



Silk Road 16-Day Tour (CIT007)

Ürümqi 乌鲁木齐 – **Turpan** 吐鲁番 – **Dunhuang** 敦煌 – **Jiayuguan** 嘉峪关 –
Lanzhou 兰州 – **Xining** 西宁 – **Xi'an** 西安

Note: *The Chinese names listed in the itinerary are written with the simplified characters used in Mainland China.*

Day 1: U.S.A. – Beijing

Today you will board a plane bound for **China**, where you will witness the vicissitudes of China's five thousand-year history. Your tour will begin in the dynamic capital city of **Beijing**, a city that encompasses the vast range of China's cultural styles.

Day 2: Arrival in Beijing

Today, after arriving in **Beijing**, you will be greeted at the airport by CIT's professional bilingual tour guide and escorted to the hotel where you will be staying overnight.

Beijing Accommodations: **Grand Gongda Jianguo Hotel** 工大建国 (5-Star) *or equivalent*

<http://www.bjut-hoteljianguo.com/en/hotelinfo.html>

Day 3: Beijing – Ürümqi

Today you will take a flight to **Ürümqi** in northwestern China. After your arrival, you will visit the biggest **bazaar** in the area, where you can enjoy the wide variety of goods for sale and barter with the merchants. For dinner, we have arranged a meal of **roasted whole lamb** that is of better quality than the roasted lamb that travel agencies typically arrange in Turpan.

Day 3 Attractions:

bazaar (巴紮, bāzā)

Special Arrangements: **roasted whole lamb**

Ürümqi Accommodations: **Mirage Hotel Ürümqi** 美丽华酒店 (4-Star) *or equivalent*

<http://www.mirage-hotel.cn/yw/index.html>

Day 4: Ürümqi

After breakfast, you will head to "the Pearl of the Tianshan Mountains," **Heavenly Lake**, located at an elevation of 1,980 meters. According to Chinese legend, this is the land of the "heavenly emperor's" wife; with its crystal-clear jade water, a dense growth of fir trees blanketing the surrounding area, and the snow-capped **Peak of God** in the background, the reflective surface of the lake creates a truly captivating mountain scene. Even in midsummer, the cool temperatures of the area around Heavenly Lake make it a great place to escape the summer heat, and during the winter it's ideal for ice skating.

Day 4 Attractions:

Heavenly Lake (天池, Tiān Chí)

view of the **Peak of God** (柏格达峰, Bògédá Fēng)

Day 5: Ürümqi – Turpan

Today you will travel to **Turpan**, nicknamed "the Land of Fire" because of its location in the lowest basin in China, where the climate is scorching hot. You will pass by the **Flaming Mountains**, where the Buddhist monk Master Xuanzang studied Buddhist scripture more than 1,300 years ago on his way to India, and tour the **Bozi** (or "Bezeklik") **Thousand-Buddha Caves**, one of the famous Buddhist "grotto temples" of Xinjiang Province. The construction of the caves began during the Northern and Southern Dynasties (around 1,500 years ago) and continued through the Tang Dynasty, the Five Dynasties period, the Song Dynasty, and the Yuan Dynasty until it became one of the most important centers of Buddhism in western China. Afterward, you will visit the **Sugong Pagoda** (also called **Emin Minaret**), which was built in 1778. It is constructed almost entirely of uniformly greyish-yellow brick, and its exterior is composed of layer upon layer of 14 different traditional geometric designs of the Uighur minority group that are characteristic of the engraved murals found in Islamic temple architecture. Afterward, you will head to your hotel in Turpan.

Day 5 Attractions:

Flaming Mountains (火焰山, Huǒyàn Shān)



Bozi (Bezeklik) Thousand-Buddha Caves (柏孜克里克千佛洞, Bózikèlìkè Qiānfó Dòng)

Sugong Pagoda (苏公塔, Sūgōng Tǎ) or **Emin Minaret** (额敏塔, Émǐn Tǎ)

Turpan Accommodations: **Huozhou Hotel** 吐鲁番火洲大酒店 (4-Star) *or equivalent*

Day 6: Turpan – Dunhuang

Today you will visit **Grape Valley**; Turpan's abundant and sweet fruit is one of its most distinctive features. You will then tour **Jiaohe Ancient City** (also known as the **Jiaohe Ruins**), the well-preserved remains of an ancient city whose buildings are made of mudbricks, before proceeding to nearby **Uighur Village**. There, an exhibit hall on the folk customs of the Uighur minority, along with the traditional homes of the village's inhabitants, will reveal the changes that have occurred over the course of the Uighur people's history. You will also visit the **Karez Museum**, which features exhibits about Xinjiang's special "karez" irrigation system. This irrigation system is considered one of ancient China's three greatest feats of engineering, along with the Great Wall and the Grand Canal; there are nearly 1,000 karez canals in Turpan alone. After dinner, you will board a "sleeper" train for an overnight trip to **Dunhuang**.

