GOLDEN SILK ROAD

15 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Lanzhou • Zhangye• Jiayuguan• Dunhuang • Turpan • Urumqi • Kashgar

DAY 01 Australia -Guangzhou

This evening, depart Australia on China Southern Airlines flight to Guangzhou, overnight on flight.

DAY 02 Guangzhou -Lanzhou

Arrive Guangzhou in the morning then take connecting flight to Lanzhou. Upon arrival meet and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 03 Lanzhou -BinglingsiTemple MEAL: B/L/D

Day trip to Binglingsi Temple. The Binglingsi Temple is a series of grottoes filled with Buddhist sculpture carved into natural caves and caverns in a canyon along the Yellow River. You take a boat ride to reach the grottoes via the LiujiaxiaReservoir. Return to the city and visit the Yellow River and the city, including the Waterwheel Park.

DAY 04 Lanzhou -Zhangye MEAL: B/L

After breakfast, drive to Zhangye(approx. 5.5 hours), once a key trading post on the ancient Silk Road and home to the stunning Danxia landforms. En route, stop in Wuweito visit the LeitaiHan Tombs Museum, dating back to the Eastern Han Dynasty (2nd century AD). The site is renowned for the discovery of the Bronze Galloping Horse, also known as "Horse Treading on a Flying Swallow," now a symbol of Chinese tourism. Upon arrival in Zhangye, check in for two nights.

DAY 05 Zhangye MEAL: B/L

Rise early to admire sunrise over the magnificent Zhangye Danxia National Geological Park, where ribbons of red, orange, and yellow create the stunning "Rainbow Mountains." Continue by road (approx. 2 hours) to the ancient Mati Temple, built during the Jin Dynasty. The temple's name, meaning "Horse Hoof," comes from hoof-shaped prints in Grotto No. 9 said to be left by a heavenly horse. Return to town and enjoy a relaxing evening at Zhangye's lively night market.

DAY 06 Zhangye-JiayuguanPass MEAL: B/L/D

In the morning drive to JiayuguanPass (2.5 hours), which is the western end of the Great Wall of China. Start your tour at the Jiayuguan Fortress, an impenetrable fortress surrounded by three inner and outer walls and several lines of defense; then visit JiayuguanFort, Great Wall Museum and Xuanbi Great Wall.

DAY 07 Jiayuguan-Dunhuang MEAL: B/L

In the morning visit the First Beacon Tower of the Great Wall before we travel by coach to Dunhuang (takes around 5 hours), a strategic staging post on the Silk Road with a history of more than 2,000 years. Upon arrival Dunhuang, short local visit if time permits. In the evening explore the night market.

DAY 08 Dunhuang MEAL: B/L

Today you visit Dunhuang's most famous monument - the Mogao Grottoes. These grottoes are popularly known as the "Thousand Buddha Caves" and have a history of over 1,600 years. The walls of the caves are lined with Buddhist frescoes, scriptures, murals and sculpted figures; you also visit Mingsha Hill and Crescent Moon Lake, set in an amphitheater of sand dunes.

DAY 09 Dunhuang -Turpan MEAL: B/D

This morning is atleisure. At noon take a high-speed train from Liuyuanto Turpan (approx. 3.5 hours). Turpan, the oasis town famous for its melons and vineyards, is in the Gobi Desert and the lowest city in China.

Upon arrival, meet and transfer to the hotel after dinner.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

GOLDEN SILK ROAD

Lanzhou → Zhangye→Jiayuguan→Dunhuang
Turpan → Urumqi → Kashgar

DAY 10 Turpan -Urumqi MEAL: B/L/D

Today you will visit Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, followed by Flaming Mountain Grand Canyon, which condenses the essence of the Flaming Mountain landscape -the hottest spot in Turpan. Then visit the bazaar and experience the atmosphere of the Uygur way of life. After lunch, head to the ancient city of Jiaohe and Karez Well. The Karez Well is an underground irrigation system unique to the area. Drive to Urumqi in the late afternoon.

DAY 11 Urumqi MEAL: B/L

This morning you cruiseon Heavenly Lake (Tianchi), a deep blue lake surrounded by the snowcapped Heavenly Mountains (Tianshan), followed by a visit to Red Hill Park, which is regarded as the symbol of Urumqi. Then enjoy a leisurely stroll at erdaoqiaoGrand Bazaar; if time permits, visit the Museum of Minorities and History.

DAY 12 Urumqi -Kashgar MEAL: B/D

Fly to Kashgar this morning. Kashgar is an ancient oasis city at a strategic point dominating the ancient trade routes in far western China. You visit the Abak Hoja (Fragrant Concubine) Tomb, a local village and the Sunday Bazaar. You spend two nights in Kashgar.

DAY 13 Kashgar-KarakuliLake MEAL: B/L

Spend the entire day enjoying the beauty of the clear Karakuli Lake, whose colour ranges from dark green to azure and light blue. The lake lies at an altitude of 3,600m and is the highest lake of the Pamir Plateau, near the junction of the Pamir, Tian Shan and Kunlun mountain ranges. It is surrounded by mountains that remain snow-covered throughout the year.

DAY 14 Kashgar-Guangzhou MEAL: B

Fly from Kashgar to Guangzhou today. Upon arrival at Guangzhou Airport, please make your own way to check in at the airport hotel, conveniently located next to the terminal.

DAY 15 Guangzhou -Sydney MEAL: B

This morning, please make your own way to the airport to check in for your flight back to Sydney.

OPTION: Evening flights to Australia are available on request; standard hotel check-out time applies. **PRE-TOUR TO XI'AN AVAILABLE.**

DISCOVER THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD

Journey through Lanzhou, Zhangye, Jiayuguan, Dunhuang, Turpan, Urumqi and Kashgar. Admire the colourful Zhangye Danxia Rainbow Mountains, the historic Jiayuguan Pass at the western end of the Great Wall and the world-renowned Mogao Grottoes. Explore Turpan's desert oasis, Flaming Mountains, Jiaohe Ancient City and unique Karez Wells before continuing to Heavenly Lake and Kashgar, a vibrant crossroads of Central Asianculture.

2027 DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

Tour Code	Depart Aust	Depart Guangzhou	Land Only	China Southern
SR270519	19-May	02-Jun	$5,680	$6,980
SR270728	28-Jul	11-Aug	$5,680	$6,980
SR270909	08-Sep	22-Sep	$5,680	$6,980
SR271013	13-Oct	27-Oct	$5,680	$6,980

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

• Guaranteed departure with a minimum of 4 participants.

•**Land Only:** Begins with the Lanzhou arrival transfer on Day 2 and ends with the Kashgar departure on Day 14. Includes Urumqi-Kashgar domestic air and second-class rail from Liuyuan to Turpan.

• First-class rail upgrade from $50 per person, subject to availability.
• China Southern departures are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth or Brisbane. Optional Guangzhou stopovers are available; additional fees may apply.

• **4-star hotel references:** Lanzhou Olympic Sports Centre Rosy Liujing Hotel; Zhangye Diamond International Hotel; Jiayuguan Jiugang Hotel; Dunhuang Grand Sun Hotel; Turpan Mercure Hotel Downtown; Urumqi Yilite Hotel; Kashgar Jinjiang Capital Hotel; Guangzhou Baiyun Airport Novotel or similar.
• Please refer to Page 5 for full tour inclusions.