




Xinjiang Population 25.9 Million

	2020 Millions	2020 %	1949 %
Uyghur (Muslim)	11.6	45% ←	85%
Other ethnic minorities (mostly Kazakh and Hui)	3.3	13%	7%
Han Chinese	11.0	42% ←	8%
Total	25.9	100%	100%



Xinjiang Land Area

- Mostly mountains or desert. →
- Under 10% fit for human habitation.
- 643,000 sq miles.
 - 10 x Florida. 17% of China.
- Largest Chinese administrative division. Bigger than any province.
- Highest elevation: 28,251 ft. Mt K2.
 - 2nd-highest mountain in world.



Xinjiang borders on 8 countries

*1/6 of China's total land area.
1/4 of border length.*

Mongolia
Russia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan
Afghanistan
Pakistan
India

Major religions:

- Muslim (Uyghur and Hui Chinese minority) 58%
- Others mostly Tao, Confucianism, Buddhism 42%

Xinjiang Time:

- Officially: UTC+8 – China Standard Time (same for whole of China)
- Uyghurs use: UTC + 6 – Urumqi time

Xinjiang newspapers

- 98, in 44 languages

Xinjiang History 1

Since 200 BC: Ruled by China (mostly).

9th & 10th c: Invaded by Turkic Muslims (Uyghurs), who mixed with the Chinese.

10th-20th c: China regains control.
18th c renamed 新疆 = Xin Jiang = New Territory

1912: Imperial China fell. Uyghur separatist movement began.

1933: Separatists declared republic of East Turkestan. 

1933-1944: China in civil war. Russia moved in.

1944-1949: East Turkestan Republic supported by Russia.

1949: Communist China control.

1955: China agreed to some amount of autonomy. "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region".

Silk Road: Wagons carried Chinese goods across Xinjiang to Middle East and Europe, 200 BC to 900 AD.



Xinjiang Economy - 1



1. Agriculture
2. Energy
3. Some manufacturing

1. Agriculture: 20% of GDP.

- Food: sugar beets, apples, pears, seedless grapes, and melons.
- Other crops: China's largest source of cotton, lavender, and hops.
- Livestock: Major sheep farming areas and fine-wool production.

Xinjiang's Economy - 2

2. Energy resources: 60% of economy

- Largest reserves of oil, natural gas and coal in all of China.
- 40% of China's coal reserves
- 20% of China's oil.
- China's #1 natural gas producer.
- Hydroelectric and wind-power.
- Other minerals: 130 kinds.

3. Manufacturing Exports:

- Garments, shoes and textiles.
- Markets: mostly nearby countries.

A combination of economic and ethnic isolation of the Uyghurs has caused great resentment toward the Chinese.



Xinjiang Separatism - 1

- Active since 1920s.
- Uyghurs feel marginalized economically and culturally.
- Fueled by global Muslim extremism.
- Per capita GDP (2022):



Xinjiang as a whole: **US\$9,000.**
Southern Xinjiang (Uyghur area): **Half that.**

Force may solve some political problems. But not economic problems.

Xinjiang Separatism - 2

- Dozens of Uyghur militant attacks 1990 to present.
- Against Han Chinese and police.
- Thousands killed.
- Publicity is suppressed.
- Slowed starting in 2016 – greater Chinese controls instituted.
- **Much information here:**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang_conflict

Xinjiang Internment Camps

PRC says they are "Vocational Education and Training Centers".
Since 2017. Number of inmates:
Estimates range from 1 to 3 million.
Plus 500,000 minors in "special boarding schools".

Criticized by many countries and human rights groups for alleged human rights abuses, mistreatment, rape, and torture.



Uyghur detainees in a "re-education camp"

MPs to debate whether China's treatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang is genocide
April 15, 2021
Independent - UK



Uighurs: Western countries sanction China over rights abuses
BBC March 22, 2021



Meanwhile, Xinhua (China-Communist Party News Service) website says (August 2023):

"The Xinjiang people now live happy lives and enjoy stability, security and progress, epitomizing the successful human rights protection and development in China."

<https://english.news.cn/20220524/b700a6e612374007b9f11419376aa124/c.html>

Urumqi (Chinese Name: Wu-Lu-Mu-Chi)
Capital: Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region
Altitude: 2,600 ft. Size: 4,243 sq miles.
3.5 million people.



Guinness: Most remote city from the sea in the world. 1,600 miles from any coast.

Grand Bazaar Urumqi



Grand Bazaar Urumqi



Grand Bazaar Urumqi



Grand Bazaar Urumqi



Hongshan Park Buddhist Temple Urumqi



Hong Shan Park Music and Dancing for Fun





Night Market
Urumqi



Xinjiang is famous for its grapes.
Night market – Urumqi



Xinjiang is also famous for its
many varieties of raisins and dates



Renmin Park
Urumqi

Renmin Park = People's Park



Renmin Park
Urumqi

- Notice:
1. Men
2. No jokers
3. No cards



Rou Jiemo = Chinese Hamburger
Uyghur version made with
chunks of lamb (not ground).

We just "blind picked" a lunch place.
Turned out to be very good.



Fried Rice with Egg



Urumqi – Uyghur people dancing in a park on a warm summer evening



Chicken with chilies



Grilled Lamb Skewers

Seasoned with salt, black pepper, chili powder, and cumin.



