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HEE Silk Road 19-Day Luxury Tour

Tour Code: **CN-PSR19**
Duration: **19 Days**
PRICE:
Departure:

Cities: Shanghai-Hangzhou-Wuzhen
Suzhou-Wuxi-Shanghai-Xi'an-
Dunhuang-Turpan-Urumqi-Beijing

Code: B-Breakfast L-Lunch D-Dinner



Day 1: Departure ✈️

Flying to China.

Day 2: Arrive in Shanghai

Hotel: ★★★★★ Wyndham Grand Plaza Royale Oriental or similar

Arrive in Shanghai, Pudong International Airport (PVG). You will be greeted by our guide at your luxurious hotel where you are at your leisure to relax and enjoy the evening.

Day 3: Shanghai 🚌 **Wuzhen** 🚢 **Hangzhou**

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ New Century Grand Hotel or similar

In the morning, the city tour starts with a visit to **Pudong**, the eastern modern section of Shanghai. Take an hour and a half bus ride to **Wuzhen**, experience the romance and the poetic beauty of Jiangnan ancient water village which is a thousand years old coastal town. A boat ride takes you back to the old days and experiences the life of the ancient time. Arrival in **Hangzhou** for dinner.

Day 4: Hangzhou

Meals: B - L

Hotel: ★★★★★ New Century Grand Hotel or similar

Boating to discover the dreamlike beauty of **West Lake**, which is marked by a stele with the epithet written in the calligraphy of the Qianlong Emperor. Formed from what was originally an inlet of the Qiantang River, the lake was created in its current form by the silting of the river in the 4th century. With its historic bridges, pagodas, islands and gardens, the lake is surrounded by verdant hills and its shores and causeways are lined with fragrant trees and lotus blossoms. Hangzhou is one of the seven capitals of ancient China, known for its tea products. Enjoy a cup of Chinese famous Longjing tea at **Longjing tea village** to experience the mysterious Chinese tea culture. Then visit some of the magnificent scenes of West Lake. Tonight after dinner, enjoy a Song Dynasty dance show, with over 300 performers in beautiful costume, high-tech lighting effects, telling the stories of Hangzhou (at an extra fee).

Day 5: Hangzhou 🚌 **Suzhou**

Meals: B - L

Hotel: ★★★★★ Grand Metropark Hotel or similar

After breakfast, head to **Suzhou**, visit **Panmen Gate** which originally built during the Warring States Period in the state of Wu, historians estimate it to be around 2,500 years old. Later after, continue on to the **Lingering Garden** - Liu Yuan in Chinese, it is one of the four famous gardens in China. Covering an area of 27,867 square yards, it represents the garden style in Qing Dynasty. The masterly workmanship, imaginative variation, and luxurious decorations in the garden are greatly appreciated by visitors and gardeners. In the evening, go to take a look at Suzhou Times Square where has the largest LED screen in the world, free time to choose your favorite food, you can enjoy a rainbow walk with a beautiful fountain and light show at **Li Gong Di** which is the causeway of **Jinji Lake** water-side leisure area where represents the most modern face of Suzhou.

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Day 6: Suzhou 🚗 **Wuxi**

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ Gloria Grand Wuxi or similar

Pay a visit to Suzhou **Shan Tang Street**, has a long history of about 1,100 years, its layout and architecture are best to represent the characteristics of Suzhou's old alleys, and it has connections to many ancient Chinese celebrities and anecdotes. Later on, continue on to experience Chinese culture, visit **Suzhou Silk Museum**, where is the great place to learn silk making and Chinese silk craft. Head to Wuxi after lunch, visit the biggest **Lingshan Temple** (at an extra fee) compounds the **Copper Buddha statue** and **Fangong Palace** which is made of white marble, and constructed with materials fashioned by artisans from around the world, it is one of the most impressive and beautiful and modern structures in China. You will be served with traditional imperial dinner tonight.

