

Tour Code: GX/SRT003

EXCLUSIVE 16-DAY SILK ROAD MUSLIM TOUR



Day 1 Arrival in Beijing, Greet & Meet at Airport, Transfer to Hotel (D)

Upon your arrival at the airport, our professional Muslim expert tour guide will be waiting for you in the arrival hall. They will assist you with your luggage and escort you to your private vehicle. You'll be transferred to your hotel where you can check in and settle in.

Dinner will be served at a local halal restaurant, ensuring a delightful and authentic dining experience. Afterward, you can relax and unwind for the remainder of the day to recover from your journey and jet lag.

Day 2 Beijing, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Niujie Mosque, Fresh Water Pearl, Temple of Heaven (B, L & D)

Start your day by exploring Tiananmen Square, located in the heart of Beijing. As the largest city square in the world, it holds significant cultural and historical importance. It was here that Chairman Mao Zedong declared the establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. After visiting Tiananmen Square, take a short walk to the Forbidden City. This sprawling palace complex was the imperial residence of the Ming and Qing dynasties from the 15th to the early 20th century. It served as the center of state power and witnessed the enthronement of 14 Ming and 10 Qing emperors over a period of 505 years.

For lunch & dinner, enjoy a meal at a local halal restaurant, where you can savor authentic Chinese cuisine.

Following lunch, head to a freshwater pearl shop to discover and possibly purchase some exquisite pearls. In the afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven, which was built between 1406 and 1420 by the same emperor who commissioned the Forbidden City. This majestic temple was the site where Ming and Qing emperors conducted ceremonies to pray for good harvests. Finally, conclude your day with Salat at the Niujie Mosque, a historic mosque that has served Beijing's Muslim community for approximately 900 years.



Beijing Tian'anmen Square



Beijing Forbidden City

Day 3 Beijing, Great Wall, Jade Carving, Sacred Way of Ming Tombs, Photo Stop at Olympic Venues (B, L & D)

Begin your morning with a visit to the iconic Great Wall of China and a fascinating jade carving factory. The Great Wall, an awe-inspiring feat of engineering, was constructed from the 3rd century BC to the 17th century AD as a formidable military defence on China's northern frontier. Spanning an impressive 3,750 miles from the Bohai Sea to the Gobi Desert, it stands as a monumental symbol of national strength and security.

After exploring this historic marvel, head to a local halal restaurant for lunch and perform Salat.

In the afternoon, stroll along the Sacred Way of the Ming Tombs. This ancient stone-paved path stretches one kilometre from the main gate and leads you through an avenue lined with majestic statues, reflecting the grandeur of Ming dynasty funerary customs.

Conclude your day with a memorable photo stop at the 2008 Olympic Venues: the striking Bird's Nest (National Stadium) and the stunning Water Cube (National Aquatics Center).



Beijing Great Wall at Badaling



The Sacred Way of Ming Tombs, Beijing

Day 4 Beijing, Summer Palace, Fly to Urumqi (B, L & D)

Start your morning with a visit to the Summer Palace, the largest and best-preserved royal garden in China. Encompassing Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill, this majestic palace complex harmoniously integrates political, administrative, residential, spiritual, and recreational functions within a stunning landscape of lakes and mountains. The design reflects the Chinese philosophy of blending human artistry with nature. Marvel at the seamless fusion of natural beauty with architectural wonders, including pavilions, halls, palaces, temples, and bridges, creating a breathtakingly harmonious ensemble of aesthetic excellence.

In the afternoon, take a flight to Urumqi. Once a pivotal hub on the Silk Road during the Tang dynasty and a leading cultural and commercial centre in the 19th-century Qing dynasty, Urumqi now serves as the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in far northwest China.



Beijing Summer Palace

Day 5 Urumqi, Xinjiang Regional Museum, Red Hill Park, Tartar Mosque, Fly to Kashgar (B, L & D)

Begin your morning with a visit to the Xinjiang Regional Museum, an impressive building showcasing traditional Uyghur architectural style. The museum houses an extensive collection of historical artifacts from Xinjiang, providing a window into the region's diverse ethnic lifestyles and cultures. Among its most intriguing exhibits are the ancient Indo-European mummies, remarkably preserved in their natural environment for over 3,800 years.

Next, explore Red Hill Park, where you can take in panoramic views of the Urumqi skyline. Following your visit, perform Salat at the Tartar Mosque.

