

# THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY

*"We regard each and every trip we organise as a trip of a lifetime."*

**BT-06 | XINJIANG EXPLORER**



★ **ITINERARY PAGE 8**

★ **PRICING & INCLUSIONS PAGE 22**





## CONTENTS

- 3 ..... Trip Map
- 4 ..... Overview & Itinerary in Brief
- 7 ..... Health Protocols
- 8 ..... Day by Day Itinerary
- 22 ... Price Guide
- 23 ... Trip Inclusions & Exclusions
- 26 ... Recommended Reading
- 27 ... Essential Information

## ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Established as one of the UK's leading, independent and family owned China tour specialist our focus is on well thought through private and tailor made rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on creating the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the China as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

## ALL TOURS ARE FINANCIALLY PROTECTED

We are members of **ABTA** (Y1699) and our tours are **ATOL** protected (license 10287) giving you full peace of mind when booking with us both for monies paid to us as well as the code of conduct and high standards we are both delighted to and required to uphold.



# URUMQI • TURPAN • KASHGAR • KARAKUL LAKE • TASHKURGAN • KASHGAR



# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK : BT-06 XINJIANG EXPLORER

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,  
The China Travel Company.

## THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY

- [www.thechinatravelcompany.co.uk](http://www.thechinatravelcompany.co.uk)
- [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)

☎ +44 (0)20 8816 8399

- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287



## 9 NIGHT / 10 DAY PRIVATE TOUR VISITING :



### URUMQI

Remote Capital of Xinjiang and the start of this Silk Road Adventure.



### TURPAN

Desert oasis surrounded by stunning scenery and relics of the past.



### KASHGAR

Feeling more Central Asia than China this is a fascinating trading city.



### KARAKUL LAKE

Stunning high altitude lake set amongst towering, snowcapped peaks.



### TASHKURGAN

Remote and ancient trading post set in a beautiful wide valley.



Vicky & Simon White

"Thank you so much for what you did, not just booking the trip, but in your advice and guidance in the preparation phases. Everything we did and saw exceeded our expectations. It was without doubt the highlight of our 3 month 10 country tour. Not only would we recommend you, we will use you again."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE VIEW MORE FEEDBACK ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





