Ancient China by Luxury Train

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Overview

The Highlights

- Eight nights on board the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express;*

- Accommodation at five-star Four Seasons Beijing (or similar) for two nights;

- Accommodation at at five-star Conrad Urumqi (or similar) for one night;

- City tours highlighting the rich history of the Great Silk Road;

- Visit to the Terracotta Warriors statues;

- Visit to unique sites showcasing traditional practices, such as silk making;

- Fully inclusive meals, drinks, gratuities, touring, & transfers;

- On board doctor and medical facilities.

The Tour

Discover the heart of ancient China on this unforgettable journey on the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express*. Voyage captivating landscapes of imperial capitals, desert oases, and ancient cities all in the comfort of a luxury private train.

From Beijing to Urumqi, you'll encounter wonderous sites, such as the Terracotta Warriors, walk the Great Wall, and explore UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Itinerary

Day 1: Beijing, China

Upon arrival at Beijing airport, you'll be greeted and transferred to the five-star Four Seasons Hotel for a two-night stay.

In the evening, join a welcome reception dinner, offering the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and prepare for the exciting journey ahead.

Day 2: Beijing, China

Walk along the restored Badaling section of the Great Wall of China. Marvel at the stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Return to Beijing for a leisurely afternoon.

In the evening, indulge in a traditional Peking Duck dinner at a local restaurant before your last night in your hotel.

Day 3: Beijing, China

Enjoy a full day tour of Beijing, including visits to the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Summer Palace.

Alternatively, explore Beijing's modern architecture, including the Olympic Village, CCTV Tower, and National Museum.

This evening, board the luxurious *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express* and settle into your cabin before a special welcome dinner on board.

Overnight on board.

Day 4: Xi'an, China

After breakfast on board, visit Xi'an's ancient city walls and the Great Mosque, one of the oldest and largest in China. Following, a visit to the Terracotta Warriors — 6,000 life-size figures standing guard over the tomb of China's first emperor. These status are considered one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

Enjoy an evening of Tang Dynasty cuisine, music, and dance.

Overnight on board.

Day 5: On board

Day at leisure on board the train as it travels to Dunhuang.

Enjoy the picturesque views from the Observation Car, or unwind in the Bar Lounge Car with a fine selection of wines and cocktails.

Dinner is served in one of the two dining cars. Overnight on board.

Day 6: Dunhuang, China

Following breakfast, disembark to explore The Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, often referred to as the "Cave of a Thousand Buddhas." Enjoy music by local folk artists as you explore the caves.

After lunch, trek along the Silk Road by camelback before concluding at Crescent Lake, a stunning natural oasis.

Rejoin the train for drinks, dinner, and overnight on board.

Day 7: Golmud, China

This morning, delve into the rich history of the Silk Road with a special lecture at the Hilton Qinghai-Golmund, followed by a lunch in hotel.

In the afternoon, you may choose to visit the Chaerhan Salt Lake or join a guided city tour.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 8: Hotan, China

Enjoy a relaxing morning on board as the train arrives in Hotan, your next destination.

Visit an exclusive Atlas Silk and Carpet workshop and witness artisans crafting intricate textiles using traditional techniques.

Dinner and overnight on the train.

Day 9: Kashgar, China

In Kashgar, visit the Apark Khoja Tomb and the charming old town to see unique Gaotai folk houses and cultural tapestry of the region.

Return to the train after lunch where you journey continues to Turpan with an overnight on board.

Day 10: Turpan, China

Arrive in Turpan and explore the Ancient City of Gaochang, an ancient Silk Road outpost that once served as a vital trading hub.

After lunch, marvel at the Karez irrigation system, an engineering marvel that has provided water to this arid region for centuries. Folllowing, visit Jiaohe Ruins, an ancient city carved from rock, whose unique architecture reflects the ingenuity of its former inhabitants.

In the evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner aboard the train as you bid farewell to the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express* for one last overnight.

Day 11: Turpan, China

After a restful morning on board, join a captivating lecture exploring the legacies of the Silk Road.

Following a leisurely lunch on board, disembark in Urumqi, where you will enjoy an overnight stay at five-star Conrad Urumqi (or similar).

Day 12: Urumqi, China

This morning, you are transferred to your departing flight for home.

Reverse itinerary

Day 1: Urumqi, China

Upon arrival in Urumqi, guests will be warmly welcomed and transferred in luxury to the Conrad Urumqi, where a one-night stay awaits. This city is the cosmopolitan capital of Xinjiang, home to numerous ethnic groups and brimming with the vibrant energy of East meets West.

That evening, join fellow travelers for an exclusive welcome reception and dinner, setting the tone for an exceptional journey along the Silk Road.

Day 2: Turpan, China

After a restful morning in Urumqi, board the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express*, your luxurious home for the next leg of the journey. Settle into your elegant suite before enjoying a welcoming lunch in the dining car, as you begin your journey eastwards in true comfort towards our first stop of Turpan.

Day 3: Turpan, China

Explore the Ancient City of Gaochang, an ancient Silk Road outpost that once served as a vital trading hub.