In the afternoon, catch a flight to Kashgar. Nestled at the foot of the Pamirs Mountains, between a vast desert and towering mountain range, Kashgar was once a crucial oasis on the Silk Road. This historic city, where the northern and southern Silk Routes intersected, served as a major hub for caravans heading to Central Asia, India, Pakistan, and ancient Persia (modern-day Iran). Marco Polo famously described Kashgar as a land of "fruitful soil, cotton aplenty, and inhabitants who live by trade."



Day 6 Kashgar, Old Town, Abakh Hoja Mausoleum, Idkah Mosque, Grand Bazaar (B, L & D)

Start your day with a visit to Kashgar Old Town, a historic area with over 2,000 years of rich heritage. In this vibrant district, you'll find skilled artisans such as coppersmiths, carpenters, jewellers, and cobblers, all continuing traditional trades with age-old tools. Wander through the narrow streets, where you can interact with the warm and welcoming Uyghur people in their homes and immerse yourself in their unique cultural traditions.



Next, visit the Abakh Hoja Mausoleum, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture in China. This ancient complex, serving as both a mausoleum and a cemetery, honours five generations of a renowned Islamic master with its intricate design and historical significance.

Afterward, perform Salat at the Idkah Mosque, a venerable structure that has stood for over 500 years, embodying the enduring spirit of Kashgar's Islamic community.

Conclude your day by exploring the bustling Grand Bazaar, one of China's most famous markets. Held every Sunday, this vibrant bazaar attracts a diverse array of ethnic

groups, including Uyghur, Tajik, Kyrgyz, and Kazakh. The streets come alive with vendors arriving by foot, bike, horseback, motorcycle, and donkey cart, offering an eclectic range of goods from scissors to camels.



Day 7 Fly to Urumqi, Heavenly Lake, Drive to Turpan (B, L & D)

Fly to Urumqi in the morning and head straight to Heavenly Lake upon arrival. Nestled halfway up the Tianshan mountain range, this stunning lake stretches 3 kilometres in length and 1 kilometre in width. Surrounded by pine-covered hills and snow-capped peaks, it offers breathtaking views and excellent walking opportunities. Enjoy a tranquil boat ride on the lake, where you might catch sight of local Kazakhs tending to their sheep in the scenic landscape.

In the afternoon, drive to Turpan, a historic oasis renowned for its fertile lands and abundant grapes and melons. Once a crucial trade hub on the Silk Road, Turpan connected the northern route from Hami to Kashgar, with an alternative northern route through Urumqi extending into Central Asia. Remarkably, Turpan sits 154 meters below sea level, making it the second-lowest depression in the world and the hottest spot in China.



Day 8 Turpan, Ruins of Gaochang Ancient City, Flaming Mountain, Emin Minaret, Karez Wells (B, L & D)

Begin your morning with a visit to the ancient city of Gaochang. Established as a garrison town in the 1st century AD, Gaochang was constructed from mud and adobe bricks. Though abandoned during the early Ming dynasty, the site still reveals the ruins of ancient temples, houses, palaces, and the old city wall, offering a glimpse into its historical significance.



Next, head to the Flaming Mountain, a dramatic landscape where nothing grows due to the extreme heat. With summer temperatures soaring to 47.8°C (118°F), it is renowned as the hottest place in China. Perform Salat at the Emin Minaret, an architectural marvel standing 40 meters high. This elegant brick minaret, part of a grand mosque built in 1778, features a distinctive conical shape with intricate brick patterns that give it a unique, knitted appearance.



Finally, visit the Karez Wells, an impressive ancient irrigation system. These covered water channels, which transport melt-water from the Tianshan Mountains into the Turpan basin, exemplify ingenious engineering. Over 1,100 Karez Wells continue to provide vital water to this arid and hot region.

Day 9 Bullet Train to Jiayuguan, Jiayuguan Mosque, Jiayuguan Pass, Wei & Jin Mural Brick Tomb (B, L & D)

Take the bullet train to Jiayuguan, a journey of approximately 5 hours. Jiayuguan, located at the westernmost end of the Ming Dynasty's Great Wall, is renowned for its strategic significance.

Upon arrival, perform Salat at the Jiayuguan Mosque before visiting Jiayuguan Pass. Known as "the First and Greatest Pass under Heaven," Jiayuguan Pass is the most well-preserved and impressive of the Great Wall's three major passes. Situated at the narrowest point of the western Hexi Corridor, it was a critical gateway on the ancient Silk Road. The pass offers breathtaking views of the expansive Gobi Desert and the snow-capped Qilian Mountains.

