

5-Day Silk Road Dunhuang Tour

8465 CNY Round-trip: Xi'an ⇌ Dunhuang

(The tour price covering round trip flights, hotels, meals, local transportation and admission fees)



Full Itinerary : Day 01 (April. 5) Arrival in Dunhuang

Flight MU2215 【12:10--14:45】 Xi'an ✈️ Dunhuang

Accommodation: Dunhuang International Hotel

【Performance: The Silk Road Strewn with Flowers】



THE SILK ROAD STREWN WITH FLOWERS: this masterpiece of Chinese folk

dance performance is presented, inspired by the content of murals in the Mogao Caves, with rich cultural references to the Silk Road, which portrays the dancing, finery and music of ethnic groups along the Silk Road.

Day 02 (April. 6) Ruins of Suoyang City → Yulin Grotto

【Ruins of Suoyang City】



Suoyang, dated back to Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD), was an ancient city on “Silk Road”, a route that facilitated Eurasia trade and cultural exchanges in ancient times. Ruins of Suoyang City have been listed in the World Heritage since 2013. 【

Yulin Grotto】



Entertaining Musicians on the Fresco in Yulin Grottoes

Yulin Grottoes site is famed as the sister of Mogao Grottoes. A total of 41 caves (with 30 along the eastern cliff and 11 along the west), 5650 square meters of frescoes, 272 statues, 10826 Buddha, Bodhisattvas and gods' pictures remain intact.

Day 03 (April. 7) Yumenguan Pass → Yardang Landform

【Yumenguan Pass】 (1.5 hours' ride, 105km)



Yumenguan Pass (Jade Gate Pass), located on a hillock 90 kilometers northwest of Dunhuang, is an important pass of the north route on the Silk Road. It is also called the “Small Square City”, which was once a fierce battlefield but also a prosperous trading gateway with merchants and camels streaming in and out; it is well preserved.

【Yardang Landform】 (2 hours' ride, 80km)



Yardang in Uigur language means a small mound with steep walls. Yardang National Geopark is well-known for Yardang Landform, a typical wind erosion landform, covering 77 ruins and huge rocks formations in sculpted shapes. It also has the nickname of Devil City because the wind howls when night falls. Lots of explorers come to this park owing to its unique desert landscape, old legend and bizarre rocks.

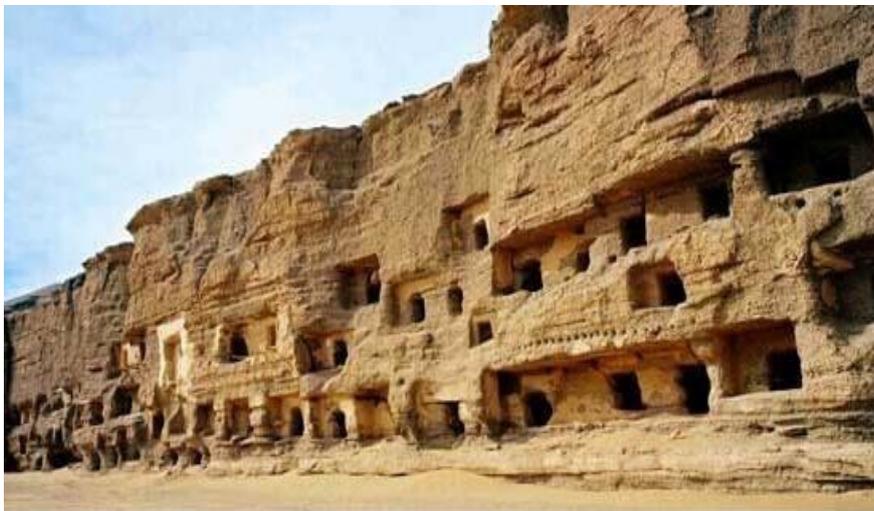
Day 04 (April. 8)

Mogao Grottoes → Echoing-sand Mountain → Crescent Lake

【Mogao Grottoes】



As one of three noted grottoes in China, Mogao Grottoes is the largest, best preserved and richest treasure house of Buddhist art in the world and also considered the foremost representative of grotto arts.



Over a span of nearly 1,000 years from the 4th century to the 14th century, a great number of people came there to build grottoes on the eastern precipitous cliffs of Echoing-sand Mountain, ultimately turning this place into an artistic treasure house combining architecture, painted sculptures and murals. As the statues and paintings mostly depict the Buddha, people also call this place “The Cave of One Thousand Buddha Statues.”



Today, 492 caves still stand, containing some 2400 colored statues, 4000 flying Apsaras and 45000 square meters of murals. These murals, if joined together, would cover a length of 30 kilometers. The murals of Mogao Grottoes take up the largest proportion of grotto art creations and the subjects are also the most comprehensive, which is an exclusive feature to Longmen Grottoes and Yungang Grottoes, and unique in the world as well. Western scholars remarked the murals as “a library on the wall”.



