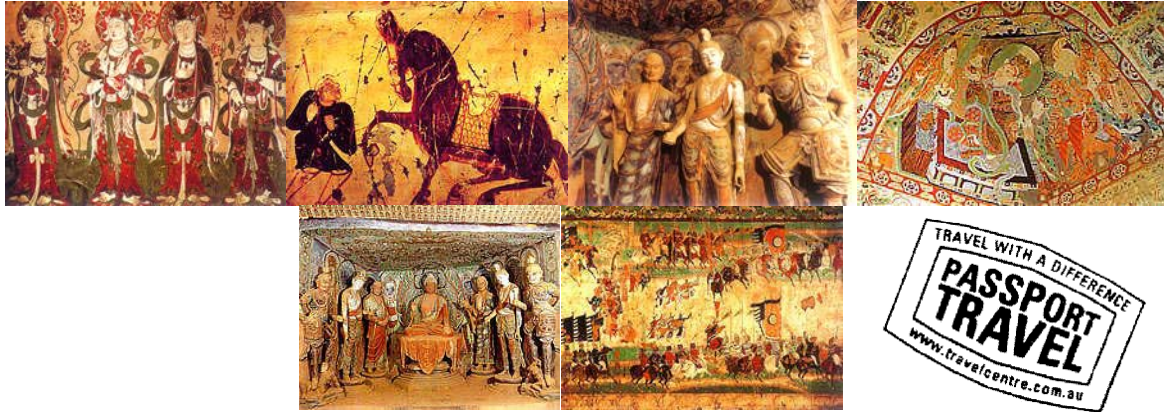


The Silk Road



Sample Itinerary

Day 1 **Arrive Beijing**

Arrive in Beijing, meet and transfer to the hotel. Free time for leisure. **Hotel: Chang An Grand (1st class) or similar**

Day 2 **Beijing / Urumqi by air** (B, L, D)

We take the morning flight for Urumqi. This is a unique air route, as geographically it covers two expansive deserts along with many high red-rock or snow-capped mountains, valleys, and canyons. In the afternoon, we travel 70 km southwest to Nanshan Grassland, where we visit Kazakstani, Uzbekistani, Kyrgyzstani minority families and chat with them in their yurts while drinking strong Milk Tea and local home-made snacks. **Hotel: Urumqi Hoi Tak Hotel (1st class) or similar**

Day 3 **Urumqi** (B, L, SD)

Today, we drive 120 km northeast to Heavenly Lake, which is at an elevation of 2600 meters. The lake is flanked by rugged pines and cypresses, its melted clear waters reflecting the surrounding snow-capped peaks. Then we return to Urumqi and visit the Provincial Museum, which contain 2,000 year old mummies. If time permits, we'll visit the Red Hill Park and the Bazaar, which is believed to be the largest outdoor market in Xinjiang. **Hotel: Urumqi Hoi Tak Hotel (1st class) or similar**

Day 4 **Urumqi / Turpan by bus** (B, L, D)

This morning, we drive to Turpan – an oasis surrounded by desert and dry mountains. Upon arrival, we visit the mysterious ruins of Jiaohe city, which reveal traces of a prosperous ancient trading center and military base from one thousand six hundred years ago. We then visit Karez, its underground water supply and irrigation system, and its museum. Turpan is famous throughout China for its large, sweet grapes and gourds, so we will visit the grape valley and sample some of the fruit. **Hotel: Oasis Hotel (local best)**

Day 5 **Turpan / Urumqi by bus, Urumqi / Kashgar by air** (B, L, D)

In the morning, we'll visit Sugong Pagoda, the Flaming Mountain, Bezeklik - Thousand Buddha Grottoes and then lunch with a local family. In the afternoon we drive back to Urumqi for the evening flight to Kashgar. **Hotel: Qininbagh Hotel or similar**

Day 6 **Kashgar / Urumqi by air** (B, L, D)

We will visit the Sunday Bazaar – the largest outdoor market in mid-Asia. You can imagine yourself transported back 500 years in time. In the afternoon, we'll drive to see the tombs of the Fragrant Concubine and the old town of Kashgar. Take the evening flight back to Urumqi. **Hotel: Urumqi Hoi Tak Hotel (1st class) or similar**

Day 7 **Urumqi / Dunhuang by air** (B, L, D)

We take a morning flight to Dunhuang. In the afternoon, visit the world heritage site– Mogao Grottoes. It is the world's most important site of ancient Buddhist Culture. The grottoes preserve nearly a

thousand years of Buddhist cave-temple architecture, clay sculpture, mural paintings, and manuscripts, dating from the 5th to 14th centuries. **Hotel: Dunhuang Hotel VIP Building**

Day 8 Dunhuang (B, L, D)

Today we drive two hours west across the desert to Yumen Pass (Jade Gate Pass), which was the west terminal of the Great Wall built in Han Dynasty 2,100 years ago. Then we drive back and visit the Crescent Moon Lake and Sand Singing Dune. Ride a camel and enjoy the marvelous sunset.

Hotel: Dunhuang Hotel

Day 9 Dunhuang / Xi'an by air (B, L, D)

Fly to Xi'an in the morning. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for check-in. In the afternoon, tour the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Bell Tower, and Xi Guan Street. **Hotel: Aurum Int'l (1st class) or similar**

Day 10 Xi'an (B, L, SD)

Today's highlight is the 2000 year-old army of Terracotta Warriors guarding the tomb of China's first emperor. Afterwards, we tour the Shaanxi Provincial Museum. Enjoy a Dumpling Dinner and Tang Dynasty Performance tonight. **Hotel: Aurum Int'l (1st class) or similar**

Day 11 Xi'an / Shanghai by air (B)

Fly to Shanghai in the morning. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for check-in. Free at leisure **Hotel: Galaxy Hotel (1st class) or similar**

Day 12 Shanghai (B, L, D)

Today's sightseeing includes the Bund, Yu Garden, Jade Buddha Temple
In the evening, enjoy the Shanghai Acrobatic Show – an unforgettable experience. **Hotel: Galaxy Hotel (1st class) or similar**

