Center](#) in the northwest of the city which is popular among visitors.*

*Turpan is a marvelous city blending Western and Eastern religions and culture together perfectly. The geographical position of Turpan is rather important. Lying at the junction of the east and the west of China, it has been a key point on the Silk Road since ancient times, with a great number of historical relics as well as unique landscapes. Turpan is an important city along the ancient Silk Road and the transportation here is very convenient. It is considered to be the hub between Xinjiang and the eastern part of China. As well as the usual vehicles, there is a special 'donkey taxi' here. It is a kind of flatbed drawn by donkey. Visitors can sit and ride on the vehicle to get a broad overview from a leisurely look around the city.*

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## Kashgar Travel Guide



**Location:** located between 73° 20' - 70° 57' east longitude and 35° 20' - 40° 18' north latitude, bordering the Taklamakan desert in the east, the Kunlun Range and Ali prefecture of in the south

**Neighboring areas:** Gansu province and Qinghai province, Tibet Autonomous Region

**Physical Features:** two river systems of the Yarkant River and the Kashgar River with a total annual runoff of 10.9 to 11.9 billion cubic meters

**Population:** 200,000

**Area:** 162.000 sq km

**Nationalities:** Han, Hui and Uygur

**History:** a history of more than 2000 years; belonged to the Zhuangpu prefectural General's Office of the HunIn in Han dynasty; there after, submitted to the authorities of the Western Han dynasty after the trading links with Han formed by Zhang Qian - the special envoy to the Western Region sent by Emperor Wudi; one of the four important towns in Anxi during Tang dyansty; later becoming the seat of government of the Kashgar Councillor in Qing dynasty

**Climatic Features:** mainly a continental climate; varied greatly with topography as plain climate, desert climate and mountain climate; frost-free period of 215 days



**Average Temperature:**11.7° C annually with the lowest of -24.4° C and the highest of 40.1° C

**Rainfall:**27 mm annually

**Mountains:** Mt. Kongur

**Rivers:** Yarhant River, Kashgar River

**Products:** wheat, maize cotton, barley, highland barley, rape, sesame, peanuts and flax

**Local Highlights:** kashgar's local songs and dance ,crafts, roast lamb, shishi-kebab, and baled fish

## Urumqi Travel Guide



*Urumqi is the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the most 'inland' city in the world. With a population of two million gaily-dressed ethnic inhabitants, the city is likened to a piece of emerald embedded at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains. It lies in the lofty ice-capped Bogda Peak and vast Salt Lake in the east; in the rolling pine-covered Southern hill, a well-known scenic district, in the south; and in the alternating fields and sand dunes of Zunggar Basin in the northwest.*

*The temperature in Urumqi widely ranges between day and night as it belongs to the semi-arid continental climate of middle temperate zone. The climate is extremely arid due to long period of sunlight and bare precipitation. It has shorter spring and autumn; and longer winter and summer. May to October is the golden season for traveling to Urumqi, when flowers are in full bloom and the fruits, like melons, are ripe with its fragrance. Here we should indicate that there are two hours time difference between Xinjiang and Beijing. The local working time is usually from 09:30 or 10:00. You had better not start your travel plan before 08:00 in the morning since it is still dark at that time. Nightlife in Urumqi provides multiple-range of choices such as watching the ethnic sing-and-dance show, tasting native delicacies in the night market, or simply hanging out in bars. Coming to Urumqi will not let you return to your country empty-handed. Shopping in the International Grand Bazaar is a pleasant experience. Bargain hunting for handicraft souvenirs such as rugs, carpets, Uygur-style hats, knitted sweaters, ethnic costumes, hand-made embroideries and jade carvings, will definitely draw your intense interest.*

### Yearly Climate Info – Urumqi

<b>Average Data</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Average High (°F)	14/18	19/22	36/39	59/63	72/76	81/84
Average High (°C)	-10/-8	-7/-5	2/4	15/17	22/24	27/29
Average Low (°F)	-4/-0	1/4	20/23	38/42	50/54	59/63
Average Low (°C)	-20/-18	-17/-15	-7/-5	4/6	10/12	15/17
Rain (in)	0.3/0.4	0.3/0.4	0.7/0.8	1.1/1.2	1.3/1.4	1.2/1.3
Rain (mm)	5/10	10/15	20/25	30/35	30/35	30/35
<b>Average Data</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Average High (°F)	85/89	83/87	72/76	55/58	33/37	19/22
Average High (°C)	30/32	28/30	22/24	13/15	1/3	-7/-5
Average Low (°F)	63/67	61/64	50/54	36/39	18/21	2/6
Average Low (°C)	17/19	16/18	10/12	2/4	-8/-6	-17/-15
Rain (in)	0.9/1.0	0.8/0.9	0.9/1.0	0.8/0.9	0.7/0.8	0.4/0.5
Rain (mm)	25/30	20/25	20/25	20/25	15/20	10/15

