

《消失的沙漠，古老的绿洲》

导读:丝绸之路上一颗璀璨的明珠，因为暗渠的发明和修建而得以冉冉升起。



The air here has a matte gold colour, a reflection of the rugged, desert landscape. Far on the horizon, the peaks of the Tianshan Mountains shimmer, while in the foreground, China's Turpan Basin is dotted with chunches, the Uyghur name for the small, square buildings where grapes are dried.

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Despite the harsh climate, the Turpan soil is fertile and vineyards flourish throughout the area. More than a dozen different types of grapes are grown here, and the water the grapes need to grow is brought to their vines by an ancient irrigation system called the karez, or 'well', in the Uyghur language.

[illegible]

Although not as widely known as the Great Wall, the karez is one of China's most recognized ancient engineering feats. Constructed by the Uyghur people who long ago settled this remote part of northwest China, the system once carried water throughout all of what is now the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

[illegible]

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