

# The Charms of Northern Xinjiang ...



.... **in Autumn** | 13 Sept – 25 Sept 2016

**The Charms of Northern Xinjiang** comes alive in autumn and lies on its diversified ethnic cultures, unique geography and topography.

If you are looking for adventure with a difference to feast your eyes on the snow-capped Russian mountain range up north in the Altay region bordering Mongolia, Kazakhstan & Russia and to the south of the Tianshan mountain to devour the picturesque of landform to wide grassland, from deserts to snow-capped mountains, from lakes to rivers, from modern city to ancient city, from birch forests to wooden houses villages etc.....all these with surprises that may unfold along less predictable journey, then, this is the place.....

*An amazing hidden paradise for all nature lovers, travellers and avid photographers*

More to discover especially in September ...The Charms **Northern Xinjiang in autumn.**



# The Charms of Northern Xinjiang in Autumn



## **Day 01 Tuesday 13Sept : KUALA LUMPUR – x BEIJING – URUMQI**

Assemble at KLIA Air China Check in Counter at 9.30pm for our flight to URUMQI via Beijing

CA 872 KUL – PEK 2355 0630 ( 13 Sept )

CA 1901 PEK - URC 0930 1340 ( 14 Sept )

## **Day 02 Wednesday 14Sept : URUMQI (MOB/L/ D)**

Upon arriving URUMQI, meet and transfer to local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we shall visit the Regional Museum including its mummies Hall.

Thereafter, a must visit to the **Erdaoqiao Bazaar**.

Erdaoqiao Bazaar also known as International Grand Bazaar, the biggest free market in the Asia region. To experience the life of the minority region, The International Grand Bazaar in Er Dao Qiao is an essential place to visit. It is a magnificent commercial architectural complex embodied with a strong flavor of Islam. It consists of a Banquet Hall, Gourmet Square, Sightseeing Tower, Open-air Stage and Islam Mosque, and encompasses a total space of 100,000 square meters. The Bazaar furnishes different kinds of goods made in Xinjiang as well as other neighboring countries, and offers all the ethnic food and souvenirs you would anticipate.

Check into our night at Urumqi Bingtuan Grand Hotel local 4\*

**DAY 03 Thursday 15 Sept : URUMQI – HEJIN COUNTY by coach ( a distance of 380 km)**

(B/L/D)

After a late breakfast at the hotel, we shall drive to Hejin County, along the way crossing Part of the Tianshan Mt. Range.

On the way, enjoy the landscape of Gobi and windmills

Overnight in Hejin County Donggui Guesthouse local 3\*



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## **DAY 04 Friday 16 SEPT HEIJING COUNTY - BAYINBULAK (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, we take about 4 hours drive to **Bayinbulak Grassland**. This is also another scenic drive with stunning views of highlands, pine trees etc. At time, it does snow in the middle of Sept, giving us an enchanting capture of the snow-fall onto the leaves of the trees and highlands..... with blue sky...you could imagine how unique and charming it can be.

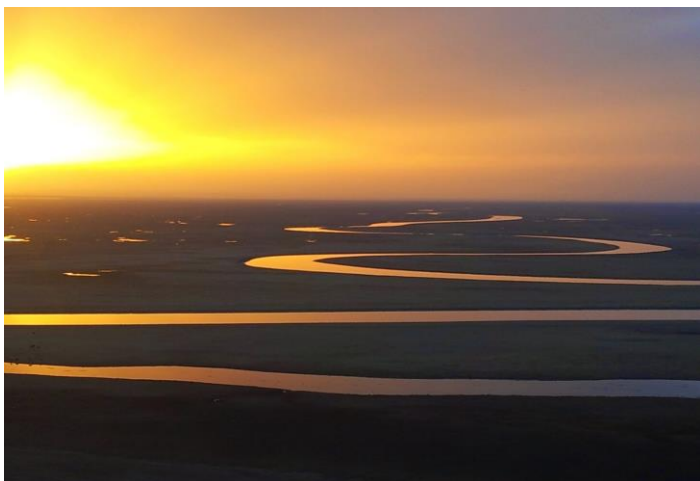
Upon reaching Bayanbulak town, we shall have an early lunch before heading to the Bayanbulak Park to take the shuttle bus into this one unique alpine prairie with an average altitude of more than 2000 meters above sea level, that is situated in the central valley among the **Tianshan Mountains**.

Inside this alpine grassland, one can see flocks of horses, herds of cows, sheep and yak leisurely graze on the green expanse.

