

CHINA, NOT JUST TRAVEL

China Academy x Sunriver Tours

visit our website for more:
www.chinanotjusttravel.com



ABOUT US

Providing exclusive access to China

The China Academy is an intellectual content network dedicated to helping global audiences understand the real China. Backed by hundreds of millions of social media followers and exclusive access to academia, media and business in China, we now invite you to experience China, Not Just Travel.

We are partnering with Sunriver, a leading Chinese travel company that is committed to developing one-stop leisure vacation services.

Our curated trips will show you everyday life; allow you to meet people of your interest; and help you understand China from ancient culture to the whys and hows of today.

WHAT SETS US APART

We wish to invite you to experience China up-close and personal, with carefully exclusively curated trips that explore China's cutting-edge technological breakthroughs, revolutionary history, ancient culture, rural revitalization, everyday life, and China's socialist path towards development.

Come join us for exclusive access, VIP experiences, deep educational insights, and a trip to China that is not just about travel.

JOURNEY ACROSS XINJIANG, CHINA ITINERARY

Highlights: Stunning Landscapes, Diverse Ethnic Culture, Local Uyghur Customs, Vast Grasslands, Luxury Train

DAY 1: WELCOME ABOARD THE PANDA TRAIN

- Begin in **Chengdu, Sichuan**
- Board the **luxury Panda Train** (either Chengdu-Anjing station or Lanzhou Railway Station)
- Experience **Sichuan Face-Changing Opera**
- Meet-and-greet **Panda Mascot**
- **Sleep aboard** the luxury **Panda Train**

DAY 2: THE GOBI DESERT

- Spend the day on the **Panda Train**
- Soak in **geographical wonders of Northwest China**
- Behold the vast **Gobi desert**, towering snow-capped mountains
- Enjoy the **Sichuan Mahjong Experience**



DAY 3: TURPAN, XINJIANG

- Greeted by **friendly local travel team**
- Explore the **ancient Karez irrigation system**
- Visit the **Flaming Mountains** and see **China's largest thermometer**
- Feel the intense heat of the **mountains featured in Journey to the West**
- Hop back aboard the **Panda Train**

DAY 4: ARRIVE IN KASHGAR

- Arrive in **Kashgar** in the afternoon
- **Check-in** to hotel
- **Free time**/travel and rest day
- Delightful **Kashgar Welcome Banquet** for dinner



DAY 5: JOURNEY TO PAMIR PLATEAU

- Head out on the **China-Pakistan Friendship Highway**
- Discover the **Pamir Plateau**, otherwise known as the “Roof of the World”
- First stop at **Baisha Mountain** and **Baisha Lake**
- Visit the stunning alpine **Karakul Lake** by the **Three Kunlun Brothers** (7000 meter+ mountains)

DAY 6: ANCIENT CITY OF KASHGAR

- Explore the **Ancient City of Kashgar** where you'll find the living fossils of ancient cities with over 2000 years history
- Visit the **Id Kah Mosque**, built in 1442
- Try the **Halal foods** of Kashgar
- Explore the **Gaotai Residential Area**, a 600-year old Uyghur community
- Hop back aboard the **Panda Train** to embark to **Kuqa**

DAY 7: EMBARK TO KUQA

- Arrive in **Kuqa** by Panda Train
- Visit the **Kuqa Grand Canyon National Geopark** to see find sands and intermittent springs
- Traverse the **Southern Section of the Duku Highway** in a private vehicle
- See the **Big and Small Dragon Pools, Tianshan Mountains** and **Tielimaiti Daban Pass**
- Witness the beautiful lush grasslands of the **Bayanbulak Grassland** and **Swan Lake Scenic Area**

DAY 8: BAYANBULAK TO NALATI

- Explore the **Nalati Grasslands**
- Witness **flowing springs, lush mountains, towering spruce trees, scattered yurts**
- Meet **local Kazakh people** and learn about their **authentic customs**
- Delicious **whole roasted lamb dinner**