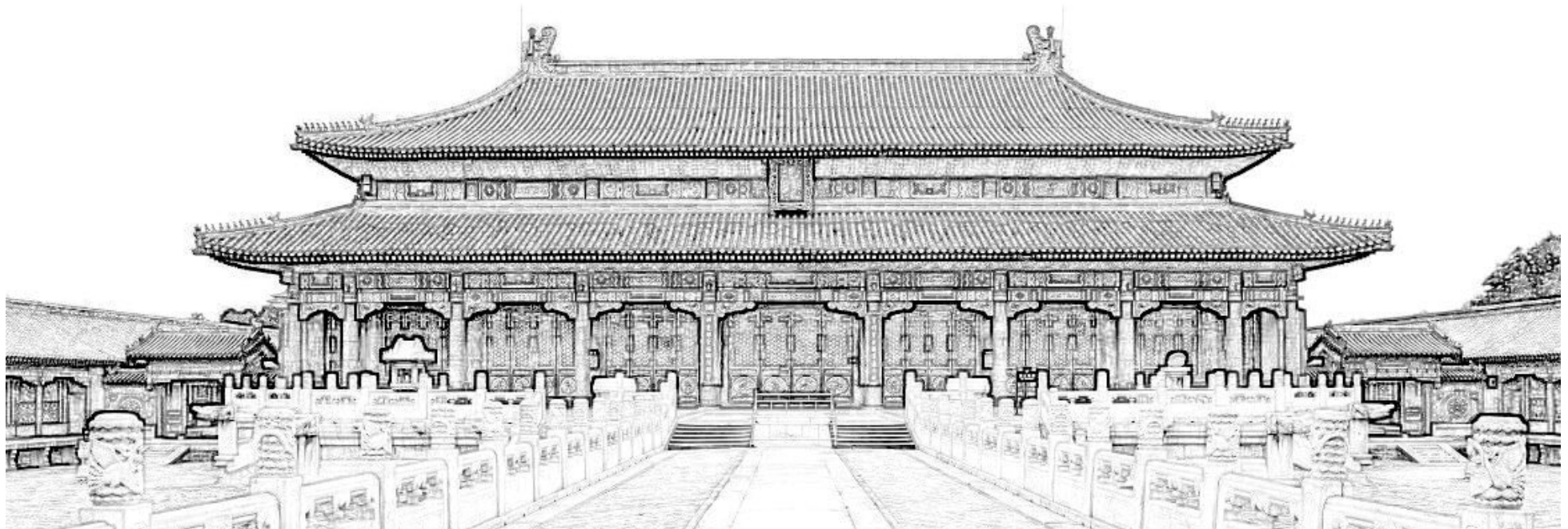
## DAY

1	• <b>URUMQI</b>	Arrival in Urumqi With a Drive Through the Desert to the Oasis of Turpan. The Vines ★ ★ ★
2	• <b>TURPAN</b>	Ancient Gaochang, Flaming Mountains, Thousand Buddha Caves, Karez Irrigation & Emin Minaret. The Vines ★ ★ ★
3	• <b>TURPAN</b>	Depart on the Stunning Train Ride Across Desert & Mountains to Kashgar. Radisson Blu Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★
4	• <b>KASHGAR</b>	Tour exploring the Labyrinth of alleys of this old trading city. Radisson Blu Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★
5	• <b>KASHGAR</b>	Adventurous trip into the countryside to see breathtaking Shipton's Arch. Radisson Blu Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★
6	• <b>KASHGAR</b>	Free day to explore Kashgar & the surrounding sights. Radisson Blu Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★
7	• <b>KARAKUL LAKE</b>	First day on the legendary Karakorum Highway to reach stunning Karakul Lake. Kazak Yurts (basic accommodation)



## DAY

- |           |                     |  |
|-----------|---------------------|--|
| <b>8</b>  | <b>• TASHKURGAN</b> | <p>Stunning Karakorum Highway &amp; the Ancient Stone Citadel in remote Tashkurgan.</p> <p>Crown Inn Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>• KASHGAR</b>    | <p>Return to Kashgar Along the Karakorum Highway.</p> <p>Radisson Blu Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★</p>                                |
| <b>10</b> | <b>• END</b>        | <p>Depart Kashgar after this classic journey in China's Far West.</p> <p>N/A</p>                                       |





# YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

The following pages detail your itinerary day by day. All our trips are tried and tested and, between us, we have visited all destinations and accommodation and travelled on modes of transport. We like to offer our clients the greatest flexibility possible with their trip so if there is anything you would like to change please contact us.

## JUST ASK US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES

---

*"We returned to the UK yesterday, completing our 3 weeks in China. Thanks very much for organising our itinerary. Everything went like a dream. Being met at each destination was a real boost and each of these guides were extremely helpful. Accommodation was all good and transport/ tickets all went smoothly. Would have been difficult to do this trip without your organisational help. Thank you!"*

Simon & Helen Randfield





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 1

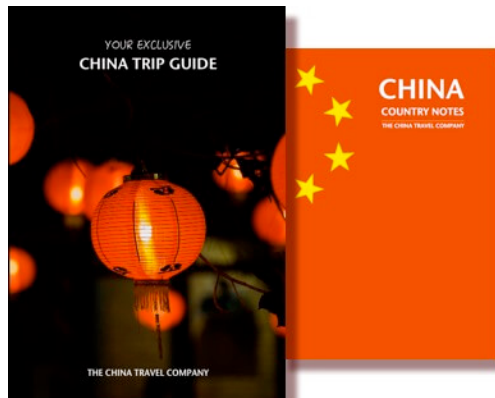
DATE TBC

### TURPAN

#### ARRIVAL IN URUMQI WITH A DRIVE THROUGH THE DESERT TO THE OASIS OF TURPAN

Arrival in Urumqi, the furthest city from the sea in the world, from where you will be transferred by directly the 190 km to your hotel in Turpan. This desert oasis is famous for its grapes, scorching summer temperatures and for being the second lowest point on earth at 154 meters below sea level. It was also an important stop on the Silk Road and it is this rich history that draws adventurous travellers today. Check-in to your hotel with free time for the rest of the day.

