PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Silk Road Express: Ancient China by Private Train

11 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

Twelve days across the whole width of China, from the Uyghur city of Urumqi to Beijing, aboard the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express* - a purpose-built private train and the newest in the Golden Eagle fleet.

The route follows the northern Silk Road in reverse, linking the oasis towns of the Taklamakan desert with the imperial capitals of the east. You reach Kashgar and Hotan, which almost no rail itinerary includes, and finish with the Terracotta Army at Xi'an and the Great Wall at Badaling. Between them lie the Mogao Caves at Dunhuang, a camel trek to Crescent Lake, and the salt flats of Golmud on the Tibetan plateau.

Journey highlights

- Kashgar - the Apak Khoja Tomb, the Old Town alleys and the Gaotai folk houses
- The Mogao Caves at Dunhuang, the "Cave of a Thousand Buddhas", with a camel trek to Crescent Lake
- The Terracotta Army and the Tang Dynasty dinner at Xi'an
- The Great Wall at Badaling, and Peking duck carved at the table in Beijing
- The Karez irrigation system and the rock-cut ruins of Jiaohe at Turpan
- Eight nights aboard the train, with the largest observation-car windows in China

Two departures in 2027: 29 March and 11 September.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

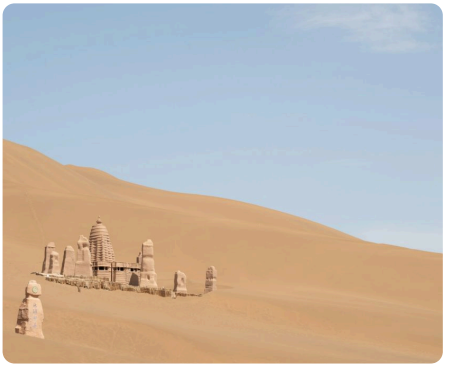
URUMQI

Arrive in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang and, by most measures, the city furthest from any ocean on earth. It is a genuinely mixed place - Uyghur, Han, Kazakh and Hui - and the energy of that mix is the first thing you notice. Transfer to the Conrad Urumqi for one night, and meet your fellow travellers at the welcome reception and dinner.

DAY 2

TURPAN

A relaxed morning in Urumqi before you board the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express*, your home for the next eight nights. Settle into your cabin over a welcome lunch in the dining car as the train begins working east towards Turpan.





DAY 3

TURPAN

Turpan sits in a depression more than 150 metres below sea level, and everything about the day explains how people lived here anyway. You visit Gaochang, a trading city of the old Silk Road now weathered down to its foundations; the Karez, an underground irrigation network that has carried meltwater across the desert for centuries and still does; and Jiaohe, a city carved directly out of a rock plateau rather than built on it.

DAY 4

KASHGAR

Kashgar has been a meeting point of cultures, languages and faiths for as long as the Silk Road has existed, and it still feels like one. The day begins at the Apak Khoja Tomb, the holiest Muslim site in Xinjiang and a building of extraordinary tilework, then moves into the Old Town, where narrow lanes and the Gaotai folk houses show how the city actually lives. Lunch is Uyghur, in a local restaurant, before the train continues.





DAY 5

HOTAN

Hotan was the centre of the Buddhist Kingdom of Khotan, and a tour of the ancient city of Yotkan traces what remains of its temples and its long role as a place where trade and religion arrived together. Afterwards you visit an atlas silk and carpet workshop, where the weaving techniques on show have been handed down largely unchanged.

DAY 6

GOLMUD

Golmud sits on the edge of the Tibetan plateau. The day opens with a lecture on the history of the Silk Road and its role as the link between East and West, then you choose: the Chaerhan Salt Lake, a vast pale expanse of salt flats and mineral deposits, or a guided walk through the city itself.





DAY 7

DUNHUANG

The Mogao Caves are the reason Dunhuang is on any itinerary - a UNESCO World Heritage Site of several hundred grottoes, painted and carved over a thousand years and known as the Cave of a Thousand Buddhas. Local musicians play as you move through the complex. After lunch, a camel trek takes you over the dunes to Crescent Lake, a spring-fed oasis that has somehow refused to be buried by the sand.

DAY 8

THEN XI'AN

A day to do very little. The observation car has the largest windows of any train in China, and the country passes at a pace that suits them; the bar car is the alternative. You arrive at Xi'an in the evening for a Tang Dynasty banquet, served with the music and dance of the period.





