

## Silk Road

[GW-CA-010] Shanghai-Suzhou-Hangzhou-Xi'an-Lanzhou-Xiahe-Tongren-Xiaqiong-Xining-Beijing  
( 19 days )



### Day01 Arrive in Shanghai

Arrive in **Shanghai**, the bustling commercial heart of China, known as “Paris of the East”.  
(D)

### Day02 Shanghai

Visit **the Bund**, at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the Jin Mao Tower can be seen on the opposite side. The splendid row of early 20th century Europe buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. Visit fascinating **Yuyuan Garden**, a well-restored Suzhou-style garden, and take a walk through the Old Town filled with antique markets and specialty stores. Then pay a visit to the **Jade Buddha Temple** where two rare jade statues of Sakyamuni Buddha are treasured. A fabulous **Acrobatic Show** concludes your first day in Shanghai. (B-L-D)

### Day03 Shanghai-Suzhou

Take a morning train to Suzhou, known as the “Venice of the East”. You will begin the day with a visit to **Zhuozheng Yuan (Humble Administrator’s Garden)** and **Garden of the Master of the Nets**. Humble Administrator’s Garden is the largest private garden in Suzhou with features of Chinese classical garden in Ming Dynasty. Garden of the Master of the Nets, the smallest of the Suzhou residential gardens, is the most impressive because of its use of space which creates the illusion of an area that is much greater than its actual size. You will also visit **Suzhou Silk Museum** to see how the world’s most beautiful silk is produced. (B-L-D)

### Day04 Suzhou-Hangzhou

Enjoy a **boat ride on the Grand Canal** reveals the traditional way of life for the people who have lived here for generations. China’s emperors took such route many times to inspect their territory and people in the South, leaving lots of legends and stories in the history. Then, visit one water township --- **Tongli Town**, you will enjoy one a boat ride pulled by local people viewing stone streets, grand houses surrounded by water, small exquisite courtyard, charming private garden and characteristic bridges and appreciating the pure local customs with a sense of returning to nature. Then, drive back to Suzhou city

and go to Hangzhou, one ancient capital city in southern China. (B-L-D)

### Day05 Hangzhou

A full day tour is to appreciate the incomparably lovely **West Lake** with its soaring bridges and flower-bright islets. Enjoy a **boat ride** on West Lake. Visit the **Huagang Park (Flower Harbor Park)**, the most attractive waterside park. Ancient Chinese people praised the West Lake area as a land of intoxicating beauty. Then, enjoy a walk along the **Su Causeway** that is spanned with six bridges offering different views, the willows tossing among blooming peach flowers in spring. Also, you will visit a **Tea Museum** showing the history and production of Chinese tea. Move on to visit the **Meijiawu Tea House**, the tea village of famous Dragon's Well Tea. (B-L-D)

### Day06 Hangzhou-Xi'an

Visit **Huqingyutang**, a pharmacy shop and museum of traditional Chinese medicine. Then, you will visit the **Former Residence of Hu Xueyan** who set up Huqingyutang Drugstore and was called "the medicine king in south of the Yangtze River". The former residence boasts 13 towers, Zhiyuan Garden, pavilions, terraces, a small bridge over a flowing stream and bright verandas, all ingeniously designed. You will also visit the **Pagoda of Six harmonies** standing by Qiantang River. The extant pagoda is octagonal, has thirteen levels on the exterior but seven levels on the interior, and is 59.89 meters high. Take a late afternoon flight to Xi'an (B-L)

### Day07 Xi'an

Begin the day's activity with an once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the extraordinary 2,200-year-old **Terracotta Warriors** of China's first feudal Emperor, Qin Shihuang. On your way back to the city, stop at a mountain village and meet local residents. After lunch, visit the superb **Shannxi History Museum**, the best of its kind in China. Visit to **Big Wild Goose**



**Pagoda** which was built in 652 A.D. It contains a large volume of Buddhist scriptures which were obtained from India by the eminent monk of Xuanzang. Enjoy a characteristic **dumpling dinner** at a local restaurant. (B-L-D)

