

# The Silk Road

FROM XI'AN TO XINJIANG



This is one of our special Limited Edition Adventures, offered only every two to five years. This is the planned itinerary for the trip, but please note that changes may be made when the departure is finalized.

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## The Silk Road

FROM XI'AN TO XINJIANG

For 2,000 years, the Silk Road was the principal artery for caravans traveling between China and Europe laden with textiles, spices, gold—and ideas, philosophies, and religions. On this adventure with veteran Trip Leader Roger Williams, we follow the footsteps of Marco Polo from ancient Xi'an, cradle of Chinese history, to fabled Kashgar in China's wild west, a vital hub when silk caravans passed this way a millennium ago. Our route embraces noted historical sites including Xi'an, home of the celebrated Terra Cotta Warriors; Dunhuang, where we explore the cliff-bound Mogao Grottoes, a priceless repository of Chinese Buddhist cave art long lost in the desert; Turpan, close to the ancient city of Gaocheng and the Bezeklik Caves, with their strikingly painted mural art; and the legendary Kashgar Sunday market. As we explore, we encounter a range of peoples, from Tibetan Buddhists to Uighur traders, and learn how their cultures and traditions are deeply tied to this mountain and desert realm. There's no other journey in the world quite like this adventure on the storied road across the Far East.



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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### XI'AN (1,329')

Arrive in Xi'an, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Xi'an, the cradle of Chinese history, is an ancient Silk Road metropolis that has witnessed the rise and fall of 14 imperial dynasties over two millennia. It was the gateway to the west and the starting point of the Silk Road. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Xi'an was thought to be the largest city in the world, linked to many central Asian regions and Europe via the Silk Road. In the evening, we gather for a trip orientation and Welcome Dinner. Overnight at Hyatt Regency Xi'an...D

## DAY 2

### XI'AN / TERRA COTTA WARRIORS

Today we visit the famed site of Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors, built by Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of unified China. The site was discovered by accident in 1974 by a group of farmers digging for a new well, and was one of the most remarkable archaeological discoveries of all time. Qin Shihuang's astounding army of 8,000 life-sized terra cotta warriors and their steeds was buried underground in full regalia and arranged in battle formation. Each warrior's face is unique, and some warriors were created to resemble members of China's ethnic minorities, indicating the emperor's status as the first conqueror of China. After lunch, we take a leisurely stroll through the city's Muslim Quarter for a glimpse into the local way of life, which derives as much from the ancient cultures of Central Asia as from China. For over 1,300 years, Muslims have been an integral part of the colorful daily life of Xi'an. We also visit the Great Mosque, noted for its remarkable architecture and history. In the evening we enjoy dinner at a time-honored dumpling restaurant and learn from the chef how to make these delicious treats. Overnight at Hyatt Regency Xi'an...BLD

## DAY 3

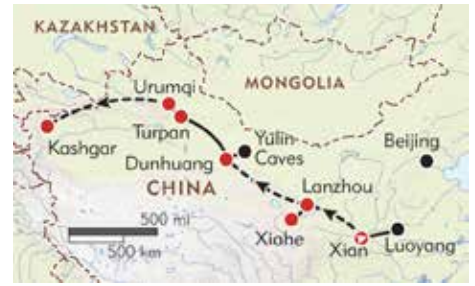
### LUOYANG / LONGMEN GROTTOES

We take a high-speed bullet train to Luoyang (about 1.5 hours, first class seats). Here we'll visit the White Horse Temple, the first Buddhist temple in China, and appreciate the precious Buddhist statues, steles, and ancient architecture from the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. We'll also visit the nearby Qiyun Pagoda, a well-preserved pagoda from the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234). In the afternoon, we head to the Longmen Grottoes, a World Heritage Site that's considered a masterpiece of both Buddhist art and Chinese calligraphy. Most of the caves were built by the royal families of Northern Wei Dynasty (386-557) and Tang Dynasty (618-907). Boarding a high-speed bullet train, we return to Xi'an in the early evening. Dinner is on your own this evening. Overnight at Hyatt Regency Xi'an...BL

## DAY 4

### XI'AN / SHAANXI HISTORY MUSEUM / WILD GOOSE PAGODA

Through its well organized and fascinating world-class exhibits, Shaanxi History Museum displays the rich historical and cultural heritage of the region.