Day 6 Attractions:

Grape Valley (葡萄沟, Pútáo Gōu)

Jiaohe Ancient City or **Jiaohe Ruins** (交河故城, Jiāohé Gùchéng)

Uighur Village (维吾尔古村, Wéiwúěr Gǔcūn)

Karez Museum (坎儿井博物馆, Kǎnrjǐng Bówùguǎn)

Day 6 Accommodations: soft seats on the train to Dunhuang

Day 7: Arrival in Dunhuang

After your arrival this morning, you will head to your hotel for breakfast and then go to your rooms to rest briefly and recover from your train trip. Afterward, you will visit the desert spectacle of **Singing Sand Mountain**, an enormous sand dune where you can enjoy the unique beauty of the desert scene and ride a camel, the "boat of the desert." At the foot of the dune in the middle of the desert is **Crescent Moon Spring**, which for thousands of years has miraculously avoided being swallowed up by the desert sands. Its water is still crystal clear, like a mirror, and its existence is an eternal mystery.

Day 7 Attractions:

Singing Sand Mountain (鸣沙山, Míngshā Shān)

Crescent Moon Spring (月牙泉, Yuèyá Quán)

Special Arrangements: camel ride

Dunhuang Accommodations: **Dunhuang Hotel South Tower** 敦煌宾馆南楼 (4-Star) *or equivalent*

Day 8: Dunhuang

With a history of more than 2,000 years, the city of Dunhuang is famous for its national, cultural, and historical significance. Today you will tour the **Mogao Grottoes** (or **Mogao Caves**), a treasure trove of Eastern art whose construction began in 366 A.D. In 1987 the Mogao Grottoes were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Their extraordinary aesthetic character can be seen primarily in the organic unity of their architecture, statues, and murals, which reflect the artistic styles of many Chinese dynasties. The grottoes truly live up to their reputation as a treasure house; more than 50,000 priceless artifacts and manuscripts were recovered from one cave alone, including Buddhist scrolls, books, woven and embroidered goods, paintings, and statues.

Day 8 Attractions:

Mogao Grottoes or **Mogao Caves** (莫高窟, Mògāo Kū)

Day 9: Dunhuang – Jiayuguan (Great Wall) – Lanzhou

After breakfast, you will head to **Jiayuguan** ("Jiayu Pass," or "Excellent Valley Pass"), the westernmost section of the **Great Wall**. Along the way, you can admire the view of the **Great Gobi Desert** and watch as mirages appear and disappear before your eyes. After you arrive at Jiayuguan, you will tour **Jiayuguan Fortress**, known as "the most imposing gatehouse in the world." Because of the strategic importance of its location, troop regiments have been stationed here through dynasty after dynasty. During your visit, you will also tour Jiayuguan's **Museum of the Great Wall**. After dinner, you will board a "sleeper" train for an overnight trip to **Lanzhou**, the capital of Gansu Province.



Day 9 Attractions:

Great Gobi Desert (大戈壁滩, Dà Gēbì Tān)

Great Wall at Jiayuguan (嘉峪关长城, Jiāyùguān Chángchéng)

Jiayuguan Fortress (嘉峪关城楼, Jiāyùguān Chénglóu)

Jiayuguan Museum of the Great Wall (嘉峪关长城博物馆, Jiāyùguān Chángchéng Bówùguǎn)

Day 9 Accommodations: soft seats on the train to **Lanzhou**

Day 10: Lanzhou

After your arrival in **Lanzhou**, you will visit the **Yellow River Mother Sculpture** and the **Yellow River Iron Bridge**, which is known as “the first bridge built over the Yellow River.” Located near **White Pagoda Hill** and **Golden City Pass**, it is one of Lanzhou’s most iconic structures. Next you will tour the **Yellow River Stone Forest**, a geologic marvel formed millions of years ago by movements of the earth’s crust that created strange landforms of every shape imaginable. Here you will have a chance to ride in a **donkey cart** to experience this distinctive local form of transportation.

