



CHINA VACATION

S15E

ANCIENT SILK ROAD – 15 DAYS



Shanghai, Urumqi, Turpan, Dunhuang, Jiayuguan, Lanzhou, and Xian

TOUR Highlights:

- Urumqi: Tianshan, Heavenly Lake (Tianchi), and Provincial Museum.
- Turpan: Karez Wells, Ancient City Ruins of Gaochang, Flaming Mountain, Xinjiang Folklore Performance
- Dunhuang: Mogao Grottoes, Yangguan Pass, Dunhuang Museum Humming Sandy Mountain, and Crescent Moon Springs.
- Jiayuguan: Jiayuguan Pass (the western end of the Great Wall)
- Lanzhou: Yellow River Bridge, Bingling Temple
- Xian: Mt. Huashan, Terra-Cotta Army, Ancient City Wall, and Stage Show of Tang Dynasty

MEALS:

- 34 Meals: 13 breakfasts (B)
12 lunches (L)
9 dinners (D)

SPECIAL CUISINES:

- Urumqi: Mohammedan Banquet
- Turpan: Roast Lamb
- Lanzhou: Shish Kebab and Beef Noodles, local specialty
- Shanghai: Deluxe Courses

HOTELS:

- Shanghai: Central Hotel (Deluxe)
- Urumqi: Hongfu Hotel (Deluxe)
- Dunhuang: Dunhuang Hotel (first class)
- Jiayuguan: Jiayuguan Hotel (First Class)
- Lanzhou: Legend Hotel (Superior First Class)
- Xian: Sheraton Hotel (Deluxe)

*China Vacation reserves the right to use other same-level hotels if necessary.
*Please refer to "Information and Booking Conditions" for more details.

Day 1: USA → Shanghai
Board your transpacific flight.

Day 2: Shanghai
Arrive in Shanghai, the commercial and financial center of China.

Day 3: Shanghai → Urumqi
Fly westward across the country to Urumqi, the capital of Xin-jiang Province. Of all the cities in the world, Urumqi is the farthest from the sea! You are about to step on that mystical road where East meets West. Established over 2,000 years ago, the Silk Road was the route for trading tons of silk and spices each year over three continents, connecting China with Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, the Black Sea, and the Roman Empire. Tonight you will be served local cuisine. Stay overnight in Urumqi. (B/L/D)

Day 4: Urumqi → Turpan → Urumqi
Drive to Turpan, a desert renowned for grapes and honeydews. Visit the famous Karez Wells, an ancient underground irrigation system that

came melted snow from Mt. Tianshan. You will also tour the ruins of the once prosperous ancient cities of Gaochang. These former kingdoms of 100,000 and 50,000 people are now ghost towns, having been destroyed by Genghis Khan. Of special interest is the Flaming Mountain described in the noted Chinese classic, Journey to the West. Sample roast lamb and watch Xinjiang folklore performance in the evening. Then return to Urumqi. (B/L/D)

Day 5: Urumqi (Mt. Tianshan) 🚗
Visit the provincial museum after Tianshan, which features ethnic cultures. Drive 70 miles to the placid Tianchi (Heavenly Lake), properly named for its green pastures, virgin conifer forests and snowy mountains. Its elevation is 6,000 ft above sea level. Return to Urumqi in the evening to get a good feel for this vivid city where 13 ethnic groups live together. Stay overnight in Urumqi. (B/L)

Day 6: Urumqi → Dunhuang (Yangguan, Humming Sandy Mountain, Crescent Moon Springs)



The Great Wall, JIAYUGUAN

Take a morning flight to Dunhuang, one of the most historic destinations along China's Silk Road, and a huge center of Buddhist art. In 1900, the long-hidden carvings, documents, embroideries, and paintings left by ancient monks were discovered in the grottoes. Silk Road treasures, including documents on subjects ranging from history, politics, art, military, and science to Buddhist sutras, now fill museums around the world. Other attractions include ruins of Yangguan, the Humming Sandy Mountain, and the Crescent Moon Springs. You can take an optional camel ride. Stay in Dunhuang. (B/L/D)

Day 7: Dunhuang (Mogao Grottoes) 🚗

Visit the world-famous Mogao Grottoes on the edge of the Gobi desert. Designated a world cultural heritage site by UNESCO for its cultural, architectural, and art treasures, dating from the 4th to the 14th centuries, Mogao Grottoes are China's oldest Buddhist grottoes. The first grotto was cut in 366 A.D. Housed in the remaining 492 cave temples are over 2,400 sculptures and 45,000 square meters (over 10 acres) of frescoes. You will also visit the Dunhuang Museum. Stay in Dunhuang. (B/L/D)

Day 8: Dunhuang 🚗 Jiayuguan

Drive from Dunhuang to Jiayuguan Pass, the western end of the Great Wall. Visit this vital stronghold of military defense. Stay overnight in Jiayuguan. (B/L/D)

