15-Day Northern Xinjiang Grand Loop

Urumqi → Fuyun → Altay → Hemu → Kanas → Burqin → Kuitun → Sayram Lake → Qingshuihe → Zhaosu → Xiate → Tekes → Qiongkushitai → Kalajun → Gongliu → Bayinbuluk → Tangbula



From Altai forests and lakes to the grasslands and valleys of Ili, this extended private loop adds Qiongkushitai, Kalajun, Bayinbuluk and Tangbula to the northern classics.

A road-intensive itinerary. Source distances and driving estimates exclude visits and delays; mountain roads are seasonal. Day 15 has a long return drive and no included overnight stay.

14 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

Urumqi

Arrive in Xinjiang and take it easy



A minaret and colourful facade at Urumqi International Grand Bazaar

Meet your arranged driver at Urumqi airport or railway station and transfer to your hotel. Rest after your journey and prepare for the road trip ahead. If your arrival allows, explore the International Grand Bazaar, a local restaurant or a museum independently.

Arrival sightseeing is optional. Museum reservations and any guided activity are confirmed separately.

Proposed overnight: Urumqi

2

Urumqi → Fuyun

Tianchi and the road north



Tianchi Lake surrounded by mountain scenery in Xinjiang

Leave Urumqi for the northern Xinjiang route. Where the agreed schedule allows, visit Tianchi for its alpine-lake and mountain scenery before continuing toward Fuyun. Plan comfortable transport, breaks and a full travel day.

The Tianchi visit depends on the transfer schedule, weather and reservations. This is a substantial drive; stop selection follows your confirmed plan. Source estimate: about 550 km / 8 hours of driving, excluding visits and stops.

Proposed overnight: Fuyun

3

Fuyun → Koktokay → Altay

The Irtysh river valley at Koktokay



Rock walls and river scenery in the Koktokay Irtysh Grand Canyon

Visit Koktokay and the Irtysh Grand Canyon area for river-valley, forest and rock-wall scenery. Continue toward Altay after the visit, with rest stops along the road. The day gradually takes you into the Altai mountain landscape.

Scenic shuttles, walking sections and entry arrangements are confirmed individually. Keep the transfer and weather conditions in mind when choosing the length of the visit. Source estimate: about 340 km / 5.5 hours of driving.

Proposed overnight: Altay

4

Altay → Hemu

Village lanes, wooden houses and river views



Wooden village houses beside the Hemu River

Travel toward Hemu via the Ahe Road when the route is open and suitable. After arrival, explore the village at your own pace, with wooden-house scenes, river walks and time at a viewpoint. Staying near the village can leave more time for its evening and early-morning atmosphere.

A village cabin is an accommodation suggestion, not a guaranteed property. Road access, local scenic transfers and the final overnight location are confirmed before booking. Source estimate: about 210 km / 3.5 hours of driving.

Proposed overnight: Hemu

5

Hemu → Kanas → Burqin

Hemu morning light and Kanas’s river bends



River water and conifer trees in the Kanas scenic area

If you wish, rise early for Hemu’s morning light and possible mist. Continue to Kanas, choosing stops at Moon Bay, Fairy Bay and Crouching Dragon Bay to enjoy forest and river scenery. After sightseeing, travel to Burqin for the night.

Sunrise colour and mist depend on weather. Early mornings can be cold; allow time for local transport and do not plan every viewpoint as a guaranteed stop. Source estimate: about 220 km / 3 hours of driving.

Proposed overnight: Burqin

6

Burqin → World Ghost City → Kuitun

Wind-shaped landforms on the journey south



Wind-eroded rock formations in World Ghost City, Xinjiang

Leave Burqin for World Ghost City, where wind-shaped yardang landforms contrast with the forests and lakes of the Altai area. Continue toward Kuitun after the visit, allowing time for roadside breaks. This is a transfer day as well as a landscape stop.

The road journey is long. Any desert-camp tea stop is optional and needs confirmation; it is not automatically part of the admission ticket. Source estimate: about 480 km / 6 hours of driving.

