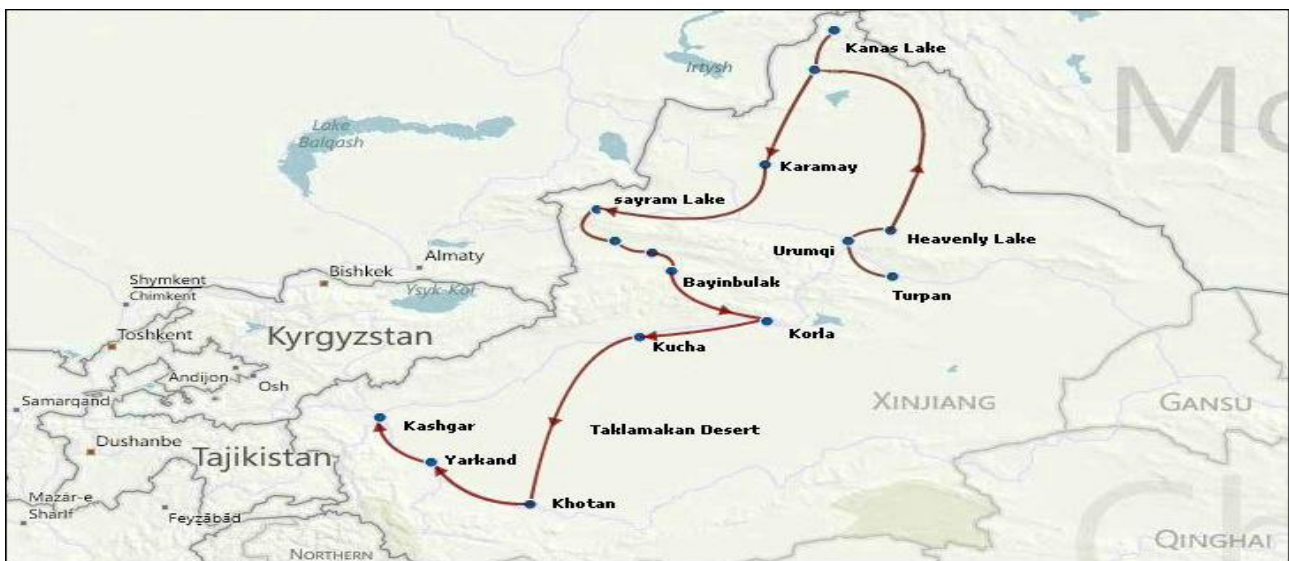




Nature & Culture of Xinjiang

Trip Highlights:

- Historical Silk Road cities as Turpan, Kashgar, Yarkand, Khotan, Kucha and Ghulja.
- Nature Spots: Heavenly Lake, Karakul Lake, Kanas Lake and Sayram Lake
- Narat Grassland, Bayinbulak Grassland and Kanas Grassland.
- Local people as Uyghur communities, Kazak, Mongol, Kyrgyz nomads etc.
- Taklamakan Desert (China's first biggest desert) in Tarim Basin at southern Xinjiang and Kurban Tongut Desert (China's second biggest desert) in Zhungar Basin at northern Xinjiang.



	START	END
June	19	Jul 10
July	17	Aug 07
August	14	Sep 04
September	11	Oct 02

Cost includes: Twin share hotel accommodation with breakfast, English Speaking Guide, Full board meals, Air conditioned tour coach for all means of land transfers, entrance fees to tour sights mentioned at below, special travel permit from authorities for remote areas as Narat and Bayinbulak Grasslands, Chinese visa support letter if required etc.



Day01: Urumqi

Arrive at Urumqi airport, met by guide and driver, transfer to hotel for overnight.

Day02: Urumqi-Turpan

Visit to ethnographic Museum of Xinjiang, then head for Turpan, early evening visit to Jiaohe Ancient City which was listed under UNESCO, overnight at Turpan.

Day03: Turpan

Touring around Turpan including visit to Emin Minaret, Astana Graveyard, Tuyuq Valley, Bezaklik Buddhist Caves.

Day04: Turpan-Heavenly Lake

Visit to Karez underground irrigation system, then drive to Heavenly lake at the foot of Boghda Mountain peaks, trekking around the lake side. Overnight at Kazakh yurt.

