

11D9N Wanderlust Northern Xinjiang in Winter

2290
TRAVEL

11D9N 漫游 北 疆 Winter Diary



In Northern Xinjiang, snow is winter's first firework — quiet, yet breathtaking

A hidden winter sanctuary

Swan Spring Wetland Park



I came all the way
from Siberia

Each year, graceful flocks of white swans journey from afar, drifting through the ethereal mist of natural hot springs. Framed by snow-covered peaks and delicate rime ice, the landscape unfolds like a living painting, serene and dreamlike. Fed by underground springs, the lake never freezes, creating a surreal fairytale where every moment feels unreal.



Zhaosu Secret Realm

The exclusive romance of Zhaosu in winter

The sky fades into gold and crimson,
like a palette spilled across the horizon.

Surrounded by delicate rime ice, the unfrozen lake lies still as graceful swans drift across its surface. Snow, icicles, and swans come together in perfect harmony, a real-life winter fairytale.



The spectacular sight of 'Ten Thousand Horses Galloping'

Tianma Cultural Park

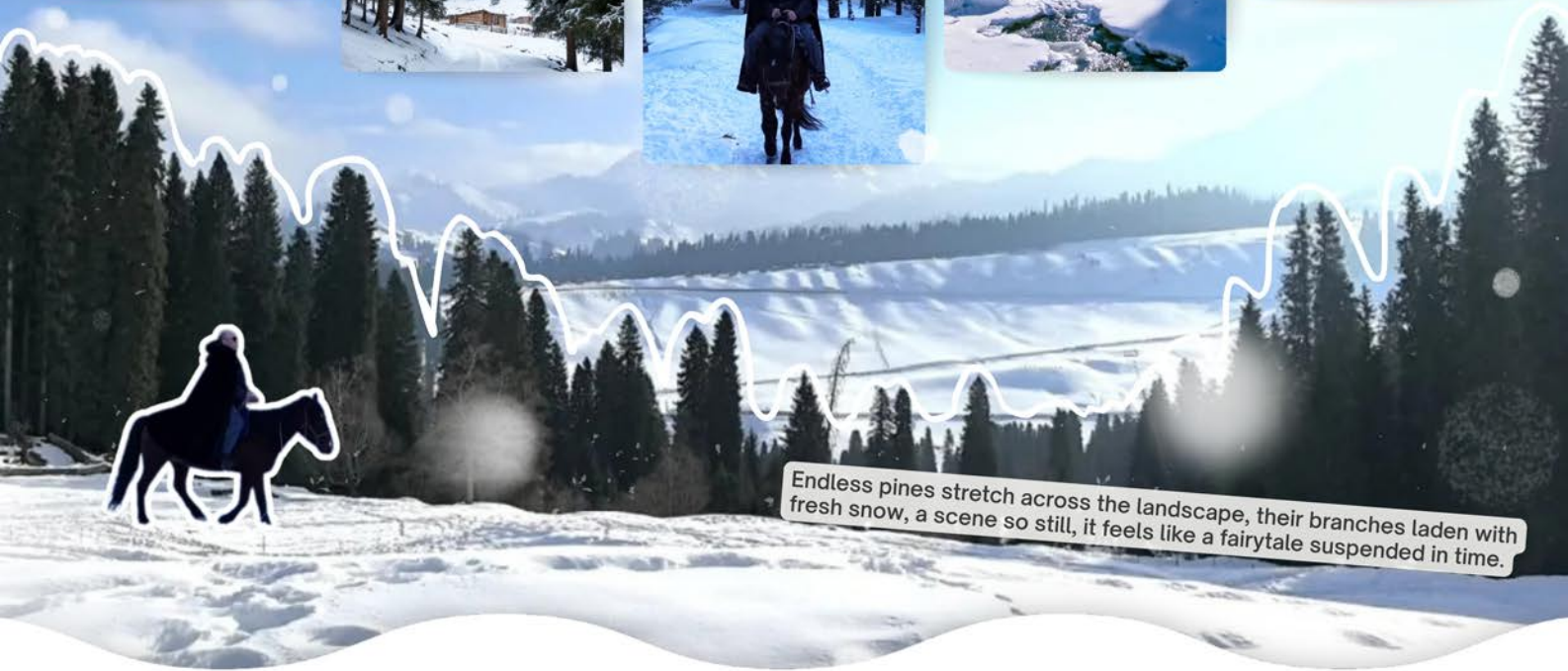
As winter arrives and snow falls heavily, visitors witness the spectacular sight of ten thousand horses galloping across the silver-white plains. The horses, undaunted by the bitter cold, race across the snowy field, elegant in form, thunderous in stride, bursting with the raw tenacity and power of life. A visual spectacle packed with wild grandeur!



