

China Silk Road



trip highlights

Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and Summer Palace visits in Beijing

Visit a less busy section of The Great Wall at Mutianyu

Visit Xian and witness the mighty Terracotta Warriors

Be immersed in the hustle & bustle of the markets in Kashgar

Experience Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang

Uygur Autonomous Region

Marvel at Heaven's Lake and the Tian Shan Mountains

Explore Labrang Monastery

See the Mogao Caves & Dunhuang



Trip Duration	17 days	Trip Code: SRC
Grade	Adventure touring	
Activities	Adventure Touring	
Summary	17 day Trip, 14 nights hotel, 2 nights train	

welcome to World Expeditions

For over 50 years, we've been creating high-quality, expedition-style adventures for active travellers with a curious spirit. From our very first trek in the mountains of Nepal to pioneering remote routes across all seven continents, our journeys are built for those who want to truly explore – not just visit.

At the heart of what we do is a simple philosophy: take the paths less travelled.

This means travelling with care, supporting local communities, minimising our impact, and unlocking experiences that most travellers will never have.

If you're ready to go further and dig deeper, we invite you to join us on the China Silk Road, a journey that captures the essence of a unique adventure.

why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to remote and challenging destinations, many factors need to be considered. Our extra attention to detail and operations on the ground ensure that you will have a memorable experience. We take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics, our vehicles and equipment are the best available on the market. Most importantly, our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience. You will be accompanied by local guides whose knowledge and passion for this region will add a unique dimension to your trip. Their experience and enthusiasm ensures that we maintain the leading edge in adventure travel and therefore providing excellent value for money. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this tour will be a trip of a lifetime.



China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



World Expeditions does not require single travellers to pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we cannot match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. Please refer to our website for the additional cost.

the trip

The Silk Road conjures images of caravans carrying incredible wealth across the deserts and mountains - images of colourful bazaars, priceless jewels and richly woven carpets and fabrics; exotic perfumes and spices. This remarkable journey takes you along the Chinese part of this ancient route. In Beijing we visit the Great Wall; Xian we view the Terracotta Warriors while the enormous Buddhist monastery at Xiahe will surely impress. In Dunhuang we appreciate the magnificent Buddhist grottoes before skirting the Gobi Desert to the oasis town of Turpan and continuing on to the the frenetic market town of Kashgar.

at a glance

DAY 1	JOIN BEIJING
DAY 2	VISIT TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY & SUMMER PALACE
DAY 3	THE GREAT WALL
DAY 4	IN BEIJING, EVENING TRAIN TO XI'AN
DAY 5	ARRIVE XI'AN - CITY TOUR
DAY 6	TERRACOTTA WARRIORS & BIG GOOSE PAGODA
DAY 7	TRAIN TO LANZHOU, TRANSFER TO LINXIA
DAY 8	BOAT TRIP TO BING LING TEMPLE, TRANSFER TO XIAHE
DAY 9	LABRANG MONASTERY, RETURN TO LANZHOU AND OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO JIAYUGUAN.
DAY 10	IN JIAYUGUAN
DAY 11	TO DUNHUANG
DAY 12	MOGAO CAVES & TRAIN TO TURPAN
DAY 13	IN TURPAN
DAY 14	DRIVE TO URUMQI
DAY 15	HEAVEN'S LAKE. EVENING FLIGHT TO KASHGAR
DAY 16	KASHGAR
DAY 17	IN KASHGAR, TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- 16 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 13 dinners
- Comfortable well located accommodation on a twinshare basis
- Local sightseeing, including entrance fees to monuments
- All internal transport by train (soft sleeper) or private bus, jeep or car
- Internal flight Urumqi/Kashgar valued at USD\$170
- National English speaking guide for groups of 6 or more people will have one guide accompanying them throughout the journey, while smaller groups will have local guides in each region.
- Emergency medical kit
- Airport arrival transfer on Day 1, or with pre tour hotel booking

Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices we have chosen a policy not to ask for such payments.

what's not included

- Meals not indicated in the program
- Any optional tours, and entrance fees and permits during free time

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



trip dates

2026 12 Sep - 28 Sep
10 Oct - 26 Oct

2027 10 Apr - 26 Apr
08 May- 24 May
11 Sep - 27 Sep
09 Oct - 25 Oct

fast facts

Countries Visited:

China,

Visas:

Yes*

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert local leader in each country

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

*Ask our staff for more information.

