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OVERLAND FUJIAN-TIBET-XINJIANG

21 days adventure with Bill Altaffer

One of worlds' most travelled person

About Bill Altaffer: Arguably, one of the world's most traveled person.

He visited all the 193 independent countries of the UNO, all continents, 327 countries and territories on the Travelers' Century Club list, 858 countries and territories on the MTP (Most Travelled Persons) list, 1,062 regions on the NM1281 list, 1024 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and spent 16 years on the road. The list of travel accolades Bill has accumulated is too numerous to list.

As a humanitarian worker, the United Nations sent him all over the world and as a private citizen and guide, he has explored the rest. Bill has traveled since 1949. He owns a small travel company that designs travel to extremely exotic places. He lives part time in Mammoth Lakes and San Diego.

Bill & Bestway Tours & Safaris – a tour operator with 47 years on the road experience, have jointly designed this exciting journey called: FUJIAN-TIBET-XINJIANG



Tour Summary

Day #	Destination	Overnight	Meals
1	Arrive Xiamen (CHINA)	Pan Pacific Hotel, Xiamen (2 nights)	
2	Xiamen	Pan Pacific Hotel	(B)
3	From Xiamen to Nanjing (Fujian)	Grand Skylight Hotel, Nanjing (2 nights)	(B)

1



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4	Nanjing	Grand Skylight Hotel	(B)
5	Nanjing/Xiamen	Pan Pacific Hotel, Xiamen (1 night)	(B)
6	Xiamen to Xining (Flight)	Xining Hotel, Xining (1 night)	(B)
7	Xining to Lhasa	Overnight Train	(B)
8	Arrival Lhasa (3,650m)	St. Regis, Lhasa (3 nights)	(B, L, D)
9	Discovering Lhasa	St. Regis	(B, L, D)
10	More of Lhasa	St. Regis	(B, L, D)
11	Lhasa/Gyantse (3977m/13050ft)/ Shigatse	Saga Hotel, Shigatse (1 night)	(B, L, D)
12	Shigatse/New Tingri	Qomolangma Hotel, New Tingri (1 night)	(B, L, D)
13	New Tingri/Saga	Saga Hotel, Saga (1 night)	(B, L, D)
14	Saga/Darchen	Himalayan Hotel, Darchen (2 nights)	(B, L, D)
15	Exploring Mount Kailash	Himalayan Hotel	(B, L, D)
16	Darchen/Zhada	Post Hotel, Zhada (1 night)	(B, L, D)
17	Zhada/Tsaparang	Shangshung Hotel, Ali (1 night)	(B, L, D)
18	Ali/Kashgar (Flight)	Radisson Hotel, Kashgar (3 nights)	(B)
19	Kashgar (Sunday Bazaar)	Radisson Hotel	(B)
20	Discovering Kashgar	Radisson Hotel	(B)
21	Departure Kashgar		(B)

Day 01: June 3, 2026 Arrival in Xiamen (China)

Welcome to Xiamen! Upon arrival, you'll be warmly greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to unwind or explore this vibrant coastal city at your own pace. Known for its picturesque port, Xiamen blends historic charm with modern energy. Once a British-run treaty port, it offers a fascinating introduction to your journey.

Overnight: Pan Pacific Hotel, Xiamen (2 nights)

Day 02: June 4, 2026 Xiamen

After a hearty breakfast, begin your adventure at the Nanputuo Temple, a serene Buddhist sanctuary dating back to the Tang Dynasty. Next, take a short ferry ride to Gulangyu Island, a car-free haven adorned with colonial-era buildings, quaint cafes, and lush gardens. Wander through its tranquil streets, soak in the seaside views, and savor the island's unique charm.

(B)

Day 03: June 5, 2026 From Xiamen to Nanjing (Fujian)

Travel through Fujian's scenic countryside to the Hakka Villages, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its Tulou—massive earthen structures designed as communal living spaces. Highlights include Chengqilou, the largest Tulou, and Tianluokeng Tulou, a picturesque cluster of five unique fortresses. You'll also visit Yuchanglou, known for its tilted pillars from 1308, and stroll through the idyllic Taxia Village.