DAY 9

XI'AN

Xi'an was the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and the capital of eleven dynasties. You walk the city walls, among the most complete in China, and visit the Great Mosque, where the architecture is Chinese and the function Islamic. Then the Terracotta Army - thousands of life-sized figures buried to guard the first emperor, each one individually modelled. Tonight is the farewell dinner on board.

DAY 10

BEIJING

Arrive in Beijing. The classic tour takes in the Forbidden City, where emperors ruled for close to five centuries, Tiananmen Square, and the Summer Palace with its lake and gardens. If you would rather see the modern city, the alternative covers the Olympic Village and the Bird's Nest stadium, the CCTV Tower and the National Museum. Afterwards, transfer to the Four Seasons Beijing for two nights.





DAY 11

BEIJING

A morning at the Great Wall at Badaling, on a restored section where you can walk a good distance and see how the wall follows the ridgelines. The afternoon is yours. In the evening, Peking duck at one of the city's celebrated specialists, carved at your table.

DAY 12

BEIJING

Transfers to Beijing airport for onward flights. If you would like to stay longer in Beijing, or add Shanghai or Hong Kong, we are glad to arrange it.



DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Mar 29, 2027	Superior Class	**$41,800**	**$25,000**
	Superior Class Early Bird	**$41,400**	**$24,600**
Sep 11, 2027	Superior Class	**$41,800**	**$25,000**
	Superior Class Early Bird	**$41,300**	**$24,500**

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

EARLY BIRD FARES

Book early, pay less

Plan ahead and you'll pay less for exactly the same journey. Every cabin on this tour has an Early Bird fare. Look for it in the booking calendar, right next to the regular fare: it is labelled "<cabin> Early Bird".

6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save $250

per person

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save $150

per person

INSIDE 3 MONTHS

Regular fare

the Early Bird fare closes

CABIN	REGULAR DOUBLE (PP)	EARLY BIRD, 6+ MONTHS AHEAD	EARLY BIRD, 3–6 MONTHS AHEAD
Superior Class	**$25,000**	**$24,750** save $250	**$24,850** save $150

Double fares per person, two sharing. The saving depends on the cabin's regular price per person: $250 / $150 on journeys from $8,000, $150 / $100 from $5,000, and $50 on shorter trips. It's the same cabin, the same itinerary and everything included as before. The only difference is the price. Early Bird fares are limited to the cabins on each departure and close automatically. If you already know your dates, now is the time to book.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/golden-eagle-silk-road-express-ancient-china for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Booking & Payment

- **Deposit:** 30% of the total tour cost is due at the time of booking. The deposit is non-refundable.
- **Final payment:** the balance is due no later than 125 days before departure.
- Bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking.
- Fares are per person. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and due dates.

Cancellation

- **125 days or more** before departure: 30% of the total tour cost (the deposit)
- **Less than 125 days** before departure: 100% of the total tour cost

Changes

- **Date change:** free of charge, subject to availability, when requested 125 days or more before departure; after that, a fee of 15% of the total tour cost applies.
- **Cabin upgrade:** only the fare difference between cabin categories applies.
- **Cabin downgrade or passenger name correction:** free of charge up to 35 days before departure; within 35 days, EUR 500 per change.

Changes or cancellation by the train operator

If the train operator cancels or materially changes a departure, you will be offered a new date or an amended booking, a credit toward a future journey, or a refund of the amounts paid.

All cancellation, change, or update requests must be submitted in writing by email to travel@palacetours.com. A request takes effect only once we have received and processed it, and we will confirm the outcome to you in writing. Timeframes are calculated by reference to local time and business days at the destination; a request received outside business hours is treated as received on the next business day.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance, including cancellation cover, from the moment you pay your deposit. For information on available plans, please visit www.palacetours.com/insurance.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Ancient China by Private Train journey from Urumqi to Beijing?

> The journey lasts 12 days and 11 nights. It includes 1 night in a five-star hotel in Urumqi, 8 nights aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express and 2 nights in a five-star hotel in Beijing, crossing the whole width of China.

When are the 2027 departures of Ancient China by Private Train?

> There are two departures in 2027, starting on 29 March and 11 September. The exact fare and availability for each departure and cabin grade are shown in the departure list on this page.

How much does the Golden Eagle Ancient China journey cost?

> Fares start from around USD 24,500 per person sharing, with sole occupancy from around USD 41,300. The price depends on the departure and cabin grade, and the exact fare for each is shown on this page.