Visit the **Swan-Lake** . Each year during early spring, swans fly here from the south and breed their young. So, hopefully, we could also managed to catch up with a few of them who might have left behind.

In the late afternoon, move on to **the 9-Streams with Eighteen Angles** ( by buggy , included ), to capture this stream over the sunset. If the weather is good, a stunning view of the setting sun has brought many photographers here.

We shall return to Bayanbulak town to overnite.



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## **Day 05 Saturday 17Sept : BAYINBULAK – NARAT PASTURE – YINING (B/L/D)**

This morning we will drive to **Narat Pasture**, one of the four biggest sub-mountain pastures in the world and has been a renowned grazing land historically, stretches out for kilometers and buries into the dense forests, dotted with the **Kazak Yurts**. Enjoy visiting one of the Kazak Yurts to taste the milk tea and to learn about the way & lives of Kazak people.

Move on the long journey to **Yining**, just on time to capture the sunset at Yili-River Bridge / River bank. Overnite in Yining.

## **DAY 06 Sunday 18Sept : YINING – HUIYUAN ANCIENT CITY – KHORGAS PASS – GUOZIGOU VALLEY – LAKE SAYRAM (B/L/D)**

Today , we shall begin our exploration of Yining city (also known as Ghulja).

Strolling the **Bazaar & Ughur Ethnic Streets**, wandering around old towns and small lanes of Ghulja which named Kazanqi, most of the houses have strong influences of Russian architectural style here.

Visit the **Huiyuan Ancient City** .

Huiyuan Ancient City is one of the famous historical cities in Xinjiang. It was the political and military center of the Qing Dynasty, from Emperor Qianlong (1711-1799) 's reign to Emperor Guangxu ( 1871-1908)'s reign. It is known for its orderly buildings and streets. There are 4 vertical and horizontal avenues connecting with the four city gates and a total of 48 lanes linking every street.

After lunch, we shall move on to Lake Sayram, en-route **visiting the Khorgas Pass** and drive through some small Kazak Nomadic Villages to enjoy the fantastic scenery of **Guozhagou ( Fruit Valley )** with its many pastures and pine trees along the way. A brief stop to capture some great photos of this Fruit Valley.

**Fruit Valley** is home to various fruits such as apple, apricot and walnut, that is how it gets its name. Besides, it also harbors a great variety of herbs and wildlife, such as hares, foxes, wolves, bears, wild boar and deers. .

Arrive **Lake Sayram** in time for the setting sun. Free at leisure to hike along the lake. Sayram, a high-altitude lake at 2,070 m above sea level, is close to the border with Kazakhstan. Kazakh pastoralists live around the lake with their sheep and horses. In the Kazakh language Sayram means 'blessing'. It is also known as Santai Haizi. It is the largest (458 km<sup>2</sup>) alpine lake in Xinjiang and also the highest. As Sayram Lake is the furthest place that the Pacific Ocean warm and wet current could reach, it is called the last tear of Pacific Ocean

Overnite in a Kazak Yurt near to the Lake for a difference experience\* . )

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## **DAY 07 Monday 19Sept : Lake Sayram – Karamay ( B/L/D)**

Wake up early in the morning to enjoy the sunrise over the Lake Sayram and have some time to capture the lake in the morning light.

"There is a touching love story about Sayram Lake. It is said that it was composed of the tears of a couple of Kazak young lovers. A beautiful girl and a young man were deeply in love. One day, a cruel devil was captivated by the girl's beauty. He captured the girl and confined her to his residence. The girl took a chance to escape, but the devil found out very soon and went after the girl. She was forced to jump into an abyss. Later, her boyfriend heard of this and he was so sad that he jumped into the abyss to be reunited with his lover. Their painful tears flooded into the abyss and formed Sayram Lake."

After a late breakfast, check out and move on to Karamay.

Passing thru' the China's second **largest Gurbantunggut Desert** (Gurdan Tunggut) with some photo-stops on the Oil Fields plus some cotton farms wherever possible.

Arrive **Karamay** in the late afternoon, hopefully, in time to watch the setting sun over the Oil field.

Dinner and a night city tour of Karamay. Overnite @ Karamay City.

Karamay (Kelamayi) is a prefecture-level city in the north of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The name of the city comes from the Uyghur language which means "Black Oil", referring to the oil fields near the city. Karamay, is sitting on a fifth of the China's oil reserves.



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## **DAY 08 Tuesday 20Sept : Karamay – Poplar Valley ( 30km ) – Baihaba Village (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, drive 30km north of Karamay to visit the **Poplar Valley**, enjoy a photo session here.

