



The Last Frontiers

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Guided by experience.



Xinjiang

Capital: Urumqi

Population: 16.9 mio

Area: 1,600,000 sq km

Gansu

Lanzhou

Population: 24.7 mio

Area: 450,000 sq km

Silkroad: Tracing Marco Polo (7 Days/6 Nights)



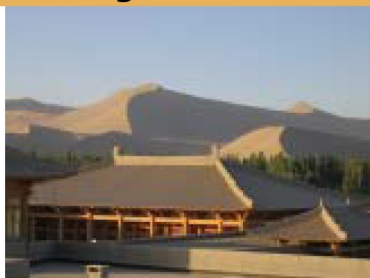
The Silk Road - a trip into the past, where you can discover a variety of cultural and religious remains. Through a landscape that is coined by vast deserts, high mountains and fertile oasis. Along a route that fires our imagination until today.

No other trip in China offers such contrasts: Where there have been dry deserts suddenly you are in the middle of lush area producing the sweetest fruits. A multitude of ethnic minorities reflects the fact that not only were herbs and silk transported on the silk road but also religious beliefs and cultural mannerism. Meet Uygurs, Kazakhs, Kirghs, Mongols and Tajiks and get enchanted - **just like Marco Polo 700 years ago.**

Day 1: Shanghai - Dunhuang

Flight Shanghai - Xian
Flight Xian - Dunhuang

Airport pick up, transfer to hotel and check-in
The hotel is located outside the city of Dunhuang close to the big dune.



You have the opportunity for a first exploration through little settlements of camel breeders at the fringe of the desert.

We recommend to stroll around the night-market of Dunhuang. There you will find big variety of local delicacies.
Night at the Silkroad Hotel, Dunhuang

Day 2: Mogao Caves & Camel Ride

After a late breakfast you will visit the famous Mogao Caves with unique Buddhist images and sculptures of several dynasties. If you are up to it, try the excellent favourite dish of Dunhuang: Cold donkey meat that comes with hand-made noodles!



Be prepared for a sporting afternoon: Climbing one of the huge sand dunes. This might be a bit tiresome, whereas downhill will be all the faster - on bamboo sledges.

To round off this day take a camel ride in the cool evening breeze, passing Crescent Moon Lake.
Night at the Silkroad Hotel, Dunhuang

Day 3: Dunhuang - Turpan

By now you might have adopted to „silkroad-time“: From your hotel's roof-top terrace you can enjoy viewing the long shadows of the dunes during sunrise - which takes place much later than in Shanghai.
Have another late breakfast to get started.



After breakfast you will follow the original silk-road route through dreary Gobi Desert, crossing Yangguan Pass which is located 60km west of Dunhuang and then drive on to Nanhu Damm.

Out of nothing few water resources creates impressively fertile fields covered with endless vineyards. Donkey braying, cuckooing and views on vast grasslands are guaranteed.
After visiting Yangguan Pass you might like a rest and a late lunch in the shade of a vine-arbour in a Nong Jia Le.
Transfer to train station (about 120 km) early evening
Night at the train (sleeper)

Train Dunhuang - Turpan

If you decide to travel with The Last Frontiers* we will be happy to provide an extensive personalised package, including:

- ✓ **Personal briefing**
- ✓ **Tents and Sheets**
- ✓ **Tips and hints on travelling in China**
- ✓ **Maps of the area and cities**
- ✓ **Addresslist in both English and Chinese**
- ✓ **Restaurant recommendations**

The Last Frontiers* / 上海缘蕴旅游咨询有限公司

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Choose from a variety of delicious dried fruit before you continue for the capital of Xinjiang Province: Urumqi - a trip of about three hours. If the weather is clear you will have an amazing view of Bogda Mountain.

In the evening: transfer to the airport.

Extend your trip to Hotan

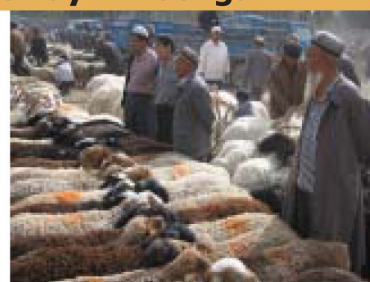
Flight Urumqi - Kashgar

Transfer to hotel,
Night at (***) hotel, Kashgar

Day 6: Market Day in Kashgar

This is the day to cool down, get up

late, have a slow breakfast and afterwards go to Sunday market to bargain for one or two sheep to bring home or get hold of a camel hair carpet. Those



who have not written their postcards yet, should send them today. At home nobody will realize if you get back before your postcards arrive. A restaurant underneath huge elm trees provides the ideal place have a cool lunch break.