DAY 9: BLOOMING YINING CITY

- Visit the **Tianshan Flower Sea Area**, seeing the world's largest lavender field covering 24,000 acres.
- Go on the **Yining City Tour** and visit the **Six-Star Street**
- Meet the vibrant community of **Han, Kazakh, Hui, Uyghur, Russian and Tatar** people **living harmoniously**
- Hop back aboard the **Panda Train** and stay overnight

DAY 10: SAYRAM LAKE

- Head to **Sayram Lake known** as the “Pure Sea of the West” which is Xinjiang's highest and largest alpine cold-water lake
- See a **vibrant tapestry of wildflowers, sparkling turquoise water and endless blue sky**
- Enjoy a lunch of **Sayram Lake's famous whitefish**
- Hop aboard the **Panda Train** to head to **Beitun**



DAY 11: THE VILLAGES OF XINJIANG

- Arrive in **Beitun** in the morning
- Embark on 5-hour journey to **Hemu Village**
- Check into unique and **scenic wooden Cabins**, which will be accommodation for the night
- Watch the views of the **Irtysh River**, China's only river that flows West to the Arctic Ocean
- Admire beautiful flowers of **Jiadengyu Alpine Meadows**
- Cross **Hemu River's wooden bridge**
- See **traditional wood houses** of the **Tuva village**
- Gather in a **century-old house** for a lively evening of **song and dance**

DAY 12: HEMU TO KANAS

- Enjoy the morning in **Hemu Village**, seeing the **magical morning mist** and **smoke from village chimneys**
- Drive to **Kanas** (2.5 hour drive)
- Arrive in Kanas, known as the “**last pure land on Earth**”
- Go on a leisurely stroll along the **lakeside boardwalk**
- Admire the serene **Moon Bay, mystical Divine Bay and the ethereal Sleeping Dragon Bay**
- Special boat tour on **Kanas Lake**
- Board the **Panda train** to begin journey to **Urumqi**



DAY 13: EMBARK FOR URUMQI

- Visit the **Fish-Viewing Pavilion** and see the breathtaking panoramic view of the mysterious **Kanas Lake**
- Free time in **Kanas** with a **local-style lunch**
- Drive to **Burqin** for a **special dinner** of **unique cold-water fish**, a local delicacy
- Hop back aboard the **Panda train** and begin journey to **Urumqi**

DAY 14: URUMQI

- Arrive in **Urumqi** in the morning
- Drive to the **Heavenly Lake of Tianshan Scenic Area**, otherwise known as the “Jade Pond of the Heavens”
- See **famous landmarks “The First Line of Stone Gate” and “Divine Needle”**
- Witness the breathtaking snow-capped **Bogda Peak**
- Return to Urumqi for a delicious dinner

DAY 15: BACK TO CHENGDU

- Head to the train station to board the **Panda Train** in preparation for the return journey
- Enjoy the luxuries of the **Panda Train with fun activities** such as **Chess Master**

DAY 16: FINAL DAY

- Enjoy **final hours of Panda Train journey**
- Join the for **song party happening upon arrival** at the station
- Say **goodbye to new friends** and **make way back home.**



CHINA 101

What you need to know before you arrive in China.

1. VISA*

Apply for a visa using [China Online Visa Application Form](#). **Collect required documents** and submit physical documents by mail. **Visa processing** takes around **4-5 days**. Go to Chinese embassy in your city. Pay for visa processing.

2. VPN*

Download a good VPN before you arrive. We recommend **Mullvad VPN** or **Lets VPN**.

3. ESSENTIALS

There are some apps you NEED to download. **Alipay, WeChat, AMap, and Didi** are some of them.

4. PAYMENT

Download and set up **Alipay** and **Wechat** apps before arriving in China. **Connect your overseas phone number** and **payment card** to these apps. These will be your **most-used apps in China**.

5. TRANSPORTATION

Download and set up **Didi**, which is Chinese Uber. Download **AMap**, which is Chinese Google Maps. Download **Dianping**, which is Chinese Yelp.

6. COMMUNICATION

Download **Baidu Translate**, or use **Deepseek, Yuanbao, Doubao** (AI translation apps) for translation.

7. ELECTRONICS

Plug A, Plug C and plug I. The supply voltage is 220V and 50Hz.

CONTACT US

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