

Highlights of China
12 days – 11 nights
Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, Yangshuo, Shanghai
Discovery, Culture, History

Tour Highlights:

- On this “Highlight of China” tour you’ll get to experience the best of history and modernity, culture and Nature:
- Climb upon the ancient ruins of the Great Wall
- See the Terracotta Warriors built over two millennia ago
- Travel to the magical city of Guilin where limestone mountains rise out of the water and terraced rice paddies stretch on as far as the eye can see
- Visit Shanghai, where colonial-era buildings and a futuristic skyline compete for attention!

Beijing, the capital of China, lies just south of the rim of the Central Asian Steppes and is separated from the Gobi Desert by a green chain of mountains, over which The Great Wall runs. Modern Beijing lies on the site of countless human settlements that date back half a million years. Homo erectus Pekinensis, better known as Peking man was discovered just outside the city in 1929. It is China's second largest city in terms of population and the largest in administrative territory. The name Beijing - or Northern Capital - is a modern term by Chinese standards. It first became a capital in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), but it experienced its first phase of grandiose city planning in the Yuan Dynasty under the rule of the Mongol emperor, Kublai Khan, who made the city his winter capital in the late 13th century. Little of it remains in today's Beijing. Most of what the visitor sees today dates from either the Ming or later Qing dynasties. Huge concrete tower blocks have mushroomed and construction sites are everywhere. Bicycles are still the main mode of transportation but taxis, cars, and buses jam the city streets.

Day 1: Beijing

Upon arrival at the Beijing airport, please proceed to the luggage area to claim your checked bags. Our local DA representative will assist you to board deluxe air-conditioned vehicle waiting outside the terminal building and transfer you to your hotel.

Day 2: Beijing (Temple of Heaven)

This tranquil park is often a favorite stop for visitors to Beijing, as it provides them with an authentic look into local life in this city. On any given day, it is possible to see enthusiastic groups of Beijingers practicing Tai Chi, playing traditional instruments, or singing Peking Opera. The grounds consist of a sequence of buildings and altars set in beautiful groves of cypress trees. Learn more about the fascinating history behind this massive, circular structure and see local life unfold before your eyes in this very special visit to the Temple of Heaven.

For lunch, enjoy Old Beijing Noodles at local Chinese restaurant Beijing Noodles (Zhujiangmian) with Soybean Sauce is a treat not to be missed. Although customarily made from diced pork fried in a thick brown bean sauce, most restaurants now just use ground pork. The noodles should be hand rolled. Delicious and filling for a snack or a meal, this dish is a favorite in Beijing homes.

Then, head to Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world. Prepare to be overwhelmed by the sheer size of one of the world's largest public squares, measuring in at 440,000 square meters (over 109 acres). As you walk from the southernmost part of the square all the way down its length, you will pass several monuments, including the mausoleum that houses Chairman Mao's remains. The northern gate of the square features a portrait of the PRC's founding father, and is also the gate through which you will enter the Forbidden City. Enter the Forbidden City and walk in the steps of emperors (closed on Mondays) The Forbidden City was completed in 1420, and was home to 24 emperors, the last of which left Beijing in 1924. The entire imperial complex is reputed to have 9999 rooms, which at its peak housed up to 10,000 people, including the imperial family, 3000 eunuchs, as well as maids and concubines. Discover for yourself why the 170 acres were forbidden to common

people as you stroll through what is arguably the best-preserved example of classical Chinese architecture in the world.

Enjoy a delicious Beijing Roast Duck dinner at one of the best Peking duck restaurants in the city. This local delicacy is made using a recipe from China's imperial era, and is prized for its crispy, rich skin. The meat is rolled into thin pancakes with scallions, cucumber and sweet and salty bean sauce. Don't worry if your chopstick skills need some work, as these tasty creations can be eaten by hand! [B/L/D]

Option [1] Palace Museum Porcelain Collection

The Palace Museum's Chinese porcelain collection is one of the finest in the world. Located in the Wenhua Hall in the Forbidden City, the collection covers a floor space of 1,770 square kilometers. Over four hundred of the most remarkable antiques have been selected from nearly 350,000 pieces, spanning thousands of years from the Neolithic Age to modern times.

Option [2]: Kung-Fu Show.