Day 7: Wuxi 🚗 **Shanghai**

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ Wyndham Grand Plaza Royale Oriental or similar

After having breakfast, take a walk and relax at the **Imperial Garden XiHui Park**, where the Emperor of the Qing dynasty spends their summer. Visit **Taihu Lake** which is the third largest freshwater lake in China, along the Taihu Lake, the tourists can appreciate the beautiful natural scenery of Wuxi, and visit freshwater pearl factory, have a taste of pearl powder tea while listen to pearl expert explaining the growth of pearl. Thereafter, heading to Shanghai. Upon arrival, you will visit the eastern section **Shanghai Old District (Cheng Huang Miao shopping mall)**, forms the core of the old city of Shanghai, China. Today the "City God Temple" not only refers to the large temple complex, but also the traditional district of commerce in the city, surrounding the temple. There are over a hundred stores and shops in this area, and most of these store buildings are nearly a century old. You're free to enjoy shopping in this district. Later, you will be served the authentic Shanghai cuisine for dinner tonight.

Day 8: Shanghai ✈️ **Xi'an**

Meals: B - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ Grand Noble or similar

Have a restful morning. Our tour guide will accompany you to the airport after the delicious breakfast, catch the flight the next destination city – Xi'an.

Xi'an, one of the oldest cities in China, with more than 3,100 years of history, the city was known as Chang'an before the Ming Dynasty. Xi'an is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, having held that position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, and Tang. Xi'an is the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army.

Upon arrival, visit the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, the most distinctive landmark in Xi'an. It was constructed for a Buddhist monk from Tang dynasty, Xuan Zang, whose pilgrimage to India was immortalized in one of the famous Chinese classical novel "Journey to the West". The pagoda was used to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought back from India. He asked 50 hierarchs to the temple to translate Sanskrit sutras into Chinese. With translated scripts of 1,335 volumes, it heralded a new era in the history of translation. You will be transferred to the hotel after dinner.

Day 9: Xi'an

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ Grand Noble or similar

Exploring **Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Museum**, which is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China. The Terracotta Army was discovered in the spring of 1974 in the eastern suburbs of Xi'an, the figures vary in height, according to their roles, with the tallest being the generals. The figures include warriors, chariots, horses, officials, acrobats, strongmen and musicians. Current estimates are that in the three pits containing the Terracotta Army there were over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, the majority of which are still buried in the pits. It's known as the 8th miracle in the world. The whole mausoleum is like a cultural treasure vault with large collections of relics. Visit the Terra Cotta Warriors and Horse Reproduction factory on the way back to the city. Thereafter, visit **Ancient City Wall** which is Xi'an's 14th-century wall, one of the most complete city walls in China and certainly one of the best examples from the Ming dynasty. Watching the world famous **Tang Dynasty Stage Show** shortly after Dumpling dinner.

Day 10: Xi'an ✈️ **Dunhuang**

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel or similar

Buffet breakfast at hotel, and then pay a visit to **Shaanxi Historical Museum**, where houses over 300,000 items including murals, paintings, pottery, coins, as well as bronze, gold, and silver objects. The modern museum was built between 1983 and 2001 and its appearance recalls the architectural style of the Tang Dynasty. Thereafter, continue with a visit to **Grand Mosque**, which is the oldest and one of the most renowned mosques in the country founded in 742 (if time is allowed). You will be later transferred to airport and fly to Dunhuang around noon. Having lunch on board.

Dunhuang, it was a major stop on the ancient Silk Road, is completely surrounded by huge desert sand dunes and larger forboding mountains. It was also known





at times as Shachou, or 'City of Sands'horse breeding. It commands a very strategic position at the crossroads of the ancient Southern Silk Route and the main road leading from India via Lhasa to Mongolia and Southern Siberia, as well as controlling the entrance to the narrow Gansu Corridor which led straight to the heart of the north Chinese plains and the ancient capitals of Chang'an (today known as Xi'an) and Luoyang. Once a melting pot of cultures and religions, Dunhuang's ancient and spectacular historical sites, especially the fascinating Mogao Cave Paintings, are now visited by an ever increasing influx of tourists from around the world.

Upon arrival in Dunhuang, you will be greeted by our guide, and start to explore the mystery of **MingSha Mountain**. The sand of the mountain has many colors ranging from red to yellow, green, black and white. When a strong wind blows, the fast shifting sand roars. When a light breeze comes, the sand creates gentle, beautiful sounds akin to music. For the many hundreds of daily tourists, a range of exciting activities are available surrounding these golden sand dunes, making it a more memorable visit. Of course there are the obligatory camel rides along the desert trails leading toward to height of the mountain like sand dunes, as well as sand tobogganing. Later, continue on to **Crescent Lake**, which looks like a blue crescent moon enchasing in the desert. Having been lying among these sand dunes for thousands of years, although given many surprise attacks by sandstorms, Crescent Lake still gurgles clear, and still remains worthy as the first spring in the desert. After then you'll be transferred to the luxurious hotel after dinner where you are at your leisure to relax and enjoy the evening.