Afterwards, explore the Wei & Jin Mural Brick Tombs. This extensive necropolis, dating from the 3rd to 5th centuries, comprises over 1,400 tombs adorned with a vast array of intricate murals.



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Day 10 Bullet Train to Dunhuang, Dunhuang Mosque, Singing Sand Dunes, Crescent Moon Spring (B, L & D)

Take the bullet train to Dunhuang, a journey of about 4 hours. With a history spanning over two thousand years, Dunhuang has long been a vital gateway to the west, strategically located at the crossroads of Gansu, Qinghai, and Xinjiang. As a key junction on the Silk Road, Dunhuang marked the division between the northern and southern routes of this ancient trade network.

Upon arrival, perform Salat at the Dunhuang Mosque before embarking on a camel ride across the picturesque Singing Sand Dunes. Known as the "rumbling sands" from Marco Polo's accounts, these dunes create a mesmerizing experience with their unique sounds and sweeping views.

After your camel ride, unwind at the Crescent Moon Spring, a serene desert oasis. This small freshwater lake has provided essential water for thousands of years, offering a tranquil respite amidst the vast desert landscape.



Day 11 Dunhuang, Mogao Caves, Bullet Train to Zhangye (B, L & D)

Start your day with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Mogao Caves. Also known as the Dunhuang Grottoes, this site is home to the largest collection of Buddhist grottoes in China. Within its 492 cave temples, you'll find over 2,000 sculptures and 45,000 square meters of exquisite frescoes, some dating back over a millennium and spanning ten dynasties. The statues and murals, intricately painted and carved directly into the cave walls, vividly depict Buddhist stories, folk culture, farming, and hunting, offering a rich tapestry of historical and cultural narratives.

In the afternoon, board a bullet train to Zhangye, renowned for its spectacular Rainbow Colored Mountains. These vibrant, multi-hued formations are often referred to as one of Allah's creations mentioned in the holy Quran, showcasing nature's artistic brilliance.



Day 12 Zhangye, Rainbow Colored Mountains, Zhangye Mosque, Fly to Xian (B, L & D)

Begin your morning with a visit to the Rainbow Colored Mountains within Zhangye Danxia Geopark. Spanning 200 square miles, this UNESCO World Heritage Site, designated in 2009, is renowned for its extraordinary geological formations. The vibrant hues of the Rainbow Mountains are a stunning display of nature's palette, with their colorful rock layers creating a breathtaking spectacle. The Quran references such natural wonders, highlighting the colorful mountains as one of Allah's creations. The verse says: "Do you not see that Allah sends down rain from the sky, and We produce thereby fruits of varying colors? And in the mountains are tracts, white and red of varying shades and [some] extremely black."

Following your visit, perform Salat at Zhangye Mosque.

In the afternoon, fly to Xi'an. As one of China's ancient capital cities and the starting point of the Silk Road, Xi'an is a historical treasure trove and a gateway to the rich cultural heritage of China.



Day 13 Xian, Terracotta Warriors & Reproduction Factory, Great Mosque, Muslim Quarter (B, L & D)

Start your morning with a visit to the Terracotta Warriors and Horses and its reproduction factory. Regarded as one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, the Terracotta Army was unearthed in 1974 by local farmers who stumbled upon it while digging a well. These 8,000-plus life-sized figures, meticulously arranged in vaults, were created to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, who played a crucial role in unifying China and constructing the Great Wall.

After exploring the Terracotta Army and its reproduction factory, head to the Bell & Drum Tower Square for a brief visit.

Following lunch and Salat at Xi'an Great Mosque, delve into the vibrant Xi'an Muslim Quarter. Located north of the Drum Tower, this bustling area spans several blocks and is home to around 60,000 Muslims. Among its seven historic mosques, the Great Mosque, built in 742, stands out as the most renowned. Wander through the labyrinthine streets of the Muslim Quarter, where you can experience a lively array of street food, restaurants, and the rich tapestry of local life.



Day 14 Xian, Little Wild Goose Pagoda, Xian Museum, City Wall, Fly to Shanghai (B, L & D)

Begin your morning with a visit to the Small Wild Goose Pagoda and the Xi'an Museum. The Small Wild Goose Pagoda, with its history spanning over 1,300 years, was originally constructed to house Buddhist scriptures brought from ancient India. This historic structure is an exemplary model of the multi-eave square brick pagodas of ancient China. Today, it stands with 13 stories, as the top two were lost to earthquakes.