Cooked Lettuce With Black Fungus*

***Mushroom that grows on trees. AKA "Wood Ear" or "Cloud Ear" or "Jew's Ear".**



Lake Tianchi

URUMQI

East of Urumqi to Turpan

Urumqi to Turpan 120 mi

- Bezeklik Caves
- Gaochang Ruins
- Grape Valley
- Flaming Mountains
- Jiaohe Ruins
- Emin Minaret

TURPAN



**Drive to Lake Tianchi
Altitude 6,300 feet**



**Lake Tianchi (Heavenly Lake)
Altitude 6,300 feet
60 miles east of Urumqi**



Lake Tianchi (Heavenly Lake)

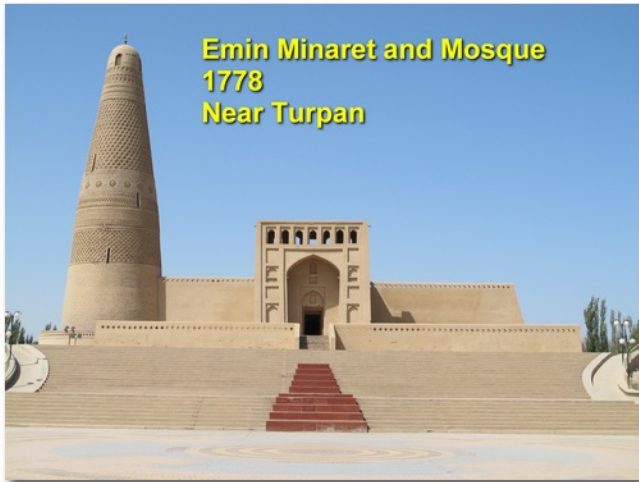
Lake Tianchi (Heavenly Lake)



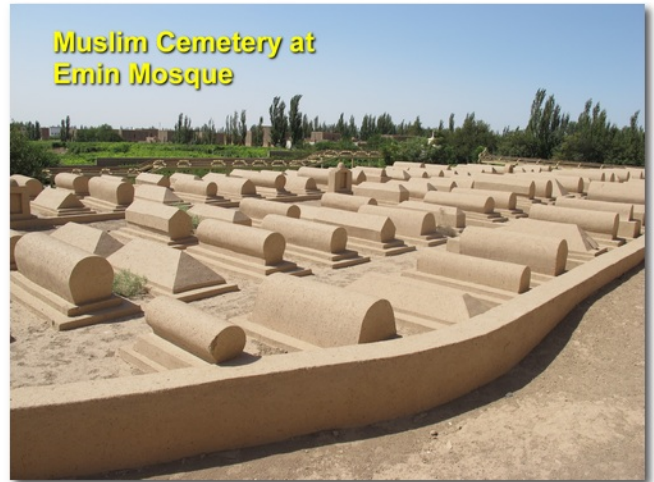
Xinjiang
Drive to Turpan



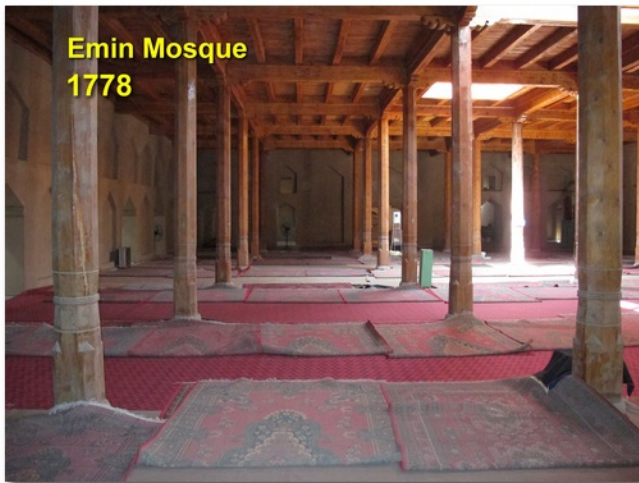
Emin Minaret and Mosque
1778
Near Turpan



Muslim Cemetery at
Emin Mosque



Emin Mosque
1778



Lunch Under Grape Vines
Near Emin Mosque

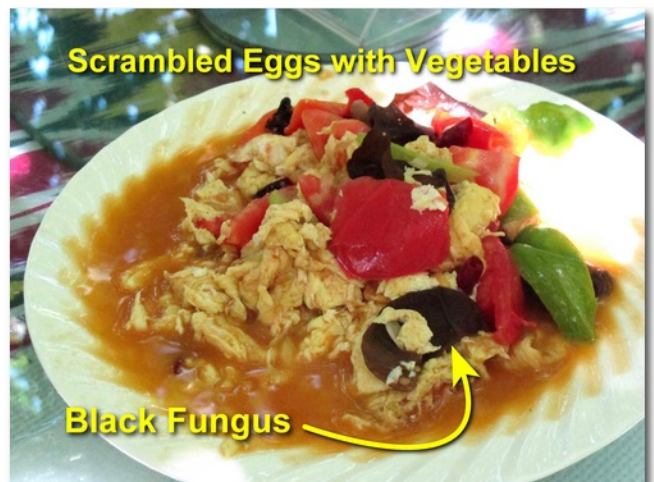


Lamb with Scented Rice*

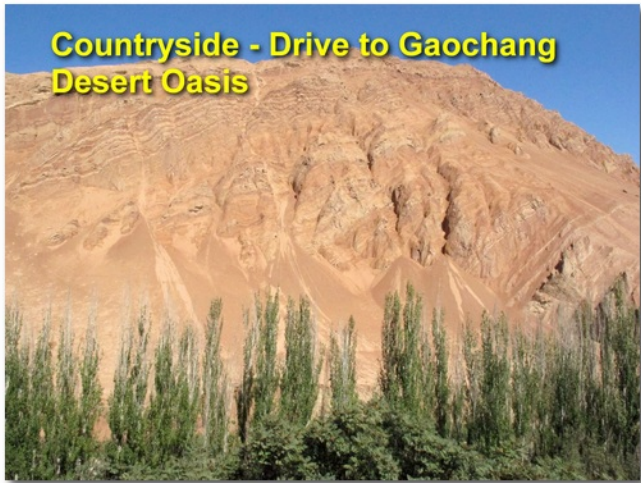


*Naturally scented:
Jasmine or Basmati.

