

THE WONDERS OF CHINA
RICE TERRACES, ANCIENT CITIES, SKYLINES
14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS



Visit the legendary cities of China and discover the greatness of this ancient civilization that has been attracting tourists for decades.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 BEIJING

Upon arrival, after clearing immigration and customs, meet our representative and transfer to your hotel.

DAY 2 BEIJING

The very first stop of your amazing trip in China is the Temple of Heaven, where, as the name indicates, the emperors in Ming (1368 – 1644 AD) & Qing (1636 – 1912 AD) Dynasties used to worship heaven and pray for good harvest. Continue on to Tian'anmen Square. This square is of great political significance since the year 1949, when the inauguration ceremony of the founding of People's Republic of China was held here. Just across, visit the Forbidden City. The complex comprises over 70 palaces and 9,000 rooms altogether, each of which is uniquely designed and built.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Your attention will be shifted from royal families to those of common people as you ride a pedicab through Hutong, the oldest existing neighborhoods of residential purposes developed during the Ming & Qing Dynasties. (B/L)



DAY 3 BEIJING

This morning, depart for 2-hour journey to the most unrestored section of the Great Wall – Jinshanling. Ascend along the stone steps to the watch towers, from which you can have an uninterrupted view of the surrounding mountains and the wall itself winding through. Take time to walk around and enjoy the views. Return to your hotel and evening at leisure. (B/L)

DAY 4 BEIJING

Morning at leisure. All group members meet for a lunch and proceed for an afternoon excursion to the Summer Palace. The garden was initially built to celebrate the 60th birthday of Emperor Qianlong's mother in 1749. Centered on Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake, the entire complex occupies an area of 2.9 square kilometers. Three quarters of the area is covered by water. Numerous architectures are dotted around the garden with its respective function as well. It is acclaimed as 'a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design' by UNESCO. (B/L)

DAY 5 BEIJING – DATONG – PINGYAO

You will be transferred to the railway station to catch a morning departure of high speed train from Beijing to Datong. When you arrive after a 2-hour journey, you will meet a new guide and proceed for a morning excursion to Yungang Grottoes. It is a Buddhism-themed masterpiece finished in the early years of 5th Century, when Datong, named Pingcheng at that time, served as the capital city of Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534 AD), a kingdom established by a nomadic tribe. The Buddhist statues are all carved out of the sandstone rocks on the slope of a mountain and each cave houses at least one giant statue and numerous miniatures on the inner wall. Next, a 1-hour drive takes you to another architectural marvel on a cliff – the Hanging Monastery overlooking a valley with 60 meters above the ground, fully embodies the wisdom and craftsmanship of ancient Chinese architects. The whole structure is supported by 27 oak crossbeams fitted into holes chiseled into the cliffs but they are skillfully hidden in the bedrock. Therefore, it looks like that the temple just hangs in the middle of the cliff with no support from afar. The monastery has a history of 1,500 years. After, you will embark on a 4-hour transfer all the way to Pingyao for an overnight stay. (B/L)



DAY 6 PINGYAO – XI'AN

Having been first recognized and recorded in books as early as 800 BC, Pingyao remains the best preserved ancient town out of those built in Ming (1368 – 1644 AD) & Qing (1636 – 1912 AD) Dynasties with a complete city wall as protection.

Wandering around in this small town, you feel just like you were taken back to hundreds of years ago. There are lots of places to visit and learn about within the town: Confucius Temple, Yamen (government office), Biaoju, Piaohao, just to name a few.

After lunch, head to the railway station for a 4-hour high speed train to Xian. Upon your arrival, a guide is waiting to transfer you to the hotel. (B/L)

DAY 7 XI'AN

Xi'an, once the capital of Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) is the largest city in Northwest China.

The first stop today is the Terra Cotta Warriors & Horses, acclaimed as the biggest archeological find of 20th Century worldwide. Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China, ordered the building of his mausoleum to be started as soon as he ascended the throne in 246 BC, which involved 700,000 workers. The warriors, chariots and horses made of terra cotta was designed, molded and fired to its original sizes, and finally buried with the emperor to protect him in his afterlife. Head back and explore the lively Muslim quarter. The history dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), when Muslim merchants came via the Silk Road. Half of the Muslim population in Xi'an currently resides here and is one of the busiest places in Xi'an due to numerous food stands lining along the two sides of the roads within the enclave, and the unique culture nurtured by its history. (B/L)

DAY 8 XI'AN – GUILIN

The inner city of Xi'an is completely walled and stretches over a total length of 14 kilometers in rectangular shape. The wall was first built in the early years of Ming to mainly serve the purposes of military defense and food storage. Along the top of the wall is a walkway paved with stones and bricks and bicycle rental service is available on the wall. Your second stop today and the final place to visit in this ancient capital is Big Wild Goose Pagoda. It was built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler Xuanzang. Spend a leisure afternoon at Tangbo Art Museum, where you can browse the works of traditional folk arts, ancient paintings displayed as well as the exhibition of contemporary artists held periodically. You will attend a lecture about Chinese calligraphy and create your own masterpiece there.

