



# Imperial Silk Road

**18 Days 16 Nights**

Beijing, Urumqi, Kashgar, Urumchi-  
Turpan, Dunhuang, Jiayuguan, Lanzhou  
Xian, Shanghai

## Day 1 Canada – Beijing

Depart Canada and fly to Beijing, crossing the International Date Line en-route.

## Day 2 Beijing

Arrive at Beijing Capital International Airport, you will be met by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel. Take some time to relax and prepare for your full day tour tomorrow.

*Accommodation: Beijing Doubletree by Hilton or similar*

## Day 3 Beijing – Urumqi (B)

After breakfast, you will take an early morning flight for Urumqi. Upon arrival, transfer to Southern Pastures – approximately 60 km south of Urumqi. “Urumqi” in the Mongolian language means “Pretty Pasture” and here you will appreciate the beautiful highland pasture and unique lifestyle of the Kazak pastoral people.

*Accommodation: Urumqi Grand Mercure Hotel or similar*

## Day 4 Urumqi (B/L/D)

Today you will travel to Tianchi Lake. The literal translation of Tian Chi is “heavenly lake”. Tianchi lies on the northern side of the Bogda Peak of the beautiful Tianshan Mountains and is approximately 110km east of Urumqi. After returning to the city you will embark on a tour, visiting the Xinjiang Regional Museum – a large integrated museum and centre for the collection and study of cultural relics in Xinjiang. The museum is divided into 2 sections – one for the archaeological treasures from the Silk Road, and the other displays artefacts from the provinces’ minority cultures.

## Day 5 Urumqi – Kashgar (B/L/D)

This morning you will take a morning flight to Kashi. Upon arrival you will be met by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel in Kashgar. Your first visit in Kashgar will be to the Id Kah Mosque, the largest mosque in all of China. Every Friday it accommodates nearly 10,000 worshippers and its capacity is 20,000 people. The mosque was built by Saqsiz Mirza in 1442. After lunch, you will move to the Abakh Khoja Tomb - the 17th Century family cemetery of the Kashgar area Islamic leader. In China the tomb is popular as the remains of Xiang Fei, the only Uigur concubine among the 41 wives of Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), may be found here. The Abakh Khoja Tomb is famous for being a well-preserved Islamic architectural complex not only in Xinjiang, but throughout Central Asia and Xiang Fei’s love story is one that is followed by people around the world. Afterwards, you will visit the Sunday Bazaar -every Sunday the city of Kashgar is turned into one big market. Markets generally specialise in local produce, arts and crafts, garments, knives, timber, coal and animals.

*Accommodation: Kashi Yue Xing Jin Jiang International Hotel or similar*

## Day 6 Kashgar – Turpan (B/L/D)

This morning, visit the Residential Area on High Platform. The platform comprises of Kashgar’s old town. It is located on a natural slope of yellow soil, earthy and huddled with old houses, kept in reservation as part of the former Kashgar town. Most homes have been handed down from generation to generation for over 300 to 400 years. The unique homes and antique soil earthenware workshops are a must see. After lunch, you will take an afternoon flight to Urumqi. You will be met and driven the 200km to Turpan. Upon arrival, your guide will transfer you to your hotel.

*Accommodation: Turpan Tuha Petroleum Hotel or similar*

### **Day 7 Turpan (B/L)**

Today you will discover the Jiaohe Ruins – a site full of ancient Chinese ruins located in the Yarnaz Valley, 10km west of the city of Turpan. Jiaohe was once the capital of the Anterior Jushi Kingdom, as well as during the Han, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties in China. The city was abandoned after an invasion of the Mongols, led by Genghis Khan in the 13th Century. Your next stop will be at the Karez Well – a local Turpan water system that is regarded as one of the three greatest water projects of ancient China. Afterwards, you will head to the Flaming Mountains. These mountains are barren, eroded, red sandstone hills to the east of Turpan, where the climate is harsh in the summer months. Your last stop will be at the Grape Valley – a green paradise of 400 hectares covered with grapes.