Next, explore the Xi'an Museum, which houses nearly 130,000 relics that vividly illustrate the history of Ancient China and specifically Xi'an. The museum offers a deep dive into the region's rich past through its extensive collection.

Afterward, visit the Xi'an City Wall, one of the oldest and best-preserved city walls in the world. Walking along the top of this ancient fortification provides a sweeping panoramic view of the Xi'an skyline. In the afternoon or evening, fly to Shanghai, a city renowned for its striking glass and steel skyscrapers. Shanghai's cosmopolitan skyline represents a dynamic contrast to the historic charm of Xi'an.



Day 15 Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden, Silk Store, The Bund & Nanjing Road, People's Square, Shanghai Museum (B, L & D)

Start your morning with a visit to Yuyuan Garden, a stunning example of classical Chinese garden design. This enchanting maze features Ming Dynasty pavilions, intricate rockeries, elegant arched bridges, and serene goldfish ponds, all enclosed by a distinctive dragon wall. After exploring the garden, head to the Chenghuangmiao Market located just outside. This bustling market is perfect for picking up souvenirs and experiencing local culture.

Next, take a leisurely stroll along the Bund, Shanghai's renowned waterfront that stretches 1.6 kilometres along the west bank of the Huangpu River. The Bund offers spectacular views of the city's historic architecture juxtaposed with its modern skyline. From there, continue to Nanjing Road, Shanghai's main shopping street and one of the busiest retail destinations in the world.

In the afternoon, visit a local silk store, then proceed to the People's Square and Shanghai Museum. The People's Square, once the finest racecourse in Asia before 1949, has transformed into a lively public space where locals practice Tai Chi and fly kites. The Shanghai Museum, celebrated for its exceptional collection, boasts over 120,000 artifacts, including ancient Chinese bronzes, ceramics, paintings, and calligraphy.

Perform Salat at Xiaotaoyuan Mosque, then continue your exploration of Shanghai's cultural treasures.

Day 16 Departure from Shanghai (B)

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. We wish you a pleasant journey home and sincerely thank you for choosing Ghifari X'Clusive Travel. Safe travels and we look forward to welcoming you on your next adventure!



Some of the Mosque Facts:

Beijing Niujie Mosque

Beijing Niujie mosque was originally built by Nasruddin in 996. Major renovation projects were carried out during the time of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) of the Qing Dynasty. It is the largest and oldest mosque in Beijing. The buildings inside the mosque are symmetrically arranged. The main buildings include a minaret which is in traditional Chinese style, the Prayer Hall, and the Stele Pavilion. Many important cultural relics, such as steles from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and cupreous hollowware from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), are preserved in the mosque. Now Niujie area outside the mosque is the residential place for more than 13,000 Chinese speaking Hui Muslims in Beijing.

Kashgar Idkah Mosque

Located on the central square in Kashgar City, Kashgar Idkah mosque was built by Saqsiz Mirza in 1442. As the biggest mosque in China, it is a group of old Islamic constructions with strong ethnic style and Islamic features. The whole complex occupies 16,800 square meters (about 4 acres) and consists of the courtyard, the Prayer Hall, and the gate tower and as well as some other attached structures. Every day thousands of worshippers come here to pray. Every Friday afternoon, Muslims living far and near gather here to perform Jumah Prayer. During festivals all the Muslims in Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region come to this sacred place to celebrate.

Urumqi Tartar Mosque

The magnificent Tartar Mosque, located at the south end of the Jiefang Road of Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, was built by the local Tartar people in 1897 entirely from donations. It is the centre for peaceful Islamic activities in the city. Covering over 3,000 square meters (0.74 acre), the prayer hall alone is over 800 square meters (0.2 acre) and accommodates prayers by the thousands. As expected, the decor is elaborate with exquisite porches, carvings, and paintings all throughout. It features geometric carvings in wood and brick and an octagonal dome adorned with a crescent.

Turpan Emin Minaret Mosque

Turpan Emin Minaret Mosque is one of the most famous mosques in China. The exquisitely formed minaret with its helmet-shaped top is one of the most famous examples of Muslim architecture in Xijiang. Built in 1777 in Emperor Qinglong's reign of the Qing Dynasty in honour of the heroic Turpan general Emin Khoja (or Goja), the Emin Minaret was built by Emin Khoja's son Sulaiman and it was completed the next year, hence the name Su Gong Ta (Prince Su Pagoda). The Emin Minaret was designed by the Uygur architect Ibrahim in a pre-Safavid Iranian, some suggest Afghani style. At the entrance of the Minaret, you will find two steles: one inscribed in Chinese and the other in Uyghur.



