

The Silk Road 12 Days

Travel from Lanzhou through the Hexi Corridor, Dunhuang and Xinjiang to Kashgar and the Pamir Plateau.

A grand journey across Northwest China

A comprehensive journey linking the Hexi Corridor, Dunhuang caves, Xinjiang oasis cities and the Pamir Plateau-bringing Silk Road history, World Heritage sites, dramatic landscapes and diverse cultures together in twelve days.

Lanzhou → Zhangye → Jiayuguan → Dunhuang → Turpan → Urumqi → Kashgar

Tour Code SILKROAD Duration 12 Days / 11 Nights Departure Daily Departures Price $2,390 / Person

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 01 Arrive in Lanzhou

Meet your guide at Lanzhou airport or railway station and transfer to the hotel. Explore the Yellow River city at leisure according to your arrival time.

● Meals: None ⌂ Holiday Inn Express Lanzhou Jincheng or similar

DAY 02 Lanzhou & the Yellow River

Visit Zhongshan Iron Bridge, White Pagoda Park, the Mother Yellow River statue and Waterwheel Park. Tonight sample Lanzhou beef noodles and regional specialties at Zhengning Road Night Market.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch ⌂ Holiday Inn Express Lanzhou Jincheng or similar

DAY 03 Lanzhou → Zhangye → Jiayuguan

Take the high-speed train to Zhangye for the Giant Buddha Temple and colorful Danxia National Geopark, then continue by coach to Jiayuguan. This is a long but rewarding travel day.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Jiayuguan Chenfeng Hotel or similar

DAY 04 Jiayuguan Pass

Explore the Great Wall Museum and Jiayuguan Fort, the celebrated western pass of the Ming Great Wall. If time allows, add an optional visit to the Overhanging Great Wall.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Jiayuguan Chenfeng Hotel or similar

DAY 05 Jiayuguan → Dunhuang

Drive about four hours to Dunhuang and visit the Singing Sand Dunes and Crescent Lake oasis. This evening explore Shazhou Night Market or enjoy an optional Silk Road performance.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Dunhuang Luye Hotel or similar

DAY 06 Dunhuang Desert & Silk Road History

Journey into the Gobi Desert for Jade Gate Pass, the Han Great Wall ruins and Yardang National Geologic Park. Bring sun protection, water and snacks for the remote desert drive.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Dunhuang Luye Hotel or similar

DAY 07 Mogao Caves → Turpan

Begin at the Mogao Digital Exhibition Center, then visit selected caves with a site guide. This afternoon take the high-speed train from Liuyuan South to Turpan. Photography is prohibited inside the caves.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch ⌂ Wanda Realm Turpan or similar

DAY 08 Turpan → Urumqi

Travel through Flaming Mountain Grand Canyon to Tuyuk Valley and Mazar Village, then visit the Karez Museum and Jiaohe Ancient City before driving to Urumqi.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Hampton by Hilton Urumqi or similar

DAY 09 Xinjiang Museum & Heavenly Lake

Visit the Xinjiang Regional Museum, then travel to Heavenly Lake for alpine scenery beneath the Bogda Mountains. Lakeside walks are included; boat cruises and the Maya Mountain cable car are optional.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Hampton by Hilton Urumqi or similar

DAY 10 Urumqi → Kashgar

Fly to Kashgar and visit Abakh Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque and Kashgar Old Town. Pause at a century-old tea house and discover Uyghur crafts and daily life.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Kashi Qiniwak VIP Building or similar

DAY 11 Pamir Plateau & Karakul Lake

Travel the Karakoram Highway across the Pamir Plateau, stop at White Sand Lake, then enjoy Karakul Lake beneath Muztagh Ata and the surrounding snow peaks before returning to Kashgar.

● Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner ⌂ Kashi Qiniwak VIP Building or similar

DAY 12 Kashgar Bazaar & Departure

Explore one of Kashgar's colorful bazaars according to your departure time. On Sundays, the livestock market may be visited before your airport, railway-station or land-border transfer.

● Meals: Breakfast ⌂ Tour ends; no accommodation

Key transportation, admissions and most meals included

INCLUDED

• Hotels listed in the itinerary

• Private coach transportation

• Lanzhou-Zhangye and Dunhuang-Turpan high-speed train tickets

• Urumqi-Kashgar domestic flight

• Admissions and most meals listed in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED / OPTIONAL

• International flights

• Gratuities for guides and drivers

• Travel insurance and personal expenses

• Overhanging Great Wall, Heavenly Lake cruise, Maya Mountain cable car and other optional activities

Comfortable stays across seven cities

LANZHOU Holiday Inn Express Lanzhou Downtown or similar HOTEL WEBSITE ↗

ZHANGYE Zhangye Puyue Hotel or similar VIEW MAP ↗

JIAYUGUAN ChenFeng Grand Hotel or similar VIEW MAP ↗

DUNHUANG Luye Hotel Dunhuang or similar VIEW MAP ↗

TURPAN Wanda Moments Turpan or similar VIEW MAP ↗

URUMQI Hampton by Hilton Urumqi International Airport or similar HOTEL WEBSITE ↗

KASHGAR Luxemon Qinibagh Hotel Kashgar or similar VIEW MAP ↗

Reference hotels are subject to departure date and availability; a similar-standard hotel may be used.

Contact & booking

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