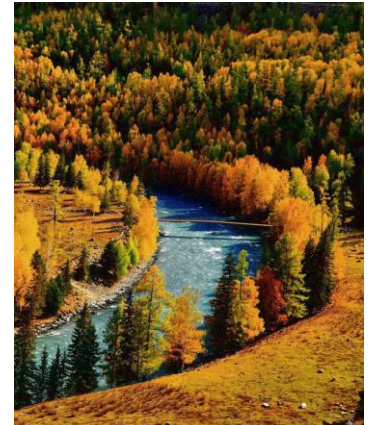
Continue along the way, drive pass the hundred kilometers spread of oil derricks and nodding donkeys. Move on to **Kanas Lake via Burqin County**, a distance of 450km.

**At Jiadengyu take local shuttle bus into Kanas Lake No 1 Station, there again change to a special bus drive to Baihaba Village**, a beautiful village sits near to the border between China & Kazakhstan. Walk around the village until sunset time.

Overnite @ Baihaba Village Traffic Wooden House ( 2\* limited facilities )



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## **DAY 09 Wednesday 21 Sept : Baihaba Village – Kanas – Hemu Village (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, we will take the local green bus entering into Kanas National Geo-Park. Enjoy some good time photography at Moon Bay / Immortal Bay / Sleeping Dragon Bay / Watch Tower.

Kanas, in Mogolian, means “beautiful, rich and mysterious”. Nestled in the deep forests and mountains of Altay, the lake is 1,374 meters above sea level with the deepest point of 188.5 meters. In autumn, it presents a picturesque landscape of forests in a riot of colors with gold, red, blue and green, which excites your sights and senses.

Afternoon, we will travel to Hemu Village by green bus, arrive there just on time for the sunset over the Village.

Overnite in HEMU TAOYUAN WOODEN HOUSE ( 2\* limited facilities but clean and nice )





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## **Day 10, Thursday, 22Sep HEMU VILLAGE – BUERQIN – MUTI-COLOUR Beach (B/L/D)**

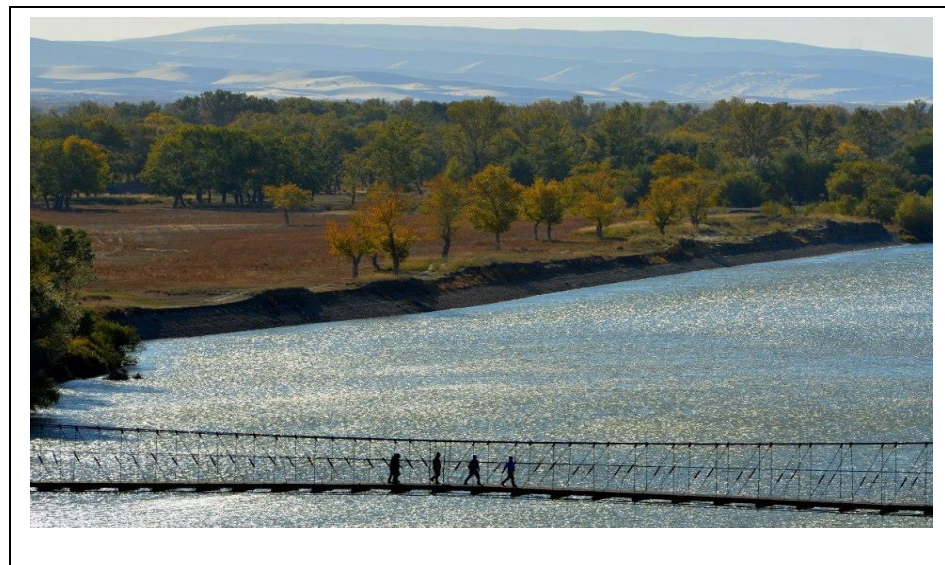
Sunrise @ Hemu Village.

Wonder around the Hemu village – Birch Forest, grassland and the wooden bridge over the river scenic area.

After lunch, drive from Hemu Village to Buerqin County. Before we reach this town, we will visit the WUCAITAN – “multi-coloured beach” as it is formed with many different colors and located on the North side of IRTYSH River while the south side is luxuriantly trees, rolling forest, the distant meandering hills and panoramic view of the desert scenery.

At night we can walk around the famous “ Night Bazaar” – beach food market for tasting roasted cold water fish. ( on your own account).