Experience a Chinese Kung Fu evening show, one of the top attractions in Beijing. Marvel at the skill of some of China's top Kung Fu practitioners. Includes hotel pick-up and drop off and the services of an English-speaking guide

Day 3: Beijing (Mutianyu – Great Wall)

In the morning travel to the less-visited Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, one of the great wonders of the world (With cable car up and down) The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure in the world. In fact, the length of all Chinese defense walls built over the last 2000 years is approximately 31,075 miles, while the Earth's circumference is only 24,845 miles! Explore the much quieter Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, which was first begun

in the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-557) and finished in the 17th century. The 1.6-mile stretch of the Wall allows you to walk along its storied length for over an hour and visit twenty-two watchtowers, should you so choose. Not only will you walk along this wonder of the world yourself, but you will also see it from above during a breathtaking cable car ride to the top. (Cable car tickets are included in cost of tour.) Lunch at local restaurant. Transfer back to the city. On the way, if traffic allows, stop to take in the view of the iconic "Bird's Nest"– the Beijing National Stadium – and "Water cube" –National Aquatics Center, host to many spectacular events of the 2008 Summer Olympics. The entrance fees for Bird's Nest and Water cube are not included.

Dinner per your own arrangement. [B/L]

Day 4: Beijing, Xi'an

In the morning visit one of the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in the world. The Summer Palace is one of the largest and best-preserved imperial gardens in the world. In the 18th century, Emperor Qianlong enlarged and embellished it, only to abandon it a few years later. The grounds today are stunning, as is the lovely Kunming Lake, which occupies more than three quarters of the total area. Enjoy a boat ride before walking the Long Corridor, a 728-metre (well over 2000-foot) hall featuring 8000 paintings collected by the Emperor during his travels around the country. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Includes one soft drink or non-alcoholic beverage Afternoon transfer to the railway station and take the high-speed train to Xian (G87 2:00 PM-6:40 PM) 2nd class seats. Unlock the secrets of China's ancient civilizations in a city that countless emperors once called home. See the rows upon rows of Terracotta Warriors with your own eyes, and walk along the glass floors of the Hanyang Tombs to see the treasures archaeologists have unearthed below. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. Dinner on your own arrangement. [B/L]

One of the world's greatest archaeological finds, the Terracotta Warriors were discovered quite by chance in 1974 by a group of peasants digging a well outside of Xi'an. These sculptures of soldiers, chariots and horses were funerary statues made to accompany China's first emperor to the afterlife over 2100 years ago. Legend has it that it took 100,000 men 38 years to create the soldiers, which all vary in rank, posture, height, uniform and facial features. It is believed that here are still thousands of warriors and hundreds of horses and chariots buried in the three pits discovered so far. However,

further excavations have been halted while researchers try to find a way to preserve the colorful paint that covers the statues from disintegrating once exposed to air.

Day 5: Xi'an (Terracotta Warriors)

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Includes one soft drink or non-alcoholic beverage. In the afternoon enjoy a relaxing walk on Xian City Wall. The city walls of Xi'an are some of the oldest and best preserved in all of China, and can be dated back to the 2nd century BC, when Xi'an was the capital of the country. The existing walls were completed in 1370 AD, and are about 9 miles in length and are still surrounded by a deep moat to this day. Since 1993, the Xi'an city walls have played host to a world-famous marathon where participants run along the entire length of the wall several times; however, on this tour we'll take a more leisurely pace to appreciate the spectacular views and rich history of this ancient structure. Followed by walk through the Muslim Quarter. For over 1300 years, Muslims have been an integral part of the community in Xi'an. The city's Hui ethnic group traces their roots back to Persian and Arabic traders, who settled here at the eastern end of the Silk Road. Stroll through this unique and fascinating area of the city, and see the ways in which Central Asia has influenced the development of Mainland China. Built in 742 AD, the Great Mosque is still used today as a place of worship by Chinese Muslims. Its construction and architectural style is almost indistinguishable from a Chinese Buddhist temple, but look closely and you will see the Arabic script and Islamic motifs that decorate the mosque. The main axis of the mosque is aligned in a very non-Chinese east to west direction in order to face Mecca. Transfer back to your hotel and dinner on your own arrangement. [B/L]

Option [3]: The Tang Dynasty Show

Also known as "Music & Dance Dinner Show in Xian" is hosted at the "Tang Dynasty Palace", which is a leading entertainment theatre & dinner restaurant in China. This legendary venue offers visitors an opportunity to indulge themselves in exotic Chinese entertainment and Cantonese delicacies

Day 6: Xi'an (Shaanxi History Museum)

The Shaanxi Provincial Museum is a striking Tang Dynasty style pavilion that houses a collection of 113,000 historical and cultural artifacts unearthed in Shaanxi province. Featuring chronological exhibits of cultural relics from most of China's imperial dynasties, the museum also houses prehistoric and bronze period exhibits as well as a collection of priceless jade imperial seals from the Han dynasty. Dim Sum lunch at De Fa Chang with one glass of soft drink. The most famous cuisine in Xi'an is the dumpling, and there are more varieties of this bite-sized delicacy than you have likely ever imagined before. Sample more than twenty different types of dumplings at this banquet meal, and be amazed by the unique and delicate flavors of these tasty treats! Afternoon transfer to Xi'an Airport and take the flight to Guilin. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure. Dinner on your own arrangement. [B/L]