*Picture is for illustration purpose only

Kurdening

Where the Tianshan Unfolds Like an Ink Painting

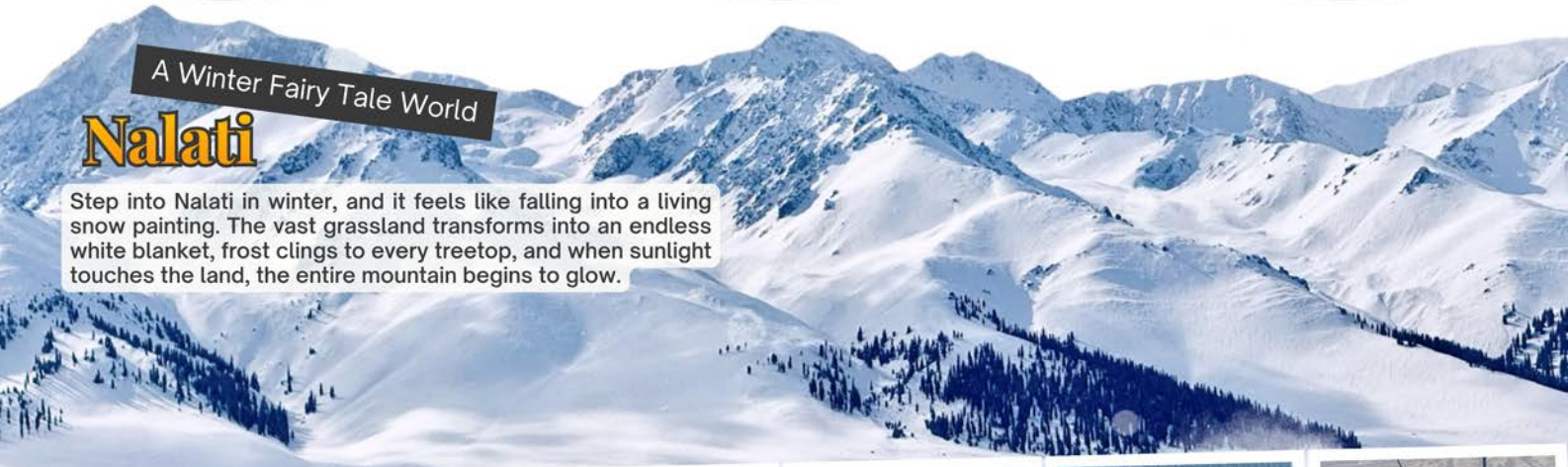


Endless pines stretch across the landscape, their branches laden with fresh snow, a scene so still, it feels like a fairytale suspended in time.

A Winter Fairy Tale World

Nalati

Step into Nalati in winter, and it feels like falling into a living snow painting. The vast grassland transforms into an endless white blanket, frost clings to every treetop, and when sunlight touches the land, the entire mountain begins to glow.





