

Ancient Silk Road [17 Days]

The Silk Road is a historically important international trade route between China and the Mediterranean. This journey gives you the best chance to experience travel on the extensive flights and railway networks across western China. The World Heritage listed site of Terracotta Warriors and Mogao Grottoes, the camel riding in the dessert, the stunning Heavenly Lake, Mount Tian and unique Islamic culture will bring you a truly silk road adventure of a lifetime.



Day 01: Australia-Beijing

Enjoy your morning flight to Beijing. Welcome to Beijing! On arrival, you will be welcomed by the local tour guide who will check you in for 3 nights at Novotel Peace or similar.

Day 02: Beijing

(B,L,SD)

Breakfast in the hotel. Highlights today includes the tour to the Tiananmen Square, the largest city centre square of its kind in China; the Forbidden City, where thousands of palaces and spellbinding treasures of art works will give you imagination of the royal life of Chinese emperors and concubines. Afternoon, tour to the incomparable Summer Palace. In the evening a feast of Peking duck. Acrobatic show is provided for the evening entertainment.

Day 03: Beijing

(B,L)

Breakfast in the hotel. Day excursion to the Great Wall, one of the world wonders. As you will climb to the top of the Great Wall, we advise you to wear comfortable walking shoes. Afternoon, tour to the famous Ming Tombs. Then, return to Beijing for free time shopping and walking in the famous Wangfujing Street, which is regarded as the First Street in China.

Day 04: Beijing-Xi'an

(B,L,D)

Tour to the Temple of Heaven, the focus of this complex is the famed Hall of Prayer for a Good Harvest, a round edifice constructed of wood only without a single nail. Free time to visit local markets in the afternoon. After early dinner, transfer to railway station for overnight sleeper train to Xi'an, one of the seven ancient capital cities in China.

Day 05: Arrive Xian

(L,D)

On arrival, transfer to Ramada Plaza Xian South Hotel for early check in and rest if available. Visit Provincial History Museum where you can feast your eyes by thousands of treasures and precious historical relics.

Day 06: Xi'an

(B,L,SD)

Breakfast in the hotel. Xian full day tour includes world famous 6,000 life-size Terracotta Warriors and Horses buried with first the Chinese Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. After lunch, you will take a tour to the Wild Goose Pagoda, Dumpling Banquet in the evening followed by a show of Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing.

Day 07: Xi'an-Lanzhou (B,D)

Morning take a tour to the Square of Bell and Drum Tower. you will also visit the Muslim quarter and food market. Afternoon fly to the historic city of Lanzhou, located on the banks of the Huanghe (Yellow River), in a picturesque setting at the foot of the Lanshan Mountain Range. Enjoy famous Lanzhou Handmade Beef Noodle tonight.

Day 08: Lanzhou- Jiayuguan

(B,L)

Today's City Tour includes visit to White Pagoda Hill, Mount Wuqian, the Statue of Mother Huanghe, the old Huanghe Iron Bridge and Water Wheel Park. Late afternoon transfer to the station to board your four berth soft-sleeper compartment on the overnight train to Jiayuguan. Dinner and beverages can be purchased in the train's restaurant car.

Day 09: Jiayuguan

(B,D)

Arrive Jiayuguan (the city at the western end of the Great Wall) in the morning. After breakfast visit the Jiayuguan Fort, with its impressive Gate Towers, from where you can get sweeping views of the desert, the oasis of Jiayuguan and the snow-capped mountains in a distance. Then going to the Jiuquan County for Night Glowing Cup Factory and Jiuquan Park. Stay overnight at Jiuquan.

Day 10: Jiayuguan-Dunhuang

(B,D)

Breakfast in the hotel, transfer to the Railway Station for your express train to Dunhuang – the 2000-year oasis city, regarded by Silk Road travellers as "the first and last city in China". Your sightseeing tour includes visit to the spectacular sand dunes of Mingsha Hill and Crescent Moon Lake include camel riding.

Day 11: Dunhuang-Turpan

(B,L)

Today's tour takes you to the World Heritage listed Mogao Grottoes, to see magnificent Buddhist cave paintings and sculptures dating back to the 4th Century AD. Late Afternoon, travel to train station to catch the overnight train to Turpan. You will travel in a four berth soft-sleeper compartment. Dinner and beverages can be purchased in the train's restaurant

Day 12: Turpan

(B, D)

Arrive in the oasis city of Turpan in the morning. Today's tour will take you to the Flaming Mountain, Sugong Tower and Karez -The ancient Karez system is comprised of a series of wells and linked underground channels that uses gravity to bring ground water to the surface, usually far away from the source. and Grape Valley-this 8-kilometer (5-mile-) -long, half-a-kilometre (0.3 mile-) -wide gorge, inhabited by about 6,000 people of the Uigur, Hui and Han, has more than 400 hectares of cultivated land, 220 hectares of which is dedicated to growing grapes, ancient JiaoHe City. In the evening enjoy a traditional Uyghur music, song and dance show.

Day 13: Turpan-Urumqi

(B,L,D)

In the morning, travel to Urumqi – the furthest city in the world from any ocean. Situated in the foothills of snow capped mountains, Urumqi comprises people from more than a dozen different ethnic backgrounds. Afternoon visit the stunningly beautiful Heavenly Lake, an alpine lake situated at an elevation of 1980 metres on the slopes of Mount Tian and surrounded by fir trees. Enjoy the Roast Lamb for your dinner.

Day 14: Urumqi

(B,L)

After breakfast, travel by coach to the picturesque Nanshan grazing area, and the Urumqi Huts (Yurts) belonging to the local Kazakh tribes who live throughout this area of China. Afternoon visit the Bazaar free market.

Day 15: Urumqi – Guangzhou

(B)

Morning free at your leisure until transfer to Urumqi Airport for your flight to Guangzhou. Upon arrival, you will be met by the local tour guide who will check you in at the local hotel.

Day 16: Guangzhou - Australia

(B)

Breakfast in the hotel then free for shopping or sightseeing until transfer to airport for your return flight to Australia

Day 17: Arrive Australia

Arrive home in the morning

Tour grade: Active Paced Tour

Inclusions

- Return international economy class airfares
- Domestic airfare and taxes
- Australia and China departure taxes
- Tipping for guide and driver
- Current Airline Fuel levy - Subject to Change
- Most of meals as indicated
- Deluxe or local best accommodation with daily breakfast
- All transportation, daily tours and admission fees
- Professional English speaking guide

- A MW Tours travel wallet

Exclusions:

- Travel insurance
- Personal expenditures such as laundry, drinks.
- Chinese Visa