 **Meals Included:** None Today.



#### YOUR EXCLUSIVE TRIP GUIDEBOOK

Tap in to our knowledge of China with our exclusive guidebook personalised to your trip. These books are packed full of tips about the country, what to take, currency, destination guides and much more. The perfect way to prepare for and get the most out of your China experience with us!

## OVERNIGHT

### THE VINES



Located on the edge of the city in a vineyard this is by far the most atmospheric option in Turpan that gives you some of the feel of the old Silk Road.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 2

DATE TBC

### TURPAN

#### VISIT ANCIENT GAOCHANG, THE FLAMING MOUNTAINS, THOUSAND BUDDHA CAVES, KAREZ IRRIGATION SYSTEM & EMIN MINARET

The sights of Turpan are mainly outside of the city and so we head into the desert today to explore these. We visit ancient Gaochang - a thriving city set up in the 1st century BC but abandoned in the Ming Dynasty - and the dramatic Flaming Mountains on the way to the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, the ancient dwellings of the modern day Uygur people.

Returning back towards Turpan we stop at the The Karez Irrigation System, an engineering achievement up there with Great Wall as one of China's ancient wonders and Turpan would not exist today without its ability to collect water from the Tianshan mountains to feed this oasis. Our final stop is the Emin Minaret built in 1777 and is the largest old tower in Xinjiang built in honour of the heroic Turpan general Emin Khoja.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

## OVERNIGHT

### THE VINES



Located on the edge of the city in a vineyard this is by far the most atmospheric option in Turpan that gives you some of the feel of the old Silk Road.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



# 吐鲁番 **TURPAN HIGHLIGHTS**

"Essential Silk Road stop  
with a good variety of  
sights."



## Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-2	6	16	27	33	38	40	38	32	22	10	-1
Min temp °C	-12	-6	3	12	19	23	25	23	16	7	-2	-10
Rainfall mm	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	1

MOSQUE



DESERT ROADS



EMIN MINARET



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 3

DATE TBC

### KASHGAR

#### DEPART ON THE STUNNING TRAIN RIDE ACROSS DESERT & MOUNTAINS TO KASHGAR

After breakfast a transfer to the station for the spectacular train journey to Kashgar starting in the wide open space of the deserts around the Turpan depression before climbing by a series of impressive tunnels and switchbacks into the stunning Tian Shan mountains. During the night the train returns to the deserts that surround Kashgar before arriving in the early hours of the morning at this ancient trading city nestled on the edge of the Taklamakan Desert.

Transfer to your hotel to spend the rest of the night.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### RADISSON BLU HOTEL



Currently the best hotel in Kashgar and although a bit modern for this ancient city if it is comfort you are after this is the definitely the place to stay.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 4

DATE TBC

### KASHGAR

#### EXPLORE THE LABYRINTH OF THE OLD CITY

After a lie in this morning this afternoon you have a tour of the labyrinth of lanes and alleys of Kashgar's Old City. For millennia Kashgar has been an important crossroads and trading station along the Silk Road between China and Central Asia.

Much of the old city doesn't feel Chinese at all - it is certainly a long way from Beijing and despite development much of the charm of Kashgar is still alive and well.