Proposed overnight: Kuitun

7

Kuitun → Sayram Lake → Qingshuihe

A lakeside circuit at Sayram



Blue water and open shore at Sayram Lake

Travel to Sayram Lake for a selected lakeside circuit and photo stops, taking time for the lake and mountain backdrop. Continue toward Qingshuihe for the night, choosing the route and viewpoints around the confirmed schedule.

Source estimate: about 400 km / 5.5 hours of driving. The final circuit, scenic transport and photo activities are confirmed before booking.

Proposed overnight: Qingshuihe

8

Qingshuihe → Yizhao Road → Zhaosu

Ili landscapes on the way to Zhaosu



Mountain-valley scenery in Xiate, Xinjiang

Continue into the Ili area, discussing seasonal lavender or a village stop where dates and timing suit. Follow the Yizhao Road when open, then travel toward Zhaosu. A horse-river scene at Tianma can be considered if the activity is operating and fits your schedule.

Source estimate: about 200 km / 5.5 hours of driving. Lavender bloom, horse activities and Yizhao access are not guaranteed; each requires current confirmation.

Proposed overnight: Zhaosu

9

Zhaosu → Xiate → Tekes

Xiate’s mountain valley and Tekes



Mountain-valley scenery in Xiate, Xinjiang

Visit the Xiate area for mountain and valley scenery, with walking and scenic transport selected for your party. Continue to Tekes, leaving the evening for a gentle look around the Bagua City or independent rest.

Source estimate: about 230 km / 4.5 hours of driving. Viewpoint access, local transport and walking distances are confirmed individually.

Proposed overnight: Tekes

10

Tekes → Qiongkushitai → Tekes

Village scenery at Qiongkushitai



Regional photograph: Xiate valley in Ili, Xinjiang

Make a return excursion to Qiongkushitai for grassland-village scenery, photographs and a relaxed walk. If appropriate, look at the entrance area of the Wusun Ancient Trail, then return to Tekes for a second night.

Source estimate: about 200 km / 5 hours of driving. This plan does not include a multi-day Wusun trail trek; any riding or extended walking is separately arranged.

Proposed overnight: Tekes

11

Tekes → Kalajun → Gongliu

The open grassland landscape of Kalajun



Grassland landscape at Kalajun, Xinjiang

Visit a selected Kalajun grassland area, allowing time for mountain-backed pasture views, local scenic transport and walking. Continue to Gongliu after sightseeing. The exact access and visit format are agreed before booking.

Source estimate: about 100 km / 2.5 hours of driving. No VIP or unrestricted scenic access is promised; entry, transport and any special arrangements depend on confirmation.

Proposed overnight: Gongliu

12

Gongliu → Qiaxi → Bayinbuluk

Valley scenery before the Bayinbuluk stay



Rolling grassland at Nalati in Xinjiang

Leave Gongliu for a selected valley or grassland outing around Qiaxi, then continue toward Bayinbuluk. Keep the stops realistic for the road journey. Riding, pasture activities or a longer walk can be discussed separately if the party wants them.

Source estimate: about 220 km / 4.5 hours of driving. The original Qiaxi stop name is inconsistent; the precise valley stop and access will be confirmed in your final plan.

Proposed overnight: Bayinbuluk

13

Bayinbuluk

Wetlands, grasslands and Nine Bends viewpoints



Grassland scenery at Bayinbuluk in Xinjiang

Spend the day around Bayinbuluk, selecting grassland and wetland viewpoints such as the Swan Lake area and Nine Bends. Keep time for scenic transport and, if conditions and access allow, the sunset viewing period. Stay a second night in Bayinbuluk.

Source estimate: about 90 km / 2.5 hours of local driving. Bird sightings, sunset reflections and specific viewpoint access cannot be guaranteed. This day is in Bayinbuluk, not Nalati's Air Grassland.

Proposed overnight: Bayinbuluk

14

Bayinbuluk → Duku Road → Tangbula

Tianshan road scenery and Tangbula



Mountain and grassland scenery at Tangbula, Xinjiang

Travel along the agreed open sections of the Duku Road toward Jorma and Tangbula's Hundred-Mile Gallery. Choose roadside views and breaks around that day's conditions, then settle into the arranged Tangbula-area accommodation.

