

## **8-day Xinjiang Tour to Urumqi, Turpan and Kashgar**

### **Basics**

Tour Code: LCT - XJ -8D - 01

Duration: 8 Days

Overview: Xinjiang is a mysterious place for most people. It's known for minority inhabitants, exotic music, beautiful dance, sweet fruits, rich culture and history. However, do you really know Xinjiang? Join this trip, you will visit the golden-triangle destinations of Xinjiang, which includes the Urumqi, Turpan and Kashgar. You will be presented with stunning natural scenery, spectacular desert landscapes, rich Buddhist culture relics and intriguing Muslim culture.

### **Highlights**

- Explore the end of China Silk Road - Xinjiang;
- Follow the footsteps of hundreds of thousand traders to experience the silk road section in Urumqi, Turpan and Kashgar;
- Wander around the hustling and bustling bazaar of Kashgar;
- Unveil the peculiar ancient city of Jiaohe and understand its rich history;
- Relax and take pleasure in the peaceful and clean Tianchi Lake;
- Be awed by the beautiful murals in Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves.

### **Itinerary**

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	Flexible	Arrival in Urumqi
Day 2	08:00 a.m	Heavenly Lake
Day 3	09:00 a.m	Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum, Drive to Turpan (3hrs), Karez Well System
Day 4	09:00 a.m	Jiaohe Ancient City, Flaming Mountains, Bezeklik

		Thousand Buddha Caves, Grape Valley
<b>Day 5</b>	09:00 a.m	Emin Minaret, Fly to Kashgar
<b>Day 6</b>	09:00 a.m	Abak Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque, Kashgar Bazaar
<b>Day 7</b>	09:00 a.m	Karakul Lake
<b>Day 8</b>	Flexible	Departure Kashgar

### Day 1: Arrival in Urumqi

Welcome to Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang province and a city of modern charm and rich culture. Your local guide and driver will be waiting for you at the exit area upon your arrival. You will be safely transferred to your hotel.

Tip: Xinjiang time is about 2 hours later than the Beijing time. Please confirm the pick up time for the next morning with your guide.

### Day 2: Heavenly Lake

After breakfast, your guide and driver will take you to **Heavenly Lake** at the Tianshan Mountains.

The 1.5-hour journey will reward you with the picturesque scenery, snowcapped peaks, flourishing trees, blooming flowers and crystal clear lakes. The pleasant weather, beautiful scenery, magical colors of the lake and relaxing atmosphere make the spot the best summer resort in Xinjiang. If you need any cane to climb the mountain, please advise early.



After the tour, you will be escorted back to the city and free on your own.

### Day 3: Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum, Drive to Turpan (3hrs), Karez Well System

After breakfast, you will head for the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum** where you will be exposed to a place intensively displaying the past of Xinjiang areas, including the

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history, culture, arts, crafts and so much more. You will have a deeper understanding of the unique Xinjiang culture after visiting the museum.

After lunch, you will head for Turpan and visit the **Karez Well**. The irrigation system is especially designed for the desert. If all of these underground channels were connected, the total length would reach more than 5000 km, so it is regarded as one of the three engineering miracles of ancient China, along with the Great Wall and the Jinghang Grand Canal.



After the tour, you will check in your Turpan hotel.

#### **Day 4: Jiaohe Ancient City, Flaming Mountains, Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, Grape Valley**

After breakfast, you will head for **Jiaohe Ancient City** on an island-shaped plateau situated at Yar Town. It is the largest, oldest and best preserved earth-structured city in the world, with a history of 2000-2300 years. At noon, your guide will recommend some Turpan local delicacies for you.



In the afternoon, you will set off to the Flaming Mountains and Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves. The mountain are formed by the red stones stretching from west to east with absolutely nothing growing on. In summer, the soil vapor rises up around the mountain, making the mountain look like a giant fire dragon, hence the name of **Flaming Mountains**. The area is the hottest spot in China with a temperature of 47 centigrade under the mountain and 80 centigrade at the mountain top during Summer.

The next destination is the **Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves**. Located in the middle range of the Flaming Mountains, the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves are the best-preserved cave complex in Turpan that have the most



caves and murals. It was constructed in late Southern and Northern Dynasties and served as the Buddhist center in Xinjiang areas. There are 83 caves here and 40 of them have exquisite murals inside, but only 9 are accessible for public.

Afterwards, you will have two options depending on your timing. If you finished early, your guide and driver will take you to Grape Valley where you will take leisure in a large scale of grape land. If you feel tired, they will end here and take you to your Turpan hotel.

### **Day 5: Emin Minaret, Fly to Kashgar**

After breakfast, you will head for the **Emin Minaret**. Located in east of Turpan city, the Emin Minaret is the largest ancient pagoda in existence in Xinjiang. It was built in 1778 by the duke Emin Hezhuo to express his gratitude and devotion to Allah. You will appreciate the typical Islamic architecture here.



After lunch, you will head for the airport and fly to Kashgar. Upon your arrival, your Kashgar driver will be waiting for you and take you to check in the hotel.

### **Day 6: Abak Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque, Kashgar Bazaar**

After breakfast, your Kashgar day tour begins. The first sight is the **Apak Hoja Tomb**, a mausoleum complex burying 58 people. The tomb was named after a famous concubine of Emperor Qianlong. She was a one of the descendants of the master of this grand tomb, who was selected as a concubine for Emperor Qianlong. After her death from de-acclimatisation, it's said people delivered her corpse back and buried it in this tomb.

