

# Silk Road Adventure Tour

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With this tour, you will have a quick glimpse of the Silk Road. Start from Beijing, see the must see Great Wall, Forbidden City, etc. then fly to Urumqi, Turpan, head to Jiayuguan, Dunhuang, and Xian an ancient capital city. You will see all the major towns and the mysterious sights on the Silk Road. Finally, the tour end in Shanghai and you will return back to the modern city.

## Highlights:

- Visit the Mutianyu Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World
- Tour Jiayuguan pass, the first pass of Hexi region since ancient times
- Take an exterior visit of Beijing National Stadium (Bird's Nest/Olympic Stadium) and National Swimming Centre("The Water Cube")
- Experience the ancient Emperor's daily life at the world's largest palace, the Forbidden city is a massive complex of palaces, pavilions, courtyards and gardens where 24 emperors used to live
- Explore the Ancient City of Jiaohe, a life-sized model of a Tang Dynasty city
- Visit Grape Valley and sip the local wines at the base of the Flaming Mountains
- Visit the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves covered with brightly painted murals
- Take a scenic ride to the 2,000-year-old oasis town of Dunhuang
- Into the Gobi Desert, visit Mogao Caves where the world's richest treasure house of Buddhist sutras, murals and sculptures are hold
- Experience a short camel-riding along the Echoing-Sand Dune to the Crescent Lake
- Go to a unique park Dunhuang Yardang National Geologic Park where the largest Yardang Landform is found so far
- Visit the amazing 2000-year-old Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses excavated from the tomb of the first emperor of China Qin Shi Huang
- See must-see attractions in Shanghai

## Day 1 Go to China

Fly from home to Beijing.

## Day 2 Arrive Beijing

### Transport via: Flight on your own arrangement

Upon your arrival you will be greeted by our local guide and then transferred to your hotel by a private air-conditioned car. For the rest of the day you will enjoy some leisure time.

## Day 3 Beijing (B,L)

### Sightseeing: Mutianyu Great Wall, the Beijing National Stadium (Bird's Nest/Olympic Stadium) National Swimming Centre (The Water Cube)

After experiencing the royal lifestyle, today we will be transferred to the surrounding countryside of Beijing and visit the Mutianyu Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Whereas Genghis Khan contemplated it as a military obstacle, Richard Nixon described it as one of humankind's greatest achievements. You will be able to climb and walk on the sections of the 2,000 years old ancient wall, admiring the splendid mountain views. Bring a jacket and layer- although it is breezy, the climbing is tough. So be in a good shape!

On the way back to hotel, you will be driven to visit the main 2008 Beijing Olympic venues, take an exterior visit of both the, Beijing National Stadium (Bird's Nest/Olympic Stadium), National Swimming Centre("The Water

Cube'), feel free to take some photos of the stadiums.

#### **Day 4 Beijing/Urumqi (B,L)**

**Transfer via: Flight –on our arrangement**

**Sightseeing: Temple of Heaven , Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City**

This morning our tour will begin with a visit of the Temple of Heaven, which was completed in 1420, and expanded over the years by two Qing Dynasty Emperors. It was the place where the Emperor came every winter solstice to worship heaven and to solemnly pray for a good harvest. With the three blue-tiled cone-shaped roofs, a unique wooden and blue-tiled structure built without a nail, it has become a worldwide symbol of Beijing. After lunch, we will go on our city tour to visit Tiananmen Square, the symbolical heart of China and gathering place for the masses. It is the biggest public square in the world, which can hold one million people. From here we will walk across the Golden River Bridge to visit the Forbidden City and experience the ancient Emperor's daily life. For 5 centuries Chinese emperors carried out their administration here. With almost 10,000 rooms, it was the centre of the Ming and Qing dynasties, a massive complex of palaces, pavilions, courtyards and gardens where 24 emperors used to live. Forbidden City was the largest palace in the world, and in the past it was indeed a forbidden place for commoners. Your tour here will include private access to the Emperor's palace. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to airport and take flight to Urumqi. Arrive at Urumqi, be met and transferred to your hotel.