Source estimate: about 200 km / 4.5 hours of driving. Duku access is seasonal; the route and accommodation category are confirmed individually.

Proposed overnight: Tangbula

15

Tangbula → Urumqi

Return through the northern Duku section



Mountain and grassland scenery at Tangbula, Xinjiang

Return from Tangbula toward Urumqi via the northern Duku section when open and suitable. Allow a full day for the drive and road breaks. Plan an onward connection only after your travel planner confirms a realistic arrival buffer.

Source estimate: about 450 km / 7.5 hours of driving. Do not assume a flight time. An extra Urumqi night or a departure the following day is a separately quoted option.

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?

14 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.

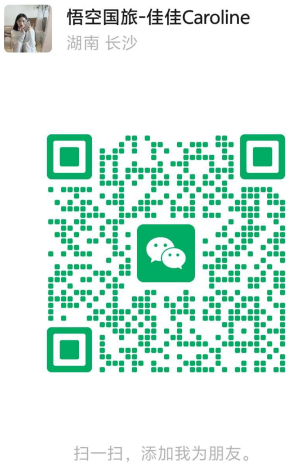
- Direct communication while choosing and confirming your journey.

WhatsApp: +86 17375888291

hello@wukongchinatravel.com

Changsha, Hunan, China

WhatsApp



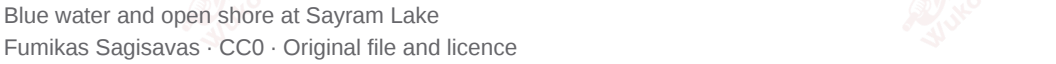
WeChat

View this itinerary online

https://wukongchinatravel.com/15-day-northern-xinjiang-grand-loop/

Destination photo credits

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



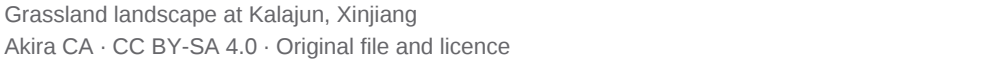
Blue water and open shore at Sayram Lake
Fumikas Sagisavas · CC0 · Original file and licence



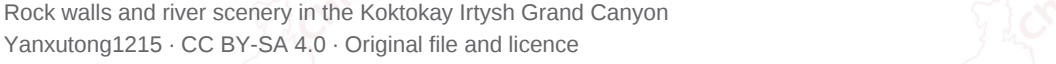
Mountain-valley scenery in Xiate, Xinjiang
Nyx Ning · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Original file and licence



Tianchi Lake surrounded by mountain scenery in Xinjiang
Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Original file and licence



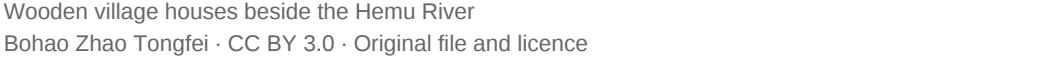
Grassland landscape at Kalajun, Xinjiang
Akira CA · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Original file and licence



Rock walls and river scenery in the Koktokay Irtysh Grand Canyon
Yanxutong1215 · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Original file and licence



Rolling grassland at Nalati in Xinjiang
Yoshi Canopus · CC0 · Original file and licence



Wooden village houses beside the Hemu River
Bohao Zhao Tongfei · CC BY 3.0 · Original file and licence



Grassland scenery at Bayinbuluk in Xinjiang
lwtt93 from Shanghai, China · CC BY 2.0 · Original file and licence

Other destination photos are from the Wukong China Travel media library. This itinerary is a reference plan, subject to the final confirmation.

Destination photo credits

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

Mountain and grassland scenery at Tangbula, Xinjiang
lwtt93 from Shanghai, China · CC BY 2.0 · Original file and licence

Other destination photos are from the Wukong China Travel media library. This itinerary is a reference plan, subject to the final confirmation.