### **Day 8 Turpan – Dunhuang (B/L)**

Today you will enjoy a full day tour of Turpan, before heading to Dunhuang overnight. This morning you will begin with a visit to the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, situated at the foot of the Flaming Mountains. They are a group of Buddhist grottoes dating back to the 5th to 9th centuries, with 77 rock-cut caves, each containing arch ceilings divided into four sections, each depicting a mural of Buddha. You will then travel to the Sugong Pagoda, a cylindrical structure standing 37 metres high and 10 metres in diameter. Built in 1181, Sugong Pagoda was constructed by the ruler of the Turpan Prefecture, in honour of his father. The last site on this tour will be the Astana Grave – a collection of underground tombs containing the remains of inhabitants of the ancient city of Gaochang.



### **Day 9 Dunhuang (B/L/D)**

After a night on the overnight train from Turpan, you will arrive in Liuyuan in the early morning and be transferred to your hotel in Dunhuang. After you have settled in you will embark on a full day tour of the city. Your first destination will be the Echoing Sand Dune and Singing Sand Hill, an impressive 250 metre dune in the desert. Afterwards, you will head to Crescent Lake – a crescent shaped oasis surrounded by desert and a must see destination for tourists. Next, you will travel to the Mogao Grottoes – a collection of 492 temples strategically located at a religious and cultural crossroad on the Silk Road. The caves house some of the finest examples of Buddhist art, spanning a period of over 1,000 years. Your last visit will be to the Dunhuang Museum,

which is a local museum displaying cultural relics excavated from the area.

*Accommodation: Dunhuang Grand Sun Hotel or similar*

### **Day 10 Dunhuang – Jiayuguan (B/D)**

After breakfast, you will take a train to Jiayuguan. Upon arrival you will travel to the Jiayuguan Pass – the first pass at the west end of the Great Wall of China, and one of the main three passes of the Great Wall itself. The next visit will be to the Suspension Great Wall - built during the Ming Dynasty (1364 – 1644) it was made to resemble a dragon about to extend its body towards the ground. The Wei-Jin Mural Tombs will be your next stop on this tour and this site is comprised of 1,400 tombs built between the 3rd and 5th centuries during the Wei and Jin Dynasties. The Wei-Jin Mural Tombs is also the largest subterranean art gallery in the world with a large number of colourful murals on display here.

*Accommodation: Jiayuguan Hotel or similar*

**Day 11 Jiayuguan – Lanzhou (B/L)**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Jiayuguan Airport for your flight to Lanzhou. Upon arrival you will begin your day tour of the city, with the first stop at Gansu Provincial Museum. The museum has over 75,000 cultural relics ranging from natural specimens to historical, revolutionary and national artefacts. Afterwards, you will take a walk to the bank of the Yellow River, to admire and appreciate the view.

*Accommodation: Lanzhou Legend Hotel or similar*

**Day 12 Lanzhou – Xian (B/L)**

Today you will enjoy a full day excursion to the Binglingsi Grottoes. ‘Bingling’ means ‘ten thousand Buddhas’ in the Tibetan language and the site is famous for its many stone sculptures, reliefs and murals. In the afternoon you will take a flight to Xi’an and upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

*Accommodation: Xian Grand Noble or similar*



**Day 13 Xian (B/L)**

During your first day in Xi’an you will visit the Wild Goose Pagoda. The temple was originally used by a large team of scholars to translate the Buddhism Scriptures into Chinese and subsequently became a holy place for pilgrims. You will then have time to visit the Provincial Museum, which documents China’s archaeological finds which date back to the Neolithic Age (20000 years ago), all the way to the dynasties from 980 AD. In the evening you may choose to join the optional Banquet Dinner – where you will enjoy a dumpling banquet and music and dance from the Tang Dynasty.

**Day 14 Xian (B/L)**

Today you will tour the impressive life-size Terracotta Army. The Terracotta Warriors Site is considered the eighth wonder of the world and was discovered by accident in 1974. You will see *the* army of over 7000 soldiers, archers, horses and chariots that has guarded Emperor Qin’s tomb since 210BC. Each figure is unique and the painstaking repair and evacuation continues to this day. Later, explore the Ancient City Wall which is one of the oldest and best preserved Chinese city walls.



**Day 15 Xian – Shanghai (B)**

Today you will be transferred to the airport to fly to Shanghai. Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day may be spent exploring to city at your own pace. You can take advantage of the excellent shopping that can be found on Nanjing Road, one of the busiest shopping streets in the world.