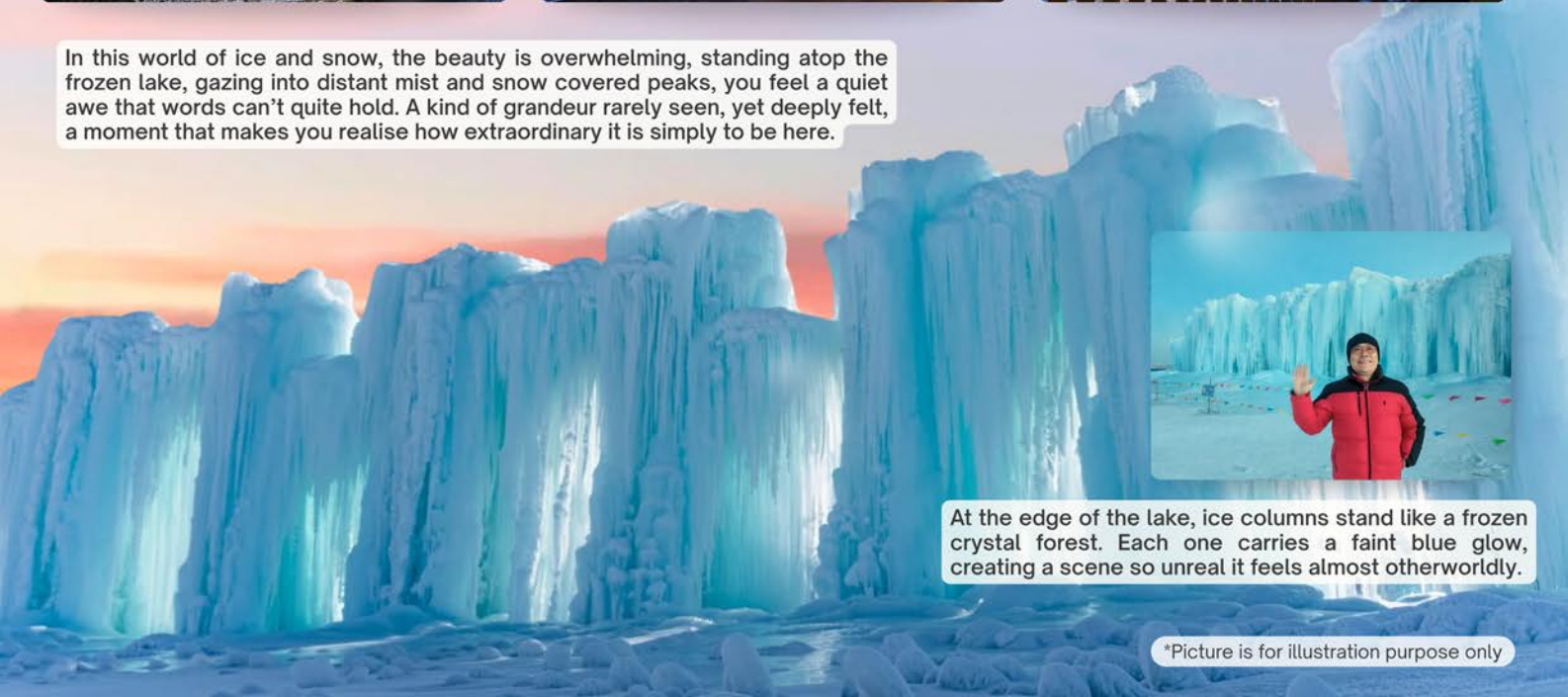
In winter, the ice layer of Sayram Lake displays a stunning gradient from light blue to deep ice blue. On sunny days, the ice surface looks enchanted — so transparent you can see the bubbles and patterns beneath. Remember to wear non-slip shoes, walk on the ice surface, and listen to the sound of cracking ice, it's the unique white noise of this place.



The blue ice, mountain silhouettes, and golden morning light intertwine, every frame feels like a cinematic still, pure and breathtaking.



In this world of ice and snow, the beauty is overwhelming, standing atop the frozen lake, gazing into distant mist and snow covered peaks, you feel a quiet awe that words can't quite hold. A kind of grandeur rarely seen, yet deeply felt, a moment that makes you realise how extraordinary it is simply to be here.



At the edge of the lake, ice columns stand like a frozen crystal forest. Each one carries a faint blue glow, creating a scene so unreal it feels almost otherworldly.