Free time in the evening to soak up the atmosphere of this unique destination.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### RADISSON BLU HOTEL



Currently the best hotel in Kashgar and although a bit modern for this ancient city if it is comfort you are after this is the definitely the place to stay.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612







# 喀什 KASHGAR HIGHLIGHTS

"A fascinating melting  
pot of China & Central  
Asia."



## Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	0	6	14	22	26	30	31	30	27	20	12	2
Min temp °C	-10	-5	2	8	13	17	19	17	13	5	-2	-7
Rainfall mm	5	4	9	7	13	17	10	9	15	7	1	3

CENTRAL MOSQUE



OLD CITY



MARKETS



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 5

DATE TBC

### KASHGAR

#### ADVENTUROUS TRIP INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO SEE BREATHTAKING SHIPTON'S ARCH

Today take a trip out into the rugged landscape outside of Kashgar to visit remote Shipton's Arch. Thought to be the world's highest natural arch and known as Tushuk Tash ("pierced rock" in local Uyghur) this is a little visited but extraordinary natural feature a few hours drive from the city with much of the way on a 4x4 only road. The first foreigner to note the arch was Eric Shipton, the British mountaineer and Consul at Kashgar, who wrote about it in his book "Mountains of Tartary" published in 1947.

Return to Kashgar late afternoon with free time for the rest of the day. Note that a head for heights, reasonable fitness and good walking boots are recommended for this trip.

**TOP TIP:** Good sturdy boots are advised for today.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Picnic or Restaurant Lunch.

## OVERNIGHT

### RADISSON BLU HOTEL



Currently the best hotel in Kashgar and although a bit modern for this ancient city if it is comfort you are after this is the definitely the place to stay.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 6

DATE TBC

### KASHGAR

#### FREE DAY TO EXPLORE KASHGAR & THE SURROUNDING SIGHTS

Today is free to further explore Kashgar. If your schedule allows this day to be a Sunday you have a chance to visit the famous Sunday Market as well as the vast Livestock Market. This day is also a good preparation day for your Karakorum Highway trip which begins tomorrow and, of course, there is plenty to see in Kashgar itself regardless of the day of the week!

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### RADISSON BLU HOTEL



Currently the best hotel in Kashgar and although a bit modern for this ancient city if it is comfort you are after this is the definitely the place to stay.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 7

DATE TBC

### KARAKUL LAKE

#### FIRST DAY ON THE LEGENDARY KARAKORUM HIGHWAY TO KARAKUL LAKE

Begin your road trip to Karakul Lake along the scenically stunning Karakorum Highway. This road eventually finishes in Islamabad in Pakistan and is an engineering marvel as well as the highest international road in the world. There are plenty of opportunities to stop for photos of the dramatic scenery along the way.

Basic accommodation tonight in a Kirgiz yurt at the beautiful Karakul Lake set in a breathtaking location near the junction of the Pamir, Tian Shan and Kunlun mountain ranges. Despite being at 3,600m this high altitude lake dwarfed by the higher peaks including Muztagh Ata (7546m), Kongur Tagh (7649m) and Kongur Tiube (7530m) that make an impressive backdrop and reflection in the lake.

**NOTE:** Tonight's accommodation is basic yurt style but the only option. Toilet facilities are very poor here but the scenery hopefully more than compensates.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

## OVERNIGHT

### KAZAK YURTS



One of the world's stunning locations with the only accommodation option available being Kazak style yurts. Fine although toilet facilities are poor.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





# 卡拉库里湖 **KARAKUL LAKE HIGHLIGHTS**

"Few lakes in the world have such a dramatic setting as Karakul."



## Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	4	6	14	23	28	33	35	33	28	21	13	6
Min temp °C	-3	-2	4	11	15	19	22	20	15	9	3	-1
Rainfall mm	21	17	27	18	15	9	6	0	3	21	18	18

## KAZAKH YURTS



## LAKE VIEWS



## EPIC SCENERY



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
 UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



## DAY 8

DATE TBC

### TASHKURGAN

#### STUNNING KARAKORUM HIGHWAY & ANCIENT STONE CITADEL IN REMOTE TASHKURGAN

Rise early to catch the sunrise by the lake before continuing on through the mountains to the predominantly Tajik town of Tashkurgan. Along the way you cross several high passes offering fantastic views. Afternoon arrival in Tashkurgan which means Stone Fortress and refers to its strategic location on the Silk Road between Europe and China.