Day 10 Attractions:

Yellow River Mother Sculpture (黄河母亲塑像, Huáng Hé Mǔqīn Sùxiàng)

Yellow River Iron Bridge (黄河第一铁桥, Huáng Hé Dìyī Tiěqiáo)

views of **White Pagoda Hill** (白塔山, Báitǎ Shān) and **Golden City Pass** (金城关, Jīnchéng Guān)

Yellow River Stone Forest (黄河石林, Huáng Hé Shílín)

Special Arrangements: donkey cart ride

Lanzhou Accommodations: **Sapphire Hotel Lanzhou** 蓝宝石酒店 (4-Star) *or equivalent*

<http://www.lanbaoshihotel.com/>

Day 11: Lanzhou – Xining

Today you will tour the **Liujia Gorge Hydropower Station** and the **Bingling Temple Grottoes**. Afterward, you can savor the taste of authentic **Lanzhou-style hand-pulled noodles**; then you will take an express train to **Xining**.

Day 11 Attractions:

Liujia Gorge Hydropower Station (刘家峡水电站, Liújiā Xiá Shuǐdiàn Zhàn)

Bingling Temple Grottoes (炳灵寺石窟, Bǐnglíng Sì Shíkū)

Xining Accommodations: **Qinghai Hotel** 青海宾馆 (4-Star) *or equivalent*

http://hotel.tw128.com/3418/hotel_IntroAll.shtml

Day 12: Xining

Today you will visit **Qinghai Lake**, the largest inland saltwater lake in China. Vast and tranquil, the blue water of the lake creates an enchanting scene. The lake is located at an elevation of 3,260 meters above sea level and covers an area of 4,400 square kilometers. The mountains, desert, grassland, and pastures surrounding Qinghai Lake combine to form a spectacular scene. Along the way you will also have a chance to admire sights such as the **Daotang River** and **Sun and Moon Mountain**.

Day 12 Attractions:

Qinghai Lake (青海湖, Qīnghǎi Hú)

views of the **Daotang River** (倒淌河, Dào tāng Hé) and **Sun and Moon Mountain** (日月山, Rìyuè Shān)

Day 13: Xining

In the morning you will tour the **Ta’er Monastery**, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery located at the birthplace of Tsongkhapa, a famous teacher of Tibetan Buddhism, to whom the monastery is dedicated. It features a cluster of ancient Sino-Tibetan buildings, the most famous of which is known as the “**Golden-Tiled Temple**” because its roof is literally made of gold. Ta’er Monastery also boasts a great variety of relics, including exquisite examples of its “three incomparable arts”: murals, “duīxiù” embroidery, and butter sculptures, which are similar to wax sculptures. In the afternoon, you will visit a “Tu” ethnic minority (土族, Tǔzú) village in **Huzhu County**. There, you will experience the traditional Tu lifestyle, enjoy traditional **song and dance performances**, and savor the taste of **authentic local dishes**.



Day 13 Attractions:

Ta'er Monastery (塔尔寺, Tǎ'ěr Sì)

Golden-Tiled Temple (大金瓦殿, Dà Jīnwǎ Diàn) and other famous halls

Huzhu County Tu Village (互助土族之乡, Hùzhù Tǔzú Zhī Xiāng)

Special Arrangements: traditional **Tu performances**

Day 14: Xining – Xi'an

In the morning, you will tour **Beichan Temple** (also called **Beishan Temple**), nestled among “mountain and water” scenery in the Danxia Landform area, whose numerous caves are varied and unusual in appearance. Afterward, you will take a flight to the culturally and historically rich city of **Xi'an**, one of the great cities of the ancient world along with Athens, Cairo, and Rome. Over the course of Chinese history, it was the capital of eleven dynasties. As it was also the eastern endpoint of the Silk Road, Xi'an features numerous cultural relics and historical sites. After your arrival, you will visit Xi'an's enormous **City Walls**, which have a history of more than 600 years, and the **Bell Tower**. You will also tour **Big Goose Pagoda**, built to preserve the valuable scriptures that the famous monk Master Xuán Zàng brought back from India. Since ancient times, distinguished and cultured men have been inspired by the view from the tower to write timeless works. Afterward, you will have a **banquet** featuring authentic local **dumplings** and enjoy a **Tang Dynasty-style song and dance performance**.

Day 14 Attractions:

Beichan Temple (北禪寺, Běichán Sì), also called **Beishan Temple** (北山寺, Běishān Sì)

Xi'an's City Walls (城牆, Chéngqiáng)

Bell Tower (鐘樓, Zhōnglóu)

Big Goose Pagoda (大雁塔, Dàyàn Tǎ)

Special Arrangements: authentic **Defachang dumplings** (德发长饺子, Défācháng jiǎozi), **Tang**

Dynasty-style performance (仿唐乐歌舞, Fǎng Táng Yuègēwǔ)