- Expenditure of a personal nature such as drinks, souvenirs and laundry
- Visa costs
- Tips and gratuities
- International airfares and taxes
- Personal travel insurance (compulsory)
- Excess luggage charges

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Join Beijing

If you are arriving into Beijing today you will be collected from the airport and transferred to the group hotel. This evening you will meet with the rest of the group in the hotel lobby for a trip briefing (your guide will advise you of the meeting time) before you head out for a group welcome dinner.

Overnight: Dong Fang Hotel or similar
meals: D

DAY 2 Visit to The Forbidden City & Summer Palace

This morning we visit the beautiful Forbidden City, which is a masterpiece of 5000 years of Chinese civilisation and still vividly displays the power and prestige of the former dynasties. Sprawling over acres, the City is a magnificent group of palaces, pavilions, courtyards and deep terracotta walls. Ornatly furnished palace rooms, priceless artworks and treasures are all now open to the public after 500 years of seclusion. In the afternoon we'll visit the Summer Palace. First built in 1750, largely destroyed in the war of 1860 and restored on its original foundations in 1886, the Summer Palace in Beijing is a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. The natural landscape of hills and open water is combined with artificial features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges to form a harmonious ensemble of outstanding aesthetic value. In the evening there is an option to see an acrobatic show.

Overnight: Dong Fang Hotel or similar
meals: B,D

DAY 3 The Great Wall

We will make an early start this morning and head north out of the city to explore the Great Wall at the Mutianyu. Whilst this section is a slightly longer drive, at around 1½hrs, than the Badaling Gate section, it is significantly less busy and therefore worth the drive. One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Great Wall of China was built as a defence line to keep out marauding invaders, nomadic groups of the steppe from the north. The first sections were completed as far back as the 7th century BC. Since then, many successive dynasties built and maintained multiple stretches of border walls. The most currently well-known of the walls were built by the Ming dynasty (1368–1644). The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is a masterpiece of restoration, with 23 original-style Ming Dynasty watchtowers. This is

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



thoughtful travel

Our World Expeditions adventures are grounded in a deep commitment to regenerative travel, going beyond minimising harm to actively restoring and enriching the places we visit. We partner closely with local communities, ensuring that our trips support cultural preservation, fair livelihoods, and community-led initiatives. Each expedition is designed to protect and regenerate natural ecosystems through low-impact practices, climate action, and education that fosters respect for biodiversity. We prioritise meaningful connections between travellers and place, encouraging a sense of stewardship that lasts well beyond the journey. By embedding sustainability into every layer of our operations, we aim not only to explore the world responsibly but also to leave it healthier, more resilient, and more vibrant for future generations.

trip grading Adventure touring

This is an adventurous journey and we aim to keep the 'accent on the active'. We therefore suggest that any physical training you complete before undertaking the trip will be to good effect. Although there is no sustained physical activity during the trip, to get the most out of it you should exercise regularly before departure. There will be opportunities to ascend the ramparts of the Great Wall or climb a sand dune, and the fitter you are the more this will enhance your experience and enable you to fully participate in the trip.

There are long distances covered by road and train during the trip and some of the roads travelled may be bumpy and at times uncomfortable. You should be fit and healthy and mentally prepared to deal with 19 days travelling and the remote nature of the trip, accepting that things don't always go to plan, despite our best intentions.

the longest fully-restored Great Wall section open to visitors. On arrival, you have the option for either a gentle walk with optional cable car assistance or for those feeling more active, we can complete a 2 -3hr walk along this beautiful section of the wall.

In the evening we will be treated to a traditional Peking Duck dinner.

Overnight: Dong Fang Hotel or similar

Please note Days 2 & 3 may be swapped around depending on availability of tickets to visit the Forbidden City.

meals: B,D

DAY 4 In Beijing, evening train to Xi'an

This morning has been set aside for leisure time to rest or catch up on shopping. Our local guides will be happy to make suggestions and organise arrangements as required. In the afternoon, we transfer to the train station for our overnight journey to Xi'an.

