



The Ancient China Silk Road 16 Days Tour

Departure Date: May 13, 2024

Price: ~~US\$5988~~

Promotional Discount: \$300

Promotion Price:

US\$5688 up +US438tax

Tour descriptions:

- Xian (3 nights stay) – Drum & Bell Tower (pass through by tour bus), Hui Min Jie (Muslim Street), Terra-cotta Warriors (UNESCO), Banpo site, Tang Dynasty Song & Dance Show, Xi'an History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Music Fountain Square of Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Ming Dynasty City Wall (UNESCO).
- Urumqi – Heavenly Lake, Erdaoqiao International Grand Bazaar.
- Turpan - The Jiaohe ancient city ruins, Karez Wells, Emin Minaret (Sugongta), Emin Minaret (Sugongta), Astana underground tombs, Flaming Mountains, The Grape Valley.
- Dun Huang (2 nights stay)– Sounding Sand Dunes & Crescent Moon Lake including double humped camel ride, Dunhuang Mogao Thousand Buddha Grottoes UNESCO, Dunhuang County Museum, White horse Pagoda, Shazhou Night Market,
- Jiayuguan – Jiayuguan Fort, Over Hanging Great Wall, The Great Wall Museum.
- Jiuquan - Quanhu Park.
- Zhangye: Zhangye Danxia landform (Rainbow mountains), Grand Buddha Temple (UNESCO), The Wooden Pagoda
- Lanzhou (2 nights stay)– Liujiaxia Hydro-power Station, Binglingsi Monastery, Yellow River Iron Bridge, Ancient Water Mill, the Sculpture of the Mother Yellow River.
- Maijishan – The Maiji Mountains Grottoes, Fuxi Temple.
- Famen Town – Famen Temple.
- 14 nights hotel accommodation, roasted whole lamb in local muslim restaurant, total 41 meals.
- All listed admissions, on site shuttle carts, comfortable tour bus.
- Tour will be conducted in English & Chinese by the local guide, and an escort will be provided when the group size is 16 people or more.
- Round Economy class air ticket From Vancouver to Xian and return from Urumqi to Vancouver via Hong Kong in both directions.

Day 1 / 13 May Vancouver → Hong Kong

Fly to Hong Kong by Cathay Pacific Airways.

Day 2 / 14 May Hong Kong → Xi'an (D)

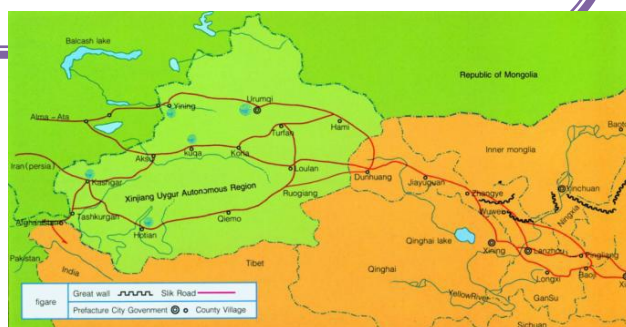
Hotel : Gran Meliá Xian Hotel or similar

Take airplane to Xi'an – the capital city of Shanxi Province, known as Chang'an in ancient times, was the starting point of

the ancient Silk Road and served as the imperial capital for many dynasties. Firstly we visit to the Ming Dynasty City wall , and take a stroll around the **Drum & Bell Tower** from afar, then exploring **the Hui Min Jie** (Muslim Street) and tasting all kinds of delicious foods over there, finally we check-in our hotel and relax tonight.

Day 3 / 15 May Xi'an (BLD) Hotel : Gran Meliá Xian Hotel or similar

Morning visits to **Xi'an Museum**, it introduce the history of ancient Silk Road, and its well-known and rich collections including all cultural relics coming from Central Asia and China Xinjiang, and River Corridor attracts visitors all over of the world. Lunch arranged in famous "Lao Sun Jia Restaurant", enjoy the delicious dish, **Xi'an pita bread soaked in lamb soup**. Afternoon we go on visiting **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, also known as Da Chi En Temple. It was built in the Tang Dynasty for the study of Buddhist scriptures. This pagoda is an architectural marvel, it was built with layers of



bricks without any cement. The seams between each layer of the bricks and the “prisms” on each side of the pagoda are clearly visible. The grand body of the pagoda, with simple style and high structure, is indeed a good example of Chinese traditional architecture. Late afternoon we will take a stroll to **Music Fountain Square of Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, and enjoy the beautiful night-view of this pagoda.

