

Amazing Journeys - CHINA

This trip is for the more discerning traveller, the one that seeks solace in wide open spaces...that wants to imbue his/her soul with images of sweeping mountain ranges, desert vistas...to be in places where you can see forever and a day, to visit the back and beyond, to learn more about a tempestuous history that stretches over more than 5000 years. Each destination along this diverse and endlessly fascinating route contains its own surprises, secrets and charms, unforgettable scenes and occurrences.

This is indeed an eventful journey that can only be described as an "odyssey", and could possibly just be the most significant journey you will ever undertake. 



the Great

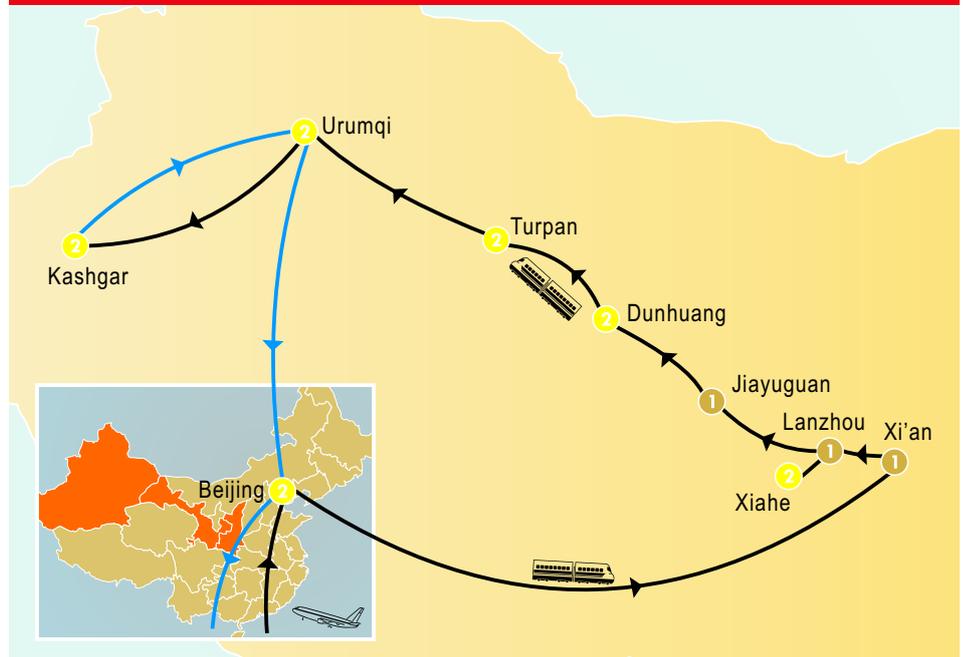
Silk Road



Amazing Journeys - CHINA



21 Days 18 Nights



Day 01 / Saturday

Depart Johannesburg via SA 288 at 23h50 p.m.

Day 02 / Sunday Beijing

Arrive Beijing around 20h50 p.m. On arrival, a China Experience representative will be waiting for you. You will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 03 / Monday Beijing (B. D.)

For first time visitors: Your exciting China adventure begins with a full-day tour commencing in the Temple of Heaven, a group of 15th-century ceremonial buildings. Onto Tiananmen Square, the world's largest square, featuring Chairman Mao's Mausoleum, the Monument to the People's Heroes, and the Great Hall of the People, the seat of Chinese legislature. We walk to the main entrance of the Forbidden City. From here 24 emperors ruled for nearly 500 years.
For second timers: Enjoy a full-day excursion to Peking Man Museum at Zhoukoudian. Onto Marco Polo Bridge, which was mentioned in the annals of this famous traveller.

Day 04 / Tuesday

Beijing/Tianjin / Xi'an (B. L. D.)

Head for the railway station to board a bullet train down to Tianjin. On arrival, we visit Cultural Street, and enjoy lunch at Food Street. After lunch, a walk along the Pedestrian Street, before boarding the

train back to Beijing. Tonight, board an express train for Xi'an (soft-sleeper compartment).

Day 05 / Wednesday

Arrive Xi'an (B. L. D.)

An early morning arrival to the starting point of the Silk Road. Transfer to our hotel and enjoy your breakfast there.

First-time visitors: You visit the famous Army of Terracotta Warriors, with lunch en route.. Later you visit the Huaqing Hot Springs, a former summer retreat for emperors.

Second-time visitors: Enjoy a full-day tour of Famen Temple and the Hanyang Tomb Museum.

Day 06 / Thursday

Xi'an / Lanzhou (B. L. D.)

Transfer to airport and a flight to Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province. Enjoy touring of the Yellow River Park and the White Pagoda Hill.

Day 07 / Friday

Lanzhou / Xiahe (B. L. D.)

Depart for Labrang Monastery in the morning (approximately 3 to 4 hours journey). On arrival, visit to the historical Monastery - one of the six great monasteries of the Geluk (Yellow Hat) school of Tibetan Buddhism. Later visit a Tibetan village.