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## Zhangye Travel Guide

**Location:** situated in western part of Gansu province, midway of Hexi Corridor; located between 97°20'-102°12' east longitude and 37°28'-39°57' north latitude

**Neighboring Areas:** Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Qinghai provinces, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia Hui and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regions

**Physical Features:** located in the area where the Qinghai-Tibet and Inner Mongolia Plateaus adjoin; borders the Mt. Qilianshan in the south, Mt. Helishan and Mt. Longshoushan in the north, long and narrow climate which shapes as a running horse; the highest altitude in southeast reaches 5564 meters and the lowest altitude in northwest is 1284 meters; the elevation of Zhangye city is 1474 meters

**Population:** 1.17 million

**Area:** 41,900 sq km

**History:** anciently named Ganzhou, Zhangye was a famous commercial port on the Silk Road and one of the biggest international trade markets in the country. Merchants from the west kept coming here for trading. Irrigation from the Black and Shandan rivers makes agriculture here quite developed. It gains the reputation of "lush southern-type fields in the desert".

**Nationalities:** Han, Yugu, Tibetan, Hui, Mongolian, Zhuang, Uygur

**Climatic Features:** continental climate with the average sunlight of over 3000 hours annually; coldest in January and hottest in July and the comfortable months for travel is from June to September

**Average Temperature:** 7°C annually

**Rainfall:** annual average rainfall 104-459mm

**Mountains:** Mt. Qilianshan, Mt. Helishan and Mt. Longshoushan

**Rivers:** Heihe River

**Products:** Chinese date, apple, pear, garlic, honey, wine, cashmere

**Local Highlights:** Wooden Tower of Sui Dynasty, Shandan Buddha Temple and Shandan Horse Farm, Giant Buddha Temple



*Shanghai-Modou City*



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## Shanghai

(Chinese: 上海; Mandarin pinyin: Shànghǎi) is the most populous city in China. The city is

located in eastern China, at the middle portion of the Chinese coast, and sits at the mouth of the Yangtze River. Due to its rapid growth over the last two decades it has again become a global city, exerting influence over finance, commerce, fashion, technology and culture.

Once a fishing and textiles town, Shanghai grew in importance in the 19th century due to its favorable port location and was one of the cities opened to foreign trade by the 1842 Treaty of Nanking. The city then flourished as a centre of commerce between east and west, and became a multinational hub of finance and business in the 1930s. However, with the Communist Party takeover of the mainland in 1949, the city's international influence declined. In 1990, the economic reforms introduced by

Deng Xiaoping resulted in an intense re-development of the city, aiding the return of finance and foreign investment to the city. Shanghai is now aiming to be a global finance hub and international shipping centre in the future, and is one of the world's major financial centres.



Shanghai is also a popular tourist destination renowned for its historical landmarks such as The Bund, City God Temple and Yuyuan Garden, as well as the extensive and growing Pudong skyline. It is described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China.

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## Major Attractions along the Silk Road



### The Labrang Monastery

*Located at the foot of the Phoenix Mountain northwest of Xiahe County in Gannan Tibetan Nationality Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province. A propitious place in the hearts of the Tibetan, it stands by the Daxia River and faces the Dragon Mountain.*



*As for the Dragon and Phoenix Mountains, there is a beautiful legend. A long time ago, this place was a boundless sea. After countless changes, mountains and lands appeared. One day, a golden-wing phoenix flew here and rested on one of the mountains in the*

*south. It was so thirsty that it drank all the water; thus the sea dried up. A dragon in the sea was greatly shocked, so it cavorted out of the water, which led to the emergence of a spring at the site where the phoenix drank. As the spring water effused more and more, the Daxia River was formed. So the dragon became the Dragon Mountain and the phoenix became the Phoenix Mountain. And the Daxia River flowed from west to east through the two mountains, eroding the hollow into a basin. The Labrang Monastery was built on the Zhaxiqi (means auspiciousness) shoal which is in the north of the basin.*

*The architectural layout of the Labrang Monastery belongs to the Tibetan style and the construction patterns are mostly Tibetan, Han's mode and a compound style of both Han's and Tibetan. The symbols of the whole construction are the White Towers both in the northeast and in the northwest. The grand sutra and Buddha halls are located in the northwestern part centered around the Grand Sutra*

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Hall. Other halls spread in a shape similar to a crescent moon.