Overnight in Buerqin Friendship Peak Grand Hotel Star Building ( local 4\* )





**Day 11 Thursday 23Sept : BUERQIN – Koktokay Town ( B/L/D)**

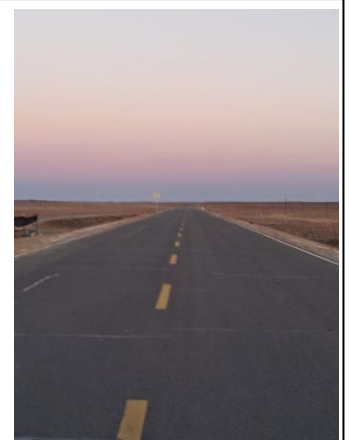
Depart for Koktokay Town, driving across many valleys and the **GOBI DESERT** towards FUYUN.

Upon arriving near to Koktokay Town, we will explore some villagers nearby, off the beaten track to capture some of these villages Birch Trees in autumn ., a small village just outside of Koktokay town.

Today we shall spend our day visiting Koktokay National Park

- (i) Cocoa Sullivan Lake
- (ii) Irtysh Grand Canyon / Shenzhong Mt / Golden Triangle Tourism Spot /etc
- (iii) White Birch Woods / Shimen /Shui Mo Gou
- (iv) L Laymu Lake
- (v) Kalaxianger Earthquake Fault Zone / Mine No 3
- (VI) Sunset @ Irtysh River

Overnite in Fuyun Yunde Grand Hotel ( local 4\* )



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## **Day 12 24Sept : FUYUN - Multicolor Hill Yarden Landform - Urumqi ( B/L/D)**

Today will be a long drive back to Urumqi .

Along the way, we will pass by and photo-stop along the Gurbantuggal Desert / Kalamah Nature Reserve.

Spend some time visiting the remarkable Multicolor hills Yarden Landform Wucaicheng also known as **the Multi-Coloured Land**. This land presents the visitor with an artist's composition of reds, yellows, greens, grays, blacks and whites. The multi-colored Land was one of the main locations for the Oscar Winning Best Foreign language film "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon".

Arrive Urumqi to check into hotel after dinner. And if time permit, visit the Erdaoqiao Bazaar by the night.

Overnite @ URUMQI ( near to the Bazaar )



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## **Day 13 25Sept : URUMQI – KUALA LUMPUR (B/MOB)**

After breakfast, transfer to airport for our departure flight.

### **Flight Details : Air China CA**

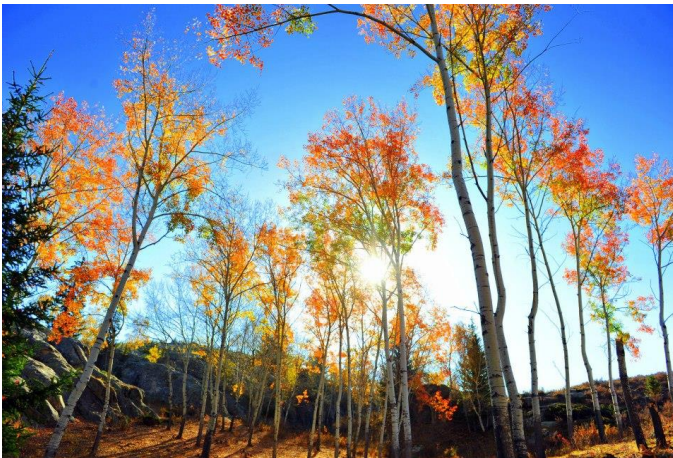
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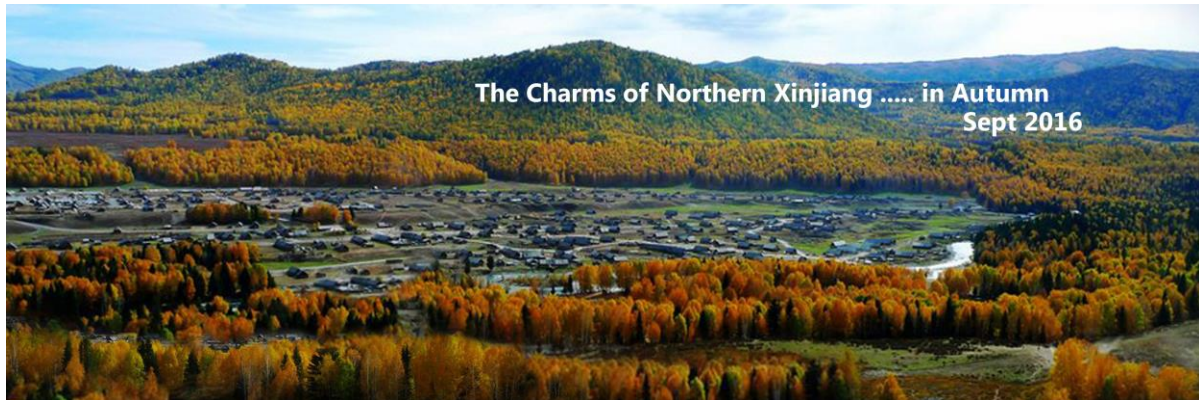
The above flight schedules are for references only and are subjected to confirmation.