Day 4 / 16 May Xi'an (BLD) Hotel : Gran Meliá Xian Hotel or similar

Today we will spend the full day to explore this age-old city of China, firstly we pay a visit to **Qin Terra-cotta Warriors**, it is definitely a "must-see" scenic spot in Xi'an, this large-scale underground military museum is recognized today as one of the most significant archaeological excavations of the 20th century, a unique historical site never seen anywhere else in the world. As at today, there are over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses can be seen in the site. Discovered in 1974, the site has been ranked as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world. Afternoon we continue to go sightseeing to **Banpo site** (Banpo Village Ruins), the ruins, 6,000 years old, are from a matriarchal commune of the Yellow River region, it is the excavated site of a Neolithic village, discovered in 1953, which was occupied between around 4500 BC and 3750 BC. Banpo is the biggest and best-preserved site so far found of Yangshao culture, and is named after the village near the eastern bend of the Yellow River where the first relics of this culture were found. Tonight we firstly enjoy the Xi'an Dumpling banquet in famous DEFACHANG restaurant, then transfer to Changyuegong to see the **show of Tang Dynasty Song & Dance**.

Day 5 / 17 May Xi'an 🚗 Famensi Temple 🚗 Tianshui (BLD) Hotel : Tianshui Kelly Rose Hotel or similar

Morning driving westward from Xi'an to Tianshui city, on the way in Fufeng county visit **The Famensi temple**, a 13-tiered octagonal pagoda on the plain, this Stupa was built in the second century by the Indian King Asoka to keep a finger relic of the Buddha, in which the pagoda stands used to be the imperial temple from dynasty to dynasty. In the course of rebuilding in 1987, an underground vault was discovered beneath the foundation of the pagoda, and a large amount of Buddhist relics were found. They include four finger sarira relics, 121 gold and silver articles, 17 glass articles, 16 pieces of olive green porcelains, more than 700 pieces of silk fabrics, 104 Buddhist figurines, hundreds of volumes of Buddhist scripture and many many stone carvings and steles, anyway it is the largest underground Buddhist palace discovered so far, and the most precious item was the veritable Finger Bone of the Sakyamuni.

Day 6 / 18 May Tianshui 🚗 Maijishan 🚗 Lanzhou (BLD) Hotel : Crowne Plaza Lanzhou or similar

Tianshui is located in the southeast of Gansu Province, it used to be a town of strategic importance along the ancient Silk Road, is also a historical and cultural city. Fuxi and Nuwa, the ancestor of the Chinese people, as said, were born here. After breakfast we proceed to Lanzhou city, on the way visit **The Maiji Mountains Grottoes**, this area is composed of four zones, Maiji Mountains, Immortal Cliffs, Stone Gate, and Quxi and Jiezi. It is one of the four famous grottoes in China and is known for its excellent clay statues. Praised as museum of Oriental sculptures, these grottoes have 194 caves housing more than 7,200 pieces of clay statues and rock sculptures as well as more than 1,300 square meters of murals. Only 142 meters high but is in a peculiar shape with fantastic grottoes on the cliff of the mountain. After we are back to city, we can visit **Fuxi Temple**, this temple was first built in 1483 and was repaired or rebuilt for nine times, it is the largest among the building complexes built in memory of Fu Xi in the county.