The Grand Sutra Hall is the dominant place for the religious activities of the Labrang Monastery and for the adherents' worshipping. On the inside walls there are portraits of Buddha and built-in shrines of Buddha and bookcases. The elegantly decorated hall is splendid enough to give you real enjoyment.

Located in the northwest of the Grand Sutra Hall, the Grand Golden Tile Hall is the highest building in the Labrang Monastery and is strongly tinged with a Nepalese flavor. It is six-storied and the roof is covered with bronze bricks that are washed by gold. In front of the hall gate, a stele hangs on which the Han, Tibetan, Manchu and Mongolian characters were written by the Emperor Jiaqing (1760-1820) of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Inside the hall there is a bronze figure of Buddha created by Nepalese artisans.

The Labrang Monastery boasts tens of thousands of statues of Buddha made of gold, silver, copper, and aluminum. There are statues with ivory, sandalwood, jade, crystal and clay as the basic materials. These Buddha statues are all lifelike with kind-looking faces, which give you a real enjoyment of beauty. In addition, the monastery possesses many Buddha hats and many Buddhist treasures adorned with pearls, jadeite, agate and diamonds.

The Labrang Monastery holds seven large-scale summon ceremonies a year, among which the Summons Ceremony in the first lunar month and the Buddhist Doctrine Explaining Ritual in the seventh lunar month are the grandest ones.

## Jiayuguan Pass



The Jiayuguan Pass, known as the "Strategic pass Under the Heaven", is at the western end of the Great Wall. The Jiayuguan Pass was one of great strategic importance. The existing Jiayuguan Pass walls were built in the time of Ming Dynasty. The construction of these walls began in 1372. It was not until 1539 that they became a complete defense system, which had three defense lines, the entrenchment, the outer wall, and the inner wall. The inner wall is 10.7 meters high and encloses a city section of about 25,000 square meters. It has two gates, namely the Rouyuan Gate in the west and the Guanghua Gate in the east (Rouyuan means appeasement and Guanghua means brilliance in Chinese). Both of the two gates have defensive enclosure structures. On the walls there are 14 pavilions. Inside the wall, there are also many spots of interest, such as the General's Mansion, the Well Pavilion, and Wenchang Pavilion. Outside the eastern gate, there is a Guanyu's Temple (in honor of General Guanyu who lived in the period of Three Kingdoms), a memorial archway, and an opera tower. The overall layout of the section in the inner wall is integrated and well-organized.

The walls at the Jiayuguan Pass linked with the Great Wall, formed a strongly fortified defensive system. There are many legends concerning the construction of the walls: "goats carrying bricks on their backs", "the foundation brick", "transporting wall stones on an icy path". All of these stories give people a sense of mystery.



**Location:** Close to the city, about 10 Yuan for a taxi ride from the city.

**Best time to visit:** In the time when there are performances of the ancient welcoming ceremony and the send-off ceremony.

**Tips:** Visitors are not allowed to scabble, play with fire and knock on the wall

### Overhanging Great Wall



Located seven miles to Jiayuguan City in Gansu Province and four miles to the northwest of the pass city of Jiayuguan Pass, the overhanging Great Wall is an important part of the defensive work of Jiayuguan Pass. It was built in the year of 1539 during the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644).

The wall was built by using local gravels and yellow earth layer upon layer. Originally, it measured 0.9 miles long. But due to natural disasters and human destruction, only 820 yards of the present wall remains with 253 yards climbing onto the north slope of Heishan Mountain which is 492-feet high and tilted 45 degrees. Take a grand view, the wall seems to overhang in the sky, hence its name. The wall is composed of the main path, battlements and three

observation posts. Its imposing appearance and manner are very much like those of Badaling Great Wall, so it is reputed as 'the Western Badaling Great Wall'.

Stand at the top of the wall and scan widely, you will see the boundless desert extending to the faraway places, with scarce oasis distributed in. What a desolate and lonely view!



### The First Fire Tower of the Great Wall

About seven kilometers south of Jiayuguan City lies the Great Wall's first fire tower, regarded by some as the world's first frustum, or cut-off pyramid. This structure marks the western beginning of the Ming Great Wall.