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 19 days  
**Arrive:** Xi'an, China  
**Depart:** Kashgar, China  
**Lodging:** 18 nights hotels  
**Meals:** All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)  
**Activity:** Cultural Adventures  
**Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
Cultural exploration and walking tours, some overland travel

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors with private museum guide, the Mogao Grottoes of Dunhuang, the bazaars of Kashgar, including the legendary Sunday Market
- The Silk Road oasis of Turpan, Urumqi's excellent Xinjiang Regional Museum with a private presentation by a senior museum expert
- Uighur home visit, lunch at the vineyard of a local family in Tuyugou



# Itinerary (cont'd)

As we visit the museum, we'll learn about the ancient Chinese civilization and appreciate some of the museum's very rare treasures. We'll also have special access to the underground Tang Dynasty Murals, where an English-speaking expert will offer interesting and insightful views that will bring these ancient paintings alive. After lunch, we visit Xi'an's towering Wild Goose Pagoda. A masterpiece of the Tang Dynasty Buddhist architecture, Wild Goose Pagoda was built in the 7th century AD by Emperor Gao Zong to honor the work of the Buddhist monk Xuan Zang, who traveled to India in disguise to find and translate the original Sanskrit Buddhist texts. Today this quaint pagoda is often taken as the symbol of historic Xi'an. We return to the hotel in the late afternoon... BLD



## DAY 5

### XI'AN / SHUILU'AN TEMPLE

This morning we head to the Shuilu'an Temple at the foot of Wangshun Mountain. The temple houses a collection of more than 3700 delicately painted clay Buddha sculptures dating back to the Sui Dynasty (518-619). These pieces tell a story of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, and their intertwined histories in China. After lunch at a local restaurant, we return to Xi'an City to visit the Forest of Stone Steles, a museum of ancient stone carvings inside a former Confucian temple. The stone tablets and sculptures are inscribed with fine calligraphy depicting poetry, literature, and religious and historical facts. We'll have the opportunity to learn the art of Chinese calligraphy from our own local master. Dinner this evening will be on your own...BL

## DAY 6

### XI'AN / LANZHOU (5,000')

This morning, we'll visit the great archaeological discoveries at Hanyangling Mausoleum. Built at the base of the imperial mausoleum of Emperor Jing and Empress Wang (Western Han Dynasty, 206 BC-24 AD), this underground museum showcases a large collection of exquisite cultural relics excavated from the site, especially the beautifully-painted pottery sculptures of dancers, servants, civilians, and farm animals. In the afternoon, we transfer to the Xi'an train station and take a bullet train to Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu. Situated between the vast Tibetan and Loess plateaus, and bordering six other provinces and autonomous regions, Gansu province offers a distinctive glimpse into Silk Road history and ancient Buddhist history and practices. Overnight at Crowne Plaza Lanzhou...BLD

## DAY 7

### LANZHOU / XIAHE (9,186')

This morning we visit the Gansu Provincial Museum, which features ancient treasures excavated along the Silk Road including the delicate brick mural "Postman" and the mysterious Galloping Horse. We then drive to Xiahe, with



a lunch stop at Linxia, a Muslim town dubbed “the little Mecca of China.” We’ll appreciate the intricately-carved brick walls at the nearby Da Gong Bei (Grand Gombai, or Grand Mausoleum), an Islamic complex surrounded the mausoleum of Qi Jingyi (1656-1719). Afterwards, we continue our journey and reach Xiahe (9,186’), located in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight at Xiahe Labrang Aviation Hotel...BLD  
Driving Details: 155 miles, 4 hours

## DAY 8

### XIAHE / LABRANG MONASTERY

Nestled at the foot of Phoenix Mountain, Labrang Monastery is the religious center of the Amdo Tibetan area, and the largest Buddhist monastic university in the entire Tibetan area. We’ll join the local people walking the pilgrimage route around the monastery, explore the vast monastery complex, and visit the Tibetan medicine college and the sutra-debating courtyard. In the afternoon, we visit the monastery’s sutra-printing house and try our hand at ancient woodblock printing. The remainder of the day is free to wander around the bustling Xiahe market. In the evening, we enjoy dinner at a Tibetan restaurant as local musicians join us with their beautiful singing and dancing performance. Overnight at Xiahe Labrang Aviation Hotel...BLD

## DAY 9

### XIAHE / LANZHOU

We return to Lanzhou, stopping along the way to take a speedboat to Binglingsi Caves (also known as Bingling Temple). Apart from the fascinating Buddhist statues and ancient murals set within a peaceful valley, Binglingsi Caves is characterized by its picturesque surroundings of jagged mountain cliffs overlooking the meandering Yellow River. The remainder of the day is free to take a stroll along the Yellow River, or visit a local market. Overnight at Crowne Plaza Lanzhou...BLD  
Driving Details: 208 miles, 5.5 hours