Overnight: Sleeper train - 4 berth cabin

meals: B,D

DAY 5 Arrive Xi'an - city tour

Xi'an is the traditional starting point of the Silk Road, the point from where traders departed on their long cross continental voyages. The walled city of Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province, is a vivid example of old meets new China. The modernised new city bustles around the quaint, winding lanes of the Old Quarter, where retired men spend their days smoking pipes playing mahjong and chess while butchers pull their carcass-laden carts and hawkers sell all manner of wares.

Today, we will take in a city tour, starting on the old city wall which is the most complete ancient city wall in China. At 12m high and 15m wide, the 14km long wall is one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world and safeguarded the capital city of 13 Chinese dynasties. A walk along the wall provides us with a glimpse into the ancient and modern life of the city and its inhabitants. In the evening, there is an option to dine at a special dumpling restaurant, which is highly recommended and very unique (additional cost).

Overnight: Grand Noble Hotel or similar

meals: B,L

DAY 6 Terracotta Warriors & Big Goose Pagoda

The thousands of Terracotta Warriors who stand outside the tomb of Qin Shihuang, were uncovered in 1974 by peasants digging a well. Each warrior stands over six feet tall and has individual features and characteristics. Some stand in a vanguard with crossbow and longbow bearers, others hold spears, daggers and axes at the ready. They are accompanied by dozens of horse-drawn carriages and enormous terracotta horses. In the afternoon we'll visit the Big Goose Pagoda which is a classic example of Chinese temple architecture. Originally built in 652AD during the Tang dynasty, it was rebuilt in 704 during the reign of Empress Wu Zetian, and its exterior brick facade was renovated during the Ming dynasty. One of the pagoda's many functions was to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler Xuanzang. Today, the interior walls of the pagoda feature engraved statues of Buddha by the renowned artist Yan Liben.

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information on our website, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

The sight of the warriors arising from their muddy grave, some intact, others still submerged in the ground, is truly an extraordinary one. This evening we have the option to attend a Tang Dynasty Dance Show.

Overnight: Grand Noble Hotel or similar

meals: B,L

DAY 7 Train to Lanzhou, transfer to Linxia

This morning we transfer to the station to catch the high speed train to Lanzhou. Camel caravans traversed the rugged and barren Province of Gansu, as they threaded their way along the Silk Road. The capital Lanzhou is one of the oasis towns the caravans stopped in along the way. It has since become an industrialised city and remains a hub for travellers to this day. From Lanzhou we ascend out of the city smog and into the clean mountain air, passing through beautiful, mountainous scenery and fascinating microcosms of minority life in China as we head towards Linxia, one of the main religious, cultural and commercial centers of China's Muslim community.

Overnight: Linxia Baishun Zhongtian Hotel or similar

meals: B,L

DAY 8 Boat trip to Bing Ling Temple, transfer to Xiahe

This morning we transfer by bus and boat to Bingling Temple which are a series of grottoes filled with Buddhist sculpture carved into natural caves and caverns in a canyon along the Yellow River. After visiting these fascinating grottoes we transfer on to the remote town of Xiahe (pronounced Shar-her), which takes approximately 1.5 hours. As we ascend further into the mountains we pass stupas identifying the beginning of the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. On arrival in Xiahe you will likely notice the increase of altitude as the town is located at 2,900m.

Overnight: Xiahe Jiusheng International Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 9 Labrang Monastery, return to Lanzhou and overnight train to Jiayuguan.

Within Xiahe is the enormous Tibetan Monastery of Labrang, an important place of pilgrimage for Buddhist monks and is second only in size to the Potala Palace in Lhasa. Tibetan nomads dressed in their finest traditional clothing mingle with monks in bright pink robes and lamas in deep burnished saffron robes. Monks can be seen debating and deep in preparations for religious ceremonies, practicing ritual music and meditation. The Lamasery, built in 1709, has more than 10,000 rooms, where over 3,000 lamas were once accommodated. It has a collection of books exceeding 65,000 volumes. Watch out for the huge pot in the Lamasery yard in which four oxen can be cooked together.

