

Silk Road

[GW-CA-009]Beijing-Lanzhou-Xiahe-Jiayuguan-Dunhuang-Turpan-Urumqi-Kashgar-Shanghai-Suzhou-Xi'an-Beijing(21 days)



Day01 Beijing

Arrive at Beijing, the capital of People's Republic of China, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel for a good rest. (D)

Day02 Beijing

Begin the day with visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the world largest. Then move on to the Imperial Palace, also known as "**Forbidden City**" that symbolized the imperial and traditional China. After lunch, visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, one of China's largest and best-preserved imperial gardens, where you can have a walk along the famous Long Corridor. **A Peking Roasted Duke** Dinner concludes your first full day activities in China. Take an overnight in Beijing. (B-L-D)

Day03 Beijing

Today's highlight is your excursion to **the Great Wall**, one of the "Seven Wonders the world" and a symbol of Chinese civilization. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across mountains. A short drive is the statue-lined **Shenlu (Spirit Road)** leading to the **Ming Tombs**, here you can see marvelous stone sculptures. The Ming Tombs for deceased emperor of the Ming Dynasty. Take an overnight in Beijing. (B-L-D)

Day04 Beijing-Lanzhou

Take a morning flight to Lanzhou, transfer to the hotel on arrival. Then, pay a visit to **Five Springs Mountain Park**, which got the name for its five crystal springs. And **White Pagoda Hills**, built to commemorate a Tibetan lama of the Sa-skya-pa of Tibetan Buddhism who died in Lanzhou on his way to Mongolia for an audience with Genghis khan. Take an overnight in Lanzhou. (B-L-D)

Day05 Lanzhou-Xiahe

Today you will drive to Xiahe. At three thousand meters above sea level, and surrounded by hilly mountains, this rural haven hugs its neighboring Tibet. Enjoy the beautiful landscape of the vast **Sangke grassland**. Take an overnight in Xiahe. (B-L-D)

Day06 Xiahe-Lanzhou-Jiayuguan

Visit the **Labrang Monastery**, one of the six major Tibetan monasteries of the Gelukpa (Yellow Hat sect of Tibet Buddhism). Many Tibetans come to Labrang Monastery on pilgrimage, and you can always see someone touching the prayer wheels alongside the wall of the Monastery. Drive back to Lanzhou. Take an overnight train to Jiayuguan with soft Sleeper (the 1st class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)



Day07 Jiayuguan

Visit **Jiayuguan Pass**, the first pass at the west end of the Great Wall of China and was built during the Ming Dynasty, earned the name "Strategic pass under the Heaven" as an important communication center in Chinese history. Stay overnight in Jiayuguan. (B-L-D)

Day08 Jiayuguan-Dunhuang

After breakfast, you will drive to Dunhuang. Enjoy the Crescent **Moon Lake** surrounded by **Mingsha Sand Hill**. At the foot of the hill you may want to take an optional tour of slow camel ride (at your own expenses). Take an overnight in Dunhuang. (B-L-D)

Day09 Dunhuang-Turpan

Visit one of most famous archaeological discovery at the beginning of the 20th century--the **Mogao Grottoes**, also known as One-Thousand-Buddha Cave, which is also the largest, best-preserved and richest treasure house of Buddhist art in world. Then, take an evening train to Turpan with soft sleeper (the 1st class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)

Day10 Turpan

Arrive at Turpan and transfer to the hotel. Today's highlight is to explore Turpan, renowned in China for its grapes and Hami melons. Visit the **Imin Mosque**, the **Astana Tombs**, the **ancient city sites of Gao Chang and Jiao He**. Visit the **grape valley** in the afternoon, where you can enjoy numerous kinds of grapes. Stay overnight in Turpan. (B-L-D)

Day11 Turpan-Urumqi

Visit **the Karez Irrigation System** the **Thousand Buddha Caves** and **Flame Mountain**. The Karez is an underground irrigation system that was constructed over 2,000 years ago and is considered one of the greatest engineering achievements of ancient China, with the Great Wall and the Grand Canal. Take a drive ride to Urumqi and stay overnight in Urumqi. (B-L-D)

