

# SILK ROAD SLIDE SHOW – Steven Andrew Martin

## SILK ROAD / SILK ROUTE / TRADE ROUTE / ROAD OF BUDDHISM / JOURNEY TO THE WEST

Great Wall of China served as the power line and military arm of Silk Road. The Silk Road crosses the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts (the second largest on earth) which are encompassed by great mountain ranges, including the Tien Shan, Karakorum and Kun Lun Shan.

### XIAN

ANCIENT CAPITAL OF CHINA (Qin & Tang Dynasties) & Start of the Silk Road

- As a Trade Route – Bell Tower 西安钟楼
- As a Road of Religion – Big Goose Pagoda 大雁塔

### JAIUGYUAN FORT (built 1372) 嘉峪關

END OF GREAT WALL OF CHINA

- “Strongest Fort Under Heaven”

### DUNHUANG 敦煌

ANCIENT GROTTOES AND BUDDHIST ART

- Dunhuang-ology



### TURPAN

ANCIENT BUDDHIST CITIES AND SITES

- Geochang Ruins, Jiaohoe Ruins, Bezik Grottos & Flaming Mountain
- Today – The land of the Uygur people and Islam

### URUMUCHI

MODERN CAPITAL OF XINGJIANG PROVINCE (Western China)

- Tien Shan (The Heavenly Mountains)
- Urumqi (“Good Pasture”)



### KASHGAR 喀什 ANCIENT KINGDOM OF KASHGARIA

- Ancient crossroad of the Silk Route (China’s Western border)
- World’s oldest continuous trade bazaar (The Sunday Bazaar)

## GREAT TRAVELERS WHO FOLLOWED THIS ROUTE, EXPERIENCING THE SAME NATURAL WONDERS

- **138 B.C. (Han Dynasty) Zang Qain 張騫** sent by the emperor with 99 men to explore the western regions
- **399 (Eastern Jin Dynasty) Fa Xian 法顯** went to India (the first Chinese monk to make the round trip).
- **629 (Tang Dynasty) Xuán Zàng 玄奘** travelled on a 16-year journey to India and back to study Buddhism, surviving countless perils of rivers, mountains, and dangers. Featured in “Journey to the West”
- **1269 (Yuan Dynasty) Marco Polo**, the Christian merchant, travelled from the Venetian Republic in Europe on a 24-year 15,000 mile return journey to China.
- **The Monkey King** of the legendary fiction “Journey to the West” Xī Yóu Jì 西遊記 (written in Ming Dynasty)