Overnight: Grand Skylight Hotel, Nanjing (2 nights) (B)

Day 04: June 6, 2026 Nanjing

Discover Yunshuiyao Village, a riverside gem from the Ming Dynasty. Stroll along cobble streets, marvel at ancient wooden houses, and sip tea under giant banyan trees. Later, visit Chengqi Tulou, nicknamed the "King of Tulou," with its concentric rings and central ancestral shrine. Erected more than 300 years ago, Chengqi is the largest boasting four massive concentric rings that contains 400 rooms. At the center is a shrine where families pray for their ancestors, living quarters, kitchens, and a community library. It is estimated that the complex could've housed up to 1,000 people.

(B)

Day 05: June 7, 2026 – Nanjing/Xiamen

Start the day at the Hongkeng Tulou Complex, featuring intricately designed structures like the Five-Phoenix House and Kui Ju Lou. Explore the blend of traditional Hakka and Western architecture at Zhengcheng Lou before visiting Chuxi Tulou. Evening, return to Xiamen.

Overnight: Pan Pacific Hotel, Xiamen (1 night) (B)

Day 06: June 8, 2026 Xiamen to Xining (Flight)

Fly to Xining, the gateway to the high-altitude Tibetan Plateau. After arriving, settle into your hotel and enjoy a free day to acclimate for the "Roof of the World" adventure. Xining rests at a height of 2200m/7200ft. Balance of the day is free.

Overnight: Xining Hotel, Xining (1 night) (B)

Day 07: June 9, 2026 Xining to Lhasa (Overnight Train)

Start the day with a visit to Ta'er Monastery, a vibrant Tibetan Buddhist complex renowned for its yak butter sculptures. In the afternoon, board the overnight train to Lhasa, an unforgettable journey through breathtaking Tibetan landscapes. The 21hours journey through beautiful rural scenery is something not to miss. Facilities onboard are good but average and this should not be considered as a luxury train. Travel is using soft sleeper cabins with two persons per compartment and shared washroom facilities. Enjoy "soft sleeper" accommodation.

(B)

Day 08: June 10, 2026 Arrival Lhasa (3,650m)

Arrive in Lhasa and transfer to your hotel. Spend the rest of the day relaxing and acclimating to the altitude. The Tibetan plateau has been home to humans for atleast 11,000 years and the people were originally nomadic herders following the goats and yaks from the summer pastures in the high hidden valleys, to the wind-com,bed grasslands of the steppe in winter.

Overnight: St. Regis, Lhasa (3 nights) (B, L, D)

Day 09: June 11, 2026 Discovering Lhasa

Explore the iconic Potala Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site steeped in history and spirituality. It is a massive structure made of stone, wood and earth, this UNESCO World Heritage Site rises 13 stories high towards the sky and runs nearly 350m/115 ft across the hillside from east to west. A maze of over a thousand rooms and thousands of altars and statues, the Potala is made up of two main buildings. Next is Norbulingka or Jeweled Garden. Here you can stroll through the gardens of the 18th Century Norbulingka, now known as the People's Park. This was the summer residence of the Dalai Lamas and was used by the young Dalai Lamas until they were 18, when they moved to the Potala Palace. Norbulingka was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List as an extension of the Potala Palace. End the day at Chupsang Nunnery, where you can share sweet tea with the nuns.

(B, L, D)

Day 10: June 12, 2026 More of Lhasa

Visit Jokhang Temple, the spiritual heart of Tibet, and soak up the bustling atmosphere of Barkhor Market. At the Barkhor Market you see the Jokhang Monastery and the old market of Lhasa. A visit here affords a wonderful opportunity to interact with Tibetans and bargain for turquoise jewelry, carpets, yak. Conclude with a tour of Sera Monastery, where monks debate age-old Buddhist philosophies in a lively setting.

(B, L, D)

Day 11: June 13, 2026 Lhasa/Gyantse (3977m/13050ft)/Shigatse

Journey to Gyantse and marvel at the Kumbum Stupa, a towering structure adorned with countless images of Buddha. Gyantse's best-known monument is the 15th Century Kumbum, a fabled shrine and place for Tibetan Buddhists. pilgrimage. Founded in the early 15th Century, the Pelkhor Chode Monastery originally housed 15 monasteries and accommodated three different Buddhist sects harmoniously within its compound. Today, monks from the Golugpa sect alone maintain its many statues and paintings. Bullet holes remain in the monastery walls from the early 20th Century British attacks. Continue to Shigatse and explore the historic Tashilhunpo Monastery, home to the Panchen Lamas.