This frustum was built in the 18th year of the Jiajing Period of the Ming Dynasty (1539). With a flat top, it is a square pyramid, with its length, width, and height each 14 meters. As the result of water erosion over hundreds of years, some parts have been destroyed. Standing alongside a cliff, the frustum shows its age. To preserve the precious relic, the Jiayuguan city government has built a 30-meter-long arched fortification, which creates a secondary structure and functions as an enclosure. Standing on the tower, visitors can experience the grandeur of an ancient civilization while appreciating the marvelous view of the vast Gobi.

## Mogao Grottoes



*The Mogao Grottoes, commonly named Thousand-BuddhaCaves, and praised as "a glittering pearl that adorns the Silk Road", are the most famous grottoes in China. Located 25km southeast of DunhuangCounty, these caves are carved out of the sandstone cliffs of MingshaMountain, extending some 1600m from south to north. Constructed in 10 dynasties from the fourth to the 14th century, its 45000 square meters of mural paintings and more than 2000 color statues are regarded as the greatest treasure-house of Buddhist art existing in the world.*

*The grotto was first chiseled in 366 AD. According to legend, this area was marshland over 1000 years ago. A monk called Yue Zun dreamed of 1000 golden Buddhas when he was traveling home across this region and he decided to turned his dream into reality.*



*Over the next 1000 years, 16 dynasties rose and fell; artists of each period contributed. The construction work was completed during the Yuan dynasty and since ever, the grottos have stood there through natural erosion and war flames for hundreds of years. Today, 492 caves are still standing. Altogether there are 2,000 statues and over 45,000 separate murals*

## Crescent-Moon Spring



*The spring lies at the foot of the Mingsha Sand Dune and is named for its shape. It is about 100m long and 25m wide, and has fish and water weeds that are said to be good for the health. The area is often hit by windstorm, which drives up sand to shut out sun-light. Interestingly enough, however, for hundreds of years people have never seen the spring filled up with or covered by sand.*

## Mingsha Sand Dune



*Dunhuang has a spectacular natural scene: Mingsha (Sighing) Sand Dune. The dune, a sand crusted hill of dozens of meters high, is 40km east to west, and 20km south to north. In fine days, sand roars like thunder which can be heard in the city, hence the name. when visitors climb up to the dunes and slide downward from the summit, the sand can collapse with them and give out a pearl of loud sound.*

*How the Mingsha Sand Dunes were formed and what*

has brought about the phenomenon singing sand? So far, no body has provided a satisfactory answer. According to some Japanese experts, there are probably ancient palaces under the duns while the Russians deem that quartz content in the sand is the main reason. Chinese scientists have carried out the study on the cause of the singing of sand for years and they believe that it is a phenomenon of resonance.

Legend has it that this area was a heavily sheltered, flourishing mountain called Qingshi Mountain(Bluestone Mountain) in ancient time. At the foot of the mountain beside the Crescent Lake clustered many sacred temples. Operas were shown to worship the Temple God on each temple fair. However, the deafening sounds of celebration one year annoying the sleeping Yellow Dragon Prince in a nearby desert. The prince was cruel, cranky and powerful. He used his magical power removed one huge sand dunes into this area and buried all the people underground. Those souls often cry, beat drums and hit gong to complain their mishap. Since then the Mingsha Sang Dunes became into being and the sand was made by the spirits.

## Jiaohe Ruins

JiaoheTown ruin is the best preserved town ruin in China. It is located about 10 kilometers away from Turpan city. The strip-shaped town was around 0.8 kilometers long and the widest point spanned about 300 meters. The town was surrounded by sheer cliffs, then two twisting 30-meter-deep rivers. That's why the town was so called for Jiaohe means twisting rivers in Chinese.



Hejiao's history can trace back to late Stone Age. Ancient residents built their homes in a lagoon island to protect against attack from wild animals and invasions from other tribes. They dug out dwelling caves out from the tough loess and chiseled passages to lead water from the rivers to the town. Visitors can still find some remnants of the simple tools including scraping tools, stone slates and colored pottery ware pieces on the ground close to the town ruin. These early residents belonged to the Gushi tribe, who was called Cheshi tribe in the subsequent dynasties. During the Warrior States Period, tribes on the south side of the Tainshan Mountain set up their own kingdoms successively. The area around Jiaohe was controlled by the Cheshi People who took advantage of the ideal geographical location of the region and made it their power seat. According to historical documents, Cheshi People live in tents and did farming. They raised cattle, camels, sheep and other livestock.