#### **Day 5 Urumqi (B,L)**

**Sightseeing: Heavenly Lake, Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar.**

After breakfast, you will head to visit the Heavenly Lake (Tianchi); it is surrounded by green pastures and pristine conifer forests. Snowy Alp-like peaks soar to great heights and enclose the lake. Take a boat ride on Heavenly Lake and escape into a peaceful, dream-like world. This afternoon is spent at Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar.

#### **Day 6 Urumqi/Turpan (B,L)**

**Transfer via: Private Vehicle –on our arrangement**

**Sightseeing: Xinjiang Autonomous Region Museum , Ancient City of Jiaohe, Ancient Karez System, Grape Valley**

Morning city tour includes the Xinjiang Autonomous Region Museum with exhibits of local arts and crafts. The building occupies a space of 11,000 square meters and is built in a modern style enhanced by local architectural features. The central dome is thirty meters high and from its height one can view the entire city of Urumchi. Then, drive to Turpan (around 2.5 hours). Upon arrival, explore the Ancient City of Jiaohe, the remains of an ancient walled capital of the Uighur with its large monastery and palace. It is probably the same size as Gaochang but better preserved. UNESCO has contributed to its preservation. The dry weather has helped city preserve its cityscape. It is a life-sized model of a Tang Dynasty city.

Move on to visit Ancient Karez system. The entire Turpan region has for 2000 years relied upon the Karez underground irrigation system for sustenance; There is currently one karez well site open for exhibition. It is complete with a museum of displays and pictures. It is a good way to get an understanding of how the tunnels were dug. Then we will proceed to visit Grape Valley. Lying at the base of the western end of Flaming Mountains, Grape Valley is a unique world of vineyards and fruit trees. You can sit in the shades and sip the local wines to kill a brutally hot afternoon.

#### **Day 7 Turpan/Dunhuang (B,L)**

**Transfer via: flight to Urumqi and Dunhuang - on our arrangement**

**Sightseeing: The Astana Tomb, Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, Flaming Mountain, Karez Underground Irrigation Channels.**

Today you will visit to The Astana Tomb, which is located in the Gobi Desert and 6km from the Gaochang Ancient City. Astana means capital in Uygur. Covering an area of 10 square kilometers, the tombs were the public cemetery of the ancient Gaochang residents, both aristocrats and commoners. Passing by Flaming Mountain to Visit the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, Once an important Buddhist site with many caves covered with brightly painted murals, Bezeklik means "place of paintings" in Uighur. The caves were hewn into the cliffside, and large murals, Monks used to live inside the caves and the frescoes here clearly represent the life work of generations of devotees. Unfortunately, this place was damaged by the locals who converted to Islam in the 10th century and looted by the western archaeologists in the early 20th century.

After the tour, you will be transferred to airport to take a flight to Urumqi and then to Dunhuang.

**Day 8 Dunhuang (B,L)**

**Sightseeing: Mogao Grottoes, Crescent Lake , Echoing-Sand Dun**

Dunhuang this oasis was a vital stopping-off post for caravans linking China and Central Asia.

You will have tours to the Mogao Caves; the caves hold the world's richest treasure house of Buddhist sutras, murals and sculptures. And, you will experience a short camel-riding along the Echoing-Sand Dune to the Crescent Lake, who is a nature miracle coexist with the desert for thousands of years. The lake and the Echoing-Sand Dune which can make sounds when the wind passes are located in the place where the sand and the oasis meet.



**Day 9 Dunhuang (B,L)**

**Sightseeing: Dunhuang Yardang National Geologic Park**

Situated 180 kilometers in the northwest away from Dunhuang City, the Dunhuang Yardang National Geologic Park is the largest one of Yardang Landform found so far. The park stretches twenty-five kilometers from north to south and about two kilometers from east to west. It features the unique and wonderful scenes and landscapes of Gobi Desert.

