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10 days Urumqi - Turpan - Dunhuang - Xiahe and Chengdu Giant Panda Tour

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Urumqi

Turpan

Dunhuang

Xiahe

Chengdu

Travel the famous China Silk Road! breathtaking sights, ancient cities, giant pandas, stunning architecture and so much more!

Type

Private

Duration

10 days

Theme

Culture and Heritage

Trip code

SRCT-02

Price

From A\$ 1,890 per person

Itinerary

The Xinjiang Grand Bazaar is a place to experience everything from local goods to street food, and is one of the most famous grand bazaars in the world! You'll also visit the great Tibetan monastery, the Chengdu Giant Panda Exhibit, relax by the soothing waters of Heavenly Lake and visit the massive Grand Buddha statue on this incredible 10 day journey of a lifetime!

Day 01 :

Urumqi arrival



Upon arrival at Urumqi airport, to be picked up and transferred to your hotel. From there you'll have the chance rest up and refresh in the comfort of your lodging accommodations. Once settled, feel free to take a walk into the mind-boggling Xinjiang Grand Bazaar, where you'll find everything from entertainment to local fare and unique goods from different cultures in and around the region.

Day 02 :

Drive to Heavenly Lake - Drive to Turpan

You'll begin with a morning drive to visit the aptly named Heavenly Lake. This beautiful and serene body of crystal water has the ability to bring renewed energy to even the weariest of travelers. In the afternoon, you'll enjoy a drive to the oasis city of Turpan for the night. In this region of the China Silk Road, you will find a sparse population, fertile soil that boasts one of the countries greatest grape growing abilities and plenty of ancient ruins and relics to gaze upon.

Day 03 :

The Full Turpan Experience

Morning visits the Gaochang Ruins- the ancient remnants of a 2,000-year-old city, the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves- a beautiful labyrinth of ancient art, and the Flaming Mountain- named for the bright red, orange and yellow rock that causes a flame-like effect across the desert sky. Then view the stunning architecture within the Ancient city of Jiaohe. Surprisingly well preserved, Jiaohe is thought to be the oldest city in the world. Last but certainly not least, you'll visit Emin Minaret. An impressive structure, this tower looms at 44 meters (144 feet) tall and is the largest minaret in all of China.

Day 04 :

Turpan Visit - Bullet Train to Dunhuang

Your morning begins with visiting the intricate Karez underground irrigation system. An important source of life to all of Turpan, this system of caves, reservoirs, canals and wells is an impressive 5,000 km (3100 miles) in total length. From there, you'll head to the train station drop off and take the train to Dunhuang (D2708, 12:46-16:41, around 4 hours). Upon arrival at Dunhuang, you'll be taken to your hotel. Rest up and enjoy the Shazhou Nightly Market or some traditional Chinese performance art at the Dunhuang Theater.

Day 05 :

Dunhuang Highlights

You'll enjoy a morning visit to the breathtaking Mogao Grottoes, including a visit to the Dunhuang Grotto protection and Exhibition center. Here you will witness the awe of ancient Chinese cave paintings and artwork, and also learn some history about the region. Later you will visit the beautiful Crescent Lake and Echoing Sand Mountains, where even a breeze in the air causes the dunes of multi-colored sand to echo with a magical, musical tune.

Day 06 :

Flight to Lanzhou - Drive to Xiahe



Transfer to board the flight to Lanzhou, the capital city of the Gansu Province in northwest China. Upon arrival at Lanzhou, you'll be picked up by a local guide and driver. Your entourage will then head to Xiahe (about 4 hours' drive). You will then have the rest of the day to freely explore the wonders of Xiahe on your own. A harmonious and colorful city, Xiahe is populated primarily by Buddhists, as it is sacred land and home to the famous Labrang Monastery.

Day 07 :

Xiahe visit - Drive back to Lanzhou - Fly to Chengdu

Your first exploration will be a morning visit to the Labrang Monastery, one of the six main Gelupa monasteries in Tibetan Buddhism. Then you will head to the Sangke grasslands for a short visit to view some of the local nomadic groups and beautiful grasslands. From here you will be arranged to visit a local nomad family and experience a rarely seen side of Tibetan culture. Then a late afternoon drive back to the Lanzhou airport for the flight to Chengdu.

Day 08 :

Day Excursion to Leshan Grand Buddha

Here you'll embark on a one-day excursion trip to see the Leshan Grand Buddha statue. Believed to be built sometime between 713 and 803, the giant statue is an incredible sight to behold.

Day 09 :

Pandas and the Beauty of Chengdu... and Pandas!

You'll enjoy a half-day tour to visit the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center where you'll get to see a feeding, learn about daily life and habits of the Giant Panda and witness them in their natural habitat. Then an afternoon journey to explore the dazzling city of Chengdu, including People's Park- a historic and unique area, the park is green and lush, with lakes and many features to explore. Kuaizhai alley is next on the tour- as the cultural center of Chengdu, the alley is home to tea houses, hostels, shops and plenty of phoenix trees. Then to the magnificent Qingyang Palace. The palace is one of the oldest Taoist palaces in existence and is home to many ancient relics and intriguing cultural art.

Day 10 :

Chengdu departure



This is where we send you off, knowing your experience was unforgettable! We'll see you once you book the next tour!

Inclusions

Tour notes:

Please note prices are based in CNY.

General inclusions:

2 bottles of mineral water provided daily.

All required government taxes and fees.

Domestic travel accident insurance.

Meals allowance for your guide and driver.

3 Stars hotel (shared twin room, private bathroom and daily breakfast)

Hotel accommodation is based on double occupancy (two persons sharing 1 standard twin room with private bathroom)

All entrance tickets as noted in the tour's itinerary.

Guide fluent in English, Chinese or Japanese that is certified by the state tourism build and from the local community. (If your native language is not listed please let us know, we are certain we can assist your needs.)

Airport and/or train station pick-up and drop-off.

All domestic flight and train tickets. Economy-class for flights and soft sleeper / seat for train tickets.

Comfortable and clean private minivan with driver (please note that on days designated with walking tours, no private vehicle will be arranged by default.)

Hotel pick-up and drop-off.

General exclusions:

Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, internet access, fax, telephone calls etc.

Tips for your guide and driver.

Optional Attractions that are not specified in the itinerary.

Sightseeing boat ticket for Leshan Grand Buddha.

Flight and/or railway ticket(s) to the first city of the tour and departure from the last city of the tour.

Meals not specified in the itinerary.

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