## Karez Well System



Karez Well system is the pride of Turpan. It along with

*the Great Wall and GrandBeijing-HangzhouCanal is regarded as the three most important achievements of ancient time.*

*Karez Wells created by the local people with their wit, dedication, blood and sweat crisscross the Turpan Depression like the vital and complicate blood vessel network. They created it out of necessity. Karaz irrigation system is vital to Turpan. It leads water to the most arid area and has created the vast oasis.*

*Xinjiang Province has over 1,600 Karez such systems with most of which are in Turpan. There are about 1,200 such systems in Turpan, some 850 of which are in active use.*

## **Gaochang Ruins**

*Goachang is the largest city ruin in west China. The site served as the economical and religious center of Asia is located 40 kilometers from the TurpanCity, at the north bank of the Aiding Lake and to the south of the Flaming Mountain.*

*Founded in the Liang Dynasty, Gaochang became part of the Tang's territory from 640 under Emperor Taizong. The city saw frequent changes of dynasties in the following hundreds of years and it was fatally destroyed during wars launched by Mongols in 12th century. It was later abandoned and became a ruins.*

*The ruins cover around 2.2 million square meters, containing three parts: the outer and inner cities. The layout of the city is similar to that of Chang'an, capital of Tang Dynasty at that time. The outer wall is the only visible structure left today. Some parts are well-preserved. The wall is about 5.4 kilometers long and up to 11.5 meters high. The foundation of the wall is as thick as 12 meters which make the structure very solid and strong. At the southeast and southwest sections of the Outer city stands many temples ruins.*

**Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves**



*BezeklikThousandBuddhaCaves is at the MutouValley of the Flaming Mountain. There were originally hundreds of such caves. Unfortunately this area is highly exposed to natural erosion, which have severely damaged quite a few of them. Now there are 83 caves in good condition 50 percent of which are decorated with murals. The total murals find here reach up to 1,200 square meters.*

*The chiseling work began during the GaochangKingdom Period from 499 AD to 640 AD while large constructions were conducted from the 6th century to the 14th century for around 800 years.*

*The caves were palace temples of the Huihu Kingdom ( Huihu was the ancestor of today's Uygur) The features of the murals of that period were greatly influenced by that of the Tang Dynasty. They have precise designs, distinctive lines and bright colors. The figures are simple, with round heads, elongated ears and puppet-like segmented bodies which are boldly outlined.*

## **Sugong Ta (Emin Minaret)**



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*Sugong Ta, an elegant-shaped Muslim minaret, is located some 2 kilometers to the east of Turpan. It is very popular among local Muslims and visitors alike, throngs of whom come to visit it all year around.*

*It is the largest Muslim tower in Xinjiang region. The tower was built in 1778, over 200 years ago in honor of a great Turpan general -Emin Khoja and his great contribution to the unification of China.*

*The 44-meter high tower takes the shape of a huge column. It tapers from a big base with 10 meters in diameter to the Islamic dome. The structure is a combination of wood and bricks. 14 elongated windows were open at different levels and directions as a result of the need for the building to get enough sunshine and ventilate. The surface of the tower is carved with more than 15 different patterns such as waves, flowers and rhombuses. These elegant patterns are the highlights of the art of the Uyгур*

## Bosten Lake



*Bosten is Mongolian, and means 'stand-up' in Chinese. There are three hills standing in the central part of the lake, hence its name. This lake was once named 'West Sea' and 'Qin Sea' in the Han Dynasty (206BC-220), 'Bosten Lake' and 'Fish Sea' in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), 'Yanqi Sea' in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and was finally named 'Bosten Lake' in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).*

*Lying in the southeast of the Yanqi Basin and situated in Bohu County, Bosten Lake is the largest lake in Xinjiang Province and the biggest inland freshwater*

*lake in China. It is made up of a big and a small lake district; the area of the big one is 988 square kilometers (381 square miles), and the small one being 240 square kilometers (93 square miles), including many small lakes. With an average depth of 10 meters (11 yards), it is flat and dish shaped.*

*Bosten Lake is rich in aquatic life with beautiful scenery, being famous as 'a bright pearl of the Oasis'. It is rich in fish and reeds, and is the largest fishing area of Xinjiang Province and one of the four biggest reed producing areas in China. It became a tourist site in the late 1980s, built with wharf at A Hong Kou where you can look over the beauty of Bosten Lake, the sand sculptures of Bailu Zhou (Egret State), and the volleyball facility at Jin Sha Tan (Golden Sand Beach), and many other attractive scenic spots.*