Afterwards, when visiting Abakh Hoja Tombs, walking through the preserved old quarters of the town and visiting old handcraft street around Id Kah Mosque you will ask yourself from time to time: In which country am I at the moment?

Night at (***) hotel, Kashgar

Extend your trip to Muztag Ata

Extend your trip to Bogda Mountain

Day 4: Tombs, Mountains & Ruins

In the early morning you will reach Turpan train station. Transfer to the Oasis-town takes about one hour. There you start the day with a breakfast. The relatively cool hours early in the morning are ideal to trace the many remains of this former trade



route: going East you will pass the Flaming Mountains before you reach Bezeklik Grottoes which are hidden in a beautiful valley. After this visit the vast area of Gaochang Ruins and round off your day with the hidden Astana Tombs.

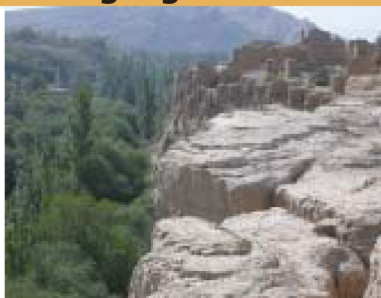
Ban Mian and Chao Mian, hand-made noodles, the favourite dishes of the region will dominate your diet, completed by fresh melon.

The selection of treats on the night market is getting more and more exotic.

Night at (***) hotel, Turpan

Day 5: Jiao He Ruins & Sugong Minaret

After breakfast the secret of the oasis is revealed: the ancient irrigation system, which distributes water in underground canals from the far-away Tianshan Mountains to the fields of the oasis.



Afterwards have a look at the unostentatious architecture of Sugong Mosque and its pagoda.

The highlight of Turpan's cultural heritage are without doubt Jiaohe Ruins, a recognised World Cultural Heritage Site. Up on a plateau in between two rivers you can conceive the extent of this former city.

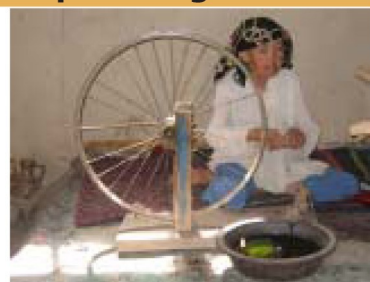
Day 7: Kashgar - Urumqi - Shanghai

Late Breakfast

Transfer to the airport

Flight Kashgar - Urumqi

Afterwards visit the newly designed Provincial Museum, which presents many archeological excavations in a neatly arranged way.



In the evening: Transfer to airport.

On the way to the airport there is a chance for last-minute shopping or a dinner.

Flight Urumqi - Shanghai

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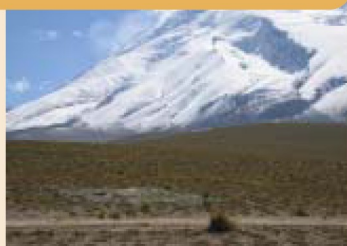


This itinerary has been created through our personal travel experience in this region. It can easily be modified and combined with any other tour we offer in China and the rest of Asia.

Our objective is to suit your interests best. Talk to us and we will design the right trip for you.

Extension: Lake Karakul & Muztag Ata

Take your - Chinese - breakfast in the former British Consulate, before you leave for the geographical highlight of the Silk Road. You will drive along the splendidly constructed Karakorum Highway directly towards high Pamir Mountains with its snow-covered caps. With its 7717 m Mountain Kongur surmounts all the others and gives you the direction where to head to. However, after three hours 7546m high Muztag Ata competes with its neighbour, especially because the `father of all glaciers` shows its summits twice - by reflecting in emerald Lake Karakul.



Lovely meadows at km 204 might be the prettiest spot you have ever had a picnic. Do not forget to bring red wine!

In the afternoon return to Kashgar.
Night at (***) hotel, Kashgar

Extension: Bogda Mountain

Day 6

In the evening: transfer to airport

Flight Kashgar - Urumqi

Transfer to hotel

Night at (*****) hotel, Urumqi



Day 7

Savour your rich breakfast in the 5-Star-Hotel.