At the end of the tour, transfer to the airport to catch an evening flight to Guilin. Upon arrival, your guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. (B/L)

DAY 9 GUILIN – YANGSHUO

Ranking among China's most popular tourist destinations, the city has long been renowned for its scenery of karst topography. You will spend the whole morning today on a 4-hour cruise along the picturesque Li River with embarkation from Zhujiang Pier and all the way down to Yangshuo, a small county surrounded by karst hills and peaks, rich in farming and fishing culture. The cruise takes in breathtaking sceneries: numerous hills and peaks flank along the river and reflect the shadows on the crystal water, while patches of fields decorate the banks on both sides. Disembark in Yangshuo around 2 pm and proceed for a leisure walk along West Street. After settling down and freshening up, you will be re-picked up to enjoy a show entitled 'Impression Liu Sanjie', directed by a domestically famed director Mr Zhang Yimou and created by 67 more domestic and overseas outstanding artists.

Li River is taken as the stage of the show and 12 hills as background. Coupled with the vast sky, they form the largest real scenery theatre in the world. (B/L)

DAY 10 YANGSHUO – LONGSHENG

The guide will escort you on a 3-hour journey to Longsheng, which features one of the most spectacular rice terraces in the world but not widely known internationally. The terraces stretch layer upon layer from the mountain base to its summit and as the name indicates, they resemble the backbones of a huge dragon, always illustrated as the symbol of power in Chinese mythology. From the 13th century, the local Zhuang people started to build the terraces and cultivate rice for food. Currently Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces cover an area of 66 square kilometers and span an altitude between 300 and 1,100 meters. Standing on the top and looking down, you will be delightfully amazed by the patches of fields and curved lines around the mountain ridges.

The day concludes with a visit to a village of Miao to experience the unique Chinese ethnic culture. Then, check-in to your hotel for an overnight stay. (B/L)



DAY 11 LONGSHENG – GUILIN – SHANGHAI

In the morning, you will embark on a 2-hour transfer back to Guilin. The next stop on your itinerary is the 180-million-year-old Reed Flute Cave, featuring natural limestone sceneries and multicolored lighting. There are a large number of stalactites, stalagmites and other rock formations inside the cave and more than 70 inscriptions written in ink, which can be dated back as far as 792 AD in the Tang Dynasty. The brilliantly illuminated lighting effects make the place more extraordinary. Proceed to an exhibition of South China Pearl, uniquely produced in the pearl

farms of Hepu Town, 500 kilometers away from Guilin. Owing to the clean water, gentle waves, enough sunlight, mild climate and rich planktons, the cultivation of the Hepu pearl can be dated back to more than 2,000 years ago. Pearls produced there have been chosen as the tribute to the royal family in the past successive dynasties. Upon completion of the tour, you will be transferred to the airport to catch an afternoon flight to Shanghai. Arrive in Shanghai where you will meet a new guide and transfer to your hotel. (B/L)

DAY 12 SHANGHAI

As the most developed city around China, Shanghai is also the worldwide icon for fashion and lifestyle. Your tour of this metropolis begins with a visit to Xintiandi area with its many boutique hotels, luxury restaurants, art galleries, coffee shops etc. Explore the city's past with an excursion to Yuyuan Garden, housing courtyards, houses, ponds, and pavilions. The Bund, an area running along the western bank of Huangpu River with many historical buildings and financial institutions, is known for the best place for a promenade in China. The old buildings on the western bank and the new skyscrapers on the eastern side represent the past and the present Shanghai. (B/L)

DAY 13 SHANGHAI

Today will be a free day for you to continue exploring. (B)

DAY 14 SHANGHAI

You will be picked up from the hotel lobby and transferred (private car) to the airport. (B)

INCLUSIONS

- Domestic flights Xi'an/Guilin/Shanghai
- High speed trains Beijing/Datong, Pingyao/Xi'an on 1st Class basis
- 13 nights accommodation in double occupancy
- 13 breakfasts
- 11 lunches as per itinerary
- 11 to 35-seat van/coach throughout the itinerary for all transfers & day tours
- Sightseeing as mentioned (join-in basis with other travelers)
- All admissions to sites visited
- English-speaking local guides

Not included: International airfare, Chinese visa, Personal expenses, Gratuities to the guides, the drivers, the hotel bellboys, etc.

Price per person in CAD, double occupancy, starting from:	SUPERIOR	DELUXE
Monday departures 2020	LAND PACKAGE	
March 16, 23, 30, 2020	3999	4949
April 06, 13, 20, 27, 2020	3999	4999
May 04, 11, 18, 25, 2020	3999	4999
June 01, 08, 15, 22, 29, 2020	3999	4849
July 06, 13, 20, 27, 2020	3999	4899
August 03, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020	3999	4949
September 07, 14, 21, 28, 2020	4099	4999
October 05, 12, 19, 26, 2020	4049	4999
November 02, 09, 16, 23, 2020	4049	4899
Single room supplement	On request	

HOTELS OR SIMILAR

CITIES	SUPERIOR	DELUXE
BEIJING	NOVOTEL XINQIAO 4*	PAN PACIFIC BEIJING 5*
PINGYAO	YIDE HOTEL 3*	JING'S RESIDENCE 5*
XIAN	GRAND PARK 4*	HYATT REGENCY 4+*
GUILIN	BRAVO HOTEL 4*	SHANGRI-LA HOTEL 5*
YANGSHUO	GREEN LOTUS 4*	YANGSHUO MOUNTAIN RETREAT 4*
LONGSHEN	PING AN HOTEL 3*	LI AN LODGE 4+*
SHANGHAI	CENTRAL HOTEL 4*	LANGHAM YANGTZE BOUTIQUE 5*

Prices in this document are for information only; they were issued at press time, for the current year. Please note that due to exchange rates and temporary promotions, they can increase or decrease at any time. Contact your travel agent for the price and promotion of the moment