### **Tips:**

*Dining: Try the fish banquet of Bosten*

*Entertainment: Surfing, diving, swimming, pedalo riding, sun bathing on the sand beach and many other activities.*

## Ancient City of Mallikurwatur

*Located on the west bank of the Jade Dragon Kashgar River, the Ancient City of Mallikurwatur is about 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of Hetian (Hotan) City. Ten kilometers (6 miles) long from north to south and two kilometers (1 mile) wide from east to west, it was built 1,500-1,600 years ago, with the Kunlun Mountain to the south.*

*Jade articles, pottery and a large number of old coins like Wu Zhu Qian (five zhu money) coin in the Western Han (206 BC-24 AD) Dynasty and Kai Yuan Tong Bao coin of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) were excavated here, therefore, some experts deem that this was the capital city of the Tian Kingdom in the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220). Furthermore, clay platforms are found widely about one kilometer (1,094 yards) south of the ancient city, where is conjectured to be the Palace or the living place of the officials and nobles. While, relics of murals and figures of Buddha, especially a fine clay Buddha's head were also discovered to the south of clay platforms, where there was presumed to*

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be a Buddhist temple.

In addition, ancient tombs and buildings along with three mysterious caves are also worth visiting in the ancient city.

#### Abakh Khoja Tomb



Abakh Khoja Tomb is at the northeast suburbs of Kashgar at Hanhao Villages, around 5 kilometers away from the city. The environment in that area is tranquil and beautiful with lush green vegetation, dense forest. The grand tomb is heavily sheltered by the ancient poplar trees which grow around the mausoleum.

The tomb served as the family tomb of Abakh Khoja, the powerful ruler of Kashgar in the 17th century who was revered as a prophet and second only to Mohammed. It was first built in 1640 and contained 72 members belonging 5 generations of the family. Emperor Qianlong's favored concubine-Xiangfei (fragrant Concubine) was also said to be buried here. The tomb is otherwise called Xiangfei Tomb.

Of the 72 royals in the tomb, the most famous resident, however, is a Uygur concubine (Xiangfei) of Qing's emperor Qianlong. After her death, the hear-broken emperor had Xiangfei carried by royal caravan all the way back to her hometown. The site is thus well known among Chinese as Xiangfei Tomb.

#### Tips

1. How to get there?  
Take a taxi from the city for around 10 yuan.

2. Entrance Fee: 35 yuan
3. Recommended time for a visit: 40 minutes

#### Sunday Bazaar

In the old districts of Kashgar, many streets have "bazaar" as part of their names. Although most of the bazaars have ceased to exist except in name, there are still some that are still in use. From the names of these streets people can imagine the past glory of this ancient trading city on the Old Silk Road.

Today's Kashgar has preserved the old traditions. On the streets one can find markets selling various commodities, such as vegetables, fruits, food, garments, tools and handicrafts.

Kashgar's markets differ from markets in other places in that most of the commodities on sale are made by the vendors themselves. Here tourists can see the handicrafts actually being made in the workshops. Wandering along an ancient street in Kashgar, it is as if one has traveled back in time. At the shoes and caps market, the caps and boots on sale are made on the spot.

Going ahead, one can hear the clanging of blacksmiths' hammers. If you hear the sound of an electric saw, then you can go and see carpenters making furniture and kitchen utensils. If you smell the fragrance of baked cakes, you will soon find an eating place serving nang, the staple food of the Uygur people. The nang is broken into small pieces and dipped in soup. It is said nang can be kept for weeks without going stale.

These markets are open every day. The famous Sunday bazaar has been operating since ancient times, and the scale has become larger and larger, attracting merchants from all over Xinjiang and neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Kirghizstan.

Farmers from the suburbs of Kashgar come to the bazaar early in the morning, using various means of transportation, such as bicycles, motorcycles, tractors,

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trucks and donkey-drawn carts. The highways leading to Kashgar are crowded with these vehicles and pedestrians on Sunday mornings, as well as with flocks of sheep.

On Sunday the whole city becomes a big market. It is hard to tell the markets from the ordinary streets. Of the 20 markets, some are comprehensive ones, and some are specialized markets selling local produce, arts and crafts, garments, knives, timber, coal or animals. Among them, the animal markets are the largest. Each day, more than 1,000 head of cattle, horses, sheep and camels are traded here.