Caravans converged on Tashkurgan from today's Pakistan and Afghanistan before heading to Kashgar on their long journey to the Tang Dynasty capital of Xian thousands of kilometers to the east.

Today Tashkurgan is still the last stop before Pakistan and as far as you can travel without the necessary paperwork to enter that country.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

## OVERNIGHT

### CROWN INN HOTEL



The best option by far in China's "last city."  
Singaporean owned and efficiently run this is surprisingly comfortable considering the location.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked





# 塔什库尔干镇 TASHKURGAN HIGHLIGHTS

“Reached by an unmissable journey along the Karakorum Highway.”



## Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-10	-7	-3	2	4	7	9	9	8	2	-3	-8
Min temp °C	-18	-15	-11	-5	-1	1	3	3	-1	-5	-12	-17
Rainfall mm	3	6	6	6	3	3	6	6	3	6	2	6

RUINED FORT



KARAKORUM VIEWS



COLOURFUL MARKET



# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 9

DATE TBC

### KASHGAR

#### RETURN TO KASHGAR ALONG THE KARAKORUM HIGHWAY

A long drive back to Kashgar today but with plenty of opportunities to stop for photographs and leg stretching along the way. It is impossible to get tired of driving along this extraordinary road and a different set of views can be seen making the journey in reverse.

Return to your hotel in Kashgar with free time for any last minute souvenir shopping.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

## OVERNIGHT

### RADISSON BLU HOTEL



Currently the best hotel in Kashgar and although a bit modern for this ancient city if it is comfort you are after this is the definitely the place to stay.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





# YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 10**

**DATE TBC**

🇨🇳 **END**

## DEPART KASHGAR AFTER THIS CLASSIC JOURNEY IN CHINA'S FAR WEST

Free time until a transfer to your transport out of Kashgar. We fully expect that this trip will lead to an enduring fascination of this remote and unique part of China.

**PLEASE NOTE:** An altitude of over 4,000 meters (13,500 feet) is reached on this trip. Whilst the vast majority of people experience little more than shortness of breath there is a very small risk of more severe complications such as acute mountain sickness (AMS). Note that level of fitness and age are no indication as to whether you are more susceptible or not to AMS. [Click here for more information.](#)

🍴 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.



**Dawn Collins & Family**

*"I cannot praise the company and the team enough for the help we got planning this trip - right down to the finer details.*

*I have never received the customer service of this level from another tour operator, and would have no reservations about recommending your company."*

[VIEW MORE FEEDBACK](#)



THECHINATRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612



### • Price guide\* per person based on 2 people travelling: **UK £ 2,340 / US\$ 2,925**

*\* Prices vary by date, availability and the number of people in your party. Please contact us for a firm quote.*

A full list of what is included in this price can be seen on the following pages. Note that this does not include any international flights or visas.

### • Booking and payment terms:

Once we receive completed booking forms we will book and confirm services for you and send an invoice for the deposit payment of 20% per person (plus any international flights we are booking) with full payment due 60 days before departure. All payments to us are protected under our ATOL or ABTA licenses and we accept payment by Credit Card, Debit Card (no fee) or bank transfer. [Click here to read our Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)

### • Our pricing policy:

We believe that the the pricing for this tour offers excellent value for the services and standards we operate and we frequently check our pricing against that of other operators. If you feel you have a similar quote that is of a lower price we are happy to reconsider our pricing for you if you can forward the other quote so we can fairly compare. We would add that in our experience we usually find some differences that, although they may appear subtle, make both a significant difference to the price and, more importantly, the quality of the trip experience.





## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

Here you will find the inclusions and exclusions for this itinerary. We guarantee you will receive the services below although on very rare occasions one service may need to be replaced with another similar one as there are a lot of complex logistical elements to a trip like this.

### ■ INTERNATIONAL PLANE TICKETS: Tickets for flights the start and finish of the above trip

✈ International flight tickets are NOT included in this itinerary. We CAN arrange these for you.

### ■ TRAIN TICKETS: Click here to learn more about the trains - ask us about possible upgrades

✓ Turpan to Kashgar soft sleeper class (17 hour trip) 1 berth each in a 4 berth compartment

### ■ OTHER TRANSPORT: Between destinations and other than plane or train

✓ Urumqi to Turpan by private car or minibus

✓ Kashgar to Tashkurgan and back to Kashgar by private car or minibus (with guide and driver and includes their food and lodging)

### ■ ACCOMMODATION: Let us know if you have your own hotel preferences or wish to upgrade

✓ 2 nights Turpan - The Vines Hotel 3\* (standard room with breakfast)

✓ 1 night overnight sleeper train Turpan to Kashgar (shared 4 berth compartment)

✓ 4 nights Kashgar - Radisson Blu Hotel 4\* (standard room with breakfast)

✓ 1 night Karakul Lake - Traditional Kirgiz style yurt - very basic facilities here.

✓ 1 night Tashkurgan - Crown Inn Hotel 4\* (standard room with breakfast)

✓ 1 night Kashgar - Radisson Blu Hotel 4\* (standard room with breakfast)

### ■ TRANSFERS: Private with driver and an English speaking guide (except where stated)

✓ Urumqi - Airport to Hotel in Turpan



## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

- ✓ Turpan - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Kashgar - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Kashgar - Hotel to Train Station or Airport (end of trip)

### ■ TOURS: All our tours include entrance fees and use professional, licensed guides

- ✓ Turpan - Full day private tour to the ruins of ancient Gaochang, Keriz Well, Thousand Buddha Cave, Sugong Pagoda (Emin Minaret).
- ✓ Kashgar - Half day private tour of Kashgar's Old City.
- ✓ Shipton's Arch - Full day private tour to Shipton's Arch, thought to be the world's highest natural arch.
- ✓ Karakorum Highway - Three day private tour along the Karakorum Highway stopping overnight at Karakul Lake and Tashkurgan before returning to Kashgar. Includes driver and English speaking guide and the accommodation and food they require.

### ■ OTHER INCLUSIONS: Also included in this trip

- ✓ Meals - As indicated in the itinerary.
- ✓ Permits required to travel in this region.
- ✓ Visa Paperwork - Confirmation documentation you need in order to get the visas.
- ✓ Support - Emergency numbers and contacts for each destination.
- ✓ Guidebook - Our exclusive Trip Guidebook personalised to your trip.
- ✓ Financial Peace of Mind - All monies paid to us are legally protected under UK law.

### ■ NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

- ✗ International Airfare to / from the start / finish of your trip - we can book these flights on request.
- ✗ The Chinese visa - we can advise and partner with [VisaCentral](#).
- ✗ Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment - we recommend [Citybond Suretravel](#) (UK residents only).
- ✗ Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides.

### ■ END







"A fantastic, once in a lifetime trip, arranged by real experts – thank you. We saw and experienced so much in the space of a few weeks and have so many memories to look back on."

**Jill Morris**



"I cannot praise the company and the team enough for the help we got planning this trip. I have never received the customer service of this level and would have no reservations about recommending your company."

**Dawn Collins**



"This holiday was one of the best we have had, thanks to everyone who made it possible. I've done the google review, it's important that people can see how good you are. Many Thanks for your help."

**Tim Ellis**



"The trip exceeded my expectations. It was well organised, we felt really well supported, the guides made us feel very welcome and well looked after and we were very pleased with the hotels."