Note: *The museum is closed on Mondays.*

Day 7: Xi'an, Guilin, Yangshuo (Li River Cruise & Biking in Yangshuo)

A cruise along the Li River between Guilin and Yangshuo is truly an unforgettable experience. Every bend in the river brings a new and even more beautiful sight into view. Many of the karst formations are, with a little imagination, reminiscent of animals or objects, and bear names like Elephant Trunk Hill, Sword Cut Cliff, Reclining Flower Hill, and many others. Along the way, you will also see graceful groves of bamboo, farmers tending to their rice paddies, and lumbering water buffalos pulling carts or cooling off in the river. There will be an opportunity to disembark at a small village, where you will have the chance to visit a local family's home. Enjoy a buffet lunch on board the cruise. The best way to see the breathtaking scenery of Yangshuo is by bike. Rice paddies, centuries-old farmhouses, limestone karst formations, orchards, and of course the stunning mountains serve as your backdrop as you ride along narrow country roads and the banks of the beautiful Li River. Lush bamboo groves

grow rampant along the banks of the river, and impossibly steep limestone karst frames the horizon as you pedal by. [B/L]

Option [4]: Liu Sanjie Show

The stunning scenery of the Li River south from Yangshuo forms what is said to be the largest natural theater in the world for the now famous Liu San Jie Impression Light Show in Yangshuo. The show currently features over 600 locals, mainly from the Zhuang minority, including farmers, fishermen and young girls singing and performing simultaneously in a show that looks different each time as mist, rain and moonlight naturally alter the set of the stage.

Day 8: Yangshuo (Full Day Tour to Dazhai Village)

Located nearly 62 miles north of Guilin in a remote mountainous region, Dazhai is inhabited by an ethnic minority group called the Red Yao. Spend the morning touring the village and meeting the locals, who may invite you into their homes to have a look around and taste their homemade rice wine. Be careful—it's strong! Be sure to bring your camera to capture the beautiful wooden homes and colorful attire of the local people. Local women do not cut their hair until they are eighteen, so you will see hair that is at least one meter and sometimes up to 180 centimeters long. The women who have yet to give birth cover their hair with cloth, and those who have given birth wear it down and uncovered. The women's hair is particularly remarkable because of the special mixture they use to clean it, which is made from the water of fermented rice, pomelo peel and tea tree oil. The women of the Red Yao are easy to identify from their embroidered pink jackets and black folded skirts. For lunch, try the simple cuisine of Dazhai village and converse with your hosts through the aid of your guide. Hear about life in this remote mountainous village as you dig into the sticky rice and other delicacies on this festival day.

If your trip happens to fall during the month of June, you may have an opportunity to visit the village during the local Cloth Drying Festival. The Cloth Drying Festival is one of the two most important festivals to the people here, and is used as an occasion for family reunions. Food, ducks, wine, and other gifts are exchanged amongst the villagers. During the day, all of the beautiful embroidered cloths of the village are dried in the sun on bamboo poles. Villagers make and eat sticky rice, perform traditional song and dance routines, and in the evening, they build large bonfires to convene around. [B/L]

Note: *Festival supplement will be quoted separately. Please inquire for details.*

Day 9: Yangshuo, Guilin, Shanghai

Enjoy the morning free at leisure before transferring to the Guilin airport (2.5 hours away from Yangshuo) for your flight to Shanghai. Shanghai, Hu for short, is situated on the estuary of Yangtze River of China. It is the largest industrial city in China. Covering an area of 2,239 square miles, Shanghai has a population of 18.7 million, including 2 million floating population. Originally, Shanghai was a seaside-fishing village and in time its gradual development led to it being granted County status on August 19th, 1291 during the time of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Hence this day became the anniversary of the founding of Shanghai. Today's Shanghai is a multi-cultural metropolis with both modern and traditional Chinese features. Bubbling Shanghai shows off every aspect of her unique glamour. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure. Dinner is on your own arrangement. [B/L]