Day05: Heavenly Lake-Burjin

Drive across the Gobi Desert (Kurban Tongut) and Karamaili Natural Reserve to Burjin for overnight, enroute enjoy the beautiful landscape of Burning Mountains.

Day06: Burjin-Kanas Lake

Drive along the Altay Mountain range to Kanas Natural Reserve, take the shuttle bus into the world heritage area, There are nature trails at

various points and plenty of opportunities for botanizing and exercise, overnight at Jiadengyu.

Day07: Kanas

We have a similar program of extended walks today. We take the shuttle bus again and further drive into the mountain valley and trekking up to the high platform which called Guanyuting to have a bird view of the lake, afternoon visit to Tuwa nomadic people, overnight at Jiadengyu.

Day08: Kanas-Karamay

Today we drive into the Jungar Basin on the road to Karamay. The meaning of Karamay is Black Oil in Uyghur language. We stop at Ghost City and around.

Day09: Karamay-Sairam Lake

This morning we proceed west via national road 312 to reach the historical route of the northern Tianshan Silk Road and continue to Sayram Lake grasslands, overnight camping around lake side.

Day10: Sayram Lake-Ghulja (Yining)

Drive over the Apple Gorge to Ghulja (Yining) in the fertile Ili valley. Afternoon wandering around old towns and small lanes of Ghulja which named Kazanqi, most of the houses have strong influences of Russian architectural style here, early evening visit to Ili River bed, overnight at Ghulja.

Day11: Ghulja-Narat Grassland

Drive to Narat in the picturesque forested valleys



of the Tianshan mountain, afternoon trekking along the small paths and enjoy the part of Ili River-Kones River at the heart of the mountain.

Day12: Narat-Bayinbulak Grassland

We follow the National Road 217 to Bayinbulak plateau where we will visit the Snow Goose-Grassland Protected Area including visit to Mongol nomads who set up their yurts in summer there.

Day13: Bayinbulak-Korla

Today leave the mountains of the Tien Shan and drive to the northern slope of the Tarim Basin, arrive at Korla late afternoon.

Day14: Korla-Kucha

Drive along the Middle Silk Road to Kucha along the Taklamakan Desert, Afternoon visit to Grand Mosque, Qiuci Ancient Ruins (the City of Subash).

Day15: Kucha

Today we are out and about around the archaeological sites of this historic Silk Road city. Our program will take us to Kizil Buddhist cave temples and mystic grand canyon of Tianshan.

Day16: Kucha-Khotan

Today we have a long way to drive across China's first biggest shifting sand desert Taklamakan from north to south along the new Desert highway including stops at Desert Poplar Protection Area, arrive Khotan in the late evening.

Day17: Khotan

Day tour in Khotan including visit to silk spinning and weaving family cooperatives, hand crafted paper making and Silk Carpet making factories, afternoon walking around Jade Bazaar at the bank of Yorunkash River.

Day18: Khotan-Yarkand

Depart for Yarkand, we head west by way of the southern line of the Silk Road. Along the way stop at Karghilik (Yecheng) the starting point of Xinjiang-Tibetan Highway which was called Zero Point. Arrive at Yarkand late afternoon. Time to visit the Altyn Mosque complex and Amannisa Khan Tomb.

Day19: Yarkand-Kashgar

Breakfast at hotel, then leave for Kashgar, enroute stop at historic Yengitsar where the famous Uyghur knives are made and arrive in Kashgar mid PM.

Day20: Kashgar

We plan to visit Sunday Market and its livestock section first, then visit to Apak khoja Mausoleum which is the Sufi leader during the 17th century, wandering around old towns and small lanes of Kashgar, Eidkah mosque and its handcraft section.

Day21: Kashgar-KarakulLake-Kashgar

After breakfast get away early for the 4 hr drive in to the Chinese Pamir to Karakol Lake near the Muztagh Ata (Father of ice mountain) and Kongur mountain (7649m), drive back to Kashgar. Farewell dinner tonight.

Day22: Depart

Transfer to airport for departure flight. End of SRA service.





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2012 other itineraries:

- Silk Road Kashgar to Xian 15 days
- Silk Road Classic: Xian to Tashkent 20 days
- Wild West of China 20 days
- Journey to the west 20 days
- Textile arts of China 22 days
- Travel to China's Gobi Desert 15 Days
- Xinjiang Tour 15 days



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