**Fiona Nicolle & Family**



"Absolutely awesome time! I think we have seen as many of the iconic sights of China that you could possibly fit into 2 weeks and all done in comfort and style. Thank you so much."

**Susan Rutherford**



"It was an excellent, well organised trip to many areas of China which we wouldn't have been able to do without your expertise. Thank you for a trip of a lifetime from myself and my family."

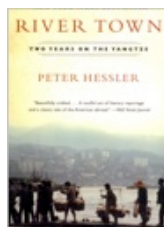
**Lily O'Hara & Family**

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE FEEDBACK ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



THECHINATRavelCOMPANY.CO.UK | Email: [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)  
UK ☎: +44 (0) 20 8816 8399 | Part of HeadsEast Ltd - UK business registration: 6717612





## RIVER TOWN

PETER HESSLER

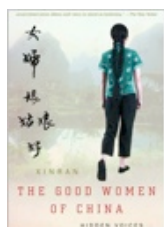
Set in the remote town of Fuling in the Yangtze River Valley this best selling book charts the experiences of the author as a Peace Corps volunteer at a time when China was embarking on the immense changes of reform and opening up.



## MAO: THE UNKNOWN STORY

JUNG CHANG

Well researched and based on interviews with those who knew and dealt with him. The book doesn't flinch from exposing the brutality of Mao but is also charts his rise to power and the methods he employed to maintain.



## GOOD WOMEN OF CHINA

XINRAN

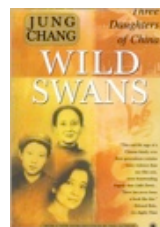
This unforgettable book is the story of how Xinran negotiated the minefield of restrictions imposed on Chinese journalists to reach out to women across the country.



## RED CHINA BLUES

JAN WONG

An excellent book that covers the authors experiences in China in the 1970s when she moved there from Canada as a supporter of Mao's Cultural Revolution. The book charts her initial enthusiasm for Mao until her eventual disillusionment.



## WILD SWANS

JUNG CHANG

20th Century history told through the the story of three generations of the same family. There are few books on China which bring the history to life and feel so personal with such ease and readability.



## CHINA ROAD

ROB GIFFORD

Running 3,000 miles from Shanghai to the border of Kazakhstan in the north-west, Route 312 - China's 'Route 66' - is a road that Rob Gifford has always wanted to travel. Part pilgrimage, part reportage - this book illuminates a country on the move.



## RED DUST

MA JIAN

A travel book set over the authors three years of journeying through remote parts of China in the 1980s which was partly an escape from the surveillance and disapproval of his life by the authorities in Beijing.



## WOLF TOTEM

JIANG RONG

This is a compelling story set during the cultural revolution about a Beijing intellectual who volunteers to live in a remote and idyllic area of Inner Mongolia. His simple life here is shattered as people swarm into the region upsetting the environment.





# ESSENTIAL CHINA INFORMATION, TIPS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK?

We suggest a minimum of 3 months but most people book further ahead than that to take advantage of competitive international flight pricing which tends to be cheaper the further in advance you book. For some of the smaller and popular boutique style hotels in China you will often need to book at least 6 months in advance to ensure availability.

## WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I BOOK?

On completing our booking forms we will make all the necessary reservations and confirm availability with you and issue an invoice for the deposit payment (or full payment if it is less than 60 days before your trip start date). About 1 month before your trip starts we send you our Trip Guidebook which covers all the information you need to know about your trip including emergency contact numbers and hotel details.

## WHAT ARE YOUR PAYMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS?

On receipt of a booking confirmation from us we require a deposit payment of 20% per person plus any international airfares. 60 days before departure we require the balance to be settled. You can read our full booking terms and conditions by [clicking here](#). We accept credit card payment and debit card as well as bank transfers.