The architectural art of Mogao Grottoes is mainly noted for the format. The caves vary in size. The smallest one just allows a head's space, while the largest one stretches from the foot to the top of the mountain, having a height of over 40 meters. The colored statues also differ in size, ranging from a few centimeters to 33 meters high, embodying the remarkable imagination of their makers. Despite years of erosion, the murals are still brightly colored, with clear lines. The pictures come from different styles and schools, drawn in different historical periods. They tell Buddhist stories and ways as well as life in the secular world. The Buddha statues, in a sense, record the development of Chinese civilization, displaying the achievements of sculptural arts and expressing the aspirations of the people.



【Echoing-sand Mountain】



The mountain is five kilometers away from the city of Dunhuang. Seen from afar, the mountain is just like a golden dragon winding its way over the horizon. As you

approach, you become aware that the sand has many colors ranging from red to yellow, green, black and white. On days when a strong wind blows, the fast shifting sand roars; but when the wind is little more than a light breeze, the sand produces gentle, dulcet sounds akin to music. It is the same when you are sliding down the mountainside. At first, the sand under your feet just whispers; but the further you slide, the louder the sound until it reaches a crescendo like thunder or a drum beat. Some say that the sand is singing, while to others it is like an echo and this is how the mountain gets its name.

【Crescent Lake】



Encircled by the mountain, there is Crescent Lake so called because of its shape. The water in the lake is so pure and sweet that it looks like an emerald set in the sand. According to historical record, the lake has been in existence for hundreds of years without ever being buried by the sand, which is really a geological wonder. Today, the mountain is listed as a key national scenic spot. It is possible to climb it on foot or, if you prefer, on the back of a camel. It is also possible to take a sand bath treatment. Your visit is complete as you appreciate the splendid environment consisting of golden sand, a wondrous mountain, a tranquil lake and a beautiful sunset.

Day 05 (April. 9) 【Dunhuang Museum】 -departure for Xi'an/Beijing

【Dunhuang Museum】



Dunhuang Museum exhibits over 4000 pieces of treasured historic and cultural relics collected in the locality and are displayed in three sections. The first section displays the written sutras from the Cave17 - the Sutra Cave of Mogao Grottoes of Dunhuang. The second section focuses attention on relics excavated from tombs of past dynasties, such as Han Dynasty (206B.C.-220), Jin Dynasty (265-420), Sui Dynasty (581-618), and Tang Dynasty (618-907). These relics include stone tablets, stone pagoda, pottery wares and lacquer beasts made for tombs and Kylin sculptures, among which the Kylin sculpture is the most uncommon, done in high relief with its four hoofs soaring aloft. The third section is the exhibits of silk, brocade, grosgrain and the like, which provides the basic material reference for the ancient Silk Road. In addition, Han Jian (a kind of book composed by bamboo slips for writing on during Han Dynasty), ancient iron tools, bronze tools and various ancient weapons are also displayed in this part, which has been beneficial for research on ancient communication between China and western countries in the fields of politics, economy and culture.



The Dunhuang Museum reflects the flourishing social development and cultural exchange between China and the West during the time when Dunhuang was a major center along the Silk Road. A trip to the Dunhuang Museum will provide you with a greater understanding of the history and culture of the Chinese people and their ancient civilization.

Departure:

Dunhuang ✈️ → **Xi'an**: 【15:30--17:45】 Flight MU2216(departure after lunch)

□ If you need to fly to **Beijing** (Xi'an ✈️ → Dunhuang ✈️ → Beijing), you can choose:

Dunhuang ✈️ → **Beijing**: 【11:00--13:45】 Flight CA1288 (departure after breakfast)

□ **Tour price: 9215 CNY** (Including 750 CNY airfare to Beijing)

Tips:

- This tour is tailored exclusively for our group with many details considered including better accommodations, meals and tourist attractions. In addition, as the timing overlaps with the short vacations of Chinese Tomb Sweeping Day, the price has tended to be a little bit higher than in the off season.
- The tour ends with flight to Beijing after breakfast or back to Xi'an after lunch.
- As for the accommodation in Xi'an in Apr.9, we can make a reservation for you in advance with the same price as that during the conference:
- It is 50 mins' ride from Xi'an Xianyang international airport to the hotels (35 KM) with 120 CNY by taxi or take the shuttle bus there (additional cost).

□ Due to the large temperature variation between day and night, as well as the windy and dusty weather in Dunhuang, you are suggested to bring hats, sunglasses, and jackets.

□ If you have any dietary restrictions, please tell us in your email.

We do hope the cultural program interest you and make you a pleasant trip in China. You can pay for it online. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any question.

With the best regards,

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The Organizing and Program Committee of the Conference