

# XINJIANG NORTH-SOUTH CROSSING

8  
Days

## Wusun Ancient Trail 2025 Horseback Riding & Photography Tour

- ▶ Immerse in Xinjiang's rich history and culture
- ▶ Cross the Tianshan Mountains via the ancient Wusun trail on horseback
- ▶ Experience nomadic life in a deeply immersive way
- ▶ Enjoy luxury outdoor camping
- ▶ Explore the grassland on foot
- ▶ Admire the scenic northern slopes of the Tianshan Mountains

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Booking & Enquiries

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Paradise Lake

## About the Wusun Ancient Trail

The Wusun Ancient Trail was a major transport artery in the Western Han period, connecting Wusun Kingdom in the north to the state of Guishuang in the south. It served as a strategic corridor through the Tianshan Mountains linking north and south. From the Han and Tang dynasties to the Qing dynasty and Republican era, there have been historical records of people traveling this route. Even during the chaotic rebellions of the Qing, the government designated this area as a passageway. Remnants of past civilizations such as fortress ruins, beacon towers, and ancient military posts can still be found along the trail. For example, near the mouth of the river valley at the exit of the Bohu-Kuqa trail, there remains a mural with inscriptions from the Eastern Han period (around 158 AD) commemorating General Ban Chao's conquest. Along with the site of the "Governor's Pavilion" and carved Han characters, these form valuable historical and archaeological relics.

Together with the ancient trails of Yecheng and the Tiemen-guan-Wolf Tower Route, the Wusun Trail is recognized as one of the "Three Classic Expedition Routes" for outdoor exploration in Xinjiang. Among the three, the Wusun Trail is

considered the most breathtaking in terms of landscape.

"Yecheng is magnificent, with towering cliffs and imposing peaks.

Wusun is delicate and warm, full of subtle beauty.

Wolf Tower is rugged and wild, yet life thrives amid the crags."

The Wusun Trail is often hailed as the most beautiful ancient trail in China—its reputation well deserved. Among all, the segment praised as the most enchanting is the stretch often referred to as the "Heavenly Lake," a glacial lake with an elevation of 3,000 meters and a surface area of over 40 square kilometers. It lies beneath the towering peaks of the Tianshan Mountains in Aksu Prefecture, near the village of Awat.

The trail also runs alongside the upper reaches of the Kekesu River, with dramatic gorges cutting through the land for hundreds of kilometers, showcasing iconic landscapes of the western slopes of the Tianshan Mountains.

Eastern Han General  
Liu Pingguo StatueWusun Trail Mid-Valley  
Grassland Views



Day	Itinerary	Break-fast	Lunch	Dinner	Accommodation
1	Departure City ~ Yining City (Liuxing Street, Kazanqi Folk Culture Street)	-	Local Flavor	Local Flavor	Weiren Hotel
2	Yining ~ Qiongkushi Terrace 2000m ~ Camp D1 (2800m)	Local Flavor	Local Flavor	Local Flavor	Weiren Hotel
3	Camp D1 ~ Qiongdas Pass 3730m ~ Camp D2 (3300m)	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Wilderness Camp
4	Camp D2 ~ Kekesu River ~ Yemosi ~ Tianchi Valley River Crossing → Camp D3 Forestry Station (2720m)	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Wilderness Camp
5	Camp D3 ~ Grassland Station ~ Camp D4 Tianchi (3050m)	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Wilderness Camp
6	Camp D4 ~ Akebula Qiongdas Pass (3860m) ~ Camp D5 Bozokurangi Valley (2800m)	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Wilderness Camp
7	Camp D5 ~ Bozokurangi Gorge Mouth (2180m) ~ Heiying Village (1930m) ~ Kuqa	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Camp Meal	Designated Hotel in Kuqa
8	Kuqa ~ Warm House (Airport Transfer)	Local Flavor	-	-	Have a pleasant journey

## Personal Gear Checklist

### (1) Clothing & Apparel



Windproof & waterproof outerwear (high performance recommended) | Fleece jacket & pants | Quick-dry clothing | Down jacket | Moisture-wicking base layers | Outdoor socks with sweat-wicking properties



Hiking boots (waterproof, mid or high cut; inspect soles and upper for damage) | Water shoes (for river crossing or sandy terrain)



Sun hat | Warm hat (for wind protection & insulation) | Two pairs of gloves (1 thin, 1 thick) | Rain poncho | Outdoor sunglasses

### (2) Supporting Equipment

Rain poncho | Trekking poles | Gaiters | Headlamp & spare batteries | 30L personal daypack (to carry daily hiking essentials like clothing, food, water, etc.) | All other gear will be provided and shared 2 persons per group by the club.

