

KHENG-LI WEE: ON THE SILK ROAD

hand-printed silver gelatin prints

PLACE	KHENG-LI WEE PHOTOGRAPHS
<p>Urumqi The capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is right in the centre of Asia. It was never one of the main cities on the Silk Road. It is the most modern city in Xinjiang.</p>	<p>"Night Market, Urumqi, China" "Flatbed Tricycle, Urumqi, China"</p>
<p>Tianshan: the 'Heavenly Mountains', a series of mountain ranges</p>	<p>"Kazakh Yurts, Tian Shan Mountains, China" "The Road To Turfan, Xinjiang, China"</p>
<p>Turfan is the hottest place in China, and has been nicknamed 'the Oven'. In the baked gravel desert the summertime temperature can sometimes rise to as high as 120°F (48°C). There is very little rainfall as the water evaporates before it reaches the earth. However, despite its extraordinary geography, Turfan has prospered for much of the past 2,000 years due to a special irrigation system developed by the Uygurs.</p>	<p>"Bazaar, Turfan, China" "Café, Turfan, China" "Poplars, Turfan, China" "Camels, Bezeklik, China" "Carpark, Bezeklik, China"</p>
<p><i>Emin Minaret & Mosque:</i> built by the Uygurs in 1776.</p>	<p>"Emin Mosque, Turfan, China"</p>
<p><i>Flaming Mountains:</i> a long row of red sandstone hills along the northern edge of the Turfan depression where the temperature can rise as high as 167°F (75°C).</p>	<p>"Escarpment, Murtuk River Gorge, China" "Flaming Mountains, China" "Murtuk River Gorge, China" "Sand Berm, Flaming Mountains, China"</p>
<p><i>Gaochang:</i> ancient city, an important stop on the northern branch of the Silk Road. Founded in the 1st century, it was a square walled city with a palace area and an inner & outer city, modelled on the plan of an imperial Chinese metropolis. During the Tang Dynasty (7th-10th century) it had a population of 50,000. It was abandoned in the 14th century for reasons unknown.</p>	<p>"Monastery, Ancient City of Gaochang, China" "Temple, Ancient City of Gaochang, China" "Window, Ancient City of Gaochang, China"</p>
<p><i>Jiaohe</i> was much smaller than Gaochang, with an estimated population of 6,000. Its ruins are perched on the top of cliffs, on an island set between two small rivers. It was founded in the 2nd century and occupied until the 14th.</p>	<p>"Street, Ancient City of Jiaohe, China" "South Vista, Ancient City of Jiaohe, China"</p>
<p>Dunhuang The 1000 Buddhas caves of Dunhuang contain some of the world's finest Buddhist art. The oasis town of Dunhuang, known as the "City of Sands", was founded in 111 BC and became an important stop on the Silk Road, regarded by travellers as the first and last town of China. The caves were begun in the 4th century and continued until the Yuan period (13th-14th century). Over 460 caves still remain.</p>	<p>"Outskirts, Liuyuan Train Station, China" "Oasis, Mingsha Dunes, Dunhuang, China" "Black Gravel Dunes, Gobi Desert, China"</p>
<p>Jiayuguan The western end of the Ming period (14th-17th century) Great Wall is located at Jiayuguan, a strategic location on the ancient Silk Road. A large command post was built here in 1372, on the orders of the first Ming emperor.</p>	<p>"Salt Pan, Hexi Corridor, China" "Ming Dynasty Great Wall, Jiayuguan, China" "Guardtower, Jiayuguan, China" "Lake, Jiayuguan, China" "Tourgroup, Jiayuguan, China"</p>
<p>Lanzhou is the capital of Gansu Province. It is the chief city of the northwest.</p>	<p>"Bank Of China, Lanzhou, China" "Hotel, Lanzhou, China"</p>
<p><i>Bingling Si Caves:</i> These Buddhist caves are in a site up the Yellow River from Lanzhou. 'Bingling' means '1000 Buddhas'. Approximately 36 caves and 80 niches were carved in the rock, mostly during the Tang Dynasty (7th-10th century) and some during the Northern Wei (4th-6th century). The spectacular site is dominated by a large Tang Dynasty Buddha.</p>	<p>"Flooded Glade, Binglingsi, China" "Great Buddha, Binglingsi, China" "Limestone Gorges, Binglingsi, China"</p>