Day 10: Shanghai

In the morning meet your guide and visit Shanghai's Old Town and Yuyuan Garden. Four hundred years ago, a merchant spent almost twenty years—and all his life savings—to build a garden in order to please his parents in their old age. "Yu" means peace and health in Chinese. Over the past several centuries, the Yu Garden has been restored and reopened several times, but has almost always been in disarray. In 1956, the Shanghai city government took over and restored it to its former splendor, making it a peaceful oasis in the heart of bustling Shanghai. Outside the garden gates, the Old Bazaar is the perfect place to strike a bargain or chat with locals selling a variety of wares and souvenirs. For

lunch enjoy Shanghai Cuisine at Yu Shanghai Restaurant (near Yu Yuan Garden) with one soft drink. Afternoon visit the tallest building in China, the Shanghai Tower Shanghai Tower is a mega-tall skyscraper located at the core of Pudong's Lujiazui Finance and Trade Area in Shanghai. The structure is 632 meters tall, which makes it the tallest building in China, and the third tallest in the world. The unique design of the tower's glass facade, which completes a 120° twist as it rises or about 1° per floor, is intended to reduce wind loads on the building in order to withstand Shanghai's frequent typhoons. The Tower sports 121 floors above ground and 5 floors underground, with an observation deck on floor 119, 552 meters above ground. The elevator goes up at record speed and takes less than a minute. Evening performance enjoy Acrobatic show at Shanghai Era Acrobatics theatre. (Regular seats) "Era – Intersection of Time" combines traditional Chinese acrobatic arts with cutting edge technology into a multi-million-dollar extravaganza that redefines Chinese acrobatics. A wondrous futuristic world is created through the use of high-tech lighting and sound effects along with elaborate costumes and original live music. "Era" is a meditation on time and a love story told through a spectacular sequence of acrobatic performances guaranteed to leave you enthralled and amazed. Dinner on your own arrangement. [B/L]

Day 11: Shanghai

In the morning transfer to the beautiful water town Zhujiajiao, includes boat ride. Founded over 1700 years ago, Zhujiajiao started out as an ancient water village and bustling market town. Located at the confluence of several local rivers, it is still home to about 60,000 people today. Stroll along its centuries-old streets and explore the many ancient bridges crisscrossing its canals, or take a boat ride to discover the town's unique character and charm. Enjoy lunch at a local Chinese restaurant, including one non-alcoholic beverage of your choice. Then discover the Shanghai Museum, one of the best museums in China. This museum contains one of the finest collections of ancient Chinese art and antiques in the world. The distinctive building was designed in the shape of an ancient bronze cooking vessel, and contains 11 permanent and 3 rotating galleries. The museum has over 120,000 priceless pieces in its collection, including bronze, jade, ceramics, calligraphy, sculptures, paintings, furniture, imperial seals, and ancient coins. Then transfer to your hotel and free at leisure. Dinner on your own arrangement. [B/L]

Day 12: Shanghai, USA

In the morning transfer to Shanghai Pudong Airport for your departure flight. [B]

[B]=Breakfast | [B/L] = Breakfast and Lunch | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour Includes:

- Transfer and sightseeing as listed above with private driver and English Speaking Guide
- 11 nights' accommodation:
 - Beijing - 3 nights
 - Xian – 2 nights
 - Guilin – 1 night
 - Yangshuo -2 nights
 - Shanghai -3 nights
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 10 lunches
 - 1 dinner
- Airfare for Xi'an-Guilin, Guilin-Shanghai in economy class, including all taxes and fuel charges Train from Beijing – Xian in 2nd class seats
- Transportation by private car or coach

- Sightseeing as described above
- English Speaking guides
- Assistance at the airports
- Bottled water provided on transfers and sightseeing

Tour does not include:

- Airfare between the US and China
- Meals or drinks other than specified as included
- China Visa processing and issuing visa fee
- Travel Insurance
- Expenses of a personal nature (minibar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides/drivers/porters/hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Entrance fees for any extra sightseeing or optional activities

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Beijing	Kapok	4
Xi'an	Bell Tower	3.5
Guilin	Bravo	4
Yangshuo	Green Lotus	4
Shanghai	Riverview	3.5
Deluxe		
Beijing	Sofitel Central	5
Xi'an	Grand Park	4
Guilin	Shangri-La	5
Yangshuo	Green Lotus	4
Shanghai	New World	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

Season	2 Pax	3 – 5 Pax	6 – 9 Pax	Single Suppl.
First Class				
Jan '20 - Mar '21	\$4,329	\$3,405	\$3,055	\$925
Deluxe				
Jan '20 - Mar '21	\$4,689	\$3,765	\$3,415	\$1,205

Prices are per person and may change without notice.

China National Day (1-7Oct) & Chinese New Year Period – subject to supplement

* Arrival in Beijing must reflect Yangtze Cruise available Sailing dates.

Supplement

Tranfers from Beijing Daxing Airport (PKX)				
Season	2 Pax	3 – 5 Pax	6 – 9 Pax	
Jan '20 - Mar '21	\$65	\$49	\$35	

Prices are per person and may change without notice.

Options

City	Description	Price
Beijing	Palace Museum Porcelain Collection	\$9
	Kung Fu Show	\$69
Xian	Tang Dynasty Show	\$75
Yangshuo	Liu Sanjie Show	\$69

Prices are per person and may change without notice.

Tour Code: CN03PEK20TE

