

# XINJIANG 2026

From the Silk Road to the Pamir Plateau

11 Days / 10 Nights

PROVISIONAL DATES

5–15 September 2026 • 12–22 September 2026 • 10–20 October 2026

## Tour Overview

This special route through Urumqi, Turpan, Kashgar and the Pamir Plateau brings together Silk Road history, Uyghur culture, ancient cities, traditional life and some of Central Asia’s most dramatic mountain landscapes.

# Day-by-Day Itinerary

## DAY 1 | Istanbul → Overnight Flight

Meet at Istanbul Airport in the evening. Following check-in and passport formalities, depart on the overnight flight to Urumqi.

Meals: — | Overnight: On board

## DAY 2 | Arrival in Urumqi

Arrive in Urumqi around midday, meet the local team and transfer to the hotel. After time to rest, enjoy a welcome dinner at Afanti Restaurant with traditional Xinjiang cuisine, live music and dance. End the evening with a walk around the Grand Bazaar.

Meals: Dinner | Overnight: Urumqi

## DAY 3 | Heavenly Lake & Akhal-Teke Horse Show

Travel to Heavenly Lake (Tianchi), framed by the snowy Tianshan Mountains. Enjoy lakeside walking and photography among forests and high peaks. Return to Urumqi in the afternoon for the Akhal-Teke horses and traditional equestrian performance at the Ancient Ecological Park.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Urumqi

## DAY 4 | Urumqi Cultural Discovery → Turpan

Visit the Xinjiang Regional Museum to explore Silk Road artefacts, the history of the Tarim Basin and the region's diverse cultural heritage. Continue by private coach to Turpan, one of the great oasis cities of the ancient Silk Road.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Turpan

## DAY 5 | Historic Turpan Oasis

Explore Jiaohe Ancient City, Gaochang Ancient City and Toyuq Ancient Village. Continue to the Karez underground irrigation system, Emin Minaret and a local vineyard and winery, with a walk beneath Turpan's characteristic grape trellises.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Turpan

## DAY 6 | Turpan → Kashgar

Visit the Flaming Mountains in the morning. Later, transfer to the airport for the domestic flight from Turpan to Kashgar. Welcome on arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Kashgar

# Day-by-Day Itinerary | Days 7–11

## DAY 7 | Kashgar Old City and Culture

Begin with an early photography walk through Kashgar Old City. Visit Id Kah Mosque, traditional artisan lanes, local bazaars and the Abakh Khoja Mausoleum. In the evening, attend the Kashgar Cultural Night featuring Uyghur music and dance.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Kashgar

## DAY 8 | Kashgar → Opal → Karakul → Tashkurgan

Set out toward the Pamir Plateau. Visit the Mausoleum of Mahmud al-Kashgari at Opal Village, then continue along the Karakoram Highway to White Sand Lake and Karakul Lake. Photograph Muztagh Ata and the Kongur Mountains before reaching Tashkurgan.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Tashkurgan

## DAY 9 | Tashkurgan → Kashgar

Visit Tashkurgan Stone Fort and the surrounding historic landscape. Enjoy photography stops across the Pamir grasslands and high plateau before returning to Kashgar along the Karakoram Highway.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Overnight: Kashgar

## DAY 10 | In-Depth Kashgar Discovery

A relaxed day for deeper exploration of Kashgar’s old neighbourhoods, local markets, craft workshops and everyday life, with free time for photography and final shopping.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Overnight: Kashgar

## DAY 11 | Kashgar → Urumqi → Istanbul

Fly from Kashgar to Urumqi. Depending on the schedule, enjoy final shopping at the Grand Bazaar before the airport transfer and return flight to Istanbul.

Meals: Breakfast | Overnight: —

## Services Included

| Included                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Not Included                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast</li><li>• 7 lunches and 9 dinners as specified</li><li>• Welcome dinner at Afanti Restaurant</li><li>• Economy-class domestic flights Turpan–Kashgar and Kashgar–Urumqi</li><li>• Airline-defined baggage allowance on domestic flights</li><li>• Private transportation and all airport/hotel transfers</li><li>• Professional Turkish-speaking guide throughout the tour</li><li>• Admission fees for listed museums, archaeological sites and visits</li><li>• Akhal-Teke horse show and Kashgar Cultural Night</li><li>• Permit arrangements for the Karakul–Tashkurgan border region</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Istanbul–Urumqi–Istanbul international flights</li><li>• Chinese visa and service charges</li><li>• Turkish international departure tax</li><li>• Travel and health insurance</li><li>• Personal expenses and hotel extras</li><li>• Tips for guide and driver</li><li>• Drinks with meals and meals not specified</li><li>• Optional tours and activities outside the programme</li><li>• Excess baggage charges</li></ul> |

## Proposed Hotels

|            |                                                                               |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Urumqi     | Universal Hotel Urumqi or equivalent                                          |
| Turpan     | La Quinta by Wyndham Turpan Gaochang or equivalent                            |
| Kashgar    | Hampton by Hilton Kashgar or equivalent                                       |
| Tashkurgan | Banlan Hotel – Jincao Tan Scenic Area Branch or the best available equivalent |

## Important Notes

Departure dates are provisional and will be confirmed subject to flight schedules, group formation and local operating conditions. Hotels are subject to availability; an equivalent property in the same or a higher category may be substituted. Itinerary order may change due to flight schedules, weather, permit requirements and local conditions. The Panlong Ancient Road may be considered as an optional photography route when conditions permit.