Your trip is rounded off by another geographical highlight, a trip to Tian Chi (Heaven Pool) and 5445 m snow-covered Bogeda Feng (Peak of God). Beside the lake you can enjoy wonderful hiking paths with stunning views. Fill your lungs with fresh air before you return to the concrete jungle of Shanghai.

In the evening: transfer to airport

Flight Urumqi - Shanghai

Extension Days Hotan

Evening flight Urumqi - Hotan

Transfer to the hotel

Night at a (***) hotel, Hotan

ExtDay 1: Hotan & Desert Adventure

Breakfast

Nowadays Hotan is located off the beaten track, nevertheless this town used to be one of the most important bases along the silk road.

Hotan is most famous for its milky-white Jade, which can still be found in huge arroyos in the east of the town - however in small amount.

Weaving mills for woolen carpets and silk fabrics are also remarkable. Should your stay include a Thursday a visit to the absolutely exotic village market in Laskuri is an indispensable part of your programme.

When the day starts to cool down, 6pm at latest, you will get ready for your desert adventure. - Leave your luggage in the hotel, pack torches and beverages - and ride on camels to your night quarter IN the desert.

Spend your night in tents or open-air - you will be stunned by the incredibly clear starry sky



ExtDay 2: Hotan - Shache - Kashgar

Breakfast tastes twice as good in the desert!

Then back - on camelback again - through the cool morning breeze.

Pick up your luggage. Your trip to the furthest Western part of China will be done by bus. Be prepared for a ride from 8 to 10 hours, stopping in Yecheng and Shache, former Yarkand, another legendary base along the silkroad. Night at a (***) hotel, Kashgar.



continue with Day 6



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We have been working with our local partners for many years and know them as being reliable and professional. The hotels we chose for you are personally tested and approved by The Last Frontiers. Should problems occur during your trip, we are here for you in our office in Shanghai.

Tour includes:

- + Domestic tickets
- + Airport transfers as specified
- + Accommodation as stated including breakfast
- + Private car and guide throughout the tour (guide to Great Wall is not included)

Tour excludes:

- Entrance fees
- All meals not mentioned in the itinerary or marked as optional or suggested
- Personal expenses (laundry, telephone calls, drinks, tip...)
- Personnel insurances (health, third party, cancellation, luggage...)
- Any services not mentioned in the itinerary



Price on request

For an exact quote we need to know **travel dates, names of all travelers** as per passport and **birth date of children below the age of 12.**

Important Remarks

This proposal has been prepared based on or experience and knowledge of the current situation locally. **No** bookings have been made yet. In case of your confirmation to go ahead and to book hotels, flights and other services, we will request those from our partners as per itinerary. Should hotels and flights not be available, we will endeavor to book services of similar quality. However, slight changes to our proposal above may be unavoidable.

Passports & Visas

When traveling, you must be in possession of valid papers. To avoid any risk, passports shall be **valid for min another 6 months** on the day of your return to your home. In case, Visas are required, The Last Frontiers* would be delighted to support you organizing the visas. Please note however, that The Last Frontiers* can not be held responsible for information on visa or immigration regulations, or in case visas are not obtained or visas are not accepted by local Authorities. In case, you plan to come back to China, please check, that you are in possession of documentation to be able to reenter China (visa & entry permit).

Payment

Invoices payable prior to departure or latest one week after Invoice Date. China Trips payable to our accounts in China or Cash RMB. **Credit Cards welcome (conditions apply)**. International services payable in US\$ or Euro to our accounts in Hongkong or Germany. Cheques accepted (surcharges apply).

Cancellation

Cancellation fees apply, if you change or cancel the trip (or parts of the trip) after your verbal or written confirmation. We will attempt to reduce cancellation fees to a minimum and will calculate cancellation fees according to our actually incurred costs and time spent on your case. **In any case, cancellation fees as per Confirmation Sheet apply.**

Force Majeure

Compensation payments do not apply, where performance is prevented by risk of war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, technical problems with transport, closure or congestion of airports or ports, cancellations or changes of schedules by scheduled airlines and similar events beyond The Last Frontiers' control.

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**Thank you for choosing The Last Frontiers* as your preferred Travelpartner.
Sigrid Seel & the entire The Last Frontiers Team**

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