. Inscriptions in Chinese explain the purpose of the minaret was to show gratitude to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) while the Uyghur inscription on the other side gave thanks to Allah. The circular tower is 44 meters (144 ft) high, and is made of sun-dried bricks that are decorated with delicate geometric and floral patterns with an epitaph inscribed in both Uyghur and Chinese. Set against the azure sky, silvery Tianshan Mountain, and the scarlet Flaming Mountain, Emin Minaret is one of the most impressive examples of Muslim architecture in Xinjiang.

Xian Great Mosque

Xian Great Mosque was built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and expanded in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The mosque has a rectangular layout which is from east to west. There are five courtyards inside the mosque. The main buildings include the decorated archway, the prayer hall, the minaret (a traditional Chinese Tower), the scripture hall and the stele pavilion. The principal building is the prayer hall, which can accommodate 1,000 prayers at the same time. In the mosque there are many precious cultural relics, such as epigraphs, tablets, couplets, censers, phylacteries, paintings, hanging lamps and so on. A hand-written copy of the Quran by a well-known Moslem noble in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) is preserved in the mosque.

Shanghai Xiaotaoyan Mosque

Xiaotaoyan Mosque was established in 1917 and rebuilt in 1925 and features the Islamic architectural style. Inside the gate there is a rectangular courtyard. The 500 square meter big prayer hall can accommodate 200 prayers. Since Xiaotaoyuan Mosque was founded, it has established several schools, including the Islam Normal School, the Primary School for Muslims, Mingcheng Primary School, Chongben Primary School, and Shanghai Islam Orphanage. Currently, organizations such as the Management Committee of Mosques in Shanghai, Shanghai Islamic Association are in Xiaotaoyuan Mosque.

City	4* Hotel	No of night
Beijing	5L Hotel Beijing	3
Urumqi	Grand Mercure Urumqi Hualing	1
Kashgar	Luxemon Qinibagh Hotel Kashgar	2
Turpan	Mercure Hotel Turpan Downtown	2
Jiayuguan	Holiday Plaza Hotel Jiayuguan	1
Dunhuang	Silk Road Hotel Dunhuang	1
Zhangye	Dinghe International Hotel Zhangye	1
Xian	Grand Dynasty Culture Hotel Xian	2
Shanghai	Ambassador Hotel Shanghai	2



Pricing Policy

- Prices are per person in Singapore Dollars (SGD) based on sharing in double/twin/triple room
- Single Room Supplement will be charged if staying at a single room
- Prices are valid based on proposed hotels
- Child (2-12 years of age) with extra bed: 100% of the adult price
- Child (2-12 years of age) without bed: 80% of the adult price
- Infants (under 2 years of age) traveling with parents: Free

Standard Prices (4-star hotel accommodation)					
Valid Time	Room Type	2-3 Pax	4-5 Pax	6-9 Pax	10 Pax & Above
Mar to Nov	Double/Triple Occupancy	SGD 7,960	SGD 7,190	SGD 6,460	SGD 6,220
	Single Room Supplement	SGD 1,000	SGD 1,000	SGD 1,000	SGD 710
Dec to Feb	Double/Triple Occupancy	SGD 7,260	SGD 6,570	SGD 5,950	SGD 5,670
	Single Room Supplement	SGD 720	SGD 720	SGD 720	SGD 560

Departure Dates

- Any dates at the time of your convenience

Booking Notice

- Minimum of two persons are required at the time of booking
- This is an exclusive private tour (with private guide and private vehicle)
- This itinerary can be tailored to your individual interests





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What's Included

- Domestic flight airfare (Beijing/Urumqi, Urumqi/Kashgar/Urumqi, Zhangye/Xian, Xian/Shanghai)
- Second-class high-speed train from Turpan/Jiayuguan, Jiayuguan/Dunhuang, Dunhuang/Zhangye
- Hotel accommodations with daily breakfast
- Halal meals as specified in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned vehicle with experienced driver for land transportation
- Experienced private English language speaking tour guide
- All admission tickets to sightseeing places
- All government taxes

What's Not Included

- International airfares and returns
- Optional tour & travel insurance
- Gratuities or tips to guides and drivers
- Excursions & activities not included in itinerary
- Expenditure of a personal nature, such as drinks, souvenirs, laundry, etc