*Accommodation: Shanghai Radisson Blu Hong Quan or similar*





**Day 16 Shanghai (B/L/D)**

Today you will enjoy a Shanghai city tour, winding through the largest commercial and financial centres, visiting the Nanjing walking district and discovering the history and culture of Shanghai at the Shanghai Museum. You will then continue to the Bund by the Huangpu River, and witness the old meeting the modern side of the city. Enjoy an optional evening on the Huangpu River Cruise, allowing you to take in the famous sites of Shanghai including; the People's Hero Monument, the Bund, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the dramatic skyline of the Pu Dong business district, the bustling International Passenger Station of Shanghai Harbour, the docks and the Wu Song ancient gun fort relics.

**Day 17 Shanghai (B/L/D)**

Today you will leave Shanghai to visit an ancient water town to the west of the city. The water town has a history of more than 1000 years and it features hundreds of gardens established in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. There are 15 rivers that divide the town and 49 historic bridges link the 7 islands of the town together.



**Day 18 Shanghai Departure (B)**

Today you will be transferred to Shanghai airport for your scheduled flight home. We hope you enjoyed your journey to China with us!

**B – Breakfast**

**L – Lunch**

**– Dinner**

## 2015 Departure Date - Every Friday

<b>MAY</b>	08, 15, 22, 29	<b>SEP</b>	04, 11, 18, 25
<b>JUN</b>	05, 12, 19, 26	<b>OCT</b>	02, 09, 16, 23, 30

***TOUR PRICE PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY – minimum 2 person.***

Friday Arrival in China	Toronto	Vancouver Calgary Edmonton	Land Only	Single Supplement
May, June, September, October	6077	5889	5281	1026

***HIGH SEASON AIRFARE SURCHARGE***

Seasonality	Toronto	Vancouver Calgary Edmonton
April 19 – Jun 11, Jul 08 – Aug 16 Sep 27 – Oct 13, Dec 01 – 09 Dec 25 – 29	58	114
Jun 12 – Jul 07 Dec 10 – Dec 16	364	375

***Other Canada Cities Add-On***

Canadian Cities	Gateway	Roundtrip Add-on
YYJ, YCD	Vancouver	50
YLW, YKA, YYF		100
YCG, YQL, YXC, YXH, YPR, YXJ, YXS, YXT, YYD, YZP, YMM, YQU		140
YQR, YWG, YXE, YXY, YZF		200
YMQ, YOW	Toronto	50
YQB, YXU		70
YQG, YAM, YGK, YQT, YSB, YTS, YYB, YZR		140
YHZ, YBC, YBG, YGP, YGR, YQY, YUY, YVO, YYY, YZV, ZBF, YFC, YQM, YSJ, YYG		170
YDF, YFB, YQX, YWK, YYR, YYT		200

***LAND ONLY does NOT include International airfare to China.***

***Estimated taxes and fuel surcharge of \$425 - \$475 are additional.***

***HIGH SEASON AIRFARE SURCHARGE is additional and is subject to date of travel.***

***International inbound travel NOT permitted from 02Jan - 15Jan and 01Aug to 10Sep.***

***HOTEL BLACK OUT DATES may apply.***

***ALL PRICES ARE IN CANADIAN DOLLARS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.***

**Your Tour Package Includes:**

- International Roundtrip Economy Airfare from Canada to China.
- Round trip transfer to and from airport
- Sightseeing admissions as specified
- One way Train experience from Turpan to Dunhuang, Dunhuang to Jiayuguan
- One way airfare from Xian – Urumqi – Kashqi – Urumqi – Jiayuguan – Lanzhou – Xian - Shanghai
- Private Coach with air conditioning
- English Speaking Guide
- Superior hotel accommodation:
- Meals: 16 Breakfasts, 12 Lunches, 7 Dinners

**Your Tour Package Does NOT Include:**

- Any taxes, airport fees and fuel surcharge.
- Travel insurance, Travel Visa and all personal expenses.
- Tipping and gratuities to local guides, drivers, and hotel staff.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature
- Trip delay, or interruption by airline schedule change
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above