### (3) Other Items

ID card | Sunscreen | Lip balm | Personal medication

### Tour Fee Details

#### Included in Price

Meals: 2 city meals, 6 outdoor campsite dinners, daily hiking lunch packs, all breakfasts  
Transportation: Transport from Yining ~ Tiemu'erqitai-Heiyingshan ~ Kuqa, including airport transfers.

Main Equipment: Tents, sleeping mats, dining tents, dining tables, and chairs.

Horses: Each participant is assigned 1 horse (horse guide allocation depends on group size).

Support Team: 4 leaders, 2 support staff, 2 pack horses, 1 horse handler per person (adjusted according to group size).

Accommodation: 1 night in Yining hotel, 1 night in Kuqa hotel, 5 nights at outdoor campsites.

Entry Fee: Environmental protection fee for Wusun route.

Insurance: 500,000 RMB travel accident insurance.

Hotel Meals: Includes hotel breakfast. (Special note: Hotels in Tiemu'erqitai / Heiyingshan may not provide meals or breakfast. Please plan accordingly.)

Special Note: The itinerary includes aerial drone photography. (Important: In case of extreme weather affecting flights, no refund will be issued. Thank you for understanding.)

#### Not Included

Round-trip airfare or high-speed rail to/from Xinjiang

Each participant will  
receive a free Cotton  
Sleeping Bag

#### 30-person group

**RMB 13,351**  
per person

#### 20-person group

**RMB 14,458**  
per person

#### 10-person group

**RMB 16,557**  
per person





## Day 1

Depart ➤ Urumqi ~ Yining

Upon arrival in Yining, feel free to explore and check in at Kazanjie Folk Culture Street and Liuxing Street.



Kazanjie Folk Culture Street

## Day 2 Hiking: 15km / approx. 6 hrs

Yining ~ Khunjerab Village (2000m) ~  
Camp D1 (2800m)

Khunjerab is a scenic Yili village surrounded by snowy peaks and grasslands, known for nomadic culture and as the Wusun Trail starting point.

Depart at 8:00 AM by private car. Hike ~15km and camp based on conditions.



Qionghushital

## Day 3 Hiking: 20km / approx. 9 hrs

Camp D1 ~ Khunjerab Pass (3730m) ~  
Camp D2 (3300m)

Today's trek is about 20km, taking around 9 hours. The route passes through grasslands, wilderness, and snowy scenery, ascending rocky trails layer by layer. At the Qiong Daban Pass, panoramic views unfold. Descend to the campsite takes about 1 more hour.



Qiong Daban Summit

## Day 4 Hiking: 25km / approx. 7 hrs

Camp D2 ~ Koksus River ~ Tianshan Gorge ~  
Camp D3 (2720m)

Trek along rivers and forests, through deep valleys and lush woods. Cross the turquoise Koksus River to reach Camp D3.



Koksus River




**Day 5** Hiking: 15km / approx. 8 hrs

**Camp D3 ~ Grassland Station ~  
Paradise Lake Camp (3050m)**

Arrive at Paradise Lake by 5PM after a 15km hike. This is the most scenic campsite along the route – perfect for rest and photo ops. Prepare for the toughest pass the next day.



Paradise Lake

**Day 6** Hiking: 15km / approx. 8 hrs

**Camp D4 ~ Akbulak Pass (3860m) ~  
Bogda River Valley Camp (2800m)**

Akbulak Pass is the highest and most challenging part of the trail, often snowy even in summer. After crossing, descend to the river valley and camp.



Akbulak Pass

**Day 7** Hiking: 28km / approx. 9 hrs

**Camp D5 ~ Bogda Valley Exit (2180m) ~  
Heiying Village (1930m) ~ Kuqa**

Long river-crossing day (30–50 times). Start at 9AM, reach the exit by 5–6PM. Change into water shoes often. Take private car to Kuqa for overnight stay.



Bozikirge Valley Entrance

**Day 8**

**Kuqa ~ Urumqi ➔ Return Home**

End of Wusun Trail trek. Guide will arrange airport transfer based on your flight.

