14-Day Southern Xinjiang In-Depth Journey

Kashgar → Tashkurgan → Hotan → Taklamakan desert-road area → Kuqa → Aksu / onward connection



More time in Kashgar and Hotan, a Pamir mountain stay, desert-road stages and Kuqa's cultural landscapes. A private southern Xinjiang itinerary for travelers who want longer city pauses.

The Minfeng/Qiemo and Alar desert-road stages are reference directions, with exact routing agreed from road conditions. Finish via Aksu or an individually arranged Urumqi connection.

13 nights are planned. Hotel accommodation, vehicle, guiding language, meals, tickets and price are included only as stated in your written quotation.

A starting point for your own journey. No fixed public price.

1

Kashgar

Arrive in Kashgar and settle in



Carved wooden doors along an old-town lane in Kashgar

Meet your arranged driver at Kashgar airport or railway station and transfer to your hotel. Use the day to rest after traveling. If time allows, take an independent evening look around the old town, a local night market or a restaurant.

Arrival sightseeing and meals are optional. Send your arrival details so we can agree the pickup and any extra activities.

Proposed overnight: Kashgar

2

Kashgar

Old-town streets, crafts and a tea-house pause



Carved wooden doors along an old-town lane in Kashgar

Explore Kashgar Old Town’s lanes, wooden doors and everyday street scenes. Discuss a visit to Xiangfei Garden, artisan streets and a traditional tea house, choosing stops around your interests and available time. Leave room for walking, photographs and conversations with your guide.

Admission and guiding arrangements are confirmed in the quotation. Take photographs respectfully and ask before photographing people.

Proposed overnight: Kashgar

3

Kashgar

A market day and more time in the old town



Carved wooden doors along an old-town lane in Kashgar

Depending on the local operating calendar, discuss a livestock bazaar or another market visit, then return to the old town for crafts, a tea house or photography at your own pace. This second full city day gives you room to follow your interests.

A livestock bazaar requires the appropriate opening date and current local conditions. No particular market session is guaranteed; a city-market alternative can be agreed.

Proposed overnight: Kashgar

4

Kashgar → Tashkurgan

White Sand Lake, Karakul and Pamir mountain views



Karakul Lake with the Muztagh Ata mountain backdrop in Xinjiang

Follow the Karakoram Highway toward the Pamir Plateau, stopping where practical for White Sand Lake, Karakul Lake and views toward Muztagh Ata. Continue to Tashkurgan and settle into the highland town in the evening.

Altitude rises along the route; keep the pace gentle. Access, any required permits and scenic stops must be confirmed for your nationality, dates and road conditions.

Proposed overnight: Tashkurgan

5

Tashkurgan

Highland roads, wetlands and the Stone City



Ruins of the Stone City at Tashkurgan

Choose a Tashkurgan-area outing with stops such as Panlong Ancient Road, Taheman wetlands, the Stone City and Golden Grassland. Explore the mountain and wetland setting at a pace suited to your party, with the final order based on that day's conditions.

Panlong Road and other stops depend on weather, road access and applicable restrictions. This is a proposed selection, not guaranteed access to every location.

Proposed overnight: Tashkurgan

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Tashkurgan → Kashgar

Return along the Pamir highway



Karakul Lake with the Muztagh Ata mountain backdrop in Xinjiang

Return from Tashkurgan to Kashgar, taking selected lake, mountain or roadside photo breaks when conditions and light allow. Settle back into the city and keep the evening free for a local restaurant or independent time.

This is a long return-drive day. Border-area access and the stopping points follow the confirmed plan; no fixed arrival time is promised.

Proposed overnight: Kashgar

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Kashgar → Yecheng → Hotan

Into the oasis towns and Hotan’s market life



Entrance to the jade market centre in Hotan

Continue through the Yecheng direction toward Hotan, with road breaks and time to settle into the agreed overnight location. If reaching Hotan early enough, discuss its night market, jade-culture area or local food for a first look at oasis-city life.

The overnight location follows the actual drive and hotel resources. Market visits depend on arrival time; meals, jade purchases and shopping are personal expenses.

