

# **6<sup>th</sup> UNWTO International Meeting on Silk Road Tourism**

**Dunhuang, Gansu, China**

**1-3 August 2013**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE**

### **1. VENUE**

The 6th UNWTO International Meeting on Silk Road Tourism will be held in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, China, from **1-3 August 2013**. The meeting will take place at:



The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel  
Dunyu Road, Dunhuang City, Gansu Province, China  
Post Code: 736200  
Telephone: 86-937-8882088  
Fax: 86-937-8882086  
Website: [www.dunhuangshanzhuang.com](http://www.dunhuangshanzhuang.com)

### **The city of Dunhuang**

Dunhuang is located in the most western end of the Hexi corridor in the province of Gansu, China. Numerous places of interest and natural sceneries, as well as rich and colorful folk customs, make Dunhuang one of the most popular and famous tourism destinations of the Silk Road. Among China's

35 greatest tourism attractions identified by the China National Tourism Administration, “Dunhuang on the Silk Road” is regarded as one of the top 5. Some of its famous sceneries include the Mogao Grottoes, the Mingsha Sand Dunes and the Crescent Moon Spring.

## **2. TRANSFER ARRANGEMENT AND AIRPORT MEETING SERVICE**

Transportation will be provided to all delegates upon arrival and departure from the meeting (Dunhuang Airport – Official Hotel of the Meeting – Dunhuang Airport). The transfer takes about 30 minutes. The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel is located in Dunhuang city.

In order to organize the transfers, delegates are kindly requested to provide the organizers with their arrival, departure and accommodation details by no later than **5 July 2013**. The contact details of the organisers are provided below.

## **3. AIRPORT TAX**

Foreigners are not required to pay any airport tax at Dunhuang Airport.

## **4. VISA REQUIREMENTS**

All participants must be holders of a valid passport or any other officially recognized travel document.

Delegates from countries that require visas for China must obtain these from their nearest Chinese Embassy, High Commission or Consulate prior travel to China.

The Countries and territories entitled for visa exemption and visa on arrival are listed under following link: [www.visaforchina.org](http://www.visaforchina.org)

In case participants need further assistance for their visa applications, please contact:

### **Ms. Lily Zhang**

Deputy Director

International Department

China National Tourism Administration

Email: [lzhang@cnta.gov.cn](mailto:lzhang@cnta.gov.cn)

Tel: (86 10) 6520 1839

## **5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

### **EXCHANGE RATE**

The Chinese currency unit is the Chinese Renmenbi (CNY). Notes are available in denominations of 100RMB, 50RMB, 20RMB, 10RMB, 1RMB.

Most tourist areas except and exchange American Dollars. The bank note, however, must be relatively new with no marking or tear. Traveller's cheques are exchanged in most large size banks or their respective sub-branches. The exchange-rate is approximately 1USD = 6.14RMB (source: Bank of China, May 2013)

## **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS**

Upon arrival, foreign visitors are advised to fill in a Baggage Declaration Form.

Additionally, any person carrying more than the aggregate amount of USD 5,000 or CNY 20,000 into China must declare this at Customs. Please bear in mind that failure to abide to Chinese custom laws is a criminal offense that is prosecuted. In case you have any further questions regarding the custom laws of China, please contact the official customs service.

## **CLIMATE**

Dunhuang has a continental climate, and it is expected to be quite hot during the period of the meeting. Temperatures, however, tend to drop at night. The average temperature in August ranges from 16.4°C to 32.3°C.

## **TIME ZONE**

Dunhuang is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +8.00).

## **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

Chinese is the official language. English can be used at hotels and restaurants.

## **ELECTRICITY**

Electricity in China is 220 Volts at 50 Hertz. Outlets in China generally accept NEMA plugs. Please bear in mind that you will need a converter if your appliances do not fit the requirements mentioned above.

## **BUSINESS HOURS**

Government officials (e.g., immigration) work from 08:30 to 12:00 and from 14:30 to 17.30 (Monday to Friday). Banks open from 09:00 to 17:00. Government offices are closed on public holidays.

Department stores open around 10:00, and close between 20:00 and 22:00.