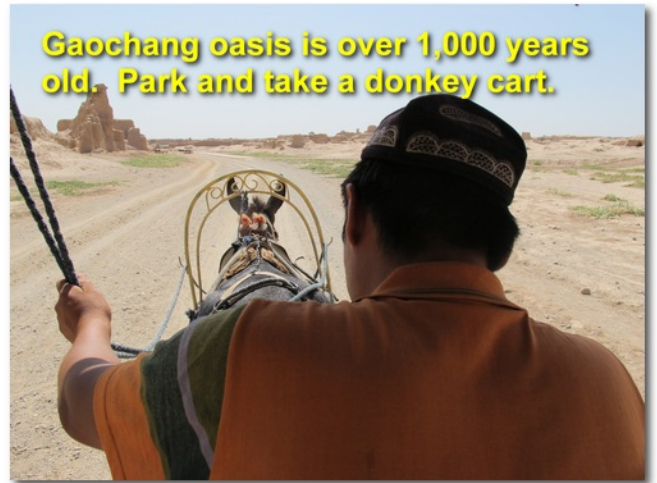
Scrambled Eggs with Vegetables



Black Fungus



Countryside - Drive to Gaochang Desert Oasis



Gaochang oasis is over 1,000 years old. Park and take a donkey cart.



**Gaochang Ruins
Uygur city-state
9th to 13th centuries**

UNESCO World Heritage Site



**Gaochang Ruins
Mongols conquered
and destroyed the
kingdom in 13th c**



Gaochang - Monastery

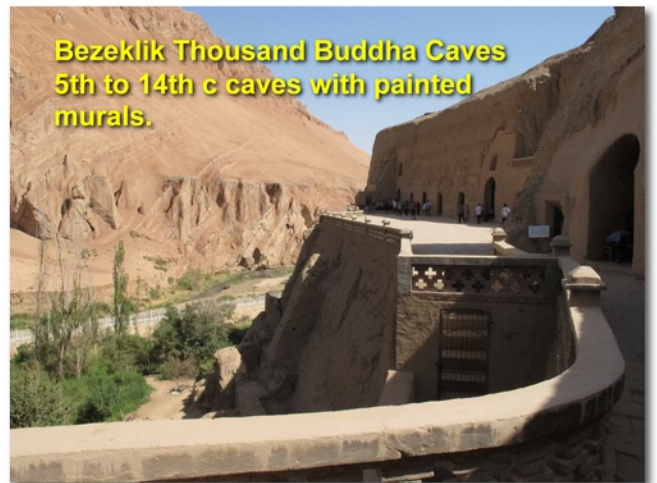


**Flaming Mountains
Near Turpan**

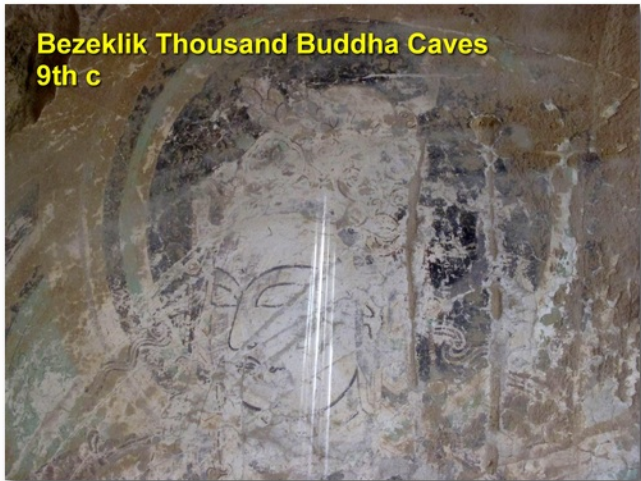
**Red Sandstone
Iron Oxide**



**Flaming Mountains
Near Turpan**



**Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves
5th to 14th c caves with painted
murals.**



Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves
9th c



Oil and Gas Are 60% of Xinjiang's economy.
Pipeline to Shanghai.