October is the best season to visit Kashgar, as the weather is pleasant and the autumn harvest makes the markets more brisk. In autumn, many types of fruit are on sale, such as grapes, watermelons, Hami melons and figs. Other local products include Xinjiang knives and carpets, which make good souvenirs for tourists.

Uygur people make up most of Kashgar's inhabitants. On the streets, one can seldom see people of other ethnic groups except foreign tourists and tourists from other parts of China.

On the ancient streets of Kashgar there are men wearing Uygur skullcaps and women wearing brown veils. The Uygur language is universally spoken by the local people.

After visiting Kashgar's Sunday bazaar, people will understand the saying "without visiting Kashgar, one cannot say he has visited Kashgar". If you have a chance to visit Kashgar, don't miss the chance to visit its Sunday Bazaar.

### **Tips**

1. Recommended time for a visit: 30 minutes
2. Please respect the local's tradition and practices while there.
3. Prepare some small gifts for children who are always eager to receive a gift from travelers.

### Heavenly Lake



Nestling high in the Tianshan Mountains, 115 kilometers west of Urumqi, the superlatively beautiful Heavenly Lake lies 1980 meters above sea level and is hemmed in by the towering snow-capped Bagda Peak. Heavenly Lake is a natural paradise with breath taking scenery. The 4 hour drive from Urumqi through the seemingly endless desert may seem tiring but Tianchi will provide travelers with an experience that makes the drive worthwhile.

The area is one of the few unspoiled places in China. The crystal water reflecting the snow-topped peaks, fluffy white clouds and blue sky create a breath-taking view. The banks of the lake are covered with lush spruce forest.

A local legend says that the Heavenly Empress would hold a gala at this lake whenever a local peach tree bore fruit. As this only happened about once every 3000 years, the banquets were understandably grand affairs. All the mortals would gather for such a long-awaited occasion, making the lake area into something of a Little Heaven, so hence the name, Heavenly Lake (Tianchi)

Tianchi's beauty has attracted throngs of visitors from all over the world. A 2-3 hours hike along shore will take you to peaceful coves and grassy hills.

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### **Tips**

1. *Take warm clothing, even in summer.*
2. *Cable cars or buses are available taking travelers up to the lake. Those who want to challenge to their physical strength can hike up to it.*

### **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Museum**

*The Museum presents a wonderful collection of items from the local area as well as items from other areas on the ancient Silk Road.*

*The museum has a large collection of silk items from many periods of history. Brocades from Eastern Han and specialized silk-woven products of the great Tang Dynasty are highlighted.*

*The Xinjiang area has long been China's melting pot. Over 10 ethnic groups live in this vast area. The diversity of their scripts and cultures is exhibited in*



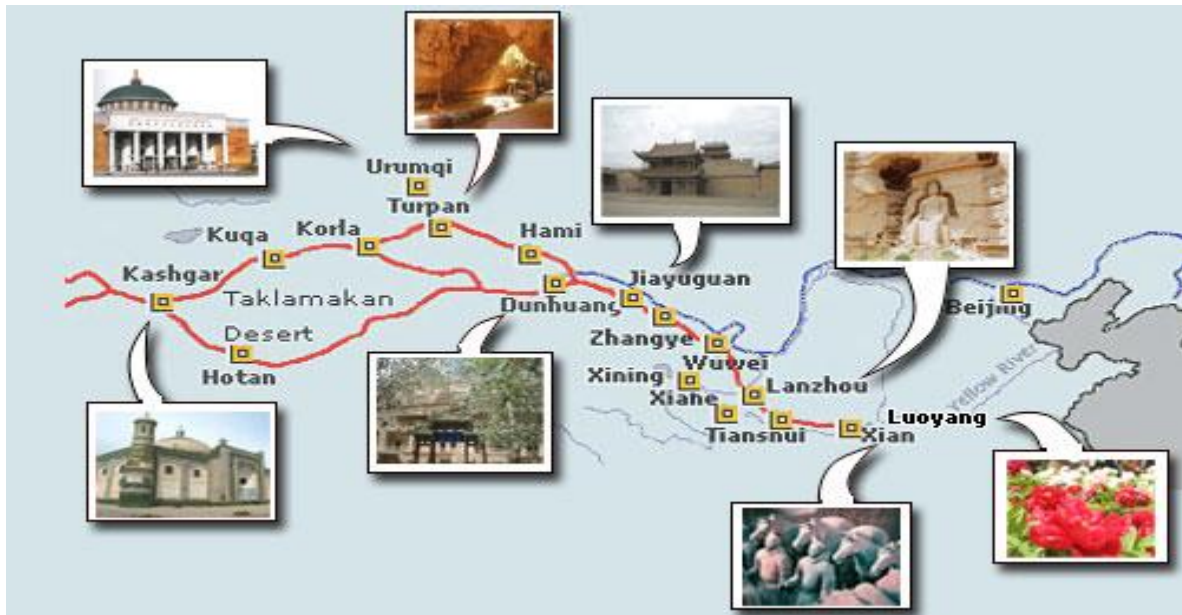
*this museum through archaeological material, including documents in twelve different scripts including a particularly large number from the Han-dynasty finds at Turfan. This documents military, economic, cultural, and political affairs.*