## WHAT CLOTHES SHOULD I BRING?

This is dependent on the time of year. In the summer it is hot almost everywhere so light and well ventilated summer clothing is essential as well as protection from the sun - sunglasses and a hat. Autumn and spring can be a bit unpredictable but if the weather is good it will be the same as you would wear on a good summers day in the UK. Winters are cold and layers of warm clothing are the way to go. China is not so formal for dress although respect should be shown in temples.

## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT CHINA?

It is generally considered that the April May and September October periods off the best weather and best chance of clear skies. This doesn't stop many people visiting in the summer months or winter though. China is so big that it has something for any time of the year.

## DO YOU OFFER GROUP TOURS IN CHINA?

Very rarely will we offer group tours (the exception are the Li River and Yangtze Cruises as these are by their very nature group trips). Group tours (even small group tours) have quite a bad reputation in China for wasting your precious time on what we call "shopopportunities" (unwanted shopping stops) making private tours a far better option.

## DO I NEED A VISA?

Almost all nationalities including US, UK, Australian, Canadian and European citizens. [Click here](#) to see more information on the visas.

## IS MY MONEY PROTECTED IF I BOOK WITH YOU?

Yes, all trips booked with us have financial protection through our ATOL license (10287) or insurance we have to cover non-flight bookings. We are also members of ABTA (Y1699) and abide by their code of conduct.

## HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DO I NEED?

With a full touring program, hotels, transport and transfers booked through us you won't need that much spending money. We generally advise a minimum of £20 a day per person to cover drinks, and an evening meal if that isn't included. You can, of course, spend much more with top restaurants having close to international pricing. Then there are souvenirs and shopping to consider!



# ESSENTIAL CHINA INFORMATION, TIPS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## IS CHINA SAFE?

China is one of the safest countries to visit and in many respects safer for tourists than Western European or North American destinations. Crime against foreigners is very rare and providing common sense is used you should not have any problems. Of course, keep an eye on your pockets and bags in crowds.

## WHAT CURRENCY SHOULD I BRING?

Euros, US Dollars and UK Pounds are all accepted for exchange in China although avoid Travellers Cheques as these are hard to exchange. Most people will make use of ATMs which are easy to find and increasingly, you can obtain Chinese yuan before your trip in airports or Post Offices and currency exchange booths. More details on Chinese money and costs can be found by clicking [here](#).

## CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ?

Yes, as we hold an ATOL license (number 10287) we are permitted by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK to book flights on behalf of our clients. We are a British Airways preferred operator but also book with other airlines to get the best deals and routes for our clients.

## ARE YOUR TRIPS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

China can be a rewarding experience for children. We can advise in more detail what we feel would be the most suitable options depending on the ages of your children and your particular circumstances. We also offer family specific trips you can [view here](#). For pricing purposes anyone 12 years and over at the time of the end of their trips with us is considered an adult.

## MEDICAL ADVICE & VACCINATIONS

Our trips are designed for anybody with a reasonable standard of fitness. Where we believe there are special requirements this is mentioned in the trip information. We can cater for clients with disabilities and adapt trips accordingly and we can also cater for different dietary requirements if informed at the time of booking. There are no specific vaccinations required to enter China but you are advised to contact your local travel clinic or doctor as there may be requirements in certain cases that are dependent on your own medical history. A good resource to check requirements is [NHS Fit For Travel](#).

## DO YOU SELL TRAVEL INSURANCE?

As a booking condition we require all clients taking our trips to have their own insurance against all possible medical costs whilst abroad. We recommend Citybond Suretravel travel insurance which you can get a quote for by [clicking here](#). Note that we get a small commission on each policy taken out.

## PLUGS, ELECTRICITY, INTERNET & WIFI

Voltage in Mainland China is 220V, 50 Hz. A variety of electrical outlets can be found in China and can accept the standard Type A and common Type I plugs as well as Type C plugs. Most hotels will have WiFi in public areas and paid internet in rooms.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD BE ASKING?

Almost certainly! We fully expect you will have many more questions and we are here to answer them so please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) as, after all, that is what we are here for!

