

THE SILK ROAD
Worlds Greatest Trade Route



Silk was first cultivated in China around 2600BC, but it took 2½ millennia for it to spread west. The Silk Road was a vast conduit for exchanging goods and information, stretching thousands of kilometres from Changan (Xian) in China, across the Gobi and Taklamakan deserts, through the rich oases of Turpan and Kashgar. From here the route continued into modern Afghanistan, Iran and Syria on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Today, oasis towns, tranquil lakes, snow capped mountains, Buddhist caves, and remnants of ancient cities add allure to this wilderness, maintaining the mystique and romance of the Silk Road.

RAIL INTO TIBET
Outstanding Engineering Achievement



The Qinghai-Tibet Railroad, the highest in the world, connects Tibet with the rest of China. See for yourself the spectacular scenery of the mysterious Qinghai Tibet Plateau from the comfort of a high quality pressurised passenger train, the 'Lhasa Express'. Departing from Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province, the train travels 1956 kms to Lhasa. It is by far the longest plateau railway journey in the world with the highest altitude, traversing 960kms over 4000m above sea level, and 530 of these kilometres are built over permanently frozen earth.

TIBET
Shangri-La, Roof of the World



Tibet is without doubt one of the most remarkable places on earth to visit. For many, the highlights will be of a spiritual nature. Despite rapid development and more than 50 years since Chinese annexation, Tibetan pilgrims across the country are mumbling mantras and thumbing their prayer beads. Tibet offers fabulous monastery sights and experiences, stunning views of the worlds highest mountains and one of the most likeable peoples you will ever meet. A visit to Tibet will be memorable, fascinating and even life-changing, but also at times a sobering experience.

Travelling in deluxe comfort and style

The SILK ROAD and TIBET

**UNBELIEVABLE
VALUE FOR
MONEY**

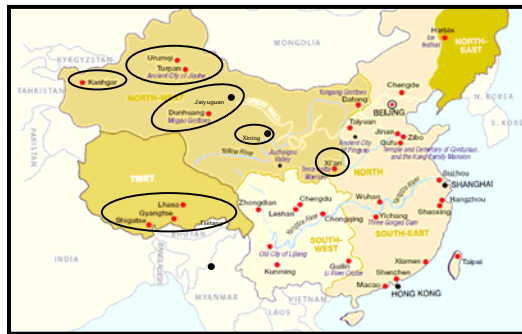
Including the new Qinghai-Tibet Railway
21 AMAZING DAYS - DEPARTING 21 AUGUST 2010

- XIAN** – Ancient 'Changan', historic centre of Chinese Civilisation
- JIAYUGUAN** – Guarding the famous Silk Road's Hexi Corridor.
- DUNHUANG** – China's most significant capital of Buddhist Art.
- TURPAN** – World famous oasis in the Gobi Desert.
- URUMQI** – Furthest place in the world from an ocean (2250kms).
- KASHGAR** – Exotic remote outpost, historic Old Chinese Turkestan.
- XINING** – One of China's mysterious and forgotten plateau cities
- QINGHAI-TIBET RAILWAY** – Outstanding world engineering success.
- LHASA** – Holy Capital, proudly guarding the flame of Tibetan heritage.
- TSETANG & YARLUNG VALLEY** – Birthplace of Tibetan culture
- SHIGATSE & GYANTSE** – Ancient towns of the authentic Tibet



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Special Small Group Tour



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