Energy Reserves in Xinjiang

Fossil (Carbon) Energy Reserves	% of China's	Xinjiang's Rank in China
Coal 2,190 bn tons	38%	1st
Oil 23.4 bn tons	22%	1st
Gas 13,000 bn cu mt	23%	1st

Renewable Energy: Xinjiang's Rank in China

Hydroelectric Power	4th
Wind Power	2nd
Solar Power	2nd



Fresh Hami Melon Juice

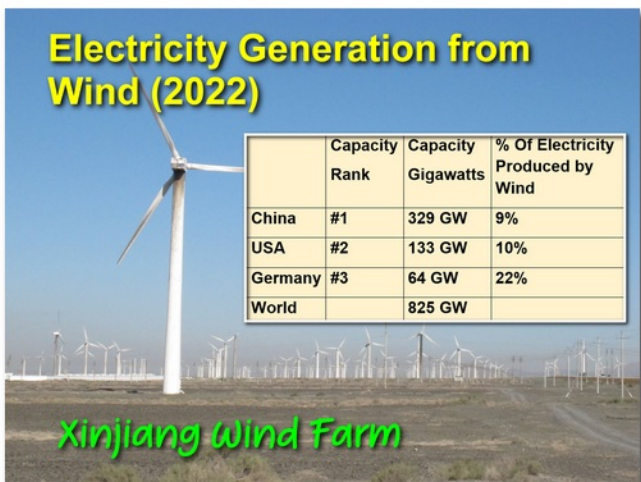
Unique to Xinjiang



Spinach and gluten noodles with chillies



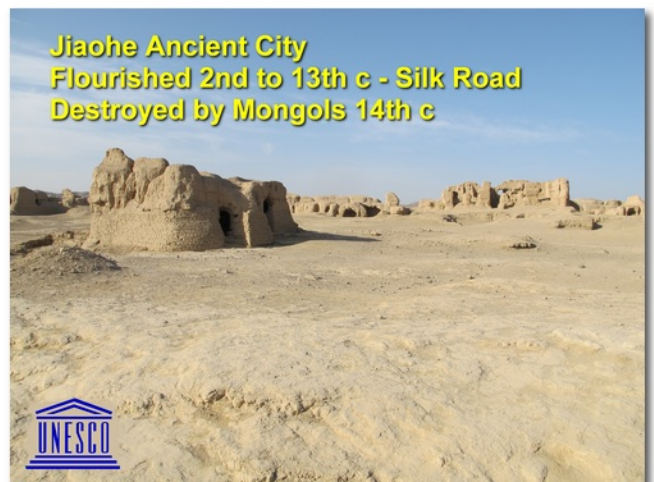
Do-it-Yourself Yak Meat Dumplings



Electricity Generation from Wind (2022)

	Capacity Rank	Capacity Gigawatts	% Of Electricity Produced by Wind
China	#1	329 GW	9%
USA	#2	133 GW	10%
Germany	#3	64 GW	22%
World		825 GW	

Xinjiang Wind Farm



Jiaohe Ancient City Flourished 2nd to 13th c - Silk Road
Destroyed by Mongols 14th c



**Jiaohe Ancient City - 2nd to 13th c.
Important Silk Road trading city.**



**People were Caucasian race.
Conquered by Han Chinese.
Mongols destroyed Jiaohe in 14th c.**

**Temple at
Jiaohe Ancient
City**



**Grape vineyard
Turpan
Famous for raisins**



Famous Turpan raisins



**Lamb with Raisins
On Scented Rice
(aka Fragrant Rice)**



Sanzi - Uyghur Fried Dough Twists





Kashgar Market

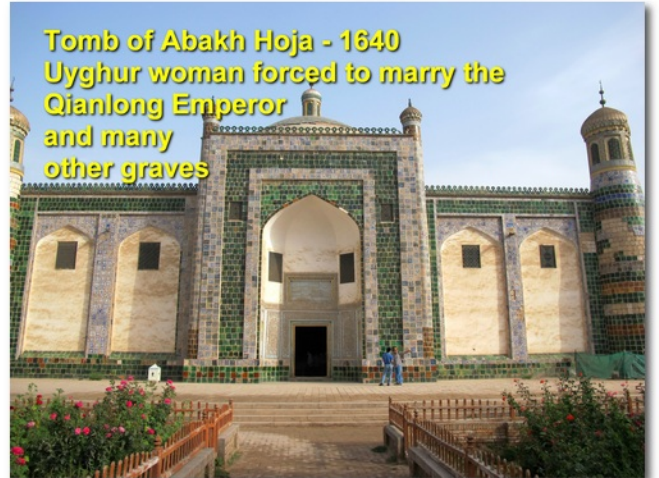


Uygur Lamb Baked Buns - Samsa

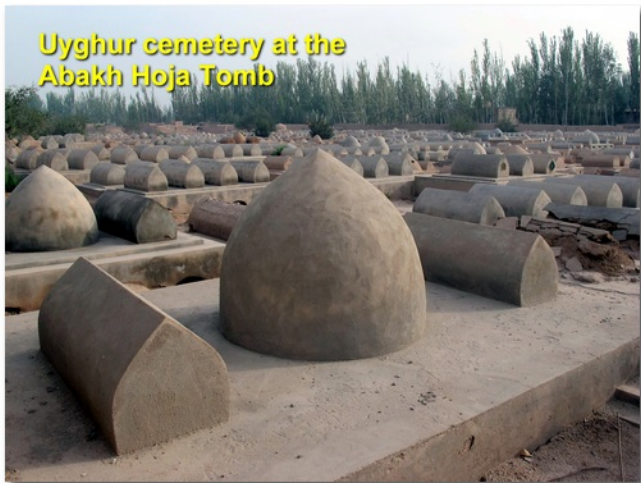
**Same word root as samosas — but... Samosas are deep fried; these are baked.*



Uygur flat-bread Nanbing



Tomb of Abakh Hoja - 1640
Uygur woman forced to marry the Qianlong Emperor and many other graves



Uygur cemetery at the Abakh Hoja Tomb



Market in Kashgar



Market in Kashgar

Yellow carrots are sweeter.