Day 9: Jiayuguan 🚗 Lanzhou

Continue your city tour of Jiayuguan. Later, in the evening, board the train for Lanzhou. Stay overnight on the train. (B/L/D)

Day 10: Lanzhou 🚗

Lanzhou is known as the "City of Fruits." Travel by coach to Liujiaxia Hydropower Station and take a cruise to visit Bingling Temple to see the grottoes at the end of the reservoir. See how gracefully the Yellow River runs through this city. Attractions include the Yellow River Bridge and a taste of local specialties in the evening. (B/L/D)

Day 11: Lanzhou 🚗 Xi'an

Fly to Xi'an, the ancient capital of China for 73 emperors in 12 dynasties. Visit the ancient city

walls in the afternoon. For evening entertainment there will be a Tang Dynasty stage show. Stay overnight in Xi'an. (B/L/D)

Day 12: Xi'an → Mt. Huashan - Xi'an

Drive to Mt. Huashan, one of the five holy mountains in China. Ascend by cable car to the top of this majestic mountain for a breath-taking view of its five peaks and the Yellow River. Stay overnight in Xi'an. (B/L)

Day 13: Xi'an → Shanghai

Here you will find the world-famous Terra-Cotta Army, with some 8000 life-size clay infantrymen, archers and cavalrymen, each with distinct faces holding spears, axes, halberds, longbows, and crossbows standing ready next to their horses, and chariots. Concealed underground, they were arrayed to guard the tomb of the first Chinese emperor Qinshihuang (259-210 BC), who initiated the building of the Great Wall. His tomb was discovered by a farmer in 1974 while digging a well. You might even see some archaeologists working on-site to uncover the rest of the vast tomb. Fly to Shanghai. Sleep away in Shanghai. (B/L/D)

Day 14: Shanghai 🚗

This day is reserved for you to shop, or visit family and friends. Stay another night in Shanghai. (B)

*The largest world expo will take place in Shanghai from May 16 to October 15, 2010. All tour participants traveling this time will enjoy a day at the expo, instead of the specified itinerary (B).

Day 15: Shanghai → USA

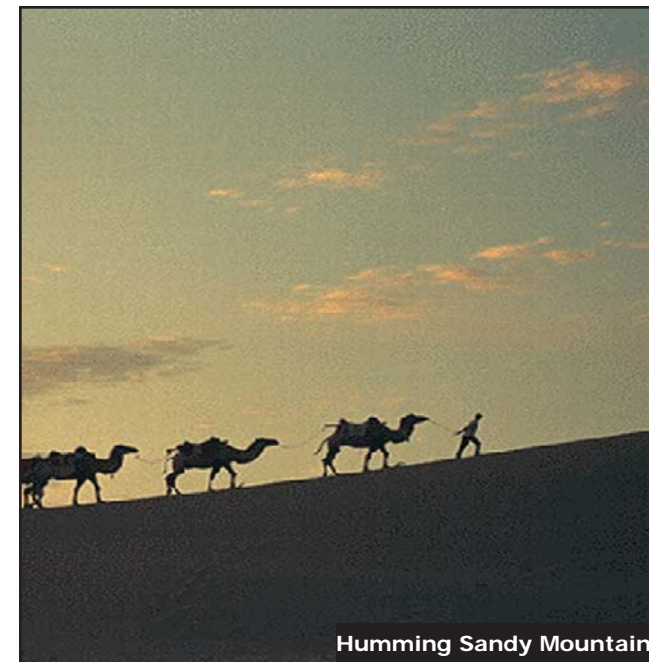
It is now time to fly homeward or on to your next destination (B)

*Some destinations of this program are located at an altitude of 5,500 ft or higher, visitors with high blood pressure, or any respiratory or heart ailment are advised to consult their doctors before application. They are expected to understand the risks that are involved. It would be best if they reconsider their travel plan.

*You may choose to stay behind in China, Hong Kong, or stop over in other cities in Asia. Hotel and other services are available for an additional charge. Please ask your agent for details.

DEPARTURE DATES & TOURS PRICE (S15E)				
YEAR 2010	Departure Date	Return Date	Land Only Price	Single Room
MAY	05/03	05/17	\$2,799	\$700
	05/24	06/07	\$2,799	\$700
JUN	06/04	06/18	\$2,899	\$700
	06/21	07/05	\$2,899	\$700
JUL	07/19	08/02	\$2,899	\$700
AUG	08/23	09/06	\$2,899	\$700
SEP	09/08	09/22	\$2,999	\$700
	09/16	09/30	\$2,999	\$700
OCT	10/04	10/18	\$2,999	\$700

- * Land only prices include China domestic air ticket, tax, and fuel charge
- * Children under 11 years of age can share a room with two adult but will not be provided with an extra bed. Their price is 75% of adult price.



Humming Sandy Mountain