*Picture is for illustration purpose only



Yili's specialty ice wine

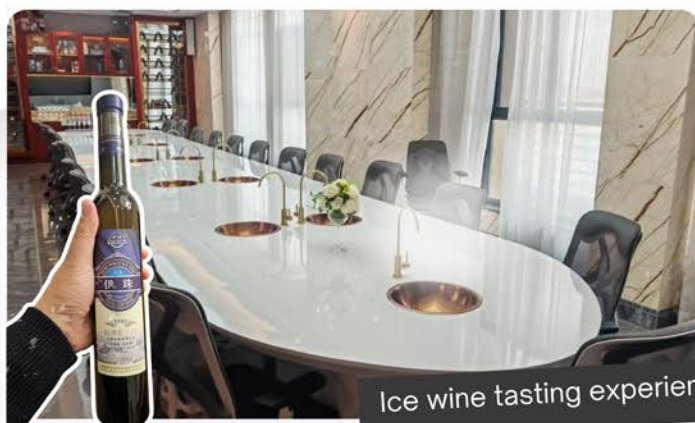
Ice Wine Winery

Step into the cellar and uncover the story of each vintage. A single sip in winter brings warmth, depth, and a quiet sense of romance to the journey

Discover the winery's history and culture



Discover the development history of ice wine wineries and their presence in today's Chinese market



Ice wine tasting experience

Enjoy a guided tasting of ice wine with professional insights, experiencing its distinctive sweet and refined flavor



The Blue Fairytale Village

Kazanqi

Stroll through the iconic blue streets of Kazanqi, admire traditional Uyghur - style houses, and experience the vibrant local culture of Yili



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Snowbound Fairytale · Luxury Living