Overnight: Saga Hotel, Shigatse (1 night) (B, L, D)

Day 12: June 14, 2026 Shigatse/New Tingri

Morning we enjoy with a guided tour of Shigatse - the second largest city in Tibet. It has remained as an important trade center in Tibet, lying on the ancient caravan route from Lhasa to western Tibet. It was one of the first Tibetan towns to have been visited by Westerners, because of its proximity to India. Shigatse has been the traditional home of the Panchen Lama since the 16th Century. Today there are two proclaimed Panchen Lamas, one designated by the Chinese authorities and the other by the Dalai Lama. You will also explore the historical Tashilhunpo Monastery (1477ACE) once inhabited by several thousand monks, today roughly 800 monks. The monastery contains the tombs of the Panchen Lamas, most notably the 10th Panchen Lama, whose 1989 burial stupa used 547 kg of gold. Tashilhunpo's best-known monument is its 80foot Statue of the seated Maitreya Buddha. Continue to New Tingri taking in breathtaking views of Mount Everest and other Himalayan giants.

Overnight: Qomolangma Hotel, New Tingri (1 night) (B, L, D)

Day 13: June 15, 2026 New Tingri/Saga

4

Wake up and admire the views of Mount Everest and other 8,000+ meter Himalayan peaks. The little Tibetan town of New Tingri, near the Nepalese border, is about 100 kilometers from Everest Base Camp. Located on a grassy plain at 14,107 feet, it is surrounded by spectacular Himalayan peaks, including Everest, Lhotse and Makalu. The remains of an old trading fort sit above the town. You will have a panoramic vista sweeping 360-degree views of the iconic Mt. Everest, towering at 8848 meters (29,029 feet) – the highest peak in the world. Known as “the Third Goddess,” Mt. Everest is surrounded by other impressive, lofty mountains in the Himalayan Range topping 8,000 meters. Continue to Saga, a serene town surrounded by the grandeur of the Himalayas.

Overnight: Saga Hotel, Saga (1 night) (B, L, D)

Day 14: June 16, 2026 Saga/Darchen

Travel to Darchen, the base for exploring Mount Kailash. Set in the shadow of Mt. Kailash near the border between China, Nepal, and India, Lake Manasarovar is the most revered of Tibet's many lakes, and perhaps its most beautiful given its stunning sapphire blue waters and spectacular mountain scenery. Hindu pilgrims have been coming here for more than 1,700 years, after the lake was first mentioned in ancient Sanskrit religious texts as a spiritual manifestation of the Lord Brahma. Manasarovar is also visited by Buddhists, Jains, and Tibetan Bon followers, all of whom believe the lake has the power to purify people of their sins. Pilgrims often bathe in the lake or follow its kora path to nearby monasteries.

Overnight: Himalayan Hotel, Darchen (2 nights) (B, L, D)

Day 15: June 17, 2026 Exploring Mount Kailash

Embark on a guided hike along the sacred Mount Kailash pilgrim trail. Take in the spiritual atmosphere as you follow paths revered for centuries. The hike lasts about 2.5 hours, with optional sections via van, if required.

(B, L, D)

Day 16: June 18, 2026 Darchen/Zhada

Journey to Zhada, passing through the stunning Clay Forest. This unique landscape features vibrant cliffs and formations sculpted over millions of years. Visit the historic Tholing Monastery, an ancient center of Buddhist learning. At the Tholing Monastery, founded in the 10th Century by Yeshe-O, ruler of the once-powerful kingdom of Guge that encompassed a remote stretch of the Western Himalayas. Through the efforts of Rinchen Zangpo, a Tibetan scholar who helped initiate a revival of Buddhism in Tibet, as well as renowned Indian Buddhist leader Atisha, Tholing's reputation grew, and it eventually became the most important center of Buddhist study in the entire region. In the 1960's much of the complex was destroyed.

Overnight: Post Hotel, Zhada (1 night) (B, L, D)

Day 17: June 19, 2026 Zhada/Tsaparang

Explore Tsaparang, the ancient capital of the Guge Kingdom. Discover cave dwellings, temples, and breathtaking murals that showcase early Buddhist artistry. Enjoy panoramic views of the Sutlej Valley. At the Tholing Monastery, founded in the 10th Century by Yeshe-O, ruler of the once-powerful kingdom of Guge that encompassed a remote stretch of the Western Himalayas. Through the efforts of Rinchen Zangpo, a Tibetan scholar who helped initiate a revival of Buddhism in Tibet, as well as renowned Indian Buddhist leader Atisha, Tholing's reputation grew, and it eventually became the most important center of Buddhist study in the entire region. In the 1960's much of the complex was destroyed.

