

[ Tour code: SR-001 ] Beijing, Xi'an, Lanzhou, Jiayuguan, Dunhuang, Turpan, Urumqi, Shanghai (16 days)



*Imagine long caravan lines stretching across vast sand dunes and weary travelers relaxing in the shade of a desert oasis. The Silk Road evokes these types of exotic images. We will be traveling through history, unraveling and deciphering the intricate mix and exchange of cultures over long periods of time.*

**Day01 Arrive in Beijing** Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Meet your guide upon arrival and be transferred to your comfortable hotel. (D)

**Day02 Beijing** Begin the day's activity with a visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest urban square in the world. Then, move on to the Imperial Palace, also known as the "**Forbidden City**", the biggest palace complex in the world. In the afternoon, visit **Temple of Heaven**, the place where the emperors of Ming and Qing Dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for peace and harvest. A **Peking Duck Dinner** concludes your first full day activities in China. (B-L-D)

**Day03 Beijing** Visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, one of China's largest and best-preserved royal gardens, where you can have a walk along the famous Long Corridor. In the afternoon, you will visit the **Yonghe Lama Temple**, the biggest Tibetan Buddhist Lama Temple in Beijing, and the most renowned in China (outside Tibet itself). (B-L-D)

**Day04 Beijing** Today's highlight is your visit to **the Great Wall (Badaling Section)**, one of the "Seven Wonders of the world" and a symbol of Chinese civilization. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across mountains. Then, move on to visit the **Ming Tombs (Changling Tomb)** area where is for deceased emperors of the Ming Dynasty. (B-L-D)

**Day05 Beijing-Xi'an** After a relaxed breakfast at hotel this morning, you will take a ride in rickshaw through some old "**Hutongs**", lanes or alleys formed by lines of Siheyuan (a compound with houses around a courtyard). Then, fly to Xi'an. Visit **Forest of Steles Museum** where precious stone carvings and sculptures are kept. Enjoy a characteristic **dumpling dinner** at a local restaurant. (B-L-D)

**Day06 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. Visit the **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. (B-L-D)



**Day07 Xi'an-Lanzhou-Jiayuguan** Take a morning flight to Lanzhou. Then, pay a visit to **Five Springs Mountain Park**, which got the name for its five crystal springs and **White Pagoda Hill**, built to commemorate a Tibetan lama of the Sa-skyapa Sect of Tibetan Buddhism who died in Lanzhou on his way to Mongolia for an audience with Genghis Khan. Take an overnight train to Jiayuguan with Soft Sleeper (first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)

**Day08 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. (B-L-D)

**Day09 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). Stay overnight in Dunhuang. (B-L-D)

**Day10 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 the world. Then, take an evening train to Turpan with Soft Sleeper (first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)



**Day11 Turpan** Arrive in Turpan and be transferred 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**. Stay overnight in Turpan. (B-L-D)

**Day12 Turpan-Urumqi** Visit the **Karez Irrigation System** the **Buzukelik Thousand Buddhas 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)

**Day13 Urumqi** The full day, you will take an excursion to the **Heavenly Lake**. Surrounding the Heavenly Lake are snow mountains, glacier forests and grassland alpine lakes, featuring a vertical natural landscape belt. You will visit **Xinjiang Museum**, the research and collection center for relics in Xinjiang and **Erdao Qiao Market**. (B-L-D)

**Day14 Urumqi-Shanghai** Take a morning flight to Shanghai, the bustling commercial heart of China, known 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)



**Day15 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)

**Day16 Return from Shanghai** Be transferred to the airport and board on your homebound flight. (B)

Hotel (or the same standard):

Beijing: ****Best Western Premier Hotel	&	***Beijing Rainbow Hotel
Xi'an: ****Hotel Royal Garden Xi'an	&	***Wan Nian Hotel
Jiayuguan: ***Jiayuguan Hotel		
Dunhuang: ****Dunhuang Sun Hotel	&	***Dunhuang Sun Hotel
Turpan: ***Turpan Hotel		
Urumqi: ****Xinjiang Grand Hotel	&	***City Hotel Urumqi
Shanghai: ****Ocean Hotel Shanghai	&	***Shanghai Jin Sha Hotel

High Season: Apr., May, Sep., Oct., 1st Nov.-15th Nov.

Shoulder Season: Mar., July, June, Aug., 16th Nov.-30th Nov.

Low Season: Dec., Jan., Feb.