Day 7 / 19 May Lanzhou 🚗 Binglingsi Monastery (BLD) Hotel : Crowne Plaza Lanzhou or similar

We will have a early breakfast in hotel, then start to drive to **Liujiaxia Hydro-power Station**, from there we will take a cruiser at port to transfer along Yellow River to our today's most important scenic spot, **Binglingsi Monastery** for visiting, it is the transliteration of a Tibetan expression, which means "Ten Thousand Buddhas", Well preserved here now are 183 caves and enshrined in them are 900 square meters of frescoes and 694 Buddha statues, of which 82 are clay sculptures, they are disposed on a large cliff of 200 by 60 meters. Late this afternoon we drive back to Lanzhou, then will have a city tour: **Yellow River Iron Bridge**, it was built in 1907, and is the first bridge over the Yellow River, This bridge was renamed to Zhongshan Bridge in last early century to commemorate Dr. Sun Yet-Sen. The next we will

see **Ancient Water Mill** which is a renowned attraction here, originating from Ming Dynasty, water mills are made of wood in special round shape and were a kind of important irrigation implement in the bank areas of Yellow River in ancient China. Finally we will see **the Sculpture of the Mother Yellow River**, the whole sculpture contains that of a mother and a baby, which connotes that the Yellow River has nourished generations of Chinese.

Day 8 / 20 May Lanzhou 🚗 Wuwei 🚗 Zhangye (BLD) Hotel : Zhangye Golden Sun International or similar

Today we will drive to Lanzhou via Wuwei City. Wuwei City is one of the four prefectures along the Hexi River Corridor in Han Dynasty. Here we can visit **the Lantai Ruins**, used to be a place where sacrifices were offered to the god of thunder in ancient times, the Han tomb discovered at Lantai is a large tomb built of brick and stone in the late Eastern Han Dynasty. The tomb came to be known far and wide in China and in the world for the cultural relics - the "Galloping Steed Overtaking a Flying Swallow", the symbol of the tourism industry in China. Next we will visit **The Temple of Literary Elite**, situated at the southeast corner of the city, is a group of magnificent buildings in imitation of royal palaces, it was later expanded in the ensuing dynasties to form a temple of relatively large scale known as the "Grown Academy on the Right of Long", It was a place where men of letters and scholars of different dynasties were here paying homage to Confucius, we continue to visit **Batasi Lamastery** of Tibetan Buddhism, and **Jiumoluoshi (Kumarajiva) Pagoda**, he was a well-known Buddhism scriptures translator in Tang Dynasty. Late afternoon we arrive at Zhangye City, it is the important town along the Hexi River Corridor in ancient time.

Day 9 / 21 May Zhangye 🚗 Rainbow Mountains 🚗 Jiayuguan (BLD)

Hotel : Jiayuguan Plaza Holiday Inn or similar

This morning we will travel outside the town to visit **Zhangye Danxia landform** (Rainbow mountains). The above rainbow mountains will take us whole day to visit as we almost travel along the Qilian Mountains. This Colorful Hilly Geo-park, covers an area of more than 510 square kilometers, and has been praised as one of the seven most beautiful Danxia landform in China by the magazine China National Geography, and is famous for its steep cliffs, different forms, magnificent shapes and rich colors. Created over millions of years, the colorful layers of these rocks are a result of the different sediments over the time periods which were compressed into rock.

In Zhangye City we will see **Grand Buddha Temple**, the Grand Buddha derived its name from the fact that there exists a Buddha in a state of nirvana in the temple, the biggest of its kind in China. The buildings now in existence include the Grand Buddha Hall, the Buddhist Scripture Storage and the Earthen Pagoda. Lying in the hall is the Recumbent Buddha, all gild it looks vivid and lifelike. The following our is visiting **The Wooden Pagoda**, was built in Sui Dynasty over 1,400 years ago, and consisting of nine storey stands 32 meters high in the shape of an octahedron. This pagoda is hollowed inside yet in the past 1,400 years and more, though many earthquakes have ever happened the pagoda still stands firmly aground, looking so splendid and magnificent.

Late afternoon we will drive to the west end of Great Wall in Ming Dynasty - Jiayuguan city via Jiuquan, In Jiuquan we can visit **Quanhu Park** (Spring & Lake) is place worth a visit. The park got its name for ancient spring of Jiuquan in it. In 121 B.C. General Huo Qubing defeated Huns troops here and Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty rewarded him a jar of wine, in order to share the wine with all soldier, General Huo poured the wine (jiu in Chinese) into the spring which was later named Jiuquan.