What is the route of Ancient China by Private Train?

> The route follows the northern Silk Road in reverse: Urumqi, Turpan, Kashgar, Hotan, Golmud on the edge of the Tibetan plateau, Dunhuang, Xi'an and finally Beijing. It links the oasis towns of the Taklamakan desert with the imperial capitals of the east.

Why is it unusual that this journey visits Kashgar and Hotan?

> Kashgar and Hotan are rarely included on any rail itinerary. In Kashgar you visit the Apak Khoja Tomb, the holiest Muslim site in Xinjiang, the Old Town and the Gaotai folk houses, with a Uyghur lunch. In Hotan you tour the ancient city of Yotkan and an atlas silk and carpet workshop.

What will I see at Turpan on this journey?

> Turpan sits in a depression more than 150 metres below sea level. You visit Gaochang, an old Silk Road trading city, the Karez underground irrigation network that still carries meltwater across the desert, and Jiaohe, a city carved directly out of a rock plateau.

What happens at Dunhuang on Ancient China by Private Train?

> On day 7 you visit the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Cave of a Thousand Buddhas, with local musicians playing as you move through. After lunch a camel trek takes you over the dunes to Crescent Lake, a spring-fed oasis in the desert.

What does the Golmud day involve?

> Golmud sits on the edge of the Tibetan plateau. The day opens with a lecture on the history of the Silk Road, then you choose between the Chaerhan Salt Lake, a vast expanse of salt flats and mineral deposits, or a guided walk

What is included in Xi'an and Beijing at the end of the journey?

> In Xi'an there is a Tang Dynasty banquet, a walk on the city walls, the Great Mosque and the Terracotta Army. In Beijing you choose the classic or modern city tour, then spend two nights in a five-star hotel with a morning at the Great Wall at Badaling and a Peking duck dinner.

What cabins are available on the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express for this journey?

> There are two grades. The Superior Cabin is 11 square metres and converts between twin beds and a double, with an en-suite featuring a power shower and underfloor heating. The Han Dynasty Suite is 22.2 square metres, double the size, with a double bed.

What facilities are on the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express?

> The train is purpose-built and the newest in the Golden Eagle fleet. It has a Chinese and a Western restaurant car, a lounge car and an observation car with the largest windows of any train in China. A doctor and medical facilities are on board.

What is included in the Ancient China by Private Train fare?

> The fare covers all accommodation, all meals, beverages with meals and from the lounge car, arrival and departure transfers, cabin attendant service with turndown, luggage porterage, guided excursions at every stop with entrance fees, a tour management team, an onboard doctor and all gratuities on and off the train.

What is not included on the Urumqi to Beijing journey?

> International flights are not included, and neither are the Chinese visa, travel insurance or items of a personal nature. You fly into Urumqi and home from Beijing, and our specialists can help you arrange those flights.

How many nights are spent on the train on Ancient China by Private Train?

> Eight of the eleven nights are spent aboard the Golden Eagle Silk Road Express, from boarding at Urumqi on day 2 until arrival in Beijing on day 10. Day 8 is a relaxed day on board before arriving in Xi'an in the evening.

Which departure should I choose, March or September?

> The March departure runs in early spring and the September departure in early autumn. Both avoid the height of summer in the desert regions, so the choice usually comes down to your own plans. Our specialists can share what to expect on each date.

How much deposit is required for Ancient China by Private Train?

> A deposit of 30 percent of the tour price confirms your cabin and is non-refundable. The balance is due 125 days before departure, and bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and the dates they fall due.

Can children travel on the Ancient China journey?

> Children can be booked, with child rates in two bands based on age at departure: under 5, and 5 to 11. Please contact us so we can confirm cabin arrangements and the applicable fare.

Can I book Ancient China by Private Train as a solo traveller?

> Yes. Sole occupancy fares start from around USD 41,300, depending on departure and cabin grade. The exact single fare is shown on this page and our team can confirm availability.

Can I extend my trip after the journey ends in Beijing?

> Yes. If you would like to stay longer in Beijing, or add Shanghai or Hong Kong, we are glad to arrange it. We can also add time in Urumqi before the journey starts.

How do I ask a question or book Ancient China by Private Train?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. The departure list on this page is bookable directly, with the current fare and availability for each cabin grade.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

500 S. Federal Hwy, Unit 3852, Hallandale Beach, FL 33008