Hami Melons



Costco - Sept 2023



This lady invited us in to look at her home



Uyghur home - Bed



Uyghur home



Uyghur home - Kashgar



Uyghur dresses

Fingertips dyed in henna. Uyghur cosmetic



Lamb Dumplings

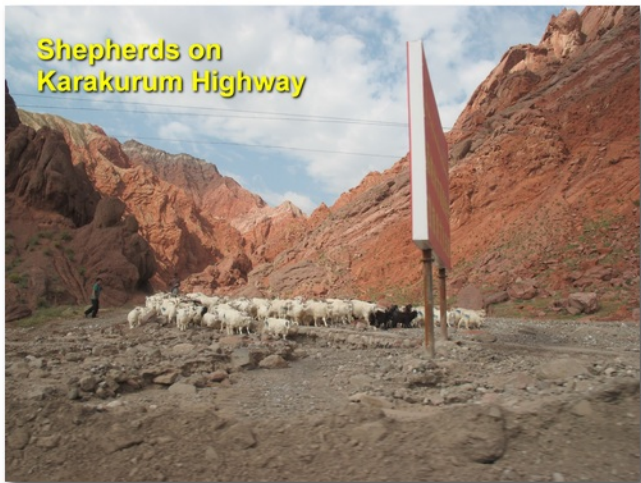


Cumin Lamb Buns



Id Kah Mosque - 1442
Largest mosque in China
Up to 20,000 worshippers



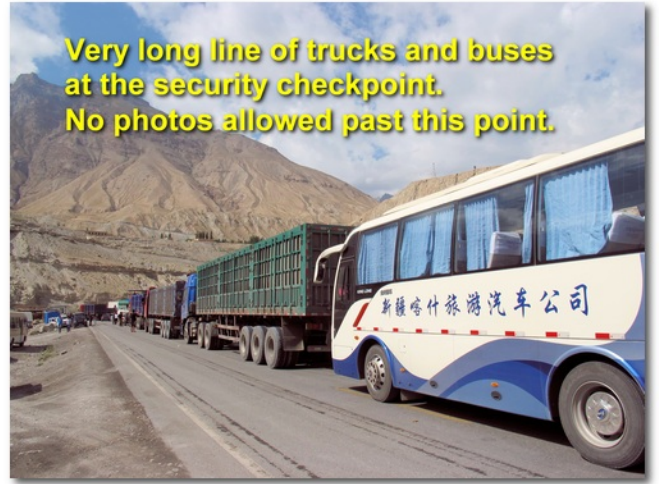


20 miles from Tajikstan border.
80 miles to Afghanistan.

Military
Bunkers



Very long line of trucks and buses
at the security checkpoint.
No photos allowed past this point.



Now Past the Security Checkpoint
Mt Muztagata - 25,000 feet



First ascent of the peak was in 1959

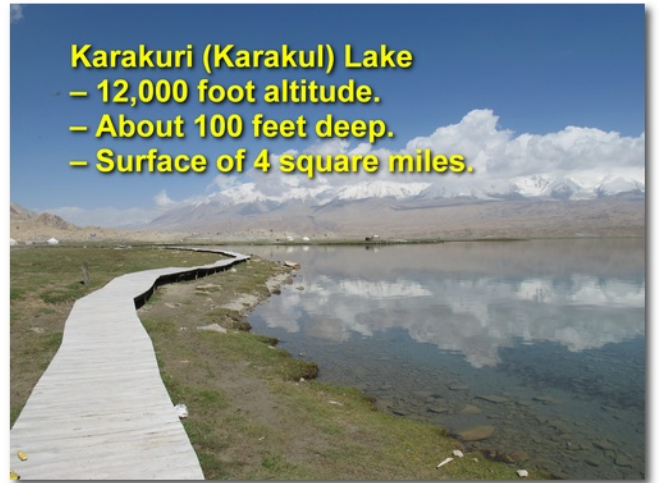
Tajik Village at Karakuri Lake
12,000 feet above sea level



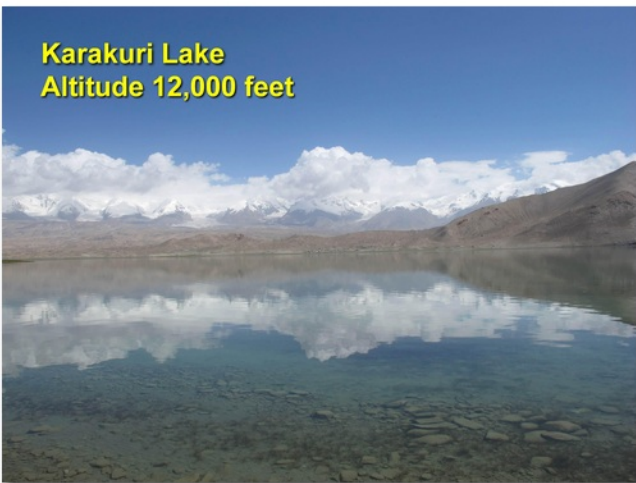
Tajik Village at Karakuri Lake
Yurts (nomadic tents)



Karakuri (Karakul) Lake
- 12,000 foot altitude.
- About 100 feet deep.
- Surface of 4 square miles.



Karakuri Lake
Altitude 12,000 feet



Karakuri Lake
Tajik ethnic people





Ethnic Tajik Man at Karakul Lake



The highland anoxia request goes to slowly you (anoxia = oxygen deficiency)



Return trip is equally beautiful and new because you face the opposite direction.