Day 10/ 22 May Jiayuguan 🚗 Dunhuang (BLD) Hotel : Dunhuang Hexi Corridor Grand Hotel or similar

This morning visits to **Jiayuguan Fort**, it was first built in the year of 1372, and was completed through the strenuous efforts of 168 years. Also its **Over Hanging Great Wall**, is located 8 kilometers north of the city, due to the steep walls fell down from the mountains, like the Great Wall hanging upside down on a ridge, iron wall vacant, steep drop down from the mountains, blocking off the stone Gap, commonly known as "Cantilever Wall". **The Great Wall Museum** which give you a detailed introduction about the history of ancient Great Wall.



Day 11 / 23 May Dunhuang (BLD) Hotel : Dunhuang Hexi Corridor Grand Hotel or similar

Breakfast in the hotel, we will visit the famous **Dunhuang Mogao Thousand Buddha Grottoes**, it is among the Four Greatest Grottoes of China as well as the largest and most well-preserved treasure house of Buddhist culture and arts in the world. The construction of Mogao Grottoes started from year 366 and lasted in following dynasties for almost 1500 years, which make it a sacred land of Buddhism finally. The Mogao Grottoes was added to the World Cultural Heritage lists by the UNESCO in 1987; Lunch provided in Dunhuang traditional restaurant, afternoon go on visiting **Dunhuang County Museum**, it was built in 1986. consist of 3 halls , kept in the museum is a great collection of relics, over 5,000 pieces of different ages, which give you a detailed introduction about this famous town on the ancient Silk Road route, then visiting **White horse Pagoda**, which is in the south of the former site of the old city of Dunhuang . It is an earthen stupa of over 10 meters high. Though not looking outstanding it has something to do with Kumarajiva , the famous translator of Buddhist scriptures of the Later Qin Dynasty, The stupa was specially built in memory of his white horse which died here at Dunhuang when he was on the way to Chang'an, present day-Xi'an. Tonight we will wander through the local **Shazhou Night Market**, experience the life of local people.

Day 12 / 24 May Dunhuang 火车 Liuyuan → Turpan (BLD) Hotel : Turpan Mercure Hotel or similar

Morning visits to **Sounding Sand Dunes & Crescent Moon Lake**, extending some 40 km from east to west and 20 km north to south, the highest peak is 250 meters with an elevation of 1650 meters. As the sand whispers once it starts moving, hence the "Soughing Sand Hill". The Crescent Moon Spring is a mysterious landscape in the desert. Embraced all round by sand dunes a spring lake emerges with a pool of crystal water. As it looks very much like a new moon hence the name the Crescent Moon Spring, we especially arrange the **camel ride** program for our passengers, you have a chance to tour this site by riding double humped camels and enjoy the view of desert.

Afternoon we drive to Liuyuan Railway Station, take High-speed train to Turpan, this Oasis town of Turpan, is the lowest point in China and the second lowest on Earth (after the Dead Sea) at 154 meters below sea level for its Aiding Kul lake. No place in China is hotter than Flaming Mountain in Turpan, and is regarded as " Fire land ". It is also famous for their grapes, grown primarily for raisins but also wine. Here Marco Polo first encountered spaghetti, and idea he took home to Italy.

Day 13 / 25 May Turpan (BLD) Hotel : Turpan Mercure Hotel or similar

Breakfast in hotel, today we will visit the **The ruined city of Gaochang (Karakhoja)**, the largest one of the ancient city sites and the capital of the Uygur kingdom that flourished from the 7th-14th centuries, before being destroyed during the Mongol invasions. It existed for a long period of 1500 years, was the communication hub and an important door of Western Region. The next we will see **Underground tombs of Astana**, the graveyard for the ruined city of Gaochang, the tombs contain many funeral objects, including wooden figures, household utensils and paintings,even foods are well preserved because of the arid climate. The following trip is to **Flaming Mountains**, there is the high temperature of 61 degrees Celsius shown on the giant thermometer, Flaming Mountains shines magnificently at sunrise and sunset for this red sandstone hills, resembling a roaring flame. We must go to **The Grape Valley** for cooling down ourselves when this fiery sun beats down on the purple-coloured mountains, There you will find grapevine interweaving on the grape trellises, and passages and houses all in the shadow of the grape trellises, the shape of the grapes produced here looks like pearls and agates. Tonight we will enjoy roasted whole lamb in local muslim restaurant.