5

Overnight: Shangshung Hotel, Ali (1 night) (B, L, D)

Day 18: June 20, 2026 Ali/Kashgar (Flight)

Fly to Kashgar, the westernmost city in China. After checking into your luxury hotel, spend the afternoon at leisure to relax or explore the city.

Overnight: Radisson Hotel, Kashgar (3 nights) (B)

Day 19: June 21, 2026 Kashgar (Sunday Bazaar)

Dive into the vibrant Kashgar Sunday Bazaar, a lively market where you can find everything from silks and crafts to fruits and livestock. This bazaar with its brilliant blend of peoples and its chaotic bustle is without equal. It is possible to spend most of the day at the market where one can find traditional silks, musical instruments, hand-crafted knives, embroidered hats and an amazing variety of fruits, nuts and household wares. Wander to the animal section, where you can find anything from a herd of fat-tailed sheep to horses and camels ready for a test drive, to yaks brought down from the surrounding mountains. Enjoy the bustling atmosphere and colorful sights.

(B)

Day 20: June 22, 2026 Discovering Kashgar

China's westernmost city, 2,000-year-old Kashgar is unlike any other in China. The fabled city greeted Marco Polo and countless Silk Road travelers on their silk road adventures. While its previous glory as a trading center has all but disappeared, Kashgar retains the exotic air and immense appeal of medieval Asia. Hemmed by the desert and the Pamir Mountains, Kashgar of today is a rich mix of peoples and cultures. You visit the Id Kah Mosque, the biggest in China. Here Muslims from across the province come to celebrate festivals and holy days. Explore Kashgar's Old Town, walking up ancient dirt lanes between mud-brick Uighur houses with ladders leading up to the roofs and the houses above. Sadly, in recent years, much of the Old Town has been demolished and replaced with more modern, tourist-friendly architecture. Visit the Abakh Khoja Tomb is reminiscent of Central Asia's ornamental and architectural style. This beautiful mausoleum shelters the remains of five generations of the same family. The site is also known as the Fragrant Concubine's Tomb, in memory of Abakh Khoja's granddaughter, Iparhan.

(B)

Day 21: June 23, 2026 Departure Kashgar

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back home or your onward journey. Bid farewell to an unforgettable journey through Fujian, Tibet and Xinjiang.

(B)

Tour services Include

- All airport arrival/departure transfers based on group basis.
- For those arriving outside of group timings, private transfer rates will apply as a supplement.
- 20 Nights' accommodation as mentioned or similar, including hotel taxes
- 40 Meals as mentioned (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) (some meals will also be provided at selected local restaurants).
- Local accompanying tour escort on group size 6 and above.

- All sightseeing tour and transfers as per the itinerary with English speaking local guides.
- Tibet Travel Permit fee as per current rates.
- All monument and entrance fees as per the above program based on current applicable rates.
- Within tour airfare and train fares have been quoted as a separate item and cost is valid as long as there is no change by the service providers.

Tour Price does not include

- International airfare with taxes. (quoted at individual requests)
- China visa fee.
- Meals not included in the itinerary.
- Early Check-in and Late Checkouts. Check-in times are 1400hrs and checkouts are 1000AM.
- Photography charges in monasteries and monuments.
- Travel insurance. Suggest comprehensive travel insurance covering tour and flight cancellations, loss of valuables, thefts, illness, accidents, hospitalization and Emergency Evacuation.
- Expenses incurred by re-routing, inclement weather, floods, famine, political disruptions, strikes, riots and other such situations.
- Tips and Gratuities to tour guides and drivers.
- Any items and services that are not mentioned in cost inclusions.

Tour Price – Min group size 04 and Max is 12 participants

Land Arrangements

US \$ 13,995.00 per person on double/ twin sharing basis.

Single room supplement: US\$ 2600.00 per person.

Within tour air and train fares Special

Xiamen/Xining, Ali/Kashgar and 1st Class Sleeper train fare for Xining/Lhasa is US\$ 1750 per person.

Book on or before March 08, 2025 and you get the “within Tour Air and train fare” @ 50% off

Tour payment Policy

- 25% of the land cost plus within tour air and train is payable at the time of booking your spot.
- 2nd 25% of the tour cost is payable by Sep 01, 2025.
- Final Tour Cost is due March 08, 2026