Proposed overnight: Hotan / Yecheng area

8

Hotan

Jade culture, markets and oasis-city life



Entrance to the jade market centre in Hotan

Keep a full day in Hotan for selected interests: a jade bazaar, local market, museum or a village-area outing. Choose a lighter pace after the road stages, with time for food and everyday oasis-city scenes.

Museum opening and village visits require confirmation. Jade purchases, meals and personal shopping are excluded unless expressly itemized.

Proposed overnight: Hotan

9

Hotan → Minfeng / Qiemo direction

Begin the planned desert-road stages



Sand dunes along the Tarim Desert Highway in Xinjiang

Follow the desert-road section agreed for your party, traveling toward the Minfeng or Qiemo direction as practical. Enjoy the contrast between sand, gravel plain and oasis areas, with rest and photo breaks and an overnight stop chosen around the actual drive.

The original source gives alternate directions rather than a fixed road. Your final proposal confirms the specific road, distance and overnight town before booking.

Proposed overnight: Agreed desert-road stop

10

Desert-road stage → Alar / Kuqa direction

Poplar and oasis landscapes along the road



Sand dunes along the Tarim Desert Highway in Xinjiang

Continue along the confirmed road toward the Alar or Kuqa direction. Select oasis, village, desert-edge or poplar views according to season and the day's drive. In autumn, suitable poplar stops can be discussed as part of a photography-focused plan.

Exact stops and the overnight town depend on the agreed road plan. Autumn colours and specific poplar viewing areas are not guaranteed.

Proposed overnight: Agreed Alar / Kuqa-direction stop

11

Kuqa

Arrive and explore at an easy pace



Rocky landscape at the entrance to Kuqa Grand Canyon

Continue toward Kuqa and settle into the city. Use the remaining time for a gentle old-town walk, a look at Kuqa Palace’s exterior or local food. After the desert-road stages, keep the day flexible for rest.

The arrival schedule determines any city activity. Additional guiding and palace interior admission are confirmed individually.

Proposed overnight: Kuqa

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Kuqa

Canyon landscapes and ancient Kucha heritage



Rocky landscape at the entrance to Kuqa Grand Canyon

Plan a selected visit to the Tianshan Mysterious Grand Canyon, Kizil Caves and Kuqa Palace area. The day links canyon scenery with the Buddhist and Silk Road heritage of ancient Kucha, with the visit order chosen around reservations and driving distances.

Scenic opening, cave access and interpretation are confirmed for the day. The final proposal states which sites and tickets are covered; all visits are not unconditional guarantees.

Proposed overnight: Kuqa

13

Kuqa → Aksu / onward connection

A transfer and rest day before departure



Rocky landscape at the entrance to Kuqa Grand Canyon

Travel toward Aksu or the onward city agreed around your return transport. Use the day mainly for the connection, rest and packing, with a short city activity only if the schedule permits. An Urumqi connection is arranged by the practical domestic transport option.

Flights or trains for an Urumqi connection are separately quoted. This is not a guaranteed same-day road journey to Urumqi; the overnight city is confirmed with your tickets.

Proposed overnight: Aksu / agreed onward city

14

Aksu / agreed onward city

Your departure transfer



Rocky landscape at the entrance to Kuqa Grand Canyon

Transfer to the agreed airport or railway station at the time required for your onward connection, ending the fourteen-day private southern Xinjiang plan. Any additional domestic journey can be discussed before booking.

Your confirmed transport details determine the pickup and departure buffer. Further tickets, nights or transfers require a separate arrangement.

Proposed overnight: No overnight stay

Clear arrangements, before you book

To agree in your quotation

- Itinerary planning and trip assistance for the agreed private route.

- Local vehicle and airport or station transfers only as itemized in the individual quotation.

- Driver-guide or licensed-guide arrangements in the language agreed before booking; an English-speaking guide is not automatically included.

- Entrance tickets, local scenic transport and any permit assistance only where expressly itemized; eligibility and access require confirmation.