We saw quite a few of these



Driving back to Kashgar



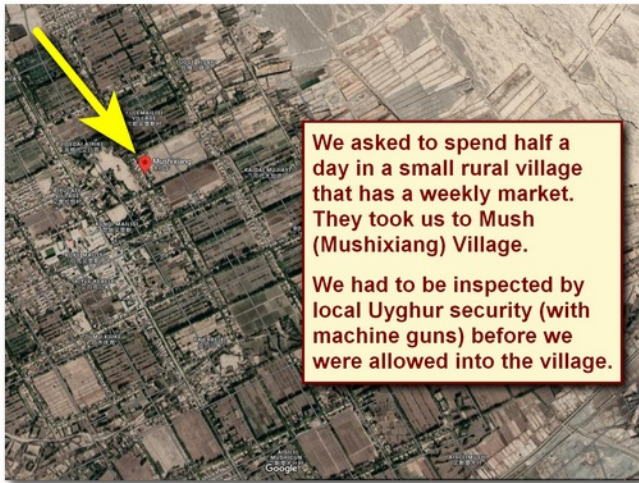
Supermarket



Driving back to Kashgar



Driving back to Kashgar







Dunhuang

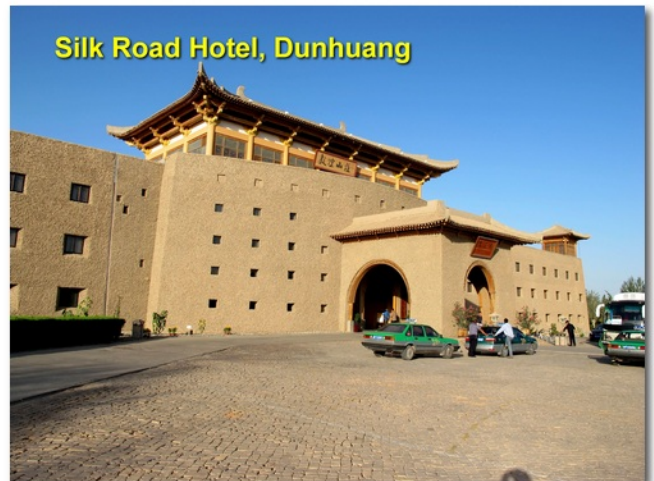
- City in Gansu Province.
- Pop. 190,000.
- Elevation 3,700 feet.
- Size: 12,000 sq miles!
- On south edge of Gobi Desert.
- Major stop on ancient Silk Road.
- Before shipping it was gateway to China from the West.
- By 200 AD pop. was 76,000.

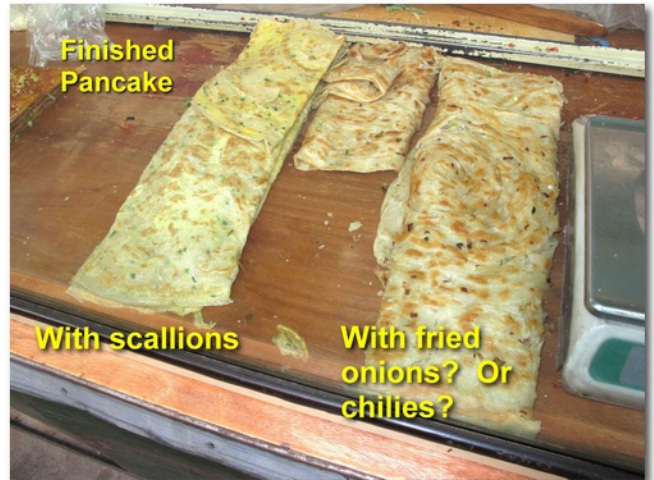
Today most residents are Han Chinese.

Today Dunhuang is best known for:

Mogao Caves:
492 Buddhist Caves.
366 - 1400s AD

Original part of Great Wall of China:
200 AD.





Wonton soup with black fungus



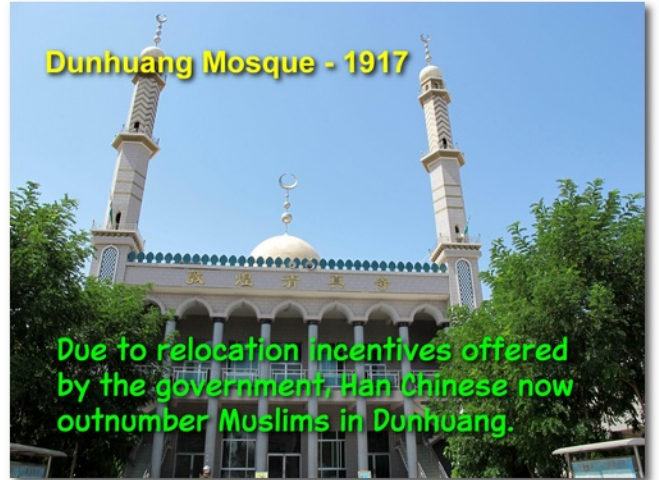
Soup hot pots



Dunhuang Night Market
Fried bread



Dunhuang Mosque - 1917



Due to relocation incentives offered by the government Han Chinese now outnumber Muslims in Dunhuang.