Step into a Winter Fairytale

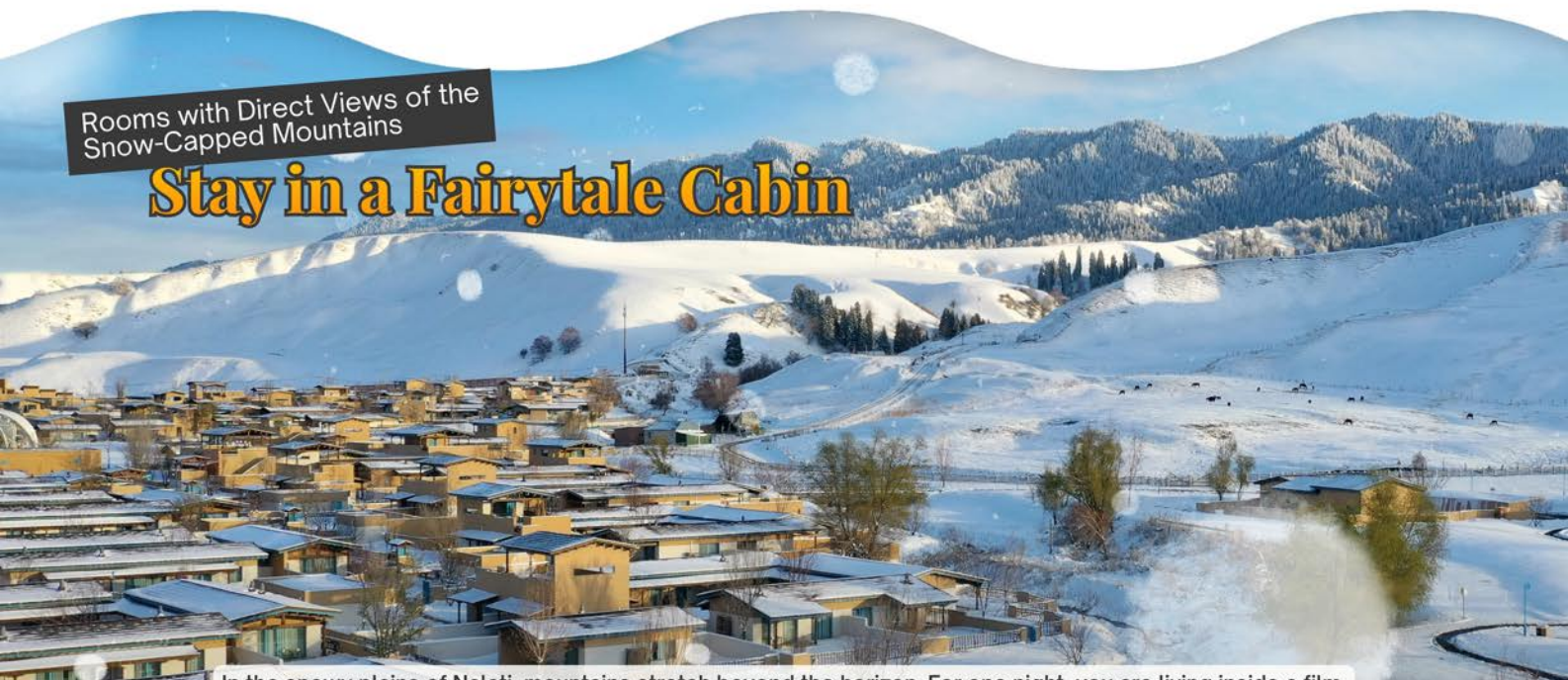
Stay in a Hidden Retreat

A winter fairytale brought to life, surrounded by snow and gentle streams. At night, the lights shimmer and the entire landscape glows with magic.



Rooms with Direct Views of the Snow-Capped Mountains

Stay in a Fairytale Cabin



In the snowy plains of Nalati, mountains stretch beyond the horizon. For one night, you are living inside a film.



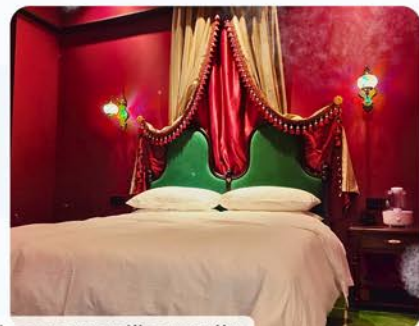
*Picture is for illustration purpose only

Exclusive
2290 TRAVEL 独家

Stay at the Castle



Lavender Hotel



Tonight, the world welcomes you like royalty.



Top Stay in Yining

Upgrade To

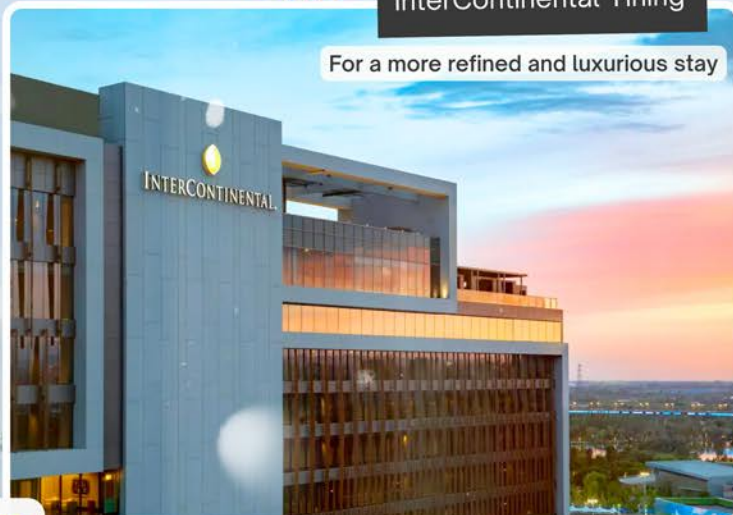
InterContinental Yining

EVEN Hotel Yining



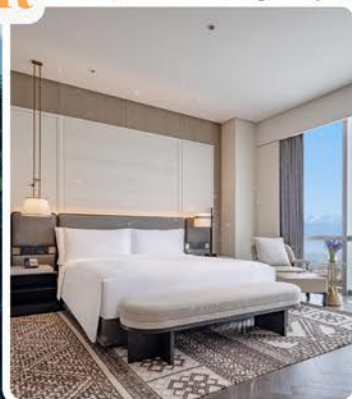
A photogenic spot for beautiful moments

For a more refined and luxurious stay



A hidden art gallery along the legendary Silk Road

OR



*Picture is for illustration purpose only

A Deeper Journey Without Endless Road Hours

Entire route focused within Ili. Reduced long cross region drives for a smoother and more immersive experience



Accommodation

N1 YINING	N5 YINING	N9 TRANSIT
N2 ZHAOSU	N6 SAYRAM LAKE	
N3 KUERDENING	N7 HUOCHENG	
N4 NALATI	N8 YINING	

D1 | KUL ✈️ Transit ✈️ Yining

Stay: **EVEN Hotel Yining or InterContinental Yining 5***

Upon arrival transfer to hotel. Dinner followed by rest at the hotel.