*The museum also displays clay or terracotta sculptures. Among these are single-humped Central Asian camels, fat and vigorous Yuan-dynasty horses, women figurines in all postures and impressively fierce soldiers.*

*Other items in the collections include microliths, silver works of art, stone steles, ancient coins, potteries and wooden articles.*

*Perhaps the most interesting things in the museum are the various foods from the Tang dynasty which, through the arid conditions have been preserved for more than one thousand years.*

*Xinjiang has a very dry weather which provided protection for human mummies that were found in this area. Some of these dried dead bodies are housed in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region Museum.*



### **Silk Road -- Travel Tips:**

1. Please bring along warm clothing even in hot summer for temperature differs greatly between daytime and nights in some places on the route.
2. Bring shoes suitable for walking.
3. It is advisable to use sunscreen, sunglasses and lip creams to protect your eyes and skin. The altitude is high and the atmosphere allow the sun's solar radiation to strike the earth with unusual intensity.
4. Xinjiang grows a rich of variety of fruit. People traveling there in autumn are provided chance to try the sweet fruit that are available in that region. It is recommended not to drink hot tea soon after eating fruit because it may cause in diarrhea.
5. Do not talk about sensitive issues such as religions and politics when in Xinjiang. Eating pork is forbidden under Islamic law. Xinjiang is home to most of China's Muslim population and eating pork is forbidden according to the Muslim canons.
6. The period from May to October is the best time to take this route. Weather condition is pleasant with the average temperature of 15 degree centigrade. The scenery is the best when fruit become ripe, the flowers in full bloom and grass in grassland turns to green.

### **Advice on Visiting Temples**

When traveling along the Silk Road, a temple is often an important spot visited by travelers. There are some important things to remember, though, in order to ensure a pleasant visit to the temples. Addressing a Monk: "shi" or "fashi" is the honorable title of the Monks and Taoists, and "zhanglao", "fangzhang" or "chanshi" of the Governing Monk. "Heshang" and "chujiaoren" are regarded as the impolite way to address a Monk.

*Proper Manners:* put your palms together and lower your head when meeting with the monks. Attempting to handshake, embrace or touch the head of the monk is considered sacrilegious. *Topics of Conversation:* topics relating to killing, marriage

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*and eating meat are forbidden. Visiting Behaviour: Be respectful. Do not touch or deface any religious artifacts, and be silent and nonjudgemental during religious ceremonies. Gender Issues: make sure that the temple or hall you visit is open to the public and (if you female) to women.*

### **How to Visit the Families of Ethnic Groups**

*When traveling along the Silk Road, you may be fortunate enough to be invited to visit families of other nationalities. Different nationalities have different customs, taboos and living styles. Remembering the saying, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do..." can ensure you a smooth and pleasant visit. The best time to visit is in the afternoon; however the busy festival period should be avoided. Orderly and clean clothing is a symbol of politeness. Short trousers, waistcoat and hats are impolite. Before your visit a culture, get some knowledge about their religion, habits, living styles and especially taboos. Some gifts should be prepared at the first visit. Don't bring things that they would consider taboo and don't touch the utensils in their houses. When the hosts treat you with their local food, it is considered impolite to refuse it. If you are really reluctant, thank your host and offer some a reasonable explanation. When the hosts toast you, you should receive the cup and first offer your thanks to the hosts. Then you can drink it or let other people help you if you cannot bear the whole cup of wine yourself.*

### **Money Safety**

*China is probably one of the safest countries to visit, although you should still travel wisely and keep your money close to you at all times. In hotels, leave your valuables in the safe. Be cautious in crowded public areas like bazaars, bus and train stations since thefts from pockets and day packs are not uncommon. The best prevention against theft is a money belt worn inside your clothing*