## DAY 10

### LANZHOU / DUNHUANG (3,747')

We transfer to the airport this morning and fly to Dunhuang, a former terminus of the Silk Road set on the edge of the Takla Makan Desert. For Silk Road traders and the missionary monks of Buddhism traveling east to west, Dunhuang was the first major oasis. In the late afternoon, we’ll visit magical Crescent Moon Lake and enjoy a camel ride at the lovely Mingsha Sand Dunes, a chance to watch a beautiful sunset over the desert. Overnight at Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel...BLD





# Itinerary (cont'd)



## DAY 11

### DUNHUANG / MOGAO GROTTOS

We head out to the remote Mogao Grottoes (also known as “the Caves of a Thousand Buddhas”), located on the western cliffs of the Singing Sands Mountains. These 492 grottoes, a World Heritage Site, honeycomb a giant cliff face and house murals, Buddhist paintings, and statues. Artifacts discovered at Dunhuang span from the Northern and Western Wei to Northern Zhou and Tang dynasties, and include what is believed to be one of the oldest printed books in the world, dating back to 868 AD. During our visit, we will have special access to Cave 45 with its clay figures, and Cave 158, which houses a 45-foot-long Sleeping Buddha. We return to our hotel in Dunhuang for dinner and overnight...BLD

## DAY 12

### YULIN CAVES

Today we'll discover more wonderful Buddhist art at the Yulin Caves. Excavated on both cliffs along the Yulin River, these caves are considered the sister caves of the Mogao Caves. There are 43 preserved caves, and most of the Buddhist sculptures and mural paintings are works fashioned between the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). At Cave 25, the vivid mural paintings are considered a rare treasure and a masterpiece from the mid-Tang dynasty. In Caves 2 and 3, two murals depicting the monk Xuan Zang's journey for Buddhist scriptures were painted during the Western Xia Dynasty (1038-1227), 300 years earlier than the Ming Dynasty novel “Journey to the West”. In Cave 3, the mural “Thousand Hands Avalokitesvara” offers valuable information to study the social life and agricultural technique of the Western Xia Dynasty.



The 25-meter Maitreya Buddha stature at Cave 6 and the lifelike sculptures of the Eighteen Arhats at Cave 11 are also worth a visit. Return to Dunhuang in the late afternoon and overnight at the Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel...BLD  
Driving Details: 235 miles, 4 hours (total)

#### DAY 13

##### DUNHUANG / TURPAN / JIAOHE (1,132')

The morning is free to relax, but if we're up for it, we can visit Dunhuang Museum, with its priceless documents and written sutras from Cave 17 of the Mogao Caves, and other valuable relics excavated from the area, including the rare Kylin brick. Later, we drive to Liuyuan South Railway Station and board a bullet train to Turpan (about 3.5 hours, first class seats), an oasis in the Takla Makan Desert. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel to check in. Before dinner, we'll watch the sunset at the nearby Jiaohe Ruins, the remains of a nearly 2,000-year-old fortress set atop a steep cliff. Dinner at a nearby local restaurant. Overnight at Shuangcheng Hotel...BLD  
Driving Details: 87 miles, 2 hours (to the train station)

#### DAY 14

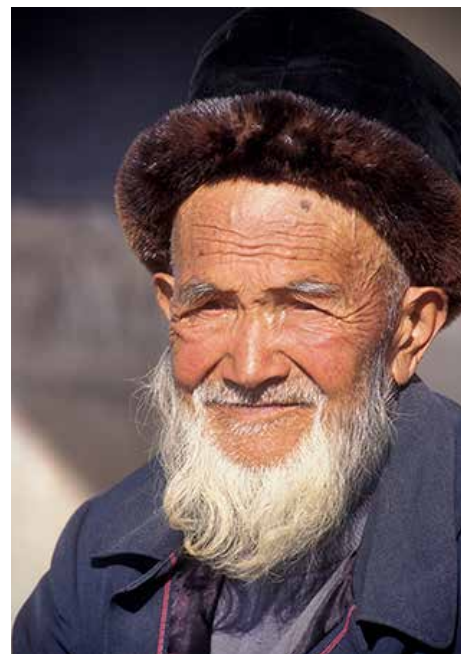
##### BEZEKLIK CAVES / TUYUGOU VILLAGE / GAOCHANG