After lunch, marvel at the Karez irrigation system, an engineering marvel that has provided water to this arid region for centuries. Following, a visit to Jiaohe Ruins, an ancient city carved from rock, whose unique architecture reflects the ingenuity of its former inhabitants.

Day 4: Kashgar, China

Today, delve into Kashgar, a city that has long been a melting pot of cultures, religions, and architecture. Begin with a visit to the Apak Khoja Tomb, a stunningly adorned mausoleum considered the holiest Muslim site in Xinjiang. Wander through the Old Town, where narrow alleys and traditional homes provide a glimpse into local life, and explore the Gaotai folk houses, an area steeped in history and tradition.

A delightful lunch in a local restaurant introduces you to the diverse flavours of Uyghur cuisine before returning to the train to continue your westward journey.

Day 5: Hotan, China

Step back in time with a tour of Yotkan Ancient City. Once the heart of the Buddhist Kingdom of Khotan, this ancient city flourished along the Silk Road, its temples and cultural centres revealing Hotan’s rich legacy as a nexus of trade and spirituality.

Enjoy also an exclusive visit to Hotan’s Atlas Silk and Carpet Workshop. Here, witness master artisans create intricate silk fabrics and carpets using time-honoured techniques passed down through generations.

Day 6: Golmud, China

Your day in Golmud includes an enlightening lecture at the Hilton Qinghai-Golmud on the Silk Road’s history, highlighting its role as a bridge between East and West.

Guests may choose to explore the Chaerhan Salt Lake, a surreal landscape of salt flats and mineral deposits, or enjoy a guided tour through Golmud’s vibrant city streets, before re-boarding the train.

Day 7: Dunhuang, China

Arriving in Dunhuang, explore the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its ancient Buddhist art. This “Cave of a Thousand Buddhas” is a spiritual oasis that has inspired pilgrims and artists for centuries, adorned with vibrant murals and statues that date back over a thousand years. Local folk artists serenade us with music, adding an atmospheric touch to your journey through this sacred complex.

After a delightful lunch, embark on a camel trek along the Silk Road to the enchanting Crescent Lake, an oasis nestled among towering dunes. This tranquil crescent-shaped lake has endured millennia of desert winds and remains a cherished symbol of resilience and beauty.

Day 8: On board

Today is a day of leisure as we traverse the Chinese landscape aboard the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express*. Take in the panoramic scenery from the observation car's floor-to-ceiling windows, the largest of any train in China, or unwind in the bar car with a selection of fine wines and spirits.

In the evening, arrive into Xi'An and enjoy an authentic Tang Dynasty dinner, where the ambiance is enhanced by a captivating performance of traditional music and dance, evoking the grandeur of ancient Xi'an.

Day 9: Xi'an, China

In Xi'An, explore the ancient city walls and the historic Great Mosque, one of China's oldest and largest mosques, blending Islamic and Chinese architectural styles.

Later, visit the awe-inspiring Terracotta Army – a life-sized army of soldiers, chariots, and horses, buried with China's First Emperor to protect him in the afterlife. This UNESCO site, often hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World, offers a mesmerising insight into ancient Chinese beliefs and artistry.

In the evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner aboard the train as you bid farewell to the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express.*

Day 10: Beijing, China

Upon arrival in China's capital city, enjoy a comprehensive tour of Beijing's historic heart which reveals the grandeur of China's ancient dynasties. Explore the Forbidden City, the sprawling imperial palace where emperors ruled for nearly 500 years. Stroll through Tiananmen Square, a place of great historical significance, before discovering the Summer Palace, a serene retreat adorned with beautiful gardens, temples, and lakes.

Alternatively, delve into Beijing's modern allure with a tour of contemporary landmarks: marvel at the architectural feats of the Olympic Village and the iconic "Bird's Nest" Stadium, glimpse the striking design of the CCTV Tower, and explore the National Museum for a modern-day perspective on China's cultural evolution.

After touring, guests will be transferred in luxury to the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel Beijing, where a two-night stay awaits in the epitome of five-star comfort.

Day 11: Beijing, China

Your adventure begins with a morning visit to the Great Wall at Badaling, one of the most iconic symbols of ancient China. Here, guests can walk along a beautifully restored section, soaking in

the breathtaking views and imagining the historical figures who once guarded this marvel.

In the afternoon, enjoy leisure time to explore Beijing's lively mix of ancient traditions and modern vibrancy.

That evening, gather for a sophisticated dining experience at a celebrated Peking Duck restaurant. This Beijing speciality, cherished for centuries, is expertly prepared and carved at your table, offering a delectable insight into Chinese culinary mastery.

Day 12: Beijing, China

On your final morning, transfer to Beijing's international airport for your onward journey.

Dates & Prices

2027 Dates

March 29 - April 9
September 11 - September 22

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Superior Cabin Twin/Double	$25,000	$41,800	25%
Han Dynasty Suite	On Request	On Request	25%

All prices are per person.
2027 dates are preliminary and are subject to change.

2028 Dates

March 27 - April 8
September 11 - September 23

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Superior Cabin Twin/Double	$26,250	$43,900	25%
Han Dynasty Suite	$89,000	$178,000	25%

All prices are per person.
2028 dates are preliminary and are subject to change.