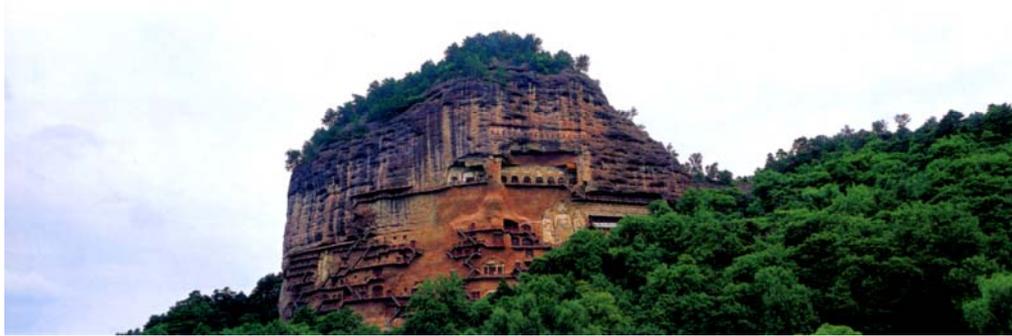
### Day08 Xi'an-Lanzhou

Climb the ancient **City Wall** and visit **Forest of Steles Museum** where precious stone carvings and sculptures are kept. Then, visit **Great Mosque** built primarily in the Ming Dynasty when Chinese architectural elements were synthesized into mosque architecture, and it is the largest and best-preserved one of the early mosques of China. Take an afternoon flight to Lanzhou. (B-L-D)

### Day09 Lanzhou

Pay a visit to **Five Springs Mountain Park** got the name for its five crystal springs and **White Pagoda Hill** built to commemorate a Tibetan lama of the Sa-skyapa Sect of

Tibetan Buddhism who died in Lanzhou on his way to Mongolia for an audience with Genghis Khan. (B-L-D)



### **Day10 Lanzhou-Xiahe**

Today's highlight is a visit to **Bingling Temple Grottoes**. These grottoes were hollowed out in precipitous cliffs above the Yellow River in Yongjia County to the west of Lanzhou. Bingling Temple, facing the Yellow River, contains 183 niches, 694 stone statues, 82 clay sculptures, and 900 square meters of murals. Most of the elegant stone carvings, clay sculptures, murals, and auxiliary buildings were created during the Tang Dynasty. Then, drive to Xiahe, the city reputed as the "second Tibet" and "Eastern Vatican" for its dense religion atmosphere, where you can enjoy the beautiful **grassland sight** and the religion culture. (B-L-D)

### **Day11 Xiahe-Tongren**

Visit the **Labrang Monastery**, one of the six great monasteries of the Gelukpa (Yellow Hat) Sect, served for centuries there to connect the Tibetan and Mongolian Lamaism. Then, drive to Tongren. Be transferred to the hotel on arrival. (B-L-D)

### **Day12 Tongren**

Visit Longwu monastery of Gelukpa sect which was initially constructed in Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) as a monastery of Sakya-sect, and Wutun village the center of Tibetan Regong-art which is a successful mixture of religious art and folk art. (B-L-D)



### **Day13 Tongren-Xiaqiong-Xining**

After breakfast, drive to visit **Xiaqiong lamasery**, also one of the oldest lamaseries in Qinghai, was founded in 1349 by qujiedunzhurenqin, the first teacher of Tsongkhapa .At the height of the lamasery's glory, the number of monks peaked at over 4130. Then, proceed to Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province. This city is mainly inhabited with Tibetan but also a home of Uygur, Kazak and Hui minorities. (B-L-D)

**Day14 Xining**

After breakfast, you will drive to visit **Qinghai Lake**. Qinghai Lake, lying 180km from Xining and 3200 meters above, is the biggest salt lake in China. Then, pass by the **Sun-and-Moon Mountain** which is the nature boundary of Agriculture region and Pasture region in Qinghai province. (B-L-D)

**Day15 Xining**

You will visit **Ta'er Monastery** (Kumbum Monastery), one of the six biggest monasteries of the Yellow Hat Sect (Gelugpa Sect) of Tibetan Buddhism, and it is rich in fascinating arts. The famous butter sculptures, the barbolas, and the murals are considered to be the three most unique arts of superb craftsmanship. Then, visit the **grand**

**Mosque** and the **folk custom Museum** in Xining, as well as **family visit by the Tu Zhu Minority**. (B-L-D)

**Day16 Xining-Beijing**

Take a morning flight to Beijing, the capital of China. Begin the day's activity with a visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest urban square in the world. Then, move on to visit the Imperial Palace, also known as the "**Forbidden City**", the biggest palace complex in the world. You will take a ride in rickshaw through some old "**Hutongs**", lanes or alleys formed by lines of Siheyuan (a compound with houses around a courtyard). (B-L-D)

**Day17 Beijing**

Today's highlight is your visit to **the Great Wall**, one of the "Seven Wonders of the World" and a symbol of Chinese civilization. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across mountains. A short drive away is the statue-lined **Shenlu (Spirit Road)** leading to the **Ming Tombs**, here you can see some marvelous stone sculptures. The Ming Tombs area is for deceased emperors of the Ming Dynasty. A **Peking Duck Dinner** concludes your full day activities. (B-L-D)

**Day18 Beijing**

After breakfast, visit **Temple of Heaven** where the emperors of Ming and Qing Dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for good harvest. Then, visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, one of China's largest and best-preserved royal gardens, where you can have a walk along the famous Long Corridor. (B-L-D)

**Day19 Depart from Beijing**

Be transferred to the airport, and prepare for boarding on your homebound flight. (B)