



桂林中青旅国际旅游有限公司特色旅游部

**China Expedition Tours, A Division of CYTS International Tours Co., Ltd. Guilin**

## Splendid Northern China Sightseeing Tour

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/splendid-northern-china-sightseeing-tour.html>

**Tour Code:** CET-LS03

**Length:** 15 days and 14 nights

**Cities Visited/Stayed:** (Hong Kong), Xi'an, Urumqi, Turpan, Aletai, Beijing

**Highlight Attractions:** Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, Heavenly Lake, Southern Pastures,

**Experience & Features:** Kazak Yurt Visit, International Grand Bazaar

China, with a long history and brilliant culture, has magnificent natural sceneries and attracts tens of thousands of tourists every year. This tour brings you to experience colorful and unique sceneries in Northern China. Our tour starts in Xi'an. This ancient capital city is a Chinese history book, be marvel at the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses, and admires those ancient buildings such as the Wild Pagoda Tower. Tour to the Hukou Waterfall will to enjoy the marvelous view. Then we fly to the Urumqi, where you experience the exotic and colorful mountains and mysterious Kanas Lake. The Grape Valley in Turpan welcomes you with its abundant sweet fruits. Our tour ends in Beijing, the capital of China, witness and climb the magnificent ancient construction of the Great Wall, get a brief impression of this famous capital.

### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Hong Kong-Xi'an

Take a flight to Xi'an from Hong Kong. Upon arrival, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. With a history of more than 3,000 years, Xi'an has abundant collection of archaeological relics to express its rich history. The rest of the day is on your own, you may have a rest and adjust yourself to this northwest environment, and later you may enjoy a walk in the city center or explore more.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

#### Meals:

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#### Day 2: Xi'an

This morning we will go to visit **[Banpo Museum]**, where you can see lots of precious unearthed cultural relics and artworks, indicating the civilization of the Matriarchal Community, the period of the prehistoric time. The hall provides us precious and indispensable evidence to our study of the people of that period. Next we will visit a Terra Cotta Fine Art Factory which is very close to the Banpo Museum. There we can see the Terra-cotta Warrior replicas, and have the opportunity to know the manufacturing operation of them. After the visit, we will travel by van/bus for 30 minutes to the world-renowned Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses Museum. Situated east of Xi'an city, the **[Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses Museum]** the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century, is famous throughout the world for its life-sized terra-cotta warriors and horses. The three pits of the terra-cotta warriors and horses excavated shows you how magnificent the structure of Emperor Qin Shihuang's (the First Qin Emperor's) Mausoleum was.

In the evening you may choose local special Dumpling Dinner and **the Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show**.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 3: Xi'an-Huashan Mountain-Xi'an**

Enjoy a day tour to **[Huashan Mountain]**, we drive to the mountain's foot and take a cable to climb the precipitous mountain whilst admiring the wonderful views along the way. It is known as 'The Number One Precipitous Mountain under Heaven'. Pay a visit to the **[Grey Dragon Mountain Range]** and other scenic spots. Later this afternoon we will drive back to Xi'an.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 4: Xi'an-Yan' an**

This morning we will drive to visit the **[Mausoleum of Huang Emperor]**, which is reputed as "No.1 mausoleum under heaven". It is the biggest imperial mausoleum in ancient China. Also included is a visit to the **[Xuanyuan Temple]** also called the Temple of Yellow Emperor, is part of the Huangdi Mausoleum. After lunch, you will have a great time at the **[Hukou Waterfall]**, the largest waterfall on the Yellow River. You will be marveled at the imposing vigor that the waterfall shows. Its earth-shaking sound and billowy water let you understand the famous saying that "draw in the Yellow River into a bottle". Later you will be transferred to the hotel in Yan'an city.

Stay overnight in Yan'an.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 5: Yan' an-Xi'an**

Today, we will drive from Yan'an back to Xi'an. Upon arrival back to the city, we will visit the Ming **[City Wall]**, the most complete city wall that has survived in China, as well being one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. And next is the **[Provincial Museum]**, a striking Tang-Dynasty style pavilion, houses a large collection of 113,000 historic and cultural artifacts unearthed in Shaanxi. Also included is a visit to the **[Big Wild Goose Pagoda]**. It is one of the city's most distinctive and outstanding landmarks, possibly the most beautiful building left in Xi'an today.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 6: Xi'an-Urumqi**

Enjoy your free time wandering around the Xi'an city and you may buy some unique souvenirs until you're transferred to the airport to take a pm flight to Urumqi. It is a long flight that you may have a good rest on plane.

Stay overnight in Urumqi.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 7: Urumqi**

After breakfast, we will drive to the **[Heavenly Lake]** that is 110 km from Urumqi, located at the half way of the Begeda Peak of Tianshan Mountain. Covering 4.9 square kilometers (1.89 square miles), this crescent-shaped lake deserves its name, Pearl of Heavenly Mountain (Tianshan Mountain). Heavenly Lake, a relic of the Quaternary Period Glacier and its surrounding geological relics, offers science lovers exploring opportunities. The water is very clear and the banks are covered with tall trees. Because of the surrounded mountains, the jade-green lake is an ideal place for excursions and rest for most of the year. It provides an excellent skating ground in winter, while the beautiful lake is an ideal cool resort in summer. Boaters on the lake see the ever-changing silvery mountains soaring into the blue sky, their slopes highlighted with verdant pasture and flamboyant wild flowers.