D2 | Yining (200KM,3.5HR) → Zhaosu

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, head to [\[Swan Spring Wetland Park\]](#). Each winter, as cold winds sweep across the Tianshan Mountains, this wetland in the Ili River Valley of Xinjiang enters its most enchanting season. Elegant flocks of white swans migrate here from afar, dancing gracefully in the mist of warm springs and gliding playfully across the water. Thanks to the underground hot springs, the lake never freezes in winter. Here, rime ice, morning mist, and swans come together to create a real-life fairytale, where every scene feels like it has stepped out of a painting. In the afternoon, continue to Zhaosu and explore the [\[Zhaosu Secret Realm\]](#). In winter, Zhaosu feels like a forgotten paradise in Xinjiang, where the world is reduced to just two colors, the crystal white of frost-covered trees and the endless blue of the sky. Experience this intimate and poetic winter gift. After the tour, proceed to Zhaosu, check into your local hotel, and enjoy dinner.

D3 | Zhaosu (190KM,3HR) → Kuerdening

Meals: B, L, D

Zhaosu, known as the county with the largest horse population in China and the ancient homeland of the Wusun Kingdom, was named "Heavenly Horse" by Emperor Wu of Han for its exceptional breeds. Visit the [\[Tianma Culture Park\]](#) to enjoy a winter equestrian performance, either indoors or the iconic outdoor "Heavenly Horses Galloping on Snow." In winter, as snow blankets the land, witness the powerful sight of horses racing across the snowy plains. Strong, fearless, and full of energy, they create a striking scene filled with raw beauty and spirit. After the visit, continue to Kuerdening, stopping en route at Tekes, the famous [\[Bagua City\]](#). Designed based on Taoist cosmology, its streets form a unique Bagua pattern with no traffic lights. From above, it resembles a Tai Chi diagram set against snow-covered mountains. In the afternoon, proceed to [\[Kuerdening Scenic Area\]](#). Kuerdening is a World Natural Heritage site and home to the world's largest spruce forest ecosystem, often regarded as one of China's most beautiful forests. Snow-covered forests, streams, grasslands, and mountains create a serene and magical winter landscape. Dinner will be arranged at the scenic area camp, featuring a forest-style restaurant and a cozy mountain café.

Special Arrangement: Stay in winter Kuerdening at a standalone forest cabin, where wilderness charm meets modern comfort. As you open the door, warmth greets you, infused with a gentle pinewood scent. Outside the floor-to-ceiling windows lies a snow-covered wonderland. The entire camp feels like a fairytale winter world, surrounded by streams and glistening snow. As night falls, soft lights illuminate the camp, and the snow sparkles under the glow, creating an unforgettable, magical atmosphere.

D4 | KUERDENING(160KM2.5HR) → NALATI

Meals: B, L, D

Wake up to a magical morning in your snow mountain cabin, where you can enjoy the sunrise from the comfort of your bed or private viewing terrace, complete with a warm fireplace and perfect privacy. Draw back the curtains to reveal a world blanketed in fresh snow, a truly delightful sight. Explore Winter [\[Kuerdening Scenic Area\]](#), where rime ice, seas of clouds, ice crystals, and "snow mushrooms" come together to create a cinematic winter landscape. After lunch, check out and continue your journey to another iconic destination, [\[Nalati\]](#), a national AAAAA-rated scenic area. Surrounded by mountains on three sides and recognized by National Geographic as one of the most beautiful places in the world, it rivals the landscapes of Switzerland. Upon arrival, check into your hotel within the scenic area, enjoy dinner, and rest.