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Map-not-scale





<b>COSTING</b> : Min Group size : 16 /Max 24 only		MYR per person
a) Ground Arrangement on Twin Sharing		7,300.00 **
b) International & Domestic Air tickets		3,593.90*
c) Single Supp MYR 1900.00		
d) China Visa Single Fee @MYR 120.00		
e) Travel Insurance @MYR 78.00		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>*All air ticket fare / taxes / surcharges are subjected to change and will be charged accordingly ( range can be from MYR 3,393.90 to 3,963.90 depending on availability at the time of your booking ) .</b></li> <li>● <b>** The above ground arrangement rate is based on the current exchange rate of TT Rate of CNY1.00=0.62MYR and may be subjected to change and will be re- calculated accordingly on the current rate at the time of full payment. If our Ringgit strengthen, we will reduce the amount accordingly too based on TT rate or v.v.</b></li> </ul>		

### **Ground Arrangement Costing**

#### **Inclusive :**

- a) 11 nights accommodation in good condition local tourist hotel.
- b) Meals as specified in the Itinerary, including specialties in every different place of visiting.

- c) All Entrance fees and ground arrangement as per itinerary
- d) An Experienced “off of the beaten track “ English speaking local guide.
- e) Tipping to Guide & Driver
- f) Daily two (2) bottles of Drinking water per person during the trip.
- g) **Golden season** ( Most tourist spots in Northern Xinjiang open for tourists for 5 months only in a year due to the weather and The Charms of Northern Xinjiang comes alive each year from September to the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Oct. By 15Oct, many of the tourist spots will be closed until next April, as such all the local tourist hotels rates/amenities/entrance fees are on a highest rate in the chart during this golden season)

Nevertheless, this place is a remarkable beautiful on its’ own and it is always worthwhile visiting during this golden season. We have **crafted our flow of Itinerary very carefully to ensure that we can be at the right place at the right time** for example, visiting the 9-Stream at Bayinbulak during sunset time to capture the stunning view of sunset over the river and grassland, over nite in Hemu Village to capture the misty view during sun rise or sunset, be at the Mutlicolor Bay in the evening and sunsetting charming view, be at Koktokay in the later part of trip towards later of September for their amazing autumn leaves colour, overnite near to Lake Sayram for the opportunities to watch sunset and sunrise over this beautiful lake and enjoy the tranquility of the surrounding without rushing to another place.....and etc. and etc. Of course, all these will depend on good weather and local conditions.

### **Excluded :**

- a) Potter or Hotel Bell Boy’s fee ( if applicable)
  - b) Mentioned optional costs in the Itinerary, the entrance fee to Baihaba Village ( which is a conditional visit, subject to permit approval )
  - c) Any other items not mentioned above and in the Itinerary
- 

### **Note :**

- (1) *Pictures used in this promotion material are from the library file and actual sight could be different as nature is subjected to local condition & weather at the point of visit and Itinerary may be subjected to change according to local conditions.*
- (2) As we are travelling across a very wide area, the weather does vary from 5C to 18C.
- (3) High Altitude: All of the places of visit are all less than 3000m above sea-level and it is very unlikely be subjected to high altitude sickness. However, precautions should be taken to drink lot of water during the trip to avoid dehydration.

# The Charms of Northern Xinjiang



..... **in Autumn** | 13 Sept – 25 Sept 2016

**\*a scenic photography and nature lover tour\***

## **BOOKING FEE**

(A) Deposit & air ticket payment @ MYR 5,000.00 per person upon booking

(B) Final Payment by end of July

**Not too big a group : max. tour members up to 24 ONLY. : Last 4 seats left only**  
**(updated 31/5/2016)**

Contact : [laura@elsoltravel.com](mailto:laura@elsoltravel.com) to make your booking today 😊



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