Day 11: Dunhuang

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel or similar

After breakfast, continue on to explore the **Mogao Grottoes**, as the largest, best preserved and richest treasure house of Buddhist art in the world, it houses 492 grottoes, containing some 2,100 colored statues and 45,000 square meters of murals, which still keep their bright colors and are clearly discernible. Through pictures of different styles and schools drawn in different historical periods, they tell Buddhist stories and ways as well as life in the secular world. All these, plus a largest quantity of Buddhist sutras and relics kept in the caves have provided valuable material for a study of ancient China's politics, economy, and culture and arts, as well as its science and technology, military affairs, and religion, documenting national history as well as cultural exchanges between China and the world. In 1987, UNESCO placed the Mogao Grottoes under the protection of the world cultural heritage list.

After having lunch at local restaurant, continue on to visit **Yangguan Pass**, which is one of the two important western passes of Great Wall in Western Han Dynasty (206BC -24AD). The Emperor Wu ordered to build it in the purpose of consolidating the frontier defense as well as developing the remote western region. Many Chinese get to know this important pass mainly from the poem *Farewell to Yuener to Take Office in Anxi*, written by Wang Wei, a famous poet in Tang Dynasty. From the last two lines "Oh, my friend, I sincerely entreat you to have another cup of wine; you will see no more friends west out of the Yangguan Pass.", we can see the Yanguan Pass has always been the place of desolation and sadness since ancient times.

Day 12: Dunhuang > Turpan

Meals: B - D

Hotel: in train

It's at your leisure to relax and your option to enjoy the desert spa. You will be transferred to the train station for the overnight train to Turpan.

Turpan has long been the center of a fertile oasis (with water provided by karez) and an important trade centre. It was historically located along the Silk Road's northern route. Turpan means 'the lowest place' in the Uyghur language. Lying in the Turpan Basin, the elevation of most of the places in the area is below 1,640 feet. Turpan is the city with the lowest elevation in China.

Day 13 : Turpan

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ Tuha Petroleum Hotel or similar

Continue onto exploring the ancient Silk Road today, visiting **Gaochang Ancient City**, the early Uyghur capital, is located at the foot of the Flaming Mountain, and in the boundless desolate Gobi desert; and thereafter exploring the ancient cave monastery of **Bezelik**, stands high on the cliffs of west Mutou Valley; as well as the **Astana-Karakhoja Ancient Tombs** which are part of the Underground Museum of Turpan and the Living Archives of Gaochang . Having lunch in **Grape Valley** a small and very fertile valley where vines amazingly grow in the midst of dessert. This afternoon, continue on to **the Jiaohe Ruins** (Han Dynasty), one of the world's architectural wonders hides in Yarnaz Valley, west of Turpan. Like a willow leaf, the ancient city of Jiaohe with a history of 2300 years lies between two rivers on a loess plateau atop a cliff of over 98.4feet. The largest, oldest and best-preserved earthen city in the world. **Emin Minaret** is the largest extant old tower in Xinjiang; it is the only Islamic tower among the hundred famous towers in China.





Day 14 : Turpan > Urumqi

Meals: B - L

Hotel: ★★★★★ Hoi Tak Hotel similar

Before heading to **Urumqi**, visiting **Karez Underground Irrigation system**, which is the crystallization of ancient people's diligence and intelligence, and the life source of Turpan. At its peak, the Karez irrigation system exceeded 3,106 miles and was also referred to as 'the underground Great Wall'. Upon arrival in Urumqi, you will be visiting **Xinjiang Museum**, which is a large integrated museum and centre for the collection and study of cultural relics in Xinjiang.

Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, it is the most inland major city in the world, that being the furthest from any ocean in the Tian Shan mountains. With a population of two million gaily-dressed ethnic inhabitants, This graceful prairie city is an important stop along the ancient Silk Road, leading to the Central Asia and even as far as Europe.

