



## THE SILK ROAD

More than 2,000 years ago, China began looking for new places in Europe to sell products such as silk. Different routes opened and these routes were called the 'Silk Road'. It was a difficult journey and could take six months on foot. Today, companies such as Hewlett Packard use the 'New Silk Road' to transport laptops between China and Germany by train – and it only takes 13 days! The Old Silk Road is also very popular now with tourists – more than 50 million tourists visit Xi'an, the city at the start of the Old Silk Road, every year.

### 1 READING

- a Look at maps 1–3. Which journey would you like to go on? Why?
- b Read *The Silk Road* and answer the questions.
- Which journey in 1a does it describe?
  - Was it always a tourist route?

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**b** **MY BEST TRIP EVER!!** MURAT AKAN

It really was a great trip and I can remember so many amazing things that we did. For example, when we were in Kyrgyzstan, we saw some very exciting competitions with horses. We didn't understand them, but it was a lot of fun! We didn't normally travel much more than 300 kilometres a day – and sometimes less – but one day we travelled 500! I slept well that night! We stayed in hotels, but we didn't use luxury hotels because they were too expensive. There was only one thing we didn't like – going from one country to another. The border police checked everything again and again and it took a long time – six hours one day!

**MY DREAM JOURNEY ON THE SILK ROAD** INGRID LEIDENROTH

This was my dream holiday!! It wasn't a fast way to travel, but there was a lot to see and a lot of time to think! Before we left, we packed our bags very carefully because we didn't want to take anything that we didn't need (too heavy!). Some days we travelled about 80 kilometres, but other days – when we were tired – we didn't go very far at all. And sometimes, when we were very tired, we didn't want to cycle and we got lifts on trucks. We didn't plan our trip very carefully, and we often changed our plans. We slept in tents next to the road and watched the stars for hours. The best thing about travelling this way is that you can meet the people who live there. They were interested in us and wanted to find out about our trip. We even saw inside a traditional home – a yurt – and had dinner with the family.

**c** Read *Travelblog* and match the texts with pictures a and b.

**d** Read the blogs again. Who do you think said each sentence after their trip, Murat (M) or Ingrid (I)?

- I saw some unusual sports on my trip.
- We made sure our bags were light.
- Sometimes we didn't want to get on our bikes.
- The places we stayed in were usually two-star.
- I needed to show my passport a lot.
- We loved seeing where people lived.

**e** Whose trip do you think was better? Why?

## 2 VOCABULARY Transport

- a Match the words in the box with pictures 1–8.

aeroplane (plane) scooter tram ship  
helicopter coach ferry train



- b Which kinds of transport:
- do people often use to go on holiday?
  - do people normally use to get to work or school?
  - are unusual for people to use in your country?
  - do you normally use?