Day12 Urumqi-Kashgar

The full day, you will take an excursion of the **Heavenly Lake**. Surrounding the Heavenly Lake are snow mountains, glacier forests and grassland alpine lakes, featuring a vertical natural landscape belt. After dinner, take a short flight to Kashgar, one of the westernmost points of China. Check in hotel on arrival. (B-L-D)

Day13 Kashgar

You are here for the **Sunday Bazaar**, which is believed to be the largest outdoor market. Also pay a visit to **Id Kah Mosque**, then stop at the **Tomb of Yusup Hazi Hajup**, a great Uygur poet and philosopher in the middle ages. (B-L-D)

Day14 Kashgar-Urumqi

You will have a free day to explore the exotic Kashgar. You can book some optional tours from the local guide if the weather and road conditions permitted. Fly back to Urumqi by air in the evening. Take an overnight in Urumqi. (B-L-D)

**Day15 Urumqi-Shanghai**

Fly to Shanghai, know as "Paris of the east". Visit **the Bund**, at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the Jin Mao Tower can be seen on the opposite side. The splendid row of early 20th century Europe buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. Visit fascinating **Yuyuan Garden**, a well-restored Suzhou-style garden, and take a walk through the Old Town filled with antique markets and specialty stores. A fabulous **Acrobatic Show** concludes your first day in Shanghai. (B-L-D)

Day16 Shanghai

This morning you will visit marvelous **Shanghai Museum**, a leading attraction of the city since it opened in 1994, containing some priceless collections of paintings, porcelains and bronzes. Move on to check out the **St. Ignatius Cathedral** (Xujiahui Cathedral) built in 1846. Wander around the former **French Concession** represented by the leafy **Fuxing Park** and the architecture in the area. Then pay a visit to the **Jade Buddha Temple** where two rare jade statues of Sakyamuni Buddha are treasured. You will have some free time in the afternoon to explore the city. (B-L-D)

Day17 Shanghai-Suzhou

Ride a morning train to Suzhou. You will begin the day with a visit to **Zhuozheng Yuan (Humble Administrator's Garden)** and **Garden of the Master of the Nets**. Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest private garden in Suzhou with features of Chinese classical garden in Ming Dynasty. Garden of the Master of the Nets, the smallest of the Suzhou residential gardens, is the most impressive because of its use of space which creates the illusion of an area that is much greater than its actual size. Enjoy a **boat ride on the Grand Canal** reveals the traditional way of life for the people who have lived here for generations. China's emperors took such route many times to inspect their territory and people in the South, leaving lots of legends and stories in the history. (B-L-D)

Day18 Suzhou-Shanghai-Xi'an

The highlight of the day is to visit **Zhouzhuang Village**, the dreamland of beautiful water village, surrounded and divided by lakes and rivers, 14 stone bridges cross the rivers, showing distinctive views of the water-town. And also visit **Suzhou Silk Museum**. In the afternoon, you will go back to Shanghai by train, and take a late afternoon flight to Xi'an. Check in hotel on arrival. (B-L-D)

Day19 Xi'an

Begin the day's activity with an once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the extraordinary 2,200-year-old **Terracotta Warriors** of China's first feudal Emperor, Qin Shihuang. On



your way back to the city, stop at a mountain village and meet local residents. After lunch, visit the superb **Shannxi History Museum**, the best of its kind in

China. Visit to **Big Wild Goose Pagoda** which was built in 652 A.D. It contains a large volume of Buddhist scriptures which were obtained from India by the eminent monk of Xuanzang. Enjoy a characteristic **dumpling dinner** at a local restaurant. (B-L-D)

Day20 Xi'an-Beijing

Climb the ancient **City Wall** and visit **Forest of Steles Museum** where precious stone carvings and sculptures are kept. Then, take an evening flight to Beijing. (B-L-D)

Day21 Depart from Beijing

After relaxed breakfast in your hotel, transfer to the airport and prepare for boarding. End this joyful tour with boarding your homebound flight. (B)