Itinerary

D5 | Nalati(255KM3.5HR) → Yining

Meals: B, L, D | Stay: EVEN Hotel Yining or InterContinental Yining 5*

After breakfast, explore [\[Nalati Scenic Area\]](#) (note: cable car included in winter). Take the cable car up to the snow-covered mountains. Guests who enjoy skiing may opt to participate in ski activities instead, with the cable car fee refundable. Avoid the crowds and reach areas inaccessible by standard shuttle buses for a more premium experience. Ride the cable car to the [\[Sky Grassland\]](#), the true highlight of the scenic area. Here, snow-capped mountains, forests, streams, grasslands, and seasonal flower fields come together like a breathtaking painting. Stroll through this dreamlike landscape, where cattle, sheep, and horses graze peacefully, as if stepping into a fairytale forest. It is not only a perfect place for sightseeing but also a paradise for photography enthusiasts. In the afternoon, return to Yining. Dinner will be arranged in the city, followed by hotel check-in and rest.

D6 | Yining(98KM,1.5HR) → Khorgos Port (114KM,1.5HR) → Sayram Lake

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, travel to Sayram Lake with a stop at [\[Khorgos Port\]](#), a border town in Xinjiang where China meets Kazakhstan. Experience its unique cross-border atmosphere and the vibrancy of border trade. Visit the China Cultural Exhibition Hall, learn about the gateway and national boundary markers, and take photos at this symbolic frontier. If time permits, enjoy a stop at the local café or explore the China-Kazakhstan duty-free shops. In the afternoon, continue to [\[Sayram Lake\]](#) for a magical winter experience and sunset viewing. Surrounded by snow-covered mountains, frozen lake, and icy landscapes, it feels like stepping into a dreamy blue wonderland. If you have only seen Sayram Lake in summer, its winter beauty will surprise you with a completely different charm.

D7 | Sayram Lake(88KM,1.5HR) → Huocheng

Meals: B, L, D | Stay: Huocheng Castle Hotel or similar 

After breakfast, [\[re-enter Sayram Lake to enjoy a stunning winter sunrise\]](#). Known as “the last tenderness of the Atlantic,” its beauty is fully revealed in winter. Ice ridges, frozen bubbles, and intricate ice patterns create scenes that look like cinematic stills. The striking contrast of white and blue, especially at sunrise and sunset, casts a warm glow over the ice while snow-capped mountains turn shades of orange and gold, creating a romantic and almost poetic atmosphere. After lunch, depart from Sayram Lake and stop at the [\[Guozigou Bridge\]](#) to admire its winter scenery. Resembling a real-life “Frozen” landscape, the bridge stretches like a silver dragon across the snowy mountains. Frost-covered cables frame the surrounding peaks, forests, and steel structure, offering breathtaking, picture-perfect views even on a phone camera. In the afternoon, proceed to Huocheng and check into hotel for the night.

D8 | Huocheng(75KM,1HR15MIN) → Yining

Meals: B, L, D | Stay: EVEN Hotel Yining or InterContinental Yining 5*

After breakfast at the hotel, visit [\[Yizhu Winery for a guided tour and wine tasting\]](#). Learn about the full winemaking process, from production to cellaring, and sample rare, small batch wines seldom found on the market. Extremely limited yields, bold flavors and unforgettable depth, one sip leaves a lasting impression. Next, explore the [\[Kazanki Folk Village\]](#), a blue toned fairytale woven into Yining's identity. The blue here is not decoration but a city memory etched into its soul. With roots dating back to the Qianlong era of the Qing Dynasty, Kazanchi is a living showcase of Ili's multi ethnic culture. Its streets preserve the Central Asian “Ayiwan” courtyard style, where every home has a courtyard and flowers and fruit trees fill daily life.

Special arrangement: Home visit and DIY naan bread making experience.

D9 | Yining ✈️ Transit ✈️ KUL

Meals: B | Stay: Transit Hotel

After breakfast, we conclude this delightful and romantic journey. You will then transfer to the transit city for an overnight stay, taking a brief rest before continuing your onward journey.

D10 | ARRIVAL KUL

Meals: B

Arrival KUL. Home Sweet Home

*T&C Apply *Itinerary, accommodations, meals, and transport may change based on actual conditions. 2290Travel reserves the right to adjust as needed without prior notice, with final details confirmed before departure.