This afternoon we transfer back to Lanzhou and visit the Gansu Provincial Museum, home to the "Cultural Relics of the Silk Road" exhibition, it has some beautiful artifacts and a skeleton of a giant mammoth. before we catch the overnight train to Jiayuguan. Our return journey is just as impressive as mountains give way to fields of wheat and orchards bursting with fruit. Depending on the season, we may stop at one of the many roadside stalls selling local fruit and nuts.

Overnight: Sleeper train - 4 berth cabin

meals: B,D

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



DAY 10 In Jiayuguan

Jiayuguan is the western most point of the Great Wall. Built during the Ming dynasty, the wall is guarded by the famous Jaiyu Fort, known as “the most Impregnable Pass Under Heaven”. It was the last major stronghold of the empire to the west and remains an impressive and formidable sight. Then we’re on to the Black Mountain to climb a restored section of the wall.

Overnight: Resen Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 11 To Dunhuang

You leave the Great Wall behind and follow the ancient Silk Road into the desert, travelling through the Hexi Corridor (pronounced “Her-shee”). This historic route sits between the Gobi Desert to the north and the Qilian Mountains to the south and once served as a vital passage for traders and explorers heading west.

The drive from Jiayuguan to Dunhuang takes around five hours. Along the way, you pass several old beacon towers that were used to send signals along the Silk Road.

Later in the day, you visit the famous Crescent Moon Spring, a peaceful lake tucked among the sands of the Singing Sand Mountains. Despite the shifting dunes, this 100-metre-long spring has never been buried. Climbing the dunes rewards you with stunning views over the desert, and if conditions are right, you may even catch the sunset over the Mingsha dunes. The tallest dune, Mingsha Mountain, reaches 250 metres and forms a striking backdrop to the oasis town of Dunhuang.

Overnight: Dunhuang Yuntian International Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 12 Mogao Caves & train to Turpan

Dunhuang is home to some of China’s most impressive Buddhist grottos, set against the backdrop of towering desert dunes. You visit the Mogao Caves, also known as the Thousand Buddhist Grottos, which stretch for over 1,000 metres and contain exceptional Buddhist art dating back to 366 AD. Inside nearly 500 caves, over 45,000 square metres of murals depict the life and teachings of the Buddha. These sites are considered among the cultural highlights of China.

You also stop at the excellent Dunhuang Museum, which displays a rich collection of ancient artefacts in a striking building designed by Cu Kai, a renowned architect from the China Architectural Design Institute.

In the afternoon, you transfer to Liuyuan to board the bullet train to Turpan, a journey of around four hours. On arrival, you are met at the station and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Kanerjing Folk Garden Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 13 In Turpan

Xinjiang Province lies at the heart of the Eurasian continent. Skirting the edge of the Gobi Desert, it is a land of vast grasslands, the Taklamakan Desert, snow-capped mountains, lakes, and untouched forests. You enter the Turpan Basin, home to the

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



Uighur people (pronounced “Wee-ger”). The town of Turpan is broad and flat, with low-slung mudbrick houses and open water channels still used by locals today. The relaxed pace and wide desert skies make Turpan an ideal place to unwind.

You visit Grape Valley, a small oasis of vineyards nestled in the desert. Stroll through its maze of grapevines and traditional mudbrick drying houses before heading to the ruins of Jiaohe, one of the oldest and best-preserved earthen cities in the world.

A visit to the Karez Underground Irrigation Channels is also included. Built over 2,000 years ago, the Karez system is considered one of China’s greatest ancient engineering feats. It consists of around 1,000 wells that collect groundwater from melting snow in the Bogdashaan Mountains. The water then flows through underground channels, powered solely by gravity, to irrigate farmland across the valley.

Overnight: Kanerjing Folk Garden Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 14 Drive to Urumqi

After breakfast, you drive to Urumqi, a journey of approximately three hours. On the way, you stop to visit the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, which are beautifully set into a cliff face overlooking a river valley.

Urumqi sits at the foot of the Tian Shan Mountains and is the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. With the rise of the Silk Road, it became an important centre for cultural exchange between East and West.