Stay overnight in Urumqi.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 8: Urumqi-Turpan

Today we will go to visit the beautiful **[South Mountain Pasture]** and **[Kazak Yurt]**. It is a mountain region about 70 kilometers (40miles) south of Urumqi that is kind of like Colorado high-mountain grassland, but greener, and there are evergreens, dotted with combined flocks and herds. As you immerse yourself in this beautiful site, the singing of the Kazakh may envelop you and inspire you to sing with them. You can visit one of the traditional yurts locating in the spruce forest where you will be welcomed by a generous host with fragrant milk tea, mare's milk, cheese and roasted lamb. Sometimes, you will be able to observe the amazing horse-racing and traditional Kazak dancing.

Then we will take our van/bus to Turpan (2.5 hours). Visit the **[Sugong Minaret]** and **[a Uygur family]** tasting their home made food under the grape. Sometimes they present Uygur dance and song show when we are hosted at those places.

Stay overnight in Turpan.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 9: Turpan

This morning we will visit the **[Karez Well]** and the **[Jiaohe Ancient City]**, **[Gaochang Ancient City]** and the **[Tuyugou Valley]**. Wandering underground over 5,000 kilometers, the Karez system is a unique underground water system invented and built by ancient farmers from the various ethnic minorities of Turpan, and known as "the underground Great Wall". The visit of twin ancient cities Gaochang & Jiaohe will help you have a better understanding of the history once played here 1000 years ago, all which made the Turpan region the only place where four ancient civilizations once met and melt each other in the world. Next we will go to the Tuyugou Valley. It is close to Turpan and is only about 70 kilometers (about 43.5miles) away by road. It is 15 kilometers (about 9.3miles) directly east of Gaochang. You will visit a peaceful village nested in the mountains together with the very well preserved Uyghur style architecture.

Stay overnight in Turpan.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 10: Turpan-Urumqi

Take our van/bus back to the capital city Urumqi. In the afternoon, we will visit the **[XinJiang Provincial Museum]**. The exhibiting article of this museum center lies in two sources that are archaeological treasures from the Silk Road and the local cultural relics which is known for the mummy. Later, you may do some shopping in the International Grand Bazaar. Bargain hunting for handicraft souvenirs such as rugs, carpets,

Uygur-style hats, knitted sweaters, ethnic costumes, hand-made embroideries and jade carvings, will definitely draw your intense interest.

Stay overnight in Aletai.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 11: Urumqi-Kanas**

This morning we will take an early flight to Kanas Lake Airport. Enjoy spectacular views along the way, we will pass the golden mountain -- Aletai Mountain, and see the silver water -- Erqis River. Then we continue to the **[Kanas Lake]** which is only 150km away from Burqin County. The lake was born around 200, 000 years ago during the Quaternary period, formed as a result of glacier movement. Arrive there in the afternoon. Kanas Lake is the most beautiful mountain lake that enjoys a reputation as "the Swiss scene in Asia". Its unparalleled scenery and mysterious legend attract many tourists. The long bean-shaped lake reflects the surrounding snowcapped mountains. In autumn, it presents a picturesque landscape of forests in a riot of colors with gold, red, blue and green, which excites your sights and senses. Enjoy a cruise on the lake. Walk along the bank to feel its tranquility and indulge yourself in the beautiful scene. We will also pay a visit to a local Tuwan People residence that can only be found in this part of China.

Stay overnight at Kanas Lake Aera.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 12: Kanas-Urumqi**

This morning we will continue to explore more about this mysterious lake area and visit wooden houses there. The lights up the clouds after a morning rain, adds another air of mystery to the lake. Then we will drive to the airport for a flight to Urumqi. Upon arrival, be transferred to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Urumqi.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 13: Urumqi-Beijing**

This morning is for your own to relax, and then we take a flight to Beijing. Arrive in Beijing, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. Beijing is the capital city of China, centers of politics, economy and culture.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 14: Beijing

After breakfast, will guide you to have a visit to the **[Temple of Heaven]**, whose complex has two parts: the inner temple and the outer temple and is surrounded by two high walls, its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven. Enjoy a walk on the **[Tian'anmen Square]**, one of the largest city squares in the world. Also it is the people's square, where grand state ceremonies are held on important occasions. In the center of Tian'anmen Square stands the **[Monument to the People's Heroes]**. Then we will go to the **[Forbidden City]**, imperial palaces for the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Forbidden City is enclosed by a 10-meter-high (about 32.8-foot-high) defensive wall, which has a circumference of 3,430 meters (about 11,253 feet); inner contains 800 ceremonial buildings, 9,999 rooms, and a courtyard that can hold 100,000 people. Best ancient Chinese architectural styles are well preserved here, consist an imposing view. Later the day will be on your own to explore more about this city.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 15: Beijing

There is a famous saying goes "one cannot be a hero unless he climbs on the Great Wall." This morning we will drive to the **[Jinshanling Great Wall]**, the best preserved part of the Great Wall with many original features and less commercial section of the Wall. As it winds up and down the precipitous ranges, this historic construction is somewhat a challenge to the climbers. But as a reward, splendid views are available.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 16: Beijing-Departure

This morning we will go to visit the **[Summer Palace]** -- one of China's architectural masterpieces. The Summer Palace has natural beauty resembling that of the mountains and rivers of the northern China and the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, and it has the manmade beauty of grand imperial palaces and exquisite residences. The pavilions, kiosks, terraces, bridges, dikes, corridors are delicately crafted and placed, well displaying the thousand-year old Chinese landscape gardening. The scenic spots contain a nation's profound philosophical and aesthetic tradition. Our tour ends after a farewell lunch. You are free at leisure until ready to be transferred to the airport for departure.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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