Dunhuang Museum
Regional history and archaeology



Dunhuang Museum

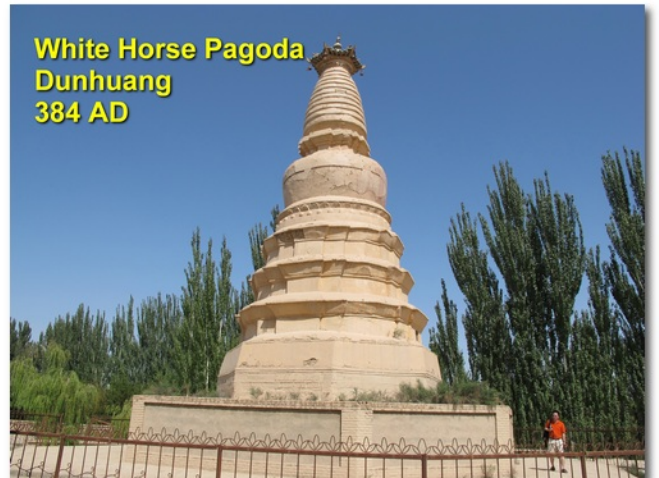


Dunhuang Museum



Internet Photo

White Horse Pagoda
Dunhuang
384 AD



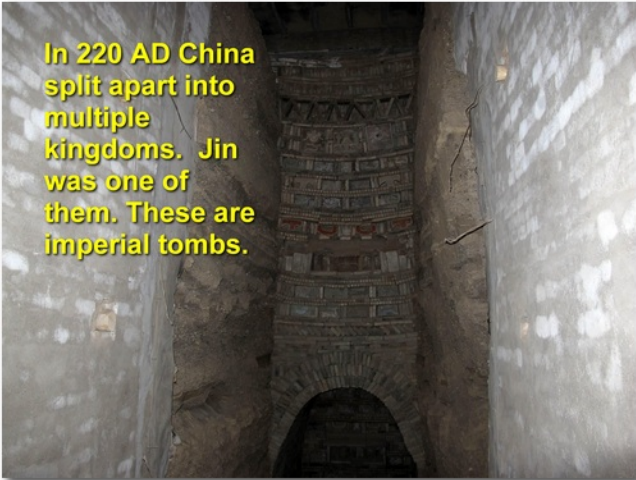
We hired a taxi for a day to explore
Jin Dynasty remains in Gobi Desert
265-420 AD



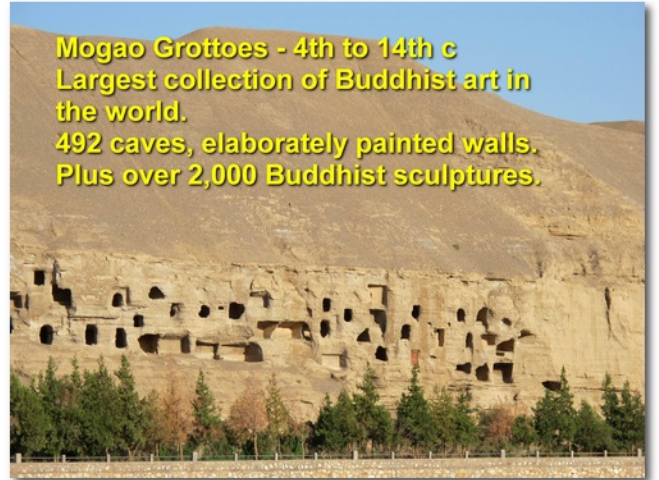
South Jin Dynasty Tombs
Jin: 265 to 420 AD
Imperial Tombs



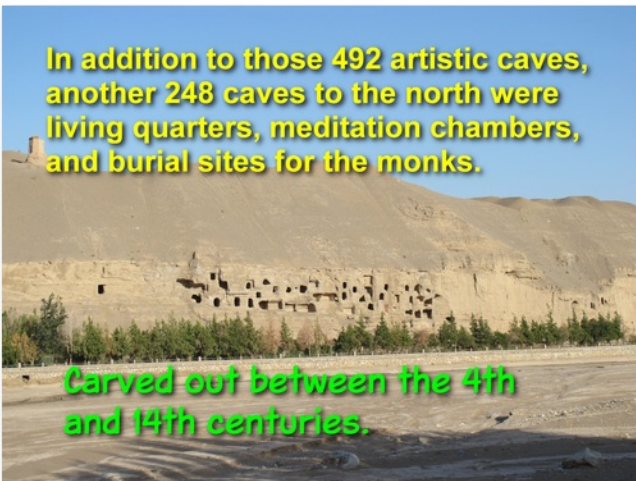
In 220 AD China
split apart into
multiple
kingdoms. Jin
was one of
them. These are
imperial tombs.



Mogao Grottoes - 4th to 14th c
Largest collection of Buddhist art in
the world.
492 caves, elaborately painted walls.
Plus over 2,000 Buddhist sculptures.



In addition to those 492 artistic caves,
another 248 caves to the north were
living quarters, meditation chambers,
and burial sites for the monks.

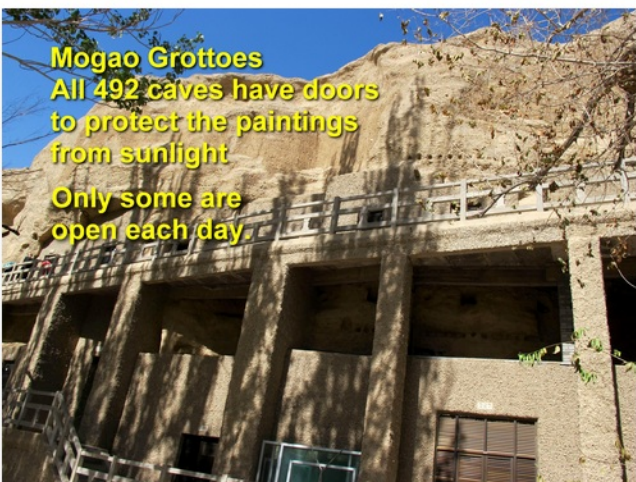


Carved out between the 4th
and 14th centuries.