Later, you head out for your first look at the city, known for its bold Communist-era architecture and broad city streets.

Overnight: New Travel Golden Valley Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 15 Heaven’s Lake. Evening flight to Kashgar

From Urumqi, you drive to one of the most impressive natural sights in China, Tianchi, or Heaven’s Lake. Set in the Tian Shan Mountains below the towering Bogda Peak (5,445m), the deep blue lake is surrounded by fir trees and dramatic mountain peaks. In summer, you may also see yurts and Kazak nomad camps dotted around the lake.

Today will also include a visit to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum, also known as the Xinjiang Museum. It is considered the best museum along the Silk Road and features some of the region’s most remarkable and debated artefacts, including the famous Xinjiang mummies.

In the late afternoon, you return to Urumqi and take an evening flight to Kashgar.

Overnight: Resen Seman Hotel or similar

meals: B,L

DAY 16 Kashgar

Kashgar is a lively trading town that has long played a key role on the Silk Road. Sitting at the crossroads of two major north-south routes, it draws traders from across the region. With over 90% of the population being Uighur, it can feel as though you’ve

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



stepped into a different country altogether. That impression quickly shifts when you see the towering statue of Mao near Id Kah Square, a reminder of Kashgar's place within modern China.

So today, you visit the Gaotai Ancient Residential Houses, a fascinating neighbourhood of traditional adobe homes built on raised earthen platforms. With more than 600 years of history, this area is full of narrow alleys and authentic Uighur architecture, offering a glimpse into local life and heritage.

You also explore the Fragrant Concubine's Tomb, said to be the resting place of a legendary Uighur woman from the Qing Dynasty, and visit the Id Kah Mosque, one of the largest and most important mosques in China.

Later in the day, you experience the famous Animal Bazaar, where locals trade livestock in a lively and authentic setting, offering an insight into the traditional rhythms of rural life.

You will also visit a local family in their traditional home to learn more about daily life in this remote part of China and enjoy genuine Uighur hospitality. Overnight: Kashi Tianyuan International Hotel or similar

meals: B,D

DAY 17 In Kashgar, trip concludes

Our trip concludes today in Kashgar.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

suggested extensions

- Silk Road to Samarkand via Kashgar
- Taskhent to Isfahan

country information

The story of the Silk Road begins with centuries of movement, exchange and cultural mingling across Central Asia. When Alexander the Great swept through the Persian Empire in 330 BCE, Greek ideas and traditions spread eastward, leaving an influence that can still be felt today. In the Hunza Valley of the Karakoram, local legend even suggests that some inhabitants are descended from Alexander's soldiers. Over the years, different groups—including tribes from Palmyra, the Parthians, and the early Huns and Kushans—each left their mark as they passed through the region. As these cultures met and mixed, Greek influences gradually blended with Buddhism, creating a unique cultural thread that would eventually weave its way along the Silk Road. China's role in the Silk Road began as the country entered a new era of unity under the Qin and Han dynasties. With Xi'an established as the capital and the empire's language and systems standardised, China was ready to look westward. In 138 BCE, the Han emperor sent an envoy named Zhang Qian to learn more about the lands beyond China's borders. His long and difficult journey revealed stories of distant kingdoms and the prized "heavenly horses," inspiring further expeditions. Travellers returned with new goods, art and ideas, including early Buddhist influences. Over time, Buddhism travelled along the trade routes into China, leaving behind monasteries, stupas and remarkable cave art, such as the famous murals of Dunhuang. Modern China remains a fascinating destination for travellers, with its vast landscapes, long history and welcoming traditions. Although tourism only began opening up in the late 20th century, the country now offers an exciting mix of ancient sites and rapidly modernising cities. Its rural regions still hold strong cultural traditions, while the major urban centres reflect China's growing global influence. Travellers today, much like those in the days of Marco Polo, are warmly received as guests.