However, she was actually buried in mausoleum of Concubine Yu in the Ming tombs.

After lunch, you will proceed to **Id Kah Mosque** and Kashgar Bazaar. Id Kah Mosque plays an important role in the lives of Xinjiang people. Please follow your guide



closely, do not speak loudly during the visit and abide by certain regulations that the mosque has

imposed on you.

The next place you will visit is the **Kashgar Bazaar** where the ultimate local ethnic customs are revealed. You will see all kinds of specialties like Xinjiang costumes, oil, arts, crafts, instruments, china, local food, dried fruits and so much more.

At the end of the tour, you will be accompanied back to hotel.

### **Day 7: Karakul Lake**

After breakfast, you will head for the **Karakul Lake**.

Situated at the foot of Mustag Peak and surrounded by the mountains, the Karakul Lake is one of the few plateau lakes in the world. Nearby the lake, Kyrgyz sheep are scattered everywhere. In a clear day, you will see the surrounding



mountains being reflected on the clear lake, silver snow-capped peaks in the far, and herds browsing on green grassland. Everything is so perfect and peaceful. Every summer and autumn, the Karakul Lake will make a great place for mountaineers.

In the late afternoon, your guide and driver will take you back to hotel.

### **Day 8: Departure Kashgar**

Your driver will pick you up 3 hours before your flight or train and take you to the airport or railway station.

## **What's Important:**

### **What's included:**

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sights mentioned.

Bottled water.

2<sup>nd</sup> class high-speed train tickets or soft sleeper train tickets

### **What's not included:**

Meals

Personal expenses or private entertainment items at sights.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job (recommended)

Accommodation

What to take: smile and a relaxed enthusiastic attitude.

### **Good to know:**

1. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
2. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food at a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
3. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours at the standard rate of 100 RMB per hour.
4. The tour we provide you is based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 hours to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
5. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
6. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will only be with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
7. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.

### **FAQ**

1. Is it safe to travel to Xinjiang?

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Re: Xinjiang is safe to visit for foreigners. The security inspection is quite extreme in Xinjiang, you will need to bring your documents wherever you go. Meanwhile, there are police officers everywhere on patrol to ensure safety.

2. What is Xinjiang famous for?

Re: Xinjiang is famous for its delicious food and fruits. Visit Xinjiang, you must taste the fruits like Turpan grape, Hami melon and date in Hami, Pomegranate in Kashgar, dried fruits such as raisins, dried apricot, walnut, badam, and fig, local food like lang, roast mutton, roast whole lamb, pilaf, Xinjiang noodles, and some sweet food like crisp noodles. You can also buy items like hetian jade, local woolen products, saussurea involucre, and Yengisar knife.

3. Is Xinjiang worth visiting?

Re: Yes, Xinjiang is definitely worth visiting. Xinjiang is divided into southern Xinjiang and northern Xinjiang by the Tianshan Mountain. The Northern Xinjiang areas are mostly about the landscapes and the southern Xinjiang areas are mostly about the historical sights. The sights we recommend in northern Xinjiang include Heavenly Lake nearby Urumqi, Yardan Landform, Lop Nor in the southeast of Taklimakan desert, and Colorful Beach in Buerjin, Kanas nearby Buerjin. The sights we recommend in southern Xinjiang include Id Kah Mosque, Abak hoja Tomb, Kashgar Old Town, Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, in Kashgar, Kuche Royal Palace, the Mysterious Grand Canyon of Tianshan Mountains in Aksu, Khunjerab Pass, and Chogori Peak in Tashkurghan, and so many more.

4. Is Urumqi worth visiting?

Re: Yes, Urumqi is the capital city of Xinjiang province. It's the epitome of Xinjiang Uyghur culture. You will experience the actual Xinjiang culture, religion, history, and customs here. Meanwhile, there are many sights you can visit in Urumqi like the Heavenly Lake, Xinjiang Provincial Museum, Grand Bazaar, Red Hill Park and more.

5. What language do Uyghur speak?

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Re: Uyghur people mostly speak Uyghur language, but some of them also speak Mandarin as there are also a lot of Han people living in Xinjiang area.

6. When is the best time to visit Xinjiang?

Re: Generally speaking, the best time to visit Xinjiang is from June to August. However, if you visit in other times, you are still guaranteed with great sights if you choose the right destinations. During winter from November to February, snows in Hemu, Kanas and Kashgar will bring you a completely different experience. In spring and autumn, the southern Xinjiang will be at the best shape. While in summer, you will find good sights in both northern and southern Xinjiang areas.

7. What is Turpan most famous for producing?

Re: Turpan is a fruit paradise. It's famous for producing Hami melon, Turpan gamecocks, black sheep, raisins, seedless grapes, pears and so much more.

8. What is Kashgar famous for?

Re: Kashgar is famous for the international bazaar.

9. What language is spoken in Kashgar?

Re: Kashgar people also speak Uyghur language.

10. Can foreigners go to Urumqi?

Re: Yes, as strict as the inspection is in Xinjiang, you can still visit Urumqi and other cities. It's best you travel with a reliable tour agency like us and comply with the regulations there.

11. When do we start at morning?

Re: We usually start at 09:00 in the morning, but the time can be changed based on your own schedule.