

ROUTE XIV.

Route from Karghalik viâ KHOTAN to Tankse.—(Continued.)

Number of stages.	Names of stages.	Country or district.	Distance in miles.	REMARKS.
11	Karâkia Langar ...	Khotan ...	25	A small village of 10 houses. Road over an open country. At 10½ miles is the village and bazar of Gúlukma; at 16½ miles Domakú village; from thence the country is covered with high forest. Supplies plentiful.
12	Kiria Bazar (height 4,580 feet).	Ditto ...	27½	A large town and bazar of 600 shops; at 5 miles is Ya Langar; at 9½ miles Siasgol; at 14½ miles Yaka Langar; at 22 miles Phundra village of about 100 houses. From Yaka Langar to Kiria country thickly populated and extensive cultivation. Felt is manufactured at Kiria. A branch road goes from Kiria to Sorghák gold fields as follows:— <i>1st March</i> , Toghrák (height 5,760 feet), 15 miles, a village of 50 houses, road over sand hills. No habitation except at Oi Toghrak. Kiria river 500 paces wide (with several channels), crossed near Kiria. <i>2nd March</i> , 15 miles, a rest-house with scanty cultivation round it. Road open and over sand hills. <i>3rd March</i> , Sorghák (height 7,060 feet), 34 miles, a place famed for its gold fields: these fields are worked all round the year by men from Kiria, who with their wives and families sleep in temporary huts. One-fifth of the produce is paid as a tax to the ruler of Kashghar, who also purchases the remaining produce at a fixed rate.
13	Toghrak Langar ...	Ditto ...	23	A small village of 5 houses. Road through cultivation at 15 miles, the rest-house of Bughuz, to east of which, at 200 yards, is the Kiria canal here called Toghrak Ustang.
14	Polu village (height 8,430 feet).	Ditto ...	32	A village of 50 houses with scanty cultivation. Road runs along side the river over a plain for 8 miles, to where the river issues from a mountain gorge, up which the road passes to within 2 miles of Polu, when the river turns off to south-east. Road good.
15	Khiákde Camp ...	Ditto ...	17	Road, stony and bad, runs along the valley of the Khúrap or Polu river to Khiakde. A little fuel and grass. Gold dust is found in the stream here.
16	Ghubolik Camp (height 16,960 feet).	Ditto ...	25½	Camp near Ulugh Shahi Kul. A lake with sulphur mines in its neighbourhood. For 6 miles from Khiákde the road runs along the Polu stream through a narrow gorge between hills called Tangitar, then ascends the Ghubolik. At Diwan Pass, difficult for laden ponies. A gradual descent from thence for 14 miles to Ghubolik. Road bad at the pass. Grass, fuel, and water plentiful.
17	Aksu Camp ...	Ditto ...	19½	Camp on grassy plain between two small streams. At 12 miles a small pass crossed. Road good. Fuel and grass plentiful.
18	Arash Camp (height 16,020 feet).	Ditto ...	12	Camp on northern bank of the Kiria river. At 8 miles the Kizil Diwan pass is crossed. Road good, but stony at the pass. Grass and fuel plentiful.
19	Kiria Daria-i-bash Kul (height 16,880 feet).	Ditto ...	15½	Camp on small lake, the source of the Kiria river. Road stony and bad, slightly ascending to the lake. Grass scarce, and fuel plentiful.
20	Camp ...	Rudok ...	22	Camp near a small stream. Grass and wood plentiful. At 16½ miles a pass is crossed forming boundary between Kashghar and Thibet.
21	Nikong Chumik ...	Ditto ...	17½	Camp on an extensive plain, with grass and fuel at hand. A mile from camp a pass is crossed. At 10 miles road runs along the west bank of the Yeshil Kul lake (height 16,160 feet). Grass and wood plentiful. Water scarce. Road good the whole way.
22	Daknák Camp ...	Ditto ...	25	Camp on an extensive plain. Grass and wood plentiful. Road along the banks of a dry water-course.