Turpan was a center of Buddhism until the 8th century, when Islam came to this part of western China. East of Turpan at the foot of the Flaming Mountains lies the Bezeklik Caves, a cliffside complex of more than 75 rock-cut caves containing remarkable Buddhist murals dating from the 5th to 9th centuries. We also visit Tuyugou, one of the few authentic villages that maintains its old Buddhist traditions despite its conversion to Islam, and we'll have lunch at the vineyard of a local family here. We next explore Mazar, a peaceful village where old Uyghur traditions are well kept. Here we'll head to the nearby mountainside and discover a group of ancient Buddhist caves with frescoes. Nearby is the ancient city of Gaocheng ("King's City"). Once a garrison town and later the capital of the Uighur people, Gaocheng was laid out in the first century BC and abandoned in the 15th century. The royal dead of Gaocheng's Tang Dynasty period (AD 618-907) were buried at the Astana Tombs nearby. We'll explore the vast site and fragments of the ancient city walls that were built over 2,000 years ago. Return to Turpan, with time to walk around the old town before dinner. Overnight at Shuangcheng Hotel...BLD

#### DAY 15

##### TURPAN / KERAZ WELL / URUMQI (6,435')

Visit Turpan's Emin Minaret and the mosque, and study the elegant architecture of this ancient Islamic site. Later we visit a keraz well, an ancient irrigation system also from the Han Dynasty. The keraz underground irrigation system installed in the Turfan valley 2,000 years ago is considered to be one of the greatest engineering projects of ancient China. Water from the glaciers of the nearby Tian Shan Mountains were conducted down to Turpan through hundreds of miles of tunnels, all dug by hand. The tunnels turned waterless Turpan into an agricultural oasis famous for its delicious sweet melons, grapes, apricots, and other produce. Afterwards, we take a one-hour bullet train ride to





## Itinerary (cont'd)



Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Xinjiang Regional Museum, where archaeological treasures from the Silk Road and Xinjiang's minority cultures are on display. The museum includes objects such as terracotta figures, pottery, porcelain, weapons, silk, and scriptures. In particular, the museum has several ancient mummies whose attire attests to both the diversity and wealth found along the Silk Road thousands of years ago. Overnight at the Hilton Urumqi Hotel...BLD

### DAY 16

#### URUMQI / KASHGAR (4,167') / SUNDAY MARKET

Transfer to the airport for our morning flight to Kashgar, the largest oasis city in Chinese Central Asia.

It is an ancient Silk Road marketplace where great swathes of disparate groups from all across Asia once

came to trade, often arriving on camel caravans that stretched for miles. In the afternoon, we take a traditional donkey cart to visit the Kashgar Sunday Market. The legendary market, one of Asia's greatest gatherings of traders, offers a chance to roam amid the aromas of fresh-baked breads, cumin, pepper, and grilled lamb, and watch the spirited negotiations of traders haggling over everything from camels, sheep, silk, spices, and fruits to household goods. Traditional Uighur craftsmen—metalsmiths, blacksmiths, coppersmiths, cobblers, hat-makers, and woodworkers—make all kinds of goods by hand and supply the local farmers and shepherds with the wares of daily life. Dinner and overnight at the Radisson Blu Kashgar...BLD

**Kashgar:** A desert oasis with an end-of-the-world feeling, Kashgar is located 600 miles southwest of Urumqi and 80 miles east of the Russian border. This famously isolated city of walled adobe compounds was the launching pad for many Tibet, Pamir, and Karakoram expeditions in the 18th and 19th centuries and was also a major center for the Great Game, the shadowy diplomatic jousting match between Britain and Russia for dominance over Central Asia. Although Kashgar is modernizing and the old city walls have been torn down, it still has an exotic atmosphere, with its population of Uighurs, Tajiks, Kirghiz, and Uzbek peoples. The bazaars are the focus of life in Kashgar, and are crowded with a variety of donkey carts and bicycles.

### DAY 17

#### KASHGAR

Outside of town is the Abakh Khoja Mausoleum (also known as the Mausoleum of Xiang Fei), a masterpiece of Uygur Islamic architecture. After visiting the site, we return to Kashgar and visit the Gaotai Ancient Homes to learn the history of the centuries-old neighborhood of Kashgar Old Town. This evening, we enjoy dinner at Chini Bagh (the former British Consulate), and enjoy one of the most famous Xinjiang dishes—whole roasted lamb. Overnight at the Radisson Blu Kashgar...BLD



DAY 18  
KASHGAR

After breakfast, we visit the Id Kah Mosque, spiritual center of Kashgar and the largest mosque in China. Built in 1442 and located in the center of the city, the grand Islamic structure of this mosque, with its central dome and flanking minarets, is a stark contrast to the many Chinese-style mosques in Xi'an. We also tour the nearby marketplace, and visit a local workshop for handmade musical instruments. At the old neighborhood, we step into a local Uygur family's courtyard home, have tea, and chat with the family members about their daily life. After lunch, we go for a leisurely stroll at the People's Square, and learn the story of the great statue of Chairman Mao. Erected in 1969, the statue is one of the few large-scale statues of Mao remaining in China. We'll spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the colorful market (also commonly known as the Dongmen Grand Bazaar) for all kinds of regional handicrafts, as well as a nearby market for local fruits and melons for which Xinjiang is famous. In the evening, we gather for our festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight at the Radisson Blu Kashgar...BLD



