



ON THE ROAD
Lake Karakul sparkles beneath two of the highest peaks in China. Below: traditional Chinese tea service.



SUJATA RAMAN

Passionate about seeing the world and experiencing its diverse cultures, Sujata has lived on three continents and visited all seven. Having travelled widely in China, she's the ideal host for this journey. "The Silk Road must surely be one of the world's most romantic historic journeys," says Sujata. "This section in China is incredibly exciting. I'm very much looking forward to sharing it with you."

Experience the scenic route

Traverse China on the fabled ancient Silk Road with A&K's Regional Managing Director Sujata Raman.



The ancient Silk Road – in fact, a network of overland trade routes – linked China with the Mediterranean, the East with the West. For a thousand years or so, merchants made the journey with caravans of camels loaded with rubies, jade, metals, amber, musk and, of course, silk.

This adventure follows their steps, starting in earnest in Dunhuang, the last stop for caravans to rest and replenish before facing the desert. Here you'll visit the Mogao Caves, with special access to areas usually closed to the public. Then, traversing the vast hinterland beyond, the journey takes in once-flourishing oasis cities and strategic trading outposts, along with significant sites for both the Buddhist and Uighur cultures, and unique culinary experiences along the way. Of the many highlights, the great Sunday market in Kashgar reaches fever pitch when thousands of buyers descend upon the city from the vast network of surrounding oasis towns. This is the stuff of legend.

THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD WITH SUJATA RAMAN: 3-12 September 2017

Day 1: Arrive Beijing

Meet Sujata and your companions; welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Beijing to Dunhuang

Fly to Dunhuang, an important stop on the Silk Road. Visit the museum where there is a collection of artifacts from the powerful Western Han period.

Day 3: Dunhuang

See the Mogao Caves, the most well-preserved repository of Buddhist art in the world, then visit the Buddhist Yulin Caves to the east.

Day 4: Dunhuang

Visit the Yumen Guam, or Jade Gate Pass, a strategic point on the Silk Road and a gateway to the West.

Day 5: Dunhuang to Urumqi

Take a camel safari to the Mingsha Shan sand dunes, part of the Gobi Desert. Lunch at a local restaurant and then an evening flight to Urumqi.

Day 6: Urumqi to Turfan

Travel to the oasis town of Turfan to visit the ruins of the ancient city of Gaochang, built in the 2nd century BC. Return to Urumqi.

Day 7: Urumqi to Kashgar

Guided tour of the Xinjiang Museum and its collection of Caucasian mummies, then fly to Kashgar.

Day 8: Kashgar

Visit the Afaq Khoja Mausoleum, the famed Sunday Market and join an Uighur family in their home.

Day 9: Kashgar

See Lake Karakul, at 3,600 metres, via the legendary Karakorum Highway. Farewell dinner of family-style cuisine.

Day 10: Depart Kashgar

This is an abridged itinerary. Twin share \$10,995 per person. Single supplement \$2,495.



Tripping the light fantastic

Join *Abercrombie & Kent* for a journey to the far ends of the earth to see the spectacular Northern Lights of Iceland.

This exclusive journey takes you first to picturesque and cosmopolitan Reykjavik, then to the peerless spectacles of the Icelandic landscape and otherworldly phenomenon of the aurora borealis, best seen during the winter months. While subject to weather conditions, there are myriad opportunities outside Reykjavik of seeing this incredible phenomenon.

Visual drama abounds in the highlights of the country's south-west. From awe-inspiring fjords and volcanoes to dazzling geysers and waterfalls, this is truly a land of fire and ice. On a daytrip to Thórsmörk Valley, for instance, you'll hike inside Iceland's second-largest glacier via a manmade tunnel, and see the oldest existing parliament in the world, dating back to 930AD. Meanwhile, you'll stay in intimate boutique properties, ranging from a log cabin-style lodge to an Art Deco city hotel. Drama, wonder, sophistication – a once-in-life-time itinerary.



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Iceland's spectacular Northern Lights. Left: the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, a highlight of the trip to the Thórsmörk Valley.

From spectacular fjords and volcanoes to dazzling geysers and waterfalls, this is truly a *land of fire and ice*.



Grillmarket, Reykjavik

ICELAND & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS: 12-20 October 2017 16-24 November 2017

Day 1: Arrive Reykjavik

Meet your local host and fellow travellers for drinks and a briefing.

Day 2: Reykjanes Peninsula

Visit Reykjanesskagi, a region of intense geothermal activity. Later, a welcome dinner at Grillmarket.

Day 3: Reykjavik to Husafell

Transfer to Hvalfjörður ("whale fjord"), and Borgarfjörður to see waterfalls, hot springs and a glacier.

Day 4: Snaefellsnes Peninsula

Visit Snaellsjökull, the glacier and volcano that inspired Jules Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. The peninsula is a birdwatcher's paradise, with beaches on one side, mountains on the other.

Day 5: Husafell to Hella

See Iceland's second-largest glacier, Langjökull, via a manmade ice tunnel, then on to Thingvellir National Park (home to the oldest existing parliament) and the Kaldidalur Valley.

Day 6: Thórsmörk

A dramatic trip into the Thórsmörk Valley by Super Jeep, which includes the Seljalandsfoss waterfall.

Day 7: Golden Circle

Tour the route linking Thingvellir National Park, Gullfoss, the Blue Lagoon and Geysir.

Day 8: Hella to Reykjavik

Return to the capital and tour the city, visiting the 19th-century Parliament House, and whimsical Hallgrímskirkja church, among other sights. Farewell dinner at Sjavargrillid.

Day 9: Depart Reykjavik

This is an abridged itinerary. Twin share \$9,595 per person. Single supplement \$1,995.

Abercrombie & Kent

For more information, call 1300 851 925 or your local travel agent. Visit us at abercrombiekent.com.au/hostedgroups