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



climate

The Silk Road spans a vast and varied region, from the deserts of western China to the steppes and high mountains of Central Asia, so climate conditions differ significantly along the route. In western China including regions such as Turpan, Dunhuang and Kashgar, the climate is typically dry and sunny. Summers can be very hot, with daytime temperatures reaching 30–35°C (86–95°F), while spring and autumn are milder and more comfortable. Desert nights cool off quickly, often requiring a warm layer after sunset. In Central Asia, cities like Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent experience warm to hot summers, with daytime temperatures ranging from 20–28°C (68–82°F) during spring and autumn. Evenings tend to be cooler, and in the surrounding mountain areas, weather conditions can shift rapidly. Cold nights and even occasional summer snowfall are possible at higher altitudes. Travellers should expect low humidity, strong sunshine and wide temperature fluctuations between day and night throughout the journey. While rainfall is generally light, it can occur at any time, so we recommend packing a waterproof jacket and an insulating layer for all departures.

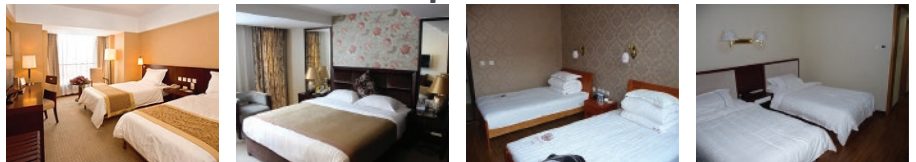
a typical day

When touring in cities we will meet our guide early in the morning and full days will be spent sightseeing.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation on the trip



In cities or large towns you will be accommodated in 3 to 4 star, twin share properties that are centrally located, atmospheric and reliable. An overnight train standard is a comfortable 4 berth sleeper with a cabin door that locks. Speak to your reservations consultant should you wish to upgrade to private, 2 berth sleeper cabins.

what you carry

You will be required to carry all your luggage between hotels and transportation. On sightseeing days you will be required to carry a day pack with your camera, water proof clothing and any other personal items you may require during the day.

China Silk Road

Trace the Silk Road through China



equipment required

Specialist gear required include walking shoes and day pack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and whilst wherever possible, vehicles with seatbelts are provided, on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted.

visas

Australian, New Zealand, Canada and the UK passport holders can travel to China for tourism without a visa if their stay is 30 days or less. This visa-free policy is effective to 31 December 2026. If you are staying over 30 days you will need to apply for a visa before your trip.

If you require a visa, it is advisable to apply for your visa approximately 6 weeks before your intended entry into China, but not earlier than three months prior. Applying too early may result in your visa expiring before your arrival. Passport holders from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States, please visit: <https://consular.mfa.gov.cn/VISA/> to be directed to your dedicated city and countries website for instructions.

If you have any doubt about your eligibility, verify the conditions for visa free entry with your nearest Chinese Embassy.

Depending on your passport and location, different requirements apply and they change at short notice. Please refer to websites above for the latest information.

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

You must complete an electronic Digital Arrival Card (CDAC) prior to arrival to China. This free, mandatory, and 100% digital process is done via the National Immigration Administration (NIA) website, generating a QR code for immigration inspection. <https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPC/entry-registation-home>

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

webinars & events

Catch a Webinar – Live or On Demand - to learn more about a particular trip. Make sure the trip you choose is right for you. Watch them live, so you can ask our presenters a question, or catch the recording later at your leisure and watch it On Demand. Visit our website or keep an eye on our newsletter for upcoming presentations.

private groups

The adventures that you see on our website are just a starting point. We operate many of our trips, which means we can be flexible and create an itinerary to suit your interests and dates. Talk to our team, you'll be surprised how much more affordable it can be when you get a group of friends, colleagues, a club – you name it, to travel with you!

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Trace the Silk Road through China



social networking

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trip availability

We operate small group adventures, which means availability is always worth checking early. Check trip availability online or call our team who might be able to dig a little deeper for you to find what you want, when you want.

Many adventures require services that, if not available at the time you book (like an internal flight or permit) could mean the trip is unavailable. So, book early to avoid missing out on your dream adventure.

how to book

Check trip availability and book your tour online, or call or visit one of our offices. To book a trip, you will need to complete a Booking Form (online or request a PDF) and pay a non-refundable deposit. Please note that when booking our tours to not confirm any additional arrangements until all services related to your tour are confirmed by your dedicated Reservations Consultant.