Xi'an Accommodations: **Titan Times Hotel** 西安天朗时代大酒店 (5-Star) *or equivalent*

<http://www.titantimeshotel.com/>

Day 15: Xi'an

Today, you will travel to the village of Lintong to see the **First Emperor's terracotta army**, which was accidentally discovered in 1974 by a villager while he was digging a well. Its excavation revealed to the world the political, economic, cultural, and military achievements of ancient China in the time of the First Emperor. After the opening of the vast **Terracotta Army Museum** in 1979, the terracotta army became an international sensation and began to be called the Eighth Wonder of the World; it was one of the most important archaeological discoveries of its time. The scope of the terracotta army, its aura of might, and the great scientific and aesthetic achievements it represents leave spectators astounded. After returning to Xi'an, you will take a stroll along **Huimin Street** in Xi'an's Muslim Quarter, a section of the city whose character was directly influenced by the Silk Road.

Day 15 Attractions:

the First Emperor's terracotta army (秦始皇兵马俑, Qín Shǐhuáng Bīngmǎyǒng)

Huimin Street (回民街, Huímín Jiē)

Day 16: Xi'an – Beijing – U.S.A.

Today you will say goodbye to **Xi'an** and fly to **Beijing**, where you will then take a connecting flight to the **United States** and home, sweet home.



2011 Prices and Departure Dates

Departure Saturday	From SFO/LAX					
	Land Only	Air Ticket & Land	Single Occupancy	Fuel Surcharge	Taxes & Fees	Total Price*
11/5	\$2,329	\$2,829	add \$580	\$260	\$100	\$3,189

2012 Prices and Departure Dates

Departure Saturday	From SFO/LAX					
	Land Only	Air Ticket & Land	Single Occupancy	Fuel Surcharge	Taxes & Fees	Total Price*
3/24	\$2,429	\$3,029	add \$580	\$360	\$100	\$3,489
4/14,28	\$2,429	\$3,029	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,489
5/19	\$2,529	\$3,129	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,589
6/9,23	\$2,529	\$3,329	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,789
7/7,21	\$2,529	\$3,329	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,789
8/4,18	\$2,529	\$3,229	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,689
9/1,15	\$2,529	\$3,129	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,589
10/6,20	\$2,529	\$3,129	add \$650	\$360	\$100	\$3,589
11/3	\$2,329	\$2,829	add \$580	\$360	\$100	\$3,289

* "Total price" includes **air ticket, fuel surcharge, taxes and fees, land transportation, meals** (with some exceptions on international arrival and departure days), **hotels, tour guides, complimentary accident insurance, and all of the attractions listed on the itinerary (including the "special arrangements")** but does NOT include the **additional charge for single occupancy**; the base price per traveler assumes that hotel rooms are shared by two people.

Please read the "Standard Booking Notice" on our website's [Booking page](#) before making your tour reservations.

Charges for children: Children 11 years and under who share a room with two adults and do not ask for an extra bed will be charged the listed child fare or 75% of the regular adult price; if they need an extra bed in the same room with two adults, the cost will be 90% of the regular adult price. Children 12 and older will be charged at the regular adult price.

Airfare: Prices listed are for departures from Los Angeles (LAX) and San Francisco (SFO), based on Air China (CA) V Class. For New York (JFK) departures, the additional tour fare is \$100; fuel surcharge, taxes and fees are as listed. Fuel surcharge and taxes are associated with airlines and are subject to change at any time without prior notice. For departure gateways other than Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and New York (JFK), please add appropriate USA domestic add-on fare (certain exclusions may apply):

Eastern Time Zone: add \$350, **Central Time Zone:** add \$350, **Mountain Time Zone:** add \$250, **Pacific Time Zone:** add \$100



China International Travel CA, Inc. cancellation policy: Notice of cancellation must be received by fax or mail; verbal notice only will not be considered sufficient. Please contact CIT to confirm that we have received your cancellation notice. A cancellation fee will be charged according to the following criteria:

- 60 or more days prior to departure: \$200 per person will be assessed.
- 45-59 days prior to departure: \$300 per person will be assessed.
- 30-44 days prior to departure: \$400 per person will be assessed.
- 15-29 days prior to departure: \$500 per person will be assessed.
- 3-14 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person will be assessed.
- Less than 3 days or nonappearance: 100% of total charge.

If tickets for any form of transportation (including, but not limited to, airline, cruise, or train) have already been issued or final confirmation has been received at time of cancellation, an additional penalty will be assessed in accordance with the policies of the company providing the transportation.

We strongly suggest that our clients consider purchasing cancellation insurance to prevent the loss of your tour investment in the event of illness, accident, or some other unforeseeable circumstance that might prevent you from going on the tour. Please see our website's [Booking page](#) for more information about the insurance policies we sell from USI Affinity, a trusted travel insurance company.