Mogao Grottoes - Cave No. 96
Nine Storey Pagoda
Built to protect
a colossal 116 ft
Buddha inside
the cave.
Early Tang
(7th c).

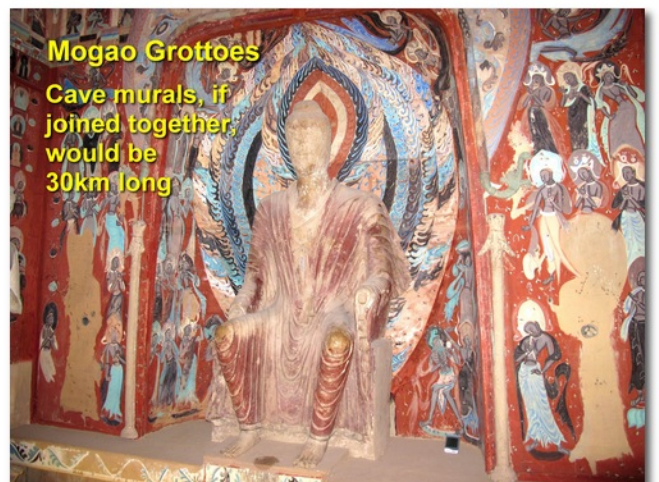


Mogao Grottoes
All 492 caves have doors
to protect the paintings
from sunlight
Only some are
open each day.



Mogao Grottoes

Cave murals, if
joined together,
would be
30km long





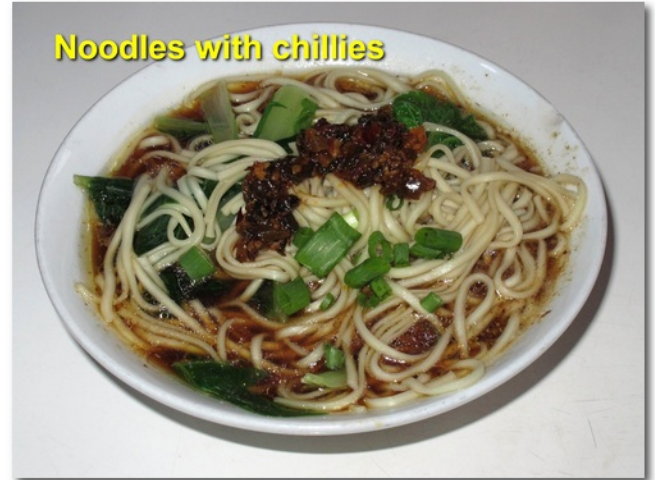
Mingsha Shan
Tourists



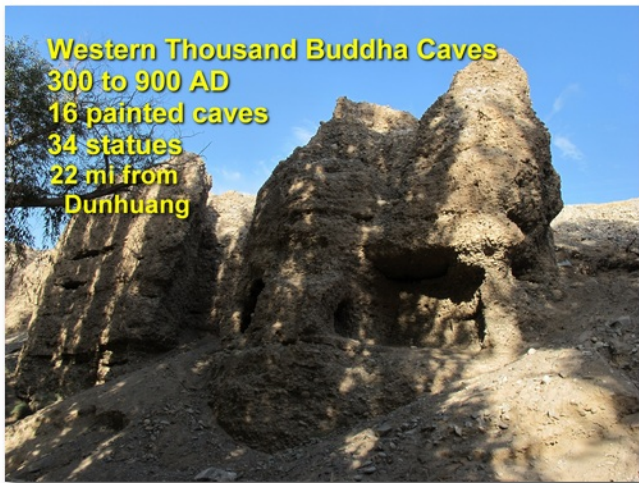
Dunhuang Night Market
Specialty dining



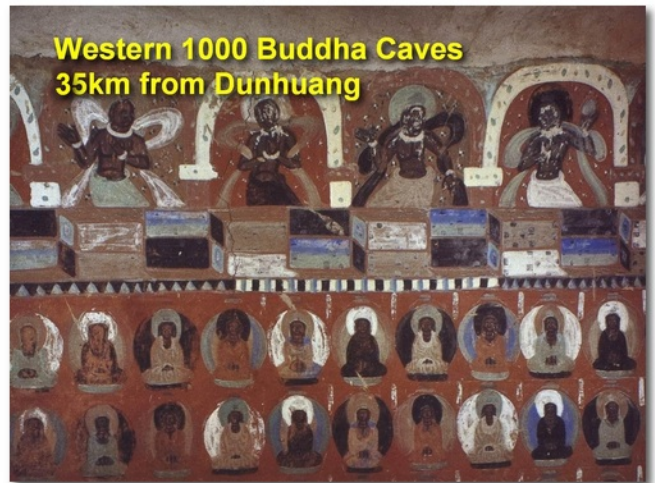
Noodles with chillies



Western Thousand Buddha Caves
300 to 900 AD
16 painted caves
34 statues
22 mi from
Dunhuang



Western 1000 Buddha Caves
35km from Dunhuang



Gasoline (Petrol) Stop
CNPC = China National Petroleum Co.
aka Petro China
China's largest oil and gas company



CNPC = #4 by
revenue in Fortune
Global 500.
22,365 gas stations.

Gobi Desert