Day 14 / 26 May Turpan 火车 Urumqi (BLD) Hotel : Universal Hotel Urumqi or similar

This morning's tour includes **The Jiaohe ancient city ruins**, the present remains of the ancient city are the capital of Jiaohe Prefecture in the Qu's Gaochang Kingdom and the key protected historical relics of this country. The defense of the city is not the walls but the steep cliffs around it , which are about 30 m.in height with only two exits respectively in the east and south. At the end of the street (about 350 m.in length and 10 m.in width) in the city stands a great temple, in which there are a deep well and a big hall with two platforms in front of it. Then we will witness the amazing 2000 year old Irrigation Canals that are still in use today - **Karez Wells**, the local people have developed these Wells, an irrigation system composed of wells connected by underground channels, to counter the heat and drought of

the place. Then visit **Emin Minaret** (*Sugongta*), with the history of more than 200 years, it is the largest extant old tower in Xinjiang and the only Islamic tower among the hundred famous towers in China. This afternoon a short coach journey takes you through the desert and mountains to Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Day 15 /27 May Urumqi 🚗 Heavenly Lake (BLD) Hotel: Universal Hotel Urumqi or similar

After breakfast we drive to Tianshan Mountains and enjoy a relaxing drive to the beautiful **Lake of Heaven**, only an hour's drive from the city, it lies on snow-capped Mount Bogda at almost 2000 meters above sea level, where you will see charming views of a crystal clear lake with the backdrop of the spectacular Heavenly Mountain Range, scattered with traditional yurts. The views from the cruise boat are breathtaking. Lunch arranged at downhill restaurant. Then drive back Urumqi and take a tour of **Erdaoqiao International Grand Bazaar**, its construction is with rich and colorful national style, just a market which selling all kinds of art-craft products and local products including dried fruits, copper kettles, silk scarf, carpet, Jade and etc.

Day 16 / Sep 26 Urumqi → Hong Kong – Vancouver or your next destination (B)

After breakfast to pick you to Urumqi airport. It is the time to board your flight to your sweet home with happy memories or your next destination.

Prices from : US\$5688 up + tax US\$438 up twin sharing basis

Prices includes:-

1. Round Economy class air ticket from Vancouver to Xian and return from Urumqi to Vancouver via Hong Kong in both directions. V class fare, subject to extra fee for other booking classes. Ticket validity is 3 months.
2. One piece of free check-in baggage up to 23KG, hand baggage 1 piece + 1 personal item.
3. 14 night hotel accommodation, 41 meals and all admissions are listed in the itinerary.
4. Tour will be conducted in Chinese/English by the local guide, and an escort will be provided when the group size is 16 people or more.

Prices not including:-

1. Land only price, not including any airfares: US\$4088.
2. Single supplement US\$1000.
3. All taxes and fuel surcharge: US\$438 & up.
4. Weekend return surcharge Fri/Sat/Sunday : US\$50 ;
5. The price is twin sharing basis;
Triple room : If require three single beds, additional charges will apply;
If hotel do not have triple rooms, you have to change a double room, the third person will to pay a single room surcharge.
6. Tour gratuities US\$180, will be collected at time of balance payment.
7. Anything not listed and not mentioned on the tour flyer, and all personal expenses.



Remarks:

- A non-refundable deposit of US\$800 per person is required to reserve a space for the tour.
- The balance is due 45 days prior to departure or it may due earlier if the airline rate increases.
- All payment is non-refundable within 45 days of the departure, and not transferable.
- All guests must have a valid Chinese visa to enter China.
- Campbell Travel reserves the right to any changes to the tour itinerary and any changes to the tour operation
- Campbell Travel has no responsibility to all sudden changes, force majeure, unforeseen incidents, acts of God
- All inclusive travel insurance is highly recommended, please contact Campbell Travel for the travel insurance arrangement
- All other terms and conditions, please refer to our website www.campbelltravel.bc.ca

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