- Advice on overnight locations, road stages and practical timing; final arrangements are confirmed individually.

Separately priced or excluded

- International and domestic flights or rail tickets to, from or within Xinjiang, unless separately itemized.

- Hotel accommodation unless expressly included in your quotation; the planned nights do not imply prepaid hotels.

- Personal purchases, additional meals, drinks, tips and any optional activity not listed as included.

- Personal travel insurance, single-room supplements and unconfirmed upgrades or additional nights.

- Extra costs caused by weather, road closures, scenic restrictions, itinerary changes or personal circumstances, subject to the agreed booking terms.

The final written proposal is the complete service list. Availability and any applicable local charges are confirmed before booking.

A few useful answers

Is this a private tour?

This is a suggested private itinerary for your own party. Dates, pace, vehicle, guiding language, hotels, tickets, meals and price are agreed in an individual written proposal.

Are hotels and meals included?

13 overnight stays are planned. Hotel accommodation is not automatically included; the quotation states the properties, rooms and meals being booked. No fixed number of meals is promised.

Which vehicle and guide will we have?

Vehicle choice follows your party size, luggage and budget. Gallery images are examples, not guaranteed models or local hotels. Guiding language and service scope must be agreed; an English webpage does not imply an English-speaking guide is included.

Are tickets and local transport covered?

Only the entrance tickets, cable cars, scenic shuttles and activities specifically itemized in your quotation are included. Entry slots, local services and optional experiences depend on availability.

A few useful answers

Can I change the route or slow it down?

Yes. Tell us your interests and walking preferences. Fewer stops, longer stays or extra nights can be proposed, with any changes to services and price confirmed before booking.

How do arrival and departure work?

Send your flight or train details before purchasing tickets. We agree transfers and realistic connection buffers around the route. Onward tickets and extra nights are separately arranged unless explicitly included.

Will every mountain road and attraction be accessible?

No. Seasonal roads, weather, reservations and local restrictions can change the route. For Pamir and other restricted areas, access and any required permits must be confirmed for your nationality and dates; assistance does not guarantee approval.

Are the road stages suitable for everyone?

Xinjiang distances are substantial and some routes include highland travel. Discuss age, mobility and altitude concerns before planning. We can shorten visits or add nights; connection times and driving estimates remain subject to road conditions.

Let’s make it your journey.

Why choose Wukong China Travel

- A private plan shaped around your dates, interests and preferred pace.

- Clear written arrangements for accommodation, transport, guiding and tickets.

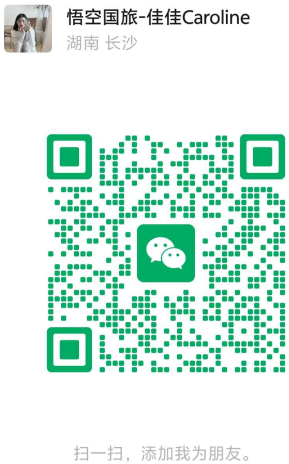
- Direct communication while choosing and confirming your journey.

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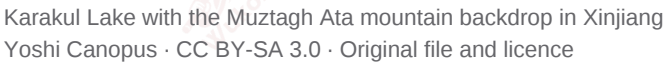
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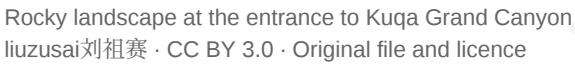
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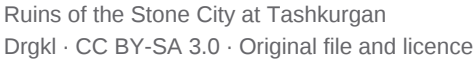
Photos illustrate the destination across seasons. Exact views and conditions vary. Images were resized and cropped for layout.



Karakul Lake with the Muztagh Ata mountain backdrop in Xinjiang
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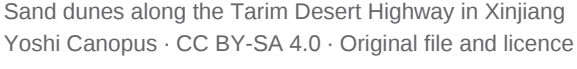
Rocky landscape at the entrance to Kuqa Grand Canyon
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Ruins of the Stone City at Tashkurgan
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Entrance to the jade market centre in Hotan
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Sand dunes along the Tarim Desert Highway in Xinjiang
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