



KASHGAR SILK ROAD – 17 DAYS

Shanghai, Urumqi, Turpan, Kashgar, Dunhuang, Mogao Grottoes, Jiayuguan, Lanzhou, Xining, Lake Qinghai



TOUR Highlights:

- Urumqi: Tianshan, Heavenly Lake (Tianchi), & Provincial Museum.
- Turpan: Karez Wells, Ancient City Ruins of Gaochang, Flaming Mountain Xinjiang Folklore Performance
- Kashgar: Tomb of Fragrant Imperial Concubine, Grand Bazaar, Id Kah Mosque, Lake Karakuli
- Dunhuang: Mogao Grottoes, Yangguan Pass, Humming Sandy Mountain, and Crescent Moon Springs, Dunhuang Museum
- Jiayuguan: Jiayuguan Pass (the western end of the Great Wall)
- Lanzhou: Bingling Temple, Liujia Gorge, Yellow River Bridge
- Xining: Tar Lamasery, Lake Qinghai, Museum

MEALS:

- 41 Meals: 15 breakfasts (B)
- 13 lunches (L)
- 13 dinners (D)

SPECIAL CUISINES:

- Shanghai: Deluxe Courses
- Urumqi: Mohammedan Banquet
- Turpan: Roast Lamb
- Lanzhou: Beef Noodles
- Xining: Qinghai Hotpot

HOTELS:

- Shanghai: Central Hotel (Deluxe)
- Urumqi: Hongfu Hotel (Deluxe)
- Kashgar: International Hotel (Local deluxe)
- Dunhuang: Dunhuang Hotel (first class)
- Jiayuguan: Jiayuguan Hotel (First Class)
- Lanzhou: Legend Hotel (Superior Class)
- Xining: San Want 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 under



Ethnic Dance, KASHGAR

Day 1: USA → Shanghai

Board your transpacific flight.

Day 2: Shanghai

Arrive in Shanghai, the commercial and financial center of China. Stay in Shanghai.

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! In the evening get a good taste of Mohammedan Banquet. Stay overnight in Urumqi. (B/L/D)

Day 4: Urumqi ⇄ Turpan ⇄ Urumqi

Drive to Turpan, a desert renowned for its grapes and honeydews. Visit the famous Karez Wells, an ancient underground irrigation system that comes 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) ⇄ Kashgar

Visit the Tianshan and provincial museum featuring 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 and take a flight to Kashgar. Stay overnight in Kashgar. (B/L/D)

Day 6: Kashgar ⇄

Kashgar, the capital city of the southern Xinjiang Region, is regarded as the pearl of Pamirs. 2000 years ago, Kashgar was the most prosperous business center when China started trading with countries in the West. The city is filled with romance: local market participants and scripture recitation by the Imaum offer you a local flavor of Xinjiang minority culture. Visit the Tomb of Fragrant Imperial Concubine, the Id Kah Mosque and the local Uyghur families. Take a look at the commercial market—Grand

Bazaar, which was the commodity distributing and trading center 2,000 years ago. The Markets known for its advantageous geographical location of the “ five gates to eight nations, one route links the Europe and Asia”. The local specialties, art works, daily supplies, etc. can be seen. Strolling in the exciting bazaar, you will be touched by the once thriving silk road by its old trade accessibility, and merchants from various countries doing business through the barter system. (B/L/D)

Day 7: Kashgar → Urumqi

After breakfast, go to visit Lake Karakuli named for its deep gloom lake water. Its altitude is 3600 meters above sea level and 30 meters deep, the total area reaches 10 square kilometers. Every morning, the lake looks like a clear dark green mirror. The color of the lake changes from light blue to light yellow and even pink, staying vibrant at all time as the earth orbits and rotates toward the sun. The surface of the water is set-against the lofty mysterious Muztag peak. The lake and the hill add radiance and compliments each other, forming a beautiful landscape. Fly back to Urumqi. (B/L/D)

Day 8: Urumqi → Dunhuang

Take a flight to Dunhuang, one of the most historic destinations for 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 the 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 9: 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, and 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.

Visit the Dunhuang Museum. Stay in Dunhuang. (B/L/D)

Day 10: 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 11 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 12: Lanzhou 🚗

Lanzhou is known as the “City of Fruits.” Travel by coach to the Liujiaxia Hydropower Station and take a cruise to visit Bingling Temple to see the grottoes at the end of the reservoir. You will enjoy the local specialty “Beef Noodle” The noodles are made by pulling and stretching with hands. (B/L/D)

Day 13: Lanzhou 🚗 Xining

Visit the Yellow River Bridge in Lanzhou. Board the bus for Xining, capital of Qinghai Province. This city has been central China's gateway to Tibet since ancient times. Here, China's two major rivers, but mainly the Yangtze, originate. Visit majestic temples to admire golden altars to see its jeweled pagodas. The Taer Monastery, in particular, will interest many. Stay two nights in Xining. (B/L/D)

Day 14: Xining (Qinghai Lake) 🚗

The breath-taking beauty of Qinghai Lake is in store for you today. Lying approximately 2,000 feet above sea level, the lake is China's largest salt water lake. You'll take numerous of pictures the turquoise blue water, the jade-green pastures, the azure blue sky, the Tibetan tents, the black yaks, the yellow blooms and, last but not least, the colorful Tibetan costumes to capture the exotic beauty in an exotic land! On the Qinghai-Tibetan highway, you will have a stop to see the “Sun-Moon Mount” — in which the princess Wenchen threw the mirror down and married into the Tibetan area among the Tang Dynasty. The two carmine colored hills, just like are whispering the vivid story of that time. After that, visit the Qinghai Province Museum and have a taste of the local Hot Pot for dinner. (B/L/D)

Day 15: Xining → Shanghai

Fly to Shanghai for a taste of local cuisine. Stay in Shanghai. (B/L/D)

Day 16: Shanghai

This day is reserved for you to shop, or visit your 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/D).

Day 17: Shanghai → USA

It is now time to fly homeward for wing 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 (SK17E)				
YEAR	Departure	RETURN	Land Only	SINGLE
2010	Date	Date	PRICE	ROOM
MAY	05/25	06/10	\$3,599	\$700
JUN	06/15	07/01	\$3,599	\$700
JUL	07/27	08/12	\$3,599	\$700
AUG	08/24	09/09	\$3,599	\$700
SEP	09/07	09/23	\$3,699	\$700
	09/28	10/14	\$3,699	\$700
OCT	10/12	10/28	\$3,699	\$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.