## **HEALTH**

No vaccination is required.

## **HOTEL**

The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel (Castle)  
Dun Yue Road, Dun Huang City Gansu Province, China  
Telephone: 86-937-8882088  
Fax: 86-937-8882086  
Website: [www.dunhuangshanzhuang.com](http://www.dunhuangshanzhuang.com)  
The Silk Road Dun Huang Hotel ( Castle )  
Price: RMB520/night, around USD 85

The Silk Road Dun Huang Hotel (Professional Quarters)  
Dun Yue Road, Dun Huang City Gansu Province,China  
Dun Yue Road, Dun Huang City Gansu,China  
Telephone: 0937-8882088  
Fax: 0937-8882086  
Website: [www.dunhuangshanzhuang.com](http://www.dunhuangshanzhuang.com)  
The Silk Road Dun Huang Hotel ( Professional Quarters )  
Price: RMB 300/night, around USD 50

## **7. REGISTRATION AND BADGES**

The registration desk will be open at The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel on Wednesday, **31 July 2013** from 09:00 onwards. Name badges will be issued at registration. Participants are kindly requested to wear the name badge throughout the meeting.

## **8. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE MEETING**

The official languages of the meeting are Chinese, English and Russian.

## **9. SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

Gansu Provincial Government will host a welcome dinner on 1 August 2013 (Thursday), that is to be followed by the Opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dunhuang Silk Road International Festival (Cultural Performance will be staged).

## 10. Technical Visit

### 2 August - Afternoon



#### **The World Cultural Heritage – the Mogao Grottoes**

*The Mogao Grottoes, commonly known as the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas, and honored as the most valuable cultural discovery in the twentieth century, is located in Dunhuang, off the western end of the Hexi Corridor. The site is well known for its beautiful murals and sculptures: the cutting of the Mogao Grottoes began in the Jianyuan 2nd year of Qianqin (366 AD), and involved 16 Countries and Five Dynasties. It contains 735 caves, 492 caves being in the southern district and 243 caves in the northern district. This well-preserved heritage site contains some of the finest examples of Buddhist art. In 1987, it was listed as China's first world cultural heritage site by UNESCO.*



#### **The Mingsha Sand Dunes & Crescent Moon Spring**

*The Crescent Moon Spring unites both a clear spring and a daunting desert. The Lake's name derives from the crescent moon shape the small pool of spring water has taken between two large sand dunes. The formation of the lake resulted from a geological peculiarity - the north and south slopes are higher than the east and west - and from the wind which blows from west to east. The wind initially blows in a southeasterly direction, is then forced upwards where it rotates spirally before finally retreating in an easterly direction. As a result, the lake has never once become silted up with sand in 1000 years. Today, the Crescent Moon Spring is one of the key scenic spots and one of the top forty tourist attractions in China.*

**3 August**



**Yumenguan Pass & Yadan National Geological Park**

*The Yumenguan Pass is one of the two important passes on the western frontier of the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220) lands. It is located 56 miles northwest of Dunhuang City, at the western end of Hexi Corridor. In ancient times, it was the crucial gateway from central China to the western regions. Climbing to the top of the pass one is able to see the relics of the Great Wall. As to the Yadan National Geological Park, it stretches twenty-five kilometers from north to south and about two kilometers from east to west. It features the unique and picturesque scenery of the Gobi desert.*



**Yadan National Geological Park**

*In the deep desert, about 180 kilometers northwest of Dunhuang city, lies the Yadan National Geological Park. The park stretches twenty-five kilometers from north to south and about two kilometers from east to west. It features the unique landscape of the Gobi desert. The original meaning of Yadan (Uyghur) is steep earth mound, which can be best explained as an arid erosion physiognomy. The landform is considered to be one of today's world wonders. In December 2001, the Ministry of Land and Resources approved the establishment of the "Gansu Dunhuang Yadan National Geological Park", which was formally inaugurated and opened to tourists in August 2003. In November 2006, it was evaluated as an AAAA tour scenic spot by the National Tourism Bureau.*

In order to make the necessary arrangements, participants wishing to take part in the tour are kindly requested to confirm their attendance.

**11. COORDINATORS:**

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