DAY 19  
DEPART

Transfer to the airport for departure on homeward-bound flights...B



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

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## TRIP COST

To be announced

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of Roger Williams and local guides
- Arrival and departure transfers for those arriving on the scheduled arrival and departure dates
- Accommodations as indicated
- All meals included except 1 dinner
- Sightseeing activities as indicated
- Entrance fees to all sites listed in itinerary

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Internal airfare, international airfare, airport departure taxes, individual arrival or departure transfers, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, optional tipping or gratuities to the leader, hotels en route to and home from the trip, any additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by international airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations, visa fees, travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (laundry, telephone, internet, etc.).

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600  
90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 151 days prior to departure: No charge!  
91-150 days prior to departure: \$600 per person  
90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

**Please note:** Insurance for emergency evacuation is required for this trip. Call for more details.



# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Xi'an, China

**Suggested Airport:** Xi'an Xianyang International Airport (XIY)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, by 2:00 pm

**Meeting Place:** A complimentary transfer will be provided from the airport to the Xi'an hotel no matter when you arrive. Please note that check-in time is 2:00 pm.

## DEPARTURE

Kashgar, China

**Suggested Airport:** Kashi Airport (KHG)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 19, anytime

A complimentary transfer will be provided from the Kashgar hotel to the Kashi Airport no matter when you depart. Please note that check-out time is 12:00 pm.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Asia.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

# Trip Leader

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Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible.

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## ROGER WILLIAMS

Roger Williams has been one of our most versatile guides since 1986, and he shows no sign of stopping. He spent eight years studying Tibetan Buddhism, Buddhist iconography, Himalayan languages, and woodblock art in Nepal, and another two years studying Japanese woodblock art, Japanese language, and Shingon Shu, an esoteric sect of Japanese Buddhism in Japan. If it isn't the surplus of knowledge Roger brings when he leads a trip that makes him so unique, then it may be his awareness for cultural preservation that keep trip members so loyal to his new adventures. Each year, Roger works with WT to design new trips in fascinating areas. He has led in such far-flung locations as Iran, Pakistan, northern Afghanistan, Kamchatka, Burma, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Madagascar. When he's not leading, you can find Roger in Berkeley, California, where he is the director of Snow Lion Graphics/SLG Books, a publishing house specializing in Asian cultures. "There should be a rating higher than excellent for Roger," one trip member wrote after her journey with Roger. "His knowledge, energy, planning, and attentiveness are superlative."



# Trip Details

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## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 2, Easy to Moderate. While the trip is not expected to be physically strenuous, the long travel days and transportation conditions may be demanding. Accommodations are in good city hotels, and overland travel is in minivans and small buses, depending upon the size of the group. Road conditions can be very basic, and trip members should be prepared for a few long drives. Our expedition travels to areas that have experienced very little tourism. We believe that the most important requirements are a spirit of adventure and the understanding that you are visiting a remote and fascinating region. This is not designed as a hiking trip, but we do hope to have a few exploration walks of several hours during the journey.

On this trip, you will spend a couple of days at approximately 9,186 feet, but most elevations will be between 1,000-6,500 feet. Individuals vary widely in their physical response to higher altitudes. It is not uncommon to experience mild headaches or sleeplessness for a day or two when you first arrive at higher elevations. Most people gradually adjust within a few days.

## WEATHER

Fall is a great time to travel along the Silk Road. The weather will likely be quite comfortable, with blue skies most days, but nights can be chilly. No matter what, at high altitude, the weather is unpredictable, and the effect of the wind-chill factor can create very cold conditions. Daytime temperatures range from 50-77°F in Xi'an to 42-80°F in Kashgar.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Asia Manager or email us at [asia@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:asia@wildernesstravel.com).

## LIMITED EDITION ADVENTURES

This is a Limited Edition adventure—which means a unique trip we've never run before or offer only every few years. Led by our most experienced Trip Leaders, these journeys often take place in remote destinations with only the most basic infrastructure for tourism. If you see a Limited Edition trip scheduled for this year, now is the time to sign up, as spaces fill very early and the trip may not be back for a while! Planned daily activities and actual timings may vary due to local conditions or the discretion of your Trip Leader—it is important to bring your spirit of adventure for these special exploratory journeys!

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at <https://www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/>

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



# Travel Notes

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## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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