Day 15 : Urumqi

Meals: B - L - D

Hotel: ★★★★★ Hoi Tak Hotel similar

After breakfast at hotel, you will experience the dreamlike beauty of the serene **Heavenly Lake** in **Tianshan**, with lakes, waterfall and alpine scenery. The crystal water, the pine trees covering the hillsides and the snow capped mountains in the background make is a spectacular sight. Ones are invariably impressed by its natural scenery. Take boats on the lake see the ever-changing silvery mountains soaring into the blue sky, your slopes highlighted with verdant pasture and flamboyant wild flowers. Enjoy the beautiful **Heavenly Mountain** Grassland view. Picnic lunch by the lake (if weather is possible) before visiting a Kazakhs Family Yurt in the surrounding grasslands and foothills of the Heavenly Mountains.

Day 16	Urumqi → Beijing	Meal : B - L	Hotel: 5★ Pullman Beijing West Wanda or similar
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Buffet breakfast at hotel, and then you will be later transferred to airport and fly to Beijing. Having lunch on board.

Welcome to **Beijing Capital International Airport**, the 2nd busiest airport in the world by passenger traffic. You will be greeted by our local tour guide at your luxurious hotel where you are at your leisure to relax and enjoy the evening. Beijing is the capital city of China, with population of 17.4 million.

You will be free to enjoy the rest of the day and have good rest before we start our busy itinerary for the rest of couple days in Beijing.

Day 17	Beijing	Meal : B L D	Hotel: 5★ Pullman Beijing West Wanda or similar
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We embark for a full day tour which begins at the **Great Wall**, is a series of stone and earthen fortifications in northern China, built originally to protect the northern borders of the Chinese Empire against intrusions by various nomadic groups. After lunch, visit the **Ming Tombs - Chang Ling**, it is a Tomb Cluster of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), with 13 emperors buried in a complex spreading some 15 square miles. Covering an area of more than 120 square kilometers, it appears extremely spectacular, and was listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2003.

Day 18	Beijing	Meal : B L D	Hotel: 5★ Pullman Beijing West Wanda or similar
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Visit at the **Tian An Men Square**, noted as the largest public square in the world with its monuments and buildings situated around the square's perimeter. Thereafter, continue on to tour **Forbidden City** is located at the exact center of Beijing, and is the world's largest palace complex, covering 720,000 square meters with 800 buildings and 9,000 rooms in total. It was the palace to 24 emperors during the Ming and Qing dynasties, and is recognized as one of the most attractive five palaces in the in 1987, the Forbidden City was nominated as World **Cultural Heritage by UNESCO**. A lunch is served with a fabulous Peking Duck Banquet. Thereafter, Visit the **Temple of Heaven** where the Emperors of Ming and Qing dynasties performed annual ceremonies of prayer to heaven for good harvest. Continue with a visit to Tong Yen Tong, to discover the traditional Chinese herb culture.

Day 19	Beijing →	Meal : B	
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After breakfast, visit **Summer Palace**, which is the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in the world, a veritable museum of classical Chinese garden architecture. In 1998, it was listed as one of the **World Heritage Sites by UNESCO**, and it declared the Summer Palace "a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design". The natural landscape of hills and open water is combined with artificial features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges to form a harmonious ensemble of outstanding aesthetic value. Viewing the beautiful Bird's Nest National Stadium and the Water Cube (are both designed for Beijing 2008





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Summer Olympics) up close. After lunch, you will be transferred to airport to catch the flight back home or begin your optional Post-Trip Extension to your next destination.

Experience the best of China with HEE Travel.

Tour Inclusions

1. Accommodations: 5-Star hotels based on double occupancy (except Dunhuang 4*, the most famous one in town)
2. Sightseeing spots specified above
3. Admissions and activities above
4. Meals: as specified above

5. Tour guides: Professional English-speaking guide
6. Tour Bus with Professional Driver
7. Travel Agency Liability Insurance during the tour
8. Government taxes & fees

Tour Exclusions

1. International airfare & Domestic airfares
2. China visa fees

3. Gratuities to guides & drivers and any expense of personal nature
4. Optional International Flight Transfer

- Tour itinerary is subject to change due to the holiday seasons, convention, weather, traffic, airline schedule change or other unforeseen circumstances. HEE Travel reserves the right to postpone, cancel any part of itinerary stated above and make special arrangement.

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