**Day 10 Jiayuguan (B,L)**

**Transfer via: Private Vehicle-on our arrangement**

**Sightseeing: Jiayuguan Pass**

Today you will take a scenic ride to Jiayuguan. After arrival in Jiayuguan, your guide will transfer you to hotel. Have a rest, then tour to Jiayuguan pass, which is the main part of the western end of the Great Wall built in the Ming Dynasty. It has been the first pass of Hexi region since ancient times.

**Day 11 Jiayuguan/Xian (B,L)**

**Transfer via: Flight-on our arrangement**

You will be transferred to airport and take flight to Xian. Arrive in Xian, be met and transferred to your hotel.



### **Day 12 Xian(B,L)**

#### **Sightseeing: The Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, Big Wild Goose Pagoda , Ancient City Wall.**

Today you will experience the highlights of Xi'an. After breakfast, you will visit the amazing 2000-year-old Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses. Regarded as the 8th Wonder of the World, the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century. Over 2,200 years ago, the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, ordered the construction of a vast army of Terra-cotta warriors in search of immortality. After his early death they were buried with him to protect his empire.

Another highlight today is the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Situated in the south of Xian city, it is one of the main constructions in the famous Buddhist temple-Da-Ci-En Temple. There, the well-known Buddhist Master Xuanzang (Monk Tripitaka) stored his collection of classic Buddhist artifacts brought from India in Tang Dynasty. Now it is the Landmark of Xian.

Then, you will visit Ancient City Wall. You will experience a half-hour's hike along the Ancient City Wall. You will experience a half-hour's hike along the Ancient City Wall. It is the largest and best preserved present city wall in ancient China and is probably the best military battlement in the world. If you want to, you can rent a bicycle for a ride on top of the spectacular city wall. The wall was built in the Tang dynasty (618 -907) and enlarged in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644).

### **Day 13 Xian/Shanghai (B,L)**

#### **Transfer via: Flight – on our arrangement**

#### **Sightseeing: Shannxi Provincial Museum , Nanjing Road, the Bund,**

After breakfast, you will visit the Shaanxi History Museum. It is a magnificent architectural complex in the Tang Dynasty style. The Museum possesses a treasure of 113,000 historic and cultural artifacts unearthed in Shaanxi, and it covers an area of 1,100 square meters for exhibition.

Then you will be transferred to airport and take flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, your guide will greet you at airport and then transfer you to your hotel in Shanghai. Check in the hotel and have a rest.

Then we will take a walk to the famous Nanjing Road and the Bund. They are among the most recognizable architectural symbols of Shanghai and therefore a must-see when visiting Shanghai.

### **Day 14 Shanghai (B)**

#### **Transfer via: Flight on your own arrangement**

#### **Sightseeing: Shanghai Museum, Yuyuan Garden, Oriental Pearl TV Tower if time permits.**

Today you will visit Shanghai Museum which is the biggest museum of China. It incorporates a collection of over 120,000 pieces of Chinese art & cultural relics and is especially famous for its treasures of bronzes, ceramics, paintings and calligraphy.

Then we will take a relaxing tour to the lovely Yuyuan Garden, a beautiful garden in the south of the Yangtze River. Wandering through it, you will find pavilions, corridors, streams, courtyards as well as many other natural features.

If time permits, we will visit the Oriental Pearl Tower, the highest TV Tower in Asia. The entire scene is a photographic jewel that excites the imagination and attracts thousands of visitors all year-round.

Finally, our guide will escort you to the airport for your flight home.

### **Day 15 Arrive home**

**Package included:**

- Entrance fees
- All intra-China air/land transportation
- Locally guided by a professional, bilingual Tour Manager
- Meals as noted
- 4-star hotels
- Baggage handling, hotel taxes and service charges
- Sightseeing, cultural activities and performances as noted