Day 08 / Saturday Xiahe (B. L. D.)

Today, enjoy an excursion to Sangke



Cost from USD 7,380 per person sharing, USD 1,230 additional for single supplement

Included: Land and international flights ex-JNB

Category: Superior

Departure dates: 03 August 2013 / 02 August 2014 / 01 August 2015 / 06 August 2016 / 05 August 2017

Prairie. It enjoys a good reputation in the northwest Tibetan district for its excellent pasture and frequent magnificent Buddhist ceremonies. We trek around the prairie to see the summer-blooming flowers that form a natural carpet extending to the far horizons. Reflecting sky and mountains, the Daxia River twists through grass and earth like an undulating silk belt. Countless sheep, Yaks and tents are visible over the prairie.

Day 09 / Sunday Xiahe / Lanzhou / Jiayuguan (B. L. D.)

Drive back to Lanzhou and board a flight to Jiayuguan City. On arrival, meet and transfer to hotel.

Day 10 / Monday Jiayuguan / Dunhuang (B. L. D.)

Today a visit to Jiayuguan Pass, the western end of the Great Wall, also China's final outpost, the last point of civilisation before the desert. Then drive to Dunhuang through the Gobi Desert (approximately 5-hour journey). On arrival, check into the hotel.

Day 11 / Tuesday Dunhuang (B. L. D.)

Dunhuang is a small oasis town that once prospered as the last stop on the Silk Road, before it splits. After breakfast, a visit to Mogao Grottoes built in the 4th century. Later, we visit Minghsha Hill sand dunes. At the hill-top you have bird's eye view of the sand dunes which encircle a spring shaped like a crescent moon. You can then slide down from the hill, accompanied by the roaring sound of the moving sand. At the foot of the hill you can look forward to a ride on a camel, savouring the big sky and desert scenes.

Day 12 / Wednesday Dunhuang / Turpan (B. L. D.)

Enjoy an excursion to Yadan National Geologic Park. It features the unique and wonderful scenes and landscapes of Gobi Desert. Tonight, board the overnight train for Turpan (soft-sleeper compartment).

Day 13 / Thursday Arrive Turpan (B. L. D.)

A transfer to the hotel in Turpan for breakfast. The morning sightseeing includes the Astana Graves – a series of underground tombs about 40km southeast of Turpan in Xinjiang. Then to the Karez Wells - the pride of Turpan. The underground irrigation channel was created by ancestors of Xinjiang. Later visit Grape Valley - a gully to the west of the Flaming Mountain.

Day 14 / Friday Turpan (B. L. D.)

Our journey today firstly begins with the ancient city of Gaochang - the largest city ruins in west China. Then on to Sugong Pagoda. Also visit Flaming Mountain – very popular thanks to a classical novel, 'The Journey to the West' by Wu

Cheng'en and its charming hero - the Monkey King.

Day 15 / Saturday Turpan / Urumqi / Kashgar (B. L. D.)

A morning tour of Turpan, followed by a 3-hour fascinating drive to Urumqi amongst snow-capped mountains. On arrival, a city tour including Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Museum. This museum has become famous for its rich collections of silk artifacts from many periods of history. In the afternoon, a flight to Kashgar, with a hotel transfer on arrival. Dinner at hotel.

Day 16 / Sunday Kashgar (B. L.)

This itinerary is planned to pass through Kashgar on a Sunday, a major market day where thousands of merchants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and any other 'stan' gather to ply their trade. The entire town turns up to buy and sell their wares – donkeys, camels (please don't buy one!!!), and even log cabins. Have your cameras ready! It is the original 'bun-fight'...and is hugely entertaining.

Day 17 / Monday Kashgar / Urumqi (B. L. D.)

Visit the Id Kah Mosque, one of the largest in China. It can accommodate 7,000 worshippers in the 100-columned space. Also, a visit to a local Uighur family before the evening flight back to Urumqi.

Day 18 / Tuesday Urumqi (B. L. D.)

Urumqi is the most remote city from any sea in the world. Enjoy a full-day excursion to Heavenly Lake. It is a beautiful stretch of water, surrounded by luxuriant meadows and dense pine forests. It lies at 1,960m, enclosed by snow-capped peaks.

Day 19 / Wednesday Urumqi / Beijing (B. D.)

A morning flight to Beijing. On arrival, a transfer to hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Enjoy a Farewell dinner.

Day 20 / Thursday Depart for Johannesburg (B.) via SA 289

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at hotel and daytime is free at your own leisure. A late check-out from the hotel will be arranged. Tonight, transfer to airport for the homebound flight.

First-time visitors: After breakfast a full-day excursion to the Great Wall of China...where you may actually climb on this man-made wonder. Enjoy another tempting lunch. Later, a visit to the Spirit Way at the Ming Tombs, lined with 36 stone statues of officials, soldiers, animals and mythical wild beasts.

Day 21 / Friday Arrive Johannesburg

Welcome home! 